

The Ojai & Ventura



VIEW



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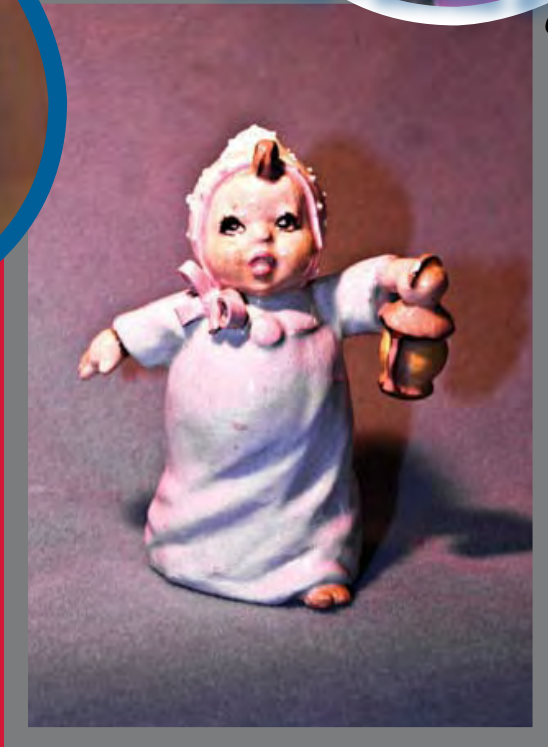
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THERAPY DOGS



**'LOCAL' HERO
JESS
VICTORIA**



Cover Photos © 2008, Joel Anderson

**Anxiety Problems ? • United Water: P. R. Games • Comedy Club • Devin
Military K-9 Heros • Gen • Suza: Earthlings • Santa's Workshop • Shame**

INSIDE: • JEFFERSON: BUDGET BLUES • THE 'NICEST' PEOPLE



LETTER

Ventura-SB County Financial Meltdown

Editor,
Let us first look at the bad news before we try to understand the really bad news, [and there is plenty of both for residents of Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties.]
THE BAD NEWS

Americans cut back on their profligate purchases by the greatest decrease in consumer spending in almost three decades. This was during the past summer BEFORE the meltdown on Wall Street. In early October the Commerce Department estimated that the economy shrank by 0.3%. Two months later we learn that the real rate of decline was a much larger 0.5%. But wait, the news just gets worse. The economists at the Commerce Department reported, at first, that consumer spending, [this is the engine that drives the entire economy], was down by 3.1% That was quite a drop, but it was only an 'educated guess'. We have just learned that the real drop in consumer spending was a whopping 3.7%, the biggest decrease since 1980.

These numbers never seem to end, but you do understand the situation; Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties are expensive places to live and we, [you and me], have less and less money to spend. The poorest families in our counties spend about 12% of their limited income on sales taxes, gasoline taxes and property taxes. The wealthiest 1% of our neighbors [income of \$1.6 million and above], spend just a bit more than 7% of their income on state and county taxes.

REALLY BAD NEWS

How sad, but our story does not end here. Southern California Gas Co. [SoCalGas], particiaptes in a CAREprogram, [California Alternate Rate for Energy.] This program asks users of natural gas to pay a bit more so some two million low income citizens will receive a discount on their heating bill. Residential customers pay a bit more than half of the cost of CARE.

Commercial interests pay a bit less of the total while the energy companies pick up about 5% of the costs. This seems to make our gas company very, very unhappy. They want to please the 'big boys' [commercial interests], by lowering the amount of CARE they will pay to only about 21%.

SoCalGas would also lower its costs to a mere penny on every dollar of profit. Now comes the super wonderful part; your cost will increase to pay more than three-quarters of the program. Now picture this, Exxon-Mobil, Bank of America, Walmart and Shell Oil, [just to name a few], will pay less and we [that's you and me, again], will pay more. Do Walmart, Shell Oil, and the others, really need a tax break at your expense? Now doesn't this just give you a warm, tingly feeling inside?

An administrative law judge ruled against SoCalGas, but our beloved company has appealed the ruling to the entire Public Utilities Commission [PUC.] The case will be heard in December. Do yourself a favor, and help the rest of us at the same time, and send an email to the PUC and let them know that this public fleece must be voted down.

Contact the PUC at:
public.advisor@puc.ca.gov
Art L. Isgur, Oak View
a_igur@yahoo.com

support literacy

PRESS RELEASE

Arsenal of Liberty

Dear Neighbor,
What does the public library mean to you? It's been called "an arsenal of liberty" – the singular place in America where children and adults from all backgrounds can tap into empowerment.

In the words of our **President-Elect, Barack Obama**: "If there is anyone out there who still doubts that America is a place where all things are possible... tonight is your answer... [Change] can't happen without you, without a new spirit of service... So let us summon a new spirit of patriotism, of responsibility..."

One small step YOU can take to shoulder that responsibility is to support your public library – that bastion of **Democracy** where **Americans** can access the resources that help them become better citizens.

Once a year, the **Ojai Library Friends & Foundation (OVLFF)** invites you to support our local libraries in **Ojai, Oak View and Meiners Oaks**. Become a supporting member now for 2009, or increase your level of support from 2008, by sending in your contribution today.

Just print out the form from: www.ovlff.com/pdf/Membership_application.pdf and mail it with your check to: **OVLFF, P.O. Box 1005, Ojai, CA 93024**

To see how your dollars are spent, go to: www.ovlff.com/pdf/Books_and_Beyond.pdf.

At a time of economic hardship, when more people need to borrow books, or investigate a new career, or get free job information, we rely on the public library more than ever.

"If it hadn't been for the library, I probably wouldn't have gone to the university," said **architect Norman Foster**, who has been selected to update the **New York Public Library's** landmark 1911 main building. "I discovered a whole world of literature – great writers – and also a world of architecture, like the original books of **Corbusier**."



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Although **Ojai's** plans are less grand than **New York's** \$1.2 billion project, they are just as important to our community. Please help us to expand the wonderful services of our valley libraries in the year ahead with your generous contribution.
[info. www.ovlff.com](http://info.www.ovlff.com)

Spinnin' It Up Here Boss !

R. ELLIS SMITH



Just don't understand the thinking of some people. It seems **Mr. Sheldon Brown, Editor, Publisher,** and chief bottle washer of the **Breeze** has decided

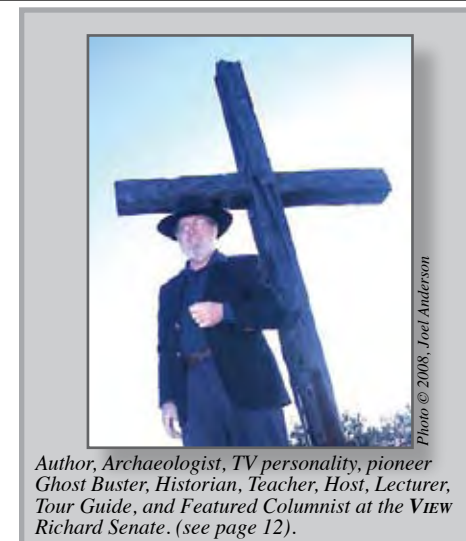
once again to Mess with the Bull; it seems he doesn't mind getting the Horn. In his latest issue (Dec. 3, page 3), the editorial/opinion page he writes about a **Mr. Steve Schleder**, and the fact that he declined to print **Mr. Schleder's** letter about the **Cemetery Park** issue. **Mr. Brown** makes the statement that he would have printed **Mr. Schleder's** letter except that it was just too long. It seems his in-house law is that no opinion gets printed if it is bigger than 400 words.

Now if you go to the 5th page of the **Breeze**, you will notice an opinion article by **Mr. Brian Lee Rencher**. It's obviously "opinion" because it starts out, "What is homeless anyway?" **Mr. Rencher** does write a good article but as everyone knows, **Mr. Rencher** is shall we say "long winded." This article that **Mr. Brown** eagerly snatched up and printed is well over the 400 word limit. So I guess what we have found out about **Mr. Brown** is that he is operating along the same line as **Bush's henchman Dicky Boy Cheney**. They both seem to be masters of the art of "Spinning the Truth."

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



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Author, Archaeologist, TV personality, pioneer Ghost Buster, Historian, Teacher, Host, Lecturer, Tour Guide, and Featured Columnist at the **VIEW Richard Senate.** (see page 12).
Photo © 2008, Joel Anderson

MEDIA VIEW

R. ELLIS SMITH I used to Remember, but I forgot what....



Mr. Sheldon Brown, of the **Ventura Breeze**, (your hometown newspaper), decided, out of nowhere, to write a letter to the **Editor and Publisher**

of the **Ojai/Ventura View**, (*The true Hometown Newspaper*). At first we thought it was a comedy piece, but after reading it a couple of times we, (**I, Rellis Smith**) have come to the conclusion that the "old age sickness" has crept into the mind of **Mr. Brown**.

He started out, 'Dear Mr. (I assume) publisher editor. I would be polite and use your name but you don't seem to feel that it should be in your paper, are you ashamed?' If **Mr. Brown** even bothered to glance through the **View** he would notice a two page spread on page's 12 & 13 with a plethora of photos that states, 'Text & Photos, © 2008, Joel Anderson.' So it is quite apparent that **Mr. Joel Anderson Photographer** par excellence and **Editor and Publisher** of the **View** is far from being "ashamed" of the **View**. Also on page 18 is an Interview of **Brad Buley** by none other than **Joel Anderson**. On page 19 is a piece entitled **Preston Smith at Ventura's Caffè Bella** by... once again **Mr. Joel Anderson**. On page 20 is a piece called **Kinetic Kool Kars** written and photographed by none

the Ojai and Ventura Real
VIEW

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other than the "ashamed" Mr. Joel Anderson. Then on page 21 is another fine piece called **Knauff's Liberty Lifter** by Mr. Joel Anderson.

So regardless of what Mr. Sheldon Brown is trying to allude to, Mr. Joel Anderson is far from being ashamed of anything about the **Ojai/Ventura View**; as a matter of fact he is overly proud of the fact that the **Ojai/Ventura View** is miles ahead of the **Breeze** in content, photos, stories, and above all, advertisers.

Mr. Brown goes on to say that Mr. Anderson "allows" his writers (plural), to speak "bullshit" (Mr. Brown's words) about him. First of all the only person in the **View** that has ever written about Mr. Sheldon Brown is yours truly, (Rellis Smith). I also must say that I have never written any "bullshit" about Mr. Brown. As a matter of fact, I made a promise to Mr. Brown that if he could prove that anything I have ever said about him is un-truthful, I would give him 3 days to gather a crowd and then I would eat a copy of the **Breeze** with no condiments. Uhhhhh Mr. Brown has never taken me up on the offer.

He then finished the letter with a 'PS: Just for your information Ron Smith, as I assume you know, has written many times telling your readers that even though I had practically begged him to write for me that he refused. Do you know that he had 3 articles in our very first issue and would still be writing for me if I didn't fire him.

So now I assume you will show this to him so that he can write more "lies" about me.'

The only time I ever met with Mr. Brown was after he called and asked if I would like to meet and talk about writing for him and possibly being his **Opinion Page Editor**. We met at **Tipps Thai**, after talking for about 30 minutes I asked Mr. Brown if he had ever read anything I had written. He replied that he had and stated that was one of the things he wanted to talk about. He asked if I could possibly lighten up on how I wrote about the **City Hall** and the **Council** as he didn't want to make any enemy's in the **City Hall**. I then told Mr. Brown that it would be a wiser choice for him to find somebody else to write for him, he agreed and we parted company. As far as any 3 articles in his rag, if there were any, I certainly didn't send them to him and have no idea how he got hold of any.

Rellis Smith
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"I never did give anybody hell.
I just told the truth and they
thought it was hell."
- Harry S. Truman, June 9, 1975

LETTER

Bless Your Ramblings

Dear Mr. Ellison (Rellis Smith),

I have really enjoyed your columns over the years. While we don't always agree, my youth (58 years) may deceive me.

You probably realize your rants and ramblings are only a howl in the wilderness, but what an interesting sound it is!

Thank you, and may the Lord continue to bless you as you hold their feet to the fire!

By the way, have you considered my servant,

Jeb

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Spinnin' It Up Here Boss !

R. ELLIS SMITH Don't even think about Parting the Red Sea.....



In the year 2007, the Lord came unto Noah,, who was now living in Ventura, and said, 'Once again, the earth has become wicked and over-populated,

and I see the end of all flesh before me. Build another Ark and save 2 of every living thing along with a few good humans.'

He gave Noah the blueprints, saying, 'You have 6 months to build the Ark before I will start the unending rain for 40 days and 40 nights.'

Six months later, the Lord looked down and saw Noah weeping in his yard — but no Ark. 'Noah !' he roared, 'I'm about to start the rain! Where is the Ark ?'

'Forgive me, Lord,' begged Noah, 'but things have changed. I needed a building permit. I've been arguing with the inspector about the need for a sprinkler system. My neighbors claim that I've violated the neighborhood zoning laws by building the Ark in my yard and exceeding the height limitations. We had to go to the Development Appeal Board for a decision.'

Then the Department of Transportation demanded a bond be posted for the future costs of moving power lines and other overhead obstructions, to clear the passage for the Ark's move to the sea. I told them that the sea would be coming to us, but they would hear nothing of it.'

Getting the wood was another problem. There's a ban on cutting local trees in order to save the spotted owl. I tried to convince the environmentalists that I needed the wood to save the owls - but no go !

When I started gathering the animals, an animal rights group sued me. They insisted that I was confining wild animals against their will. They argued the accommodation was too restrictive, and it was cruel and inhumane to put so many animals in a confined space.'

Then the EPA ruled that I couldn't build the Ark until they'd conducted an environmental impact study on your proposed flood.'

I'm still trying to resolve a complaint with the Human Rights Commission on how many minorities I'm supposed to hire for my building crew. Immigration and Naturalization are checking the green-card status of most of the people who want to work. The trades unions say I can't use my sons. They insist I have to hire only Union Workers with Ark-building experience.'

To make matters worse, the IRS seized all my assets, claiming I'm trying to leave the country illegally with endangered species.'

So, forgive me, Lord, but it would take at least 10 years for me to finish this Ark.'

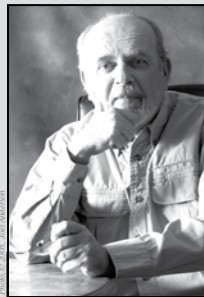
Suddenly the skies cleared, the sun began to shine, and a rainbow stretched across the sky. Noah looked up in wonder and asked, 'You mean you're not going to destroy the world?'

'No,' said the Lord. The Gang in the Ivory Tower beat me too it !

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Send your Letters
editor@ojaiandventuraview.com

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



The Age of Anxiety



Do You Suffer from
'Collective Stress Syndrome' ?

W. H. Auden tagged this time in history as 'The Age of Anxiety' and I understood what that meant when I lived and worked in L.A. from the mid-seventies to the late eighties. What I saw then still is true today. A lot of people racing around in frantic activity, going from meeting to meeting, channel surfing on TV, never being quiet and reflective. Now that our economy has taken a dive, 'survival anxiety' is spreading like wildfire, as any psychotherapist can attest to. Financial worries are getting more intense affecting the middle class, not only poor folks. Many people, including even prosperous ones, have anxieties about ending up on the street, pushing a shopping cart with all of their belongings in it. This kind of anticipatory anxiety is triggered by an imagined future collapse or personal catastrophe. We're disconnected from the grace of The Great Mother and run the danger of losing hope and trust.

Michael Lerner tells us that our world is out of touch with itself. Many people don't recognize the sacred in each other anymore. The mantra, "what can others do for me and how can I use them for my own needs ?" is pervasive in our culture. Everything is measured to the extent that it maximizes wealth, power and ego. Predatory capitalism is making people sick everywhere. The last time I went to the mall I felt like I was witnessing a collective slam dance, I had to get the hell out of there. In our business culture, corruption has become an art form. It seems the bigger the corporate organization the more unavoidable is its immorality and blind stupidity.

Another source of collective stress comes from the "Beauty, Youth and Health Terrorists" as promoted by T.V., magazines and the bullshit celebrity culture. Hollywood and Madison Avenue set standards no one can keep up with and always leaves people lacking and wanting. The mass media extols the rich and is successful in making many people feel bad about themselves because they don't have a lot of money, or aren't physically trim and aren't conventionally beautiful. Millions of people in our country suffer from a new psychological condition called "Collective Stress Syndrome" and we're not immune to it in our beautiful valley.

While still in L.A., I spent countless hours educating patients that a great part of their anxiety and fear did not originate in their individual histories but were collective in origin. Just becoming aware that we all share this stress together brought some relief.

There was another epidemic, which is still current, named pathological materialism (getting and spending). This also had an impact on my work, as some folks would come to therapy not to become more soulful, but to become more 'successful', which to them meant becoming better sharks than the sharks around them. What a bummer that was. I dealt with this powerfully contaminating collective anxiety and madness by leaving LA on Friday afternoons and going to an isolated cabin, next to a creek, half way up Mt. Wilson in Pasadena. It would take me about two hours to hike in with my backpack filled with three days worth of supplies and books. Friends would visit sometimes, but most of the time I was alone except for the presence of Artemis looming all around. Most evenings I spent sitting in front of a small wood burning stove staring into the fire for hours. About every two months, I would follow the call of Hermes and Dionysus, which would take me to a small village outside Ensenada. Being a peasant by birth, I felt comfortable with the soulful warmth of the Mexican peasants. By day I went to their markets and enjoyed their many celebrations and in the evenings I ended up in those dark cantinas filled with sweet sadness and mystery. We all have to find our individual ways to combat collective anxiety and to replenish and rejuvenate.

So how do we protect ourselves from this 'collective stress syndrome'? Here are six healing antidotes against the onslaught of collective anxiety:

1. Friendship and intimacy
2. Relationship to nature
3. Soulful solitude
4. Creativity
5. Becoming involved in a soulful tribe or community
6. Psychotherapy
7. Service

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

PETER RUDOLF MILHADO, PH.D.

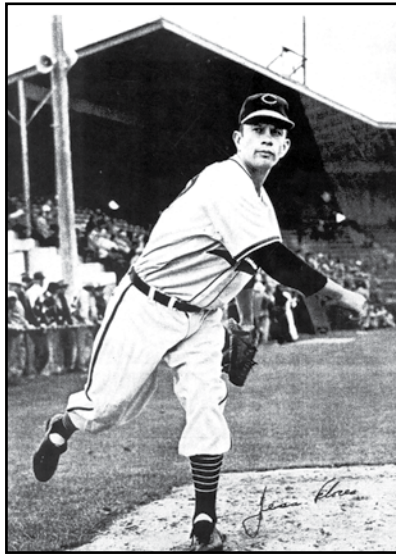
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Jesse Flores



Major League Player, Jesse Flores, circa, 1940s

by Jess Victoria

This is the story of a local Santa Paula lemon citrus worker who rose to the highest level in other fields – the baseball fields of the major leagues.

Yes, his name was **Jesse Flores** and he was lured here with the promise of an easier life, than picking the lemons. His job was to check and tally the number of boxes each worker picked, provided, of course, that he pitched for the local baseball team, called ‘**Los Aztecas**’.

This team would play other teams from the surrounding citrus areas of **Southern California**. Leaving the citrus fields for professional baseball, Jesse was signed by the **Chicago Cubs** and assigned to the then **Los Angeles Angels** of the **Triple AAA Coast Major League**.

In 1940, while pitching against the **Oakland Oaks**, Jesse lost a no-hitter with two outs in the ninth inning. The **Chicago Cubs** called him up to the Majors. After one year Jesse was traded to the **Philadelphia Phillies** where he compiled a good year in 1943 of 12 wins, lost 14 and ended with a 3.11 E.R.A. Jesse returned to the **Coast League** for the 1948 and 1949 **San Diego Padres** where he compiled 21 wins and only 10 losses.

His last year in the Majors was 1950 where he played for the **Cleveland Indians**.

It was at this time that I, **Jess Victoria**, went to the **Indians White Sox** game with the hope of spotting this former citrus field worker in the baseball fields of **Chicago**. Yes, I spotted him and had a short yelling conversation from the bleachers. Imagine, two **Santa Paulans** meeting this far away at other fields of life.

After his release, Jesse worked as a scout for the **Cleveland Indians** and the **Minnesota Twins**. At this time he is credited with teaching the great **Minnesota** pitcher **Burt Blyleven** the exceptional curve that he developed and became his signature strike out pitch.

Jesse died in 1991, at the age of 77. He was nicknamed **El Guero**.

Yes, this humble citrus field worker rose to possibly become **Santa Paula's** first **Major League** baseball player.

Jess Victoria, Santa Paula

80-year-old Bronze Star Recipient

Santa Paula City Council ‘Stifling’ War Hero’s Longtime Entrepreneurial Spirit



Jess Victoria with his ‘cited’ display at his small business, Victoria Shoe Repair in Santa Paula.

by Joel Anderson

Call it that there’s a hate virus behind the counter of City Hall. There’s an element in there that is resisting the change that Santa Paula is going through.” - Jess Victoria

With recent economic downturns and more vacancies in the Ojai business district, the **Ojai City Council** is loosening up restrictions on sidewalk displays and even a few of the Arcade shops have started to display merchandise. **Santa Paula City Hall**, however, appears to have ramped up its issuance of citations (*clean, clean, clean*) for the same “offenses”. There is some question, however, that Jess Victoria’s placement of a simple shoe display shelf falls with-in any city ordinance, as it has been routinely displayed in the same place for the past 30 years by Victoria. Other hard working merchants have also expressed outrage with Santa Paula’s apparent fixation on *clean*.

A longtime resident of **Santa Paula** (his father started the business in 1928), 80-year-old Victoria is also a **World War II Vet** and **War Hero**. He feels that a combination of his longtime local civic and political beliefs and his Hispanic heritage have a great deal to do with Santa Paula’s obsession with enforcement of his long standing display.

“Santa Paula is 70 to 80 percent Hispanic and instead of enhancing what we have, they are fighting it. Mexican people are

very entrepreneurial.

Ignorance puts up a wall where reason and logic will not enter. They are committed to whatever philosophy constant they have,” said Victoria.

