

VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

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May 1 – May 14, 2013



The Turning Point Foundation recently announced that all drop-in clients at Our Place Shelter will need to participate in their own recovery via case management in order to receive shelter services.

Turning Point changes treatment philosophy

by Tim Pompey

Turning Point Foundation is shifting its service policy at Our Place Shelter, its downtown drop-in center.

Executive director Clyde Reynolds announced that those who wish to take advantage of the drop-in services at the shelter will now have to cooperate in their own rehabilitation. In other words, if a mentally ill homeless individual wants to receive services, he or she will have to agree to work with one of Turning Point's case managers to solve their issues and find housing.

Our Place Shelter, launched by Turning Point in 1995, provides 10 shelter beds where individuals who are mentally ill or homeless can stay for up to six months.

The shelter provides onsite case managers who can assist individuals living in the shelter or on the streets to receive mental health services, disability benefits, substance abuse counseling, medical services, and housing. In addition, these persons can drop in during the day to do their laundry, get a shower, pick up their mail, and make phone calls.

But several years ago, the HUD grant which helped fund these supportive services was reduced by \$100,000. Reynolds admitted that since that decrease in funding, maintaining

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More than 125 volunteers helped clean up State Beach. Photo by Murray Robertson.

Getting dirty for Earth Day

Friends of Channel Coast State Parks and California State Parks officials held a beautification and maintenance event on Saturday, April 13, at San Buenaventura State Beach. More than 125 volunteers from all over Ventura County attended the event.

This project, originally scheduled for McGrath State Beach (which is currently closed due to flooding), was the second annual volunteer service event conducted jointly by the organizers. The concept was originally created by Michele Pettes of SoCalGas and Supervi-

sor Zaragoza, who then brought the idea to State Parks. Impressed by the supervisor's efforts to save McGrath State Beach from the budgetary chopping block in 2011, Pettes approached Zaragoza with a plan to celebrate the park's removal from the closure list.

The first volunteer service event was held at McGrath State Beach in April 2012 and also attracted about 125 volunteers. It was deemed such a success that the partnership was continued for a second event.

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Ventura high grads have been meeting monthly for a chance for old friends to catch up.

It doesn't matter who you were

by Tom Marshall

Who your friends are in high school can make or break the entire 4 year experience. The silliness of the situation won't mentally register until you exit the socially awkward circus. Friends made in high school often fade away at the onset of adulthood as everyone embarks on their own individual professional and romantic pursuits. High school reunions have always been an opportunity to catch up with long lost friends. About 10 years ago a group of 1967 graduates from Ventura High School were planning their next reunion

and decided every 5 or 10 years wasn't enough. Since that collective discovery they have met every third Monday of the month. What started out as a reunion coordinating committee made up of old friends mushroomed into monthly dinners consisting of Ventura High School alumni from '66 and '67.

The impromptu monthly dinners began in homes before branching out to restaurants. There are 68 alumni on the monthly email list with each month's dinner attracting a rotating average of 20 friends. Some members drive from as far away as San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, Santa Maria, and parts of Los Angeles. There are a few supper club members that have moved away to other states and when visiting Ventura they make a point to attend one of the dinners. Spouses aren't forbidden but the dinners are a chance for old friends to catch up so members attend without their husbands or wives.

While the original reunion coordinating committee were friends in high school, most of the current group weren't. "It doesn't matter who you were in high school or who your friends were. We all went through the high school experience together and we will always have that in common," stated '67 alumna Carol Smaniotti. Carol emails the

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Trees are also good for holding people up.

Arbor Day 2013

by Christy Weir
City of Ventura, Councilmember

I grew up in a house between two huge walnut trees. Those old trees fed, shaded and entertained us. Many evenings were spent cracking walnuts, our fingers turning black. Summer days we enjoyed climbing, creating rope swings and building forts in our tall, sturdy trees. Fortunately, the developer who built our neighborhood preserved much of the existing walnut orchard when he built the homes. I have vivid memories of the thick, rough trunks, the strong branches, the perfect perches and the smell of roasting walnuts.

Recently held Arbor Day reminds us of the crucial role trees play in our city and in our world—they are nature's remarkable gift to us.

Here are 12 ways that trees keep our environment beautiful and healthy:

Trees combat the greenhouse effect

Burning fossil fuels and destroying

Continued on page 3

Economic Development Strategy

by Cheryl Heitmann
City of Ventura, Deputy Mayor

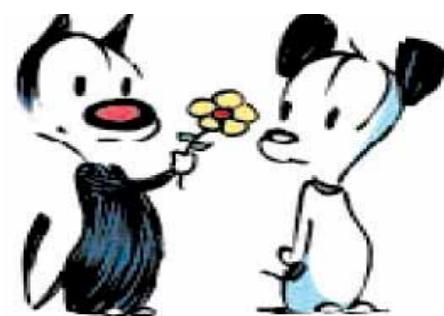
Community strategy is key to Ventura's economic strength.

On March 11 the Ventura City Council unanimously adopted the 2013-2018 Economic Development Strategy. The strategy was developed through a comprehensive and collaborative process involving councilmembers, city staff, industry groups, community members and economic development partners. The goal is to strengthen the city's economy by capitalizing on what sets Ventura apart, including our beautiful beaches, bustling downtown and harbor, vibrant arts community, numerous recreation choices, strong entrepreneur and small business presence,

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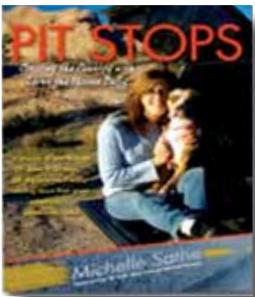
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Michelle Sathe
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Artist Reception

Celebrating the Works Of



Thursday, May 9th
4:00 to 7:00 pm

Wine & Hors d'oeuvres

Hilda Kilpatrick, raised by an artistic family in Trujillo Peru, worked mostly in pastels while living there. After moving to the United States she has developed her skills as a painter, painting primarily landscapes, local scenes and places that impress and inspire passion within her. Hilda's pallets are warm and sunny, nature being at the forefront of all her work. Recently Hilda studied under Glen Orbik learning to incorporate the human figure into her paintings. "California scenery has been an inspiration to me for years. By capturing places on canvas I hope these vistas will remain timeless and bring sunshine & happiness to whomever looks at one!"

Crowell, Weedon & Co.
5740 Ralston Street, Suite 301, Ventura, CA 93003
R.S.V.P. by May 2nd to Jen Quintal at 805-620-4700



Patti Distad & Kay Zetlmaier ~ Joie de Vivre (the joy of life) ~ A journey of two friends. Kay & Patti grew up as neighbors and best friends. Patti's mother Peggy, being an artist introduced both girls to the old masters and impressionists. Kay paints professionally and has exhibited and sold her oil paintings. This is Patti's first show. The landscapes exhibited document their recent journey to France as well as individual trips to Italy. Their adventures have included the village of Sarlat, Italy, Dordogne River in Beynac and the Faune de Gourde to view the 17,000 year old cave paintings done by the Cro Magnons who lived in the valley.



Duane Dammeyer, a stone sculptor working in alabaster, marble, granite and other types of stone, works from his home studio in Ojai and at Art City Studios in Ventura. An engineering degree influences geometric forms such as triangles, cubes and spheres. His love of nature inspires organic, fluid forms and clean lines. Considered an abstract contemporary artist, his work includes representational and stylized sculptures of objects, animals and human figures. Duane's sculptures have been shown in juried competitions in California and Colorado. His work also appears in personal and corporate collections.



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Arbor Day 2013

Continued from page 1

tropical rainforests have created excess greenhouse gases. Heat from the sun, reflected back from the earth, is trapped in this thickening layer of gases, causing global temperatures to rise. Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is a major greenhouse gas. Trees absorb CO₂ and release oxygen back into the air.

Trees clean the air

Trees absorb odors and air pollution and filter particulates out of the air by trapping them on their leaves and bark.

Trees cool streets and cities

Average temperatures in Los Angeles have risen 6°F in the last 50 years as tree coverage has declined and the number of heat-absorbing roads and buildings has increased.

Trees can cool cities by up to 10°F, by shading homes and streets, breaking up

urban "heat islands" and releasing water vapor into the air.

Trees save water

Shade from trees slows water evaporation from thirsty yards. Most newly planted trees need only fifteen gallons of water a week.

Trees help prevent water pollution

Trees reduce runoff by breaking rainfall, allowing water to flow down the trunk and into the earth below the tree. This prevents storm water from carrying pollutants to the ocean.

Trees help prevent soil erosion

On hillsides or stream slopes, trees slow runoff and hold soil in place.

Trees shield children from ultra-violet rays

Skin cancer is the most common form of cancer in the United States. Trees reduce UV-B exposure by about 50 percent.

Trees provide food

Fruit trees can yield up to 15-20 bushels of fruit per year and can be planted on most urban lots. Aside from fruit for humans, trees provide food for birds and wildlife.

Trees heal

Studies have shown that patients with views of trees out their windows heal faster and with fewer complications. Children with ADHD show fewer symptoms when they have access to nature.

Trees block things

Trees can mask concrete walls or parking lots, and unsightly views. They muffle sound from nearby streets and freeways. Trees absorb dust and wind and reduce glare.

Trees increase property values

The beauty of a well-planted property and its surrounding street and neighborhood can raise property values by as much as 15 percent.

Trees increase business traffic

Studies show that the more trees and landscaping a business district has, the more business will flow in.

Ventura has been designated a Tree City USA, and we continually strive to improve the health of our urban forest—35,000 city trees in parks and along public streets. You may have noticed one of our most recent additions, slow-release watering bags on newly planted street trees. This gives thirsty young trees the water they need and saves time for our busy urban forestry staff. We are also requiring that landscaping in parking lots include plenty of canopy trees, for purposes of shade, aesthetics, water and air quality.

The City celebrated Arbor Day by planting 22 new trees at Citrus Glen Elementary School on Friday, April 26th. Arbor Day can serve as a reminder to us all to plant new trees and care for the mature trees in our own yards.

Ventura Libraries Inside Out

Bring the family, pack a picnic and whet your appetite for all the new and exciting things happening in and outside of Ventura's libraries during our first-ever library outdoor event!

- Enjoy children's story time, music, climbing wall, jolly jump and food carts

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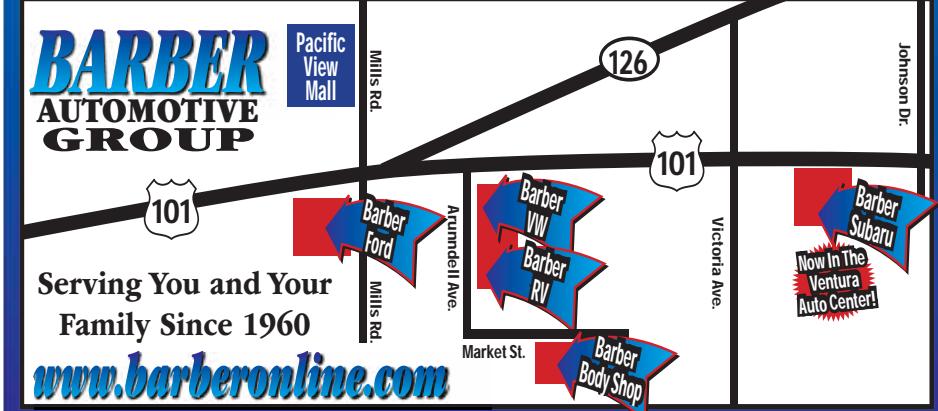


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May 4
11 am – 2 pm

Ventura Community Park
901 S. Kimball Rd. • Ventura

- Share your vision for a future Eastside library

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Ventura's Libraries – Today and the vision for tomorrow

by Ron D'Incau
Chair, City of Ventura Library Advisory Commission

As Chair of Ventura's Library Advisory Commission, I am often asked what's happening with our libraries and what's planned for the future.

In May of 2012, Ventura's City Council adopted a 5-year library

strategic plan, defining the goals and strategies for future library service as shared by Ventura County Library and the City of Ventura. The planning process was guided by a 20-member steering committee and developed through intensive community engagement during the preceding 12 months. Having come through the painful closure of the Helen P. Wright Library in November of 2009, it was clear that the city had to establish a plan for future funding and sustainability in order to ensure that Ventura's libraries not only survived, but remained indispensable to the community.

This week marks the first year of implementation of the library strategic plan and it's exciting to see all of the changes occurring in the city's two libraries. Year one goals were focused on improving library opera-

City News

tions. Both the Avenue Branch and E. P. Foster Libraries have received trust-funding support and staff has worked closely with donations from the San Buenaventura Friends of the Library to purchase new books and materials in support of exciting new programming. Circulation and Internet usage has increased by 10% while program attendance has increased by 9% over the last year.

On March 16th, E. P. Foster Library staff hosted an open house. Hundreds of visitors explored the library, enjoyed refreshments, were entertained with music, and a variety of children's programs. A Kindle was raffled off to call attention to free downloading of eBooks to electronic readers, which is now available.

On Saturday, May 4th from 11 to 2 PM at the Community Park on Kimball Road the Commission in coordination with the County Library, city staff and the San Buenaventura Friends of the Library will host the first all-outdoor library community event, Ventura Libraries Inside Out.

The Commission will be unveiling a conveniently located library book collection box newly installed at the park.

To learn more now, visit us online at www.vencolibrary.org or www.cityofventura.net/libraries.

City of Ventura Classes

Call 658-4726 or 654-7552 to register, if you already have an account visit www.cityofventura.net. Classes held at Barranca Vista Center, 7050 Ralston Street, Ventura, unless otherwise stated.

Beginning Drawing 14 years-Adult
5/4-6/8 Saturday 1:30-3:00 pm \$50

Covers such basics as line, shading, rhythm and composition to create sketches or prepare for painting. Instructor Marcia Cummings. Course #33731.

Watercolor with a Splash 14 years-Adult
5/4-6/8 Saturday 3:15- 5:00 pm \$60

Learn color fundamentals along with basics of watercolor. Class updated for returning students. Instructor Marcia Cummings. Course #33728.

Zumba for Beginners 15 years-Adult
5/6-6/17 Monday 5:15-6:00pm \$50/\$90 for both M & Th Course #34678.

