

The Ojai & Ventura



# VIEW



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Vol. 2 • No. 2 • Issue 14 • Published in the Ojai & Ventura Gold Coast Region • **FREE** • May 2009

## CONSCIOUS LIVING



### FESTIVAL - MAY 31

• **MAYOR CHRISTY WEIR GOES VEGAS?**



Photo © 2009, Joel Anderson



Photo © 2009, Joel Anderson

What's Good About Ventura ???  
Kyle Hunt - Downtown

## Debt Ridden Ventura City Council \$ Desperately Targets Seniors \$ With Selective Code Enforcement



Photo © 2009, Joel Anderson

**City Manager Rick Cole & Mayor Christy Ponder their Options**  
After Losing \$10 Million in Risky-Get-Rich-Quick- 'High-Risk'-Bad-Investments 1 1/2 years ago, the City of Ventura in an attempt to Squeeze money out of Ventura Citizens, schemed a program in January of Selective Housing Code Enforcement, Targeting Fixed Income Seniors with the Threat of 'Pay up & Comply... or Else...'

- See Inside

**CRIMINAL  
BAD BANKERS  
BAD CREDITORS  
& LUNATICS  
SPECIAL  
ELECTIONS**



Photo © 2009, Joel Anderson

## HOE DOWN IN COW TOWN



G. Darryl Struth's, 29 Model A Sports Coupe

- **R. ELLIS SMITH**
- **PETER MILHADO**
- **SOULFULNESS**
- **RICHARD SENATE**
- **VENTURA TSUNAMI**
- **RON ROWE**
- **ALASDAIR COYNE**



## KHOLI ROCKS !

Media Tyrants



- **DOC BARNES**
- **INSURANCE**
- **HASSO**
- **ED TENNEN**
- **MARY LONG**



Teach the Children

Ojai Socialite Paula Spellman - Hotter Than Ever !

INSIDE: • **OJAI ACTIVISM** • **Politically Incorrect Crybabies** • **LOMAX II** • **Rockin'** • **K9**

VENTURA FUNDED: 'City' Road Trips!

**R. ELLIS SMITH**  
Dear Mr Cole, City Manager,  
City of San Buenaventura,



I finally found the information I had been looking for about the travel and conference budget item, my filing system leaves a lot to be desired but eventually I can find

most of whatever I am looking for.

Back in January 15, 2009, I sent a request for information asking how much tax money was spent on food and travel



for the past year. It took a bit of time but finally I received a reply from

[vpoliquin@ci.ventura.ca.us](mailto:vpoliquin@ci.ventura.ca.us) telling me the adopted budget was for \$403,530 but was revised to be \$425,164. Please examine Account fund Expenditures account # 52501 which shows each department and what they are allocated for transportation-travel. Conference meetings. So the last figure I sent to you of \$395,000 was still a bit low. In any case that's certainly pushing \$500,000 pretty hard don't you agree ???

Rellis Smith

From: Cole, Rick [RCole@ci.ventura.ca.us](mailto:RCole@ci.ventura.ca.us)  
To: Ronald Smith [rellis39@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rellis39@sbcglobal.net)  
Mr. Smith:

You have publicly made the statement that there is a budget line item for \$500,000 for travel and conferences and we've done nothing to reduce it. Number one, there is no such overall budget line item for the entire city budget of \$287,878,918 (FY 08-09 proposed.) Each fund and each department have line items in that category. You asked a specific question and the answer given was a total of all the training conference and travel budgets for all departments and for all funds. The \$425,000 you cite represents less than two tenths of one percent of all city expenses budgeted for the year. In fact it is .147 of one percent.



The General Fund total of those budget line items is, in fact, nowhere near \$500,000. It was \$295,000 in FY 07-08 and \$295,000 in FY 08-09. We have already taken steps to reduce expenses during the current budget year. As of this date out of the \$425,000 total you cite for all departments and all funds training conference and travel budgets, only \$208,000 has been spent, with just two months left in the fiscal year. Next year's FY 09-10 budget is not finalized, but budgets for training conferences and travel will be significantly less than the prior year.

