



VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

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Scamp on his first date on the downtown trolley. They enjoyed a day at the Harbor getting treats by looking so cute.

A brief Ventura 2013 in review

by Rebecca Wicks

Ah yes, 2013, perhaps not the boon year we were hoping for economically, but a definite improvement from the previous year and years past in that category. In Ventura, a sign of relief was almost audible amongst homeowners as housing prices finally nudged upward. City officials, while finally not working from a deficit, were still faced with difficult decisions as many services such as road maintenance had been neglected in the past years as belt-tightening measures.

Like many other years, the City saw its share of low and highlights. I'd like to argue the good outweighed the bad for Ventura which couldn't necessarily be said a couple of years ago. From a fresh new -- and considerably younger -- face in the City Council, Erik Nasarenko, to some significant movement in commercial and residential development projects in the City, Ventura saw what may very well be the seeds of change being sowed in 2013. Here are some of the bigger stories we covered.

Right to a View: Having a view is always precious but especially coveted in a beach community like Ventura. The City has seen a number of disputes surrounding residents having their views obstructed or taken away because of new construction. In January, the City decided to explore the topic of view sheds (view rights) using the Santa Barbara View Dispute Process ordinance as a guideline. Ultimately the City Council agreed to have an ordinance drafted and it was approved 6-1 in the recent January 13, 2014 meeting.

New CMH Building: In January, the



Mary Joyce Ivers is careful not to spill electricity on her while filling up this city vehicle.

City of Ventura manages a fleet of over 425 vehicles

by Richard Lieberman

Mary Joyce Ivers, Fleet and Facilities Manager for the city of Ventura, oversees fleet maintenance on a vast array of city vehicles, ranging from lawnmowers to fire trucks. The City operates a 425-vehicle fleet composed of a wide range of models, including Chevrolet, Ford, Dodge, Toyota, International, Sterling, Freightliner, Caterpillar, Onan, John Deere, Toro, Kubota models; BMW motorcycles; and Seagraves and Pierce

fire apparatus. The City's Public Works, Police, and Fire departments utilize vehicles to service the public. Fleet Services' onsite garage maintains all city vehicles and equipment and maintains fueling sites located on Sanjon.

Over 425 vehicles including police, fire, public works, water vehicles, construction vehicles, and street sweepers are all repaired, maintained and kept in

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Free launch services are available while launch ramp is being renovated. Photo by George Robertson.

Do you need to lift 20,000 pounds?

The Ventura Harbor Marina and Yacht Yard proudly announces the acquisition of a negative forklift manufactured by Marine Travelift, Inc. of Sturgeon Bay, WI.

This is the only negative forklift in operation in the Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties and has the ability to launch and haul boats lowering them down 12 feet and raising them in excess of 30 feet with a lifting capacity of 20,000 lbs. The speed and agility of hauling and launching vessels with this unit enormously increases their efficiency, augmenting their 20 ton capacity travel lift.

With the Channel Islands Harbor and Ventura Harbor public launch ramps currently being renovated at the same time, VHM&YY has contracted with The Ventura Port District to provide free

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first cement pouring was completed for the new Community Memorial Hospital (CMH) Building. Expectations for the new building are high and many city officials believe it will have the highest economic impact on Ventura than any other development project the city has seen in years. The old CMH building will be converted into office building space opening up room for a significant number of new businesses in the area, for both those who will occupy the building as well as for those who will support the employees working there from restaurants and coffee shops to dry cleaners and sundry shops.

New City Manager: In February, the City announced it had chosen a new city manager, Mark Watkins. The position was vacated when Rick Cole resigned the position in August 2012 after the City Council informed him they no longer believed their viewpoints were aligned. Johnny Johnston served as interim City Manager until the former Assistant City Manager of the City of Thousand Oaks, Watkins was hired. Watkins is a

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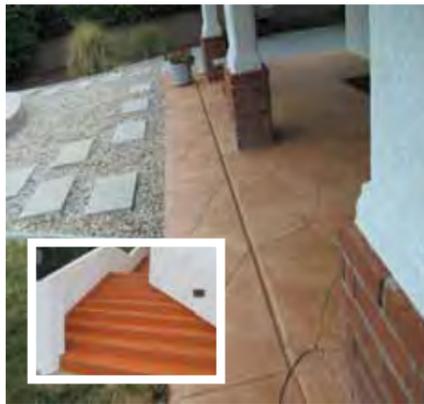
A protest of sorts was held on January 12 against the new Walmart store on Victoria. On hand was Denis O'Leary (on the right), Board of Trustees, Oxnard School District, who organized the protest. Walmart still managed to open on January 15 with a large crowd and store manager Patel, Ventura Mayor Cheryl Heitmann, Chamber CEO Ed Summers and Project Understanding's Executive Director Jim Duran helping cut the ribbon. Photos by Bernie Goldstein.

While in Beijing for Chinese New Year (January 31) you can always catch up with the Breeze at venturabreeze.com



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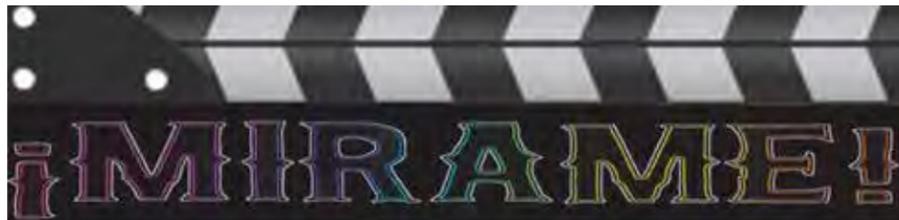
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Lyn Fairly and Friends, Saturday 12-1pm

I really appreciate my fans and want to thank one and all for listening to my show noon Saturdays on KVTA 1590 AM. Once again KVTA was voted the #1 Best Radio Station where you get news, weather, traffic, sports and great live interviews on the weekends. If you have a great story to tell find me on Facebook/LynFairly and become one of my "Fabulous Friends." I am particularly interested in the retired veterans and active military personnel who are deployed or coming home. It is an honor to salute them in my "Military Minute" on every show. If you are a vet or actively serving, come on the show and tell your story!



Horsepower For An Hour, Saturday 1-2pm

Horsepower for an Hour is about increasing Your Horsepower-not just your engine's. We bring you fascinating stories, cutting edge news, cool insights into how to solve real problems. We bring you early previews of coming technology and events. Behind the scenes access to industry events, insider secrets about the automotive world, personal interviews with the greatest personalities in our field, and ... the accessibility of being able to call or text message questions to us for answers during and after the shows. We also have a robust website where value is provided on many levels and shows can be heard or videos seen when you want them!



The Kim Pagano Show, Saturday 6-7am and 2-3pm

The Kim Pagano Show-The brighter side in the 805. Tune into the entertaining Kim Pagano Show every Saturday morning at 6-7am and again at 2-3pm. Your Media Mom talks with guests from the 805 and all over the world about the brighter side of just about everything. Kim's husband Lou now joins the 6 am show to give a man's perspective. Together they are passionate, positive and powerful. Join them, as you never know what they're going to talk about.

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City News



Eddie Palmieri Latin Jazz Band at Ventura High School.

Ventura Music Festival 20th anniversary season

The Ventura Music Festival continues its celebratory 20th anniversary season, featuring Eddie Palmieri Latin Jazz Band at the company's annual Latin Jazz concert on Saturday, February 15 at 8 pm in the Ventura High School Theatre. Mr. Palmieri was the 2013 National Endowment for the Arts Jazz Master (the highest honor bestowed on jazz musicians by the United States) and has won nine Grammy awards.

Mr. Palmieri's music is renowned for its infectious sound, distinctive orchestrations and trailblazing style. His music in the 1970's was the first to incorporate elements of salsa, funk, soul, jazz, and a band comprised of Latin and African-American musicians. His first Grammy Award, in 1975, was the first time Latin music was recognized by the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences.

Artistic Director Nuvi Mehta says, "We are thrilled to have Eddie Palmieri's

Latin Jazz Band return to the festival for our 20th anniversary. Eddie's music is incredibly vibrant, exciting and danceable. It will be difficult to sit still once the music starts!"

Born in Spanish Harlem, Eddie began piano studies at an early age and joined his uncle's band when he was 13. His first band, "La Perfecta," formed in 1961, soon became known as "the band with the crazy roaring elephants" as it featured a trombone section instead of the standard trumpets. At the Ventura Music Festival, Mr. Palmieri's band will include Conrad Herwig, Michael Rodriguez, Vincent Rivero, Orlando Vega, Yosvany Terry, José Claussell, and Luques Curtis.

Tickets are on sale now at ventura.musicfestival.org, or call 648-3146. To receive a free color brochure, or for information about subscriptions or group sales, contact the Ventura Music Festival at 648-3146.

Register by Jan. 27 for Ventura's Winter/Spring Adult Sports Leagues

The City of Ventura is currently accepting winter/spring team registrations for Adult Sports Leagues in Soccer, Softball, Basketball and Volleyball played weekday evenings and on weekends at local parks in Ventura starting in February.

New Softball Leagues, played at the Community Park on Kimball Road, are being offered including: Sunday Coed, Monday Wooden Bat and Wednesday 40+ Men's Leagues.

Individuals looking for a team may add their names to the growing list of Free Agent Players at www.teamsideline.com/ventura. Team Managers, looking for players to fill out their rosters, will

contact them prior to the start of the season.

For online team roster registration forms visit www.cityofventura.net/adultsports or www.teamsideline.com/ventura (\$300-375 per team plus umpire or referee fees).

For more information contact Adults Sports Supervisor Eric Burton at 658-4738 or Doug Reed at 658-4743 or dreed@cityofventura.net.

A brief Ventura 2013 review

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longtime resident of Ventura.

VPD Shooting: All is not rosy in our fair city, and we had our fair share of crime with smaller incidents such as home and car burglary on the rise. In March, Ventura Police Department officers shot and killed suspect Clifford Park, 29, of Vancouver, Wash. at the Motel 6 on Harbor Boulevard when he tried to run over two officers in his truck. Officers Nicole Gallion and Kendra Williams sustained non

life-threatening injuries.

New City Park: City officials gathered in May for a "sign raising" in which they announced the creation of a new westside park at Kellogg Street and Ventura Avenue. The park, temporarily called Kellogg Park has been an empty lot for years, and was funded in part by private money from Kaiser Permanente to help purchase the lot. To date, monies are still being raised to pay for the property.

City Financial Health Report: In May, City Manager Mark Watkins presented his recommended budget for 2013-14 which he believed would set the City on track for stronger fiscal health. The after-effects of the revenue slump of 2008-09 are still being felt as the city saw a revenue decrease of more than \$16 million over the previous five years. With more than \$10 million taken from the General Fund balance in those years, the City had done without in a number of areas – including a large portion of street, building and vehicle maintenance budget – using that money for other city functions. In taking steps to pay back what was borrowed internally, Watkins recommended further reductions including the cutting of more than 10 full-time city positions.

New Trolley to Help Tourism: As part of an ongoing effort to connect the Ventura Harbor and downtown areas, the Downtown Ventura Partners (DVP) led a coalition of business groups to fund a free trolley that travels to and from the two areas with stops at a number of hotels and the Amtrak station. The single trolley runs Wednesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.

City Celebrates 100: As part of its 100th anniversary, the City of Ventura created and buried a time capsule for later generations to open. The capsule included among other things: a cell phone, a Harry Potter book and a copy of the Ventura Breeze. Other personal items such as letters, biographies, photographs and postcards donated by educators, residents and city and county officials were also included in the capsule. The 14-inch steel cube joined three others of its kind designed to be opened in 2066, 2076 and 2113. Mayor Mike Tracy tried to put Breeze publisher Brown in the capsule but he wouldn't fit.

Low Voter Turnout: The year's November ballot saw four council members elected to office. Notably, newcomer Erik Nasarenko made a splash with the most votes in the election. The other three seats were won by incumbents Mike Tracy, Neal Andrews and Jim Monohan. A dismal 21.8 percent of registered voters turned out for the election accounting for less than 13 percent of the entire city population.

Medical Marijuana Voted Out: In a move not unlike other cities in the county, the Ventura City Council voted 4-3 in July to draft an ordinance to ban medical marijuana dispensaries through storefront, mobile operations, collective and cooperatives in the city, as well as large scale cultivation. This was after a lengthy 20 speakers took the stand to air their opinions on the matter, 19 of them opposing an ordinance. The ordinance was drafted and ultimately passed in December 2013.