Despite the current situation (according to **Victoria**, city hall is ‘looking into it’), Victoria hopes once again be in a position of displaying his **American-made** shoes and proud craftsmanship, in the manner he has for the last 30 years.



“We will see a change locally like we have seen in our country with the national elections. We have proven to the world that we are a democracy, that we are all equal and that any one of us has the opportunity to rise to become president of the United States,” concluded Victoria. **Editors Note: For More information go to OjaiandVenturaViewcom, Sept. Issue, (page 11).**

An American Story



Jess Victoria, proud **American**, is one of four brothers (the **Victoria Four**) who served in service of their country. He left the military with two **Battle Stars** and a **Bronze Star** for retrieving his wounded platoon leader in **Luzon**.

Victoria Shoe Repair had been the home of Jess’s business on **Main St. Santa Paula** for over 50 years. He is the founder and president of **Citizens for Accountable Government**, the first **Grand Marshall** of the **Santa Paula Labor Day Parade**, and author.

A sage and a wit, Jess educates and entertains those who cross the threshold of his shop he refers to as “**Ground Zero**”.

Having lost two of his brothers and his beloved wife this year, Jess still understands that life is to be lived and enjoyed.

Joel Anderson, Ojai

As the sign on his counter says “There is no sense for living without love, the flowers and the women”

- Jess Victoria



Displays on Matilija St. encourage holiday shoppers. - Kudos Ojai!

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Impeach & Indict Bush & His Cronies for Capitol Murder ?

R. ELLIS SMITH



Simply by going to Google and typing in **Indict Bush** you will be rewarded with 100s of stories about the people that feel **Bush, Cheney**

and many of their henchmen should be indicted for murder. Most all of them are referencing the illegal **Iraq** war and the hundreds of thousands of people that were murdered, plus the thousands of **American** service personnel that gave their lives for this illegal war. They all seem to have overlooked the issue of the thousands of people that were murdered by **Bush, Cheney** and their **CIA, Secret Service**, and government spooks that perpetrated the 911 disaster. It is undoubtedly clear to many of us that the **Bush Administration** is rife with liars, thieves, murderers, and worse.

Here is a small sample of what you will find on the Internet.

Published on Fri., Jan. 27, 2006 by the **Texas Observer**:

Impeach or Indict Bush and Cheney by Ronnie Dugger

The year 2006 will be historic for the nation, and probably for humanity. **Texans Bush and Rove** and their conspirators in the second **Bush** presidency have disgraced **American** democracy at home and in the world with debasements of our nation and our values that have now entered their climactic phase. What part will the rest of us **Texans** play in this decisive year ?

The **President**, the **Vice-President**, and their factors sold this war to **Congress** with twisting and lies that were crafted to infuriate and terrorize us about **Iraq's** alleged connections to **Al Qaeda** and mass-murder endangerments to us from **Iraq** itself, all of which literally did not exist. In polls now six of 10 **Americans** do not believe the president is honest.

FBI files indict Bush, Cheney and Co. as War Criminals

By Bill Van Auken
23 May 2008

The most stunning revelation in a 370-page **Justice US Department Inspector General's** report released this week was that agents of the **Federal Bureau of Investigation** had formally opened a "**War Crimes**" file, documenting torture they had witnessed at the **Guantánamo Bay US Prison Camp**, before being ordered by the administration to stop writing their reports.

The report makes it absolutely clear that torture was ordered and planned in detail at the highest levels of the government—including the **White House**, the **National Security Council**, the **Pentagon** and the **Justice Department**. Attempts to stop it on legal or pragmatic grounds by individuals within the government were system-

atically suppressed, and evidence of this criminal activity covered up.

March. 4, 2008 Brattleboro, Vt.

— Voters in two **Vermont** towns approved measures Nov. 4 calling for the indictment of **President Bush and Vice President Dick Cheney** for what they consider violations of the **Constitution**. Symbolic measure calls for arrest of president, VP, if they visit towns

Bush and Cheney Indicted by Tom Flocco

Chicago — Aug. 2, 2005 — Tom-Flocco.com — **U.S. federal prosecutor Patrick Fitzgerald's Chicago grand jury** has voted perjury and obstruction of justice indictments to the following members of the **Bush Administration: President George W. Bush, Vice-President Richard Cheney, Bush Chief of Staff Andrew Card, Cheney Chief of Staff I. Lewis "Scooter" Libby, Attorney General Alberto Gonzalez, former Attorney General John Ashcroft, imprisoned New York Times reporter Judith Miller and former Senior Cheney advisor Mary Matalin.**

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

Earth Friend Gen Speaks

Hello everyone !

I just started reading, "**Living in the Heart,**" by **Drunvalo Melchizdek**. It is AMAZING! I recommend it to anyone who wants to truly be happy and create a better world NOW.

I am cleansing and purifying my entire being so that I may fulfill my highest potential. I know this reality is an illusion, albeit a very convincing one. So many folks do not realize their God given powers and unknowingly pervert their power into powerlessness by believing they are less than they really are, therefore, creating a confused reality. In truth, we are so much more than most of us realize.

If you haven't seen me, I am known for riding my bicycle and in-line skating around town totally naked in the name of God. I am being converted as a little child and I am entering the **Kingdom of Heaven**. The **Kingdom of Heaven** has always been here, within the sacred space of the heart — our Earth-Heart. **Mother Earth** is your heart and how you treat her is how you treat yourself — all seeds that you plant shall bear fruit in your life. Do you have faith in Love and Light or Hate and Fear? What reality are you creating ? The more responsibility one takes for her existence, questioning everything and respecting ALL LIFE, the more we create **Heaven on Earth**.

"God" is beyond any book. But there are great truths in many books, like the Holy Bible. Even according to the **Holy Bible, King James' Version**, my natural nudity is ordained by **God**.

Before the fall, **Adam and Eve** were innocent, naked and free. After the fall, they became ashamed of their naked bodies and hid from God. They became clothed sinners. The truth is so utterly simple that jaded adults just don't get it. "You must be converted as little children to enter the **Kingdom of Heaven**".

We ALL know that it's hard to keep clothes on little children when the weather allows. Why ? Because they are innocent, naked and free, just like Adam and Eve used to be !

EVENT CALENDAR

• "**It's A Wonderful Life**" plays for only eight performances at the **Ojai Art Center Theater (ACT)**, Dec. 12 – 21, 8pm Fri and Sat and 2pm and 7pm Sun at Ojai ACT, 113 S. Montgomery St. This is a fully staged version of an "Everyman" who, in a moment of despair, thinks of committing suicide, but instead relives the love of family and friends with the help of a peculiar angel. Optional gala party (\$10 extra) after the Dec. 12 show and Food Bank Benefit 2pm Sun, Dec. 14. Tickets: \$15 general, \$12 for students, seniors and Art Center members, \$5 for children under 12.

Box/info. 640-8797 or www.OjaiACT.org

• Dec. 11 & 12, 7pm, **Nightmares and Dreams, Fall Dance Concert** presented by Nordhoff High School Dance Department, Matilija Auditorium.

Tickets/info. Robyn Halverson at 640-4343 x 1861 or rhalverson@ojai.k12.ca.us

• Sat. Dec. 13, **Parade of Lights**, Channel Islands Harbor, 7pm.

info. channelislandsharbor.org

• Sat. Dec. 13, **Outsider Art Show, Hearts of Fire Project**, 10-4pm, Shifting the Perceptions of Homeless People Through Self-expression, 210 Canada St. at Aliso, info. **Linda Caldwell, 646-5186**, & Mosaic pieces created by Enrichment Center Artists may also be seen at Janis' Art Workshop Gallery, 410 W. Ojai Ave.

info. 646-2555

• thru Dec. 13, **Organic Acting Class**, An instinctive approach to Theatre Arts Character Development, Become a more versatile actor. Learn to develop natural skills of Character Development that are inside you; as well as discovering others you never knew you had ! Actor/Director Andrea Tate teaches this in depth study which all levels can benefit from... Santa Paula Theatre Center, 125 South 7th St., Santa Paula, Saturdays 10-1pm on the Back Stage, Individual Class \$35.

info./register. 525-9840, or **Leslie at sptcleslie@gmail.com**

• Dec. 13, 7:30 to 10:30pm, "**Dance Jam Ventura**" Lively variety of music to dance to, barefoot on Aikido mats. Dance like no one is watching... Free-style dancing... Dance, Play, Laugh, Grow, Sweat, 3026 Telegraph Rd., Ventura.

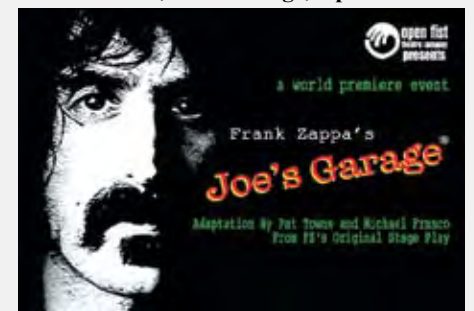
Tickets/info. 650-7112, dancejamventura2@aol.com

WEB SITE: www.waywebby.com/dancejam
• Dec. 14, 8-3pm, **Chopper Fest, Seaside Park, Ventura**, Tribute to David Man, hosted by Jennifer Scott, info. **Chopper-festival.com, Tory, 217-2113 or Harry, 650-6777**

• Dec. 13, & Dec 14, **True West**, by Sam Shepard, Audition Notice, The Elite Theatre Company, Oxnard. True West is a comic nightmare of confrontation. The play is about two brothers: Austin is an ambitious Hollywood screenwriter working on a potential million-dollar deal when an ill wind off the desert blows in Lee, a hobo thief with a six-pack and

a case of sibling rivalry. The conflict arises when a film producer offers Lee to write a "true" western. In a role reversal as intricate as it is riveting, the brothers head toward Shepard's outrageous version of the Western movie showdown. The Elite Theatre Company, Oxnard

info. **Howard Leader at Howard@Roadrunner.com or 310-503-3530**
• thru Dec. 20, **Joe's Garage**, Open Fist



Theatre Company, Rock Opera Musical Event, Based on the historic album by **Frank Zappa**, Adapted/directed by Pat Towne and Michael Franco, musical direction by Ross Wright, choreography by Jennifer Lettelleir. Tells us the story of Joe — a simple guitar player in a garage band — as he is drawn into the dark and nightmarish world of the music business. As Joe deteriorates from betrayal, disease, and madness, our narrator, the Central Scrutinizer asserts that music is responsible for his demise, and is therefore evil. **JOE'S GARAGE** is a cautionary tale about the oppression of government and its desire to make its citizenry conform and obey. It ponders a world where the government controls the masses by making music a crime. Masked in the simplicity of a high school musical, the play's attacks on government's surveillance of its own citizenry, the sexual escapades of the Catholic Church, the ridiculousness of Scientology, the avarice of the music business, self serving journalism, mindless consumerism and bad boy rock and roll behavior in general, makes for a wicked and timely satire — all this wrapped in the brilliant music of legendary rock icon Frank Zappa. Performances: Fridays & Saturdays, 8pm; Sun., 7pm., The NEW Open Fist Theatre, 6209 Santa Monica Blvd. (former home of The Actor's Gang [in Hollywood]), **Tickets & info. (323) 882-6912 or www.openfist.org**

• thru Dec. 21, **Christmas Belles**, theatrical farce, Santa Paula Theatre, by Jessie Jones, Nicholas Hope and Jamie Wooten is a hilarious romp through small-town holiday fun set in Fayro, Texas. A church Christmas program spins hilariously out of control in this Southern farce about squabbling sisters, family secrets, a surly Santa, a vengeful sheep and a reluctant Elvis impersonator. Christmas Belles is under the direction of SPTC's Managing Director Fred Helsel with Leslie Nichols producing and Karl Krause stage managing. Lighting design is by Gary Richardson with scenic design by Fred Helsel and Mike Carnahan. Barbara Pedziwiatr will costume this production... Santa Paula The-

Events Continued Page 7...

LETTER - 'The Buck Stops Here'

Paratrooper Endorses Bush

— by Larry Naron



Is it really fair to hate G.W. for the failed policies of his administration ?

As I viewed the coin toss for the annual **Army Navy Football Game** I paid close attention to outgoing **President Bush**. The part of me that didn't want to see him imprisoned for failing to protect **Average Joe** for eight years from the evil of those who would break our laws with impunity started to show it's kinder, gentler side. Here stands a man who knows his legacy is absolute crap. Even the hard core republicans who

Bush Legacy Continued Page 7...

Dysfunction of a National Meltdown: Why Politicians Can't Identify the Problem

by Jefferson Pinto

In the past two months, I addressed the "Bail Out". This month I'll address some higher level issues of basic public policy *rules of engagement*.

Have you ever noticed politicians jump to a solution without ever defining the problem? This is commonly referred to as the "ready, fire, aim" approach.

This "strategy," or *lack thereof*, is not tolerated in any other profession: not the medical profession, not engineering, not fire fighting, not education, etc. Why do we tolerate it from our leaders? That's my point; we ought not!

The "here is the solution first" approach appears to be the standard for our national leaders:

- Raise/lower taxes on the rich/poor
- Bail out #1 – AIG/banks
- Bail out #2 - Auto Makers (*I hope we aren't going down the list in alphabetical order*)

- Economic stimulus
- Health insurance for everyone
- A chicken in every pot and a car in every garage (*Herbert Hoover 1928*)

Jefferson's Public Policy Rule of Engagement for #1: Define the problem first.

In the October Issue of the VIEW, I posed the question: What competent physician would treat a patient without first gaining an understanding of the illness and the consequences of the treatment options?

Are politicians really that smart and are we really that dumb? "I know, I'll leave out all of the details and tell the people why this is a good deal for them. That's all they need to know." I think not! Just for fun, let's review some of the above solutions and try to infer what the problem is:

Solution: Raise/lower taxes on the rich/poor

Problem: Step on sensitive tax nerves to pique the citizens? Sway voters? I still don't know what problem is being solved?

Solution: Bail Outs

Problem: *Stated problem:* It would be too expensive to let selected financial institutions fail. *Real Problem:* Poor lending practices exposed financial institutions and investors to excessive risk.

Solution: Economic Stimulus

Problem: The economy is like a weak battery and just needs a small jump start to get it running again. (*Have we determined the cause for the battery failure? E.g. the headlights were left on, the alternator is not properly recharging the battery, etc? I'm still not sure what problem another economic stimulus is solving. I'm thinking it's more of a redistribution scheme. I'm not buying that!*)

Solution: Health insurance for everyone

Problem: *As stated:* People need insurance. **FALSE:** People need quality, timely, cost effective health care! (*When was the last time any insurance company solved a problem? Our leaders are really good at spreading around the cost of problems but do little to solve the problem! If I went hiking and I took something out of my front pocket and put it in my back pocket, did it lighten my load? Problem not solved; problem shifted*).

In short, the need to care for people in our society is a real problem; *enriching insurance companies* is not a "problem". (*Perhaps in a future article, I'll address how distorted public policy and Insurance companies/lobbies aren't merely a coincidence. Déjà vu: AIG Bailout*)

Problem vs. Symptom:

A common flaw I've seen is passing off the symptom as the problem. **Symptom:** The patient has a fever. **Problem:** Patient has an infection causing the fever which, if it gets too high, will cause other problems.

Symptom: Homes are being foreclosed upon and people are getting booted out of their homes.

Problem: Mortgages were given to ill qualified borrowers.

Jefferson's Public Policy Rule of Engagement for #2: Prioritize the problems at hand.

Triage, is a rather daunting task. Sometimes it's a no brainer. It's easy to choose between a big deal and a little deal. Other times, it means choosing between two or more really big deals and that means saying no to (*deferring*) a really big deal. No one likes to say no to a big deal. That's where real leadership is necessary.

Take this legislative prioritization for example. Last year Congress thought it was a higher priority to officially declare the **Third of August as National Watermelon Day** and failed to address other seemingly big deals like **health care, energy, two simultaneous wars that have lingered longer than World War II**, and the inevitable demise (*bankruptcy*) of the **Social Security system**. Don't get me wrong, I like watermelon as much as the next guy and I think it's kind of fun to have nationally declared days, but not at the expense of talking about the elephant in the room.

Jefferson's Public Policy Rule of Engagement for #3: Analyze the efficacy, costs, and trade-offs of proposed solutions prior to implementation.

Helpful hint: *mistakes on paper prior to executing the proposed solution are free.* There are two types of hitches: The foreseeable ones; and the unforeseeable ones. (*Also know as "Gotchas"*) This "exercise" (*or due diligence*) will mitigate the foreseeable hitches.

Considering billions of dollars are in question, here are some tough questions that ought to be answered before the resources are committed:

- Will the proposed solution effectively solve the stated problem? I am still amazed at how often the proposed solution doesn't address the problem. Be skeptical of responses that start with: *at least, we might as well, if we don't, we have to do something.*

The poster child of ineffective solutions are the **Junk Fax laws** and the implementation of the **Do Not Call Directory**. By the way, the authors of the law exempted themselves from the restrictions. The calls from solicitors still roll in and there has been but one prosecution on record.

- How much will it cost? Publicly traded companies are required to disclose an **Earnings Per Share (EPS)** (*How much of the profit would proportionally be yours if you owned one share of stock*). At a minimum, proposed solutions ought to include **Cost Per Citizen (CPC)** this year and every year thereafter.

- Are there already laws on the books that are not being enforced or invoked? (*This sort of begs another question. If the existing laws aren't being enforced, why would another piece of paper change anything? Lack of enforcement of an existing law that is perpetuating a problem is yet another problem unto itself.*)

- Are there any adverse quantifiable side affects this year or in the future? Be careful the cure isn't worse than the original ailment. Yes, we are going to bail out irresponsible financial institutions, but it will cost every man, woman and child in this country almost twenty five hundred dollars each.

- Who are the primary beneficiaries of the solution? Are the beneficiaries concentrated in a specific industry, or voting district?

I hold our *alleged* journalists responsible for their lack of quality, relevance, and integrity. I guess freedom of the press includes freedom to cover irrelevant celebrity asininity. When the news comes on my television, they say it is "brought to you in **HD (High Definition)**." I'm a little skeptical the pixel resolution of the picture really helps communicate the news.

More time is spent telling us "coming up at 5pm..." and "coming up after the break..." and "coming up in the next hour..." How many times in a 30-minute-news-cast do we need to see the same house fall down the hill during the mud slide? What's worse is the exact same stories with the same video clips and same sound bites are on the other networks airing at the same time. (*OK, you caught me. I*

admit it. I'm a channel surfer.) "The loopholes are so big I could drive my Hummah through it ... You are a bunch of gihly men." (*Eh too Arnold?*) My challenge to our media: Less Britney (*with or without hair*). Less: Jako dancing on busses outside the courthouse or dangling children from the balcony. (*Ah ha I caught you. It's been a while since we've seen any of those "news snippets" but you saw them so many times you knew exactly the scenes to which I am referring*). We need more hard relevant

factual news.

Who cares about the opinion of the only ignoramus they could find on the street at two in the afternoon to expound on gasoline prices.

Let's keep **J Lo/Ben, Jennifer/**

Brad, and Britney/Lindsay/Nicole/Paris on the super-market check out lanes with the aliens and **Elvis** sightings and off the main stream news.

Television news got it half right but left out a few letters; the news is really brought to us in **ADHD (Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder)**.

In summary, the only one sure way to forward the evolution of public policy is to have more hard questions about problem definition, prioritization, and solution analysis pre and post implementation. It is fair to ask our leaders to do their homework before they reach into our pockets. It is fair to ask our media to exercise some leadership and keep an eye on the policy makers. That's sort of what our founding fathers had in mind.

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

"...Congress thought it was a higher priority to officially declare the Third of August as National Watermelon Day..."

"I hold our alleged journalists responsible for their lack of quality, relevance, and integrity."

PRESS RELEASE - YMCA YOUTH



Torry Yaeger, 17, a Camarillo native won his bid to become **President Pro-Tem of California** for the **YMCA Model Legislature and Model Court**. He ran for the position at the Statewide Training and Elections Conference held the weekend of Nov. 8-10, at the



Army National Guard Camp Roberts near Paso Robles.

This year marks the 61st year of **California YMCA Youth & Government**, which held its first **Model Legislature** in 1948. info. 650-522-YMCA www.calymca.org



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- Tony and Ryan

Wine And Roses

by Ron Rowe

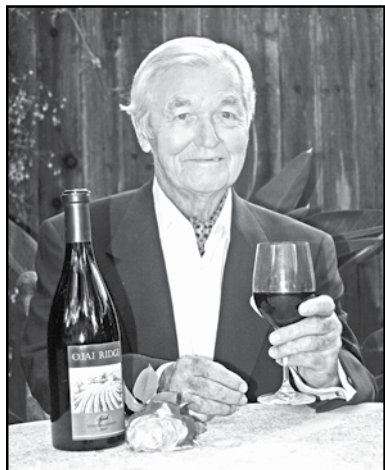


Photo © 2008, Joel Anderson

Ah well, another year is coming to a close, **December** is upon us. In the **Roman** calendar, the year was divided into 10 months, the last one, which was called the **December** or the 10 month. The name was retained for the last or 12 month of the year as the calendar is now divided. The **Saxons** called it **winter monat** or **winter month** and **heligh monat** or **holymont**, from the fact that **Christmas** falls within it. Remember the 22nd is the date for the winter solstice, when we honor mother nature. To quote **Tennyson**, "Tonight, the winds begin to rise and the roar from yonder dripping day, the last red leaf is a blown away, the rooks are blown from the sky."

How pleasant to spend a sunny **Christmas** in **Ojai**, poor cold. **Sir Walter Scott** wrote about **Christmas** in **England**, "Heap on more wood, the wind is chill but let it whistle as it will, we will keep our Christmas still."

Ladies, looking for a different Christmas present for the man in your life? Forget about shaving lotion or a tie. Buy him a **Craftsman 1470 Piece Professional Toolset**. It incorporates nine other speciality sets, he will always have the right tool for any emergency. Cost is only \$8,600. Contact **Sears.com**, if interested. For me, I prefer a single malt whiskey bottle.

