



VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

Vol. 3, No. 3

Wednesday, November 18, 2009

The DUI problem a matter of life & death

by Joseph Owen

5597 is a large number. Now, if I told you this was the number of criminal complaints referred to the Ventura County District Attorney's Office in 2008 for driving while impaired would you be shocked?

This reporter was stunned! I had no idea Ventura County citizens were being victimized to this extent by irresponsible drivers.

This was just one statistic of many provided by this year's gathering of experts at the DUI Prevention Summit held on Thursday, November 5 in the Ventura Beach Marriott Hotel.

Sponsored by the Ventura County Behavioral Health Agency, this congregation consisted of representatives from local law enforcement agencies, the health-care field, and outreach programs all with the goal of helping to eliminate the deaths and injuries resulting from driving while impaired. As the speakers outlined the continued problem with drunk drivers, one also got the sense vast improvements have been made over the last decade regarding issues of public awareness and enforcement.

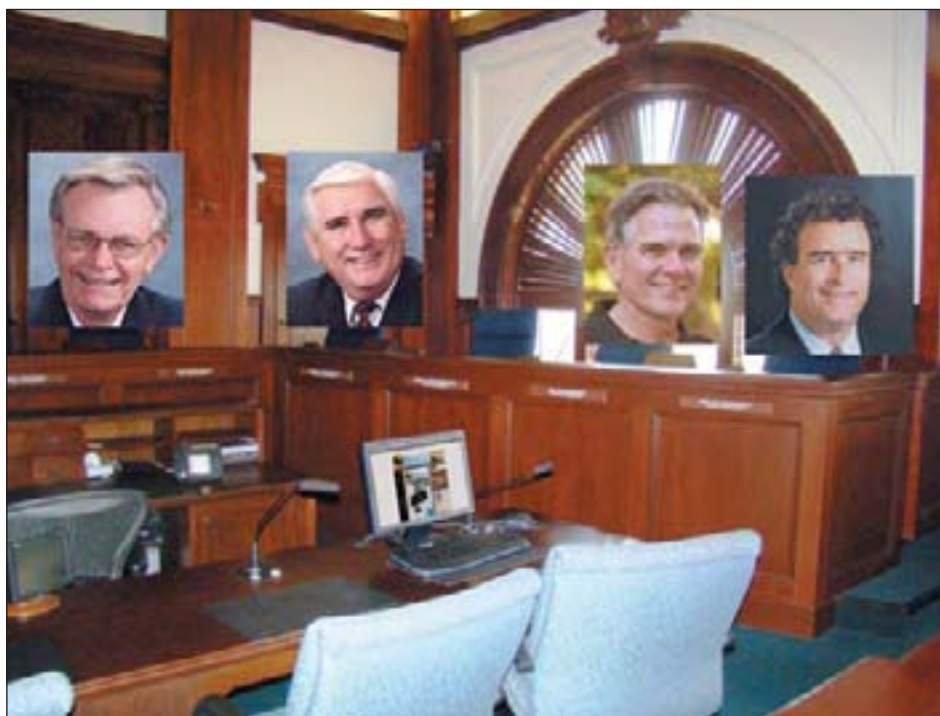
Supervising Deputy District Attorney, Cynthia Nguyen, oversees the DUI prosecutions for Ventura County and emphasized their office has had a policy for many years to aggressively prosecute drunk driving. Many California Counties have followed Ventura's example and have copied our cutting edge treatment and enforcement programs.

Kathy Mulford heads up just such a treatment program through the County of Ventura's Drug and Alcohol Unit in Simi Valley. Kathy stated when someone is convicted of a DUI they must complete the alcohol school to get their driver's license back. This county program is the largest in the state with an average of 2200 clients at any one time. Kathy

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Public awareness programs encouraging citizens to always have a DD in their group when attending parties or any social get together might have prevented this tragic DUI accident



3 familiar faces and a new familiar one will serve Ventura for the next 4 years on the City Council



Project Understanding Executive Director Rick Pearson unveiling a plaque paying tribute to Ventura carpenter Russell Dana Bell at the SHORE opening

SHORE facility has grand opening

by Tim Pompey

Proclaiming that the "dream of moving people from homelessness to permanent housing is this day a reality," Project Understanding Executive Director Rick Pearson presided over the opening ceremony of the new SHORE (Supportive Housing Opportunities in a Residential Environment) housing units on the corner of Thompson and Garden in downtown Ventura.

With the addition of fifteen units of affordable housing, many families either have moved or will soon move into brand-new two and three bedroom apartment units built as part of the WAV project, a partnership between the City of Ventura's Cultural Affairs and Economic Develop-

ment Office and PLACE (Projects Linking Art, Community, & Environment), a Minneapolis based nonprofit organization that specializes in designing, funding, building and managing sustainable, mixed-use, mixed-income neighborhoods for creative people and businesses.

The SHORE project was more than a dozen years in the making and has faced considerable obstacles in winding its way through the City planning process. The idea picked up steam in 2000 when Mayor Ray DeGuillio, in cooperation with the City Council, made it a priority of his administration to address the issues of homelessness in the City. The City eventually agreed to acquire land for the project.

As a result, Project Understanding formed a blue-ribbon site selection committee chaired by Rick Pearson and Councilman Neal Andrews. The committee began a four-year search for acceptable sites. What they found was considerable community opposition to the project.

Since the City was also interested in building a housing complex for working artists, the selection committee agreed to partner with the City to turn these two separate ideas into a single project. Collaborating with Chris Velasco, Director of PLACE, the project has morphed over the last five years into its current location and design.

In addition, the need for a full-services center for homeless people continues to be a community priority, due in no small part to the persistent leadership of the Ten-Year Strategy to End Homelessness, the Ventura County Social Services Task Force, The Gateway Committee, and Project Understanding.

Pearson also paid special tribute to Ventura carpenter Russell Dana Bell, who often used the services provided by Project Understanding and donated a large gift to SHORE with money he received in a lawsuit settlement. Bell died in July 2003. In recognition of his contri

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Small group of voters make big decisions for Ventura

by Rebecca Wicks

With mail-in ballots nearly completed, statistics show an estimated 27 percent of registered voters in Ventura County made some key decisions which included electing four council members and deciding three measures in Ventura.

"We had maybe a hundred people all day long," said a polling site volunteer who asked to remain unnamed. "It's just sad. It's a privilege to vote, I don't think people get that."

All three ballot measures for the City of Ventura were voted down.

With 15 candidates vying for four city council seats, this month's election was the largest pool of candidates in close to twenty years.

Many have suggested distrust and unhappiness with current council members as the pretext for the number of contenders. Nevertheless, the council's makeup will stay mostly the same with only one change.

In Ventura, voters re-elected three of the four incumbents including Neal Andrews, Brian Brennan and Jim Monahan. The new face on the city council will be Mike Tracy, the city's former police chief.

According to ballots counted so far, Tracy led all council member candidates with Andrews second than Monahan and Brennan.

Incumbent Ed Summers came in fifth and was not reelected.

"I'm not sure one new council member is enough fresh blood to make a difference," said Amy Seamer, a stay-at-home mother of two. "I'm not even sure new council members would have even made a difference at this point - it seems like the budgetary problems are huge."

Tracy along with the three returning council members recognize the job ahead of them is anything but easy. Dif-

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An anxious crowd (including City Manager Rick Cole and Mayor Christy Weir) watches the "big board" at City Hall as the early election results are posted on election night

Small group of voters

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difficult decisions will be made and options will become even more limited with the defeat of Measure A which would have increased the city's sales tax by a half-cent raising an estimated \$8 million.

Fifty five percent of voters said no to the measure.

The monies were to be earmarked for a number of city expenses including police and fire officers, street maintenance and funding the Wright Library.

The week after the election the county's chief librarian made the announcement that the Wright Library will close at the end of the month.

"I voted for Measure A in part to save the Wright Library," said Linda Cheney who lives on the east side of Ventura and will in the future need to travel to the downtown library. "It's a sad statement when libraries are not a priority for a community."

Mayor Christy Weir who supported the measure accepted its defeat.

"Measure A offered voters a choice: Make those cuts permanent or restore some of the highest-priority services," said Weir. "Our council is committed to carrying out the will of the voters."

The city has already cut \$11 million out of its annual budget purging 42 positions. Additional budgetary and person-

nel cuts are expected.

Measure B was defeated more soundly than any of the three measures with 75 percent of voters against it. The measure which would have put a temporary stop to buildings higher than 26 feet through much of the city while starting the process to create a view-protection ordinance was seen by many as flawed.

Local resident Tim Webb appreciates the city's views but felt the measure wasn't the appropriate way to go about preserving them. He also had grave concerns about the measure deterring business from entering the city.

"We don't need a law that officially discourages construction in Ventura, the recession is doing a good enough job at that already," said Webb.

Measure C which would have stopped new superstores larger than 90,000 square feet when more than 3 percent of the sales floor area contains groceries was also defeated with 54 percent of voters against it.

Resident Kelleen Almond was initially confused about the purpose of the measure and ultimately voted against it after conducting further research

"I'm not high on the idea of Walmart here in Ventura," admitted Almond. "But, since the measure won't stop Walmart, it seemed like the measure was pretty worthless to me."

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Depart LAX
6:30am • 8:30am • 11am • 1pm • 3:15pm •
5:30pm • 7:30pm • 9:30pm

DUI problem

Continued from page 1

pointed out their main focus is to eliminate as many repeat offenders as possible through educating them in how to avoid the behavior that resulted in their arrest. Kathy complained she still interviews offenders that claim they drive "better" after a few drinks, but controlled tests have shown this to be absolutely false. Kathy also mentioned the financial cost for first time DUI offenders averages about \$13,000 when school, fines, court costs, and car insurance rate increases are added up, a big deterrent in itself.

Dr. Javier Romero from Ventura County Medical Center and Dr. Brian Kimbrell from St. John's Medical Center in Oxnard provided compelling information on how alcohol and drugs impact our families and friends. As trauma directors for their respective hospitals, both doctors outlined in graphic detail about how physically and emotionally devastating car crashes can be for both the victim and their loved ones. When one realizes 45% of car crash victims that enter their emergency rooms are alcohol related, the size of the problem becomes clear. In 2008 Ventura County lost 36 individuals to DUI crashes and injuries tallied at 661. Dr Kimbrell described it as simply "murder on the highway".

On a positive note, both hospi-

tals test patients for alcohol or drug use and have social workers on staff that provide counseling for substance abuse.

Speakers Tina Pasco from Madd (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) and Capt. Cliff Williams from the California Highway Patrol both emphasized how effective the Designated Driver Program can be. These agencies have aggressively instituted public awareness programs encouraging citizens to always have a DD in their group when attending parties or any social get together where alcohol will be served. Another encouraging sign is many restaurants and Taverns are providing free soft drinks and appetizers to Designated Drivers in recognition for their help in trying to be part of the solution. Capt. Williams also says the State of California will continue to fund enforcement programs such as sobriety checkpoints as they have been shown to be very effective in reducing alcohol related deaths. Citizens are also encouraged to dial 911 if an impaired driver is spotted on the highway.

As a final thought, Tina Pasco suggested parents can be the first line of defense by counseling their children from an early age about the consequences of drinking and driving. Hopefully, in the near future we can reduce these tragic deaths to zero.

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Your Hometown Paper

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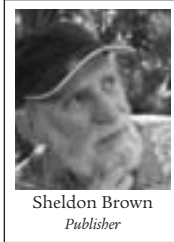
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Opinion/Editorial



Sheldon Brown
Publisher

First I would like to congratulate the 6 incumbents (city council and board of education) and Mike Tracy for their victories in our recent elections. Obviously enough

Venturans felt that they are doing a good enough job to return them to their positions.

But I'm also sure that they heard of the un-happiness expressed by many voters at the forums that were held to realize that there are many issues to still be resolved and that their actions are going to be very closely scrutinized as they carry on running the city.

With our lingering bad economy they have very tough times ahead, as we all do.

There were a few aspects of the elections that somewhat surprised me.

I am disappointed that less than 28% of eligible voters voted. That is 28% of registered voters which means even less of Venturans that were old enough to vote. In defense of those that did vote I think that they really looked at the propositions and candidates in a very intelli-

gent well thought out manner and voted based upon that.

I think that having 15 city council candidates and 3 ballot initiatives actually turned off many voters, just too much involved in studying the issues and candidates and making a learned decision. Most people really don't care that much for ballot measures anyway and would just as soon leave these matters to their elected officials.

I think that the requirements for running for city council should be made more difficult so that there aren't an over abundance of candidates.

I thought that Mike Tracy would be a strong candidate but certainly didn't expect him to be the top vote getter right ahead of Neal Andrews.

With what I thought was her grass roots following I thought that Camille Harris would make a stronger showing and even though I was opposed to it I was very surprised that prop B was voted down by a 75% vote. Perhaps her strong ties to it hurt her election chances.

Even though they weren't the winners hopefully she and Brian Lee Rencher will still be a voice for the people and continue to make their presentations before the

city council and other city commissions. Their input is important in a democracy.

I'm a little surprised, and disappointed, that prop A lost, I thought that with only a simple majority required that it would pass but Venturans are telling the city council to run the city with what you have and that they don't care to pay more taxes. Now I suppose everyone will complain when services need to be cut and the lawns at our parks start to turn yellow.

I'm afraid the first result of the failure of it to pass will probably be the closing of Wright Library. I must commend the San Buenaventura Friends of the Library for their tireless efforts in trying to keep it open.

I'm sorry to see Ed Summers go, I thought that he brought a lot to the council because of his business and financial expertise and I wish him the best for his future and hope that he will find a way to stay involved in city politics.

I also hope that some of the council candidates who came out of nowhere will now be more involved in city politics and that we will be seeing them at city council meetings expressing some of what they expressed during their candidacies.

Mailbox

and working tirelessly on their campaign to dethrone you. Don't bother sending me one of your pathetic, pandering letters of self-righteous justifications for your actions. With this vote, you have showed your district, in the clearest of terms, that you do NOT support regular people like me, and please know, we heard you loud and clear.

Times have changed Senator Gallegly, and it is clear that you have not.

Regards,
Daniel Flores,
Ventura

Ventura Police Officers Association
Ventura CA 93005

Dear Police Officers Association and PAC,

THANK YOU for the awesome negative campaign job you did on Neal Andrews. By and through your efforts of both labor and money spent towards said negative campaigning against Mr. Andrews I do believe you accomplished exactly what you did NOT want to happen, you "boys and girls in blue" got him re-elected.

On a personal note and a niece of police officers this is the one of those times I as well as others in this community who are truly so ashamed of your actions during this City Council campaign.

At best what I would strongly suggest is a letter of apology to both the public and to Neal about your negative politicking and that in the future your organization will deal with issues and not personal attacks. Get your humility in place; it is time to start building bridges with your community.

Respectfully submitted,
Irene V. Henry, J.D.

To The Editor:

As a longtime Wright Public Library volunteer, I was overwhelmed with sadness as the official Library closure order was given on November 6th. As directed by the county library services director, the very popular Wright Public Library will close forever on November 30, 2009.

Tears streamed down our faces as the "human" element of the library's closure hit home. No more will there be a

safe place for kids after school, no more of Star Soto's wonderful children's story times which so many children looked forward to, no more sounds of library patrons of all ages browsing through the aisles of wonderful books, no more student tutoring, no more of the PAWS for Reading program and no more parking lot book sales.

All of this will go silent on November 30th. A victim of official inaction, no lifeline was given to one of the most heavily used FREE community places in Ventura.

Some of the outstanding staff will lose their jobs, others will have hours cutback as they are transferred to other libraries. This library's impact on real, everyday people really hurts. A building full of learning, smiles and life will come to an end.

Thank you so much Wright library staff and patrons for giving our community a real sense of place.

Jim Hines
Ventura

Breeze:

Mike Montoya's Park Maintenance Crew continues to do an outstanding job maintaining Marina Park. Additionally, the path out to the harbor sea break is still free of sand. It had been covered for several years and thanks to the efforts a group of volunteers it's back and usable. (Interestingly, one of our Pierpont residents complained before the City Council many, many times to no avail. In fact, Brian Brennan told us in a PCC meeting it would cost hundreds of thousands of dollars to accomplish but it only took the efforts of a number of local high school kids. Go figure.)

Public Works is using a new street sweeper to clean our lanes. Cleaning is spotty. Some streets were done well like Seaward AV, the streets around the elementary school and Greenock LN... but on many of the others, the street sweeper did a poor job. If some streets can be done well there is really no rea-

son that the rest of the lanes can not also be done well.

Thanks goes out to Doug Reid of Community Services for getting volunteers out to clean the ends of the lanes and the stairs. Unfortunately, the City is just dealing with the symptom and continues to avoid tackling the problem. Until there is a "buffer area" along Shore Dr between the Pierpont Community and the constantly blowing sand, the stairs will continue to be unsafe, the beach will continue to be higher than the City's and beachfront homeowner's retaining walls (which creates an unsafe condition where beachgoers can literally fall from the beach onto the pavement below (some 10+ feet in several places)). Plus the sand will continue to blow down the lanes and into the storm drains.

It is going on three years now since Rosemary, Dale and I met with the Public Works and Councilman Brennan on this sand issue. There has been a lot of talk and one ill conceived Sand Management Plan that the City, State Parks and the Coastal Commission put together (a plan aimed more at changing Pierpont Beach from a recreational area to an Environmentally Sensitive Habit Area than at protecting the Pierpont Community from the encroaching sand). Hopefully, it won't take another three years for the City to actually do the required work which is needed to safeguard our community.