I don't like waste either. Sometimes worthwhile training is offered in a package that includes travel and expenses that exceed the value of that training. For example, as a new member of the Executive Committee of the City Manager's Department of the League of California Cities, I have asked that we relocate next year's conference from the La Costa resort near San Diego. Because that would involve significant cancellation penalties, a survey has been sent out to gauge overall opinions on that issue. I presently plan on attending, but if it is not relocated, I will stay at a nearby budget hotel. I still think the exchange from two

PRESS RELEASE - STATEWIDE  
**Special Election**  
May 19

Assistant County Clerk and Recorder James B. Becker, reminded voters today if they are unable to get to their polling place to cast their vote in the Statewide Special Election on May 19, they have options. Becker stated, "I realize that in today's busy world not everyone has the opportunity to get out to their neighborhood polling place, but we want to make sure that every eligible voter has the opportunity to make their vote count." Becker went on to outline the options available to eligible voters who can't get to their assigned polling place.

Registered voters may request a Vote By Mail ballot by completing the request on the back cover of the sample ballot and returning it to the Ventura County Elections Division no later than 5:00 pm, Tuesday May 12. Once the Vote By Mail ballot is received by the voter, they then have the opportunity to complete their ballot in the comfort of their own home. A completed ballot must be received by the Ventura County Elections Division no later than 8:00 pm on Election Day. Postmarks are not sufficient. Completed ballots may also be dropped off at the Ventura County Elections Division office Monday through Friday, 8:00 am to 4:00 pm, or if time permits they may be mailed.

Becker advised voters to make sure there is sufficient time to ensure their ballot arrives at the Elections Division by 8:00 pm on Election Day and to include the correct postage, 42 cents prior to May 11 and 44 cents beginning May 11.

If a voter unexpectedly finds they will not have the opportunity to visit the polls on Election Day they may at anytime prior to May 19, visit the Ventura County Elections Division in person and cast their vote. "We have many voters in Ventura County who simply prefer coming into the Ventura County Elections Division in person and voting there or handing their Vote By Mail ballot directly to an elections employee. We try to make it as easy as possible for voters to participate in the election process," Becker said.

— James B. Becker

Assistant County Clerk and Recorder  
Elections: 654-2781

<http://recorder.countyofventura.org/elections.htm>

days of meetings and training sessions with my colleagues from around the State is valuable, but I think the choice of location was ill-considered.

I know you enjoy "afflicting the comfortable" and that has some value in highlighting questionable decisions, practices and assumptions. Ventura city government is made up of more than 600 staff and seven councilmembers elected by the voters. Every one of our decisions and actions are subject to second-guessing by our 106,000 citizens. City leaders are human and we make mistakes. But I don't think you do your credibility any good when you seize on half-truths or carelessly sling around numbers.

Rick Cole  
City Manager

RE: travel expense  
Friday, May 8, 2009 11:22 AM  
From: Ronald Smith [rellis39@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rellis39@sbcglobal.net)  
To: Cole, Rick [RCole@ci.ventura.ca.us](mailto:RCole@ci.ventura.ca.us)

It really matters not how much you try to spin the situation, (IE: G. W. Bush), the e-mail I received stated that the budget for travel and conferences was \$425,000

City Road Trips, Continued Page 21...

LETTER - OUTTHINKING BANKS

Economic Times

— Art L. Isgur

Many of our loyal readers have taken the opportunity to write me a note. Below you will find a few samples of the emails and some of the answers I have tried to provide.

Q: With the state of our economy, what might I do to lower my food bill without putting in jeopardy our health? T.F.

Art: I have received many letters with this very same sentiment. I always remind people that we have the capability to provide food for our tables, use few natural resources, and enjoy a healthful lifestyle. All one needs is a plot of ground 10 feet by 10 feet. Mother nature has given us rather good soil and plenty of warm summer days to... grow our own vegetables. If possible try growing heirloom crops. Hybrid seeds will not grow back to duplicate the mother plant. Heirloom seeds will grow back true to form. A packet of seeds will cost about \$2, and, usually, you do not need a full packet. You can share your packet with a neighbor.