5/6-6/17 Thursday 5:15-6:15pm \$50/\$90 for both M & Th Course #34983.

Basics in salsa, cumbia and other dances are great calorie burners. No class 5/27. Instructor Norma Lyons.

Colors 3-5 years Pc
5/7-5/28 Tuesday 9:30-10:30 am \$35

Focus on a different color each week through stories, snacks, crafts & creative art mediums. Instructor Sara Cameron. Course #33757.

Lunchtime Belly Dance for All Levels 16 years-Adult
5/7-6/13 T/Th 12:00-1:00 pm \$70

Spend your lunch hour learning choreography that will teach you rhythm, movement, transitions, timing, style and grace. Props and history of the dances will be introduced. Instructor Marion Kennedy. Course #33680.

Successful Un-Stressful Home Office 18 years-Adult
5/7-5/21 Tuesday 12:00-1:00 pm \$49

Are you overwhelmed, procrastinating, worried, consumed, hypercritical and isolated? Find your presence, balance, focus, and decisiveness by cultivating mindful solutions. Interactive format. Instructor Kimberly Wulfert, PhD Psychologist. Course #33893.

Zumba Toning 18 years-Adult

5/8-5/29 Wednesday 6:00-7:00 pm \$46

Work out and tone to great Latin music, Zumba Toning will target the abs, thighs, arms, and other areas. Bring your own 2.5-3lb weights or go to www.Zumba.com to order. Instructor Patricia Monico. Classes held at House of Dance, 3007 Bansen Ave. Suite E & F. To register call 805-658-4726. Course #33339.

House of Dance Ballroom for Youth 10-16 years

4/10-5/1 Wednesday 4:00-4:45 pm \$46

Ballroom is teamwork, discipline, coordination, rhythm and fun. Bring your friends for this dance week. Wear leather or suede shoes. Classes held at House of Dance, 3007 Bansen Ave., Suite E & F. Instructor Patricia Monico & Luke Spooner. To register call 805-658-4726. Course #33690.

Evening Body Hoops in the Park 14 years- Adult

5/14-6/4 Tuesday 6:15-7:15 pm \$48

Hoop for fun while you flex and strengthen the core, burn calories and tone the entire body. Hoops available to use and for sale at the class. Wear comfortable attire to move in, bring water. Instructor Lori Eckberg. We meet out on the grass in front of the Barranca Vista Center, 7050 Ralston St., Ventura. Course #33304.

Beach Yoga 18 years- Adult

5/14-6/4 Tue., 9:00-10:10 am \$40/\$70 for both. Course #33629.

5/16-6/6 Thurs., 9:00-10:10 am \$40/\$70 for both. Course #33630.

Head to the beach for ocean, sand, fresh air and yoga. Postures and breathing heal and release stress as you regain balance and wellbeing. Bring yoga mat, towel, hat, sunscreen and sunglasses. Instructor Nisahna Engel. Meets on the beach behind Pierpont School, 1254 Martha's Vineyard.

Getting dirty on Earth Day

Continued from page 1

At this year's event, volunteers removed and replaced nonnative plants with natives, spread mulch, picked up litter, painted, and built picnic benches. SoCalGas, the major sponsor of the event, provided financial and logistical support, as well as nearly half the volunteer work force.

While many of the volunteers were local, some hailed from points distant. Debra Vitali, volunteering for FCCSP a second time, brought friends from Arizona to help out.

FCCSP board members also attended the event, including Ventura resident Jim Knowlton, who brought his two young sons along. "My boys and I really appreciated the opportunity to volunteer to help make our local Park a better place. The best part for us was planting a tree together and knowing that we can return there year after year to see how much it's grown."

Additional volunteer service events are being planned for Channel Coast State Parks this year, including one at El Capitan State Beach on July 27 and one at San Buenaventura State Beach on September 28. To learn more about these upcoming events, and how to get involved with Friends of Channel Coast State Parks, visit their website at www.friendsofcfsp.org.



VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

Member, Ventura Chamber of Commerce
and Oxnard Chamber of Commerce

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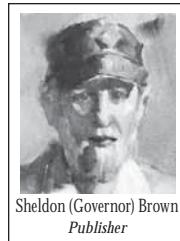
Not a day goes by that young people don't gather at my feet and ask the same burning question: "Uncle Al, is there hope for mankind?"

The answer is always the same: "Nah."

Supporting this conclusion I offer the following example: the four-way (or Boulevard) stop. The one at Poli and Kalorama Streets to be specific, but it could be any of them in the world.

The California Vehicle Code states that at a four-way stop "the first car legally into the intersection has the right of way." Sounds reasonable, doesn't it?

Opinion/Editorial



Sheldon (Governor) Brown
Publisher

If you go to ourventura.com and scroll down you will find my thrilling interview with Sandra Laby. Okay so I am no Larry King, but at least I tried.

■ The summer concert series proposed above city hall still seems to be up in the air. What a shame. I certainly hope that it can happen.

■ And talking about above city hall if you haven't walked the new trail up there you should. Good exercise (for you and your dogs) and wonderful city and ocean views. And if you have a few extra million dollars lying around to donate work can proceed with the Ventura Botanical Gardens.

■ A headline in the April 14 *LA Times* (It's okay if you read the Times also) said "Building boom is back". It would sure be nice if this were true in Ventura. Construction has workers making \$8.00 per hour to perhaps \$100.00 per hour so is very important to the economy (especially ours).

So I think that the city council has to do everything that it can to make this happen by expediting proposed building approvals. Just look at all of the empty lots with weeds and decaying signs showing the future building projects.

■ I recently attended 2 very diverse musical concerts at the Majestic Ventura Theatre. One presented several younger persons bands featuring Dirty Rice and the other was called *In The Mood* and was a 1940's musical.

Amazing differences in what went on there, because of the age of the concert goers.

For Dirty Rice the attendees downstairs stood during the entire 4 hour concert, *In The Mood* everyone sat.

During Dirty Rice a large percentage of the audience had their "phones" open, not taking photos but texting and other stuff. So little white lights showed everywhere.

For the young concert all 4 bars were open and always had lines at each one (all over 21 of course). For older concert only one bar was open with no lines.

■ Regarding the 2 police officers injured in the recent incident at Motel 6 where the

suspect was shot to death by female officers after running over 2 of them I asked Chief Ken Corney about their physical status and he told me "Thanks for asking about our officers. Both officers are still recovering from their injuries. One has returned to limited duty work while still recovering from her injuries. The other officer is still off work as a result of her injuries."

■ A Ventura man who was convicted of trying to kill two men two years ago was finally sentenced to two consecutive life sentences (After he dies then he serves another life term). This was in spite of arguments from his lawyer that the punishment was cruel and unusual.

Hovanes "Johnny" Sarkissyan, 33, and two assailants confronted and stabbed Alex Myers and Andrew Martin, both 19, at Camino Real Park in Ventura on May 19,



Does cleaning out the Ventura Riverbottom just send vagrants to the Santa Clara River bottom?

2011. The jury found Sarkissyan guilty of two counts of attempted murder in connection with the stabbings.

■ Ventura police recently arrested 4 people on parole violations and two others on outstanding warrants near the Santa Clara Riverbottom, where they had been "living". Five of them stated that Ventura is their home.

The number of people living illegally along the Santa Clara River has grown significantly since efforts have been made to clear out the Ventura Riverbottom of inhabitants and all of their permanent encampments.

Police (And Pierpont community residents) had noticed an increase in crimes in the adjacent Ventura Keys and Pierpont communities that they believe is a result of this. Police have met several times with the Pierpont Community Council, to discuss

the growing theft and the people who roam their properties looking for bottles and cans to recycle from their trash cans.

Homelessness remains a large problem in Ventura and many private organizations are trying to solve this problem and find housing for these individuals.

Police Chief Ken Corney recently told the city council regarding a "crime reduction and reinvestment plan" that the results have been mixed. Corney said complaints of "vagrancy" have dropped 25%, to about 400 per month from about 600. Violent crime is about 17 percent lower in 2013 than it was in 2012.

A large amount of home burglaries is largely to blame for the rise in property crimes. The rate of those burglaries is 34% higher in 2013 than it was in 2012.

These "crimes of opportunity" usually occur when someone leaves a home or car unlocked, particularly when garage doors are open where a burglary can occur in a matter of seconds.

■ School Superintendent Dr. Trudy Arriaga recently stated that the outlook for our next academic year is the brightest that it has been in sometime. And that the district shouldn't have widespread cuts this year. I would certainly hope not because, I believe the new property tax voted in by Venturans should bring in lots of money starting next year.

And I wonder where the zillions of dollars that the school lottery is supposed to bring to all schools in California went to (plus the school taxes that are added to every building permit granted in the state)? Plus the fact that lots of cities have voted in special school taxes, just what happens to all of this money?

This is one of the reasons that voters are reluctant to vote in new taxes because we never know where the money goes.

■ I guess "Mission Accomplished" isn't quite true unless I don't know what that meant. Four Iraqi soldiers were killed after Sunni Arab tribes announced that they had formed their own army to defend themselves against the Shiite-dominated Iraqi government and at least 41 people died in the 3rd day of fighting between Iraqi security forces and Sunni Arabs. And this happens almost daily there.

Mailbox

So why are so many drivers perfectly willing to kill themselves and possibly others to be the first car? Why do so many drivers just roll through without coming to a full stop? Or just gun it and run it altogether? How about the drivers behind you who lay on the horn if you might have the audacity to wave another car through rather than try to blast through ahead of them? Let's not forget the colloquial and Anglo Saxon English, and charming hand gestures employed; son of a gun, that's big fun!

And all that's assuming there are no pedestrians in the crosswalks. If some poor slob's trying to cross the street all bets are off and it's every man for himself.

If mankind can't manage the pretty simple concept of a four-way stop, how can there be any hope for our survival? Have a super day all!

Alfred J. Lewis
studioNothing

Bicycle thefts

Our grandson had parked his bike at Ventura High School in the proper bike place and secured it with a chain lock. There is a video when a young man with blond hair arrives via

old bike, cuts the chain lock with bolt cutters and rides off, returning later for his old bike.

The same thing, same modus operandi, happened at Cabrillo School, again a video is available.

The police are doing nothing. The schools are doing nothing. The parents are not warned.

I hope this reaches a large audience. Thank You.
Brigitte Colzani
Ventura

Sheeldon:

Don't get me started on the parking fees (\$10 at the State Park)...I absolutely agree with you. How can they charge \$10 when Marina Park is free and Surfer's Point is \$2. On top of that none of the LA County beaches charge that much. Apparently they are not aware of a term called Elasticity of Demand.

I yearly send the City and State Parks the world according to Murray ref. "Best

in Class" as to beach maintenance, parking, etc. LA County is the model. They handle all of the beaches, harbors, volley courts, bike paths, life guard stations for the County of LA to include City and State Beaches. Their trash cans are better - the lids a permanently affixed so the seagulls can't get in and they have ads on them and the cans themselves are made of indestructible rubber and they don't use trash bags in them. All of their beaches are groomed to the max. Their 22 mile bike path along beach is maintained and clear of sand. The parking rates are reasonable. They use hybrid vehicles for their lifeguards so are essentially pollution free. You can actually play soccer in the sand on their beaches in your bare feet with no fear of getting impaled on a piece of Arundo. Then there are the beaches of Ventura and their total lack of maintenance.

Murray Robertson
Ventura

I am defeated and know it if I meet any human being from which I find myself unable to learn anything.

– George Herbert Palmer



Community Memorial Hospital

State of the Hospital Address

You're Invited, Come See How Your Hospital is Doing



presented by
Gary Wilde
CMHS President & CEO

Space is limited.
For reservations please call 805/652-5385 or visit cmhshealth.org/rsvp.

CMH Community Memorial Hospital

Community Memorial Health System

www.cmhshealth.org. A not-for-profit organization.

Spring Shopping Extravaganza

The Museum of Ventura County will be hosting a Spring Shopping Extravaganza on Sunday, May 5, from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Event will take place in the Martin V. & Martha K. Smith Pavilion and Museum Plaza and will feature handmade arts and crafts, one-of-a-kind items, and original books. Most items will be priced below \$50, and all items will be priced below \$100. Some vendors may bring their own credit card machines, but cash and checks are recommended.

The Spring Shopping Extravaganza is part of the Museum's ongoing series

to encourage art awareness. Free First Sundays. These events take place every first Sunday of the month and include free admission to the general public for all exhibits and events.

The new Circus Vargas Magikaria!

Handsome and charismatic young illusionist Patrick Gable joins a cast of world-renowned performers for an extravaganza of magical proportions! This mystical warrior of magic weaves a web of wonder and fantasy, captivating audiences with hypnotic magnetism and astounding them with spectacular, spellbinding illusions! Patrick, under

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Coming Soon:
SUMMER BBQS!!

Community Events

the masterful tutelage of Joaquin Ayala, Las Vegas illusionist extraordinaire, presents this powerfully mesmerizing, awe-inspiring magical display, in a transfixing production that promises to take you to another world...the world of *Magikaria*!

Also, Ambassadors of Laughter Bring Healing Magic to Children of All Ages. In the style of the comedic greats such as Chaplin and Keaton, Matti Esqueda and Jon Weiss merge the arts of acting, mime and improvisation into an amalgamation of clowning genius! With a repertoire of understated skits, hilarious in their simplicity, they manage to make even the most austere of audience members erupt into fits of laughter, as if by reflex, despite their best attempts at containment. "Laughter is always the best medicine," says Matti, "especially in trying times". "There is something magically healing in laughter," agrees partner Jon. And we don't know anyone who couldn't use a little of that magic right now!"

Matti and Jon are most definitely magical and they are very much a part of what makes *Magikaria* so fantastical!

At the Ventura County Fairgrounds Thurs, May 2nd - Mon, May 6th. www.circusvargas.com or call 877-GOTFUN-1 (877-468-3861).

Foster Library is there to educate and to entertain

Free and open to the public. Call Foster Library at 648-2716 for more information.

May 2: Straight up Mortgage Talk 6:00-6:45

- Free 45-minute community class covering three primary steps to prepare responsibly for sustainable home ownership. The class will be led by educator and consumer advocate Elizabeth Alvarez.

