

VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

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January 23 - February 5, 2013

Ventura park improvements aid local economy

by Ed Wehan

Chair, Ventura Parks and Recreation Commission, and Visitors and Convention Bureau board member

This was a great year for Ventura's park and recreational facilities. Despite budget and staff constraints in 2012, this year turned into one of the best ever. It also proved that if we invest in our parks, visitors will come. Well maintained parks with upgrades make Ventura more livable and more inviting.

2012 also showed the importance of partnerships and collaborative outreach. Our community members and many non-profits made significant contributions to our City's Parks and open space.

Throughout the year, many new initiatives were put in place by City staff that made small but noticeable improvements at our City facilities but let's take a look at a few of the more important accomplishments that will have a significant impact in some way on all of us.

The appearance of Cemetery Memorial Park was greatly improved to expose the historic rock wall and provide a great view from Main Street up into the park area. New informative signs have been installed off of Poli Street and the Military Flagpole area has a great new look. This will continue in 2013 to ready CMP for the upcoming 150th anniversary of the City of Ventura.

Marina Park and West Park playground equipment have been replaced to create a more user friendly atmosphere with fun options for kids of all ages.

Progress has been made on the Westside Kellogg property acquisition with a joint agreement with the Trust for Public Land. Considerable credit goes to Westside residents who met with City staff and Park's and Recreation commissioners to identify park amenities that appeal to those living in the area. The support and collaboration of Westside residents have made this progress possible.

The Highway 126 bike bridge over
Continued on page 3



The first wall of the new Community Memorial Hospital has been poured.

The six-story, 325,000-square-foot hospital is being built next to the current hospital at 147 N. Brent Street, and is scheduled to open in 2015. It will have 250 private rooms, comfortable space for families and a healing garden on the grounds. The current 242-bed hospital was built in 1962. Previous hospitals in the 110-year history of Community Memorial Health System were the Elizabeth Bard Memorial Hospital, built in 1901, and Foster Memorial Hospital, built in 1930. Photo by John Ferritto.



Ventura's new head librarian wants to make the library a community center

Music, yoga and vegan food at your local library?

by Rebecca Wicks

Sara Roberts, the new head librarian at E. P. Foster Library, is private about her personal life. About all she'll disclose to me is that she likes the beach and being outdoors and eats lunch about once a week at Nature's Grill. She confirms that she and her husband reside in Ventura. Crossing the nation from the state of Georgia for the job, she tells me how the opening of the senior librarian position was serendipitous.

"I had a real vision of where I wanted to be," said Roberts of her job search, which ultimately landed her in Ventura.

"I wanted to be at a library that was in a downtown."

Before becoming a librarian Roberts thought her future lay in teaching.

"I was teaching high school while I was getting my masters degree in teaching," explained Roberts. "And, by the time I finished I had decided I never wanted to teach again."

So, Roberts changed course and went back to school once more to obtain her masters degree in library sciences from the University of Alabama. After brief stints in Tennessee and San Diego, Roberts found her way up the coast to Ventura.

Roberts has only been here since November. She didn't live through the drama surrounding the closing of the H.P. Wright library. She doesn't know much about the city's probe into learning more about the possible benefits of leaving the county library system - and, maybe it's for the better. She isn't tainted. She isn't discouraged. In fact, she is pursuing change, and she's doing it fairly aggressively. She sees the library's future role as more than it is today.

"I see the library as a community center," said Roberts. "I see it as a place to learn, change - all those great things you can do at the library."

Roberts has already started reaching out to the community and its businesses to create some of the programs she plans on introducing this year.

"Most of the ideas have come from the people of the community," admitted Roberts.

Roberts goes on to describe a bevy of new activities including a music series that will take place the second Sunday of the month from 2-4 p.m. Free and
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These judges had a difficult time selecting the best of the wonderful art work.

Boys & Girls Club artists move on to regional competition

The Annual Juried Fine Arts Exhibit by members of the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Ventura took place on January 10 in the second floor children's section of E. P. Foster Library. This was the third year that the judging was held at the children's section which is run by children's librarian Star Soto.

A variety of art media was represented by the Club's young members and their work was judged by a panel of 3. Staci Brown, from the Breeze, Deputy District Attorney Erik A. Nasarenko and artist Gwenlyn Norton.

The winning art projects, judged by age group, will be sent to the regional competition of the Boys & Girls Club of America.

The public is invited to view the art display until January 25th during regular library hours.

Jennifer Cross, director of the Oak View Boys & Girls Club, and chairwoman of the show, was busy hanging the art work for the judges to evaluate.

We asked the 3 judges to comment on the show and their involvement.

Erik A. Nasarenko stated "As a library commissioner, I was delighted to see the EP Foster Library showcase the artistic achievements of the Boys and Girls Club of Ventura. I encourage library patrons, especially those with children, to visit the second floor of the library and to see firsthand the wonderful colors, compo-
Continued on page 3

While in the Dominican Republic for the Dominican Carnival you can always catch up with the Breeze at venturabreeze.com

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



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The new Chamber Board of Directors was installed on January 16.

Chamber building a strong foundation

The Ventura Chamber of Commerce held its annual Meeting and Board Installation on Thursday, January 16 at the Wedgewood Banquet Center. The event was attended by business members, City officials and dignitaries including Mayor Mike Tracy, Councilmember Brian Brennan, a representative from Superintendent Steve Bennett's office and Congresswoman Julia Brownley's office, Dr. Robin Calote, Ventura College President, and John Walker, Trustee for the Ventura Unified School District.

Outgoing Board Chair, Mike Silacci, presented the 2012 Annual Report which reflected on the emphasized membership value and communication as a primary focus for 2012; expanded the focus of scope in the Chamber's marketing committee which increased membership communication, public communication and awareness, and increased attendance at Chamber events;

the Calling program with the City of Ventura to work with top 100 employers in the City of Ventura; representing the Westside business community in communicating and providing feedback on the Westside Community Plan and Development Code; and worked to improve the economic environment in the City by identifying key industries and unique aspects to help those businesses grow.

New Chamber Board of Directors that were installed by Dr. Robin Calote were Jim Duran – The River Community (Board Chair), Barbara Quaid – Ventura County Fairgrounds (Chair Elect), Steven Brown – Gold Coast Transit (Treasurer), Jeff Hata – Anchor Printing (Secretary), Mary Jarvis – Kaiser Permanente (Vice Chair-Communications), Mel Sheeler – Sheeler Moving and (Vice Chair-Business Development), Phil Carlson – Pacific View Mall (Vice Chair-Membership), Matthew Graczyk – ICRUMZ, Inc. (Vice Chair-Governmental Affairs) and Mike Silacci – AT&T (Immediate Past Chair).

Ventura Chamber businesses that were also recognized for being long time members including 50 Year Member – Ventura Port District and 25 year members: FOODShare, Earth Systems Southern California, Swiss Productions Inc., Business & Employment Services – County of Ventura, Boys & Girls Club of Ventura, First Bank, Turning Point Foundation, Helen Yunker Realty, Marriott Ventura Beach and Metson Marine. The Chamber appreciates the long term dedication from their members.

For more information on the Ventura Chamber, please visit www.VenturaChamber.com

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Vivienne and Evin Brown enjoying the new playground equipment at Marina Park.

Ventura park improvements

Continued from page 1

the Barranca will link the Victoria and Government Center area of Ventura directly to the Community Park. This will open early in 2013 and provide more bike access to the park.

The Botanical Gardens Demonstration trail is open offering a view laden one mile hike from above the City Government offices on Poli up into the upper reaches of Grant Park. The Los Angeles Times did a nice article about Ventura and its new trail. Look for visitors from all over hiking this beautifully constructed pathway.

Tennis got a shot in the arm this past year with a complete renovation of the Buena High School tennis courts. This was made possible by the joint efforts of the Ventura Unified School District, the City of Ventura, the local business community including the Ventura County Lodging Association and an energized local citizen's group. The result of this is that the Ojai Tennis Tournament will now serve as the home for the State Community College Tennis Championships with players from throughout California using our hotels and restaurants for 5 days every spring for many years to come.

Running doesn't necessarily use our Park facilities but running events are supported by the City's Parks and Recreation staff especially when they become as big as the Mountain to the Beach Marathon in late May and the Ventura Marathon in early September. Both events will bring thousands of visitors to our City who will use our hotels and eat in our restaurants.

The Ventura County Fusion soccer team continues to use our Community Park and other nearby facilities to host major events in our area. Upcoming is the Major League Soccer camp which brings 7 pro teams to our area. In January and February Fusion soccer hosts the California State Cup which will require over 5,000 room nights for area hotels. All of this supports economic activity for the City of Ventura.

Ventura BMX opened its fabulous new facility at our Community Park in early December. On opening day, over 1,000 people showed up and crowds continue to make use of this state of the art track. Ventura has a good chance to have a national competition race in 2014 which will bring thousands of competitors and their families to Ventura. BMX is an Olympic sport that will energize the youth of our community to compete at the national level.

Our Community Park and other City venues are ready to host the National Softball Association Western Girls Fast Pitch World Series July 22 – 27. This will bring approximately 3,000

visitors to our City.

Our City Parks and Planning staff also work closely with the Ventura River Parkway group in support of trails and access from the estuary up and through Ojai. If you've ever seen the American River Parkway, you will realize the economic impact that this type of endeavor can provide.

So, the list above covers only a small part of what has been accomplished in the area of parks, recreation and open space. The important thing to note is that our park facilities can be an economic engine for the City of Ventura's economy. Continued investment in parks and recreational space will pay off in the long run.

Thanks to Nancy O'Connor, our Parks Manager who has made most of these projects happen this year as well as to Elena Brokaw, the City's Director of Parks, Recreation and Community Partnerships. The Parks and Recreation Commission was a forceful advocate for all of these initiatives and City Council deserves credit for their continuing support of parks and recreation within our City.

Finally, much of this could not have happened without support from those outside our City government. These include Westside residents, the Hillside Conservancy, the Ventura Botanical Gardens group, the Ventura Unified School District, the Ventura County Lodging Association, the Ojai Tennis Tournament, Erick and Lea Kozin with Ventura BMX, the Ventura Visitors and Convention Bureau, Ventura County Fusion and Ben Dewitt and Josh Spiker from our running community. Thanks also to CAPS TV here in Ventura, and the Ventura Breeze for covering much of this park activity in 2012.

Boys & Girls Club

Continued from page 1

sitions and artistic styles on display. The combination of books on the shelves and children and youth art on the library walls really helps to make the library a center of creativity and artistic development.

It was difficult to evaluate and select a winner for each category because the competition featured so many expressive and talented art pieces, all from area youth between the ages of 6 and 18. I wish the very best to the Boys and Girls Club of Ventura artists as they move forward into the regional competition. I know they will continue to serve as examples of how art can make a positive and meaningful difference in our children's academic and social development."

Staci told us "I was honored to be a judge at the Boys and Girls Club Fine

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Arts competition for ages 6-18 held on Thursday, January 10th at E.P. Foster Library. The art ranged from watercolor to sculpture to mixed media and it was a delightful range of topics from boats, to animals to people. Future talent and Ventura artists were displayed!"

And artist Norton went on to say "Some adults believe they are not creative in any sense of the word. I would disagree. For three years now, when I see the art of young people in the local Boys and Girls Club who have created from their own imagination, I get chills. There is such joy, innocence and freedom. In judging for a competition, however, I have to make a more logical assessment based on my experience as a professional artist. Do they have a sense of space, color, placement, medium, subject matter, etc. I also look for potential, that is, skill. For me, the whole experience is simply delightful and reassures me that all humans are creative."

Music, yoga and vegan food

Continued from page 1

open to the public, the bands will play in the Topping Room which seats approximately 120. The room, which is part of the library building, has its own entrance just west of the library's main entrance on Main Street.

"We'll have a little of everything including classical, country, classic rock and kids bands – some consisting of kids and those for kids," said Roberts.

Many of the bands Roberts has communicated with have asked her if its okay if they are kind of loud.

"I keep saying 'of course' when they ask me that," said Roberts whose intention is clearly not centered on creating a traditionally quiet environment.

Roberts will also be introducing a Wednesday yoga program in mid-February where parents will be able to strike a pose while their children are entertained nearby with story time. The program will be for children 4 and up and take place from 3:30-4 p.m. Roberts is also entertaining the idea of having different groups meet at the library on a regular basis.

"Maybe it's a vegan food group program, maybe it's a meeting about the history of the city," said Roberts. "Whatever the community wants."

"I want to create programs that are focused on the long term, that will keep fostering the community," Roberts said and then giggled when she realized the pun.

"I want to create partnerships to promote what we have here," said Roberts. "I feel like there is a lot of possibility here and people seemed open to it which goes to show how the community helps the community."

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City News

City of Ventura helps schools and non-profits shine bright

by sustainableventura

The City of Ventura Public Works Department has completed its Energy Efficient Lighting Retrofit Program that will save local non-profit organizations and schools an estimated \$82,000 each year. Free energy efficient lights were installed at 19 non-profit agencies and 6 school gymnasiums in Ventura to replace old technology lighting and reduce energy costs. The program assisted schools and community organizations such as preschools, youth facilities and churches by reducing electric bills so that more of their funds can be used for essential community programs.

The no-cost retrofit program was developed utilizing \$260,000 of the \$1 million Energy Efficiency Community Block Grant awarded to the City in 2009 from the U.S. Department of Energy.

"The project was very successful," said Joe Yahner, Environmental Sustainability Supervisor for the City of Ventura. "These non-profits are now seeing a significant savings each month which gives them the money savings to put back into programs that benefit the community." The Ventura YMCA, for example, has reduced their electricity bill by over \$1,000 each month.

Meanwhile, The Ventura Unified School district will cut their electricity bill by over \$37,000 each year. The new lights, which were installed at Ventura and Buena high schools and Anacapa, Balboa, Cabrillo, and DeAnza middle schools, have also improved the lighting quality in the gymnasiums.

The federal stimulus funds have also been used to retrofit City owned streetlights to more efficient light emitting diodes (LEDs), conduct a city-wide greenhouse gas reduction study, and support other efficiency measures. Since 2007, the City has saved more than \$2.1 million by reducing facility electricity use by 15% and reducing vehicle fuel use by 20%. These efforts have helped the City cut its municipal greenhouse gas emissions by 15%.

Grand Jury seeks applicants

The Ventura County civil Grand Jury is now accepting applications for new jurors for 2013-14. Applications are available at their Open House on February 6, from 3-6 pm, at 646 County Square Drive, Ventura. This is an excellent opportunity to learn what Grand Jury service consists of, view the chambers, and enjoy some refreshments, too.