Granny Flat Amnesty Program: A topic of public confusion and controversy in 2013 was an amnesty program originally introduced by the City Council in an effort to help homeowners to register second units or granny flats on a property without paying back penalties. The aim was to bring second units into compliance to ensure dwellings met

safety regulations for occupants. Additional costs for homeowners were higher than some anticipated which caused a backlash against the amnesty program. Others claimed there was a language barrier for some Spanish-only speaking homeowners. In December, the program was extended to the end of 2014.

The end of the year brought the announcement the Ventura City Council had voted to make Deputy Mayor Cheryl Heitmann the city's new mayor. Newly-elected Erik Nasarenko was elected deputy mayor by his peers. Each will serve a two-year term in their new roles.

City of Ventura manages a fleet

Continued from page 1

operational condition. "Every customer is important to us, and we keep 95% of vehicles operational at all times" said Ivers.

A wide range of services is supported for Ventura's more than 109,000 residents. The City's operating philosophy not only embraces cost efficiencies, but also focuses on sustainability efforts. In 2007, Ventura's City Council adopted the Green Initiative, the first of many steps toward the City's goal of becoming a national model for sustainability. Since its adoption, the City has completed a Greenhouse Gas Inventory, as well as joined the Sierra Club Cool Cities Program andICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability (an association of more than 1,200 local government members who are committed to sustainable development). Ventura city has a goal to reduce fuel usage by 5% each year. Currently the fleet uses 225,000 gallons based on last year numbers. The goal is to reduce fuel usage by 125,000 gallons in five years.

The fleet group employs 6 skilled mechanics and a total of 200 employees who all face an ever increasing complexity in vehicle design, maintenance and repair. "It's challenging keeping up with new, computer technology, new vehicles and equipment" added Ivers. "Currently 40% of energy usage at the facility is supplied by solar power" said Ivers.

The Heavy Equipment Division operates a service and repair facility in Saticoy, purchases and maintains heavy construction and maintenance equipment for the Public Works Agency. Services include: maintenance and repair of heavy construction equipment and vehicles over one ton, transport services and maintenance of most of the County's mobile and standby emergency generators. Heavy Equipment also provides maintenance and repair for non-County local municipal agencies and special districts for vehicles and/or equipment weighing one ton or more.

Since 2008 Ventura is using Telematics and GPS to Improve Fleet Efficiency and this technology has resulted in a 10% overall increase in fuel economy.

The fleet and facilities group strives to keep all city vehicles well maintained and ready at all times for public service.

Do you need to lift 20,000 pounds?

Continued from page 1

launch/haul services until completion of the Ventura launch ramp project in late spring or summer, 2014. Using the negative forklift also saves wear and tear on trailers, vehicles and top siders as they will no longer be submerged in salt water!

To schedule a haul or launch in place of launch ramp use, you may contact them at 642-6755 M-F 8:30 to 3:30 or after hours 470-7994.

VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

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limit them to about 300 words.

Breeze

It is becoming more apparent of where our city officials reside in the City of Ventura based upon what roads are paved in our city. Where side streets,

Opinion/Editorial



Sheldon (Governor) Brown
Publisher

■ I have been told that the proposed summer concert series, to be located above City Hall, might still happen. I certainly hope that it does, it would be great for Ventura and our downtown. I know that sound is a consideration but no one seems to care about the auto racers that sound as if they are racing in my living room.

■ My fairly new laptop came with Windows 8, which I hated. So I had Swift Chip Complete Computer Care install Windows 8.1 which looks like Windows 7 and I love it. Swift Chip can be reached at 866-336-2008 if you hate Windows 8 also (even if you don't).

■ Several new studies by the Southern California Earthquake Center have identified Ventura as a hot spot of geological faults. With a zillion earthquake faults running directly under Ventura and creating a potentially far more dangerous condition than previously thought.

If the fault ruptures along its length and involves other faults, it could cause a major earthquake and completely wipe out Ventura.

So before it is too late I am willing to buy your property for 10% of its value and you can move to Las Vegas.

■ Well, it finally has happened: the dreaded Walmart has opened. Could this be the end of the world? For those of you still asking why did the city allow them to open, the truth is that the city had no say in where they can go if the use is allowed there, which it is. The only control on the Victoria Avenue Corridor is that it could be restricted to 90,000 square feet.

And we have set up secret cameras to make sure that none of you that protested them opening up will go shopping there.

■ Every year I like to share some of my favorite new California laws, there were 800 new laws last year.

The state DMV is allowed to test the use of license plates with changeable digital screens and wireless capabilities. (Another great reason for rear end collisions).

Paparazzi face misdemeanor charges if they attempt to photograph or videotape a

child in a harassing manner if the image is being taken because the parent is a celebrity or other public figure. (And exactly who determines what a harassing manner is and who is a celebrity? So don't take a photo of my daughter Staci in a harassing manner if she is dancing on a tabletop.)

Courts may recognize that a child has more than two legal parents so custody and financial responsibility can be shared by all those involved in raising the child. (Do the kids need to call all of them mommy and daddy?)

Guns must be locked up in homes where felons and the mentally ill reside. (They have got to be kidding; felons are going to lock up their guns? Wouldn't it



"These city trees are blocking my view, off with their heads."

be better if felons weren't allowed to own guns even if they have the constructional right to own them?)

Those who use rifles are required to undergo safety training. (Does that mean that it is okay for those who use handguns to not have any idea what they're doing? But, perhaps if people are untrained in shooting guns they may miss when they shoot up schools.)

Breast-feeding hospitals with a prenatal unit must adopt programs to promote successful breast feeding. (I can hardly wait to see the signage).

■ And regarding the use of guns a boy and girl at a middle school in Roswell were seriously wounded by a 12-year-old boy with a shotgun inside their school gymnasium. On the same day that a 71-year-old retired Tampa, Florida police captain shot two people in a movie house, killing one of them. This was over a dispute about having the dead man stop texting in the theater and got really serious when they started throwing popcorn.

Mailbox

cul de sacs and two lane roads get preference over main roads makes no sense at all. Via Arroyo is a minor one lane each direction neighborhood street. Telegraph Road east of Kimball is one lane in each direction. Bristol and Montgomery Streets are also one lane each direction. However these streets have been paved recently and now are a smooth surface. So why is Telephone Road three lanes each direction east of Kimball out to Highway 118 ignored for over 15 years? I guess the answer is obvious that are city officials do not use this area of the city streets.

Maybe the residents should have more of a say so on where the paving of streets should be done and which roads should have preference over the other ones.

Marsha, an interested resident with damage to their car while driving a hazardous Telephone Road

Marsha:

You can attend the first city council meeting each month (open mike) and tell your feelings to the council and see what they have to say about this

To our Valued Customers and Friends,

Last year our lease ended and we were delighted to have a one year extension. This year its official...After over 20 years in Ventura, and 70 years as a family business, Lautzenhiser's Hallmark (1730 S. Victoria) will close effective February 28.

It is with much gratitude that we thank you for your loyalty and support over the years. We are thankful for meeting so many wonderful people and the smiling faces of the customers who have become our friends through 3 generations of our family business in Oxnard and Ventura.

To our printing and calligraphy customers...I plan to continue my printing, calligraphy and custom invitation business by setting up a little studio in our office space on Eastman Avenue.

With the exception of Valentine's Day Cards and Gifts, everything in the store will be 20%-75% Off.

Just two more shootings protecting us from the bad guys (I hate when people throw popcorn at me).

■ In our last issue we had a photo of graffiti that some sub-humans had applied over a mural on Poli. They have done it again to another mural in Ventura but we will not be showing it so as to not give these idiots publicity, even though I doubt if they can read.

■ Now we have a new reason to argue with our neighbors. The Ventura City Council has just passed an ordinance (by a 6-1 vote) that gives private property owners the ability to go to mediation and arbitration over disputes arising over your blocked views and sun by a neighbor's vegetation. And you could also pursue litigation if an agreement could not be made with neighbors.

If the trees are on property owned by the city the Tree Advisory Committee will settle these claims.

To learn more about the ordinance you can contact the office of city attorney Ariel Calonne at 654-7818 or acalonne@ci.ventura.ca.us. But don't get out your chainsaw quite yet.

■ The Downtown Ventura Partners, the non-profit created to run the downtown business improvement district. The nonprofit district was before the Ventura City Council recently, seeking the support of one of downtown's largest property holders the City. The city owns 22 % of the district's assessed properties.

They received support with the council voting 6-0 for support. Councilmember Christy Weir had to recuse herself because she sits on the non-profit's board of directors.

In voting yes Council member Neal Andrews also requested specific data that showed the financial effects of the organization.

"We haven't seen concrete evidence, not that you don't have it but it hasn't been reported to us, that shows the direct relationship between what you do and the benefits people receive," he said. "Correlation is what I'm looking for."

Downtown Ventura Partners' annual budget is \$440,000 of which \$30,000 comes from the "dreaded" downtown parking meters. Have you noticed how clean downtown is lately?

Rick and I look forward to having some free-time and enjoying holidays with our family. We hope you are happy for us and will keep the ladies on our staff in your thoughts if you have employment opportunities. It has been a long and interesting adventure and we are grateful to have shared it with you.

Sincerely,
Nancy & Rick Manzer

To city council:

On January 1, 2014, I sent an email to everyone on the Ventura City Council regarding age discrimination against older Californians when it comes to the hiring process.

Today I want to tell you that I am totally disgusted at the lack of response I have received from all of you and to tell you that you are not alone. I sent my email to over 100 other politicians and newspapers in California. So far,

Continued on page 15

How old would you be if you didn't know how old you are?

– Satchel Paige



Community Events



The Hans Ottsen Trio were January's free music in the Topping Room.

Foster Library, reading and so much more

1/31 Game Night in the Topping Room from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Wii hosted by the Tag Activity Group (TAG). Meet friends, have fun and eat pizza, the entire family is invited.

2/1 Friends of the Library book discussion 10-noon. *Sweet Thursday* by John Steinbeck. The group meets in the Topping Room and is always open to new members!

2/1 Book Appétit 5-6 p.m. Gluten free food talk and tasting! Local cookbook author will discuss gluten free cooking.

2/4 Make! 3D Modeling workshop 8-10 p.m.

2/9 Sounds of Second Sunday Toni Jannotta 2-4 p.m. free music in the Topping Room.

2/9 Tolstoy in Riyadh: A Story of a Teacher and Her Muse 4:30-6 p.m. Author Chris Cryer will discuss her book which tells of her divorced-single-mother adventure in the heart of the Islamic world.

2/11 Digital Bookmobile returns! The OverDrive bookmobile will visit Kimball Park this year. We would love to see you there!

2/11 Make! GoPro 7:30-9 p.m. Uploading smartphone and GoPro Hero files to YouTube/Vimeo/Ustream and other online portals.

2/12 Tell Me a Story & More 6-8 p.m. A free early literacy educational workshop for parents and/or caregivers

of children ages 0-5. Parents/caregivers will learn the 6 early literacy skills and the 5 practices children need to be reading-ready and how to extend stories into activities. Reservations are required, call the library at 648-2716 for more information.

2/18 Make! Craft night 7:30-9 p.m. Bring in your craft and learn about a new one!

2/19 Are We Crazy About Our Kids? The Cost/Benefit Equation: Video Screening, Discussion and Research Presentation 6 p.m. In this interactive session, Dr. Joan Karp and Dr. Kaia Tollefson will share research on the importance and the economics of investing in high quality early childhood care and education.

2/21 Movie Night! 7-9 p.m. The life of comedienne Fanny Brice, from her early days in the Jewish slums of the Lower East Side, to the height of her career with the Ziegfeld Follies, including her marriage to and eventual divorce from her first husband, Nick Arnstein.

2/22 Ukulele class 11 - noon. A free class where you can learn the basics of playing the ukulele. Don't have a ukulele? Check one out at the library!

2/25 Make! Family night 6:30-8 p.m. Come have fun with Play Doh!

All events are free and open to the public.

at the Ventura High School Theater at 2 Catalina Street. Tickets are \$10 in advance and \$15 at the door. Preferential reserved tickets are \$20 paid in advance. The associated student bodies will serve an Italian dinner generously provided by Milanos for \$5 in the Ventura High School cafeteria from 5:30 to 7pm the night of the show. Go to VEP4VUSD.org to purchase tickets, reserve dinner, and obtain more information.