For gentlemen, considering a **Christmas** present for his lady, try a **Chopard Haute Joaillerie** ladies wristwatch. It makes a fine **Christmas** gift 18 karat gold and only \$450,000. Or for a studious lady, a **17th-century** leather volume includes all of **Shakespeare's** work. There are only 80 folios in the world, cost only \$195,000. Of course, you could always have dinner at Ojai bistro on Ojai Ave., delicious meals at affordable prices.

Speaking of single malt whiskey, word around town is **Buddy Wilds** is organizing a **Church of the Single Malt**, complete with choir, and vestal virgin to collect the weekly love offerings. Anybody with any information do call or e-mail me. Thank you to all the readers who e-mailed me about the silly novel awards I wrote about in the last issue. Here is another example of drivel. **THUNK**, which means a light verse that plays with syntax, here is an example. **Robbie a peeping Tom** designed to peep at **Miss Godiva**. *When she's asleep*

wherefore on hands and knees, he crept and her curtain pept, behind though, a watchman crope the pursuing peepers while she stope, and pounced on Tom because he pope.

Ah well, as **QUINTIUS HARATIUS FLACCUS** wrote in 8 B.C. **DUM LICET IN REBUS IVUNDUS VIVE BEATUS VIVE MEMOR QUAM SIS AEVI Aevi BREVUS.**

Military contracts in **Iraq** have cost taxpayers \$90 billion since 2003 and is estimated to hit over 100 billion by the end of 2008. Twenty percent of the funding for **Iraq** is going to private contractors. There are 190,000 contractors in Iraq; that's a ratio of one contractor per US serviceman. **Senator Kent Conrad, chairman of the Senate Budget Committee** said the use of contractors restricts accountability and oversight and opens the door to corruption and abuse. I say amen to that, let's hope **President-elect Obama** will keep his word and bring the troops home soon.

Did you lose money in the stock market? Well, shed a tear for **Queen Elizabeth of England**. she lost over 37,000,000 pounds in stocks in the last few months.

Of course, if you want to feel rich, go to Zimbabwe, they have a 350 percent inflation – making a 10 billion note worth one **American** dollar, that should make you feel rich

If you have any spare cash you should buy **Exxon** shares; they posted a third-quarter record profit \$14.83 billion, that's about \$112,000 a minute. **Chevron** oil earned \$7.9 billion in the third quarter, shares rose 42 cents to 74.60, according to Associated Press. The **Bush White House** is spending thousands of dollars on portraits of the outgoing Cabinet secretaries and other appointees, among them is one of **Donald Rumsfeld**, his portrait will cost us \$46,790.

It pays to be a top CEO; the top 5 Wall St. firms, **Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley, Merrill Lynch, Lehman Brothers, and Bear Stearns** paid the CEOs a combined \$3.1 billion between 2003 and 2007. Also shed a tear for brothel owner **Jeffrey Arnold**; he operates **Donna's Ranch** in **Salt Lake City** near the junction of **Interstate 80 and Highway 93**. Jeffrey was sobbing in his beer, complaining that business was down 35 percent. Join the ranks of all of us Jeffrey, recession hits everyone...

Researcher Dr. James Couch M.D., Ph.D. has good news for wives. If you feel a migraine headache coming on, have sex, it reduces migraine symptoms by boosting the pleasure hormone Serotonin. So ladies from now on, it's 'not tonight, dear. I have a headache, to 'come on dear, let's have sex to cure my headache.'

Overheard at **Java and Joe's** local coffee shop. An angry young lady leaving and yelling at her boyfriend. 'Goodbye, you can kiss my latte for all I care...'

Please, no naked bodies to be shown in **England**. Bored civil servants in **England** were woken up, when a man streaked naked in front of the **Queen** as she was

EVENT CALENDAR CONT.

Continued from Page 5...

atre Center, 125 South 7th St., Santa Paula, Saturdays 10-1pm on the Back Stage, Individual Class \$35. Info/box. 525-4645, www.santapaulatheatercenter.org

• thru Dec. 21, **The Plight Before Christmas**, written and directed by comedy legend and Melodrama regular **Will Shupe!** One act, lots of audience interaction (boo! Hiss! yea! homina-homina!), and Christmas songs, High Street Arts Center, Moorpark.

Info. lj@highstreetarts.com
• Dec. 21, 3pm, **Homeless Person's Memorial Service, Plaza Park** across from the post office in downtown Ventura. At least fourteen residents of Ventura County have died homeless since Jan. 1, 2008. Their names will be among those remembered at the Service, held on the longest night of the year in observance of the National Homeless Persons' Memorial Day. Two local congregations, the Universalist Unitarian Church, Santa Paula and the Unitarian Universalist Church, Ventura, are sponsoring the event in keeping with the Unitarian Universalist principle "to affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person."

The Rev. Carolyn Price chairs the Task Force to End Homelessness in Santa Paula, the only local group working to end homelessness in the city. According to Rev. Price, "What we've learned is that in this economy, the numbers of homeless are increasing at an alarming rate. In Santa Paula, based on figures from the Ventura County Dept. of Education, as many as 485 children and youth are homeless or in marginal shelters."

The Rev. Jan Christian is active in the Ventura congregation's "Lift Up Your Voice" Project, which is aimed at building bridges with those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness, in order to end homelessness. Rev. Christian notes that, "Those who are homeless are often feared and shunned, but the truth is that they are more often victims than perpetrators of violent crimes and they are among our most vulnerable citizens."

Events Continued Page 8...

unveiling a monument. The un-named man was arrested and given a 12 month conditional discharge, if he promised to be a good boy and not do it again. He was a very naughty boy, the **Queen** is still in shock and was not amused. Incidentally, the cost of sustaining the **Royals in England** costs the **British** taxpayer 60,000 pounds a year. In **Boulder, Colorado**, 150 revelers ran naked through the town center wearing pumpkins on their heads. It was the annual naked pumpkin run; police arrested 12 of them on charges of indecent exposure. **Eric Rasmussen**, one of those arrested was outraged when he found out he would have to register as a sex offender.

And in **Munich, Germany** police are looking for a man with no arms, who stole a 36-inch television set. Surveillance cameras show an accomplice in the store attaching the TV set to the man's body with straps and clamps, police are baffled that the sight of an armless man with a giant television strapped to his body didn't get any attention.

Want to live a long life? In **Cornwall, England**, **Clara Wine and Roses** Continued Page 13...

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• Wednesday, December 10 8pm
Isaiah

• Thursday, December 11 8pm
Delaney Gibson

• Friday, December 12 8pm
Big Joe Hurt

• Saturday, December 13 8pm
Josh Damigo

• Thursday, December 18 8pm
Denise Vasquez and Randy Martinez

• Friday, December 19 8pm
Frank Barajas "Ellie's Birthday"

• Saturday, December 20 8pm
Owen Plant

• Tuesday, December 23 8pm
Romantic Guitar with Dano

• Thursday, December 25 8pm
Bella Closed - Merry Christmas Everyone!

• Friday, December 26 8pm
Lon-el "Smooth to Groove" Jazz

• Saturday, December 27 8pm
Jesse Thomason

Beatrice Wood Art

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• Wednesday, December 31 8pm
New Years Eve with Frank Barajas and The Shakedown

• Thursday, January 1 8pm
Happy New Year - Bella Closed

myspace.com/caffe

Bella

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79 S. California St., Ventura 643-2171

WHERE LOVERS MEET!

Shop the Ojai Valley for the Holidays

by Lorraine Mariz



I like a **Target** and **Trader Joe's** run as much as the next **Ojai** resident but I am making the case for shopping *The Valley* for this holiday season. We are in a re-

"... we are lucky to have one of the best health food stores in the region in Rainbow Bridge."

cession and **Ojai's** small locally owned businesses need your help. Even the local outlets of chains like **Rite-Aid**, **Vons**, **Ace Hardware**, **True Value** and **Ben Franklin** (a franchise) employ local residents and need our support.

I have heard people say and have said myself that "you can't get anything useful in *Ojai*". In fact this is not true. For groceries we have **Vons** and **Starr Market** and we are lucky to have one of the best health food stores in the region in **Rainbow Bridge**. Most of the local pharmacies have all the toiletries and health items one needs. The hardware stores have, besides the obvious, small electronics and garden items among other things. I am a big fan of **Ben Franklin**. Besides craft items and fabrics, **Ben Franklin** has toys, baby necessities and gifts; kitchen utensils and linens, bed linens, stationery; and even underwear and socks for men, women, and kids.

And now for your **Christmas** and **Hanukkah** gift giving needs. Why go to the mall ??? Malls are crowded, claustrophobic, and smell bad. The people who work there are cranky and you have to drive around for 20 minutes looking for a parking space. I hate malls but that may be because I worked in one for 10 years.

If you are like me you rarely get to the stores in **Ojai** unless you have company. Take an hour or two and check out the shops on **Ojai Ave.** and **Matilija St.** Here are some stores in **Ojai** that have great stuff for your giftees or yourself. There are many more great shops besides these but I'm on a deadline so I'm giving my particular favorites.

• **Java & Joe** – Shameless self-promotion first. Hopefully you saw my last column about what great gifts coffee and tea are. And don't forget about mugs, teapots, travel mugs, and chocolate. We also have locally made ceramics. We also have useful things such as coffee filters.

• **Ojai Electronics** – is not just a place to get batteries and blank cds. Dottie has all the latest TVs, Audio stuff and electronic toys !

• **Serendipity Toys** – **Lily and Joe** have been in business for more than 30 years. They have unique and wonderful things that you will not find at Target or Toys R Us. Also, **The Trunk** has clothing and accessories for babies and kids you will not see anywhere else. It is a great store for Grandmas.

• **Studio Sauvageau** – Lisa hand makes handbags, luggage and other accessories out of beautiful fabrics. Three years ago I got my sister-in-law a laptop case and matching make-up bag that she carries every day. They still look great. This shop is in the walkway between the **Arcade** and the **Matilija St.** parking lot.

• **Made in Ojai** – This is a new store next door to **Java & Joe**. As you can guess by the name, everything in the shop is made in **Ojai**. The owners, **Roberta and Gillian** stock their store with a wonderful assortment of art, crafts, food items, knitted accessories, jewelry and even kid's clothes. This is a great place to get a gift for someone who appreciates the uniqueness of **Ojai**.

• **Bart's Books** – **Bart's** is a treasure that we locals take for granted. I am willing to bet that there is no place like

it anywhere. The new owners have cleaned and organized without losing the charm of the original place. **Bart's** has rare books and first editions for the book collector, best sellers, and all sorts of other books including art books, cookbooks, kids books and books on just about any subject you can think of. If you have not been to **Bart's** in a while, check it out.

Okay, you are ready to shop **Ojai** but what about the cost ? Things are more expensive in the locally owned shops than at the mall. Once again may I remind you how unpleasant the mall is. And what about the gas and time involved in going to **Ventura, Santa Barbara** or **Thousand Oaks** ? Even with gas more affordable now, it is at least a half hour to get anywhere outside of **Ojai**. So save yourself a headache and have a wonderful and unique experience shopping in **Ojai**.

Lorraine Mariz, Java and Joe, Ojai

Ladies of the Poetry Lounge



photos and text by Ron Rowe

There is a new playhouse in town, it's called the **Montgomery Street Playhouse**, located at **309 Montgomery St., Ojai**. They present poetry reading, play reading, and music. Nov. 30 I attended a poetry reading session billed as **Ladies of the Poetry Lounge**, featuring; Christina Fernandez, Friday, Joan Nicholson, Marsha DeLaO, and Tree Bernstein.

It was a delightful way to spend a Sunday afternoon. I really recommend this new venture and it's free admission for the next program.

- Ron Rowe, Ojai
info. treebernstein@gmail.com

EVENT CALENDAR CONT.

Continued from Page 7...

Neither **Santa Paula** nor **Ventura** have year 'round emergency shelters. The lack of shelter is one of the reasons that chronically homeless persons, especially, are at risk of premature death. This lack of shelter extracts a human and financial toll on our society.

The service will feature the names of those who have died homeless, original music and readings from various religious traditions, all of which call on their adherents to care for those most in need of help. Hot drinks, cookies and bags with personal items will be provided by the **Ventura church's** youth group.

Donations of blankets, jackets and bedrolls are welcome.

info. **Ventura Universalist Unitarian Church, 644-3898**

• thru Dec. 21, **A Wonderful Life**, musical by **Joe Raposo**, book & lyrics by **Sheldon Harnick**. Produced by **Jan Glasband**; Directed by **George Kralemann**; Musical Direction by **Gary Poirot**; Choreography by **Kelly Wilkinson**; Choral Direction by **Matthew Park**; Costumes by **Lori Lee Gordon & Jan Glasband**. Cultural Arts Center, 3050 E. Los Angeles Ave., Simi Valley. Performances: Fri./Sat. 8pm, Sun. 2pm.

info. 805-583-7900, www.simi-arts.org

• thru Dec. 20, **Sea Breeze Art Gallery**, "The Salon Exhibit" - 255 South Laurel St., Ventura, info. 643-3973

• Jan. 9 thru Jan. 18, **Breaking Up is Hard to Do**, **Cabrillo Music Theatre**, **Thousand Oaks**, featuring a book by **Erik Jackson** and **Ben H. Winters**, and lyrics by **Neil Sedaka, Howard Greenfield** and **Cody Philip**, engaging tale of love and laughter. Performances: Thurs. 8pm, Sat. 2pm & 8pm, Sundays at 2pm. Kavli Theatre, Thousand Oaks, 2100 Thousand Oaks Blvd., Box Office: 583-8700.

Info. **Cabrillo Music Theatre: 449-2787**

Ticket/info. **Brown Paper Tickets, at www.theatre-tribe.com or 800-838-3006**

• thru Dec. 28 - **A Gallery Affaire**, Art as Gift exhibit, Artists Union, Ventura, info. 330 S. California Street, Ventura 643-3012

• thru Dec. 28, **Striking 21**, Ensemble Theatre Company of Santa Barbara presents a unique and refreshing

Events Continued Page 11...

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Are You An Auditory Learner ?

by Mariaemma Pelullo-Willis



Modality is one aspect of learning style that affects the way a person learns, works, and communicates. When we say that someone is an "auditory person" we basically mean that that person learns best when information is coming through the auditory channel. However, there are different kinds of auditory information and different types of auditory learners.

Do you learn best when you are listening to a speaker give a live presentation, or to an audiobook with earphones on? Do you need to doodle or draw while you listen, or do you need to walk, bounce a ball, or knit – in other words, have some kind of movement paired with the auditory presentation? Would having music in the background make a difference in your ability to concentrate and process? Do you retain more when you follow along with a book-on-tape?

You might be someone who can't seem to read silently – you find yourself either mouthing the words or reading in a low whisper. You probably need the auditory feedback: you need to hear the words in order to process their meaning. Of course, people around you might find this annoying, and if you did it as a child in the classroom, the teacher might have labeled it as "disruptive behavior."

Speaking of the classroom, here's a common scenario: a student has trouble understanding written directions – the teacher, or a parent helping with homework, might say, "What don't you understand? Read it out loud!" and the student says, "Oh, I get it now." Chances are this student needs the auditory feedback. Teachers and parents usually conclude that these students are being manipulative, don't have confidence, or just want attention. Simply teaching the student to read the instructions out loud is often the solution. If you find yourself reading instructions aloud as an adult, it is probably for the same reason!

If you are an "auditory person" you remember "everything" you hear. You retain all the tidbits and trivia that you picked up during a trip, you can report a conversation word for word, or you memorize songs and verses easily. You might find yourself closing your eyes when you are concentrating on listening. You might "think out loud" – talking to yourself as you sort out information, problem solve, verbalize pros and cons, and so on. You might still enjoy being "read to," even if only by books-on-tape!

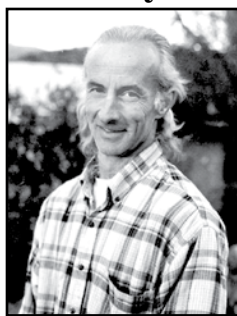
You can't always change the situation you're in to take full advantage of your auditory processing preference, but you can be more aware of what you need and arrange for it when possible. In a class or workshop, ask for permission to record the presentation. If you take a course, record yourself reading the material or rehearsing for a test, then play it back. And, for enjoyment, opt for books-on-tape. People who aren't "readers" often develop a new interest in books when they discover the audio versions!

– Mariaemma Pelullo-Willis, Ventura
www.learningsuccesscoach.com
Consultant, Educational Therapist, and
Co-author of *Midlife Crisis Begins in Kindergarten*, *Discover Your Child's Learning Style*, and *The Power of You Now!*
m@mariaemmawillis.com

Increased Water Rates Used to Pay for P.R. Smoke & Mirrors

United Water Flaunting Federal Mandate on Steelhead

by Alasdair Coyne



The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) provided a legally-binding timetable for United Water Conservation District (United) to design and construct effective fish passage at the Freeman Diversion, in their (NMFS') publication of a *Biological Opinion* in the summer of 2008. Naturally, United responded with both delaying and diversionary

tactics.

The *Biological Opinion* is a document (see our web site at www.sespewild.org/2008Freeman_BO.html) which lays out the recovery strategy for the endangered Southern Steelhead on the lower Santa Clara River, and it was based on the best scientific data available to the federal government's fisheries scientists on Steelhead, at the Department of Commerce's SW Fisheries Science Center in Santa Cruz.

United's delaying tactics in this case include taking their time and then heading off in the wrong direction. After belatedly forming a panel of fish passage experts, as called for in NMFS' *Biological Opinion*, United gave the panel a job description that is quite different from that called out in the *Biological Opinion*. This being a diversionary tactic to derail efforts towards effective Steelhead fish passage at the Freeman Diversion.

The NMFS *Biological Opinion* calls for this expert panel to evaluate short-term and long-term fish passage modifications at the Freeman Diversion Dam, which stretches several hundred yards across the Santa Clara River between Saticoy and Santa Paula.

United's scope of services for the panel is firstly to come up with improvements to the current, dysfunctional fish ladder at the Freeman Diversion Dam (and only "if necessary" to consider anything else). Well, the fish ladder at the Freeman Diversion has been demonstrated to be practically ineffective at allowing Steelhead to pass upstream on their way back from the ocean to spawn in places like Sespe, Santa Paula and Piru Creeks. For the more than ten years

Steelhead Continued Page 24...

Two Ways to Have More Peace

Don't Let Conflict Over School Prevent Family Harmony

by Victoria Kindle Hodson

Whether your child is in a traditional classroom or is home schooled, here are two ways to create more family peace and harmony about school related concerns:

1. Track Successes!

We've all met kids who are getting daily doses of failure feedback, such as: What's the matter with you? When are you going to listen to me? I can't trust you to do anything right. These kids are discouraged and withdrawn, angry and rebellious, or trying extra hard to please. The tension in the family is unbearable for everyone.

Kids see themselves the way their parents and teachers do, so if you want your kids' trust and cooperation, point out what they do RIGHT rather than complain about what they do WRONG.

Try saying things such as: *I'm glad to see that you found a way to finish that difficult assignment. I appreciate that you're writing your assignments down and bringing them home every day. I admire that you are willing to do your math homework even though you really don't like math.*

These daily doses of success feedback inspire kids to want to do their best for school and at home.

2. Focus on Solutions

Instead of focusing on problems, form a team with your kids and work together to find solutions.

Here's a parent focused on the problem rather than the solution:

You forgot your homework again - what is wrong with you? Do you like getting bad grades? You'll never get to college and you'll never get anywhere in life with that attitude...etc.

Here is a parent focused on a solution?

I see you forgot your homework and you're feeling frustrated about it. How about if we come up with a solution for remembering your homework? Then brainstorm together a list of things that might work. Choose one. Try it for a while, then get back together to see if it is working. If not, try something else from the list.

When we focus on solutions we help our kids learn a valuable skill that will serve them their entire lives.

I hope you will use these tips and take the pressure off you and your kids for the holidays and the new year.

– Victoria Kindle Hodson
co-author, *Discover Your Child's Learning Style*
co-founder, *The LearningSuccess™ Institute*

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Ojai Art Center Production: It's a Wonderful Life

by Ron Rowe

The Christmas spirit is on the way to Ojai. Veteran director/actor Gai Jones has chosen the classic story *It's a Wonderful Life* for the Christmas show at the Ojai Art Center. Why did Gai choose to direct this Christmas play? For a myriad of reasons, she said, "First, it's a gift to the community of Ojai. The familiarity of George Bailey as a modern everyman is worth revisiting at holiday time. The circumstances of bank runs is applicable today. I love working with inter-generational casts ages 10 to 80, also I think the reason people want to see this play each Christmas is that it tells us no matter how bad things get in our lives, we want to believe that there is a greater good and purpose in our living, we want to know that our every day connections with people make a difference in the cause of advancing our humanity."

"Because I teach each summer at the Donna Reed Festival in Denison, Iowa, I have a connection to Donna Reed's family and the talented students from the Midwest who travel to her hometown to study with the Donna Reed Foundation. I remember the period of the play in 1945, growing up in a small town in Oklahoma with a family who worked hard for what they had. My dad, who owned his own sheet metal shop, was often paid with sides of beef when money was scarce."

Gai has assembled a talented cast of 30 actors. The two leads are experienced actors, Brittany Danyl plays Mary Hatch.

Brittany possesses that rare combination of beauty, talent, and intelligence. She has been acting in school plays and church musicals from the age of five and got her first lead in a musical called *The Don't be Afraid Brigade*, when she was nine. From then on she was hooked to the theater. She was encouraged to pursue her acting career by her drama teacher Parry Shen. Brittany received a bachelor of fine arts in theater with a minor in mathematics at Stephen's College in Columbia, Miss. While at college she acted in *A Christmas Carol*, *The Pride of Miss Brodie*, *Our Town* and played a giant bear in *Little Red Riding Hood*. Returning to Ojai she continued her acting career doing lots of background work in LA. She starred in multiple student films and, earlier this summer, she played multiple characters in *Cinderella* at the Ojai Theater 150.

She is delighted to be cast as Mary Hatch in this show. The other lead actor is Gabriel Olivera, who plays the role of George Bailey. Born in Ventura, he started acting when he was a junior in high school and has continued his acting career in Ventura and Ojai. He has acted in over 20 plays including *American Century*, *Last Night at Ballyhoo*, *Tartuffe*, *Room Service*, *Out-of-Town*, *An Actors Nightmare*, and *The Tangled Snarls*. His recent play was in *Acts of God*, performed at the Ojai Art Center. Gabriel is excited at appearing in *It's a Wonderful Life* playing the part of George Bailey.