May 4: Libraries inside out - 11:00

-2:00 - Bring the family, pack a picnic and whet your appetite for all of the new and exciting things happening in and outside of Ventura's libraries during their first-ever library outdoor event! Come to Kimball Park to take part in the jolly jump, story time and much more.

May 4: Book Appétit - All About Tea

5:00-6:00 - Free tea tasting and talk. Come celebrate the joys of traditional hot tea and bring your teapot to show off!

May 6: Basic Training 11:00-11:45

- Doug's five step method for navigating the internet: In this class you will learn how to log onto the internet as well as the five necessary functions for doing a successful internet search. Level: Beginner. Sign up is required for this class.

May 9: Basic Training 10:00-10:45

- Doug's five step method for navigating the internet: In this class you will learn how to log onto the internet as well as the five necessary functions for doing a successful internet search. Level: Beginner. Sign up is required for this class.

May 11: Dr. Frank Barajas 6:00-7:00

- Early Farm Worker Housing on the Oxnard Plain. Dr. Barajas specializes in the history of Southern California. He has published peer-reviewed essays on agricultural labor in Ventura County, the Sleepy Lagoon Trial, the Oxnard schools, and the 2004 implementation of a civil gang injunction in the City of Oxnard.

May 12: Sounds of Second Sunday

2:00-4:00 - Free concert series in the Topping Room. Bring your mom down for a special treat this Mother's Day. Comprised of four veteran musicians from around Ventura County, Lucky Break performs Classic Pop Rock you know and love! Striving to entertain with an upbeat mix of material from the 60's and the 70's, you won't be let down hearing songs by such great artists as The Doors, Stevie Wonder, The Monkees, and many more! Music is the medium, fun is the goal

May 13: Google Drive 11:00-11:45

- Don't have Microsoft Word at home? Google Drive allows you to save and edit your documents online. Explore the features of Google Drive. A Google account is required. Level: intermediate.

May 15: Hiking and Backpacking the Southern Los Padres, 7:00-8:30

- Local hiker Craig Carey will discuss his hiking adventures. Free and open to the public.

19th Annual Ventura Music Festival

Taking place in venues throughout the city, this year's line-up of performances include the big band sounds of the Legendary Count Basie Orchestra; the award-winning classical piano of Haochen Zhang, the amazing technical virtuosity of jazz piano wunderkind Eldar Djangirov; and M-Pact, a pop-jazz a cappella sextet whose wonderful voices comprise the sound of an entire band. Also on tap is the perennially popular Tea & Trumpets, an English High Tea with entertainment by the Festival Brass Quintet. In addition to the music, each year a group of local artists are selected by the Festival to create works for display preceding the concert. For more information and tickets call (805) 648-3146 or visit <http://www.venturamusicfestival.org>.

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.

May 4: The Ventura County Heart Walk celebrates those who have made lifestyle changes and encourages many more to take the pledge to live healthier lifestyles while raising the dollars needed to fund life-saving research and initiatives in our local community. The Ventura County Heart Walk will take place on Saturday at the San Buenaventura State Beach Park from 8a.m. to 11a.m. This event is a free community event, featuring a non-competitive 5K walk, with a 1K walk option, a heart healthy expo offering a kids zone, health screenings, heart healthy refreshments, survivor recognition and more!

For information about participation
Continued on page 13



News and Notes

McGrath flooding creates ripples among local agencies – part 2

by Tim Pompey

Ventura Water general manager Shana Epstein also points out that until recently, the state park system had not asked Ventura Water to consider recreational use as a high priority. "Their early comments about recreation use were more concerned with nature appreciation," she said. "It seems to me that since the recent flooding, their concerns have changed."

She wants to reassure the public that her agency is open to community input and that their research into water release into the Santa Clara River habitat is ongoing. "We need to figure out from an environmental viewpoint what's a responsible amount to discharge and to determine how we can use that to enhance the water supply of Ventura," she explained.

Epstein maintains that they remain engaged in conversations with state parks about how to resolve their concerns. "We're in the process of evaluating state parks' claim and taking it seriously," she stated.

Ultimately, she feels that any real solutions will have to involve input from many partners. "This has to be a community solution," she said. "It's only successful if everyone has an ownership in the solution."

For Melissa Baffa, executive director of the Friends of the Channel Coast State Parks, the flooding at McGrath is very disappointing. "In this district, McGrath is the park with the second highest visitation rate, second only to Carpinteria," she claimed. "That means a lost opportunity for us to connect with the people that we're trying to connect with."

Baffa is in daily contact with many campers who have come to view McGrath as a family tradition. "It's a very generational park," she said. "You end up getting families that were going as kids and now they're bringing their own families."

She hopes that once the cleanup

begins, her organization can assist with expanding access to public information about the surrounding environment. "I would love to see more educational elements that talk about the importance of wetlands," she said. "Perhaps we could add a museum and create some interpretive trails through the wetlands."

Baffa also hopes to publicize McGrath's needs and create a groundswell of support for the park's survival. "There are many folks who are following this story," she said. "I'd like to send out an invitation to build an army of supporters, because it's going to take an army to bring change to McGrath."

As for revamping the current campsites, Rozelle says he has contacted Ventura's new city manager, Mark Watkins, and is currently in discussion with him about the city's involvement in the proposed cleanup.

He suggests that the real solution is to move the campsites further east along the coast, something that would involve changing access routes, building new support facilities, and installing new electrical wiring and sewer lines.

Nevertheless, he feels the idea is worth pursuing. "We have the real estate and moving the camps would be a benefit to the wetlands," he said, "so we feel confident that the idea would gain the approval of the regulatory agencies."

Baffa encourages all sides to be constructive in their comments and to "weigh nature along with the needs of humans."

She believes that the recreational and economic importance of the area should push people toward finding a reasonable solution to reconstructing McGrath. As she noted, "I believe that the city of Ventura and the people in the water department recognize that McGrath is a treasure, a tourist destination, and has a big economic impact on the area."

and giving person" says Gina who along with her Father, an affiliate of Genesis Treatment Program, her family and friends hit upon the idea of a fundraiser in her brother's name to help others within our community who suffer from drug and alcohol addiction.

Thus, the 1st Annual SRO Benefit came together and raised just over \$12,000, which was generously matched by the Genesis Program enabling two individuals in need to successfully complete the program!

Musicians, artists and friends donated their time and talents, and will be doing so again this year on June 22 at a special outdoor event area at Bombay's Bar & Grille.

Entertainment will include live music by Todd Hannigan, Shoemaker Brothers, Dr. M., Bloody Mary Morning, Jeff Hershey and the Heartbeats, The Pitts and More! It will also feature local artists and photographers, a fashion show sponsored by Ten Dash One Hair Studio and an amazing auction made possible by the generosity and love of our local community.

"We hope to double the amount we raised last year... It was an amazing experience helping others who suffer from this disease and keeping my brother's name alive through music", says Gina. "It gave my family and me the opportunity to create a positive amidst a life changing negative. Drug and alcohol addiction have ruined and taken so many young lives and

SRO is just an idea and a few dedicated people making wonderful things happen!"

To lend your moral and financial support, mark your calendar for the 2nd Annual SRO Benefit, Saturday, June 22nd at The Bombay Bar & Grill, 143 S. California Street, from 4 to Midnight. Advance tickets for \$20 can be purchased by calling 328-4SRO. VIP tickets for \$75 are also available, and include complimentary dinner, drink tickets and "swag" on Friday, June 21st, between 5 and 8 p.m. 21 and over only please.

twice and the gun didn't discharge. I knew right then that some things were meant to be." Cleavenger tries to stay philosophical—it probably helps that he has a degree in philosophy from UCSB, "Some things happen for a reason. I try to be aware of the possibilities." Cleavenger went back the day after the car accident to look for his three-year-old gold wedding ring. "I walked all around the burned area and found my ring near the edge. I knew right then I was going to be married forever."

VUSD seeking applicants for PTOC

The Ventura Unified School District is accepting applications for the Tax Oversight Committee (PTOC) to oversee the recently passed school tax. If you are interested in submitting an application, you will find the application on the district website at www.venturausd.org located under the Parcel Tax Information link. You may also contact the Business Services Department Joseph Richards, Assistant Superintendent – Business Services at 641-5000 ext. 1202 to request an application. Applications are due May 15, 2013.



Mark Cleavenger lost his wedding ring pulling a driver from a burning car. Photo by Brent Friedman, Brooks Institute.

Local resident unafeard to jump in

by Sheli Ellsworth

Mark Cleavenger is not the first guy to lose his wedding ring. However, he may be the first guy to lose his wedding ring pulling a driver from a burning car on the Conejo Grade.

It was 1:15 AM on February 9 when a car passed Cleavenger at a high rate of speed. Cleavenger, a former Ventura policeman, picked up his phone to dial 911 while the erratic car ran into a big rig and caught on fire before the emergency operator could answer. "When I saw the fire I thought, 'This is bad.'" Mark did not waste any time, he pulled over, jumped out and ran to the burning car. "The driver was unconscious and his foot was trapped under the emergency brake. I was able to remove his shoe and pull him out. I dragged him away to a spot behind my truck." It was a good thing, "Thirty seconds later the eighteen wheeler blows up. I could feel the heat from the explosion shoot underneath my truck. I would've been dead." Cleavenger who has had paramedic training checked the driver for injuries. Cleavenger said he smelled alcohol. Cleavenger realized on the ride home that he himself had been burned and he had lost his wedding ring.

The burning car was not Cleavenger's first rescue. As a policeman, the native Buenaventuran had jumped off the Ventura Pier with all his gear on to save a drowning woman. "I did think to hand my radio to someone before I jumped in the water." But water is Cleavenger's comfort zone. While he was attending Ventura High School, he worked as a beach lifeguard. He played water polo and was an All American swimmer at Ventura College. Then he worked for the Harbor Patrol for seven years. In 1992, he represented the City of Buenaventura in the US Olympic kayaking trials. After he became a Ventura policeman in 1995, he broke five swimming records in the Police Olympics. He occasionally even does body double work for swim scenes in movies and television.

Mark Cleavenger is no ordinary guy and he does count himself lucky. While he was a policeman, he had a run in with an armed man. "The suspect pulled the trigger

Real generosity

Thousands of Ventura area residents and visitors have contributed hundreds of dollars in spare change in point-of-sale (POS) canisters launched area-wide about a year ago. These silent donors have gifted a plethora of pennies, dimes, nickels and dollar bills to help the homeless who are served by the Servants of the Father of Mercy Street Reach programs.

Since 2001 the "Servants" deliver food, water, clothing, shoes, socks, blankets, jackets, hygiene kits, sandwich dining cards and more right to homeless individuals living under bridges and in alleyways. The myriads of silent POS givers have responded so much so that the first annual donations now total \$1,625.53!

Appreciation goes to a host of cafes, restaurants and retail shops who over the past year nurtured the success of the canisters. It all works because of supportive and compassionate business owners and their establishments.

Ventura locations:

- Tony's Burrito
- DWs Café
- Corralles Mexican Food
- Mai's Café
- Ferraro's
- La Catrina Folk Art
- Book Shoppe
- Pierpont Liquor
- A & F Country Market

The Servants of the Father of Mercy is an IRS 501 (c) 3 tax-exempt, nonprofit California organization and a Private Association of the Catholic Archdiocese of Los Angeles and listed in the Official Catholic Directory (OCD) as well as the Tidings Southern California Catholic Directory. The organization was founded by Br. Gary Joseph, author of *Proof of the Afterlife – The Conversation Continues* (an account of his near-death experience in 2005). More on the Internet at ServantsOfTheFather.org, HomelessInAmericaBlogSpot.com and ProofOfTheAfterlife.com.



Gina lost her beloved 32 year old brother and now wants to help others in need.

Second Annual SRO Benefit – Music – Love – Recovery

On June 16th, 2011, Gina Denger lost her beloved 32 year old brother, James Paul Hoover, to a drug overdose. James was a loving husband and father, a passionate music lover, lifeguard, Marine Corps Veteran, Certified Emergency Technician and had just completed Respiratory Therapy School before his passing.

"James stood 6'2", was huge in body and spirit and was a very enthusiastic



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more great music!

MAY 3

Tea & Trumpets
FRIDAY, MAY 3 | 3 PM
A four-course English tea with entertainment
by the Festival Brass Quintet
Ventura Masonic Center, 482 E. Santa Clara Street, Ventura

MAY 4

Eldar Djangirov (Solo Piano)
FRIDAY, MAY 3 | 8 PM
"He's a genius beyond most young people I've heard."
- Dave Brubeck in *The New York Times*
Community Presbyterian Church, 1555 Poli Street, Ventura

MAY 5

Petrir Çeku
SATURDAY, MAY 4 | 8 PM
2012 Gold Medal Winner, Parkening International Guitar Competition
Program to include works by Manuel de Falla, William Walton,
Manuel Ponce, Giulio Regondi, and Mario Castelnuovo-Tedesco
Community Presbyterian Church, 1555 Poli Street, Ventura

MAY 7

**The Legendary Count Basie Orchestra™
Directed by Dennis Mackrel,
Featuring Guest Vocalist Carmen Bradford**
SUNDAY, MAY 5 | 3 PM
Reserved seats and a dance floor too. 30's and 40's attire encouraged!
Majestic Ventura Theater, 26 S. Chestnut Street, Ventura
"The Count Basie Orchestra mark appears under license from the William J. Basie Trust"

MAY 9

**Rising Stars: Julia Zhu, violin
and David Huang, piano**
TUESDAY, MAY 7 | 7:30 PM
Please visit venturamusicfestival.org for program
First United Methodist Church, 1338 E. Santa Clara Street, Ventura

MAY 3 & 10

Haochen Zhang
THURSDAY, MAY 9 | 7:30 PM
2009 Gold Medal Winner Van Cliburn International Piano Competition
Program to include Beethoven Sonata op. 109, Chopin Sonata No. 3
and works by Liszt, Debussy and Stravinsky
Ventura Missionary Church, 500 High Point Drive, Ventura

MAY 11

Tea & Trumpets
FRIDAY, MAY 10 | 3 PM
A four-course English tea with entertainment
by the Festival Brass Quintet
Ventura Masonic Center, 482 E. Santa Clara Street, Ventura

M-PACT
SATURDAY, MAY 11 | 8 PM
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News and Notes



Do you know where Ventura's hidden treasure is hidden?