The Grand Jury is an investigatory body created for the protection of society and the enforcement of the law. Its goal is to ensure government agencies within our County are doing their best to serve the public in a cost-effective manner. If you have ever wondered about how you might con-

tribute to your County, now is your chance to participate.

To get more details about the mission of the Grand Jury, and to view previous years' reports, please visit their website: <http://grandjury.countyofventura.org>. If you are interested in serving on the 2013-14 Grand Jury, please note that applications can also be filled out on-line and will be accepted until April 15. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please call 477-1600.

The Grand Jury is available for speaking engagements throughout the County. If you would like to request a speaker for your organization, please contact: Judith Cohen at 477-1600.

WEV holding orientation sessions

Women's Economic Ventures (WEV) is holding free, 1-hour informational orientation sessions in Ventura County to help you determine your readiness for one of WEV's business courses. Orientation is required to enroll in select courses such as the Self-Employment Training (SET) program. WEV is a nationally recognized, local non-profit that provides business training, small business loans, and many other resources.

Date: Wednesday, January 23, 2013
Time: 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Location: Camarillo, CA
Cost: Free, but RSVP Required

Date: Thursday, January 24, 2013
Time: 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Location: Ventura, CA
Cost: Free, but RSVP Required

Date: Tuesday, January 29, 2013
Time: 6:00 pm – 7:00 pm
Location: Thousand Oaks, CA
Cost: Free, but RSVP Required

Date: Wednesday, January 30, 2013
Time: 12:00 pm – 1:00 pm
Location: Ventura, CA
Cost: Free, but RSVP Required

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4-7 years

1/24-2/28 Thursday 3:30-5:00 pm \$115

Designed for young ones, students create a basic digital comic book story using Comic Life software to share with family and friends.

Course #33611

Intro to Aikido for Youth
8-12 years

1/25-2/15 Friday 3:30-4:30 pm \$50

Kids learn Aikido basics, including beginning techniques and safe falling skills. Held at Aikido Dojo Training Center, 2406 E. Main Street.

Course #33869

Valentine Card Making

15 years-Adult

1/28-2/11 Monday 10:00-11:30 am \$25



Helping to celebrate President Obama's 2013 National Day of Service the Ventura Hillside Conservancy recently held 2 clean ups of the Ventura River. They provided the buckets, gloves, grabbers and protective gear and EJ Harrison provided the roll-off bins.

The Ventura Hillside Conservancy is holding on-going monthly cleanups of the Ventura River and other Ventura locations. The river clean up was led by Conservancy leaders Derek Poultney and Lee Sherman, Development and Volunteer Coordinator and was attended by about 50 people including a 2-year-old.

To learn more about the Conservancy and how you can help preserve our natural environment visit www.venturahillsides.org.

Photo by Murray Robertson.



Emboss, stamp and embellish unique cards for the holiday.

Course #33721

Dynamic Singers Children's Choir
5-12 years

1/28-3/11 Monday 3:30-4:30 pm

\$75 + \$5 supply fee 5-8 years

Course #33642

1/28-3/11 Monday 4:30-5:30 pm \$75

+ \$5 supply fee 9-12 years

Course #33643

Learn basic warm-ups, music fundamentals and music. Held at Bible Fellowship Church, 6950 Ralston.

Mr. Scott's Chess Club 8-12 years

1/28-3/11 Monday 5:15-6:15 pm

\$50

Improve skills and gain new strategies with National Championship coach. Course #33271

Meditation for Mind & Body Health 18 years-Adult

1/28-3/4 Monday 7:30-8:30 pm \$69

Anyone can learn to meditate.

Course #33887

Jazz & Contemporary Dance

13 years-Adult

1/28-3/11 Monday 7:15-8:15 pm \$60

Learn beginning and intermediate jazz and contemporary moves and choreography. Course #33696

Urban Style Hip Hop 7-18 years

1/29-3/5 Tuesday 6:15-7:00 pm \$60

Students will learn basic and intermediate "locking" techniques while grooving to 70s & 80s R & B funk music. Course #33691

Japanese Style Sumi Painting and Calligraphy 16 years-Adult

1/29-3/19 Tuesday 7:00-8:00 pm \$80

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Doodlebugs 5-8 years

1/30-3/6 Wednesday 3:00-4:00 pm

\$60

Love to doodle?

Classes held at Barranca Vista Center 7050 Ralston St. unless noted otherwise. To register call 658-4726.

The Breeze delivered to your home?



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If you would consider delivery to your home please let us know at editor@venturabreeze.com so that we can decide if we will start this service.

VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

Member, Ventura Chamber of Commerce
and Oxnard Chamber of Commerce

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soy based ink on paper with minimum
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Regarding our article on the WAV in a previous issue

Sheldon:

When on the DRC around 2007-8 during the final approval meeting for WAV (held in a particularly small meeting room on the 2nd floor of City Hall), I was the lone DRC vote in opposition, for the following reasons, which are the same exact issues being raised at this time:

1. I felt the condos would never sell (who with that kind of money would want to live above a bunch of low rent homeless / 'artists');
2. There were only 27 parking spaces for the whole place;

Opinion/Editorial



Sheldon (Governor) Brown
Publisher

■ Two iconic Ventura businesses have recently closed (this time I'm positive) Buffalo Records, which was located at 92 Laurel and the Hong Kong Inn.

Buffalo Records business dropped off after he was forced to move from his Santa Clara location and moved to Laurel because of the lack of foot traffic. He will continue with his online sales so you can still buy vintage records if you wish (you know those are the round things with a hole in the middle that are not donuts).

The Hong Kong Inn owners, James and Thomas Kwan, have decided that after running the restaurant for nearly 50 years that it is time to call it quits. They hope that someone will re-open it as the Hong Kong Inn.

■ I am still getting angry emails from people who have had their access to the beach, and Vista Del Mar cut off by the recent high strength fences installed by Union Pacific at the east end of Vista Del Mar and are demanding that the City do something about it.

Once again this is Union Pacific property and it is their right to close off this access. In fact I'm very surprised that it took them this long because there have been several deaths at this location caused by people not hearing the trains (the trains always win).

I know that some have been emailing the city council, and city manager to get these fences removed but the City has absolutely no control over this.

Because he is on the Coastal Commission, and is concerned about beach access I have emailed Councilmember Brian Brennan to find out what it would take to have a crossing bridge installed over the tracks (easements, liability, cost). He has told me that he will write an article about this for a future issue of the Breeze.

In fact I am affected by this because this is the way that Scamp and I walk to

pick up our RV so I would also like to know, so I really look forward to it.

■ The city council has narrowed their search for a new city manager to just 3. They started with 9 candidates to consider. In the early stages Mayor Mike Tracy had to excuse himself from being involved in the selection process because one of the candidates (a current city employee) rents from him.

I don't understand why he still couldn't be involved in the Q&A sessions and excuse himself if this person was actually being selected as a final candidate.

■ The City is still figuring out how to deal with the influx of applications for new massage parlors in Ventura (apparently lots of Venturans like to get their back rubbed). They have imposed a 6-month moratorium on new ones and



Thanks to the wonderful efforts of our Port District dredging will be done in the Harbor.

have established new rules regarding their use. This is all based on the concerns that some may actually be used for some other illegal "purpose" (I can't say what because this is a family newspaper).

There have also been some concerns about them being used for human trafficking (see the article regarding this in this issue of the Breeze).

■ In a freak surfing accident local business owner Tory DuVarney nearly lost his eyesight and requires many more medical procedures to hopefully gain it back. A benefit concert was recently held to raise funds for the un-insured DuVarneys. A website (www.gofundme.

com/toryduvarney) has been set up where you can donate to help with their medical expenses and find out his progress.

■ In very good news for our Harbor the Ventura Port District will receive \$2.5 million from the Federal Reconciliation Authority to dredge the Harbor so that kayaks don't hit the bottom. The Port District was forced to find the necessary funds after the government had no money in the 2013 budget for this purpose. So they appealed to the Army Corps of Engineers to help find the funds and they came through. Good job Port District.

■ Even though Ventura has a resolution that instructs the council not to consider issues not the concern of local interests at a recent City Council meeting they were asked to support, and did, a resolution supporting reinstating a federal ban on assault weapons which California Sen. Dianne Feinstein plans to introduce in Congress.

In asking his opinion if they could act on this City Attorney Calonne told the council that this could be considered an issue that has a "local concern that you're trying to address" so that they could weigh in on this.

The vote was 6-1 with Councilmember Neal Andrews being the no vote. He stated that he couldn't support anything that removed power from people to protect themselves against a "rogue government or invading army (some people think that is what the City Council is now)."

The resolution was introduced by ex-chief of police, and current Mayor Mike Tracy and Cheryl Heitmann. Mayor Tracy quipped that in his career with the police department "I was called a lot of names. A left-leaning liberal was not one of them." But he feels that common sense gun laws must be implemented.

Councilman Jim Monahan went further and amended the resolution to include more support regarding mental health issues that are the cause of some of these problems, but far from the major cause.

Mailbox

3. There was insufficient elevator access to the upper levels;

4. The constant roar from the freeway was deafening, which would preclude any of the 'magical moments' in the concert / stage area (it is actually worse now that it has been built);

5. There was no duct system to exhaust from the retail restaurants planned;

6. The 'developer' (PLACE) had never done a project on his own;

7. There was no attempt to address issues of security;

8. There was insufficient delivery space to accommodate commercial trucks.

I recall spending 8 hours on the Christmas Day just prior to the aforementioned meeting going over the hundreds of pages of drawings and making notes for improvement: yet not one of my comments was allowed by the DRC Chair. The fix was in. When I had the apparent audacity to question architect Adele Santos (the former putative head of the Harvard / MIT School of Architecture), who was wearing big round Christmas ball earrings with her short haircut, they began swinging like crazy when she tried to shut down my questions as if I were a member of the unwashed. I would go so far as to suggest there was a conspiracy of deliberate malfeasance by Rick Cole, the architects, the 'developers' and the

Planning Department.

To date there is no retail occupancy, no condos have been sold and, as I predicted several years ago, this building will go at auction at 5 cents on the dollar, while the US (Ventura included) taxpayer gets stuck with the bill.

John Stewart

John Stewart and Associates

Hi Sheldon,

Thank you so much for the article in this week's Breeze covering Erik Abel's artwork! We really appreciate the support and inclusion in our favorite local paper.

Best,

Nellie Stadther

Business Development and Marketing

Welcome to Ventura

Once again there have been several fires in the riverbeds set either accidentally or on purpose by the transients/vagrants that are still occupying the riverbeds.

Why anyone would want to come to

Ventura's beach area is beyond me when they can go to Oxnard's clean beaches and see no transients/vagrants at all. To add insult to injury our downtown and our parks are even worse. My main purpose is to get out and get exercise and not harass the City of Ventura. So far, I have seen no real improvement in spite of the City's efforts.

Murray Robertson

A Very Concerned Resident

Hi Sheldon:

I hope you're doing well. I'm including this ancient e-mail below to remind you of how you've been helpful to me (and the Ventura Surf Club), before I thank you for being helpful again. Thank you for publishing my book talk at the Museum of Ventura County in your Community Events. Over 200 people showed, and I believe your paper played a role :)

Thanks for the support, and keep up the good work.

All the best,

Ken McAlpine

Ventura Surf Club

The idea that is not dangerous is unworthy of being called an idea at all.

– Elbert Hubbard



Community Events



Meet the First Company Washington Artillery of New Orleans

Tall Ships coming to Ventura Harbor

Tall Ships, Hawaiian Chieftain and Lady Washington commence the annual voyage along the California coast and sail into Ventura Harbor on Tuesday, January 29, and remain through Monday, February 11. Coinciding with the first weekend of the Tall Ship visit, the First Company Washington Artillery of New Orleans will build a replica Civil

War Military Camp circa 1861 – 1865, Saturday and Sunday, February 2-3.

Catch the mystical sight of the Tall Ships during the grand arrival January 29. A photographer's delight, the ships depart for Battle Sails, February 2 & 3, and February 9 & 10 out of the Harbor at 2 PM and return between 4:30 – 5 PM. The best viewing locations are at Harbor Cove Beach, Channel Islands National Park Visitor Center and Ventura Harbor Village.

Open to the public from January 30, the Dockside Tours will take place each weekday (except Mondays for training) from 4 PM – 5 PM and Saturday (2 ships) and Sunday (1 ship) from 10 AM – 1 PM. Dockside tours allow a look into an authentic 18th-century sailor's view of the Harbor and surroundings. Take a Dockside Tour and dine for breakfast, lunch, or dinner at one of the Ventura Harbor Village's 13 restaurants overlooking the Tall Ships and the boats.

On Saturday, February 2 and Sunday, February 3 the First Company Washington Artillery of New Orleans makes a re-appearance complete with living history replica military camp from 1861 - 1865 including tents, musket and pistol demonstrations, cannons, an antique gun display, and live music by Watermelon Pie on the Ventura Harbor Village Main Lawn. Cannon and pistol demonstrations throughout the day from 10 AM – 5:30 PM. This event is open to the public and includes President Abraham Lincoln wandering through the camp.

For more Tall Ship, Civil War Re-enactment Camp, and activities visit www.venturaharborvillage.com or Facebook Ventura Harbor. Admission and parking free daily at Ventura Harbor Village.



Carnevale to present George Stuart giving one of his entertaining historical monologs.

Carnevale Ventura is only a few weeks away!

On February 9 and 10, Carnevale Ventura presents the fabulous 16th Century Italian Renaissance Carnevale! Featured attractions include an Italian Renaissance Faire in Mission Park, a Masquerade Ball and a special performance by raconteur George Stuart, creator of the Historical Figures. Event Tickets are now available on line!

As many as sixty Renaissance artisans and merchants will offer their wares. The Faire will feature continual entertainment by jugglers, fairies, acrobats, and re-enactors from medieval Europe. Faire hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday.

Come meet the Borgia family and many other revelers at the Masquerade Ball at the Clocktower Inn adjoining the Faire site. Ticket includes automatic entry in the Costume Contest, entertainment, photo opportunities, specialty drink and antipasti. Dinner and breakfast discounts for specialty dishes and beverages at select restaurants. The event will host as many as 300 costumed guests from 7:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. on Saturday, February 9. Order tickets at <http://carnevaleventura.eventbrite.com>.

