



The Ojai & Ventura

# VIEW



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## Evolving Governments



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ANNE AT JAVA JOE'S IN VENTURA  
THE NEW SCENE !



Cover photos © 1995, Joel Anderson



- PUNK, SURF & ROCKABILLY
- HAIR STYLIN'



## Reefer Madness



ABANDONED YOUTH



SKATE UPDATE

INSIDE: • **M.O. Town's HOT !** • Satire • **TRUE CRIMES** • **ELECTIONS 101**



## Why Ventura is The Broke Capitol of the World ?

Who's Money is It Anyway ?

The City of Ventura lost \$10 Million Dollars 1 1/2 years ago (*well before the recent economic crash*), through their ambitious high-risk investment plan; having placed precious taxpayer dollars with Bears Stearns (BS) private assets, which went belly up in the JP Morgan fiasco. This reduced Ventura's *get-rich-quick-scheme to pie-in-the-sky*. Most cities invest their cash assets in highly safe Treasury instruments and other government-backed securities.

VIEW Detailed Financial Analysis Go To: <http://ojaiandventuraview.com/OV-ViaArt/TheRoseVol.1Issue1WebStealthkatGraphics.pdf>

## Ventura Ivory Tower Public Election Dartboard

Neal Andrews, City Councilmember/ Businessman  
Melody Joy Baker, Small Business Owner  
Brian Brennan, Councilmember  
Kenneth M. Cozzens, Small Business Owner  
Robert "Bob" E. Dugan, Businessman  
Mike Gibson, Business Manager  
Camille Harris, Retired Business Owner  
Wendy Halderman, Business Owner  
William M. Knox, III, Tax Attorney  
Phil Mechanick, Local Businessman  
Jim Monahan, Businessman/Ventura Councilmember  
Maureen C. O'Hara, Attorney  
Brian Lee Rencher, Financial Advisor  
Ed Summers, Incumbent  
Mike Tracy, Retired Police Chief

## STATEMENT - OJAI YOUTH ?

### Mr. Ed Tells the Ojai City Council How it is - Sept. 8



Good Evening,  
Thank you for letting me speak.  
There's a lot of things I can gripe about. I want to ask you all a personal question. How do you get up in the morning, and shave and put your make-up on when you're doing the kids wrong in this city ? Skate Park's on one day, and it's off the next day. What exactly happened ? The kids deserve something. That's our youth, that's our future. And if you don't wake

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Keep Smiling !

## IMMEDIATE RELEASE An Afternoon of Laughter & Music

• (more information, page 10) •

### Benefit for Cancer Patient & Ojai Acupuncturist

The Friends of Shabad Kathleen MacGregor are proud to host an eclectic **Sunday** afternoon of comedy and music on **Sept. 27**, from **3 to 6pm** at the **Ojai Community Church, 907 El Centro Street, Ojai, CA 93023**. Proceeds from the event will help defray living expenses while **MacGregor** undergoes cancer treatment and stem cell transplant.

"*An Afternoon of Laughter & Music*" will feature local **Ojai** legends **The Household Gods**, the comedic **Ventura Improv Company**, musical favorites **Don & Patricia Cardinali & Friends**, jazz by the international **Toni Jannotta Trio**, and 13-year-old L.A. comic **Steven (Steve-O) Ford**. **Ojai's** own **Buddy Wilds** will host the event as *Master of Ceremonies*.

Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$15 for seniors (65 and over) and youth ages 13-17. Children 12 and under will be admitted free.

Tickets can be purchased in **Ojai** at **Cardinali Brothers Music (139 W. El Roblar Drive, 805/646-2098)**; **Ojai Creates (606 E. Ojai Avenue, 805/640-6558)**; and **Ojai Coffee Roasting Company (337 E. Ojai Avenue, 805/646-4478)**. Tickets will also be available at the door. Please join us for comedy, music, refreshments, and a silent auction in celebration of our friend **Shabad Kathleen MacGregor**.

For further information, See **VIEW** page 10 and/or contact **Patricia Cardinali @ Cardinali Brothers Music; (805) 646-2098**.

up to it soon... well...

Next thing I'd like to know, is on your budget. I didn't see the city budget. I'd like to know what's going on.

I am very upset tonight. I was told, 'be nice'. I'll be nice. And another thing I raised a months ago... the police department up here. How come we went to the county? I didn't see a detailed record said what we're paying the county... the Sheriff's department up here. Look it, I was a kid once, believe it or not. I was a little punk. And I came from a tough part of town. And let me tell you one thing, I wasn't friends with the cops, every cop in town knew who I was but yet I could communicate with them. We don't have this up here. You ought to have a cop walking the beat, at the "Y", downtown... help the kids. You gotta save the kids today, and I thank you tonight, thank you very much. I want to see a detail on the budget and where all the money's going to.

— **Ed Martel, Ojai**

"We Believe code enforcement is on the right track....."  
*VCR*Reporter Management, Editorial  
April 30

Letters are Welcomed  
[editor@ojaiandventuraview.com](mailto:editor@ojaiandventuraview.com)

# Governmental Evolution

NFL vs. Congress

by Jefferson Pinto

Suppose you are watching a televised pro football game and after half time, they started playing by the rules of hockey. Would you sit by passively ?

The rules by which we play are extremely important because they help us define and understand the "Game." This is why we agree upon rules *before* the game starts and *keep them* in effect throughout the entire game.

The biggest problem with the U.S. Government today is that they often make their *own rules irrespective of the voters*, stacking the deck hopelessly against "John Q. Public, and overwhelmingly and unreasonably favoring self-interest. Citizens have been increasingly divested of their voting privileges with government having *seized and assumed*

## FIDUCIARY DUTY

*An obligation to act in the best interest of another party. For instance, a corporation's board member has a fiduciary duty to the shareholders, a trustee has a fiduciary duty to the trust's beneficiaries, and an attorney has a fiduciary duty to a client, [and an elected official or government appointee, ie; as in Ojai city attorney and/or city manager has a fiduciary duty to the taxpayer.]*

Source: [www.lectlaw.com](http://www.lectlaw.com)

process to resolve disputes (*overtime/sudden death, etc.*)

- Team owners to keep the sport (*and investment*) alive
- Commissioner to make, approve and improve rules and processes to the betterment of the whole.

Enough about sports for a moment. What about our Congress ? Does it give you any level of confidence that they are allowed to accept campaign "*contributions*." Come on folks, government is not St. Jude's hospital for ill or indigent children. The contributors financially fortify their candidates with the expectation of getting something in return. Not only from direct (*'legal'*) financial contributions, but also taking surreptitiously (*through loophole*) fundraisers; the \$1,000 a plate dinner speeches, etc..... Wow !

If people don't have faith in the propriety of the game they become frustrated and quit participating.

In pro football, there are some significant rules in place to keep the referees impartial and continuously remind them of their *fiduciary* duty. For starters, referees may not bet on any games or *accept gifts or compensation*, other than from their employer — the

NFL. The referees' tools have also evolved; to further enhance the propriety of the game, coaches are allowed to challenge a call made by the referee using the taped "instant replay," etc.

How would it affect the fans' confidence if referees were allowed to accept monetary-based political contributions ? What if *paid consultants (lobbyists)* constantly visited referees to help "*educate*" them about *how to do their job* ? Conflict of Interest distorts judgment and significantly affects the outcome.

Remember the Olympic figure skating judges that made "*under the table*" deals with the judges of other countries to help their countrymen/women win. As soon as they were revealed, it became not only a huge embarrassment for the Olympic committee but cast a dark cloud of doubt on the legitimacy of all medals awarded. Who is watching those entrusted with our tax dollars ?

Part of what keeps the NFL honest (*at least on the field; off the field is a whole other article*) are five primary factors:

- Clearly defined unambiguous rules
- Competent Impartial game officials equipped with necessary tools (*instant replays*) to do their job
- A structured

Ten years ago a study surveyed Olympic athletes about the use of performance-enhancing drugs. (*I guess that's when Gatorade and Red Bull just aren't enough.*) Eighty percent of respondents said they'd take performance-enhancing drugs *if they knew they couldn't win without them*. Ninety percent of respondents said they'd take it if they knew they *would lose without it*.

It's campaign time again and the political climate becomes congested with promise after promise.

Later, after the election, when it's time to answer for their failure to keep said promises the litany of "*I had no idea how badly things were when I made those promises*" begins. Aye therein lies the rub, they are too quick to make campaign promises *without doing their homework*.

Unfortunately, many politicians are so "*invested*" by *self-interest* that they too will take "political" steroids (*kickbacks*) to stay in power.

To maintain the balance of power, the NFL gives the season's last place team the first choice in the next year's college draft picks. The winning team gets the last pick. Again, this process has a very high degree of propriety to keep it "fair".

What differentiates NFL referees from our elected officials is that most football spectators (*John Q. Public's*) have a high degree of *trust in the impartiality and competence* of the referees. Citizens of this country have a very *low degree of confidence* that their elected officials are looking out for America's best interest.

**IF OUR SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT WE'RE FAIR**  
Most football fans actively watch, are well-educated about the rules, and have passion for the sport. By contrast, many

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That must really be **GOOD** food at **THAT** price..... I wonder if they get to keep the plate ? This intentionally side-steps the federal law that was intended to prevent corporations from making direct political campaign contributions to *their* candidates. The constant bombardment by professional lobbyists corrupts our elected officials' objectivity, and they no longer work for the *voter or citizen*, but in fact, the self-interest groups who have them in pocket.

The *rules* we have in place to *make the rules* are horribly flawed. They attract and breed candidates (*like flies*) who are not suitable for the job and continue to churn out more flawed rules (*laws*).

Suppose there was a factory that consistently made defective cars. It sure would make a whole lot more sense to fix the factory first then go back and fix the defective cars.

## UNNECESSARY ROUGHNESS ?

In the 1950s when my father was attending high school in So. Cal., he suffered an unnecessary injury during a football game. After the play was over and he was on the bottom of the pile, another player rammed his knee into the middle of my father's back, breaking it.

In the NFL, the "unnecessary roughness" rule sort of implies there is some allowable and expected necessary roughness. I can buy that. After all, it is a contact sport. But, the *unnecessary roughness* was really a rule put in place to set a limit and penalize poor sportsmanship and destructive behavior. By the way the NFL also has an "Unsportsmanlike Conduct" rule too.

It's a big problem when a player is so "invested" in the sport that they must win at any cost, even if it means heckling, cheating, or deliberately hurting others. Unfortunately for the taxpayer, many in government, media and corporations, see this conduct as business as usual.

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**editor@ojaiandventuraview.com**  
*multiple publication*  
*submissions discouraged*

citizens are ignorant and passively abdicate the rules to the rule makers. It's understandable; when everyone knows the rules are fixed, why watch the game ? Unfortunately the result is sort of like hiring a *contract shepherd* to watch the sheep and never checking on them.

A politician *and pro athlete's* character is consistent. If they'll lie, cheat, and steal in their personal life, they will most likely do the same in their political-pro life.

Yes, health care, social security, fiscal reforms, etc. are important; however, the need for campaign and lobbying reform trump any other item on the federal agenda. It's time to remove all conflict of interest for our politicians and let's see how they behave and how long they want to stay in office.

Fixing the rules that attract, breed, and govern the rule makers is the only way we will have a sporting chance of advancing the longest standing 'democratic' government to the next level of *governmental evolution*.

*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](mailto:jefferson@ojaiandventuraview.com)

## "Local"

If you're expecting the "Local" *press (as they like to call themselves)* to wholeheartedly embrace the **First Amendment** and consistently "officiate" bad government, forget it. The VCRReporter is a Pasadena-LA based corporation, with an editor, (David Comden) with minimal background in journalism ("officiating"), but sees his shine as a marketing 'guru,' sitting *semi-comfortably mutually* as a board member (with politician and **Ventura Mayor, Christy Weir**), on an *exclusive* new Ventura "shopper" organization. The Ojai Valley News is (*for some years now*) not longer "Local;" (although they love to tout the word "local"), they are owned by Tuscaloosa, Alabama-based Buchanan Communications chain syndicate).

— **Joel Anderson, Editor**

SEPT. 11, 2009

## R. ELLIS SMITH Runn'n for the Council Seat



As we all know we have an abundance of hopefuls running for the 4 available **Ventura** city council seats up for grabs this election. I believe at the last count the number was 15, including 4 incumbents that should be so ashamed of themselves in the way they have performed in the past 4 years they would not only refrain from trying to be re-elected but would avoid all contact with the general public for a couple of years at least. But what the hey, you can't account for such inflated egos.

One person that is running needs to be looked at very carefully, **Mr. Mike Tracy** the *ex-police Chief of Ventura*. Now **Mr. Tracy** is at this time drawing **\$ 186,902.00** per year, of our tax money as a retirement income. Not a bad chunk of moola, since **Mr.**

*Council Elect Continued Page 6...*

"Paradise," said the Prophet,  
"Lies under the shadow of swords."

## "Don't Tell Me Who I am... Let me guess !"

*Understanding, Honesty, or Kindness* Ψ



Every full moon in August I meet up with an old friend south of Ensenada to camp at the edge of the ocean. Mick Hamilton has settled down during his middle years, but was a total madman when we went to school together in the late sixties. One psychological professor, who was full of himself, got Mick's Irish blood boiling. During a particularly inflated and boring lecture Mick stood on top of his chair and screamed, "Accept all that is human and respect nothing !... There is nowhere to rest at the end anyway."