Volunteer at the Ponds

Help Resource Conservation Partners (RCP) and the City of Ventura restore the Ventura Harbor Wetlands Ecological Reserve (The Ponds) by volunteering on May 4th. Beginning at 9am., there will be two shifts for volunteers, 9:00 – 11:00 and 11:00 – 1:00. Volunteers will be removing ice plant which is a non-native from South Africa. RCP will be continuing with this project throughout the summer and into the fall. Additional volunteer opportunities will be held on June 15th, August 17th and October 19th, with each event scheduled from 9:00 – 11:00. Rain will cancel the event. Meet at the corner of Spinnaker Drive and Angler Court at the harbor.

In 2009, RCP received a grant to pursue the restoration of this important

wetland area. Although this area is manmade for waste water treatment by the Ventura Water Treatment Plant, it is very important to both resident and migratory birds. Unfortunately, several non-native plant species have become established at the site, which has degraded the habitat value of the area. By volunteering, you will help reestablish native vegetation and thereby ensure a home to birds and other wildlife. Currently the Ponds are open to the public and are a popular viewing area for local birders.

Please ensure your comfort and safety by wearing closed toed shoes and long pants. Gloves, hats and sunscreen are encouraged. Also remember to bring plenty of water. For more information, contact volunteer@resourceconservationpartners.org.

Turning Point changes

Continued from page 1

services at the center has been a struggle. Too many clients and too little staff to support them.

As an example, he cited a telling statistic. From July 2011 to June 2012, the center helped 389 drop-in clients. Since last July, the center has already helped 433 clients. "This is more people than we can adequately serve," he said. "Our facility was simply not designed to assist this many people."

In addition to funding problems, Reynolds also noted how some local nonprofits have already changed their terms of service. For instance, Project Understanding, which decided a year ago to refocus their services on those homeless individuals who would accept case management services. "Many of the people they had been serving were now seeking services elsewhere, including our drop-in center," he said.

All of this has led Turning Point to reexamine how it allocates its resources. Reynolds said that Turning Point was forced to ask itself an important question: "Are we managing the homeless or are the services we provide actually ending homelessness?"

Turning Point decided to take a more proactive approach to working with its clients, starting with its participation in the Homeless to Home Program. H2H provides street outreach to many drop-ins and offers to connect them directly to case managers. "By providing case manage-

ment services to those who are willing to accept them, we are able to get these people housed and help them receive services," he said.

Asked if the recent push in the community toward a "hands up" rather than a "handout" approach has affected Turning Point, Reynolds responded, "I don't think so. It's more that as a provider, we want to implement what we feel are best practices. Since HUD is promoting this housing first model as a change in direction, the emphasis has been to make their dollars more outcome-oriented and effective."

Still, the question remains about what to do with the chronic homeless who may refuse to accept Turning Point's services. Reynolds believes that the new approach may actually encourage them to get serious about helping themselves. "It's an agreement, a transaction," he said. "We are willing to provide the services but we need to see that they are willing to make a plan for ending their own homelessness."

Reynolds hopes that by focusing on those who choose to participate, Turning Point can work more effectively as a case management team and provide more concentrated services to individuals on the street. "Turning Point has made a conscious decision to focus on quality rather than quantity," he said. "In the end we believe this approach will increase the number of people who are actually able to end their homelessness."



Senior Living

Pull Out Section



Todd Collart, president of the Ventura County Arts Council, presented proclamations from the board of supervisors to Polly Bee, Elnora McNaughton, Joyce La Mers, and Doris Vernon, while Marsha de la O, co-editor and publisher of Askew poetry magazine, looked on. Photo by John Ferritto.

Four senior poets proclaimed literary treasures

The Ventura County Arts Council and The Groundswell Committee, a consortium of local writers involved with Ventura's lively poetry community, has designated Polly Bee, Joyce La Mers, Elnora McNaughton and Doris Vernon as Literary Treasures. While very different poets this quartet of women share decades of living, working, and commitment to writing poetry in Ventura County. Now in their 80s and 90s, these remarkable women also share wisdom, common sense and courage in the face of the passage of time.

A public ceremony honoring these writers and their work was held at the Ventura County Government Center. In addition to introductions by well-known poets from the area and beyond, there were presentations from the Ventura County Board of Supervisors, from the Ventura County Arts Council and from city organizations – and each of the women read a selection of her own work.

Ojai resident Polly Bee, author of *Scattershot*, is comfortably outspoken; now a feisty 87, she drove herself and favorite dog to Alaska – and also started writing her distinctive poetry – in her 70s.

As Oxnard's Joyce La Mers notes, she was "born in Montana the year women got the vote" and is now 92; her chapbooks include *Enthusiasm for Sky Diving*, and she specializes in wonderfully pointed light verse. She has written poetry for most of her life, and has been reading her work in county venues since the 1980s. On the inspiration of Polly Bee, Joyce drove an SUV and her favorite cat to Nova Scotia several years ago.

Doris Vernon, 88, of Camarillo, has authored several chapbooks and is a woman with her own website. She grew up in the Appalachian Mountains region of Tennessee and worked on uranium separation at Oakridge, a city then not on any map. She married a WWII fighter pilot, has bicycled much of Europe and is involved in three poetry workshops, one of which she leads, and she reads her work publicly each week.

Elnora McNaughton, of Oxnard, is 94 and author of *Hold the Moon Bursting* and hosted a regular poetry reading for ten years. She grew up in Nebraska and came to California in 1944; she's a serious jazz buff, and a sense of jazz infuses her poems.

Construct Mother's Day cards for elderly mothers

Ventura Rotaract is hosting their first Make a Card, Touch a Heart event on May 6th from 6:30-7:30pm at the Wedgewood Banquet Center located at the Buenaventura Golf Links at 5880 Olivas Park Dr.

Volunteers of all ages are invited to help make Mother's Day cards for the 70+ ladies who live at the Venturan; help add a smile to someone's face. If you can't make a card help give them out on May 11th at 10am at the Venturan.

Ventura Rotaract is a group of young professionals looking to give

Continued on page 10

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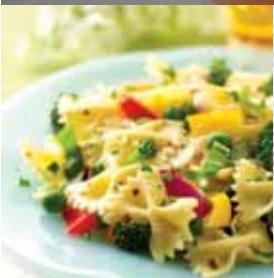


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Senior Living



What do these two people have in common?

Senior Cone-nection

The Pirate and the Fairy

by Nanci Cone

What do the pirate Captain Dead Eye and Disney's Tinker Bell have in common? Comedian Captain Dead Eye decked out in his pirate suit is really Eric Norquist of our fair city of Ventura and Margaret Kerry, Tinker Bell's original reference model for all the Disney films. They are mother and son. As a team, they are now writing, producing and performing, along with Peter Godinez, another long time Ventura resident, for the soon to be released web series *A Fairy Home Companion*.

"Eric is someone who loves to make people laugh and I just dare you to listen to him and not come away giggling either as Dead Eye or just his off-the-wall everyday self," said Kerry proudly. "For many years now I've traveled extensively and performed in behalf of my alter ego, Tinker Bell, so I'm well schooled in what entertains audiences. He's just plain funny."

After many years of occasional success in show biz, including seven years with Gallagher the comedian, Norquist followed up by creating a successful animated TV series for an Australian company. Eric says, "I then parlayed my success into becoming a tow truck operator for the Auto Club. It was one stormy night about 19 hours into a busy shift while I was clearing a wreck of the Rincon. I then realized it was time to add art to my suffering and Captain Dead Eye the Pirate was born!"

For the past three years, when time would allow, Norquist developed this screwball pirate's brand of humorous tall-tales and satire. Dead Eye became a loveable blowhard; a kind of Mad Magazine meets Bugs Bunny. He has used this persona on the several appearances on CAPS-TV and his mini series can be viewed on You Tube or his website at captainindeadeye.com

In their work and travels Margaret Kerry and Tinker Bell are always explaining their relationship. On her web site, TinkerBellTalks.com, there are many photos showing Kerry on the Disney sound stage being filmed as she acted out the antics for Tinker Bell's scenes in the movie *Peter Pan*. This film was given to the several animators who then drew Tinker Bell based on Kerry's

modeling work.

Kerry is busy finishing her about-to-be released book, *Tinker Bell Talks, Tales of a Pixie Dusted Life*. Even though she's in her eighties she's not letting any pixie dust gather under her. She has just completed an appearance at Wondercon in Anaheim and is headed to Miami for a four-day show. Be sure to check out her fabulous website at TinkerBellTalks.com!

Margaret Kerry states that when she was born in 1929 she caused the Depression and everything went downhill from there. She was adopted by a much older couple when she was almost four. Beginning her training as a dancer her first taste of show biz was in "The Our Gang Comedies" where she made \$8.50 a day. After working in over 36 major (and minor) films it was on to television. On Los Angeles' Channel 13 show "TeleTeen Reporter" she co-hosted for five years. This was in the late 40's. During that same time she was cast in the role of the daughter of Eddie Cantor and Joan Davis in the RKO film, "If You Knew Susie." As TV grew, audiences across the US were introduced to Kerry as the eldest daughter of Charlie Ruggles on the ABC early network show, "The Ruggles" that also ran for five years. It was in 1950 Margaret and Tinker Bell met at the Disney Studios and her life has never been quite the same.

Now, many decades later Kerry will be starring in a web series with Dead Eye the Pirate. As Eric Norquist said to me, "The idea is for us to give our audience a good time and after all, how can you go wrong with a fairy and a pirate. It worked for Disney."

Construct Mother's Day cards

Continued from page 9

back to the community through both international and local programs. Over the past 3 years they have helped build houses with both Habitat for Humanity in Ventura and Corazon in Mexico. Additionally they have helped refurbish 2 schools in Nicaragua and are planning a community 5K in June at the Harbor. Stop by to see how you can get involved or find more information at www.VenturaRotaract.com.

Senior Living



Ken May, CEO and owner of the Ventura branch of Swift Chip, Inc., spoke to a standing room only crowd of seniors at Seniors Gone Wired.

Watch out world, senior “techies” are on the loose

Dubbed, “Seniors Gone Wired”, the half day tech event held at Cypress Place Senior Living in Ventura offered a broad range of topics and interactive workshops in an atmosphere set up exclusively for seniors.

“It was a fabulous turnout,” said Steve Spira, executive director at Cypress Place Senior Living. “It really shows the strong desire of seniors to keep up with technological advancements.”

Throughout the day, seniors of all ages and degrees of computer literacy were able to find the information they were looking for. Computer stations and technician support, hosted by Swift Chip Inc., a complete computer care company, were available to teach seniors tips on using a computer, finding information online, using email, and the latest technological innovations.

This year’s event also included a special section for questions dealing specifically with cell phones. Representatives from the T-Mobile store in the Pacific View Mall were on hand to teach seniors how to master their cell phone, as well as answer any questions they had about all the new cell phone technology.

Jaymond Li, a representative from the Pacific View Mall T-Mobile store, gave a presentation on “What’s the Best Phone for Me.” “People were so excited about all the information they received,”

said Li. “We were very happy to be able to participate.”

In other workshops, Julia Palacio, Community Relations Manager for Barnes & Noble of Ventura, gave a presentation on e-books and the different e-book readers available to use with them, while Norma Featherston from the Alzheimer’s Association presented a workshop on how to access brain games online to keep your mind sharp.

In a wonderful intergenerational connection, students from the Regional Occupational Program at Ventura High School were also on hand to assist the seniors with one-on-one sessions regarding computers, cell phones, and technology.

The senior community also collected unwanted cell phones to be donated to our men and women in the armed forces to help them stay connected with their loved ones back home.

Chefs at Cypress Place provided a free gourmet lunch for attendees.

“This event really demonstrates how important technology is to seniors,” said Spira. “Seniors want to stay connected. We look forward to doing it again.”

Cypress Place Senior Living is located at 1200/1220 Cypress Point Lane in Ventura. For more information please call 650-8000, or visit their website at www.cypressplaceseniorliving.com.



It's time again for the Senior Prom presented by the Ventura High School Key Club. The prom will take place on Friday, May 10, from 6-8 pm at the Senior Recreation Center located on Santa Clara Street. The event will include music, dancing and refreshments. This is a free event open to local residents age 50 and over. Semi-formal prom attire is recommended. Facility space is limited so those who plan on attending must RSVP to 648-2829 by Friday, May 3.

When You Have a Choice, There is No Choice. Pick the PARC

The newly-designed Post-Acute Rehab Center helps people recover from surgery, illness or injury and return home as quickly and safely as possible. Blending time-honored therapies with innovative programs, the PARC’s team of nurses and therapists create an individualized rehabilitation plan tailored to each patient’s unique needs.

The newly-designed Post-Acute Rehab Center helps people recover from surgery, illness or injury and return home as quickly and safely as possible. Blending time-honored therapies with innovative programs, the PARC’s team of nurses and therapists create an individualized rehabilitation plan tailored to each patient’s unique needs.



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Health

Walk to fight heart disease and stroke

The American Heart Association invites the community to form a team and join the Ventura County Heart Walk, which takes place on May 4. The annual 5k aims to raise \$90,000 for the fight against heart disease and stroke, "The nation's No. 1 and No. 4 killers." The Heart Walk also aims to build healthier lives by promoting healthy habits, such as walking, as a regular part of life. Attractions will include a 5k Walk/Run, 1-Mile Survivor Route,

Kids Fun Zone, live entertainment, health expo and giveaways. There is no fee to participate; participants are encouraged to help raise funds. Walkers are eligible to receive a free Heart Walk t-shirt when they raise \$100 or more.

The event will take place at San Buenaventura State Beach, 901 San Pedro Street from 8a.m. to 11a.m. The American Heart Association is devoted to saving lives from heart disease and stroke by funding innovative research, fighting for stronger public health policies, and providing lifesaving tools and information to prevent and treat the leading causes of death in the U.S. Visit www.VenturaHeartWalk.org, www.americanheart.org or call 213-291-7073 for more information.



