



VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

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Learning cursive: Brain food or a waste of time?

by Tim Pompey

In an age of keyboarding and computer technology, the inclusion of cursive instruction in a school's standard curriculum has become a hot topic. Some argue that it encourages the development of good motor skills and language development. Others say that language development can be learned equally through printing and keyboarding.

Sheila Lowe, a local handwriting examiner from Ventura, has found herself square in the middle of this debate.

A handwriting expert and the author of *The Complete Idiot's Guide to Handwriting Analysis*, Lowe believes that she understands the value of a person's penmanship. "It's important because of what research says about the effects of that specific handwriting movement on children," she says. "Writing in cursive lights up different areas of the brain, areas that have to do with language development and reading."

Her studies have also found that cursive can affect behavior development. "Children at risk with learning disorders have found that motor movement helps them develop better emotional control," said Lowe.

The problem today in most school districts is that cursive instruction is getting crowded out of many children's classroom activities. For example, The Department of Education's Common Core Standards for education, released in 2010, gave detailed recommendations for keyboarding and other high-tech literary learning but did not even mention cursive instruction.

Recently the State of Indiana decided to drop cursive instruction altogether from its curriculum requirements. The debate is still ongoing by the state as to whether or not to put it back in.

In a recent article published in June 2012 by the California Teachers Association, a debate was included between two California teachers as to the current

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This is our last issue before Christmas so I want to wish all of our wonderful readers a very happy holiday. And if you get a dog for the holidays remember that you are dog's best friend so treat us kindly and with great respect (even cats). Photo by Amanda Peacock



Ellen Pasternack comes to the Ventura Music Festival from a classical music and arts background

VMF announces appointment of Executive Director

Mary Braitman, Board President of the Ventura Music Festival, announced today that Ellen Pasternack has been appointed to the position of Executive Director.

"We are delighted that Ellen will be working with the festival as we prepare

for our 19th season. She brings with her administrative experience and knowledge that we believe will help move the festival forward, as well as a love and familiarity with a wide variety of music that fits perfectly with the programming of the Ventura Music Festival."

"I am happy and honored to join the Ventura Music Festival because of its exciting and eclectic programming, emphasis on engaging the entire community, and commitment to education for local youth" said Ms. Pasternack. "I look forward to working with our Artistic Director, Nuvi Mehta, whose talent and vision have helped to grow the festival into the premier musical event that it is today."

Ms. Pasternack comes to the Ventura Music Festival from a position in development and sales at KDB 93.7FM, the classical music and arts station owned and operated by the Santa Barbara Foundation. Her prior experience includes: six years as the founding Managing Director of SBT: The Santa Barbara Theatre Company, where she was the Producer of the American revival of the Leonard Bernstein-scored Peter Pan; a position as the General Manager and Director of Communication of the Ensemble Theatre Company; five years as the Administrator of the Santa Barbara Performing Arts League where

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Sandra and Jordan Laby were honored as philanthropists at two events. Photo by Jeanne Tanner

Sandra and Jordan Laby – Philanthropists extraordinaire

On Nov. 15, the Santa Barbara/Ventura Chapter of the Association of Fundraiser Professionals (AFP) presented a Philanthropy Luncheon to honor award recipients at Ventura Beach Marriott Hotel. An annual event held throughout the country to celebrate the spirit of philanthropy and volunteerism.

The group of extraordinary philanthropists included the McCune Foundation, winning Philanthropist of the Year in Santa Barbara County. Ventura's own Sandra and Jordan Laby were awarded Philanthropist of the Year for Ventura County. Julie Nadel, Volunteer of the Year in Santa Barbara County, Freddie Contardino was awarded Volunteer of the Year in Ventura County and Art Merovick was awarded Professional Fundraiser of the Year.

Upon receiving their award Sandra Laby stated, "Thank you Margaret Martin for your kind words. And thank you most especially to the Association of Fundraising Professionals in Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties. I speak for both Jordan and myself when I say that we feel special and grateful to receive this wonderful acknowledgement."

"We lived in modest circumstances
Continued on page 11





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Winter Camps, Sports & Holiday Guide 2012

Here are some options and resources in the county that are available, as we approach winter break and the holidays. A full list with links and contact information can be found at: www.ventura-ca.parentclick.com

WINTER BREAK CAMPS & SPORTS:

- Airealistic Circus & Flying School
 - Ballet Academy Ventura
 - Boys & Girls Club of Ventura
 - CA Kiddo Club
 - California Heat Volleyball Club
 - Camarillo Pony Baseball Association
 - Camarillo Yoga Center
 - Cassie's Dance Camp
 - Channel Islands Volleyball Club
 - Children's Haven
 - E9 Major League Winter Camp
 - Golf N' Stuff
 - Gold Coast Gymnastics Winter Camp
 - Gracie Morumbi Brazilian Jiu Jitsu & Fitness
 - Gull Wings Children's Museum
 - House of Dance
 - My Gym Children's Fitness Center
 - Ojai Recreation Department
 - Pacific Camps of Ventura County
 - Pump It Up
 - Play-Well TEKologies
 - Pleasant Valley Recreation & Parks District
 - Robotics & Things
 - The Armory
 - The Clubhouse Fun Zone
 - Thirty 3 and a Third
 - The Discovery Center for Science & Technology
 - Twin Dragons MMA
 - US Youth Volleyball League
 - Valerie's Yoga for Kids
 - Ventura County Fusion Soccer Camp
 - Ventura Recreation & Community Programs
 - Visionary Dance Arts
- HOLIDAY GUIDE:**
- An Enlightened Event
 - Baby Green Resale
 - Buena Lanes
 - Camarillo Ranch
 - Curious Photography
 - Discovery Toys Ventura
 - Fresh & Fabulous Café

- GeRo Photography
 - Greysen & Co.
 - Heartbreaker Photography
 - Heather Garcia – Brocc O'li
 - LJ Jewelry Designs
 - Mouth Man
 - Pacific View Mall
 - Peas & Carrots
 - Performances to Grow On
 - Rubicon Theatre Company
 - Spoiled Rotten Events
 - The Oaks Mall
 - Take Shape for Life – Get Healthy with Sara
 - Whitney Hartman Photography
- COMMUNITY RESOURCES:**
- Balanced Parenting
 - Bible Fellowship Church Preschool
 - Child Development Center, Ventura College
 - Children's Services Auxilliary
 - Children's World Nursery School
 - Coastline Bible Day School
 - Community Roots Garden
 - County Schools Federal Credit Union
 - CAPS-TV
 - Eastminster Sunshine Preschool
 - Happy Ventures Preschool, First United Methodist
 - Huntington Learning Center
 - Kinder Music with Katie Shinden
 - Laura Covault, Music & Drama Instructor
 - Learning Care Group
 - Main Street Dental
 - Montessori School of Ojai
 - Oak Grove School
 - Open Classroom K-8
 - Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History
 - Santa Clarita School of Performing Arts
 - Temple Beth Torah Preschool
 - TLC Preschool
 - The Kim Pagano Show on AM1520
 - Ty Warner Sea Center, Santa Barbara
 - Ventura Children's Learning Center
 - Ventura Missionary School & Church



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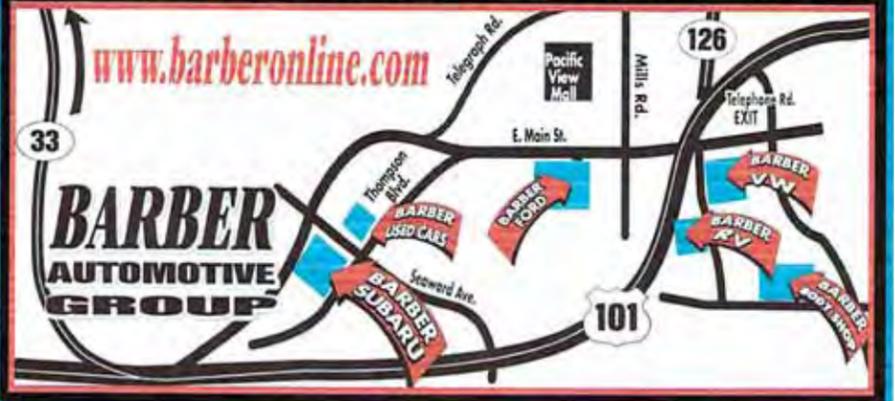
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Ventura Harbor Village

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Saturday, December 15th 1 - 5 PM

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 Lakeshore Learning Store & Macaroni Kid

Ventura Harbor Village Free Admission • Free Parking
 Beautiful Promenade





News and Notes



Students from Ventura's middle schools arrive after school ready to learn CAPS Chat

Lights, Camera, Action career camp

by Elizabeth Rodeno

The holidays are upon us. CAPS has been busy covering city and county events and working with partners, new and old. The station is filled with middle school students these days. Thanks to our partner, Ventura Community College, the "Lights, Camera, Action" career camp is a big hit. Students from Ventura's middle schools arrive after school ready to learn the art of digital storytelling. Since today's kids have been using social media and video for some time, it was great to see their enthusiasm as we introduced our professional gear and facilities to them. They loved writing their stories, using the green screen and setting up their shots. The craft of editing was the final touch to put it all together. CAPS is looking forward to revealing the marvels for video production to the next group of students in 2013. Take a look at vimeo.com/capstv to view the kid's work as well as many of

our projects.

We are back with our Digital Storytelling classes at DeAnza school. It's nice to see some of last year's students as well as new ones. The parks and recreation department and the ASES program have been generous to host the program. In addition we will be holding our first news production class, courtesy of a grant from the Macerich organization, in cooperation with Project Understanding.

CAPS wishes to thank the members, viewers and supporters of our organization, Channel 6 and VTV Channel 15. We are looking forward to seeing all of you in 2013. Our orientation is held the first Thursday of each month. We want to help you introduce your organization and passions to the Ventura community. Call CAPS at 658-0500, go to our website, CAPSTV.org, where there are links to Facebook and Vimeo to keep you up to date.

Women are encouraged to seek a scholarship

Soroptimist International of Ventura, a service club for business and professional women with the goal

of making a difference in their lives, announces that applications are now available for two scholarships.

Teen volunteers are encouraged to apply for the Violet Richardson Award which honors young women for their volunteer efforts in their school or community. It is awarded annually to a Ventura teen, ages 14-17 and her volunteer organization. The minimum award from SI Ventura is \$1,000. Applications are available in the Counseling offices of Buena High School,

Foothill Technological High School, St. Bonaventure High School and Ventura High School. You may also apply online at www.soroptimistventura.org. Applications must be returned by January 31st to SIA Ventura, P.O. Box 6133, Ventura, CA 93006 or by following the online instructions.

Women who serve as the primary wage earners for their families and seek assistance to go back to school or receive special training can apply for the Women's Opportunity Award to help them improve their skills, education or training to upgrade their employment status. SI Ventura's cash award will be a minimum of \$1,000 and the winner is eligible for additional regional and international awards. Applications are available at Ventura College, from Kay Armstrong or you may apply online at www.soroptimistventura.org. Applications must be received by January 31st at SIA Ventura, P.O. Box 6133, Ventura, 93006 or by following the online instructions.

of several mediums, all representing their art and talents. At the event, nine winners were selected and announced by a combination of live audience voting and a panel of local judges. The categories included: film, music, fashion, makeup, hair, accessories, performing art, photography, and visual art.

Local Ventura filmmaker, Joel Perkins, took the award for film. Steampunk / Vaudevillian fusion musical act, Cirque Noir, won the Musicians of the Year. Santa Barbara native, Bethany Burns, of B-Line Designs won Fashion Designer of the Year. Rachel Olsen of The Cat's Meow won the Makeup Artist of the Year with her ornate false lashes. Mariah Brown, a recent graduate from Lu Ross Academy, won Hairstylist of the Year. Rosa Subia won the Accessories Designer of the Year with her custom hair accessories. Electric Liberace, an eclectic mix of music, dance, and party, all packed into one stage performance, won the Performing Artists of the Year. Cliff Montgomery, a local photographer who focuses on HDR landscapes, won the Photographer of the Year and Jonny Blackburn, with his vivid collage-style expressions, won the Visual Artist of the Year.

These winners will go on to represent Ventura in the National RAWards, where the national winner will be determined by a panel of industry specific judges. The national awards show will take place in January at the Belasco Theater in Los Angeles.



Electric Liberace, Bethany Burns of B-Line Designs and Joel Perkins were winners at the RAWards Showcase. Photo by: Brandy Fine Focus Photography

40 artists represented their arts at RAWards

by Sara Vausbinder

RAWartists Ventura hosted its first ever RAWards Showcase on Friday night Nov. 17 at Bombay Bar and Grill. The show was jam-packed with nearly 40 artists



Do you think that this boat might be the most beautiful?

Parade of Lights and the Winter Wonderland

The Ventura Harbor Village is wild
Continued on page 11

BETTER VISION AT ANY AGE

Dr. Rajesh Khanna, M.D. founder of Khanna Institute, world famous eye surgeon, provides state-of-the-art custom vision correction.



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The Ventura Commerce and Education Foundation (VCEF) has named Nancy Wipf November's Teacher of the Month. Mrs. Wipf is a kindergarten teacher at Saticoy Elementary School and has been teaching for more than 20 years.

"Mrs. Wipf is the foundation of Saticoy Elementary," says Jennifer Duston, Principal of Saticoy Elementary School. "Her door is always open and her classroom is always full of students, young and old alike. She goes above and beyond for her students to give them an enriching experience they will always remember."

The VCEF, under the auspices of the Ventura Chamber of Commerce, works to provide a business link to the economic, educational, cultural and environmental interests of Ventura. For more information about the Teacher of the Month program, please contact Pattie Braga, Chair, at PBraga@VCCUonline.net or 477-4052.



VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

Member, Ventura Chamber of Commerce and Oxnard Chamber of Commerce

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Opinion/Editorial



Sheldon (Governor) Brown
Publisher

■ As part of the HAP approval (you don't need to know what that is), the Ventura City Council has unanimously turned down a developer's plan to build a residential development on the property now occupied by the "juice squeezer" Ventura Coastal, located on Vista Del Mar.

The proposal, by West Coast Housing Partners would have built 155-units on 14.5 acres at 2325 Vista Del Mar Drive.

Also, in a surprise move, the council voted to return the property back to industrial zoning (which it once was) from the current residential zoning (which is fairly new).

Several members stated that when they approved the master plan that called for "infill development", they were not just thinking that it means all infill projects should only be residential, but that some should stay industrial.

Ventura Coastal owns the land but is only using the large building as offices and their processing operations are now totally in Visalia so they are very anxious to sell the property.

Steve Kessler, a partner at West Coast Housing Partners, stated at the meeting "The site and use is complementary to midtown and the community that surrounds it."

But the City Council realized that this proposed project would basically have nothing to do with midtown and that it would have destroyed the "community that surrounds it" which means Vista Del Mar; a very narrow street that could not begin to take the cars generated by this project, and the soon to be built hotel behind the Golden China Restaurant.

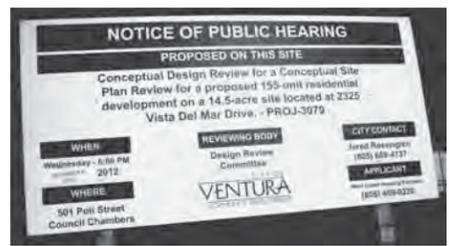
In response to concerns expressed by mostly Vista Del Mar residents that

contacted her, City Councilmember Christy Weir stated, "Thank you so much for writing and letting us know your thoughts. Because of concerns about traffic and parking, as well as other issues, the Council voted last night to reject the proposal for 155 homes, and retain the Industrial zoning."

But showing concerns for Ventura Coastal, Councilmember Carl Morehouse said, "If we slap this down, it's not enough to just say no, we want to help them, the current owner, find someone to go there." I like this thinking on behalf of a council member.