Murray Robertson - A Concerned Pierpont Resident

American Unemployment

More bad news this week for many Americans. The unemployment rate in our country has now climbed to 10.2%. We as Americans are all concerned about this, aren't we? Then, perusing my morning Star, I read where Kavlico is cutting 172 jobs in Moorpark. Now, they are cutting these jobs not because they lack the

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I learned long ago, never to wrestle with a pig. You get dirty, and besides, the pig likes it.

- George Bernard Shaw



Election Reflections

My hopes for the next 4 years

by Neal Andrews

In the brief time since the election of November 3rd I've taken some time to try to organize my thoughts about the election and my hopes for the next four years.

I'm so grateful for all those who helped me win re-election because their support gave me the opportunity to continue to serve our community and because their confidence that I've been leading our City in the correct direction was immensely reassuring.

It would be a colossal understatement to say that this past election was personally troubling. No one likes to be castigated viciously and continuously with false and misleading characterizations, especially by organizations that ordinarily should command public respect, such as the police and fire personnel of our city.

It is also troubling to know that altogether they apparently spent as much as ten times what I did in this election in their unsuccessful effort to defeat me. Will the next candidate who challenges their special interest agenda fare so well? Can honest candidates count on the public to see through these kinds of allegations and innuendoes and evaluate them for what they are in the future? Can most persons seeking public office ever hope to match the campaign finance power of such strong public unions?

If there is a message here it is that we must re-evaluate our City campaign finance law that permits the public safety unions to finance immense campaign expenditures to support their compensation and pension benefit goals, while this same law prohibits a candidate from raising or spending equal sums to assert reasonable limits. Perhaps we must come to grips with the fact that our City's campaign finance law was so poorly written that it compromises our ability to actu-

ally achieve the objectives it was intended to serve and is probably invalid on Constitutional grounds anyway, if ever challenged in court. But, that's a matter for another day.

Otherwise, in general, I believe the outcome of this election has given a strong endorsement to my approach to City government. I've demanded sound management with clear, no-nonsense measurement of performance and assessment of outcomes, coupled with budgeting that aligns resources to the highest priority goals and demands accountability and responsibility from our managers.

I've simply recognized that the public safety union driven compensation and benefit arrangements are unsustainable in the long run and demand reform. We cannot continue to sacrifice every other public program in the City – libraries, streets, parks, senior services, and everything else – to the bloated compensation and benefits of the public safety sector.

That is not to say we should retreat from our commitment to providing the fire and police protection that our citizens deserve as our number one priority. But, we cannot continue to do it in the way we have in the past, with disproportionate compensation and benefit packages, huge overtime expenditures, and immense inefficiencies in service.

That's our primary challenge over the next years, and that's the first challenge I promise to take on for the citizens of Ventura.

The second challenge is to find ways to finance the services our community needs without continually asking to raise taxes. I've always argued that the solution to financing the services that our residents legitimately ask us to provide rests in undertaking aggressive economic programs that support restoration of prosperity to our community.

If you have good jobs right here in town, if your employers have new customers and stronger demand for the goods and services they provide, if more tourists visit Ventura, if retail stores begin to thrive again and your property values begin to rise once more, we can afford once all those things that our community needs and expects us to provide.

Economic prosperity has always been my pre-eminent goal. I fought to have it be the number one priority in our General Plan for the future of the City. If we had in fact made it our greatest priority, we would not have had the terrible cuts in services we were forced to undergo in this recession, and the City would be a stronger and happier place.

I believe our people have learned from this experience now and that we'll have their support for balanced programs of economic advancement over the next several years that'll provide the tax base to meet legitimate requests for public services, maintenance of our infrastructure, and provide the amenities that make our community a joy to live in for our people.

These are the goals that I will strive for with your help. I thank you for allowing me the opportunity to devote four more years to your service.

Meet with a council member

To set up a meeting with a council member for your community organization, neighborhood group or club call Anne Hallock at 658-4739 or e-mail ahallock@cityofventura.net.

Many factors will be cited by winners and losers

by Rick Cole-City Manager

In the end, the blizzard of signs and plethora of candidates and measures produced a last minute surge of absentee ballots, resulting in a turn-out of nearly 35%. All the School Board incumbents were re-elected and three of the four City Council incumbents also won (Neal Andrews, Jim Monahan and Brian Brennan.) Another familiar face, retired Police Chief Mike Tracy, led the field, which meant Councilmember Ed Summers narrowly lost re-election.

Measure A, the proposed sales tax increase, lost 55-45%. The voters in Ventura opted for a tight rein on finances. Paradoxically, five of the top six vote getters in the Council race supported Measure A (the sixth, Councilmember Andrews, remained neutral.) This means the \$11 million in city service cuts are here to stay, along with future cuts as the economy continues to struggle and the State of California continues to borrow, divert or simply confiscate local revenues. It also means no additional funding available to supplement the County Library system to keep open Wright Library.

The so-called "view protection ordinance" was decisively rejected 3-1. The anti big box ordinance went down to defeat by a margin similar to the sales tax increase.

Voters also rejected sharp attacks. The sharpest critics of local government did not do well in the Council race and the avalanche of attack mail from the police union backfired.

Interpreting the reasons for election outcomes is always trickier than interpreting the results. Many factors will be cited by winners and losers, but the bottom line remains the same: voters signaled they are looking for an economical approach to local government, with more emphasis on economic development and living within our means. But many citizens remain fixated on maintaining services they support and others continually insist the government take on new responsibilities.

In California, this division has generally been on partisan lines, with Republicans favoring less taxes and Democrats favoring more services. The polarization has produced a stalemate where the numbers simply don't add up, squandering the State's finances and public trust. This has produced incredible cynicism. It spills over into local government and could ultimately make counties and cities as ungovernable as the State. It is not unlike the situation for old-line department stores that still try to maintain the appearance that they have nicer stores, better service and higher quality merchandise than the rock bottom discounters. The only way they can hang on to customers is to pretend that everything is always on sale. In the end, you get what you pay for.

By their nature, elections never make everyone happy. But in a stable, democratic society, elections choose our leaders and decide key measures that set our course. The voters in Ventura have spoken. It is our job to live within our means. That means tough decisions for the City Council. It remains to be seen whether those that elected them will understand and support those tough decisions when they come.

Life as a city council candidate

by Tim Pompey

We take it for granted, even treat it with a sense of humor, especially when all that signage appears in the strangest places. I'm talking about local political races. City Council, Board of Education, etc.

Still, local elections are the heart and soul of our democratic system. So, we at the Breeze wondered: What's it like to run for one of these positions? We picked two City Council candidates to interview and find out.

Ken Cozzens is a Buena High graduate and retired Ventura County Sheriff's Deputy who spent thirty-two years with the force. Ken actually ran for City Council back in 1971, just after he graduated from high school, and again in 1973. So, this time around, why did he want to run for City Council? His answer was simple and straightforward. "I love the city. It's a wonderful town and I wanted to do what I could to help out."

It may be a local political race, but it's also expensive. Ken decided not to have fund raisers. "It's a tough time for everyone, especially nonprofit organizations. I have a hard time in this economy asking people for money." As a result, he paid more than ten thousand dollars out of his own pocket. Total cost came to about thirteen thousand dollars. "My biggest contributor was my mom," he says. "She worked hard on the seniors for me."

And then there was a little something called the Federal Fair Political Practices Act. "There are so many forms involved," Ken says. "My daughter helped me keep track of it all."

Still, Ken enjoyed meeting people. "I did a lot of walking and meeting with people. It's a good opening line to say 'Hi, I'm Ken Cozzens, City Council candidate.' People who knew that were willing to open up to me."

Overall, Ken's thoughts on the process could be summed up in one word: stressful. "Yeah, it was hard on my family – my wife, daughter and son all helped me out. Still, it was a good opportunity to meet new folks, get a better understanding of the city."

It's a big job to keep track of everything and no man is an island. If he had it to do over, Ken admits he'd do things differently. "I really need to put together an organization to run a campaign."

Still, he has no regrets about his experience and may consider running again in the future. "It's a chapter in my life. I'm glad I did it."

Like Ken, Mike Tracy was born and raised in Ventura. A graduate of Ventura College and Cal Lutheran, Mike joined the Ventura Police Department in 1975 and eventually became its Chief. He retired in 2004.

Again, we asked the question: Why? "Well," he explains, "I'd been retired for five years, had time on my hands, and felt like I had something to offer, maybe a little different perspective than most who serve on the Council."

Mike took a different approach to his campaign. "My first surprise was how expensive it was," he says. He lent himself five thousand dollars to get started, then put the word out to friends and associates that he was running for office. Through a series of targeted letters, plus a website, he managed to raise about twenty thousand

Council Contacts

These are the email addresses of your city council members. If you think that something in the city is wrong or right or needs improving, please email them and let them know. They are here to serve you.

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Bill Fulton

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Jim Monahan

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Carl Morehouse

cmorehouse@ci.ventura.ca.us

Ed Summers

esummers@ci.ventura.ca.us

Christy Weir

cweir@ci.ventura.ca.us

Rick Cole

City Manager

citymanager@ci.ventura.ca.us

Election Reflections

dollars. All in all, he ended up spending about twenty-two thousand dollars. His strategy worked. He got elected.

For Mike, his biggest challenges turned out to be the three local ballot measures (A, B, C). "I found the measures to be very polarizing. In some cases, it was the only thing that people cared about. They would make up their mind and vote for a candidate based on a single ballot measure."

His candidacy, however, also provided a very pleasant surprise. "In Ventura, people are really engaged in the political process. They really care about the issues."

He enjoyed meeting new people, and, in a few cases, convincing the skeptical to support him. "I called one woman I knew was opposed to me and talked to her, tried to clarify my position. After ten minutes or so, she changed her mind and said she was going to vote for me."

So, what is Mike looking forward to as he prepares to serve on the City Council? "I'd really like to focus on economic development, public safety and maintaining our infrastructure."

In particular, he'd like to see Ventura welcome more economic opportunities. "I think we need to start being more aggressive and open. Too often, businesses have come to Ventura, then gone elsewhere because we turned them down. It's time to take advantage of the economic opportunities that come to us."

Velma Lomax, VUSD School Board

Thank you to all the voters in the School Board election November 3rd. It has been my honor to serve on the Ventura Unified School Board for the past 16 years and now, thanks to each of you, I will be serving another four years.

The past 16 years have been amazing. We passed an \$80 million bond, built new schools, refurbished older ones, made many facility changes, sold surplus property, hired a new superintendent, offered options for student learning and moved our support services into one building on Stanley Avenue. We gave raises when we could and offered more staff development to our employees along with keeping benefits available without cost to fulltime employees. Times have been great and we have seen many wonderful, exciting changes all benefiting our students and employees.

Unfortunately, I cannot say the same about the next four years. Education as we know it is in a crisis. Money from state and federal sources has been cut back, teachers are expected to teach standards, keep test scores high, deal with a diverse community and do all this with class sizes being raised, staff development being cut back, and threats of being laid off. The moral at this point is the lowest I have seen it in years. Being a classroom teacher myself, I understand the frustration.

The good news is that Ventura Unified has been very conservative with spending. As a result, we have not had to cut back as much as surrounding districts. We have been able to keep most programs and employees intact and are working hard to maintain cuts furthest away from the classroom as possible. While we are expecting hard times, I believe that we are in a position

to make decisions calmly and be proactive rather than reactive. I plan to work hard to keep the needs of the students and the school sites first in our minds as we make decisions.

Please don't let misleading campaign information cloud your mind or give you a misimpression of our district. Every district is experiencing huge changes and challenges, but the Board of Education has always made decisions in the best interest of children. Our schools are ranked higher than most schools in the county and state. We are not failing our kids. Our teachers and students are being misjudged by poor legislation and even President Obama recognizes that No Child Left Behind needs to be re-written. Our district has improved yearly in all areas and should be applauded, not put down.

Venturans have spoken

by **Christy Weir,**
Mayor, City of Ventura

Ventura voters made their choices heard. They re-elected three of our four incumbents - Neal Andrews, Brian Brennan and Jim Monahan; elected former police chief Mike Tracy; and turned down the temporary 1/2-cent sales tax measure, Measure A.

Our Council is committed to carrying out the will of the voters. Our message when we cut our budget last March was that we will live within our means. Measure A offered voters a choice: make those cuts permanent or restore some of the highest priority services through a temporary sales tax increase. While I favored the measure, I understand and accept the voters' choice. The City Council will continue to fund only the services and projects that we can support with the revenue the City collects

I can assure the residents of Ventura that we remain committed to these principles, although we face continuing challenges, including State takeaways and declining sales tax revenues, primarily due to the drop-off in auto sales.

Lean times mean that we all must make sacrifices, so nearly a year ago we began to carefully examine every city service in each department for value as well as cost. This intense, three-month budgeting exercise that saw the City Council, City staff and members of the community come together to "budget for outcomes" resulted in an \$11 million cut in spending. Every city employee agreed to a 5% cut in compensation and programs and staff positions were eliminated. We stated that our overall priority was to "emphasize economic prosperity to ensure sustainable funding for necessary city programs and to meet critical needs, including maintaining the high priority City Council has placed on public safety, financial stewardship, and streets and public utilities." That remains our goal, and economic development will continue to be our primary emphasis for raising revenues to fund the services our citizens deserve.

As my two-year term as mayor draws to a close, my colleagues on the City Council and I wish to thank the Ventura residents who voted on Nov.3. We have heard your voice and will honor your wishes. And we will count on your partnership and support as we maintain a balanced budget and work to meet community needs during these challenging economic times.

News and Notes



Photo by David Hankins

Montgomery confesses

After fielding a ginormous number of inquiries, Suz Montgomery is announcing she is, indeed, married, thereby crushing the hopes of a copious amount of would-be suitors in this city and beyond.

Montgomery, a popular adult education teacher, Ventura activist and long-time TV personality (Schmooze with Suz) eloped with her beau to Santa Barbara's Sunken Gardens on August 16. They spent their honeymoon at the Santa Barbara Zoo with the couple's kids, grandkids and endangered animals, and later on in San Buenaventura By the Sea.

The couple plan a huge party next year for all friends and a special honeymoon in a foreign land. The stealth spouse is John Hankins of Ojai, a writer and editor who owns a news clipping service and who gleefully admits, "they call me Mr. Suz."

Light Up A Life Campaign to benefit Livingston Hospice

Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurse Association has begun its 25th Annual Light Up A Life campaign. The beginning of the campaign coincides with National Hospice and Palliative Care month, November, and runs through the holiday season. The campaign goal is to raise \$60,000 to benefit Livingston Hospice, the first Medicare Certified hospice in Ventura County.

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

Hospice Care is a home program, which provides care for the terminally ill and their families. This is a time when pa-

tients and families often need emotional support as well as professional services. The Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurse Association Hospice Program assists people in coping with the crisis of dying and death. Their program directs its services to the medical, physical, emotional, spiritual and social needs of patients and all others in their lives. Hospice care teams are available to give compassionate support to the patient and family 24-hours a day, 7 days a week.



Thirty-six zombies gather at the Poinsettia Pavilion

On Saturday October 24, thirty-six zombies gathered at the Poinsettia Pavilion to join in a worldwide dance of "Thriller". As part of the official "Thrill The World" annual event, at precisely 5:30pm the dancers began to writhe on the floor as the beginning refrains of the song sang through the air.

At the same time, dancers in nearly 400 locations throughout the world joined in, setting a new world record for the Largest Simulation Thriller Dance with the Record Holder's Republic, with over 23,000 dancers participating worldwide.

The local dancers began learning the dance in early October in workshops held by Louise Bretz, the Thrill the World event manager for Ventura and owner of Connexions Dance Studio. "This is the first year we've had an event in Ventura, and it was a great success," said Bretz.

To qualify for world record status, the group had to adhere to strict guidelines including submitting witness testimony, a video, and sign-in sheets. Dancers got into the spirit with full-on zombie makeup.

Thrill The World Ventura also raised money for the Mossy Foot Project, a locally run charity that does work in Ethiopia to prevent and treat Mossy Foot Disease. Sharon Daly was on hand at the event as a witness and to raise awareness for the Mossy Foot Project.

North Pole Express
November 28—December 27
Wednesday Through Sunday
6:00pm or 7:30pm
Come in your PJ's, ride to the
"North Pole" to pick up Santa.
Adults \$26 Youth 2-12 \$16
Child under 2 free on lap

Christmas Tree
Saturday and Sunday
Nov. 28 thru Dec. 20 10am & 2pm
Ride the train to cut down your
own tree and visit with Santa.
Adults \$24 Senior \$22
Youth 4-12 \$14 Child 2-3 \$10

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Adults \$47 Youth 2-12 \$26
Child under age 2 (ride only) Free on lap

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News and Notes

American journalist shares Iraq war experiences

by Tim Pompey



Dahr Jamail, standing in a refugee camp on the border of Jordan and Iraq.

Dahr Jamail, author and journalist, went to Iraq in 2003 to write about life in this postwar country under U.S. military occupation. Jamail was one of only a handful of independent journalists who reported from inside Fallujah during the siege in April 2004. He was also the only American independent journalist to cover the November 2004 siege of Fallujah. He currently writes about the Iraq war and other related topics on his website www.dahrjamailiraq.com. He was recently sponsored by Citizens for Accountability, a local peace activist group in Ventura, to come to Ventura and discuss his book, "The Will to Resist: Soldiers Who Refuse to Fight in Iraq & Afghanistan," and to share his observations about postwar Iraq. While he was in town, The Breeze was granted an interview with Jamail. The following are excerpts from that interview. To read the full interview visit our website at www.venturabreeze.com.