He then danced an Irish jig and sang a few raunchy songs in Gaelic on his way out. It was the obscene gesture he directed at the honourable professor; however, that got him thrown out of school. After floundering for six months, he landed and found out he had a knack for making money. Within a few years he amassed a fortune in the stock market. The god of greed got hold of him and whispered in his ear that he could make even more money quicker at the poker table. He was also partying a lot in those days and frequently quoted St. Augustine in public, "Oh Lord, give me chastity... but not yet." After a while he got as inflated as the psychology professor he disdained and, like Icharus, crashed. After he lost two-thirds of his fortune on the gambling tables, he got so disgusted with himself he gave the other third away except for \$20,000 with which he bought a cantina. It is probably the only one in Mexico with a partial Irish menu. He settled down with his love, Olivia, and raised six kids.

A couple of times a year he lets off steam, which he calls 'ritualized madness' — one of these times is our annual reunion. After we set-up camp by the ocean, Mick starts roasting corn, potatoes and a chicken over the fire. When the full moon comes out we start working on the cervezas and listen to Eliades Ochoa, Los Tigres del Norte, Ramon Ayala and the norteno music we both love. Usually we stay up til sunrise and catch up. A considerable time is spent in silence watching that awesome August moon cross over the Pacific.

This year he brought his 24-year-old son, an artist who complements Mick's hilarious and often outrageous extroversion with gentle quietness. His full name is Che Gabriel Marques-Hamilton and he moves through the world with a gracefulness that would allow him to be equally at home with the peasants of Chiapas and Sherwood Forest, or the courts of King Arthur and the Aztecs for that matter. When I look at him I'm always reminded of Marshall McLuhan when he told us over 30 years ago that all of us live in a 'global village'. We're one planet, unity in diversity is our only hope.

I started a web page and blog:  
**[www.DrPeterMilhado.com](http://www.DrPeterMilhado.com)**  
Come and Join me !

When in Ensenada, Mick always makes a pilgrimage to an 86-year-old Mexican Indian shaman by the name of Chia. Even though invited in the past, I never accepted as I sensed this visit was a deeply personal and intimate event for him. When Che told me he was going, I also accepted. Next afternoon the three of us walked through a barrio of wooden huts on the outskirts of Ensenada carrying presents Mick had bought. Chia's hut was close to the top of the hill overlooking the Pacific Ocean, beautiful flowers surrounding it. She came out and embraced Mick. Chia had braided silver hair, dark skin and wore a flowing green peasant dress. Then she walked over to me. When I looked into her eyes, which were brown like the earth and deep like a river, I immediately fell into them. I might have been gone for two seconds or two minutes; I don't know. That only happened one time before when I looked into the eyes of Mother Meera. When I came to, the three of

...Continued on Page 10

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

**PETER RUDOLF MILHADO, PH.D.**

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35 Years Experience

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## Wine And Roses

by Ron Rowe



He who is born with a silver spoon in his mouth is generally considered a fortunate person, but his good fortune is small compared to happy mortals who enter this world with a passion for gardening.

Words of wisdom and advice had been given by mystics and Seers for many years. When

seeking solace from worldly pressures, lie thee to a garden. How delightful working in the garden surrounded by a multitude of birds, flowers and shrubs, how satisfying working the soil, with your hands placing each plant lovingly into mother earth. In **1545 John Gerard** wrote, “*What greater delight is there than to behold the earths appareled with plants as with a robe of embroidered works, set with Orient pearls and garnished with the great diversity or rare and costly jewels.*”

**NOTE:** Old gardeners don’t die they just spade away. All gardeners need a hinged back.

This month marks the 18th year I have written for the **VOICE** now the **VIEW**. I started writing articles in August 1991 and have never missed an issue except for the three months of changeover from the **VOICE** to the **VIEW**. My sincere thanks to all the readers who read my articles; you are appreciated.

If you are feeling the credit money problem, you’re not alone.

**Prince Charles** lost a considerable amount of money in the **Bernie Madoff** scheme and the **Queen** claims that she will run out of money by 2012; falling property values have wiped out 1.3 billion pounds of her crown property, she is asking the government for more money, she’ll be lucky. The **British** government are printing another 50 billion pounds on top of the 125 billion already printed last month.

I see that **George Bush’s** coalition of the willing in Iraq which originally had 38 countries involved has now faded away; only **Americans** now occupy **Iraq**, when will they pull out? The **British** are complaining about fighting an unwinnable war in **Afghanistan** and are ready to pull out of there; anyone know why we are still in these countries?

Here in the **United States** over 5,000 employees received bonuses of **\$1 million each**, even after the government poured **175 billion** into the ailing banks. Seems when banks do well, the employees get bonuses; when the banks start failing, the employees and CEO’s do very well. **Oracle Corp. CEO Larry Ellison** was the **highest-paid executive in 2007** he made **\$85 million in stocks, cash and perks**, followed by a **CBS Chairman Leslie Moonves** with **\$68 million**.

So far this year banks are failing at a rate of more than one per week, the worst failure rate since 1993. Federal regulators last week seized banks in **Maryland, Florida** and **Utah**. If you are traveling on a bus in **China** and are involved in a bus accident, not to worry; passengers can escape by smashing the windows with large yellow bricks attached to ropes inside the bus. **China** has also released a list of 100 health requirements for would-be astronaut – candidates for future space missions must have no scars, cavities, runny noses, or bad breath. The bad smell would affect their fellow colleagues in a narrow space said health official, **Shi Bing Bing**.

Did you know the number of internet users in **China** exceeds the population of the **United States**; 92 percent of **Chinese** villagers enjoy internet in their homes.

To boost the local economy, the **Chinese** government has ordered county officials to smoke their way through 250,000 packs of cigarettes, each government department has received a quota of packs of cigarettes to be smoked by the end of the year or fines will be levied against them. **Gov. Chen Nianza** said, “*We must boost the local economy with cigarette tax.*” Good news for families – these hard economic times have produced a major drop in the number of people filing for divorce; people



Friends and well wishers attended Irvine Braverman’s 99th birthday party held at Plaza Pantry Tea Shop in Ojai. Included in the celebratory group, Dale Hansen, Robby Roberts, Beryl Tognazini, etc. Everyone agreed to return in one year to celebrate Invine’s 100th birthday.

can’t afford to divorce or split up their households so the number of divorces dropped over 40 percent this year. Oh, twitter and Facebook will soon be the world’s richest companies, someone beside the arms builders are making a profit....

A **Polish** woman is suing an **Egyptian** hotel, claiming that her daughter became pregnant after swimming in the hotel pool. **Magdalena Kwiatkowski** said stray sperm in the pool impregnated her 14-year-old daughter, really? I didn’t know that, another immaculate conception....

Wise sayings. Never believe anything unless it has been officially denied. Never try to walk across a river because it has an average depth of 3 feet. Looking for a reasonable vacation? Try staying on a yacht in **San Diego**, both are equipped with TV, DVD players and free wireless access, only \$99 a night, check [www.shellhospitality.com/blog](http://www.shellhospitality.com/blog).

The **Wisconsin State Fair** has introduced two new taste treats; chocolate bacon on a stick and peanut butter and jelly sandwiches dipped in pancake batter and deep-fried. Want to live long? Work and eat in a fish and chip shop. **Connie Brown** is 102 years old and has worked in a fish and chip shop in Pembroke North Wales for 81 years. She skins, fillets and fries the fish and cleans up afterwards. She said she really enjoys her work so much and she has no plans to retire.

**George Vera** is 25. He was searched three times upon entering a **Texas** jail. He was there three days before admitting he had smuggled an automatic pistol and two clips of ammunition into the prison. He weighs over 650 pounds and the gun was hidden between layers of his fat, prison officers will now lift up the flabby fat rolls from now on.

If you are over 65, don’t practice all the sexual positions from the **Kama Sutra**; **Valentina**, age 64, and her husband **Ivan**, 65, received the book as a Christmas present from their children. After looking at the erotic pictures they decided to experiment with different positions. They tried the position of **Indrani**; you guessed it, they were trapped in an embarrassing sexual position. Luckily they had a cell phone and called an ambulance, they were taken to the hospital in this position. Doctors operated in time and both are doing well. Wonder if they gave the book back to the children?

Incidentally, men and sex *won’t be needed soon*, scientists at **Newcastle University** in **England** claim they have developed sperm cells from embryonic stem cells. The research was published in the **Journal, Stem Cells and Development**.

If you are an **Ojai City Employee** and you pass the mayor Joe in **City Hall**, better **Grovel, Smile** and say **Hello** to him *even if you don’t mean it*.

A **Deerfield Florida** city employee **Cassandra Moye** has been reprimanded for not saying hello to the mayor as they passed in the hallway. She was told, by not acknowledging the

mayor, she had caused irrevocable damage to the welfare of the department and her fellow workers. Ouch, that hurt....

Looking for good wines? Here are wine enthusiast top five.... **Failla Phoenix Ranch Napa Valley Syrah (2006)**; a brilliant major league red wine, with licorice and pepper flavors, will age well. **San Vicente, Rioja, (2005)**; a simply great **Martin Rioja**, an ultra-stylish red with an extensive berry and fruit flavored palate. **Château-Lynch Bages Pavillac (2005)**; a classic well-structured wine with ample tannins, big and dense. **Alma Rosa Santa Barbara County Chardonnay (2006)**; a tremendous wine, completely balanced and wonderfully complex. **Avignonesi Desiderio, (Italy 2004)**; this intense, delicious merlot is loaded with personality and cherry berry nuances.

Time to sit back, relax and have a glass of wine and contemplate on a verse of Omar Khayyám; “*Myself when Young did eagerly frequent Doctor and Saint, and heard great argument about it and about: but evermore Came out by the same door wherein I went.*” Peace to all living beings on earth.

Your comments are welcome  
[rhjrowe@aol.com](mailto:rhjrowe@aol.com)

## EVENT CALENDAR

• Sept. 12 at 7 pm, The Ojai Art Center presents its Annual Fundraiser, Featuring The Fabulous Roslyn Kind, As part of their 70th anniversary fundraising campaign, the Ojai Center for the Arts will be bringing a night of musical celebration, featuring Roslyn Kind, to the historic institution. Kind, an accomplished artist, is the kid sister of another legendary entertainer; Barbra Streisand. She will headline the program that also features accomplished local talents Asunta Fleming, Scott White and Tracey Williams. Kind is famous for giving the audience her all and plans on doing just that at the Saturday evening performance on Sept. 12. Kind is a passionate professional and plans a night that she hopes will transport the audience with a little cabaret style humor and a personal touch. Kind, who has performed on stages from Broadway to London, plans on “having a lovely enjoyable time...Painting pictures and scenarios, making them laugh making them cry, getting to know them.” The entertainer, also a successful recording artist and actress, made her national debut just as she graduated high school on the Ed Sullivan Show. She has since appeared on virtually every major talk and variety show including the Tonight Show, Saturday Night Live, Entertainment Tonight, Access Hollywood, and Good Morning America. Kind, who says live performance remains her favorite medium, grew up in

Events Continued on Page 5...

# JAWA & JOE

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at 323 E. Matilija St., No. 105. (805) 646-3138

## Elevate America

by Mike Deering

For those who talk to me about computers, you might notice that I am somewhat critical of **Microsoft** and its products. Well, hold on to your hat, I have something really good to say about **Microsoft**. **Microsoft** seems to recognize that the level of computer literacy needs to be elevated, so it has started a program called “**Elevate America**.”

You can take online courses, some at no charge, to help build your computer skills. I went through a couple of the presentations online and they really fill a need that has long been neglected. I saw some things that address a lot of the questions people ask me, and things that I haven’t learned yet. Also, through this site, you can get hooked up with fee based online and classroom taught classes. There is a voucher program to help offset these costs to zero or a substantial discount. Also, **Microsoft** partners with state employment development offices to offer this training. For those out of work, or in danger of being out of work, and feel their computer skills need more work, this program is worth investigating. Check with this site, as well as the **Employment Development Department’s** site. Right now, this may still be in development with the **State of California**, so ask.

With the economy being the way it is, computer support staffing at companies has been cut back to a minimum. I have seen this in terms of my business and in job-hunting for temporary and permanent employment opportunities. People, for lack of knowledge of how to perform basic tasks on their computers at home and at work, are not as productive and sometimes, are brought to a standstill. A little training and self help can relieve some of this, and that is what **Elevate America** tries to address.

As you know, **Microsoft’s** web site is gigantic – very easy to get lost. The most direct address for Elevate America is: [www.microsoft.com/about/corporatecitizenship/us/communityinvestment/ea\\_programinfo.aspx](http://www.microsoft.com/about/corporatecitizenship/us/communityinvestment/ea_programinfo.aspx)

Mike Deering, Computer MD  
local computer service

## LETTER - LA ATTITUDE IN OJAI

### What Does Camping Mean ?

– Dale Fox

If you grab a dozen people off the street and ask them what “camping” means, you’ll get a dozen answers. Some will paint a picture of a lone tent precariously anchored halfway up a mountain summit.

Others will tell you of log cabins, flannel blankets and warm fires. Still others roll down the open roads in luxury RVs, basking in air conditioning while the children play video games on a 50” plasma TV. But the one thing that comes up most is the idea of getting away from civilization. Wide open spaces. Solitude. Escape.

