

The Ojai & Ventura



# VIEW



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Photo © 2009, Joel Anderson

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Photo © 2009, Mary M. Long

**Ventura's New Gallery**  
summertime blues

## Ventura City Still Stalling... Helen Yunker

Friday, June 5  
Editor, Ojai and Ventura View,  
I am sending you a copy of my presentation before the Council on June 1st. It hasn't changed my situation at all, if I have to depend on another buyer, whom-ever it might turn out to be, that is if there is another, eager and panting to take over the problem and construction. I will still be strung out for 3 more years....  
Regarding the city's violation

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**VENTURA'S LATEST 'TREASURE' TROVE, PHIL MARQUEZ**

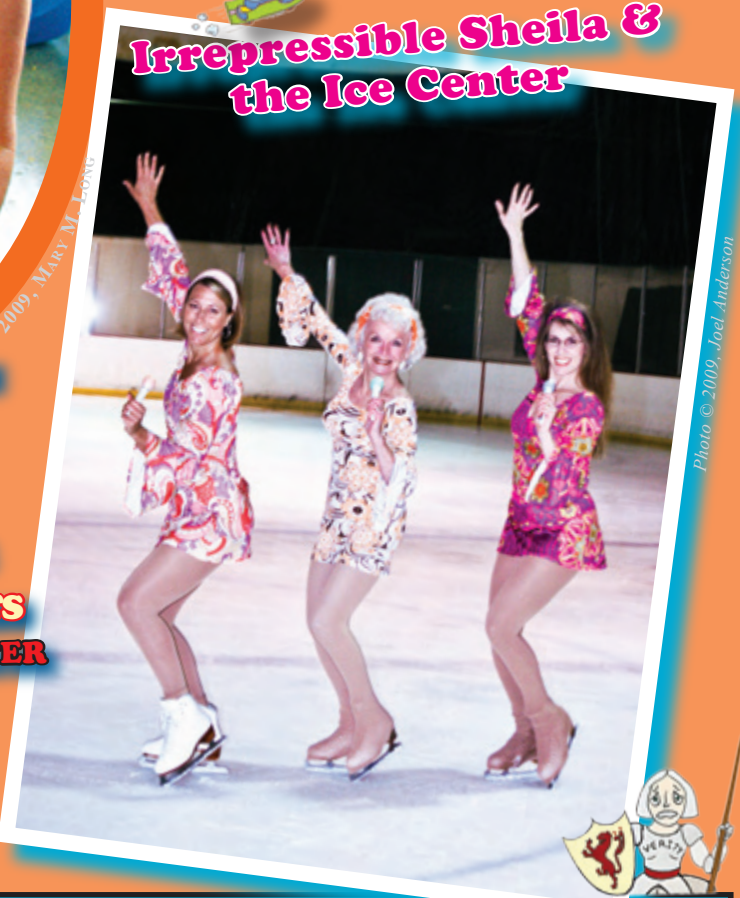


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**Irrepressible Sheila & the Ice Center**

**INSIDE: • ART • People • Politics • Music • K9 VFW • Is 'ACTIVISM' DEMOCRATIC ?**

**LETTER - LIBBEY BOWL**

**Wake Up!**

- David Borgen

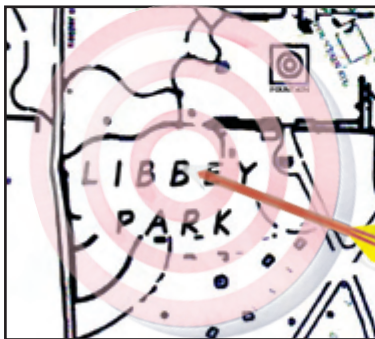
**Libbey Park** is being destroyed. The park has been under assault for years; playgrounds and thirsty lawns caused the disintegration of a cluster of two hundred year old oaks near the old post office tower, mature oak and eucalyptus have been cut down between the post office and **Libbey Bowl**, a mature oak near the tennis court and **Libbey Bowl** disappeared last week, leaving the remaining two trees looking awkward.

A plan is afoot, sponsored by **Sue Horgan** of the city council, to move **Libbey Bowl** from the corner where it has been all these years because the corner is too damp. How about fixing the dampness problem and make a new improved bowl where it is now? How about bringing in experts, as I'm sure **Edward D. Libbey** did when he presented the bowl, tennis courts, tree sanctuary to the people of **Ojai**. The city will be hiring **ex-mayor David Bury** to design a new bowl without a proper search for the best designer, let alone putting this very expensive project to a vote of the public, since a lot of public money will be spent on a project that will likely ruin the tennis courts and the bowl.

I don't see how using public money for this project can be justified when other areas that would serve the public good – like our under-funded schools – really need money now. Should this project go through, the city (us) will be liable for 1/3 of the costs of this white elephant.

- David Borgen, Ojai

**Libbey Bowl 'Bury'...ed?**



Did the City of Ojai go through the legal bid process?

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Ojai needs to avoid massive costly mistakes such as those made by **Disney Concert Hall**. **Disney** incurred some \$110 Million in overages due to defective acoustical and aesthetic design in the original planning, engineering and design.

Internationally respected and **Grammy Award Winning Acoustician and Sound Designer Fred Vogler** was elected to oversee the acoustical redesign.

**Vogler**, who is **Acoustician, Head Lead mixer and Sound Designer** for both the **Hollywood Bowl**, and the **Disney Concert Hall** is considered one of the top sound engineers in the world.

**Vogler** was sound engineer for the **Ojai Music Festival** under **Pierre Boulez** in 1996, and is familiar with the acoustic issues of **Ojai's Libbey Bowl**. He also participated in the \$18 million rebuild of the (acoustically similar) **Hollywood Bowl**, completed in 2004. **Vogler** said he hopes **Ojai's Libbey Bowl** rebuild is successful, and would like to be contacted as he has a personal interest in the bowl being suited to the **LA Philharmonic** and other world class musicians and touring groups. In addition to his extensive classical sound engineering, **Vogler** has also sound engineered live rock acts and LPs for **The Rolling Stones, The Who, Rod Stewart, Simon and Garfunkle**, multi-tude motion picture sound tracks, etc. etc.

The **VIEW** contacted former **Ojai Mayor and Architect David Bury** last August with **Vogler's** name. **Vogler** has not been contacted by the **City of Ojai** or **Bury**.

"I participated with the group of consultants for the new **Hollywood Bowl** sound system. Because of the historic significance of the **Hollywood Bowl**, like **Libbey Bowl**, a lot of people were worried about rebuilding that.

If the **Ojai City Council** is really serious about rebuilding the **Libbey**



Photo © 2008, Jason Merritt, Getty Images

**Fred Vogler**, Best Opera Recording and Best Classical Album, in the press room during the 51st Annual Grammy Awards Feb. 8, Los Angeles

Bowl, they have to start by consulting with people in the **L.A. Philharmonic...** or people within the industry who can provide a skill level and experience... There's only about half a dozen across the United States who are qualified. They absolutely need to hire a sound designer and an acoustician. I think it's crazy to go into designing a venue without getting advice from these people.

The architect doesn't have to know sound, but they need to bring in a team of sound engineers who can advise them. I have colleagues who have banded together to consult for that purpose. There's a lot of incompetence out there... you need to get a good sound engineer on board and a good acoustician and the city will not only save a lot of money, but avoid costly mistakes. You want someone who's had a lot of experience with live sound.

"There's certain needs that are specific to live concerts. In a live show there's no stopping and going back and fixing it. All these moving parts have to be choreographed so that there's not chaos but there's a fantastic show. At the end of the day, you have to connect that performer with the audience and all the technology has to get out of the way of that connection.... It's a tough gig. It requires making decisions on the fly and having the tools at hand to deal with what can happen. It usually takes about 10 to 15 years of dealing with this to get a pretty solid perspective.... There are plenty of really talented people who do it and there's plenty of incompetence, too.

"People refer to **Ojai** as kind of an upscale artistic community, so there's a really high expectation level for **Ojai** to produce quality. It has to be done right. You don't want some schlocky distorted amplification system," said **Vogler**.

Public discussion of the sound engineering of the **Ojai Libbey Bowl** rebuild has been sparse to non-existent. Instead, public sentiment has been primarily focused on maintaining the aesthetic, historical and architectural qualities of **Libbey Bowl**.

Last year, **Libbey Bowl's** rebuild costs were estimated upwards \$3.5 million.

To date, the **City of Ojai** has allocated some \$1 million, \$500,000 of which funded **March 12, 2008** for the now completed conceptual design.

Additional funding, the **Ojai Civic Association**, donation; \$100,000, and a large commitment of \$1 million from the **Ojai Music Festival (OMF)**.

With the recent economic climate, it is unclear where the additional \$1 to \$1.5 Million is coming from. Fundraising efforts are underway.

**Joel Anderson**, editor  
www.OjaiandVenturaView.com  
more info. www.LibbeyBowl.org

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multiple publication submissions discouraged

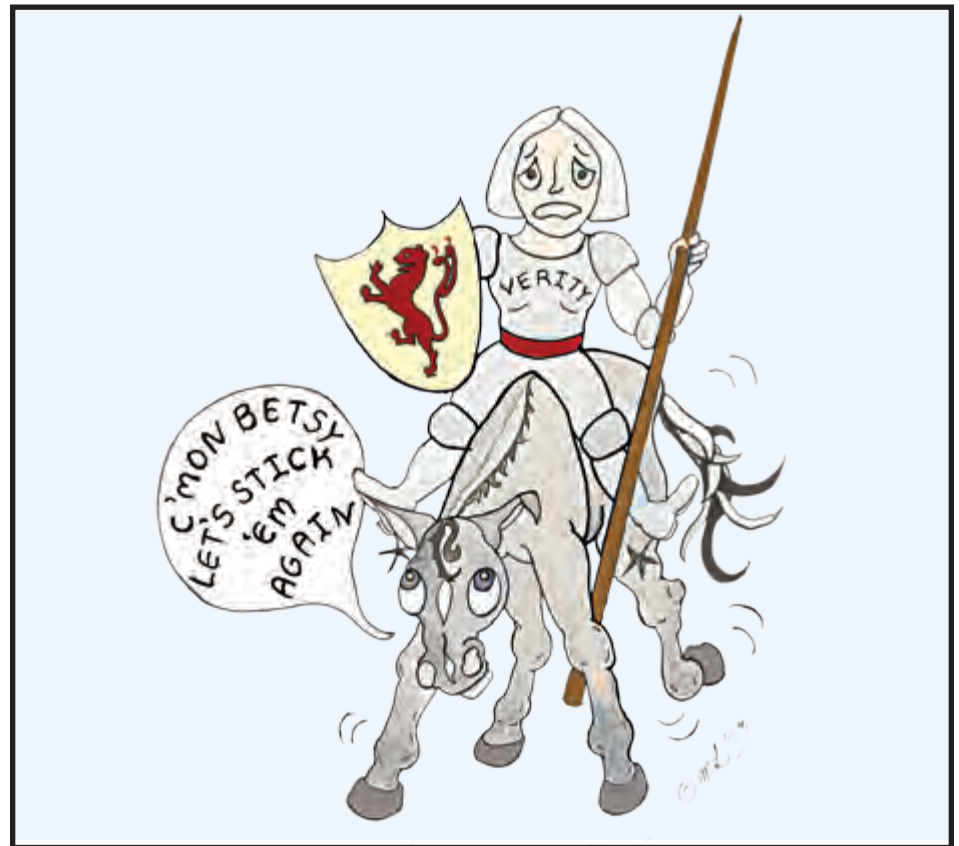


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Ojai City Attorney Monte Widders, City Manager Jere Kersnar



Ojai City Councilmember Betsy Clapp

**Statement: Betsy Clapp - Show Me the Books**  
**Councilmember Calls for 'Aggressive' Fiscal Solutions**

**June 9 Ojai City Council Meeting:** **Betsy Clapp** made the following statement as the city grappled with a draft of the 2009/10 budget. The state requires a final ratified budget by **June 30**. The budget will be on the agenda for a potential vote at the next **Ojai City Council Meeting, June 23**.

I want to thank Staff for preparing the budget draft. As the owner of a small business, I recognize how difficult it is to predict revenues in these unprecedented times.

A day doesn't go by that we don't read more bad news about the financial meltdown; nationally, statewide and locally.

Families, Businesses, and Governments alike are trimming their budgets to adapt to this financial crisis. **Ojai** must also make painful sacrifice and difficult choices in order to keep our city financially sound. It is obvious **The City** must aggressively address this financial crisis.

As **Mr. Kersnar (Ojai City Manager)**  
*Ojai Spending Continued Next Page...*

the Ojai and Ventura Real  
**VIEW**

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**STATEMENT - OJAI SPENDING**  
*Continued From Previous Page...*

& *Ojai Redevelopment Agency Director* - VIEW ed.) has pointed out, **Sacramento** is now discussing the suspension of the state law that protects local property tax revenue. This would allow the state to borrow **\$185,000** from our **General Fund**, further impacting our already depleting revenues.

**REGARDING PAYROLL**

I agree with the elimination of the cost of living increase. However, I think it is necessary to evaluate additional options, including a furlough, pay reduction for managers, possibly staffing reductions and elimination of step increases. This could actually result in saving people's jobs.

This is not an unreasonable consideration. Employees of the **City of Ventura** voted to take almost two weeks of unpaid leave and a 3 percent salary cut to preserve services and jobs. Managers and other senior staff have taken salary cuts ranging from 5 percent to 10 percent.

And, by the way, as a member of the finance committee I was amazed that I had to file a **Freedom of Information Act** request to obtain an accounting of the payroll obligations of the **City**.

As a business person, I look at my budget to see if revenues and expenses balance. While reviewing the **Recreation Department** budget, I saw that expenses exceed revenues by over **\$500,000**. It is my understanding that the taxpayers within the city limits of **Ojai** are bearing the cost of a program that serves the entire **Ojai Valley**. In order to continue funding the recreation department the **General Fund** will need to subsidize the Department **\$529,000** for fiscal year 09-10. I find this unacceptable. There is only minimal revenue coming from the greater **Ojai Valley** to help subsidize these programs which they enjoy. Is a review of the fee structure in order? I am not suggesting we eliminate the **Recreation Department**, but **Staff** needs to be looking for ways to lower expenses rather than raising the budget to cover the ever increasing costs. As a community we need to look for new and creative ways to fund programs. The unpleasant truth is that the **City of Ojai** no longer has the luxury of supporting the **Recreation Dept.** without help. Looking towards the future we must recognize that the only way we can continue to provide the citizens of the **Greater Ojai Valley** with recreation is to establish a **Valley Wide District**.

The one bright spot is that I brought **Dale (Summersille, Ojai Recreation Director - VIEW ed.)** and **Villanova** together to work out a swimming pool program at **Villanova** this summer. **Dale** will report on this later this evening.

The **Plaza Maintenance District** and the **Lighting Districts** also have expenditures which exceed revenues. What is the plan, **Mr. Kersnar**, to make these funds balance?

Due to decreased funding, the **City** is reducing trolley service. Should we not also consider a fare increase? How will we fund the trolley in the future? I look forward to **Staff's** report.

There is a 3 percent cost increase for police. Is there any room for negotiation?

**SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS**  
I notice that the expenditures exceed the revenues in the **Special Revenue Funds** by **\$364,996.40**. It is not in the **Budget Detail in the Draft Budget**. I would like a detail of how much money is in those accounts and how it is being spent.

**REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

I would like to see a detail of the repayment plan for the **Redevelopment**

**Agency (RDA)** debt to the **City**. I don't know the details of the **RDA**, what it owes the **City**, the payback period, or what revenue we can expect. I think we could use a layman's review of the **RDA**, how it works, etc. particularly in light of the **Bowl** and the **County's** issue with us. I don't think the **Council** knows/understands this either.

Do we need **RDA** staff if we currently have no **RDA** staff if we currently have no **RDA** projects?

In closing, I cannot give my approval to the proposed budget. I would like **Staff** to go back, sharpen their pencils, make additional cuts and present to **Council** at our next meeting a budget that truly prepares **Ojai** for an uncertain future.

*Betsy Clapp, Ojai City Councilmember*

**LETTER - ECONOMIC SOLUTION****'Crisis? What Crisis?'**  
**Remove Top Management!**

**Jefferson**,  
Thank you so much for the article in the **May View**.

It has helped to clear up what is going on in our country.

Can you explain why/how our (*the U.S.'s*) financial problem has affected other countries? They seem to be going through this, too.

*Thank you.*

*Angela Weston*

Dear Angela,

Thanks for the inquiry.

The two primary causes of the **U.S. Economic** stress are **1) Normal downturn of the business cycle** (*it normally oscillates up and down like a wavy line every 4 to 7 years*). **2) Risky Investments where the risk came to a bad fruition.** (*Loans were defaulted upon, bonds defaulted, interest rates rose, stocks tanked, energy costs escalated, etc.*).

First, the other countries of the world suffered from similar causes.

And Secondly, other countries' banks hold **U.S. based investments** (*shares of U.S. companies, bonds, other securities etc.*) and they felt the "pain" too. Interestingly and coincidentally, many foreign countries' banks also sustained huge losses and foreign governments also felt the need to "bail out" and "stimulate" their economies.

One of the big differences is the other countries *removed the top management of the failed institutions*. In our country, top management was left intact and the head of **Freddie Mac (FNMA - Federal National Mortgage Administration)** was promoted to the new banking Czar.

In short, there is significant world economic interdependence. Gone are the days when one of the big economic players in the world is economically isolated.

*- Jefferson Pinto*

*Jefferson Pinto is a retired CPA, holds an MBA from one of the finer accredited universities in this country, and is the VP of corporate operations for his day job.*

*jefferson@ojaiandventuraview.com*

**LETTER - CEMETERY PARK****"You Should be Ashamed..."**

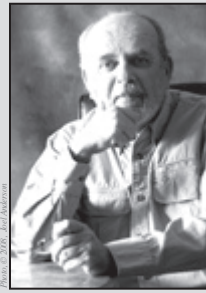
*- Kirstin M.*

I am a 43-year-old part time resident of **Ventura**. I say part-time, because my family owns a vacation home here and I live here whenever possible. We have owned the house since I was around 7-years-old and the house was one of the first houses built in **Ventura**. It survived the great flood and you can see aerial views from the 20s where our house was one of only a handful of houses shown in the picture. What does this have to do

*Cemetery Park Continued Page 5...*

**"Don't Tell Me Who I am... Let me guess!"**  
**'The Opposite of Love is Power... Not Hatred'**

*- C.G. Jung*



**T**here are two kinds of suffering. Suffering imposed on us by the outside and suffering created by ourselves. All we can do with suffering imposed by the outside is share it in the human family and show compassion, love and empathy for those who've been hurt. Suffering created by ourselves is referred to as neurotic suffering i.e. 'inauthentic suffering'. At bottom, neurosis is a moral and ethical problem.

In other words symptoms like neurotic anxiety, depression, compulsions, ulcers, headaches etc. occur primarily because we try to manipulate and either aggressively or passively control others.

We do this in a variety of ways...i.e. blaming, withholding feelings and affection, using guilt to have others do our bidding, temper tantrums and primarily abusing power. The opposite of love is power, not hatred.

Any psychotherapy worth its salt addresses this problem and helps those who are willing to sort out the difference between who they want to appear to be and who they really are. Taking a genuine look in the mirror is an initiation. It's a hard task, but the rewards are equally high, because depression, anxieties, somatic complaints, etc. slowly begin to drop by the wayside and we are free to live a much more meaningful and creative life, a life that is truly our own.

All human beings have a uniqueness that asks to be lived. We all have something precious to offer, something that exists in no one else. It goes along with the following acorn metaphor by Jung: With the right amount of water and sunshine, each acorn grows into a beautiful oak. If we take a look at the root and branch structure of each oak on the planet, we find no oak is exactly like another...so it is with the human soul. We all have an individual destiny and a calling, it is given; a gift from our guardians at birth. Many of us have been robbed of our true character and biography- that destiny written into the acorn- and some go to therapy to recover it.

A calling may be postponed, avoided, or intermittently missed. It may also possess one completely. Eventually it wins out and makes its claim either in a soulful life, or if ignored, in meaninglessness, cynicism, hoarding, loneliness and alienation.

The dragon we must slay is no more that the monster of everyday expectations about how we "ought" to live our lives. If we realize this, we will be back in the world, but "no longer of it". We will be able to interact with others without submitting to their definition of who we are supposed to be! This precious pearl that is one's individual worth can only be found when we are willing to stand alone. By consciously choosing to pursue the inner journey, we transform impersonal fate into our own personal destiny.

P.S. *this is my way  
what is your way?  
THE WAY doesn't exist!*

*- Friedrich Nietzsche*

*One for all and all for one. Love to Mother Meera*

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## Corporate Games

**R. ELLIS SMITH**  
*Kudos to the City of Ventura*



I sent an inquiry to the **Ivory Tower**, (*Ventura city hall*) asking how much money the city spent on sponsoring the **Ventura Corporate Games**. This is the

e-mail answer I received.

RE: your request to the City of Ventura

From: "eburton@ci.ventura.ca.us"

<eburton@ci.ventura.ca.us>

To: rellis39@sbcglobal.net

The City has a budget of \$15,000 for the **Corporate Games**, but makes nearly \$50,000 in revenue. Other costs associated with the **Corporate Games** are covered by sponsorships and in-kind gifts. The **Corporate Games** basically doesn't cost the City anything to run.

I then answered: Kudos to the folks that run this event; it is quite possibly the only event that actually makes money for the citizens of **Ventura**. Once again Congratulations.

Rellis Smith  
rellis39@sbcglobal.net  
www.californiachile.com

## Soaring Property Costs

**R. ELLIS SMITH**  
*S.O.A.R. = Suckering Our Aged Recipients*



Well folks, the **NIMBY'S** (*not in my backyard*) and the **BANANA'S** (*build absolutely nothing, near anything*), are on the prowl again. It's only 12 years until the

**S.O.A.R.** (**Suckering Our Aged Recipients**), could, (*and should*), expire and the lying, deceiving and fear mongering has begun already.

The **S.O.A.R.** groupies are holding meetings using the tried and true **FEAR** method that the **Bush** regime used on the **American Public** for the past 8 years. Instead of decrying the need for war and torture because of the plethora of terrorists that may invade our country, the **S.O.A.R.** groupies are telling all that will listen that if the **S.O.A.R.** initiatives are allowed to expire, within a very few days houses, condos, apartments, and commercial buildings will be erected so fast it will be hard to follow the progress.

The **S.O.A.R.** groupies work very hard to instill the fear of unbridled development in the minds of unwary citizens. People like **County Supervisor Linda Parks**, **Moorpark Councilwomen Roseann Mikos**, **Ventura Councilman Brian Brennan**,



**S.O.A.R.** Executive Director **Karen Schmidt**, say that the expiration of the **S.O.A.R.** initiatives could leave more than 400,000 acres of open space in **Ventura County** at risk of being overrun by greedy developers.