Ventura Audubon Society's general meeting and field trips

On February 11, beginning at 7:30 pm at the Poinsettia Pavilion in Ventura, the Ventura Audubon Society will

present the program *Treasures Of The Sea*, the Channel Islands with Kate Faulkner and Tim Coonan. Kate Faulkner is Chief of Natural Resources Management at Channel Islands National Park where she is responsible for ecological monitoring and restoration. Kate has a B.S. and M.S. from the University of Michigan and the University of Minnesota, respectively. Tim Coonan is the Supervisory Wildlife Biologist for Channel Islands National Park.

Saturday, Feb. 1, 8:00 a.m.

Hedrick Ranch Nature Area, Santa Paula
Sandy Hedrick: 340-0478

Tuesday, Feb. 4, 8:30 a.m.

Camino Real Park

Adele Fergusson 415-4304

Saturday, Feb. 8, 9:00 a.m.

Coal Oil Point Preserve

Alexis Frangis 217-4833

Saturday, Feb. 15, 8:30 a.m.

Ventura Botanical Gardens

Jackie Worden 652-0577

Tuesday, Feb. 18, 8:30 a.m.

Lake Casitas

Adele Fergusson 415-4304

Saturday, Feb. 22, 8:30 a.m.

Beginners Bird Walk, Saticoy Ponds

Allen Bertke 640-9037

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.

A **free weekly drop-in** community support group for friends and families affected by substance use and/or co-occurring mental health issues. Every Monday 7p.m. to 8:30p.m. at 2443 Portola Road, Suite A. For more info contact Nancy Swanson, MFT 818-749-5724

Jan. 23: Portuguese Fraternal Society of America. The local chapter of PFSA (Council #128) will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday at 11:30 a.m. for a no host luncheon. This meeting is open to any person of Portuguese descent or interested in the Portuguese culture. The meeting will be held at Carrow's Restaurant, 2401 Harbor Blvd. For more information and reservation, please call Cora Corella at 483-6285 or Helen Rolls at 988-0964.

Jan. 24 & 25: New West Symphony concertmaster Danielle Belen will be the soloist for the third Masterpiece Series concert of the 2013/2014 season. The first performance will take place on Friday, January 24, at 8p.m. at the Oxnard Performing Arts Center. Tickets priced from \$25 to \$98 are available by phone, 9a.m. to 5p.m., Monday through Friday at 1-866-776-8400. Tickets are also available in person at the New West Symphony office, 9a.m. to 5p.m., Monday through Friday and through the Symphony web site at newwestsymphony.org. Tickets are also available at the respective concert hall box offices.

Jan. 26: The Ventura County Concert Band, conducted by Ms. Julie Judd, invites you to the second in their 50th season of great concerts with

Ventura County's own band. The all-volunteer band delivers a wide variety of music and includes special guests. The concerts are free, interactive, entertaining and musically enriching for the whole family. Their second concert celebrates Golden Oldies, including favorite classical treasures through the exciting big band era. Sunday, at 3p.m. in the Ventura High School Auditorium, located at 2 N Catalina, free!

Jan. 30: Ventura Executive Suites' event this month Ventura Vitality focuses on health and will be co-hosted with the Ventura Chamber of Commerce.

This night is put on to encourage the growth of locally owned businesses. It's free and open to the public. Bring your business cards and any other publication you have to share with other businesses. There will be an awesome drawing at the end of the night which you will have to be present for in order to win your prize!

The event will be held at Ventura Executive Suites on Thursday, at 701 East Santa Clara Street in Downtown Ventura and will start at 5pm and end at 7pm.

For any further information please call 653-2381 or email: info@venturaexecutivesuites.com.

Feb. 1: Los Angeles' Race/LA, City Race Urban Adventure Hunts send teams of 2 to 4 players on a 3-hour

clue-solving adventure through a Southern California city or neighborhood. Players use brainpower, strategy and teamwork to crack codes, solve tricky puzzles, and uncover little-known facts plus more, all while racing against other teams to be first to the finish with the most correct answers. Hunts are held on weekends throughout the year. City Race hunts are \$40 per person. Advance registration is required at www.race/la.com. **Secrets of Old Ventura** will be held on Saturday, at 10 a.m. Solve tricky clues and puzzles as you make your way through downtown Ventura's lively and diverse historic district.

Feb. 2: A July 27, 1947 broadcast of The Mysterious Traveler and 1931-1935 recordings of the Ray Noble Orchestra will be featured in the Dudley House historic recording series during the **Dudley House open house.** The house will be open from 1p.m. to 4p.m. with a flea market and collectibles faire beginning at 9a.m. The Dudley Docents will give tours of the history of the house with its Dudley family furniture. Admission to the house and the refurbished lavender garden with over 80 varieties of lavender is free. The Dudley House is located at 197 N. Ashwood.

Feb. 2: The Young Eagles program offers free plane rides for youth ages 8 to 17; contact Julie Merrick at eaa723.org for information and reservations. Visitors can stroll through privately owned hangars that house vintage aircraft and collections of memorabilia, vehicles and antiques First Sunday of the month, 10a.m. to 3p.m. at the Santa Paula Airport. The Airport is located at 800 Santa Maria Street, Free admission, food and beverages are available for purchase. Rain cancels the event. 525-1109; amszp.org

Feb. 2: From 3:00 pm to 5:00 pm, he Citizens for Peaceful Resolutions invite you to Huddle for Peace and Justice. Join in a council circle to bring forward your concerns and ideas

Festival of Talent to present students of all ages

Ventura Kiwanis and Ventura Education Partnership present the highly anticipated 13th annual "Festival of Talent," showcasing performances by students of all ages in the Ventura Unified School District. The show director is Brian McDonald of the Rubicon Theatre, and the Music Director is Miriam Arichea. This event is one of the most highly acclaimed school events of the year and one of its biggest fundraisers. The show is expected to raise \$40,000 for Ventura Education Partnership which goes directly into the classrooms in the form of grants to teachers for special projects.

The show is February 22, 7:00 pm,

News and Notes

to help them create their playbook for the rest of the year. Bring snacks, if you like. At the Topping Room, E.P. Foster Library.

Feb. 3, 17: The Ventura County Philatelic Society will hold their Stamp trading and camaraderie event on Mondays from 7:30p.m. to 9:30p.m. Event will take place at the Church of the Foothills, 6279 Foothill Road, admission and parking are free. Come for a great evening. They are a fun group. Contact: vcpsforyou@lycos.com or 320-1601

Feb. 4: 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. Call 642-0239 for information. The classes are held first Tuesday of the month at Livingston VNA, 1996 Eastman Ave, #109, from 1p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Feb. 4: Mended Hearts of Ventura Group meets the first Tuesday each month at the 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 644-2733

Feb. 5: The Beach Cities Neighbors and Newcomers Club, (BCNN) is a group of active women of all ages who live in Ventura, Oxnard, or Port Hueneme and enjoy activities such as hiking, bridge, dining, wine outings, reading, mah jong, cooking etc.

Meeting will be held at their new location at the Ventura Museum Pavilion located at 100 E. Main Street, from 9:30 a.m. to 11a.m. No charge for meeting and no reservation is required. Coffee or Tea is available at a nominal charge of \$1.00. Guest Speakers: Myron Freedman, Executive Director; Charles Johnson, Research Library Director; and Ana Bermudez, Curator of Collections, Ventura County Museum. Subject: Where did all this stuff come from?

Feb. 8: AdeRisa Productions present Ventura's 1st Annual Queer People of Color Live Comedy & Short Film Screenings ¡MIRAME! A special community event focused on using the arts to promote dialogue on the intersection of social issues affecting LGBT communities of color.

Event is for 18 and over. It will be followed by an official after party at Paddy's (for 21 and over).

Event will be held at the Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Rd, cost \$20: Pre-sale, tickets available at: www.aderisaproductions.com. Cost at door: \$25 general/\$10 students with IDs (CASH ONLY)

Proceeds benefit the Domestic Violence Advocacy Project and Bruising for Besos, AdeRisa Productions' upcoming feature film that tackles domestic abuse within same-sex couples.

Feb. 12: The Ventura County Camera Club will hold a critique meeting on Wednesday, at 7p.m. at the Poinsettia Pavilion. A professional photographer from the area will critique members' prints and digital images. Each month a special topic is chosen which features some interesting aspect of photography. Anyone with

an interest in photography is welcome and admission is free. See the club's web site for more information about the club and examples of member's work or call 908- 5663. WWW.Ventura-CountyCameraClub.com

Feb. 12: The Ventura County Law Library is once again hosting legal professionals sharing their expertise with the public. Next month, from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Mediator Brent J. Rosenbaum will discuss Before You Litigate: Mediate, which will cover what mediation, is, how it works, how it can be an empowering process, and when it is a better option than litigation.

The Ventura County Law Library is located inside the Ventura County Government Center at 800 South Victoria Avenue, Call 642-8982 for questions or visit vencolawlib.org.

Ojai events

Bariatric surgery for obesity will be the focus of a free seminar the Community Memorial Health System is hosting as CMHS opens its 2014 Speakers' Series on Saturday, Jan. 25.

Dr. Helmuth Billy, a local bariatric surgeon, will lead the seminar from 9 to 10:30 a.m. in the Soule Park banquet room, located at 1033 East Ojai Ave.

Dr. Billy will discuss a variety of weight-loss procedures and the advantages of losing weight, including relief from type 2 diabetes, weight-related high blood pressure, high cholesterol, sleep apnea and arthritis.

Dr. Billy received his medical degree from the University of California at Davis. He is certified by the American Board of Surgery and is a member of the Society of Laparoscopic Surgeons, the American Society for Metabolic & Bariatric Surgery, and the American Society of General Surgeons.

Admission is free but space is limited, so reservations are required. Call 1-800-906-6093, or visit www.cmhshealth.org/rsvp.

On Sun., Jan. 26 the **Ojai Film Society** will screen *All Is Lost*, a suspenseful drama about one man's battle for survival at sea after his sailboat collides with a shipping container, starring Robert Redford in a tour de force performance.

On Sun., Feb. 2 the **Ojai Film Society** will screen *Enough Said*, an insightful romantic comedy starring James Gandolfini (in his last role before his untimely death) and Julia Louis-Dreyfus.

Both films are screened at the Ojai Playhouse at 4:30 pm.

"A tropical themed evening surely not to miss," is how Auction Chair Karen Graf describes **Villanova's 41st annual Auction and Dinner Dance** to be held March 8 in the Clark Gymnasium on the Villanova campus. This year's event, *Polynesian Paradise*, promises an exhilarating evening featuring Tina's Ports of Paradise Polynesian dancers, and a sumptuous luau-style buffet. Over 200 auction items including vacation rentals, local art, spa treatments and golf outings will be offered to the highest bidder.

Tremendous bargains include a 3-day, 2-night stay at Faria Beach, a foursome at Montecito Golf Club, a

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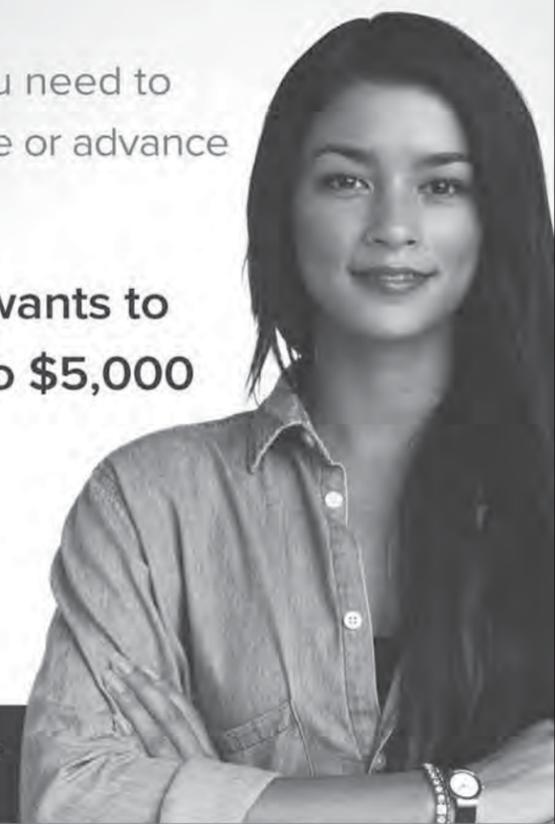
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historian led tour of the Getty Villa, Laker tickets and more. Foodies will be delighted with locally produced wine and olive oil, and delectable restaurant meals. There are gift certificates for massages and other spa treatments as well as many themed baskets to bid on.