I agree with this decision but feel that the entire approval process must be changed in all fairness to future developers (developers probably built the house or apartment that you live in).

It is just not fair for a developer to spend sometimes up to 5-10 years and countless thousands of dollars



preparing detailed plans and sometimes even obtaining design review and planning department approval to then have the City Council say "Sorry we don't like this project" and throw it out.

Developers should be able to start with the City Council, with very basic preliminary drawings to see if they would approve the project if it came to them as a HAP or on appeal.

■ Also the City Council has decided that the extremely dangerous corner at the intersection of California and Harbor should have a stoplight, wider sidewalks and railroad-crossing upgrades in the hopes of making it safer.

And the best part is that the Federal

Highway Administration will give the city roughly \$590,000 for this project too.

Right now autos going east or west on Harbor must stop before entering the intersection, but California Street drivers headed south aren't required to stop. So very often new comers (and residents who don't pay attention) to Ventura just pull through the intersection after they stop not realizing that this is not a normal 4-way stop, they hardly ever notice the sign informing them of this.

But this is only part of the problem, right up the block cars backing up on the freeway off ramp waiting for the light to change eventually lose patience and make a mad dash to turn onto California. So we all try to avoid California if we can. And the railroad crossing is another problem right there.

So a stoplight might even make this situation worse because cars at the light will back up into the front of the off ramp making it an even worse condition. We shall see.

The long term solution to this will be when the city moves the Highway 101 off-ramp from California Street to Oak Street as someday planned.

There are other very dangerous street conditions in Ventura that need to be improved. Another horrible one being the freeway off ramp going North on the freeway and exiting at Johnson Drive. The cars exiting the freeway don't need to stop and cars waiting at the stop sign can't even tell which cars will be coming off the freeway and will be pulling right in front of them or continuing straight. Maybe we can work on this one next.

■ Staci and I recently met the new Executive Director of the Visitors & Convention Bureau Marlyss Auster. I was very impressed with the enthusiasm and wonderful spirit that she will bring to the Bureau. I look forward to working with her as we both work towards the betterment of Ventura.

Mailbox

Dear Ventura Breeze,

I tend to like reading the local news, but please keep in mind the diversity of your readership. Having a front page image and line like: "While in Mexico, having a laugh at the Mayan's expense on December 22..." only points to mainstream ignorance of my indigenous ancestors and living Mayan cultures and people's. Anyone from within the culture or remotely aware of indigenous teachings will inform you that the Mayan's never predicted the end of the world in "apocalyptic" terms. The reference to the "new calendar" is related to complex planet alignments and a coming age of heightened human spirituality and consciousness. But with continued comments from "white America" and this country's refusal to honor any treaties it ever made with our Native peoples, maybe instead of laughing, many of us will be crying to see how long such deep change takes.

Thank you,

AA

A fellow Venturan who remembers we live on Native lands.

Dear AA and other readers:

At a very feeble attempt at humor in our last issue we made a reference to the fact that Mayan prophecy says that the world will end on Dec.21 and it has been brought to our attention (several times) that a reference to the Mayan calendar end-of-the-world prophecy could be seen as insensitive,

ignorant or even offensive. It was never our intent to degrade an incredible people that had their own written language, art, architecture, mathematics and astronomy just to name a few of their amazing accomplishments. We apologize to them and to you.



Ventura Breeze

If you want to shop on Telegraph Rd. between Mills and Dunning to buy lingerie, a new sofa, or just get a massage, you can park along the curb or you can duck down the alley behind this row of stores and find ample off-street parking provided you are willing to run the gauntlet of potholes that lie between you and your space of choice.

The potholes run from Mills all

the way down the alley to the last turnout where Goodwill used to be. It is an awful, tie-rod-bending route, and I am gobsmacked as to why all the merchants along this row in a very popular part of town have not gotten together and petitioned the city to repave the alleyway.

Yes, it's an alley and not a main thoroughfare, but enough people go down this alley every day to support these businesses—the very Small Businesses that Ventura professes to desire and cultivate—and so it follows that the City of Ventura should help create an environment in which these small businesses can thrive. This environment includes optimum access without undue hazard, and these potholes create a hazard.

Mills Rd. was recently paved and it would have made sense to repave the alley at that time. Most of the residents of the neighborhood between the mall and the hospitals use this alley to get in and out of the neighborhood, to get to the mall, take their children to school, and to go to work each day. I hope paving this popular thoroughfare will become a priority for the city

Continued on page 9

The Breeze in your inbox

To celebrate our fifth anniversary, The Ventura Breeze can now be sent directly to your email for only \$60 per year for 26 issues, and you will receive it on the day before general circulation.

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Nothing can bring you peace except yourself.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson



City News

Free opt-out program

Ventura residents can opt-out of phone books and unsolicited mailings through a free online program to reduce waste and clutter caused by unwanted mail. Unwelcome catalogs, credit card offers, and other junk mail can be eliminated by creating an account at <https://ventura.catalogchoice.org/> to instruct self-selected companies to remove your name and address from their mailing list, and not release your name and address to any unaffiliated party for advertising or marketing purposes.

Each U.S. household receives close to 1,000 pieces of direct mail each year. Unwanted mail accounts for millions of pounds of waste and thousands of dollars' worth of collection and landfill costs annually. The City is partnering with Catalog Choice through funding from AB939, the California Integrated Waste Management Act, which requires each local jurisdiction in the state of California to help increase diversion rates through recycling programs, purchasing of recycled products and waste minimization.

"Unwanted mail is an economic and environmental burden on our community," said Environmental Specialist Courtney Lindberg. "With the holidays right around the corner, a cascade of catalogs, fliers, and coupons will inundate mailboxes. The mail preference service helps residents receive only the mail they want."

Post office boxes are also eligible for the free program.

But be prepared, this is time consuming.

Eric Wallner moving on

City employee Eric Wallner has left his position with the City to accept a new position as the CEO of the Torpedo Factory Art Center in Alexandria, VA. He

will be moving there, with his son at the end of the month.

He has been a wonderful advocate of the arts in Ventura and stated "It has been such an honor to get to know and work with so many incredible people in Ventura. The creativity, passion and heart I've encountered working in this community will stay with me for a very long time. Thanks so much for being such incredible partners and friends. I'm counting on you all to keep the creative torch burning in Ventura and stay in touch!"

City of Ventura Community Councils meetings

College Area

4th Wednesdays, 7 pm
Dudley House, 197 N. Ashwood
sc@cummingsresearch.com

East Ventura

3rd Thursdays, 7 pm
First Assembly of God, 346 N. Kimball Rd.

www.eastventura.blogspot.com

Midtown

2nd Thursdays, 7 pm
Grace Church, 65 S. McMillan Ave.
www.midtownventura.org

Pierpont

3rd Tuesdays, 7 pm
Marriott, 2055 E. Harbor Blvd.
www.pierpontcouncil.org

Ventura Harbor

4th Thursdays, 7 pm
Ventura Port District
1603 Anchor Way Dr.
lynnmikelatos@gmail.com

Westside

1st Wednesdays, 6:30 pm
Bell Arts Factory, 432 N. Ventura Ave.
www.wccventura.org

Downtown Ventura Partnership

4th Wednesdays, 8:30 am
505 Poli St., 5th Floor
www.downtownventura.org

Community Events

Annual Castro Family Holiday Toy Drive

The Castro Family, National Charity League Juniors of Ventura County and the Ventura Police Activities League (PAL) are collecting toys for the children of the Children's Cancer and Blood Disease Program at VCMC. Their goal is to provide each of these amazing children and their siblings with gifts for the Holiday Season. This is the only hospital facility in Ventura County that provides chemotherapy, medicine, and blood transfusions for children with cancer, blood, and bone disorders.

Corey Castro was diagnosed with a rare bone disease (Gorham's Disease) in September, 2008. This disease has affected his hip, pelvis, spine, and his ribs. Corey undergoes a monthly treatment and daily pain medication. Corey and his sister Paige have collected toys previously for the Treatment Center and the last three Holiday Toy Drives had great success. With the holidays coming up they are collecting gifts in hopes of making the holidays a little brighter for some of Corey's fellow patients.

The patient's ages range from infants to teenagers. The toys or gifts should be in the \$10 to \$20 range. All of the toys should be new due to the children's immune systems being quite fragile. Gifts will be accepted thru Dec. 14th at the following Ventura locations:
Ventura Police Dept - 1425 Dowell Dr.
First Bank - 5808 Telephone Rd.
Clubhouse Funzone - 4535 McGrath St.
Better Body - 5100 Telegraph Rd.
Coldwell Banker - 1190 S. Victoria Ave.

will be provided by the Ventura church's youth group. Donations of bedrolls are welcome. To add names to the list or for more information, call Rev. Pyle 644-3898 ext. 102 or email him at luyv@liftupyourvoice.org.

Ventura events

by Ana Baker

Nosh, schmooze and make business connections within the growing community of Jewish business people, professionals, trades people and corporate executives at non-profit JNET. No charge to attend 2 meetings and \$65 yearly dues. The meetings are held at Temple Beth Torah on the **last Thursday of each month** at 6:30 p.m. to 9 p.m. Go to www.JNetOnline.org or JNetVentura@gmail.com for further information.

Until Jan. 27: The Annual Holiday Model Guild Exhibit will be at the newly located Channel Islands Maritime Museum overlooking the Channel Islands Harbor. The exhibit includes a broad range of hand-crafted ship models: historic sailing ships and warships reproduced in miniature and built to scale by some of Southern California's leading craftsmen. Open 11a.m. to 5p.m. daily and located at 3900 South Harbor Boulevard on Bluefin Circle in Oxnard's Channel Islands Harbor. Admission is free with membership, adults \$5, seniors (62+) \$4, children (6-17) \$2. Information: cimmvc.org and 984-6260.

Until Dec. 21: The holidays are quickly approaching and Children's Therapy Network is organizing their **annual Toy and Food Drive**. We will be collecting New, Unwrapped Toys and non-perishable food items during the weeks of December 5th to the 21st. All donations go directly to families in need. Please be as generous as you possibly can as we try to make this holiday season just a little brighter for those so close to us who can use our help this year. Feel free to drop off the toy or food items at 1234 E. Main St.

Dec. 12: Main Street in front of the San Buenaventura Mission will be alive with color and religious pageantry for the **feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Virgin de Gualalupe**. A procession of hundreds of worshippers will flow out the front door of the historic Mission Church just after 6 p.m., led by clergy and Aztec dancers. The rich cultures of Mexico are woven into the traditions including a "Mananitas" Mass at 6 a.m. in the morning, preceded by boisterous mariachis that greet the dawn at 5:30a.m.

The block of Main Street between the Mission and Palm Street will be briefly closed between 6p.m. to 7p.m. to accommodate the procession and a street performance of the Aztec dancers. **Dec. 13: Westpark Community Center** presents the **reopening of the new playgrounds**. Please come to the ribbon-cutting ceremony at 450 W. Harrison Avenue. Thursday at 3 p.m. The Parks, Recreation and Community Partnerships Department is excited to invite families with their children to enjoy the new playground equipment.

Contact Anita Diaz, 648-1895, for more information. **Dec. 15:** Saturday 5 - 8 p.m. **Cookbook signing and meet the chef and author of *The Passionate Vegetable***, Suzanne Landry, and learn about the "tips chefs love" while sampling a delicious recipe from her book. Spice-Topia, 576 East

Homeless persons' memorial service

At least 14 residents of the county have died homeless since the first of the year. The youngest was forty-three and the oldest was seventy-five years old. Their names will be among those read at the Homeless Person's Memorial Service on December 16th, 2012 at 3:00 p.m. in Plaza Park, across from the post office in downtown Ventura. The local service is being held in observance of National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day which was designated as such in 1990 by the National Coalition for the Homeless to bring attention to the tragedy of homelessness and to memorialize those who have paid the price for our nation's failure to end homelessness.

The Rev. David Pyle, the Director of Lift Up Your Voice, will be joined at the service by Pastor Jim Ayars from the Seventh Day Adventist Church, the Rev. Canon Jerome E. Kahler of the Episcopal Church, the Rev. Jan Christian of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura, and Neal Andrews of the Ventura City Council.

The service will include a reading of names of those who have died homeless, original music and readings from various religious traditions, all of which call on their adherents to care for those most in need of help. Hot drinks, cookies and bags with personal items

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Community Events

Main St., (805) 421-4417.

Dec. 15: Ventura Audubon Society will conduct its **annual Christmas Bird Count** in Ventura County in conjunction with bird counts that take place throughout the nation, at 8 am. The count is a 113-year-old tradition that is an opportunity to participate in citizen science. The data on bird distribution collected during the count is used to assess the health of our bird populations. Last year Ventura Audubon recorded 181 species and more than 20,000 individual birds. Volunteer counters are assigned to one of the section leaders who coordinate the count in each of eight areas within the defined count circle in Ventura County. All levels of birders are welcome and needed, the event is free. If you would like to participate contact Bruce Schoppe at bschoppe6698@sbcglobal.net or 658 2396.

Dec. 15: Technology's blistering pace is leaving a toxic tide of E-waste in its wake. Ventura Mound Elementary will be teaming up with All Green Electronics Recycling to host an **e-waste recycling event** from 9a.m. to 2p.m. at 455 S. Hill Road. This free event is open to the community for anyone to dispose of their electronic waste in a safe, secure environment while diverting from landfills and protecting our natural resources. Whether it is your out-dated laptop in a hall closet, an old cell phone or the dust-covered monitor in your garage, e-waste is anything electronic that is unused, obsolete or non-working. Proceeds benefit Ventura Mound Elementary School. For more information please visit www.allgreenrecycling.com.

Dec. 15: Annual Candlelight Tribute of Remembrance at Charles Carroll Funeral Home Community invites you to support the annual Toys for Tots donation drive by dropping new gifts off at Charles Carroll Funeral Home through December 22. They will host its annual non-denominational Candlelight Tribute of Remembrance at 6p.m., in the chapel at 15 Teloma Dr. The service is open to the community. For more information and to RSVP, please call 642-8134.

Dec. 16: A fund raiser to support the **National Disaster Search Dog Foundation** will be held on Sunday, at Linda's Claws & Paws, 1865 East Main St. from 11:am til 3pm. There will be a bake sale and a raffle with some great prizes!

Dec. 22: Come one, Come All, Greet Santa as he stops in your neighborhood. Santa will be riding aboard the **Fillmore & Western Railway Co. Santa Train**, powered by a Baldwin 1913 vintage steam locomotive, the #14. To experience one of Southern California's most unique arrivals of Santa introducing the Christmas Season this year, bring your family to one of 4 stops along the route in Ventura County. Santa will be riding the rails from Montalvo in East Ventura to Fillmore on Saturday night. Starts in Montalvo at 5p.m. 6175 Ventura Blvd.,

Dec. 31: Country Lovers Western Dance Club will be holding a **New Year's Eve country western dance** on Monday, at The House of Dance, 3007 Bunsen Ave., suite E, 7:30p.m. to 12:30p.m. Doors will open at 7p.m. Cost is \$35.00 per person and partners not necessary. Dinner served at 7:30 p.m. Snacks & desserts served all evening. Noise makers & party favors are provided. Sparkling cider will be served at midnight. Feel free to BYOB. Drawings are all night long and everyone goes home with a prize. Music will be by deejay Jammin' Country.

Reserve your tickets early. Call 456-9067 or email rebdancer@live.com. Country Lovers website is www.countrylovers.com.

Ojai events

On **Friday, December 21**, The Ojai Foundation Land Sanctuary will welcome the communities of Ventura, Los Angeles, Santa Barbara, Ojai and beyond, to a **Spiral of Lights celebration** for the 2012 Winter Solstice. With music, dancing, and more, the Spiral of Lights ceremony has roots in the many world traditions that mark the longest night of the year with a ceremony of light. This will be the fifth year of the ceremony and celebration at The Ojai Foundation.