It was with that in mind that **Krissy** and I headed up to **Lake Casitas** this past weekend. En route, I was already recalling images of wonderful trips we’ve taken to **Joshua Tree** and **Idylwild**. We would build a fire, let the dog run free and enjoy acres of beauty all to ourselves. So imagine my surprise when, after escaping the **LA** traffic, my first experience at **Lake Casitas** was a toll-booth style series of gates where we waited in line to be “processed” by a disinterested clerk before we could enter the compound. And once we did enter, we found not a placid campground, but a heavily infrastructured state park with



wide paved asphalt roads, huge parking lots, swimming pools and lifeguards, overpriced general stores and a mix of abundant signage and chain link fence littering the view of the lake from nearly every angle.

And then there were the people. People everywhere. Thousands and thousands of them.

Every patch of green grass was covered with a hundred or more ‘campers’ attending their multiple RVs with multiple shades and multiple pop-outs, all arranged to create a defensive compound as though they were expecting an onslaught of marauding **Visigoths**. Then there were all the cars, inflatable pools, barbecue grills, ATVs, boats on trailers, bicycles and whatever else they could bring.

In fact, the entire area was so full, we had to stay in the ‘overflow,’ a public picnic area five feet off the main circle road, nestled up against a mangled chain link fence and less than 15 feet from the next guy.

This wasn’t camping. This was urban living. Just without the creature comforts. If this was a free park, I’d understand. But we paid \$40 a night for...nothing. We had no hookups or conveniences. Simply a 15’x 30’ place to park. Frankly, it isn’t even that expensive to park in **Manhattan**. Still, I suppose there are people who love this. The activity. The noise. The sense of community. But I get that every day living in Los Angeles. For me, camping is about getting away and enjoying some peace and quiet. I guess I’ll just have to drive a bit further next time. I hear Montana is lovely this time of year...

Dale Fox, Los Angeles

## EVENT CALENDAR

*Continued from Page 4...*  
Brooklyn surrounded by music. Not only did her famous sister sing, her mother sang as well, and her grandfather was a cantor in Russia. “I’m very much a believer in working with my audience,” said Kind, “not just at them.” The way music can stir a soul is still magical to Kind and that’s why she so enjoys live performance. “When you are in a personal appearance format people should get to know you more,” said Kind, “not only through your music and your choices, but with what you share from your heart.” Kind looks forward to putting on a show that will move her audience, maybe even help them forget just for a while about the troubles of the outside world. The artist that has appeared around the world at venues including Lincoln Center, the Greek Theater, London’s Café Royal, and Carnegie Hall will be in Ojai one night only. Fleming and White appeared together on the Art Center stage in Kiss Me Kate. Williams, a member of The Chordettes singing group, has directed the last three musicals at the Art Center. The Art Center will also have a silent auction with all proceeds going to the Center. Don’t miss this great show!

info. The Ojai Center for the Arts,  
113 S. Montgomery Street, Ojai, tickets, 640-8797  
•Sept. 17 thru, 3-6pm The California State University Art Program is pleased to announce the opening of its next exhibition entitled “LOCALS ONLY” at the new Ventura gal-

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Mike Deering has over 15 years of Information Technology employment in a broad range of industries. He has data center experience with Paychex, a national payroll service, and the County of Ventura. His desktop and network abilities were developed in the defense, non-profit, technical services, healthcare, and insurance industries.

With these experiences, Mike sees a continued need for support people who can break down their explanation of a computer question or problem to basic terms that a non – technical person can understand. One way he does this, is to take away the intimidation factor.

Ojai/Ventura - 805-798-0916 Mike Deering  
[mike@itatemycomputer.com](mailto:mike@itatemycomputer.com)

Public Salaries	
• 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.[13][14] 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
• President Barack Obama (U.S.)	\$400,000
• Governor Arn. Schwarzenegger (CA.)	\$212,179
• Ojai Unified School District Supt.	\$170,000
• Lieutenant Governor (CA.)	\$159,134
• Attorney General (CA.)	\$184,301
• Secretary of State (CA.)	\$159,134
• Controller (CA.)	\$169,743
• Treasurer (CA.)	\$169,743
• Supt. of Public Instruction (CA.)	\$184,301
• Insurance Commissioner (CA.)	\$169,743
• Members, Board of Equal. (CA.)	\$159,134
• Speaker of the Assy. & Pres. Pro Tem of the Senate (CA.)	\$133,639
• Minority Floor Leader (CA.)	\$133,639
• Majority Floor Leader	\$124,923
• Second Ranking Minor. Leader (CA.)	\$124,923
• All Legislators (CA.)	\$116,208

lery location. The exhibition will run from Sept. 17 through Nov. 1, 2009. An opening reception will be held from 6-9pm on Thurs., Sept. 17. CSUCI ART Gallery, Ventura, located; 21 California Street, ground floor of the historic Earle Stanley Gardner building on the corner of Main St. and California St. Ventura.

“Locals Only” will feature artwork created by selected artists of accomplishment and notoriety who live or maintain studios in the adjacent coastal cities of Ventura and Oxnard. Included in the exhibition are: Paul Benavidez, Lynn Creighton, MB Hanrahan, Carole Hilton, Gerd Koch, Steven Leslie, Paul Lindhard, Michael O’Kelly, Debra McKillop, Christine Morla, Claudia Pardo, Michael Pedziwiatr, Julia Pinkham, Erik Reel, Helle Scharling-Todd, and Hiroko Yoshimoto. Artworks exhibited range in media including painting, sculpture, ceramic tile, and glass.

In addition to “Locals Only” which will be mounted in the gallery’s north hall, featured artworks created by CSUCI art students, alumni and faculty will be on exhibit upstairs and in the south hall portion of the grandiose exhibition space. Gallery hours: Sun, Wed/Thurs, 12-5pm, Fri, and Sat, 12-5pm. Events Continued on Page 7...



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VIEWS

# Upper Ojai's Ghost "Injun Joe"

by Richard Senate



One of the early tales of the upper Ojai Valley is that of "Injun Joe." This character is not to be confused with the one in Mark Twain's classic novel "Tom Sawyer." This fellow was a Chumash Tribesman who joined Mission San Buenaventura and given the name "Joseph".

According to the legend, he once worked a secret silver mine near the **Topa Topas** in **Ojai Valley**. The hidden mine was a project of the **Mission** fathers in **San Buenaventura**. Legends also says that the mission operated several mines; one located in the upper **Piru**, mined gold.

When the padre's were recalled to **Spain** in the **1820s**, they closed the silver mine and gathered the **Native American** workers to tell them that a terrible curse was placed on the diggings. They were sworn to never tell the location of the silver mine until the **Spaniards** returned. The silver was not for the **Greedy Yankees** or the **disloyal Mexicans**. It was reserved for **His Holiness**, the **Pope** in **Rome** only. Years passed and **California** passed into the hands of the **Americans**.

**Joseph** got a job working as a vaquero at a **Ranch** in the upper **Ojai** and grew old. One night while drinking at a local saloon in **Ojai**, he let it slip that he once worked at the **Padre's lost Silver Mine**. Two renegade **Yankees** heard him and resolved to force the **Native American** to tell them the location of the cursed mine.

They lured him to a cabin near **Dennison Grade** and tied him up. He refused to tell them what they wanted to know. They heated a knife red hot and used it to subject the poor native to unspeakable tortures. Still, he would not talk. As they grew angry, the awful abuses grew more intense until death came to relieve **Joseph's** sufferings. Frustrated, the two **Yankee's** tossed the body down the canyon.

Now, the ghost of "**Injun Joe**" walks the upper **Ojai Valley**. Some say he is seeking the men who killed him, others whisper he wants his bones found so they can be buried with the rites of the church so his spirit can move on to the heaven promised by the **Spanish Padres**.

They say he knocks on people's doors or approaches groups of people. Sometimes he gestures to them as if he wants them to follow him. They also say he hates **Yankees**. Such an altitude is understandable given his terrible death. Those unlucky enough to see him describe a skull-like face, long braided hair, and tattered clothes. Recently he has been encountered on the twisting turns of **Dennison Grade** in **Ojai**. His figure was seen near the old **Italian Restaurant** at the foot of the grade

perhaps trying to find his way into **Ojai** to the site of the old saloon where he first encountered the two murderous **Yankees**. Perhaps, someday, we can learn the truth about this loyal **Mission Convert** and give his restless spirit a chance to move on. Or perhaps a cross could be placed on the grade to honor the unhappy spirit.

— Richard Senate  
www.RichardSenate.com

"By the time a man is wise enough to watch his step, he's too old to go anywhere"  
— Billy Crystal

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# Reefer Madness

## Is Mayor Christy Focused Enough to Conduct City Business in a Timely Manner ? Legalize Marijuana ----- "PLEASE" !



Judging by the reaction of the **Gang in the Ivory Tower**, (**Ventura City Council ET AL**), wanting to take a year to "study" the marijuana situation, and the **Mayor, Christy (Big Hair) Weir** and **Councilman Jim (only one more time) Monahan**,

wanting a permanent ban I would imagine those two have their personal copies of "**Reefer Madness**" which they watch on a nightly basis. I would venture to guess that out of the **7 council people** on the *dias* at least **5** of them have tried, once or more times that old "**killer weed**". Certainly they have all quaffed, more than a few cocktails and beers. There is so much information out there on **Marijuana** that it certainly doesn't take a group of people more than one week to study, never mind one year. Simply type **Marijuana** into your Google search. **FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS WAVERING**

Even the **Federal Government** is starting to re-evaluate their stance on "**Pot**"; they have pledged in March to no longer take action against medical marijuana dispensaries if they comply with state and local laws. With any luck and a smidgeon of common sense the following ballot measure will be passed this time around.

So if you see the petition out there please sign it, at the least, if **Marijuana** was to become legal we could save the hundreds of millions of dollars we spend each year fighting it. We could then use that money for our education system.

**Rellis Smith**  
rellis39@sbcbglobal.net  
www.californiachile.com

**EDITORS NOTE:** Oakland pot advocates took the first step toward asking all of California voters to legalize the "evil weed." The ballot measure they had filed July 28 with attorney general Edmund G. Brown, Jr's office would allow adults 21 and over to possess up to an ounce of personal herb. Homeowners could also grow pot for personal use in their garden up to 25 square feet. That's a lot of Reefer ! The statewide measure needs more than 430,000 signatures to qualify for the November 2010 ballot.

With the **U.S. in corporate-government induced dire financial straits**, one wonders how long it will take voters to realize education, not police state enforcement is the more sensible (and fiscally responsible) approach to dealing with the drug "problem". The **U.S. Federal Government** spends some \$600 per second every hour of the day on the **War on Drugs (Source: Office of National Drug Control Policy)**. So far this year (as of Midnight Sept. 11) State and Federal expenses ('our 'taxpayer funds...') have amounted to some \$36 billion. (\$36,000,000,000 - that's a lot of Barney Fife Sheriff Badges !). No wonder **Ojai Unified School District** has a shortage of teachers and has gone from being an institution of "education" to being a Land-pilaging and retirement program for over-salaried worthless administrators. These

so-called administrators often go on to bigger and better things like electing themselves for choice positions on the **Ojai City Council** and then trashing that end of our public government too... and finally you can't get down the street without receiving a \$300 revenue driven traffic ticket from one of cash-strapped California's 'finest' (the days when **CHP** and local cops gave 'warnings' are loooooong gone).

Guess they figure, 'What the heck we won't have to fight the war on drugs in the third world South American countries, we're making our own Third World Country out of the now good ole poverty stricken U.S.A.'

— Joel Anderson, editor

## VENTURA CITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS Council Elect, Continued From Page 3...

Tracy states he is running in order to help the city of **Ventura** how about if he is elected, he follows **Governor Arnold Swartzenburgers** lead and declines to take the compensation that the council members are paid. After all a meager \$600.00 per month would probably only serve to place **Mr. Tracy** in a higher tax bracket.

I don't know or really care who you decide to vote for this year as long as it's not for one of the incumbents. They have messed up our city so bad that if we give them another 4 years we can look forward to Bankruptcy.

**Rellis Smith**  
rellis39@officeliverusers.com  
www.venturanow.web.officelive.com

## Curtain Call

by Ron Rowe



If you are a fan of **Neil Simon**, then you must go to see **Broadway Bound**, now playing at the **Ojai Art Center in Ojai**, directed by veteran **Director Steve Grumette**.

It features some of **Ojai** and **Ventura's** talented actors, **Kathleen Silverman**, **Gabrielle Olivera**, **Frank James Malle**, **Howard Leader**,

**Christina Hardin** and **Curtis Cline**. The play picks up where **Brighton Beach Memoirs** and **Biloxi Blues** ended. Part three of **Neil Simon's** acclaimed autobiographical trilogy finds **Eugene** and his older brother **Stanley** trying to break into the world of professional comedy writing, while coping with the breakup of their family. Their efforts to come up with an idea for a comedy sketch sparkle with hilarity. When their material is broadcast on the radio for the first time, the family is upset to hear a comic rendition on their trials and tribulations. **Eugene** wraps up the play by explaining that his parents finally divorced and he and **Stanley** were launched on writing careers. Call the **Ojai Art Center**, **646-0117** for reservations.