The silent auction begins at 5:30 p.m. with the live auction to follow after the dinner /show.

Individual tickets are \$75. A limited number of "Table for 10" sponsorships are available at \$1000.

For tickets or to donate an item to the auction, please call Jeanne Hill at 646-1464 or email Karen Graf atauction@villanovaprep.org before Feb. 28th.

Proceeds from the auction will provide needed funds to complete the renovation of the Learning Resources Center which benefits all students.

Villanova is a Catholic college preparatory day and boarding school at 12096 North Ventura Ave. More information is available at www.villanovaprep.org/auction.

galerie102 is pleased to present Nature vs. Nurture, a two-person exhibit on view until February 23, featuring paintings by Masha Keating and sculpture by Molly Smith.

Nature vs. Nurture explores both artists' interpretation of the natural world and the transformation of those objects found in nature and the importance of an individual's innate qualities versus personal experience," says gallery owner/director Jolene Lloyd.

Keating's large-scale abstract works are an exercise in observation and exploration, delicateness and boldness. Her work embraces the discovery and surprise that comes

with the process Sculptor Smith uses found and handmade materials; as seen in her piece ebb constructed out of a piece of handmade cornhusk paper gently interlaid on a slab of split wood. Her sculptures rest, hang, and balance in arrangements that emphasize the transience and ephemeral quality of the natural world, galerie102 is located at 102 W. Matilija St. in downtown Ojai. For more information visit galerie102.com or call 640-0151.

In what may well be the most fun production of **Ojai ACT's 2014 season – Shrek the Musical** – Director Gai Jones is looking for adults and youth to play the famed Ogres, donkey, fairy tale misfits, lovesick dragon and assorted Dulocians.

Based on Dreamworks' Broadway musical, Jones wants an exuberant cast to portray the characters. All ages, male and female, are welcome to auditions on Saturday, Jan. 25 (5-6 p.m. youth, 6-7 p.m. adults) or Sunday, Jan. 26 (12-1 p.m. youth, 1-2 adults) or Monday, Jan. 27 (5-6 p.m. youth, 6-7 adults). Contact Jones before Jan. 23 to reserve an audition time at: gai.jones@sbcglobal.net

Auditions will be held in the Raymond Room at the Ojai Art Center Theater, 113 S. Montgomery St.

A Scottish dialect for Shrek and German dialect for the pigs are desired and participants should be ready to perform 16 bars of an upbeat song from any musical, and bring your own device to accompany your singing (ipod, CD player). Also, those who audition should be able to demonstrate tap, ballet and hip hop expertise.

A list of characters and more detail is available at www.OjaiACT.



News and Notes

Pensions bust budgets – part two

Submitted by VREG/Res Publica

R. Alviani, R. McCord, T. Cook, K. Corse, R. Berry, J. Tingstgrom, S. Doll

This published budget is long, complex and difficult to read. It consists of real number-clots, number slabs by department and sub-departments with pages of swimming line items in minute detail. It is difficult to read, interpret or understand as a financial planning document. The income information could not be found. The pension data was sprinkled throughout all 589 pages and spread among every department. When asked about the complexity of this document the city Treasurer conceded that this was the equivalent of a “data dump”.

Focusing first on the income side, the City Treasurer, during his oral presentation, projected income of \$86.7 million. This is \$4.3 million more than was collected in 2012-13, an increase of 5.2%, twice the estimated U.S. Gross Domestic product estimate of 2.5%.

No explanation has been given on where this new source of revenue will come from. During the October 2013 candidate forum, Councilman Neal Andrews was asked that question by a citizen. He said, “The City has no plan to grow their revenue, they have a kiss and a promise, in fact, it is highly unlikely that our revenues will grow at that pace...we have no concrete plan that makes that possible”.

The projected deficit of \$1.6 million and sagging income expectations are bad. The annual cost of salaries and benefits for public safety – police and fire – is bad, and will grow to fifty-two

(52%) of the total general budget in the next fiscal year.

Then there is the matter of how much will have to be paid to CALPERS to pay the unfunded pension obligations of City employees, police and fire personnel in addition to the annual operational costs. In 2008 those unfunded obligations totaled \$48 million. In October of 2013 the total was reported as \$173.4 million.

Cities nationwide are grappling with the growing retiree-benefit pension costs which are eating up more of city general funds. That leaves less money to spend on parks, libraries, maintenance of trees and parkways, street lights and other public service projects.

If the total unfunded obligation cost does not get the attention of our new City Council, then perhaps the most recent CALPERS Actuarial Valuations predicting our increased annual payment obligation will. In 2013-14 the required annual contribution total will be \$8,530,730. In 2014-15 the required payment will increase to \$9,489,593.

All the campaign promises in the world are worthless until this new Council establishes a realistic budget and finds real solutions to our public pension obligations. Taxing ourselves out of debt is not a solution. Greater employee contributions to their own retirement and creating a defined contribution plan for new hires will solve the problem in time.



The artisans from the December Store celebrated their fabulous Christmas season with a potluck lunch, and look forward to launching their new year-round store – The December Store & More.



Jill Muchow Rode has significant experience managing capital and endowment campaigns.

Jill Muchow Rode selected

Jill Muchow Rode's resume includes Chief Development Officer of the American Red Cross Central Coast Region, Director of Development for Direct Relief International and Director of Development for the Santa Barbara Zoo, and now Chief Financial Development Officer for Channel Islands YMCA.

Channel Islands YMCA CEO, Sal Cisneros looks forward to a new chapter of stewardship of Y members and donors. “Under Jill's leadership in financial development, and in partnership with the dedicated board and staff throughout our Association, we will continue to fulfill our promise to serve our communities in Youth Development, Healthy Living and Social Responsibility.”

Recognized by the Association of Fundraising Professionals as the Fundraiser of the Year in 2004, Jill has significant experience managing capital and endowment campaigns, major gifts, annual campaigns, special events, planned gifts, direct mail, corporate support and grants. Jill has a bachelor's degree from the University of California, Santa Barbara, is a Certified Fund Raising Executive (CFRE) and is a member of the Santa Barbara Family YMCA.

CMHS to hold seminar on stress management

Understanding and managing stress will be the focus of a free seminar the Community Memorial Health System is holding on Tuesday, Jan. 28.

Dr. Ronald Bale, a local psychologist, will lead the seminar that will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. in the eighth-floor Nichols Auditorium at Community Memorial Hospital, 147 No. Brent St.

Dr. Bale will describe a model of stress that will help people understand what stress is and what causes stress, as well as its adaptive and maladaptive components. Understanding this model will enable participants to identify their own unique reactions and develop effective stress-management strategies.

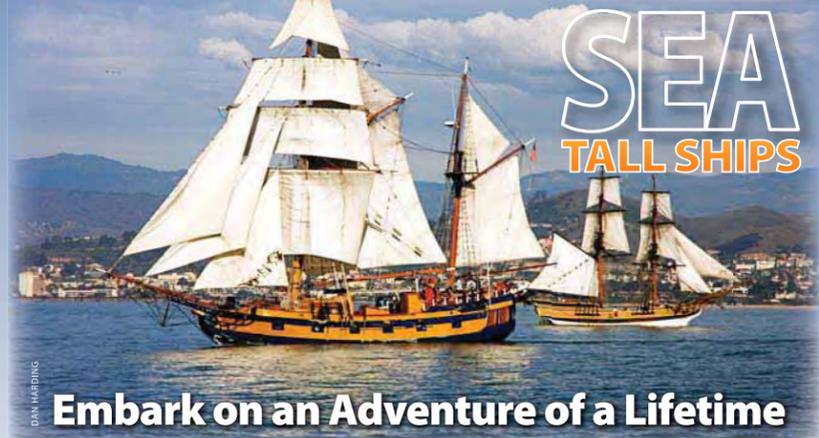
Dr. Bale is a clinical supervisor for the California Lutheran University Psychology Doctoral Program and provides psychological consultation with the CMH Cardiac Rehabilitation Program.

Admission is free, but space is limited, and reservations are required. Call 1-800-906-6093, or visit www.cmhshealth.org/rsvp.

Marine mammal sightings January

7th: 5 Gray Whales
12 Risso's Dolphin
2000 Common Dolphin
8th: 2 Gray Whales
1000 Common Dolphin
50 Bottlenose Dolphin
50 Risso's Dolphin
9th: No Trips Scheduled
10th: 16 Gray Whales
2000 Common Dolphin
50 Risso's Dolphin
11th: 7 Gray Whales
3000 Common Dolphin

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Senior Living

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Rosa Gasparian has a penchant for helping people and working with doctors.

From Hollywood to Health Care

by Sheli Ellsworth

Like many young Californians, Rosa Gasparian was drawn to Hollywood. She attended Los Angeles Film School hoping to pursue a career in film production. But unlike most Hollywood wannabes, Rosa speaks 4 languages, has a penchant for helping people and took a sales job at Valley's Best Choice Medical Supplies to pay her bills. After several months, she knew she wanted a career that involved assisting others, "Working with doctors' offices and helping patients get quick access to the equipment they needed made me realize that I wanted to be in the medical field." After a few more months, Gasparian took over the business from the former CEO, Aram Manoukian, and recently celebrated her one-year anniversary at Valley's Best Choice Medical Supplies.

What makes Gasparian so unique is that she was born in Armenia, grew up in Slovakia, didn't come to the United States until 2000—and only recently turned 24. She is hoping to become more active in the local community and work with local doctors. "My goal is to assist doctors and patients here in Ventura, I would love to have local doctors trust us and try our services rather than work with the bigger out of state companies."

Is this a bad time to be in the medical business—shortly after the Affordable

Care Act went into effect? "Honestly, the Affordable Care Act will not affect the DME (short for medical supply stores) business; however the competitive bidding which took effect in July 2013 really struck us! Either way, we strive to provide clients with the exact product that fits their need, style and most importantly budget. Due to those changes, we understand that many products are no longer covered by insurance; therefore, we have the lowest prices and rental options to help the best we can." Gasparian stays abreast of the fluid medical coverage climate by attending every medical seminar that discusses changes and updates in the medical industry. "This way we can pass coverage information on to our clients and inform them about the new products available." The company accepts Medicare, Medi-cal, HMO's and is still trying to enroll in more medical insurances.

Gasparian, who is new to the area, loves Ventura and brings her optimism into work every day. "Medical supply stores aren't usually walked into for the happiest of reasons, but our mission is to have you walk out happier than before, feeling more active, healthy and independent."

Valley's Best Choice specializes in
Continued on page 11



Dr. Matt Wallace, DDS

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by Lori Harasta

Chair, Healthy Living for Individuals 55+

(To learn more about local health and exercise resources visit www.healthyventuracounty.org, or visit us on Facebook)

Staying properly hydrated can be a challenge, especially since as we age, our brain forgets to remind us we're thirsty. The following is the first in a three-part article that will provide the motivation needed for us to work harder on hydration.

1. Lowering blood pressure: The more water you drink, the more fluids leave the blood vessel, causing your vessels to relax and your blood pressure to decrease.
 2. Reducing cholesterol levels, heart attack and stroke: Drinking adequate amounts of water can lower your cholesterol levels and your risk of arteriosclerosis, heart attack and stroke.
 3. Eliminating Toxins / Body Waste: Dehydration causes toxins to saturate our blood. Excess toxins are stored in cells rather than being excreted from the body. Toxin-saturated blood decreases oxygen to the brain and other organs.
 4. Energy Levels: Water generates electrical and magnetic energy in every cell, providing a natural power boost. People with low energy often drink caffeine in coffee, tea, or soda, to boost their energy levels. Caffeinated drinks ultimately decrease energy levels by provoking dehydration.
 5. Preventing Headache: Headache is often a symptom of dehydration. Before taking pain killers, try drinking a glass of water.
 6. Water and Aging: The burning of nutrients in the body produces acidic waste. Accumulation accelerates the aging process, causing degenerative diseases.
- In the next issue we'll discuss how drinking enough water can help with weight loss, can help reduce the symptoms of arthritis and diabetes.