The play, *It's a Wonderful Life*, is the heart warming saga of George Bailey, the Everyman from the small town of Bedford Falls, whose dreams of escape and adventure have been repeatedly dashed by notions of family obligations and civic duty. On Christmas Eve, George's guardian angel descends to save him from despair and reminds him what the world would be like had he never been born. It's a sparkling and magical play. It not only celebrates the season, it also celebrates the American philosophy of life; that hard work, fair play and the love and support of family and community will be rewarded. The show runs from December 12 to the 21st with a Gala Opening Night Reception, with Tony Owen, Donna Reed's son, telling stories of his mother's involvement with the film.

It's a Wonderful Life — Special food and



drink for those who buy opening-night tickets. Sunday, Dec. 14 at 2 pm will be a Benefit for Help of Ojai, at which canned goods will be accepted in exchange for ticket discounts.

This show features a talented cast of actors who are working creatively to craft their own version of the familiar story, with a theme for all ages.

I suggest you book early in advance as the seats will be filled, call 640-8797 or go online to www.Ojaiact.com for reservations, call now and don't be disappointed.

Ron Rowe, Ojai
rhjrowe@aol.com

Show Runs
from Dec. 12 to the 21st

Photos © 2008, Ron Rowe



Gabriel Olivera and Brittany Danyl



Neva Williams



Andi "Sweetie" Bloom



Violet Peterson

INTERVIEW: Tony Owen

by Mary M. Long

It's A Wonderful Life, directed by Frank Capra in 1946, has become one of the most famous inspirational films of all time. Donna Reed starred as Mary Hatch, girlfriend and then wife of George Bailey, played by James Stewart.

Tony Owen Jr., son of Donna Reed, will be attending the opening night of Gai Jones' production of *"It's A Wonderful Life"* at the Ojai Art Center. Tony is internationally known for his aviation photography and is on the board of directors for the Donna Reed Foundation for the Performing Arts, where Gai Jones is an instructor. Tony now resides in the Los Angeles area, and below is the exclusive interview.

View: Hi Tony, what is your

involvement with the Donna Reed Foundation?

Tony: I am on the board of directors, just a board member. Well, what I do is I go back there with my younger sister every year... we've been doing that for quite a while. It's been running for 22 years now, I've been back there for 16 or 18 years. I know

Gai from the program. I like the program, the classes that she teaches; she's quite good with the kids.

View: Did Gai ask you to come to opening night?
Tony: Yes, Gai brought it up at the festival this year. She said 'We're doing *It's a Wonderful Life*... would you come up and give a little chat, answer a few questions?'

View: Does the movie or play *It's a Wonderful Life* have any special meaning for you?

Tony: Well, I'll put it this way; it's a film I couldn't watch for ten years after mom's death. I don't know what it is exactly about the film, maybe it's the idea of a guy finally doing things for the community; he feels like he's really down and out, he's sort of botched the business, and he doesn't know what to do. Then they show him what life would be, what the town would be, without him.

Continued Next Page...

"The farm photo... I'm the blonde on the ground looking at the lamb, to the left is a dark haired girl, that's my aunt Karen, my mother's youngest sister, my mom is on the wall. Penny is all the way on the right and the younger lad, dark haired is my brother Tim" - Tony Owen



Photo Courtesy Tony Owen

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It kind of hits home, I think, with a lot of people. I know myself, and many of us, I'm sure, have thought about what it would be like if we weren't here. How our lives have affected other people.

I know when my mom was working on **Dallas**, there is one thing I really remember about the "*It's a Wonderful Life*" experience for my mom. She got a letter or a phone call, right around **Christmas** time, from a young man telling how the movie had prevented him from committing suicide. That's a pretty powerful thing to say about a movie. Apparently this young man was considering stepping to the other side and the movie helped him to not do that.

View: I guess I should ask you how your mom liked playing opposite **Jimmy Stewart**?

Tony: Hmmmm.... good question. I'm guessing she liked playing opposite **James Stewart**. My sister **Mary** said to me just last week, that the kissing scene was done in one take. Apparently **Mr. Stewart** was a bit shy about doing any practice takes.

View: what was your mom like?

Tony: I'll put it this way... I didn't live with a star, I didn't live with an actress, I lived with mom. When she walked through the front door, it was all about family. It wasn't Donna Stone, it wasn't Donna Reed, it was Donna Owen. It was like 'all right have you kids done your chores, have you done your homework, how was your day?'

We had dogs, we had cats, we had a parrot, we had parakeets, we had hamsters. My younger brother and sister were really the pet people.

Dad passed away two years before my mom. Mom passed away a week before her 65th birthday.

View: have you ever been to Ojai?

Tony: I have been to **Ojai**, primarily just driving through. Recently I was up at **Lockwood Valley**. I was up in that area doing photography – it's my other passion.

When I was younger, Aviation was really my passion. I wanted to be a pilot but my folks wouldn't have that, I had to wait on that until I moved out of the house. Then I said "ok" I'm getting my pilots certificate. I was a mechanic before that, so I combined being an aircraft mechanic with being a pilot. I really had a good time.

View: What kind of photography do you do?

Tony: I do nature photography, along the lines of **Ansel Adams**. I have my first photo book coming out this month, called "*My Photo Ventures*." It's being published by **Ex Libris**. The hardcover edition comes out this month. My website is www.towenphoto.com I've had the website for 5 years, haven't changed it at all since I initiated it, but it has four different venues, so it gives people an idea of some of the photography I do.

I had decided that when I retired I would go back to school and learn Photoshop. So I went back to school and took 4 semesters of Photoshop at **Glendale College**. So I've been able to take my color digital stuff and

convert it to black and white material. It's a huge program, I don't know everything in it, I have just learned what I need to play with my images. I started off with a **Sony** digital which was about 8 megapixels; then I went up to the **Sony A 700** because it had the capacity for interchangeable lenses. I finally got myself a **Karl Zeiss** lens for the front of that. I am very happy now. All my film cameras had **Karl Zeiss** lenses on the front of them so I'm used to that quality and the sharpness and the brightness of the image. You can really tell the difference between lenses.

View: How does the meaning of *It's a Wonderful Life* pertain to your career as a teacher?

Tony: Being a former teacher, (*Tony taught aircraft mechanics at Glendale Community College*) you ask the question 'how have we affected our students' lives,' especially with what I was teaching, a technical subject where the students are directly responsible for the lives of one person, or 300, who are on board an airplane. What's their work ethic, how do they approach doing their jobs? Over the years I've had a few phone calls or postcards from former students that have said 'we really appreciate what you told us at school and your voice kind of hovers in the back of our heads while we're doing things.'

View: What is the message you would give your students?

Tony: First of all, approach it from the aspect of responsibility; that you are responsible for somebody's life. If you want to make it more personal it could be your boyfriend, your girlfriend. They

could be on that airplane and how would you feel if something you did affected the safety of that flight? Your job is just as important as a physician or surgeon – you are a doctor of airplanes!

View: Or as Clarence in *It's a Wonderful Life* said, "One man's life touches so many others, when he's not there it leaves an awfully big hole."

– *Mary M. Long*

EVENT CALENDAR CONT.

Continued from Page 8...

alternative offering for the holiday season; the hip new musical, *Striking 12*, conceived and composed by New York-based pop/rock/indie trio GrooveLily as "a holiday show for people who don't like holiday shows." The collaborators are Tony Award-winner Rachel Sheinkin (who wrote the book of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*), Brendan Milburn and Valerie Vigoda. The award-winning *Striking 12* plays through Dec 28.

box info. 965-5400
www.ensembletheatre.com

• Dec. 19 thru Dec. 28, **Peter Pan**, musical, **Lobero Theatre**, Santa Barbara Theatre, Fly to the Never Land with Peter and the Darling Children for adventures with Tinkerbell, Captain Hook, pirates, Indians, lost boys, fairies and mermaids. J. M. Barrie's classic fantasy play in the first production to use Leonard Bernstein's complete musical score - the score as the composer originally wrote and intended it for a 1950 Broadway production with Boris Karloff and Jean Arthur, including two songs never used in that production. Alexander Frey, who reconstructed Bernstein's "lost" score for a critically acclaimed CD, travels from Berlin to conduct the live orchestra.. **Lobero Theatre**, 33 East Canon Perdido St. Santa Barbara.

Tickets/info. 963-0761 or www.SBTheatre.org

• Dec. 22, 7pm, "CELTIC CHRISTMAS" with "Cul An Ti", **Ojai Valley Woman's Club**, featuring Hanz Araki and band, plus locally renowned Irish step-dancers Elizabeth & Deirdre Wood, **The Ojai Valley Woman's Club**, 441 E. Ojai Ave. Tickets/info. Serendipity Toys, 221 E. Matilija, & Ojai Creates 207 N. Ventura St., www.ojaiconcertseries.com

Events Continued Page 21...

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VENTURA COUNTY WEIRD VIEWS

The Old Mission Cross by Richard Senate



With the **Christmas Season** upon us, thoughts turn to the venerable old cross on the hill above our city. This symbol has stood out since **1782** and is part of the traditions of the

season.

Today the old cross is a place where locals bring visiting family members and tour buses make their way to the place to disgorge camera – wielding tourists for a breathtaking “Kodak Moment.” They do not know, or much care, about the long history of the cross or its place in **Ventura’s** history and folklore.

Long before the **Spanish** came to our shores the site was sacred to the **Native People**. Here they set up a shrine to worship the sky gods. They came in long processions of chanting **Natives** with offerings to the great sun god. It was no wonder that **Fray Junipero Serra** wanted to replace the pagan shrine with a cross as soon as he established the **Mission San Buenaventura** in **1782**. He had **Spanish** soldiers cut pine trees for the cross in **Santa Paula** and drag them down the **Santa Clara River** valley to fashion into a cross. They then hauled them up the mountain and set the thing in place. Originally, the site was closer to the top of the hill rather than its present location.

The cross became a symbol of the new establishment and one that could be seen far out at sea. It became, as it had been in **Native American** times, a place of pilgrimage and prayer. The old cross witnessed the rise and fall of the mission, invading armies, and the transfer of **California**, first to the **Mexican Republic**, then to the **United States**. It was a lonely, half-forgotten landmark, when **Ventura** became a city in **1866**, and in **1872** in a rain storm, it fell down and wasn’t replaced for many years.

Folklore wove the cross into several local tales. One legend held that there was an iron box filled with gold buried near the cross. A mission treasure hidden there by the padres even though they had taken vows of poverty and records show no such treasure existed.

Another tale is that of a phantom lady in white who haunted the site. The story said she was a **Native Convert** at the **Mission** who was young and beautiful. **Spanish** soldiers, many recruited from prisons, lured her to the cross one night with promises of gifts. When she got there, she was brutally attacked by five men. They killed her so that she couldn’t carry the story of the outrage to the padres. Now her unhappy and faceless ghost haunts the cross late at night.

There is even an old joke linked to the cross. The humorous tale goes something like this:

Long ago two **Native** converts, **Juan and Luis**, were caught gambling with dice on Sunday by the padre. He had them do a special penance for their actions. They had to walk to the cross and say so many prayers. To teach them a lesson, the padre gave each of the men a handful of dried peas to put in their shoes. The pain would remind them of the sin they committed by

gambling on the Lord’s Day.

One of the men, Juan, got up early and put the peas in his shoes and began the long painful walk. His friend Luis was not to be seen. It took an hour to make the climb half way and he was in great agony with each step. At this point Juan spied his friend walking briskly up the trail with a smile on his face. He walked right on past. By the time Juan got to the cross, Luis was finishing his prayers.

“You did remember to put the peas in your shoes ?” asked Juan.

“Yes, I would never disobey the padre,” answered the other **Native American**.

“But how can you walk so fast ?” inquired Juan.

“Simple my friend, I just cooked my peas before I put them in my shoes.”



Photo © 2008, Joel Anderson

It is an old joke but, in many ways, typical of the humor of the **Native Peoples**.

The cross was set in its present location in 1914 and mostly with the help of the **Protestant Churches** and the **Mission**. A few of the surviving **Natives** sang and helped them put up the new cross. The new site was selected

so that it could be used in **Easter Sunrise** services. Space was needed for the people to observe when the sun’s rays came over the eastern hills and fell upon the rugged wooded cross, a larger area was needed.

The site was improved more in the 1930s to its present configuration. It is still used for the dramatic **Easter** events as well as weddings and other celebrations. It was a few years back a topic of controversy when a threat of legal action was made against the city claiming separation of church and state. The fellow who made the charge is a native of **San Francisco** and an atheist as well. He has taken it as his mission to sue cities and counties that own lands with religious symbols. Rather than face a costly court case the city sold the cross to a religious group that now maintains the site.

The landmark, put up in **1782**, long before there was a **US Constitution**, still is a dramatic place with a view that is both breath taking and spiritual. If you haven’t visited the place in a while, take a few moments and take the drive to Grant Park and take in this magical spot.

Richard Senate
www.RichardSenate.com

Biography of a Ghost Stalker Richard Senate

Richard Senate was called to the study of history and the exploration of ancient sites early in life. He felt the stirring of interest in archeology while in high school when he was introduced to English Archeologist Howard Carter’s books on the discovery of King Tutankhamen’s tomb. Richard went on to earn a degree in History from Long Beach State University with post graduate work in anthropology at U.C. Santa Barbara.

However, his life was to take a turn toward the supernatural when he encountered an apparition while on field study at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo. The image of a monk mysteriously appeared to him at the Mission San Antonia De Padua, and that encounter ignited in him a lifelong desire to explore the realm of paranormal phenomena.

This experience was the catalyst which led Mr. Senate to begin the study of ghosts, becoming one of the pioneers in the field of the Paranormal. Traveling the world to search out and investigate historical sites and reports of paranormal activity, he has authored 14 books on ghosts and history including “Hollywood Ghosts”, “Ghosts of the Haunted Coast” and “Ghost-stalker’s guide to Haunted California.”

He has appeared as a guest on such TV shows as the “Search for Haunted Hollywood”, “Sightings”, “Haunted Houses”, “Haunted Hotels and Haunted History”, and the British show “Dead Famous”.

Mr. Senate conducts a class at Ventura College in the subject of the paranormal, which is where he met his wife Debbie. Sharing the passion for exploration of the supernatural, they have teamed Debbie’s psychic ability with Richard’s interest in Psychic Archaeology to explore such famous sites as the murder scene of Abby and Andrew Borden, leading to the recent release of their bestselling book “The Shocking Psychic Solution to the Lizzie Borden Case”

.. Richard Senate has also served as the official historian for the city of Ventura for over 22 years as well as managing two historic museums. He has lectured on the history of Hollywood, the history of the California Missions, the History of California and the history of the Chinese in California.

Richard Senate is available on a limited basis by appointment only for consultations and lectures.

For more information, visit Richard and Debbie’s official website at ghost-stalker.com HaintHunter@aol.com



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A Trip Back in Time: Old Creek Ranch Winery



Photo © 2008, Joel Anderson

by Ron Rowe

The Old Creek Ranch Winery is a very unique winery, dating back to the late 1800s. At that time Antonio Riva, of Northern Italy, purchased the ranch. He was a chef in Paris, London and later San Francisco. He finally settled down and built the winery, which still stands today.

Remember the prohibition years? The ban on alcohol also included wine. At that time purchasers would order wine from the ranch, and leave money on a clothesline, returning later to pick up the jug of wine left at the base of an old oak tree. On one occasion, the winery was warned

that the feds were coming to raid the place. So all wine, beyond what was legal for one family, was dumped.

Today, the winery is owned and operated by John and Carmel Whitman. Carmel is the daughter of Mike and Carmel Maitland, the founders of the present winery, since 1981.

During these 27 years of the winery's operation there have been many award-winning wines; United States local business Association voted best of Ventura Wineries 2008 to the Old Creek winery.

Over 90 percent of the wine produced is sold in the tasting rooms or sent to mail orders. Local restaurants that sell the wine include; Bodees, Movinos, Ranch House and the Deer Lodge.

Owner John Whitman holds basic winemaking and wine appreciation classes. You can sign up for them at www.communityed.venturacollege.edu

There is also a wine tasting room where you can purchase a bottle of wine and enjoy a picnic lunch on the spacious grounds. Open seven days a week, located at 10024 Old Creek Road, Oak View, telephone 805-649-9293

Ron Rowe, Ojai
rhjrowe@aol.com



How Ventura (Joe taxpayer) will pay for bad investment choices.....

SPECIAL EVENT



Sing Me Your Story Dance Me Home

Ojai Valley Museum

"Sing Me Your Story, Dance Me Home," opens at the Ojai Museum Dec. 4 and runs through Jan. 25. This exhibit showcases the art and poetry of California Native indigenous peoples and of California itself.

Workshops for teachers and students and Sunday afternoon talks for the public are planned throughout the duration of the exhibit.

info. Ojai Valley Museum, 640-1390



© Lin Rising

Remaking Our World

Wine and Roses

Continued From VIEW Page 7...

Meadmore celebrated her 105 birthday at the Perran Bay Nursing Home. After cutting her birthday cake, she told reporters her longevity is caused by having no sex or alcohol in her life. She admitted she had been kissed, but never went any further. 'I have other things to do,' she said with a smile.

More on wine, Derek in Ventura wants to know what the silver cup is, hanging around the wine waiters neck? Well, Derek, wine stewards in good restaurants wear them, they are called, 'Tastevin Bourgogne' and are used for wine tasting. This time-honored tradition goes back to 300 B.C.

Reply to Katharina in Ventura who wants to know more about commenting on drinking wine at a friends house. How about one-liners like, *dappled in a tapestry meadow, like a flute, by still water, a prophet in a cave, a little shy, like a gazelle,* and finally ah, *this is a wise old wine.* I wouldn't suggest this for jug wines.

I have a question for wine drinkers; how many bubbles in a bottle of champagne?

The sun has set over the yardarm, time for a glass of wine and to contemplate on the following words; *When you have come to the edge of all the light you have, and must take a step into the darkness of the unknown, believe one of two things will happen to you, either you will land on something solid or you will be taught how to fly.* And so it is. Namaste.

Comments welcome, Ron
Rowe, Ojai
rhjrowe@aol.com

Sicily the Beautiful

by Mina French

One of the saddest histories I have read has been the history of Sicily. It makes me think how truly barbarous war is and how when foreign rule occupies your home country how demoralizing this is to its people.

I am sad to say that when Sicily is represented by Hollywood, it is never in a good light.

I have met people from Sicily. They are the gentlest people I now. Every place has its crime and to say Sicily reigns supreme is just plain wrong.

She has many festivals, colorful seasons and beautiful ruins which make me think of a mysterious, fantastical place lost in space somewhere.

My mother was born in Sicily. My mother brought more joy to me than any person I know. And now, my mother is dying. With her will go all the wonderful stories of Sicily when she was a child.

I was invited by my cousin to her wedding in Sicily this coming summer. But I will not attend because the pain is too great of not being able to share the experience with my mother.

Even if I had been born there, I could not go.

Thinking of the history of Sicily, I think that maybe humankind will outgrow its need to inflict pain on others, to want to kick others when they are down and out, to want to kill in cold blood.

I don't think this will ever end. Greed, the love of power, the love of violence will always continue. When will we ever grow up and be civilized?

It makes me cry to read the history of Sicily. It makes me weak until I can cry no more. It's very sad.

Mina French
artnews510@aol.com

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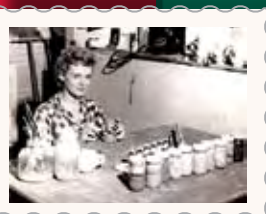
Linda Caldwell, instructor from the Ojai Enrichment Center works with people with developmental difficulties at Janis' Art Workshop, creating water colors, mosaics, jewelry, stepping stones, and bird houses. Stop by to browse creations for sale which benefit the center.

Students: Laura, Katarina, Sheila, Audrey and Sheryl.



The Magical World of Ceramicist Beth Barton

by Mary M. Long



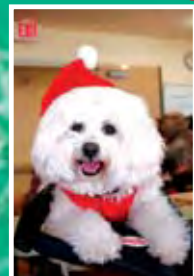
Sometimes a great notion springs from the smallest inspiration. Once upon a time in the late 1940s, Beth Barton, ceramicist and artist was filling a kiln and found that there was room being wasted. So, taking leftover pieces of clay, her nimble fingers formed the first of what was to become the famous Barton Bugs. Snuggled into a corner of the kiln, this little bug was to fire up a frenzy of bug mania among the rich and famous, leading to the creation and marketing of over 250 designs of her whimsical bugs worldwide. Like *The Little Shoemaker's Shoe*, which was made from the last bits of leather, this little bug, made from remnants of clay, was to be the beginning of fame and success for its creator.

Working out of an old dairy barn in Fullerton, California later dubbed "The Bug House", Beth's creations flowed from her imagination. Figures like Wee Willie Winkie, The Owl and the Pussycat, Ballet Bunnies, the

Little Padres, the Snowman, the Christmas deer, "Dear and Dearest"; all came to life with a charm that was as if they had walked out of a fairytale. Beth herself, has such an innate joy and youthfulness of spirit, it seems as though she could be more at home in Neverland than in Fullerton. For the next 40 years Beth's figurines made their mark in the ceramic world leading to assignments for such giants as Mattel, Galoob and New Adventure. She designed the Mr. T and A-Team action figures, the Alvin and Chipmunk dolls and Sudley's Shower. Many artists tried to copy, but no one could duplicate the special "Barton magic".

The original Barton Bugs are inimitable for they are imbued with a special light. It's easy to imagine that when you fall asleep they could take life, capering and cavorting merrily about the house. Perhaps you might wake up and find Dear and Dearest prancing playfully on your counter top. Or perhaps the Snowman and his friends might be found decorating your Christmas tree on Christmas morning.