Checking ahead for the **Ojai Art Center**, Sept. 12 there will be a super special entertainment night featuring **Roslyn Kind** in concert. The evening starts at seven with delicious finger food, beverages and a silent

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auction. The musical part of the evening begins with the homegrown talents of **Asunta Fleming**, **Tracy Williams**, and **Scott Davis** singing a medley of songs. Comparing **Roslyn Kind** to her famous sister, **Barbra Streisand** doesn't do justice. She is a passionate professional who has been performing since her teens, here and around the world. After the show the audience is invited to meet the entertainers and close out the night with homemade desserts and coffee. All proceeds will go toward the capital campaign of \$70,000 as a fundraiser for the **Ojai Art Center (ACT)**. Res. call, **646-0117** or **640-8797**. Better call now as seats are being filled rapidly. Also at the art center, **Tennessee Williams' play, The Glass Menagerie** directed by **Tom Eubanks**, will be playing **Oct. 2 to the 31st**, more on this in the next issue.

In rehearsal at the **Elite Theater in Camarillo**; **James and the Giant Peach**, directed by **Gai Jones**, the *inter-generational cast* is made of actors from **Oxnard, Ojai and Ventura**, ranging in age from 7 to 70. There are 28 actors in this production, and **Producer Leana Bowman** brings a wealth of experience to guide this cast. **Jennifer Corniuk** is the **stage manager** — this is a must-see classic play for all ages, runs from **Oct. 2 to the 18th**. For reservations call **483-5118**.

On stage now at the **Elite Theater in Oxnard, The Beauty Queen of Leenane**, featuring **Carol Sigurdson**, **Sasha Heslip**, **David Newcomer** and **Kyle Johnson**. Directed by **Andrea Tate**, produced by **Tom Eubanks**. Reservations, call **483-5118**, play closes Sept. 13.

Another successful production ended this weekend at the **Senga Classic Stage Company Theater, Ojai. Tales From the Women's Locker Room**, directed and produced by **Francisca Beach**, featured four women actors who gave outstanding performances, **Kimberly Demmery**, **Rebecca Ridenour**, **Nancy Jane Marie**, and **Leslie Paxton**. If you missed this play, I suggest that you check with **www.franciscabeach.com** or call **646-4885** and get info. on the next play coming up. If you enjoy live theater this is definitely a theater worth keeping in contact with.

If you would like to see **The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas**, you are in luck. The play opens at the **Simi Valley Cultural Center** on **Fri. Sept. 12**, running thru **Oct. 18**. This is a hilarious musical comedy. Remember that it was made into a movie featuring **Dolly Parton** and **Burt Reynolds**? Res. call **583-7900**. **Steel Magnolias** is playing at the **Camarillo Community Theater**. Res. call **571-6388**, play closes **Sept. 20**.

Looking for a fun night out, that's different yet live theater? Visit **Ventura Improv Theater**, it's home of the best comedy improvisation in **Southern Ca**, located in downtown **Ventura**.

**Auditions.... Director/Actor Frank Malle** will be holding auditions on **Sat. Oct. 17** from **1 - 3 pm, Sun. Oct. 18** from **11- 1 pm**, and **Mon. Oct. 19, 7 - 9 pm**, for the play.

Leading ladies, **Frank** is looking for four men, ages 30 to 60, two women 20 to 30 years old and one old spinster. The play is a cross-dressing farce about two flimflam **Shakespearean** actors out to hoodwink an old spinster out of her fortune. Performance dates are **Jan. 29 to Feb. 27**. If interested **Call Frank at 646-8406**.

**Theater 150** is resting after a very successful **Hamlet**, call **646-4300** for info. on upcoming productions.

The whispered word is that **Lorelei Sadie Hawkins** is back in town, she was seen having an afternoon tea at **Pantry Plaza** with actor **Buddy Wilds**. I last saw **Lorelei** in the play, **Run For Your Wife**; she

gave an incredible, performance. Come to think of it, **Buddy** was the director of that play.... I wonder if they were collaborating on another play; anyone know ?

**Lorelei** is in the process of writing three more songs to complete her first album. Not sure of the album name, but it consists of mainly heart break and abandonment issues with a few happy thoughts thrown in. One of the songs, "**Glassy Eyes**," was written by her elder sister when she was 15 years old and she has just added a few more lyrics and changed the rhythm a little. She writes with an acoustic guitar and the sound is mainly folk, rock and a little pop like. She plays the rhythm guitar, sings and has various other local artists playing bass, lead guitar, and drums.

Attention **Ojai** directors, **Lorelei** would love the chance to do another play in **Ojai** but in the meantime she is going to be the trophy girl at the next moto cross races this month at the **Ventura Fairgrounds**. A very talented lady, Watch out **Ojai, Lorelei** is back in town.

Incidentally, **Actor/Director Buddy Wilds** will be directing the **Christmas** show at the **Ojai Art Center**. We hear that new ideas for the show will flow from his imaginative mind.... he promises the show will be a joyous celebration of **Christmas**, run from **Dec. 4 - 19th**. We look forward to your **Christmas** show, **Buddy**.

And speaking of actresses, **Courtney Johnson** has only just finished her role in **A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum**, and she's at it again. She is attending every audition posted from **Santa Barbara, Malibu, Santa Monica** and every single theater in **Ventura County**; six auditions this month three more this weekend then whatever comes up next month. **Courtney** has an incredible background in theater, and film. I counted over 25 stage appearances ranging from **Santa Paula, Camarillo, Santa Barbara, Oxnard**, etc. to at least seven film parts, she is one of those rare fortunate women who have a combination of beauty, intelligence, vitality and charm, where this lady gets the energy from, I don't know; I only wish I had a fraction of it. I predict she has, and will continue to have a successful career in the theater.

The lights have dimmed, the orchestra has started the overture, time to lean back in my seat and enjoy the show.

Comments are welcome.  
rjjrowe@aol.com

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## EVENT CALENDAR

Continued from Page 5...  
9pm. Closed on Mon, and Tues.,  
CSUCI ART Gallery, Ventura  
21 California Street, Ventura. CA, 93001  
information, CSUCI Art Department, 437-8570  
email, art@csuci.edu or www.art.csuci.edu/gallery/ventura  
• thru Sept. 24, Thurs, 10am, Ojai Skate Park, A notice inviting pre-qualification questionnaires to "pre-qualify" the right to bid as a prime contractor or sub contractor for the "Ojai Skate Park Project" was sent out Sept. 1, deadline to submit the sealed questionnaires to the City Clerk is Thurs., Sept. 24, at 10 am. The pre-qualification questionnaires will be opened on Thurs, September 24, 2009 at 10:00 am in the Ojai City Council Chambers, 401 S. Ventura Street.  
To request a copy of the Pre-Qualification Questionnaire, Events Continued on Page 9...

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# Historic Settlement Reached on Steelhead Fish Passage at the Freeman Diversion Dam on the Santa Clara River

By Alasdair Coyne

The viability of Steelhead migration in the watershed of the Santa Clara River was given a significant boost in mid August, by the signing of a settlement agreement between CalTrout and United Water.

The historic settlement is designed to produce a plan for proper passage facilities at the Freeman Diversion dam no later than Aug. 01, 2010. The plan will be developed by a panel of fish passage scientists, which has already been assembled by United Water, with input from the National Marine Fisheries Service, to study fish passage issues at the Freeman Diversion.

The panel's new, focused task will be to design facilities to ensure that Steelhead, migrating to spawn upstream in the Santa Clara River or Sespe Creek, can surmount the long, low diversion dam, located near Saticoy. The dam functions to send river water to recharge local groundwater aquifers.

The Southern Steelhead was listed as "endangered" under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) in 1997. Since 2005, formal consultations have been underway between United Water, the US Bureau of Reclamation (who funded the construction of the Freeman Diversion) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), the federal agency responsible for the recovery of ocean-going endangered species.

In Sept. 2005, NMFS issued a Draft Biological Opinion under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, concluding that the operation of the Freeman Diversion dam jeopardized the continued existence of the Southern Steelhead. The Final Biological Opinion was published by NMFS in July, 2008. CALTROUT'S LAWSUIT

In Sept. 2008, CalTrout issued a 60-day notice of their intent to take United Water to court for alleged violations of the Endangered Species Act with respect to inadequate Steelhead passage past the Freeman Diversion dam. The court case was then filed in Jan., 2009 and an amended complaint filed in June, 2009. The court date was set for Nov. 2009 in the U.S. District Court. However, the judge strongly recommended that the two parties come to a settlement instead of appearing in court.

The costs of preparation for the court case would likely have run into seven figure dollar amounts each for CalTrout and United. And the judge correctly grasped that the technical aspects of the case were extremely complex, and better solved by the parties themselves.

Attorneys and staff from CalTrout and United worked very hard for a number of months this summer to come up with the settlement agreement, meeting more than once with the judge to seek a solution that was scientifically sound, clearly worded, and containing a timeline for the selection of the design

of adequate fish passage facilities at the Freeman Diversion dam.

The settlement also included a payment by United of \$400,000 for the cost of CalTrout's legal fees, "without admission by United of any alleged violation or other wrongdoing."

It is clear that this settlement would not have been reached without the leadership of United Water's General Manager, Mike Solomon, who was appointed manager upon the retirement of Dana Wischart in September 2008.

## UNITED WATER HAS CHANGED ITS TUNE

Mike Solomon, United general manager has recognized that United Water's previous stall-and-delay tactics, as administered by Former United Manager Dana Wischart and United Water staffer, Jim Kentosh, was not going to prevail in a federal court of law. In the past 9 months, Jim Kentosh, United Water's former front man in negotiations with NMFS and CalTrout has been kept in the background.

United Water has come a long way from the official opening of the Freeman Diversion dam in 1991, when their then manager Fred Gientke leaned over to Congressman Bob Lagomarsino and relayed a comment about the "\*\*\*\*ing fish," a comment overheard by a Keep Sespe Wild Director who was at the event.

United Water spent the next 18 years obstructing, delaying and objecting to proposals to improve fish passage for Steelhead migrating upstream when they reach the Freeman Diversion dam. They have never operated the original fish ladder at the Freeman Diversion in such a way as to allow a single adult Steelhead to migrate through it and on upstream, in all that time.

Only recently, United actually worked to cast public doubt on the very existence of the Southern Steelhead upstream in the Santa Clara River's watershed. United's Board of Directors apparently had hoped that by continued stalling, the Southern Steelhead issue would eventually and

somehow go away.

United also sought help from Congressman Elton Gallegly (R-Ca), in Dec., 2008, in overturning NMFS' Final Biological Opinion, the federal government's science-based document which spelled out the fish passage problems at the Freeman Diversion dam and outlined a process to resolve them. Congressman Gallegly wanted to, but did not actually meet with Vice Admiral Lautenbacher, an Undersecretary at the Department of Commerce in Washington D.C. (NMFS is a branch of the Commerce Department.)

## THE ESA — SECTIONS 7 & 10

The settlement and the fish passage scientists' design for adequate Steelhead passage facilities at the Freeman Diversion dam will now proceed under Section 10 of the ESA.

Previously, the consultations with NMFS had taken place under the ESA's Section 7, the relevant section when a federal agency is involved. The federal Bureau of Reclamation essentially still owns the Freeman Diversion dam, until the loan is paid off by United Water in a short while. The Bureau of Reclamation wrote in Dec. 2008 that they were withdrawing from the ESA consultation that they had been a part of since 2005 on the Freeman Diversion dam and the Steelhead. While this withdrawal could have been challenged, the outcome of such a challenge was not clear. The settlement proceeds now under Section 10 of the ESA — which had no timeline for actions to improve fish passage at the Freeman Diversion dam. For this reason, CalTrout insisted that the court settlement contain both a timeline — to design fish passage facilities by Aug. 1, 2010 — and the ability to return

to the judge, should progress stall out.

When a new fish passage design — to be selected by United Water and approved by NMFS' fisheries scientists — is agreed next summer, CalTrout and local environmental organizations will support applications for grant funding for the construction of the new fish passage facilities at the Freeman Diversion dam, which the settlement states must proceed "with all deliberate speed." NMFS' fisheries scientists have already concluded in their Biological Opinion that the current fish ladder design, selected by United 20-years-ago, is incapable of being modified to allow proper passage for migrating Steelhead.

— Alasdair Coyne, Ojai  
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# Who Can You Trust ?

by Roslyn Hammer

This morning I awoke and within the first hour of the day I had a chocolate donut. I had promised myself that I wasn't going to eat a thing for at least three days. Fasting — that's what I was committed to doing. I rationalized for awhile and decided that I would have to start tomorrow since I had already ruined it for the day. At least I could exercise. Although I did hurt my leg when I was doing laundry the day before, it might be better if I waited a few days to begin my rigid training program.

The next few hours flew by as I talked on the phone, gossiped with my neighbors, played solitaire on the computer with tons of yes or no answer questions to determine my future. A win equals a yes. A loss...you get the idea.

Lunchtime had come and gone and I was starving. I reached for the lettuce in the fridge to prepare a healthy salad ! Much to my chagrin the lettuce was brown and ugly so I tossed it in the trash. I think it would be a good thing for me if I just threw the lettuce in the garbage bin on the way out of the grocery store.

As evening came to a close, I realized that I hadn't done one thing that I'd promised myself to do that day.

The next day I had a list of things to accomplish. A list is the only way to go if you want to get things done. I was getting dressed when my girlfriend called to see if I wanted to grab a cup of coffee. I explained to her that I had a list of things that had to get done today — all very important. We decided to only go out for an hour. After coffee we did a little shopping, a few errands, and a quick visit to a friend. By the time I got home it was hot, and I was tired. I put the list on the counter and took a nap.