The programming begins at 4:30 with a Sunset Ceremony of song and celebration overlooking the Upper Ojai Valley. The program then moves into The Ojai Foundation Council House for the Spiral of Lights candle lighting joined by the live harp music of Irene Ryding. After the Spiral, local Ojai musician Tony Khalife and friends will offer music to dance by for a community celebration until 10:30pm. A light feast of warm soup and bread will be served during the evening. The festivities for this particular Solstice 2012, with all its lore and legend, will carry over into Saturday programming, with time for personal retreat, community music, meditation, and more. More information and a detailed itinerary for the weekend can be found at www.ojaifoundation.org/event/winter-solstice-spiral-lights-dance-celebration-0.

Help the **Ojai Valley Woman's Club** bring in the new year, on **Dec. 31** with a wild Celtic concert, then food and waltzing till 12:30am! Bring the family, bring all your friends for a wild, fun Celtic concert featuring Slugger O'Toole! After the great concert, from 8- 11:00pm, enjoy food and elegant, romantic waltzes until around 12:30 in the morning. This is a dessert and finger-food potluck party, so bring something to share and they will supply the party favors and the bubbly. Slugger O'Toole is a Southern California-based Celtic trad/rock quintet who share a passion for the drinking and work songs of Ireland. Slugger concocts a intoxicating brew of foot-stomping classics, deft instrumentals and five-part a-Capella killers. Slugger's live shows have been favorably compared to "being punched in the face with a fistful of shamrocks. Don't miss this locally favorite event and welcome in the new year with friends and family in a safe, sane and happy environment.

December 16, from 4-6:00pm join a celebration of the **2012 Winter Solstice** and welcome The Return of the Light. The 9th Dimensional Pleiadian Collective, Yeshua, Enara, Calliandra, and others will share their perspectives on the energies of the moment and give preparatory information regarding the period of time we will soon be entering, the current status of the shift, full integration of the fifth dimensional identity into the third dimensional vehicle, the 2013 operating system and much, much, more. As always, there will be plenty of time for your questions.

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The **Beatrice Wood Center for the Arts** celebrates the life and work of Beatrice Wood while presenting exhibitions of contemporary art, workshops and events. The Center, housed in the Happy Valley homes once occupied by Beatrice Wood and her good friend Rosalind Rajagopal,

features a permanent exhibition sharing Beatrice Wood's life story with memorabilia, her collection of folk art and wonderful examples of her ceramic art.

The Beatrice Wood Center for the Arts is open to the public Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays 11-5, as well as by appointment. Please call 646-3381 to make an appointment or for more information.



Oops, Photo by Richard Lieberman

The BMX track that Erick Kozen and his wife Lea envisioned for years, is now a reality. Located on 4.5 acres at the Ventura Community Park (city Aquatic Center) it had its grand opening on Saturday, Dec. 8.

Until Jan. 1, admission will be \$5 for the weekday practices and \$10 for the Saturday races. The prices will go up to \$7 and \$12 beginning the New Year. Riders also need to pay \$35 a year for membership in USA BMX, the sport's governing body. The first visit is a free trial membership.

Ventura BMX is leasing the site from the city of Ventura for 5 years, with a possible three-year extension.

Ventura leaders were there and Ventura Deputy Mayor Cheryl Heitmann stated "Adding the BMX track is a perfect example of the public-private partnerships the city is promoting to help provide services."

Parks and Recreation Commission Chairman Ed Wehan said that by providing a popular activity for young people, the BMX track will attract visitors to Ventura.

The track will be open Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, with races on Saturdays.



News and Notes

Director of Social Services for The Salvation Army-Ventura Corps

by Barbara Hinton

Rob Orth has been the Director of Social Services for The Salvation Army-Ventura Corps since August first of this year. The new role is a good fit for Orth, formerly Executive Director at Project Understanding, due to his work at Project Understanding and the relationships in the community that he built while he was there. In fact, he had developed a close working relationship with Captain Bill Finley, who was then head of the Salvation Army.

Three people actually replaced Captains Bill and Tolani Finley, as the decision was made to split their duties in a new and different way. Orth had experience with social services and was able to ensure the smooth transition in the community due to his knowledge and connections; Lieutenants Matt and Vanessa Jensen assumed pastoral duties. Part of their mission is to increase community awareness that the Salvation Army has a church in Ventura.

Orth feels that the work with the homeless population has been strengthened by the collaboration through many agencies that work with the homeless. In 2011, Project Understanding and the Salvation Army joined together with Turning Point to create the Homeless 2 Home program for the chronically homeless. This program's emphasis is on rapidly re-housing the homeless with case management, rather than just providing them with temporary or transitional placements. Orth said statistics show that if the homeless obtain housing, they work through their other issues more quickly. He added that he has seen amazing transformations within just two weeks of housing placement.

He explained that the agency partners go out into the streets to

engage the homeless and to facilitate the process of life change. The goal is to address the issue of poverty differently than has been done in the past. To change lives, Orth said, "We need to focus on relationships, time, partnership, and community."

What he's observed is that when you slow down and focus on people, things do change. He pointed to the success of programs like AA, where people who truly understand, lived and gained victory of the problem, and assist others with peer mentoring. He added that this model works and it is inexpensive.

Orth believes that we have to get the community to start thinking differently about homelessness as well. He himself has begun to look at things differently. He said you can feed people in the park, but...is that enough or even the pro-active thing to do? The result of this type of assistance is they have food one day, but what about the next? He believes that handouts are not the answer; rather we need to develop relationships with people who are homeless and work on individual strategies that move them out of their homelessness into housing. That is what Orth and the other organizations are trying to do. But, what can we as individuals do? He suggested rather than giving the homeless money, that the community give relationship, whether it's through a bottle of water, talking over a cup of coffee, or with a local agency that serves them. If you'd like to give funds, give to one of the various organizations working with the homeless.

When asked what keeps him going with this work, despite all the challenges, Rob said, "Seeing the victories, helping people to see their value, a vision of their future and hope."

Grape expectations

Reflecting back on 2012

by Eric Garnier

My December column is always the hardest one for me to write. I have so many topics going through my head that it's hard for me to choose. I want to discuss the wines that compliment the Christmas and New Year celebration. Powerful Cabernets and elegant sparkling wines.

I want to write about the "stand out" wines that I have tasted throughout the year. I want to share my wine traveling experiences. So, I have decided to put those ideas on hold and write about something that passed through my crazy head as I was deciding which topic to pick for this article. It came to me the other night and caught me off guard.

While I was reflecting back on all the wines I had tasted this year, it dawned on me that one country had me drinking a lot of their wine. It also occurred to me that this country in particular has really stepped up to the plate. That country would be Spain. I find that quality has increased dramatically and prices have remained relatively stable. Spanish wines are still extremely affordable and easy to drink.

Spain has over 68 wine growing regions that grow over 75 different varietals. In my opinion, the wines worth searching for are: Albariño, a light white slightly fruity wine that is perfect with seafood and an all around summer wine. Garnacha, Monastrell, and Tempranillo are all fantastic reds that go well with almost any meal. These varietals are not as heavy as their counterparts here in the states, which make them more food friendly. These varietals are being grown and produced here in California, but at a much higher price.

These wines are available locally, but at times you have to search for them. Feel free to email me with questions about availability.

I can't end this article without mentioning some of my favorite wines I tasted this year. These are not in order, but definitely worth mentioning:

- Evodia Granacha, Spain
- Morgon 12 Clone Pinot Noir, Monterey
- Columbia Crest H3 Merlot, Washington
- Pedestal Merlot, Columbia Valley, Washington
- Belle Glos Clark & Telephone Pinot Noir, California
- Daou Celestus blend, Paso Robles
- Pio Cesare Oltra, Piedmonte, Italy

I have so many more I'd like to list and I won't, because I want you to be the judge. So, go out there and taste, taste, taste.

Happy Holidays to all my readers!

Cheers,

Eric

Questions or comments
wineoeric@gmail.com

Fundraising raffle to support programs

The Jolly Oyster and Friends of Channel Coast State Parks (FCCSP) are working together to sell tickets for a raffle. The grand prize is a 3-day excursion to visit the Jolly Oyster hatchery in Ensenada and farm in San Quintin for up to 4 people. During

this excursion, the winner will be able to meet the people behind the scenes of this unusual business and come to understand the whole two-year process that goes into producing the Jolly Oyster's sustainably grown shellfish. The raffle winner is to provide his or her own transportation, and must have a valid passport, as the hatchery and farm are located in Baja California, Mexico. The grand prize includes lodging in Ensenada and San Quintin.

There is also a second-place prize being offered; it is a private tour of one of the California State Parks in the Channel Coast District.

Tickets may be purchased through Friends of Channel Coast State Parks or at the Jolly Oyster, located at San Buenaventura State Beach. Raffle tickets are \$20 each, or discounts may be obtained by purchasing multiple tickets at once (3 tickets for \$50, or 8 tickets for \$100).

Funds raised will assist FCCSP in accomplishing its mission, which is to support the educational programs and projects in the California State Parks in Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties.

The raffle drawing will be held at the Jolly Oyster on January 2, 2013, at 1:00 pm. The raffle ticket purchaser does not need to be present to win. Winners will need to complete a waiver of liability. For more information about the raffle, including a complete set of rules and regulations, please visit the FCCSP website at <http://www.friendsofccsp.org/support/jo-affle>

Those seeking more information can also call Friends of Channel Coast State Parks at 626-0156 or send an email to info@friendsofccsp.org.

New Off Road Night coming to Ventura

Something exciting is happening for the growing off road racing community in Ventura County! Roper Design & Fabrication, Inc. will begin hosting a monthly "Off Road Night" at the Iron Horse Bar & Grill in Ventura beginning Friday, December 14th from 5 p.m. - 11 p.m.

Off road enthusiasts, racers, builders, and hobbyists will have a place to get together with likeminded community members, meet other businesses who cater to the off road community, and be able to bring their own vehicles to show off as well as get ideas for their own builds from other vehicle owners. Each month will feature another off road related business and there will be raffle prizes that will be given out through the night.

The Iron Horse Bar & Grill is located at 4722 Telephone Rd. This is a "family friendly" location, kids are welcome, and there is a kids menu.

Be the DD and enjoy the holidays

The holidays are in full swing with festivities and opportunities to celebrate and reminisce with our families, friends and co-workers. This is also the perfect



On Nov. 27 Focus on the Masters (FOTM) Donna Granata interviewed Tom Jenkins, an artist who resists easy classification, at the Comedy Club. Just a few of his talents; he paints, sculpts, spins tops that he makes, builds vehicles from cardboard and makes sound sculptures. After the interview an AfterGLOW special event celebratory supper was held at Focus on the Masters Archive and Library behind city hall. Catering was provided by the Old Broads Catering Company. Mary Galbraith (one of the "old broads") and Donna Granata greeted the guests and welcomed them to the FOTM offices and archives.



News and Notes

time to make plans for the future—starting with designating a driver if any of you are drinking alcohol. Having a sober driver take the wheel reduces our risks of being involved in a traffic collision during the time of year when DUI fatalities are at their highest.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) each year, in the United States, approximately 400 lives are lost due to alcohol related crashes that occur during the last two weeks of December. This seems ironic because it is supposed to be a time of celebration and hope for the New Year, but too many suffer a tragic and preventable loss.

46% of Ventura County DUI Program participants said they were arrested after drinking at a restaurant or bar. In an effort to reduce these arrests, the campaign “Be the DD and Win!” began. With funding from the Office of Traffic Safety in 2011, Ventura County Behavioral Health Department invited non-profit agencies, popular Downtown Ventura nightlife businesses, and the Ventura Police Department to come together and reward designated drivers. Be the DD and Win! Prize Posse has been rewarding sober designated drivers with cool swag and great raffle prizes once a month in Ventura since July of 2011. Eleven participating businesses have identified over 2,000 designated drivers, resulting in an estimated 5,000 drinkers receiving safe rides home from friends and family.

43% Ventura County DUI arrests occur after leaving a private residence. During the holidays, many people choose to celebrate in homes with friends and family. Hosts often offer alcoholic beverages during gatherings, and toasts and cheers are made. Even if we only have a “couple drinks” our driving is impaired, and having a sober driver is the safest decision. If you have a designated driver who ends up drinking, the “least drunk driver” doesn’t qualify as a safe ride! Calling a cab is the safest solution, and it’s easy to do when the company’s number is programmed in your cell phone ahead of time.

There are many affordable cab and driver companies operating locally; some of which offer services to drive you and your vehicle home! If spending \$40 on a cab seems expensive, consider the costs of a DUI – those run about \$10,000.00. Designating a driver saves money and lives.

Kwanzaa the holiday

Kwanzaa is an African American and Pan-African holiday which celebrates family, community and culture. Celebrated from December 26 thru January 1, its origins are in the first harvest celebrations of Africa from which it takes its name. The name Kwanzaa is derived from the phrase “matunda ya kwanza” which means “first fruits” in Swahili, a Pan-African language which is the most widely spoken African language.

Kwanzaa was created in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karina, professor, Department of Black Studies at California State University, Long Beach, author and scholar-activist who stresses the indispensable need to preserve, continually revitalize and promote African American culture.

Finally, it is important to note Kwanzaa is a cultural holiday, not a religious one, thus available to and practiced by Africans of all religious faiths who come together based on the rich, ancient and varied common ground of their Africanness.

Gifts are given mainly to children, but must always include a book and a heritage symbol. The book is to emphasize the African value and tradition of learning stressed since ancient Egypt, and the heritage symbol to reaffirm and reinforce the African commitment to tradition and history.

Agency of Record for Ventura Music Festival named

BBM&D Strategic Branding, a Ventura based strategic communications and design firm, has announced that it has been awarded the contract by the Ventura Music Festival to provide public relations and marketing communications services.

“We reviewed five qualified candidates, and BBM&D came out solidly on top. They have the experience and knowledge to help us move our brand forward,” said Mary Braitman, Board President of the Ventura Music Festival. “They know the local community well, have deep-rooted experience with non-

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profits, and thoroughly understand our philosophy of music appreciation and education. They also enjoy world-class performances of great music.” A comprehensive, integrated campaign for the Festival’s 19th season in 2013 is under way.

“BBM&D Strategic Branding is excited to help cultivate the Ventura Music Festival brand,” stated Barbara Brown, president of BBM&D. “We are particularly enthusiastic about highlighting the Festival’s focus on unique, eclectic musicians.”

BBM&D Strategic Branding has been providing integrated public relations solutions since 1992. The firm has award-winning credentials and a diverse client list including WellPoint Foundation, the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation, the Santa Barbara Museum of Art and Interface Children & Family Services, to name a few. BBM&D’s intelligent strategy and powerful designs cover all media, including broadcast, print and the web—creating solutions that differentiate top-tier companies across many industries. Their work can be viewed at bbmd-inc.com.

Project Event Month

December is Project Event Month at the Lions Clubs and they are looking for you. Do you eat breakfast, lunch or dinner? Have some time on your hands? Do you enjoy working with upbeat people and making a better community? Looking to be part of a bigger group? Want to work alongside professionals, business people and community leaders of all ages? Join the Lions Clubs. For more info call or text 651-8474 from 9am to 6pm, 7 days a week or go to www.lionsclubs.org or see their Facebook link on www.lions4a3.org. Build your community, build your spirit.

We asked Chief of Police Ken Corney

Q: The Ventura Police Department’s website has a customer satisfaction survey. What can you tell us about it?

A: The department developed a customer satisfaction survey to allow community members to provide feedback on their experience with the department. The survey is available at www.venturapd.org.

The survey has 17 questions and takes about five minutes to complete. It allows us

to gather feedback, comments or suggestions about a recent experience with the department. Serious or significant concerns or complaints should still be directed to the department’s watch commander in person or by phone at 339-4416.

The survey can be taken anonymously, or community members may leave contact information for follow-up. The department tracks and reviews survey results regularly to identify potential areas of concern or indicate areas of success and improvement.