A Round of A-Paws for Therapy Dogs



The dogs are coming! Excitement crackled through the air in the lobby of the Palms Bonaventure Assisted Care Facility in Ventura. Walkers were being scooted down the hallway, wheelchairs whisked around and laughing happy voices talked over each other, exclaiming over the visiting pooches. Four little powder puffs dressed in Doggie Santa attire, riding a baby stroller followed by two stately German Shepherds, were making their entrance into the lobby. "Bogie come", Marie Rayburn gave the command to little 14 pound Bichon Frise, Bogie, and immediately the little white dog leapt from the stroller and started to perform his obedience routine in the hallway. "Bogie, fetch...Bogie...down", Marie's pert voice yielded immediate results from the animated little dog, whose enthusiasm to please brought wreaths of smiles from the happy onlookers. Plopped onto laps and into waiting arms, these little dogs are truly emissaries of the Christmas spirit. "Ohhh...they are so cute, can I pet them?" echoed the voices.

These special dogs are more than cute. Marie's Bichons are shining examples of their breed, three of the four holding conformation championships and 9-month-old Mia winning her first year of showing. Ruby, at 10-years-old, is the grand dam and daughter Mitzi is the mother of Bogie and Mia, from different litters. These dogs are blue bloods, but it doesn't stop there. All Marie's dogs are titled in Obedience, earning both CD and CDX ratings. "In order to get the Canine good citizenship title, you have to have obedience training. It's wonderful, I can take my dog anywhere, says Marie smiling proudly. "In between dog shows, the little champs visit nursing homes, schools and hospitals spreading puppy love to people of all ages who respond to their loving, cuddling, charming natures. "It's a lot of work," says Marie, who keeps all her dogs in training. "All my dogs are trained through Dany Canino's classes. Dany always gets great results and it's easy to get your obedience titles after training with her." After the training there is still the preparation. All the therapy dogs must be immaculate for their visits. Bichons are hypoallergenic to start with, and then they are all bathed, pedicured and have their teeth brushed. They have to be clean as a whistle and smell like a flower



This special light and character, mixed with a little dash of pizzazz is the mark of an authentic Barton Original Figurine.

mania. Henry Fonda, who at the time was filming *Mr. Roberts*, called saying "I need one of those bugs!". Celebrities Jack Benny and Greer Garson were ordering bugs for their friends and private collections. Perhaps best of all was when Bing Crosby was presented by his friends and family with a Beth Barton Golfing Bug standing on his birthday cake!

There were Bugs for every passion, for every hobby. Bugs that danced, Bugs that fished, Bugs that played instruments, etc. etc., but always fresh and inspired. "Everyone's a bit Buggy you know", laughs Beth explaining the popularity of the little bugs. Recently Beth's works were featured in Jack Chipman's book, *California Pottery* on the history of California ceramicists. This led to a resurgence of interest in her work as collectors compete for the few remaining intact pieces. Beth's figurines are sought after for private collections and prized by those lucky enough to have them. One of those collectors is Marjorie Long of Ojai.

formation championships and 9-month-old Mia winning her first year of showing. Ruby, at 10-years-old, is the grand dam and daughter Mitzi is the mother of Bogie and Mia, from different litters. These dogs are blue bloods, but it doesn't stop there. All Marie's dogs are titled in Obedience, earning both CD and CDX ratings. "In order to get the Canine good citizenship title, you have to have obedience training. It's wonderful, I can take my dog anywhere, says Marie smiling proudly. "In between dog shows, the little champs visit nursing homes, schools and hospitals spreading puppy love to people of all ages who respond to their loving, cuddling, charming natures. "It's a lot of work," says Marie, who keeps all her dogs in training. "All my dogs are trained through Dany Canino's classes. Dany always gets great results and it's easy to get your obedience titles after training with her." After the training there is still the preparation. All the therapy dogs must be immaculate for their visits. Bichons are hypoallergenic to start with, and then they are all bathed, pedicured and have their teeth brushed. They have to be clean as a whistle and smell like a flower

Marjorie and Beth met during World War II when they both put their careers on hold to help the war effort, by assembling planes for the U.S. Government. Beth and Marjorie became close friends and have remained so for over 65 years. Now they are both in their eighties and Marjorie, an avid e-bay surfer, searches for Barton Originals she can add to her collection. She remembers sending the Snowman figurine to her father, who was stationed in the Marshall Islands and then having it shipped back after her father passed away. The little Snowman now stands in her east end home among his growing assembly of friends, including the best selling Dear and Dearest, now missing their antlers.

Beth remembers when she was commissioned to build a larger than life sized Santa in the late 1940s. She fashioned him in her back yard building him out of chicken wire and paper mache, a departure from her tiny miniature ceramic figurines. She remembers the day when the buyers came to pick up Santa and they placed him on a big flatbed truck to be taken to his new home. "I stood in the driveway and waved goodbye to him," said Beth, reminiscing. "I was never really happy though that they insisted on painting him themselves and I never got to finish him the way I wanted him to be."



degree fever, nearly dead because his owner had failed to vaccinate him for distemper. At 2-years-old and only 40 pounds he was so weak I had to hold him up to walk him." Now a strapping 120 lbs. Schindler is the prototype for the breed standard from 35 years ago, before breeders lost the focus of breeding for working attributes. Some people are initially afraid of the large dogs but soon realize that these wonderful dogs are well trained, trustworthy examples of the breed, who know and love their job. According to Peggy, the training never stops. "Schindler has two legs of his companion dog title, I will eventually finish the third leg, but he's a therapy dog. All my dogs are trained in Dany Canino's classes and I keep them in refresher courses with Dany just to make sure they stay socialized and sharp. I don't take any dogs into the Rescue Boutique unless they are trained by Dany. In this kind of work the dogs must be 100 percent reliable." In the memory care unit, Schindler's big black head moved carefully under the aged hand of Alzheimer patient Bill Martin. Tears welled up in his blue eyes and he said "It bother's me to see animals have any problem with getting water or food. I had a dog once, his name was Freddy". As quickly as the light in his eyes had flickered on, it was gone again. Many of the Alzheimer patients will only talk when the dogs are there, perhaps stimulating memories of their own pets from years past. "I named him Schindler" said Peggy, "because I wanted him to rescue people. I cared for both my parents when they needed nursing. My father was in a wheelchair, and every day he would play



the cookie game with the three big dogs we had. They would all line up in front of his chair to get their cookies. They were his companions, they were his buddies. When my father passed away I knew I had to continue this work. Marie has been a wonderful asset to the program, her dogs are her children. The first time we went to a memory unit there was a gal who had not spoken for 6 months. We put a Bichon in her lap and she started talking, crying and laughing. We were in tears because we couldn't believe what this little dog had done for her. The Rescue Boutique visits schools, hospitals, nursing homes and sub-acute centers without charge. They do this because they want to, knowing from personal experience how important it is that this work continues. For more information or to book a visit from the Pet Boutique volunteers, call 818-970-1346. For information on Dany Canino Dog Training, www.caninodogtraining.com or check out the View article (Aug. 2008) on Dany at OjaiandVenturaView.com Online. For info on The Palms, www.seniorlivingstyle.com

Mary M. Long

Through the Eyes of Michael Strong Photog - Age 6



Santa's Workshop - David Whipple

Dave Whipple makes it in America with solid craftsmanship and artistry. Dave creates originals based on his amazing custom designs for visiting celebrities and locals. Here Dave attaches charms to a Gold Bracelet. Dave can be found at 535 W. El Roblar, Meiners Oaks. 640-0212. Stop by for a warm welcome.



Photos © 2008 Joel Anderson and Mary M. Long

THE LEASHES END

by Ron Rowe



Ron and his companion, Dudley.

Santa Paws is coming to Ojai. It doesn't matter if you have been naughty or nice during this past year, all pets are invited to drop by the **Ojai Humane Society, 402 Bryant St. Ojai. Santa Paws** will be there on Sat., Dec. 6, and Sat., Dec. 13. Pets, children and the whole family are welcome, Call **646-6505** for more information.

Good news for animals confined to battery cages, gestation and veal crates in **California. Proposition 2** has been passed. This bans confining crates for hens, pregnant pigs, and veal calves that don't allow the animals to turn around, lie down and extend their limbs.

Ryan Armstrong, an egg farmer with over 600,000 birds considers himself a medium sized egg farmer said he is thinking of leaving the state rather than convert to cage free housing as he could not do so and make a profit. Other farmers are contemplating bringing in eggs from other states that don't have laws banning confinement cages. Sooo... concerned readers... join restaurant owner/chef **Wolfgang Puck**, major chain restaurants, **Denny's, Carl's Jr., Hardees**, and many other establishments that only use cage free eggs. Check out the egg carton before buying at your local food market, buy only range free or cage free eggs... your conscience will thank you

Just think, the egg industry spent over \$9 million

"...my opinion regarding pet psychics and certified dog trainers..."

fighting this proposition, and they finished up with egg on their faces...

More good news for dogs, best friends. Animal group shut down another puppy mill in **Parkersburg, West Virginia**. Over 1000 puppies and dogs were rescued from filthy conditions; six to seven dogs were confined to cages 2 x 3 feet stacked on top of each other. It is rather sad that puppy mills produce an estimated 5 million dogs a year for sales to pet stores. Sadly, five to 6 million cats and dogs are killed in the US every year. If you are contemplating buying a pet, go to your local animal shelter and adopt ! Sooo many cats and dogs are there waiting for adoption. Stay away from buying a pet at the pet shop chains. For more information go to

www.network.bestfriends.org/truth/news/

The only way to shut down these puppy mills is by not buying dogs from pet stores.

Researchers have now discovered what most of us pet people have known for years, animals enjoy listening to classical music. I kept a radio tuned to 91.1 classical music 24-hours-a-day when I operated my boarding and training kennel. **Dr. David Field**, the **zoological director** at **London and Whipsnade Zoo**, claims animals appreciation of noise communication is far beyond our hearing range. They communicate in deep infrasonic vibrations.

Music is played at the zoo, where it helps newcomers and sick animals. Classical music has the most beneficial effect on dogs, gorillas and elephants he wrote. He recommends all zoos, and animal shelters play classical music to calm the animals.

More on dog training, Thanks to all readers responding positively to my opinion regarding pet psychics and certified dog trainers. Not one e-mail disagreed with me.

Vicki Hearne is a nationally known dog trainer and philosopher. Her training methods are based on the mother dogs teaching methods. She had been using her method successfully for over 15 years. Sounds interesting, I would like to know more about this.

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 behavior during training sessions. **Angela** just sits and watches while **Stanley** the dog works his magic. **Angelea's** theory is for people to try to teach dogs how to behave towards each other is like a **non-French** speaker trying to teach others **French**.

She claims her hardest job is to convince owners that they don't have to do anything, just let **Stanley** teach their dog how to have good manners and good behavior. Angela has practiced this method successfully for 18 years. Any comments ?

Dog Lovers can spend Jan. 16 thru the 18th at **Camp Dogwood in Ingleside, Ill.** Activities include pet massage, trick training, and wine tastings for humans. Check out campdogwood.com if interested. More on dog training in the next issue.

President-elect Obama, Peru is offering you a **Peruvian hairless puppy**; an example of the only breed native to **South America**. **Peruvian hairless dogs** or **Viringos** date back 3000 years and were bred by **Inca kings**. They are hypoallergenic, a trait that the **Obamas** are looking for in a dog, dog breeder **Claudia Galvez** said. The puppy offered will be a four-month-old male named, **Ears**. *If we send it to the US, its official name will be MA-CHU PICCHU*, referring to the ancient **Inca citadel**, **Peru's** top tourist attraction.

Attention Ojai smok-

ers, please don't throw your cigarette butts onto the pavement or park walkways. Squirrels have been ripping tobacco from discarded butt ends and raiding the waste bins in an attempt to get their daily fix of nicotine. An observer said they carefully tear the paper to get at the tobacco... sounds like they're hooked.....

Cries for help inside a **Trenton New Jersey** home, turned out to be for the birds. Neighbors called the police after hearing persistent cries of 'help, help, help me please.' Police arrived, when no one answered the door, they kicked it in. Alas, no damsel in distress, only a caged **Cockatoo** yelling, 'help, help save me.' **Owner Evelyn D. Leon** said, last year police came after hearing a baby crying in the house. It wasn't an abandoned child, it was **Cockatoo, Luna**, practicing new sounds. She learns all her voices and sounds by watching TV.

"...we are the stewards of God's creations and we are called to treat all animals with kindness, empathy and a merciful spirit."

Bad news from entomologist **Phil Koehler**. He has discovered that the **Madagascar Hissing Cockroach**, which grows to 5 inches long, is being sold as a reptile food on the Internet. **Phil** said, "it's only a matter of time before some roaches escape and multiply in **Florida's** climate, it's not good news."

Did you know pigs are highly intelligent and social. They are capable of playing videogames by manipulating a joystick with their snouts. Well, babe was pretty intelligent, wasn't he ?

If you see birds on the telephone or electric wires, they usually are facing in the same direction. Birds like to face the wind when they land and take off, that way and facing windward helps keep their feathers un-ruffled.

The night vision of tigers is six times better than humans. **Biologist Daniel Margoliase** claims birds do dream. The dreams are related to newly learned songs, he said. When birds are asleep they rehearse and perfect the songs they learned during the day.

Matthew Scully, in his book, *Dominion the Power of Man, the Suffering of Animals and the Call to Mercy*, reminds us that we are stewards of **God's** creations and we are called to treat all animals with kindness, empathy and a merciful spirit. This is a very thought-provoking book, which I recommend. Peace to all living beings on earth.

Comments welcome, Ron Rowe
rhjrowe@aol.com



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EARTHLINGS



DVD Review

Written, produced and directed by Shaun Monson. Narrated by Academy Award Nominee Joaquin Phoenix. Music by critically acclaimed platinum artist Moby.

"This is the single most powerful and informative movie about society's treatment of animals. A must see for anyone who cares enough to know." -- Woody Harrelson

by **Suza Francina**

Before 2008 comes to an end, I want to help spread the word about EARTHLINGS.

The Humane Society calls EARTHLINGS "The definitive documentary film of all times that Americans don't want to see."

If I had to name one movie that I want everyone to see, including my family, friends and yoga students, it would be EARTHLINGS. Then they would understand why I am so adamant that human beings must speak out on behalf of animals.

I saw EARTHLINGS several months ago with a friend. We are both animal advocates and have seen footage of slaughterhouses, fur farms, and other atrocities in other documentaries. We thought we were mentally prepared to see this film. We were not. We both wept and had to take periodic breaks. After I saw EARTHLINGS, I ordered several copies and gave them to anyone willing to watch.

Narrated by Academy Award Nominee Joaquin Phoenix, EARTHLINGS is a feature length documentary about humankind's absolute economic dependence on animals raised as pets, food, clothing, entertainment, and scientific research. Using hidden cameras and never-before-seen footage, EARTHLINGS chronicles the day-to-day practices of some of the largest industries in the world, all of which rely entirely on animals for profit. It includes segments on pet stores, puppy mills and animals shelters, as well as factory farms, the leather and fur trades, sports and entertainment industries, and experiments by the medical and scientific profession.

EARTHLINGS is the most comprehensive documentary ever produced on the correlation between nature, animals, and human economic interests. It is by far the most powerful and informative movie about society's treatment of animals that I have ever seen. And, although much of the movie is difficult to watch, there are many uplifting parts, especially at the beginning and end. I consider EARTHLINGS the ultimate consciousness expanding movie.

EARTHLINGS is a masterpiece. If enlightenment begins with disillusionment, I guarantee you will be well on your way after you see EARTHLINGS!

You can view the film and read the transcript on-line at www.earthlings.com Make the Connection. Help spread the word. Watch EARTHLINGS.

Suza Francina, Ojai
SFrancina@aol.com

Irish Redhead Smokes the Mini-Iditarod

Once again, defying stereotyping, Irish Red and White Setter Devi of the Go Dog Go scooter team represented Ventura County Musers in the 3rd Annual (Not so) Great Serum Run at Fairview Park, Dec. 6 in Costa Mesa. Among a handful of non-traditional mushing breeds competing alongside Huskies and Malamutes, Devi blazed through the one-



Photo © 2007, Joel Anderson

mile race with a time of 4:15 minutes to the delight and amazement of her driver and race fans. The growing event is a grand party for 200 dogs and 100 people celebrating active dogs working at what they love best. The event includes 2 and 3 dog scooter races, bikejoring (dog pulling driver on a bike), and canicross (dog pulling runner). Kids and dogs competed in their own scooter race. All dogs that participated were winners, showing an intrepid working spirit. This sentiment was recorded on the red-flashlight award which is given to the dog that "displays indomitable spirit against insurmountable odds," although it finishing last in its category.

Janet McNeil, D.V.M.

AS THE CURTAIN FALLS

What local actor was recently passed over for a lead role at the Art Center? Hint - he recently perfected his British accent in another production..OUCH.... What's behind cast selection? Hmmmm...?

Ojai is proud to have such a qualified director as Gai Jones at the Art Center. What a treat to have the Charming Tony Owen coming to town to ring in Gai's Opening night! Ojai Art Center is beginning to rival some of the larger theatre groups. It's come a long way baby. Speaking of actors, one of the lead characters from Brothers and Sisters was recently seen in Ojai using their cell phone in a cell free coffee shop? Any clue who?

There's a rumor that the Mitt Romneys may be moving to the area. It seems that Jan Ebling may be the attraction. Lucky Ann to have an unlimited budget. Another Celebrity? I can hardly drive through town without passing a Limo... who's next?

- Moll Rat



"you're taking 'angels on a high' way to literal"

"Don't tell fish stories where the people know you; but particularly, don't tell them where they know the fish"

- Mark Twain



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Homecoming

Retiring War Heroes Need Civilian Homes and Transportation



Benny and Debbie pose with Benny's AKC 2008 A.C.E. Honorable Mention Bronze Medal for Therapy Dog work.

One phone call made the difference between life and death for 10-year-old **Military Working Dog Benny B163**. On November 29, 2007, MWD **Benny B163**, a spry 10-year-old **German Shepherd Narcotics**

Detection/ Patrol dog had been scheduled for euthanasia the following week. Benny received his "stay of execution" when now-owner **Deborah Kandoll** made the call to **Langley Air Force Base, Virginia**, on that very day trying to locate a retiring MWD available for adoption.

Although the **Military Working Dog Adoption Bill H.R. 5314** was passed in 2000, most **Americans** remain unaware that they can adopt these **unsung MWD Hero** dogs after their service days are over. The bill provides for adoption of retiring military working dogs by their handlers, law enforcement agencies and by qualified civilians able to provide the care and conditions these animals need.

Though this **MWD Adoption Bill** should guarantee these courageous war heroes a soft place to land, valid problems exist which are capable of preventing such an ending. Many times heartbroken handlers are unable to adopt their former partners owing to today's rapid tempo of multiple deployments in support of the **Global War on Terrorism**. Law enforcement agencies are *not* routinely made aware of the availability of these highly-trained animals, and civilians do not know HOW find which **MWDs** are coming up for retirement. Sadly, some adoption-suitable **MWDs** fall through the cracks into euthanasia for want of an adoptive home as **MWD Benny** nearly did!

For this reason, **Benny's** owner, **Deborah Kandoll** created the website **Military Working Dog Adoptions**, www.militaryworkingdogadoptions.com which is full of contacts and informative tips so civilians can navigate the **MWD** adoption process.

Local military installations may be contacted to see if older **MWD** veterans coming up for retirement might be available for civilian adoption. The link for many **U.S. Military Working Dog Facility** contact numbers including 14 facilities right here in California is www.militaryworkingdogadoptions.com/donations.html

In July 2008, a **San Diego Naval Station Retiring K-9, Kuwait Veteran MWD Ringo C261**, was adopted through the joint efforts of **Military Working Dog Adoptions** and **L.A.-based Rescue Boutique** (www.rescueboutique.com). Today, **MWD Ringo C261** resides in **Michigan** with his new adoptive family. **Ringo's** adoption also brings to light a very crucial problem, which many retiring **MWDs** must face; transportation to the adoptive home. Once a **Military Working Dog** is retired, it is no longer able to be transported via military means. Through donations and concerned volunteers providing transport, **Ringo** successfully made it to his new forever home.



"MWD Benny on the job at Langley AFB, VA."

Most recently, **Military Working Dog Adoptions**, through website reader donations, was responsible for the transport of adopted **MWD Milly** from **Kunsan Air Base, S. Korea**, to her adoptive family's home in **Buffalo, New York**. According to current military policy, since **Milly** had been retired in **Korea**, she had to be transported back as a "pet," at the cost of **\$1,935 !!!** While **Kandoll** is actively seeking policy change to require the military to provide appropriate transport for its retiring **K-9 Heroes, Military Working**

Dog Adoptions is currently in need of donations to pay for transports for retiring **MWDs**. The grim reality is that if a **MWD** is retired at an overseas military installation and is not adopted, because of prohibitive transport costs, euthanasia is the usual course of action. **Kandoll** hopes to remove the transport cost factor as a barrier to successful overseas retiring **MWD** adoptions.

Kandoll's own adopted **MWD Benny B163**, through the providential timing of that one telephone call, now lives a retired life befitting his ten years of devoted military service. Through their lives of selfless service, every **unsung K-9 Hero** faithfully upholds this promise in our nation's defense...

*My eyes are your eyes to watch
And protect you and yours.
My ears are your ears to hear
And detect evil minds in the dark.
My nose is your nose to scent
The invader of your domain
And...so YOU may LIVE...
MY LIFE is also yours...*

We, as **Americans**, can choose... whether by personal adoption or donation... to make a difference in the life of deserving retiring **Military Working Dog Heroes**, allowing them to live out their remaining years with dignity in a loving family. Find out how you can bring our retiring **K-9 War Heroes** home.

Debbie Kandoll
militaryworkingdogadoptions.com



MWD Ringo smiles as he anticipates meeting his new civilian family.

Saving our Canine War Heroes

Dexter's Coming Home !



Canine Hero Dexter and his handler in the Operation Iraqi Freedom theater (Abu Ghraib prison), and below in Naples, Italy. "Dex" is credited with saving thousands of U.S. lives overseas.

"My heartfelt thanks for all who cared to make all the calls and emails in order to save Dexter's life ! Thank you for all your support" – Dexter's former military Dog Handler.