This article is about trust. How can I expect other people to be there for me when I can't trust myself not to eat a choco-

late donut ? I think of the people I have trusted in my life that have let me down. The financial planner who told me to wait because the NASDAQ would come back, the doctor who misdiagnosed my sister's illness, and of course, money lent that was never returned. The endless scenarios that played in my mind about who did what to me and how good I was had always been an engrossing activity. Blaming was my entertainment. I had plenty to say about the people who let me down to anyone who would listen.

It would take months and sometimes years for a nagging thought to creep into my mind. The sickening realization that maybe I did something wrong or had some responsibility for the things that went wrong in my life.

Whose job was it to watch out for my money ? I think it was mine. Why didn't I urge my sister to get another opinion ? Doctors aren't always right. And regarding lending money ? Never lend money you can't afford to lose.

Now, I wake every morning with a new mantra. I open my eyes and prey to heaven, "Please don't let my words be too bitter today — for tomorrow I shall eat them."

Roslyn Hammer wrote for the Ojai Valley Voice during the 1990s. She has a background in stand-up comedy and comedy writing.

## Sicily: Some Coins

by Mina French

A fascinating book by George Francis Hill is entitled, "Coins of Ancient Sicily," published in 1903. Mr. Hill talks about and describes Sicilian coins from before 480 B.C. through Roman times (about 476 A.D.). He goes into the early ancient history to reveal a brilliant civilization. According to Hill, art historians can reveal a timeline in art history, based on the extensive number of ancient coins in existence. The best artists were in Sicily, and produced superb designs. Hill said, "For [every] 2 or 3 imperfect works of great sculpture, we have hundreds of coins in almost perfect condition." The power of the cities changed constantly. Each time the cities changed hands they produced their own coinage. As a result, there is a good variety which reflect art history.

According to Hill, the first type of metal used to conduct trade, existed before 600 B.C. when the Sicelot Greeks (Greek Sicilians) used, "bars, spits or rings" as currency. Also, silver "tetradrachm" coins were brought from Greece and later found in abundant quantities in Sicily.

The Sicel and Sicanian people (earliest Sicilians) had coins based on the "litra" (pound) of bronze. In a chart, Hill compares the Sicel litra to the Greek coins.

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## EVENT CALENDAR

Continued from Page 7...

contact Dale Sumersille at (805) 646-1872 ext. 302.

•Sept. 26 thru, 3-6pm The Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP) proudly presents the 4th annual "Vinos, Tapas y Arte" on Saturday, September 26, 2009, from 3:00 to 6:00 p.m. at the historic social center of Santa Barbara—Casa de la Guerra. A festive décor will invite guests into a series of food, wine and art stations placed throughout the grounds of Casa de la Guerra. Several fine restaurants will be donating delicious appetizers, superb wineries will be pouring selections of their finest vintages, and talented local artists will be donating their work for exhibition and sale. Featuring live music—guests have the opportunity to enjoy fine food and wine, purchase from a fantastic selection of local art and bid on auction items as they stroll through the Casa courtyard. Casa de la Guerra has been at the heart of Santa Barbara's history since its construction in the 1820s. Built by Presidio Comandant José de la Guerra, the Casa was the economic, political and social center of the pueblo of Santa Barbara. Today the restored home is a museum featuring original furnishings, a history of the De la Guerra family, and unique rotating exhibits — including the new Touring Santa Barbara through the Magic Lantern: Images from the Pearl Chase Col

Before 480 B.C., the earliest coinage came from the Greek Chalcidian colonies which was at Naxos at the north-eastern foot of Mount Etna, Zancle, located near the strait between Sicily and Italy, and Himera.

After the Greek victory over the Carthaginians at Himera in 480 B.C. a great deal of coins were struck in a great variety and styles.

According to Hill, the earliest Naxos coins are "connected with the wine-god Dionysus." On the coins are the head of "Dionysus with pointed beard, wreathed in Dionysic ivy." Hill said the earliest coins from Zancle were inscribed, "D A N K L E."

The design was of a dolphin "lying within a curved object, evidently meant to represent the shape of the harbour." On the coins from Himera appear a cock and later a hen. Hill explained that because of the healing baths near Himera the cock was the "bird sacred to the healing-god, Asclepius who must have been worshipped there."

Mina French  
artnews510@aol.com

## PRESS RELEASE - EVENT

Jonathan McEuen  
Benefit Concert

Ojai Valley Family Fundraiser  
Sat. Sept. 19 at Bonnie Lu's  
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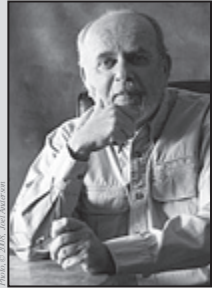
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## “Don’t Tell Me Who I am... Let me guess !” Understanding, Honesty, or Kindness



Continued from Page 3...

them were laughing. Mick grabbed my arm and we walked to the garden in the back.

Even though I had lived in Mexico for almost a year, I’m ashamed to say my Spanish is very weak. Che would translate on occasion, but most of the afternoon I spent in that sweet space of timelessness while they talked. At one time Che translated Chia, “Viruses, bacteria, poor diet and lack of exercise don’t primarily kill us – it is lack of joy. Real joy comes only through shared pleasure.” Polynesian Ka’ikena Pearsall also believes that.

*“Pedro, in life whenever I’ve had a choice between one, trying to understand, two being totally honest and three, being kind, I’ve always practiced kindness.” – Chia*

When it was time to leave, Chia came up to me, looked into my eyes, and with Mick translating, said, “Pedro, in life whenever I’ve had a choice between one, trying to understand, two being totally honest and three, being kind, I’ve always practiced kindness.” Then she gave me a soft kiss on my forehead, “Don’t forget when you go back home... be kind, Pedro.” It was the most gentle admonition ever sent my way.

Next morning I dropped Che and Mick off at the Tijuana airport. When we hugged, Che whispered, “Dios grande, Pedro.” I whispered back, “Dios grande, Che.” Then father and son walked arm-in-arm up the plank to board the airplane – it was a beautiful sight to see. Shortly before entering the cabin Mick turned around, raised his right fist straight up and screamed, “Power to the people !” I yelled back, “You bet your ass, Mick... even if we don’t know what to do with it.”

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

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## Fundraiser planned for Ojai Acupuncturist with Cancer

by Kathleen MacGregor

My name is Kathleen MacGregor. I have lived and worked as an acupuncturist in Ojai and Ventura since 1991. On September 3, 2008 I was diagnosed with Non-Hodgkins Lymphoma, a cancer of the lymph system.

Like most people who receive a diagnosis like this I was shocked and scared. Now almost a year into fighting this disease, it’s no longer raw but is much more complicated.

At first I just wanted to understand what might have caused this cancer after I had led a relatively clean and healthy lifestyle. I learned Lymphoma is often linked to environmental toxins. I believe growing up with second hand smoke and also being exposed to Malathion during the San

Fernando Valley spraying in the 80s were two risks. I’m sure given the state of our environment I have had, like most people, unknown exposures as well. It turns out my disease is pretty advanced. One reason my cancer wasn’t diagnosed earlier was my insurance. At first I was underinsured; then my premiums went up and my status changed to uninsured. When my first symptoms arose I could not afford the expense of testing that may have given me an earlier diagnosis.

At this point a stem cell transplant at City of Hope is my best chance for survival. It breaks my heart to know that many people are in the same situation due to our broken health care system. Well that’s the bad news.

Now for the good news. This cancer journey has been a wonderful experience of community, something that has always been close to my heart. My experience started off under the care of the community of nurses and doctors who work in public health. The staff of

the Ventura County Medical Center and oncology clinic are an enormously kind, compassionate, and skilled group of people. They have taken such good care of me over the last year.

Then there is my home community. A community that includes my daughter, friends, patients, and neighbors who are all a strong support system. I live alone

and believe me going through chemo is impossible to do by yourself. I had no big family to jump in so my friends became my care givers.

They have brought over food, gone shopping for essentials, driven me to appointments, cleaned, done kitty care and listened, offering spiritual support and love which is the most important survival ingredient.

On that list of community are my patients, a group who has stuck with me through the ups and downs of treatment and my uneven availability. They love the Five Element Acupuncture that I do and continue to let me know how much they feel they benefit from their treatments.

This keeps me connected to how valuable my life work is, and that really keeps me fighting !

Now, as my illness and the coming stem cell transplant make it difficult to work, my community is coming together once again to have a fundraiser for me. The proceeds raised will help me get through this, providing necessary funds until I am well enough to work full time again.

Sunday Sept. 27th will be an afternoon of music and laughter, a celebration of life and community. I hope you’ll join us.

— Kathleen MacGregor

September 2009

For further information see View, page 2 and/or contact Patricia Cardinali @ Cardinali Brothers Music. (805) 646-2098.

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To see where music and art come together at Java Joe's go to page 16 to read up on the Music Scene.

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— Lillian Carter (mother of Jimmy Carter)

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**IMMEDIATE RELEASE** more information, page 11

## Meiners Oaks Evening Stroll - Sat 9/19

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Meiners Oaks Business and Artists Association (MOBAA) invites you to the Meiners Oaks Evening Stroll, Sat., Sept. 19, 5-9:30 pm.

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• 5-8 pm Businesses along El Roblar Dr. will stay open late. They will be having sales, specials and will be hosting artists and musicians for this community event. Some of the Featured Artists in the stroll will include Jane Shanahan, Donna Summer-ville, Bob Roemisch, Ed Cardinali, Susan Guy, Jack Halbert, Joanne Kegal, Julie Niemeyer and many more.

COLLECT A FREE RAFFLE TICKET at participating locations.

Take your tickets to **Farmer and The Cook** to win great prizes donated by Meiners Oaks businesses. Extra raffle tickets will also be available for purchase. Raffle begins at 8 PM.

• 7-9:30 pm Concert and Raffle !  
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Meiners Oaks Business and Artists Association (MOBAA) is a new group of business owners, artists and musicians based in Meiners Oaks. Our mission statement: *To create community and support business and the arts in Meiners Oaks.*

For more info. call Gillian 338-4095 or Patricia 646-2098

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# Ojai's Gets Broken Plywood, Broken Nails, and Broken Dreams & Promises..... Santa Paula, Permanent Skate Park..... !

## What Do Ojai's Youth Think ?



Kevan Lopez

"When the pyramid used to be in the corner, they said they were going to maintain it. It was so poorly maintained that people would actually like break through the boards and fall through it and stuff and break it basically because it wasn't properly maintained. It was pretty.... basically rotted everything out, everything's just falling apart." — Kevan Lopez, 21-years old.

"I was riding at the top and my wheel caught a nail at the very top of the pyramid when it used to be here a few years back, and I flew literally almost all the way down to the bottom because I had so much speed, and I landed on my hip, and I just... I toughed it out, I didn't go to the doctor, but it hurt pretty bad for a week or so." — Evan Leslie, 16



Josh Headley

"I like skateboarding because when I get on the wheels, it just feels good to be. I get all NOT stressed out." — Josh Headley



Crashes Happen at Ojai's 'temporary' Skate Park

by Joel Anderson

While Santa Paula's skate youth enjoy their permanent in ground concrete skate park (far upper right), Ojai Skaters continue to struggle with their old dilapidated plywood ramps (left), complete with rusty protruding nails, sharp sheet metal and rotting underpinnings.... thanks to the slow-Ojai City Council and Ojai Unified School District quiet and surreptitious dragging of their heels... Let's hope Ojai isn't planning on using it's long practiced "Urban Blight" routine (Montgomery a-la nuevo-taco-bell, arcade redevelopment), tactic, lack of action, and now safety issues as an excuse to ultimately bury the skate park idea.

Perhaps a few heel-dragging city council members, staff (Monte, Jere), wouldn't mind springing a few personal bucks for new nails and supplies... and comin' on down and swingin' some hammers and screw guns to keep the exist-ing park half-way intact ?



Kanten Russell, pro skater and lead designer for Site Design Group, try's out "The Ojai" 'Masonite' back in 2008, May 31. Altho Ojai is legendary for its tennis tourney, its politics have made it the BAD POSTER BOY for how NOT to Build a Skate Park.

"Let us put our minds together and see what life we can make for our children" — Sitting Bull, 1831 – 1890



The Thermometer of Time



Ojai Youth - (above and left) Sam Gacad-Cowan, 16-years old, Josh Headley, 9, Dakota Lyn, 8, Jacob Bridges, 9, Theo Malkin, 8, and Kaleb Todd, 9-years old. Also at left, Shane Bowen, 13, and Sam Gacad-Cowan, 16.



Santa Paula Skaters - Luis Magaña 12-years old, Brandon Cerrillo 14, Manuel Cordova 13, Angel Vasquez 11, Israel Cortez, 10, Andrew Zepeda 11, Gonzalo Cortez 12, Carlos Arambula 13, and Adolfo Gonzales, 14



"In my early days, I was eager to learn and to do things, and therefore I learned quickly" — Sitting Bull, 1831 – Dec. 15, 1890



## Seaside Park - Primer Nationals

photos © 2009, Joel Anderson



"So the club... the Beatniks officially started 17 years ago... started with originally 5 members, including myself. Now we've got over 50 members worldwide....