T: When and why did you decide to go to Iraq as a journalist?

D: The first time I went to Iraq was late November 2003 and I've reported from there five trips now for a total of nine months in country. I was enraged and decided that what I could do was go to Iraq. And, once the occupation started, and, of course, that type of coverage continued of kind of glossing over the occupation, and, making it look as though everything was just going swimmingly, and, of course, what I was reading was pretty different than that. So, I decided I'd go

see what was happening myself and then come back and just report from there as I could.

T: All right, you go to Iraq after the invasion, so tell me about your first impressions?

D: I knew it was going to be chaotic, but still, my first time driving in there, my head was swimming because it was total chaos. I'd never been in a war zone or an occupation, and you know, giant M1 tanks going down the street, huge congested traffic, no electricity, and no jobs. I mean there was literally no state, so Saddam was removed and there was nothing to replace him. It was total chaos, just total absolute chaos. It took me probably about two weeks before I even started to get my head around what I was actually seeing.

T: After Bush made the famous victory declaration on the deck of the aircraft carrier in May 2003, obviously some very bloody battles followed after that in Fallujah and other places. What kind of resistance did you see that solidified after Hussein was ousted from power. Was it Al Qaeda based or were there other causes that were bringing these militias together?

D: I talked with a lot of resistance fighters, even guys who were pro invasion when it started because they hated Saddam, but when they saw how the Americans were behaving and how they were treating the Iraqi people, the home raids and the torture and the lack of fulfillment of the promises, they decided they had enough and they joined the resistance. So most of it was either people like that or people who were former military, and of course, we've all heard that one of Bremer's first colossal mistakes was disbanding the army, so immediately overnight you had hundreds of thousands of armed, combat trained, unemployed, pissed off guys and that basically formed the backbone of the resistance.

T: Somewhere in this process I've heard that the U.S. military hired and paid the same militias who previously were doing the mass killings, paid them in cash to, in essence, be a counter insurgent security force.

D: Yeah, that's the Awakening groups. And that started in April 2006. Actually the Rand Corporation came out with a report. They basically figured out: What is a good counter insurgency plan? So what they decided to do was to rehabilitate a plan that Saddam Hussein used, which was to find corrupt tribal sheiks,

pay them off, disguise it as payments in the form of construction contracts, and pay them enough money so that could pay off all the fighters under their control and keep them from attacking whoever. They basically took that plan and by April 2006, the Americans were funneling hundreds of millions of dollars into these corrupt tribal sheiks.

T: So is there a functioning government there?

D: No, it's akin to the government in Afghanistan. Maybe not quite that bad, but it's rife with corruption. They basically have control of part of Baghdad, but no, it's not a functioning government, especially not one that represents the people because 76 percent of Iraqis are in favor of total withdrawal and less than 1 percent of Iraqis actually support their government. It's not considered a le

Continued on page 19



Bonnie Weigel with Jacob Mizraji, who at 13 years old will once again prepare and sell eggplant parmesan and donate the proceeds to FOOD Share. It is the second time he has done this for the food bank.

FOOD Share's monthly food distribution to those in need rose 37 percent during 2009

With FOOD Share's current bigger picture of need requiring more effort to secure monetary donations, the non-profit, serving more than 54,700 people in need each month, has announced strategic partnerships to help tackle hunger in 2010.

New partner Crowne Plaza Ventura Beach hotel has established a unique sustainable agreement with FOOD Share with its Just One Campaign which will donate \$1.00 from each guest night to help feed the hungry.

"Crowne Plaza Ventura Beach is pleased to bring the 'Just One' sustainable program to FOOD Share to provide funding for resources in securing food for those in need," said Douglas Wood, general manager.

Wells Fargo Foundation kicked off the Tackling Hunger campaign with a \$50,000 cash donation, taking FOOD Share halfway towards its goal of \$100,000.

Albertson's grocery stores donated \$7,500 which will provide needed food

items on FOOD Share's grocery list, and fellow grocers VONS and Ralph's will help secure monetary donations at check-out registers.

"FOOD Share looks forward to building additional awareness throughout the holidays with our Tackling Hunger campaign and encourage the community to visit all of our valued partners to help those in need," Bonnie Weigel said.

A major food bank distributing millions of pounds of food each year to those in need throughout Ventura County, FOOD Share collects and receives food year-round. Information is at 983-7100 or www.foodshare.com.

Appeals court sides with county in La Conchita case

Last month an appeals court upheld a decision made by the Ventura County Superior Court that the defendant, Ventura County was not to blame for the deaths, injuries and property losses during the 2005 landslide in La Conchita.

The appeal was filed by La Conchita residents who originally brought the suit upon the county.

Plaintiffs claimed a 270-foot-long wall the county built in 2000 at the bottom of the mountain after a 1995 landslide contributed to the 2005 landslide. They maintain the wall, made of steel piles exacerbated the deaths, property damage and injuries incurred during the disaster. In the suit, the plaintiff's stated the wall stood as much as 23 to 25 feet tall.

In the suit, the plaintiff's claim the wall impeded drainage from the hillside leading it to become over-saturated ultimately contributing to the landslide. In addition the suit states the wall in fact guided the landslide toward homes.

According to the county's lawyer Robert C. Ceccon of Richards, Watson & Gershon, La Conchita residents were warned by the county after the 1995 landslide that the area stood on unsteady ground.

Ceccon also stated he was happy with the decision handed down by the appellate court.

Ventura County Superior Court Judge Vincent O'Neil ruled the county was protected by a legal theory called "design immunity" where the belief is that substantial evidence supported the "reasonableness of the plan or design."

In addition, the appeals court referred to a photo of the wall affirming, "They show water draining through the wall as it was designed to do. The wall is not leaning. There are no bulges or cracks. There is nothing to indicate the wall is under extraordinary stress. To the contrary, the wall appears solid."

The plaintiff's can appeal this decision to the state Supreme Court.

Heavy rain fell in the days prior to the La Conchita landslide which occurred on Jan. 10, 2005. Ten people were killed and a number of homes were destroyed.

In August 2008, a jury found La Conchita Ranch Co. negligent in connection with the 2005 landslide. The ranch was located directly above the community. Prior to the damages phase of the trial, a settlement was made between the company and La Conchita residents. The plaintiffs received the ranch, all its equipment and other assets and \$5 million. The ranch was later sold for \$2.5 million.

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News and Notes

Digital Camera Playground - Part 5 - Aperture & Focus

By Nelson Wallace

In addition to affecting exposure, the $f/$ number controls the range of distances over which the objects in the scene are in good focus. This range is called "depth of field", and the photographer controls it in order to emphasize or deemphasize elements in a photograph. A large depth of field means that both close and far objects are in good focus. This is desirable for photographing your friend standing in front of the Grand Canyon. Conversely, a short depth of field means that only something at a specific distance is in focus, while things closer or farther away look fuzzy; this is good when photographing your friend in front of a shrubbery, when what you really want to feature is your friend's face, and the details of the vegetation would just be a distraction.

Your digital camera has the capability to set the aperture to give the depth of field for the sort of photograph you're taking. In Portrait mode, it opens up the aperture to give smaller depth of field and thus emphasize something. In Landscape mode, it stops the aperture down, increasing the depth of field so that both nearby and distant things are in good focus.

In addition to controlling depth of field, a photographer also chooses what objects in the scene will be used to drive the camera's automatic focus algorithm. Most digital cameras offer a choice of focusing methods. The default method sets focus based on improving the entire picture. The other choice is a spot focus method, where the camera focuses on a small region in the middle of the scene, and doesn't try to focus on anything else.

To experiment, let's take pictures of the same scene with the aperture controlled for either a maximum or minimum depth of field, using spot focusing.

Save whatever pictures are in your camera. Read your manual, and determine how to put your camera into and out of the spot focus mode. Read about aperture priority. In aperture mode, most cameras have one button to push to decrease $f/$ number, and another button to push to increase $f/$ number. Cameras will also display the $f/$ number setting on the LCD screen on the back of the camera.

Turn on your camera and put it into aperture priority mode. Turn off the flash. Put the camera into spot focus mode. Do not use macro mode. Go outside on a sunny day, hold the camera in one hand, stretch the other hand out in front of you, and hold out your thumb pointing up. This will probably position your thumb at the closest distance your camera can focus. The background should be a region many yards away, and contains detail (bushes, trees, cars,...). Set your camera to the lowest $f/$ number ($f/ 2.8$ maybe). Point the camera so your thumb is in the middle of the picture and take a picture of it and the background. Now set your $f/$ number to the highest number ($f/ 11$ maybe) and shoot again. Both photographs should show your thumb in crisp focus. In the low $f/$ number shot, the background will appear relatively fuzzy, but in the high $f/$ number shot the background should be in better focus.

Ventura police launch program to combat DUI deaths and injuries

The Ventura Police Department has been awarded a new traffic safety grant for a year-long anti-DUI program aimed at preventing deaths and injuries on our roadways. New enforcement measures to combat impaired driving are coming as a result of a recent \$137,466 grant awarded by the California Office of Traffic Safety to the City of Ventura. The Ventura Police Department is dedicated to keeping our streets safe through both enforcement and education.

"In this time of reduced budgets and resources, Ventura is truly fortunate to have the support of the Office of Traffic Safety," said Assistant Police Chief Ken Corney. "This grant award will allow Ventura to focus on DUI enforcement and send the message of zero tolerance to violators."

The special DUI Enforcement and Awareness grant is to assist in efforts to reduce the number of persons killed and injured in alcohol and other drug related collisions. The grant activities will specifically target impaired driving offenders as well as educate the public on the dangers of impaired driving. This will be done through the use of DUI/driver's license checkpoints, warrant searches and stakeouts for repeat DUI offenders, saturation patrols, and court stings targeting DUI offenders with suspended or revoked driver licenses who get behind the wheel after leaving court.

Drunk driving is one of America's deadliest crimes. In 2008, over 11,700 people died in highway crashes involving a driver or motorcycle operator with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or higher.

"Last year in California 1,029 died in alcohol impaired crashes, a 9 percent reduction in deaths from 2007," said Christopher J. Murphy, Director of the Office of Traffic Safety. "This grant will help keep that trend going by getting drunk drivers off the roadways of Ventura, making it safer for everyone."

Taylor steps down

Zoe J. Taylor, President/CEO of the Ventura Chamber of Commerce has announced that she will be leaving her position at the Chamber on November 30.

After 13 years she has decided that it is time for her to pursue other exciting challenges and business opportunities.

She stated that "I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your investment and commitment to the Chamber the past thirteen years I have been privileged to serve as the President/CEO of the organization. I especially want to thank the many members who have committed their time and talent in building a strong organization. It has been a pleasure serving you."

"I hope that our paths cross in the future as I will be staying in Ventura. I wish you all the best in 2010 and may it be a better and more prosperous year for all of us."



Librarian Charles Johnson, of the Museum of Ventura County is very excited that the Museum's extensive collections will be ushered into a spacious new home.

Museum of Ventura County moves toward completion

by Tim Pompey

Rising from the dirt and gravel on Main Street, the renovation of the Museum of Ventura County is starting to take shape. Surrounded by a river stone and stucco exterior, it's expected to be finished some time between March and June 2010.

On a recent hard hat tour, museum officials and board members took guests through the construction site and provided a short presentation on what will eventually be a thoroughly remodeled structure.

Front and center is the new pavilion, a structure that will provide some much needed space in downtown Ventura for community gatherings, large scale dinners, and perhaps a wedding or two. Museum staff will also appreciate having the extra large space for their own events. The structure will include setups for a custom-made tent that can be put up and taken down as necessary. When all is said and done, the pavilion will be able to seat up to 200 guests for dinners or 400 guests for lectures and special presentations.

The pavilion is the first stage in what the Museum hopes will be a grand redesign that significantly expands their office, classroom, and display space. Once completed, many of the Museum's extensive collections currently jammed into various nooks and corners or packed away in storage will be ushered into a spacious new home.

For librarian Charles Johnson, this will be an exciting moment. "It allows us to reach our potential. For some of our materials, we will be able for the very first time to make them available." No small feat, considering the Museum collections include 5,000 maps, 700 sets of architec-

tural plans and drawings, and 90 years of newspapers.

Phase II, for which the Museum is currently raising funds, will add considerable square footage around the museum's east and south sides, including a new front entrance, bookstore, children's garden, and seminar rooms. It will also expand the museum's capacity for gallery displays, office space, and, most important to Museum Director Tim Schiffer, educational activities. "We hope to increase our ability to schedule tours and educational activities for kids," Schiffer comments. "Once it's completed, we will be able to serve thousands of schoolchildren onsite each year without affecting our other activities going on in the museum."

During the tour, Johnson provided guests with a brief review of some of the Museum's unique items, including some rare pictures of the initial construction of Pacific Coast Highway south of Ventura, some old maps of the Mission and its extensive vineyard, and some ancient hand lettered manuscripts from religious orders in Europe beautifully stenciled in tiny Latin letters.

It's a bit rough right now, but the bones are being constructed. In six months, a new structure will face Main Street and the San Buenaventura Mission. A tribute to both the old mission and the ever-changing landscape of history, the Museum's roots are buried deep in Ventura County. If all goes as planned, more people, adults and children, will come to understand and appreciate how the County took shape. Not to mention, with all that new stone and glass, it will make downtown Ventura look even better.

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News and Notes More on page 14



By round two all teams were on the Grand Lawn bandwagon at the Westview Village presentation

A charrette (shuh-ret) is a period of "intense design activity"

by John Burke

It's Charrette Season in Ventura. This month I went to one for Westview Village. Unlike last month's Waterfront Charrette, these weren't students. These were professionals, hardened by years of all-pro charrette competition.

A charrette (shuh-ret) is a period of "intense design activity", markers flying, trace paper flying, tempers flying. It's intense. Teams start by gathering around a large map of the site, they make a tight huddle so other teams can't steal their design. Over several days they redesign an entire neighborhood.

Using clear trace paper and colored

markers they start to draw an evolving composition of streets, buildings, green spaces and utilities. Teams vary but most include an urban planner, architect, landscape architect, engineer and lately, green building consultant. Each contributes their special knowledge to the brainstorm: How big are the streets? How many parking spaces? How tall can we build?

Westview Village is a public housing project built in the 1950's. It covers about three blocks just north of downtown. With its 51 buildings deteriorating, the Housing Authority wants to rebuild. Three charrette teams faced the same challenge: create more housing units and more open space using the existing site.

Two preliminary rounds called "Pin Ups" were held at a local community center. Here the teams literally pin up their ideas on the wall and try to convince an angry taunting crowd to pick their design.

This was not an easy room. People came and told us to quiet down because we were disturbing the drum circle next door. Later, a gentleman from the city stood up and remind us what Misses Manners had to say about comments like, "Dude, you're crazy."

The designers were proud of saving the existing trees. They residents had another idea. They hated the trees! Intense-Design-Activity.

The competitors were unflappable as a small but energetic committee of residents peppered them with questions. Mostly they had questions about security. Would access be controlled? Would they have their own parking space? Who'd watch their back when you moved their neighbor? Uprooting 180 families raises

questions and anxiety. The charrette is their chance to be heard.

Teams one and two replaced the 51 individual buildings with fewer, larger buildings and consolidated the individual yards to make park space. Both accommodated different types of housing: family, single, live/work. Both wanted to connect to the Ventura River. It was a defensive stalemate.

The third team cheated. They drew stuff on the plan during their presentation. Somebody would say, "Well how about picnic tables, I don't see any picnic tables?" He'd say, "Well they're right here," and just draw them in. It was sneaky but nobody caught it.

Team three punched the same buttons as the first two but it had a big offensive weapon: The Grand Lawn. Instead of bunch of tiny parks they'd created this big green swath all the way across the site. Touchdown!

When the other teams saw it they knew they were beaten. They graciously praised the Grand Lawn as they plotted ways to take credit for the idea. The teams formed a committee to water down the design by adding in a bunch of stuff that was overlooked in the heat of competition.

The last round was a celebration. It was held in a big tent on the grounds of Westview Village. Parents and kids came out at sunset to look at the drawings and talk to the design teams. Just as I was about to leave, they brought out the food. I stayed a little longer to investigate.

The Salvation Army toy and joy

Known for its bright red kettles and bell ringers at Christmas time, The Salvation Army utilizes a variety of programs to provide hope and Christmas happiness to families in need. One of the best loved programs is The Salvation Army Toy and Joy Program. The Salvation Army Toy and Joy shop is Christmas assistance program to help those in need. Qualified applicants will receive toys for children, a food box for Christmas, and other items including coats.

The Salvation Army here in Ventura identifies needy families through applications taken at their Social Services office at 155 S. Oak St. Applicants are interviewed and must provide documentation to insure they meet minimum poverty guidelines and give information about children's ages and special interests. Applications will be accepted every Thursday and Saturday from November 19 to December 12 from 10 am-2 pm.

Each applicant should bring:

- Proof of residency for Ventura, Fillmore or Santa Paula
- Rental receipts or rental contract
- Most current pay stub or proof of income
- Birth certificates or other ID for all of your children.

The easiest way for people to help is to sponsor an "Angel Tree." An angel tree is a location where angel tags (provided by The Salvation Army) containing a child's name, age, and toy recommendation are displayed.

A Toy and Joy Shop allows parents to "shop" for their children's Christmas gifts. It allows the parents to choose what gifts their children will have as they know their kids best. It also gives the adults a little more empowerment as they feel as

though they are part of the process and not just receiving a handout.