**Ventura Councilman Brian Brennan** said, although it is still 12 years before the **S.O.A.R.** initiatives begin to expire, it is not too early to recruit, *and brainwash*, a new generation of members and organize against future development. One can only hope that the new crop of taxpayers that **S.O.A.R.** is trying to "recruit," having lived through the **Bush and Cheney** days of *Wine and Roses* are too intelligent to fall for the lies and deception that are prevalent in the **S.O.A.R.** organization.

The real truth is that the **S.O.A.R.** initiatives are one of the major causes for the mess that our **Ventura County** economy is in. By stopping *all* future development they have caused the cost of remaining buildable property to skyrocket, thereby causing the prices of homes to be at a level so that less than 25 percent of the citizens of **Ventura County** can even afford to buy one.

Rellis Smith  
rellis39@sbcglobal.net  
www.venturanow.web.officelive.com

## PRESS RELEASE

### 2009 Ojai Film Society Scholarship Drive

The **Ojai Film Society (OFS)** announced it will launch its **2009 Ojai Film Society Scholarship Drive** with a matching grant of \$2,000. The gift was made in the form of a challenge grant and is contingent upon the scholarship being awarded to a full time film studies student who meets the criteria as established by the OFS. "This gives tremendous momentum to our fund drive," said **George Sandoval**, Chair of the **Ojai Film Society Scholarship Committee**.

"Raising money right now in this economy is a challenge, but our anonymous donor is committed to maintaining the scholarship matching program which the OFS has sponsored since 1997," said **Sandoval**. This year's scholarship is being given in honor of **Ojai resident Mary Steenburgen** in acknowledgment of her distinguished career in film and her unselfish volunteer work in the **Ojai** community. The scholarship will be awarded to a film studies student at **Brooks Institute**.

For more scholarship info, and/or to download an application,  
www.ojaifilmsociety.org

## RON ROWE THEATER

### A Funny Thing Happened On the Way to the Forum

A funny thing is happening at **The Art Center**. Hilarity is in the offing with the opening of **A Funny Thing Happened On the Way to the Forum**, set for **June 26th**.

Treading the boards for this summers sure-to-sell out **Musical** are some of the funniest people in the county. **Improv Club's John Mederios** with cast members **Jonathan Weiser**, **Buddy Wilds**, **Armondo Hernandez**, **Betty Anne** and **Erika Currier**, to name but a few of the gang, are tearing it up in rehearsals for the farcical musical. Making brief but always memorable appearances is **Ojai's own inimitable Ron Rowe**, always an asset to any production lucky enough to land his immeasurably talented self. With **Tracey Williams** directing and a full orchestra promised to aide **keyboardist Jimmy Calire** this will sure be a rib-splitting sell out. Get your tickets early and don't miss this one.

- Moll Rhatt, Ojai

## Roots of 'Modern' Government

### Sicily, Mafia Storm

by **Mina French**

The **Sicilian Mafia** is like a storm. It seems to have hit **Sicily** in the **1860s** although no one is quite sure.

The word *mafia* began to be used as a noun after it was used in an 1863 play by **Giussepe Rizzoto** called, '**I Mafiusi della Vicaria**'. The connotation for *Mafiusi* is 'strength' or 'pride' so translated it would mean *The strength or pride of the Vicaria* (which was a prison.)

In the book, **Passion, Justice, Freedom** **Letizia Battaglia** shows us with graphic black and white photos her work in **Palermo**, where for twenty years she photographed **Mafia** crime scenes. **Battaglia** is not only a photographer. She is also a deputy council woman, ecological activist, defender of woman's rights, and defender of human rights. She describes what is known as the '*sack of Palermo*'; the sicilian mafia controlled the construction industry in **Palermo** (*often under the guise of 'beautify' downtown 'organizations'*), silenced majority voices, tore down beautiful **Art Deco** palaces, and the city's green belt and villas that gave the city charm. They also asphalted the city's wonderful parks. The *construction (or deconstruction)* boom lasted from the 1950s to the 1980s. People were then forced to live in shoddy apartment blocks.

The **Italian** government has been trying to keep up with the crime situation and have tried to crack down on the mafia's major players, but the mafia is a tough opponent and refuses to go down. Between 1978 and 1992 the mafia murdered or made to disappear every public official who interfered with mafia business.

As a result 1,000 disappeared. The leading prosecutors **Giovanni Falcone** and **Paolo Borsellino** were being very aggressive in pursuing mafia criminals but they were ultimately murdered with car bombs.

According to **Wikipedia**, in 2003 the **Sicilian Mafia** is estimated to have made \$186,000,000,000 in drug trafficking and \$1,873,000,000 in weapons trafficking. The first documented report of mafia activity was in 1870 when a man named **Benedetto Corollo** used violence to control the business of a thriving lemon grove owned by a **Dr. Gaspari Galati**. By the mid 1880s 2.5 million cases of lemons were being exported to the U.S. annually.

Notably, many of our **U.S. Government** buildings (**Roman and Greek Revival**, etc.) exhibit architecture derivative of ancient **Greek, Italian, and Sicilian Mediterranean**-based nomenclature.

In mid-December Italian police made 90 arrests of Sicilian mafia members. However, Sicily's most wanted **Matteo Messina Denaro** was not among those arrested.

Mina French  
artnews510@aol.com

## NOTICE! NOTICE! NOTICE!

### R. ELLIS SMITH



So there you are, sitting at home reading the latest issue of the **Daily Disappointment**, (**Ventura County Star**) and your wincing at all the stupid things going on

in the **Ivory Tower**, (**Ventura City Hall**) and the **County Mansion**, (**Ventura county center**) and you wish there was only someplace you could write to and let other citizens know how you feel about the way our local politicians are taking care of business. Now it could be wonderful praise or it could be downright hatred; in either case all you have to do is send an e-mail to: **www.VenturaNow.Web.Officelive.com**

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Rellis Smith  
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## VENTURA'S SHAME CEMETERY PARK

Continued From Page 3...

with a cemetery? A lot. We have spent many years restoring the house and trying to bring it back to its old glory and giving it back the dignity it so richly deserves. The house was built by one of Ventura's well known doctors from back in the day and he put a lot of love, care and detail into building this house. Regardless of my part-time status I consider Ventura to be my home. And the reason I only am here part time right now, is because my husband is deployed to Iraq and I have returned here while he is gone.

I saw St. Mary's story on Richard Senate's public access show today. Interestingly enough, back when Mr. Senate was still actively investigating homes with paranormal activity, he sent a team of investigators to my house, at my request, due to the haunting activity we were having. Regardless of what your beliefs are in such things, I can assure you that what was going on was very real, and there were obviously some very restless spirits here, who were unhappy for whatever reason. Long story short, things are calm in the house now. But imagine if your last resting place was totally disregarded, disrespected, defecated on, had trash thrown on it, people trampling on it while playing frisbee or football or whatever other sport people play. It is astounding to me that Cemetery Park does not have more obvious paranormal activity, as I can imagine there are a lot of residents there who have felt like they have been forgotten, spit on, insulted and left behind.

My husband is a U.S. soldier. I can't even begin to tell you how completely disgusted I was to hear on the show today that soldiers' grave markers were removed (and yes, it is a federal offense), because our city officials, who continue to try and pass the buck off on others, are too lazy to do the right thing and have the cemetery returned to original state and upkeep. I can assure you then when elections are held this fall, I will be asking for an absentee ballot and will NOT be voting for the city counselor members up for re-election. I will also be urging all my neighbors and friends in Ventura to do the same. They don't care about our ancestors and founding members of Ventura, so why should we care about a group of people who are being ruled by nothing more than greed, self-imposed importance and obviously aren't doing anything to right a long ago wrong? I am thoroughly disgusted that not only are my husband's fellow soldiers in arms being defiled, but normal, everyday people of this community are as well. You people should be ashamed of yourselves and spare me your insidious excuses, because they are nothing more than that - excuses! Shame on you all! You epitomize everything that is wrong with government at any level and you sully our beautiful town. My husband and I love Ventura and will do whatever we can, within our means, to help with this worthwhile project. How you sleep at night, knowing that others are not at peace because of your inaction and cowardice is beyond me.

Kirstin M.  
www.restorestmarys.org

## Bush/Cheney Misunderstood

### R. ELLIS SMITH To Think It Happened on Main Street



The other day I was perusing down Main Street in Old Downtown Ventura, as I want to do on occasion and what the hey, I ran into a couple of old friends of mine.

Now I consider both of these gentlemen very intelligent and aware of the world's happenings. At least I used to... during our conversation we discovered to our mutual horrorification that our political outlooks were about 180 degrees out of phase.

Both of these worldly gentlemen still harbor the insane idea that W. Bush and his good buddy Dicky Cheney are still "Good Ol' Boys" and are simply misunderstood. While I, so that there is no mistake, feel that Bush and Cheney should not only be arrested, prosecuted and convicted of war crimes and treason against the United States of America, but as soon as they are convicted they should be tied to a board and "water-boarded" for 5 or 6 days, then stripped naked, marched down main street in Washington D.C. being flogged with a cat-o-nine tails all the way to the Washington Monument, where they should be hung by their gonads until they wither up and blow away.

To cap it all off, all references to either of these moronic imbeciles in books, papers, or any other media should be expunged. A law should be passed that anybody uttering either of their names in the future, would be guilty of a punishable crime.

Rellis Smith  
rellis39@sbcglobal.net  
www.californiachile.com

## Economicastrophe Summit

### R. ELLIS SMITH Vta. Council Holds NOT a City Council 'Event'



Damn I'm Dumb! Once again I fell for the "Flim-Flam," I went to the meeting "Ventura's Economic Summit, Opening up opportunities & Overcoming obstacles"

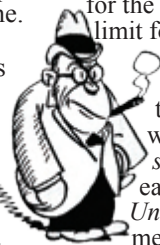
which was held in the Chambers of the Gang in the Ivory Tower. (Ventura City Council), at 9am on May 2, 2009 to last until 1pm.

I knew better; I knew it was just another ploy by the Gang in the Ivory Tower to try to make the folks think they are really on the ball.

The first thing that happened was the Mayor Christy (Big Hair) Weir called the summit to order. The fact that most of the folks attending were still out in the

hallway shooting the breeze didn't deter our illustrious Mayor one bit. She called the summit to order and then called for the pledge of allegiance. A few minutes later while she was explaining the reason for the Economic Summit, the rest of the folks in the hallway filed in and took their seats.

Now the first thing the Mayor stated was she wanted everyone to know that the Economic Summit was not a Ventura Council event; it was to be considered a public event. Now the fact that the council, (Four of whom were present), decided the date, the time, the name and the content of the Economic Summit, plus arranged for the speakers, decided on the time limit for each speaker, decided on the 5 topics of what they were calling the "Breakout Sessions" and told the audience that all they wanted were some action items discussed,



set the time limit for each of the "Breakout Units" probably didn't mean the event was a "Council Event."

So finally here is the jist of the entire "Economic Summit." It started at 9am; speakers spoke until 9:45am, the audience broke up into Breakout Units to discuss what ever they thought the actions should be on the topic of their unit, IE: 1. Improving the City's Bottom line and Fiscal Health, 2. Fostering Smart Growth, 3. Greening Ventura's Economy, 4. Retaining/Expanding jobs and businesses, 5. Enhancing our business climate. The folks were allowed 1 hour and 15 minutes to come up with action suggestions that the Gang in the Ivory Tower could direct staff and approve for the next 90 day, 1 year, and 5 year action items.

So in a period of less than 3 hours the folks that attended this Economic Summit were going to come up with action ideas that would be the backbone of the City of San Buenaventura for the next 5 years. Damn, what a wonderful idea: these people would do in less than 3 hours what the entire Gang in the Ivory Tower and their staff have been working on with no success for over 10 years or longer.

As I said, Damn I'm Dumb; I just can't stop going to these "flim-flam" meetings, hoping that one day one of them might just be the meeting that actually accomplishes something.

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## EVENT CALENDAR

- thru July 8, Visions of Change-Images of Transition, photography exhibit, Ojai Center for the Arts, Visions of change is the theme of this year's photograph exhibit, Sixth annual juried show will explore photographer's visions of people and things in the process of change, Hours; Tues thru Sun 12-4pm. info. www.ojaitartcenter.org
- June 16-24, All Arabian Championships, Earl Warren Showgrounds, S.B., Region II. info. 687-0766
- June 20, Swallow Song Music Festival, at the Beatrice Wood Center for the Arts, Abby Travis, Aqualometer, MollyZenobia. Tickets \$8 advance sales \$10 walk-in. info, 646-3381 www.beatricewood.com
- June 20, Ventura Pier, Promenade and Pirates! Arrrrrrrrrhhhhhh, aye... Beat ye' devil Invaders back to Los Angeles... Arrrrrr... pillaging starts at 10am - 12pm, admission \$15. info, City of Ventura., 658-4726
- June 20, Main Street Mini Fair, A Stronger voice for you neighborhood, Free family fun in the Mini Park on Main Street all Summer Long! - Between Oak and Palm Streets, We Do Art! - Every Sat. 9am - 4pm. info, VCORD.org
- June 20, Derby Darlin's "Rink of Fire" roller derby bout, Seaside Park-Ventura Fairgrounds, The Derby Darlin's vs. Disaster City. Doors Open at 5pm. Events Continued on Page 12...

## Computer Tech

### Can You Feel Your Wallet Surge?

by Mike Deering

Surge protectors fall under the "... you can pay me now or pay me later ..." line of discussion. It never ceases to amaze me that a person will, without hesitation, drop over \$1,000 on a computer, but only buy the five dollar power strip from the hardware store. The last I checked, a few strings of Christmas tree lights doesn't even come close to \$1,000 and that's all those power strips are good for.

The desired outcome of a power surge hitting your properly protected computer is the power will be shut off at the surge protector, not at the computer, at the split second a surge occurs. If the surge protector is fried, better it, than the computer. I have had the surge protector "give its life" for my computer.

When do power surges occur? It happens when there is some sort of an overload condition on an electrical circuit. How do you know that has happened? A circuit breaker is tripped, shutting off power to that circuit. Other times when surges occur are electrical storms or when a windstorm downs some power lines. A circuit breaker doesn't stop the damage quickly enough to prevent damage to electronic equipment. This is why a good surge protector is needed.

When shopping for a surge protector, you want to see at least 800 joules of protection. There are a lot of different opinions as to the actual number, but generally, the higher the number, the better. There should also be a reset button, in addition to the "on/off" switch on the protector. Plan to spend about \$30 dollars or more. The number of outlets and the spacing between those outlets depends on what you plan to plug into the protector.

So, your surge protector has tripped and has shut power to everything plugged into it. Before you hit the reset switch and the "on/off" switch, check back at the power outlet and look for any scorch marks. If you see scorch marks, stop, and go no further until the cause for this is found. I am sure a fireman or electrician would advise you to not use that plug until the affected circuit has been checked at the breaker switch panel, as well as the power outlet.

"What" must be plugged into the surge protector? My rule is, if you can't afford to replace it, plug it in.

Mike Deering, Computer MD  
local computer service

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- Emerson

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## Grounds: Cold Brewing Rules

by Lorraine Mariz



**P**robably the most frequently asked question at **Java & Joe** is "How do I get my coffee to taste like yours?" Here is the answer to that question.

**1. First, the obvious** - Use good coffee. Although any coffee

will be drinkable if you follow all the other instructions here, you will get the best results if you use **100 percent Arabica**.

**2. Use the right grind** for your brewing method. Course for French press, medium for hand drip, medium fine for auto-drip and fine for espresso. This may sound like sacrilege but I think that it is better to have coffee



*Art connoisseurs can sip a cup o' coffee at Java and Joe's on Matilija St., as they admire Artist Rich Kenny's display and hang out, watching him illustrate his painting style. "Tropical Fantasy is where I want to retire some day," says Rich. Recently returning to Ojai, Rich is teaching students how to paint fast and loose in bright bold colors. For more info on his classes contact Rich at 450-6916, or richkennyart@yahoo.com*

ground at the store. The big, professional grinders give a more uniform grind than home grinders. However, if you like grinding your own beans have bit of your coffee ground at the store so you can



© 2009, Mary M. Long

see what the grounds should look like. Also some people are using too fine a ground for drip coffee makers. The theory is that with a finer grind you can use less coffee but I feel this makes the drip too slow and results in bitter coffee. Brew time should equal the amount of coffee you are brewing. For example if you are brewing a full 10 cup pot, it should take 10 minutes to brew. If the brew time is longer the grind is too fine; if it is shorter the grind is too coarse.

**3. Use cold, good water.** If you don't drink the tap water don't use it to make coffee. Often just using filtered water makes the difference between good and mediocre coffee.

**4. If you use an auto-drip** coffee maker make sure it is clean. Again the 10 cup-10 minute rule applies. If the brew time is too long and your grind is correct there is probably hard water build up in the pipes. You can clean the coffee maker with vinegar (*Cheap, but very smelly*), CLR (*works really well but you have to rinse a lot*), or stuff called "**Mr. Coffee Cleaner**" (*for my money the easiest*). If your water is very hard you may need to clean as often as every 2 weeks.

**5. Use the right amount of coffee.** The rule is 1 round tablespoon for 6 ounces of water (*the standard cup on an auto-drip brewer*). You may adjust this to taste.

**6. Store coffee correctly.** Grounds and beans are best in an airtight container at room temperature. Grounds are fresh for about 2 weeks, beans for about 4 weeks. Coffee will stay fresh in an airtight container in the freezer for 6 months but you have to leave it there. Taking coffee in and out of the freezer causes condensation and bitterness. If you want to buy a lot of coffee at a time, freeze most if it and take out enough for 10 days or so.

**7. Do not let coffee sit** on the hot plate of an auto-drip brewer! This is my pet peeve. Drink the coffee right away or use a thermal carafe. Also do not re-heat coffee in a microwave. Microwaving coffee changes its molecular structure (*really*) and makes it taste really bad. If you must re-heat coffee use a sauce pan on the stove but do not let it boil.

Follow these rules and you will have perfect coffee every time!

Lorraine Mariz, Java and Joe, Ojai

## Wine And Roses

by Ron Rowe



**S**ometimes I look at a little flower and I can almost feel the beauty that is born out of its strength and endurance, then I look at a rock and cannot understand why the rock which has neither strength nor endurance; survives whilst the flower dies. Yet there are times that I can almost grasp the meaning and answers to the

mystery of creation as I gaze at the stars and yet, alas, life remains a divine mystery. So, I walk on...

Did you know women invented horticulture? Women ventured into the fields and forests in search of wild plants and herbs. Women domesticated them while men were dragging their knuckles on the ground and chasing wild beasts in the forests. Women were the first gardeners while men gaped in awe at women's complicity with nature and the power it had given them. Men were still struggling to understand how women gave birth and survived. Of course a lot changed when men realized it wasn't divine intervention that conceived a child, it was man. So, to all readers plant a tree in Ojai, for trees are the best monuments people can erect; they speak your praises without flattery and are blessings to children yet unborn...

**California** broke? **New York's** unemployment insurance fund has become the first in the nation to go broke, forcing it to borrow \$90 million a week from the federal government. The state's 7 percent unemployment is the highest in 14 years.

One out of every three **U.S.** dollars sent to **Iraq** in the last eight years winds up in the pockets of corrupt officials, claim **U.S.** officials. Another \$18 billion in **Iraqi** government funds have also disappeared. **Shiite** tribal leader, **adel al subinawl** said, everybody in **Iraq** is stealing from the state. And yet we continue to send billions of dollars to **Afghanistan** and **Iraq**, and no one as yet has explained to me why we are occupying these two countries and spending billions a month in a futile occupation.

There is hope for job seekers in **Spokane, Washington**. A local distillery is looking for more volunteers to bottle and package its gin and vodka; no pay, but at the end of your shift you can drink as much as you like, said **Don Poffenroth** manager of **Dry Fly Distillery**.

A **Massachusetts** man was ticketed for driving erratically. Police say he was eating cereal from a bowl in his lap while talking on his cell phone; his defense, he was late for work and was hungry.

How about this? Doping officials showed up to do steroid tests at a **Belgium** bodybuilding championship contest and all 20 competitors grabbed their gear and ran. Doping official **Hans Cooman** was shocked, he said "*I have never seen anything like this in my whole life.*"

Attention **B. Dawson**; an entire village complete with cottages, a cricket club and a manor house is up for sale. It's the village of **Linkenholt**, near **Andover** in **Hampshire, England**; an area of outstanding beauty. **Tim Sherston** of real estate company, **Jackson-Stops & Staff** said the sale also includes 22 cottages and houses, a commercial shoot, local shops, 1,500 acres of farmland and 450 acres of woodland. The residents, about 40 people, would like to stay in their houses. The local church is not included, oh, the cost, 25,000,000 pounds, a drop in the bucket for **B. Dawson**. Me, I am staying in **Ojai**. I have seen **England**...

Speaking of **England**; tourists enjoying sightseeing at **Windsor Castle**, the **Queen's** home, were horrified to see a couple ignoring the *Please keep off the Grass* sign.

They disrobed and engaged in violent sex in full view of the public, hotels and pubs nearby. Witness **Mark Robinson** said, they carried on for 20 minutes until police arrived and arrested them for outraging public decency. The **Japanese** tourists were busy filming every moment,

*'Heal Yourself... Recognize you can be yourself, not who you think you're supposed to be' - J. Baldwin*

and the **Queen**, was not amused when she was informed of the incident.

Sixty-eight-year-old **Linda Wolfe** of Indiana has been married a record 23 times. She is now looking for husband number 24. She said it gets lonely, especially at night. She claims she's addicted to romance. Well **Linda**, go to **Ireland**... **Margaret Sanchez** must have a strange marriage. She complained that her husband didn't speak to her for 10 days. She thought he was angry at her, alas, he was dead. The 85-year-old husband had died in bed, his wife had slept next to him for 10 nights before realizing he was dead.

**Zoran Bulatouie**, of **Serbia**, cut off his finger and ate it at the textile plant where he worked. The workers were protesting a company policy of no wage increase for a year. **Zoran** said later, "*It hurt like hell and eating my finger made me sick; they didn't get the pay increase.*" Ah, its a strange world indeed.

After a \$12 million, six-year scientific study to identify the flavors in **New Zealand's** signature wine, **Sauvignon Blanc**; the result; the flavors are a combination of passion fruit, asparagus and cats' pee, researcher **Sue Folklore** said, "*If there had been more cats' pee it obviously wouldn't be great. It's amazing what a little can do.*" That's right, she said that. Do try this wine, dear readers, and let me know if it was worth the \$12 million study.

