

The Ojai & Ventura



# VIEW

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- THE PRICE OF BEING HOMELESS
- VENTURA COUNTY ELECTION COUNTER...?



- DICK LYNCH RIDES AGAIN !!!
- PETER MILHADO CROSSROADS
- RICHARD SENATE JUNGLELAND
- RON ROWE THEATER WINE & ROSES
- HEATHER - IF HORSES COULD TALK

- BRIAN FAITH BAND
- VENTURA METER WARS
- SENGA CLASSIC STAGE Co.
- JEFFERSON PINTO - POLITICS
- MARY M. LONG
- MARY JO - ONLINE



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- The Future of Ojai's Water Wars
- ALASDAIR COYNE'S CLIMATE CHANGE WASHINGTON DENIAL - PG 10 & THE WEB
- Fibbin' Politics...?

INSIDE: • **ART** • POLITICS • SATIRE • LEASHES END ~ PETS • Rock n' Roll ★

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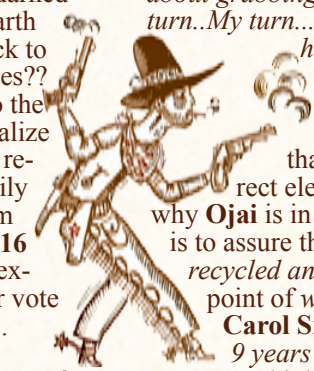
OJAI CITY COUNCIL RAGGEDY EDGE

— Dick Lynch

Well the votes are rounded up with only a few mia. Wow, if you look at the Ojai Election...er... totals... Paul Blatz lassoed a darned big herd of voters. How on earth could he have been turned back to the barn on his first two charges?? Compare his voting totals to the city clerk's and you start to realize how good a job he, or ERLA, really did. Cindy Burrell handily won the election for short-term Clerk with 1,693 votes, or 71.16 percent. Blatz pencils out to exceed 70 percent of the popular vote using those raw number totals. Carol Smith was equally amazing roping in over 60 percent for her first-time run at a contested election. Well done, Strobel. Lots of riding the range brings the herd in. Lets not forget that two years ago Betsy Clapp defeated former MAYORS of OJAI, Hanstad and Francina. Clapp exceeding Mayor Horgan's vote totals, and had more popular votes than Paul Blatz. Shouldn't Betsy be Mayor this time around??? Mayor Horgan ran a dismal finish then and came in well under 50 percent of the

vote by any standards. "Self Above Service" is what this Mayor-by-rotation system is all about. A none-too-popular-ity contest that is all about grabbing power and prestige. My turn...My turn...is the cry...as the wolf howls...

The city council has run this as a "popularity" contest for years, that's why we don't have direct elections for Mayor. That's why Ojai is in such shambles. Rotation is to assure that the insiders get cycled, recycled and re-recycled again to the point of worn out leather. To quote Carol Smith, "I've been here for 9 years and I've only been Mayor once!!!" Think about it...how good was it when we had a Council Member be Mayor a second time around? Any better? What was the temper tantrum? Or was it a tirade, or a temper-tirade?? I don't know. It's been a long time since a council person LOST IT at council. Any better? Way better. It was if you were at the Council. IT WAS FUN. Simi elects a Mayor for a two-year term to allow the Mayor to get something done. The Rotary Park project Raggedy Edge Continued Page 4...



Ventura County Election Counter



Burrell, Strobel, Smith, and Blatz swearing in



No Room at the Inn by Lawrence and Lori Anderson (aka Criminal Sleepers)

As the leaks come out, people are coming to understand that having one quarter of the country's assets in the hands of one percent of the population is very bad. We are also reminded that our government officials are simply human - they are motivated by whatever is pressuring them the most. What if local people were to put tangible pressure upon local officials? Do we really want to waste city assets on luxury homes in Ventura's Canada Larga for wealthy executives who do not yet exist in this area? Are we, to redecorate the

Avenue, changing it into a luxury boulevard for these same imaginary individuals, thereby forcing low income people out of their homes and businesses? This land grab is powered by a swarm of new code and zoning laws as proposed in the "Westside and North Avenue Community Development, Code Preliminary Draft, November 2010." Wow! It makes no sense. The Ventura City Council should be rewriting the codes to make it easier to house the poor and homeless. Instead, they are forcing them out. In fact, Canada Larga is the perfect location for a large scale homeless center. According to the advocacy group, Lift Up Your Voice, "There are new funding opportunities available that would finally make a shelter a reality." Meanwhile, Venturans are dying of poverty and exposure. Current housing options for our poorest citizens require paid credit checks (average \$22 per individual, \$44 per married couple, representing a 40 percent profit to the landlord), negative TB tests for shelters, and drug testing for the privilege of sleeping in your own car via the city's Safe Sleep Program. At the time of this writing, my wife and I have spent \$300 of our monthly income on credit checks in an effort to find shelter during the winter months. Today we received a letter from the El Patio Motel in Ventura, turning down our application for low income housing on the basis that we do not make enough money to qualify. Apparently, if your pain medication is

Ready for a Recoat - Politics

by Jefferson Pinto

This ol' drunken cowboy walks out of the saloon searching for his horse. When he gets to the hitching post, he discovers his horse's tail is painted bright red. Furious, he stumbles back into the saloon and yells, "Who painted my horse's tail red?" The whole place goes silent. A huge cowboy gets up from his barstool, makes his way across the room, stands belly to belly with the drunk and says, "I did!" Albeit drunk, the cowboy realized he was undervalued by about 50 pounds and four inches, so he replies, "Oh, I just wanted to let you know, it's ready for a second coat." With a huge reversal of power of the two major political parties, there seems to be an abundance of commentaries explaining why the reversal occurred. "bla bla bla." There is a different commentary on the country's top leadership. Only after the election results were publicized, a somber President Obama said, "This is something I think every president needs to go through. The responsibilities of this office are so enormous, and so many people are depending upon what we do. And in the rush of activity, sometimes we loose track of the ways we connected with folks that got us here in the first place. I'm not recommending for every future