Water--the elixir of life!

SCAN Health Education Center offers a free senior-focused health presentation at local senior venues on the topic of dehydration, part of their 16-topic community service series called Classroom in the Community. Call Steve Lehman at 658-0365 for further information.

SCAN Health Education Center (6633 Telephone Rd., Suite 100) is offering the following classes:

Balance Screening: 1/22/14 from 1-4 pm. RSVP required. Seniors only. (Free)

Weight Watchers for seniors: weekly meetings start 2/6/14, from 3-4 pm. \$42.95/month

Mature Drivers Class "55 Alive": 2/4 & 2/6 from 8:30 am - 12:30 pm, \$15 for AARP, \$20 for others

Consider the Conversation: 1/28/14, from 10 am-12 noon. Free to seniors

These free educational seminars are provided by Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurse Association:

Diabetes Classes (Linda Hampson, RN, MSN): Sessions discuss Type 2 Diabetes, and individualized plan of care.

Ventura: First Tuesday, 1-2:30 p.m. Livingston Memorial Community Room, 1996 Eastman Ave., Suite 109. No registration necessary. 642-0239

Ojai: Thursday, January 23, 2014, 1:00 - 2:00 pm, Livingston's Ojai Office: 202-A Cañada Street, Ojai, CA 93023.

"Diabetes-Self Management" (Gloria Forgea, RN, MBA, Director of Education, Livingston Memorial): Learn about the different types of diabetes, self management, symptoms/ prevention of hypoglycemia, hyperglycemia, and lifestyle factors.

Consider the Conversation is a powerful and inspiring documentary

The award-winning documentary on death and dying in America, *Consider the Conversation*, will be screened at SCAN Health Education Center on Tuesday, Jan. 28, at 10 a.m. The public is invited to this free presentation, which is being hosted by SCAN and Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurse Association.

Consider the Conversation is a powerful and inspiring documentary that examines how 21st century Americans live at the end of their lives," said Steve Lehman, MBA, MPH, manager of the SCAN Health Education Center. "It reminds us that thinking and talking about life's final chapter well in advance can help prevent unnecessary physical, emotional, spiritual and social suffering."

The film includes personal

accounts from patients, family members, doctors, nurses and clergy as well as national experts on the physical, social and emotional issues related to dying. Following the film will be a discussion led by Lanyard K. Dial, M.D., president, CEO and medical director of Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurse Association and Hospice.

SCAN Health Education Center is located at 6633 Telephone Road, Suite 100, in Ventura. Reservations are required. Call 658-0365 for information and directions. More information about the film can be found at www.considertheconversation.org.

Are you crafty?

The Seniors Craft Shoppe announces new applications open for 2014. Ventura County residents age 50 or older are eligible to apply for membership, which provides an outlet to sell their handcrafted items as well as volunteer and social opportunities.

Applications are available during regular shop hours, 10 am-5 pm Monday through Saturday and 11-4 Sundays. The shop is located at 429 East Main St. in downtown Ventura. Phone 643-3059.

Senior Living



Susan Sher initiated the thought of wrapping up gifts

Holidays are a wrap!

The hustle and bustle of the holidays are well behind us. But it's the feel good acts of kindness that will stay with us through the year. Assisted Hospice and their volunteers took it upon themselves to help those this year that needed it the most. Susan Sher initiated the thought of wrapping up gifts for the patients that reside in facilities that have little to no way to get out and shop. The Hospice team and volunteers wrapped blankets, scarves, socks, combs, hair brushes, lotions, and nail polish. The donations were from Hospice volunteers and Assisted employees. The wrappers were Susan Sher, Marianne Cody (Volunteer Coordinator), Rosemary Libman, RN and Maria Leyva.

The Mound Guest Home in Ventura was the primary focus, but extra items were distributed to other facilities in Ventura County area as well. For anyone interested in becoming an Assisted Hospice Volunteer, please contact Marianne Cody at 677-7405.

Joint replacement class

Livingston Visiting Nurse Association will hold the following Joint Replacement Class to prepare you for total knee or hip replacement surgery. Home preparation, exercises and rehabilitation information will be discussed. Open to the public and free of charge, the classes will be held: **1st Thursday of the Month**, February 6, from 1:00 – 2:00 pm at Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurse Association, # 109, 1996 Eastman Ave, Ventura, RSVP Diana Davis at 642-0239 x 739.

2nd Wednesday of the Month, February 12, from 10:00 – 11:00 am at Pleasant Valley Hospital, 3rd floor Classroom, 2309 Antonio Avenue, Camarillo, RSVP Barrie Gilster at 797-7699.

From Hollywood to Health Care

Continued from page 9

non-surgical ways of reducing arthritis pain. "We invite anyone who is suffering from arthritis to call us today or come in to see alternative arthritis pain management products."

The business located at 2991 Loma Vista Road, Suite A-103 between VCMC and CMH hospitals also specializes in back pain management and carries a selection of back supports and hot and cold compression therapy supports. They are open Mon-Fri 10-5:30 pm and you can reach them at 653-5312.



DEMENTIA 101 SEMINAR

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29TH • 6:00 PM

Dr William Rajala from Assisted Home Hospice will be offering tips and advice on recognizing signs and symptoms along with presenting treatments to ensure the safety of residents and loved ones. Don't miss this wonderful presentation of services available to families.

For more information, and to RSVP by January 28th, please call **805-647-0616**



111 North Wells Road, Ventura, CA



Miss Violet, who at 94-years-old, is truly angelic, beautiful and elegant and lives at Mali's Place, located in Camarillo. She was in failing health until she met her true love Dr. William.

We will never know the full intensity of what these folks felt when their eyes met, but the spark was obviously quite spectacular! From that first gaze, both Violet and Dr. William were inseparable and the electricity was felt by all and their health greatly improved. She remained healthier even after he passed away.

As we approach this Valentine's Day, pause a little and know that love is truly what makes the world go round. Love has the power to heal and does in fact, last forever.

Sandy Morse, RN

Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice

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Created and sponsored by Victoria Care Center, a trusted health care resource in our community for more than 20 years. Whether you are a former resident, family member, concerned health professional or health conscious member of the community, it's time to join Friends and take advantage of all it has to offer.



Friends has at its foundation three core values: community, education and service, and offers its members a broad range of programs and services available right in your own backyard enabling you to age gracefully and live safely in your own home.

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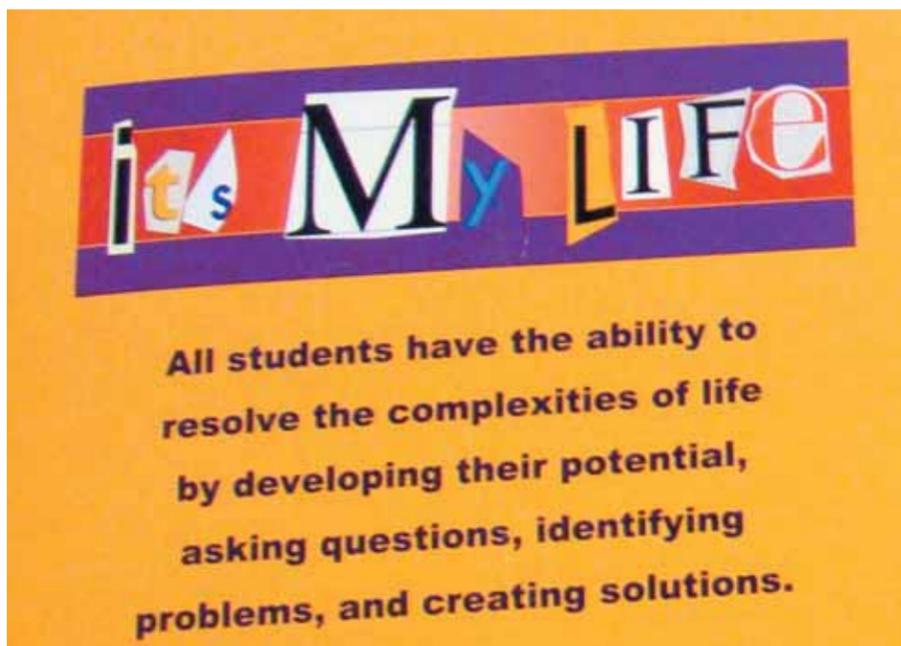
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Youth



"What are we going to do with the teenagers"? It's My Life has the answers.

It's My Life: Blueprint to Adulthood

by Chip Fraser and Brian Jaramillo

Since Socrates, educators, parents, politicians, and society in general have asked the question: "What are we going to do with the teenagers"?

And throughout our history, there have been philosophical changes in action and perspective as to the right thing to do.

In today's world, and probably the future indicates more and more technology. We are becoming more dependent on machines. Academics have swallowed common sense to a degree. Vocational programs have been eliminated as we "adapt" to our information culture. Prominent in the educational model is the conscientious preparation for every student to attend college, which by itself isn't improper, but it does ignore a huge percentage of the population we seek to help.

What has been forgotten in factoring in what is best for our students is the concept known as the Whole Child. This is the reason for a program like It's My Life.

It's My Life (IML) is a program, process, and curriculum that fills in the gaps between what is taught to our students and the actual information that they need to have if they are going to be successful and happy in life. This is an interactive program that is part character development, critical thinking, problem-solving,

truth seeking, coping skills, and adaptation to whatever situations they will encounter.

Prior to this, we allow our children to reach the age of 18 and then we say: college, military, or work? Many follow one of these paths, but many are lost and numbed to the onset of adulthood. It is not a "given" that they will walk right into a successful job or college experience. Because they have been besieged by expectations and the hormonal activity in their brain, there is a discrepancy between what we think they should do and what they do...

IML is a course that answers questions and more importantly, helps them ask questions as to what direction they will need to take. Interaction, writing, projects, speakers, and real life scenarios, involves our students and provides a glimpse of what life is going to be like and options that they actually have. We want to keep them hopeful and believing in possibilities.

Currently, IML is being taught at Pacific High in Ventura and several schools in Santa Barbara, Mendocino, and other cities throughout California. We anticipate other schools in Ventura embracing this program and we expect to start many classes in the future. We have received interest from juvenile court-related programs

in California as the population is a perfect candidate for this program.

We, Chip Fraser and Brian Jaramillo, creators of IML have been fortunate to receive grants from the Institute for Teaching, the National Education Association Foundation, and others to support the development and training; however we have a long exciting journey to reach all students not only in California but the US.

As author AJ Cronin stated:

Life is not a straight and easy corridor along which we travel free and unhampered, but a maze of passages, through which we must seek our way, lost and confused, now and again checked in a blind alley. But always, if we have faith, a door will open for us, not perhaps one we ourselves would have thought of, but one that will ultimately prove good for us.

It's My Life embodies this.

First-Ever Ventura Music Collaborative

The debut concert of the West Ventura Music Collaborative, a free concert featuring 3 separate student ensembles, will take place on Wed., Jan. 29, at 6:00 pm at Ventura High School Auditorium. Presented by the De Anza Academy of Technology and the Arts and its music director, Natalie Spevak, the performance will include that school's beginning band and beginning strings students, as well as students from its 2 elementary school feeder programs: the New West Symphony Harmony Project of Ventura County and student musicians from The Randy California Project.

The New West Symphony Harmony Project of Ventura County is a year-round after school youth development program that provides high quality music instruction 5 hours per week to 95 underserved

third through seventh grade students in Ventura County.

The Randy California Project provides instruments to children of low-income families in Ventura, as well as money to fund an elementary-school band and director. It is funded by the Randy C. Wolfe Trust, the estate of rock musician Randy C. Wolfe, a former member of the rock band "Spirit".

De Anza Academy of Technology and the Arts (DATA) is a Magnet Middle School offering 21st century curriculum including technology-infused and project-based learning, visual thinking strategies, and thriving art and music programs.

For further information contact Sarah Hodges, New West Symphony Director of Education and Community Engagement, at 558-4412. For information about the New West Symphony visit newwestsymphony.org.

Scholarship applications are due

The Women's Opportunity Award is a scholarship awarded each year to a local woman who is the primary wage earner in her family to assist with meeting career/educational goals. SI Ventura's cash award will be a minimum of \$1,500 and the winner is eligible for additional regional and international awards. Applications are available at Ventura College, from Kay Armstrong and online at www.soroptimistventura.org. The Women's Opportunity Award also requires two reference forms which must be included with your application.