Raconteur George Stuart, creator of the Historical Figures (always on display at the Museum of Ventura County), will give one of his entertaining historical monologs about the infamous Borgia Family at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday, February 9 at the Clocktower Inn. Mr. Stuart will share the lives and times of Alexander VI and his infamous offspring. The Carnevale Ventura re-enactors will make a special appearance at the monolog to loudly rebut the presenter's lies and accusations. Seating is limited to 150 guests. Order tickets at <http://carnevaleventura.eventbrite.com>.

Ventura events

by Ana Baker

Would you like to meet new friends? Do you need more than tweeting or blogging to express what's on your mind? Whatever the reason, **Ventura's Conversation Group** is the right outlet for you. This eclectic group meets Wednesdays from 4p.m. to 6p.m. at the Adult Recreation Center, 420 E. Santa Clara Street. People of all ethnicities, education, incomes, personalities, and interests are welcome. No topic is off limits. There is only one rule that applies to the Conversation Group: don't lecture and don't bore.

Starting in February, every Saturday and Sunday shows will be presented at **The Winery** by Panaro Bros. at 2pm

and 5pm, a **Saint Pierre Production** of great performing and visual artists. A silent art auction will be held benefiting the artists and the "Music And Art For Youth" scholarships. Help the kids! Every concert is an art show. Grand opening special: \$14.95 advance on-line, \$26.95 Dinner Show (reg. \$20-\$32). One complimentary glass of wine/or wine tasting, with every ticket purchased. Located at 4517 Market St. (corner Market & Goodyear). For more information (800) 754-8683 or show listings at www.ConcertArtShow.org

Jan. 27: Museum of Ventura County visitors have a rare opportunity to hear Santa Cruz Island Foundation President and honored historian Marla Daily, when on Sunday, at 2p.m. she shares little-known facts and anecdotes from her pictorial new book about all 8 Channel Islands. The book talk and signing of *The California Channel Islands* is free to members and \$5 for the general public. Event admission includes entry to all exhibits that day, including Island Treasures: Artworks from the Santa Cruz Island Foundation. Daily has spent almost 40 years researching the history of all 8 of the Channel Islands. For more museum information go to www.venturamuseum.org or call 653-0323.

Jan. 30: Livingston Hospice Volunteer Training Course, Calling all Angels You can make an immeasurable difference to a patient and their family by volunteering just a few hours a week. Providing relief to caregivers, visiting with patients and running errands are just a few of the ways volunteers can help. Their training on Wednesday, from 9:30a.m. to 12:30p.m. and continues for 8 consecutive Wednesdays. Classes are held at Livingston Memorial VNA & Hospice, 1996 Eastman Ave, Suite 101. For more information contact Maddy Hazard; 642-0239 x775; mhazard@lmvna.org

Feb. 2: La Estrella Dance Club will hold the next dance of its 100th year of ballroom dancing on Saturday, from 6:45p.m. to 10:15p.m. at the Poinsettia Pavilion. The theme is "Tango in Buenos Aires" and includes a champagne reception, dinner with wine, and dancing to the music of the Moonlight Orchestra. Attire is formal. Men who are first time guests may wear a dark suit and tie. The cost is \$105 per couple for guests, \$90 for member couples. Reservations and payment are due by January 28. To view the invitation and information about the club visit <http://www.laestreladanceclub.com/> or call 639-9249.

Feb. 3: CPR Citizens for Peaceful Resolutions Monthly Meeting. Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream mini-symposium. begin to explore and engage with the many game-changing initiatives worldwide that are striving to build a world that works for everyone. Thought-provoking, challenging, and deeply moving, the workshops employ a dynamic multimedia presentation drawing on some of the most respected social and scientific experts of our time. held at Foster Library's Topping Room. Sunday at 3p.m. CPR CONTACT: Mary Olson 643-8048 Learn More about CPR: <http://www.c-p-r.net>, <http://www.pachamama.org/workshops/awakening-the-dreamer-symposium>

Feb. 4 & 8: The Ventura County Philatelic Society will be meeting Mondays from 7:30p.m. to 9:30p.m. at the Church of the Foothills, 6279 Foothill Road. Stamp trading and a stamp dealer will be present.

Come for a great evening. They are a fun group. Contact: vcpsforyou@lycos.com

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Community Events

com or 320-1601

Feb. 5: Mended Hearts of Ventura will meet on Tuesday from 7p.m. to 9p.m. Attend if you have had heart surgery or stent implant. The Group meets the first Tuesday each month at the Community Memorial Hospital on the 8th floor. They have excellent speakers: leading Cardiologists, Nutritionists, Dietitians, etc. from our area who give excellent information.

Contact: Richard Hatcher 644-2733

Feb. 5: Livingston Visiting Nurse Association will hold **Diabetes Classes** to introduce basic information regarding diet, medication, exercise, blood sugar monitoring, new developments and common problems. Open to the public and free of charge, no registration is necessary. February from 1p.m. to 2:30 p.m. at Livingston VNA, 1996 Eastman Ave, #109 (Community Room).

Feb. 6: The Beach Cities Neighbors and Newcomers Club, (BCNN) is a group of active women of all ages who live in Ventura, Oxnard, or Port Hueneme and enjoy activities such as hiking, bridge, dining, wine outings, cooking, etc. Please come to monthly meeting at 9:30 a.m. Meetings are held at The Greek Restaurant at the harbor. No charge for meeting and no reservation is required. Coffee or Tea is available at a nominal charge of \$1.00. Speaker Jill Dolan, local historian and the assistant review editor on the journal the Public Historian. Subject: Municipal Spuds: How the City of Ventura parlayed potatoes into Park Improvements.

Feb. 6: On Wednesday, The Digital Bookmobile National Tour will be at E.P. Foster Library from 12 noon to 6pm. The digital bookmobile will be parked on Fir Street near the corner of Fir and Main.

At this free event, readers of all ages will learn how to download eBooks from the library through interactive demonstrations and high-definition instructional videos.

A gadget gallery—featuring Kindle®, iPod® touch, Android™ tablet, NOOK™, Sony® Reader™, BlackBerry®, Windows® Phone, and more, will help visitors discover portable devices compatible with Ventura County Library's OverDrive download service.

Ventura County Library cardholders can also check out and download digital titles anytime, anywhere, by visiting <http://vencolibrary.lib.overdrive.com/>.

For additional information about the E.P. Foster Library OverDrive Digital Bookmobile event, contact Sara Roberts, Senior City Librarian at 648-2716.

Audubon events: Restoration Work Day, Santa Paula. Hedrick Ranch Nature Area Restoration Program will be from 9a.m. to 12a.m. Sandy Hedrick: 340-0478.

Feb. 5: Santa Clara River Estuary/Surfers' Knoll at 8:30 a.m. Leader: Adele Fergusson 415-4304. We should see a wide variety of shore birds.

Feb. 9: Ventura County Game Preserve. Leader: Neil Ziegler 983-7207. Always a very special trip! Fun starts at 8a.m. We will see ducks, peeps, ibis, raptors, and more.

Feb. 12: Ventura Audubon General Meeting, *Historical Dynamics of Southern California Estuaries.* Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Rd. Dr. Travis Longcore, President of Los Angeles Audubon Society, will speak on the history and future prospects of California's estuaries at 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 16: Beginners' Walk/Backyard Bird Count, Lake Casitas. The walk

will start at 8:30a.m. to 10:30a.m. Leader: Allen Bertke 640-9037. The Beginners' Walk will be combined with the Great Backyard Bird Count sponsored by the National Audubon Society & Cornell Laboratory.

Feb. 23: Foster Park & Ventura River Walk at 8:30 a.m. Leader: Jackie Wordon 652-0577. To car pool, meet at the Museum of Ventura County, 100 E. Main St., (side parking lot) at 8:10 a.m.

Ojai events

On February 3, 2013 Chief Arvol Looking Horse, spiritual leader of the Lakota, Dakota and Nakota Nation, as well as the 19th generation Keeper of the Sacred White Buffalo Calf Pipe, will visit The Ojai Foundation Land Sanctuary (9739 Ojai-Santa Paula Rd, Ojai) to share his teachings and wisdom. Chief Looking Horse has dedicated his life to the revival of his people's culture through the protection and sharing of spiritual traditions and cultural sites. Visiting for one evening only from the Cheyenne River Reservation in South Dakota, Chief Looking Horse will share teachings of peace and the wisdom of his people to an open audience at The Ojai Foundation Land Sanctuary. The program begins at 3:45 pm with opening prayers and welcome, followed by a talk with Chief Looking Horse, and then a ceremonial fire, concluding around 7:00 pm.

Full program details are available at: <http://www.ojaifoundation.org/event/chief-looking-horse>.

For more information about The Ojai Foundation's work in Southern California and around the world, please contact Adam Rumack at 805-646-8343 or email outreach@ojaifoundation.org. For retreat center reservation, booking, or program information, please email contact@ojaifoundation.org.

Used book sale at E.P. Foster Library

The San Buenaventura Friends of the Library (SBFOL) invites the public to a used book sale on Saturday, January 26, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday, January 27, from 12 to 4 p.m. in the Topping Room of E.P. Foster Library. A preview selection is currently on sale in the SBFOL Bookstore inside the library.

The book sale offers high quality used books in all genres from donors as well as older library copies and collection duplicates featuring history, mystery, fiction/non-fiction, classics, special interest and books for children.

A loading zone is reserved for patrons in front of the Topping Room to transport book purchases. All proceeds go to help pay for new books and reading programs at the City of Ventura's public libraries.

San Buenaventura Friends of the Library is an all-volunteer public service organization. For information regarding SBFOL, including becoming a volunteer worker, and/or making a tax-deductible donation of cash, please pick up forms at any library where you may also donate books for future sales.

For more information contact: San Buenaventura Friends of the Library President Kathy Thompson at 750-6630 or orkatbarcat@aol.com.

News and Notes



CAPS Chat

Looking forward

By Elizabeth Rodeno

All of us at CAPS are looking forward to a wonderful 2013. We wrapped up 2012 with some great programs and projects.

Our program with Project Understanding was a big hit. The kids had a great time as did the parents. We look forward to more programs with this great organization which, among their many missions, provide tutors for kindergarten through 5th grade students. We finished up some school programs and covered local events.

We begin the next installment of *Lights, Camera, Action* with Ventura College Career and Technical Education program shortly. CAPS is thrilled to show what great career opportunities are available in the world of media production.

In continuing our community outreach, we were invited to the grand opening of the latest addition to the Ventura Parks; the new Ventura BMX park, located adjacent to the Aquatic Center off Kimball Road.

We were impressed by the dedication of the founders and the city to get this park open and running. It is so important to provide new opportunities for the youth. BMX is a growing sport worldwide and California has had its share of Olympic medalists. We saw kids as young as 5 out there conquering the track. Check out our promo for the park to get an idea of what they have to offer on our site and our Vimeo page @ vimeo.com/capstv.

Remember, it is only \$25 to join and get the training and produce your own videos. You can become a star at CAPS, your local community media center. Call us at 658-0500 or check us out at www.capstv.org and friend us on Facebook at CAPS-TV Ventura.

Non-profit closes Ventura office

The Teddy Bear Cancer Foundation, a Santa Barbara based non-profit organization that provides financial and emotional support to families whose children have cancer, has announced the consolidation of the organization's Ventura office with its Santa Barbara office. The Ventura office has been used primarily for administra-

tive purposes and not as a destination for the public or families served by the organization. The office, opened in May of 2011 was located at 119 Figueroa Street in Ventura and will close permanently on January 31.

"We at TBCF are very committed to our families in Ventura County," explains Executive Director Lindsey Guerrero, "however, after careful review the Foundation determined that the resources used to maintain our satellite office there could be better applied towards an increase in the benefit ceiling for qualifying families."

The mission of the organization is to provide financial and emotional support to families of children with cancer who reside in Santa Barbara, Ventura and San Luis Obispo counties. The organization achieves their mission by providing middle to low-income families with financial aid for rent, mortgage, utilities, and car payments, as well as tutoring support and neuropsychological testing. For more information about Teddy Bear Cancer Foundation or to make a donation, please visit www.teddybearcancerfoundation.org or call 962-7466.

How very sad it is

Venturan Blair Stockdill, 27, has been sentenced to 25 years to life after pleading guilty to first-degree murder by reason of insanity in the drowning of her 8-year-old daughter.

She will be serving her time inside a locked state mental facility at Patton State Hospital.

On Sept. 20, 2010 the decomposing body of her daughter, Alaina, was found lying in a bathtub with her head on a small pillow, on Saratoga Avenue in Ventura.

Stockdill had battled with bipolar disorder for years, and regained custody of her daughter in 2009 from her father who took custody in 2005.

Her Public Defender Donna Forry, and the judge agreed Stockdill was legally insane when she killed her daughter and, at the time, did not understand the consequences of what she was doing.

Susan L. Gerrard retires

Susan L. Gerrard has retired from her position of Director of Marketing at the Museum of Ventura County

On her retirement she stated "I'm retiring from the Museum of Ventura County. I have been privileged to help get the word out about this wonderful museum in these last 7 years, but equally privileged to know there are so many talented and amazingly hard working people serving the community and letting us know about so many things we would have missed without you. Thank you for your support and creativity in informing us all.

"I am happily going to have more time to do my own art now, something planned for quite some time! If in the future you are in Camarillo and visit the Studio Channel Islands Art Center's Artists in Residence campus, which is open to the public every first Saturday of the month, I'm in Studio A-2!"



News and Notes



Three hours of preparation are necessary to present this wonderful dance

Two beautiful ladies bring Polynesia to Ventura

During Ventura's First Friday's there is a wonderful opportunity to appreciate and buy the wonderful art Ventura has to offer. Every first Friday of the month local galleries are open for the public to visit. First Friday's goal is to promote the appreciation and sales of art in a relaxed, supportive and fun environment. Each month, visual fine art spaces offer a variety of special entertainment to compliment the collectible artworks on display.

On Friday, Jan. 4 the Bell Arts Factory presented several entertainers including the wonderful Polynesian dancing of Rika Traxler (on the left) and Ayanna Floyd performing a dance from Bali, Indonesia called "Sekar Jagat". It took the beautiful ladies 3 hours to prepare for their dance.

Rika, who lived in Ventura, is also a costume designer, an artist and has several college degrees (some people have it all).