For those in need of assistance this year please contact Lisa Davis at 648-5032 or lisa.davis@usw.salvationarmy.org.

For those interested in hosting an angel tree or would like more information on purchasing new unwrapped gifts please contact Captain Bill Finley at 320-7345 or william.finley@usw.salvationarmy.org.

H.P. Wright is closing down

It would appear that H.P. Wright library will be shutting down on November 30.

Apparently the failure of proposition A to pass was the final element in the closing of the library. It was hoped that if it passed \$500,000 of the ½ cent increase in sales tax would be used to keep it open.

Supporters of the library have managed to raise almost \$100,000 to keep it temporarily open but couldn't continue to raise enough further funds to allow it to stay open.

Jackie Griffin, director of the Ventura County library system (which has 14 branches) stated that there is just no more money to keep maintaining it.

The Foster Library, located downtown shall remain open and a lot of Wright's books will be moved there and it is hoped that Foster's hours can be increased to make it easier for the users from Wright Library find time to use Foster.

Will Thompson, head of the non-profit San Buenaventura Friends of the Library still hopes that future funding can be found to re-open the library next year.

Citycouncil member Neal Andrews feels that it is very important to have Wright Library stay open and stated that he will still attempt to come up with a solution to the problem, or if any of our readers have a few hundred thousand dollars laying around that they would like to donate to the cause that would certainly help.

Counseling program available

A family counseling program is being offered by Turning Point Foundation with groups in Oxnard and Ventura. The Groups began the week of November 9 for families affected by mental illness.

The counseling is available on a low fee sliding scale in Oxnard on Tuesdays from 6-8pm and in Ventura on Wednesdays from 6-8pm.

Please contact David Deutsch for further information and to register at 746-5216.

Ventura County Human Services Agency foster parenting information meeting

Discover the rewards of foster parenting at a Foster Parenting Information Meeting. Learn how you can provide the healing, support and guidance that can transform a child at risk into a self-assured, successful adult. Almost 700 children are currently in foster homes in Ventura County, and every day, another



Thanksgiving to Remember

For generations, families have gathered at The Historic Pierpont Inn & Spa to celebrate this bountiful feast. Enjoy classic gourmet fare like:

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News and Notes

child is removed from their home because they have been neglected, abused or abandoned. Open your heart and home to foster parenting and make a difference in the lives of children at risk. For more information call the County of Ventura Human Services Agency at 654-3456 or go to vchsa.org/foster.

Ventura Family YMCA celebrates November as Military Family Month

As part of its ongoing commitment to family strengthening, the Ventura Family YMCA celebrates military families during the nation's first National Military Family Month.

"The Ventura Family YMCA recognizes the sacrifices that members of the military and their families make on a daily basis," said Kate Bucey, Administrative Services Director of the Ventura Family YMCA. "We celebrate National Military Family Month, and we are honored to provide support to families of deployed military service members."

For more information on the YMCA Military Outreach Initiative and to find a participating YMCA, visit www.ymca.net. Eligibility forms for military personnel can be found at www.militaryonesource.com.

How to be a VIP to Your VIPs through Social Media

by Peter K. Godinez
(Social Media Sales Hero)

Social media is one of the initial places people go when they want to learn more about you and what you stand for.

So how does one present themselves through the elements of social media as a person of true value" to the right people you are hoping to connect with right now? Here are some suggestions.

Focus in on the right types of VIPs you should be connecting

There may be the possibility you are pointing your "marketing laser" at the wrong profile of potential clients. One important exercise is to sit down with your team and brainstorm what the existing profile of clients who you presently find enjoyable to work with and are profitable. Determine what it is you do that is special, that no one else can duplicate as well as you.

Use the appropriate social media tools that are a fit to the VIPs you are reaching out.

Are your targeted VIPs more inclined to read a blog, white paper or written post? Do they prefer having audio vehicles so they may listen to particular subject? Maybe using still pictures with short descriptions and initial benefit statements will grasp their attention better. Are they more captivated by short and to the point videos, communicating the message you are attempting to send out? With all of this some VIPs like the option to communicate back and see what others (like them) are saying about

the products, services, support and information you provide.

Stay positive about what you are saying

Staying positive means you want to post material that shows your VIPs qualities you already possess. Providing materials that are encouraging, educating and entertaining always has a strong impact on the VIPs you are reaching out. Post about what you have done for your existing client base.

Never criticize another company and/or person

There is a perception on the internet that vending your negative, accomplishes the desire for revenge. In most case, it only reflects poorly on the person providing the negative criticism. So unless you are a well known and famous critic, do your best to keep away from the negative criticism.

Contribute to other conversations

This isn't all about you, of course. Social Media is to be social. Taking the time to view other's social media efforts shows your community you want to help others.

How much do you add to your purpose of your VIPs?

Linda P. Taylor (aka Social Media Diva) sums it up very nicely. First, decide what level of social media you want to implement (beginner, intermediate, or advance). Second, determine what your goals are in using social media. Finally and most important, research who your "niche" market" is. Focus on quality of clients.

Peter K. Godinez and Linda P. Taylor can be reached at gosaleshero@gmail.com for individual and companies' desiring to better understand and implement social media for business results.



Create a YouTube & make money for your business today. Get started marketing for a new world. I'll show how! Call me right now. Peter Godinez (805) 340-1169 gosaleshero@gmail.com <http://www.petergodinezsc.com/socialmedia>

Kiwanis Club of Ventura officers

The Kiwanis Club of Ventura has elected their 2009-2010 officers. They are President-Matt Kohagen, President-Elect-Lou Cunningham, Vice President-Mike Molloy, Secretary-Gloria Casas, Treasurer-Jan Schmutte. The club selected Mike Molloy for Kiwanian of the Year-2009. The club meets every Friday at noon at the Poinsettia Pavilion.

Trash schedule

In observance of Thanksgiving Day, the employees of Harrison Industries are taking the day off on Thursday, Nov. 26. As a result, customers who normally have their trash and recyclables or green waste collected on Thursday or Friday will have it collected one day later than usual.

The Thanksgiving holiday will not affect customers who have their trash and recyclables or green waste collected on Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday.

The regular schedule for all customers will resume the following week.

Community Events



Ventura native Jennifer Whalen will dance the role of Dream Clara in *The Nutcracker* presented by the Ventura County Ballet Company. Photo by Gene Schiavone

The Nutcracker will feature a cast of 135 dancers

Just in time for the holiday season, the Ventura County Ballet Company (VCBC) will showcase its full, upscale production of "The Nutcracker," at 2 and 7 p.m. Nov. 21 and 2 p.m. Nov. 22 at the Oxnard Performing Arts and Convention Center, 800 Hobson Way in Oxnard.

A first-class cast of 135 dancers from Camarillo, Ojai, Santa Paula, Somis, Fillmore, and Ventura as well as professional dancers from around the world will gather on stage to present the ballet. VCBC pre-professionals from Ballet Academy Ventura, the official school of the VCBC, also will dance various roles.

Ventura resident Catalina Biggerstaff, 15, who has been dancing with VCBC since the age of three, was awarded the much sought-after role of "Clara," a main character of the ballet.

"Catalina is extremely thrilled and honored to play Clara and has been hoping to for several years now," said Gina Biggerstaff, mother "She feels honored to have been chosen for such an important role. She's very excited and can't wait till the shows."

Tickets are \$9-\$23 general, \$15 for seniors 65 and older and \$10 for children 10 and younger. A Sugar Plum Cookie reception will follow each matinee and is complimentary to ticket holders. Tickets are available online at www.venturacountyballet.com, the Oxnard Performing Arts Center box office at 486-2424, or Ventura Visitors Center at 648-2075.

"The Nutcracker" is generously supported by Sandra and Jordan Laby, Micheline Sakharoff, Kipp Financial Group and the Law Offices of Donna C. Santo.

Friends of the Library "Happy Holidays" Book Sale

The San Buenaventura Friends of the Library (SBFOL) invites the public to a "Happy Holidays" used book sale on Saturday, November 28, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and on Sunday, February 15, from noon to 4 p.m., in the Topping Room of E.P. Foster Library, at 651 E. Main Street.

The weekend-long book sale offers high quality used books great for gift giving at low prices in all categories - featuring religion, art, classics, history, nature, health, biography, special interest, books for children, fiction and non-fiction.

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

San Buenaventura Friends of the Library is an all-volunteer public service organization.



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Community Events



The Ventura College Dance Department with guest choreographers bring a wide range of dance to the VC Theatre

Ventura College Dance Department presents *Relativity Dance = VC2*

Ventura College presents another amazing dance concert! Guest choreographers Marlon Pelayo, Connor Casavan and Monica Brupbacher and student choreographers from Ventura College Dance Department are presenting their dance work on December 4, 5, and 6. The shows will be 8 pm on Friday and Saturday; with a 3 p.m. matinee on Sunday. Tickets are \$8 for presales, seniors, staff and students and \$10 at the door. Directed by

CathyJean Butter, this semester's dance concert is a variety of styles from aerial dance to contemporary work to modern abstract - it really has it all.

Ventura College Dance Department has made a name for itself with outstanding performances over the last 27 years, this semester's will not disappoint. This is the last performance that will be held in the Ventura College Theater before the building is scheduled for renovation.

42nd Annual Great Auction

The Boys & Girls Club of Ventura's 42nd Annual Great Auction celebration, "STEP UP FOR KIDS-OUR STARS OF TOMORROW!" will be November 21 at 4:30 PM at the Ventura Beach Marriott. The Great Auction will showcase outstanding live and silent auction items generously donated to support the youth at the five Clubs in Ventura, Saticoy and Oak View. This is the Club's largest fundraising event of the year. It is chaired by Tareq Hishmeh, Esq. and dedicated to the memory of Jymme Hitch Banhart who served as the 'First Lady of the Auction' for 41 years.

Bob Lynn of Lynn's Jewelry, the Orion Reception sponsor, has created a, "Stars of Tomorrow" diamond necklace to be featured in an opportunity drawing.

The black-tie optional event includes

a champagne reception, live and silent auctions and a gourmet dinner.

The Boys & Girls Club of Ventura is a 71 year old youth-serving organization that operates five Club sites in the Ventura, Saticoy and Oak View communities.

Proceeds from the event go to support the Club's on-going work of providing safe, positive after-school and summertime programs for the community's youth.

Tickets for preferred seating are \$1,500 for a table of ten or reserved table seating is \$125 per ticket. For ticket reservations, event information and/or auction item donations contact Amanda Martinez at 641-5585 or www.bgclubventura.

Jewish Film Festival event

Join them for another afternoon filled with "Rodgers and Hammerstein: The Sound of Movies" provided by Temple

Beth Torah's Ventura County Jewish Film Festival. Experience the transition from Broadway stage to Silver Screen of such famous hits as Oklahoma, The Sound of Music, Carousel, State Fair, Flower Drum Song and the King and I. This PBS documentary features vintage footage and is narrated by Shirley Jones.

After the film, Kenny Larson and Patricia McPherson will again play and sing musical selections by the composers. Light refreshments will be served. This event takes place Sunday, November 22, at 3 p.m. at Temple Beth Torah, 7620 Foothill Rd., Ventura. Admission is \$10.00 paid in advance by November 19. \$15.00 at the door on the day of the event. If you have any questions please call Temple Beth Torah at 647-4181.

Aloha Turkey Roundup supports Hillsides Conservancy

Aloha Steakhouse presents two cross-country races, a kids' run and a family fun event in support of the Ventura Hillsides Conservancy. The 4th Annual Aloha Turkey Roundup will take place Sunday, November 22 at Arroyo Verde Park. A 1K Kids Run will begin at 8:30AM, followed by an 8K Run and 4K Run/Walk at 9am. Registration forms are available at the Conservancy's website or online registration at www.active.com Race day registration begins at 8am at Arroyo Corto picnic area.

Fees for the 8K and 4K are \$25 for adults, \$20 for youth/senior and \$10 for the Kids Run, plus a \$5 fee for those who register on race day. In addition to T-shirts and winner prizes, registration includes a pancake breakfast, hosted by the Aloha Steakhouse. Turkeys, donated by US Food Services, will be awarded to first place 8K finishers along with medals for 2nd and 3rd in each age category. All Kids Run finishers will receive medals as well as the top 10 male and female finishers in the 4K. The last day for early reg. prices is today. Those that pre-reg. save money and guarantee themselves a commemorative Aloha Turkey Roundup T-shirt.

There will be lots of great raffle gifts this year including 3 pairs of Salomon trail shoes, \$500 in gifts from Inside Track, and gift certificates from Play it Again Sports, Ventura YMCA, Big Wave Dave's Christmas Trees and various local restaurants.

A holiday festive event to support a great animal cause

Naturally for Paws, located at 1766 E. Thompson is holding a charity gala event to benefit local animal care efforts. This will be a fun and festive celebration for pets and pet owners. All proceeds from this special event will be donated to the Humane League of Ventura County in Ojai.

Photos with Santa and your four-legged family members will be on Saturday, December 5 from 12 noon to 3:00 p.m. Only \$1.00 for a beautiful color photo, a wonderful fun photo opportunity.

Call 648-7297 for more information.

Thanksgiving is upon us

by Bill Finley,
Captain, The Salvation Army

On November 26 the Faith Communities Subcommittee of the Ventura Social Service Task Force is once again hosting the One City, One Meal Thanksgiving Day lunch.

The lunch will be held at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Downtown Ventura from 11am-2pm. All of the food will be prepared by restaurants in Downtown Ventura.

Families and individuals alike are invited to gather around a table and share a meal with their Venturan neighbors as the city hosts its second annual One City Thanksgiving Day celebration.

Last year's event saw nearly 900 meals served to over 600 people.

"In the traditions of old this day is about generosity and sharing, about one sharing a table with another," according to Jesse Giglio, Mission Pastor at Ventura Missionary. "It's not a hand out but an expression of solidarity."

Volunteers are also needed. The volunteers will be 15 people per hour shifts beginning at 9am with the last one beginning at 3pm. Greeting, hosting, seating, serving, busing, cleaning...the usual opportunities. A design team to help the night before from roughly 5pm-9pm is also needed.

Anyone interested in volunteering for any shift can email ellen@vmc.net or call 642-0550 x581.

We are also in need of support for this undertaking.

1) The cost for this event will be around \$2,000.00. Ventura Missionary Church has agreed to provide \$500 in addition to the staff to coordinate volunteers, The Salvation Army has committed \$250 plus all plates, cups, napkins, and utensils. All checks can be payable to VMC note "Thanksgiving." Please contact Jesse@vmc.net if you need any invoicing or are willing to make a pledge.

2) Also needed are 40+ turkeys and 100 pies. Watermark and other restaurants will provide side dishes and cook the turkeys. VMC can store all turkeys and pies if space is needed. Please inform Jesse Giglio at jesse@vmc.net if you have pies or turkeys.

3) Even if there are no volunteer spaces available for the desired time please come eat, play, and fellowship and make new friends.

Enjoy a free thanksgiving dinner at the YMCA

Ventura Family YMCA is inviting all members of the community to join them for their sixth Annual Thanksgiving Potluck Celebration today at 6:00 pm. Enjoy a fantastic potluck style feast with a variety of delicious foods, live entertainment and raffle prizes.

The Thanksgiving Potluck is a FREE celebration where staff, members and individuals from the community join together for an evening of great company and entertainment.

"The potluck is our special way to say thank you to our members since they are the ones that truly make the YMCA

COUPON! Buy one, get second one 1/2 off! Medium, Large, X-large

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* YARD AND AREA DRAINS NOT INCLUDED, RESIDENCES ONLY. ALL DRAINS AND STOPPAGES MUST BE READILY ACCESSIBLE.

Community Events

a wonderful place", said Amber Stevens, Ventura Family YMCA Aquatics Director.

You are invited to join them for an incredibly fun event that will shed the spirit of thanks throughout our community and throughout the Ventura Family YMCA. Don't forget to bring your favorite Thanksgiving dish to share.

The Ventura Family YMCA serves over 20,000 individuals annually through facility memberships, before & after school childcare, day & resident camps, youth sports, swim lessons, teen programs, and many more healthy lifestyles and community enriching programs. The Ventura Family YMCA is located at 3760 Telegraph Rd.