Robert Atkinson with Beatnik Founder Jack Rudy and his '52 Chevy. ....12 different states and two foreign countries, Australia and Japan. We started out close friends, which we were to begin with, and we decided to get this car club going officially.... we're all heavily tattooed, everybody in the club looks like a beatnik.... we always admired the whole beat movement... so we always just thought that beatniks were the epitomy of cool.....a lot of customizing....Pontiac bumpers, Frenched headlights, tail-lights, nose... 56 Chevy spears customized to fit.... custom metal flake green, pearl white tuck & roll interior, hydraulics, front and back. Still with a six cylinder, 5 speed overdrive, Ford rear end... 2:73 gears for the highway, ....it moves....." — Jack Rudy



Kirk and Lisa Taylor with their '63 Buick Riviera

"It's Dupont Hot News Purple Rhapsody. I did purple flames on the roof and then a couple coats of candy purple over the flames, silver leafed it.... kind of a Watson-Jeffries vibe to it you know.... hahaha so, there's a lot of paint on this thing. "Yeah custom bikes for a living, paint graphics, fabrication, whatever, the cars are the passion, the bikes are the profession, ya know so.... engine... 401 Buick Nailhead, two speed automatic, dyna-flo transmission. I dropped it three inches all the way around, shaved the door handles, sunk the '59 cadillac taillights into the rear tail

section "The Beatniks.... yeah I hang out with them." — Kirk Taylor



A '32 Ford Mod



Robert Atkinson and his very cool 'Beatnik inspired '51 Chevy 1/2 Ton. Vegas ? No Problem !



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## THE LEASHES END

by Ron Rowe

The Canadian seal slaughter is over, for this year..... over 300,000 seals were butchered. The Canadian government continues to allow this needless killing despite worldwide protests. The commercial seal slaughter is the largest massacre of marine mammals on earth. Seals can be killed when they are 12 days old. Russia has banned the killing of baby harp seals. The European Union has banned the import from Canada on all seal products. Less than a week after the European Union voted to ban seal products the United States Senate unanimously passed a resolution calling for an immediate end to the seal slaughter. Seal products are already illegal in the U.S. and you can help by boycotting Canadian maple syrup. Canada produces over 85 percent of the world maple syrup, so please check the label on the syrup and before buying; don't buy syrup made in Canada. Visit [www.peta.org/maple syrup](http://www.peta.org/maple_syrup).

Good news for traveling pets, Pet Airways, a new all pet airline will serve New York, Chicago, Los Angeles, Denver and Washington DC. Dogs and cats can travel from city to city in crates in the plane's main cabin. Attendants check on them every 15 minutes and give them walks and bathroom breaks when on the ground. If interested, check [www.petairways.com](http://www.petairways.com)

How sad. Harry and Pepper, two male penguins have split up after six wonderful years together as partners in the San Francisco Zoo. Zookeeper's say Linda, a female penguin set her eyes on Harry and began flirting with him until she succeeded in winning his affections from Pepper. Well, at least they had a wonderful six years together.

A Chinese rabbit has become addicted to television soap operas. Jiang Chunlei of Fujian province lets the rabbit sit between him and his wife every evening to watch their favorite television show. The rabbit becomes irate and violent if one of them moves or tries to change the channel, to watch something else. "When we switched channels the rabbit became very angry and began biting the pillow," said Jiang. It's not so strange; Dudley likes to watch Lassie and gets upset when I change channels.

An English couple became concerned when their dog, Bertey began walking strangely, they were



Ron and his companion, Dudley.

shocked when x-rays taken at the veterinarian showed 11 golf balls and a live bullet in his stomach. The veterinarian removed all the objects and Bertey is now recovering.

Attention chocolate lovers, camel milk chocolates will soon be for sale in United States stores within a month. A Dubai company uses the milk of 1,000 camels to produce 100 tons of premium chocolate. They claim camels milk is healthier than cows milk due

to its lower fat content and higher levels of vitamin C. General Manager Martin Van Almsick said, we aim to be the godiva chocolate of the Middle East.

Animal behavior experts are puzzled over the case of a Florida man who says his cat downloaded child pornography onto his computer. Kenneth Griffith, age 48, has been arrested and charged with possessing more than 1,000 illegal images. He said when he left the computer room for a break, upon his return, the cat was at the keyboard and the screen was full of strange material. He is being held in jail without bail.

Junior Myrmecologists will now have an easier time fact-finding thanks to the first complete database of the world of 11,000 known ant species. A Cairo Egypt-based researcher has launched [www.antbase.org](http://www.antbase.org) a resource for scholars, ecologists or anyone interested in ants. Ants are the most common life form on earth and the combined weight of all the ants in the world is greater than the combined weight of

all humans. The data base provides a full list of the world's known ants complete with links, studies and images.

The pet industry is growing; Americans have spent over \$45.4 billion in 2009.

Do you want to know how hot it is? Count the number of cricket chirps in 15 seconds, multiply the results by 80 percent (or 4/5ths) and add 42, the result is a temperature in Fahrenheit. The oldest dog in the world just celebrated his 26th birthday, that's 182 in dog years. Owner Janelle Deroven of Louisiana claims she never spoils the dog. "We don't give him special food and the only play toy he has is an old rope."

Lyssa Rosenberg of New York claims she has trained her dog to read, after six weeks of training. Willow, a Terrier will roll over when shown the word, 'Bang', she will extend paw to the word, 'Wave' and responds to other written commands. She also reads the words printed out by a computer.

Speaking of dogs, more e-mails from readers asking for a reliable dog trainer or pet psychic. I suggest you watch the dog trainer at work and check with previous customers and get their opinion. Remember, there is **no state license required, no 'certification', no tests to pass** for either one.

Just set up your sign and presto, you can call yourself a 'certified' pet psychic or dog trainer. For instance, I can say, 'I now certify Mary Long as a dog psychic and dog trainer' and low and behold, she is.

When I had my training kennel, I found 98 percent of dog problems were with the owner's attitude. Again, I suggest reading a book written by my old mentor, Barbara Woodhouse, *Training You to Train your Dog*, or *How to Talk to your Dog*, by Jean Craighead, *Why Dogs Do That*, by Tom Davis. *How to Say it to Your Dog*, by Janine Adams. It's full of easy-to-follow chapters. *How Dogs Think: Understanding the Canine Mind*, by Stanley Coren, and the best book of all, in my opinion, is *The Practical Dog Listener*, by Jan Fennell. This is the best book on training and understanding your dog on the market. I highly recommend reading it if you live with a dog.

Angela Stockdale who lives in Somerset, England has a dog that trains other dogs how to behave. The dog does this by setting an example of good



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behavior during the training session. Angela just sits and watches while Stanley the dog works his magic. Angela's theory is that people trying to teach dogs how to behave toward each other is like a **non-French** speaker trying to teach someone French. She claims that her hardest job is to convince owners they don't have to do anything; "Let Stanley do the job of teaching." Angela has practiced this method of training for 20 years. It does sound fascinating; any comments from readers?

Time to enjoy a walk with Dudley. Remember, all of the animals on earth, except man, know that the principal business of life is to enjoy it.



Your comments are welcome  
[rhjrowe@aol.com](mailto:rhjrowe@aol.com)

## COP WATCH OJAI

Good Morning Watchers,

Two days ago, one of our Oak View neighbors was attacked while working with her horses. Our neighbor was at a horse ranch in the 300 blk of Burnham Rd. While she was tending to and enjoying her horses, she was approached by an unknown female. This female suspect made an irrational statement about the horses and then struck our neighbor in the head with a large rock. Our neighbor received significant injury and will take some time to recover from this incident. The suspect fled the area immediately after attacking our neighbor.

The suspect in this case had a large butcher style knife stuck in her waistband and was holding a red or orange cat during the attack.

The suspect in this case is described as a white female in her 40s, 5 feet 6 inches tall and weighing about 160 pounds. She was wearing a mid drift stye white top, blue pants and was bare foot. She has bleached blonde hair with brown roots showing.

We need your help in locating this suspect. If you have any information about who this woman is, please call the Ojai Police Department at 646-1414 or you can send your info, to me here at City Watch.

This is an important case, one of our neighbors was attacked and we need to catch this crook. Please pass this alert on to all your friends and neighbors.

Keep up the good work and "lets catch a crook".

Your friend and neighbor, Joe  
I can be reached at,  
[ojaivalley.citywatch@venutra.org](mailto:ojaivalley.citywatch@venutra.org)



## Damn Good Reading!



## Adoption Links

[www.vcar.us](http://www.vcar.us)  
[www.petfinder.com](http://www.petfinder.com)  
[www.aussierescuesocal.com](http://www.aussierescuesocal.com)  
[www.militaryworkingdogadoptions.com](http://www.militaryworkingdogadoptions.com)  
[www.RescueBoutique.com](http://www.RescueBoutique.com)  
[www.humanesocietyvc.org](http://www.humanesocietyvc.org)  
[www.catscradlerescue.org](http://www.catscradlerescue.org)

## Adopt a Pet: Ojai Humane Society

Now is the time to adopt a cat or dog from the Ojai Humane Society.



A joyous crowd of chihuahua and chihuahua-mix, each one a unique personality.



Abby (at left) was found in a dumpster in Ojai, a passerby heard his whimpering and brought him to the shelter. He is a collie and is in need of a good home. All these bundles of love and more are waiting for homes. Lots of Puppies at the Shelter !!!



Here are perky kittens looking for a loving home.



Suzanne Soprano, shelter volunteer and coordinator holds a charming, lovable Golden retriever St. Bernard-mix, all ready to head for a new home, it could be yours.

A perky rottweiler-mix (below) is so full of love and affection he has to kiss someone, you could be next for a kiss if you adopt him.



To meet these and other wonderful animals, Humane Society, 402 Bryant St., Ojai. info. 646-6505

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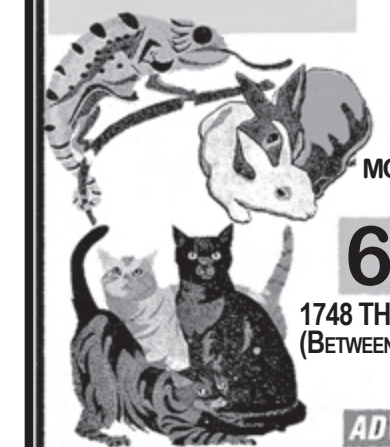


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ADVANTAGE FRONTLINE





Sunday Nights - Open Mike Night

# Java Joe's Ventura Featured Artist - Anne Moot



Anne Moot at Open Mike Sundays  
by Joel Anderson

"I LOVE Bob Dylan," breathes Anne into the mic, "I've been writing poetry for years, and a year and a half ago I picked up a guitar and so I wanted to put it into something else, like expand my words, and make it into something."  
"Perfectly suited to the intimate folk/art ambience of the all new Java Joe's, Anne Moot is one of the new crop of talented musicians refining their sound at Open Mike Sundays at this inspired new venue."  
"I think it's THE place, it's one of Ventura's secrets that hopefully people will start finding out more about." Refreshingly young and enthusiastic she is a recent transplant to the west coast who has no intention of going back, now that she has dipped her toes into the Pacific Surf. Mixing punk sounds ("Social Distortion") with folk, she is melding her own sound in the tradition of the folk/rock greats that she admires.  
Anne has become friends with most of the musicians who frequent Java Joe's and loves to hang out, drink coffee and talk shop with her fellow creatives, knowing that this is the way great music scenes are developed. "I mean it's a really bad ass place to play – you get experience playing in front of people. People feed off each other's music and you can feel the vibes." Anne recalls the time the entire crowd starting singing along with her cover; Social "D's" Ball and Chain. "It really gets the energy up," she said. Rocking out on open mic night with the other bands and the interaction of an enthusiastic audience brings a high level of spontaneity and excitement to the scene."  
Down at the beach, in the California sun she prepares for her next performance with building excitement. With her long dark blonde hair, casual clothes and guitar clutched in her hands she writes and sings looking

Keep Checking Back with the VIEW for featured artist interviews. This Month we're featuring singer-songwriterr Annie Moot (left), who talks about living in Ventura, the new-found surf, her friends and, of course, music.

west into the horizon from Surfer's Point, melting poetry into music. "Combining your words with the way you sing, it makes it even stronger than just the spoken word." Poetry, to passion, to music... and then down to the open mic night at Java Joe's to share with her musical family of friends. What could be more perfect?  
"This is MY place," laughs Anne as she claims the stage on Sundays. "I'm going to keep playing here for a long while."  
"I'll see ya around. Have a good night!!!!..." – M.L. (C.W.)  
info. www.myspace.com/annemoot

## EVENT CALENDAR

Continued from Page 9...  
lection, 1915-1926 (on display through January 31, 2010). The cost per-person is \$100 (\$75 tax-deductible). Patron opportunities are available. Vinos, Tapas y Arte is just one of many ways SBTHP seeks to increase community awareness and raise funds to support its mission to preserve, restore, reconstruct and interpret historic sites in Santa Barbara County. To purchase tickets or for more information contact SBTHP at (805) 965-0093 or visit www.sbthp.org  
Featured Wineries: Alma Rosa Winery & Vineyards, Bridlewood Estate Winery, Buttonwood Farm Winery, Byron Wines, Cambria Winery & Vineyards, HdV Hyde Vineyards, Lucas & Lewellen Vineyards, and Sweeney Canyon Vineyard. Featured Restaurants: Brook E Culinary Artist, Central Coast Culinary, Omni Fresco Catering, and The Melting Pot. Featured Artists: Jamee Aubrey, Susan Belloni, Chris Chapman, Pedro De La Cruz, Holli Harmon, Blair Harper, Jeremy Harper, John Iwerks, Larry Iwerks, Lori Lenz, Meggi MacKenzie, Elizabeth Madal, Cree Mann, Thomas Mann, Margaret Nadeau, Peter Gino Niederer, Jerilynne Nibbe, Chris Potter, John Rowbottom, Kim Snyder, B.J. Stapen, Rich Untermyann, Thomas Van Stein, and Lynn Weber.  
info. www.sbthp.org or call (805) 965-0093  
• Sept. 27- 10am to 4pm, Car Show Fundraiser for the Keystone Club of the Boys and Girls Club of Ventura,  
info. 641-5585, email nancyg@bgclubventura.org, www.bgclubventura.org



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Michael Baggs



Luke Spooner, Andrew Pineda, and Taylor Bozarth.