She told the Breeze "I lived in Ventura from age 1 when we moved from Indonesia where I was born, and lived on the avenue up until I was 11 years old. I went to E.P. Foster Elementary, Sheridan Way, De Anza Middle School, then moved to the other side of town and went to Balboa Middle School, Ventura and then Buena High School. I lived in Ventura most of my childhood and adulthood. I moved away from there 4 years ago. I am now 36 years old. I went to Ventura College before going to art

school in Kansas City in 1996 but moved back in 1998. Ventura has always been my hometown."

"I design and make Polynesian costumes for a living now and am now starting to make Balinese costume pieces. I come to Ventura a couple times a month to visit friends and get out of LA."

"I just finished my Masters degree from CSUN in Interdisciplinary studies in Theatre and Art Education in 2011. I wrote my thesis on "The Evolution of Dance Costumes in Tahiti and Rarotonga" and produced a musical on the story and history that I wrote. I have a BFA in Painting from The Kansas City Art Institute (1998). Richard Peterson was my mentor at Ventura College and inspired me to go to KCAI in Kansas City where I received a scholarship to go."

"I have also traveled all over the world as a professional dancer working on cruise ships and danced with a group in Tahiti and toured with them to France in 2003. I used to have a dance studio called "Hula Girl Dance Studio" in Ventura and a dance group in Ventura called "Hula Girl Dance Productions". So I have a pretty extensive history in Ventura."

"Oh, and I wanted to mention that Ayanna, the other dancer, is also an artist too and both of us are Dutch/Indonesian mix. We belong to a dance group called "Burat Wangi" from CalArts in Valencia. Our teachers are Pak Wenten and Ibu Nanik."



If it wasn't for Kenneth Grant this wouldn't be the future home of the Ventura Botanical Gardens.

Kenneth Peter Grant

Breeze: We have been asked who Grant Park was named after so we asked Councilmember Christy Weir for help. This is what she sent us and we thank her. Hope this helps! This was written in 1917.

Kenneth Peter Grant is one of the oldest settlers of Ventura County, and is now vice president of the Pioneer Society of the county and one of the 3 men still living of the original officers of that organization. It is nearly 40 years since he came to Ventura County and few men have had a greater range of activities connected with the development of this section than Mr. Grant.

He was born in Glengary, Canada, July 13, 1842. Leaving school at the age of 14, he became self-supporting, and has compressed a remarkable range of experience into his career. For 2 months after leaving school he worked as a teamster on construction for the Grand Trunk Railway Company. Until the age of 19 he was then employed on a farm in Canada. Crossing the boundary and locating in St. Lawrence County, New York, he worked on a farm there 2 months, and then took up the blacksmiths trade.

He had in the meantime heard much of the glories of California and a spirit of adventure led him to the western coast. He made the journey by way of the Nicaragua route.

His first location was at Yountville in the Napa Valley, where he was employed as a blacksmith for 2 months, then engaged in the blacksmithing business for himself in Walnut Creek, Contra Costa County, and in 1867 he left there and came to Ventura County (then Santa Barbara County). The first month was spent in the employ of Harrington Robinson, a local blacksmith, and he then became a partner of Tom Williams, blacksmith, they opened a shop together and continued until 1869. Buying out Mr. Williams stock and also the building and business of D. D. McCoy, he set up a blacksmithing business of his own, and not long afterward he embarked in the undertaking business. The first shipment of coffins ever made into Ventura County was billed to Mr. Grant, and he gradually developed undertaking as an important feature of his enterprise. He ran the first hearse and embalmed the first body in Ventura County. A number of years ago he also held the office of county coroner and public administrator.

Selling out his blacksmithing and undertaking business in 1890, Mr. Grant took up the real estate business, and in 1893 he and a partner bought 500 acres of land. Not long afterward he obtained his individual share of this purchase, consisting of 350 acres, and most of his active work has been in connection with the development of that place. Besides this handsome property Mr. Grant owns ninety acres in Ventura, and rents that.

In 1867, on coming to Ventura County,

he filed on 160 acres of Government land in the Santa Clara Valley.

In 1893 the governor appointed him to fill an unexpired term as supervisor of Ventura County, and at the next general election he was chosen for the regular term. Mr. Grant is a past master of Ventura Lodge No. 214, Free and Accepted Masons, is past high priest of Ventura Chapter No. 50, Royal Arch Masons, is past eminent commander of Ventura Commandery No. 18, Knights Templar, and is a member of Al Malikah Temple of the Mystic Shrine at Los Angeles. He is a past grand master of the Knights of Pythias and was district deputy grand master for seven years. Mr. and Mrs. Grant in the past were both members of the Order of Eastern Star. Politically he is a republican.

In Ventura December 31, 1870, he married Miss Hattie Perry, who died May 25, 1880. For his second wife he was married in Ventura January 11, 1884, to Miss Tonie Shafer, a native of Germany. Mr. Grant has no children.

In 1918 Kenneth and Tonie Grant donated 107 hillside acres to the City of San Buenaventura.



"Maybe Officer Ruggiero will let me go with him, I like South Asian food" Scamp

Hope drives Ventura Police Officer to combat human trafficking

by Richard Lieberman

Cpl. Dave Ruggiero, a nine year veteran of the Ventura Police department is taking a yearlong leave of absence and will relocate to an undisclosed location in South Asia. Cpl. Ruggiero has volunteered for the International Justice Mission (IJM) a non-profit church based organization whose goal is to stop human trafficking in all its forms worldwide.

According to IJM its mission includes "Victim Relief, Perpetrator Accountability, Survivor Aftercare, and Structural Transformation".

In June 2013 Cpl. Ruggiero will begin to serve his time as an investigator with IJM, and put to use his years of experience to aid in investigations of human trafficking.

Getting involved with the organization and finally volunteering for a year of difficult investigative work, Ruggiero started this journey with a two week church sponsored class in San Francisco learning about human trafficking and finally contact with the Los Angeles Police Department leading Ruggiero to the IJM.

Putting a face on 21st century slavery, and human trafficking is a major contrast

On Jan. 12, the Ventura City Fire Department responded with the Ventura County Fire Department to a Santa Clara river bottom fire. Upon arrival of the first engine, firefighters discovered an encampment with a warming fire that had spread from the intended containment area to an approximate 400 square foot area. Firefighters immediately initiated an attack on the fire. Firefighters were able to stop the forward spread, completely extinguish the flames and mop-up the burn area. There were no reported injuries on this incident.





News and Notes

from this country's institutionalized slavery experience. "Today the face of human trafficking is mostly economic, and involves underage girls, runaways, escort services and, Asian massage parlors" said Ruggiero. Human trafficking primarily involves exploitation which comes in many forms, including, forcing victims into prostitution, subjecting victims to slavery or involuntary servitude, compelling victims to commit sex acts for the purpose of creating pornography, and misleading victims into debt bondage. It is estimated that in 2013 there are approximately 27 million slaves worldwide. According to Do Something.org, nearly 80% of human trafficking involves sexual exploitation, and 19% involves labor exploitation. Also according to Do Something.org, half of all trafficking victims are under 18 years of age.

Currently the United States has only one dedicated shelter designed specifically to meet the needs of trafficking victims, and it houses a total of seven to nine victims. Around the world the average cost of a slave is \$90.00. CNN Asia business analyst Ramy Inocencio has stated "The current \$90 rate for a human slave is actually at an historic low. Two hundred years ago, a slave cost about \$40,000 in today's money. The reason for this price slide: a massive boom in the world's population, especially in developing countries, has increased the supply of "slaveable" people."

And this has basically turned a human being into a cheap commodity – Bales says like a Styrofoam cup that's cheaply replaceable if damaged, "If they get sick, what's the point of paying for medicine – it's cheaper to let them die and acquire a new one than it is to help the ones you've got."

According to the US Department of State an estimated 14,500 to 17,500 women and children are trafficked into this country each year. IJM currently has ongoing operations in Thailand, Cambodia, the Philippines, Kenya, Uganda, Zambia, Rwanda, Guatemala, Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru and South Asia. Ruggiero's wife and children will accompany him on this humanitarian journey, with no financial support from the IJM, all costs will be borne by donations solicited from the IJM website. "The department has been supportive of my decision to go but they are not covering any related costs", added Ruggiero.

"I am very excited to start this journey, find an apartment, and mostly my goal is just to help people", Ruggiero, said. This will be a huge cultural experience for me and my family," he added.



A tour of the Ventura Avenue Water Purification Plant was made by the Class of 2012.

Leadership Ventura 2012

by Staci Brown
ISFP

What a great year it was for Leadership Ventura class of 2012! We embarked on an adventure that started with participating in

a two-day retreat in January 2012 and ending in deep friendships, new skills, community projects and an increased understanding and knowledge of our city by December 2012.

After interviewing to be a program participant for the Ventura Chamber of Commerce Leadership Development program, participants commit to two years. Everyone takes a Myers Briggs personality test to identify and learn their own unique personality types. The results are a four letter personality type on a scale indicating the degree of each facet. The personality types are a tool used to help you understand how others react, take in information and communicate, and how to better work together; skills applicable to all of our relationships in life.

We met once a month and our mornings started with breakfast and meeting with Dr. Rely Nadler—world-class executive coach, leadership and team trainer from True North Leadership. He is an incredibly talented, skilled and compassionate coach who taught us invaluable skills and performed exercises on communication, leadership, teamwork, coaching, empowerment and life. Spending time with him was a great honor.

The rest of the days consisted of meeting local leaders and touring community hubs. Our calendar consisted of the following: January—Two-Day Retreat, February—Government Day, March—Economic Development and Tourism Day, April—Media and Communications Day, May—Health and Human Services Day, June—Regional Commerce Day, July—Arts and Culture Day, August—City Services Day, September—Education Day, October—Public Safety Day and in November—Graduation and Commencement. The days consisted of touring many exciting destinations such as Arts and Culture day where we toured the WAV, The Ventura County Museum of Art, the Rubicon Theater, Bell Arts Studio, Stone-works, where we had hands on stone carving demonstrations and hot freshly baked cookies by Michelle Chapin and Pierano's where we made and ate delicious appetizers. We went to Limoneira, the Port, Food Share, the jails and countless other places.

Another requirement in the first year was to do team projects. We were broken in to teams (with opposite personality types) and were required to create and complete projects which best served our community. This was where our skills taught by Dr. Nadler came in to play. My team chose to paint some housing domes at the River Haven community. River Haven is a joint effort by the City of Ventura and the Turning Point Foundation to transition individuals from homelessness to self-sufficiency. The Community consists of twenty dome-shaped shelters where families or single residents live, paying minimal rent and following their case plan to become self-sufficient. The domes required a protective coating of paint to assure longevity and warranty maintenance.

The completion of our project could not have happened without our many donors and supporters



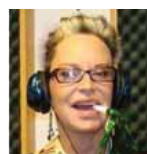
Amateur, professional and school-age photographers submitted more than 200 images to the City of Ventura's eighth annual "Take a Shot!" digital photography contest. Five judges, professional artists and community leaders, selected winners in six adult categories while over 200 members of the public cast their own votes online to select their favorite "People's Choice" awards. Judges included visual artists Karen Moser, Dianne Bennett, Silvia Huerta-Wetherbee and Tobie Roach, who is also the city's Public Art Project Manager and Community Partnerships Manager Denise Sindelar. Contributing Breeze photographer John Ferritto was a double winner in the City of Ventura's photography contest winning both the judge's and people's choice first place in the "Community Life" category taken at the County Fair

listed as follows: Glidden Paints, Maxson Painting, Hernandez Painting, Dawson Painting, Paul Lozano Painting, Clyde Reynolds and Jane Lax: Turning Point Foundation, Ventura Rentals, Sam Hishmeh: Dominos Pizza, Brenda Stoner: MidTown Kitchens, Debbie Fox: Fox Fine Jewelry, Sande and Jimmy Wright: Jimmys Slice Pizza, Vons, Phyllis and Jen Livia: Red Brick Gallery, The Ventura Improv and the Santa Paula Theater Company, The

Ventura County Museum of Art, Steve and Polly Hoganson: Zoey's, Cheryl Connally: Island Packers, Richard Huber, David Atkins, and of course, my fellow team members—Robert Krimmer, Lynn Huber and Katherine Kasmir.

Next year, we will be organizing the activities for the incoming 2013 class. So come join us. Contact the Ventura Chamber of Commerce at 643-7222 to submit your application! Good Luck!

NEWS TALK 1520 KVTA



Lyn Fairly and Friends, Saturday 12-1pm

Happy New Year folks! In my photo you see me with a party favor in my teeth. That is because I believe the more you approach your life with a great attitude, the better your life can be. I want to wish you all the best for 2013. I appreciate you listening to my live radio show Saturdays at Noon. If you are a new listener, or a solid gold fan, stay tuned for more Arts and Entertainment news, "Radio School", coverage of current local events, stories of amazing people here in our county and always a moment of gratitude to our armed forces.



Horsepower For An Hour, Saturday 1-2pm

The Hottest Automotive Talk Radio Show in the Nation. Horsepower for an Hour "We are Your Ultimate Stop in Automotive Radio" Saturdays @ 1pm



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.

The Ventura Breeze Presents The Face Of Ventura



Joe Ryba

Portrait by Johanna Spinks

Joe Ryba feels that he was blessed. Because at a young age he knew that he wanted to become a funeral director. He would be on the school bus or in a car and would go past a funeral home and even though he did not really know what went on inside he just had a feeling deep inside himself that this is what he wanted to do...become a funeral director.

Born and raised in Cleveland, Ohio, at age 14 he started working for the Golubski Parma Funeral Home. As he got older and entered college he would assist in visitations and the funeral services. All this early training helped mold him into the person he is today.

When it came time to attend mortuary science college (there were only about a dozen in the country then) he had to make a decision of where to attend. Because he didn't want to live at home while attending college he decided to move someplace new. Because he had an older brother living in Los Angeles at that time, he decided to go to the California College of Mortuary Science in Downtown Los Angeles. After graduation he moved back to Ohio, but in the middle of a very cold winter he knew he wanted to live in a warmer climate, and moved back to California.

It was in 1976 that he started working for the family owned Joseph Reardon Funeral Home in Ventura. It was Joe Reardon's father, Oliver that founded the Reardon Funeral Home in Ventura in 1911. Three of Oliver Reardon's sons established their own funeral homes...Joe Reardon in Ventura, James Reardon in Oxnard and Roger Reardon in Simi Valley.

In 1976 Joe Reardon took him in under his wing and taught Joe all about the profession. In

1992, Joe Reardon at the age of 82 decided it was time to retire and sold him the funeral home.