The Canyon Club

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818 879-5016 Box Office www.canyon-club.net

Upcoming concerts - on sale now

DAVID LINDLEY

JOHN HAMMOND

THUR NOV 19 - \$25.00

Doors 6 PM Show 7:30 PM

KC & THE SUNSHINE BAND

FRI NOV 20 - \$35.00

Doors 6 PM Show 9 PM

DENNIS MILLER

SAT NOV 21 - \$55.00 - \$75.00

Doors 6 PM Show 9 PM

ROBERT SCHIMMEL

FRI NOV 27 - \$25.00

Doors 6 PM Show 8 PM

AIR SUPPLY

SAT NOV 28 - \$39.50

Doors 6 PM Show 9 PM

BRIAN WILSON

GREATEST HITS LIVE TOUR

THUR DEC 3 - \$62.50 - \$88.50

Doors 6 PM Show 8 PM

WHICH ONE'S PINK

FRI DEC 4 - \$19.50

Doors 6 PM Show 8:30 PM

LED ZEPAGAIN

SAT DEC 5 - \$19.50

Ventura Nightlife

Bariloche at 500 E Main Street (from 7:00pm to 10:00pm)

11/18 Gilberto Gonzalez, Latin Jazz

11/19 Teka, Bossa Nova Music of Brazil

11/20 Gilberto Gonzalez, Latin Jazz

11/21 Gilberto Gonzalez, Latin Jazz

11/22 Ignacio Lopez, Paraguayan Harp

11/23 Chucumite, Folk Music of Veracruz, Mexico

11/24 Teka, Bossa Nova Music Of Brazil

11/25 Gilberto Gonzalez, Latin Jazz

11/26 Teka, Bossa Nova Music Of Brazil

11/27 Gilberto Gonzalez, Latin Jazz

11/28 Gilberto Gonzalez, Latin Jazz

11/29 Ignacio Lopez, Paraguayan Harp

11/30 Chucumite, Folk Music Of Veracruz, Mexico

12/01 Teka, Bossa Nova Music of Brazil

Good Bar at 533 E Main Street

11/18 TBA

11/19 Tricky Disco

11/20 B Mikasa Band w/ We Govern We

11/21 Astralaliens

11/22 Los Dudes @ 4:00pm

11/23 Musician's Brew

11/24 DJ's

11/25 TBA

11/26 Tricky Disco

11/27 Irie Smile

11/28 Inna Rude Mood

11/29 Project "O"

11/30 Musician's Brew

San Souci at 21 S Chestnut

11/18 Solorzano

11/19 Reggae

11/20 8 Stops 7

11/21 Deadbeat Sinners

11/22 Rock Night w/ DJ Darko

11/23 Open Mic w/ Favio

11/24 Shoddy Cons

11/25 Stundexim

11/26 GTP & the Hotsteppers

11/27 Adversity Breeds Creation

11/28 Eric Lemaire band

11/29 Rock Night w/DJ Darko

11/30 Open Mic w/Favio

Ventura events

Nov. 21: Ventura's First Tellabration!

Celebrated around the world the third Saturday of November and now in Ventura! Bringing the area's most talented storytellers who have performed at the National Storytelling Conference, the Australian Storytelling Festival, the LA Storytelling Festival and the Ojai Storytelling Festival. Saturday, November 21st, 8 p.m. at Bell Arts Factory, 432 N. Ventura Avenue, Ventura. Stories for all ages. \$10 at door. For additional information, contact elaine@embodiedvoicestoryarts.com or call 805-407-2538.

November 27, 28, 29 & December 4,5,6,11,12&13. Dudley House Victorian holiday boutique.

The 16th year of the boutique begins the day after Thanksgiving and continues for three consecutive weekends from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. with a Flea Market added on Sundays. Shop for collectibles, crafts and unique gifts made by talented crafters in a turn-of-the-century Victorian farmhouse. Located on the corner of Loma Vista and Ashwood, proceeds benefit the historic house museum. Admission is free; call 654-8381 for information or visit their website at www.dudleyhouse.org.

Downtown Ventura Holiday Events

Dec.5: Downtown Ventura cultural district for the kickoff of the Holiday Season. Enjoy downtown delicacies in the cookie stroll, enjoy the sounds of several choirs performing on street corners throughout the area and then make your way over the 225 year-old Mission San Buenaventura for the **annual tree lighting** of two Landmark 125 year-old Norfolk Island Star pine trees. A reception in Figueroa Plaza will follow where Santa will arrive to hear children's wishes for Holiday goodies.

Dec.6: On Sunday from 2 - 4:30pm, discover how the holidays were celebrated on **Ranch San Miguel** in Old California. Costumed guides lead small group tours into the Adobe courtyard to observe vignettes of how the Olivas family prepared for its holiday celebration in the 1860s. Enjoy costumed Historical Skits, Live Entertainment and Refreshments. Admission Free, but reservations recommended. Call 4726 to reserve your tour time.

Ojai events

Ojai artists and authors Alice and Richard Matzkin will be the featured speakers at a Sunday gathering at the Ojai Valley Museum on **November 22**, from 2 - 4 pm. The Matzkins will give a presentation about their recently published book, *The Art of Aging: Celebrating the Authentic Ag-*

ing Self, followed by a book signing. In their beautiful book, painter Alice Matzkin and sculptor Richard Matzkin explore the experience of aging through their art, finding inspiration rather than despair. Admission to this Sunday Gathering is free.

A selection of their artwork and a video can be viewed at the museum in conjunction with the current Ojai Celebrates Art exhibit. To make a reservation for the Nov. 22 Sunday Gathering call the museum at 640-1390. Go to www.ojavalleymuseum.org and www.matzkinstudio.com for additional information.

Dr. Lakshman Rasiah will give a recital at **AT HOME IN OJAI**, located at 225 N. Lomita Ave. on Friday, **Nov. 27**, at 6:30pm. The recital will consist of arias, ariettas, Old Americana and folk songs.

Dr. Rasiah was trained in psychiatry and neurology in the United Kingdom and at the University of British Columbia. He moved to Ojai with his family 25 years ago from Vancouver. Dr. Rasiah is an operatic tenor. He was trained as a violinist in the syllabi of the Royal College of Music, London.

Singing at Assisted Living and other residential facilities gives Dr. Rasiah very much pleasure. He feels these are his best listeners.

Reception follows. For more information, please call Maria at 646-2402.

Ojai Film Society celebrates 20 years

The Ojai Film Society (OFS) will celebrate its 20th anniversary with a gala party Saturday, **November 21** at 5:30 pm at the Ojai Art Center.

Acclaimed Bass Baritone Dan Tullis will headline the entertainment with songs from classic films. Dan is best known in Ojai for his show-stopping performance as Joe in the musical, "Showboat."

Other highlights of the evening will be a special screening of "Une Vie Merveilleuse," a stunning film by 19-year-old Brooks's student Sean Broadbent, the recipient of the 2009 Mary Steenburgen Film Studies Scholarship.

OFS Founders Michael Janover, Sally Janover and Khaled Al-Awar will entertain with their remembrances of the group.

The evening also includes a dinner and silent auction. Tickets are \$50 with a no host bar.

Paid Reservations required. For more information contact Elise DePuydt at 646-8946 or Fran Merkley at 646-3350. You may also pay online at www.ojaifilmsociety.org.

The Ojai Valley Museum's Board of Trustees has announced its search for a museum director. "For the last two years, the Board has managed the museum and is now in a position to seek candidates who have the qualifications and skills to promote and develop the potential of the museum", announced Ann Scanlin, President of the Board of Trustees. "The board has worked very hard to bring riveting exhibitions, special events and Sunday Gatherings to enhance the cultural life of Ojai. We are looking for someone who has a deep passion for the museum and the work it is doing and has the skills to build on the momentum that has been created over the last two years", Scanlin said.

The director, who reports to the Board of Trustees, will be responsible for the development, execution, and management of the policies, programs and initiatives of the Ojai Valley Museum, as directed by its Board of Trustees in its mission of preserving the history of the Ojai Valley. The necessary skills and expertise for this position include a proven track record in fundraising, a strong understanding of non-profit management, ability to work closely with a Board of Trustees and with the public and private sector. This is a full-time, salaried position. Qualified candidates should send a request by email for a complete job description to OjaiMuseumHR@gmail.com. Please do not telephone the museum office. The goal of the Board of Trustees is to select in time for the approved candidate to assume the Director position in January 2010.



Ojai artists and authors Richard and Alice Matzkin will appear at the Ojai Valley Museum. Photo by Donna Granata, 2008 FOTM Portrait Series.

Holiday Hair Specials

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Art Scene



How DMV employees relax

Ventura artist Laura Ray, and other DMV employees have created a wonderful garden space at the DMV office in Ventura where employees can relax and de-stress from what can be a very stressful job.

While some might read a book or take a nap in their car, others might sit in a garden, such as the one several employees created from an empty patio located off of the break room at DMV.

A vacant patio and beds of dirt have been transformed into a delightful retreat where a sandwich and a catnap can be squeezed into a lunch hour.

Laura Ray is a multi-talented artist and has also designed a big panel for the Santa Paula DMV office.

She likes working on large sheets of luan, which is a veneer material that is lightweight and inexpensive. She stated that "I studied painting and other fine arts at Virginia Commonwealth Univer-

sity in Richmond, Virginia which is considered one of the better art schools on the East Coast, second to Pratt in New York. Portraits fascinate me, as it is a challenge to capture the nuances of expression which create a great likeness. I enjoy painting water scenes, and capturing light in unusual ways."

"Creating art has fascinated me since childhood, and I am so grateful to be living in Ventura where art is appreciated and enjoyed by a very cosmopolitan audience. I feel as if I am entering a new phase of creativity, with multiple projects in the planning stages. Right now I am working on some illustrations for a story I have written, and I want to explore some sculpture projects."

"Life just gets better and better, and I'm convinced this is the best part!"

Laura can be reached at buggage1@msn.com if you want a mural painted on your living room wall or anywhere else.

Join in for the last Tuesday FOTM talk of 2009

Unique, fascinating and at times just plain puzzling - words that describe both Bill McEwen and his philosophically oriented sculptures. As pharmacist and artist, his work provokes the viewer to see beyond the obvious. He believes that the most intense activity and emphasis of nature's construction occurs at transition points.

On Dec.1 from 7-8:30pm join in for the last Tuesday FOTM talk of 2009. The Tuesday Talks will resume in February 2010 with 10 new artists whose life stories will inspire, educate and enrich our community.

\$10 General Admission - \$5 Students and Seniors. Free to FOTM members, recently unemployed and students under 18.

Technology Development Center, 5200 Valentine Dr.

Please RSVP at 653-2501 or by emailing Mary.Galbraith@FocusOnTheMasters.com.

Ed Moses: Processed Art

Ed Moses is considered one of the founding fathers of the LA contemporary art scene. The dynamic, diverse collection of paintings on display at the Sylvia White Gallery is a testament to Moses' place in art history.

His large-scale works are simultaneously reminiscent of the American abstract expressionists and the Russian constructionists. Despite these similarities, he developed his own distinct style that has mutated throughout his 50 plus years of painting.

Such mutation is the product of pure spontaneity. When Moses approaches a canvas, there is no agenda, there is no pre-image. There are only pre-experiences and processes. It is "through these different processes that things start to appear," Moses explains. "I am looking for that primordial apparitional figure. Things happen that I can either project in or extract out and say, "I like that."

"Ed Moses: Processed Art" will be on display until December 5. Sylvia White Gallery, 1783 E. Main St. 643-8300. Gallery hours: Wednesday - Saturday 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. www.sylviawhite.com

Calling all artists and elves

"Deck The Walls"....Stoneworks Studios is decorating the gallery as a Christmas Holiday Installation/ Open House/ Stop By and Spread Some Good Cheer Installation for First Fridays Dec. 4, 6-10pm & Sat Dec. 5 10am-4pm.

The gallery show will be an installation of Christmas stockings, wreaths, ornaments, packages, table decorations made with a creative bent for the Holiday.

All items must be ready to hang or park on a table/ shelf, with a Holiday label that lists your name, price, and medium. This is your chance to make something special and recycle what you have. No commission will be taken.

Drop off is Monday Nov 30 3-9 p.m

and Wed. Dec 2 from 11a.m. We will start decking the walls at 3p.m.

Stoneworks Studios, 300 N. Ventura Ave. Call Michele at 643-5431 for further information.

Museum accepting entries for Quilt Invitational

The Museum of Ventura County is now accepting entries for Becoming Art At The Seams, a juried exhibition of both contemporary and art quilts, running March 13 through May 31,2010. The application deadline is January 2, 2010. To

Continued on page 19

MEET THE AUTHOR/BOOKSIGNING
Dallas Woodburn
 author of *There's a Huge Pimple On My Nose* and *3 a.m.*

Friday, December 4, 2009
2:00pm - 4:00pm
Refreshments will be served.

Dallas Woodburn is a Ventura native and the author of two collections of short stories and a forthcoming novel. She has written more than 80 articles for national publications including Family Circle, Writer's Digest, CO-ED, Justice, and The Los Angeles Times, and she writes a regular column for Listen magazine. Dallas is the founder of the nonprofit organization "Write On! for Literacy" that has donated nearly 11,000 new books to disadvantaged children.

Contact her at her website www.dallaswoodburn.com or blog <http://dallaswoodburn.blogspot.com>.

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All motorized bicycles must be insured just like any other vehicle

Motorized Bicycles

The Ventura Police Department has been fielding a large amount of questions and complaints regarding "Motorized Bicycles". The following information is intended to educate the public about their usage and the laws that regulate them.

There has been a drastic increase in the amount of these "Motorized Bicycles" being ridden on the streets, sidewalks, and bike paths around the city. The typical motorized bicycle that we are seeing is a beach cruiser style bicycle with a small 20-50 cc gasoline motor attached (see photo in additional attachment). The following information pertains to the style of motorized bicycle described above (a bicycle with a gasoline motor attached). Electric bicycles have some different laws.

Here is a summary of the laws regulating the motorized bicycles: All operators MUST have a valid Driver's License with an M2 endorsement. All motorized bicycles must be insured just like any other vehicle. Motorized bicycles are prohibited on all

sidewalks and bike paths. They can be driven only on roads

All operators and passengers need full motorcycle helmets approved by the Department of Transportation. Bicycle helmets do not suffice

All motorized bicycles must be registered and have a special plate issued by DMV. Motorized bicycles must be equipped with items required for other vehicles, such as headlamps, tail lamps, stop lamps, adequate brakes, a mirror, a muffler, a horn, etc.

Motorized bicycles are a large source of complaints due to the fact that they are being ridden on bike paths and sidewalks at a high rate of speed. Many of these motorized bicycles travel up to 25-35 MPH. Additionally, operators of these vehicles tend to fail to obey the rules of the road.

The Ventura Police Department intends to educate the public by distributing this information and then begin enforcing all of the laws pertaining to motorized bicycles.



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Senior Living

Senior Cone-nection

“Seniors working for seniors”

by Nanci Cone

In 1975 the Ventura Senior Coordinating Council (VSCC) was created to represent all seniors from the City of Ventura. VSCC Chair, Darlene Benz says, “We meet the second Thursday of every month, except for August and December at the Senior Recreation and we’re always looking for people, especially retirees, who want to stay active and help to make a difference in the community.”

Secretary of the VSCC, Rose Gosom adds, “This is a great opportunity for people to present important issues or concerns they would like to see addressed. We have a segment of our agenda called Member and Public Communications that allows seniors to get up and talk about problems they are facing or ideas they may have to help mature adults continue to maintain their independence.”

The VSCC is dedicated to:
 Make recommendations and periodic presentations to the Ventura City Council
 Promote health and fitness for maintaining a vital and meaningful life style
 Present local programs on people and services important for living a full and healthy later stage of life
 Advocate and educate public on critical issues such as transportation, nutrition and housing for later life
 Work closely with other organizations and service providers including the Ventura County Area Agency on Aging and the City of Ventura Department of Community Services
 Create community-wide aging readiness through significant policy and system changes
 Help build opportunities for making the best use of talent and experience of those who desire and are able to continue working
 Insure productive aging for all through advocacy education and service
 Develop volunteer opportunities that enrich one’s mental and physical health by giving back to those in need.

To that end, each member searches out programs to help ease the burdens of those struggling financially, networks with organizations such as FOOD Share or Gold Coast Transit to stay informed, sponsors forums that are of interest to seniors, and invites public officials, community members and organizations to attend meetings as guest speakers. Darlene Benz notes, “By attending meetings you’ll find it is a terrific way to stay informed of new programs, grants or new opportunities in the community.”

At the November meeting, Steve Lehman of SCAN Health Plan talked about new seminars available free to seniors as well as new legislative proposals to the California State Legislature that will affect Ventura seniors if and when they are passed. Margaret Heath of Gold Coast Transit talked about the November 18th meeting at their headquarters dealing with the proposed fare increases. And Darlene, who is very active in the Senior Nutrition Action Council (SNAC), discussed the new meals being offered at the Eastside and Westside Cafes in Ventura as well as programs that were axed because of California’s ongoing financial problems.

Rose commented, “It would be nice to get the senior living facilities involved in our program. Maybe we could meet each month at a different residence to help reach more seniors and to encourage them to attend our meetings. They could come out, enjoy a tasty lunch and make a difference in the community at the same time.”

To learn more about the VSCC, attend the next meeting on Thursday, January 14 at 9:30 am at the Senior Recreation Center or write them with any concerns at VSCC, 420 E. Santa Clara Street, Ventura, CA 93001.

Classes to be given at SCAN begin on November 30th

Posit Science, a San Francisco company that develops programs that address cognitive issues, has teamed with SCAN Health Plan to present a free brain fitness class to help exercise your brain.

Steve Lehman of SCAN said that there are only eight places available for the free introductory course. He notes, “It has been proven that participants have a five year improvement of memory after just 10 sessions. Anyone who participates will receive a discount coupon for optional purchase of the full 40 session software.”

Classes begin Monday, November 30 and run through Friday, December 11 at SCAN Senior Resource Center, 1001 Partridge Drive, Suite 200 in Ventura. Class times are 8:30-10 am and 10:30 am-12 noon each of the 10 days.

Steve Lehman added, “If people are unable to make the two week commitment, daily attendance to this program or the program is already booked, they will be able to sample a ½ hour demonstration online at SCAN Senior Resource Center in January.”

If you are interested in participating, it will be necessary to take part in a demonstration session on Monday, November 30 to demonstrate ability to use a computer mouse and to complete a brief questionnaire when you register. If you have questions or would like to attend these sessions, call 658-0365 and ask for Karen.

SCAN Health Plan is also offering a free seminar on Tuesday, December 1st at 10 am to talk about shingles. Anyone who has ever had chickenpox is at risk for shingles since the virus lives in the nervous system in a dormant state.