Taylor Bozarth



George Jr. and Lloyd

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## VENTURA SALES TAX CON...

### R. ELLIS SMITH Let um Drink Bottled Water...



Even in these times of stress, economy, taxes, health care, etc., there is always something to be thankful for, the City Manager of Ventura, Mr. Rick Cole and the Gang in the Ivory Tower. (Ventura City Council) are thankful that they now have another golden reason to "Con" the citizens of Ventura into voting Yes on Proposition "A" the ½ percent increase in the local sales tax. They now are using the fact that the State is going to pirate away wheelbarrows full of our property tax money to add to their whining, which of course will leave us even further in the economic lurch, so of course that means they really need the tax increase, really, really, really. All I can say is the people in Hell want Ice Cubes too!

Now what do we, the citizens of Ventura have to be thankful for?? If you see what is happening to Simi Valley, Thousand Oaks, Camarillo, to name a few, they are being forced by the State of California to cut back on their water use. Why? Because they are hooked up to the State water-line. Something a bunch of greedy "Good Ol' Boy" Venturan's wanted to do back a few years ago. We can be thankful that they were shot down by the rest of the citizens, otherwise we would now be at the "water mercy" of the State of California like a whole bunch of other cities.

On the other hand if the administration of the city of Ventura had followed the vote of the citizens and the order of the Mayor at that time we would now be enjoying the fruits of a Water Desalination plant providing us with an abundance of fresh, clear, delicious water. But the Gang in the Ivory Tower at that time decided they knew what was better for the city than the citizens did and simply ignored the peoples vote.

Relis Smith  
rellis39@officeliveusers.com  
www.venturanow.web.officelive.com

## VENTURA SALES TAX CON...

### R. ELLIS SMITH Water, Water, Apparently Nowhere !



Here is a little present from the present Gang in the Ivory Tower, (Ventura City Council) to all citizens in the City of San Buenaventura. Safe, Reliable Water: Rate Increase July 1, 09  
Beginning July 1, water and wastewater (sewer) bills within the City of Ventura will reflect the second part of the two-year rate increase plan approved by customers in Oct. 2008.  
This rate increase, as the first one did, averages seven percent and will fund replacement of aging pipes, compliance costs for stricter laws regulating environmental impacts, and

rising expenses to operate and maintain the City's water and sewer systems.

We could have avoided all these automatic "Water Rate" increases if the folks in the Ivory Tower, (Ventura City Hall) would have followed what the citizens voted for and approved. However as usual, the Gang in the Ivory Tower, (Past and Present) feel they know what is best for the citizens no matter what the vote is.

On Nov. 3, 1992 there was a measure "o" on the general election ballot. It asked the citizens of Ventura if they would prefer building a Desalination Plant, or hooking up to the State water Pipeline.

There were, at that time in the city of Ventura, 60,081 registered voters, 46,015 or 76.6 percent cast their ballots, the results were: For Desalination, 23,429 - for State Pipeline, 19,089 a resounding message to the present Gang in the Ivory Tower, (Ventura City Council), that the citizens wanted a Desalination Plant. Although the City Council at that time, voted to direct the City Manager to proceed with necessary steps to build a desalination plant and the Mayor at that time, Mr. Carson declared the vote carried, apparently nothing was ever done about the order and nobody ever questioned why the order was simply ignored by the City Manger at that time.

NOTE: Look below to see which council members voted NO on the Desalination Plant.

So the City of San Buenaventura went about it's merry way giving the State of California \$1,000,000/year to hold our place in line. Now that's \$16,000,000 we have lost to the state, seems like back in 1992 we could possibly have built a Desalination Plant for that kind of Moola.

Here is a historic story of how things happened in the Ivory Tower in 1992, not much different than how things happen today. Council Member Buford said the Utilities Committee met on Wednesday to discuss desalination and requested direction from Council. He said the next Utilities Committee meetings will be held Nov. 18, Dec. 2, and Dec. 16, 1992, and are open to the public.

Director of Public Works Shelley Jones said there are many long steps to be taken prior to beginning a desalination plant. He said there are research permits required? A series of engineering

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ABSENT: None.

Mayor Carson declared the motion carried. Councilmember Bean offered a motion in recognition of the voters' preference for seawater desalination, that City Council direct the City Manager to diligently and expeditiously proceed with the necessary steps (generally following the attached Implementation Tasks) to build a seawater desalination facility to supplement the City's water supply, and add the tasks to the categories in the Outline of Implementation Tasks For Seawater Desalination Facility as amended by the previous motion, which motion was seconded by Councilmember Buford. Upon call of the roll, the vote was as follows:

AYES: Councilmembers Buford, Bean, Tuttle, Collart and Carson.

NOES: Councilmembers Tingstrom and Monahan.

ABSENT: None.

Mayor Carson declared the motion carried. Now the headlines in the Ventura County Star of June 21, 2009 read: "Cities may join desalination project". Calleguas Municipal Water district is planning a \$140 million project with certain cities taking part ownership of the regional desalters in CAMARILLO, MOORPARK, & SIMI VALLEY, a desalter would not be built in Thousand Oaks, but the city would be able to receive treated water from Camarillo.

So it would appear that now the other Ventura County cities are using their imagination and intelligence to bring unlimited water to their cities, something Ventura could have had over a decade ago. I imagine what happened is the Gang in the Ivory Tower at that time decided to use the money for an "Art Project" of some sort instead of a desalination plant. After all, we all know that times of "Plenty Art" will get you through the rough spots a lot better than times of "Plenty Water."

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# Behind the Scenes with Vixen's Vixen's at the Red Cove

Very Ventura

Via. Traditions: High Energy Punk, Surf, Driving Metal, Rockabilly



**The VIEW** has it on Good Authority that **Vixen's Vixen's** & Mayor **Christy Weir** was just absolutely in love with the coverage of our last visit to the **Red Cove** (see May Issue #14 at [www.OjaiandVenturaView.com](http://www.OjaiandVenturaView.com) to check out **Vixen's Vixen's**), and with bands like this visit... **The Resistors**, **Radio Threat**, **Traylor Queen**, **Rocken Dead**, **Dead of Night**, **Iron Outlaws**, **The Formaldabrides**, **Luck of the Draw** and **GIVE EM HELL.....** and why shouldn't she, with all that **BIG HAIR....** what with the **OBSCENE 1/2 CENT SALES TAX CHRISTY'S TRYING TO SHOVE DOWN THE THROATS OF VENTURA'S VOTING PUBLIC**.

Christy take a break from one of your trips **A BROAD**, and pencil a 'Local' date on your calendar & come on down sometime and see how the real folk live !  
— Joel Anderson, ed.

Vixen's Vixen's

Vixen Magdalene

Lavendar Lady

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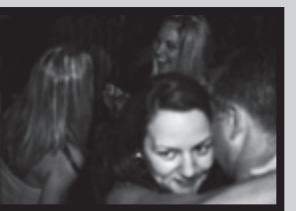
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## MegaPics Red Cove Bonus



What's a Girl to Do ? Jägermeister Grrrr !

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## Are There Upcoming Lessons for Ventura and Other Cities in California ? Who Pays for Errors by a City Attorney ?

by Frank Pecarich

"Anyone can hold the helm when the sea is calm."  
— Pubilius Syrus ~100 BC

It seems like every day we read about a new, serious and—yes—scary challenge to the financial security of California's huge public sector, whether it's at the Governor's office or down at our local City Hall. It feels like a huge tsunami headed our way, with one crisis after another being predicted. Currently we have our Governor and Legislature desperately trying to find a way out of a major, perhaps unprecedented, budgetary shortfall for the State, with no solution in sight. You can be certain that those budgetary problems topside in Sacramento will continue to "trickle down" to us in the cities.

Sometimes these threats don't immediately translate into financial insecurity but ultimately our fast changing world is imposing significant requirements on our government institutions to make major adjustments and changes from the status quo. We citizens need to hope that we have the very best in talent at all these levels of government to help us weave our way through what is proving to be a virtual "landmine-laden highway to our future".

When I look around at what we have as "talent", both elected as well as civil servant, I find reason for serious concern. For example, after several months of controversy in my home town of Ventura over the decisions made by the City Council to charge a "fee" for calling 911 for emergency assistance, I thought I should do some research on the civil servants who had proposed and sanctioned this policy. The most recently hired is our Ventura City Attorney who vetted this proposal and now the ordinance.

Doesn't anybody check employment history anymore? Years ago the Personnel Director for the Department of the Interior told me something I didn't forget. He said, "Frank, always make sure you carefully check the employment history and references of an applicant for a job. You'd be surprised how many employers don't do a good job of that and

rely on the charm and resume of the applicant."

Well, that advice paid off for me over the years although it would appear that the City of Ventura needs to have some coaching from that old mentor of mine.

The subject at issue is their rather recent hire for Ventura City Attorney, Ariel Calonne. In a June 26, 2007 press release, then Mayor Carl Moorhouse proudly announced, "After a lengthy search that attracted numerous, well qualified candidates, the Ventura City Council is extremely pleased that Mr. Calonne will be bringing his legal expertise to our City." Moorhouse went on to say, "The intensive search process included a peer review panel of attorneys within our community, as well as panel interviews with our City Council and City Executive Team. Mr. Calonne brings a wealth of experience and leadership in areas of

environmental and land use issues, which will be particularly valuable in our city's journey towards becoming a national model of Smart Growth."

Wow, we're thinking, this guy Calonne must be good. Moreover, Moorhouse said that Calonne was "vetted" by his peers and panel interviews with the City Council and something called the "Executive Team." If Calonne passed all that review he must be A#1, right?

Well, it turns out that our new City Attorney Calonne comes to us serving some sort of probation meted out by the courts in his previous city of employment, Boulder, Colorado. That's right; Ariel Calonne may actually have a Boulder-based probation officer! That seems like a unique albeit dubious distinction for a City Attorney, don't you think? That wouldn't look good on one's resume, would it?

Thankfully unaccustomed to such matters, I

Atty. Calonne Continued Page 20...

## Wine Delight



Enjoying a bottle of wine with fine friends at **Caffe Bella** is a triple experience... first the folks, then the wine and captivating wine-knowledgeable server, **Elena**, holding a **Hob Nob Merlot (2006)**; a deep black cherry color, soft and approachable on the palate, deep and impressive... in the other hand **Jenness Central Coast Baron Herzog Cabernet Savignon (2007)**; a powerful, cabernet dominated, open fruit, nose of mature damson, lovely elegance with complexity, soft richness and depth.

— Ron Rowe

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- Tues, Sept 15, 8pm - **Jimmy Mooks Comedy Improv**
- Wed, Sept 16, 8pm - **Dan Grimm and Friends**
- Thurs, Sept 17, 8pm - **Delaney Gibson**

Also Bella will be celebrating it's 2nd Anniversary, September 19th (Saturday) with John Tormey singing great Irish tunes and class rock and roll!! Cheese Plates will be out for all to enjoy!

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# The Jester



Stand-up Bass



Jesterin' Richard



Jon and his Skateboard-Drum



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Jon Long and a Soulful Suzanne Paris



JMac, Jon Long and Hippie Mark

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Sit-down Bass



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## ATTY. CALONNE

Continued from Page 19...

had to do some research on what probation issued as a result of “deferred prosecution” meant. All these unfamiliar words, probation, deferred prosecution... my head was whirling. My public service of 26 years hadn’t accustomed me to such delicious irony in an employment situation. What’s so hard about employers using the Internet?

From a rather easy search of the Internet, it turns out that **Ariel Calonne** has on the public record quite an interesting, thought provoking as well as worrisome employment history as a **City Attorney**. The trail begins with a stint as **City Attorney in the City of Palo Alto**.

While **City Attorney in Palo Alto**, **Calonne** won an award for his apparent knowledge of a well known public open meeting law, the **Brown Act**. However, it turns out that **Calonne** was apparently involved in a fairly major public dust-up involving the City’s performance in that very subject -- openness in government. The result was a lawsuit with the **City of Palo Alto** as defendant and the **San Jose Mercury** newspaper and the **Palo Alto Weekly** newspaper as plaintiffs. In a **July 4, 2003** issue, the **Palo Alto Weekly** captured the story perhaps best.

... starting in **October** of last year, **Calonne** was thrown under a harsh spotlight. The complex tale -- which some are speculating led to **Calonne’s** abrupt departure -- began in **October** when **Councilwoman Nancy Lytle** made a comment criticizing **Calonne’s** legal advice at a council meeting.

That comment, **Calonne’s** subsequent e-mail to the council on the issue, and a private council meeting to discuss the e-mail became the center of two lawsuits against the city by the **Weekly** and another local newspaper.

“I do not deserve to be the subject of abuse in public,” **Calonne** wrote in the e-mail, eventually made public due to the lawsuit. In addition to the comment by **Lytle**, other council members also broke faith with **Calonne** by revealing contents of the e-mail prior to the lawsuit.

The lawsuit contended the **City Council** violated the state’s open government law, an ironic development given that **Calonne** is considered an expert on the law, known as the **Brown Act**.