president that they take a shellacking like I did last night. I'm sure there are easier ways to learn these lessons. But I do think this is a growth process and an evolution..." The media seems to have globbered onto the word shellacking without ever defining it. Let's go there. According to Merriam-Webster, the base word shellac is a shell like resin kind of like paint (a coating made up of lac - a resinous substance secreted by a scale insect). Shellacking is a defeat from a vastly superior opposition. Think of it as being tarred and feathered. What he really said was, "I'm not as bad as any other president. It's really not my fault because this is a pretty tough job and I'm new at it. The problem: he was not one bit contrite. He minimized his failing and blamed it on the complexity of the job and he played the "new guy card." To make matters worse, he whipped a U-turn without using his turn indicator, without explanation, and completely abandoned his core agenda. This quick adaptation to a political survivalist strategy demonstrates his impulsiveness and lack of leadership. His core agenda was sound (we need to address health care); the medicine he prescribed and the manor in which he administered it was flawed. He cares more about his political survival than what's right for America. In his urgency, he abandoned his agenda and threw the lame duck democrats under the bus for political gain. In baseball this is called a sacrifice play (the runner gets thrown out a first base to allow another runner to score.) The president appeared to have no clue there was this imminent mutiny until after the election results were tabulated. Oh yeah, that's what got him into hot water in the first place - he didn't listen. I believe he knew it was coming but thought he could fly around the country on Air Force One at tax payer expense campaigning his way out of it. Only after the score came in did he admit he lost the game. In the words of George Bush Sr, "You made a gross miscalculation." My unscientific anecdotal research indicates people who believed in change for the better perceived the changes as ineffective and a self-serving change for the worse. Nice talk, but it didn't match the walk. Spare us the narration and get to work! If I were the president's leadership adviser and image consultant my recommendation would look something like this:

medical marijuana, or if you have bad credit, the street is your only option. For those with a bit more money, the City of Ventura co-opts low income funding to build monstrosities such as the WAV, for residents selected on the basis of "community involvement" and "artistic productivities." The WAV even rewards the upwardly mobile bureaucrats and entrepreneurs who arranged this theft with plaques in their central courtyard. Hey! We are people. All of us, even the ones whose pockets are empty. Maybe we should empty the council seats and put in a council which has the courage to face our real problems in 2011: housing and feeding the poor, building rain retrieval systems and cisterns, and addressing local climate changes. We do have the resources; they are just directed down the wrong path. This evening, just for fun, count the empty houses you see on your way home. - Lawrence and Lori Anderson

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1) It takes a lot of character to admit you made a mistake. Admit it when you mess up before you are caught with your pen in the country's ink well. You need to own your shortcomings without excuses. Mr. President how about some sincere damage control? What you should have said, "I was arrogant. I didn't listen. I screwed up. I was ineffective. I'm sorry." And here's what I'm going to do about it..." 2) Listen, listen, listen! Ronald Reagan once compared the size of an elephant's ears to that of the ears on the jack ass. Every simile, metaphor, or joke has some basis in fact. That's why they survive the test of time and get passed forward to future generations. Many can learn from their own mistakes; a wise person learns from the mistakes of others. 3) Separate the wheat from the chaff. Investigate, and act on facts. Trust your gut only after you've exhausted the facts and only if it doesn't conflict with the facts. Dismiss self serving complainers by offering them some cheese to go with their whine. 4) Never underestimate the ethos, "The will of the people" (See number 2 above). Listen and remember history has proven unkind to those who try to rush it along. 5) It matters less about doing things right if you do the right thing. The adverse myopic reaction will wane long before the positive result that will stick in the history books. 6) Slow down. Shooting from the hip only works well for gun fighters at high noon in Tombstone. Most of the big problems didn't evolve over night and won't go away quickly. You need to stop looting during the riot and loose the "It is imperative that we act swiftly" tactic. 7) Use an repetitive cooperative process to develop solutions. (When you ram it down our throats with and oversized gavel to enrich the insurance companies we feel sort of violated.) 8) Don't try to fix too many things at once. You can have it good, fast or cheap, choose two. There is no shortage of quick fixes that don't work. 9) Don't be afraid to make tough decisions. After listening and fact checking and repeated information exchanges, take a strong position, explain it and avoid defending every whiner who tries to derail it with an open microphone. Listen and give due consideration to new credible information. 11) Stay the course in the absence of new credible information. Remind the folks of the known upfront costs and give them tangible progress reports. Maintain your car and keep your front end in proper alignment. Make course corrections as necessary. President Obama's lack of leadership is probably no worse than the presidents in the past twenty years. But that doesn't make it OK and it's still unacceptable. My Prediction: More failure to lead, more impulsive urgent half baked strategies, more political survivalism. The new excuses for ineffective leadership will likely include a lack of bipartisan cooperation. We all saw Punxsutawney Barack's shadow and it looks like we're in for two more years of presidential winter. Maybe a second coat of shellac is due if the first one doesn't weather the long winter. Jefferson Pinto is a retired CPA, and holds an MBA from one of the finer accredited universities in this country. Jefferson@ojaiventuraview.com

Advertisement for the Ojai and Ventura VIEW. Includes a list of 18 reasons to remove Ventura's parking meters and contact information for Dr. Peter Milhado.

“Don’t Tell Me Who I am... Let me guess !” Men - Their Work and Their Women



Conscious or not, a man's greatest fear may not be death, but the fear that he has not lived his own true life. I know when men in their 40s, 50s and up come to therapy, outside of their immediate concerns, want answers to questions like: "What are the tasks that somewhere deep down inside I know I must undertake? What fears block me? How can I bring my work and soul closer together? Where am I going and who is coming with me (Never the other way around)? What is my calling?" If we make a connection during the initial interviews and I feel they come in good faith regarding the inner journey I'll accompany them for as long as needed or requested...always keeping in mind that all the important answers will come from within them. These answers will reveal themselves in their visions, night-time dreams, desires and passions, their imagination and their personal code of honour. After all, a man is his journey. At one time or another in our lives we come to the 'crossroads' where we're given an opportunity to change, we're given a choice. At that point the 'weight of meaninglessness' as promoted by the empty celebrity culture, the insulting horseshit put out by Madison Avenue and the sociopathy of predatory capitalism by our corporations has to be acknowledged. We can no longer be a slave to the 'prosperity gospel' of the so-called American Dream and the barren promise inherent in it. It's time for a new revolution to combat the greed and abuse of power all around us, remembering always that all soulful revolutions start within the individual self.