This painful, ugly virus most commonly occurs in people over the age of 60 and it has been estimated that up to 500,000 cases of shingles occur every year in the U.S. Any individual dealing with weakened immune systems, emotional stress, immune deficiency from AIDS or chemotherapy, or cancer is at risk for reactivating the virus.

Learn about what you can do to reduce your risk of reactivating this virus or what you need to know if you begin showing symptoms.

The seminar is free to seniors and caregivers. Call 658-0365 for directions and to register since space is limited.

School

Are Ventura schools failing?

by John Walker,
 Ventura USD Board Member,
 Member, Board of Directors, California School Board’s Association

After reading and hearing one of the recent VUSD school board race challengers demean Ventura USD, teachers and students, our community needs to know that the sky is not falling. The candidate repeatedly stated in press releases and mailers that “A shocking 44% of VUSD children cannot even read and write at proficiency levels for their grade standard.”

At first, that statement seems startling. What the challenger didn’t say is that the very standard by which the candidate used to demean VUSD is currently under fire by the Federal Government, as misleading and not representative of actual results and will soon change. The original NCLB law set arbitrary annual stair step increases into place without regards to issues such as demographics, student turnover rates, language or special education consideration. Fortunately, Federal Secretary of Education Arne Duncan recently said on September 24, 2009 that the law (NCLB) “unfairly labeled many schools as failures even when they were making real progress...placing too much emphasis on absolute test scores rather than student growth...and is overly prescriptive in some ways while it is too blunt an instrument of reform in others”. He further said “many parents just view it (NCLB) as a toxic brand that

isn’t helping children to learn”. Most importantly in the speech he referred to a proposed “growth” model that more aptly reflects real, measurable results (www.ed.gov for press release). This is the model that educators across the nation have suggested. It rewards schools for making real headway. NCLB has been beneficial, but needs to be altered in this respect.

To demonstrate inconsistencies in this measurement, in Ventura County, even using these flawed standards, there are currently 12 districts scoring below Ventura Unified and 7 scoring higher (www.ed-data.org). While the candidate’s scare tactic appeared shocking at first, the truth is that US Secretary of Education Arne Duncan realizes that the current model does not accurately measure true results.

The good news is that VUSD has shown consistent, considerable growth in all areas since NCLB was put into place. VUSD has 12 schools which already exceed the 2014 standards. Our district is one point from the 2014 target standard. Twenty schools are recognized California Distinguished Schools. We exceed the state and county averages considerably in graduation rates, attendance and the California High School Exit Exam. Finally, we need to acknowledge the excellent work and commitment of VUSD teachers and staff.

Breeze:

John Walker can be reached at 844-2456



Sarah Montague and Colette Kohanim are featured in the *Rimers of Eldritch*

Rimers of Eldritch comes to Ventura

The *Rimers of Eldritch* by Lanford Wilson is being presented at the Ventura High School Little Theater on November 19, 20 and 21 at 7pm. It is an intense drama recommended for mature audiences of 13 years and up. Tickets are available at the door for \$5.00/students and \$7.00/adults.

Future productions by Ventura High School will be Backstage Café (What? Improv Troupe) on Dec. 5 and Jan 9 and The Winter Showcase on Jan. 22 and 23.

Call 641-5116 ext 2114 for more information.

American Education Week announced

Organizations nationwide will be honoring American Education Week, which takes place November 15 - 21. The awareness campaign was founded by the

National Education Association (NEA) and according to Todd Sain, of Huntington Learning Center in Ventura, it is a campaign that should be recognized by the local community.

“American Education Week allows us all to understand the many benefits public schools provide our communities, and honor educators who ensure that our children receive quality education,” Sain said.

Sain has provided the following advice for local parents on how they can be more active in the Ventura public school system:

- * Join the Parent Teacher Association
- * Attend School Board Meetings
- * Show Support for Teachers - Whether it is a thank-you note for helping your child achieve better grades, a small thank-you gift for the holidays.

The Huntington Learning Center was founded in 1977, they provide instruction in reading, writing, spelling, phonics, mathematics and study skills as well as SAT and ACT preparation. For more information about Huntington Learning Center in Ventura contact Todd Sain at 654-9401.

Learn how to take advantage of insurance companies

Ventura College offers classes on the workings of insurance companies, insurance and risk management to equip individuals, business owners and students to take full advantage of the benefits and protections under the various types of individual and commercial insurance poli-

Continued on page 19

Sports



Everyone who participated in the "TAKE it to the COURT" tournament was a winner including the winners in the Barristers division the team "Capital Punishment" with Kevin Drescher, Derek Malan, Rameen Minoui and Stephen Slyker.

YMCA basketball tournament is a success

Last month the Ventura Family YMCA and the Barristers of the Ventura County Bar Association held their first basketball tournament to help support the Ventura Family YMCA Open Doors Scholarship program. The "TAKE it to the COURT" 3 on 3 Basketball Tournament had over 150 participant and volunteers, and raised over \$12,000 for the scholarship program which helps area individuals and families in need.

The Basketball Tournament was held at Anacapa Middle School and included a day full of family fun activities. The tournament consisted of three divisions; Men's Open, Over 40 and Barristers Open.

This year's basketball tournament is one of two yearly fundraisers put on by the Ventura Family YMCA. The funds from the tournament ensure that the YMCA can provide scholarships through

their Open Door scholarship program. The scholarship allows individuals and families the opportunity to take part in membership and in programs regardless of inability to pay full membership or programs fees.

"The 1st Annual 'TAKE it to the COURT' 3 on 3 basketball tournament was a huge success. We are so grateful to those people who participated, volunteered, and even watched our event. We are already working on and looking forward to next year, where it will be bigger and better" said Rich Gross, The Ventura Family YMCA Healthy Lifestyle Director.

If you would like more information on the Ventura Family YMCA or would like to know how you can participate or volunteer for next years basketball tournament please call 642-2131 or visit www.ciyymca.org/ventura.

Ventura Raceway's fall classic honors Mitchell

Ventura Raceway has long been an important player in the United States Auto Club's West Coast midget racing. Since the track's founding, no track in the United States has hosted more USAC events than Ventura.

So when Raceway promoter Jim Naylor says the Nov. 21 ARP presents The J.W. Mitchell Fall Classic for USAC Midgets might be the most important USAC race his venue has ever hosted, you have to pay attention.

Here's why: The race is in the memory of the man it is named after, the late J.W. Mitchell.

"I want to make people aware of his racing career, his love for the USAC Western Midgets," said Nick Mitchell, the brother of J.W. "It's called a Classic but I think it's more of a memorial to remember J.W. We want to put on a good show and promote a good West Coast midget race on dirt."

The Classic's purse, \$16,875, pays a hefty \$5,000 to the winner and \$300 just to start. The money and the fact that the race is slotted a few days before the Turkey Night Grand Prix at Irwindale, when most of the top midget teams in the country are expected to be in Southern

California anyway, is expected to attract a large entry.

J.W. Mitchell recorded his best USAC finish, ninth place, at Ventura in 1999. Later that year he suffered severe injuries in a race at Hanford Speedway. He succumbed to those injuries a few months later.

"We lost J.W. in a midget at Hanford," Nick Mitchell said. "He passed away in 2000. We just want to do something here for him, for J.W. This is the ninth year since his passing."

More information about Ventura Raceway is available at www.venturaceway.com. More information about USAC is available at www.USAC.com.

Lawyer seeks dismissal for ex-basketball coach

Earlier this month, an attorney for Ventura College's former athletic director and head men's basketball coach Greg Winslow announced he is making a request to have felony charges dismissed for his client.

In the motion, attorney Ron Bamieh alleges prosecutorial misconduct claim-

ing the district attorney breached the attorney-client privilege between him and his client.

According to Bamieh Winslow sent emails to him as well as a defense investigator. Bamieh says the emails were then illegally given to third parties including an investigator for Ventura College.

Walter Johnson, the investigator hired by the college has made a statement that he has "no idea what (Bamieh) is talking about."

In the motion filed by Bamieh, he maintains investigators seized a computer that contained emails sent by Winslow that gave detailed information regarding the case. Information on the computer included information that will be center in the defense's strategy and other confidential information about the case.

Winslow's lawyer will look for the court to disqualify the district attorney from prosecuting the case before he asks for the felony charges be dropped against Winslow.

District Attorney Wendy Macfarlane stated she had not seen Bamieh's motion. She added she did ask him for details regarding the emails he was referring to and he had not responded to her.

In April 2008, Winslow and Ventura

College assistant coach Jon Wyers were placed on paid leave and instructed not to have any contact with their student-athletes. What followed was a lengthy investigation around why out-of-state players were paying in-state fees - a difference of thousands of dollars.

In January this year, four of the team's players were deemed ineligible to play for the remainder of the season due to fraudulent applications filed by them or on their behalf.

In February Winslow resigned as co-athletic director position and head coach of the basketball team in February. Winslow attributed his resignation to health issues having suffered from a stroke earlier. He had planned to remain at the school as a full-time teacher.

Now Winslow faces six counts of grand theft and one count of theft involving misappropriation of public funds. He is accused of taking money that was supposed to be for the men's basketball program and moving it into his personal bank account. He is also charged with providing fraudulent information on admission applications for out-of-state student athletes essentially robbing the college from approximately \$40,000 in tuition.

Religion

Celebrate Jewish Book Month

by Franklin Hansen,
Jewish Book Month Committee

What makes a book Jewish? The author's heritage? The plot or story line? The Yiddish grandmas? What about apples? Join a few well-known authors at Temple Beth Torah to discuss some great Jewish books during the Jewish Book Month.

Join these fine authors at the remaining lectures:

Shelley Savren and Elijah Imlay are scheduled to speak about the process of Jewish Poetry today at 6:30 p.m. in the library Maggie Anton, author of Rashi's Daughters, on Sunday, November 22 at 10:00 a.m.

Also attend the Book Fair at Barnes and Noble, on Sunday, December 6 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., to help raise money for Torah School and to buy some great Jewish books.

And don't forget the Book Swap every Wednesday evening and Sunday morning by the temple library. Take a book or leave a book, or share a great Jewish book.

Temple Beth Torah is located where Kimball meets Foothill Road (7620 Foothill). For more information contact their librarian at librarian@templebethtorah.com or phone the Temple at 647-4181.

Unity Church relocates to Downtown

Nearly three years after the search began, Unity Church of Ventura is happy to announce that it has relocated to downtown Ventura.

Beginning November 8 Church Services were held every Sunday at 700 E. Main Street at 10:00 AM. The church office is located at 740 E. Main Street. For more information, call 653 - 1059 or visit

www.unityofventura.org.

To celebrate their relocation, Unity Church of Ventura enthusiastically invites the public to a grand opening celebration on December 6. Reception and ribbon cutting will be at 9am. Service will be from 10 to 11:00 am. The festivities conclude with live music and food from 11am to 1pm.

Throughout the years, the congregation of Unity Church of Ventura grew steadily. Now lead by Reverend Cathy Norman-Casey, Unity Church of Ventura is helping people realize and express their Divine Potential for healthier, happier and more successful lives.

"We are so very excited about our new church home and to be able to make it a place for reverence, rest, renewal, rejuvenation, remembering how much we have to be grateful for, and saying Thank you!" said Rev. Cathy Norman-Casey. "Unity Church of Ventura is excited to move forward in building a congregation and presence in Downtown Ventura."

Fred Hulem, President of the Unity Church of Ventura Board of Trustees, led the search for a new facility. "When I became President of the Board of Trustees, in January 2007, we were literally bursting at the seams and it was obvious we had outgrown our small warehouse." Unity Church of Ventura is a trans-denominational community affiliated with Unity School of Christianity, the Association of Unity Churches, Silent Unity, and the Daily Word.

Total Life Christian celebrates monumental achievement

On Friday night, December 4, at 7 p.m. and Sunday evening December 6, at 3:00p.m the members of Total Life Christian Center and friends will celebrate a monumental achievement. Reverend Luther and Mrs. Oracia McCurtis are two of

Continued on page 19

Business

**Business
Spotlight**

AutoTouch

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Green as the Emerald Isle

by Joseph Owen

We all want our cars looking and running at their best. That's why we maintain and service them regularly. To keep them looking good, most of us wash our vehicles every couple of weeks or so. But what can you do to fix that annoying and unsightly wear and tear caused by normal every day use?

Enter Francis O'Connor and his repair business, Autotouch. Fran came to the United States from Ireland in 1986 and like every other emigrant to land on these shores, he came in search of the American Dream. Owning his own business made that dream a reality. Autotouch, a locally-owned business provides a mobile auto appearance repair service in Ventura, Oxnard, Camarillo and the surrounding areas. What's unique about Fran's business is it's commitment to the environment. So often, car repairs involve pulling off a damaged part and throwing it away where it ends up in our local landfill. Fran offers the alternative of repairing that torn bumper or damaged windshield and at a much reduced cost. Even Fran's paints are all water based. Save money and save the environment, looks like a win-win situation to me! Fran specializes in a full range of interior and exterior repairs, providing a bumper to bumper, complete mobile make-over for your car. Your time is valuable and what Fran offers is an alternative to losing your car to a body shop for several days. By

coming to your home and fixing minor exterior and interior damage, Fran can rejuvenate the appearance of your car without ever leaving your driveway.

Fran repairs bumper and panel damage, scratches, rock chips, windshields, interiors and much more. A variety of restoration systems are available utilizing the latest equipment and state-of-the-art techniques. With the ability to match over 50 thousand paint colors on site and an unlimited range of leather and vinyl colors, all jobs can be completed in 4 hours or less. Since only the best quality products and methods are used, all Fran's work is fully guaranteed.

Traditionally this industry has targeted car dealerships exclusively. Now Fran puts the car owner on equal footing with the professionals in the business. Anyone who owns or leases a car will benefit from this service. Fran will be happy to give you a quote, not only on your car, but also any damage to your golf cart, motor cycle, boat, RV or trailer. Remember, a well-kept and maintained vehicle increases its value, decreases sell-



Francis O'Conner came to the United States from Ireland in 1986 and is living the American dream

ing time and extends its future.

Fran is married to a wonderful Irish lady and they've resided in the Ventura area since the early 1990's. When not involved with keeping Ventura green, Fran can be found riding one of his classic motorcycles enjoying the scenery in and about our beautiful city.

He can be reached at 377-1419 and check out his website <http://www.autotouchventura.com>.



JA Harold is giving Frank Peterson his Lifetime Peace and Community Service Award

Ventura resident, Frank Peterson, received Lifetime Peace and Community Service Award

Venturan Frank Peterson has received a Lifetime Peace and Community Service Award from the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura

In an emotional and touching ceremony which took place at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura on Veterans Day, Korean War Veteran, Frank Peterson received a Lifetime Peace and

Community Service Award.

In a show of unity, numerous local veterans, peace, and community groups came together to honor 78 year old, local resident, Frank Peterson.

Peterson, who was instrumental in helping to establish the UU church in it's first permanent residence, the historic Terry House, decades ago, has worked for peace along members of the church and with those in the above groups for peace going back to the time of the Vietnam War.

Peterson was in the Navy as a submariner during Korea and, also as an electrical engineer in the U.S. Civil Service.

Peterson is known for his quiet intelligence and thoughtful caring actions. During the early eighties, Peterson and his wife, Lucy Duffy, were devastated by

the extrajudicial killings and "disappearances" that were a part of the daily life of residents of El Salvador.

Peterson built an 8' panel with 100 names of victims killed there and placed it as a time capsule within the walls of his own home. He and his wife also joined a caravan to El Salvador to deliver goods and cash donated by the Kennedy Foundation to the people of the area.

During the Gulf War in the early nineties, while still serving in the military, Frank and his wife protested that intervention as well. When a photo of them protesting that war hit the papers the military attempted to take disciplinary action against Peterson. The American Civil Liberties Union took up the case, won it for Peterson, thus setting a free speech landmark for military personnel and all Americans.

Then with the 2002 invasion and occupation of Iraq, each time one of our soldiers was killed, Peterson added each one's photo, name and age to a memorial wall he built in their honor. He set the wall up at numerous events in recognition of the sacrifices of these individuals. As the number of those killed continues to grow and Peterson has not been able to keep up. Still, as we now face possible escalation in Afghanistan, Peterson, who recently broke a rib in a fall, can still be seen loading and unloading the Memorial Wall as he carries it from place to place.

"Thy Will Be Done" comes to the big screen

On Thursday Dec. 17 @ 7pm, in Theatre 2 at the Century 10 Downtown, the Ventura Film Society will present a much-requested repeat screening of "Thy Will Be

Done", our 2009 Festival world premiere.

The venue is being generously donated by Cinemark Theatres (thanks to Donna Bradford), through the auspices of the City of Ventura Cultural Affairs Division, and marks the first time the VFS will be showing a film in Ventura's only downtown cinema.

Jacob K. Cunningham's powerful and redemptive film about the life and challenges of Ventura's own Kevin Natale, was a major hit at their Festival in March.

This is a fundraising event that will allow the film to continue it's festival, distribution and outreach efforts and to offset some costs of those efforts.

Tickets are \$15 and are available in advance through:

VFS Website- <http://www.venturafilm-society.com/tickets.html>

Ventura Visitors & Convention Bureau (101 S. California St. 648-2075 / tourism@ventura-usa.com w/ \$2.00 processing fee per transaction)

TWBD website (<http://thywillbedonefilm.com/Site/Home.html>)

This event will give Venturans and others a chance to see this redemptive local story and support the VFS and the filmmakers at the same time.