While the circumstances that lead to contact with police services are not always welcome ones, I hope the survey will allow us to serve the community better.

The Police Department website offers valuable information and resources, including Nextdoor (our virtual Neighborhood Watch program), Can You ID Me (photographs of suspects), crime trends, programs, community involvement and services. To learn about up-to-the-minute activity and important events, “like” the Facebook page www.facebook.com/venturapd.

And have a safe and joyous holiday season.”

Mailbox

Continued from page 5

in the near future, if Ventura really believes in Small Business Success. Laura Elam-Ray
Ventura

Breeze:

Ventura has the highest property crime rate in the County and the most number of homeless. 33% of those exiting the City and County jails end up being homeless. 28% of the homeless have been incarcerated in the last year. This means there are at least some 200 + persons living on the streets of Ventura with criminal records.

It seems to me there is a high correlation between our property crime rate and our high homeless population.

Add the fact that many of the homeless have been dislocated from Ventura riverbed and have ended up relocating into the Santa Clara riverbed which is closer to Pierpont and the Keys.

There is cause for concern in our two communities.

Murray Robertson
Ventura

Pierpont residents

A million thanks to the Pierpont Residents who beautified the entire of Pierpont Blvd. They weeded, brought in new mulch, rocks, bought plants—it truly looks great. My grandkids and I added our little share by regularly watering some areas.

Thank you all
Brigitte Colzani



Breeze contributing writer Sheli Ellsworth was at Bank of Books autographing her world famous book *Sometimes I Pee When I Laugh*. And some even got a genuine Breeze pen with their signed book.



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CHAMBER TO HOLD 16th ANNUAL *Poinsettia Awards*



(VENTURA, CA) The Ventura Chamber will host the 16th Annual Poinsettia Awards luncheon honoring the outstanding achievements of businesses and individuals who have made a difference in the Ventura community on December 13, 2012 at the Marriott Ventura Beach.

After a month of open nominations for the Poinsettia Awards, we are pleased to announce the winners: **Large Business of the Year** - Ventura TowneHouse; **Mid-Size Business of the Year** - Ventura Rental / Ventura Party Rental; **Small Business of the Year** - RH Wealth Advisors; **Young Professional of the Year** - Diana Trinh; **Non-Profit Organization of the Year** - Rubicon Theatre Company; **Citizen of the Year** - Dr. Trudy Tuttle-Arriaga; **Jewel Key Award** - Top Hat Burger Palace; **Innovation Award** - Ventura Botanical Gardens; **Ambassador of the Year** - Yvonne Knepper; **City Employee of the Year** - Joe Salsedo; **Firefighter of the Year** - Captain Ben Davis; **Police Officer of the Year** - Corporal Dave Ruggiero; **Female Student of the Year** - Maria Espinoza, El Camino High School; **Male Student of the Year** - Conley Schroepfer, Ventura High School; **Educator of the Year** - Sebastien DeClerck, Ventura High School; **Environmental Excellence Award** - EJ Harrison & Sons, Red Brick Pizza.

The Ventura Firefighters will also be hosting their annual "Spark of Love" holiday toy drive and ask that attendees bring an unwrapped toy, book or sporting equipment to the luncheon.

This event is proudly sponsored by: Kaiser Permanente, City of Ventura, Ventura County Star, Marriott Ventura Beach, AERA Energy, Community Memorial Health Systems, Ventura Rental Company, Ventura Party Rental, Ventura TowneHouse, Hoefer Enterprise, FASTSIGNS Ventura, Montecito Bank & Trust, RH Wealth Advisors, County Commerce Bank, Ventura Breeze, VC Reporter, Cypress Place Senior Living, First California Bank, Pacific Western Bank, Sheeler Moving & Storage, TWIW Insurance Services, County Schools Federal Credit Union, CSU Channel Islands, Barber Automotive Group, EJ Harrison & Sons, and Western States Petroleum Association.

This year, the luncheon will be celebrated on Thursday, December 13, 2012 from 11:30am - 2:00pm at the Marriott Ventura Beach Hotel. Admission is \$40/member and \$50 for non-members. For more information or to check on available seating, please call (805) 643-7222.

I AM THE CHAMBER

"I have been a member of the Ventura Chamber of Commerce for over 10 years and have never felt more connected to our City. I support the chamber for a number of reasons, but most importantly because the Chamber is the business community's voice in the halls of government. It supports the policies and laws that promote business enterprise and a strong economy locally, statewide, and federally (U.S. Chamber of Commerce membership included). The Chamber is here to represent, protect, and strengthen our community's small and large business interests. Although attending events is not required, since the Chamber's staff and committees are continuously working behind the scenes to provide a return on investment to its members through advocacy, I find that the more I participate in events such as the Connection Breakfast, evening mixers, ambassador group, and various committees the more business contacts and true friends I make."

Janet Fukumoto - Account Executive, Time Warner Cable Media



OUR TOWN

By: **Ed Summers, President & CEO**

Reflecting during the holidays I cannot help but think about how lucky we are to live and work in Ventura and what a great community we have. One of the reminders is the Chamber's Annual Poinsettia Awards. Looking at the winners for this year as well as the many businesses and individuals who have been honored in the past, we realize how many people are working hard to make Ventura a better place.

The Chamber has many outstanding non-profit organizations as part of our membership. These organizations give above and beyond throughout the year helping those members of the community who are less fortunate, to bring us arts and culture to enrich our lives, and to support essential community services including education and volunteerism. Always and especially this time of year it is good to remember our neighbors working to improve all of our lives through non-profit activities.

Of course, in the season as we remember our family and friends with gifts and surprises, we do not need to look any further than our own town for the perfect gift ideas. One of the priorities our Chamber Board has set for 2013 is to spread the word on how important it is to shop locally and support our local businesses! This is a particularly important message to keep in mind during the holiday season. Keeping our sales in Ventura supports friends and neighbors who own and work at these shops and businesses. It keeps the money in Ventura and, in turn, generates more sales and profits at other local businesses as the owners and employees consume products and services. Statistics show that for every dollar spent it creates \$4 in economic activity. Keeping a majority of it here in Ventura benefits all of us.

Staying local for the holidays also provides the local sales tax revenues we need to fund essential City services for public safety, well maintained roads and parks, and a dependable water supply.

Remember, no matter what your need is, we probably have it right here in Ventura. This way, everyone wins!

VENTURA BUSINESS *of the Month*

The City works with the Chamber to select businesses in our community to honor and recognize at their monthly meeting for their innovation and contribution to the City in helping to build the economy. **Congratulations to the following awardees:**

SEPTEMBER	SHEELER MOVING & STORAGE
OCTOBER	VENTURA JAGUAR & LAND ROVER
NOVEMBER	WEDGEWOOD BANQUET CENTER

CHAMBER *Around the Town*

LEFT TO RIGHT: Arealistic Circus & Flying School opens up their Ventura location with a remarkable grand opening! Chef Kirk Parks of Marriott Ventura Beach and staff serving their specialties at TASTE 2012; Anytime Fitness Owners Allen Coleman and Karen Terveer celebrate their Ribbon Cutting



SHOPPING LOCAL FOR THE HOLIDAYS!

By: **Vadim Simakov**

That time of year has come again, it seems like it sneaks up on us every year, the time when we all start to panic, that's right, holiday shopping is back. However, holiday shopping does not have to be as frightening as everyone makes it seem if we support our community by shopping locally. Everything you need is located close and conveniently and by shopping locally, we can help support our small businesses because when they prosper, so does our community.

Boutique Shopping & Holiday Fun at Ventura Harbor Village - Authentic, trendy, local, and artsy describe gifts you can

find at the Ventura Harbor Village this holiday season. From beach, dive and sun lovers, to art and home enthusiasts, the Ventura Harbor Village's 20 stores offer a memorable shopping experience in a beautiful setting. Visit VenturaHarborVillage.com for a list of stores and holiday events.

Shopping at Pacific View Mall - Located in Mid-Town, Pacific View offers a wide variety of ideas with over 130 specialty shops, cafes and restaurants. Department stores are Macy's, Target, Sears and JCP. Over the past 2 years, Pacific View has added H&M, Sephora, Trader Joe's, BevMo, Staples, Massage Envy, Wet Seal, Foreign Exchange, Crazy 8, Cotton On to such out-

standing stores as Gap, American Eagle Outfitter, Hollister, Disney and Gymboree.

With the Holidays come many traditional retailers such as Hickory Farms, Go Games and Calendars, See's Candy kiosk and, new this year, a Christmas Tree lot near the north end of the mall on Mills Rd. For more information and holiday hours, visit www.shoppacificview.com or [facebook.com/ShopPacificView](https://www.facebook.com/ShopPacificView).

Downtown Ventura Shopping District - Downtown Ventura's Main Street is a shopper's haven when it comes to unique boutiques, bookstores, antiques, jewelry, and thrift stores. And the downtown shopping corridor is completely walkable! Park

along Main Street and walk to your heart's content to find unique shops, chic boutiques, art galleries, and other fun and funky little shops on the strip. Take a break from your downtown shopping experience and enjoy the abundance of attractive cafes and ethnic cuisines including Peirano's, Taj Café, Watermark, Busy Bee Café and more! For a list of downtown shops, please visit: <http://www.downtownventura.org>

So remember, when you do your holiday shopping this year, be sure to support our community and help our small businesses by shopping locally, because a little always goes a long way.

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News and Notes

Parade of Lights

Continued from page 4

with excitement over the 36th Annual Ventura Harbor Boat Parade of Lights & Fireworks, Friday and Saturday, December 14 & 15, at 7 pm and Winter Wonderland & Holiday Marketplace on Saturday, December 15 from 1- 5 pm. Decorated boats and holiday décor throughout the Harbor kick off this year's "Jingle Jungle" theme!

The two-day celebration features a Parade of Lights Carnival on the Ventura Harbor Village Main Lawn, visits by Santa & Mrs. Claus for last minutes gift requests at the Carousel Stage and delicious harbor-front dining. A fireworks display lights up the night following the Parade of Lights each evening with Santa and his sleigh crossing the sky on Saturday evening courtesy of Aspen Helicopters.

There will be visits with Santa & Mrs. Claus and their live baby, Victorian carolers, toy soldier band, faux snowfall, craft stations, holiday characters, and boutique shopping. Savor seaside at this free event and explore the 15 local boutiques for holiday finds. Harbor restaurants are overflowing with good cheer for lunch and dinner.

At the Parade of Lights stop by the Ventura Harbor Village booth to get a pair of 3D glasses to watch the fireworks display.

Admission to the Parade of Lights and the Winter Wonderland & Holiday Marketplace on December 15 is free. Parking is free in Ventura Harbor Village and along Spinnaker Drive. Arrive early for best parking and shopping throughout the Harbor Village.



This happy, friendly group of Mike, Lindsay, Nicole, Megan, Geovany, Edmund and Margaret were at the Crowne Plaza checking ID's before attaching wrist bands for wine walk participants

Fine wine and snow downtown

Wine lovers enjoyed wonderful wine, live entertainment and snow on Dec. 1 as the Ventura Winter Wine Walk was

held in downtown Ventura. This coincided with the Holiday Street Fair that began at noon that featured vendors selling hand-crafted gifts and art. And the faux snow started falling while entertainment was being provided at the main stage by Jeannie Tatum, Teresa Russell and The Bomb.

There were 51 tasting locations all the way from restaurants to an optometrist's office (and some offered beer). Some with long lines and some without any lines. A great time was had by all.

Tickets were easily picked up at the Crowne Plaza and even the weather was not a factor for the Wine Walk as the light sprinkles stopped by the time the snow fell and the colder weather allowed it to build up on the street at California and Main. During the day the rain was heavier and caused some vendors to pack it up.

Organizer Vincenzo Giammanco stated "When we started this event we wanted to bring people to downtown Ventura to help boost the economy before the holiday season. Year after year, it has slowly grown to this really magical event. It's not only the event itself; it's the people you meet. People come from all of the different cities. More than 60 percent come from outside Ventura."

The event is a partial fundraiser, with proceeds benefiting the Downtown Ventura Organization (DVO) that works to sustain and improve the downtown city center.

Kevin Clerici, executive director of Downtown Ventura Partners, a business improvement district said "We want people to have a great experience and feel the buzz of everything happening downtown, from our top-flight restaurants and cafes to our mix of shops, galleries and offerings. And that is exactly what they did during this wonderful daylong event."

Philanthropists extraordinaire

Continued from page 1

and had little to give when we were young. But we shared a common philosophy about helping, and however little we had, we were always determined to share it with others."

"Success isn't accomplished with just money. We tried to bring the artists and arts organizations together, to provide a sense of cohesion and collaboration - to build community. To reach a destination, we must know where we are going and put one foot in front of the other.

"Building community, getting a kid through school, keeping music alive, keeping the theatre going, the symphony playing, or experiencing the result of a collaboration between the college orchestra performing with the ballet. It's all giving; it's all helping to improve our community."

And on Sunday, Dec. 2 they received



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the "Chai Award" that is bestowed by the Jewish Federation of Ventura County in recognition of those wonderful people in our community who have dedicated a lifetime of service to help the most vulnerable, enrich Jewish life, support Israel and secure the Jewish future. The Jewish Federation of Ventura County was proud to present the "Chai Award" to Sandra and Jordan Laby for their lifetime of service to the Jewish community and Israel.

It was presented at a Mitzvah Circle Reception held at the Herzog Winery.

When Israel needed a champion, in the darkest days of the first intifada, Sandra and Jordan stepped up to help lead the community on a journey that raised thousands of dollars for the victims of terror.

Sandra and Jordan have always credited

their passion for Israel and their vision of Tikkun Olam, to heal the world, to their Jewish roots.

Our community has been blessed by the good works of the Labys. Sandra, an Endowed Lion of Judah in our Womens' Division is the driving force behind the New West Symphony, the Ventura County Ballet and her newest endeavor "Harmony Project", bringing instruments and training to the children of Sheridan Way Elementary School in Ventura.

They are the ultimate team, whether they are dancing, leading or funding powerful projects, they are changing the landscape of our community forever.

Sandra Laby was the 29th sitter for the portrait series the Face Of Ventura by Johanna Spinks as featured in the Ventura Breeze



Recently a few of those who feel that dogs should not be allowed in Cemetery Park were there expressing their displeasure and desire for it to once again become just a cemetery (They couldn't agree on how to spell it though).



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The Ventura Breeze Presents The Face Of Ventura



Barbara Quaid

Portrait by Johanna Spinks

Barbara Quaid has worked at the Ventura County Fairgrounds for so many years she can't remember a time when she didn't go into her office and the days went by so quickly. 23 years after she started as a receptionist she took the job as CEO in 2005. At the time one of her daughters gave her a wooden bookmark that says "I believe you can only be great at something you love". The quote is from Maya Angelou and still sits on her desk and reminds her daily how fortunate she is to love what she does and work at a place where their daily purpose is to make people smile and create lasting memories.

Born in Pittsburgh, PA and a diehard Steeler fan she and her husband spend Sundays watching Steeler games and BBQing with the family. Barbara's family moved to Santa Barbara as a youngster, she remembers large Italian family gatherings, lots of laughter and Sunday dinners. They still have those family dinners with their daughters and grandkids. Barbara has a way of drawing people to her and making "instant" friends. Some of her most lasting memories have been with people whose paths just happened to cross. She puts people at ease and firmly believes in the power of personal relationships. Her thought is that there is always a need to be filled no matter what it is and what it takes.

A very supportive husband, two daughters and two grand children make her job an easy and enjoyable one. She considers the staff her second family and friends. I have been fortunate to be able to do work that I love, live in a place I love and enjoying the many blessings that have been given to me, says Quaid.

Barbara is very involved with Western Fairs Association as a Director, the International association of Fairs and Expositions, California Fairs Joint Powers Authority and is on the Board of Directors

for the Ventura Chamber and the Ventura Visitors and Convention Bureau. She believes you only get back what you put into anything, especially the community you live in.