Check Out My Website/blog: www.DrPeterMilhado.com

When we hit the crossroads of our lives we can either slide back into the pseudo safety of unconscious anonymity and acquiescence like the 'Silent Majority' or we can, like Thoreau, slip into the woods and find our souls. In order to do this inner work we have to bear solitude, at least for a while. The ability to be alone as well as the ability for intimate relationships are required by our souls. At the crossroads a man also has to become clear about his relationship with woman. If he is still insecure and weak, he will remain a prisoner of his own fears and either (1) try to dominate and ruthlessly control or (2) become clingy and emotionally dependent. Dependency and Hate come together. It's a fact that we hate those who we are neurotically dependent on and it doesn't matter if we passively submit or cruelly dominate. When neurotic dependency controls a marriage, life becomes tragic for both partners. Love is replaced by the Shadow of power. It doesn't matter whether we attempt to control others by overt bullying and bulldozing or by covert manipulation and poisoning. Unconscious men are forever lost between need, desire, fear and rage for women. The only way out is to acknowledge the need, fear, desire and rage in full consciousness. These insecurities, feelings of helplessness and especially fears are best shared with other men, our peers. In this arena only men can help heal us, not women. I get together with my peers every Sunday and what a blessing it has been. On the road to healing we do not have to fearfully submit or excessively please our women nor do we have to control or dominate them... they are our equal partners. All of us, men and women alike, have battle scars and lost gallons of blood in this ongoing battle of the sexes, which began 40 years ago when the traditional masculine and feminine roles were blown to smithereens - unprecedented in human history. It is time to heal and there is hope if we can only listen to the Great Mother, who teaches us to dialogue and not monologue, to feel, to intuit, to be kind and set up a hospitable environment so that the archetypal gods of Joy, Forgiveness, Peace and Grace can again enter human discourse and relationships. Love to Mother Meera. One for all and all for one. PETER RUDOLF MILHADO, PH.D. Lic #MFT14142 37 Years Experience drpetermilhado@gmail.com • (805) 640-1810 Blog: www.DrPeterMilhado.com Extensive Experience With Folks Over Forty and Artists In All Creative Fields

# OJAI CITY COUNCIL RAGGEDY EDGE

Continued From Page 2... had, what, 6 or 5 different Mayors involved?? How many cooks do we need in the chuckwagon?

Think about getting the same Mayor twice on the same project, serving different terms! Do you think having a Recycled Mayor is going to get the Trolley Shelter done? Not without a deadline. And how long has it been anyway? Coming up on a year???

Look how much money the City saved by not having the bus come into Ojai... Really ask for that total. Does it add up to the Misery endured by the people standing out on the side of the road. Is that fair and equitable? Where is the social justice in that? Just ask the "new-old" Mayor Smith. How does she balance the misery vs. the money saved, if any. Let them eat cake?

Rained like hell today... not enough room for everyone at the canvas bus shelter.... Kinda tough on the disabled and handicapped out in the rain. Right Mayor... just think if you had a roof that had as many tarps covering it for over a year? How many citations would you have racked up and what kind of bullying would you have had to endure?

It appears that we need to change from Can't-dos to Can-dos. The sky seems the limit for city spending these days.... Mayor... when will the City Hall roof be repaired? After the mold

makes City Hall unusable? ...sniff.... achoo.... Know how much rain we had this week?

Our newly-elected officials have made many, many promises. I even heard the Mayor take credit for having 4 votes to remove the Past City Manager (It's on www.YouTube.com/OVView for your viewing enjoyment and edification). How was that possible to know she had those votes in the bag? If so, did Mayor Smith violate the BROWN ACT of serial meetings? Any other council members want to stand up and agree with the Mayor? Did they hold secret meetings in the back poker room? How could she know? Troubling! How could the 4 votes have been on hand and not used? More troubling! Mayor Smith....you made that statement at a candidate's forum.

Also, how did then-candidate Smith get the endorsement of two Respected 501(c) (3) organizations (Ojai Music Festivals and the Nan Tolbert Nurturing Center) in violation of the Treasury Departments IRS ruling on non-profits endorsing candidates for election???. All those folks who contributed could lose their TAX EXEMPT STATUS!!! Did Mayor/candidate Smith, assume the endorsements? Is that why the quotation marks aren't in the (Oct. 29) OVSnooze ad? That really needs to be disclosed.

You citizens of Ojai probably know by now that you have received the

GOLDEN SHAFT water rate increase! A 26.2 percent WATER RATE INCREASE STARTING 01/01/2011. When is the City going to get involved with your basic right to have affordable water???. Give-aways to Libbey, Cluff Vista homeless shelter park, Stop the Trucks, resurfacing tennis courts, Ojai Skatepark, but not one single dollar to keep your water affordable!

When was the last time a single dollar was spent to protest or object to increased water rates at the State Level?? Way back to former mayor Nina Shelley?? Mayor Smith.... is the extra 25¢ in the Trolley box going to offset the hundreds of dollars of water increases? What is your answer? What is your solution?

As for the rest of the Council...you better get on the pony and understand that the public is getting angry with the same old failed policies. P.S. Does anyone know how long the Mayor gets to hold on to that job? Until such time as a single council person calls for a new vote, is seconded and 3 votes to elect a new MAYOR. Let's see if the next tirade will convince the current council that we need to have someone who is a respected representative of our CITY to be Mayor! The good old citizens of this town just don't cotton to city slickers trying to run the range.

- Hang 'em High! - Dick Lynch

## Could Ojai Non-Profits Lose Tax-Exempt Status?

### Internal Revenue Service Guidelines

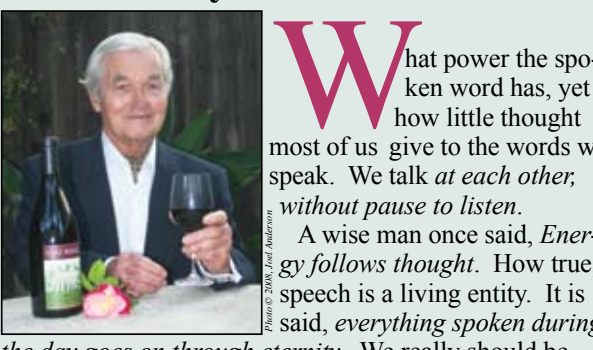


Carol Smith won the election but may have lost OMF's Tax Exempt Status

"Political Campaign Intervention" - Public charities are absolutely prohibited from directly or indirectly participating in, or intervening in, any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) a candidate for public office. Contributions to political campaign funds or public statements of position made on behalf of the organization in favor of or in opposition to any candidate for public office clearly violate the prohibition against political campaign activity. Violation of this prohibition may result in revocation of tax-exempt status and/or imposition of certain excise taxes.... voter education or registration activities with evidence of bias that would favor one candidate over another, oppose a candidate in some manner, or have the effect of favoring a candidate or group of candidates, will constitute campaign intervention." Source: Internal Revenue Service Compliance Guide for 501(c)(3) Public Charities