Completed applications and reference forms for the Women's Opportunity Award must be received by Jan. 31, and can be emailed to siventura@soroptimist.net, or mailed to Kay Armstrong at P.O. Box 6133, Ventura, 93006.



The Ventura Commerce and Education Foundation (VCEF) has named Frances Flores, 2nd grade bilingual teacher at E.P. Foster School in Ventura, as their December's Teacher of the Month.

Ms. Flores has 9 years of teaching experience. In addition to serving as the bilingual education site liaison, she is also involved in ELAC and migrant education. Ms. Flores volunteers her time after school and during the summer to provide students with academic interventions.



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Founded by J. Krishnamurti

Business (Continued on page 18)



This building on Telephone Road was the last building designed by Architect Sheldon Brown before his metamorphosis to publisher.

Xpress Lubes becomes certified motor oil installers

Xpress Lube Service Center is proud to announce that its three locations in Simi Valley and Ventura have become the first American Petroleum Institute (API) Motor Oil Matters (MOM) certified motor oil installers in Southern California. MOM is an API program that identifies motor oil installers that adhere to the highest possible industry standards and deliver quality motor oils.

"Since 1971, we've always prided ourselves on being a premium service, and when something comes along like this that brings even more credibility to what you do, it's a great thing," said Thomas Haugh, Operations Manager, Lube Pit Stop Inc. "We're excited to be the first installer in Southern California to join the MOM program. The MOM seal lets consumers know that we are a company you can trust, and that we're only pouring high quality motor oils into consumers' vehicles."

In order to qualify for MOM, install locations are required to demonstrate an ongoing commitment to quality, prove their dedication to accurate record keeping and transparency and agree to random audits to ensure only quality oils are installed in consumers' cars and trucks.

The three Xpress Lube Service Center locations have been recognized for passing these rigorous requirements. They are located at 2170 First Street and 4560 Los Angeles Avenue in Simi Valley, and at 4624 Telephone Road in Ventura.

"These Xpress Lube Service Center locations have demonstrated an impressive commitment to their customers by making sure they deliver only high quality motor oils," said Kevin Ferrick, API's Engine Oil Licensing and Certification System manager. "By achieving Motor Oil Matters certified status, all three of these locations proudly display the MOM certified symbol, an easily-recognized sign that assures consumers they will get the quality oils recommended by their vehicle and engine manufacturers."

The locations in Simi Valley and Ventura offer a full range of automotive services, including oil changes, power steering service, transmission

service, fuel injection service, coolant services, and others.

"We understand that it can often be confusing for consumers to get their cars serviced, with competitors offering unreasonably low prices for incorrect, low-quality motor oil that is not right for their vehicles," added Haugh. "Consumers should only trust installers that are certified by the API, as we only pour the correct grade and correctly rated motor oils into consumer's vehicles."

API recommends that consumers visit www.MotorOilMatters.org to find a Motor Oil Matters (MOM) certified oil change location near them, get informed about the vital role quality oil plays in their vehicles, and download the helpful MOM oil change checklist to take to their next oil change. Oil-change locations and motor oil distributors that share MOM's commitment to high quality motor oils - and submit to independent, third party auditing - are the only locations that have the opportunity to be recognized by MOM through the Motor Oil Matters distributor and installer licensing programs.

Rincon Consultants receives Calmentor Award

Rincon Consultants, a Ventura-based environmental sciences and planning consulting firm, was recently awarded the 2012-2013 Outstanding Performance Calmentor Award by Caltrans District 11 and San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG). The Calmentor Mentor-Protégé program is designed to encourage small business participation and support small businesses through voluntary partnerships with mid-size and larger firms.

Rincon is an award-winning environmental science, planning, and



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engineering consulting firm. Founded in 1994, Rincon is a statewide leader in environmental impact assessment, planning, biological resources, sustainability consulting, and soil assessment and remediation. Rincon's expertise and qualifications are mirrored through the diversity of services, clients, and regions served.



David Donaldson makes the list

ERISA employee retirement plan expert David Donaldson was ranked number 87 in the 2013 list of the top 100 Most Influential People in Defined Contribution in a recent poll. Conducted by 401kWire.com, a leading online news

source for defined contribution executives, the annual survey polled more than 120,000 retirement plan professionals throughout the U.S. Donaldson joins the list a little over a year after leaving the U.S. Department of Labor. In 2006 Donaldson was awarded California Small Business of the Year for a private equity company he founded.

World affairs discussion group starting

Join a "Great Decisions" discussion group and learn more about current global issues. An 8-session "Great Decisions" group will meet Sunday afternoons starting February 16th in Ventura.

"Great Decisions" is a program of the Foreign Policy Association. This year's topics include: Defense Technology, Israel, Turkey, Islamic Awakening, Energy Independence, Food and Climate, China's Foreign Policy, and U.S. Trade Policy.

The group will use a "Great Decisions" briefing book and a DVD featuring analyses by former U.S. Secretaries of State and other foreign policy experts. Briefing books cost \$20.

The group will meet from 4:00-5:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 1338 East Santa Clara St.

Please call 643-8621 to sign up or for more information about the discussion group. Information about the "Great Decisions" program can be found at www.fpa.org/great_decisions.



Professor Scamp, Ph.D (Pretty Happy Dog)



Professor Scamp Ph.D

■ In 2013, through the commitment of core staff who have been working in the kennels and cattery since we opened, and the dedication of countless volunteers, SPARC has served the needs of over 1,000 Santa Paula animals. Consistent with our core value, none were euthanized as a result of a lack of space, resources or for behavioral issues. We look forward to many exciting changes in 2014 including the prospect of a new location and the addition of this monthly newsletter to keep everyone "in the loop". Thank you to everyone who has supported the journey...each and every animal matters...and so does each person who contributes toward saving them. Happy New Year from everyone at SPARC.

Sincerely,
The Board of Directors
Santa Paula Animal Rescue Center, Inc. (SPARC)
"a better quality of life"

■ Tiny Loving Canines is a full-time pet adoption center located at the Simi Valley Towne Center and they have just celebrated the rescue of their 1,500th dog. This milestone was reached when they took in a female Chihuahua and a Chihuahua puppy from the Ventura County Animal Service shelter located in Camarillo (I usually have one of their dogs to adopt). It is part of Tiny Loving Canine's commitment to support the move toward us becoming a no kill county. 2% of the animals at TLC are dogs that are from the Camarillo shelter.

■ Another one of my hero dogs is a guide dog named Orlando who was just doing what he is supposed to do when the black Labrador bravely leaped onto the tracks of a Manhattan subway after his blind companion lost consciousness and fell in front of an oncoming train. Luckily both 61-year-old Cecil Williams

and Orlando both escaped serious injury. Orlando began barking frantically and tried to stop Williams from falling from the subway platform. Williams has been blind since 1995 and Orlando is his second companion dog. Orlando just turned 11 (A little younger than me) and will be retiring soon and looking for a good home because Williams cannot support more than one dog after he gets a new service dog.

■ This story does not have such a happy ending but maybe we will all learn from it. A 75-year-old man, while trying to protect his dog was hit and killed by a train in San Diego. The man was walking his dog "without a leash" near the tracks when the train engineer sounded his horn as a warning to the man that the train was approaching. The Labrador dog became startled and ran onto the tracks. The gentleman in attempting to save his dog was struck by the train and killed.

Please use this sad story to always keep your dog on a leash, except at one of our "off leash" parks.

Even when walking down the street without a leash your dog may run across the street to say hi to another dog and get hit by a vehicle.

I know that we like the freedom of not being on a leash but it is not worth dying for.

■ Recently about 80 dogs took advantage of low-cost rabies vaccinations that were offered through the Ventura County Animal Services. Vaccinations were offered at a county fire station and other Ventura County locations and the cost was only six dollars cash per dog or cat. Other vaccines were also offered at very reasonable prices. All dogs must be vaccinated against rabies and licensed per California and Ventura County ordinances and some cities even require cats over four months old to be vaccinated and licensed (It's about time, why should they get away without it?).



This is me at Coastal View Healthcare Center with Lori and Jerry Dulek, volunteers at the Ventura County Animal Services shelter, located in Camarillo. They bring small dogs for adoption to Coastal view once a month. The resident's get to name the dog and named her Dottie. That is Joan Owen who is petting me.

Forever homes wanted

Moonshadow was a staff favorite almost from day one! She has a striking pattern, but the best part about her is that her beauty on the outside matches her inner beauty! This 1-year-old stray is friendly, playful, affectionate, submissive, loves other dogs, plays fetch and is an overall big puppy!
She is at the Camarillo Adoption Center, 600 Aviation Dr., A590109.



Danielle is everything you could want in a bunny! She is sweet, gentle, and fun, enjoys attention and is good with her litter box. During play time, she will run up to the side of the pen and stick her nose through the bars to be petted. This pretty little lady has been at VCAS since June and would just love to have a home of her own where she can live inside as part of the family. Danielle is already spayed and will be a great house rabbit. She is at Ventura County Animal Services, 600 Aviation Drive in Camarillo in kennel #418, ID A576314, and her adoption fee is \$50.



Hi: I'm Chip, a 5-year-old Chihuahua who is very fearful until I get to know you, then I'm very sweet. I'm in need of a permanent or foster home. I need an adult-only home with an experienced owner. I bark at cats so it'd probably be best if there were no cats in the home. I enjoy playing with toys and getting attention. I'm in need of a new home because my owner is dying and can no longer take care of me. I'm house and crate trained and I hope it's not long before I'm a cherished member of a loving family



The Canine Adoption & Rescue League, Sam's Place, 3203 E. Main Street, 644-7387. www.carlvc.org.

Scamp Club

(Scampclub pets are not for adoption.)



Hi: I'm Buttercup, I was hit by a car a couple of weeks ago, but have made a miraculous recovery because I am one tough señorita! I am 10-years-old and like to chase cats (don't know what I would do if I caught one), long walks and eating almonds which I remove from the shells all by myself.

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.



Dr. Jill Muraoka Lim
Dr. Janis Shinkawa
Dr. Nicci Quinn
Dr. Kate Byrne



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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.

Shooting

On Monday, December 16th, at 10:16 p.m., the VPD received a call of a shooting that occurred in the parking lot to the rear of 53 South California Street. Additional information of a shooting victim seen in the area of California Street was reported. Officers located the victim, a 29-year old-male, suffering from numerous gunshot wounds. The victim was transported to a local hospital where he underwent surgery for his injuries and is in critical condition.

VP Detectives developed information that Shadeh Assphor was the suspect in this crime. On Sunday, December 29th, a California Highway Patrol Officer in Glenn County California stopped Assphor in a vehicle and he was arrested. Assphor was extradited back to Ventura and is in VC Jail awaiting arraignment.

Lewd Conduct

On Tuesday, January 2nd, at 11:45a.m. an 18-year-old female Ventura resident was riding her bicycle near the intersection of Kimball Road and Foothill Road. She observed a white male subject driving around the immediate area in a white 4-door sedan. On multiple occasions, as the subject would pass by the victim, he could be seen with his shirt off committing lewd conduct while watching the victim and still slowly driving his vehicle. After the subject drove by the third time, the victim called 9-1-1 to report the crime.

Ventura patrol officers were dispatched to the area and stopped a vehicle near Wells Road and Telegraph Road that matched the description given by the victim. The vehicle was a white '94 4-door Chrysler sedan driven by the suspect Frank Uli (62-year-old Ventura resident). Uli was positively identified as the subject involved in the lewd conduct and was subsequently booked at the Ventura County Jail.

Strong Arm Robberies

On January 15 and 16, both a 15-year-old male (name withheld), Ventura resident and a 25-year-old female (name withheld) Ventura resident were victims of strong arm robberies at the Pacific View Mall.

On January 15, at 5:15 p.m., the 15-year-old male was confronted in an outside stairwell located on the south side of the mall by two adult males. One of the males demanded the victim's skateboard and cell phone. The victim handed over his property out of fear of being physically assaulted. The suspect and his companion, described as black males, fled on foot and were last seen westbound on E. Main Street from the mall parking lot. The victim contacted the Ventura Police Department a short time later and officers responded to the area and searched for the suspect however he was not located. The victim was not injured during this crime.

On January 16, at 9:00 p.m., the 25-year-old female was walking through the parking lot on the north side of the mall adjacent to the mall parking structure when she was ap-

proached from behind and struck in the waist. The victim turned to face her attacker and attempted to call police on her cell phone. The suspect forcibly knocked the victim's phone from her hands, picked it up, and fled the area on foot.