Lyn Fairly and Friends, Saturday 12-1pm

"Breaking News!" The "Face of Ventura" project by Johanna Spinks has been donated to the local museum -100 East Main Street- for you to enjoy. The multimedia platform includes my radio interviews with the portrait sitters and the stories from The Breeze (the awesome paper you now hold in your hands.) Thanks for your continued support of my show "Lyn Fairly and Friends" aired on Saturday live at noon on KVTA 1590 AM.



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 1590 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.



Senior Living



Enjoying the company of Tinker Bella are residents of the Bonaventura (located at 10949 Telegraph Road) Jim Bayse, Alma Bayse, Mary Anne Parkin, Ilse Frank, Susanna Kaplan, Nancy Lanumad, Marian Malone, Ruth Berry and JoAnn Burens. Photo by John Ferritto.

Celebrating Moms!



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Sports

Region's only world-class soccer franchise to challenge BYU Cougars

The Ventura County Fusion (www.vcfusion.com), the region's first and only world-class, championship-caliber soccer franchise, the current Southwest Division title holder, and the 2009 champions of the Premier Development League (PDL), unveiled its home game schedule, and ticket packages for the 2013 season.

In their season opener on Saturday, May 11 at 7pm, at the Ventura College Sportsplex the Fusion will face the BYU Cougars at 7:00 p.m. The team plays all home matches at the Ventura College Sportsplex, located at 4667 Telegraph Road.

The Fusion also announced affordable season ticket plans for 2013. An adult season "flex" ticket package, which includes the admission of one adult for all 7 Fusion regular-season home games and all U.S. Open Cup, international exhibition, and playoff matches, is \$65.00 per person, while youth season ticket packages, available to children 16 and under, are only \$39.00 per person. A family season ticket package, which includes

the admission of two adults and two youths to all seven Fusion regular-season home games and all U.S. Open Cup, international exhibition and playoff matches, is just \$189.00. Tickets to individual home games are also available at a cost of \$10.00 per game for adults and \$5.00 per game for children ages 16 and under.

Ventura County Fusion season ticket packages and individual home game tickets are now available by contacting Fusion headquarters at 830-8026, or by ordering online at <http://www.vcfusion.com/tickets>

Use the club for the whole week for free

Get Active America comes to the Pierpont Racquet Club from May 4 - 10 as they participate in a national campaign to get Americans to exercise by opening their doors to the public! PRC Members may bring a guest for free during this time.

You can take a tour and use the club for the whole week for free and if you join that day you will receive 50% off the membership initiation fee.

Pre-registration is required for all special events as space is limited. Court shoes, racquets and appropriate attire are required. Anyone under the age of 18 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Call the club at 648-5161 to pre register and for further information.

Community Events

Ventura events

Continued from page 6

ing or volunteering for this event, please contact alisha.castro@heart.org or visit www.venturaheartwalk.org.

May 4: La Estrella, a formal ballroom dance club, will hold its next **dance** on Saturday, from 6:45p.m. to 10:15 p.m. at the Poinsettia Pavilion. The theme is "Iberian Escapades" and includes a Champagne reception, dinner with wine, and dancing to the music of the Moonlight Orchestra. The cost is \$105 per guest couple and \$90 per member couple. For more information visit www.laestrelladanceclub.com or call 639-9249.

May 4: Join NAMI Ventura County on a **5K walk** to celebrate the residents in our County who deal with issues of mental illness. Saturday, Ventura Beach Promenade (where California Street meets the beach). Check in: 9:00 am - Walk 10:30 am. Register online at www.namiventura.org/venturacounty. Form your own Walk Team. Join a Walk Team. Walk as an individual. Raise awareness of mental illness and eradicate stigma.

NAMIWalks: Changing Minds...One Step at a Time. NAMI Ventura County -641-2426 - walk@namiventura.org

May 4: Continuing an annual tradition since the Mission's 200th Anniversary in 1982, the **San Buenaventura Mission** is sponsoring the **Walk to the Cross** on Sunday.

The Walk to the Cross celebrates the historic Serra Cross first erected on Ventura's hillsides by Father Junipero Serra to mark the Mission's location for passing seafarers. Scores of the faithful are expected to gather in the Mission Garden at 7:30 AM and then walk up to the Grant Park location of the Serra Cross. A bilingual Holy Mass will be celebrated at the Serra Cross, starting at 8:15 AM. At the conclusion of the Mass, the Mission's Guadalupana Society hosts delicious tamales, hot chocolate and other treats.

May 7: Mended Hearts of Ventura. The group meets the **first Tuesday of each month** at Community Memorial Hospital, on the 8th floor, from 7p.m. to 9p.m. Come share if you have had heart surgery or stent implant. Excellent speakers leading Cardiologists, Nutritionists, Dietitians, etc. from our area, who give excellent information.

Contact: Richard Hatcher 805-644-2733.

May 7: 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. Event will be held at Livingston Visiting Nurse Association, 1996 Eastman Ave, #109, from 1:00p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

May 11: The Master Chorale Children's Choir is holding **auditions for children 6-16** on Saturday. Rehearsals run September through May. Vocal coaching, sight singing, various languages, music theory, and performances. Award-winning choir conducted by graduates of Westmont College. Call for an appointment to audition 796-1951.

May 11: The Ventura College Symphony Orchestra, under the direction of Robert Lawson will perform Antonin Dvorak's *New World Symphony*, *Soirées Musicale*s by Benjamin Britten, and Vaughn Williams *Serenade to Music* with the Ventura College Choir conducted by Brent Wilson - on Saturday, 8:00p.m., at the Ventura College Performing Arts Center, 4700 Loma Vista Rd.

Admission: \$10 general, \$5 students and seniors. Free parking.

May 11: Stamp Out Hunger, Saturday,

Ventura County letter carriers will embark on a charitable postal route that entails much more than just picking up outgoing mail. On this day, hundreds of letter carriers will collect residents' food donations in support of the nation's largest single-day food drive, to benefit their local food banks. Ventura County residents are asked to leave non-perishable, protein-rich foods in a bag next to their mailboxes for postal carriers to pick up while on their daily route.

What to donate: Non-perishable food items, such as canned soup, vegetables, meats, spaghetti sauce, peanut butter, pasta, rice, beans and cereal.

Audubon events

May 4: Saturday, 8a.m. Hedrick Ranch Nature Area, Santa Paula. Leader: Sandy Hedrick, 340-0478. We will bird this lovely area with the possibility of seeing Least Bells Vireos, Yellow-breasted Chats, & a Thick-billed Kingbird.

May 11: Wheeler Gorge, Bird Walk & Presentation. 8:30 a.m. Leader: Jack Gillooly will look for Stellar Jays, Hermit Thrushes, sapsuckers and perhaps the elusive American Dipper. Presentation at 11a.m. "Birds of the World" by Erin Koski at the Visitor Center. Note: You do not need an Adventure Pass. May 18, 9 a.m. Camp Comfort. Bird Walk followed by Annual Meeting and BBQ at 11 a.m. Cost for BBQ - \$12, \$6 for children. We can bird among the trees and along the lush San Antonio

May 10: The General George S. Patton, Jr. Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution May luncheon meeting will feature the special program *Franklin H. Garrett M.D., Camarillo State Hospital - Pioneer CA State Psychiatrist and Army Hero* presented by retired Oxnard dentist and chapter compatriot Robert Colbern, Col. USA (ret). The luncheon event will take place at 11:30 a.m., in the Garden Room, Marie Callender's Restaurant, the self-pay luncheon cost is \$20 per person, and includes a slice of Marie Callender's pie. For additional information, please call Bill Hurley, 492-2583, or Robert Taylor 216-7992, and please visit the chapter website <http://pattonpatriots.org> for information regarding SAR membership and chapter.

May 11: Family Festival in the Park & Kids Swap Meet from 9 a.m. – 5 p.m. The 10th annual family festival offers free daylong entertainment and activities for the whole family at the Barranca Vista Imagination Center and Park, located at 7050 Ralston Street, just east of Johnson Drive. Festival attendees are encouraged to bring a blanket, lawn chairs and picnic and spend the day at Barranca Vista and stay for the day's performance finale. Kids Swap Meet opens the festival from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and encourages kids under age 18 to clean out their closets and garages of gently used games, toys, clothes, bikes and books to sell or trade. And be sure to visit the Ventura Breeze booth. For more information www.cityofventura.net or 644-6542.

May 11: The 8th Annual Channel Islands Harbor Safe Boating Expo, Saturday, 9am to 4pm. Event is free. At Coast Guard Station 4201 S. Victoria Ave., Oxnard.

The Coast Guard Station will be open for public tours including the new 45 foot Response Boat as well as the 87-foot Cutter Blacktip from 9am to 4pm.

Bring in your worn Life Jacket for inspection and the first 30 not passing inspection will receive a free one. Others will receive a discount coupon for replacement. For additional information call (800) 704-5620 or 382-3007.

May 11: On Saturday, the Ventura Beginners PC Users Group will meet in the 3rd floor lounge of the Cypress Place Independent Living building, 1220 Cypress



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Place. The 9:15 a.m. workshop will be on computer shortcuts, followed by Q&A, and at 11 a.m. Jenna Dunham, representative of Swift Chip, will talk about "What's New in Tech for 2013." The public is invited. For further information, call 648-1368.

Ojai events

Join one of the county's favorite painters **Christine Brennan** and friends for the **11th annual Spring Open Studio May 4th and 5th**. The event takes place from 11-5 at the artist's unique home studio at 175 N. Pueblo Ave. This year's tour also features guest artists P. Lyn Middleton, Mette Julian and around the block artists Dianne Bennett and husband Chris Engle.

For further information please phone 805-272-5436

Ojai Public Library is one of 840 libraries and state humanities councils across the country awarded the Bridging Cultures Bookshelf: Muslim Journeys from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the American Library Association.

The Muslim Journeys Bookshelf is a collection of books, films, and other resources that is intended to introduce the American public to the complex history and culture of Muslims in the United States and around the world.

This is a year-long project during which the Ojai Library will be presenting programs, organizing book discussion groups, and partnering with community organizations, especially the Islamic Center of Ventura County.

Villanova Preparatory School will host an **alumni reunion** on campus on **July 26 and July 27**.

A luau for classes celebrating 10, 20, 25, 30, 40 and 50 years is July 26 from 6-9:30 pm. Tickets are \$40 and include beer and wine.

The Wildcat BBQ/ Reunion for all classes is Saturday July 27 from 12-4 pm. Tickets are \$20 for tri tip and chicken, salads, rolls and dessert. A vegetarian option will be available. There will be a no-host bar. Please contact Jeanne Hill to make a reservation, jhill@villanova-prepadmin.org or 646-1464, ext. 126.

Ojai Valley advertising agency, Johnston Ad Group (JAG), has won the highest award in the category for use of animation in advertising at the recent American Advertising Federation dinner held in Santa Barbara. Founded in 1981, JAG has earned over 100 awards for excellence in a wide range of advertising media. The awards were earned for creative execution in industries such as health care, industrial, educational, retail, government, redevelopment, real estate, automotive and non-profit.

The **Ojai Storytelling Festival** encourages adults to invite a little wildness into their lives and attend *Naughty Tales* on Saturday, **May 4 @ 9:45 pm** at the Ojai Center for the Arts. This year's performance, geared for an adult audience (adults, 21+) features Antonio Sacre and Michael Reno Harrell sharing some spicy tales in a coffee house atmosphere under a tent.

The event features wine, hors d'oeuvres and dessert and has become a festival favorite. Seating is reserved so purchase tickets early. Tickets are \$50 and can be ordered online at www.ojaistoryfest.org or

by phone at 646-8907.

The **Ojai Art Center Theater** is presenting a **summer theater workshop** and production of *Winnie the Pooh* for ages 6-18, all of whom will be cast in the play.

The workshop is run by Gai Jones, theater educator and director of *The Wizard of Oz*, *Ramona Quimby*, *Oliver* and *Annie*, among others.

The 4 week workshop ends in two performances on July 24 and 25. Registration is due by June 15. Cost per student is \$70 for preregistration before June 15; \$80 for registration no later than June 25. The cost covers a T-shirt which will be used as character costume.

To receive a registration form, email gai.jones@sbcglobal.net.

Charles Freericks will read from his book *My Imaginary Friend was too Cool to Hang Out with Me*, a comedic look at growing up in New Jersey. It is a collection of true stories about one boy's path from "loserdom" to popularity. For twenty years, Mr. Freericks worked in television, rising to executive positions at CBS, Paramount, NBC, and finally New Line. He was an Executive Producer on *The Glow* and a Co-Executive Producer on *Red Water*. Mr. Freericks has 3 other published books.

Lissie is doing a **2nd annual concert fundraiser** for Changing Tides Orphanage in Jacmel, Haiti, at the Libbey Bowl on **May 25th**. Lissie traveled to Haiti in December 2012 and was moved by the great work orphanage founder Vance Simms has done. All proceeds from this concert will go towards expanding the efforts of the orphanage and school. Last year's event raised \$18,000.

Since her critically acclaimed 2010 debut album *Catching a Tiger*, Lissie has forged a reputation as one of the most talented and enigmatic female rock artists of recent times. She recently released a lyric video for new single "Shameless". Her sophomore album will be released this September.

The **14th Annual Ojai Storytelling Festival** will open with an exciting event called *Tunes and Tales* on Thursday, **May 2** at 7 pm @ Libbey Bowl with Grammy nominated singer-songwriter, John McCutcheon and the irrepressible, Street Corner Renaissance. The performance will feature great music and stories.

Tickets are \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors (65+) and \$10 for children. Tickets are available online at www.ojaistoryfest.org, by phone at 646-8907 or at Ojai Coffee Roasting.

An open theme **juried exhibit** exploring the potential of the small photographic print is open to any subject matter, theme, or photographic style. Images may be framed singly, in multiples or stitched together and can be any size, but frames must be at least 11 inches or greater in width.

Photographers are invited to submit their work on May 30 or May 31. Detailed submission information can be found on the Photography Branch page at the Art Center website at www.ojaistartcenter.org/ photography.