## Wine And Roses

by Ron Rowe



Carol Smith won the election but may have lost OMF's Tax Exempt Status

What power the spoken word has, yet how little thought most of us give to the words we speak. We talk at each other, without pause to listen. A wise man once said, Energy follows thought. How true, speech is a living entity. It is said, everything spoken during the day goes through eternity. We really should be in awe and humbled for the privilege of speech, all of us possess this awesome power in our voices. The tragedy or blessing is that we don't realize it. Now that the November elections are over, it was fascinating to listen to the politicians and would-be politicians dodge, fog and weave, rather than answer a direct question. The difference between politicians is in their intent, attitude, sincerity, the essence of their message and the life force or energy. Listen to the polished and practice speeches that they bombarded us with on television; their hearts hardened by ambition, giving promises they know they will not keep. Do they speak truthful communication or self-aggrandizement? It's an endlessly distorted medley of Babel that flows from politicians lips. Perhaps Ralph Waldo Emerson was right when he wrote, What you do speaks so loud that I cannot hear what you say. And so dear readers, what say you now that the elections are over... how many of the politicians will keep the promises they made? Don't count on them. The United Nations just voted 187 votes to lift the embargo imposed on Cuba in 1962. Only two votes opposed: America and Israel, anyone know why? Missed opportunities.... I could have bought gold for a few hundred dollars many years ago; now its worth \$1,281 an ounce. Anyone else who missed that good buy? Oh no, Prince Charles admitted in a new documentary that if he frequently lies on the floor of his country estate to eavesdrop on paying tourists downstairs. He also admits to talking to plant and trees in order to stay sane, "I

think it's absolutely crucial," he said. Only in Britain. Voters in São Paulo, Brazil's largest state, elected to Congress an illiterate clown who ran on the platform, It can't be any worse. Isn't that how we just voted in the US?

In Cathedral City, a California police officer responded to a late night noise complaint. He found three naked women drinking and singing in a backyard pool. Did he arrest them? No, he stripped naked and jumped in the pool to join them. Oh, he has been placed on administration leave.

In 2008, 1.2 billion mobile phones were sold worldwide; none of them were made in the US. Since January, California farmers have advertised to fill 1,700 vacant jobs, only 223 American citizens have applied to work, and just 36 of them have been hired.

Want to be rich? Over half of the 2,000 millionaires interviewed by Barclays Wealth say they want to continue working past retirement age. They claim financial uncertainties, but more importantly they consider their work a form of recreation. The US has slipped from second to fourth in the Worlds Economic Forum's Global Competition Index, supplanted by Sweden and Singapore. The rankings put Switzerland in 1st place, factoring each nation's infrastructure, education, healthcare, record of innovation and more.

The American Federation of Teachers (AFT) spent over \$1 million to help defeat Washington, DC Mayor Adrian Fenty, who was a strong supporter of education reform. He also had hired aggressive reformer Michael Rhee to overhaul the city's notoriously underachieving schools. Rhee fired 200 teachers for poor results in the classroom, I guess that's what happens when unions become too powerful.

Investors who bought stock over the past decade should have bought wine instead, said William Lyons in the Wall Street Journal. Since 2001 the Fine Wine Index has increased over 200 percent. Why this successful performance during economic uncertainty? Most fine wine investing still concentrate on the top estates in France's Bor-

deaux region, so supply is extremely limited. The 2009 Bordeaux vintage is the most hyped up on record, even though the wine is still maturing.

Workers at Diageo, the makers of Johnnie Walker whiskey are indeed fortunate. Not only do they receive a weekly free sample of scotch but the company has dedicated 2 million barrels of whiskey in Scotland to its employee pension fund. The whiskey, valued at \$645 million, ensures retirees get a check, even if the company goes bankrupt. Now why don't American companies do something similar?

The sun has set over the yardarm, eight bells has sounded, time to sit back and enjoy a glass of Johnnie Walker malt whiskey. Peace to all living beings earth.

Your comments are welcome. rhjrowe@aol.com

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The President earns \$400,000 per year, along with a \$50,000 monthly expense account, a \$100,000 non-taxable travel account and \$19,000 for entertainment. The most recent raise in salary was approved by Congress and President Bill Clinton in 1999 and went into effect in 2001.

Office	Annual Salaries	Updated
President Barack Obama (U.S.)	\$400,000	\$400,000
Ventura County Library Director (Jackie Griffin)	\$220,000	\$220,000
Governor Arn. Schwarzenegger (CA.)	\$212,179	\$173,987
Attorney General (CA.)	\$184,301	\$151,127
Supt. of Public Instruction (CA.)	\$184,301	\$151,127
Ojai City Attorney (Monte Widders)	\$182,270	\$228,763
Ojai City Manager (Fere Kersnar) ?	\$224,478	\$224,478
Ojai Unified School District Supt.	\$170,000	\$170,000
Controller (CA.)	\$169,743	\$139,189
Treasurer (CA.)	\$169,743	\$139,189
Insurance Commissioner (CA.)	\$169,743	\$139,189
Lieutenant Governor (CA.)	\$159,134	\$130,490
Secretary of State (CA.)	\$159,134	\$130,490
Members, Board of Equal. (CA.)	\$159,134	\$130,490
Assy. Speaker & Pres. Pro Tem, Senate (CA.)	\$133,639	\$109,584
Minority Floor Leader (CA.)	\$133,639	\$109,584
Majority Floor Leader	\$124,923	\$102,437
Second Ranking Minor. Leader (CA.)	\$124,923	\$102,437
All Legislators (CA.)	\$116,208	\$ 95,281
Entry Level School Teacher (Ventura County)	\$ 29,595	no added
Minimum Wage, Full-Time Worker (Vta County)	\$ 14,040	no added

**Letter - Goodbye India**

Dear friends,  
 Some of you have received a note from me here, some I have missed. Friendship is a mainstay of my life, and I believe everyone's. Staying connected counts large in my life, for when I am gone, I believe it is forever over. India, with its suffering so close at hand reminds one of the precious gift life is. And life is friends.  
 So, this is to say whether we are in close contact, occasional, contact or the appearance of little or no contact, I think of you as a friend, one of the weavers of the being that is me!  
 May your path be peaceful, your days have brightness, your heart know kindness.  
 - Sucinno

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# A Christmas Carol

## Beach captivates with a Farndale Christmas Tale

by Mary M. Long  
Cutting up with comedic virtuosity, the cast of **McGillivray and Zerlin's, Farndale Avenue Housing Estate Townswomen's Guild Dramatic Society's Production of a Christmas Carol**, performed to the side-splitting delight of audience members in **Ojai**. With typical enthusiasm, **Francisca Beach** has scored another off-beat hit in the style of **British Repertory**

companies. Housed in the historic **Grange Hall**, which reminds **Beach** of the funky, tucked-away, venues typical to small theatre scenes in **Los Angeles, Toronto and London**, she has left the "cliche" holiday productions behind, and created a rollicking adventure full of a dizzy array of characters.