The suspect, described as an Hispanic male 17 to 20-years old wearing black clothing and a black base ball cap, was last seen running towards Mills Road.

The victim received a minor abrasion in the assault and declined any medical attention at the scene.

Officers are reviewing mall security camera footage in both of these incidents in an effort to obtain additional suspect descriptions and images.



Elizabeth Russell Topping might have delivered books to your house on horseback.

Q&A in the Breeze

Q: Just who is this Topping person that we hear about, like the Topping Room at Foster Library?

Larry Dote, an online reader from Nevada

A: Larry:

In 1925, Elizabeth Russell Topping became the second, and most active Ventura County librarian. Which at that time was just moving into the old City Hall with a starting salary of \$1,800 a year.

A graduate from Cornell University in 1906 she devoted her life to her love of reading and libraries. After teaching in Salem, Oregon, she moved to New York and obtained a Bachelor of Library Science degree from the New York State Library School in Albany.

She was born on March 27, 1892, retired in 1949 and died on November 11, 1966 at age 74.

Miss Topping even delivered books by horseback to far reaches of the county and developed the first bookmobile service in the state of California.

During WWII, she worked with the Soroptimist Club to provide books for the amphibious forces at Seaside Park and developed the library's first education department, which included pictures, posters, maps, globes, films, slides and other teaching aides.

Mailbox

Continued from page 5

only the newspapers have responded. You can read my article about this heinous practice in this week's edition of The Breeze. I had another Opinion piece printed on the same subject in the Ventura County Reporter in 2011. Here is a link to that work: http://www.vcreporter.com/cms/story/detail/times_of_prejudice_linger_on/9017/

I am keeping several news organiza-

Dr. Ron Magnusson is back in Ventura!



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tions apprised of my efforts to get the practice of ageism banned in California (and ultimately the country).

What I would like to see is a measure put before and approved by the City Council prohibiting age discrimination by enacting the Tenets of the SAGE Act. There is no way to totally ban any type of discrimination but the laws we now have in California against age discrimination are toothless and just so much words. The SAGE Act sets real, attainable, guidelines for employers that would make this practice much more difficult to practice if not wipe it out all together.

If we can start here, we can make it happen everywhere and we can show older Californians that they are welcome to work in our city.

John Darling

Just like home

My wife and I just relocated to the Ventura/Oxnard area a little more than a week ago. We have traveled coast to coast in the last 3 weeks. We currently have residence in SW Florida on a smaller island named Black Island in the Gulf of

Mexico. The island is also home to Lovers Key State Park & Beach. It was featured a few years back as being ranked nationally by the Travel Channel as having the fourth best beach in Florida. We are also just a drawbridge away from Estero Island and the town of Ft Myers Beach. I was born and raised in SoCal and my wife is from upstate New York. She is very new to the area. I really didn't spend a lot of time in North LA, but definitely remembered the area.

I am writing this brief article because the city of Ventura being bigger in size and population reminds me of our little island community back home. The people are friendly and the ocean with its mystic ambiance contributes to the cozy community feeling here. Both the Ventura and Oxnard harbors are postcard picturesque with their mast and captains quarters poking up through the variety of ocean going vessels. It was very comforting to land in a community that mimics our own home port. We are looking forward to our five month stay and enjoying all the shops, restaurants and sites.

Best Regards
Anthony Scopel

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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.

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



Show Time



Ventura Music Scene

Colbie Coillat's special appearance at the Watermark

by Pam Baumgardner

VenturaRocks.com

Pam @VenturaRocks.com

Ventura's music scene was just about as hot as it gets Thursday night, January 17, when the Watermark's W20 played host to a new artist showcase. Grammy winning producer, Ken Callait (Fleetwood Mac, Paul McCartney, Pink Floyd...) brought several acts from his own label, Sleeping Giant Music Group. Backing up the first three artists were three of Ventura County's finest musicians, Joe Baugh (guitar), Sam Bolle (bass) and Mario Calire (drums). Andrea Russett, super popular with the social media crowd with over half a million Twitter followers, was the emcee. On the bill were Laura Rizzoto, Caitlin Edge, Lola Delon, Bean and New Hollow. Several of the acts have music on radio already with the latter getting spins on KROQ. The announcement for the showcase also promised the debut of Colbie Coillat's new music video and a special guest appearance, which turned out to be none other than Colbie herself performing two of her songs live. The night was amazing and I'll be watching for big things from all artists with special attention on Lola Delon.

Discovery Ventura has been open since mid-December during what is called a "soft opening". Their New Year's Eve party as expected was a sold out event. But now, it's going to be official as they pull out all the stops for their grand opening celebration kicking off with a ribbon cutting ceremony at 5:00 pm on Wednesday, January 22. The weekend's music will be off the hook with Dirty Rice and Shaky Feelin' together on Friday and then Rey Fresco rockin' the house on Saturday the 25th. Get advance tickets at www.DiscoveryVentura.com.

Jukebox Mutiny recently brought on board Ryan Reynolds (additional guitars and synth) joining Ron Dusky (bass), Jaymes Quirino (guitar) and Jeremiah Esparza (percussion). Dusky told me, "It's been a very good and dynamic addition." The band has been working on new material and polishing up their older stuff. I'm looking forward to their next gig, which may be a Sunday afternoon stint at Sans Souci.

Things should get interesting for the Breaking Banjos 2014 Tour, making its first stop at Bombay Bar and Grill on Saturday, February 1. On the bill will be three acts featuring banjos, 50 Sticks of Dynamite, Whiskey Chimp and 5th and Birmingham.

I'm also looking forward to Send Medicine who will be coming to town from L.A. to play one of Green Art

People's (GAP) Wednesday night concerts on January 22. Julian Hacquebard of Send Medicine told me they heard about GAP from sources whose opinions they trust describing their sound as, "A mix of psychedelic/folk/blues with hints of tribal percussion and garage." Shows start earlier than most here in town at 6:30 pm, so the GAP crowd has been moving to The Tavern afterwards for more music from Mark Masson (Shaky Feelin') who is the master at keeping the party going.

Have any music related news or upcoming shows you want help on publicizing? Send all information short or long: Pam@VenturaRocks.com.

Two on the Aisle

Laugh with the KAX insiders

by Jim Spencer and Shirley Lorraine

Insiders generally get the very best. Someone who's an insider can get the pick of the perks, like knowing someone who can score the best tickets to an event.

Every profession has an organization that stages conferences for its members to network and share ideas to advance their common interests. The entertainment industry is no exception. Being performers, conventions in the entertainment industry often feature shows open only to members and insiders where the best of the best perform for their peers.

On Saturday, February 1, we Ventura County residents will have an unequalled opportunity to be insiders at a show business event otherwise closed to the public. It is a gala show being presented as part of a conference of entertainers at Oxnard's Mandalay Beach Embassy Suites Hotel.

The conference is the inaugural West Coast edition of a convention regularly staged in the eastern U.S. by KIDabra - an international organization of entertainers whose focus is presenting acts that are always AAA - all ages appropriate. Its membership includes comedians, magicians, ventriloquists and other performance artists.

The event is called KAX and it is presented in collaboration with Steve Axtell and Axtell Expressions - Steve's studio in Ventura. Axtell's studio is known world-wide in entertainment circles as the magical factory where Steve creates figures, illusions, puppets and animatronic characters for TV, film and individual performers. Insiders attending the convention will tour Axtell's Ventura facility as a KAX conference perk (KIDabra + Axtell = KAX).

The conference is drawing entertainers from across the nation and the globe. Since there are so many pros attending who West Coast residents seldom get to see, KIDabra founders and directors Mark and Tami Daniel are inviting everyone in the area to enjoy the traditionally "insiders only" variety show that caps off the convention.

The show's line up of seasoned professionals foretells it will be a night of high hilarity and comedy. The show's emcee is the charming humorist/ventriloquist Jay Johnson, whose Broadway show, *The Two and Only*, received a Tony award. Atlanta is represented by the award-winning comedy magic of its native son and the

show's producer, Ken Scott. Disney cruise ship favorite and Star Search winner Taylor Mason is also on board.

The outrageously funny ventriloquist-magician John Kimmons is flying in from the U.K. to perform. Boston-based comedy magician Mike Bent, whose credits include the White House Easter Egg Roll, is known for producing big laughs and surprises. The wildly wacky and creative Buster Balloon promises to also keep the laughs flowing.

A special performance by master puppet builder and performer, Rene Zendejas, assisted by long-time co-performer and former Muppeteer, Joe Selph, will display the graceful artistry of Zendejas' legendary marionettes.

Admission to the two hour, laugh-filled show on February 1 is \$12 for adults and \$5 for kids. Tickets are available only at the door on a first come, first served festival seating basis. The show is at 8:00 p.m. in the Mandalay Beach Embassy Suites' Ballroom, 2101 Mandalay Beach Rd., Oxnard. More info at <http://www.kidabra.org/#!kax-saturday-gala-show/cofw>.

The Secret Life of Walter Mitty



Movie Review by Andrea Gibb

andregibb@hotmail.com

Ben Stiller stars and directs in this comedy-adventure based on a short story by James Thurber - a feel-good hit! A surprise hit for me, since I normally get nervous around Ben Stiller, who plays Walter; I'm always afraid that his goofiness will spin out of control. In this film, the lovable crazy is Kathryn Hahn, who plays Walter's sister, Odessa. But even her nuttiness is sprinkled judiciously throughout the film, like the right amount of cardamom. Shirley MacLaine plays their mother.

It's a hard film to pigeonhole. You want action? You've got Walter, an employee of Life magazine, surfing chunks of New York pavement in a high speed chase. Fantasy? He imagines braving the flames of a raging fire to save his girlfriend's dog. Want romance? Co-worker crush, Cheryl (Kristen Wiig) shows up in a karaoke bar, singing David Bowie's iconic *Space Oddity* to him. It's another one of his fantasies, of course.

Want a mystery? To save his job, Walter must piece together clues to find the lost negative for the cover of Life magazine's final print issue. Adventure? James Bond himself would envy the exotic locales and hair-raising obstacles that Walter faces on his quest. Although the beautiful female spies Bond usually tangos with get replaced here with a surly Sean Penn playing the outdoor photographer, Sean O'Connell. His macho persona is the perfect foil to Stiller's bumbling character.

There's plenty of satisfying comeuppance for the major creep in this movie, Ted Hendricks, (Adam Scott) the loathsome hatchet-man who's downsizing the staff of the magazine and who is determined to chop Walter

if he doesn't come up with the all-important negative. In his fertile imagination, Walter is heroic in front of his co-workers by dealing Ted snappy insults. In reality, the only person who seems to take him seriously is his friendly E-Harmony customer service rep.

Yes, it's quirky. It's absurd. But *The Secret Life of Walter Mitty* is an amazingly fun ride.

Trivia: The New York workplace of Walter Mitty depicts the offices of Life magazine, which defined American photojournalism, published from 1936-2007.