There will be a reception Sunday, **June 2** from 1 to 3 pm. Refreshments will be served. The Art Center is located in downtown Ojai. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Sunday from 12 to 4 pm.



Professor Scamp, Ph.D

(Pretty Happy Dog)



This is TJ and Ramsey they are Shih Tzu mixes (that's why they are so cute). Their wonderful portraits were painted by my friend (and their mother) Cheryl Ann Gooss. Her father-in-law, Glenn Dale Gooss was a Face Of Ventura portrait by Johanna Spinks and Cheryl is a new wonderful contributor to my column with her lovely Captured on Canvas...Rescue Collection paintings of dogs for adoption, but these are her pets.

Cheryl told me that "TJ and Ramsey are 4 years old, now...were adopted together... and a gift to my husband after we lost our toy poodle, Brandi, of 18 years...we can't imagine our lives without our four-legged friends. I love painting dogs, and I am so sad about the number of dogs that are thrown away...I can't rescue all of them, but I can fall in love with them, and paint them. I would like to paint you Scamp."

Oh boy, I would love that and would pose even if I don't get treats. But I need to cut down on treats anyway because my vet says that I need to lose 4 pounds, no more cheeseburgers for me. But I still think that I am just "big boned".



Professor Scamp
Ph.D

I told Savana that she could write a comment in this issue but I am still teaching her to type so it will need to wait until the next issue.

From May 4 – 19, license ambassadors from Ventura County Animal Services (VCAS) will go door-to-door in the city of Ventura to check that pets are up-to-date with their current State of California animal licensing requirements. They will verify the status of dog licenses, sell and renew licenses at the door and distribute dog spay/neuter vouchers that reduce the cost of pet sterilization.

To help prevent the spread of rabies, the State of California requires all dog moms and dads to vaccinate against rabies and purchase a license within 30 days of acquiring a new dog, or with a puppy, after it is 4 months of age. A rabies certificate is required to receive an actual license tag and is a good idea even if it wasn't.

The fees for purchasing a Ventura County animal license are \$20.00 for spayed/neutered animals (with proof of sterility) or \$75.00 for unaltered animals. A 100% penalty applies to all delinquent licenses so make sure that you have yours up to date.

To obtain a new license you can:

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NO Travel Time
Low Stress Home Care

**Cost = Price +
More Time +
More Stress**

**Cost = Same Price -
Less Time -
Less Stress**

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1. Visit the VCAS Camarillo Animal Shelter, 600 Aviation Drive, Camarillo
2. Go to www.vcas.us, click on dogs and dog licenses, print the license application form and mail it to the VCAS Animal Shelter
3. Visit their local veterinarian to complete the paperwork. Check www.vcas.us for a list of participating vet clinics.

All for Love Animal Rescue (AFLAR) will be having a Pastry Party Fundraiser for the sweetest dogs in town. Special guests will include *Mutts* cartoonist, Patrick McDonnell, and *Pit Stops* Michele Sathe. A dessert buffet, champagne (My favorite drink), coffee tasting, string quartet (Savana likes playing with string maybe I should bring her), kissing booth (you might get to kiss me because I will be there), lots more and fabulous prizes (see their ad in this issue).

For tickets and information call 643-7906. For tax deductible donations or to volunteer call 445-3535. AFLAR is an all volunteer non-profit 501(c)3 organization which rescues animals from the fate of euthanasia at high-kill shelters. They find a foster and forever homes for the animals, boarding them when needed. They pay for all medical and training expenses so that when they are adopted, the animals are healthy and ready to be part of their new families. www.AllForLoveAnimalRescue.org. AllForLoveAnimalRescue@gmail.com.



"I'm not sure if I can drive in the bike lanes or not?"

Forever homes wanted



Hi: I'm Reggie a sweet 3 year old male Chow / Golden Retriever mix who was rescued from Animal Regulation. I'm grateful to be given a chance to find my forever home where I'll be a cherished member of a loving family. I walk well on a leash which is great so we can go on long walks together. I have been described as cute, handsome, gracious and happy (like Scamp). What more could you want in a dog? Stop by and meet me, you're sure to fall in love with me. The Canine Adoption & Rescue League, Sam's Place, 3203 E. Main Street, 644-7387. www.carvc.org.

Hi: I'm Chester and some call me a "TV Cat" because I am so incredibly cute and full of personality that I could be a TV star. I will stay cuddled in your lap while you pet me for as long as you want. I am 8 years old. When you visit me I make happy "kitty feet" and purr, especially when you pet me and scratch behind my ears! I have a very soothing, calm and gentle personality.

Come meet me at the Camarillo Animal Shelter, 600 Aviation Drive. Please ask for ID # A572406 so that you know it is me.



Hi: My name is Vanilla. I was rescued by CABODOGZ just a couple of weeks ago from the Ventura County Animal Shelter. I'm a sweet and playful girl. I love other dogs, squeaky toys, people, laps, even cats! I am about 1 year old and a Chihuahua/jack russell mix. I am living with a foster family and awaiting my forever and ever home! You can see me at Ventura Highway Luxury Boarding for Dogs at 4692 Ventura Av. or call 643-3647. Be A Hero...Adopt A Shelter Dog!

Scamp Club



Hi: My name is Theo. I was abandoned in Oxnard last June. My current parents chased me down on their bicycles for 45 minutes until I finally decided they were okay and gave in. This is not the first time that I was abandoned.

I'm a very good little boy. I'm about three years old now. I love to cuddle and give lots

of kisses. I'm learning how to be a seeing eye dog for my brother Vincent, a Min-Pin/Manchester Terrier mix, who is only 7, but got an eye disease and can't see anymore.

I'm very lucky I found a loving, caring family to live with, but not all my friends are so lucky. .

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.

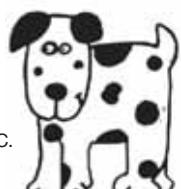
SEND ROVER ON OVER FOR A SLEEPOVER!

The nicest place for your dog away from home. Our sleepovers include cookies at bedtime and a sleepover attendant to stay with your dog all night long. Purchase one night, get one free (one per household). Good through May 15th.

Puppy Play is complimentary on Wednesdays at 6:30 and Saturdays at 2:30. Puppies must be 8 to 20 weeks with proof of vaccines. Puppy All S.T.A.R is also on Saturdays at 3pm. This is the Puppy version of Canine Good Citizen sponsored by the AKC.

Valeri Stallings Owner/Trainer/GCG Evaluator/Behavioral Consultant
BS (student) Applied Behavioral Analysis

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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.

Possession of Firearm

On Tuesday, April 16th, at 10:06 a.m., an alert citizen called the VPD to report a male subject taking items from vehicles parked in the area of Ocean Avenue and Borchard Drive. As officers were being dispatched, the male subject was running from the area carrying property.

Officers contacted the subject Jesus Oy. Oy was a convicted felon and was on parole. Upon searching Oy's vehicle, officers located an unloaded handgun, narcotics and stolen property.

Armed Robbery

On Sunday, April 14th, at 3:51 p.m., officers responded to the intersection of East Main Street and Seaward Avenue, contacting George Meza who was reporting he was a victim of strong armed robbery. Meza had accepted a ride from an acquaintance in Oxnard and they drove to Ventura. There were two other subjects riding in the vehicle, including the suspect, Eddie Thompson. A verbal argument ensued between Meza and the other occupants in the vehicle. Thompson struck Meza in the face with his fist and took an undisclosed amount of money. Thompson then pulled Meza out of the vehicle at the intersection.

Officers observed a vehicle matching the description of the vehicle Meza described, parked in the shopping center in the 6300 block of Bristol Drive. Officers conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle as it was leaving the area in the 3000 block of Johnson Drive and detained the three occupants inside. Thompson was positively identified by Meza as the suspect and he was arrested.

Thompson was transported to the VC Jail and booked. The other two occupants inside the vehicle were cited and released for possession of drug paraphernalia.

Santa Clara River Operation

On Wednesday, April 17th, at 7:00 a.m., members from the VPD and VC Sheriff Department's Air Unit conducted an operation near Harbor Boulevard and the Santa Clara River. VPD had obtained information that there were numerous illegal encampments and several armed and dangerous wanted fugitives living in the river bottom area. Ventura Police also had information that there were subjects living in this area that have been involved in serious crimes in other parts of Ventura.

As a result of this operation, Donald Clark, Rick Lyman, Kenneth Sleierint, James Dalton, Chad Sergent, and Bart Logan were arrested. In addition, everyone who was contacted and found to be living in an illegal camp was warned.

Assault with a Deadly Weapon

On Wednesday, April 24th, at 3:45, the victim went to the VPD to report her ex-boyfriend Colton Braga putting a knife to her throat and threatening her in the 6000 block of Hunter Road. The victim told officers the incident happened the night prior, but she feared she would be harmed if she told authorities what happened.

Investigators learned Braga also went to the victim's current boy-

friend's house in the 1700 block of Pelican Avenue and threatened him through a closed door brandishing a knife. During the course of the investigation, officers learned Braga was disturbed over a lover's triangle.

Officers involved in the investigation located Braga near the Pacific View Mall where he was taken into custody without incident. The knife used in the incident was recovered and Braga, was arrested and booked at the VC Jail.

Large fight on Palm Street

On Apr. 28, at midnight Ventura Patrol Officers responded to the 100 block of S. Palm Street in response to a report of a large fight involving numerous subjects.

Ventura officers arrived on scene and were directed to the victim in a nearby parking lot. The victim, Spencer Turner (23, Ventura resident), had sustained a minor stab wound to his arm.

The investigation determined that this incident began outside of a bar in the 200 block of E. Santa Clara Street where several subjects, including the victim, were involved in a physical fight that continued to the area of Palm Street.

Additional responding patrol units detained a subject on Main Street. Carl Ponzio (19, Ventura resident), who was later identified by witnesses as one of the individuals involved in the fight.

Turner was treated for his injury and released. Ponzio was arrested and booked into the Ventura County Main Jail on the charge of 415 (1) PC – Disturbance of the Peace, fighting in public.

Harbor Patrol Blotter

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

4-8 7:15 a.m. The Ventura Marina manager reports a sailboat having jib failure due to high winds. Patrol responded and secured the autofurling jib.

7:45 a.m. Patrol observed an auto-furling jib unfurling in high winds. Patrol was able to secure the jib.

4-9 4:45 p.m. Patrol received a report that a kite surfer had problems by Ventura Point. He made it ashore without assistance. Patrol found his kite floating in the water, recovered it, and released the vessel. 11:05 p.m. Patrol assisted a disabled vessel to the launch ramp so the boat could stay there the night.

4-13 9:11 a.m. Maintenance reports a medical assist at Harbor Village. Patrol activated the 9-1-1 system and responded. AMR transported the patient to the hospital.

4-14 10:40 a.m. FCC dispatched Patrol and others to a medical assist at the Ventura Marina Mobile Home Park. Patrol responded. AMR transported to the patient to the hospital.

4-18 4:10 p.m. FCC dispatched Patrol and others to a medical assist at the Ventura Marina Mobile Home Park. Patrol responded. AMR transported the patient to the hospital.

9:21 p.m. A boater at VWM reports a neighbor's bilge pumps have been running for an hour. Patrol responded, observed that the floor boards were wet so cut a lock to gain access to the vessel. No water was observed. Patrol notified the Marina Manager who notified the boat's owner.

4-19 7:30 a.m. FCC dispatched Patrol



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to a medical assist at the Ventura Marina Mobile Home Park. Upon arrival, Patrol was able to gain access through the unit through a window. AMR transported the patient to the hospital.

4-20 2:52 p.m. FCC dispatched Patrol and others to a water rescue at Marina Park, two victims in the water. Patrol responded. Upon arrival, the subjects were safe and accounted for on the beach.

It doesn't matter who you were

Continued from page 1

members the monthly meeting specifics and in talking to her I felt the genuine affection she has for the group as a whole and for each individual. "It's a support group and a social club. We talk about the good and bad that is going on in each of our lives and we are all there for each other in times of need," said Carol.

Besides providing a support group that is 68 members strong, the dinners can also turn into a cruise down memory lane. "Someone will almost always bring up good old memories of cruising Main Street or some other thing we did back in school," said Carol with a mischievous chuckle. Relishing high school memories is fairly common among all bands of friends but this group is also entering a new phase in their lives. Retirement is the carrot that hard working people chase their whole lives. Half of the group is now retired while the others still in the workforce bide their time until it is their turn to regale the group with tales of their own travels.

High school means different things to everyone. Depending on your personal experience it could have been the best of times or a miserable 4 years. It is a formidable

time period in any person's life and lifelong friends are often made during those 4 years. This particular group of old and newly minted friends is showing us all how the simple common bond of going through high school together is strong enough to last a lifetime.

Attendee Margaret de la M summed it up best "I look forward to having dinner with classmates and friends once a month because we have grown closer over the past 45 years. No longer do we stress over what we look like, what we have done, how much hair we have on the top of our heads, or how svelte we look; instead, we listen to each other and look at them with eyes that know how precious our lives are."

Ventura Job & Career Center

Wednesday, May 1 – Power of VOS (Virtual OneStop), 9:00 am – 12:00 noon – Learn about the Virtual OneStop website and how you can use the various tools in the system to build your resume and customize your job search to a specific location and occupation. Must have basic computer skills.

Wednesday, May 15 – Resumes that Sell, 9:00 am – 12:00 noon – Hands-on workshop providing assistance in completing a resume, cover and thank-you letters. Walk away with a portfolio that shows off professional skills and experience.

Career Shops are offered at no cost to Job Seekers. Space is limited. Prior registration required by calling the Ventura Job & Career Center, 4651 Telephone Road, Ventura, at 805-654-3435 to enroll.