**A Christmas Carol** reminds one of a night of **Dickins**, fraught with the apparitions born of indigestion, complete with a side of **Monty Python** style hysteria.

This rarely produced play is a first for **Beach** and a subsequent first for **Ojai**. "It's a farce," said **Beach**, "It's the only show I've ever directed that when something actually does go wrong, the audience has no idea because it's a play about everything going wrong." How would the audience have a clue, since the players have already served tea and provided lap rugs to the amused and unsuspecting guests?

While it takes a **Brit** to truly understand **British** humor, only **Beach** and Cast member **Ron Rowe** actually hail from the **British Isles**. The other cast members, **Nancy Solomons, Anthony Stetson, Jill Dolan, Brittany Danyel,**



**Linda MacNeal, Dallas Stephens, Devin Ostby and Kelsey Ostby**, have all adopted a **British** accents for the play, which cannot be distinguished from the natives. It's a tempta-

tion to credit the impressively credentialed **Beach** with the quality of the performances, but she is the first to comple-



ment the competence of the cast. "I'm very lucky because they are basically comedic and you really need actors who can handle comedy." Admitting that she "casts carefully," she claims that she feels fortunate to have so many professionals who are happy to have a place to perform locally.

With an unannounced surprise for closing weekend, former **City Council candidate Lenny Klaif** was lured onto the stage where he was greeted by cast members with a burgundy dress and a blonde wig that looked like a marriage of **Annie and Dolly Parton**. In keeping with the silliness, **Klaif** hammed it up to the delight of the audience, and if popularity had been measured in decibels he would have been crowned **king of**

**Ojai** Saturday night. Never to rest, **Beach** will be starting January acting classes for adults and youths followed by a spring production of **Jean Anouilh's play Antigone** which will begin casting in March. Classic notwithstanding, **Beach** promises to put her own spin on the production, with a rollerblading messenger, sporting missives. "Why not?" questioned **Beach**. "We have plenty of good skaters in **Ojai**. It's a modern version of **Antigone**... I just plan on making it more modern."

To contact **Beach** to register for classes or for more information, call **646-4885** or **francisca-beach@gmail.com**

— Mary M. Long

Photos © 2010, Mary M. Long



See You in the Funny Papers!

## Ventura Meter Opposition



We, the undersigned, request that the paid parking meters in Downtown Ventura, California be removed immediately. They are unnecessary, inconvenient and are hurting local businesses during this recession. We seek a better alternative for revenue enhancement.

I support removal of meters  
Just tell me where to sign! I hate those meters! Every time I go Downtown to have dinner I feel like I'm paying a parking tax. I find myself driving to mid town just to avoid the parking vampires, and I live minutes from downtown!

To all concerned,  
This is to formally include myself within the petition to remove the parking meters in Ventura CA. I find it appalling that this is the best idea our community leaders could come up with to increase revenue. I have a vast network and know for a fact that everyone I know is boycotting downtown presently, which in turn will devastate the already pressured local businesses. I have always taken pride in the fact that Ventura is full of unique and one of a kind stores rather than the same things found everywhere else in creation. We as a community have managed to hold out from conforming to a flawed corporate global system for this long, why on earth is it acceptable to put this type of plan into effect now?  
Thank you for your time and I truly hope your love for this community will

guide you to remedy this inappropriate idea.  
— J.W., Ventura  
Please remove the meters downtown. They are damaging the local economy and reflect poorly on the downtown area.  
— D.G., Ventura

They are hurting business; they are not full on my block until after midnight. My block has a unique situation in that we have no back door access to trucks and deliveries. There are 6 of us on the side with the theatre that share one space for loading. Most of us are open after midnight 7 days a week. On our curb states Monday - Friday 10 to 6, 24 minutes. We usually pick up fresh produce and other items 7 days a week. We pulled up in our truck at 10am on Sunday. We were immediately approached by a volunteer demanding that we pay as it is Sunday. I said it is a loading zone that needs repainting as we need this for critical access and deliveries to my business.

I know I stated my concerns regarding loading on a business survey.  
Please, just remove 'em. Sincerely,  
— K., Ventura  
— C.P. Tomkinson

GET RID OF THEM!! We already pay taxes! Balance the budget on that knuckleheads! Sheesh  
— P.A.D., Ventura  
The City of Ventura Engineering dept. call this parking management, all I see is a lot of empty parking stalls. I will not pay to park on a city street to go see a movie, eat dinner, walk or shop. Rick Cole and his puppets are just ruining our beautiful downtown. These parking meters are ugly and inconvenient to consumers.

Remove the meters before they ruin our wonderful city! Perhaps sell them to Santa Barbara or LA! A meter yard sale is in order!  
— J.M., Ventura  
You can add my name to a petition for removing the meters. It seems our city and our leaders are always searching for a new "cash cow" at the expense of it's citizens.

Please remove those terrible things...  
— E.G., Ventura  
Please remove the meters without delay!  
— R.R., Ventura  
But remove the Meters!!! Ugly!!! This is not the Ventura that I grew up in...  
— K.L., Ventura

www.RemoveTheMeters.com

## Ventura Counties Vanished Theme Park

by Richard Senate

Once Ventura County had a theme park that rivaled Disneyland. Its gone now and only a handful of photographs and memories remain to tell it once existed. No monument marks its location in the Conejo Valley, no road name or street remains of this place that was important to what is today the city of Thousand Oaks.

It was called **Jungleland** and it was part zoo, part circus and part film studio. Here they entertained the public and made films. It was also a school for lion tamers in that world where animals were part of circuses and paid their way by doing tricks.