We asked her what she likes most about Ventura?

We have so much to enjoy in Ventura. The weather and the people are beyond anything and anywhere else in the Country. Where else can you have the beach right in your backyard and the mountains in your backyard. We are so fortunate to be able to live in a place that offers so much to do for all ages right at our fingertips. Every day I look at the beach and turn to see the mountains and marvel how much beauty we have right at our fingertips. The peace and quality of life in Ventura is something most people spend their lives looking for, we only have to wake up and enjoy every day.

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

Having Johanna paint my portrait was a wonderful experience. I have a granddaughter and grandson who are very artistic and have both painted portraits of family members, so this means a great deal to me. We had great conversation and after the initial awkwardness of sitting under the light, I realized it felt like I was sitting having a visit with a dear friend. Johanna is one of the most amazing, talented and warm people I have ever met. When Johanna offered to come to my office during the Fair and paint, it made the sitting that much more special. With all of the noise and the excitement of the third day of Fair, we closed the door and started to talk and she painted. It is an experience that I will never forget.



Images copyright by
Johanna Spinks
johanna@johannaspinks.com
www.johannaspinks.com
www.thefaceofventura.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 57 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 until January after two years of wonderful portraits by Johanna.

The Face of Ventura collection can be seen at Crowell, Weedon & Co., 5740 Ralston Street, Suite 301, until March 30, 2013. Drop-ins welcome.

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Saturday, December 22

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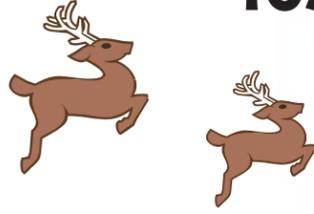
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Horsepower For An Hour, Saturday 1-2pm

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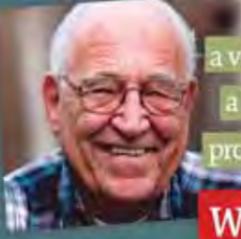


The Kim Pagano Show, Saturday 2-4pm

Kim Pagano started her radio career on KKZZ and is now on 1520 KVTA every Saturday from 2-4pm. Kim brings you "Experts and Reality" in an effort to educate moms, dads, children, and the entire community in useful daily knowledge. If you would like to be a part of the Kim Pagano Show by sharing your journey, call or email Kim at 805-419-0008 or Kim@kimpaganoshow.com.



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10 warning signs of Alzheimer's

by Nanci Cone

The holiday season is traditionally a time to gather with loved ones and this can raise questions about the cognitive health of aging family members.

"There are 10 accepted warning signs of Alzheimer's disease," says Barbara Lanz-Mateo, communications manager of the Alzheimer's Association California Central Coast chapter. "If you notice unusual behavior in your loved one, make sure he or she sees a doctor. Remember, everyone forgets names or where we placed things occasionally; that's a normal part of aging. But when it affects daily life, that is something to be concerned about."

The Alzheimer's Association provides these 10 warning signs:

Memory loss that disrupts daily life. Forgetting recently learned information or important dates or events, constantly asking for the same information, relying on memory aids or family members for things they used to handle on their own.

Challenges in planning or solving problems. Trouble concentrating, following a plan or working with numbers, creating a familiar recipe, keeping track of monthly bills or taking much longer to do things than normal.

Difficulty completing familiar tasks. This includes having trouble driving to a familiar location, managing a budget or

remembering the rules of a favorite game
Confusion with time or place. Losing track of dates, seasons and the passage of time.

Trouble understanding visual images and spatial relationships. Difficulty reading, judging distance and determining color or contrast; or passing a mirror and thinking it's someone else.

New problems with words in speaking or writing. Stopping in the middle of a conversation with no idea how to continue or repeating themselves; struggling with vocabulary, having problems finding the right word, or calling things the wrong name.

Misplacing things and losing the ability to retrace steps. Losing things and being unable to retrace steps to find them again or accusing others of stealing, which may occur more frequently over time.

Decreased or poor judgment. Changes in judgment or decision-making such as when dealing with money, giving large amounts to telemarketers or paying less attention to grooming or keeping themselves clean.

Withdrawal from work or social activities. Start to remove themselves from hobbies, social activities, work projects or sports.

Changes in mood and personality. Becoming confused, suspicious, depressed, fearful or anxious or easily upset in places where they are out of their comfort zone.

"There are definite benefits in getting an early diagnosis," Lanz-Mateo points out. "These benefits include developing a relationships with a doctor and getting treatment, having time to plan the future, successfully finding a clinical drug trial through Alzheimer's Association Trial-Match, and most importantly, participat-

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Senior Living

ing in decisions about their own care, transportation, living options and financial and legal matters.”

Anyone with questions about Alzheimer’s disease or seeking information should contact the Alzheimer’s Association’s 24/7 toll-free helpline at (800) 272-3900, or by visiting alz.org. Experts are available to talk to individuals concerned with their own cognitive health as well as that of family members who may need help.

Light Up A Life benefit

Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurse Association has begun its 28th Annual Light Up A Life campaign. The beginning

of the campaign coincides with National Hospice and Palliative Care month, November, and runs through the holiday season. The campaign goal is to raise \$50,000 to benefit Livingston Hospice, the first Medicare Certified hospice in Ventura County.

Livingston invites all residents of Ventura County to support this year’s Light Up campaign. Memory Stars can be ordered online for \$25 each at livingstonvna.org or by calling 642-0239. Event sponsorship is also available.

Hospice is a special kind of care for the terminally ill, their families and caregivers. Hospice care addresses and meets the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of patients. Services are provided in the patient’s home.



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■ Dec. 1 was a busy and fun day for me because I attended 2 grand openings of Ventura businesses that love dogs (don't they all?).

First I went to the grand opening of the Ohana Pet Hospital, located at 4547 Telephone Rd., which was hosted by the Ventura Chamber of



Vets Jill Muraoka Lim and Janis Shinkawa not only showed me their new vet hospital but gave me some Hawaiian treats.

Commerce and featured Hawaiian music and dancers, a ribbon cutting, great food, a petting zoo and a tour of the facility. They have 4 vets (DVM) Jill Muraoka Lim, Janis Shinkawa, Nicci Quinn and Katherine Byrne and lots of rooms with real fancy equipment (I hope that the tables aren't cold).

I met some real friendly dogs there. In Hawaiian, Ohana means family, which they consider their pet patients to be. And



One of the owner's of Doggin' Around Day Care, Jennifer Greiman, took me on a tour and gave me a big hug.

the best part is, a lady told me that I am even cuter in person than in my photos (obviously a woman of good taste).

To learn more about them check out www.ohanapethospital.com or 658-7387.

And then later on I went to Doggin Around Dog Day Care for their grand opening. They are located at 3222 Bunsen, in a 6200 square foot facility. They will offer a range of services in addition to providing day care. Among the services offered are professional grooming and veterinary services, as well as fresh-baked, homemade dog treats and birthday cakes (of course I had several).

Co-owner Nancy Barna, whose conversations with dog owners around town uncovered the need for additional day care options for local dogs, told me, "It was pretty common to hear people talk about a need for more high-quality dog care. It was a need that I have struggled with, too, so my business partner and I studied the opportunities and realized that there is a need we can fill."

For more information, call 223-3630 or go to their website, at www.DogginAroundDayCare.com.

■ It's the time of year to talk about the best gift ever – a new pet! This is very exciting but let's keep some important stuff in mind. New pets need food and water bowls, litter and litter box, collar and leash, and a dog license if we're talking dogs (and even cats in some towns). Puppies and kittens teethe, too, so make sure they have a good quality pet toy rather than your socks to chew on.

But the big thing is that every little kid says "If you buy me a puppy I will walk him and take care of him" and sometimes that lasts for only 2 weeks. So please be sure that we are well taken care of.

So here's to a warm new home, my four-legged friends, but no climbing on tables or counter tops, however wonderful the turkey smells!

■ With the holidays coming up I, once again asked my friend Shannon Coyner, RVT, CPDT (dog trainer and veterinary technician) for some holiday advice.

"Dear Scamp:

I hope you are enjoying this holiday season! I want to make sure you and Savana stay safe during all of the festivities.

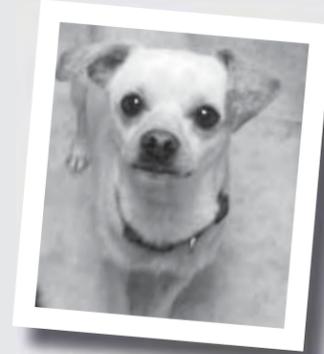
There are going to be a lot of food and treats around. These tasty items are okay for the people but can make you very sick. Make sure to stay away from any alcohol (including things like rum cake), chocolate and bones (like turkey and chicken). These things can make you sick.

If you have a Christmas tree it can look like a lot of fun but be careful! Savana, if you try to climb it, it could fall. The water for the tree may seem like a convenient place to drink, but it is full of sap and needles that

Forever homes wanted

Hi: We're Bono (Yorkshire terrier) and Sontya (Rottweiler mix). We were rescued from S.P.A.R.C. where we were picked up as strays. Our owner was found, but sadly never came to get us. We're a bonded pair and must be adopted together. We're looking forward to a new life with a loving family. If you're looking for 2 sweet dogs, stop by and meet us, we may be the addition to your family that you've been looking for.

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



Hi: I'm Trooper. I am a young male Chi/Jack Russell mix. I was rescued by CABODOGZ from the Ventura County Animal Shelter. I am very sweet and playful. I get along great with everyone, even cats! I am awaiting my forever home at Ventura Highway Luxury Boarding For Dogs @ 4692 Ventura Ave. CALL 805 643-3647...Be A Hero...Adopt A Dog For The Holidays And Forever!!

Scamp Club

Hi: I'm Skippy Jack an eight (more or less) year old boy Chihuahua. I like to eat (don't all us dogs?), tap humans to give me more back, or tummy scratching.

I'm a lucky dog because a few weeks ago I had lunch in the Harbor with Scamp and he even paid (of course he gets a big salary for his column I'm sure).



Join Scamp Club

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

can give you a tummy ache. Use your own water bowl instead. Make sure your mom or dad sweeps the needles off the floor, they can hurt your throat if you try to eat them. The tree will be decorated with lots of ornaments and pretty lights, try not to play with them. Tinsel can make you very sick, even cause you to have to have surgery.

Other decorations that people like to have during this time of year are holiday plants. Many of these plants can make you sick. Be sure to stay away from Holly, Mistletoe, Poinsettias and Lilies.

On New Year's Eve, it may be very loud with noise makers and parties. You should be kept in a safe place inside, so you won't try to run from the noise and leave your yard! Make sure you are wearing your name tag on your collar and even better that you have a microchip with your accurate address.

Your friend, Shannon"

Scamp – Can't I even have one egg-nog? And I will stay away from Mistletoe because Savana may try to kiss me (ugh). And I do have a chip on my shoulder.

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.

Vehicle Recovery

On Thursday, November 29th, at 5:14 a.m., neighbors in the 8100 block of Calaveras Street interrupted a residential burglary in progress and called the VPD. An officer located a vehicle in the area and contacted the driver of the vehicle in the 8200 block of Visalia. The driver was detained. The vehicle was reported stolen out of Oxnard. The driver was identified as Daniel Esquivel after initially giving a false name and arrested.

Esquivel was arrested and booked at VC Jail. The property from the resi-

dential burglary was recovered a short distance from the residence.

Stolen Vehicle Recovery

On Thursday, November 29th, at 11:16 p.m., an officer on patrol observed two suspicious, occupied vehicles parked in the 2000 block of Cedar Street.

An investigation revealed that one of the vehicles had been reported stolen out of Oxnard two days earlier. The male juvenile who was contacted inside this vehicle was arrested and later booked at juvenile hall.

Officers recognized the occupant of the second vehicle as Ivan Ruiz who was wanted in connection with the brandishing of a handgun that had occurred in the 4200 block of East Main Street. Ruiz was arrested and booked at VC Jail

The owner of the stolen vehicle was contacted and his vehicle was released back to him.

Recovered Stolen Vehicles

On Friday, November 30th, at 12:53 p.m., the VPD received a call from the victim reporting that her vehicle had been stolen from the parking lot of the Ventura Aquatic Center. The victim had lost her keys while running in the park and when she returned, she saw an unknown suspect fleeing in the vehicle.

The victim's vehicle was equipped with a LoJack stolen vehicle recovery system, which was activated. Officers found the unoccupied vehicle parked in 10400 block of Tulsa Avenue.

Andrew Coombes was seen by officers getting into the vehicle and picking up Leah Grider. Officers

followed the vehicle to where Coombes pulled in the parking lot of a business in the 10900 block of Telegraph Road and fled on foot. Coombes was taken into custody. Grider was detained near the vehicle.

Stolen Vehicle Arrest

On Friday, November 30th, at 9:00 p.m., an officer was entering the police storefront located at 110 North Olive Street when he observed a sport utility vehicle parked in front of an adjacent business.

The officer recalled a similar vehicle had been stolen two weeks earlier in Ventura and began to investigate. Shortly after learning the vehicle was in fact stolen, Charity Felch exited a nearby business and seated herself in the driver's seat. The officer contacted Felch and determined she had been in

Police Reports

possession of the stolen vehicle. Felch was placed under arrest and booked into VC Jail. There were no injuries as a result of this incident.

Theft from Vehicle

On Sunday, December 2nd, in the morning, a suspect entered an unlocked vehicle in the 600 block of Saratoga Avenue. Later, in the 4800 block of Mascagni Street, the suspect entered another unlocked vehicle and removed property. Unbeknownst to the suspect, he was caught on a video surveillance system belonging to one of the victims.

Officers saw the suspect riding a bicycle in the 2800 block of Johnson Drive. They recognized him from the surveillance video footage. Officers contacted Richard Christensen, who was found in possession of the victim's stolen property.

Christensen was booked into VC Jail.

Investigating Officers received information there were between 5-10 victims of theft from unlocked vehicles in the neighborhood where the crimes were reported.

Multiple Vandalism Reports

On Monday, December 3rd, at 1:30 a.m., officers responded to the 200 block of Lakewood regarding a possible prowler seen in the driveway. The victim scared the prowler away, however saw the vehicle the suspect drove away in. Other units were dispatched to the 7500 block of Loma Vista regarding subjects throwing rocks at parked cars from a vehicle.

One of the units spotted a vehicle matching the description of the suspect vehicle. The officer initiated a traffic stop on the vehicle.

The suspects had been driving around the east end of Ventura throwing rocks at parked vehicles and vandalizing Christmas lights and decorations that were displayed in front yards. There were a total of five different vandalism victims, though there may be more victims that weren't discovered during the night.

John Peters, Roy Milbrandt, and Trevor Bright, all 18 years old and Ventura residents, were booked into VC Jail.

Assault with a Deadly Weapon

On Tuesday, December 4th, the VPD received several calls of a large fight in the area of Petit and Halifax. Officers found Michael Turner, suffering from several non-life threatening stab wounds to his torso. The suspects fled prior to officers arriving, but were located a short distance away.

Turner and Ryan Langley got into a verbal argument with the two juvenile suspects, who they are acquainted with. The argument escalated, and a 17-year-old male juvenile stabbed Turner while a 15-year-old male juvenile hit Langley in the head with a skateboard. Langley was treated at the scene for minor injuries.

The two male juvenile suspects were uninjured during this incident and booked into VC Juvenile Hall.

Robbery at the Players Casino

On December 7th a single male suspect, wearing a mask, entered the Players Club Casino, in the 6500 Block of Auto Center Drive armed with a rifle. The suspect ordered all the patrons and employees onto the ground and made his way to the cashier cage. The suspect demanded money from the cashier while holding the patrons and employees at gunpoint.

The cashier complied with the suspect's demands and gave him an undisclosed amount of U.S. currency. The suspect fled on foot out the front doors.