**John Pieper**, a wine drinker, sent me an e-mail claiming I was too lavish and get carried away with my descriptions of wine that I had tasted. Well John, how about **André Simon**? He wrote about a bottle of **1858 Chateau Latour**. He wrote, "*It's a perfect bottle, one of the most perfect wines imaginable, so great but yet so simple, so gentle, so get at able, on the very brink of the grave, of course but unafraid and with the quiet majesty of the sun that has all but left a cloudless sky and will in another second or two have disappeared into the sea.*" Well, John, if I was to write about this wine I would say, *bloody good wine John.*

And so time to ponder on the words of **Lao tze** who wrote, "*There is no need to run outside for better seeing, nor to peer from the window, rather abide at the center of your being for the more you leave it the less you learn.*" And so it is peace to all living beings on earth.

Your comments are welcome  
Ron Rowe, Ojai  
rhjrowe@aol.com

## HELEN YUNKER - CITY STALL CONTINUES... Continued FROM Page One...

of its own codes; and yet enforcing its present policy of building code violations, mostly on senior citizens, this one involving the swimming pool and wall construction, (*which made development of this horrible site to build with 4 times the cost to do so*) the city permitted the construction in 1999 and a **city planner** is now the proud, if not illegal, owner of this monstrosity.

The **City** must be made accountable to obey its own codes, while they force everyone else to obey them to the letter. I really believe the public should be aware of the city's duplicity. Call me when you Can. Helen **Statement to Ventura City Council**  
**City Council Meeting - June 1, 2009**

This coming Wednesday it will be 11 years, 4 months, since the landslide occurred on **City Lot #7** on February 3, 1998. There followed a lengthy succession of unsuccessful, futile attempts on my part to reach a solution. Then, in November, 2004 a sales agreement was reached with **Mr. Todd Habliston**, requiring him to facilitate slope stabilization and development within 3 years following close of escrow on February  
*Yunker Repression Continued Page 25...*

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**Financial Haircut: Code Enforcement Dagnet Gets Tough with Fixed-income Seniors**

**Senior Citizens: How the Ventura City Council Is Cracking Down on 'Pesky Seniors'**

— by Camille Harris

**G**etting aggressive with a change to proactive code enforcement is turning out to be the Ventura City Council's biggest slip-up to date.

**"Don't Hurt My Grandma!"**

**Code Enforcement** decided to focus on dwellings that were 30-years-old or older, looking for unpermitted improvements. That's 70 percent of their housing stock. The oldest homes with the oldest citizens were the *low-hanging fruit* that were snapped up first in the dragnet. The word came back loud and clear from their children and grandchildren, "**Don't mess with my family.**"

**May 4 Ventura Council Meeting**

Native **Jim Monahan**, (*Ventura City Councilman*) with his finger on the pulse of his community, voted "**No.**" on the controversial policy. The council members and **City Manager**, newer to Ventura, were not prepared for the outrage from a community that reveres its older citizens as a valued component of its treasured history.

"This is About Respect," said **Pete Cosenza**, after waiting over four hours to speak to the **Ventura City Council** with **87-year-old Angelina Marquez** who responded to the threat from the proactive code enforcement program, "We have one foot in the grave and are in poor health. We have lived in our home for 60 years and this is where I raised my children. You are causing us much stress."

Her husband, 94-year-old **Phil Marquez** still works in his barbershop (*which he bought in 1945*) on Main Street to supplement their modest social security income. Since receiving the *threatening letter* from **Code Enforcement**, he has been unable to sleep. Recently, exhausted from the stress of looming code enforcement, he fell asleep in his barber chair and a thief came into his shop and stole \$100 out of his till. One wonders what the **City Council's** reaction (*probably no reaction as usual*) will be when the first stress related heart attack occurs as a result of this unconscionable policy? Will the money *gleaned* from Ventura's elderly be worth the tragic consequences?

After waiting 4 ½ hours to speak, **Mr. Marquez**, with his walker, appeared unable to stand. This caused Ventura native **Pete Cosenza** to admonish the council for making the elderly wait so long to speak. "This is about respect. What do elderly people think when they get a letter that says their home may be 'a public nuisance' and 'contact this office within ten days or further action will be taken' and zoomed photos of their property are attached to the letter. These people don't even know what they did wrong. Were any of you even alive 52 years ago?"

Have some freaking sense." In 2004, Mr. Marquez, a lifelong resident, was ironically named by the city as an official "city treasure" and June 14, 2004 was proclaimed **Phil Marquez Day**. **Mr. Marquez's** life is as rich with meaning as his means are modest. His priceless contributions to the community and history of **Ventura** cannot be measured in dol-



*"The care of human life and happiness and not their destruction, is the first and only legitimate object of good government."*

— **Thomas Jefferson, 1809**

**A Heroes Welcome**



Photo © Sarah Kahrin

**Phil Marquez** has operated his 'Mom and Pop' barbershop at the same location in Ventura since 1945 (*that's 64 years of paying taxes...!*) When Phil returned to his Ventura home, a hero, after active service during WWII he bought the landmark business, originally established at the same location c. 1913.

A few years ago, June 14, 2004 the City of Ventura 'honored' Mr. Marquez as a **Community Treasure-Ventura Oral Historian**. The day was deemed by **Brian Brennan**, then mayor and currently serving as city council member as, "**Phil Marquez Day**," however now the longtime Ventura 'treasure' is being treasured for his wallet; *threatened with proactive code enforcement in an ongoing effort by the City of Ventura to recoup 1 1/2-year-old losses (\$10 Million gone) from risky investments they made with the now defunct Bears Sterns, Inc.*

Shown here doing what he loves, Phil provides a fresh haircut for one of his longtime patrons. Stop by **Phil's Barbershop** for a haircut, great conversation about baseball, politics, hunting, etc., maybe even a little Frank Sinatra ditty playin' in the background....

You know, **Brian Brennan** was looking a bit shaggy the other day... and I bet he could use a good trim from Ventura's local 'Treasure'! — ed.

**Phil's Barber Shop, 12 W. Main St., Ventura**

lars. But times have changed and the focus on *city job retention* and getting more blood out of the same turnips now spares no one in Ventura. **Will they Just be Another Mural on a Use-less High-End Condo Wall?**

**Mrs. Olivares' Granddaughter, Desiree Ranallo**, pointed out that the **Olivares** property, adjacent to the **Marquez** property, is now in a zone designated for mixed use, high-density condo developments. She wonders if the city's sudden focus on *their area*, with *fees for permits having been doubled* the previous week, is part of a larger plan to force out the elderly to make way for developers to profit. Ironically, without the rental income from her property, her grandmother could not pay for her own keep in a nursing home.

**Denise Olivares** brought tears to many when she spoke of her mother, now in an oxygen tent, and her father who had worked so hard all his life to make certain his wife was cared for in her old age. "Where did our country go wrong when it has to pick on sick old ladies to balance the budget? My parents did all the right things. They lived the **American Dream**. My father always said, 'A man's home is his castle, and this is my castle.' They only wanted to live out their lives with peace and dignity. They paid their taxes. They gave to charity. They raised our family. They never asked for anything. My father fought bravely in **World War II**. Every day until he could

no longer walk, he raised the **American Flag** in our yard and saluted it. Our elderly are our history," said **Denise Olivares**. Now, Mrs. Olivares may be forced to give up the homestead that supports her, in order to meet all the city's demands for permits and fees on a property that has stood sturdy for 48 years.

**Ventura Artist Donna Carver**, read the **4th Amendment of the Constitution** and pointed out that, far from being informed of their **4th Amendment** right to refuse code enforcement access to their properties, citizens were being badgered, threatened and frightened. She said, "Robbers caught in a criminal act are read their **Miranda Rights** to protect them from self incrimination, but no information on rights are being given to the good citizens who have given so much to the **Ventura** community. At a minimum, citizens must be informed, in advance, that they are under no obligation to allow code enforcement onto their property for an inspection and have the right to deny them access without a warrant."

If one can tell a lot about a city by the way it treats its elderly and its children, people are beginning to wonder if a real disconnect exists between the **City Council's actions** and the community's values. The city's interpretation defines *substandard housing* as any home that has had an improvement, including changing a water heater, without a permit (*which has been some of the cited code violations*). That could put a lot more than 70 percent of Ventura's homeowners at risk. Venturans traditionally have prided themselves on "being handy."

**90-Day Stay of Execution Granted**

After many more had spoken, (all opposed to a policy that they determined unfair, perhaps illegal and a cause for more homelessness and despair) city staff/council granted a 90 day *stay of execution* of its' proactive code enforcement policies to study a grandfathering/amnesty program that would address set-backs, zoning, lot coverage, fees, parking and the lack of records for the existing second units.

Many of the second units in question have never been rented but have been used to house family members who would otherwise be homeless, so are not registered anywhere. Covered parking is a city requirement, which can be changed. Lot coverage requirements can also be changed by the city. The city controls the fee/fines, which currently can exceed \$15,000, *just as a starting point*. Many of the dwelling units have been in existence for decades and new purchasers were not informed that they were "unpermitted" despite disclosure laws, and paid higher sales prices for the improvements. **Dan Cormode**, well-respected community sentinel, noted that the entire **City Property Maintenance Code** added onerous requirements over the states requirements and should be discarded.

**The Appeals Board Results June 3rd**

At the **Code Enforcement Appeals Meeting June 3rd**, **Andrew Stuffer**, chief building official, recommended that the appeal of **Susana Escobar**, who had to displace a disabled senior from a converted rental unit, be upheld and that she only be required to meet the minimum state health and safety codes, rather than the onerous city and state building codes. The reason for the support of her appeal was the confusion caused by a gap in paperwork between the annexation of her property from the county to the city.

Ironically, the copy of the state's health and

safety requirements was provided by **Award-winning Ventura Artist Michael Pedziwiatr**, whose appeal hearing preceded **Ms. Escobar's**. **Mr. Pedziwiatr's** Appeal was denied, though there were conflicting code records of his rental unit being either a guesthouse or a barbecue house. The mortgage companies for both **Ms. Escobar** and **Mr. Pedziwiatr** granted their mortgages based upon the income from the rentals. Can we assume, with equal treatment under the law, that all rental units now will only be required to meet the state health and safety requirements? That would help the cause of fairness.

**NOTE:** As of **June 3rd**, the *public information* Video of the **May 4th City Council Meeting** (*and the Audio*) were still unavailable for public viewing on the city's website. Also, no date had been set for the city staff to return with a grandfathering/amnesty proposal.

If you are a senior or low income person at risk of this policy or can help, contact **Camille@vcord.org** or 805-648-1902

**Camille Harris, www.vcord.org**  
(*Ventura Citizens for Responsible Development*)

**LETTER**

**Representative Nava**

**From: Michael Pedziwiatr, Ventura**  
**To: Pedro Nava, Assemblyman (D-Ventura-Oxnard-Santa Barbara, 35th District)**  
**Subject: Help Citizens Please!**  
**Date: Tue, 9 Jun 2009**

**D**ear Mr. Nava, I do not know if you can actually do anything about our problems here but I feel you do need to be informed.

The City of Ventura is unfairly targeting housing and trying to raise money for their coffers by proactively enforcing housing codes that they have ignored for 30 - 50 years. The code enforcement division is unfairly bullying, seniors, poor people, people of color. They talk their way into our homes without informing us of our right to seek a warrant.

They threaten homeowners with \$400 a day fines. (8th amendment- cruel and unjust fines!).

They are telling me that I owe them \$14,000.00 for past fees/fines?

Is this cruel and unusual treatment?

I am at present unemployed even though I hold a master's degree.

I have no health insurance for my family. My home is my only hope for any type of retirement. I feel that the City of Ventura is trying to take this away from me. I feel stressed in these economic times. This city is causing me sleepless nights and depression.

Please look into this by contacting this email for **Camille Harris:**  
**camille\_harris@hotmail.com**

She will send you news articles and more detailed information about our situation. They have targeted over ninety families at present. Many are elderly and poor. They will force them out!

If you are unable to help then please pass this on to anyone who can. A lawyer from out of Ventura county will help.

I thank you for taking time to read this.

**Sincerely,**  
**Michael Pedziwiatr**  
(*Tax paying, law abiding citizen*)

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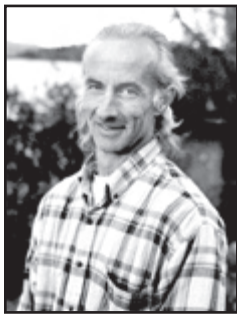
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- Montecito Natural Foods
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# Fish Passage... or Not... at the Freeman Diversion ?

by Alasdair Coyne



The most important fact to keep in mind as discussions continue on the topic of fish passage for upstream-migrating Steelhead at the Freeman Diversion is this – the proposed rock-ramp fish passage design, recommended in the National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) Biological Opinion, would require absolutely no diverted water in order to function.

The old and inadequate fish ladder has never, in nearly twenty years, been known to allow an adult steelhead to successfully pass on to the Santa Clara River upstream of the Freeman Diversion.

Water agency opposition to fish passage at this key location on the Santa Clara River for Steelhead seeking to spawn in upstream

upstream. The rock ramp would restore these passage opportunities.

United's initial attempts failed to deal with the saltwater that intruded from the ocean into the space underground that was created by the overpumping of fresh water aquifers. The State Water Resources Control Board threatened to adjudicate the saltwater intrusion on the Oxnard Plain in the 1980s, giving local interests the incentive to agree on the proposal to build the current Freeman Diversion as a means to recharge the rapidly-depleting aquifers. Adjudication of the issue by the State Board might have mandated a solution that was not to the liking of local interests. Thus the threat of adjudication proved adequate to get the diverse group of water interests to cooperate instead.

**The Freeman Diversion has been More Successful Than Planned for Water Diversions**

The Freeman Diversion, completed in 1991, was proposed to be able to divert 55,000 acre feet per year of Santa Clara River flow (over half of which originated in Sespe Creek's watershed) into the underground

of the fact that hundreds or thousands of downstream migrating smolts (young adult Steelhead) pass downstream there annually, on average.)

But don't wait for United's management to run with the idea of a rock ramp fish passage structure that will allow them to increase their water diversions at the Freeman. United has always decided it's easier to do... nothing. With the surprise withdrawal from the endangered Steelhead mandatory consultation at the Freeman by the Federal Bureau of Reclamation last December, United is no longer bound by Section 7 of the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA). (Section 7 consultations are required when a federal agency is involved.) United's newest approach is to go for a Section 10 consultation instead – a choice that became available with the withdrawal of the Bureau of Reclamation. The beauty of a Section 10 consultation, from United's point of view is that there will be no binding timetable for United with regard to the construction of effective fish passage at the Freeman. This means that in terms of real improvements for the Steelhead, United can continue to do... nothing, forever.

**CalTrout's Lawsuit on Behalf of the Steelhead**

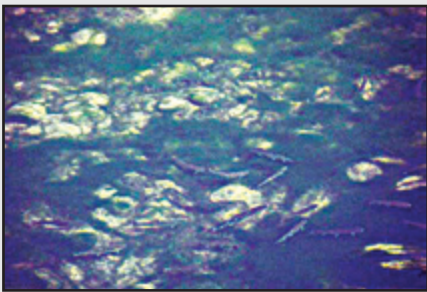
This is why CalTrout added to their recent lawsuit against United and the Bureau of Reclamation the issue of the Bureau's

withdrawal from the Section 7 consultation in December. Interestingly, United had already begun to move forward with their new Section 10 consultation (the one with no timeline) before the Bureau's withdrawal. What's more, the Bureau's withdrawal was apparently prompted by United's claim that they (United) would sue the Bureau if the Bureau moved to implement the Steelhead measures legally-mandated by NMFS' Biological Opinion on the Freeman Diversion. In other words, the Bureau has washed its hands of its legal responsibility to the endangered Steelhead, under threat of litigious pressure from an interested nonfederal third party – United.

Within a few weeks, there is the possibility of a court-mandated settlement of CalTrout's lawsuit against United and the Bureau. Settlement deliberations are delicate and complex. It will be interesting to see how the settlement will affect United's recent segway to a Section 10 consultation (that's the version with no timeline for effective fish passage) – this segway being the brainchild of United's new manager (and former financial officer) Norman Solomon. If the Bureau is required to return to the table, Section 10 will be out the door and Section 7 will be back, requiring United to get a late start on the mandatory timeline to provide effective fish passage at the Freeman Diversion.

– Alasdair Coyne, Ojai  
www.sespewild.org

## Ventura River Smolts



In mid-April around 100 six-inch long Steelhead Smolts were spotted near the Robles Diversion Dam on the Ventura River close to Hwy 33, north of Ojai.

These Steelhead are possibly year-old offspring of the adult Steelhead which were seen to pass the Robles Diversion fishladder on their way upstream in the winter of 2007-2008. They indicate the resilience of the Southern Steelhead population when adequate fish passage is provided past a diversion dam.

tributaries such as Sespe Creek, has centered on the requirements of traditional fish ladders. These types of ladders divert a small percentage of downstream storm flows to keep water flowing down the ladder, thus enable fish to ascend it.

The water agency United Water (United), which is strongly weighted toward agricultural interests, has objected to "losing" to a fish ladder a small percentage of the water they divert at the Freeman Diversion for replenishing water tables below the Oxnard Plain.

United seems as yet unable to grasp that the rock ramp fish passage structure will in a stroke alleviate their major concern – how much diverted water may be "lost" to a fish ladder. The rock ramp proposal will in fact work perfectly well with only the water that normally passes downstream over the Freeman Diversion Dam in high stormflows down the Santa Clara River. Upstream migrating Steelhead will be able to locate and ascend the rock ramp, to be situated mid-stream at the Freeman Diversion Dam. The rock ramp will be built to mimic a natural riverbed in Southern California.

This means that when the rock ramp fish passage structure is eventually built – as we believe it will be – United's diversions for use by farmers and homeowners may actually be able to increase, as the old fish ladder ceases operation.

### How Did the Steelhead Decline ?

Six decades ago, Steelhead were thriving in the Santa Clara River's tributaries, including Sespe, Santa Paula and Piru Creeks. In the 1940s, an early earthen dam version of the Freeman Diversion was constructed, each year, to divert water to replenish shrinking underground aquifers (due to increased agricultural irrigation). Even these early structures were sufficient to prevent most Steelhead from migrating upstream to their historic spawning grounds in the Santa Clara River's tributaries. The Steelhead migrated successfully upstream only when large stormflows washed away the earthen dam and allowed them unhindered access

aquifers. As it happens, the average diversions at the Freeman Diversion since 1991 have averaged 80,000 acre feet per year – or 45 percent more than originally estimated by the engineers who designed it. The threat of saltwater intrusion persists as a result of inadequate regulation of groundwater extraction.

The water from the Freeman Diversion still costs as little as \$21 per acre foot for farmers on the Oxnard Plain – plus the cost for electricity for pumping the water to the surface. There is little incentive for farmers to conserve water at that price. In fact, agricultural water use on the Oxnard Plain is currently increasing, as farmers switch for example to greenhouse cultivation (hydroponic tomatoes, cut flowers). The water diverted at the Freeman Diversion has so far been treated as an inexhaustible resource – serious efforts to enact some kind of cap on total water extractions by agricultural interests have been conspicuously absent. As usage goes up, United has simply sought to divert more water at the Freeman.

**The Freeman Diversion has Nearly Doomed the Steelhead**

Meanwhile the Steelhead have been brought nearly to extinction on the Santa Clara River by United's operation of the Freeman Diversion and its inadequate fishladder. Since the Steelhead's listing in 1997 as an endangered species, United has consistently refused to implement measures based on the best available science, towards improving the operation of the current, inadequate fishladder.

That's why the NMFS' rock ramp fish passage structure is such an ideal fit – it meets ecological goals designed by the nation's best migratory fish scientists to bring the Steelhead back from the brink of extinction, and it meets United's goal of stopping the "loss" of diverted water to an inadequate fishladder. (The fishladder's lack of success even gave rise to a ploy by United to claim that Steelhead were already extinct at and above the Freeman Diversion, regardless

## 'Organic' Gardening

### It's Not Too Late To Plant Veggies

by Sandra M. Blackburn  
Hey, it's not too late to plant vegetables.

A good method is to stagger your planting – we in So. Cal have such an extensive growing season, sometimes I get tomatoes in January !! Sowing beans every two weeks, along with eggplant, tomatoes, squash and others, on through July, (depending on the weather), can help to ensure a bountiful and ongoing harvest.



Don't hesitate to top dress your plantings throughout the season with good compost, it'll help to shade the roots, conserve water and add nutrients. Even if your squash and melons seem droopy in the heat of the afternoon, don't water again. It is a natural method they use to conserve water and energy. Makes it easy to over water.

One of the best secrets to a successful vegetable garden is consistent watering. It's also a good idea to water in the morning, allowing the plant to dry out somewhat by evening. This will reduce pests like slugs, snails, earwigs, and various fungal problems.

Organic gardeners know that a diversity of plantings in the garden is a good way to improve production. As far back as the beginnings of farming, growers have watched for companions. Through the generations, we have found that tomatoes are helped by mint and grow better with carrots, but may


stunt the growth of said carrots. Carrots and onions help each other out, and tomatoes like onions too.

Tomatoes and asparagus help each other; but asparagus want neither onion types nor potatoes nearby. Beans (which are bad for tomatoes) provide the nitrogen carrots need, but beans, peas and parsley don't like any types of Allium, (onion garlic or chives) too close about. Beans host nitrogen-fixing bacteria, a good fertilizer for some plants, too much for others. Sunflowers are grown as a companion for corn (maize). Ants will herd the aphids onto the sunflowers, keeping them off of the corn.

The classic companion planting model is The Three Sisters, basic agricultural plants of the Americas, maize, beans and pumpkins, utilized by Native Americans from pre-European times. The corn is planted first and grows up quickly, providing a trellis for the beans to climb up. The beans provide nitrogen for the heavy feeding pumpkin, and the pumpkin leaves work as a living mulch, keeping down the weeds and conserving moisture in their shade. The prickly hairs on the leaves and stems of the pumpkin deter pests. And together all three provide that which a human needs nutritionally.

Marigolds throughout the garden are pretty, and effective. French Marigold, (Tagetes) produce a pesticidal chemical from their roots, which lasts years after they are gone. Mexican Marigolds do the same thing, but can be too strong for tender herbs to be planted closely. Marigolds (Tagetes) can help to manage root knot nematode

Veggies Continued Page 22...



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# Parenthood vs. Leadership – *Not that Different*

by Jefferson Pinto

**W**ith Father's Day upon us, I got to thinking, isn't fatherhood (*motherhood too*) the purest form of leadership? Why then, are so many of our public and corporate leaders such unfit parents?

As a single father, my job duties are voluminous. In a government or corporate environment they might be described like this: teacher/instructor, nurse (*on call with midnight bedside summons*), bread winner, bread baker (*cook/chef*), maid, taxi driver, medical case manager, theology education coordinator, tutor/homework helper, gardener, building repair and maintenance staff, pool man, supervisor, supervisor, supervisor, spiritual advisor, entertainment coordinator, safety coordinator, security officer, cheer leader, disciplinarian, educational institution liaison, procurement agent, accounting clerk, inventory control staff, sanitation engineer, dishwasher, life/manors coach, quality assurance, cleaning crew, butler, bed time story teller, financial planner, tax preparer, punctuality coach (*wake up assistant/alarm clock trainer*), etc.