Many said **Jungleland** was the only reason anyone ever stopped at **Thousand Oaks** at all. For the price of admission one could stroll the grounds and admire the animals, or relax and enjoy a soda pop while watching such notables as **Mable Stark**, queen

Some of the owners planned some really exotic rides and attractions at **Jungleland**; a river where people could pilot their own speed boats though an **Africa** like environment, a fun house based on **African** voodoo, with painted masks, drums and chants, skulls and wild animals and snakes. There were also plans for a rustic steam powered train to take people into the veldt and **Masai** native villages of **Kenya, East Africa**. There was even a plan to put in a sky ride. A ride was purchased from the defunct **POP**

park that would do the job but the monies needed for the towers were too much - all these ideas came to naught. The only rides they had were an occasional **Ferris Wheel**, a small flying **Jenny merry-go-round** and an elephant where, for 75 cents, one could ride the animal

around the park. Children loved riding the lumbering elephant and the huge animal seemed to like it too.

Films were made there and sets stood on the site from old **Tarzan** movies and even a set of caves from the film **The Egyptian**. The short lived TV shows **Sheena Queen of the Jungle** and **Ramar of the Jungle** (featuring **Johnny Weissmuller**, too old to go shirtless he now played a white hunter). **Sheena** rode around on a mule painted to resemble a zebra (real zebra's are to wild and mean to ever permit a rider).

Another TV show made there was **Circus Boy** starring **Micky Dolens** before he was a **Monkey**.

Many other films were made there in part, from **The Big Circus to Tarzan's Great Adventure**. One resident of the park was a true movie star - **Leo the Lion** who roared at the start of every **MGM** film.

As times changed, the public wanted more thrill rides and **Jungleland** seemed too "old hat," and **Kiddie** for the teen aged crowd. Poor management and a number of accidents and lawsuits closed the park for good.

Now the **Conejo Entertainment Center** stands on the site where wild animals one lived and **Leo the Lion** roared.

Still, someone should build a monument to **Jungleland** and all of the positive things it did for early **Thousand Oaks**. It is almost forgotten now but many who visited here were given thrills, chills and memories that have lasted a lifetime. A simple statue of an elephant with a plaque saying once there was a remarkable place here - a place called **Jungleland**.

— Richard Senate  
hainthunter@aol.com



Johnny Weissmuller and friends



Mabel Stark and Mae West

## Soul Centered Commemorates All Souls Day



## METER PROTEST AT CITY HALL VENTURA



"I have heard there are troubles of more than one kind. Some come from ahead and some come from behind. But I've bought a big bat. I'm all ready you see. Now my troubles are going to have troubles with me!"  
— Dr. Seuss

Photos, © 2010, Joel Anderson

Soul Centered celebrated All Souls Day at their Geodesic Dome on North Montgomery Street in Ojai. The paranormal was explored by the paranormal research group and appearances by healers, psychics, ghost busters and musicians brought spirits to the encounter.

Photos, © 2010, Joel Anderson

Band in Demand



© 2010, Mary M. Long

The Karen Perry Story

by Mary M. Long

The Band In Demand. is how The Brian Faith Band became known to business owners and promoters in the 90s. Known for their classic Rock n' Roll and their dynamic audience appeal, The Brian Faith Band has a reputation for "packing the dance floor," according to Karl Heit, former entertainment chief of the Hilton Hotel in Oxnard. With four world class musicians, Ernie Joseph, Cory Orosco, Brian Faith, Johnny Podz and the powerful vocals of singer Karen Perry, the band took the attendance at the Hilton from "a few" to "always crowded," recalls Heit.



© 2009, Joel Anderson

Perry wasn't always involved with the band; it took a quirk of fate and a little karmic intervention for their partnership to spark. It was in the early 90s at the Ventura Fairgrounds, when The Brian Faith Band was playing center stage at Oktoberfest that the flame was lit by a chance encounter. With musicians that tout performances with such rock n' roll heavy weights as the Strawberry Alarm Clock (SAC), The Allman Brothers, and The Marshall Tucker Band among other legends; The Brian Faith Band packs a memorable auditory punch.

A longhaired tousled blonde girl sat in a nearby booth entranced by the incredible sounds she heard coming from the stage band. It must have been the music in her soul, as well as her rock n' roll good looks that attracted the attention of band members. Brian commented, "Hey...that girl over there looks like Stevie Nicks." Ernie shot back, "I wonder if she can sing?"

As the banter volleyed back and forth between band members, Ernie volunteered to find out. "I'll just go ask her," he said, and sauntered down from the stage to sit with the blonde vision and inquire, "Can you sing?" "Only in the shower," joked Perry, who was amazed to then be asked to audition for The Brian Faith Band.

Working in the medical sales profession, she had long harbored the desire to sing professionally. With years of formal voice training in her background, she was now offered the chance to audition for an established rock n' roll band. "I was shocked, but I said ok," she recalls.

Driving to Santa Barbara to meet the band at their studio she remembers being scared. "There was a flaming in my heart," said Karen, that would not let her pass up this incredible opportunity. Arriving dressed in shorts with her demo tucked under her arm the sincerity in her amber eyes and in her heartfelt vocals impressed band members.

She sang Journey's, Open Arms with her soulful alto voice and was immediately offered the job by the boys in the band. With

a professional background singing for weddings and other functions it was up to the band to bring out the rock n' roll in Perry's vocals. "The boys rock n' rolled me," laughed Perry who claims that the guys in the band are the best vocal coaches of all.

The band chose songs that they thought would suit her voice and when they thought Karen was ready for her premier, they opened at the Point Mugu Officer's Club. Striding up and down the isles, Karen went right into the audience, bringing extra excitement to the band's performance. "We embrace the audience and they embrace us back," she said.

The band members know that the bottom line is business, and feel it's their responsibility to build the crowd. As they add songs to their repertoire they try them out to see how they play to the audience. "It doesn't matter how long we practice a song, if people don't dance, we drop it. We perform for the people and not for ourselves," she said.

Their 5 year gig as house band at the Hilton kicked-off when Karen and a girl friend walked in and dropped off a sample CD with the Bar Manager. From a few Friday and Saturday night attendees, they soon had over a 1,000 fans on their mailing list, with the Hilton dance floor "jammed," every weekend with people wanting to dance to their favorite rock and roll hits.

The band has a wide repertoire of classic rock but they also foray into a little country and sometimes jazz with Perry's stand-by favorite being a classic cover of Reba McEntire's Take It Back.

With the Hilton gig cut short only by the sale of the business, the band plays clubs, private parties, events, and is currently developing and recording original material.