Before **Calonne** “split” **Palo Alto** -- as we used to say in the **60s** -- to become the **City Attorney in Boulder, Colorado**, the **City of Palo Alto** had to settle the lawsuit with the two newspapers out of court to the tune of more than \$10,000. Some going away gift, huh?

Before we leave the **Palo Alto** caper, an interesting outcome to the **Ariel Calonne/City Council** exchange was reported in an **April, 2003** issue of **Metro** which is described as “*Silicon Valley’s Weekly Newspaper*”:

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Ariel Calonne

become known as a civic version of “*Jackass the Movie*”? Maybe **Ventura City Hall** is well on its way to that title too. But if the **Ventura City Council** would decide to follow the guide of **Palo Alto**, would we need to also employ a “*Non-verbal Communication Violation Officer*”? We don’t even have enough money in the city budget these days for our regular police protection but maybe with some direction from the **City Attorney**, we could get some ideas how a **City** goes about administering a “*non-verbal communication*” code. If anyone should know, it would be **Ariel Calonne**, right? I mean, he was there and in the middle of it.

The “*If You Haven’t Ever Been On Probation, How Can You Know Anything About It?*” **School Of Thought**

Well, let’s turn our attention to **Calonne’s** stint as **City Attorney in Boulder, Colorado**. Remember it was in **Boulder** that **Calonne** was given probation as a result of a finding of “*deferred prosecution*” by the court. Looking up the definition of “*deferred prosecution*” I find that it is described thusly:

Deferred prosecution: *An arrangement made between the District Attorney and defendant before trial halting the prosecution of a defendant for up to two years on the condition that he or she successfully meets conditions of probation.*

But maybe it was explained best by **Ariel Calonne’s** attorney in this **City of Boulder** matter, **Steve Louth**, when he said “**Calonne** is scheduled to receive a yearlong deferred prosecution, meaning that if he stays out of trouble, the charges will be wiped from his record.” That statement was from an **October 17, 2007** article in **Boulder’s Scripps Howard newspaper, The Daily Camera**. The article went on to explain **Ariel Calonne’s June, 2007** behavior that had **Calonne** in court by stating:

Former **Boulder City Attorney Ariel Calonne** is expected to make a deal with prosecutors Thursday that will clear his record of charges stemming from a falling-out with a neighbor over the summer. **Calonne** was cited in June for misdemeanor harassment and criminal mischief after his neighbor, **Beverly Potter**, called police to report he threatened to “*kick her ass*” if she touched his dog. He also was accused of kicking two sprinkler heads in **Potter’s** yard when she turned them on to get his dog off her property in the 3200 block of 11th Street.

The article went further to say, “Included in his (**Calonne’s**) punishment is a promise to have no contact with **Potter**, and to write an apology letter to the community.”

Oh, and one more thing, the reporter made comment in the article that, “**Calonne** sold his **Newlands** neighborhood home in **August** for **\$1,162,500**, according to property records. He had lived there since **2004**, when he paid **\$895,000** for the home.” Using these figures my math has **Calonne** making a gross profit on his **Boulder** house of **\$267,500**.

“Nice going” we’re tempted to say, until we

remember that the **City of Ventura** gave **Calonne** some sort of housing supplement as part of his more than **\$200,000** annual pay package. Golly, why was that? Maybe it was **City Manager Rick Cole** whispering into **Calonne’s** ear that he got the **City** to put up money to buy him a house when he moved here three years ago so **Ariel**, why not take advantage of the generosity of the **City of Ventura**? We all know **Ventura** has money to burn, right?

While I was searching the **Internet** for information on **Calonne**, I ran across a piece written in 2005 by columnist **Clint Talbot** at **Boulder’s The Daily Camera**. **Talbot** was asking why after two years “*on the job*” and in spite of the fact that **Calonne** was the highest paid city attorney “*along the front range including Denver*” -- a city 6 times the size of **Boulder** -- “*Calonne has yet to earn either a raise or a bonus*?”

**Boulder Journalist Clint Talbot** explained in his article that he chased around for information about how the **City of Boulder** saw **Calonne’s** performance and finally got information from the city human resource department. **Talbot** reported that “*The city council said Calonne’s professional competence “slightly exceeds” that of a standard performer. But Talbot went on to state that in five of nine categories, City Council members rated Calonne’s performance as “slightly below standard.”*

A “*quart low*”

So, **Calonne’s** overall rating indicates that he “*slightly exceeds*” a standard performer but in more than half of the rating factors he was rated “*slightly below standard*”? What is “*slightly below standard*”? I ask myself. I’m thinking that if a grade of “**C**” is standard, is a “**D**” slightly below standard or is it a “**D+**” or maybe a “**C-**”? In any event, is this the stuff which warrants **Mayor Carl Morehouse’s** laudatory comments at the beginning of this article? I think not...

**Hey, We’re Going To Hire Him Anyway So Why Check ?**

Looking at this further, another article dated **June 30, 2007**, in the **Daily Camera** states, “*It’s not clear whether being cited for two misdemeanors could have any impact on Calonne’s*

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# The Fandango



Jacob Hernández (marimba).



Robert Perales (requinto jarocho), Jacob Hernández (marimba).



Carlos Corona, (acoustic).

**The Fandango in Santa Paula**, so named, the provocative courtship dance, here performed in Santa Paula over the recent Labor Day weekend.



Fandango at the Railroad Park Gazebo



Xocoyotzin Moraza (requinto jarocho), John Robles (harp) performing their new release..

Photos © 2009, Joel Anderson



Conjunto Callejon - Xavier Montes (harp) and his protégés: Carlos Corona, 9-years old, Destiny Porter, 10-years old, Angel Martínez, 8-years old, Marco Mendez, 9-years old, and Ricardo Alvarez, 9-years old.



Chucumite - John Robles (harp), Xocoyotzin Moraza (requinto jarocho), Robert Perales (varana), and Jacob Hernández (marimba).

legal career. Although he has accepted a new job in **California**, the **City Council** there hasn’t yet confirmed his contract, and he hasn’t resigned from his **Boulder** post. The article goes on to say, “**Carl Morehouse, Ventura’s mayor**, didn’t return a call **Friday** seeking comment about **Calonne’s** brush with the law.”

So **Carl Morehouse** didn’t return the call from the **Boulder** newspaper? Wouldn’t you think that he’d be interested in finding out what the future city attorney for **Ventura** had done to warrant this obvious legal and public attention? This is the same **Carl Morehouse** who along with his **other two city council cohorts Christy Weir** and **Bill Fulton** appealed to the **Ventura** electorate last **November** to “give them a chance to finish” what they had started. Hey, I’ll vote for that. Now at least we know who to hold accountable for these fiascos, don’t we?

On that matter of the **City Attorney Ariel Calonne** being on probation until sometime this fall, isn’t that special? How does that work? Does he have to check in with a probation officer? Remember **Calonne’s Boulder** attorney said if he “*stayed out of trouble the charges*

would be wiped from his record.” For some of us in **Ventura**, **Calonne** isn’t doing a good job of keeping us out of trouble. Does that count, **Mr. Probation Officer ?**

Many **Ventura** citizens are going to remember his record here which has already had a questionable start. It is on the advice of **Calonne** that has the **Ventura City Council** believing that their “fee” for the hotly opposed “**call 911**” tax is a fee, and not a tax. As I look at his record, **Calonne** may know something about open meeting law but it seems clear that he has no background in tax law. As I talk to top tax attorneys and tax policy **CPA’s**, they are unequivocal that this **Ventura** proposal is in fact a “**tax**” and not a fee.

But based on the **City Council’s** typical stance of “*father knows best and if-he-doesn’t-pretend-he-does*”, the **911** issue will have to be taken to court to prove they -- and that is to say, us -- are wrong. And when it does go to court, will “*slightly better than average*” **Ariel Calonne** represent us? It seems like we get stuck having to pay for all their mistakes. Like I say, “who’s

watching the store over at **Ventura City Hall**? We can and should do better for ourselves... Let’s hope that other cities and counties in the state don’t have to suffer because of problems

with performance in their civil servants. **Frank Pecarich** lives in **Ventura County** and has followed **California** politics and public policy for over 40 years.

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- 13 Sept - Solid Rock Christian Center, Vta. - Toni Gooden & Friends ‘Voices of Praise’, EP Released, 644-7722

- 13 Sept.- Santa Barbara Bowl, The Killers 7 pm, 962-7411

- 13 Sept.- HiCees BBQ Cafe/ Vta, Blue Stew 2-6 pm, 650-7773

- 17 Sept.- The Canyon/ Agoura Hills, Broken Lizard Live: Featuring the Stars and Creators of Super Troppers, Beefstef and Club Dread. The Spazmatics, 818-879-5016

- 17 Sept. - The Fillmore/ San Francisco, Blues Traveler - 8 pm, 415-346-6000

- 18 Sept. - Cold Spring Tavern / S.B. - Sean Wiggins and Paul Houston, Sun. 7-10, 967-0066

- 18 Sept. - The Canyon/ Agoura Hills, Don’t Stop Believin’ (Journey Tribute) and Queen Nation (Queen Tribute), 818-879-5016

- 18 Sept. - The Fillmore/ San Francisco, Citizen Cope 9 pm, 415-346-6000

- 18 Sept.- Majestic Ventura Theatre/ Ventura, Social Distortion, 7 pm, 653-0721

- 18 Sept.- HiCees BBQ Cafe/ Ventura, Steve White & The Barstool Pigeons, 6-10 pm, 650-7773

- 18 Sept.- Yolie’s/ Ventura, Nathan McEuen, Bard w/ Scott Gates and Chuck Hailes, 8 pm, 652-0338

- 19 Sept.- The Canyon/ Agoura Hills, Average White Band, 818-879-5016

- 19 Sept.- HiCees BBQ Cafe/Ventura, Baby Sister - 5-9 pm, 650-7773

- 19 Sept. - Cold Spring Tavern / S.B. - Mike Lopez 2-5 pm/ Jamie Green Band 6-9 pm, 967-0066

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- 20 Sept.- Canyon/ Agoura Hills, Peter Frampton, 818-879-5016

- 20 Sept.- Majestic Ventura Theatre, Sugar Ray 7 pm, 653-0721

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- 22 Sept.- The Fillmore/ San Francisco, Bon Iver, 8 pm, 415-346-6000
- 22 Sept.- The Santa Barbara Bowl/ Crosby, Stills & Nash 7pm - 962-7411
- 23 Sept.- The Fillmore/ San Francisco, The Revolving Cocks, 8 pm, 415-346-6000
- 23 Sept.- San Luis/Obispo, Christopher Cohan Performing Arts, 756-7222
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- 26 Sept.- HiCees BBQ Cafe/ Ventura, Preachers 5-9 pm, 650-7773

- 26 Sept.- Majestic Ventura Theatre, Insane Clown Posse 7 pm, 805-653-0721

- 26 Sept.- SOHO/S.B. Led Zepplica 9 pm, 962-7776

- 26 Sept.- The Fillmore/ San Francisco, Hope Sandoval & The Warm Inventions 9 pm, 415-346-6000

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- 29 Sept.- The Fillmore/ San Francisco, Kailash Kher 8 pm, 415-346-6000

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- 2 Oct.- The Fillmore/ San Francisco, Dark Star Orchestra 9 pm, 415-346-6000

- 2 Oct.- Majestic Ventura Theatre/ Trivium 7 pm, 650-7773

- 2 Oct.- The Santa Barbara Bowl, Journey 7 pm, 962-7411
- 3 Oct.- The Canyon/ Agoura Hills, America, 879-5016
- 3 Oct.- Santa Barbara Bowl, Loggins and Messina with the Gabe Dixon Band, 7pm, 962-7411
- 3 Oct.- The Fillmore/ San Francisco, Dark Star Orchestra 9 pm, 415-346-6000
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- 3 Oct.- Libbey Bowl, Rock The Trucks, Ojai, Julie Christensen 2-10 pm
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- 4 Oct.- The Fillmore/ San Francisco, Dark Star Orchestra 8 pm, 415-346-6000

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- 12 Oct.- The Santa Barbara Bowl, Blink 182, 7 pm - 962-7411

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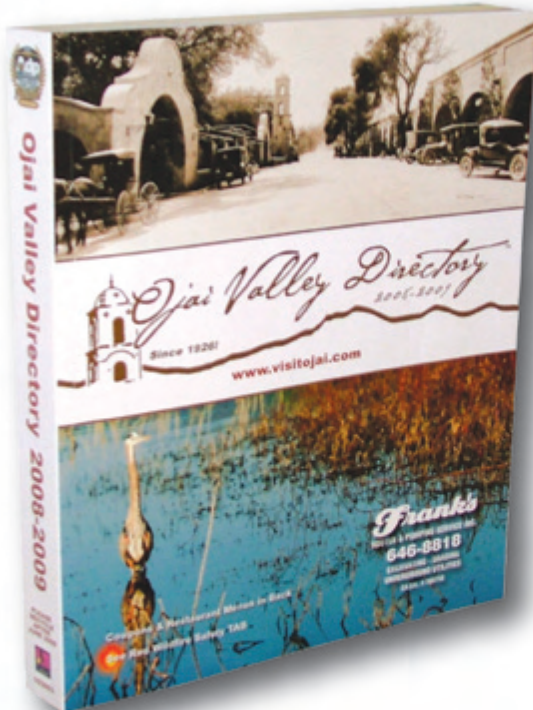


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