Joe Ryba is a member of the downtown Lions Club, the Ventura Elks Lodge and the Knights of Columbus.

Being a huge animal lover, he can be seen walking his dogs (Lilly the Boston terrier and Zorro the Chihuahua) all around downtown Ventura.

And he must be doing something right because they won the Ventura County Star newspaper readers choice Award for 2012 as best funeral home/ funeral directors in Ventura County.

And at Christmas time he has always decorated the house and funeral home from the front door to the back door, floor to ceiling. They have won the Ventura Chamber of Commerce holiday decorating contest: best use of lights.

We asked him what he likes best about Ventura?

I think, like most people, I would have to say we are blessed with the almost perfect climate. The ocean view helps, of course, and walking along the promenade (we can do that every day), and people come here from all over the United States so they can spend some time in our paradise. So how lucky are we that we live here?

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

I felt like I was sitting down at a friend's home. She was so easy to talk to...and we talked about Ventura, politics, travels and homes and home prices. Next thing I knew, Johanna was done and it was time to leave. Johanna was a very warm and kind person and we were able to laugh together.



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.

News and Notes

Wild & Scenic Film Festival

The Ventura Hillsides Conservancy will present the Wild & Scenic Film Festival, having won a grant for the fourth year running from Patagonia, a national sponsor of the South Yuba River Citizens League, the festival producer. Wild & Scenic is a national tour of independent short and feature films highlighting a celebration of human outdoor adventure and interactions with Earth's natural places and creatures. The festival will be held at Ventura's Poinsettia Pavilion over two evenings: Thursday and Friday, March 7th and 8th from 7 to 9:30 pm. Several short films will be screened with a different program each night.

In addition to providing informative and engaging cinema, the Wild & Scenic Film Festival doubles as the Ventura land trust's annual membership drive. Festivalgoers who join the Conservancy with a minimum \$35 membership receive two free film festival tickets. A \$50 or greater

membership yields four free tickets. Current members can receive free tickets through the "Bring a Friend" campaign by purchasing a gift membership. Filmgoers can purchase tickets from the Conservancy's website at www.venturahillsides.org. Tickets will also be available at: the Ventura Visitors and Convention Bureau at 101 South California Street; Great Pacific Iron Works at 259 W. Santa Clara Street; and Simone's Coffee & Tea at 7818 Telegraph Road. Tickets for one night are \$10 each, or \$15 for both Thursday and Friday.

The Ventura Hillsides Conservancy is dedicated to permanently preserving the hillsides, canyons and open space that contribute to the unique character and natural environment of the Ventura region. Founded in 2003, the 501c3 public benefit corporation is supported by over 800 members and scores of local business and government partners. The land trust currently stewards over 27 acres of land. Further information about the Conservancy is available on the web site www.venturahillsides.org.

We have a winner!



In our last issue we had this photo asking our readers where it was taken. The first correct answer came from Richard Sweet. And we found out so much about who Don Davis was, from our wonderful readers that we have 2 responses to share with you about Don Davis.

In answer to the question on page 11 of the Jan. 9, 2013 edition: "Where was this picture taken?"

Don Davis Scenic Loop is at the Ventura Wastewater Reclamation Plant on the nature trail around the effluent polishing ponds. Don Davis worked for the City of Ventura as the Utilities Manager, Lab Director at the plant, and was an avid birder and member of Ventura Audubon Society. He had also been a board member of Friends of the Santa Clara River.

If I won, please donate the \$25 to CABOdogz.com .

Richard Sweet

Richard, you are the winner and \$25 has been donated to CABOdogz and a Breeze T-shirt sent to you. Thanks for your response and information and donation.

I am sure many people of responded to this photo but as a long time co-worker both at the City of Ventura and Ventura College I figured I might embellish. Don Davis was the lead tech at the City of Ventura Wastewater treatment plant lab for many years, then the superintendent of the Wastewater Division, and lastly the Utilities director for the city of Ventura...He was also one of the original instructors in the Ventura College Water Science program where many thousands of individuals learned the special skills needed to become State of California Licensed water and wastewater operators.

And, I am proud to have known and worked with him for more than 20 years both at the City and the College. The sign is placed out near the settling ponds known as Snoopy at the City Wastewater Facility.

To my knowledge he retired from the City about 5 years ago, and from teaching at the College 3 years ago. He was, and I think may still be a resident here in Ventura but I know he was considering moving East. My last contact with him was about two years ago when he gave me the digital copies of his teaching materials for archiving at the college."

Joe Richardson

Joe teaches part time at VC in the Water Science program.

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CHRISTOPHER ATKINS
WILL ATTEND



Please join the VFS at this very special launch of our 2013 season. *The Blue Lagoon*, screening from a pristine, just-released Blu Ray, has become a classic tale of young love played out against a backdrop of tense isolation and tropical beauty. Producer/Director Randal Kleiser (*Grease*, *Flight Of The Navigator*, *White Fang*, *Big Top Pee Wee*) and star Christopher Atkins will join us at a post-screening discussion.

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It's tax time!

by Nanci Cone

It's that time of year again when everyone starts digging through piles of paper to find important documents because it's tax season!

Fortunately, several organizations offer free tax counseling for the elderly (TCE) to individuals who are 60 years or older and low-income people who cannot afford professional assistance with their federal and state tax returns. This is made possible through grant funds, due to an appropriation made by Congress. Volunteers attend classes to learn how to prepare federal and state tax returns, to update their knowledge on changes to the 2012 forms and to learn how to do e-filing.

For those in Ventura, free tax preparation, prepared by The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) in conjunction with the Internal Revenue Service, (from Tuesday, February 5 – Thursday, April 11) is available on a "first come, first served" basis at these locations, days and times:

Ventura Avenue Adult Center

Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9-12 am
550 North Ventura Avenue
805/648-3035

Senior Recreation Center

Tuesdays and Thursdays 12-3 pm
420 East Santa Clara Street
805/648-2829

To receive help at both centers, people should bring their last year's tax returns, W-2s and 1099s, bonds, bank statements, etc., as well as year-end

summaries from Social Security. The volunteers can handle most basic federal and state tax forms but they suggest that anyone with a business or extensive investments do hire an accounting firm who would be more knowledgeable in these areas.

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

Not everyone has the luxury of taking time out during the day to have their taxes prepared or the location may not work for you. If this is the case, call 2-1-1 for alternative days, times and venues in Ventura County as well as names/phone numbers of other organizations such as Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) who also offer free tax help. Oh and don't forget to bring a book as you may have to wait a while before your claim can be processed.

Even if you are not required to file a tax return, you should if you are eligible to receive a tax refund. You should file if any of the following are true:

You had income tax withheld from your pay.

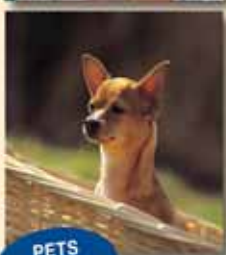
You made estimated tax payments or had a prior year overpayment applied to this year's tax.

You qualify for the American Opportunity Credit.

You are repaying the First-time Homebuyer credit.

You qualify for a refundable credit for paying alternative minimum tax in a prior year.

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processes that can help. Diane Moore, Ed.D., has spent her professional career providing guidance and creating processes to bring structure to the most challenging situations. She now brings those skills to the field of caregiving, having experienced the challenges herself. Diane Moore has a doctorate in educational management and worked as a Dean at Ventura College for twenty years. Three years before retirement she became a caregiver for her elderly mother.

Her new website, <http://www.caringformom.org/>, provides a range of support systems for those who are trying to care for a parent or other family member while maintaining a job and life. Her new book, *Caring for Mom: A Practical Workbook for Caregivers* (available on her website) is based on her experiences.

Continued on page 18

Are you a senior crafter (or just crafty)?

Seniors Craft Shoppe is seeking new members. Any creative Ventura County senior over 50 years of age - man or woman - is eligible to apply. It's a great place to make new friends as well as an outlet for selling handcrafted items.

Applications are available in the shop, located at 429 East Main Street in downtown Ventura; shop hours are 10:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Saturday, and 11:00 am to 4:00 pm Sunday.

Please just drop in or call 643-3059 for more information.

Adults 50 and over can get hands-on help from high school student volunteers for their electronic stuff. Now in its fifth year, the event will be held at the Senior Recreation Center, 420 East Santa Clara Street, on Friday, January 25, 4-6 pm.

Bring in your iPod, cell phone, digital camera, GPS or other electronic device you haven't quite mastered for some "expert" help.

Caregivers' Workshop at the Ventura Townehouse

Caring for a loved one can be challenging, fulfilling, frustrating and demanding, but there are people and

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Professor Scamp, Ph.D

(Pretty Happy Dog)



Professor Scamp
Ph.D

■ For a limited time the Humane Society of Ventura County is offering free spay and neuter services for Chihuahuas or mixed breed Chihuahuas from five to fifteen pounds and five years of age or younger. Across Ventura County, these small breed dogs make up about a third of the population of shelters and rescues. The Humane Society hopes to help reduce this population of homeless dogs through free spay and neutering. Also offered is low cost spay and neuter service for other breeds who are no more than five years of age, starting at \$60 for dogs and \$30 for cats. Appointments required. Call for more information at 656-5043 or 646-7849 or visit www.hsvc.org.

This man certainly could have used this service because 149 Chihuahuas were recently discovered at an animal lover's home in Ogden, Utah. "When this man first opened the door, we had to back up 10 feet," said Brenda Gordon, a spokeswoman for Pack 'N Pounce Animal Rescue. The man had been taking in strays and unwanted pets that passersby's (knowing that he would keep them) had deliberately dropped off for him over his fence. Despite poor health and a limited income, he had shut off his electricity and phone service in order to afford dog food, as well as used the blankets on his bed to keep the dogs warm.

■ Of all things a wire fox terrier named Sky is to be congratulated for her Best in Show title at the annual National Dog Show in Philadelphia. Paired with 2011 year's win by another wire fox terrier, Eira, Sky's title marks the first back-to-back Best in Show award for a breed at this event, in which 1,500 dogs competed in 2012.

Sky has furry, graceful legs that seem to glide instead of run in show (I bet her butt doesn't wiggle back and forth like mine). Best in Show judge Vicki Abbott was quoted saying, "She has a keen expression and that dense, wiry coat. The handler let her show herself and she performed." Sky's handler is Gabriel Rangel of Rialto. Her owners are Victor Malzoni of Sao Paulo, Brazil and Tori Steele of Malibu, who also co-owns the previous year's winning wire fox terrier.

How come Shih Tzus never win anything, is it because we are just so cute that if we started winning all of the other dogs would just stay home?

■ There is no facility in the United States solely dedicated to the training of Canine Disaster Search Teams, so the Search Dog Foundation (SDF) is taking on the challenge of bringing this resource to the Nation. They are building a National Training Center – the first of its kind in America – where rescued dogs will become rescuers, and where all of America's Search Teams will receive the preparation they need for the most difficult deployments.

The state-of-the-art facility is being built on 125 acres of donated historic ranch land in the beautiful foothills of our neighbor Santa Paula. The Center is being built with no government funding and at no cost to taxpayers.

This is a must-do project that calls upon the can-do spirit of America, mobilizing the resources, talents and energy of a committed team to bring a life-saving gift to the Nation.

Together we will show the Nation what a dedicated group of people (and dogs) can do to strengthen emergency response and provide a model for disaster preparedness.

SDF recruits dogs from across the country that are rescued from abuse or abandonment. Typically these dogs demonstrate high energy, tenacity and boldness, making them ideal for search and rescue, but unsuitable for a family pet.

When the dogs are ready they receive six months of professional training before being teamed with a handler. Since the dog comes to the handler completely trained, the time it takes for the handler/dog search team to attain FEMA Advanced Certification is significantly reduced. A process that often took two or more years now takes 11 to 14 months.

This is a wonderful program because it not only saves abused or abandoned dogs but then makes them of great value in dealing with disasters. For more information please go to www.searchdogfoundation.org; maybe they can use your help.

■ I received an email from my pal Kobe:

I read that your human would not let you eat anything at the dog bake sale. That's terrible. You tell him from me that if he is going to insist on a New Year's resolution for you then we want to hear what his resolutions are.

Your friend Kobe

Maybe he wasn't being so mean to me because I think that I could lose a few pounds. I know that he always makes resolutions that he can't keep so he probably made this one for me so he wouldn't feel guilty about keeping his.



Kobe: I don't think Scamp is overweight, just big boned.



Scamp: Don't Landon and I make a handsome couple?

On Friday, January 11 I met celebrity dog Landon the Sheltie presenting his "Rescue to Runway" presentation for 1st-3rd graders at the Boys & Girls Club. Landon is a professional model and actor, as well as a therapy dog and community educator/motivator. So it was nice for us "celebrities" to meet each other and share a few stories.

Forever homes wanted

Hi: I'm Tinker, a 9-month-old male Chihuahua, who is in need of a good home. My owners could no longer keep me so I was given to a neighbor. The neighbor's manager said, "No dogs". I find myself without a home and family to call my own. I'm good with other dogs, cats, people and children over 6 years of age. Puppy classes would be a great way for me to socialize and learn new things. Stop by and meet me, you're sure to fall in love with me and want to take me home. The Canine Adoption & Rescue League, Sam's Place, 3203 E. Main Street, 644-7387. www.carlvc.org



Hola: My name is Jose and I am from Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. I was rescued by CABODOGZ and immigrated to this country just last week, courtesy of Alaska Airlines; had a good flight because I knew I was going to America where I am sure to find my forever home! I am a pure yellow lab, 3-years-old.

I used to live with a family but they surrendered me to the shelter because they were moving. I am very friendly with people, kids, other dogs, even cats!

I love to go for walks and play ball. I am chill when you want me to be, I'll just stay by your side. I am looking for my forever home. You can see me at Ventura Highway Luxury Boarding for Dogs, 4692 Ventura Avenue, 643-3647, along with some of my friends who are also looking for homes

Hi: My name is Cherry and I am a sweet five-year-old spayed tabby mix. I was left at The Cat Doctor in Long Beach, and am currently being fostered by one of the Ventura clinic's staff. I live in a very busy household (three humans, four dogs, and two other cats) so I am very tolerant of other critters! I love the other cats, and as long as the dogs don't try to chase me I tolerate them fine. My favorite place is a warm lap and all I want is for you to rub my belly and pat my head. If you're not giving me the attention I feel I deserve, I chirp to let you know. If you are interested in meeting me, please call The Cat Doctor at 656-2190. *chirp* Thank you!!!