Dexter is coming home at last ! Retired from U.S. military service, he was being held in **Naples, Italy** classified as "Excess" for possible euthanasia. "Dex" did two tours of duty in **Iraq** with his former handler and partner, who had been trying to adopt him. Going through the chain of command she met with little cooperation, so in desperation, she reached out to **Debbie Kandoll** at **Military Working Dogs Adoptions (MWDA)** for help !. Within minutes, Debbie initiated a chain of phone calls and e-mails on **Dexter's** behalf. On Dec. 5 the **View** received word that this onslaught of urgent messages had brought positive results.

After saving thousands of lives working as a patrol and explosive detection dog, Dex will be coming home to his former partner to retire.

"He saved my life, and now it's time to save his," said the handler.

Military Working Dog Adoptions is planning on underwriting **MWD Dexter's** transport from **Italy** to the **U.S.** While **MWDA** currently has enough funds to transport **MWD Dexter** to the states, this expenditure will substantially lower their available transport fund reserve account. Your donations can make a difference !

Mary M. Long

For more details on **Dexter's** progress and on how you can help our **Canine Military Heroes** find the retirement they have earned, contact **Debbie Kandoll** below.

www.militaryworkingdogadoptions.com
peggy@rescueboutique.com
www.RescueBoutique.com
818-970-1346



Company Cat of the Month: Marble

Opening the door to **Jones and Company** sends a string of bells into a pleasant tinkling flurry, which is followed by a greeting from a large beautiful cat with the most unusual markings. "That's **Marble**" says **Sandy Jones**, owner and creator of **Jones & Company** in **Ojai**. "He makes my shop feel more like a home which is how I want people to feel when they visit."

Walking into **Sandy's** shop is like walking into a **Kaleidoscope**. Boutiqued antique chandeliers hang from the ceiling, hand made purses, rugs and pillows are generously displayed in a rainbow of color and texture. There is a scent of **Christmas** in the air and the sound of **Christmas** music plays softly in the background. Visit **Sandy and Marble** at **307 N. Montgomery St.** and be prepared to relax and stay awhile.



Photo © 2008, Mary M. Long

info. Jones and Company, 646-8179



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Ventura County Weird VIEWS

by Janet McNeil, D.V.M.



Dr. Janet McNeil and Devi, Ventura, 2006

Nuff said. If you are asking for a centipede for **Christmas**, you have really gone around the bend. The scenery there is a little different, but likely you are not the sort that minds.

Spiders, scorpions, millipedes, centipedes, roaches, butterflies, beetles, hermit crabs, walking stick insects, and bees usually populate the general invertebrate net world.

There is a select club that adores the large snails (gastronomically or otherwise) and slugs. (Witness the rally around the flag in support of the Banana Slug as the state insect.)

Now beekeeping is an ancient occupation, and has both hobbyists and professional groups. Some municipalities may not encourage this hobby, but apiarists are greatly in demand for keeping our flowers, gardens, and orchards productive, not to mention the sweet rewards.

If you have an interest in this, the **North American Beekeeping Conference** is in **Reno, Nevada** Jan. 13-17, 2009. 4-H clubs also may have a beekeeping project for the younger interests.

Invertebrates are the most successful life form on this planet. The biggest (terrestrial) insects, like the **South American Longhorn Beetle**, can be a showstopper. Evolution has allowed invertebrates to fill many unusual niches, including those of extreme temperatures. Some specimens, like the **Madagascar Hissing Cockroaches**, need special permits to be obtained and owned in **California**. These permits from the **Department of Agriculture, USDA**, (no surprise) are usually restricted to educators, scientists, and researchers. Check out the **Wonderful World of Insects** at www.earthlife.net/insects/six.html

The invertebrate world is very colorful at times and always fascinating. Your bizarre taste in pets might stratify your friends into tolerant and non-tolerant, but that has its uses. Most vivarium set-ups do not need extreme amounts of room and are generally easier to maintain in both a cleaning and financial way, unless you get into a very exotic species with unusual needs. As per usual, **DO YOUR HOMEWORK FIRST!** Generally best not to announce to your landlord you have a thriving colony of **Emperor Scorpions** either.

Quick leg count: spiders have 8 legs. Most commonly kept pet spiders are the hairy-legged tarantulas. Some people can react to the hairs and develop rashes. Certain species are more irritable than others about handling. They are all venomous to different degrees, milder ones being less than wasp sting.

Millipedes have two pairs of legs per body segment and generally have 30-40 segments, you can do the math. There are 6,500 species of millipedes. The larger tropical specimens are most commonly kept as pets and are not venomous. Centipedes have one pair of legs per body segment and can have around 173 segments. They can bite and sting (read venomous). I know them well from my school days in **St. Kitts**, and they are not good-natured. You can have 'em.

Insects have 6 legs. From **Giant Walking Sticks** to

Preying Mantis, these can be very specialized legs indeed.

Vivarium design will depend on environmental needs. Substrates like ground corn cob and walnut generally should be avoided since bacteria and fungus can grow when they get damp. Astro turf and sand or gravel clean easier. Sponges (invertebrates can drown in dishes) used to give water need to be changed often so they also do not grown nasty stuff. Many species, like hermit crabs and millipedes, forage for decaying food on the earth's floor. While leaving food a day or two is OK for these species, hygiene needs to not be ignored. The problem with low-care pets like these is it is very easy to forget them. If your spider was given 8 crickets,

and you are not counting periodically to be sure they are being consumed in a timely manner, you may have a very anorexic spider, or a dead one. Finally, good tops that latch on firmly will make you and your family happy.

Do invertebrates need veterinary care? Everyone needs a little help sometimes. Many veterinary medical issues in the invertebrate world are related to husbandry problems. Too much or too little humidity can cause shedding

problems in Tarantulas, for example. Insects can have their own parasites. I have had to treat **Madagascar Hissing Cockroaches** for mites! **San Francisco Zoo's** veterinarian had to treat a spider for fungus. An apple snail needed shell repair for a fracture after a habitat accident. Amongst serious hobbyists, a lot of information can be shared, but as always, be sure of your sources.

www.insecthobbyist.com
www.anapsid.org

www.kingsnake.com is a general clearing house for information. Some of the better vendors have help lines.

And lastly, remember to read **A Cricket in Times Square** by **George Selden**.

And of course, **Charlotte's Web** by **E.B. White**.

Happy Solstice – At the darkest time of the year, let there be light.

– Janet McNeil, D.V.M., Ojai



No... "I'm" the Pack Leader!

Adoption Links

www.vcar.us
petfinder.com
www.aussierescuesocal.com

Adopt a Pet: JULES – Australian Shepherd



JULES is a 2-3 year old very handsome neutered black tri **Australian Shepherd** male. He loves to play, run and curl up in your lap and gets along really well with other dogs and children. He needs a home where he can be part of an active family. Santa Barbara and surrounding areas only. **Claws and Paws** (see ad, page 16) will donate a free bag of food to his new owner plus 40 percent off on toys.

email: bloomerwilson@aol.com
Aussie Rescue SoCal, Inc.
www.aussierescuesocal.com

Australian Shepherd – Adopt a Pet: SCOOP

SCOOP, a precious snow white **Australian Shepherd** was born deaf and with sight in only one eye due to the lack of education and foresight of his breeder. Because of this misfortune he was abandoned by his owners in the night drop box at **Animal Regulation** with a note tied around his neck that he was to be euthanized.

Scoop was rescued by the good people at **Animal Reg.** and is now receiving training from a special needs animal trainer at Canine Adoption and Rescue League (**CARL**).

He is an affectionate boy who would love a very special family who will appreciate his gifts.

info. on Scoop or to arrange an introduction, 652-1001



Adopt a Cat: Ojai Humane Society

Gabreilla



Gabreilla is just a year old and is a beautiful black and white girl. She is outgoing, friendly and athletic. Visit them at **402 Bryant St., Ojai.** info. www.humanesociety.org

Snowflake

Snowflake is a beautiful pure white cat, kind and cuddly, that would be stunning addition to anyone's home. Visit them at **402 Bryant St., Ojai.** info. 646-6505



PRESS RELEASE - LEGISLATION

Congress made important strides on animal protection in the past two years, including passing legislation to ban puppy imports from foreign puppy mills, strengthen federal law on animal fighting, and respond to the scandal of tainted pet food. Eight congressional hearings were held and legislation passed to address major problems in humane handling oversight and food safety. On this and other issues, prospects are bright for even more reforms in the new Congress and Obama Administration.

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Ojai artist and Clothing designer Sina Taylor prepares for the 120th Rose Parade. The 2009 Theme for the Parade is "Hats Off To Entertainment." Sina is creating costumes for the Scripps Miramar Saddlebreds led by Michele Macfarlane. Look for these beautiful pinto American Saddlebreds in Red White and Blue Patriotic outfits this year! Above right, Michele Macfarlane, Sina Taylor (center), Don Trunk, D.V.M. (at left).

PROFILE: VIEW Illustrator Sina Taylor

Sina Taylor was born into a family where fashion was a way of life. Her mother, Jean was a talented designer and seamstress whose creations came alive in fabric as though by magic. From the time Sina was five or six-years-old she remembers working next to her mother. "I had a miniature Singer sewing machine set up right next to Mom's on the dining room table". One of four fashion conscious girls, Sina kept herself and her sisters outfitted for events and appearances. One sister, Lisa Todd, starred in the long running T.V. show "Haw", and was Sina's early introduction to show biz. Sina traveled to New York at the age of 15 to pursue a modeling career and was signed by the Stewart Modeling Agency.

Wearing her own creations for "go sees" and test shots, Sina's designs caught the attention of local buyers. One especially popular model, a long vinyl-faux fur lined coat, was sold at Heri Bendel's on Fifth Ave. and was featured on the cover of Woman's Wear Daily.

Returning to Los Angeles, Sina attended Los Angeles Trade Technical College where she graduated with honors, earning a degree in Fashion Design. She won several design competitions and scholarships at L.A. Trade Tech. in the categories of children's wear, boutique collections, sportswear, and menswear.

After graduation, Sina produced a line of custom resort and evening wear for boutiques in Ocean City, Maryland and Ojai.

Over the next 30 years, Sina has encountered almost every design challenge with a resourcefulness and ingenuity that is completely unique. Just about anything that can be imagined, Sina can, and has, turned into reality. She has created costumes for cats, dogs and horses, even turning a horse into an elephant to win a prestigious costume class at the Los Angeles County Fair Horse Show.

From tuxedos and riding suits, which require fine tailoring, to bathing suits and event costumes, she has produced miracles which marry function with fashion. "I like to make something out of nothing, make it work, fit, last and be beautiful," said Sina.

An artist as well as a seamstress, she continues to broaden her abilities through the study of fine art, painting, beading and leather work. She has also created illustrations for books, greeting cards, magazines and has designed posters, logos and signs for such celebrities as Michelle Macfarlane and others. An accomplished sportswoman in her own right, she has ridden and shown Saddlebred horses for over 30 years. She is also an expert fisherman, building custom fishing rods (used by prominent guides in the Pacific Northwest and Florida) and has been featured on the cover of sport fishing magazines.

For the last 10 years she has designed and produced historic reproduction costumes as well as restoring vintage costumes for Scripps Miramar Saddlebreds in San Diego. These costumes have been exhibited at the Pasadena Rose Parade, which is televised world wide, and for other events such as the Hollywood Chinese New Years Parade, The Night of The Horse, and Equestfest. For the 1998 Winter Olympics in Nagano, Japan, Sina refurbished the Stagecoach and costumes which were used by Elizabeth Goth and the Scripps Miramar riders in the closing ceremonies.

Sina has fitted and costumed performers for both live theater and film, working quickly and always within budget. Recently she was head costumer for the Utah Transit Authority commercial for Lemaide Productions in Burbank, California. If you ask any of Sina's clients they will tell you with no reservations ... "get Sina to do it, she can make any thing!"

To contact Sina: 323-661-1424 designsbysina.com
Mary M. Long

**Bakersfield by the Sea
Big Tweed at Ventura's Bench Warmer
Location, Location, Location**



Nancy and Melinda, Bench Warmer Management

Tom Mobley (drums), left



Incognito - Gretchen Macchiarella, looking very slim, almost as slim as the paper she's working for, pictured here with Zeke Barlow showed the crowd there was still plenty of November heat in Ventura at the Bench Warmer. Best of all they still have their jobs at the Star.



Kristi



Photos ©, 2008 Joel Anderson



Charlie Peterson's 100 percent country!



Mike Askay and Brian Hubert

Bakersfield by the Sea, a tag put on Ventura long ago by who knows who and how many, but it's no secret that Ventura's still top Cow-Town of the Pacific... why those nice Angelenos hardly know what to do with themselves after they set foot on our 'dirt' - course we like to call it 'soil.' So nothin' like a few locals; Tom Mobley on drums, Brian Hubert (bass) and Christian Gallo (guitar and vocals) to keep the Bakersfield Sound (Merle Haggard, Buck Owens, Johnny Cash, etc.) alive in Ventura, not like the 'new' country "Bad Rock with a Fiddle" as Tom Petty once called it, Thanks Steve.

info. Bench Warmer 643-4303
Coming up, Big Tweed at the Bench Warmer Jan. 10.

www.myspace.com/bigtweedband



Frankie Fuchs, Ed Berghoff, Robin Wiley, and the Ian McFeron Band in Ventura

Frankie Fuchs (2 time Grammy nominated...), **Ed Berghoff** (Garth Brook's, Wynonna Judd, Trisha Yearwood, Doug Stone...) & **Robin Wiley** ('Hot Rod Money' - just recorded Woody Guthrie original) performed in Ventura, Nov. 15.



Frankie Fuchs

Said Robin later, "We opened for **Ian McFeron's** band from Seattle. It was a sold out show... will definitely keep you posted on any future shows!"

Kudos to Steve and Polly for providing their big support for the event and the folk-blues music scene in Ventura at their intimate club. To see what's happening at Zoey's call the club, 652-1137

info. www.frankiefuchs.com
www.hotlipsandfingertips.com
www.robinwiley.com
www.TrevorMenear.com



Photos © 2008, Joel Anderson



Ed Berghoff



Seattle based Ian McFeron Band, featuring Alisa Milner (fiddle), McFeron (vocals, guitar, piano), Jon Markel and Mark Bateman.

EVENT CALENDAR CONT.

Continued from Page 11...

• **thru Dec. 28, Striking 12**, musical, Ensemble Theatre Company of Santa Barbara presents a unique and refreshing alternative offering for the holiday season, the hip new musical, *Striking 12*. The show was conceived and composed by New York-based pop/rock/indie trio Groovelily as "a holiday show for people who don't like holiday shows." An overworked New Yorker is determined to spend New Year's Eve alone in his apartment reading Hans Christian Andersen's "The Little Match Girl." Story comes to life through New York band Groovelily's musical fusion of rock, pop, and jazz. The collaborators are Tony Award-winner Rachel Sheinkin (who wrote the book of *The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee*), Brendan Milburn and Valerie Vigoda. Ensemble Theatre Co., Alhacema Theatre, 914 Santa Barbara St. **box info. 965-5400**

• **Jan. 23, 8pm (opening) thru Feb. 28, A Skull in Connemara**, written by Martin McDonagh, dir. by Stuart Rogers, Theatre Tribe, N. Hollywood, Mick Dowd is hired to disinter the bones in certain sections of his local cemetery to make way for the new arrivals. As the time approaches for him to dig up those of his own late wife, strange rumors regarding his involvement in her sudden death seven years ago gradually begin to resurface in this thrilling play by one of Ireland's most acclaimed playwrights. Theatre Tribe, 5267 Lankershim Blvd. in North Hollywood.

• **Dec. 24, 2:30-9pm, 49th Annual L.A. County Holiday Celebration, Dorothy Chandler Pavilion**, six-hour extravaganza feat. 45 groups, 1200 performers. Admission-free show in person at the Music Center or tune in to KCET for the live telecast. Perf. by Antics Performances (hip hop), Backhaus-dance (modern), blue13 dance company (Bollywood), South Bay Ballet (traditional). *Dengue Fever*, a pop/psychedelic rock band that integrates Cambodian rhythms and lyrics; Lisa Haley and the Zydekats, traditional and contemporary Americana/Cajun/Zydeco arrangements; Taikoproject traditional Japanese taiko drum beats blended with hip hop rhythms and movements; and Celtic Spring, traditional Irish music and dance, Dorothy Chandler Pavilion, 135 N. Grand Ave., Los Angeles. **info. 213-972-3099**

www.holidaycelebration.org

PRESS RELEASE - CONSERVE

Energy Efficiency Starts at Home

- Vito Adamo

With headlines like **Mortgage Meltdown, Energy Crunch, and Economic Downturn**, it is time for hope. We will uncover ways to decrease energy consumption, help the environment, and save money. Some tips are inexpensive, 'do-it-yourself' projects; some may require a handyman, and others will require a qualified electrical contracting company.

Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs)

We have all heard of CFLs - but they come in many shapes, sizes and colors, ranging from standard incandescent to sunlight. CFLs work best in open fixtures, like floor or wall lamps. They use up to 80 percent less energy than incandescent bulbs, and dimmable versions are now available! I prefer incandescent lighting, but, using CFLs in places where light is needed for utility purposes (closets, garages, porch lights, or halls) works well. I recommend only installing CFLs as your incandescent bulbs burn out, to save on costs.

High Intensity Discharge (HID)

HID bulbs have a higher light output, and are therefore more efficient than fluorescent or incandescent bulbs. HIDs require more electronics, so in order to use them, the fixture must be replaced. There are several types of HIDs. High Pressure Sodium (those yellowish street lights used by many cities) may be unattractive, but they are among the most efficient and longest-lasting. Low Pressure Sodium, a similar HID, is best if light pollution is a concern. For yard lighting, Mercury Vapor is more efficient than typical yard lighting, also bluish, like moonlight, which looks great on foliage. HIDs take time to warm up, so they are better for areas that require light to be left on.

Light-Emitting Diode Bulbs (LEDs)

LEDs are a developing frontier; improvements are still being made. LED bulbs run cooler and last longer than most others. They are ideal for decorative and accent lighting. LEDs are also efficient, but have a lower light output than other high-efficiency bulbs. Like CFLs, many are dimmable.

Did you know that dimmers can actually save energy? Today's dimmer switches the light on and off slowly enough to appear dimmed, yet fast enough for the flicker to remain unseen by the naked eye. My dad use to say, 'every time you turn a light on and off, it costs 10 cents.' Sadly, Dad was wrong. Dimmers can be used on all incandescent bulbs, most LED bulbs, and some CFL bulbs.

Motion Detectors

Motion Detectors can replace standard switches in bathrooms, closets and hallways. The outdoor security type, that turns the light on dim at dusk and switches to bright when motion is detected; probably the most popular of this type of device.

Timers

Timers can be used in many areas to save energy. Mercury Vapor yard lighting, can be used with a timer to highlight trees/other landscaping. A timer can be installed to switch an electric water heater on in the morning and evening, off when not needed. A TV, cable box, and DVD player uses power even when switched off. A timer can be used to switch

Energy Continued Page 22...

SPECIAL EVENT - Fred Schmitt Benefit - Deer Lodge - Sunday Dec. 21

Oak View Musician Survives Near-Fatal Motorcycle Accident

- Evelyn L. Hays

September 24, 2008 was a beautiful Southern California afternoon, but not for **Fred Schmitt**. Lady Luck was not straddling the passenger's seat on his motorcycle that day like she had been since 1972.

Riding eastbound on the 150, a car pulled out in front of him - the force of which broke both arms and landed him on the hood of the car. Panicking, the driver proceeded to pull away and then slammed on the brakes. This caused Fred to windmill and land in a supine position on the pavement breaking his pelvis in three places. Twelve hours of surgery, 28 days in the hospital, plates & pins holding him together, he is on

the road to recovery. Saddled with bright optimism toward that recovery, it is a slow and painful process.

For those who do not know Fred: *Father of five, motorcyclist, prolific songwriter, guitar & piano player, performer, music producer, sound engineer, music teacher and promoter of the Hillside Festival.*

The benefit starts with a motorcycle ride leaving from **Entryway on El Roblar at 10am**. If you are not going on the ride, then the benefit runs from 2 to 10pm.

Highlights: Local musicians including



Photo © Cristina Schmitt King

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TARGET
Ventura Goes Uptown...

R. ELLIS SMITH



Target stores, (the new one at the Pacific View Mall) recently applied for a liquor license for their new store. Well, as usual the Gang in the Ivory Tower, (all of them), decided to make a federal case out of the request by Target. The Planning Commission voted to deny the liquor license and the City Manager, Rick (King) Cole and his staff took umbrage at that decision by the Planning Commission and recommended that the license be granted.

In any case they have now learned a very valuable lesson, if your gonna mess with the Bull, (the Target Corp.), your gonna get the horn. Now, Channel 2 has come all the way from Los Angeles to examine the situation and see what the heck is what.

Could the Ventura Planning Commission be practicing blatant discrimination?
Rellis Smith
rellis39@sbcglobal.net
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A COMEDY OF ERRORS

**Comedians Don't Kill People
Their Jokes Do !!!**

By Ali K.

The motto for writers is: Write what you know. For comedians I think the motto is similar: Tell your story. Comedians are probably most widely known for being sarcastic and expressing their anger and hurt by telling jokes – some might even call it ‘therapy.’ When a comedian performs and doesn’t get a reaction they want, one would say, “You bombed.” The irony is that if a comic does amazingly well, one would chime, “you killed.” While comedians are not violent by nature, and rarely do you read about them in the tabloids – their jokes can be vicious at times. It seems all the negativity that can accumulate in one’s life, gets reincarnated into comedy, however some jokes are based on true experiences ranging from dating, sex and ex’s, to road rage, epiphanies and actual concerns.



Well, if you are in the market to hear jokes of all types – including raunchy, clean and everything in between – Old Dublin Pub & Grill in Oxnard has live comedy two Tuesdays each month. This uncensored show is put on by the Oxnard Comedy Connection. A bunch

of local comedians (including myself) were trekking up to Thousand Oaks to perform open-mic comedy, but a couple of the comics “Crazy Randall Gomez” and “Shawn Jordan,” decided to get something going in their neck of the woods. Gomez and his wife Lydia do most of the booking, while Jordan does the promoting, which includes creating flyers and coming up with the line-up.