Did you notice I listed teacher first? To my thinking, as a dad (moms too) the job is to help (teach) children become self-sufficient by the time they are adults. Such that, when they set out on their own, they will want to seek me out and spend some time with me, and so I have preserved the relationship with genuine love, through respect, and trust.

At work, my job as a leader is to meet my objectives through training, teaching, motivating, guiding, and coaching co-workers. I'll know I've succeeded when, after I leave the company, they still stay in contact with me. (They will respect me as a person not for the position.)

**Leadership What it is and What it isn't:**

Poor leadership is characterized by unethical behavior, and elaborate rationalizations. "I did it for the good of the American people, shareholders, etc. Often, the primary beneficiary of such "leadership" is the leader himself. I call your attention to exorbitant bonuses, and golden parachutes (huge payout upon departure from the company). Don't forget the annual congressional allowance for expenses of between \$1.3 million and \$4.5 million dollars per year, per representative. (ie: expenses; paperclips, rubberbands, additional staff salaries, bonuses, furnishings, etc. and as an interesting note, One congressman is leasing a car for example at \$80,000 per year.) All of this, in addition to their salaries. This is the "Transparency" in Government, we *don't see*! We see it here and now! By the way, the salary for a congressman is \$174,000 annually. I wonder who set up the allowances? – Our "Leaders"!

**A Few Memorable Examples of Leadership Failure**

**Failure Mode: Do as I Say, Not as I Do.** By definition a leader leads and ought not to ask anyone to do something he isn't willing to do himself. "OK you good little citizens, conserve energy and minimize greenhouse gasses. Oh, please excuse me, I need to go and catch my private jet to collect my Oscar and get back to my mansion that uses 20 times more energy than the average American home." (Thanks Al)

We are strategically placing apples in baskets around the white house to promote a healthy lifestyle. Oh, please excuse me I need to step out for a smoke break. (Thanks Barack)

**Failure Mode: Leaving out Germane Details to Persuade Others**

"There's an "axis of evil" that needs to be reckoned with (make war) so we can confiscate their "weapons of mass destruction". (Thanks George) That's sort of like saying, "Johnny don't eat the seeds or you'll grow apple trees in your stomach." Helpful Hint: The acidity of your stomach is a million times stronger than pure water and seeds won't grow in there. Lack of sunlight inside the abdomen could be another barrier too. Oversimplification of the facts is really creative manipulation.

In 2007 the United Kingdom created the U.K. Statistics Authority whose directive

is to research and verify numbers released to the public by other government agencies. The idea has merit, but why create bigger government to watch the existing government? What happened to the prime purpose of our free press; investigative reporting? (Thanks Rupert)

Ironically, Benjamin Disraeli (British Prime Minister in the 1800s) first said, "There are three types of lies; lies, damned lies, and statistics." This phrase was popularized by Mark Twain and used occasionally by Ronald Reagan. (Thanks Ron)

**Failure Mode: Lying to Protect Others**

Before the election, "I didn't inhale". While in office, "I did not have sex relations with that woman". Later, after he was revealed, "I was not completely truthful." (Hey Bill, euphemism is not a religion; the last time I checked, not being completely truthful was called lying. Hence the phrase: The truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth).

**Failure Mode: Admitting you did it but Blaming it on Someone Else**

This is the classic "The devil made me do it" excuse. "Watch my lips, no new taxes" then after he signed a tax increase, "I know I said no new taxes, and I shouldn't have done it but they told me they'd pay off the deficit" (Thanks George)

Don't get me wrong, I'm not saying these guys didn't do "good things" too, but too often it's hard to distinguish.

**Confusing a Mistake with a Gross Breach of Integrity**

Forgetting to put coins in the parking meter is a mistake. Exceeding the posted speed limit can be a mistake. *Forgetting* your promise, then lying about it, is a gross breach of integrity and poor leadership. (What happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas – Except for the credit card bills, diseases, and resulting destruction later.) I've heard the counter arguments: *how he treats his wife has nothing to do with how he leads this country.* I disagree! His cavalier treatment of his wife with whom he took a vow to love honor and cherish in front of his family friend and God speaks volumes. (Thanks Bill). Where do we the citizens/shareholders fit into his hierarchy? If he didn't take his vow *very seriously*, how seriously will he treat his vow (*oath*) of office?

**Parentship Failure: Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor**

I'm going to tell the cashier that you're only 11 so we don't have to pay for an adult ticket. Johnny, don't say anything. Question: What kind of message are you sending? (Answer: *It's OK to lie to save money.*) It's OK Johnny, they are a big company they can afford it (*rationalization*). (*It's OK to cheat people when you believe they can afford it – It's OK to cheat (message).*)

**Personal Leadership**

It's really easy to get mad at someone across the ocean for doing immoral things. Have you considered how lying and cheating affects this country as a whole? The lie: I hurt my arm at work on Monday morning the truth: *after you really injured it at home over the weekend.* The lie: I gave \$3,000 to charity (in your mind and on your tax return) the truth: but not in reality. Dad, you just hit that car next to us in the parking lot and put a big gouge in it. (*Let's quickly choose another parking space.*)

**Using Judgment and Making Difficult**

**Decisions**

Decisions involve trade-offs. If there were no trade-off, a decision would be unnecessary. Choosing between a good and a bad is a no brainer; however choosing between *two goods* means saying no one good thing and that's not easy.

Sometimes leaders must make *unpopular* decisions that will make *some people* unhappy. Given a choice between academics (reading a book) and the sand box (play) children will choose sand box. Given a choice between a drive-through restaurant and a home cooked meal most kids will choose the restaurant.

Given the choice between more government spending and reducing the deficit, most leaders have consistently chosen more spending. Earlier this month, **Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernake** warned that failure to reduce the deficit would counter the efforts to revive the economy. Sometimes, the wisdom of the consequences are not obvious and it is necessary to explain them. (Thanks Ben)

Poor leadership/parenting breeds more of the same: It is my observation there is an abundance of whiners that want to put more laws on the books so they don't have to be responsible for their own actions and file lawsuits. "I didn't know cigarettes were harmful to my health." "I didn't know the coffee was hot." "I didn't know eating excessively at the restaurant with the happy colorful clown would make me fat." **Helpful hint:** the fact that he's a fat guy in a jump suit should have been your first clue. Social Darwinism isn't completely without merit.

You've probably heard of the silent majority. I'm referring to the vociferous minority. Can we really put enough laws on the books to protect the ill parented ignoramus who seem to consume a disproportionate quantity of resources in this country? I'm not referring to mentally impaired or under aged.

I continually observe a pattern of failure to accept responsibility for one's actions (*excuse making*). This is *learned* behavior. "I'm sorry I didn't return the rental movie on time. I forgot, and besides, I didn't watch it after the due date."

In the words of Vince Lombardi, "Practice doesn't make perfect; perfect practice makes perfect." If you teach wrong, they'll do it wrong. Teach them right and they'll do it right.

Being a good parent/leader takes a lot of effort. If we want good leaders we need to *raise* good leaders.

**It's not his Fault**

Just the other day I saw another one of these on the news: Mommy was wondering why the shopkeeper filled their "baby" full of lead after their baby entered the store wearing a ski mask and brandishing a firearm. Mommy's statement makes it very clear why Johnny is the way he is. Did you ever tell little Johnny it might be dangerous to point weapons at other people and demand access to the cash register?

**Parents as Independent Contractors**

When I first got out of college, I worked with a guy by the name of Kenny, who was raised by his maid after his mother died. He was terribly lacking in table manners and general etiquette. During business meetings, he would smack his gum rather loudly with the cadence of a coin rattling around in the clothes drier. Poor manners didn't directly affect his leadership, but it was a huge indication as to the life lessons he missed.

**Living with the Consequences**

I don't purport that educating and leading by example will always ensure or prevent certain behavior from occurring. I advocate upfront education (you know, "common sense", what ever that is these days), free choice (*when you're of age*), and living with the consequences (*good or bad*). Or, in the words of my father, "You grew it, you chew it."

Shortly after my older brother earned his driver's license, he got his third moving violation. The judge offered him a choice; to have his license revoked for a month or pay a hefty fine. When he turned to our mother, she said something like, "Son, do you have more money or shoe leather?" (In other words, you are going to suffer the consequences, not me.) Amazingly enough, his compliance with the traffic laws substantially improved.

In summary, it's easy to confuse leadership with a job. A job is what you do; a leader is who you are. You can't be one type of leader at home and another type on the job. (*This is called Multiple Personality Disorder; or in political terms called Two-faced, or often politely as Multi-faceted*). I'm not suggesting being selfishly immoral in both arenas, but rather a compassionate ethical competent leader in both. (how novel is that? Thanks James Stewart).

Good leaders make mistakes; they don't egregiously violate their integrity or core duties. The difference is, *real leaders* own their mistakes and failures, instead of *re-labeling* them.

You can't delegate good parenting or good leadership nor can you compensate for it with signs, disclaimers, frivolous lawsuits or gifts. If you want your children raised with leadership skills and values, do it yourself. Delegating it to *Alice the Maid or Mr. Belvedere* typically doesn't work very well, except on television. Children/citizens pay more attention to what parents/leaders do and less to what they say.

Often, leaders need to make unpopular decisions, but then must fully inform us about the potential consequences for those decisions. Then the leaders need to live (or fail) politically with the consequences.

Good parenting and good leadership behaviors are very similar. Poor parenting leads to poor public policy, and *unhappy people*. Poor leadership also leads to poor public policy, and *also unhappy people*.

Jefferson Pinto is a retired CPA, holds an MBA from one of the finer accredited universities in this country, and is the VP of corporate operations for his day job.

jefferson@ojaiaandventurview.com



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# You're Just Going Through a Stage...

by Mary-Jo Murphy

**W**hen considering behavioral change, I'm reminded of the title of a book by Bill Hogan: *How Do You Eat An Elephant? One bite at a time!* Maybe you can relate.

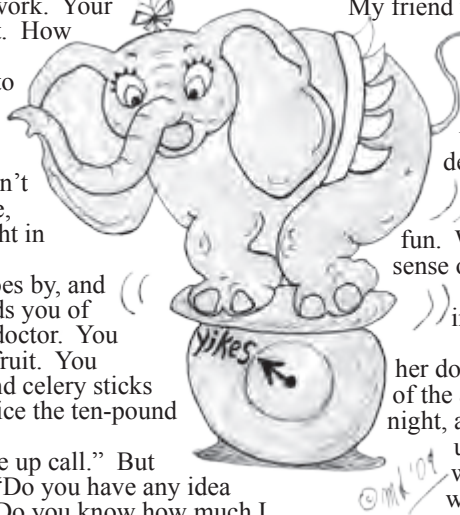
You have every intention of being healthier. You join a gym. You even buy expensive running shoes. They sit unused, because you hate to run. Most nights, you get home too late from work to use your membership. Besides, your kids need help with their homework. Your wife cooks your favorite dessert. How can you resist?

Fast food restaurants call out to you. And, let's face it; you're hungry all the time. You tell yourself, I'll start first thing tomorrow. But your alarm doesn't go off. You grab a cup of coffee, and someone at work has brought in doughnuts.

Another week, month, year goes by, and eventually your calendar reminds you of the return appointment to your doctor. You rush out to buy vegetables and fruit. You stuff yourself on plain yogurt and celery sticks and hope your doctor won't notice the ten-pound weight gain.

"I'll do it, Doc. This is a wake up call." But what you really want to say is, "Do you have any idea how hard it is to lose weight? Do you know how much I hate exercise? I have a life, you know. This is a very bad time to ask me to do these things, to cut out the sweets, the rich foods. It's my birthday or vacation time or holiday time or summertime, springtime..."

You just want to get out of there. As he's writing the prescription, you sneak a look. Under that lab coat you see a little flab around his middle. Secretly, you feel vindicated.



She had already progressed into a second stage of Behavioral Change, the *Contemplative Stage*.

If you're reading this, you are likely way ahead of those *Pre-Contemplative* types, who haven't given Preventative Health a thought. If you are thinking of or talking about losing weight, giving up smoking, taking up exercise, going for regular mammograms, anything healthful, but hopeful. Sometime in the future you *will* replace intentions with action?

My friend was partially right. If we allowed our human condition to overwhelm our consciousness, we might just stay in bed, eat bon-bons, and wait for the end to come. But miraculously we choose to get up every morning. We affirm life and our desire to make things better. We get on with it. We offer our talents and efforts at work or school or home. We look forward to having fun. We love and are loved back. We balance that sense of futility with hope.

So how did *contemplation* move my friend into the next stage, *A Plan*?

One day a couple of her friends showed up at her door for an evening walk. She took a tiny bite of the *elephant*. Her friends showed up another night, and she went for another walk. They showed up another night, and she went for another walk. Another night, she went for another walk...

Before she knew it, she was walking regularly. Those lovely endorphines secreted during exercise, hormones that make us feel happy and content, kicked in. Her *contemplation* took the form of a *plan*. Her plan became a habit. Initially, she was huffing and puffing. Now she keeps up. When she looks in the mirror, she notices she is more fit. She discovered what was *in it* for her to change.

Her positive self-image re-emerged. She saw that as a healthier person, she might have more years with her children and grandchildren. Her energy came back. In the process her blood pressure improved. Then, she discovered dancing, and found she was good at it. People started to tell her how fantastic she looked. Caught in the loop of life-affirming experiences, her new habits became part of her life.

She still eats cookies, but she finds enjoyment in other things too. She has moved into the next stage of Behavioral Change, *Maintenance*.

This week, take a nibble. *Contemplate*. And while you do, walk around the block or up a flight of stairs. Ask yourself: If I had a plan, what, if anything, would I be willing to do today?

Mary-Jo Murphy, R.N. M.S. CDE, Ventura Mary-Joe is a Health and Diabetes Educator, a Registered Nurse, and a Motivational Speaker [mjmurph221@yahoo.com](mailto:mjmurph221@yahoo.com)

us that eighty-five percent of what people worry about have either positive or neutral outcomes. In other words, things turn out just fine and when there are problems, worriers handle the issues that were the source of concern reasonably well seventy-nine percent of the time. Worriers are usually individuals who underestimate their ability to cope with negatives.

Worriers cannot shift their attention from their worries because they believe that there is something positive in worrying but they are not usually able to translate "signals" to do something about the worry from "noise" that is a source of distraction. They feel that worry can deal with potential threatening situations. Rehearsing a situation in the mind over and over makes worriers secure, but it does nothing to solve the problem.

It's normal to worry from time to time. Given life's many uncertainties, worry could be considered a very natural response in many situations. Chronic and all-consuming worry, though, can be troublesome and interfere with your ability to function freely and calmly in your daily life. Chronic worry leaves your mind revisiting the same issues over and over, with no solution in sight and no exit ramp — it is the infinite web of "what if?"

When you start to worry, the first thing to do is to distinguish whether these worries are telling you to do something — the "signals" or are they just "noise." "Signals" means there is some action that we need to take — we can ignore the "noise." The most direct way to find out if it is a *signal* or *noise* is by attempting to make these unproductive thoughts into productive ones — can you make a "to do list" from the worries that will permit you to accomplish a task and move the worry off the radar screen?

Listen for your self-critical or hopeless thoughts and decide that you want to stop them. Ask yourself — are these thoughts helping you? Behavioral psychologists suggest mentally yelling "stop" or snapping a rubber band on your wrist to stop negative unproductive thoughts. You can also try postponing a worry for as long as you can — this is a skill that will improve with practice.

Even people with good coping skills can be affected by an endless stream of alarming news in the media — but you can learn not to dwell on it. Keep in mind the *Serenity Prayer*: "the serenity to accept the things I cannot change; the courage to change the things I can; and the wisdom to know the difference."

Ed Tennen, Ed.D., Psy.D is a clinical psychologist in Ventura who works with seniors, phone, 648-5800

## Ventura County Health

- 58.4 percent of Ventura County is Overweight or Obese.
- 13.3 percent of Ventura County are Current Smokers.
- 24.2 percent of Ventura County gets no exercise.
- 48.8 percent of Ventura County eats less than five servings of fruits or vegetables each day.

Source: 2008 Ventura County Public Health Department Annual Report

I have a friend who when faced with a delicious, chocolate chip cookie would tell me, "We're all going to die anyway, so why not enjoy ourselves?"

The same friend would remind me with nostalgia of the lovely figure she "used to have." Aware of current styles, she anticipated the next season, by which time she would have "lost 10 or 20 pounds."

I felt compelled to off fact-based, boring, medical information as to why taking charge of her weight would be a good idea: family history of diabetes, risk of high blood pressure, increased energy and a family who needed her to be a healthy role model. When she'd glaze over, I'd remind her how cute she'd look in those new jeans we'd seen at the mall.

She continued to eat cookies, but I felt hopeful. I knew something she didn't. She was on the brink of change.

## What Me Worry ?

— by Ed Tennen

**W**orry is one of the most common issues that patients bring to therapy. Worry can be a pervasive and disruptive problem that can easily spiral out of control eclipsing other thoughts until the individual feels trapped. Worriers often suffer from anxiety as their minds spin out of control. It often takes a deliberate act of will to break the cycle. Sadly, it is a problem that has been a part of many people for their entire lives.

If you are a worrier, you may over predict negative outcomes — even though the research on worrying tells

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# Who Gets End of the Year School Awards ?

by Mariaemma Pelullo-Willis

As the school year comes to an end, most students (and many parents) are looking forward to summer activities such as swimming, camping, vacationing, unscheduled free time, sleeping in, and, most of all, no homework and no assignment deadlines!

The last day of school often celebrates the many accomplishments that have been achieved throughout the year with class parties and award ceremonies.

How many of you remember receiving awards and what that felt like? How many of you never once received a school award...what did that feel like?

I happen to have the perfect learning style formula that made me an "A" student from the time I started kindergarten. Every year, I received award after award. I remember during my 8th grade year one of my classmates saying to me, "Please, please, let me win the 'read most books' award. You always get lots of awards, please let me get this one." So I did. I made sure that I read fewer books than she did, and she got that award.

What is it like for students to watch others get award after award and never receive one themselves? What is it like for the parents of those students?

I attended an awards ceremony a few years ago at a school that is known for valuing individual learning styles. I was looking forward to the event, thinking that every child would be given some acknowledgment for his/her special skills and talents.

As it turned out, the first grade teacher began the program by explaining that in every classroom there are those few children who stand out from the rest — those who are destined to be the presidents and the CEOs, the leaders — those who will accomplish great things, those who will do something worthwhile, those who will make some kind of difference in the world. He then proceeded to honor four students in his first grade class who apparently fit that description.

It still brings tears when I think of how the rest of the children and their parents must have felt. I guess this teacher thought it was possible, and perfectly acceptable, for him to make the decision as to the future success and leadership abilities of these 6 and 7 year-olds. And, yet, this is when the seeds of success versus failure first get planted - very early in a child's school career. Some students are labeled smart, capable, competent, motivated, will go far... and others are labeled slow, lazy, unmotivated, disruptive, learning disabled, ADD, or just average.

What would the awards ceremony be like if every child received acknowledgment for his/her unique gifts? No one would be left out! The Performing student would get an award for bringing fun to the classroom, the Relating student might receive an award for bringing compassion to the classroom. The Inventing student could be honored for discovering new ways of doing things. The Sketching learner could be acknowledged for providing great illustrations for a project. What about the student who has great Ideas, the one who is first to Lend a hand, the one who has a beautiful singing Voice?

When parents and teachers acknowledge the special gifts a child has, they convey the message, "You are special, you are gifted, you are loved. Take your gift into the world and share it with others." This is the message that allows children to develop into successful, productive, and compassionate adults.

Every June I am hopeful that more teachers will honor every child in the classroom for his/her unique gifts. If you are a parent reading this and your child is not acknowledged, then I recommend that you have your own awards ceremony at home. Let your children know how much you value and celebrate them. It's a great way to start off the summer!

— Mariaemma Pelullo-Willis, Ventura  
 Mariaemma is co-author of *Discover Your Child's Learning Style & Midlife Crisis Begins in Kindergarten*, and co-founder of LearningSuccess™ Institute, Ventura. She is a California credentialed teacher with a Master's Degree in Special Education, and is a consultant, speaker, and trainer.  
[www.learningsuccesscoach.com](http://www.learningsuccesscoach.com)



# It's a Small World After All - Nan Tolbert Nurturing Center



Emma (8), and Noah (7) found the perfect climbing tree.



Lullaby's by Pat Cardinali - Korina Cardinali with Donovan Holmes, while Jonah jaunts along.



An ever curious Jonah Williams, (14 mos.).



Jonah, Pat and Donovan



© 2009, Joel Anderson



Korina Cardinali & son, Jonah Williams (14 mos.), Pat Cardinali and grandson, Donovan Holmes (16 mos.), Kari Aist, seated with Sandra Shapiro, Tree Climbers; Noah (7), and his sister, Emma (8), Carol Castanon, Renee Mandala, M.A., Ojai City Councilwoman Carol Smith, R.N., and Liz Memel, M.A.

**The Nan Tolbert Nurturing Center in the Ojai Valley is committed to providing early education, awareness and a great environment for pre and postnatal babies, very young children, their parents and their families.** Liz Memel, M.A., Infant Toddler Specialist, reminds people that at the very earliest age babies are highly impressionable and that the greatest care must be taken to ensure their natural abilities and humanity.

Liz says it's easy to discount the opinions of very tiny children and that people can tend to objectify them, until they reach several years old. The Center, in partnership with parents, health professionals, educators and the Ojai Valley Community, creates opportunities to connect, explore and engage directly in the development of healthy approaches to early childhood education.

Renee Mandala, M.A.,

CD (DONA), CLC., is an Outreach Coordinator and 'Birth Doula,' providing trained and experienced professional physical, emotional and informational support to mothers before, during and after birth. The goal is to enjoy a happier, healthier, better adjusted baby, who's intellectual development and creativity is stimulated before and after birth. (see photos, above).

To reach Renee at the Mother's Guild (in Ventura), 4243 Telegraph Rd., by appointment and "Welcome Every Baby" Classes: Tuesdays, 1-2:15pm.

— Joel Anderson

## Human Resources

The Nan Tolbert Nurturing Center  
 Oak View Park & Resource Center  
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 Oak View - Ojai Valley  
[www.BirthResource.org](http://www.BirthResource.org)  
 Ojai Breast Feeding Helpline: 646-5865



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Babies are Life Renewing Itself" - Melanie Wilkes, *Gone With the Wind*

**Rummage Sale June 20th - Nan Tolbert Nurturing Center**

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**CAL STATE CHANNEL ISLANDS - GALLERY**  
Continued FROM Page Fifteen...

"It's a neat way to work within the community and it just happened to work out that we got this space.... They actually had a space to showcase all the *Artwalk work*, so it worked out... the timing was really great," she said.

It is unusual for students and faculty to exhibit in the same show. If expressed excitement is any indication, this seems to be a well thought out *energy-driven inaugural effort* for the CSUCI Art Gallery, Ventura.