Scamp Club

Hi: We're Sadie and Snickers and we are 6 and 11. We are Australian shepherds and we like to take walks and play Frisbee.



Join Scamp Club

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

Police Reports

by Veronica Johnson

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

Residential Burglary

On Friday, January 4th, at 2:12 p.m., officers responded to a residential burglary in the 1100 block of Bigstone Lane. A neighbor observed a suspicious male in the complex trying the door handle of the victim's residence. This male was then seen entering a front window.

The suspect, Santiago Hernandez, was located upstairs. He refused to comply and attempted to retreat to an upstairs area at which time a K9 was deployed and apprehended Hernandez.

Prowling Arrest

On Saturday, January 5th, at 3:45 p.m., an alert citizen in the 6300 block of Hunter Street heard a commotion in the front of their residence. The witness noticed a male crouched under the front of their neighbor's vehicle and immediately contacted the VPD.

Officers found several vehicles in the area had been tampered with. A Ventura Police K9 was summoned to assist with the search for the suspect and quickly located Michael Wear hiding a short distance from the scene.

Wear was found to be in possession of property stolen from one of the tampered vehicles. Wear was placed under arrest and later booked into VC Jail.

Reported Bomb

On Sunday, January 6th, at 8:58 a.m., an alert citizen walking in the area saw what appeared to be a bomb that had been discarded in a field near the intersection of Henderson and Petit. The citizen immediately called the VPD. Officers found a device that looked like a military ordnance and they immediately secured the area and diverted all traffic. The bomb squad responded and was able to retrieve and secure the device, which appeared to be inert.

Stabbing

On Tuesday, January 8th, at 1:24 a.m., the VPD received a call about a disturbance in the 500 block of South Seaward Avenue. 4 males were involved in a verbal argument. The VPD received a call from the Emergency Room at CMH hospital as well, about a stabbing victim.

The two incidents were related. While officers were investigating at the Seaward address they were able to find evidence of a crime as well at the crime scene for the stabbing. Officers at the hospital contacted the 17-year-old male victim, who sustained non-life threatening injuries to both of his forearms.

Hit and Run Collision Update

On December 28th, Craig Colton and his son, Matthew, were victims of a felony hit and run at the Olivas Links Golf Course. The incident ended with Colton's wallet stolen and Matthew, while chasing down the suspect's vehicle, was injured.

The VPD Traffic Unit conducted an investigation regarding the incident. The suspect, Karl McMillin, was arrested for felony hit and run, assault with a deadly weapon, and

theft. An alert citizen saw the information from the original press release in printed media and called the VPD.

McMillin has been frequenting golf courses throughout the county and committing similar thefts for the past several months.

Stolen Vehicle Arrest

On Wednesday, January 9th, at 4:14 a.m., the VPD received a call from the victim of a stolen vehicle theft that had just occurred.

While officers were on scene investigating the crime, the suspect drove past the location in the vehicle. The officer quickly broadcast this information to other officers and a short time later the truck was seen driving on Thompson Boulevard near Hurst Street.

The vehicle stopped in the parking lot of Pacific View Mall next to the bus station. The driver of the vehicle, Wendy Hinson, was the sole occupant in the vehicle and was taken into custody and booked into VC Jail.

Stabbing

On November 22nd, at 1:25 a.m., a group of males confronted Eduardo Mendez and his friends in the 500 block of East Santa Clara. The suspect insinuated that he and his group belonged to a gang and an argument ensued over gang affiliation.

During the altercation Mendez was stabbed. The victim was transported to VCMC where he underwent surgery for a non-life threatening injury.

The investigation led to the identification of Francisco Perez and Osmar Barcenas as suspects in this case. Both were arrested and booked at VC Jail.

Pursuit

On Wednesday, January 9th, at 4:32 p.m., detectives saw Michael Holladay driving in the area of Preble Avenue and Mills Road in Ventura. Detectives knew Holladay had an outstanding felony warrant for violating his Post Release Offender status.

Holladay failed to yield to the lights and sirens and a brief pursuit was initiated. He pulled to the shoulder of the freeway and was taken into custody. During the pursuit, Holladay threw several bags of suspected narcotics out of the vehicle. Evidence indicating the suspect was involved in drug sales was also found inside the vehicle.

Felony Hit and Run Arrest

At 8:50 p.m., officers responded to an injury, hit and run traffic collision on Foothill Road near the intersection of Grove Street.

The victim was jogging in the bike lane on the south side of Foothill Road when he was struck by an eastbound pickup truck. The driver of the pickup failed to stop after the collision. The victim was transported to the VCMC where he was treated for moderate, non-life threatening injuries.

VPD received a call from Elmer Escobar who was reporting his pickup had been stolen earlier in the evening. Officers contacted Escobar and realized the vehicle he was attempting to report stolen was the suspect vehicle in the hit and run.

Robbery Arrest

On Wednesday, January 9th, at about 3:15 p.m., the victim was selling flowers in the 300 block of North Ventura Avenue. Hector Villa approached the victim and demanded free flowers, which was denied. Villa punched him in the face and then took the victim's cell phone and wallet.

TURN FIFTY SHADES OF JAMES FRANCIS GRAY
 Make it your New Years Resolution to read—
Kali is Your Code Name
 New E-book by —JAMES FRANCIS GRAY
 AVAILABLE FOR MOST E-BOOK READERS
 www.kaliisyourcodename.com
 www.facebook.com/KaliisYourCodeName
 WATCH VIDEO TRAILER ON YouTube
 Search For: Kali is Your Code Name

cordello's PIZZA
WE DELIVER
 1700 E. Thompson
 Ventura
 Sun-Thurs 11am - 9:30pm
 Fri & Sat 11am - 10:30pm
\$4 OFF regular price
805.648.1070
 Monday and Tuesday – Extra Large Pizza, one topping, \$10.99 or Spaghetti, \$4.95

At 6:00 p.m., officers responded to a report of domestic violence in the area of Olive Street and Harrison Avenue. Officers conducting the domestic violence investigation determined Villa was in an altercation where he physically assaulted another victim.

Possession of Fire Arms

Over the past two months, Ventura has experienced an increase in vehicle burglaries. The residential area of Portola Road and Thille Street has been particularly impacted by these crimes.

On Friday, January 11th, at 12:00 p.m., the suspects were contacted by detectives in the parking lot of 4200 East Main Street. They were attempting to sell stolen property that was taken from a vehicle burglary. Gilbert Villareal was detained and found to be in possession of over \$2,000 worth of stolen property. Jeremy Delgado ran from detectives. While fleeing, he dumped a bag which contained a loaded, sawed off shotgun. He was taken into custody. Both suspects are on probation for various drug and property crime related offenses, and they each have ties to local gangs.

Stolen Vehicle Arrest

On Friday, January 11th, at 4:40 p.m., Ronald Merkes went to Spirit Gas Station in the 400 block of Thompson Boulevard. Merkes was paying for gas when he heard his vehicle start and accelerate away.

Officer Sears was searching the vicinity of Ocean Avenue and Seaward Avenue when he saw the stolen work truck. Officer Sears conducted a high-risk stop, the vehicle was recovered, and the driver, Douglas Walzer, was taken into custody.

Stolen Vehicle Arrest

On Tuesday, January 15th, at 6:45 p.m., a VPD officer saw a recently reported stolen vehicle stopped in the Valero gas station lot located at the intersection of Harbor Boulevard and Monmouth Drive.

The suspect exited the lot driving

onto eastbound Harbor Boulevard. Officers quickly initiated a traffic stop and the vehicle yielded in the neighboring McDonalds parking lot. The driver, Justin Spinelli was taken into custody without incident. Spinelli was later booked into the VC Jail.

Harbor Patrol Blotter

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

1-7 11:01 a.m. FCC dispatched Patrol and others to a medical call at VWM. Patrol responded and assisted in getting the patient out of the cabin of his boat. AMR transported the patient to the hospital.

1-10 10:43 p.m. VWM security reported a man in his car, possibly bleeding from his mouth, and she was unable to wake him. FCC was notified and Patrol responded. Upon arrival, the man was awake, intoxicated, with chewing tobacco juice drooling from his mouth. Patrol cancelled other units and escorted the man to his boat.

1-11 3:25 p.m. Patrol received a call of an ill person in the Ventura Marina Mobile Home Park. Upon arrival, the person had flu-like symptoms and refused transportation to the hospital.

1-12 10:36 a.m. Patrol observed a disabled vessel in the entrance, responded, took the vessel into tow, and released it at its slip at Harbor Village.

9:31 p.m. While investigating the suspicion that gasoline was stolen from a vehicle at the Harbor Village, Patrol observed a man in a suspicious vehicle. The vehicle had no rear license plate and the man matched the description of a person seen walking with a 5-gallon gas tank. Patrol requested PD respond. PD discovered that the vehicle had a broken ignition column and found several stolen items. PD placed the subject under arrest for possession of marijuana and meth.

— Weekly SUDOKU —
 Answer

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

— King Crossword —
 Answers
 Solution time: 21 mins.

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



Show Time

Where The Music Flows

Here and there

by Michael Kohli

VenturaLiveWire@gmail.com
Kohlismusicpit.com

Currently Listening to: Anybody
Listening? by Queensryche.

As Of This Writing...

Ventura scenester/ promoter/ musician/ karaoke host and more, Brian Parra (aka Saturday Night Bob) recently announced plans to book shows again at the Old Livery Theater which is now known as Ventura Improv Group on Oak Street. For years, this spot became the local all ages Sunday night tradition. Stay tuned for more details.

Abby Posner (known as the singer of Fearmia and for her solo work) will be on the hit TV show GLEE for two episodes starting January 24. She also recently shot a new music video on location around Ventura (including a filming at Paddy's). Her new album, *For You, This Spring*, is now currently available on iTunes!

Ed Kasper recently got married! Congrats. His current band, Whiskey Glass Eye recently released their new album. Check out their YouTube page for their new music video. The band is currently doing some acoustic gigs. Including, a recent gig with the Sideshow Preachers.

8Stops7 have been performing a lot lately, in support of their latest album, *Fables*. Fan favorites off the album include, *The Sting*, *The Red Ant* (my personal fav), and *The 22 38*. They recently performed at the Santa Monica Pier to adoring fans!

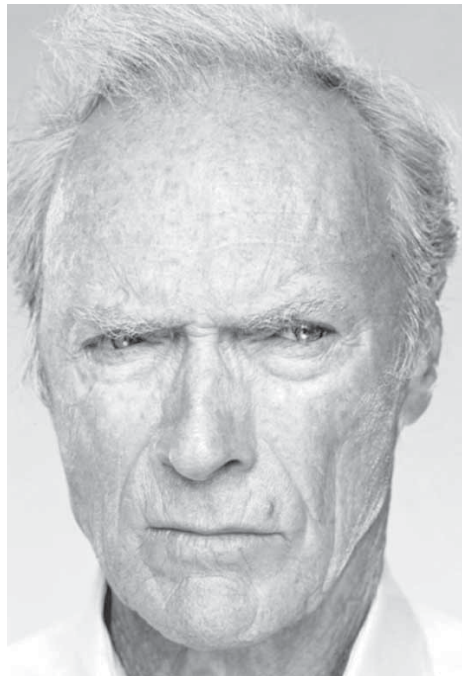
Catholic Spit has announced plans to release an album. They have a release party scheduled in February. Location/ date is to be announced. They also informed fans that they'll be doing a West Coast tour with Sun Sick from France. Check out their Facebook page for more info.

Thank you for reading and rocking here!

Hollywood

Cut Clint some slack

by Tony Rizzo



Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie once proclaimed they wouldn't get married until everyone could get married, showing their support for same-sex marriage. Recently, they recanted because their

children wanted them to get married. Then Brad, just 49, announced he'll give up acting for directing in the next three years. Next, Angelina, 37, offered, "I've enjoyed being an actress, but if it went away tomorrow, I'd be very happy to be home with the children." What is it they say about "the best laid plans"?

When Clint Eastwood appeared at the Republican Convention to support his party and its candidate, he unfortunately became the object of ridicule. The backlash hurt his current film, *Trouble With the Curve*, which cost \$60 million to make and only took in \$46,342,888. People need to cut Clint a break. Here's a man who started his career doing bit parts in B movies such as 1955's *Revenge of the Creature* (the sequel to *The Creature from the Black Lagoon*) with John Agar; *Francis in the Navy* (about a talking mule) with Donald O'Conner; *Lady Godiva of Coventry* with Maureen O'Hara; and *Tarantula*, again with Agar.

In 1964, he starred in Sergio Leone's \$225,000 spaghetti Western, *A Fistful of Dollars*; in 1965 he made the \$600,000 *For a Few Dollars More*; and then the \$1.2 million *The Good, the Bad and The Ugly* in 1966, which grossed \$25 million. In 1992, he won Oscars for Best Director and Best Picture for *Unforgiven*, which grossed \$159 million. In 2004, he won Oscars again for Best Director and Best Picture for *Million Dollar Baby*, which cost \$30 million and grossed \$216,763,646. The man is a visionary, and if he wants to talk to an empty chair, we should let him!

BITS 'N' PIECES: Carol Burnett, an alumnus of Hollywood High School, will be the first recipient of The Carol Burnett Honor of Distinction Award, to be presented on Jan. 10 by the legendary Betty White. Famous Hollywood High alumni include Rudolph Valentino, Judy Garland, Mickey Rooney, Laurence Fishburne, John Ritter and Cher. ... Matt Damon will join Daniel Craig, Bill Murray, Cate Blanchett, *The Artist* Oscar-winner Jean Dujardin, John Goodman and George Clooney, who also is directing, in *The Monuments Men*. The World War II thriller takes place in the final months of Nazi Germany as Hitler and his henchmen try to cover their tracks by destroying artwork stolen during their rise to power. ... Rob Reiner will direct a *Cape Fear*-like serious psychological thriller, *You Belong to Me*. Harrison Ford and Zac Efron have been cast as brothers at odds when Efron starts seducing Ford's wife and daughter. Sounds creepy already!