The comedy performed at Old Dublin, are slated performances by top comedians with a different host each week. Typically the show starts around 9pm and the host opens, followed by a couple ‘seasoned’ open-mic comics, (which are screened prior to the show and then booked) followed by slated comedians, and then the headliner. The comedians get rotated, so you won’t see the same show each Tuesday. You will most likely see 3-4 comics at Old Dublin’s, without paying a dime! There is absolutely no cover charge to see top comedians, and there isn’t even a 2-drink minimum. It is encouraged to support the bar, while watching the comedy show, but not mandatory.

Gomez and Jordan encourage anybody and everybody to come watch the show. The duo only have a few goals in mind and that is to, “Have fun,” Jordan said, and Gomez added “To provide for the community, because there’s not a lot to do,” and added that the local comedy is a “positive outlet.” They also would love to have a decent crowd of fun people come watch the shows.

So far, they have achieved just that. The turn-out has been great, and some top-notch comedians have performed, driving in from as far as Los Angeles and Burbank. Jordan stresses that the crowd will get to see the same comedians that perform in L.A., right here at Old Dublin’s. This is a great opportunity to come out mid-week and have some fun. If you are worried about sitting in the front row and being a target for jokes – there are plenty of side seats and a cushy lounge near the back. Heckling is not encouraged, but if you must express yourself during a show, clapping and cheering in agreement is always appropriately accepted.

The next show is Dec. 9. Usually it’s every other Tuesday but, due to the holidays, the booking is a bit different this month. Things to look forward to: live music after the comedy shows, and Feb. 17, an all female comedy show.

For those that are interested in performing open-mic or want more information please contact: *Oxnardcomedy@yahoo.com* or go to *www.myspace.com/oxnardcomedy* further info. *Old Dublin Pub & Grill, 1900 Victoria Ave., Oxnard, 985-6750* – Ali. K. *spiralgrl@yahoo.com*

Anger Management

Hey look, do you slam down the phone when faced with endless computerized voice prompts? Fire off hairbrain letters without using the ole’ noggin’ first? Ever find yourself in a shouting match with a stranger over a parking space at the mall? And ever put your fist through the wall after an argument with your spouse? This is not anger management at its finest; not becoming of a solid model citizen. Although anger is a natural emotion, it may be getting the best of you. Instead of expressing your anger in a healthy and assertive way, you may be expressing it in a hostile, aggressive manner – a manner that could lead to violence and a slew of personal and professional consequences....

info: mayoclinic.com/health/anger-management

ENERGY CONSERVATION

Continued From Page 21...

these appliances off when you aren’t home. **Appliances**

Replacing an appliance is a bigger investment, but can save you money. So. Cal. Edison (SCE) offers rebates. Go to: www.sce.com/RebatesandSavings/Residential to see if you qualify. Look for Energy Star® appliances when you replace them.

Solar Energy

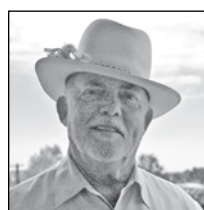
Installing solar panels will require a licensed contractor, but save you money while you help the environment. They don’t have to be unsightly. Solar panels can be hidden from sight. Some solar panels are designed to heat water, while others are designed to generate electricity. Rebates are available from SCE, and also tax rebates for qualified home-based businesses.

Okay, maybe this information will not cure the current economic downturn, but we can all benefit from these simple tips.

Vito Adamo, California Smart Homes

So Ya Wanna Ketch a Fishy ?

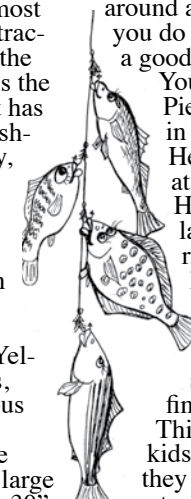
R. ELLIS SMITH



One of the most popular attractions we have in the city of Ventura is the Ventura Pier. It has been a favorite fishing spot for many, many years. In

the “old days” the amount and variety of fish caught off of the pier was astounding, Halibut up to 30 and 40 pounds, White Sea Bass weighing in up to 20 pounds, Spot Fin Croakers were weighing 5 to 8 pounds, then there were also catches of Salmon, Yellow Fin Tuna, Sharks of many kinds, Mackerel, Herring, Smelt, and various other kinds of Crabs and Lobster.

Today, although you won’t find the extreme variety as in the past or the large size, you can still catch Halibut over 30” long, Spot Fin Croakers up to 2 and 3 pounds, Herring about ½ pound, Sardines, Smelt, Thrasher Sharks, Bat Rays, Perch of many kinds, Crabs and occasionally a nice Lobster, and to top it all off you don’t need a fishing license as long as you are



on the pier.

The most popular rig for pier fishing is the “Jig Line” it is a set up containing 4 to 6 hooks with a colored bit of feather attached. You attach it to your fishing line with a small swivel and then attach a ½ to 1 oz weight to the other end. You fish it by dropping it in the water next to the pier being careful not to allow it to go completely to the bottom where it might hook on to kelp or other items on the bottom. You then move the “Jig” up and down at different speeds trying to fool the fish into thinking it’s something good to eat. You’ll know when you have a fish, your pole will bend and you will feel the tugging. You can also use small bits of shrimp, squid, mackerel, or other bait on the hooks, this sometimes works better than bare hooks. Now some people swear by using Mussel that they acquire by using a large grappling hook attached to a rope and then hooking the Mussels on the legs of the piers and hauling them up. I have to say the Mussels do work very well for Perch, and Croakers.

You can purchase these “Jig Lines” at any bait and tackle store or at Big 5, or WalMart. Try using the ones with a # 6, #8 or #10 hook. Your line should be around a 10 to 12 pound test so that when you do get snagged in the kelp you have a good chance of getting your rig back.

You will fish at the beginning of the Pier in the shallow water for Perch, in the middle of the Pier for Halibut, Herring, Smelt, Sardine, etc, and at the very end for larger sharks.

However if you want to fish for the larger fish you will need heavier rigs, 30 to 50 pound test line, steel leaders on your hooks and 3 to 5 oz weights. You will also need to catch or buy some larger mackerel for bait. Catching some small herring also works fine, you can use them as live bait.

This is some real good fun for your kids, once they catch a fish or two they will be hooked for life, so give it a try and good luck, if you need help while fishing just ask and fisherman on the pier, they all love to give “fishing advice.”

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Pin Downs 'Ignite' Santa Barbara's SOhO

The SOhO will never be the same ! Igniting the crowd on Nov. 20, the gorgeous blonde Devin Fulton and her hot classically trained dancers had the crowd on fire.

The Pin-Down Girls are an up to date, in your face, super sexy dance show guaranteed to get a rise out of the audience. With several costume changes, the show is high energy entertainment, combining the crowd appeal of a Vegas show with the skill level of trained dancers.

Only a few months after forming, the Pin-Downs performed at the Hugh Hefner's Playboy Mansion 70s Summer Party and also joined with the Coverboys (a famous all male act from the Philippines) on the California leg of their tour.



With Devin's background in ballet, modern dance and musical theatre, she has a leg up, waaaay up on the competition. She can create style specific shows to match the theme of your event, from nightclubs, to private parties, to trade shows, or company extravaganzas.

To see more of the Pin-Down Girls you can contact Devin Fulton for booking information at 805-216-3605 or contact them at www.myspace.com/pin_down_girls

Check out Devin in the April 2008 issue of the View Online www.Ojaiand-VenturaVIEW.com

The Pin-Down Girls look forward to showing you what they're made of !

Photos © 2008, Joel Anderson



Rey Fresco



Rey Fresco followed the Pin-Downs at SOhO - Xocoyotzin Moraza (harp), Shawn Echevarria (bass) and Andrew Jones (drums).



Getting Your Karma In Vta.

Joe Moses & 211
Photos © 2008, Joel Anderson



Joe Moses and 211 hiphop rap artists at the Karma. Dance babe Candice and Erik Myles, formerly of Pangaea Lounge hangin'

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STEELHEAD - UNITED WATER, DELAYS... Continued FROM Page 9...

since the **Southern Steelhead's** listing as endangered under the federal **Endangered Species Act**, **United** has gone back and forth with **NMFS**, bringing up every conceivable red herring they could dream up, in constantly changing lists of questions to the federal fisheries scientists.

Limiting the fish passage expert panel to first only looking at how to improve the current fish ladder is quite redundant. The fish ladder simply hasn't allowed a single adult Steelhead to pass upstream unaided in over 15 years!

Focusing on the dysfunctional fish ladder, whose design was selected by **United's** consultants in the 1990's, also acts against **United's** best interests in diverting water at the **Freeman Diversion** for farmers and homeowners. While the fish ladder requires a water flow that is subtracted from their diversion total, the rock ramp fish passage alternative outlined in **NMFS' Biological Opinion** requires zero water being taken from the diversion facility, as it relies entirely on stormflows that pass naturally over the full length of the **Freeman Diversion Dam**.

United's delays led **California Trout (CalTrout, a statewide advocacy group)** to file a 60-day notice of their intent to sue **United** and the **Bureau of Reclamation (who still own the Freeman Diversion facility)** on Sept. 30. The lawsuit will focus on **United's** failure to implement the steps laid out in the **Biological Opinion**.

As **CalTrout's** press release of Sept. 30 states, "to date, neither **United** nor **Reclamation** has taken any meaningful action to fulfill the requirements from **NMFS**" (in the **Biological Opinion**).

"The Freeman Diversion harms these fish by making it impossible for returning adults to migrate upstream into vital habitat areas..."
- **National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Biological Opinion Report**

The press release continues: "Both **United** and the **Bureau** have repeatedly delayed the required consultation with **NMFS**. It was not until **California Trout** filed its first **Sixty Day Notice of Intent to Sue** for **ESA** violations in September 2004 that **United** and the **Bureau** engaged in consultation with **NMFS** about **Steelhead** passage at the **Freeman Diversion**. In December of 2004, the parties agreed to proceed with formal consultation and to complete a **Final Biological Opinion** by December of 2005. But even then **United** and (the) **Bureau** delayed this work.

"**Steelhead** are native to the **Santa Clara River**. The **Freeman Diversion** harms these fish by making it impossible for returning adults to migrate upstream into vital habitat areas to spawn. The **NMFS Biological Opinion** shows that the **Freeman** fish ladder does not work for **Steelhead**. It also identifies solutions that are both logistically and financially feasible."

United's latest ploy is to squeeze out of their mandatory **Section 7** consultation with **NMFS** on **Steelhead** fish passage at the **Freeman Diversion (under the Endangered Species Act)** and to begin instead a **Section 10** procedure – one with no timeline attached, meaning they will be able to continue to delay **Steelhead** fish passage indefinitely.

United's Public Relations Blitz on Steelhead

While stating to their customers that rates going up for water diverted at the **Freeman Diversion** were linked to the needs of the **Steelhead**, in fact the increased costs are directly related to **United's** p.r. campaign to raise doubt in the public's mind that **Steelhead** ever really existed in that upper tributary of the **Santa Clara River's** watershed, **Piru Creek**.

Never mind a **Sept. 2008 US Government** study on "**Population Genetic Structure and Ancestry of (Southern Steelhead) populations above and below dams in south-central California**," which stated that "absence of hatchery fish... in the tributaries indicates that they are not commonly spawning and that above-barrier fish are descended from coastal steelhead trapped at dam construction."

No, **United** has spent a bundle over the last year to try and disprove the existence of steelhead up **Piru Creek**, ever, period. A grasp of the basic science could have saved them spending tens of thousands of dollars on this diversionary tactic – hatchery fish are simply unable to match the **Southern Steelhead's** ability to survive in the warm waters of **Southern California's** streams in summertime.

In 2007, **United** hired a **history graduate** for a year to complete a lengthy history of the **Steelhead Trout** in **Ventura County**. This was unveiled in **Oxnard** on Nov. 20, to an audience of a few dozen.

The **historian, Kimberly Bowers**, has conducted an impressive body of research going back to newspaper accounts in 1870. She traveled to fish hatcheries in **Northern California** and looked through boxes of data. While the

Preachin' the Blues at the Harbor – Hi-Cees



Brian Batchley (above) and guitarist David Reo, "Dancin' Ray" & Shirley (top left and below) enjoy the Hi-Cees vibe.



Venturing to So. Cal. in 1977 in search of a music career, from his native Queens, N.Y.C., Brian Batchley (above) is a blues man-harmonica-vocal player extraordinaire. Recently Brian's band, The Preacher Blues Band, performed at Hi-Cees at the Ventura harbor. Check the VIEW Music Listings (page 27) for Brian's next show.

Photos ©, 2008 Joel Anderson

presentation included incredible statistics such as "100,000 trout taken on the first day of the season" in April 1913, too much time was taken up by reams of statistics on hatchery fish shipped by the tens of thousands to **Ventura County** in some years before 1955. (By mid-century, earlier versions of the current **Freeman Diversion Dam** were already drastically reducing steelhead migration upstream on the **Santa Clara River**.)

United was trying to imply that the repeated, massive influx of planted hatchery fish (of a variety from further north in **California**, genetically distinct from the endangered **Southern Steelhead**) meant that you couldn't trust that **Piru Creek Steelhead** were really anything else but the offspring of planted hatchery trout – and therefore not protected under the **Federal Endangered Species Act**.

Freeman Diversion Dam



Winter storm flows passing over the entire length of the **Freeman Diversion Dam** on the **Santa Clara River** near **Saticoy**. The water diversion facility and the fish ladder are to the right and not in the picture. The storm flows allow downstream-migrating **Steelhead** smolt to pass unhindered over the 20-foot-high-dam.

The **NMFS** proposal for a rock ramp fish passage structure would be located in the center of the **Freeman Diversion Dam**. It would rely entirely on winter storm flows to allow adult **Steelhead** to migrate upstream over the dam; it would require no water to be taken from what **United** diverts for farmers and homeowners.

Alasdair Coyne, Ojai
www.sespewild.org

It's the kind of desperate tactic dreamed up by the staff of a water agency that doesn't give a hoot about fish passage, but upon whom federal law regarding endangered species protection is beginning to bear down.

Of course, **United** could get with the **Biological Opinion's** plan of action, raise the funds for most of the construction of functional fish passage facilities at the **Freeman Diversion** and be done with all this. While **KSWC** predicts that this course of action is weighted with inevitability, **United** continues to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars on their **historian, a fisheries biologist who knows what to**

say and what not to say, and soon, a costly lawsuit.

To get back to **United's** presentation in **Oxnard** Nov. 20, the second speaker was their fisheries biologist, **Steve Howard**. Because of the recent study stating that hatchery fish are not breeding in the creeks of south-central California, **Steve Howard** had to admit that federal scientists are not finding hatchery genes in local trout.

The glossy **Fall 2008 Winter Update** from **United** claims that "the fact that millions of hatchery trout and **Steelhead Trout** were planted all over the **Santa Clara River** watershed, including **Piru Creek**, from the 1880's into the 1930's make (sic) it impossible to now clearly determine the natural range of **Steelhead** in the watershed."

However, the natural range of **Steelhead** is now well established. Offspring of the **Steelhead** are about the only trout you find in south-central California.

Of course, nowhere in the two-hour public presentation and Q&A did **United** state the obvious – that the dams they've managed on the **Santa Clara River** and **Piru Creek** are almost entirely responsible for the **Steelhead's** decline to endangered species status. While **United's** p.r. and historian might give the impression they are the **Steelhead's** new best friend, in fact the opposite is the case.

Steve Howard concluded his talk with a slide showing how few adult **Steelhead** made it up to the base of the **Freeman Diversion** in recent years, and how few smolts (adolescent **Steelhead**) pass downstream, implying that the **Steelhead** barely exist anymore upstream of the **Freeman Diversion Dam**. What he didn't add, until pressed by an audience question, was that his slide only counted adult and smolt **Steelhead** at one edge of the **Freeman Diversion Dam**, at the base of the current fish ladder, which is next to useless at attracting **Steelhead**. He wasn't going to mention or estimate the many more adult **Steelhead** that likely reach the base of the dam and go back to sea without spawning, or the many multiples of his figures for smolt that can survive washing downstream over the entire length of the low 20' height of the dam all the way across the **Santa Clara River**.

You see, **United's** pitch is – no real **Steelhead** up there, what's left is next to nonexistent, drop the **Endangered Species Act Requirements**.

Countering United's Misinformation

The best way to grasp the sound scientific evidence against **United's** misinformation campaign can be found on our web site at www.sespewild.org/ScienceCenterSteelheadLetters_2008.html

These two documents are both letters from the **Dept. of Commerce's SW Fisheries Science Center in Santa Cruz**. The first is dated March 3, 2008 and is 28 pages long, the second is dated August 13, 2008, and is 12 pages long. Both letters are comprised in their entirety of thorough rebuttals to the many claims and supposed facts that **United** keeps bringing up to delay the implementation of proper **Steelhead** fish passage.

Alasdair Coyne, Ojai
www.sespewild.org

THE DATING CONFESSIONS
Boycott Relationships!

Find Another Way to Arrive

By Ali K.

I want to know who came up with the word 'relationship,' because I think it's a terrible word. It's no wonder so many men are leery of getting into a relationship. If you break the word down, *relation* is okay, because it implies relating to something – that in itself is not scary. The other half of the word 'ship' is where things get a little sketchy. Ships are not the safest mode of travel. We all know what happened to the **Titanic**, and the **Queen Mary** is haunted – and just the other day my roommate told me about a boat that capsized due to bad weather. I saw the movie, "**The Perfect Storm**," and it was not a sad movie. It should have been called, "**The Awful Storm**."



What does relating have to do with ships anyway? I am beginning to think if we could all find another mode of transportation, towards committed dating, then perhaps things would not be so scary. I know not all men are afraid of monogamy, but for those who are – maybe different terminology would help. How about instead of a relationship, you got into a relation-cab? Hailing a cab is fun, and interesting things usually happen in taxi-cabs. Making out is usually pretty steamy in a cab as well. In New York alone, tons of men get into cabs. Not too many guys are reluctant to take a cab somewhere. I don't know any guy that has commitment phobia from hailing a cab.

For the guys that can't hail a cab, maybe the relation-car is a better choice. Cars are also like lovers – you have to test-drive a few, before finding the perfect one. Most guys I know have cars and are not afraid of them. In fact, they love cars. The statistics show though, that accidents are more likely to happen in cars than other modes of transportation – and that could be a factor to consider. Accidents are like break-ups and nobody wants to experience either. Maybe the car is not the safest mode of transportation, but it is the most reliable and independent choice of commuting, especially when you need to pick up your date.

If the car is not a good choice, maybe getting onto a relation-train would be fun. Trains are a luxurious approach at arriving somewhere, and there is a sense of intimacy with this mode of travel, which makes making love on a train pretty exciting. On a train, you get to sight-see, take your time and go slow – and you can really enjoy the journey. There is no rush to get anywhere. Trains are about really experiencing the beauty around us, which could be similar to seeing the beauty in a person you are dating. This mode would bode well for those that want to take dating slowly.

A relation-bike might be another really good choice. Bikes are fun to ride, and they even make tandem-bikes for the cutesy couples. When riding a bike, you become stronger, leaner and mentally you become sharper. All your senses awaken and you can really see life around you – not as much as the train, but it is definitely a good safe choice. Protective gear is needed on a bike- akin to wearing a condom in bed. So this could potentially make bikers smarter about safe sex.

For the dating adventurous, I might suggest getting onto a relation-skateboard. Skateboarding is for the spontaneous and the daring lovers. Skateboarders are usually independent, rebels and have very youthful and fun energy. They have fancy footwork and take risks. Could they be more willing to take risks in love as well? Skateboarders are committed to their cause, so could committed dating be the next step?

My point is there are always words that will make us fearful, and push us away, while other words make us happy, and draw us closer. The words relationship, boyfriend and girlfriend seem to make most people nervous, tense and commitment phobic. Perhaps, if we changed the phrasing around, things wouldn't be so scary. I think having a 'boyfriend' in my 30s is a bit strange anyway. I would much prefer to introduce someone as my 'man-friend.' I don't date boys; I date men. Maybe if everyone came up with their own dating terminology – one that feels safe, comfortable and fun – we would all be happier and less afraid of getting into a loving, monogamous relation-taxi.

Comments welcome
spiralgrl@yahoo.com
– Ali K.

Peace Thru Music Benefit Concert - Ventura

Dr. Surf
Scott Gates
Chelsea Williams



John Dwyer



Andrew Hodgson & the Millionaireplanes



Jesse Siebenberg



Shades of Day



John McEuen & the String Wizards
Todd Hannigan & The Heavy 29's

Nathan McEuen Band
Tony Barnes Crosby Loggins

November 14
Bombay Bar & Grill



Photos © 2008, Joel Anderson



**More Americans
have died in
psychiatric hands
than in all the wars
since 1776.**

Although psychiatric facilities no longer make public the numbers of people who die in their care, one can easily extrapolate the current tally.

Those figures present a grim and shocking scenario—more patients dead than Americans killed in battle in the two Gulf Wars, the Vietnam War, World Wars I & II, the Civil War, the Revolutionary War, and all wars in between.

This is the outrageous outcome of an abusive and deadly mental health care system.

The Citizens Commission on Human Rights (CCHR) is an international voice for the people abused within the mental health system. If you, a loved one or friend has been forced into a psychiatric facility, to undergo "community mental health treatment," committed involuntarily or harmed by psychiatric treatment, contact CCHR. We will take action.

**REPORT PSYCHIATRIC ABUSE.
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KOHLI'S MUSIC PIT

'Eye' Look Back at 2008

By Michael Kohli

Greetings again fellow music freaks! Can you believe — 2008 is almost at it's year's end? It's gone by so fast for me. As of this writing, I just got back from a historical sightseeing trip of Greece. Such a historic country. If you ever go—you have to see Delphi and the Temple of Apollo and you have to stop by Meteora (they have these monstaries that sit on top of these huge rock columns.)