Investigators have been interviewing numerous patrons, employees, and collecting forensic evidence from the scene. No one was injured during the commission of the robbery.

Harbor Patrol Blotter

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

11-19 8:22 p.m. FCC dispatched Patrol and others to a medical assist at VWM. Patrol responded. AMR transported the patient to the hospital.

11-20 7:30 p.m. FCC dispatched Patrol and others to a medical assist at the Comedy Club. Upon arrival, Patrol administered oxygen. AMR transported the patient to the hospital.

11-26 10:40 p.m. Patrol observed a disabled vessel by the breakwater. They took the vessel into tow and released it at the launch ramp.

11-27 4:22 p.m. FCC dispatched Patrol and others to a medical assist at the Ventura Marina Mobile Home Park. Upon arrival, Patrol was unable to gain access. FD arrived on scene and got into the unit.

11-28 6:41 p.m. FCC dispatched Patrol and others to a person not breathing on a vessel at VWM II. Upon arrival, a citizen was performing CPR. After receiving clearance from the hospital, CPR was discontinued.

11-29 4:05 p.m. Patrol received a phone call of a dog in distress off the breakwater. A Labrador Retriever has been in the water chasing birds for nearly an hour. Patrol responded, took the dog aboard the Patrol boat, and transported it to the beach for its owner. The dog was unharmed ("My heroes" Scamp).

11-30 12:55 a.m. A VIM tenant reports an alarm sounding on a vessel. Patrol responded. They were able to gain access to the inside of the vessel and turned off the alarm.

12-3 8:10 a.m. Patrol observed a petroleum sheen flowing from the Arundell Barranca. Patrol deployed four absorption booms and notified County Watershed District.



Sheila Lowe, a handwriting examiner from Ventura, provides research and seminars on the importance of learning cursive handwriting as part of a child's standard education.

Learning cursive

Continued from page 1
value of teaching cursive handwriting. Eldra Avery, an English instructor at San Luis Obispo High School, argued in part that "penmanship develops fine motor skills" and that "copying text is a process that promotes internalizing language."

But Dustin Ellis, a fourth-grade teacher at Big Springs Elementary School in Simi

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Spay & Neuter Animal Network All Volunteer - Non Profit

Happy Holidays
Trash & Recyclables or Green Waste Pick Up Information for the Christmas & New Year's Holidays
Since both Christmas and New Year's Day fall on Tuesday this holiday season, Ventura customers of E.J. Harrison & Sons who normally have their trash and recycling or green waste collected on Tuesday through Friday will have them collected one day later than usual both weeks. Service will remain the same for customers who have their trash and recyclables or green waste collected on Monday.
The regular collection schedule will return the week of Jan. 7-12, 2013.
Harrison will maintain its regular Monday trash collection schedule in Ojai and surrounding areas during the weeks of Dec. 24-Dec. 30 and Dec. 31-Jan. 5, 2013.
Residents may put out twice the amount of trash at no extra charge during the two weeks following Christmas. Please make sure the trash is in bags. We will also collect extra recyclables, but please make sure to flatten all boxes.
Remember to recycle your Christmas tree by removing the ornaments, hooks, lights, tinsel, bows, nails and tree stand. Cut the tree into sections no more than 4 feet long and place in the yard waste barrel on your scheduled pickup day. **Note:** Flocked trees cannot be recycled.
Harrison Industries
Since Service is everything! 1932
ZERO waste Is Our Future
Thank you and Happy Holidays E. J. Harrison & Sons 647-1414
To order services & to pay bills online go to www.ejharrison.com

Valley, countered that "writing is a means to communicate, and we are past the world of the physical art of writing." He explained that "I want my students to be compatible and competitive with what the world is going to look like in 20 years. Cursive is not going to be a part of that world."

The State of California still includes cursive as part of its standard core curriculum, but in practical terms, most teachers only deal with it up to the third and fourth-grade.

"Our English Language Arts curriculum contains instruction in cursive writing at both 3rd and 4th grades," said Kathy Asher, the Assistant Superintendent of Education Services at the Ventura Unified School District. Asked if computer technology has influenced that instruction, she admitted that it has had an impact. "Teaching cursive occurs in our elementary schools," she said, "but as students move up in the grades, less emphasis is put on cursive writing with the integration of technology for publishing documents."

Laurie Curtis-Abbe, an elementary instructor at Anacapa Middle School, believes firmly in continuing to teach cursive beyond the lower elementary grades, but admits that teaching it at higher levels is really up

to the individual instructor. "If I did not require cursive penmanship practice and usage in my 8th grade Language Arts and U.S. History classes," she said, "I'm sure that cursive would be a lost skill with the majority of my students."

For Lowe, reducing cursive instruction as part of a child's standard education is problematic. "Not teaching handwriting has a deleterious effect on language skills, reading, and behavior," she said.

But for many instructors, it's more a matter of practicality than necessity. "Word processing and handwritten printing have replaced cursive for most, if not all students, as I have seen in the quarterly Benchmark Essays completed by all of our 8th grade VUSD students," said Curtis-Abbe.

In the real world of computers and mass media, the methods of education change with the times. Handwriting, once a necessity, has been updated to a different form of communication. From Ellis' perspective: "This is the age of iPads, cell phones, and computers. When a kid can text 70 words per minute, does he really need to learn cursive?"

Breeze: What happens if an old grandma sends her grandson a hand written letter leaving her fortune to him and he can't read it?

Weekly SUDOKU
Answer

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

King Crossword
Answers
Solution time: 25 mins.

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



Youth



College students Susan Malone and David Williams presented their ideas at the Citywide Grand Finals

Young students impressed the judges

On Nov. 29, at the Ventura City Hall the inaugural New Venture Pitch Competition Ventura Citywide Grand Finals was held before a standing room crowd of adoring parents, teachers and friends.

The completion challenged our local students to show their talent and entrepreneurial drive by coming up with an idea for a business product, or project they would like to lead in our community within one of nine categories and then pitching it to the judges with a personal presentation complete with power point.

The 14 citywide finalists presented

their ideas in 5 minutes (or less) in the format of an elevator pitch similar to shows like "Shark Tank".

The students were from Ventura College, De Anza Academy of Technology & The Arts (middle school), Foothill Technology High School and included Susan Malone, David Williams, Nicholas Burdick and Zakhar Gasisov, Amanda Penny and Laura Gurney, Peyton Erickson, Alexandria Kwasny, Shira Zaid, Micah Wilcox, Ashley Jones, Carlos Cohen, Lisset Ayala and Nathan Staples, Spencer Nichols, Alie Oleson,

Joshua Woodward, Tanner Woodward and Andrew Perez.

The 22 person judging panel consisted of local business and community leaders (including publisher Sheldon) who graciously volunteered their time.

For more information or to learn more about the Young Entrepreneur Development Program please contact Sean Bhardwaj at sean.bhar@gmail.com.

RAW talent at the Boys & Girls Club

The RAWketeers will present a multifaceted art show on Saturday, December 15, from 11:00 AM-3:00 PM at the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Ventura's Robert Addison Center, 1440 North Olive Street.

RAWketeers is a youth arts project that operates in 54 cities across the U.S. and Australia. The project was developed with the goal to incubate creativity and inspiration for the future generation of independent artists.

The program hand-picks local artistic talent in film, fashion, music, visual arts, etc. RAW's mission is to provide independent artists within the first 10 years of their career with the tools, resources and exposure needed to inspire and cultivate creativity.

The workshop will be led by the following Ventura RAW Artists:

Keyboard: Bonnie Mc Intosh
Drums: Chris Ramirez
Guitar: Miles Safford
Accessories: Rosa Lucero Subia
Dance: Angelique Ngo
Art: Johnny Blackburn and Travis Shorey
Photography: Brandy Fine Focus

Ventura Music Festival teaches students *What's in a Note?*

Wonder and excitement return to 4 elementary schools this month, when Ventura Music Festival Artistic Director Nuvi Mehta brings his Music in the Schools program to local third, fourth, and fifth graders. The presentation, titled *What's in a Note?* provides students with interactive instruction and performances in multi-media format, and features Mehta playing violin, accompanied by pianist Hiromi Tilsner.

Hosting the presentation on December 17 will be Elmhurst Elementary School at 9:00 a.m. and Montalvo Elementary School at 1:35 p.m. On December 18 Mehta will appear at Juanamaria Elementary School at 9:15 a.m. and E.P. Foster Elementary School at 12:45 p.m.

Mehta developed the program as one component of a three-part series on melody, harmony and rhythm. The Ventura Music Festival's educational outreach program, now in its ninth year, has presented live performances and interactive instruction to nearly 4,000 children at 24 schools in west Ventura County, five local Boys & Girls Clubs, the PEAK after school

program and Casa Pacifica.

The extensive educational outreach program is provided to schools free of charge, supported by generous festival donors. "Part of the Festival's mission is to enhance the appreciation and joy of music through education," continued Mehta. "Title 1 schools are given priority, as many have no music education, and the children cannot afford private music lessons or exposure to the arts."

Educational institutions interested in booking Music in the Schools, either on December 19 or when the program returns April 15-19, may contact Heather Lacayo-Neace at 648-3146 or hl@venturamusicfestival.org.



Straight Up youth advocate Alexa Boldt snapping a photo of an event guest on an iPad, which is then posted on Straight Up's Facebook page.

Youth advocates bring awareness to important issues at Ventura event

"I am my own person.
"We are healthy and lucky."
"I am an advocate!"

These are some of the messages written by attendees at a World AIDS Day event on December 1st, hosted by the Ventura Improv Company. Guests then had their photos and signs posted online to show their support for HIV/AIDS education and awareness.

Youth advocates from Straight Up Ventura County organized this effort to bring attention to HIV/AIDS as well as other challenges in young peoples' lives. In addition to participating in the social networking campaign, guests could play an interactive game show (developed by Straight Up intern and CSUCI student Alison Christensen), help themselves to resource materials about disease, alcohol, and drug prevention, and answer questions posed by young video journalists.

Technology was a key component to attract a youthful demographic. The use of iPads, electronic game show software (in which contestants could "buzz in" their answers using keypads), portable digital video cameras, and the immediacy of the internet were ways to create interest. For the social networking campaign, once guests' photos were posted to Facebook they could then alert their friends to come over and get involved, too, by using such methods as text and Facebook messaging.

The rainy afternoon couldn't dampen the enthusiasm of Alexa Boldt, 20, one of the organizers of the event. After returning from Main Street with her team of volunteers (who passed out flyers and conducted interviews), the CLU student voiced why outreach like this was so important.



Some Azahar Place units are designated for farm workers

Azahar Place has grand opening

The Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation (CEDC) celebrated the grand opening of Azahar Place, an affordable rental property in East Ventura on Nov. 30.

Azahar Place, located at 11370 Mimosa Street is the first LEED for HOMES certified development in the City of Ventura. This 60-apartment complex for low-income families, some of which are designated for farmworkers, was completed in June by CEDC.

The grand opening ceremony included presentations by residents; dedication of the Azahar Place Community Room to farmworker housing advocates Ellen and Hank Brokaw and presentations by local public officials.

"Congratulations to CEDC for the Azahar Place Project being recognized as the first LEED for HOMES Platinum certified development in the City of Ventura," stated Brian Brennan, Ventura City Councilman. "We are fortunate to have a community-development corporation right here in Ventura that is committed to the highest level of sustainable building standards that can be used as a model for future development in the City."

Youth

"We need to provide knowledge for individuals to make better choices – about sex, about drugs and alcohol," she says. "I want to have peers that are healthy and making educated choices – those are the people I want around me."

Straight Up Ventura County, a project of Ventura County Behavioral Health Alcohol and Drug Programs, works with 12 to 25 years olds to promote awareness and create social change surrounding issues such as underage and binge drinking, impaired driving, marijuana and prescription drug abuse and other issues. HIV/AIDS education outreach was made possible by a collaboration with Ventura County AIDS Partnership.

Straight Up strives to be interactive to engage young people. Social change improv workshops, a yearly video contest, game shows and a blog are only a few methods to attract volunteers. Collaboration is critical, so that Straight Up can do outreach and create messages that resonate with the community – among youth, young adults, educators, and parents.

Training youth spokespeople and advocates is an important component in Straight Up's approach.

"When I see something that I want to speak up about, it is frustrating when there are not outlets to do so," Alexa continues. "Straight Up has been wonderful with reaching out, so that young people in our County can be encouraged to speak up."

More information about Straight Up can be found at www.straightupvc.org. You can view pictures of the World AIDS Day event at Straight Up's HIV/AIDS advocacy page, [facebook.com/outspokenvc](https://www.facebook.com/outspokenvc) or at [facebook.com/straightupvc](https://www.facebook.com/straightupvc).

School

Teacher Sebastien De Clerck honored

Recently, Ventura teacher Sebastien De Clerck, 36, was named one of 5 California Teachers of the Year. De Clerck teaches Italian and French at Ventura High School and is credited for expanding the foreign-language department to become the largest in the county.

On May 16, 2012, the Ventura Commerce and Education Foundation (VCEF) named Sebastien De Clerck Ventura's May Teacher of the Month.

Mr. De Clerck has been teaching French and Italian for more than 13 years, he also advises 3 separate clubs on campus and is the Foreign Language Department Chair.

De Clerck was born in Canada and raised in Belgium and speaks 4 languages.

State Superintendent of Public Education Tom Torlakson stated "Mr. De Clerck's passion for teaching foreign language is very evident in the way he interacts with his students. He not only respects his students, he knows they want to learn, and has high expectations for them in the classroom."

Business



Which one these people is a turkey? He's the one on the right!

Ventura's Turkey of the Year also a Paul Harris Fellow

Mohammed A. Hasan, a Ventura consulting engineer, has been named honorary "Turkey of the Year" by the California Water Environment Association. The award is given annually to a person who has served the organization and provided general leadership in the profession. Hasan is among two dozen individuals in the tri-counties who have received the honor. This award was presented November 16th during a Mardi Gras themed dinner at the Wedgewood Banquet Center. Hasan is also a Fellow of the American Public Works Association and the American Society of Civil Engineers. The Rotary International named him a Paul Harris Fellow. Harris is the founder of Rotary.

Founded in 1927, CWEA represents more than 9,000 members, most of whom are wastewater industry professionals. Its members are committed to keeping California water clean. More information is available for the Tri counties section of CWEA at <http://www.cwea.org/>

Videos help your website

by Andy Collins

Whether you use professional equipment or your simple camera built into your smart phone or laptop computer, video helps your website in a number of ways.

The two most notable ways are 1) using video to connect with potential customers and 2) using it to help get noticed by Google in ranking your website.

When using it to connect with your customers, the best way is to provide value to them, make the video engaging enough to watch all the way through, and let them see your personality.

In making a video for the web the most important thing is to get started, have something up there as you can always replace it with something better later on.

Quality helps if you can provide it. Here are a couple of tips: Be close enough to the camera so people can see the main subject and so the audio

tricoties/.

Hasan is the principal engineer and owner of the Ventura firm of Hasan Consultants, which provides services in civil and environmental engineering and surveying. He received his undergraduate degree in Karachi and two master's degrees from the University of Iowa at Iowa City, Iowa.

A native of Bangladesh, Hasan came to the U.S. in 1971. His community activities in Ventura County spans 38 years serving as President of Ventura East Rotary, Judge at the Science Fair, Easter Seals Tri-counties, Muscular Dystrophy Association, President of Ventura Trade Club and Consultnet, and other charitable organizations. Hasan gives back to the community through free community classes and fundraising for causes. He lives in Ventura with wife JoAnn, and has two daughters, Yasmin and Mishty.

Hasan Consultants is located at 2436 E. Thompson Blvd.

will be clear.

Rich Sigerist of RSVP Creative says "Audio quality can make or break your video. Audio is powerful. Audio can pass through solid objects and wrap around corners. Light can't. Ambient noises like refrigerator noises or AC vents can be minimized with an external microphone placed on or near your subject. And whatever you do, monitor your recording with headphones. Your camera may be recording something entirely different from what you're hearing."