Reilly, a prolific and world class artist in his own right, finds the show "...fascinating because every student in there has been under my tutelage at one point, so it's been interesting to see them all come together. And especially to see the diversity.... you have realist painting, you have abstract painting, process-based painting and stylized painting. We don't really nail them down and keep them to a certain aesthetic that they're supposed to adhere; they're free in that regard as well. I think it shows in the work."

Reilly, who had five solo exhibitions last year, Paris, Los Angeles, Ventura, Virginia, etc., may be busy as department chair, but he is also a *working* artist which students can't help connect with.

Said Reilly, "I'm primarily an abstract painter. I've been building shaped paintings for 30 years now, and you'll see these little influences in my students; I have them do at least one assignment where they work with an irregular shaped canvas. It's kind of..... it connects the area between painting and sculpture in some way, and you'll see some of that in the students works too. That's because of an assignment I give them. I started that in 1979 and really never made a square canvas since. The only thing is that a lot of the collectors are uncomfortable with things that don't fit their *traditional idea* of what a painting is, so you go away from the square or rectangle and it's a little scary for them..... sometimes.

"Tianna Bower, she's a prime example of paintings that really cross a lot of boundaries, because *that* use of materials. She's developed a beautiful textured surface, combined with her kind of almost macabre subject matter. And very talented young woman."

The gallery is already very busy these days; steady streams of art buyers, artists in and out conducting "art" business, and a constant flow of "new" art to pique the curiosity. The new gallery also still retains the original bank vault in the back, but won't go unused. Instead it will provide a certain *in-a-bank vault* atmosphere, geared for certain micro-solo exhibitions.

What kind of other new art is likely to show up? Graphic Design Packaging Products with a decidedly *quirky* quality.

Reilly explains, "We have some really cool graphic design projects that we haven't set up yet. These are actually products for sale, they're conceptually based

products, but they are presented in a totally commercial format, and we're going to have those real soon. They're going to be quite affordable too. They'll look like something you'll see in a, how do I say? in a K-mart or something like that... It has to do with the designing, the packaging and the design, what's in the design, in the box..... is often very thought provoking and interesting and almost funny and weird."

The Reception for "*Summertime Blues*," will be open to the public, held Thursday, June 18 (6-9pm), which will officially open the **CSUCI Art Gallery, Ventura.**

Goglia is looking forward to opening night, "So, we're really excited about this upcoming show. It's sponsored by Southern Chic Catering, so there's going to be exquisite Southern food. It's going to be really really fun with Tony and Randall (*Tony Barnes - Peace Thru Music, Randall Richman, owner of Caffe Bella*) will be playing live music so it's gonna be lots of fun!"

The CSUCI Art Gallery is self-supporting, funded entirely by the sale of its artworks.

Said Reilly, "We're not using state money for this. And especially with the economy and the states' budget being hit so bad... the University has *just got slashed* this year. And we're taking a huge hit from the State budget. So, the money generated by sales of paintings is keeping the gallery doors open. We're obviously not a commercial gallery... not trying to make a ton of money, but.... it also creates a reality for the students and the alumni.

"The students get 60 percent of the sell, and the 40 percent is donated to the University. It goes into an account for the arts department and that money is.... if we don't generate enough money to keep it open, we close the doors and cut the hours back. So, I think it's great, if we can prove that we can run our own entrepreneurial style of gallery and keep it open.

"I have work at the gallery and many of these students have sold quite a number of works over the past couple of months.... This just never would have happened to them, not for years.... until they got picked up by a commercial gallery.

"I don't believe that our department is in the business of creating starving artists. There's not much glamour in that anymore," said Reilly.

— Joel Anderson



**EVENT CALENDAR**

Continued from Page 5...

bout is at 6pm, We are taking on Disaster City, \$12 at the door, Come show your love for roller derby! info. [www.myspace.com/vcdevilsdarlins.com](http://www.myspace.com/vcdevilsdarlins.com)

• **June 20, J. Cash Music Festival, Seaside Park-Ventura Fairgrounds, 11-7pm** info. [www.rossemeryentertainment.com](http://www.rossemeryentertainment.com)

• **June 27, Main Street Mini Fair, A Stronger voice for you neighborhood, Free family fun in the Mini Park on Main Street all Summer Long! - Between Oak and Palm Streets, We Do Art! - Every Sat. 9am - 4pm** info. [VCORD.org](http://VCORD.org)

• **June 27, Ojai Valley Lavender Festival, downtown Ojai, 10-5pm** info. [www.ojavalleylavenderfestival.com](http://www.ojavalleylavenderfestival.com)

• **June 28, VTA. County Storytelling Meeting, 3-5pm, All aspiring or current storytellers 18 years of age and older of all levels of experience should attend. Bring a 10-12 minute story to tell if you wish, and a good set of ears, Bell Arts Factory, 432 N. Ventura Ave., Ventura.** info. [elaine@embodiedvoicestoryarts.com](mailto:elaine@embodiedvoicestoryarts.com) or 407-2538

• **July 3, Throw Down at the Showgrounds (MMA Cage Fighting), Earl Warren Showgrounds, S.B., 7-10pm, Presented by California Fight Syndicate, featuring Critter Mooney, Rex Penn, Jesse Newell, Drew Brittner, Corby Poulis, Jesse Wallace, Chris Beal, VIP Seating and After Party Tickets, also available Online Now** info line, 845-6604, Purch. Ticks @ [www.CAfightsyndicate.com](http://www.CAfightsyndicate.com)

• **July 1-4, Santa Barbara National Horse Show - Multi-Breed Show, Earl Warren Showgrounds, Saddlebreds, Friesians, Paso Fino, Welsh, Hackney, etc.** info. 687-0766

• **July 3 thru 5, Summerfest All Breed Dog Show, Seaside Park, Admission FREE** info. 643-6331

• **4th of July Concert Fireworks Show, Ojai, Nordhoff High School Stadium, Music: Studebaker. 6-9pm Admission Adults \$10 - Children \$5.** info. 646-4513 or 646-0076

• **4th of July Independence Day Celebration and Fireworks, Ventura-5pm, Fireworks-9pm, corner of Day and Loma Vista.** info. 654-6461

• **June 27, Main Street Mini Fair, A Stronger voice for you neighborhood, Free family fun in the Mini Park on Main Street all Summer Long! - Between Oak and Palm Streets, We Do Art! - Every Sat. 9am - 4pm** info. [VCORD.org](http://VCORD.org)

• **July 11 & 12, French Festival-22nd Annual, This year's Santa Barbara French Festival is Bastille Day Weekend, 11am-7pm, FREE admission. Over 40 great acts on 3 stages: cancan, cabaret, Poodle Parade, Femmes Fatales Drag Review, Moroccan bellydance, Tahitian dance, folkdance, Napoleon, Edith Piaf, Jacques Brel, hot jazz a la Django Reinhart, accordions galore, and much more. Plus an incredible array of tasty food, from crepes to Cajun. Lots for the kids. It's where AMERICA celebrates FRANCE! Oo la la! Volunteer at the French Festival, please send your name and phone number to frenchvolunteer@yahoo.com. Merci for your help!** details, [www.FrenchFestival.com](http://www.FrenchFestival.com)

• **July 14, Ventura Surf Club, every second Tues. 6:30pm Paradise Grill & Bar, non-members welcomed.** info, 2632 E. Main St. 648-5927.

Events Continued on Page 21...

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### Singer-Songwriters

**Rachel Sedacca** rounded out the house at *Java Joe's* the other night with two long sets; a few great covers (Dylan, etc), and others from her album, *Patience Pays*, regaling tales from her 5,600 mile road trip music tour in her 1971 GMC School Bus. If you happen to get behind a slow bus pulling the Conejo Grade, just remember as Rachel suggests, 'Patience Pays!'



[www.rachelsedacca.com](http://www.rachelsedacca.com)

**Byron Walls** is a gem, having been one of the early 'Beats,' on the scene in San Francisco as a member of the folk trio, *The Travelers*, performing at the legendary *Purple Onion* on a regular basis with *Phyllis Diller*, and others. He's been composing lyrics for the likes of *Emmy Lou Harris, Ronnie Milsap, Burl Ives, Glen Yarbrough* for years.... he has a special affection for Jazz.

The thing that makes Byron truly a 'Gem' is his ability to bring everyday experiences into honest and witty lyrics. Not only that, but he truly enjoys performing, as well as participating in the 'scene'... Byron is One Kool Kat!

[www.byronwalls.com](http://www.byronwalls.com)

## Maribel Show at Java Joe's

Every time I do a painting, a landscape, people will tell me 'oh that... it looks like somewhere I have been.' So this is named "Somewhere in the World." For Maribel Hernández' first showing at *Java Joe's* she chose to portray love of flowers, "I wanted to bring The Birds of Paradise. I love listening to the music... it (*Java Joe's*) has a nice flow.... I even made my first espresso today," she said laughing. Maribel is enjoying the atmosphere at the newly reinvented *Java Joe's*, now featuring a great many national

musicians in their entertainment line-up. "There's not a lot of space or I would bring more stuff. Maribel's oils on canvas are somewhat impressionist, and in her words "a little bit abstract too."

A native of Mexico, opportunities opened up for her to explore a lifelong love of art when she enrolled in *Ventura College*; earning AA and AS degrees, and exhibited with *El Dia De Los Muertos*. Maribel also creates fine jewelry, murals, and more.



Now a teacher in her own right, working for the *Living Love Foundation*, she is inspiring others with her enthusiasm, "They can really move people... see... and to get the expressions of the kids and for them to be able to see it... That's one of my big things to teach them not to be afraid of painting, of messing up, it's like just paint it over and do that again." - Joel Anderson

[www.maribeldesigns.com](http://www.maribeldesigns.com)

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- **Byron Walls and Richard Riecheck**

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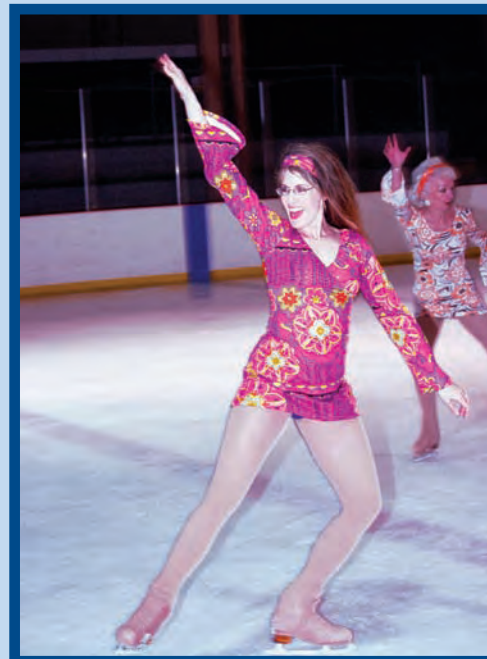
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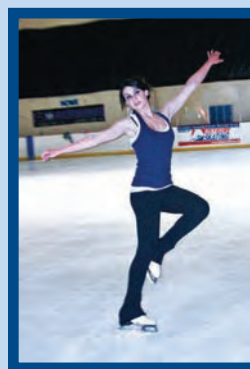
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# The Effervescent and Irrepressible Sheila Cluff

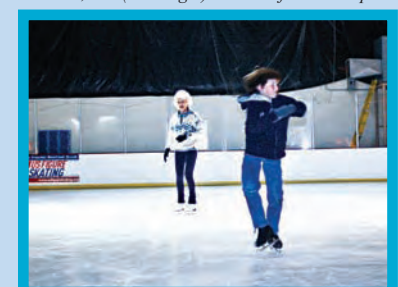
"I think what brings people here... it's a unique sport, it's artistic, it's self-discipline, a lot of concentration and yet it's a good physical sport."  
French Canadian Skater,  
- Nadia Lefebvre Chapman



Elizabeth McKenna, Arinda Hosford, Sheila, Denise Pendleton, and (back right) Nadia Lefebvre Chapman.



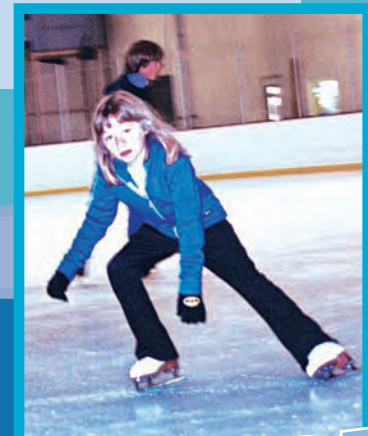
Selena McNeil



Sheila and Luca Davenport



Bridgete and Sophia



Denise Pendleton — by Mary M. Long

Lacing up her custom-made ice skates from her days of touring with *Sonja Henning*, Sheila Cluff had no idea that she was not just accompanying her granddaughter *Sophia* on a skating lesson, but renewing a skating career for herself.

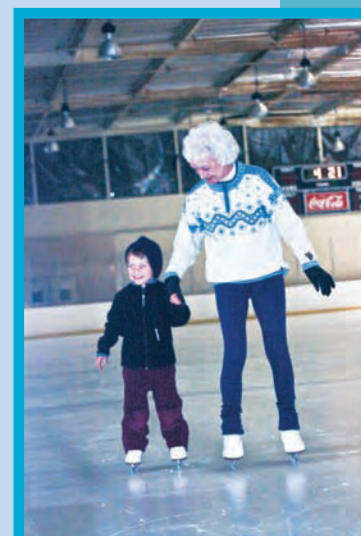
Stepping out onto the ice after almost 50 years, at *Channel Islands Ice Center* in *Oxnard*, Sheila felt like she "...had never been on skates in her life before." Clutching on to the hand rail laughing she attracted the attention of ice center pro Mike who said "One, you've skated before," (*can't hide talent*), Two, go get some rental skates" Well... there have been a few changes to the skating profession over 50 years! The modern ice skates are constructed with more ankle support now than they used to be.

Never hesitating, Sheila decided to hop on an airplane, reasoning that at her age if she was going to skate she needed the best equipment. Flying to *New York* to visit the same artisans who had crafted her last skates, she ordered a brand new pair of custom made boots and blades from *Terry Skate Co.* "It made a huge difference in getting back to skating" said Sheila, who has devoted her lifetime to physical fitness and conditioning.

"I got a little bit better" she said, and soon "these wonderful kids had me hooked"! Not taking "No" for an answer, it wasn't long before the *Ice Center* professionals were eyeing Sheila for the part of *Ms. Claus* in their annual *Christmas* production. "Well... they told me they needed

**SKATING CLUB'S SUMMER WORKSHOPS**  
July 10 is children's all day workshop, which includes skating, lunch, fun and games; the adult workshop is July 11 and includes skating, fitness with Sheila, lunch and lots of fun.

Call the *Channel Islands Ice Center* for more info, 988-4440



Sheila and Roman

someone with white hair but I said they must be crazy, I'm not going out there at my age," laughed Sheila. Well, they must have known she had a soft spot for children because when they told her that all the proceeds went for *Christmas* presents for *Foster* children (*Ventura County Childrens' Services Auxiliary*), it was a done deal for Sheila.

Breaking the ice, so to speak on performing, it wasn't long before the wonderful people at the rink had Sheila returning to competition, flying last year to *Oberstdorf, Germany* for the adult nationals. Competitiveness is an indelible part of Sheila's character and she made the comment, *hanging over the boards*, that she thought that the ensemble groups "weren't very good and that we could do better."

The idea was born, and the very next year she was competing in the newly formed group, to the music from the Broadway hit, *Cats*. "Last year, we were cats... we had cat outfits with fur hats and tails. I was Rumpelstiltskin the naughty cat with pearls. We did a really good job at the recital here, and then we were going to the nationals in *San Francisco*. But then, while I was at a skating camp in *Aspen*, I did a jump that was difficult for me... I landed on my hip instead of my blades and fractured my hip," said Sheila.

ICE SKATING CONTINUED, PAGE 20...



You may not recognize *Christina Dei*, as a Hockey player, that is until you see her hit the ice with the ferocity and determination of the other players who match her size... double that, and with the exception with the braids! "I had a lot of problems... I had a lot of men say... would give me a hard time, 'You can't be out here'..... When I was a kid there were no women playing hockey at all and so... I always wanted to do what I couldn't do, so, yeah I decided to drop figure skating and do something I wasn't supposed to do, and I came out here



and did hockey," explained Dei, who plays on the *Division 4, Iceemen* team in the *Adult Hockey League*, based at *The Channel Islands Ice Center*.

Joel Anderson

The center has a wide range of organized Hockey teams fit for all ages, but the glass ceiling it may have once had is clearly giving way, and is evident in the friendly smiles of the towering *Team Iceemen* who, one wonders, may be thinking about a name change to *Ice-people*.... at some point....

*Christina* had trained with the same coach who trained *Figure Skaters Tiffany Chin* and *Scott Hamilton*, and has the light-hearted smiling grace to prove it, but given her character, change was inevitable. "Right now I'm playing deep, left side, and I kinda float around. I can play any position, but right now I'm playing for this team at deep. (*Penalty box???*) I was. First time ever yeah, hahahaha. He said I had slashed twice, but actually my version of the story was the guy had grabbed my stick, when I turned to pull it out, it spun around. Everybody has their own version so... hahahahaha..... aright...."



Photos © 2009, Joel Anderson

# Cure for the Summertime Blues



"Death in the Desert" Oil on Canvas, Tianna Bower, who said, "For me painting is very freeing. It allows me to express myself and my views on life and death."



"Exclamation" Multi-media, Jacqui Goglia, Museum Associate Director. She said, "It's all process based for me. I never look at a piece with an idea of what it's going to look like when it's done... the joy comes during the painting."



"Tribal," Mixed-media, collage, Rachel Luciani, Museum Associate Director, who said, "I'd like to own a non-profit gallery someday to give student artists exposure."

Summertime Blues can mean surf, music or ones particular mood at any given moment. Where the blues meet California and Main Street in Ventura, it means Art and a new and exciting gallery there on the corner. "We love it," said *Jack Reilly*, *Cal State University Channel Islands (CSUCI)* chair of the art department and professor of art, and Director of the gallery. "We're hoping to accumulate a number of artworks that have to do with summertime, also dealing with the elements of the color blue, perhaps the mood 'being in the blues,' etc., etc., from that song, "Summertime Blues."

CSUCI has been working with the buildings owner, *Mark Hartley* to build a new curriculum in entertainment. "I guess you could say he's a philanthropist of the arts," said Reilly "I asked him at a meeting one day "I hear you have some property in Ventura? How about giving us a gallery space to use? And he immediately replied, 'Yes.'"

"That space turned out to be the *Earl Stanley Bank* building. So that's how it started and then it took us about a week or two to get into the space. I rallied up all the alumni, the students and the faculty to fill the gallery. Well, ya had to move fast and also it doesn't have blank white walls like so many conventional galleries, so what I did... I went ahead and bought 35 easels, and we had some other easels also that we use for plein aire painting, so we had a lot of paintings on

easels as opposed to on the walls, which actually works. I was a little concerned about showing paintings on easels, but it turned out pretty nice and really allows us to use the space in an interesting and unique way." Reilly enjoys the contrast between the primarily mixed media and abstract art now set against the traditional early 20th Century architecture. The 4 story building, built in 1923 as the "First National Bank," is so named after famed Ventura Lawyer of the time, *Earl Stanley Gardner* who retained offices there from 1923 to 1933. "I like to refer to it as the *Louvre of Ventura*; it looks more like the interior of the *Louvre* that it does like any commercial gallery you'll see around today. Best location in town..." Reilly, an avid surfer, is clearly thrilled about the galleries location and the blues themed artwork, significant access to the viewing public; the timing couldn't be better. It's easy to see why he's popular among students.

Jacqui Goglia, associate gallery director (and recent art graduate) is also excited about their first public opening. "...our first opening reception.... and it's just us, open to the public, so we're really excited. And it's our Summer Show!

Blues Continued Go Back To Page, 12...

## Memorial Day at the Port Hueneme VFW Post 3935

by Mary M. Long

**M**emorial Day, members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 3935 Port Hueneme, remembered their fallen comrades with a special ceremony for a fellow veteran. That veteran was **Military Working Dog (MWD) Hasso D171**.

Hasso was retired from active duty in Iraq after his disabilities made it impossible for him to keep working as an explosives detection dog. Rescued from euthanasia by admiring Vet tech **Louisa Vaughan** and adopted by **Peggy Forino** of the **Rescue Boutique** in Simi, Hasso has made a seamless transition from military to therapy dog and champion for **Military Dog Adoptions**.

Honoring him with a special medal of honor, presented by **District Commander Fred Huff**, Hasso did what any well mannered dog would do, he shook hands with the commander to the delight of the



photo © Mary M. Long



dog-loving audience who erupted in cheers. "I was deeply touched by the special **Memorial Day** ceremony arranged by **Commander Clay Cowgill** to welcome **Hasso** into the **Port Hueneme VFW Post 3935** in recognition of his meritorious service," said **Forino**.

Members of the post, which is the largest in District 8, with over 700 veterans, are raising money to help safely transport military working dogs back to the states and be adopted into approved homes for retirement.

Mary M. Long  
petviews@ojaiandventuraview.com



Woodrow Moldenhauer, Navy, WWII Veteran, 90-years-old, 9 years service on the U.S.S. Enterprise.



Bowen Ormond



Donny Ban, Army Ranger, 82nd Airborne, Vietnam, Lt. Valerie Trott, R.N., Saigon Hospital, Vietnam, Scott Barton, EOD, E5 Navy, China Lake.



"I'm a redneck from Virginia." - Sam Owens, Vietnam, Operation Desert Shield.



Judy Owens and Granddaughter, Rianna Ormond



photos © 2009, Joel Anderson

## Ojai Humane Society - June is Adopt-a-Cat Month

### Two For The Price of One



June is Adopt-a-cat month! For one month only you can adopt two cats or kittens for the price of one. All cats are spayed/neutered, microchipped and vaccinated. Included in the price is a Collar, I.D. tag and carrier, FREE vet exam and a year's membership in the Humane Society of Ventura County.

There are currently three sets of siblings who love each other and Humane Society volunteers are hoping that they will be adopted into families where they can stay together. Come and meet them.

Visit the Humane Society, 402 Bryant St., Ojai, info. 646-6505



Cortney Rasuvu and Daughters, Sophia (8) and Annelise (4) snuggle adorable orange tabby kitten.

photos © 2009, Mary M. Long

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818.970.1346

## Hollywood Icon made movie in Ojai Valley

by Richard Senate



In 1926 a famed silent movie star visited Ojai. He was filming a movie at a ranch in the upper Ojai for Warner Brothers. At the time this actor was beloved by the nation and his films are credited with saving Warner Brothers from economic collapse in 1923. His story was a unique one.

He was born in France, discovered wandering as an orphan in the trenches of World War I. Befriended by American serviceman Lee Duncan he was brought to Los Angeles. He made his first movie as a stand-in from another actor and so impressed the studio that he was signed to make his first film a year later. People flocked to his films until he was ranked as one of the top actors in the silent era.