Looking back on the year 2008 — I have to say it's been a truly adventurous year. After booking shows and being involved with Ventura's scene for over 13 years — I decided it was time to venture into other territories like Hollywood and Santa Barbara. I figured I've networked with enough bands/venues in both areas by now. So, I started writing for rock music paper, Rock City News earlier this year and kicked off my KRE music year by booking a show at The Cat Club on Sunset Blvd! That's right — I booked a show on the Sunset Strip. And, as of this writing — it's been 3 shows so far. Ten years ago — I never thought I'd be booking a band show on the Sunset Strip! Hope to do more shows in 2009 here. Also, recently — I booked another Hollywood/LA-ish show at the Tangier Restaurant/Club in Los Feliz.

I've worked with a lot of amazing bands and artists this year. We booked Hollywood, Simi Valley, Santa Paula (co-booked a Breast Cancer event at the Glenn Tavern Inn with Third Eye Records & Utopia Management), Oxnard (Experimental Cafe), and of course this year's Pride Ventura and through in a couple gigs at Nicholby's. Two music acts in particular that I've had a lot of fun working with this year are, The Paper Tigers and Rocio Llamas. The Paper Tigers, I wrote about earlier in The View when I booked them at Nicholby's. The band's songs are so energetic — it just puts you in a happy place while the band makes you laugh with their own spontaneous moments. Rocio Llamas is a latina artist that I had the pleasure of working with twice this year. She dazzled the crowd at Tangier with her own songs and performed the songs with an intimate acoustic type of setting. However, when I booked her again for Pride Ventura — again she dazzled the crowd with a full live band and some dancers. She and her band were so perfect — I hope to work them again real soon in 2009.

Thank you to all the bands and venues for an incredible 2008. And, I have to take this time to thank my soulmate, S.B. You have truly been there every step of the way. Thank you. And, thank you for our lovely Greece trip!

My 2009 wish? That I could finally turn my music endeavors into a full time career. I recently sent my resume to Sharon Osbourne to see if she'll spread the word to others. It's like I have this two-sided career. On one side — I'm booking big band shows on the Sunset Strip and just interviewed Dream Theater! On the other side — I'm still working a basic retail job

to pay the bills. I haven't been able to keep the shows/projects steady enough to really financially count on. Hopefully in 2009 — I might be able to change that. Thirteen years of shows and over 300+ bands. And, how many stories may I share? The fact that I worked with Bret Michaels Entertainment at one point and even got music industry legend, John Kalodner, to visit me on my first day interning at Sony Music (and even got involved networking with Kalodner's label, Portrait, at the time.) All of this together tells me I am on the right track towards what's to come. All in good time I say! Here, I raise a glass to 2009!!!

Thanks for reading!

— Michael Kohli
Kohli Rocks Entertainment
www.kohlismusicpit.com
myspace.com/djkohli

PS: My best music advice for 2008 is to listen to, "Pink Martini." Although, I was out of town when they performed at Ventura College recently — I really hope they do an encore performance soon. Check them out on iTunes and even Myspace. Listening to them really inspired me to listen to world music a bit more. At first I thought this was a music act from France or somewhere in Europe. But, they are actually from Oregon — go figure. My top favorite songs: "Symphonique", "Hang On Little Tomato", "Let's Never Stop Falling In Love", "Hey Eugene", and their rendition of "Tea For Two." I highly recommend them.

LETTER - BUSH LEGACY

Continued From Page 5...

still insist we needed to invade Iraq to protect this country fail to say too much in his defense. As I viewed his folksy countenance I thought this is a guy I wouldn't mind drinking a beer with and debating the evils of the CIA in the 70s and 80s.

The Military Industrial Complex, major oil companies, Bush supporters who manipulated the CA electricity market and cost average Joe billions and then blamed Gray Davis seem to have done quite well. I can't really put it on his shoulders as he was just a figurehead for greedy, truly evil people such as Dick Cheney. Sorry Bush, being a former paratrooper after graduation from H.S., I still must hold you responsible for the 5,000 patriotic men and women trying to better their lives who are now in the ground or blown to bits. Then there are the 50,000 who have returned home with serious injuries who will never be whole again. Oh I almost forgot to mention the hundreds of thousands of dead Iraqis.

A lot of them were just in the wrong place at the wrong time. Like their home, you moron.

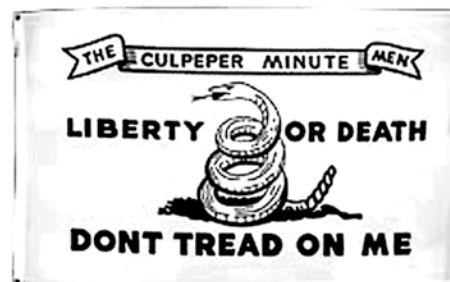
How The U.S. Govt. could assume the Iraqi people would welcome this invading force is beyond most intelligent people's comprehension but maybe it was just journalistic propaganda like so many other lies we are spoon fed by our supposedly "Liberal Media." Bush, I don't hate you as you are not worthy of my contempt though I do hate what was done to my country under your watch. I can only imagine if all the wasted money would have gone towards America's infrastructure and a Manhattan type project for alternative energy where the country would be now.

— Larry Naron



"The Buck Stops Here."
— Harry S. Truman

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- **Caffé Bella**, Ventura - Wed. Dec. 10 - **Isaiah** - 643-2171
- **The Beachcomber**, Silverstrand - Wed. - Dec. 10 - **The Disaster Agents** - 985-6030
- **Bombay**, Ventura - Wed. Dec. 10 - **Valencia and Friends** - 643-4404
- **Zoey's Café**, Ventura - Wed. Dec. 10 - **Ted Lennox** - 652-1137
- **El Rey Cantina**, Ventura - Thurs. Dec. 11 - **Rey Fresco** - 653-1111
- **The Chumash Resort** - Santa Ynez, Thurs. Dec. 11 - **A Chumash Country Christmas** - 1-800-248-6274
- **The Fillmore**, San Francisco - Thurs. Dec. 11 - **Ozomatli**, 415/346-6000
- **Deer Lodge**, Ojai - Thurs. Dec. 11 - **The Orphan Band** - 646-4256
- **Caffé Bella**, Ventura - Thurs. Dec. 11 - **Delaney Gibson** - 643-2171
- **SOHO**, S.B. - Thurs. Dec. 11 - **Schlieske Sisters Christmas** - 962-7776
- **Velvet Jones**, S.B. - Thurs. Dec. 11 - **Club Mercy High on Fire**, 965-8676
- **Zoey's Café**, Ventura - Thurs. Dec. 11 - **The Bluegrass Jam** - 652-1137
- **Bernadette's**, Ventura - Fri. Dec. 12 - **Nathan McEuen** - 652-1810
- **Caffé Bella**, Ventura - Fri. Dec. 12 - **Big Joe Hurt** - 643-2171
- **Cold Springs Tavern**, S.B., Fri. Dec. 12 **Blue World w/ Bob Aker** 7-10, 967-0066
- **Deer Lodge**, Ojai - Fri. Dec. 12 - **Judge Jackson** - 646-4256
- **Hi-Cees**, Ventura - Fri. Dec. 12 - **Preachers** - 650-7773
- **JJ Brewsky's**, Camarillo - Fri. Dec. 12 - **Craig Saxon**, 485-5249 • **The Canyon Club**, Agoura - Fri. Dec. 12 - **Eddie Money** - 818-879-5016
- **The Fillmore**, San Francisco - Fri. Dec. 12 - **Ozomatli**, 415/346-6000
- **Mai's Café**, Ventura - Fri. Dec. 12 - **Chronic Stew** - 652-2061
- **Movino**, Ojai - Fri. Dec. 12 - **Baby Sister** - 646-1555
- **The Star Lounge**, Ventura - Fri. Dec. 12 - **Rhythm Rangers** - 648-4709
- **SOHO**, S.B. - Fri. Dec. 12 - **King Bee** - 962-7776
- **Velvet Jones**, S.B. - Fri. Dec. 12 - **KRS-One**, LaFe, 965-8676
- **Zoey's Café**, Ventura - Fri. Dec. 12 - **Kelly Joe Phelps Smokin Blues** - 652-1137
- **Viper Room**, L.A. - Fri. Dec. 12 - **Jim Norton**, 310/358-1881
- **Caffé Bella**, Ventura - Sat. Dec. 13 - **Josh Damingo** - 643-2171
- **Cold Springs Tavern**, S.B., Sat. Dec. 13 **Dan Grimm 2-5/ The Holdfast Rifle Company** 6-9, 967-0066
- **The Canyon Club**, Agoura - Sat. Dec. 13 - **Dave Mason** - 818-879-5016
- **The Fillmore**, San Francisco - Sat. Dec. 13 - **Ozomatli**, 415/346-6000
- **Deer Lodge**, Ojai - Sat. Dec. 13 - **Roundabout / Yes tribute** - 646-4256
- **JJ Brewsky's**, Camarillo - Sat. Dec. 13 - **Mavric Week**, 485-5249
- **The Pierpont**, Ventura - Sat. Dec. 13 - **Nathan McEuen** - 643-6144
- **Hi-Cees**, Ventura - Sat. Dec. 13 - **Ray Jay** - 650-7773
- **Movino**, Ojai - Sat. Dec. 13 - **Sugar Cream** - 646-1555
- **The Lodge**, Ventura - Sat. Dec. 13 - **Sally Jaye & Band/Jay Nash/Chris Pierce/Joey**
- **Ventura Theater** - Sat. Dec. 13 - **Ska Daddyz** - 653-0721
- **The Star Lounge**, Ventura Sat. Dec. 13 - **Rhythm Rangers** - 648-4709
- **The SOHO**, S.B. Sat. Dec. 13 - **Sambada** - 962-7776
- **Zoey's Café**, Ventura - Sat. Dec. 13 - **Bob Jones Blues Night Presents the Great Doug MacCleod/All Star Holiday Show with Sally Jaye, Chris Pierce & Friends at the Lodge** - 652-1137
- **Viper Room**, L.A. - Sat. Dec. 13 - **Jim**

- Norton**, 310/358-1881
- **Bodee's**, Ojai - Sun. Dec. 14, 12-4pm - **Al Westcott** - 646-9182
- **Cold Springs Tavern**, S.B., Sun. Dec. 14 **Tom Ball and Kenny Sultan 1-4/ Teresa Russell and Cocobilli** 4:30-7:30, 967-0066
- **Deer Lodge**, Ojai - Sun. Dec. 14 - **Sgt. Pepper Band/Beatles tribute** - 646-4256
- **Hi-Cees**, Ventura - Sun. Dec. 14 - **Blue Stew** - 650-7773
- **Hub**, Ojai - Sun. - Dec. 14, 4-7pm - **Jackie Lomax** - 646-9182
- **The Fillmore**, San Francisco - Sun. Dec. 14 - **Ozomatli**, 415/346-6000
- **The SOHO**, S.B. - Sun. Dec. 14 - **Venice Holiday Concert** - 962-7776
- **The Fillmore**, San Francisco - Mon. Dec. 15 - **The Black Crowes**, 415/346-6000
- **The Fillmore**, San Francisco - Mon. Dec. 15 - **The Black Crowes**, 415/346-6000
- **Viper Room**, L.A. - Mon. Dec. 15 - **Hollywood Rxxx**, 310/358-1881
- **The Fillmore**, San Francisco - Tues. Dec. 16 - **The Black Crowes**, 415/346-6000
- **Viper Room**, L.A. - Tues. Dec. 16 - **The Sword**, 310/358-1881
- **Bombay**, Ventura, Wed. Dec. 17 - **Valencia and Friends** - 643-4404
- **Caffé Bella**, Ventura - Wed. Dec. 17 - **Dan Grimm** - 643-2171
- **Deer Lodge**, Ojai - Thurs. Dec. 18 - **Iron Mountain Boys** - 646-4256
- **Caffé Bella**, Ventura - Thurs. Dec. 18 - **Denise Vasquez & Randy Martinez** - 643-2171
- **The Fillmore**, San Francisco - Thurs. Dec. 18 - **The Black Crowes**, 415/346-6000
- **The SOHO**, S.B. - Thurs. Dec. 18 - **Blue Turtle Seduction** - 962-7776
- **Velvet Jones**, S.B. - Thurs. Dec. 18 - **Tommy and The High Pilots**, 965-8676
- **Viper Room**, L.A. - Thurs. Dec. 18 - **The Jakes/Glare of Rockets**, 310/358-1881
- **Caffé Bella**, Ventura - Fri. Dec. 19 - **Frank Barajas "Ellie's Birthday,"** 643-2171
- **Cold Springs Tavern**, S.B. Fri. Dec. 19 **Debra Farris Band** 7-10, 967-0066
- **Deer Lodge**, Ojai - Fri. Dec. 19 - **Litmore** - 646-4256
- **JJ Brewsky's**, Camarillo - Fri. Dec. 19 - **Craig Saxon**, 485-5249
- **The Fillmore**, San Francisco - Fri. Dec. 19 - **The Black Crowes**, 415/346-6000
- **Movino**, Ojai - Fri. Dec. 19 - **Teresa Russell & Cocobilli** - 646-1555
- **The SOHO**, S.B. - Fri. Dec. 19 - **Somos Son/Tea Fire Benefit** - 962-7776
- **Ventura Theater** - Fri. Dec. 19 - **Lamb Of God** - 653-0721
- **Velvet Jones**, S.B. - Fri. Dec. 19 - **Velvet Jones 8 year Anniversary Party w/The Lone Angels, Woodpecker from Mars**, 965-8676
- **Zoey's Café**, Ventura - Fri. Dec. 19 - **Perla Batalla and Conjunto Zacmandu** - 652-1137
- **Viper Room**, L.A. - Fri. Dec. 19 - **Pussycat Dolls/Lounge**, 310/358-1881
- **Deer Lodge**, Ojai - Sat. Dec. 20 - **Heart Alive/Heart tribute** - 646-4256
- **Caffé Bella**, Ventura - Sat. Dec. 20 - **Owen Plant**, 643-2171
- **Cold Springs Tavern**, S.B., Sat. Dec. 20 **Daniel Lower 2-5 / Roy Schmeck and the Schmecktones** 6-9, 967-0066
- **JJ Brewsky's**, Camarillo - Sat. Dec. 20 - **A Gig for Greg II, All Star Benefit Concert**, 485-5249
- **Movino**, Ojai - Sat. Dec. 20 - **Marty Grebb** - 646-1555
- **The Fillmore**, San Francisco - Sat. Dec. 20 - **The Black Crowes**, 415/346-6000
- **Ventura Theater** - Sat. Dec. 20 - **Snoop**

- Dogg** - 653-0721
- **Velvet Jones**, S.B. - Sat. Dec. 20 - **Code 415 Acoustic Christmas**, 965-8676
- **Zoey's Café**, Vts - Sat. Dec. 20 - **The White Buffalo Solo Acoustic** - 652-1137
- **Viper Room**, L.A. - Sat. Dec. 20 - **Pussycat Dolls/Lounge**, 310/358-1881
- **Bodee's**, Ojai - Sun. Dec. 21, 12-4pm - **Al Westcott** - 646-9182
- **Cafe Firenze**, Moorpark - Sun. Dec. 21, 6:30-9pm - **Guitar with Alberto** - 532-0048
- **The Beachcomber**, Silverstrand - Sun. - Dec. 21 - **Hippie Cream** - 985-6030
- **Cold Springs Tavern**, S.B., Sun. Dec. 21 **Sean Wiggins and Paul Houston 1-4/ Cadillac Angels** 4:30-7:30, 967-0066
- **Deer Lodge**, Ojai - Sun. Dec. 21 - **Fred Schmitt Benefit Show**, 646-4256
- **Hub**, Ojai - Sun. - Dec. 21, 4-7pm - **Jackie Lomax** - 646-9182
- **Movino**, Ojai - Sun. - Dec. 21 - **Cynthia Manley** - 646-1555
- **Caffé Bella**, Ventura - Tues. Dec. 23 - **Romantic Guitar with Dano** - 643-2171
- **Bombay**, Ventura, Wed. Dec. 24 - **Valencia and Friends** - 643-4404
- **El Rey Cantina**, Ventura - Wed. Dec. 24 - **Rey Fresco** - 653-1111
- **Deer Lodge**, Ojai - Thurs. Dec. 25 - **Deborah Neal** - 646-4256
- **Caffé Bella**, Ventura - Fri. Dec. 26 - **Lonel/"Smooth to Groove" Jazz** - 643-2171
- **Cold Springs Tavern**, S.B., Fri. Dec. 26 **Soul Biscuit** 7-10, 967-0066
- **Deer Lodge**, Ojai - Fri. Dec. 26 - **Big Barry Brenner** - 646-4256
- **JJ Brewsky's**, Camarillo - Fri. Dec. 26 - **Craig Saxon**, 485-5249
- **The Fillmore**, San Francisco - Fri. Dec. 26 - **Two Gallants**, 415/346-6000
- **Velvet Jones**, S.B. - Fri. Dec. 26 - **Them Terribles**, 965-8676
- **Caffé Bella**, Ventura - Sat. Dec. 27 - **Jesse Thomason** - 643-2171
- **Cold Springs Tavern**, S.B., Sat. Dec. 27 **Bruce Goldish 2-5/ Claude Hopper** 6-9, 967-0066
- **Deer Lodge**, Ojai - Sat. Dec. 27 - **Head West** - 646-4256
- **Movino**, Ojai - Sat. Dec. 27 - **Studebaker & Friends** - 646-1555
- **The Canyon Club**, Agoura - Sat. Dec. 27 - **War** - 818-879-5016
- **The Fillmore**, San Francisco - Sat. Dec. 27 - **Blackalicious**, 415/346-6000 • **The Fillmore**, San Francisco - Sat. Dec. 27 - **Blackalicious**, 415/346-6000
- **Shores Restaurant** - Sat. Dec. 27 - **Chronic Stew** - 984-5533
- **SOHO**, S.B. - Sat. Dec. 27 - **805 Project with the Anthony Preto Band** - 962-7776
- **Bodee's**, Ojai - Sun. Dec. 28, 12-4pm - **Al Westcott** - 646-9182
- **Cafe Firenze**, Moorpark - Sun. Dec. 28, 6:30-9pm - **Guitar with Alberto** - 532-0048
- **Cold Springs Tavern**, S.B., Sun. Dec.

- 28 **Henderson Brothers 1-4/ Los Lanphars** 4:30-7:30, 967-0066
- **Deer Lodge**, Ojai - Sun. Dec. 28 - **Chronic Stew** - 646-4256
- **Hub**, Ojai - Sun. - Dec. 28, 4-7pm - **Jackie Lomax** - 646-9182
- **Movino**, Ojai - Sun. - Dec. 28 - **Cynthia Manley** - 646-1555
- **The Canyon Club**, Agoura - Sun. Dec. 28 - **Kottonmouth Kings** - 818-879-5016
- **SOHO**, S.B. - Sun. Dec. 28 - **Mojow and the Vibration Army** - 962-7776
- **The Watermark**, Ventura - Sun. Dec. 28 - **Nathan McEuen**
- **SOHO**, S.B. - Tues. Dec. 30 - **The Goodland with Konsilla Bros** - 962-7776.
- **Caffé Bella**, Ventura - Wed. 31, 8pm - **New Year's Eve with Frank Barajas and the Shakedown** - 643-2171
- **Deer Lodge**, Ojai - Wed. Dec. 31, **New Year's Eve - Cliff Morrison Band/Doors tribute** - 646-4256
- **JJ Brewsky's**, Camarillo - Wed. Dec. 31 - **New Year's Eve with Red Muffs**, 485-5249
- **The Star Lounge**, Ventura - Wed. Dec. 31, **New Year's Eve - Chronic Stew** - 646-4256
- **The Canyon Club**, Agoura - Wed. Dec. 31, **New Year's Eve - Toad The Wet Sprocket** - 818-879-5016
- **SOHO**, S.B. - Wed. Dec. 31, **New Year's Eve - Reggae Bash/Michigan and Smiley** - 962-7776
- **Good Club**, Ventura - Wed. Dec. 31, **New Year's Eve - Shades Of Day** - 533 E. Main
- **Viper Room**, L.A. - Tues. Dec. 31 - **LA Riots/Mattie Safer**, 310/358-1881
- **Jester**, Ojai - Fri. Jan. 2 - **Al Westcott**, for times call club
- **Movino**, Ojai - Fri. Jan. 2 - **Baby Sister** - 646-1555
- **The Fillmore**, San Francisco - Fri. Jan. 2 - **Reel Big Fish**, 415/346-6000 • **The Fillmore**, San Francisco - Fri. Jan. 2 - **Reel Big Fish**, 415/346-6000
- **Bodee's**, Ojai - Sun. Jan. 4, 12-4pm - **Al Westcott** - 646-9182
- **Hub**, Ojai - Sun. Jan. 4, 4-7pm - **Jackie Lomax** - 646-9182
- **The Fillmore**, San Francisco - Fri. Jan. 9 - **Hot Buttered Rum**, 415/346-6000
- **Velvet Jones**, S.B. - Sat. Jan. 10 - **Code 415**, 965-8676
- **The Fillmore**, San Francisco - Sun. Jan. 11 - **Bills Blrthday Bash: Funky Meters & Marcia Ball, Special Guest Bonnie Raitt with Hutch Hutchinson**, 415/346-6000
- **The Fillmore**, San Francisco - Fri. Jan. 16 - **Willie Nelson**, 415/346-6000
- **The Fillmore**, San Francisco - Sat. Jan. 17 - **Willie Nelson**, 415/346-6000

email the **VIEW YOUR MUSIC** listings@ojaiandventuraview.com
Next Issue of the **VIEW** Out Jan. 2
Happy New Year !!!

Checkin' Out the Cool Music at Ojai House



Singer/Songwriter Che Zuro (www.myspace.com/chezuro) gave an impromptu performance, while in Ojai recently, at Meg's Ojai House. Check out the cool stuff happening at Ojai House for the holidays; politically "incorrect" (or correct?) gifts, jewelry, Art Show (Dec. 13 & 14), fine art and tarot.
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Monday afternoon students with art instructor Sharon Butler – Students (rear) Lindsey Luckenbach and Maddi Mazzola, (front) Bryce Brewer, J.J. Mazola, Connell Demmond and Carson Demmond.

Student Sophia Cluff-Thompson, 8-years-old and her oil painting, 'Tiger' with instructor Sharon Butler, (top left), Janis Hansen, and Sheila Cluff. Sophia has been painting at the Workshop since she was 2 1/2-years-old !!!

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