Karen credits the longevity of her partnership with The Brian Faith Band to the character and integrity of its members. "They are like my brothers," she said, "We are like a family. There is a magic on the stage when we play

that every real musician knows. It's the love that comes from sharing the same passion...music."

Karen is currently featured in a Brian Faith original, I'm in Love that expresses a more edgy sound, that the band refers to as "driving rock.... It's exciting," said Karen.

- Mary M. Long

EDITOR'S NOTE: Check out The Brian Faith Band's I'm in Love, other videos, and upcoming BFB/SRS Studio projects Go to www.youtube.com/brianfaithsongs and www.myspace.com/brianfaithbandsongs

Advertisement for Brian Faith Band, featuring photos of the band members and contact information for weddings and special events.

Advertisement for THE HUB Ojai, CA, featuring a collage of photos from the pub and text about its location and atmosphere.

photos © 2010, Joel Anderson

Advertisement for THE HUB Ojai, CA, detailing the pub's entertainment schedule, including DJ sets and live music.

THE LEASHES END



Ron and his companion, Dudley.

by Ron Rowe

The Humane Farming Association (HFA) announced progress in their national veal boycott campaign. Veal production was the most rapidly expanding segment of the meat-based industry; 3.4 million veal calves were once slaughtered annually. Progress is being made; as of 2009 the figure is under 1 million.

The Humane Society has released a film showing bear baying in South Carolina, where it is legal. The only other place it is legal is Pakistan. Chained to a pole with her back to a fence the declawed, defanged bear has to endure the onslaught for hours with over 95 dog team's attacking, biting and jumping on the bear. State officials in South Carolina claimed it's not their problem; they only issue permits to the bear owners. The affair is sponsored by the American Plott Hound Association, affiliated with the American Kennel Club (AKC) and United Kennel Club (UKC), who claim it's a method of training hunting dogs.

Topiary Specialist Steve Manning creates giraffes, elephants, hippos, lions and cows out of hedges. He makes these bespoke feature topiaries, frames them fills them with yew, boxwood or other plants and leaves them to grow. Don't know if you would like a full-sized elephant plant on your front garden... it would attract attention and not sure if it would pass Ojai's new pretty property municipal code.... oh, they take about three years to grow and cost up to \$10,000.

The world's oldest dog is Billy, a Yorkshire Terrier, age 22; 154 in human age. He lives with Betty Oldsworth, age 71, in London. Billy is in good health except for missing a few teeth and being blind in one eye. Billy was picked up from an animal shelter at the age of five; Billy's owner had died.

Did you know frogs and toads are disappearing at an alarming rate in the US? Two species are on the extinction list and another 13 species are so imperiled they are in need of federal protection. For more information go to www.frogwatch.org.

Men are from dogs, women from cats, so states Kenneth Shapiro of Psychologists for the Ethical Treatment of Animals. He claims scientific studies show that men have a preference for dogs, women for cats. Just think of the words we use to describe cats which are also used in regard to women. The notion of female sexuality being symbolized by cats stretches far back to ancient Egypt. The Goddess Bast is commonly depicted as having a cat's head and representative of the qualities of both female and cats; protective mother, sensual, strong and fertile. To the Egyptians a cat represents sexuality and unrestricted femininity.

Bow lingual has a product on the market that uses a bark translation database to analyze your dog's bark and translate what your dog is saying to you. The product is made by Takara, a Japanese company who has sold over 350,000 units. Isn't this the company that makes the robot dog? For more information go to www.takarausa.com

Scientists are studying penguins to find out why they wobble but don't fall down. Researchers at Houston University are determined to find out the secret of what they call, the Penguins unique locomotive strategy.

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up. Recent research by the National Evolutionary Synthesis Center (NESCent), Durham, North Carolina, the Cornell University Lab of Ornithology and McGill University has found that hostile environment and inconsistent weather explains why some birds become better singers than other birds who live in a less challenging climate. They also develop superior learning and mating skills. The study noted, "For female birds, 'the consequences of picking a mediocre mate are magnified in harsher climes,'" and "males that sing more complex songs also 'tend to carry fewer parasites, and have offspring that are more likely to survive.'"

Arizona has passed a law making it a misdemeanor to confine an animal in a hot car, punishable by a \$2,500 fine. The new law allows police officers to break into cars if they see an animal suffering. A car can go from being cool to 108° in 20 minutes. I wish the Ojai Council would pass the same law.

A reader writes.... she bought a product called Bark Off. It's supposed to make an ultrasonic sound to stop your dog barking. According to the reader it's a rip off, it doesn't work, and it costs \$16.99. I checked on the product and found many more complaints, so, buyers beware.

Three good barks to the U.S. Postal Service for doing its part in preventing animal overpopulation by offering a 2010 postage stamp promoting the adoption of animals from shelters.

If you lose your pet, don't despair, a new web site will help you locate your lost pet it's www.thecenterforlostpets.com Time to be away... Dudley is agitating for his afternoon walk....

Pearce to all living beings on the your comments are welcome Ron Rowe, rhjrowe@aol.com

If Horses Could Talk

by Heather Greene

Have you ever wondered why a particular horse has come into your life? What is behind the connection or bond that you both have with one another? What attracted you to each other? I can easily connect to the horse consciousness; the group of horse spirits that guided and called me into this

work years ago. The horse spirits told me that horses were connected to humanity from all the lifetimes we partnered together - in war, farming, transportation, and now companionship. You could say we have built up a rapport with one another, and formed a pact to continue to assist each other on our soul journeys.

The horse spirits also told me that individual horses choose the human(s) they will be with in this lifetime. It is not just about being willing to work, but that the horse will have more of a preference or genetic predisposition, for the kind of activity their human enjoys. This preference usually continues for as long as a horse is in that human's life. If a horse has a preference or passion different from their human, it is often because he or she should belong with another human. A horse's purpose for being in that human's life is to help them in their process of personal growth and development, whether the human realizes it or not.

The horse spirits have relayed to me how important it is that humans learn to be true partners with their horses. The first priority in our partnership is to stop any form of abuse. Physical violence or force, emotional or verbal attacks, energetic domination, or preventing a horse from accessing their own spirituality is forbidden.

Most of the earliest riding techniques involved some form of domination to get the horse going and to keep him going. This might be a physical act through using bits, spurs, and whips, but it is about using one's energy as well. Humans can energetically overpower or dominate their horse, demanding that they follow their commands.

This can lead to disempowerment and mistrust in your horse. In a true partnership, both parties want to do an activity, and there is an equal give and take.