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MEXICAN RESTAURANT

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TORTA, BURRITO & QUESADILLA \$5 EACH
DRINKS \$1

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ANY COMBO \$8.99
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SPECIAL BREAKFAST BURRITO \$5.99
Includes Drink
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Medium, Large or Extra Large Pizza \$4 OFF regular price

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Fri & Sat 11am - 10:30pm

Monday and Tuesday – Extra Large Pizza, one topping, \$10.99 or Spaghetti, \$4.95

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

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



Show Time

Two on the Aisle

Musical memories abound in *Lonesome Traveler*

by Jim Spencer & Shirley Lorraine

If you go to see *Lonesome Traveler* this month at Ventura's Rubicon Theatre Company it's a sure bet you will not be lonesome. You will find yourself personally connected with everyone in the audience through the action, the music, the memories, the energy and you will find yourself joining with the cast and others to sing along during parts of the show. Captivatingly conceived, crafted, written and directed by James O'Neil, the Rubicon's popular Artistic Director, *Lonesome Traveler* is a concert musical that engagingly wanders through the saga of American Folk music, from the backwoods in the 1920s to big city nightclubs in the 1960s.

It is enchantingly entertaining, musically marvelous and intellectually enlightening. The almost non-stop musical selections, all of which were major hits, are presented by nine, multi-talented musician-actors. In the program each is identified by a representative type of folk artist, such as the Activist, the Poet, the Muse, and narrated by the *Lonesome Traveler*, the Everyman. Sometimes the cast members perform covers of songs of the times. Sometimes they present tribute performances. Sometimes they interact with the audience as themselves, and sometimes they portray and present portraits of influential luminaries, such as Pete Seeger, Woodie Guthrie, Joan Baez and Bob Dylan.

The professional singer-musician-actors hail from all over, including the East Coast to Hollywood and Canada. All play both multiple parts and often multiple instruments during the show. Each is superb and their vocal blending is amazing, since only two were mutually acquainted before the initial production of *Lonesome Traveler*. Which is another reason this show works so well.

The current run is an encore presentation. The show initially debuted at the Rubicon in 2011. After successful engagements elsewhere, it was remounted by popular demand and, fortunately, features essentially the same cast. In the meantime, playwright O'Neil has done some tweaking. New selections and upgrades have been added. It is the same, but a richer and more polished show in comparison to the original.

The production is not only musically alluring, it is visually magnetic. The fast paced action is accented by spot-on vintage film and modern video clips projected on multiple screens and liberally interspersed throughout the production. There are many costume changes. Periodically, events relating to certain songs are acted out behind scrims to augment the historical background. Best of all, the concert experience is unencumbered by artificial choreography.

Lonesome Traveler plays Wednesdays through Sundays until May 19, 2013 at the Rubicon Theater Company, 1006 E. Main Street (Corner of Laurel and Main Streets) in Ventura. Show times: Wednesdays at 2 and 7 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays at 8 p.m. Saturdays at 2 and 8 p.m. Sundays at

2 p.m. Ticket prices are \$35-59, depending on the day of the week. Students are \$30. Tickets may be purchased in person at the Rubicon Box Office (Laurel Street entrance) To charge by phone, call 667-2900. 24-hour ticketing with selection and ticket printout is available at www.rubicontheatre.org.

The Entertainment Report Silver screen

by Linde Carlson

Hello, Ventura, these are my picks of the week.



Scary Movie V

Hysterical parodies mock favorite films when a couple played by Ashley Tisdale and Simon Rex begin to experience unusual activity, ala *Paranormal Activity* after bringing home a baby, and learn they are being stalked by a nefarious demon. As spoofs go, this film had its moments of chuckles and entertaining scenes, many of which are regurgitations of what we see on E! News, and the News channels. Opening scenes with Charlie Sheen and Lindsey Lohan were funny, but was filmed rather haphazardly with no real continuity, but then again do these types of films really have continuity?

You will recognize many of the films that it spoofs, and if nothing else it is a diversion from a day of challenges. Here is a list of what to look for if you've never seen the films spoofed here. *Paranormal Activity* series is one of the main films it spoofs. Then we have *Mama*, *Black Swan*, *Rise of the Planet of the Apes*, *Scream 4*, *Sinister*, *Child's Play*, *Piranha*, *Inception*, *Ted*, *Evil Dead*, *The Hunger Games*, *The Cabin in the Woods*, *Insidious*, *127 Hours*, *The Help*, *Madea*, *Honey BooBoo*, and *Fifty Shades of Grey*.

Their attempt at *Fifty Shades of Grey* was obviously taken from the book, but comical at best. Somehow they managed to spoof all these films in 86 minutes. Anna Faris was not in this film which seemed remiss. But Ashley was entertaining. Her expressions are just as memorable as Anna's. I thought *Scary Movie 5* or *Scary Movie V* was still pretty funny at times but not as funny as I had hoped. I get the feeling that it won't be the last one too.

Rated PG-13 Running Time 86 minutes



Oblivion

Frankly speaking, I wish I had been in *Oblivion*, this film bored me to tears. Okay, so if you are a Tom Cruise fan and just like anything he does, well you might like this film for the pure joy of the science fiction aspect. The acting was atrocious. I am not especially fond of bashing films, but as a film critic, I have to give a subjective and objective opinion here.

In this science fiction thriller, Tom Cruise plays Commander Jack Harper, maintaining the planet's defensive drones when a crippled starship enters his territory. Its sole occupant, a mysterious woman, leads Harper to shocking truths about humankind's legacy. Harper tries to extract earth's remains and Harper questions what he knows about the mission and especially himself.

The story is grossly convoluted, and

VFS @ 420 East 2013

Mafioso

Reviewed by Lorenzo DeStefano
The Ventura Film Society

so they can finally meet his family. But as Antonio reconnects with his past, he finds that there are more sides to being a Sicilian than he remembers, and more unspoken obligations.

The Ventura Film Society is proud to present *Mafioso*, sponsored by Ventura Limoncello, as the 7th of 21 feature films of our 5th 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 their 2013 season, running through December 3rd at 420 E. Santa Clara Street is available at www.venturafilmfestival.com or at 628-2299.

Sun 5/12 - Yngwie Malmsteen 8pm

Sandbox Coffeehouse

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

Thur 5/2 - Open Mic Night Hosted by Jammin' Joe 7:30pm - 9:30pm

Sat 5/4 - Darryl Morris & Other Shady Characters 12pm - 2pm

Sun 5/5 - Avatar 12pm - 1pm

Thur 5/9 - Open Mic Night Hosted by Jammin' Joe 7:30pm - 9:30pm

Sat 5/11 - Ed Provost 12-2pm

Sun 5/12 - Walt Dunlop & Friends 12 - 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

Wed 5/1 - Hans Ottsen & Friends

Thur 5/2 - Laurence Duff & Friends

Fri 5/3 - Ventura Jazz Collective

Sat 5/4 - Lauren Donahue Band

Wed 5/8 - Andrew Hill & Friends

Thur 5/9 - Steve Marsh & Friends

Fri 5/10 - Toni Jannotta Group

Sat 5/11 - Paul Weitz Trio w/ Donna D

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

W2O Rooftop Lounge

598 E. Main St. (above Watermark)

805-643-6800

Live Bands every Wed thru Sun

Friday Dance Party every Fri 9pm

Yolies/Hi Hat Entertainment

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

Top Notch Musicians and Bands every Fri 8pm

Fri 5/3 - The Forty Fours (Hard Rockin Blues)

Fri 5/10 - Carl Sony Leyland (Ragtime Boogie Woogie Piano)

Zoey's Café

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

Live Musicians & Bands almost every night

Wed 5/1 - Aaron & Alejandra (Americana, Folk, Rock) 9:30pm

Thur 5/2 - Hot Lips & Fingertips 8pm

Fri 5/3 - Anchor & Bear, Zeltser & Tortise, 8Stops7, Bullet Made Statues 7:30pm

Sat 5/4 - Naia Kete & Band, Derek Jennings

7:30pm, Franchot Tone Trio 10pm

Sun 5/5 - Salty Suites featuring Chelsea, Scott Gates, Chuck & Elaine Hailes 7pm

Tue 5/7 - Blue Grass Jam 6pm

Wed 5/8 - Aaron & Alejandra (Americana, Folk, Rock) 9:30pm

Thur 5/9 - Lee Koch, Shelby Figueroa 7:30pm

Fri 5/10 - Shane Alexander, Jade Hendrix 7:30pm

Sat 5/11 - Mimosas w/ Ani Nhervoza

Show & Brunc 11am, Chris Pierce,

Tone Ferrari, Doubt Aplomb 7:30pm

Tue 5/15 - Blue Grass Jam 6pm

Lighter Breeze

Zits



Mother Goose and Grimm



Crock



Shoe



Dustin



Tiger



Solutions on page 15

Solutions on page 15

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Largest continent
5 Humpty Dumpty
8 Carpet style
12 Like a superintendent's apartment, often
14 Couturier Chanel
15 Food closets
16 Top-notch
17 Years on end
18 Disposition
20 Tine
23 Belch
24 Contained
25 Lingers
28 Hammarskjöld of the U.N.
29 Incites
30 Cistern
32 Weds
34 — E. Coyote
35 Carry a load
36 Mediterranean island
37 Jellied incendiary
40 Listener
41 First person
42 Bakery offerings
47 Zilch
48 North

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| Carolina cape | home | 33 Actor Ving |
| 49 Census data | 13 Kermit is one | 34 President |
| 50 Take to court | 19 Blunders | Harding |
| 51 Navy-related (Abbr.) | 20 Third deg. | 36 Damon or Dillon |
| | 21 Paper quantity | 37 "Peter Pan" pooch |
| | 22 Gymnast Korbut | 38 Work like — |
| | 23 Holder for cream cheese and lox | 39 Sheet of glass |
| | 25 Victories | 40 Renaissance family name |
| | 26 Wicked | 43 Junior Olympics org. |
| | 27 Sodium chloride | 44 Savings-plan acronym |
| | 29 Caspian feeder | 45 Water (Fr.) |
| | 31 Afternoon gathering | 46 Former fast flier |

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LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Your decision to be upfront with colleagues on a touchy matter causes some consternation at first. But in the end, your honesty wins their trust and admiration.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) As in the past, someone again wants to share a secret with you, knowing it will be safe. But do you really want to be this person's confidante? Think about it.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) As one of nature's straight shooters, you seek to correct misconceptions about a project. Do so, of course, but without giving away too much too soon.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Creative pursuits continue to be strong in the gifted Goat's aspect. New friendships can come from sharing these experiences with like-minded art aficionados.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Resolve lingering grumblings over your way of doing things by keeping your mind open to suggestions while continuing to show how your plans will work.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) The perceptive Piscean might find that changing course in midstream isn't as workable as it would seem. Explore this option carefully before making a decision.

BORN THIS WEEK: Your willingness to share your love of life's good things brings joy to many, including, of course, yourself.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Taking advice isn't always easy for self-assured Rams and Ewes who think they know what's best. But it wouldn't hurt to listen to what close colleagues have to say.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You know how to balance life's practical aspects with the poetic. This gives you a special edge this week in both your professional endeavors and your personal life.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Focus on keeping a balance between your home-related activities and your workplace responsibilities. Be mindful of both without obsessing over one or the other.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) A change in plans is likely as you discover more facts about a possible commitment. Continue to ask questions and, if you're not sure about the answers, demand proof.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Be careful not to let that Leonine pride keep you from seeking wise, experienced counsel before making an important decision. A family member once again seeks your help.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) That surge of Virgo energy drives you to take on more work assignments. Be careful you don't overdo it, or you might find yourself overdone: i.e., burned out.

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

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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HELP US STAMP OUT HUNGER

ONE neighborhood at a time!



SATURDAY MAY, 11th

Put your non-perishable food donation out in the morning and your letter carrier will pick it up!

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Business



Briana Gutter, a Ventura local, has recently started her new business, Briana's Singing Telegrams. Briana has been singing since the young age of 2 and decided to pursue her dreams and launch her own business. She graduated with a Masters Degree in Communications from California State University Northridge in 2011. She is passionate about singing and performing and loves bringing joy to people. Briana comes dressed up in a stylish classy outfit, brings a balloon bouquet, chocolate, stuffed teddy bear, a card and sings two personalized songs – all for only \$50.00! What a unique surprise to give to a special person in your life. To book a telegram, contact Briana at 407-6004. She sings for all occasions, check out her Facebook page at www.facebook.com/BrianasSingingTelegrams for photos and videos.

Celebrating female owned businesses

Lotus Productions and Special Events will be holding an expo that celebrates female owned businesses that empower, engage, connect, educate and inspire women of all ages.

Being sponsored by the Hilton Hotel Garden Inn and Homewood Suites in Oxnard, WE Olive of Ventura, Spice-Topia of Ventura, Rocio Melgarejo of Keller-Williams Realty Westlake, and Khabir Southwick of Natural Healing Ojai.

Together they share a goal offering businesses a platform in which to showcase their brand to the public. One purpose of the expo is to allow the business owners to engage in one-on-one communication, elaborating on the details and special qualities their brand has to offer.

Additionally, those seeking new career options, business opportunities or employment may derive value from attending.

Entrepreneur Galz Expo will be held Saturday, May 18, at the Hilton Adagio Bella Gardens in Oxnard, from 10 a. m. to 5 p.m.