In 1926 he was tapped to star in a film about sheep ranching in Nevada. Rather than go on location in the Silver State, they filmed the feature in the upper Ojai Valley, then known for its large flocks of sheep. The story included a sequence about a large condor snatching a baby. Our hero, then under a death sentence,

risks all to save the infant from the condor's nest, prove the charges against him were false, and be found innocent of all crimes. The movie company was housed in the Glen Tavern Inn, located in Santa Paula, with the movie star having his own rooms on the third floor. The film was called *The Night's Cry* and it received rave reviews from the trade magazines and even the *New York Times*. They called the film one of the best action films of its type.

The actor came down the valley from the ranch where the movie was being shot and visited the village of Ojai. His co-star and leading lady, the beautiful Ms. June Malone commented on the many antics he did during the filming of this feature. She went on to make many films with this actor and later played the school teacher, Miss Crabtree, in the *Our Gang Comedies* for Hal Roach.

Unlike many silent movie stars, this actor made the transition from the silent screen to talkies seamlessly. Still, like many of Hollywood's greats, he died young. Hollywood legends say he died in 1932 in the arms of beautiful and sexy actress Jean Harlow.

His body was returned to his native France and buried at the prestigious *Cimetière des Chiens* in the Paris suburb of

*Asnières-sur-Seine*. Who was this actor? He has a star on the walk of fame in Hollywood at 1623 Vine Street you can visit.

His name was.... *Rin Tin Tin*. The dog that saved Hollywood.



Richard Senate  
*The Odd and Strange and Bizarre*  
in Ventura County  
[www.RichardSenate.com](http://www.RichardSenate.com)

## PET VIEW

Monkey helpers are trained to help quadriplegics, and other mobility impaired individuals. Although it takes 7 years to train them, they live two to three times longer than assistance dogs. Monkey up!



## Company Pets of the Month "Pollo" "Sunshine"



Photo ©, Debbie Woodall

The Olive Branch assisted living facility is located at 506 Drown St., Ojai, 646-2364



Photo © 2009, Mary M. Long

*Pollo* (left) is a 2 1/2-year-old miniature chicken belonging to Anais-Angel-Luz and a frequent visitor to *The Olive Branch of Ojai*. Pictured here entertaining resident Idella Acariz, 77. (Above) *Sunshine* is official couch warmer and lap sitter for *The Olive Branch*.

## Marie Fowler: 'Vietnam Method'

by Lindsay Johnson

Marie Fowler has trained owners and their dogs for 25 years, specializing in large, dominant breeds. Growing up in a military family in San Antonio, Texas, her father James Fowler served ten years in the United States Air Force (USAF) and eleven years in the U.S. Army. He did two tours of duty in Vietnam, flying Hueys and Chinooks and retired as a chief warrant officer.

Marie got her start when her father introduced her to one of his friends, a military dog trainer and handler. He quickly recognized Marie's natural aptitude with dogs and began teaching her what he called "the Vietnam method." The opportunity to learn dog training from a family friend who had practical experience with Military dogs gave Marie a rare insight into protection breeds.

This unique introduction to dog training left an indelible impression on the young Marie who was impressed with her mentor's ability to control his K-9 charges. Marie remembers, "He was always kind and patient, yet the dogs really respected him." Breeding and raising Rottweilers himself, he was also responsible for

training other breeds of dogs including German Shepherds both for the military and eventually private clients.

She remembers only one dog that he resorted to the use of *tid-bits* to train.



They would make trips to the grocery store to purchase Kielbasa sausage, the favorite treat of an old shepherd who had been kept as a factory guard dog and had become increasingly aggressive.

Over time Marie's knowledge of training was broadened by her studies, (including the study of the *Koehler method*), and with her personal experiences training her own, and clients' dogs. She has worked

with German Shepherds, Doberman Pinschers, Rottweilers, American Bulldogs, and Australian Cattle Dogs, as well as mixed breeds of an *easier* temperament. "Dogs have always been my best and most challenging teachers," Marie said, laughing.

Recently Marie traveled to Alaska to visit her sister Tina to "tune up" her labradoodle "Daisy." Daily walks with Daisy are part of Tina's plan to enjoy life after a bout with cancer. "Daisy is working well now" said Marie, pleased to help a family member with her expertise in dog training. Tina's husband serves in the U.S. Coast

Guard (USCG), and is currently a Chief Petty Officer. Brother Robert, a veteran of the first Gulf War, served in the U. S. Marine Corp. (USMC) and is the only member of the family who doesn't own a dog at this time.

Marie feels that she has two areas of knowledge that are unique specialties. First, she matches families with puppies, spending time with them to evaluate the best breed suited to their needs, then choosing the best

puppy for them from breeders she trusts and respects. Second, she trains dogs in protection work, focusing primarily on families with children.

Marie and her partner recently moved to Ojai to exchange the noise and pollution of Hollywood for a healthier lifestyle. "I can already feel myself relaxing," Marie said. In Ojai, Marie plans to work with owners and their dogs in a group setting and wants to meet other animal trainers in the area. She's looking forward to becoming a part of the community and raising her family here.

info, [marie.midnight@yahoo.com](mailto:marie.midnight@yahoo.com)

- Lindsay Johnson

"Compared with cat owners, people who never had a pet cat were 40% more likely to die of a heart attack over the 20-year study period. They were also 30% more likely to die of any cardiovascular disease, including stroke, heart failure, and chronic heart disease."

- MD Health News



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## THE LEASHES END

by Ron Rowe

A campaign by humane groups worldwide against the annual **Canadian seal** slaughter is having an effect. The **European Union (EU)** ban on the import of seal products is working. **Canada's** largest market for seal fur is **Russia, China and Norway**, who are outside the EU ban. The ban is working in the rest of the world. The fashion industry demand for seal fur is down, **Canada's** seal hunters are hurting; a harp seals pelt that brought \$105 four years ago, now fetches just \$14. The ban plus the economic downturn is working.

The **Japanese** are losing their appetite for whale meat, that plus the efforts of **Greenpeace** in clashing with the **Japanese** whaling fleet is slowing down the killing of whales. The fleet returned home two weeks earlier this year making their whale killing a failure. According to **Japanese** authorities, over 3,000 tons of whale meat lie in cold storage. Hopefully the whale hunts will end in a year or two.

An **orangutan** escaped from his enclosure at an **Australian** zoo by using a stick to short circuit the electric fence. **Karta**, a 27-year-old female then constructed a makeshift ladder out of debris and scaled the remaining fence. Once free, **Karta** then returned to her enclosure. **Keeper Peter Whitehead** said, "She is in an ingenious animal. I think she returned just to show us she could do it..." A pair of **otters** in a **British** zoo gave the keeper a taste of what it's like living in a cage. They snatched his key from the lock then dove into the pool leaving him locked in the enclosure for four hours until staff located a spare key. I guess animals do have a sense of humor.

We do know pigs are highly intelligent and social; they are capable of playing video games by manipulating a joystick with their snouts. These sensitive animals deserve humane treatment. **The Humane Society** has launched a campaign to outlaw hog farms. If you would like free brochures, fact sheets, decals, etc. go to [www.HSUS.org](http://www.HSUS.org) A pig in rural **China** taught himself how to catch fish from a pond. The pig's owner, **Han**, said he was amazed to see his pig wade into the shallows of the pond and catch a fish.

In **Mexico**, a **donkey** is in jail for assault and battery. **Officer Sina Gomez** said the donkey will remain in jail until the owner agrees to pay the men's medical bills. The owner, **Mario Gutierrez**, told *Associated Press* he is trying to reach an agreement with the victims. The hospital bill is \$420. The donkey's crime was he bit a man in the chest and kicked another man who came to help.

Did you know over 73,000 animals were euthanized in **Mississippi**, and 92,000 euthanized in **Louisiana**, and still puppy mills churn out thousands of dogs for sale in pet stores.

Cats and mice can get along together. In **China** a cat has adopted two puppies and she is teaching them how to catch mice. The puppy's mother died, giving birth. The puppies crawled over to the cat and started a fight with the kittens for the cat's milk; they are now one happy family.

Between 60 million and 100 million animals are used every year for scientific and cosmetic research, according to a think tank, the **Nuffield Council of Bioethics**.

**Niño**, an **elephant** recently bought by a **Polish** zoo, is



Ron and his companion, Dudley.

being sent back to his previous owners, a **Czechoslovakian** zoo. His crime? He is not interested in mating with the females, he is only interested in the males. **Zookeeper Michael Crzes** said, "We didn't pay 30 million zlotys for a gay elephant."

Man saves **dog**. **Bob Jenkins** saved his dog's life after sucking venom from a rattlesnake bite on the dog's nose. Later, Bob felt ill and went to a hospital where he received four doses of antivenom at a cost of \$3500 per dose. The dog, **Tanky's**, head swelled up to three times its normal size, also received doses of antivenom. Both are recovering.

We need to eliminate puppy mills and improve spade/neuter drives. Over 7 to 8 million pets enter shelters each year and over 4 million are euthanized. If you are near **Sylmar, California**, go to the **Guide Dogs of America (GDA)** open house June 13. You can tour the 7 1/2 acre facility and see guide dog demonstrations and observe puppies in training as they maneuver through an obstacle course of distraction. Call **818-362-5834** or visit [www.guidedogsofamerica.org](http://www.guidedogsofamerica.org)

Man saves **kangaroo**. **Neil McCollum** was walking on the beach in **Sydney, Australia** when a kangaroo hopped past and into the ocean. It was caught in a riptide and was being pulled out to sea. Seeing **sharks** nearby, Neil grabbed his surfboard and paddled out into the sea and herded the kangaroo back to land and away from the sharks. After resting in the sand, the kangaroo looked at Neil for about three minutes then hopped away. Neil said, "It was saying thank you to me."

**Horse** sense is the thing a horse has which keeps it from betting on people.

**Dr. Tony Mitchell** of the **American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP)** claims, more dangerous than being bitten by a dog is the bite of a human. The human bite contains far more germs than the dog bite.

The most informative and influential book on animal protection in the past 25 years is giving animal advocates around the world new hope. The author, **Matthew Scully** wrote *Dominion*, published by **St. Martin's Press**. It's already in its eight printing and a most powerful book containing chapters on trophy hunting, factory farming, animal experiments and lots more on animal cruelty. I highly recommend this book for all animal lovers.

A complete skeleton of the largest predator ever, a **Jurassic Sea Monster** that dwarfs *Tyrannosaurus Rex*, has been unearthed in **Mexico**. The fossilized bones measuring 65 feet from nose to tail have been identified as *Liopleurodon Ferox*, a carnivore that terrorized the oceans 150 million years ago. This 50 ton monster had

## DOC JANET

### Career Advice for Future Vets

by Janet McNeil, D.V.M.



Dr. Janet McNeil and Devi, Ventura, 2006

idea that you will be required to be a **psychic (human and animal), social worker, mechanic, office equipment repair person, and financial miracle worker** in the course of your day and you will succeed. Read on...

#### Top 10 Reasons Why it's Not Too Late to Get a Real Job

**1. Your student loans** may very well follow you to your grave. Veterinarians have been described as the most underpaid health care professionals. The nicest car in the hospital lot rarely belongs to the doctor. New graduates may have debt load of \$80-100,000 thousand and be earning \$40,000 per year (*depends obviously on your speciality and where in the country you live*). Obviously we are gluttons for punishment since many of us had undergradu-

*Continued Next Page...*

teeth the size of machetes packed into jaws that could have bitten through concrete. Today's largest creature on the planet, the giant blue whale would have made a light snack to **L. Ferox**.

Some thieves have a *little* honor. When thieves broke into a house they were so shocked at the condition of an abused dog tied up in the kitchen. They called **The Humane Society** who came and rescued the dog and later fined the dog's owner, **Jesse Thompson**. Oh, the thieves got away.

Did you know the number of animals slaughtered yearly in the US is estimated at 42 million cattle, 190 million pigs, 5 million horses, sheep and goats, 10 billion chickens and turkeys. The numbers are so big the human mind cannot possibly grasp the enormity of their suffering. The truth is all living creatures, people, cats, pigs, cows, birds, elephants, tigers, dolphins etc. are all connected. Remember, we are stewards to God's creatures and we are called upon to treat all animals with kindness, empathy and a merciful spirit.

Peace to all living beings on earth.

Namaste

Your comments are welcome, Ron Rowe  
Peace and blessings to all beings on earth  
[rjhrowe@aol.com](mailto:rjhrowe@aol.com)



## Adoption Links

[www.vcar.us](http://www.vcar.us)  
[petfinder.com](http://petfinder.com)  
[www.aussierescuesocal.com](http://www.aussierescuesocal.com)

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ate debt going into veterinary school. On the flip side, there are better paying jobs you can get with your degree than general practice. Veterinarians are also politicians, researchers, biotechnologist, and astronauts. You can also write novels in your copious spare time.

**2. Your family and friends** will *not* want to hear about the most exciting moments of your career. The exploding abscesses, humpty-dumpty level disasters, and maggoty wounds are only good dinnertime conversation among your peers. You will be forced to edit your polite conversation to a gaggingly boring level if you want to be invited out.

**3. Your family, friends and unknown friends of friends** will call at all hours for advice. Once your cover is blown, you will either learn to imitate a crusty grump, to suddenly develop a semi-fatal cough, or to patiently spend hours explaining why you cannot cure the animal in question over the phone or with a simple 50-cent nostrum.

**4. Your family and friends** will call for advice on THEIR medical conditions. Your clients will also quiz you on their personal ailments. While it is true that REAL doctors treat more than one species, the **American Medical Association (AMA)** takes a dim view of veterinarians straying over the line into treatment of human primates.

**5. Any animal belonging to you** has one eye, missing a leg, membership to disease of the month club, requires a rare nutrient for survival, or elicits comments, in a hushed tone, like "What IS it?" Veterinary students are commonly told not to take their work home with them, but many a lamb has been raised in an apartment bathroom. Finding housing becomes a torturous experience when you have to explain the 2 dogs, 2 cats, 8 assorted birds, lizard, turtles, snakes, and rodents.

**6. Your wardrobe sucks.** I used to have a few nice outfits and shoes with heels for dress occasions. I now select my least stained scrub top and jeans for dress-up occasions. Only my hiking boots have a heel worth mention. The family knows the only alternatives are the old Halloween costumes in the back of the closet.

**7. Veterinarians are not** supposed to need to eat, according to the general public. Vendors understand this. They promise veterinarians dinner, and we willing line up to eat and sometimes pay attention to the seminar. Good nutrition can be discussed with clients, but rarely gets practiced on you. Your breakfast is on the fly; your lunch vanishes in the parade of dilemmas, and dinner gets later and later and.....

**8. Duct tape is your best friend.**

**9. You diagnose hypertrophic osteodystrophy** in the canine star of the movie. Now your children will not watch anything with you.

**10. You remember how to diagnose and treat mycotoxicosis** but cannot remember how you got to the grocery store in your pajamas or what you were supposed to get. The construction of a peanut butter-and-jelly sandwich takes 20 minutes of wandering around the kitchen looking for paraphernalia and ingredients.

- Janet McNeil, D.V.M.



**Linda's Claws n' Paws**

In celebration of Bodhi's 15th birthday we are offering 15% OFF all Bodhi's favorite treats and toys too. OFFER GOOD till June 28th.

Stop by and wish Bodhi a Happy Birthday!

Thanks for helping us celebrate Bodhi's birthday!

Best, **648-6060**  
Linda Lamon  
Claws & Paws, Ventura  
1865 E. Main St.,  
Ventura, CA

**PRESS RELEASE - Assembly Bill 243 (Rep. Pedro Nava, D-Santa Barbara)**

**Animal Abuse Prevention Act of 2009**

**Reason AB 243 is Necessary**

Currently, California law states that as a condition of probation, a court may order that a person convicted of certain animal related crimes and placed on probation be prohibited from owning, possessing, or having contact with animals. However, a court has no ability to issue a "no ownership" order for defendants convicted of felony animal cruelty offenses who are sentenced to state prison.

**Existing Law**

According to **California Penal Code Section 597(a)**, every person who maliciously and intentionally maims, mutilates, tortures, or wounds a living animal, or maliciously and intentionally kills an animal, is guilty of a wobbler (an alternate felony/misdemeanor) punishable by imprisonment in the state prison, or by imprisonment in a county jail for not more than one year, or by a fine of not more than \$20,000, or by both the fine and imprisonment.

**California Penal Code Section 597(s)** states that every person who willfully abandons any animal is guilty of a misdemeanor.

Per **California Penal Code Section 597.1**, every person who owns, possesses, or keeps an animal and fails to provide proper care and attention for the animal is guilty of a misdemeanor.

According to **California Penal Code Section 597.1(k)**, a court may order, as a condition of probation, that a person convicted of animal cruelty be prohibited from owning, possessing, caring for, or having any contact with, animals of any kind and require the convicted person to immediately deliver all animals in their possession to a designated public entity for adoption or other lawful disposition. Existing Law According to California Penal Code Section 597(a), every person who maliciously and intentionally maims, mutilates, tortures, or wounds a living animal, or maliciously and intentionally kills an animal, is guilty of a wobbler (an alternate felony/misdemeanor) punishable by imprisonment in the state prison, or by imprisonment in a county jail for not more than one year, or by a fine of not more than \$20,000, or by both the fine and imprisonment.

**California Penal Code Section 597(s)** states that every person who willfully abandons any animal is guilty of a misdemeanor. Per California Penal Code Section 597.1, every person who owns, possesses, or keeps an animal and fails to provide proper care and attention for the animal is guilty of a misdemeanor.

According to **California Penal Code Section 597.1(k)**, a court may order, as a condition of probation, that a person convicted of animal cruelty be prohibited from owning, possessing, caring for, or having any contact with, animals of any kind and require the convicted person to immediately deliver all animals in their possession to a designated public entity for adoption or other lawful disposition.

<sup>1</sup> Delaware, Kansas, Nebraska, Oregon, Washington, West Virginia, U.S. Virgin Islands.

<sup>2</sup> U.S. Virgin Islands

<sup>3</sup> Dr. Gary Patronek, V.M.D., Ph.D., Long-Term Outcomes in Animal Hoarding Cases, <http://www.tufts.edu/vet/cfa/hoarding/pubs/berry.pdf> (2005)

<sup>4</sup> Dr. Gary Patronek, V.M.D., Ph.D., The Problem of Animal Hoarding, Municipal Lawyer (May/June 2001) p.6-9 19.

**This Bill**

AB 243 (Nava) will:

▶ Make it mandatory for a judge to prohibit a person convicted of specified animal related crimes from owning or possessing, caring for, or having any contact with animals for a minimum period of time.

▶ Give a prosecutor the option of either asking that a defendant's probation be violated or filing a separate misdemeanor criminal charge for defendants who violate their "no ownership" order.

**Facts**

▶ Currently seven jurisdictions have laws that make it mandatory for a court to prohibit ownership of animals following a conviction for an animal-related offense.<sup>1</sup> These laws vary in the length of time a convicted person cannot own an animal; most have a floor of 5 years and a ceiling of 15 years, although one law allows a court to prohibit ownership of an animal "up to the lifetime of the offender."<sup>2</sup>

▶ There is an uncontroverted link between animal abuse and domestic violence, elder abuse, and child abuse, with animals often used as a tool to intimidate, silence, or extract compliance from the abuser's victims.

▶ Animal hoarding is recognized by the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM IV) as a form of mental illness exhibited by an addictive/compulsive personality.

▶ The recidivism rate of animal cruelty and neglect crimes committed by animal "collectors" or "hoarders" is, according to most studies, virtually 100%.<sup>3</sup> In a typical animal collecting or hoarding case, a person is discovered living in squalid conditions with dozens to hundreds animals, both dead and/or alive in poor condition.<sup>4</sup>

**Comments**

▶ Those who have neglected animals have demonstrated that they cannot be trusted to provide animals in their care with the basics required by law. In the case of overt cruelty, defendants convicted of purposely harming an animal have demonstrated that they are capable of violence toward an animal and, in the case of animal fighting, those convicted of participating in dog or cockfighting have demonstrated a lack of regard for an animal's welfare and a lack of concern for the suffering that is associated with animal "blood sports."

▶ As with laws that prevent sex offenders from having contact with underage children, a law prohibiting abusers from contact with animals will separate offenders from potential new victims. **Assemblymember Pedro Nava**, through AB 243, hopes that by requiring courts to impose a "no ownership" order there will be a dramatic reduction or elimination of repeated acts of animal cruelty and neglect in California.

**Support**

Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office (sponsor)

**Opposition**

N/A

**Votes**

N/A

**For More Information**

Consultant: Jackie Koenig (916) 319-2035



**Latest Actions: Defending Those Who Can't Defend Themselves**

- 06/03/2009 - In Senate. Read first time. To Com. on RLS. for assignment.
- 06/02/2009 - Read third time, passed, and to Senate. (Ayes 65. Noes 12. Page 1925.)
- 05/26/2009 - Read second time and amended. Ordered returned to second reading.
- 02/10/2009 - Read first time. To print.

**YuppiePuppie Pet Spaw**

*Dog and Cat*  
900 E. Ojai Ave.  
Ojai, CA 93023  
648-5292



Ashley, age 6, lathers up Elvis for a Night on the Town!

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10.00 1/2 hour  
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YuppiePuppie



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1748 THOMPSON BLVD., VENTURA (BETWEEN SEAWARD AND SAN JOE)



# Flip Flops Opening Party!

by Mary M. Long

**F**lip Flops is making an impression on coastal dining. Owner Gary Richards, British soccer star (1981-87), radio personality (Champions Soccer Radio Network (CSRN), and successful British pub creator (Fox and Hound, etc.) brings his flair and attention to detail to yet another creation.

Nestled on the sands at the edge of Channel Islands Harbor, Flip Flops offers casual diners an ideal place to meet, greet, eat and hang out. Good Vibrations abound in this surf inspired restaurant with mondo waves rushing up vertical walls and tide pools softly lapping across the floor in the "pipeline" room created by artist, Sandra Clermont.



Manager, Lindsey and 'celebrity' Flip Flops Owner, Gary Richards

Palm trees, and firepits with dancing flames circle the patio grill where generous kabobs of fresh beef, lamb, tri-tip and fish, laced with vegetables, cook over an open fire. For the herbivores among us, Flip Flops offers a fully stocked salutary salad bar, brimming over with greens, fruits and other goodies, including a dessert bar. . .

Clever design provides this restaurant with an array of conversation caches. Sumptuous couches circle the indoor fireplace and living waterwall, while harbor-view picnic tables in the gameroom leave each diner convinced that they had the best table in the house.

A fully stocked bar, jukebox and room for dancing will make this 'hotspot' a cool place for California girls, guys, surfers, families, parties and those who have just walked in from a dip, or disembarked from a ship.