Send letters to Tony Rizzo's Hollywood, 8306 Wilshire Blvd., No. 362, Beverly Hills, CA 90211.
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Music Calendar 1/23 to 2/5

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

VFS @ 420 East 2013

The Blue Lagoon

Opening Night Film

Tuesday, February 5th @ 7:15pm

(Producer/Director Randal Kleiser and star Christopher Atkins will attend)

Reviewed by Lorenzo DeStefano

Ventura Film Society

Please join the VFS, Producer/Director Randal Kleiser (*Grease*, *Flight Of The Navigator*, *Pee Wee Big Top*, *White Fang*) and actor Christopher Atkins at this very special launch of our 2013 season on Tuesday February 5th @ 7:15pm. *The Blue Lagoon*, screening from a pristine, just-released Blu Ray, has become a classic tale of young love played out against a backdrop of tense isolation and tropical beauty. In the late Victorian era, two young cousins, Emmeline (Brooke Shields), and Richard (Atkins), are shipwrecked on an island paradise in the South Pacific. Their only companion is Paddy (Leo McKern), the rough ship's cook who rescued them from a burning schooner and who teaches them basic survival techniques like how to fish,

which berries are poisonous and how to make a storm proof shelter. When Paddy dies, a victim of his rampant alcoholism, the kids are left on their own. With no one to guide them and no hope of rescue, the two make a simple life together, unaware that sexual maturity will eventually intervene and forever alter their childhood relationship. When their love happens, it is as natural as the sea, and as powerful. Oscar nominated for its lush, natural light cinematography by the late, great Néstor Almendros (*Sophie's Choice*, *Days of Heaven*, *Kramer vs. Kramer*).

The Ventura Film Society is proud to present *The Blue Lagoon*, sponsored by the Crowne Plaza Ventura Beach, as the first of 21 feature films of our fifth season. The VFS thanks all of its patrons, donors, volunteers and sponsors for supporting our mission of bringing quality alternative films and filmmakers to Ventura. Screening, Membership and Advance Ticket Information on our 2013 season, running February 5th through December 3rd at 420 E. Santa Clara Street (@ Oak Street) in Downtown Ventura, is available at www.venturafilmsociety.com. Please contact us at (805) 628-2299 / info@venturafilmsociety.com for further information.

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

Blackbeard's 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 1/25 - Crosscut 7-11pm

Sat 1/26 - Loose Canons 6-10pm

Sun 1/27 - Blue Stew 2-6pm

Sun 2/3 - Blue Stew 2-6pm

Bombay Bar & Grill

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

Local Live Music every Thur thru Sun Thur 1/24 - 805 Beatdown 9pm

Fri 1/25 - Count Lorenzo Blues Band 6pm, Rubberneck Lions, Matt Zelter 9:30pm

Sat 1/26 - The Reall Deall Band 10pm

Sun 1/27 - Shoemaker Brothers 5pm

El Rey Cantina

2302 Ventura Blvd, Camarillo

805-484-4483

Sat 2/23 - Dirty Rice 9pm

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 1/25 - Iration, Passafire, Pacific Dub 8pm

Sandbox Coffeehouse

204 E. Thompson Blvd., 805-641-1025

Thur 1/24 - Open Mic Night 7:30pm - 9:30pm

Sat 1/26 - Walt Dunlop 12pm - 2pm

Sun 1/27 - Ed Provost 12pm - 2pm

Thur 1/31 - Open Mic Night 7:30pm - 9:30pm

Sat 1/2 - Vic Morga 12pm - 2pm

Sun 1/3 - Bill Derby 12pm - 2pm

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 1/24 - Blues Jam with Tommy Marsh & Bad Dog 8pm

Fri 1/25 - Devils Box 9pm

Wed 1/31 - Blues Jam with Tommy Marsh & Bad Dog 8pm

Watermark On Main

598 E. Main St., 805-643-6800

Intimate Acoustic with Dano every Tue

Jazz at the Mark every Wed

W2O Rooftop Lounge

598 E. Main St. (above Watermark)

805-643-6800

Live Bands every Wed thru Sun

Friday Dance Party every Fri 9pm

Thur 1/24 - Crowfoot

Fri 1/25 - INSTONE

Sat 1/26 - Sidetracs

Sun 1/27 - A.D.D.

Thur 1/31 - Midnight Train

Fri 2/1 - Orlando Napier

Sat 2/2 - Georgetown with Lois

Yolie's/Hi Hat Entertainment

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

Top Notch Musicians and Bands every Fri 8pm

Fri 1/25 - Brophy Dale Band (Blues Rock n' Roller)

Fri 2/1 - Shawn Jones (International Blues Artist)

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

Wed 1/23 - Adam Levy & Nel Andrews 8pm

Fri 1/25 - The White Buffalo (Folk/Americana/Rock) 8pm

Sat 1/26 - Shelby Figueroa, Glass Key Hotel, Alec Ledbetter, Kyle McCormick 8pm, Brother Sal & Band 10pm

Mon 1/28 - Rockin' Mondays with Hard Six 8pm

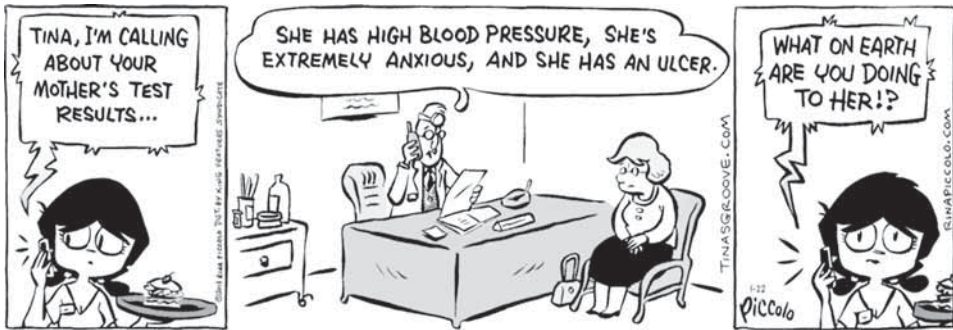
Wed 1/30 - Justin Hopkins & Brian Fuente 8pm

Sat 2/2 - Brother Sal & Band 10pm

Sun 2/3 - The Ultimate Bear Hug, Yellow Sparks 7:30pm

Lighter Breeze

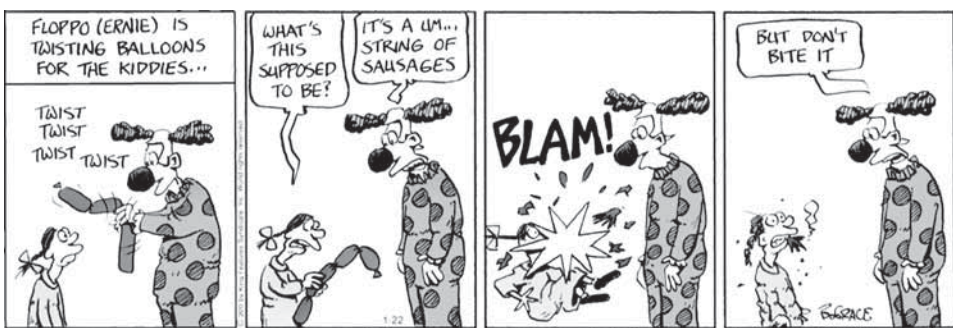
Tina's Groove



Tiger



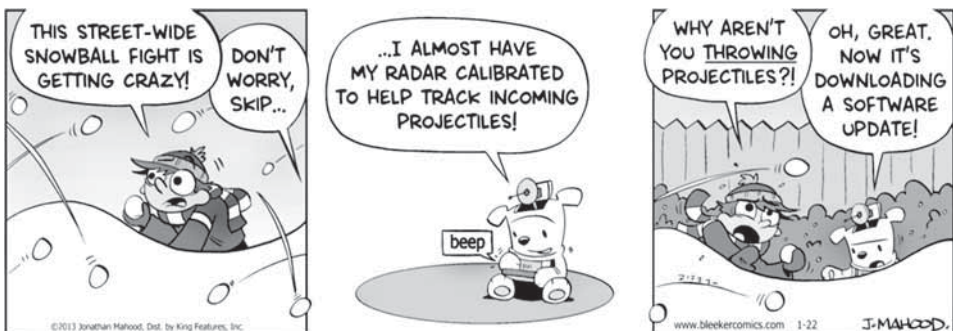
Piranha Club



Gil



Bleeker



Buckles



Solutions on page 15

		6		3	5	
8		4			6	
	1		5			9
	3		7		2	
5				6	9	4
		9	5			1
		5		1		3
2				8	7	
	4	2				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 15

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Cambridge sch.
- 4 Tweak the Constitution
- 9 Letterman's network
- 12 Fuss
- 13 Alamo hero with a knife named for him
- 14 Feedbag morsel
- 15 Part
- 17 Biz deg.
- 18 Commercials
- 19 Quartz variety
- 21 Baked potato's skin
- 24 Liniment target
- 25 Swelled head
- 26 Stitch
- 28 Esteem
- 31 Simple arithmetic
- 33 Sinbad's bird
- 35 — St. Vincent Millay
- 36 Come to a point
- 38 Bankroll
- 40 Charged bit
- 41 Brewery products
- 43 New Jersey airport
- 45 OK for

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12			13						14		
15			16						17		
			18			19		20			
21	22	23				24					
25			26		27	28			29	30	
31			32		33	34		35			
36			37		38	39		40			
		41		42		43		44			
45	46					47					
48				49	50				51	52	53
54				55					56		
57				58					59		

- 3 Cruise or Selleck
- 4 Homes
- 5 Dr. Frankenstein's creation
- 6 Female sheep
- 7 Martial arts mercenary
- 8 Remove (from)
- 9 Digests of a sort
- 10 Movie pig
- 11 Celebrity
- 16 Neighbor of Afgh.
- 20 Oxford, e.g.
- 21 Make jokes
- 22 Water (Sp.)
- 23 Chum
- 27 "Holy moley!"
- 29 — about (approximately)
- 30 Hierarchy level
- 32 Narcissist's love
- 34 Finger food
- 37 Does a double-take
- 39 Coy
- 42 Emporium
- 44 Humor
- 45 Apprehends
- 46 Hodgepodge
- 50 60 sec.
- 51 Sprite
- 52 "Catcher in the —"
- 53 Witness

DOWN

- 1 Buddy
- 2 Altar affirmative

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LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) You might feel comfortable in your familiar surroundings, but it might be time to venture into something new. There's a challenge out there that's just right for you.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You're eager to take on that new opportunity opening up as January gives way to February. Now all you need to do is resist quitting too early. Do your best to stay with it.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Your love of things that are new gets a big boost as you encounter a situation that opens up new and exciting vistas. How far you go with it depends on you.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Doff a bit of that careful, conservative outlook and let your brave Bovine self take a chance on meeting that new challenge. You could be surprised at how well you do.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) That recent workplace shift might not seem to be paying off as you expected. But be patient. There are changes coming that could make a big difference.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You might not want to return to the more serious tasks facing you. But you know it's what you must do. Cheer up. Something more pleasant soon will occupy your time.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) While few can match the Goat's fiscal wizardry, you still need to be wary in your dealings. There might be a problem you should know about sooner rather than later.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) As you dutifully tidy up your end-of-the-month tasks, your fun self emerges to urge you to do something special: A trip (or a cruise, maybe?) could be just what you need.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Easy does it when it comes to love and all the other good things in life. Don't try to force them to develop on your schedule. Best to let it happen naturally.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Your achievements are admirable as you close out the month with a roar. Now you can treat yourself to some well-earned time off for fun with family or friends. (Or both!)

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) A surprise decision by someone you trust causes some stormy moments. But a frank discussion explains everything, and helps save a cherished relationship.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Be sure you know the facts before you assume someone is holding back on your project. Try to open your mind before you give someone a piece of it.

BORN THIS WEEK: Sometimes you forget to take care of yourself, because you're so busy caring for others. But you wouldn't have it any other way.

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Health

Urologic issues in men and women

Urologic issues in men and women will be the focus when Community Memorial Health System opens its 2013 Seminar Series on Tuesday, Jan. 29.

Marc Beagler, M.D., and Seyed Khoddami, M.D., will lead the seminar that will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. in the eighth-floor Nichols Auditorium at Community Memorial Hospital.

Men and women face a unique set of urologic issues, yet some can pertain to both. They include difficulties in urination and incontinence, and Drs. Beagler and Khoddami will cover the causes of these bothersome conditions, whom they affect and innovative treatment options available.

Dr. Beagler received his medical degree from the Creighton University School of Medicine in Omaha and completed a urology residency at the Loma Linda University School of Medicine. He is a clinical Professor of Urology at the University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine.

Dr. Khoddami received his medical degree from the University of Tehran School of Medicine in Iran, and completed a urology residency at the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha. He is a clinical Assistant Professor of Urology at USC.

Space is limited for this seminar and reservations are required. Call 652-5436, or visit www.cmhshealth.org/rsvp

Are you one of the 68 percent?

In the United States, 68 percent of adults age 20 and older are overweight or obese, while 31.7% of the nation's

children and adolescents ages two to 19 are overweight or obese. Obesity contributes to five of the 10 leading causes of death in America, including heart disease, type 2 diabetes, many cancers and stroke. As part of its effort to help combat the obesity epidemic in our community, Everyday Life Wellness is hosting a screening of the four-part HBO documentary on Feb 4, 11, 18 and 25th at The River Community Church Offices located at 859 Santa Clara St.

Three years in the making, The Weight Of The Nation examines the facts and myths of this urgent public health issue, showing how obesity affects the health of the nation and the health care system. The film features case studies and interviews with leading experts, individuals and families struggling with obesity. The series also highlights how individuals, worksites, and communities are making positive changes.

Seating is limited and is expected to go fast. You can reserve a spot by emailing, by February 3, info@everydaylifewellness.com or call Jo 201-1323. Walk-ins will be accepted, but do remember that space is limited, for best learning experience please RSVP.

Cut through all the food confusion and learn the facts to help you live a more energetic, healthier life by reserving your spot today.

You had better get that flu shot (hope it's not too late)

The nation's widespread outbreak of the flu has caused an increase in flu cases in California and a sudden surge

in demand for the flu vaccine in Ventura County. Ventura County's Public Health (VCPH) Department reports that the phones have been busier than normal with people calling in to find out where and when they can get a flu shot.

According to a report from the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), flu levels in California are now significantly higher than what is normally expected this time of year.

Ventura County Public Health clinics are offering flu vaccines for people of all ages on a first come, first served basis during normal business hours at their four Public Health clinic locations. Hours are 8:30 – 11:30 am and 1 – 4:30 PM at Ventura Public Health, 3147 Loma Vista Road.

Caregivers' Workshop

Continued from page 13

Dr. Moore will be presenting a "Caregivers' Workshop" and signing her books on Saturday, January 26 from 2 pm – 4 pm at the Ventura Townhouse. Please RSVP to Serena Whitcomb at 642-3263. Books will be available or attendees are welcome to download a free copy of the book from her website to bring and have signed.