The film tells the story of Kevin Natale, a Ventura native who was on that day an active, ordinary fourteen year-old boy preparing for a league basketball game when twenty-one year-old and deeply disturbed neighbor Bryan Adams burst through the front door, pistol in hand - obsessed with the idea of settling a largely imagined score - and opened fire. Though Kevin survived the bullet intended to take his life, he was left paralyzed. Directed by Brooks Institute graduate Jacob K. Cunningham, the feature documentary describes not only a tragic and transformational moment, but traces the aftermath of that moment and the ongoing transformation in a powerfully human story of courage and pathos and everyday humanity.



The future is now.

The Breeze is available online 24/7, along with useful links, staff biographies and online-only goodies.

www.venturabreeze.com

Professor Scamp, Ph.D

(Pretty Happy Dog)



Professor Scamp
Ph.D

I have a complaint against my human friends. Barking is how I talk, I wish that I could speak their language (or them mine) but this is not the case.

So when I bark I am usually trying to tell them something so instead of yelling "quit barking" they should try to understand what it is that I want or just give me a bunch of treats to shut me up.

I'm very sad to hear that Wright Library will probably be shutting down. They have a wonderful service dog program where children read to dogs. It has been very successful in getting kids to read who have been struggling to do such.

I hope that the program can be continued at Foster Library.

There is a new federal bill that was introduced by Rep. Thaddeus McCotter, H.R. 3501, known as the Humanity and Pets Partnered Through the Years ("HAPPY") Act. It is a federal bill that would reward responsible pet parents by allowing them to keep more money in their pockets come tax time.

You all want to give your animal companions the best care you possibly can, but it seems that pet care costs are always on the rise and these days, it's harder than ever to stretch the family budget. That's why I support the bill which would amend U.S. tax code to allow qualifying pet care expenses, including veterinary care, to be tax-deductible.

This means that when you prepare your income taxes, money you spent on pet care that year would count as non-taxable income—and you can deduct up to \$3,500 per year!

This would also mean that we would get all of the care that we need.

With the holidays coming up I once again want to remind you that they can be tough times for us pets so it is important to remember us and to keep us safe.

Melanie Monteiro, the author of "The Safe Dog Handbook: A Complete Guide to Protecting Your Pooch, Indoors and Out" (Quarry Books) offers some impor-

tant tips to keep dogs—and other pets—safe this holiday season and throughout the year.

- **Poisoning:** Ingesting chocolate or sweets that contain ingredients like raisins or xylitol (an artificial sweetener) can cause severe health complications and possibly death.

- **Choking:** Small decorations, candy wrappers, holiday lights and wrapping papers are among the items that a pet can ingest and possibly choke on.

- **"Bolting":** A pet can runaway when alarmed, particularly at loud noises or when surrounded by unfamiliar people. A pet may run outside as you open the door, or may escape unnoticed while you're entertaining.

- **Costumes:** Antlers on a pup are cute (especially on me cause I'm so cute to begin with) but make sure they aren't hurting it and that no small parts can fall off or be chewed off and ingested. Pet costumes shouldn't restrict movement or have elastic bands, and should allow the pet to eat, drink and eliminate when needed. Throughout the season, make time for your pet. It's easy for extra walks and playtime to fall by the wayside as relatives and friends filter through.

These are all wonderful suggestions so do keep us in mind during the holidays and be sure to buy us some really special toys and treats for us to open up during the holidays, we loving ripping open presents.



Dogs to Adopt



Hi, I'm Stella a sweet 2 year old female German Shepherd mix. I was rescued from Animal Regulation and I'm eagerly awaiting my forever home. I hope I don't have to wait long. Stop by and meet me, I may be the addition to your family that you've been looking for.

I'm a super jumper so I need a minimum 7 foot fence, Scamp would only need 2 feet.

I'm in need of a foster home as well as a permanent home. If you are interested in fostering call the Adoption Center at 652-1001.

The Canine Adoption
& Rescue League
3004 Telegraph Road
805.652.1001

www.carlvc.org info@carlvc.org

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 receive a Scampclub Card that will get you the following discounts. Scampclub members can receive:

- 10% off dog wash at **Cameos Dog Grooming**, 1058 S. Seaward 648.3800
- \$3.00 off bathing at **Applause Four Paws**, 2008 Thompson 648.2757
- Wed. \$3.00 off Grooming, 10% off for all Seniors (Over 62) **Naturally for Paws**, 1766 Thompson 648.7297
- 50% off first grooming - 10% off following grooming at **Aloha Grooming**, 1076 Front Street, 643.4852
- 10% off pet sitting, dog training and MORE at **Prancing Pet Services**, 890.1406

Scamp Club

Hi I'm Chablee a 14 year old Cairn Terrier and I live in Agoura Hills. I like to eat human food especially chicken is my favorite and , of course, riding in the car with my head out of the window. And sleeping between mom and dad (not really my mom and dad but I call them that) and being a spoiled brat.

Police and Fire Reports

by Joseph Owen

Collision on E. Main Street

On the Thursday morning of Oct. 22 Ventura Police Officer Marchetti was issuing a citation to a motorist in the 2000 block of E. Main St. when 53 year old Cherie Stout of Ventura drove by the traffic stop and collided with Officer Marchetti's police motorcycle.

The collision knocked the motorcycle to the ground causing moderate damage.

Stout then fled the scene despite the fact that her vehicle had suffered substantial damage. Officer Marchetti radioed other officers in the area regarding the crash, but he was unable to follow Stout due to the damage to his motorcycle. Within a short time Ventura Officer Murphy spotted the hit and run driver several blocks from the location of the collision and stopped Stout in order to conduct an investigation.

While interviewing Stout Officer Murphy noticed she appeared to be under the influence of alcohol. The officer also established Stout's 16 yr. old daughter was in the vehicle with her at the time of the collision and the stop.

Stout was arrested and booked into

the Ventura County Jail on suspicion of driving while under the influence of alcohol, hit and run, and child endangerment. Nobody was physically injured during the collision.

Burglary on Jazmin Avenue

Early Sunday morning Oct. 25 Ventura Police Officers responded to a burglary alarm ringing at Saticoy Elementary School 760 Jazmin Ave.

As officers checked the school campus they found a classroom that had been broken into. Officers continued searching the school and while checking an additional classroom a suspect bolted from within and began running south through the campus.

Officers chased the suspect and caught 28 year old Oxnard resident Robert Padilla along Darling Rd. where he was taken into custody.

Officers continued a search of the school and found another suspect, 20 year old Oxnard resident Joseph Gill, hiding in a closet in the same classroom that Padilla had previously exited from. Gill was taken into custody without incident.

Robert Padilla was booked at Ventura County Jail for possession of burglary tools, burglary, and resisting arrest. Joseph Gill was also booked at VCJ for burglary.

Attempted arson on S. Mills Road

At 2:30 in the morning on Sunday Oct. 26 a Ventura Police Officer was on patrol near the Circle K Mini Mart located at 600 S. Mills Rd. when he observed someone crouching near a fence behind the store. The person had a lighter in his hand and had just set fire to a mass of dry pine needles and leaves on a vacant lot located behind the mini mart.

The officer swiftly placed the arsonist under arrest and was able to partially extinguish the fire before it spread to two vehicles parked nearby and a line of trees that run along the 101 freeway. Ventura City Fire Dept. was then called in and they completed the job of extinguishing the smoldering pile.

The suspect was identified as 64 year old Andrew Kirk of Ventura and was booked at Ventura County Jail for arson.

At the time of the fire Santa Ana winds were blowing and the humidity was dropping adding to the already dangerous situation. Although Ventura recently received over an inch of rain, many areas remain dry and vegetation fires continue to be a concern. Please report any suspicious activity to the appropriate authorities, especially during Santa Ana wind conditions.

Windows broken on S. Hemlock Street

On Friday Oct. 30 at 5 o'clock in the morning several Ventura City Police Officers responded to a report of a female breaking out windows with a golf club in an apartment complex located at 248 S. Hemlock St. Officer Henuber arrived at the scene and confronted the suspect, but was immediately struck in the upper body with the club by the out of control woman.

A Taser gun eventually had to be deployed to subdue the violent suspect. The attacker was identified as 47 year old Stephanie Swofford of Ventura and was treated for her minor injuries, then arrested. Officer Henuber also suffered



"Bad boys, bad boys, whatcha gonna do...?"

Police Continued

minor injuries from the blow to his chest.

Further investigation revealed that Swofford had earlier attacked a neighbor, 22 year old Maximo Gonzalez with the club, but he was not injured. Swofford was booked at the Ventura County Jail and charged with assault with a deadly on a police officer, assault with a deadly weapon, terrorist threats, resisting a police officer, and vandalism.

Fire off Highway 101

The Friday morning of October 30 found Ventura Fire Department personnel dispatched to a reported tree fire between the 3300 block of Armada Dr. and the 101 Freeway. Firemen arriving at the scene found several eucalyptus trees ablaze along the alleyway.

Due to the smoke and flames traffic along the freeway the California Highway Patrol reduced traffic to one lane. Vehicles were then escorted through the area for approximately 30 minutes until the bulk of the fire was knocked down.

The quick attack on the conflagration kept it from further impacting the freeway and aggressive action by the fire fighters limited the burn to only about 100 feet of trees and vegetation. Nearby structures were continually monitored due to the threat of flying embers and no other problems were forthcoming. The cause of the blaze remains undetermined.

Stabbing on West Center Street

In the early afternoon of Saturday October 31 Ventura Police Officers responded to a report of a stabbing in the 200 block of W. Center St. Officers arrived at the scene and found 22 year old Christian Torres of Ventura lying on the sidewalk suffering from multiple stab wounds.

During the investigation a second stabbing victim appeared at the Ventura County Medical Center emergency room also suffering from multiple stab wounds. The second victim was identified as 21 year old Gerardo Salgado also of Ventura. Further investigation determined the stabbings were related. The victims were admitted to VCMC and both were listed in critical condition.

Ventura City Detectives responded to the scene and they, with their fellow officers, canvassed the surrounding neighborhood for any leads regarding the attack. The motive for the stabbings are unknown and an investigation is continuing.

Attempted bank robbery on Market Street

In the early afternoon on Thursday, October 29, a bank robber entered County Schools Federal Credit Union located at 4591 Market St. and handed a teller a demand note. The suspect was described as a Hispanic male about 5'9" tall, weighting approximately 190 lbs. and around 30 years old. He appeared to have a shaved head and was wearing a blue long sleeve shirt, black baseball cap and black sunglasses.

A second robber stood outside the bank near the doors and served as a look out. He was described as a Hispanic male about 5'9" tall and weighting about 180 lbs. The suspect was wearing a black and brown striped Pendleton type shirt and had a shaved head with no facial hair.

Without reading the note the teller asked the hold up man what type of transaction he wanted. The suspect did not say anything, but kept his head down and did not look at the teller. The teller then told the suspect he needed take off his hat and sunglasses before she could assist him. At this point, the teller did glance at the note and saw the word "robbery".

About the same time, the suspect

asked for his note back. The teller obliged and he walked out of the bank without receiving any money. No weapons was observed during the confrontation and no one was injured during the attempted robbery.

Both would be bank robbers were last seen walking east on Market St. Ventura Police Officers searched the area, however the suspects continue to remain at large.

Robbery on S. Petit Avenue

Late Saturday night, on October 31, 39 year old Ignacio Angulo of Ventura was walking along the 100 block of S. Petit Ave. when three Hispanic adult males pulled up next to him in a light colored SUV. The suspects, armed with a knife, then jumped Angulo and forced him into the their vehicle.

The attackers robbed Angulo of his personal property and then pushed him out of the car, stabbing Angulo in the process. The victim was able to struggle to a home in the 9300 block of El Cajon Ave. and residents summoned help for the injured man.

Family members transported Angulo to the Ventura County Medical Center where he was treated for a knife wound to his lower back.

Purse snatching on Monmouth Blvd.

Early Sunday morning, on November 1, twenty year old Kalia Randall of Ventura was attempting to enter her vehicle near the corner of Monmouth Ave and Pierpont Blvd. when two Hispanic males in their mid 20's described as having medium builds rushed toward her. Both suspects pulled on the woman's purse hanging from her arm, causing the victim to let go of the bag.

The robbers jumped into a black compact car, then fled the area and were last seen driving eastbound on Pierpont Blvd. with the their ill-gotten gains. Ventura City Police Officers responded to the crime scene and checked the area for the purse snatchers, but they could not be located.

Fire on Poli Street

Late Thursday night on October 29 a pine tree caught fire in front of the Apollo apartments near the corner of Poli St. and Ash St. Some shrubbery along side the apartment building also caught fire and then spread to an adjacent pine tree.

Apartment residents used a garden hose to slow down the fire spreading to the structure until the Ventura Fire Department arrived. Firemen then quickly knocked down the blaze and completed the cleanup of any hot spots.

Gun shot on Santa Clara Street

Near midnight on November 1, a citizen heard what sounded like a gunshot in the alleyway behind his home along the 1200 block of Santa Clara St. The man went to investigate and found 35 year old Kristopher Brause of Ventura and a woman standing in the alleyway. The man asked Brause about the gunshot, but Brause claimed to know zero about a shot being fired.

The citizen then noticed a handgun nearby resting on the ground. When the citizen made a move to pick it up, Brause grabbed the gun. The two struggled for a few seconds before Brause wrestled control of the weapon.

The citizen ran back to his home with Brause in pursuit. The citizen locked himself in his home while Brause stood outside and fired 8-10 shots into the air with the 9mm handgun. Brause then retreated across the alleyway to his own home in the 1200 block of Meta St.

By now, several residents in the vi-

Continued on page 20

Movie Time

Review of A Christmas Carol

by Tim Pompey

★ ★ ★

Starring Jim Carrey, Colin Firth, Gary Oldman

Currently Playing at Century 16, Century 10

Ready for Christmas? You will be after seeing this film. Using what director Robert Zemeckis calls "performance capture," the animated film "A Christmas Carol" is a remarkable version of Charles Dicken's famous book. With Jim Carrey performing a variety of roles, including Scrooge himself, Zemeckis and company capture the powerful darkness and light of the original story and throw in some "wow" special effects that are visually stunning.

The story itself revolves around a miserly man named Ebenezer Scrooge who epitomizes his favorite term: humbug. Counting coins in a lonely office, along with his faithful clerk, Bob Cratchet, Scrooge is a cold soul, unwilling to give even a smidgen of joy to anyone.

Holed up one night in his bedroom, he is visited by the ghost of his former partner, Jacob Marley, and warned of the pending visits of three Christmas spirits: Past, Present, and Yet to Come. What follows is a roller coaster night that serves as a wake up call about the effects of Scrooge's meanness on his community, his family, and himself.

Zemeckis is faithful to both the spirit and text of the original story, recreating in great detail the English accents and settings of Dicken's novel. The film also has a great cast doing yeomen's work to create the diverse characters that fill out the story. But the man who holds the framework together is none other than Scrooge himself and, in that role, Carrey shines.

Refraining from his usual overwrought comedy, Carrey successfully gives Scrooge depth and, dare I say it, personality. Combine that with the remarkable photography and 3D effects, and you have a story that jumps off the screen (literally). You will enjoy watching Scrooge's transformation. Even more fun — the exciting journey across time and space, hovering at high altitudes, the palate of colors and lights.

Parents with small children should be aware. This is essentially an adult story with some pretty heavy themes: death, cruelty, poverty, hunger, but also love, joy, and redemption. Prepare to do some explaining. In addition, smaller children may find the movie very intense.

Finally, I wish Disney, Zemeckis, and crew could have refrained from the occasional geeky jokes that pop up in the film, particularly the shrinking Scrooge with the helium voice. My least favorite part of the film, and totally unnecessary. I guess it's Disney. Probably can't help themselves.

Still, quirks and all, this movie has a lot of heart, not to mention all the time and energy that went into its production. It's hard to beat the warmth and fun of "The Polar Express," but this comes in as a close second. It's a great way to kick off your Christmas. See it in 3D. Even better.

Christmas? Already? Yup. One Christmas movie down. More to come. This year, "Carol" will probably rank right up there as one of your favorites.

Mailbox

Continued from page 3

work. They are cutting them so that they can hire cheaper labor in Mexico. We now have 172 more Americans that are now unemployed and will probably lose their health insurance. These are people that have families. They are our neighbors. They are also an expense to Kavlico and apparently nothing else. Kavlico isn't unique by the way. IBM shipped 5,000 jobs to India not because they didn't have the work but because they wanted cheaper labor. I love our capitalist system but I also recognize that the function of government is to set rules to protect the vast majority of us who aren't in the owner class and who need a safety net including health care for those times when our economic system struggles to represent the interests of all Americans.

Ed Wehan
Ventura

Sheldon:

Forget Ellis, he's just a verbal bully. And why read the Voice (View). Nobody else does.

I take this opportunity to compliment the Breeze. Don't let this childish name calling on the part of 1 individual compromise the Breeze.

C Miller
Ventura

SHORE facility

Continued from page 1

bution, the second floor was dedicated and named in his honor.

Brenda Byer, the Case Manager for SHORE, expressed excitement about being able to work with this project. For her, SHORE housing is "a project that actually ends homelessness." For the thirty-four people who will live in these apartments, that statement hits home. Rose Sutton and her son recently moved into SHORE. She summed it up best when she called it an "intricate part of the tools needed to make her dreams a reality." For those who live at SHORE, something as basic as having a new apartment also means they receive a fresh start.