To help use video to help rank your website, upload your video to YouTube (you can upload it to other sites, but since Google owns YouTube, they use their videos in their rankings), then embed the code you received from YouTube on the page you want to rank. There's an added benefit as YouTube gets more searches than Yahoo or Bing do.

The rules have changed for rankings. It's no longer, throw it up there, title and tag it correctly with your correct keywords. The new rules include:

Getting 10 views in the first 24 hours, YouTube sees how long people

stay watching the video, the longer the better, so have them watch it all the way through.

They also look at if people are reposting it (to Facebook, LinkedIn, Twitter, Vimeo, other video sharing sites, etc.) and if there's dialogue produced by it.

So, your assignment would be get a video, put it on YouTube, watch it all the way through, "like it" on YouTube and get someone else to watch it, post it to your social accounts, and then get a few people to comment about how it they like it and talking about whatever the topic is.

To talk about video marketing please go to my Facebook page, www.facebook.com/AndyMyCIO

For a Free 5 part e-mail course on how to make a profitable website go to www.internetmarketingventura.com

Annual Poinsettia Awards

The Ventura Chamber will host its 16th Annual Poinsettia Awards luncheon, honoring the outstanding achievements of businesses and individuals who have made a difference in the Ventura community on Thursday, December 13, from 11:30am – 2pm at the Marriott Ventura Beach Hotel.

An Environmental Excellence Award will be presented by the City of Ventura Environmental Sustainability Department and the Downtown Ventura Business Award will also be presented by Downtown Ventura Partners.

The Ventura Firefighters will also be hosting their annual "Spark of Love" holiday toy drive and ask that attendees bring an unwrapped toy, book or sporting equipment to the luncheon.

The Ventura Chamber will honor the following businesses and individuals at the awards ceremony.

Large Business of the Year – Ventura TowneHouse

Mid-Size Business of the Year – Ventura Rental / Ventura Party Rental

Small Business of the Year – RH Wealth Advisors

Young Professional of the Year – Diana Trinh

Non-Profit Organization of the Year – Rubicon Theatre Company

Citizen of the Year – Dr. Trudy Tuttle Arriaga

Jewel Key Award – Top Hat Burger Palace

Innovation Award – Ventura Botanical Gardens

Ambassador of the Year – Yvonne Knepper

City Employee of the Year – Joe Salsedo

Firefighter of the Year – Captain Ben Davis

Police Officer of the Year – Corporal Dave Ruggiero

Female Student of the Year – Maria Espinoza - El Camino High School

Male Student of the Year – Conley Schroepfer - Ventura High School

Educator of the Year – Sebastien DeClerck - Ventura High School (see article about him in this issue)

Environmental Excellence Award – EJ Harrison & Sons and Red Brick Pizza

Visit the Chamber website for further information www.venturachamber.com.

Show Time

Ventura County Fair in the news

The 2013 Ventura County Fair dates and theme have been announced. The fair will run from Wednesday, July 31 until Sunday, August 11, 2013 and the theme is "Boots, Barns and Banjos".

"The Ventura County Fair is the quintessential country Fair with horses, livestock, rodeos and entertainment," said Barbara Quaid, Fairgrounds CEO. "We think "Boots, Barns and Banjos" is a great theme that conveys a real down-home country feeling. We hope the theme will conjure up mental images of summer days with music wafting through the air, laced with the sweet smells of the fair."

The Fair theme will be used as a unifying element throughout the Fair exhibits, entertainment, decoration and marketing and it will inspire children's imaginations as they enter in the 2013 Ventura County Fair Poster Contest.

For more information about the Ventura County Fair and how you can participate call 648-3376 or visit www.venturacountyfair.org.

Always helping at the fair is the The Junior Fair Board. It was established in the 1970's to provide young adults with an opportunity to develop leadership skills, perform community service, and become aware of the business and operations of District Agricultural Fairs. Along with conducting daily contests at the fair, the Junior Fair Board performs service projects at the fairgrounds such as beach clean ups, assisting at various functions and serving as ambassadors to the Ventura County Fair.

The 20 member board meets once a month from January until July, and daily throughout the Ventura County Fair. Prior to the Fair, the board prepares for daily events during the fair, assists in various pre-fair events, helps with the livestock department and performs office work. During the fair, the Junior Fair Board puts on contests such as pie eating, karaoke, watermelon eating, adult showmanship, cow pie bingo, apple bobbing and many more.

If you, a friend, or a family member are interested in becoming a member of the Junior Fair Board, please download an application online at www.venturacountyfair.org and return it to the Ventura County Fairgrounds. Qualified applicants are Ventura County residents who are between the ages of 15-20 years old, demonstrate school and community involvement, and have a good attitude. For more information, please call 648-3376 or visit www.venturacountyfair.org.

Two on the Aisle

Rubicon offers 2 musical delights for the holidays

by Jim Spencer & Shirley Lorraine

Do you want to have a part in the creation of a new holiday musical? Then catch a staged concert presentation of *Little Miss Scrooge*, a new work on stage at Ventura's Rubicon Theatre Company through December 23, and participate in the audience feedback process that is so important to the authors as they polish and perfect the script.

Little Miss Scrooge is a modern musical retelling of Charles Dickens' holiday classic *A Christmas Carol*, with the intriguing addition of characters, plot lines and references from other works by Dickens, such as *Nicholas Nickleby*, *Great*

Expectations and *The Pickwick Papers*, to mention a few.

During a recent sit-down the musical's composer/lyricist and one of the script's co-authors, Paul Gordon, explained the libretto is sort of a mash-up. Although updated and set in the 21st Century, it follows the storyline of *A Christmas Carol* to assure those who have never seen or read the original will not miss any of its message or charm. For those familiar with Dickens' novels, the periodic crossover references to other Dickens characters and tales will provide additional layers of richness, humor, depth and dimension.

To top it all off, there are some 12-14 new songs and musical numbers.

Here's a glimpse of the plot. Estella Scrooge, a direct descendent of Ebenezer, is a profit-driven Wall Street banker. Since Betty Cratchit and other staffers decline to work on Christmas Eve, she personally goes to Pickwick, Ohio, to foreclose on an unprofitable hotel that caters to the dispossessed. The project is run by the attractive Phillip "Pip" Nickleby, who turns out to be a former childhood friend. When a snowstorm hits she is forced to stay the night at the hotel. After retiring she is visited by three eccentric spirits who share with her visions of Christmases Past, Present and Future.

The story involves 15 roles and many appear as modern versions of characters that populate other Dickens tales, with several actors portraying more than one part.

Since the production is a staged concert reading and is part of the fine tuning process, there are no large sets, there is limited physical action and blocking, and some actors read from scripts. However, all the musical numbers are fully showcased and the actors' vocal performances are supported by a five-piece band.

Little Miss Scrooge plays seven times a week, Wednesdays through Sundays through December 23, 2012. Curtain times vary to accommodate matinees and talk-backs with the actors on different days.

In addition to *Little Miss Scrooge*, by popular demand the Rubicon is also reprising a concert version of *A Rubicon Family Christmas*. It runs for only eight performances, December 20 through 23, in the newly renovated Ventura College theater. The concert features six Broadway veterans and a 60-member children's chorus. The entire show is under the direction of the Rubicon's resident Associate Producer Brian McDonald. There are both matinee and evening performances.

Tickets for *Little Miss Scrooge* or *A Rubicon Family Christmas* are available at the Rubicon Box Office at 1006 E. Main Street (Laurel entrance), by phone at (805) 667-2900, or online at www.rubicontheatre.org

Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer returns

Move over Grinch... Santa Claus is back in town! From Thursday, December 20 through Sunday, December 23, Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer, Frosty the Snowman and

the big jolly man himself reunite with the spectacular Rubicon Family Christmas cast for a joyous celebration at the Ventura College Theatre for seven performances only.

The stellar cast includes Joan Almedilla, Teri Bibb, Dina Bennett, Trey Ellett, Anthony Manough and Brian Sutherland who have starred on Broadway in such shows as *Phantom of the Opera*, *The Lion King*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Miss Saigon*, *1776* and *Rent*, among others. They are joined by an ensemble of talented young artists from the region. This year's concert will also have a few new surprises, including a 60 member children's choir under the direction of concert pianist Miriam Arichea. Glorious renditions of holiday carols and contemporary songs-of-the-season will be performed in styles including classical, pop, jazz and gospel. The result is an hour and a half of the best-performed holiday music you're likely to hear all season.

Regarding a past performance Ross Olney wrote in the Ventura Breeze that the production was "A Christmas show not to be missed!"

"You may come in as a Scrooge," commented Olney, "but you'll go out filled with the spirit of Christmas Present as each of the Broadway and film singers, dancers and actors gets a chance to hold the spotlight while the other five fill the background with marvelous music. Until the stirring *Ave Maria* by Teri Bibb (it probably rang out up and down Ventura's Main Street) brought tears to the eyes of the enthralled hushed audience, it was roaring laughter and loud cheering all the way. The cast entertained from the rousing opening medley to the rousing closing number."

A Rubicon Family Christmas Concert runs Thursday, Saturday and Sunday at 2 p.m., Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 7 p.m. All performances are at the newly renovated Ventura College Theatre located at 4700 Loma Vista Rd. Tickets are \$45 for adults, \$35 for Rubicon subscribers, and \$20 for children 12 and under. They are available through the Rubicon Box Office at 805.667.2900 or online at www.rubicontheatre.org.

Music Calendar 12/12 to 12/25

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

Amigos Cafe & Cantina

546 E. Main St., 805-874-2232

Live Bands and Musicians every Wed thru Sun

Brian Nicolette from 3 Man Weave every Wed

Andre's Wine & Tapas Bar

1575 Spinnaker Dr., 805-642-9463

Acoustic Tuesday with Bill McPherson & Friends every Tues 7-10pm

Jazz Jam every Wed

Blackbeards Seaside BBQ

1591 Spinnaker Dr. #115, 805-650-7773

Open Mic/Jam Night with "Shure Thing" every Mon 6-9pm

Blue Grass Jam featuring: The Bottom Feeders every Thur 6-9pm

Acoustic Jams with "Ken Kong" every

Fri, Sat & Sun 12pm

Fri 12/14 - A Fine Mess 7-11pm

Sat 12/15 - Crosscut 6-10pm

Sun 12/16 - Blue Stew 2-6pm

Fri 12/22 - Addicts Attic 7-11pm

Sun 12/23 - Blue Stew 2-6pm

Bombay Bar & Grill

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

Local Live Music every Thur thru Sun

Thur 12/13 - Black Party Politics, Rub-

berneck Lions, Legues 9pm

Sat 12/15 - Alexandra & The Starlight

Band 8pm, Hindsite 10pm

Sun 12/16 - D. on Darox, The Melody Joy

Band 5pm

Thur 12/20 - Beat Battle 10pm

Fri 12/21 - Count Lorenzo 6pm, Bloody

Mary Morning Xmas Party 9pm

Sat 12/22 - Hindsite 10pm

Sun 12/23 - Shoemaker Brothers 5pm

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

Fri 12/14 - Never Shout Never, Anarbor,

William Beckett, Plug In Stereo 7pm

Sat 12/15 - 3rd Annual Winterland 7pm

Sun 12/16- Dwight Yoakam, Ventucky

String Band 8pm

Squashed Grapes

2351 E. Main St., 805-643-7300

Vocal Jazz Night every Tue 6:30-10pm

House Jazz Band every Fri 6:30-10pm

The Tavern

211 Santa Clara St., 805-643-3264

Live Bands every Tue thru Sat

"Honky Tonk Tuesdays" Country Night,

Live Country Band every Tue 8pm

Ventura County Blues Society Jam

session hosted by Tommy Marsh every

Wed 8pm

Wed 12/12 - Blues Jam with Tommy

Marsh & Bad Dog 8pm

Thur 12/13 - Stevie Tombstone 10pm

Fri 12/14 - Ground Zero, Mini Driver

10pm

Sat 12/15 - Emilbus, Red Light District

Radio Show 10pm

Tue 12/18 - Last Dog & Pony Show 9pm

Wed 12/19 - Blues Jam with Tommy

Marsh & Bad Dog 8pm

Thur 12/20 - The Mutineers 9pm

Fri 12/21 - Matt Zeltzer, Smooth Hand

Smith 10pm

Sat 12/22 - Ground Zero 10pm

W2O Rooftop Lounge

598 E. Main St. (above Watermark)

805-643-6800

Live Bands every Wed thru Sun

Friday Dance Party every Fri 9pm

Thur 12/13 - Bonner Goudelis & Adam

Clark

Fri 12/14 - Orlando Napier

Sat 12/15 - Bomb

Sun 12/16 - Shawn Jones

Thur 12/20 - Kyle Hunt and the King

Gypsy

Fri 12/21- Costco Live

Sat 12/22 - Sidetracs

Sun 12/23 - 50 Sticks of Dynamite

Yolies/Hi Hat Entertainment

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

Top Notch Musicians and Bands every

Fri 8pm

Fri 12/14 - John Nemeth (Blues)

Zoey's Café

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

Blue Grass Jam every Tue 6pm

Songwriter's Round every Wed 8pm

Live Musicians & Bands every Wed thru

Sat 8pm

Fri 12/14 - Guy Martin, Alistair Greene

(Blues) 8pm

Wed 12/19 - Matt the Electrician, Rain

Perry (Folk/Rock) 8pm

Fri 12/21 - B. Willing James & Freinds

(End of Year Jam Event) 10pm

Sun 12/23 - Julie Christensen, Dan

Wilson & Ranjit Masilamani 7:30pm

Lighter Breeze

Zits



Snuffy Smith



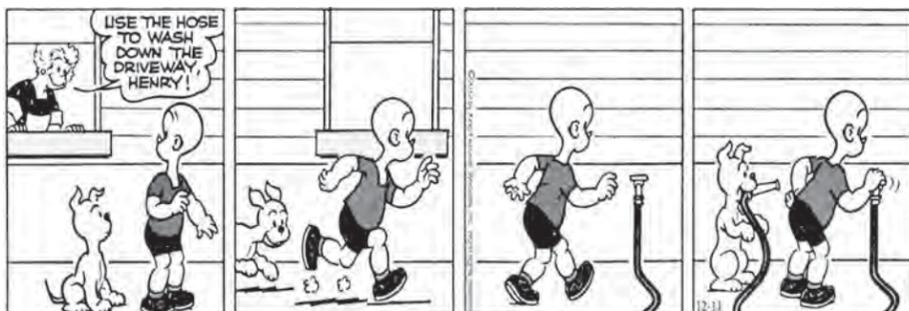
Shoe



Moose and Molly



Henry



Dustin



Solutions on page 17

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

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!