Rated PG. 114 minutes / Adventure, Comedy, Drama

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1/31 - Into It, Over It, Dwight Yoakam 8pm

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Sun 1/26 - Shawn Jones

Thur 1/30 - San Buenaventura Social Club

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Fri 1/31 - Chris Duarte Band (Texas Blues Rock) 8pm

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Shoe



Sam and Silo



Mother Goose and Grimm



Crock



Dustin



Between Friends



Solutions on page 15

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

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: ★★

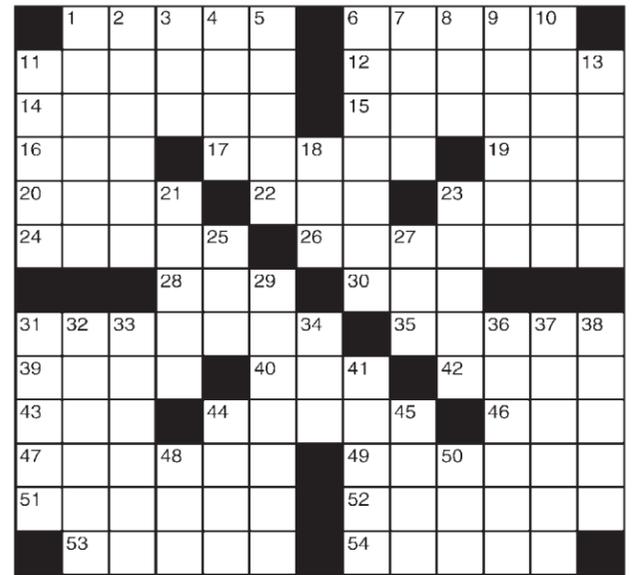
★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

Solutions on page 15

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Thick slices
- 6 Modeling materials
- 11 John le Carre spy
- 12 Excursion
- 14 Impede
- 15 RV
- 16 Scepter topper
- 17 Cleavage-hiding scarf
- 19 Shell game need
- 20 "So be it"
- 22 "You've got mail" co.
- 23 Bacterium
- 24 Suitable for singing
- 26 Nobility member
- 28 Enjoyment
- 30 Hearty quaff
- 31 Parlor pieces
- 35 Phi Beta —
- 39 Quarry
- 40 30-Across provider
- 42 Mountain lake
- 43 Anger
- 44 Wheat bundle
- 46 Central
- 47 Monkey (with)
- 49 Put a — on (deaden)



- 51 Sound
- 52 Lubricate
- 53 Decorate
- 54 Dadaist Max
- 8 \$ dispenser
- 9 "Hooray!"
- 10 Villainous looks
- 11 Sandbar
- 13 Metric measures
- 18 Officer of the law
- 21 Swell
- 23 Terrific
- 25 Prompt
- 27 Wapiti
- 29 Kidney component
- 31 Skewers
- 32 Mistakes in
- wingding
- print
- 33 Abounded
- 34 Seek restitution
- 36 South American plains
- 37 Mass figure
- 38 Violinist Rieu
- 41 18-Down's emblem
- 44 Prophet
- 45 Jamie of "M*A*S*H"
- 48 Expert
- 50 Chaps

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22) You might feel obligated to help work out a dispute between family members. But this is one of those times when you should step aside and let them work out their problems on their own.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Taking some time out of your usually busy social life could be just what you need to help you focus on putting those finishing touches on your plans for a possible career change.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) A misunderstanding about a colleague's suggestions could create a delay in moving on with your proposal. But by week's end, all the confusing points should finally be cleared up.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You might feel overwhelmed by all the tasks you suddenly have to take care of. But just say the magic word — help! — and you'll soon find others rushing to offer much-needed assistance.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Finishing a current project ahead of schedule leaves you free to deal with other upcoming situations, including a possible workplace change, as well as a demanding personal matter.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Turn that fine-tuned feline sensitivity radar up to high to help uncover any facts that could influence a decision you might be preparing to make. Devote the weekend to family activities.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A state of confusion is soon cleared up with explanations from the responsible parties. Don't waste time chastising anyone. Instead, move forward with your plans.

LIBRA (September 23 to October

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Your ability to resolve an on-the-job problem without leaving too many ruffled feathers earns you kudos from co-workers. You also impress major decision-makers at your workplace.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Newly made and long-held friendships merge well, with possibly one exception. Take time to listen to the dissenter's explanations. You could learn something important.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Be prepared to be flexible about your current travel plans. Although you don't have to take them, at least consider suggestions from the experts in the travel business.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) A problem with a recent financial transaction could lead to more problems later on unless you resolve it immediately. Get all the proof you need to support your position.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Daydreaming makes it difficult to stay focused on what you need to do. But reality sets in by midweek, and you manage to get everything done in time for a relaxing weekend.

BORN THIS WEEK: Your ability to reach out to those in need of spiritual comfort makes you a much-revered, much-loved person in your community.

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Grand Opening Specials!

Business

Discovery | Ventura - Grand Opening Celebration

Discovery is excited to announce its much anticipated Grand Opening celebration on Jan. 22 - 26. The week is stacked with events at the 70-year old-venue which recently underwent a multi-million dollar restoration located at 1888 E. Thompson Blvd. in Midtown Ventura, formerly home to Poinsettia Bowl and Ventura Bowling Center.

The week-long grand opening festivities will kick-off today with the ribbon cutting ceremony at 5pm, followed by an open house reception with complimentary hors d'oeuvres, prizes and giveaways, and a silent auction benefiting local non-profit organization, FOOD Share. The week's events will include dueling pianos, a local band showcase, DJ entertainment, and more.

Discovery opened with a "soft launch" in mid December and has quickly become a new and exciting destination. With décor that is made with repurposed wood from the original building built in the 1940s, the venue features 9 lanes of bowling - one of which even has its own beer tap - a full service dining program and restaurant offering California cuisine made from locally-sourced ingredients, and a socially designed, horseshoe bar pouring hand-crafted cocktails.

Beyond the traditional bowling alley, Discovery also offers live entertain-

ment, private party and banquet spaces, billiards, shuffleboard, comfortable lounge seating, original local artwork, and a heated patio.

Hours of operations will be weekdays from 4pm - 2am and weekends from 10am - 2am. Happy hour specials will be offered daily from 4-6pm, and a late-night menu will also be available.

Discovery will also be hosting a food drive during the grand opening for FOOD Share. The first 100 people to bring in non-perishable goods will receive a complimentary beverage.

For more information please visit www.discoveryventura.com.

Ventura Chamber happenings

As the Ventura Chamber of Commerce prepares to enter a new year, several changes are in store for the Board of Directors. Mary Jarvis (Kaiser Permanente) will succeed Jim Duran (Project Understanding) as the new Chair of the Board and will be formally installed at the Annual Meeting & Board Installation. During the evening 4 new members to the Board - Monica White (Ventura County Star), Tim Hampshire (Dairy Farmers of America), Diane de Maily (DDM Metering Systems), and Sam Benner (Benner Marketing Group) will be installed.

The Ventura Chamber's Annual Meeting and Board Installation will be

Continued on page 20

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Art Scene



:Last year's 1st place winner, Danny Lawlor, poses with his award winning work, "Gold Coast Transit" and competition juror, Bob Privitt.

Call for entries

Buenaventura Art Association is announcing a call for entries to its 8th annual collegiate scholarship competition, The BAA Emerging Artist Cup. This competition is open to students attending college or university in Ventura County and taking a course of study in art. \$3,000 in scholarships and prizes will be awarded to winners in 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place categories, as well as 5 Honorable Mentions. The

deadline to enter the competition is Saturday, February 8, at midnight. All entries must be submitted online at the Buenaventura Art Association website, www.BuenaventuraGallery.org.

The juror for the competition is Bob Privitt, Professor Emeritus from Pepperdine University. Privitt was a Professor of Fine Arts at Pepperdine University from 1979 to 2002 and director of the Pepperdine University Art Gallery.

Art, a la Carte



Red Brick Gallery starts the New Year and their 7th year with their exhibit *Longevity* featuring a variety of colorful and dynamic scenes with subjects of strength that have weathered time. The featured artists include Pam D'Ambrosio's plein air landscapes of local historic buildings and landmarks, Patty Van Dyke's depiction of local trees in watercolors and dramatic local photography by West Cooke. Join in celebrating their luckiest year in business with their artist reception and 7th anniversary party January 25th from 6-9pm.



Works of Robert Burridge on exhibit through Saturday, January 25

Born in 1943 in Pennsylvania as the middle of five boys, Robert Burridge took an early interest in performing, teaching himself juggling and acrobatics along with ventriloquism and magic tricks. Burridge went on to earn a Bachelor of Science degree in industrial design with a minor in fine art painting at University of the Arts in Philadelphia, then spent nearly 20 years as an award-winning designer for several large U.S. manufacturers before relocating to Santa Barbara as an independent design consultant. Examples of his artwork can be viewed online at: www.RobertBurridge.com.

Buenaventura Gallery, 700 E. Santa Clara Street, Ventura, California.



Join for an evening of witty conversation as two industry giants candidly discuss their works and perspectives. Enjoy Sanders' exhibit in the gallery immediately following the panel discussion. Ojai artist Jeff Sanders' offers his vision of everyday America in Tina's Toys and Other Things, a provocative exhibit running through February 2.

John Nava studied art at UC Santa Barbara under Howard Warshaw and did his graduate work in Florence, Italy.

The **Museum of Ventura County** is located at 100 East Main Street in downtown Ventura. For more museum information go to www.venturamuseum.org or call 653-0323.

George Stuart Audio Project

The George Stuart Historical Figure® Collection will kick off an exciting new project in 2014, called the George Stuart Audio Project. Its goal is to assemble a comprehensive archive of George Stuart recordings of each Figure in the Museum's collection. This ongoing project will cover almost 400 Historical Figures that George Stuart has created during his lifetime. The Museum invites you to be a part

of the process. In the intimate setting of the Smith Gallery, where the figures are displayed, curator Ariane Karakalos will host 60-minute George Stuart presentations during which the artist will elaborate on approximately 8 to 10 figures from the display while being recorded.

The first recording took place on January 21, The second recording will be on Tuesday, February 4.

Seating will be limited to 30 attendees. Secure your seat 653-0323 extension 7. Admission is \$5.00 for Museum members and \$10.00 for the general public per presentation.



Vita Art Center (432 Ventura Ave., Studio 30) presents *Objects of Curiosity* by Dan Levin on exhibit through January 30 and Pamela Grau *Unified Emergence* from February 7 – 28 with an opening reception: Friday, February 7 from 6-9 p.m.

Friendly lunacy and logic do an odd kind of dance in the assemblage art of Dan Levin. In his approach to the medium this artist understands that logic, even of a twisted variety, can prevent the appearance of randomness in work that's all about discarded objects. Gallery Hours: Mon-Fri. from 10-5, weekends by appointment.

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This 'n' That



Contacts N Coffee is in its fourth year with over 25 chapters from San Diego to San Luis Obispo and everywhere in between. The first chapter was founded in Santa Barbara by their fearless leader Ryan Lynch - Utopia, and soon spread across the Southland. Open to all businesses, so come on down and check them out. Your first visit is free and then it's only \$ 5.00 per meeting. The Ventura chapter meets every Wednesday morning at 8:00 to 9:30 a.m. at the Livery Theater, 34 N. Palm Street in downtown Ventura, half block north of Main Street. Free street parking until 10:00 a.m. They serve hot coffee and delicious donuts at the meetings. Please join them for friendly, informal and focused networking and promote your business with a 30 second commercial. And be the first ones to pick up a copy of the latest Ventura Breeze newspaper.

For more information: email info@contactsncoffee.com - www.contactsncoffee.com or call James Francis Gray: Cell 290-3359, jamesgray@sbcglobal.net - They are also on social media; on Facebook and twitter.

Photo by Laura D Luongo- Studio Loungo.

Ventura Chamber happenings

Continued from page 18

held on Thur., Jan. 23, at the Wedgewood Banquet Center from 5:30pm - 7:30pm. Light appetizers will be served. Admission to this event is \$25 for Chamber Members and \$40 for General Admission. To register for this event, please contact the Chamber at 643-7222.

Join them on Thursday, January 30 from 5pm - 7pm for their first evening networking mixer of the year at The Mix! Hosted by Ventura Executive

Suites (701 Santa Clara St., Ventura). Executive Suites will be partnering up with several local businesses that evening, including Midtown Café, Luxe Salon & Day Spa, Spice Topia, Eric Ericsson's Fish Company, Jai Rhythm Yoga, Ventura Breeze, among many others who will showcase their services and provide samples of their products and treats! The Mix is free to attend and open to the public. They look forward to seeing you there! Please bring a door prize for more exposure and your business cards!



THIS SPACE FOR WRITING MESSAGE

MANUFACTURED BY LONGSHAN CARDS CO., LOS ANGELES, CALIF.

The lucky (Except for the over 100 degree weather) Ventura Breeze made it to the Australian open with Christine Cardoso-Moore who didn't play in it this year because she is too busy selling real estate to take enough time off in case she made it to the finals.

POST CARD

GOING ON VACATION? BE SURE TO TAKE THE VENTURA BREEZE WITH YOU AND SEND US A PHOTO WITH A LITTLE INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR TRIP AND EMAIL TO EDITOR@VENTURABREEZE.COM



On January 15 Ventura City Fire Department responded to a reported structure fire in the 100 block of E. Vince. Firefighters mounted an aggressive attack on the involved structure, stopping the forward progress and extension of the fire into the adjacent units. Crews deployed hose lines to protect the adjacent structure and a valuable antique vehicle. Photo by Susan Bardsley.