For those landlubbers who'd like to take a break from the ordinary, take a drive to Channel Islands Harbor, meet Gary and enjoy the unique atmosphere and hearty oceanside dining at Flip Flops!



Scott and Trisha McRea, Firestone Brewing Co.



Keith and Susan Johnston, Johnston Ad Group



Sandra Clermont, SurfArtybySandra.com

Flip Flops is located at Harbor Landing next to The Lookout Bar and Grill. 805/815-3317, 2800 Harbor Blvd, Oxnard.

[www.myspace.com/flipflopsbarandgrill](http://www.myspace.com/flipflopsbarandgrill)



Lindsey and Vicki



The lovely Jessyca



Doug and Alexandra Spandello



Skyler and Josh



Bartender Greg Gustafson, mixed-up with the ladies.



Scott and Trisha have a few laughs



Josh serves up the desserts



Lindsey and Leo Lewis, Mr. Union Jack!

## SHEILA CLUFF - ICE SKATING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14...

Not to be daunted, she sprang into action. "I did do some incredible rehab. I was on a treadmill working out within 6 weeks of the surgery. That's what I tell my clients at the Oaks Of Ojai, if you stay fit you will recover from injury with the speed of lightening. It made a huge difference in getting back to skating."

Back she was, just in time for another stint as Mrs. Clause and then on to rehearsals for the ensemble group. Coached by the beautiful and elegant French Canadian Skater Nadia Lefebvre Chapman, Sheila, Elisabeth McKenna, Denise Pendelton, Lindsay Thompson and Amida Hosford are preparing for their ultimate goal, which is the Adult National Championships at Lake Placid New York in October. With typical positive thinking they have already purchased their airline tickets!

With ages among the girls ranging from 35 to 73, instructor Nadia admits she was a "bit scared in the beginning... I was like, oh it's going to be challenging." Having a blast now, she said everyone is working very hard and having a lot of fun. She earned the coveted "Golden Dance" rating at the young age of 14 in her native Quebec. She is a real prize for the Ice Center, not only very accomplished but obviously very popular with the skaters.

Looking forward to the fun packed rehearsals for the ladies ensemble group, Nadia said all the girls have great attitudes and Sheila, despite her busy schedule, is always energetic and always smiling. "She's incredible" said Nadia.

"Let's strip girls!" said one of the group laughing, as sweats were shed along with the stress of their daily jobs in the business world, and the Five Hot Mamas hit the ice! Now transformed into dancing divas they skated out and onto the ice wearing beautiful iridescent skating dresses, catching the light as they glided across the ice. As they spin and turn to music like Abba's Dancing Queen, it's obvious to see the pure enjoyment they all share to be on the ice performing. "I have a beautiful new dress" said Sheila, bubbling with excitement... "It's orange fading to pink and then back to orange with Aurora Borealis."

Sharing her love of skating with her granddaughter, Sophia is just part of what Sheila considers being a good grandmother. Accompanying her to skating lessons is just one of the many activities that she shares with Sophia. "I'm a good grandmother," said Sheila enthusiastically, "I believe in doing things with kids that are physically challenging, and interesting." With 7 grandchildren, she is not one to just plop them in front of a TV set or video game. She devotes much of her personal time to enjoying their company and making sure that they get a chance to experience a variety of sports and arts.

Besides skating, eight-year-old Sophia takes horseback riding and also art lessons with her four-year old brother, Roman. "I take Roman and Sophia every Monday to Janis' Art Workshop in Ojai. I took Sophia when she was 2 1/2 and so Janis taught me oil painting, mosaics... I have mosaicked so many things for gifts. When the kids take lessons I take lessons at the same time."

Roman has just started on ice skates for the first time, showing a lot of promise. If taking a spill and coming up with a wow that was fun expression on his face is any indication, he may have a future in ice sports. Perhaps Roman will be joining the hockey team when he gets older. With all the classes that the Ice Center offers and their policy of Free introductory lessons, it makes it easy for beginners to sample the available Ice disciplines (figure skating, ice dancing, etc). Wherever Sheila's grandchildren's talents may lead, them it's a sure thing that Sheila will make sure they have the opportunity to follow their hearts.

As Sheila, Sophia and Roman lace up their skates for a family ice skate, their futures are as bright with promise as their imaginations can make them. For Sheila, the next goal is preparation for Lake Placid in October. With the Mamamia, routine under their belts, the Five Hot Mamas are perfecting two more routines, including one choreographed to the music of Kenny Loggins' Footloose. With her ticket purchased, it's a sure thing that Sheila will be skating with her friends at Lake Placid.

Unconstrained by the limitations of society or the friendly concerns of her doctor, "Don't come to me when you break the other hip," Sheila is an irrepressible force of living. Never put anything past Sheila. She is an amazing beacon of energy and positive thinking in every avenue she walks... or skates...

— Mary M. Long

More about The Channel Islands Ice Center [www.channelislandsice.com](http://www.channelislandsice.com) or just stop by, 830 Wagon Wheel Road, Oxnard phone, 988-4440



## PRESS RELEASE - PEACE THRU MUSIC

### Bucket Drums

Hey Joel, - Tony Barnes, Peace Through Music Here is a photo of some Boys & Girls Club kids in Oxnard at Fifth Street on the Bucket Drums. Scott Rockenfield from Queensryche gave them to us at cost. I met Scott at the NAMM Show in 2007. He was very happy to help us help kids. He also donated some Bucket Drums which were auctioned off at the Kevin Costner Event last summer.



Thanks to Mark Hartley and the Academy of Country Music Charitable Fund, we received a \$7,500 Grant to help us purchase musics instruments. We also received money from Wells Fargo Bank and the City of Ventura.

We have put \$9,100 so far into our program and more to come. We have been able to start a wonderful music program in Oxnard at the Boys & Girls Club on Fifth Street. This is this first "on site" music program at the Club. We are teaching Percussion, Acoustic Guitar, Keyboard, Recorder, Bass Guitar, Music Appreciation, Voice, and Trumpet. We are hoping to take our Peace Thru Music program to every Boys & Girls Club across the Nation. I



will send pictures of teens too. They love learning music on the Bucket Drums. They are learning to "Beat on Drums and not on each other" I will send you Pick Man too. He "Picks on Strings and Not Living Things" The kids and youth are learning conflict resolution via Peace Thru Music! I will be sending you more pictures and the Stick Twins.

Peace Thru Music is changing the lives of children and youth through music. It would be so cool to get some press behind this. Since the start of this program in February, we have had 1,250 kids come in our new music room and learn music and how to work together as a group.

Tony, [www.PeaceThruMusic.com](http://www.PeaceThruMusic.com)

## THEATER LISTINGS

Continued from Page 21...

**Moon**, at Center Stage Theater, S.B., Come experience this magical tale of the Frog Prince! Our production of East of the Sun, West of the Moon is a retelling of a classic Norwegian folktale. This production is directed by Eric Lehman, music directed by Maureen Lehman, and choreographed by Rachel Seele. Come see our young actors at their best! [info, www.sbsummerstock.com](http://info.www.sbsummerstock.com)

• July 10 and 12, "Grease", Let's Rock and Roll! Center Stage Theater, S.B., Come join our teenage actors as they take you on a trip down memory lane. [info, www.sbsummerstock.com](http://info.www.sbsummerstock.com)

Kohli Rocks Night. Nicholby's Nightclub. Visit us on myspace!!!

**THEATER LISTINGS**

# Concert at Ojai House - Mairéad



The Goodwins - Meg, Mary, Sara, Dixie Lee Crosby, and Jane Goodwin



Jim Goodwin and Mairéad perform.



Photos © 2009, Joel Anderson



The Goodwins II



Judy and Dawn



• June 19, "Ives Lives", Center Stage Theater, S.B., Absurdly funny and bizarrely original, these six one-act comedies include Words, Words, Words, in which three monkeys are on a mission to write something called Hamlet; Variations on the Death of Trotsky, where a Communist leader is unaware of his own assassination; Sure Thing, the chance union of two people placed in a series of random situations; Arabian Nights, proving that an interpreter isn't needed in matters of love; A Singular Kinda Guy, a look at life through the eyes of an inanimate object; and The Mystery at Twicknam Vicarage, a parody of British life at the scene of a murder. Featuring Deborah Helm, Carol Metcalf, Ed Giron, Jerry Oshinsky, and a cast of talented local actors who promise nonstop lunacy.

info, visit [www.dijoproductions.org](http://www.dijoproductions.org)  
 • thru June 21, "The Scene", Ensemble Theatre Company, A hip, sexy, off-Broadway hit comedy, The Scene, by Theresa Rebeck, one of America's hottest contemporary playwrights.  
 info, [www.ensembletheatre.com](http://www.ensembletheatre.com)

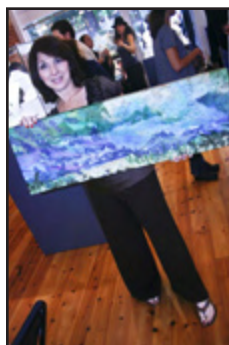
• July 9 and 11, "East of the Sun, West of the Moon", Continued, Page 20...

Irish born musician Mairéad performed at Ojai House May 24 on the back patio - Mairéad is a very soul inspired musician who has toured alongside such musical luminaries as Van Morrison, Natalie Merchant, Elvis Costello, Tracy Chapman, as well as on Sarah McLachlan's Lilith Fair Tour. Mairéad has been perform-

ing and recording a very 'spirited' music with Jim Goodwin since 2003 - their live performances are especially captivating.



Ojai House, Specializing in the Unique  
 304. S. Montgomery St. Ojai.  
 info, 640-1656, [www. OjaiHouse.com](http://www.OjaiHouse.com)



Photos © 2009, Joel Anderson

Debbie is excited to display the watercolors of Phyllis Goyon of Camarillo whose works exude life, sparkle and spontaneity. According to Debbie she carefully chose artist Wendy Lefkowitz to show concurrently because she felt that her art would complement Goyon's. Wendy's watercolors share a spontaneity with Goyon's paintings. According to Wendy her torn tissue paper collages are created with no plan (other than color), giving them a life, that transcends the canvas. "I build them up with color and just keep layering them until I get the kind of look I want," she said.



the beauty of nature, while her collages explore the abstract with humor and intensity of color that makes them almost glow. Exhibit runs through July 6th.

- Joel Anderson  
 info, Fine Fox Jewelry 210 Main St. Ventura, 652-1800

## EVENT CALENDAR

Continued from Page 12...  
 • July 16 thru Aug. 8, Waiving PETE, art exhibit, Sea Breeze Art Gallery, Ventura, Artist Lisa D. Moore will be showcasing a collection of new, mixed media and 3-D works, feat. reclaimed Type 1 bottles, predominant theme centers on tex. renderings of seigaiha, which literally means "blue sea waves." Seigaiha, seikainami, an ancient Asian pattern drawn using nested semi circles that are staggered in successive rows. Integrated into the creation and display of this series is the alternative use of recyclable material as molding form for surplus, hard and soft fibers, as a sculptural medium, as well as the method/mechanism for mounting many of the pieces. Ms. Moore implements as much ingenuity as she can conceive with often cast off or mundane items and materials. She also strives to balance her ecological awareness with practicality while feeding her personal aesthetic and for spiritual upliftment. What she hopes to share are new perspectives derived from her experiments and processes of creativity, 225 S. Laurel St., Ventura, info. [seabreezeartgallery.com](http://seabreezeartgallery.com) or, 643-3973

• July 17, 3-5pm, Trailer Trash Partie, Port Hueneme, Tribesmen Nomads M/C & Tribesmen Ladies Present The 1st Annual, Help our youngins! Admission \$10 That will get you "white trash fixins," Contests like Best Costume, Best Mullet, etc. Kickass tunes, and even a jail! All Funds go to Parkview Elementary School so the youngsters get a good Ed-u-ma-cation. Time: 7pm, Tickets Available through Tribesmen Nomads M/C, 483-6961, Ask for Princess. Bell Arts Factory at 432 N. Ventura Ave. info. & Location: VFW Post 3935, Port Hueneme, 300 S. Surfside Dr., Princess, 483-6961

• July 25, Softin Charity Car Show, All Day Event, Silent Auction, Family fun for SOFTIN's Special -Needs educational programs, Hours: 10am-6pm, Admission: \$100, children 12 and under FREE, Parking \$3.00, info. Tiffany, 574-9388, and/or [at tvague@softininc.org](mailto:tvague@softininc.org)

• July 26, 5th Annual Dog-Gone Cat-A-Strophic Hugs, Slurps & Slobbers Adoption, The Ventura County Camarillo Animal Shelter in partnership with Rescue Me, Inc. are dedicated to finding homes for EVERY ONE of the shelter's homeless animals. Adopters will be able to take advantage of "Free" gift bag, "Free" Vet Visit, reduced rate adoption fees, reduced rate microchip, reduced rate rabies vaccine and license, Please bring, old cell phones and printer cartridges for Rescue Me Inc., old jeans for Candy's Rescue Wear, Blankets, towels, sheets, etc. for the Shelter, 10-4pm, Camarillo Animal Shelter, 600 Aviation Drive. info. [www.rescuemeinc.org](http://www.rescuemeinc.org)

• Aug. 1, Nordhoff High Reunion. (Class of 1989), Camp Comfort, 11-1pm, & Ojai Art Center from 6-10pm. info. Michelle Dohrn, 272-8118, and/or Erin Parker at [NHS1989@sbcglobal.net](mailto:NHS1989@sbcglobal.net)

• Aug. 4 thru Sept. 6, Gem Show, Earl Warren Showgrounds, S. B., Children 12 & under FREE. info. Allen Van Volkinburgh, [www.gemfaire.com](http://www.gemfaire.com)

## Caffe Bella



Photo © 2009, Joel Anderson

### Big Joe Hurt

Big Joe Hurt takes the stage at Caffe Bella in Ventura - Joe is a soulful friendly singer who connects with his audience... singin... "Knock, Knock, Knockin' on Heaven's Door..."

**Caffe Bella**  
 Wine Bar & Pub • Dancing • No Cover  
 Italian flourishes meet Irish hospitality  
 Open Tuesday - Sunday  
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 (805) 643-2171  
 Call Bella to host your party

### New Outdoor Patio !!! Free Parking

**Entertainment**  
 • Wed, June 10, 8pm - Dan Grimm and Friends  
 • Thurs, June 11, 8pm - Delaney Gibson - Thurs Nite!  
 • Fri, June 12, 8pm - Los Dudes  
 • Sat, June 13, 8pm - "Pi" with Special Guest  
 • Sun, June 21, 3pm - Catfishry - "Sunday Blues"  
 • Tues, June 23, 8pm - Jimmy Mooks "Comedy"  
 • Thurs, June 25, 8pm - Travis Greer "Flying Solo"  
 • Sat, June 27, 8pm - Robin Wiley  
 • Sun, July 5, 3pm - Frank Barajas "Sunday Aft"  
 • Sun, July 19, 3pm - Frank Barajas "Sunday Aft"  
 • Tues, June 23, 8pm - Jimmy Mooks "Comedy"

Visit [www.myspace.com/caffebella](http://www.myspace.com/caffebella) for Full Live Music Calendar

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## Ventura Art by Mary M. Long

Fox Fine Jewelry is hosting "A Pigment of my Imagination" featuring artists Phyllis Doyon and Wendy Lefkowitz in their downtown store. Imagination and creativity is what clients come to expect from the Foxs who combine their original fine jewelry with art showings, presented with fun and a flair for the unusual.

The movers and shakers of the Ventura Art World were seen sipping wine, nibbling hand dipped chocolate strawberries while perusing the displays at the May 16th opening reception. Debbie, who has a broad background in the arts (dance, music and painting), loves to combine art forms and is the curator for all the shows.

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[www.drbernhof.com](http://www.drbernhof.com)  
 1200 Maricopa Hwy, Ste A



David Reo and the Preachers



## Ventura Blues Jam

Donna (Drums) and Bass Player Eric Montieth and his Fender bass, lay down the dancin' blues at the Riviera Bistro on Main in Ventura. The two (seen here with the Preacher Blues Band) have played with Randy Rich and the Ravens, a staple local blues band, for years.

Riviera Bistro  
394 E. Main St.  
Ventura

## Imagine Yourself: Kenny Ball and Tom Sultan

"Imagine yourself on some sort of old time piano... music... turn of the century, Scott Joplin, Tom Turpin, and then maybe a little bit later Fats Waller, that sort of style... Jelly Roll Morton and then put it on a guitar, left hand of the piano player, a lot of you know how I play. Left hand of the piano player would be the red thumb pick... the right hand would play the melody. (Ragtime). That took lotta months... It ain't easy" - Tom Sultan



Photo, © 2009, Joel Anderson

Catching up to Santa Barbara based Kenny Ball and Tom Sultan recently in Ventura (Zoey's), they were as always (from the *Bowlful of Blues* days), true to form. The 'dynamic' duo presented a few pieces from their extensive down-home collection of great 'inspired original music and maybe best of all, their great stories.

When Kenny and Tom were in their "idealistic" musician phase some years ago... they took a call from Levi's to do a commercial for 501s; suddenly cents-less idealism turned into the fast pursuit of hard cash. Well... that worked out pretty good, with Kenny getting a car out of the deal and Tom, perhaps a bag of french fries!

Soon, they thought, "This could be lucrative, well, hey commercials... this is happenin' man!! We can sell anything, ya know?" Soon, with the beginnings of the Cal-i-for-nia State Lottery scratchers just kickin' in and such, they penned the lyrics to "I Wanna be Filthy Rich." Here they are... "I wanna be filthy rich. Hang around with some beautiful chicks. Get respect wherever I go. I wanna be pullin' in dough. Won't somebody give me a million in cash? Well, I'm tired of bein' poor white trash. Don't wanna heave no more cans of beans? I wanna be a man of means! I wanna smoke cigars, play guitars, and ride around in fancy cars, and eat breakfast in bed..... I wanna be Howard Hughes."

Altho the Cal. State Lotto didn't approve of their lyrics according to Tom, "...it came back with a sticker, circle and a slash through it, 'Never send us anything again.'..." Makes you wonder what our State's marketing boys were thinking... Look how broke the state is now?

- Joel Anderson, OVVIEV

Check out Kenny Ball and Tom Sultan at Cold Springs Tavern, just up the hill (Hwy 154) above Santa Barbara - See VIEW Music Listings, Page 26)

## Financial

# What to Do With Slow Pay

by Jefferson Pinto

It's easy for me to spew off about public policy. What about "personal policy"? Enough citizen's personal policy has a huge affect on public policy. Take recycling for example. With the cooperation of many, major areas such as energy, mining, manufacturing are positively affected.

It's easy to be frustrated and angry about how the banks are treating customers who can't make their payments. Here's the question for the day: *Have you considered how you treat those that can't pay you? What's the policy for yourself and your small business?*

When it rains, typically it rains on both sides of the street simultaneously. Small businesses are operating in the same economy as the big companies. Ought the small business owners consider a different approach to treating slow pay or no-pay customers?

As a creditor here are some points to consider.

- You and your customer live in the same small town and probably have some relationship. If there's one thing that characterizes big banks it's driven by rigid rules and profits first. People ride a little lower on their priority list.

- Remember, when you extended the credit, you undertook the risk the debtor may not pay. This is called the *business risk*.

- Your customer may be waiting for others to pay them. Sometimes you need to be patient and slowly inch your way out of a traffic (payment) jam.

- Call or visit them. Listen to what they have to say. I'd advise against continuing to spew off your script like a telemarketer. Most people are honest and take personal pride in paying off their debts.

- Be polite and direct. "Hey this is John and I'm calling to follow up on your account and I'd like to know when I can expect payment." If they have had a good payment history in the past, they probably already know they are late.

- Acknowledge receipt of their message. Give due consideration to legitimate issues.

- Resolve any disputes as to how much is owed. It's intriguing to me that some people commence disputes after they are past due. Challenge them as to why they didn't raise the

dispute when the products or services were rendered. If they have a legitimate issue, make good on it. Ask them to pay the undisputed amount now.

- Let them keep doing business. Don't shut them down. Consider a payment plan that allows them to continue to buy and pay for all new purchases in full and pay down part of the outstanding balance. Make sure the *go forward strategy* allows both parties to benefit.

- If you believe they are indeed troubled, avoid demanding full payment. In other words, don't kill the goose that laid the golden egg. Ask for a commitment, perhaps a partial payment. If not now, next month? If they won't commit to a payment, request for a commitment to talk next month. Hold them to their commitment.

- If they say their business is down, offer to refer some business to them.

- Some customers really can't pay, now or ever.

- Some customers pretend they can't pay and will exploit your good nature.

- If you treat someone with respect and dignity, they will be more apt to cooperate and prioritize.

- Don't blame, or shame or personal attacks. I remember I had a teacher that used to stop his lecture mid-sentence and announce in a stern shaming sort of voice, "You're late!" What I felt like saying, "Duh, let's state the obvious." What I really said, "Yes sir, you are correct. I apologize for my tardiness."

- If you believe they really can't pay, for whatever reason, forgive their debt and exert your energy where it will bring you some return for your efforts.

- If you treat someone with respect, they are more likely to pay if they are able and extend the same respect if you find yourself on the other end of the debt in the future. For lack of a better word, it's sort of a karma thing. Jefferson Pinto is a retired CPA, holds an MBA from one of the finer accredited universities in this country, and is the VP of corporate operations for his day job.

jefferson@ojaiandventuraview.com

WILDLIFE PHOTOGRAPHS  
BY RICHARD KALLER THRU JULY 4TH  
- AT DAVID WHIPPLE GOLDSMITH,  
535 W. EL ROBLAR, MEINERS OAKS

## ORGANIC GARDENING...

Veggies Continued FROM Page 8...

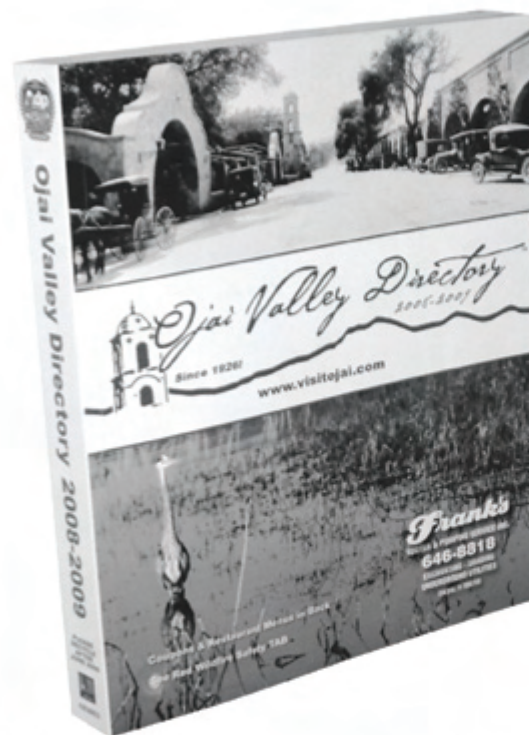
(eelworms). **Painted Daisy**, (*Chrysanthemum coccineum*) contains *pyrethrum*, another natural occurring insecticide, and it's a beautiful flower, cut or in the garden. **Loveage**, (*Levisticum officinale*), is said to improve all plants it is growing near, (except *rhubarb*), as are **Borage**, (*Borago officinalis*), and **Marigolds**, (*Calendula and Tagetes*). **Dill** not only calls to the swallowtail butterflies, it helps cabbage, corn, lettuce, onions and cucumbers and is about the only plant that will thrive near **Fennel**. **Fennel** (*Foeniculum vulgare*), actually stunts the growth, causes to bolt or kills most types of garden plants near it. It also deters aphids while attracting ladybugs and other beneficial insects. **Yarrow** is an all around companion plant. It improves soil composition and

enhances compost while attracting a variety of beneficials like ladybugs, hoverflies and damselfly bugs. **Yarrow** and **Chamomile** also improve the essential oil production of herbs planted nearby. **Prostrate Rosemary** and wormwood will both help to deter snails and slugs. **Spearmint** deters aphids and ants, and ants also dislike **Pennyroyal**, **Southernwood** and **Tansy**. **Moles** and **Gophers** don't like castor bean, and garlic and parsley deter rabbits.