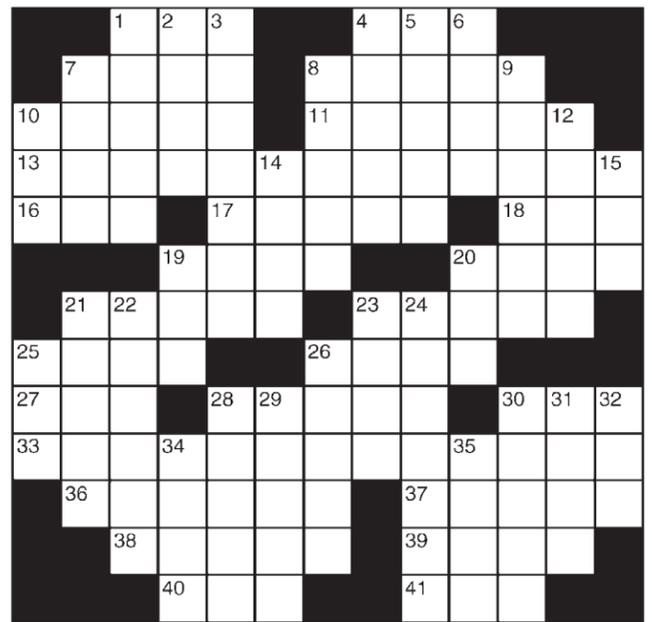
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Solutions on page 17

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 "Bam!"
- 4 Altar affirmative
- 7 Consequentially
- 8 Dodge
- 10 Decorate
- 11 Eateries
- 13 Good thing with a bad element
- 16 Pigpen
- 17 Beethoven's "Für —"
- 18 Slithery squeezer
- 19 Chow
- 20 Galley supply
- 21 Nervous
- 23 Move laterally
- 25 Humdinger
- 26 Finished
- 27 — Baba
- 28 Accumulate
- 30 Witticism
- 33 Ambivalence of a sort
- 36 Sir Isaac who developed a short hand method
- 37 Finish
- 38 Archaeologists' meccas
- 39 Best pocket



- pair
- 40 "Monty Python" opener
- 41 Beavers' creation
- 22 Panacea
- 23 Mediocre
- 24 As an alternative
- 25 Felon's flight
- 26 Curses
- 28 Fess up
- 29 Wherewithal
- 30 Web surfer's need
- 31 Responsibility
- 32 Recipe meas.
- 34 Needle case
- 35 Bygone Peruvian
- 7 Rewrite, maybe
- 8 Forgo the cue cards
- 9 — Council ("Survivor" meeting)
- 10 Mornings (Abbr.)
- 12 Sleep soundly?
- 14 Sad
- 15 Petrol
- 19 Wildebeest
- 20 Praise in verse
- 21 Dutch flower

DOWN

- 1 Substitute
- 2 Shrek is one
- 3 Is curious (about)
- 4 Wall-climbing plants
- 5 Thickly populated
- 6 Mined-over

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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Make a start on that new workplace challenge. But get more information before you find yourself too deeply involved without knowing in which direction you should go.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You might find things becoming tedious as your schedule slows down for the holidays. Use this time to get information about a possible post-New Year job change.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) The creative Twin finds outlets for her or his ideas in the early part of the week. The practical Twin takes it a step further and rallies support to turn the ideas into reality.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) It's time to stop being intimidated by someone's negative behavior. Start taking positive steps on your own to help strengthen your position down the line.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Look closely at that so-called golden opportunity. Best to be a cautious Cat who approaches things slowly, than one who pounces without knowing where you'll land.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Your apology can resolve that personal situation before it overshadows the holidays. You'll feel better, even if you're only partly to blame for what

happened. **LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) Avoid overtaxing yourself, even if your energy levels are high and you feel that you can do it all. Best to pace yourself so you won't run yourself down before the holidays.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Your sense of humor helps get you through a stressful period. Some of your quick quips can take the edge off any remaining negativity being aimed at you.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Your artistic talents not only help you express yourself these days, but they also set up a line of communication between you and someone very special.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) It's fine to appreciate the importance of "proper form" for doing things. But relax a bit in order to allow newcomers on the project to feel less intimidated by you.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Use your boundless reserve of optimism to persuade others to work with you to resolve a difficult workplace problem before it can ruin your holiday fun.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) You brim over with self-confidence as you begin to tackle a new challenge. And, before you know it, you're not alone: Others have taken the plunge with you.

BORN THIS WEEK: You have a highly defined sense of commitment to others. You would make a fine social worker.

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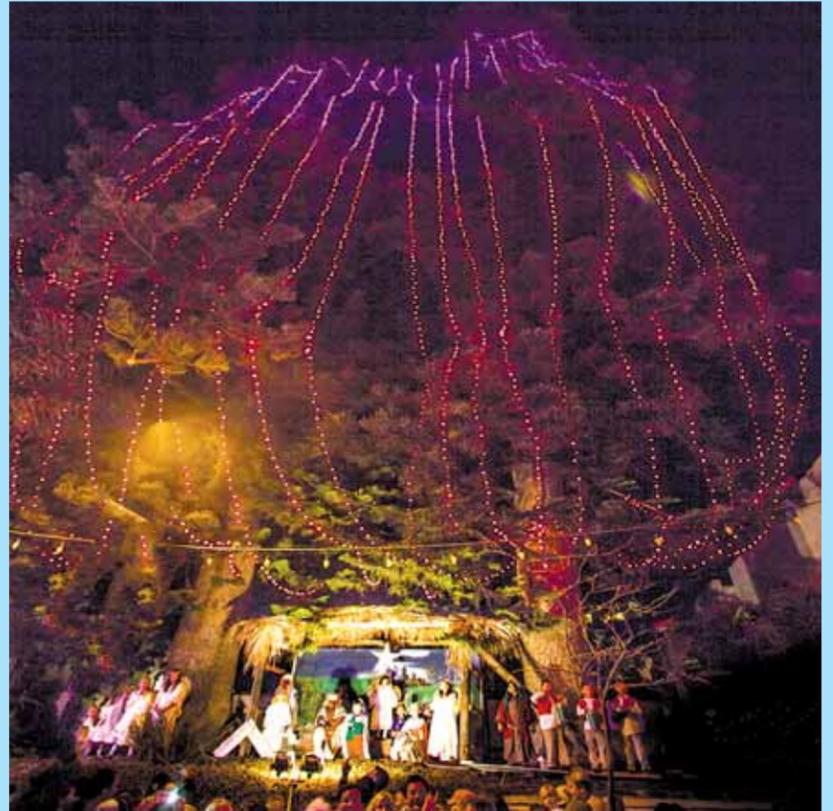
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This 'n' That



On Nov. 30, a celebration was held to introduce the new year-round lights at the mission trees, located at 211 Main at the Mission. Besides the tree lighting the celebration featured several school choirs, Santa arriving on a fire engine and snow falling. Photo by Bernie Goldstein

SPAY AND NEUTER YOUR PET: SAVE A LIFE

2 dogs X 6 years = **67,000 DOGS**...YIKES!! 2 cats X 9 years = **11, 600,000 Cats**...OMG!!

"We can't add, but we sure can multiply!!"



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cabodogz.com

November Marine mammal sightings

- 19th: 50 Common Dolphins
- 20th: 3 Humpback Whales
- 21st: 3 Humpback Whales
- 22nd: Happy Thanksgiving
- 23rd: 2200 Common Dolphins
- 24th: 2 Humpback Whales
4100 Common Dolphins
50 Risso Dolphins
- 25th: 3 Humpback Whales
3800 Common Dolphin
- 26th: No Sightings
- 27th: 1000 Common Dolphin

VMF announces appointment

Continued from page 1

she coordinated the marketing, and represented the interests of over fifty performing arts groups; and, working as the Managing Director of the Santa Barbara Festival Ballet, where she produced its annual Nutcracker performances with live orchestra at the Arlington Theatre. She has training, and performing experience, in classical piano, violin, harp and voice. Ellen is a graduate of UC Santa Barbara with a B.A. in Liberal Studies.

The 2013 Ventura Music Festival will include Tito Puente, Jr. on February 16, and the Academy of St. Martin in the Fields on March 4. Tickets will go on sale on Dec. 15. For more information, please call 648-3146 or go to www.venturamusicfestival.org.



On Monday, Dec. 3 Anytime Fitness, located at 2950 Johnson Drive held their grand opening celebration sponsored by the Ventura Chamber of Commerce. Photo by Kenny Backer

Ventura Breeze Service Directory

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Art Scene



On the Midway by Jack Halbert, Best of Show in 2012, BAA's 26th Annual Open Competition

Call for entries at Buena Ventura Gallery

Buena Ventura Art Association announces a "Call for Entries" for the 27th Annual Open Competition at the Buena Ventura Gallery in downtown Ventura's cultural district. The exhibit will run from January 8 through January 26, 2013. Deadline for entries is midnight December 31, 2012. Over \$1,500 in cash prizes and membership benefits will be awarded at a reception and ceremony on Saturday, January 12 from 4 – 7 pm, including a \$400 top prize for Best of Show. Katrina McElroy, art instructor at Moorpark College, will be the juror.

The competition is open to all artists in Central and Southern California. A prospectus may be downloaded from the Buena Ventura Art Association's website at www.buenaventuragallery.org. Entries must be submitted electronically and uploaded online at the same website.

The Buena Ventura Gallery is located at 700 E Santa Clara St. in downtown Ventura. Hours are Tues – Friday from 12 – 5 pm and Saturday from 11 am to 5 pm. For more information visit www.BuenaVenturaGallery.org.

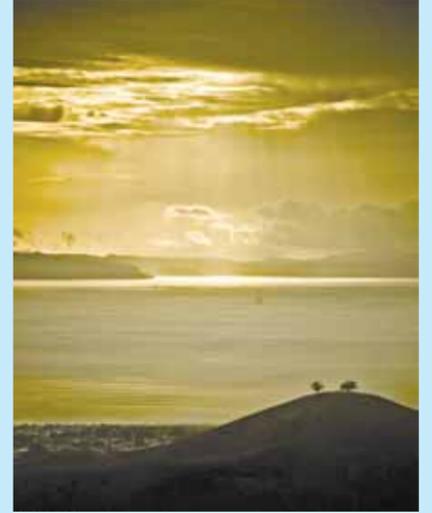
Art, a la Carte



The Ventura Potter's Guild is having a Holiday Open House and Marketplace on Saturday, December 15, 11 am – 6 pm. Gallery artists will be represented in the gallery and outside around the Carousel garden patio. There will be demonstrations on the potter's wheel by Troy Schmidt of Santa Barbara and Larry Carnes of Ojai.

All work is locally made with stoneware and porcelain clay bodies, offering a multitude of uniquely creative sculptural and functional pieces. Unique one of a kind pottery makes a thoughtful gift this holiday season or anytime. Our Holiday Open House will be held in conjunction with the Ventura Harbor's Winter Wonderland & Holiday Marketplace and Parade of Lights.

Ventura Harbor Village, 985-5038.



Broc Ellinger is a 21 year old Ventura photographer whose active lifestyle is easily identified within his photos. From ocean scenery to urban landscapes he truly provides the imagery of the adventurous eye. You can buy a poster of his work at the Visitors Center in downtown and see his photos at Eric Ericssons, Quick Printing Plus, Aloha Steakhouse, the Crowne Plaza Gallery and other locations in Ventura.

He says, "I'm trying to give back to the community with imagery and hope to do a charity contribution in the near future. This is my passion and I want to keep showing our wonderful Ventura."

To see more of his work go to www.BrocEllinger.com



The Tool Room Gallery presents Unusual Objects, a group show of Ventura artists that embrace objects in an unusual way. The artists showcased on the exhibit are Misako Inaoka, Lenn Potesman, Janet Neuwalder and Lynn Creighton. The work will be on exhibit at the Tool Room Gallery at Bell Arts Factory, 432 N. Ventura Avenue, 643-1960, until December 28. You can view more information about the gallery and the artists at www.toolroomgallery.com



Jeanne Moir moved away from the constant roundness of the wheel, finding her greatest pleasure in the surprises that emerged from asymmetrical hand-building sessions in which she sought spouts, handles, and lids that spoke to and of each other in fantastic configurations. Moir engaged in the same playfulness at the glazing stage of her teapots, discovering wild and wonderful color combinations. She will be exhibiting a selection of her teapots at Studio 1317 in January. The opening reception, as part of First Fridays Ventura, is from 6 to 9 pm on January 4, 2013.

Give the gift of art

It's not too late to buy your child's classroom teacher a gift! Through the City of Ventura Children's Celebration of the Arts Program we are encouraging parents to purchase Children's Celebration of the Arts 2013 Gift Certificates.

The City of Ventura has been bringing artists into the classroom with the Children's Celebration of the Arts program for 22 years. For \$40 the entire classroom can dream, imagine, dance, draw and experience another culture with a professional artist in their field. African Drumming, Italian Mosaics, Japanese Chiyogami and Persian Dancing are just a few of the popular workshops being offered. Please contact Kathryn at 654-7552 for more information. The Gift of Art lasts a lifetime!



Travel and art are linked in the life of Fredda Leiter, a Ventura artist whose watercolor paintings will be exhibited starting Dec. 19 and running until Jan. 14 at the Harbor Village Gallery. An artist's reception will be held 5-8 p.m. Dec. 21 in a show titled Outside Time When Circling the Globe.

Leiter's art studies and career began in 1999, first with classes in drawing, then in painting in oils. Her focus shifted to watercolors in 2006, when she enrolled in a watercolor class trip to Italy and took a class to prepare. Since then, she has continued to study locally and in workshops around the country with noted watercolorists.

The gallery is open noon-5 p.m. daily except Tuesdays. For more about the exhibit or the nonprofit Buena Ventura Art Association, call 648-1235 or visit the website www.buenaventuragallery.org



Reclaiming The Sacred Source, the wonderful sculptures of Ventura artist Lynn Creighton will be on display at Gallery 28 until Dec. 31 with an artist's reception on Dec. 15, from 5-8pm.

Lynn stated "Searching for the form of the woman in full celebration of life is my primary artistic pleasure and goal. I am a clay artist. It is the plastic potential of clay that makes possible the discovery that invites me to move forward until the entire figure is revealed.

"It is my intention that the power of these figures ignite an awakening of feminine energy to its highest vibration."

Gallery 28 is located at 1901 S. Victoria, Ste. 109, in Oxnard at Seabridge. www.gallery28atseabridge.com, 985-1128 for hours.










*We have something for everyone on your Christmas List!!
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Religion



A wonderful new home for the River Community Church

The River is on the horizon

The River Community Church (TRC) has a new home! They are now meeting at 889 E. Santa Clara Street and it is a permanent location for Pastor Jim Duran and his team at TRC.

Jim & Pam Duran started a Bible Study called "The River" in January 2004 at his sister's condo. But there was nothing "still" with the "moving" river. After three months, The River moved to Aegis Assisted Living in Ventura where they added music to their Bible Study and started becoming more like a church service.

In June of 2004, TRC moved to Washington School and spent two years holding services there while restoring the 400-seat auditorium. In June of 2006, they moved into The Lighthouse Christian Fellowship on Mesa Verde Avenue.

After four years, TRC moved to The Harbor Community Church where their congregation continued meeting in the evenings. In June of this year, TRC moved again to The Ventura Vineyard.

Who knew that three months later

TRC would be offered the property on the corner of Santa Clara and Kalorama Streets? And yes, their very own property. "I have been waiting eight years to say this: Good Morning everyone!" says Pastor Jim as he opened his first service. It was a packed house with standing room only.

The property is where Horizon Foursquare Church has met for the past 26 years and prior to that was called Ventura Foursquare Church.

"This property has been the catalyst for so many ministries throughout the nation and we are honored and privileged to accept this great responsibility," says Duran, Senior Pastor of TRC.

The River Community Church is known for being "Your partners in life." Their service time is at 10am every Sunday and at 5:30pm on the first Sunday of every month. For more information about The River Community Church, please visit their website at www.TheRiverCommunity.org or call the church office at 212-8240.



Ventura Chamber of Commerce invites you to...
THE ANNUAL MEETING
& Board Installation.

Wednesday, January 16, 2013
5:30 pm - 7:30pm

WEDGEWOOD BANQUET CENTER
5880 OLIVAS PARK DRIVE
VENTURA

It's time to get to know YOUR Chamber!

- Mike Silacci / 2012 Board Chair will highlight Chamber's accomplishments over 2012
- Jim Duran / 2013 Incoming Chair will outline the Chamber's direction for the coming year
- 2013 Officers and New Directors will be sworn in
- Recognition of 25 & 50 Year Chamber Business Members
- Network while enjoying!



Members \$25 / General Admission \$40
To RSVP, please call (805) 643-7222

WWW.VENTURACHAMBER.COM

And we have a winner!



Contributing Breeze photographer John Ferritto was a winner in this year's (once again) City of Ventura Photo Contest with Fireworks taken at the county fair