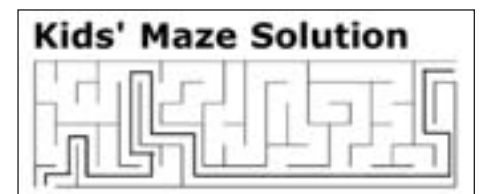
Weekly SUDOKU
Answer

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

King Crossword
Answers
Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Kids' Maze Solution



The Lighter Breeze

The Spats



Crankshaft



Baby Blues



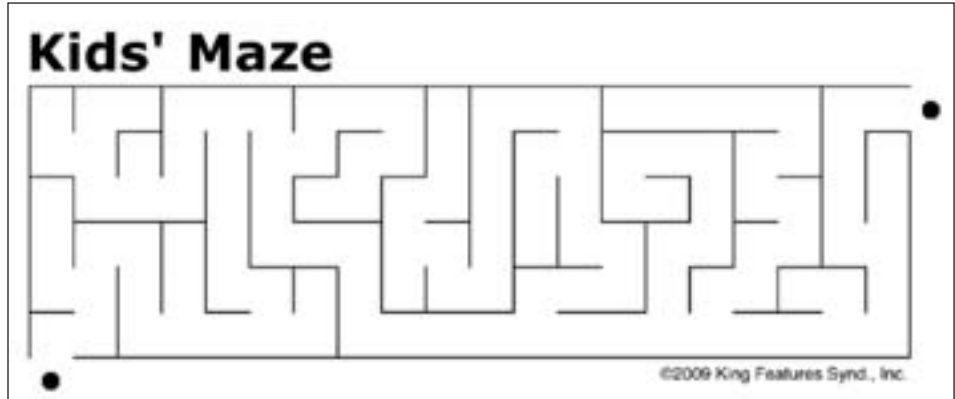
Shoe



Sam and Silo



Solutions on page 17



Solutions on page 17

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

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Solutions on page 17

King Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12			13				14				
15			16				17				
18			19			20					
			21		22	23	24		25	26	27
28	29	30				31		32			
33			34				35		36		
37			38		39				40		
41				42		43					
			44		45		46		47	48	49
50	51	52				53	54			55	
56						57				58	
59						60					61

ACROSS

1 Help

4 Site of Apra Harbor

8 Roosevelt successor

12 Omega preceder

13 Incite

14 Shrek, for one

15 Goller Ernie

16 Classic Cadillac

18 "Unleaded" brew

20 Family

21 Jamie of "M*A*S*H"

24 Turning point

28 Robin Hood's forest

32 Green land

33 Whammy

34 Som wrestling matches

36 Born

37 Bedouin

39 "Gran Torino" star

41 Minion of Satan

43 Approach

44 Existed

46 U-Haul competitor

50 Tinseltown

55 Water (Fr.)

56 Ontario neighbor

57 Florence's

river

collegian

35 Fame, in 50-Across

38 Partook at kegling

40 Distort

42 Aye canceler

45 Trade

47 Option from Howie

48 Facility

49 Oxidation

50 Coop dweller

51 Raw rock

52 Falsehood

53 Plata's partner

54 Inseparable

DOWN

1 Mimicked

2 Last word in Gilligan's theme

3 Platter

4 Hearty laughs

5 It starts with "http:"

6 Time of your life?

7 Timid

8 Local, to a

9 Past

10 To and —

11 Kennedy or Koppel

17 Gratuity

19 A cont.

22 Libertine

23 Typeface option

25 Provider of veritas

26 Sandwich treat

27 Prepared to drive

28 Roe source

29 Present

30 Physical

31 Tablespoonful or tablet

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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) While it seems that chaos is taking over, you get everything back to normal, even if it means being more than a little assertive with some people. Expect to hear more job-related news soon.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Expect to be able to move ahead with your workplace plans now that you have a good idea of what you might have to face. You also can anticipate a welcome change on the home front.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) A quieter period settles in, giving you a chance to catch your breath, as well as allowing for more time to handle some important family matters. The arts dominate this weekend. Enjoy them.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) The frustrations of last week have pretty much played themselves out. You should find things going more smoothly, especially with those all-important personal matters.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Once again, you find a creative way to resolve a pesky problem in short order. However, a matter involving a possible breach of confidence might need a bit more time to check out.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Reuniting with an old friend could lead to the sharing of some great new experiences. But be careful you don't find yourself once again being super-critical or overly judgmental.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) You should be seeing some positive results following your move toward repairing that unraveling relationship. There might be some setbacks, but staying with it ultimately pays off.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Encouraging a friendlier environment in the home could go a long way to help dissipate anger and resolve problems, especially those affecting children. It won't be easy, but you can do it.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A recent act of kindness is beginning to show some unexpected (but very welcome) results. On another note, expect to hear more about a possible move to another locale.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) The good news is that the sure-footed Goat can rely on his or her skill to get around obstacles in the workplace. The not-so-good news is that new impediments could turn up later.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) A change of pace is welcome but also confusing. Before you make decisions one way or another, be sure you know precisely what it is you're being asked to do.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Don't fret if you don't get the gratitude you think you're owed for doing a nice thing for someone. There might be a good reason for that. In any event, what's important is that you did it.

BORN THIS WEEK: You have a way of making the sort of wise decisions that lead to shedding new light on dark situations.

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CLAS seminar: Writing a book proposal: touch- ing all the bases

The California Literary Arts Society (CLAS) is sponsoring a two-hour seminar on book proposals, which will help writers focus on their subject, choose a descriptive title, and determine whether they have a viable book.

Instructor Mary Embree believes that authors would benefit by preparing a book proposal before they finish their first draft—and even before they begin writing their book. As they prepare the proposal they will learn how to organize their work and set up the foundation for their book. This seminar will help authors get started, and a three-session workshop on Book Proposals planned for early 2010 will go into greater detail and offer individual help.

How to complete each section of the seven-part proposal will be explained.

Embree is a literary consultant, editor, book doctor, and author of several books including *The Author's Toolkit: A Step-by-Step Guide to Writing and Publishing Your Book*.

The fee for the seminar is \$10 for members of CLAS and \$20 for nonmembers. It includes handouts. Nonmembers may join CLAS at the session and pay the member fee. All proceeds go to the California Literary Arts Society. Website: www.literaryarts-ca.org. The seminar will be held at Bank of Books, 748 E. Main, on Wednesday, December 2 from 7 to 9 pm. For reservations, e-mail maryembree@sbcglobal.net or call 643-3385.

Possible increases coming for bus fares

Due to the impact of the prolonged economic recession and resulting lower revenues, Gold Coast Transit (GCT) is proposing to increase its bus and paratransit fares for the first time since 2003. If approved by the GCT Board of Directors, the fare increase recommended by agency staff would be implemented in two phases in 2010 and 2011.

If implemented, the current adult bus fare of \$1.25 would increase by 10-cents in January 2010 to \$1.35 and by 15-cents in July 2011 to \$1.50. Fares for a trip on GCT's ACCESS paratransit service for people with disabilities and senior citizens 65 and older would increase to \$2.70 in 2010 and \$3.00 in 2011.

In addition to seeking public input at the public meeting, GCT invites interested parties to submit input through GCT's website (www.goldcoasttransit.org), by phone to GCT at 487-4222 or 643-3158, through the mail to "GCT Planning Department, 301 E. Third St., Oxnard 93030-6048," and by FAX to GCT at 487-0925.

Holiday watercolor workshop

Seabreeze studios, located at 244 S. Laurel is presenting Julie Merrill's Holiday watercolor workshop!!

Create your own gift cards, paint and mat your own artwork

2 class workshop is \$40.00

Dec. 1 & 8 Tuesday 6-9

Dec. 2 & 9 Wednesday 6-0

Dec. 5 & 12 Saturday 1-4

Supplies are \$20.00 and include 25 quality blank cards, 4 pre cut 5x7 mats & backing.

To sign up call 340-3987 or e-mail "julie_merrill@yahoo.com".

Quilt Invitational

Continued from page 12

download requirements and entry form, go to the home page of the museum website at www.venturamuseum.org. Entry is open only to residents of Los Angeles, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura counties.

The museum is looking for quilts that are innovative and original in design, and are a personal expression of the artist. Submitted quilts must have been completed after January 1, 2007.

The Museum of Ventura County is at 89 South California Street in downtown Ventura. The museum is open Tuesday through Sunday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. Free admission, except for some events. For general museum information, please go to <http://www.venturamuseum.org> or call 653-0323

American journalist

Continued from page 6

gitimate government. It exists inside the green zone and that sends a pretty strong message to the Iraqis.

T: Will we ever get out of Iraq or is our presence there a long term reality?

D: I think it's a long term reality.

T: How long?

D: I think it's indefinite. When you read the national security strategy that states clearly that certain natural resources in certain Middle Eastern countries are in the security interest of the U.S., that's what it's all about. We're in dwindling resources. We've already passed peak oil. Russian, Chi-

na, India, everyone needs it more and more. The U.S., Exxon now, has its foot in the door as of last week, and Afghanistan is all about pipelines. So, for the U.S. to actually concede and admit defeat or leave under any auspices of either of these countries, then the whole empire project goes kaput.

Take advantage

Continued from page 13
cies available.

Registration is now open for two classes starting in January 2010 – Insurance Fundamentals, BUS V71 and Property & Liability Insurance, BUS V72.

Designed for business operators, the general public and business students, the class on Insurance Fundamentals, BUS V71, opens the door to the broad field of insurance, explains how insurance companies operate and are regulated, the functions of underwriting and claims

Protection from legal liability and damage to personal and business property is the focus of BUS V72, the course on Property and Liability Insurance. It offers an in-depth look at property and liability insurance forms and coverage's, loss exposures, risk management and the inner workings of insurance companies.

Although Spring classes start on January 11, 2010, early registration on-line is essential.

While each class is a stand-alone course, they are but two of four insurance courses available at Ventura College

Register on-line now at www.ventura-college.edu for BUS V71, Insurance Fundamentals, CRN 30078, and BUS V72, Liability and Property Insurance, CRN 31178. For further inquiries contact James Spencer, Ventura College Business Department, 654-6444, Ext. 2371.



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Every Wednesday

7am to 2pm

Free Parking and Admission

Antiques • Collectibles

Farmers' Market

Vendor Space Available

For Information call Sue Adams

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www.snauctions.com



November 27th, 28th & 29th Ventura County Fairgrounds

Help USA Homes .com
presents

ONE OF A KIND CHRISTMAS SHOW

Christmas Village ~ Come One Come All

Vendors

- Artisans
- Sculptors
- Painters
- Crafters
- Jewelry
- Cosmetics
- Perfumes
- Clothing
- Toys
- Shoes
- Decorations
- Family Photos
- Gourmet Goods
- Baked Goods
- New Antiques
- Vintage
- Electronics/Furniture
- Hand Painted Glass
- Fresh Xmas Trees

Christmas Show Production

- Live Bands
- Musicians
- Carollers
- Face Painting
- Light Show
- Fashion Show
- Comedians
- Poetry Recitals
- Theatre
- Open Forum

Things to do!

- Santa & Live Reindeer
- The Manger, 3 Kings, Live Camels & Animals
- Santa's Elves
- Xmas Pirates/ Pirateers
- Xmas Carollers/Choirs
- Spectacular Light Show
- Tree Decoration Competition
- Raffle & Silent Auction

Welcome Interfaith Ministries Church, Mosque, Synagogue, Temple

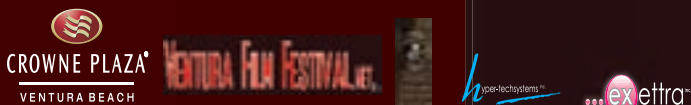
Family Fun ~ Shop n Play

How To Participate & Help out for a Good Cause:
www.helpUSAHomes.com or www.oneofakindchristmasshow.com
T: (805) 652-0119 / 201-8200 info@oneofakindchristmasshow.com

All Performers, Musicians, Bands, Luau Dancers, Choirs, Comedians, Poets, the Show Characters, Models, Actors, Actresses, Composers, Photographers, Film Editors, Call Center Personnel are donating their time, energy and effort for the show in honor of the Homeless and Homeless Prevention Fund Raising for Ventura County - What are you doing on your part? Do your Part - "Donate" for the Homeless and Homeless Prevention Funds for Ventura County (We do not support Pan Handlers)

How to Donate: donate@helpUSAHomes.com

Sponsors



November 27th, 28th & 29th Ventura County Fairgrounds

Help USA Homes .com
presents

ONE OF A KIND CHRISTMAS SHOW

Christmas Village ~ Come One Come All

Organized by www.helpUSAHomes.com
&
www.MarvinHayesFilms.com

3 Day Schedule
Let the Show Begin!

Fri. Nov. 27, 2009	Sat. Nov. 28, 2009	Sun. Nov. 29, 2009
10 -11 am Choir	10 -11 am Choir	10 -11 am Choir
11 -12 pm Fashion Show	11 -12 pm Fashion Show	11 -12 pm Fashion Show
12 - 2 pm David Kirton - Kids's Reggae	12 - 1 pm Tune Bandits	1 - 2 pm Theatre Play
3 - 4 pm Theatre Play	3 - 4 pm Theatre Play	2 - 4 pm Tune Bandits Local Band
4 - 5 pm Comedians & Poets	4 - 5 pm Luau Malibu	4 - 5 pm Sade Champagne
5 - 6 pm Open Forum	5 - 6 pm Comedians & Poets	
6 - 7 pm David Kirton	7 - 9 pm Movie Night - Feature Film presented by the Ventura - Film Festival (TM)	
7 - 9 pm Movie Night - Feature Film presented by the Ventura - Film Festival (TM)		

DAILY from 11- 6 pm Santa & Live Reindeer, Camel & 3 Kings / Nativity

*Schedule may be subject to change. Check online for more up to date schedule information.

Buy Online Tickets just show ID on day of show

Go to www.OneofaKindChristmasShow.com or www.helpUSAHomes.com
Email: info@OneofaKindChristmasShow.com O. (805) 652-0119 / 201-8200

Admission:
\$6.00 Adults/Students
\$5.00 Seniors (+65)
\$3.00 Children (3-12)

Show staff and personnel reserve the right to REFUSE entry and service to anyone at anytime.

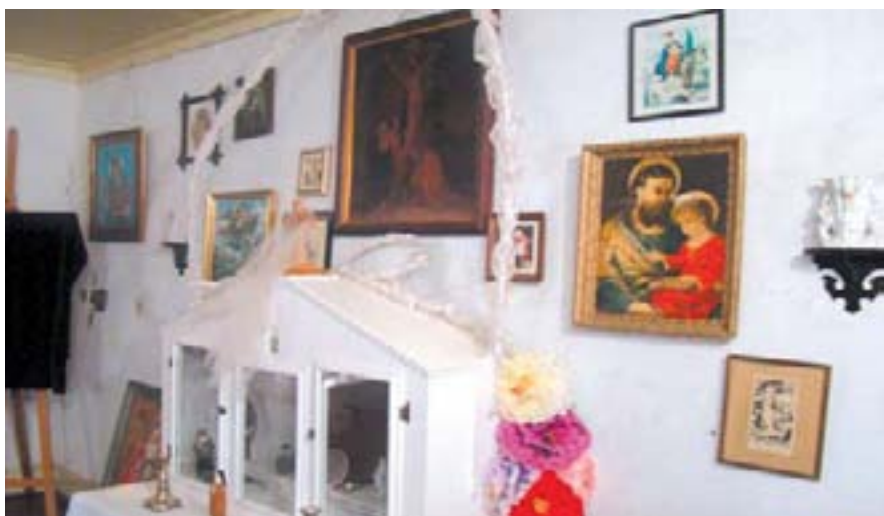
Parking: \$5.00 per Car charged by Ventura County Fairgrounds Management (not by Show Promoters)

Food / Beverages: Available by Ventura County Fairgrounds Management (not by Show Promoters)

*Please be advised that the show will have video taping and pictures for this event. By attending, performing, volunteering or working at the event, you are granting permission to utilize the pictures and video taping to be published for the Show's Promotions, Demo's, Commercials and Documentary.

Help USA Homes .com

A contest



Be the first to identify this photo and win 2 tickets to the Nutcracker, by the Ventura County Ballet Company presented on November 21 in Oxnard.

Email your answer to editor@venturabreeze.com.

Total Life Christian

Continued from page 14

Ventura Counties outstanding civic and spiritual leaders. They have been blessed with a long productive life of 77 years, 54 years of marriage, and this December they will be celebrating 47 years of ministry in Ventura.

Among their accomplishments is the starting and running of the Employment Aptitude And Placement, a free non-profit Employment center founded by Reverend Luther McCurtis in 1967. They have placed thousands of people on jobs throughout Ventura County, free to the applicant and to the employer, without governmental assistance.

We invite you to celebrate with Reverend and Mrs. McCurtis.

Your tax-deductible gift to Total Life Christian Center, Inc. will help to make this celebration a success. Thank you for supporting the celebration. The church is located at 660 N. Ventura Ave.

Police

Continued from page 17

city of Hemlock & Santa Clara St. had called the Ventura Police Dept. and complained about the numerous gunshots fired in the area. Officers immediately responded and eventually surrounded Brause's home.

When confronted by police Brause and his female associate did the smart thing and surrendered without incident. Brause was booked at the Ventura County Jail for reckless discharge of a firearm and his female companion was questioned, then released. Ventura City detectives obtained a warrant to search Brause's home where the handgun was located and recovered as evidence.

This incident may also be related to numerous reports of gunfire twenty minutes prior in the 126 freeway corridor between Kimball Rd. & Victoria Ave. Anyone who might have witnessed these shootings are encouraged to contact Ventura City detectives.