Distinguished speakers will discuss the trends of today every 30 minutes. Exhibitors range from life-style coaches to nutritional counseling, pet-sitting

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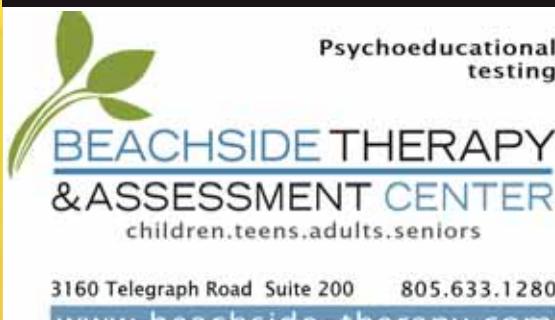


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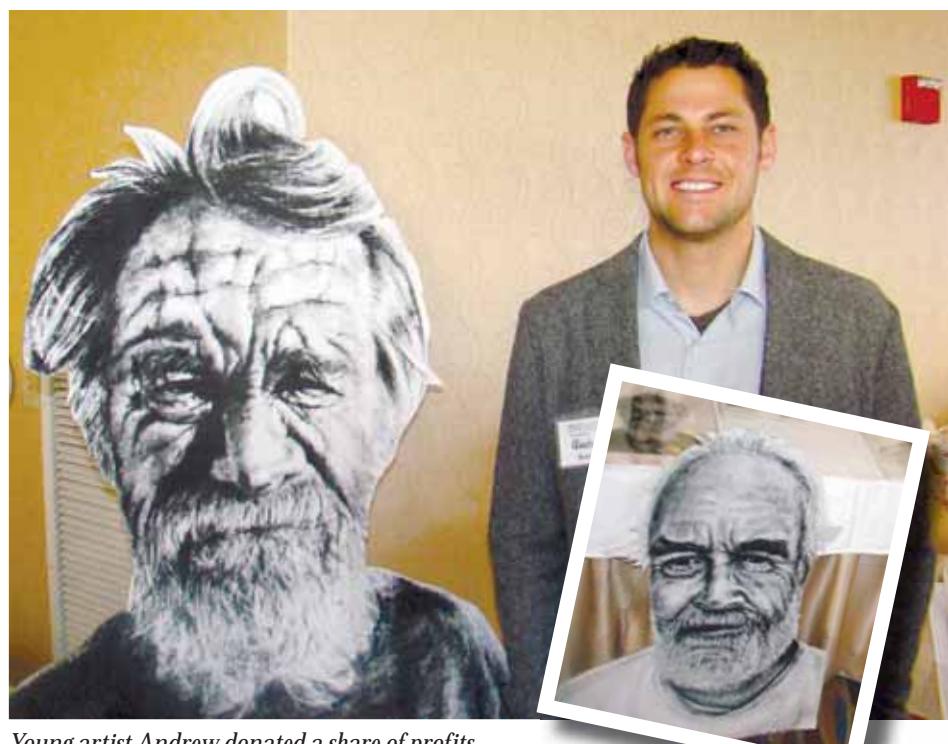
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Kevin Fitzgerald

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Art Scene



Young artist Andrew donated a share of profits from art that he sold at Project Understanding fund raiser.

Andrew James Rodriguez – an artist for change

by Emily Thiroux Threatt
www.theheartoftheartist.com

Have you had the experience of a homeless person approaching you to ask for change? Did you give some change? Do you suppose your change made a change for the homeless person? When Andrew Rodriguez saw homeless men asking for change, he took their request differently than them asking for money. He could see something better for these men by making a change instead of giving change.

Andrew Rodriguez has been drawing a series of portraits of homeless men in Ventura which are both vital and haunting. His home is strewn with his artwork. He has blown up his amazing series of graphite drawings to poster size that were on display at the Hope Worth Giving breakfast to raise funds for Project Understanding held in Ventura on April 25 at the Crowne Plaza Hotel.

His drawings were sold with half of the profit from his sales going to Project Understanding to fund their many wonderful programs to assist the down and out. Their programs have captured Andrew's heart.

Andrew is a young man who has been given a second chance at life, shifting from a path that didn't serve him. He understands the gift of that second chance and discovered his aptitude for drawing and painting is taking him in a direction which will allow him to develop his talent and serve his community at the same time. He was hungry for inspiration for his artwork when he noticed the homeless men around downtown Ventura. He wanted to do something with them and for them, so he started talking with them, taking their pictures, and creating his fabulous drawings. His goal is to change the attitude of the viewers when they see his work.

A student at Ventura College, Andrew recently was awarded three significant prizes at their student art show: Best of Show, Award of Excellence for Drawing, and Award of Excellence for Painting. True to his inspiration, he is donating money from his awards to Project Understanding. Majoring in Studio Art at Ventura College, Andrew's educational goal is to teach art in high school.

Considering himself humble and caring, Andrew integrates his faith and belief that he can do something to make Ventura better, and lives by the philosophy

that if he can do something good, why not? So instead of like the song lyrics of John Mayer, "Waiting for the world to change," Andrew is out there showing how that change can be possible by sharing his gifts and talent.

Go to <https://www.facebook.com/AndrewRodriguezArt> to see more of his wonderful art or contact him at arodriguezart.com.

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

Stand tall at the Bell Arts Factory

First Fridays at Bell Arts Factory featuring "Take A Stand", an anti-bullying art show in a collaboration partnership with Ventura High School and the De Anza Academy of Technology and the Arts.

Video Presentation-Art-Music-Poetry, May 3, 6-9 P.M.

Live performance by Kontra.
 Bell Arts Factory, 432 N. Ventura Avenue.

For more information contact Jim Rice at Jimnrice@yahoo.com

Celebrating female owned businesses

Continued from page 18
 services, health and well being professionals, creative professionals, beauty, fashion and accessories, home lifestyle products, personal products, professional services, women's organizations, home decor, teas and spices, olive oils, culinary arts, business and career opportunities. It is sure to offer a positive, educational experience for all.

Contact Linde Carlson, President – Producer Lotus Productions and Special Events at 485-3583 or Linde@entrepreneurgalz.com for more information.

Art, a la Carte



Awash In Roses, acrylic on canvas, by Mary Kolada Scott can be seen at Celebrating Moms! a new exhibit at the Harbor Village Gallery until May 13. All works in the exhibit – ranging from ceramics to photography, acrylics to pastels – will be priced at \$100 and under for a special someone to purchase for their mom! In addition, a special reception will be held Sunday, May 5 from 1 – 4 p.m. featuring a "make your own spring-time hat" craft for moms and kids to share. Finger food will be available and every mom will receive a rose!

Along with the exhibit, the gallery's Artisan Store will be in full-swing, stocked with handcrafted jewelry, ceramics, scarves, knitwear, and other gift items. The Harbor Village Gallery is open every day except Tuesday from 12 to 6 pm. For more information call the gallery at 644-2750 or visit www.BuenaventuraGallery.org.



Focus on the Masters presents An Evening with Cindy Pitou Burton on May 14 from 6 to 7:30 at The Comedy Club at the Ventura Harbor. The event is part of an on-going interview series conducted by FOTM founder and executive director, Donna Granata.

Adventure drives the life and photography of Cindy Pitou Burton. She began her career as a photojournalist for the New York Times, soon expanding her contacts to CBS, NBC and PBS and magazines like Discover, Country America, and Ladies Home Journal. She honed her skills at The International Center for Photography and the School of Visual Arts in NYC. Pitou Burton's photography can be seen at THE/Main Gallery, 301 Matilija in Ojai from May 17 to June 1. Immediately following the interview an AfterGLOW informal supper hosted by William and Laura Peck will be held at their Ojai home. The dinner is \$20 for FOTM members, \$30 for non-members. Seating is extremely limited. Paid reservations are essential and required prior to May 10. Purchase tickets online at www.FocusOnTheMasters.com or call 653-2501.

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Youth



Noasdia Cervantes, front center, shows her Student of the Month award. She is flanked by her parents, Evaristo and Edith Cervantes. In the back are Dave Erickson and Hector Guerrero, principal of De Anza Academy of Arts and Technology. Photo by Christie Erickson.

Optimists honor DATA eighth-grader

Noasdia Cervantes, an eighth-grade student at the De Anza Academy of Technology and the Arts, was named Student of the Month for February at the East Ventura Optimist Club.

She received a certificate and \$50 Barnes & Noble gift card from Dave Erickson of Ventura, chairman of the club's Student of the Month program, after DATA Principal Hector Guerrero described her as "a fantastic young lady" who "got into sort of a pickle last year, and it really turned her life around." She has raised her grade-point average from well below 1.0 to become a Renaissance honor student who also acts as a mentor for sixth-grade students, he said.

"Middle school can be a rough time," he said. "It's a scary place."

Cervantes joined AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) and is looking at the possibility of becoming a police officer, he said. She's taking seven classes, although only six are required, and has become "a leader and a mentor for our

students," Guerrero said.

"It's an honor to receive this certificate," Cervantes said, thanking her parents, teachers and others at the school for helping her change. She has not chosen a career, she said, but she wants to go college and find something she really likes.

She enjoys volleyball and reading and is active in the school's volleyball team, Web activities and AVID. She is also active in her church.



Watching scouts carry a huge canoe in a relay as a team and building that perfect fire were just a few of the highlights.

2013 Camporee

by Ana Baker

The Ventura County Council of the Boy Scouts of America held their annual Camporee on April 27th at Camp Willett in Ojai. Over 400 Boy Scouts and adult leaders from throughout the county competed against each other in contests of skills and physical ability. Events focused on were the skills learned throughout the year.

This year's theme was "American Legends" which included the Lewis and Clark Canoe Carry Portage, Paul Bunyon Axe Throw, Pecos Bill Rope Golf, Pony Express Relay Race, and the Betty Crocker Pancake Cook and Toss.

From fire building to first aid the Boy Scouts put on an amazing show of teamwork and camaraderie even under the pressure of extreme heat. Throughout the day you heard spirited chants from each troop as they visited every station. Who can forget seeing them make that perfect pancake in record time or watching them throw an axe on target. The Council, adult leaders, and parents should be applauded for all their time and dedication to put on such an amazing event that took months to put together.

Salsa Festival at Boys & Girls Club

The Boys & Girls Club of Greater Ventura's Robert Addison and West View Centers are holding a Salsa Festival May 3rd from 5:30 to 7pm at the Robert Addison Center, 1440 North Olive Street, Ventura.

Included in the event will be a Salsa "Secret Family Recipe" competition (for a \$5.00 entry fee) there will be a first, second and third place best salsa competition for gift certificates. Besides the salsa competition the festival will include four members performing Mexican Folklorico dances, music, food as well as multiple other activities.

The public is invited to join the event. For additional information contact: Robert Addison Center Unit Director, Dolores Claudio, 641-5588.

The Boys & Girls Club of Greater Ventura is celebrating their 75th anniversary in the Ventura community. Please check their website for celebration events www.bgclubventura.org.



Iva Oza (carwash), Janice Talmage (bake sale), Brandy Chappell (school beautification), Todd Tyner (principal), Sandra Nolan (rummage sale) and Renee Pokorny (eRecycle) contributed their time to raise funds at Mound.

Not a normal Saturday

Saturday, April 13th looked more like a three (or five) ring circus than a school! In an effort to raise funds for the outdoor education program approximately 100 parents and students participated in the annual "Outdoor Ed Carwash / Bake Sale / Rummage Sale / eRecycling / School Beautification Day" held at Mound Elementary School.

"Despite funding concerns, the fifth grade trip to the Catalina Island Marine Institute is a tradition we are committed to upkeep. Today's effort is a prime example of the teamwork it takes to ensure all students are able to go to camp," said Principal Todd Tyner.

On this day the school campus certainly did not look normal. One parking lot was converted into a \$10 car wash line while another lot served as an eRecycling drop off center. The cafeteria resembled a downtown thrift store, full of toys and tools and clothing at great discounts. Country music blared from the principal's office. Out front of the office, parents and children sold homemade snacks and coffee. Meanwhile, a team of about 15 parents and high school students painted benches, pulled weeds; power washed the hallways and planted succulents around the east Ventura campus. The day's effort brought in almost \$8,000 toward the approximately \$25,000 needed to be raised in time for camp next April. "This is a special place, and good things happen here all the time. Today was no exception," said Tyner.

Sgt. Pepper at Buena High

The Buena High School drama department is proud to present for its spring musical, *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band*. The musical, which features music by the Beatles, is loosely based on the 1978 film of the same name. The show stars junior A.J. Morales as Billy Shears and features a cast of over 40 students and staff from Buena High. The play features original choreography by Zach Johnson and vocal direction is by Kevin Downey. Performances are at Buena High's McConnell Auditorium, 5670 Telegraph Rd. The show dates are May 2-4 and May 9-11 with shows at 6pm (3pm matinees on Saturdays). Tickets are sold at the door. Box office opens one hour before curtain. Adult tickets are \$10 and student tickets are \$7. Call 289-1826 for more information.

Economic Development Strategy

Continued from page 1

and a significant medical corridor. The Strategy sets a path to creating a stronger business climate that includes ensuring a customer service, business-friendly government.

Our economic development activities are categorized into three components - business retention and expansion; job creation; and business attraction. Simply put, business retention means keeping existing businesses here in Ventura, and business expansion refers to having land or existing facilities available for businesses that have outgrown their existing spaces. Job creation means providing Venturans with the resources they need to start their own businesses or help their business grow. Lastly, business attraction involves soliciting businesses to relocate or expand to Ventura.

An analysis of our city's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats helped us identify focus areas and a realistic implementation plan with measurable goals and timetables. The Economic Development Strategy capitalizes on the city's existing strengths.

The document's six focus areas are:

1. Effective and responsive government

This section focuses on improving the culture of our government to prioritize customer service, efficiency, effective communication and clear policies.

2. Tourism, retail & quality of life

Goals are to expand the retail sales and TOT by effectively promoting Ventura as a business and vacation destination as well as stabilize and expand our retail base.

3. Healthcare & biomedical

Healthcare is Ventura's largest employment sector, comprising 18.6% of total jobs. Goals include ensuring an educated healthcare industry workforce and encouraging opportunities for private investment in the surrounding area.

4. Manufacturing

The majority of Ventura's largest revenue generators are small and medium-sized manufacturers. The city will help support manufacturing jobs by providing the infrastructure and resources needed to compete in a global market as well as supporting expanding research and development opportunities for emerging technologies.

5. Regional agriculture & food

While not a major agricultural producer, Ventura is surrounded by 321,000 acres of agricultural land that provide 20,000 jobs and supply our farmers markets, grocery stores, and restaurants with fresh produce. Opportunities such as supporting expansion of commercial fishing, revising restrictive regulatory barriers, and helping Ag related services locate in Ventura are some of the goals in this area.

6. Entrepreneurship & economic gardening

According to the Economic Development Cooperative, Ventura County (EDC-VC), "Economic growth is increasingly tied to small business and start-ups." Providing the infrastructure and resources needed to support small businesses including helping entrepreneurs launch new businesses is a key part of the plan.

The Economic Development Strategy is a living document and we will continue to meet with Ventura-based business owners and other key partners to evaluate, monitor progress and improve on this plan. It is the responsibility of the city to establish the economic foundations that allow the business community to invest in our community by creating jobs and having the resources it needs to be successful. We welcome your suggestions as we strive to make Ventura an even better place to live, work, and play.

View the Economic Development Strategy online at www.cityofventura.net/ed. Or contact us at econdev@cityofvenatura.net or 677-3935.

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