For example, this incident was reported to me by a fellow horse person. During a lesson, she was riding a horse I will call Daisy. Daisy almost always followed her requests, but on this particular day she would not canter. At the time, the woman's riding instructor encouraged her to keep going, saying that she needed to follow through with her request to earn Daisy's respect. She did keep urging her to go, but through her body she could feel Daisy tense up. Daisy was also tossing her head in the air, refusing to do what she asked. The lesson ended without a canter. As she spoke to me about it, Daisy, who was right in front of us, turned around and looked at us, regret written all over her face.

Daisy said, "I'm sorry, I'm sorry, my feet hurt. It won't happen again." When I asked the woman about Daisy's feet. She said that she just had new shoes put on the day of the riding lesson.

Why don't we consider the reasons our horses might refuse a request? Do they not have the right to refuse?

It behooves us to discern between a horse's refusal to do something for a specific reason versus letting the horse disrespect or control us.

This brings me to discuss the common theme of being misunderstood, which is felt in many horses. Horses relay information to us continuously, both telepathically and nonverbally, and we often don't get the message, or are not open to it. Sadly, this is frequently because we want to have things our way.

You might be wondering about those horses who come to us from another human who has mistreated them, or with whom we have started off on the wrong foot, perhaps letting the horse dominate us. We are not true partners if we let a horse overpower us as well. This is another reason why a particular horse has chosen us, and how they are helping us with our personal development or spiritual growth.

This leads to the question of what attracts a particular horse or animal to us, other than the animal choosing us. It is often a karmic connection, where the horse has been in our lives before and already loves us. It can also be a vibrational resonance.

Overall, horses and other animals are involved with humans to promote our personal growth and development. They are here to show us how to be partners with them, through understanding and appropriate actions. For this, we can be grateful of the eternal connection that keeps our animals in our lives. - Heather Green, www.tealhealing.com

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- 24 Dec, Fri - The HUB, Ojai, Jackie Lomax Christmas Eve, 7-9pm, 272-8344
- 25 Dec, Sat - The HUB, Ojai, Christmas Day/Call Club, 272-8344
- 31 Dec, Fri - The HUB, Ojai, New Year's Eve/Call Club, 272-8344
- 31 Dec - New Year's Eve at The Palms, Vta., Action Down, 684-3811
- 31 Dec - Chumash Casino, Santa Inez, New Year's Eve Dance Party w/The Boogie Knights/Spazmatics, 585-3737
- 31 Dec - The Canyon Club, Agoura, Flock of Seagulls, 818/879-5016
- 1 Jan, Sat - The HUB, Ojai, New Year's Day/Call Club, 272-8344
- 1 Jan - Keynote, Vta., Action Down, 805-647-9390
- 4 Feb - The Canyon Club, Agoura, Quiet Riot, 818/879-5016
- 5 Jan - The Canyon Club, Agoura, Willie Nelson, 818/879-5016
- 6 Jan - Chumash Casino, Willie Nelson, 585-3737
- 6 Jan - The Canyon Club, Agoura, David Lindley, 818/879-5016
- 7 Jan, Fri - The HUB, Ojai, Nektare, 272-

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- 8344
- 8 Jan, Sat - The HUB, Ojai, Call Club, 272-8344
- 11 Jan, Tues - The HUB, Ojai, Jon Nichols, 272-8344
- 11 Jan, Fri - The HUB, Ojai, Jon Nichols Band, 272-8344
- 13 Jan - Chumash Casino, Patti LaBelle, 585-3737
- 14 Jan, Fri - The HUB, Ojai, 29 Mules, 272-8344
- 15 Jan, Sat - The HUB, Ojai, DJ Alpha, 272-8344
- 20 Jan - Chumash Casino, Johnny Rivers, 585-3737
- 21 Jan, Fri - The HUB, Ojai, Mighty Cash Cats, 272-8344
- 22 Jan, Sat - The HUB, Ojai, Call Club, 272-8344
- 28 Jan, Fri - The HUB, Ojai, Call Club, 272-8344
- 29 Jan, Sat - The HUB, Ojai, 29 Mules, 272-8344
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- 20 Feb - Chumash Casino, Sarah McLachlan, 585-3737
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- 13 Feb - The Canyon Club, Agoura, George Thorogood & The Destroyers, 818/879-5016
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**Climate Change Denial Tightens Its Grip on Washington, DC**  
 by Alasdair Coyne

The Center for American Progress Action Fund recently revealed that oil, coal and utility companies have together spent \$500 million since early 2009 to lobby against climate change legislation - and to defeat the candidates who supported it.

The result? Only one Republican Senate candidate out of three dozen in the November elections believes that mankind is responsible for global warming. And at least fifty freshmen Republican Congressmen about to take their seats in Washington, DC

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Next Issue of the VIEW Out Jan.

in January are strong climate change skeptics.  
 In terms of public opinion, a survey by the Pew Research Center found that the American public's belief in the solid evidence for global climate change has shrunk over the past four years from 79 percent to 59 percent. Over the same period, the 50 percent of us who believed mankind responsible for climate change has shrunk to 34 percent.

The fossil fuel industry has achieved this partly by their lobbying, but also by the funding of institutes which pump out anti-climate-change studies, casting doubt on the real science of global warming, and by producing economic analyses that are weighted to demonstrate that the shift to green energy sources will be devastating to job growth and the economic recovery.

Of course, there's also the army of right-wing radio talk-show hosts who regularly emphasize the same points of view, which are accepted at face value by far too many of the American public. The problem is, climate change is continuing to worsen, even as our public awareness of it is diminishing. A secretive meeting of

billionaire conservatives took place in Aspen in June, among other goals to further the agenda of fighting climate change "alarmism," hosted by Charles and David Koch (who also funded the attempted rollback of California's climate change laws in the recent elections.)

**"CLIMATE CHANGE Issue 31" ARTICLE CONTINUES at The VIEW Website ~ [www.OjaiandVenturaVIEW.com](http://www.OjaiandVenturaVIEW.com)**

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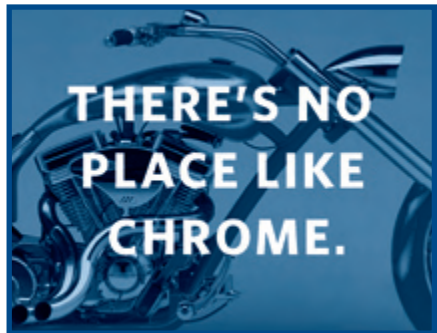
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