Happy gardening!  
(Remember, all the opinions expressed in my writings are my own, and not necessarily those of the other nursery staff or owner. Also, and again, I guarantee nothing but death and taxes. I say, "Use common sense; don't take my word for it but do take care.")



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"City Hall's so full of Crooks, they're falling out of the Windows. Country club boys with their payoffs and kickbacks... Where do you go to find a little justice?" - Art Lund in 'The Last American Hero,' 1973, with Jeff Bridges

**HELEN YUNKER REPRESSED...**

Continued FROM Page 6...

18, 2005, with the City retaining "power of termination" to take back the property if not done in a timely manner. Unfortunately, the time limit expired Feb. 3, 2008, with yet another year having passed with nothing being done. **Mr. Habliston** is now asking for his contract to be extended to give him time to install sufficient repairs to the top of the badly eroded slope, (which now extends over the property line dangerously close to the foundation of my home) rather than enforcing its legal right to take back the property, which it hasn't done to date. **Mr. Habliston** has had the lot on the market for 7 months, since November 2, 2008, with no takers, and finds it expedient to make these repairs to effect an earlier sale, - to remove himself from a bad situation and recoup his investment in the failed project. He claims to have buyers "in the wings" ready to buy depending on the City's decision. On Thursday, May 21st a 2 1/2 hour public hearing was conducted in council chambers to make a very difficult decision on whether the city should take back the lot, with its inherent problems, or whether it should approve the contract extension for **Mr. Habliston** involving a new buyer. After heated pro's and con's, the **City Council** voted 5 to 2 on the later.

In exchange for the aye vote, **Mr. Habliston** has pledged to install a V-ditch at the top of the slope to channel water run-off away from my property towards the city's drainage outlet below at **Church Street**, plus some revegetation on the slope itself, this is to be done within 60 days after the extension is approved. He will be required to post upfront to the **City** the \$20,000 cost to insure its being done. The substituted buyer will then be given 3 years to complete the stabilization and buildout. This is the meat of the extension agreement. I am really depending on **City Attorney Ariel Calonne** to incorporate any necessary conditions to protect my legal rights in this matter, and to be accorded as a fair and just treatment and concern as **Mr. Habliston**, the defaulted buyer, is receiving. Time will tell. I will be in my 90s, even if all goes well.

When **Rick Cole** came on board in February, 2004, as **Ventura's** new city manager, I had such high hopes, based on glowing accolades from his supporters, that he would do everything possible to solve the long-overdo **Lot #7 landslide problem**. Sadly, any contact with him has been very minimal over the past 5 years. I don't even believe he knew the **City** had already spent over \$1/2 million dollars of the taxpayers' money fighting me, far more than the cost of restabilizing its slope at that time. I understand that the prospect of spending more taxpayer money now, in this critical economic downturn is unsavory. However, it was very painful for me to hear **Mr. Cole** repeatedly say: "A Bird

**The Main St. Mini Fair - A Hometown Success !**



The Best Folks You'd Ever Want to Meet - Sue Scofield (Pampered Chef), Sea Shell Artist Debbie Capaldi, Margaret Landreau, General Manager of the Fair, Photographer Pete Cosenza, Coral Young and Camille Harris.



Pete Cosenza lends his acoustic Support to the Main Street Mini Fair.



Coral Young, Proprietor of Monkey Business-Founding Artist Debbie Capaldi Charter Member, 10-years-old. Coral specializes in fine handmade jewelry, and what else? Monkey Business!



Camille Harris, VCORD.org

It's absolutely wonderful, the community loves hoops and they have open mike singing, look at them dancing out there..." said **Ventura Main Street Mini Fair Organizer Camille Harris** at one the recent Saturday "celebrations." This friendly grassroots atmosphere is what **Ventura** is really all about!

And who was dancing? **Music Director** for the regular event **Joni Baldwin** (also **Music Director** at **Montessori School, Ojai**), who encourages **FREE** expression. "We did **All Along the Watchtower**... simple songs, but songs kids could get a groove for. You know nice stuff. Kids open mike...Somehow it found it's way and we feel there has not been enough forum for children to vent their artistic spleens... well, they want to be creative, any kind of playing of instruments, reading of poetry..."

**Artist Debbie Capaldi** displayed her hand-made (in **Ventura!**) items; shiek Wind Chimes, and a fine table adorned with **Tumble Travertine** with **Sanded Grout**, **Sea Urchin Spine Mosaic**, with **Nassa Shells**. **Debbie** is also available for select artists commissions at [sealife65@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sealife65@sbcglobal.net)

The event also features jewelry making, art demonstrations, kids art castle, face painting, mimes. info. 648-1902, [mainstreetfair@yahoo.com](mailto:mainstreetfair@yahoo.com)



Main Street Mini Fair - always features fine musicians at the Saturday event - (L-R) **Dana Bailey**, **Joni Baldwin** (music director), and **Tamara Coe** (Vixen).

Main Street Mini Fair, Downtown **Ventura** (between **Oak** and **Palm**), Saturdays from 10-4pm

**in the Hand is worth two in the Bush."**

Maybe in your bush, **Mr. Cole**, but not in mine. My bush, as you can see from this photo, is gone and lies at the bottom of the slope, along with other plants. Sadly, the 2 birds in my bush are an albatross, dragging me down to impending destruction, and a voracious vulture which has torn out my heart and continues to eat the flesh off my shrinking body.

I sincerely thank **Councilmen Jim Monahan** and **Neal Andrews** for their **NO** vote on the extension, which, unfortunately, means another 3 years of anxiety, frustration and hope for me, my only option after the 5-2 council vote. I am now entrusting my future to your care. I pray that you will very conscientiously and closely oversee and monitor Staff members, and will work together to insure a successful conclusion to this ugly situation. I also pray that the "bailout" of **Mr. Habliston** will not have been in vain for me, who has already spent 11+ years of my life seeking justice and fairness.

Helen Yunker, Ventura



"We Believe code enforcement is on the right track...."

VCReporter Management, Editorial April 30

support literacy

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**WHEN: Third Week of June (Mon, June 28)**  
**FINAL DATE & LOCATION: June 28, Call for Details**  
**Please Call Laura for info, 701-1301, or vtasis@hotmail.com**

**Owners and Renters Meeting to Preserve Safe Affordable Housing in Ventura Through Grandfathering Older Properties and Amnesty for Second Units. Legal Remedies and Protection will be Discussed.**  
**All Concerned About Losing Their Homes Through Financial Hardship Imposed By City's New Proactive Code Enforcement Policies Should Attend. It's Time to "CIRCLE THE WAGONS."**  
**For More Information, Email Laura at, vtasis@hotmail.com**

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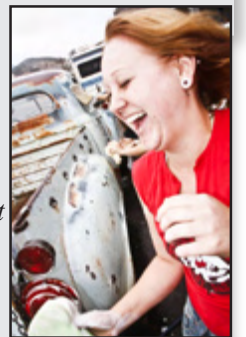
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The Ventura Derby Darlins, Oct. 27, 2007 at the Battle for the Coast bout at Seaside Park, Vta.



The 'Darlins' Car Wash - Alison Cantrell aka Miss Ally Crash, Tyrna Ross aka Anti-Social Dee #74, Eva Lewis aka Clobberella #86'd, Chelsea Adams, Pabst Smear Rib-bon #24oz, Nadia Gutierrez, 2Nadi4U #84, Alia Tsant, Dr. Gyn-o'Might.....



Alison Cantrell aka Miss Ally Crash

## ANOTHER VIEW EXCLUSIVE Derby Darlins

— by Ali K.

I have roller skated most of my life and remember at age twelve turning my parent's garage into a roller rink, which included colored lights and blasting some cool tunes. In my 20s, I turned to rollerblading and skated to my old school jams along the beach. I recently had a craving to rekindle my childhood love of skating. My prayers were answered when I saw a skater known as **Vicious Ticious** come skating down the parking structure, landing on her knee pads. She was clad in sexy fishnets, a short skirt and was skating with her derby wife **Bettie 12-gage**.

"You should join the roller derby team," **Vicious** said, "it's like a sorority." Normally the word sorority would have caused me to cringe, but a sorority on skates – now that is cool. I started off by skating with **Vicious** at **Skating Plus** to give my skating skills a whirl. I hadn't skated in years, and was nervous, but I got right back into the groove. I started going to the practices and, watching the **Ventura Derby Darlin's**, I learned what this exciting and empowering full-contact sport is all about. These women are fierce and tough with a resilient manner. Watching them skate with helmets, full protective gear and a mouth guard means one thing – they mean business.

**Vicious** describes roller derby as "the greatest sisterhood." Roller derby is definitely a sisterhood, but it doesn't come without its share of pain physically and emotional. "We have battled through cancer, divorce, and all sorts of stuff," **Vicious** reveals. She recently broke her leg playing derby and is now "bionic," as she has a huge rod in her ankle with seven screws. You would think that would discourage her from playing roller derby again, but **Vicious** is back on her skates. "I did everything in my physical power to get back as soon as possible because the love for skating is so great in me," she said, recently getting inked with a skate tattoo.

"**Anti-social Dee**" recently joined roller derby, because, "I started seeing **Via Derby Darlins** in the local papers (**Ojai and Ventura Voice**, Oct. 2007, **Ojai and Ventura View**, Nov. 2008 @ [OjaiandVenturaView.com](http://OjaiandVenturaView.com) -ed.) and thought how fun it would be. At first, it seemed a little scary, but then my friend joined and loved it and encouraged me to come out to games, practices and events." **Anti-Social** has been on the team for eight months now, but has already reaped benefits. "Derby has definitely given me my confidence back. I'm losing weight, getting back into shape and making a lot of new friends," she noted.

The **Derby Darlins** play intraleague games, which are useful in many ways; it introduces new players to what a game is going to feel like before putting them up against a more experienced team who might not take as much mercy on them. It also gives our league an opportunity to host a bout and raise money for a choice charity. "Supporting my community through donations gives me a great sense of pride," **Vicious** added "We chose to give to our community and in doing so – gives our girls a certain sense of community and pride knowing that we not only are able to skate and have fun, but we are also able to help out people less fortunate than us."

Roller derby today has changed from the old



Derby Darlin, Nadia Gutierrez, 2Nadi4U #84

school days of the **Thunderbirds**, **Joanie Weston (The Blonde Bomber)**, and its roots back in the 30s. Girls today get dressed up in fishnets, sexy skirts and cute knee socks – skating derby has become a fashion statement. Derby isn't just about looking cute though, it involves learning how to play the sport. "In the 'old days' the game was like modern day wrestling with scripts and staged hits. Modern day roller derby is a real sport – everything you see is real," said **Head Ref Daddy Dykealicious**. Her job involves being the eyes of the team. "As Head Ref, it's my job to make sure the game runs smoothly, and most importantly, safely. I am in charge of all other refs and non-skating officials in the league. It's my responsibility to make sure they are trained on the rules and all other aspects," she notes, adding that determination makes a great skater. As for penalties – there are many. "No punching, biting or hair pulling. There are very specific rules about what is and what is not a legal hit. Common penalties include back blocking (hitting an opponent in the back), elbows and cutting track," **Daddy Dykealicious** explains.

Roller derby girls train and practice with determination and really put pride into becoming great skaters. Newbies must go through 6-week assessments equivalent to a skating boot-camp. "These girls work hard and play hard. Every win is a triumph – every loss a heartbreak," **Daddy Dykealicious** said.

Check us out at practice the last Thursday of the month at our home rink **Freedom Park, Camarillo**. Membership director is **Juv E Nile** and Asst. to membership is **Vicious Ticious** [www.myspace.com/vcdevildarlins](http://www.myspace.com/vcdevildarlins)

The **Derby Darlin's** next game "Rink of Fire" is Saturday, June 20 at the Ventura Fairgrounds. The **VCDD Vendolls vs. Disaster City**. Doors open at 5pm, bout is at 6 pm. We are taking on **Disaster City**, \$12 at the door. Come show your love for roller derby!

[spiralgrl@yahoo.com](mailto:spiralgrl@yahoo.com)  
— Ali K.



Always willing to do their part, the **Darlins** pitch in and assist the great community of Ventura keep their fine rides sparkling clean, just in time for summer beach cruisin.' The **Ventura Derby Darlins** were especially helpful (above) with this 1952 **Studebaker Flathead-Six**.

Special Thanks to the guys at **Pete's Diagnostics & Auto Repair (648-4826)**, **Pete Derrico and Larry Stimill (right)**, and **Jessie's RADIATOR & AUTOMOTIVE (652-2193)** for providing the use of their fine establishments for this worthy cause.

The energetic **Darlins** get an especially good kick out of organizing Charity Events throughout Ventura Co. to help out Ventura residents all they can.

To catch another glimpse of the 'Darlins,' show your community support at their next game, "Rink of Fire" where they face off against **Disaster City** at the Ventura Fairgrounds, **June 20th at 5pm..... It's Great Fun!**

Photos © 2007/2009, Joel Anderson



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# VENTURA COUNTY WEIRD VIEWS

## Ventura Theater Ghosts: an investigation

by Richard Senate



The team stopped as **Debbie Senate** halted at a stairway inside the **Spanish Revival** majesty of the **1928 Ventura Theater**. Her eyes grew wide as she extended her hand. There was a distinct cold that seemed to swirl in that spot.

"There is someone here," she said in a low voice. "It's a man, a womanizer." I turned on the cyber-probe, a tool that measures static electrical fields. So far it had pre-

sented only normal readings but now, it went off the charts. Something unseen was there.

This was the ghost hunt at the historic **Ventura Theater** conducted on **May 26**, when a small team toured the site looking for evidence of ghosts



rumored to walk the huge building. It was the first indication that the stories were true, but it would not be the last.

Built in 1928, as talkies were starting to replace silent pictures, it was built with a scene dock and dressing rooms for vaudeville shows. The theater was **Ventura County's** own **Movie Palace** and rivaled the **Arlington** in **Santa Barbara**. In short order, the dressing rooms and theater space was closed off and the building used exclusively for projecting films. Like many such establishments it was badly hit by the popularity of television after **World War II**. By the seventies it was on the way becoming a low-cost movie house for a while and its opulent interior began to show signs of decline.

It was saved and converted into a concert theater; the dressing rooms that were built for vaudeville shows and plays now housed rock stars and up-and-coming bands. The theater prospered in its new incarnation with some of the best groups playing here. But, the stories of ghosts began to surface. They date back to the days when the place was a movie house and the unused dressing rooms were rumored to hold ghosts. The stories have gone over the years until I was granted permission to lead a small team to investigate if the old place was really haunted.



Debbie used her psychic gifts to help isolate the suspected haunted sites, as other members, armed with e-meters, cameras and tape recorders, tried to collect confirmation of her impressions. I was using a **Cyber-Probe II** and just trying to keep up. After locating the first spot, and picking up readings, we moved to the second

floor lobby near the balcony. Called "*the Grotto*" by the staff, it is a **neo-Spanish** monstrosity of baroque designs and faces. Debbie found another site – this time she felt a man with slicked back hair, a small pencil mustache. Once again high readings were recorded and staff confirmed what others had seen; the man wearing a pin striped suite, smoking on this site.

My equipment went on at this spot, not far from the men's bathroom, like a Roman candle. We next toured the balcony and from this vantage point we could look down upon the vast empty stage. Debbie saw a light on the stage. There was no light that I could see, but she saw something. Others confirmed that they too had seen a light on the stage.

We next toured the stage area and Debbie felt the presence of a woman's spirit and became very cold. One of the team, **Mr. John Anthony Miller**, upon feeling her arm called Debbie an "*Ice Mummy*." Legends hold that in the early 1930s a young woman fell from the high railings and broke her neck. Debbie seemed to confirm the older tale. We walked into the dressing rooms and Debbie was drawn to a particular chamber. The room was cold, and Debbie felt something bad had once



happened here. The theater manager confided that he sometimes used the room as an office. When he did so the computer he used acted strangely, and once a glass of juice was moved and splashed the computer. Debbie found the very place she believed the young woman fell from the stairway. The cyber-probe picked up the site as well with a high reading. We toured the old projection booth where a roll of film was still sitting in the projector machine. Was this the same 35 mm film that leaped out like a snake and frightened a worker long ago? The room isn't used now and some staff refuse to go there by themselves. We checked the Grotto area where staff have heard a man's voice say "*What?*" but whether this is the man with slicked back hair, nick-named "*Charlie*" by the staff, is not known.

More attempts were made to pick up readings but, so far, no new anomalies made themselves known to the team.

We came away convinced that the old theatre is, like many all over the world, haunted. There is nothing evil or malevolent in the building and most are simply afterimages of past people and events, still, the site offers some interesting riddles and further investigations may well be needed.

The old **Majestic Ventura Theater** is a treasure to the community, as it always has been since 1928. It still continues to provide entertainment for both the living, and perhaps even the dead.

**Richard Senate**

*The Odd and Strange and Bizarre in Ventura County*  
[www.RichardSenate.com](http://www.RichardSenate.com)



### PRESS RELEASE: OJAI SKATE PARK

#### Dream it, Design it, Build it.....

Just to keep you posted on the Ojai Skate Park: At the **May 26 City Council Meeting** the Council adopted the staff recommendations and:

1. Officially designated the Ojai Skate Park Project; and
2. Directed staff and legal counsel to prepare and send a letter to Ojai Unified School District to exercise the option for an additional 3,500 sq. ft. for the Project; and
3. Directed staff/design team to prepare construction documents for the Project; and
4. Directed staff to prepare and submit a Design Review Permit Application to the Planning Commission; and
5. Directed staff to request that Skate Ojai submit all monies raised for the project to the City by June 18, with the funds to be placed in a designated Skate Park fund.



Staff will be sending out monthly updates, and is working on creating a page on the City Website for more information as the project progresses!

Ojai Recreation Department

### PRESS RELEASE - YMCA SUMMER PROGRAMS

#### Summer at Ventura

It's hustle and bustle and the **Ventura Family YMCA** as individuals and families get ready for summer. Registrations are currently taking place for numerous summer childcare and youth sport and aquatics programs. The YMCA has also started early registration for its 2009-2010 school year childcare.

Send your child to the ultimate summer childcare experience. Campers will discover hidden talents and develop new hobbies through age appropriate activities such as arts and crafts, organized games, swimming, music and field trips. Day camp for the children is the YMCA's most widely offered program nationwide. The **Ventura Family YMCA** provides summer day care for over 200 children in **Ventura** and **Oxnard**.

Contact the YMCA for many more programs being offered.

**School Year Licensed Childcare:** The **Ventura Family YMCA** offers a wide range of school-age childcare programs for the 2009-2010 school year to meet your families needs. Childcare starts as low as \$68 a week and scholarships are available to help parents in need cover the cost.

**Open Doors:** The **Ventura Family YMCA** makes sure that every child who wants to participate in programs is given the opportunity regardless of their family's financial status. Scholarships are available for childcare, youth sports, and aquatics programs for those families that can not afford to participate.

info, call 642-2131  
[www.venturaymca.org](http://www.venturaymca.org)

### PRESS RELEASE SKATE SANTA PAULA

#### Skate Park Day Trips

The **Ojai Recreation Department** will be hitting the road this summer and visiting a few of the local skate parks in **Ventura, Los Angeles** and **Santa Barbara Counties!**

This new program for ages 9-15 will provide an opportunity for youth and teens to visit five skate parks this summer; transportation is included to all locations from the **Ojai Recreation Department:**

- **June 23 – Santa Paula and Fillmore** from 8:30am to 4:30pm. Registration is \$25 before June 17 and \$35 after.
- **June 25 – Santa Barbara** from 11:00 am to 4:30 pm. Registration is \$25 before June 22 and \$35 after.
- **August 4 – Oxnard** from 10:30 am to 3:30 pm. Registration is \$20 before July 29 and \$30 and after.
- **August 6 – Santa Clarita** from 10:30 am to 4:30 pm. Registration is \$30 before July 30 and \$40 after.

All participants must provide their own sunscreen, skate boards, protective gear, water and lunch. All skaters must wear protective gear (*helmets, knee pads and elbow pads*) at all parks, no exceptions! Please register early as space is limited!

Info, **Ojai Recreation Department, 646-1872, 510 Park Road, [www.ojairec.com](http://www.ojairec.com)**



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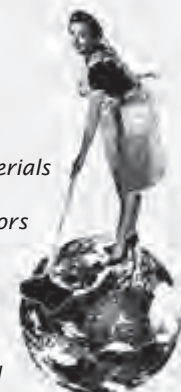
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|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Diana Krall Quiet Nights World Tour '09, - 962-7411</li> <li>• 30 Aug. -The Canyon, Agoura – Sun. -For-eigner - 879-5016</li> <li>• 3 Sept. -Chumash Casino, Santa Ynez – Thurs. -Al Green, 8pm - 1/800-585-3737</li> <li>• 5 Sept. -Santa Barbara Bowl, – Sat. 6:30pm -John Legend with very special guest; India Arie &amp; Vaughn Anthony, - 962-7411</li> <li>• 10 Sept. -Chumash Casino, Santa Ynez – Thurs. -Peter Dinklage, 8pm - 1/800-</li> </ul> | <p>585-3737</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12 Sept. -Santa Barbara Bowl, – Sat. 7pm -Bonnie Raitt &amp; Taj Mahal-Alone &amp; Together, - 962-7411</li> <li>• 13 Sept. -Santa Barbara Bowl, – Thurs. 7pm -Killers, - 962-7411</li> <li>• 22 Sept. -Santa Barbara Bowl, – Tues. 7pm -Crosby, Stills &amp; Nash, - 962-7411</li> <li>• 3 Oct. -Santa Barbara Bowl, – Sat. 7pm -Loggins &amp; Messina w/special guest Gabe Dixon Band, - 962-7411</li> </ul> <p align="right"><i>See End</i></p> |
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