Dementia 101 at The Palms

The Palms at Bonaventure Assisted Living and Memorial Care Community along with Assisted Home Health and Home Hospice, is hosting a Dementia 101 Informational Seminar on Thursday, January 24th at 6pm at The Palms at Bonaventure featuring guest speaker, Dr. William Rajala. There is a tremendous need to educate the community on one of the world's fastest growing diseases. Dementia currently affects approximately 24 million people worldwide. With the baby boomers aging

this number is expected to grow to 84 million by 2040 according to current statistics.

The Palms at Bonaventure meets many people on a daily basis who have so many questions and are unsure if the issues their loved ones are becoming faced with are part of this progressive disease or part of the normal aging process. They also see that people are unsure what to do with their loved ones and how to care for them. The Palms at Bonaventure hope that their informational seminar with help all those families out in the community that have questions and are in need guidance. Please RSVP at The Palms at Bonaventure at 647-0616.

Preparing to go Hawaiian

Here are two opportunities for adults to have fun, learn something new and have a Hawaiian experience this spring at the Senior Recreation Center. The instructor for both classes is Nani Edgar from the Hula Halau O Puananiha'aeo. Nani has seven years of experience teaching ukulele and is also an exquisite hula dancer who has trained and performed around the world with Grammy Winner Daniel Ho. For more information call the Senior Recreation Center at 648-2829.

Introduction to Ukulele

Thursdays February 14 – March 21
5:30-6:30 pm Adults 50+ \$55

Learn the basics to play this fun and unique instrument that is rapidly growing in popularity. Bring your own ukulele.

Hula for Fun and Exercise

Thursdays February 14 – March 21
6:45-7:45 pm Adult Women, 50+ \$55

Learn basic hula steps and a couple of hula dances. No hula experience required. Dress in comfortable workout clothing.

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Art Scene



The wonderful fused-glass art of Fran Elson at the Museum.



Richard Diebenkorn: *The Ocean Park Series*

Art at the Museum

Sarah Bancroft, curator of the critically acclaimed traveling exhibition *Richard Diebenkorn: The Ocean Park Series* will speak about the artist's career on Sunday, February 24 at 2:00 p.m. at the Museum of Ventura County. The presentation is \$10 for the general public and \$5 for museum members. Admission includes the exhibition *Island Treasures: Artworks from the Santa Cruz Island Foundation*, featuring 17 works by Diebenkorn. For reservations call 653-0323 x7.

Bancroft will explore the noted American painter's artistic journey through cycles of representation and abstraction, culminating in his highly abstract *Ocean Park Series*.

Fused-glass artist Fran Elson and author Amada Irma Perez are the featured speakers in the new series *An Afternoon of Arts & Letters*, beginning at the Museum of Ventura County on February 10. Admission to both afternoon programs is \$5 for the general public and free to museum members.

In an illustrated session, from 1 to 2 p.m., Elson answers the question she is asked most often, "How do you do that?" She discusses and demonstrates the wide variety of techniques she uses creating glasswork in her studio in Somis, such as fine art pieces, jewelry, tableware, home décor and accessories. Elson will also answer audience questions. Examples of Elson's work will be on display and available

for purchase from noon to 4 p.m.

At 3 p.m. author Amada Irma Perez of Ventura presents *The Exquisite Art of Writing: Rediscover Romance and Enhance Family/Friend Relationships*. She promises "afternoon tea and a delightful writing experience" and will share intimate details from her letters, journals and diaries while guiding participants in new ways to express their sentiments. A selection of journals and writing implements will be available for purchase in the Museum. Perez is a former bilingual educator and has written numerous children's books.

Meet macro-photographer Dan Harding at the Museum of Ventura County on Free First Sunday, February 3 from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m., and find out how he captures the detailed images of tiny sea life on view in the current museum exhibit *Tidepool Discoveries*. The informal talk and all museum galleries are free to the public that day.

Harding combines technology and an unusual perspective to share his passion to protect and preserve these creatures. His process involves temporarily placing them in a small aquarium on site, so they can be returned quickly to their found location after being photographed. He also designs and constructs special underwater camera housings for other shoots.

works that reveal the unique richness and art of letterpress printing.

Red Brick Gallery celebrates 6 years

Red Brick Gallery's 6th Anniversary Party and Artist Reception will be on Jan. 26, from 6-9pm.

Join them as they celebrate 6 years of art making and teaching in Ventura. Celebrate with their anniversary party featuring specialty bites, an arty raffle and art demonstrations by 7 local artists throughout the evening. Enter a free raffle to win one of 5 original pieces of art by local artists and 2 tickets to one of their Painting Parties, raffle tickets will be pulled all evening long for several chances to join in the celebration. www.redbrickart.com. Red Brick Gallery 315 E. Main Street, 643-6400.

Art, a la Carte



Ceramists Dane Venaas and Lauren Hanson will be the featured artists at the Ventura County Pottery Gallery through February 28. This collaboration of work is reminiscent of the Art and Crafts Movement in California and the carvings of the 1920's and 1930's where nature was often carved into many decorative ceramics and wood pieces. One large celadon glazed piece in the show is more Asian in nature with carved lotus completely surrounding it.

Dane Venaas is an artist-craftsman who has been completely involved with ceramics for the past 30 years.

Santa Barbara ceramic artist, Lauren Hanson, studied at UC Santa Barbara and then later transferred to California College of Art in Oakland, where she earned her BFA in painting in 1978. For the past 20 years she has focused on clay, particularly high-fired and wheel-thrown functional ceramics.



Watch how Ventura artist Norman Kirk brings a painting to life at the Museum of Ventura County's Agriculture Museum on Sunday, February 3, 2013, from 1 until 3 p.m. Kirk will set up his easel, prepare his palette and transform a blank piece of paper into a rural California landscape on the museum's monthly Free First Sunday, when all exhibits and events are open free to the public.

The Museum of Ventura County's Agriculture Museum is located at 926 Railroad Avenue, Santa Paula, and the first Sundays of every month are free general admission for the public. For more information, go to www.ventura-museum.org or call 525-3100.



Spend an Evening with BiJian Fan and Donna Granata on February 12, from 6 to 7:30 p.m. at The Comedy Club at the Harbor.

A bird lifts its wings, ready to soar above the Gull Wings Children's Museum entrance. Swans adorn fountains at the Museum of Ventura County. The work of Beijing-born, Camarillo resident BiJian Fan. BiJian studied in China, Japan, and USA, earning a M.A. in Mathematics and Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering. Please join as Focus on the Masters kick off their 2013 Spotlight Interview series. To learn more about BiJian Fan visit www.BiJian.com.

AfterGLOW Special Event: Celebrate The Year of the Snake and FOTM's 19th season of artist interviews! Join for dinner with BiJian Fan at Focus on the Masters Archive and Library. Catering provided by Old Broads Catering Company.

The dinner is \$20 for FOTM members, \$30 for non-members.

Paid reservations are essential and required prior to February 6 for the AfterGLOW (so that the old ladies know how much to prepare).

Purchase tickets online at: www.FocusOnTheMasters.com or call 653-2501.



The Buenaventura Art Association has announced the winners of its 27th annual Open Competition. Their works were chosen by juror Katrina McElroy, a Moorpark College art instructor, from entries submitted by artists from throughout Central and Southern California.

Transcendence, an oil painting on canvas by Erika Craig, was judged Best of Show and earned top prize of \$400 for the young artist, an Honorable Mention winner in the nonprofit association's 2012 Emerging Artist Cup student competition.

The two- and three-dimensional pieces are on exhibit through January 26 at the organization's Buenaventura Gallery, 700 E. Santa Clara Street.

The Buenaventura Gallery is open noon-5 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays and 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays. For more information, visit www.buenaventuragalery.org.

Vita Art Center presents art of letterpress

Words and Images: the Art of Letterpress Printing, presented by the Coast Letterpress Guild. A group exhibition reflecting on peace. Opening Reception Friday February 1 from 6-9 p.m.

Exhibit dates February 1 – 24. Gallery Hours: Mon-Fri. from 10-5, weekends by appointment.

The Coast Letterpress Guild has members from Santa Barbara to Simi, all using antique printing presses and lead type to keep alive the art and craft of letterpress printing. Their work ranges from handmade books and smaller chapbooks, to posters, broadsides, and inventive blends of words and images. Painstaking attention to the demands of the machinery and the craft combine with explorations of language, design, and innovative techniques to create highly individualized

School



Students, especially Dylan, were surprised at what awaited them during a routine fire drill.

Pierpont Elementary fourth grader wins Hydrant Award

Story and photo by Richard Lieberman

Students at Pierpont Elementary School in Ventura marched quietly from their classrooms Wednesday, many holding up one arm making a V sign indicating that silence be maintained as part of a scheduled monthly fire drill.

This exercise would turn out to be special for one fourth-grader.

Awaiting the students, filing out to the basketball court at the school was a group of Ventura firefighters. Students quickly and efficiently seated themselves on the school's basketball court, and were greeted by the

firefighters including Fire Chief Don McPherson. Included among the dignitaries was Ventura Unified School District Superintendent Trudy Tuttle Arriaga. The gathering was for the surprise presentation of the Hydrant Award to fourth-grader Dylan MacKenz Mullaney. The 9-year-old student wrote the winning essay for the award. She was competing with 17 Ventura County schools fourth grade students that submitted an essay for review during Fire Safety Days, on October 17 and 18.

Chief McPherson lauded the

seated fourth graders on their responsible behavior during the fire drill before announcing the essay winner, who had been judged the winner this past December.

"There were 1,320 students from 17 schools who submitted essays. We had a team of people whittle it down to 20 of the best, and I got to choose the winner," Chief McPherson said. The winner's name will go on the Hydrant Award trophy, which will be displayed at Pierpont Elementary School for the rest of the year, added McPherson.

The winning essay titled *Hometown Heroes* was read to the assembled group by Mullaney where she described the fire drills that were demonstrated to the students by firefighters during the district's second annual Fire safety Days.

Mullaney's proud parents Lynz, and Bob Mullaney were present to offer support and encouragement for their daughter's accomplishment.

After the presentation "Kenz" (as she likes to be called) was given a ride on a fire truck as a special treat.

Principal of Pierpont Elementary Susan Martinez said she was proud of "Kenz", but hardly surprised by KENZ's win.

"We're very proud of her," Martinez said. "She is an amazing student and a good friend."

The Ventura district's Fire Safety Days gave firefighters the opportunity to describe and show procedures to the fourth grade students teaching them the importance of fire safety and proper procedures during fire emergencies. Ventura firefighters spoke to, and demonstrated to the students on how to check on home smoke detectors to insure they are in working order. Students also learned the technique "stop, drop and roll" method for dowsing fires. They were also shown and learned how to stay low to the ground in smoke filled rooms.

Superintendent Trudy Tuttle Arriaga said at their age fourth graders have the ability to assist if there is a fire and they know how to prevent fires as well.

"This way, all the schools come together to get the same information," she said of the fire safety demonstration. "The fourth graders were motivated by the competition, and this was an opportunity to be recognized."

originality, composition and skill. Entries will be accepted from February 1 until April 1. Entry deadline is Monday, April 1. Prizes will be awarded to the top three entries, First prize: \$500, Second Prize: \$250, Third Prize: \$100.

Rules, deadlines and other information can be found on the Fair website, www.venturacountyfair.org. For more information about the contest call 648-3376 x 110 or send an email to info@venturacountyfair.org. (Please put "Contest" in the subject line).

The winning design will be used to advertise the Fair on Fair posters, souvenirs, advertisements and other applications. Second and third place winners will also be used in various applications. All contestants' entries will be displayed in the Youth Expo at the Ventura County Fair.

Tallship Institute opens Small Boat Center

In February 2010, the American Tall Ship Institute (ATSI) began their first boat building program. Based on programs such as Rocking the Boat in South Bronx and Alexandria Seaport Foundation in Virginia, the course was directed towards helping gang involved teens, under-served youth, and young adults develop critical job training skills in a unique and valuable way.

Students meet with a professional master boat builder who teaches the theory of boat building, vocational math needed for building the boat (designed to teach math needed for GED), tools and use of tools, and appropriate vocational socialization. ATSI currently has two master boat builders on staff.

Boat Building Instructor, Doug Sherr stated, "Over the last month, we remodeled the old Italian restaurant in Fisherman's Wharf. We can now manage 4 boat building programs simultaneously in nearly 2,500 sq. feet of shop space. Effectively we can now quadruple the number of youth in the community we can affect with positive change."

The Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the American Tall Ship Institute's Small Boat Center will be on Thursday, January 24 at 5pm. The general public is welcomed.

To find out more about these programs or how you can get involved, contact ATSI at 901-0585.

Youth

VC Fair announces poster contest for youth

The Ventura County Fair has announced that the annual Fair poster contest will be held for the 2013 Ventura County Fair. The contest is open to young artists in grades 5 – 12 who reside in Ventura County.

The theme of the 2013 Fair is "Boots, Barns and Banjos" and will serve as the guideline to the imagery. Artwork may be created in any medium but may not be 3 dimensional and must not use glitter or metallic paint.

Poster designs will be judged on theme,

Festival of Talent

Join us for the upcoming *Festival of Talent* at Ventura High School. This district-wide event showcases the best and brightest talent in the district and is a major fundraiser for Ventura Education Partnership. Businesses, community groups and others serve as sponsors for this exciting event. This year's show is once again being directed by Rubicon Theatre Company's very talented Brian McDonald, Saturday, Feb. 23, starting at 7pm. Ventura High School Auditorium.

If you would like to volunteer or be a sponsor, and for more information email info@vep4vusd.org or call 641-5000 x.1550. All proceeds go directly to programs which benefit our students.

For more information: info@vep4vusd.org (805) 641-5000, ext. 1550



The Ventura Commerce and Education Foundation (VCEF) has named Charlotte Di Paolo January's Teacher of the Month. Mrs. Di Paolo teaches math intervention and Algebra for seventh and eighth grade students at Balboa Middle School.

"Charlotte creates a positive, supportive environment," says Teri Gern, Principal of Balboa Middle School. "She spends countless hours in her classroom during lunch to give the students struggling with math the extra support they need." Mrs. Di Paolo organizes and helps fund the school's annual engineering competition at Point Mugu. She also collects donations at Thanksgiving in order to purchase turkeys for local families in need.

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