In this manner you can reduce the cost of the seed and fertilizer. This is the time to plant summer squash, sweet and hot peppers, tomatoes, cucumbers, and beets. I would estimate that an investment of between \$35-\$50 will earn you at least \$500 worth of the best eating this side of Paris, France. Gardening is for the entire family. If you use the heirloom seeds your investment in 2010 will be less. (remember you can save and use the seeds making your return on your investment even greater!)

Q: Almost every day I receive incredible investment offers. Are they real? M.R.

Art: Incredible is the best word to describe many offers, especially now that a whole bunch of us are attempting to recover losses from previous investments. Here are a couple of 'red flags' for would be investors. #1 terms such as 'guaranteed', 'safe', 'easy returns', should be a warning signal to the would be investor, especially if foreign stock and/or foreign currency are involved. Dealing in international markets can be risky. These investment are also, usually, complicated. Always be careful with whom you deal. Be sure they are licensed. #2 this investment is 'IRA-approved.' Almost any investment may be put into an IRA which also means that "IRA-approved" has neither meaning nor significance. It should never be read that this investment is safer and/or better than a different investment. In reality this should force you to study the proposed investment with the utmost care.

Q: As we find ourselves in a deep recession, with deflation as a great threat, can I stop worrying about inflation? J.R.

Art: I am afraid that the fear of inflation will be with us for a very, very long time. Inflation is an economy killer, as is deflation, (a downward spiral of prices and wages.) I lived

Shopping Local



Photo. © 2009, Mary M. Long

Even the beautiful people are shopping local these days! Radiant nutritionist and author Eliza Moses ferrys sons Makai, 3, and Forrest, 1, down the isles at Rainbow Bridge in Ojai in their catamaran stroller. Eliza is currently working on a book about family nutrition, which she expects to publish later this year. Visit their paradise at [Casabarranca.com](http://Casabarranca.com)

in South America for about thirty months, and the country where I lived suffered terrible bouts of inflation. When I arrived in South America I was earning about \$350,000 pesos a month. Two years later I was earning \$520,000 pesos a month, but they were worth less (in U.S. dollars) than the original wage! Both deflation and inflation are the real enemies of working-class and middle-class families. If the fear of inflation is especially scary for you, you may wish to put some dollars into I bonds. These are sold by the U.S. Treasury Dept. and you may purchase them directly from the U.S. Government at: [www.treasurydirect.gov](http://www.treasurydirect.gov) The Treasury Dept. also sells Treasury Inflation Protected Securities, (TIPS). Whichever investment you decide upon, ALWAYS study, carefully, the possibility of gains and losses. Be sure you understand, and you can accept, the possible loss. Do not invest unless you completely understand the investment.

If you have questions and/or comments please send me an email at the address below. Keep the mail coming – I really do enjoy hearing from you.

— Art Isgur  
[a\\_igur@yahoo.com](mailto:a_igur@yahoo.com)

Larry Naron,  
Thank you for your note on JFK. I too am a big fan of Jim Douglass's book, and understand your passion about Abraham Bolden.  
— Oliver Stone

the Ojai and Ventura Real  
**VIEW**

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**THE VOTE**  
**Special Election**  
**What's on the Ballot ?**

**W**e, you and I, have an important date on **Tuesday, May 19th**. We will vote on six propositions and all of them deal with money... your money. We will help determine the future of **California**.

The budget that was adopted by the legislature includes spending cuts, anticipated federal funds, selling lottery bonds, and... tax increases. We will vote, principally, on the tax increases. The six propositions are all numbered '1' and the '1' is followed by letters **A-F**.

There is much to criticize in these propositions, but we should not allow 'the perfect solution' to destroy 'a good solution' to our budget shortfalls.

The legislature, in February 2009, raised the state sales tax by 1 percent; raised, at all levels, the state income tax by 0.25 percent; reduced the dependent tax credit by about \$210; and automobile registration will jump by about 0.5 percent.

• **PROPOSITION 1A** will allow these

*"State legislators and other state elected officials earn between \$116,000 and \$212,000 per year."*

increases to remain for an extra two years. It will also place spending restrictions on state government as well as increase the size of the state reserve fund, (first approved by voters in 2004.)

• **PROPOSITION 1B** will strengthen the funding guarantees that voters approved, for public schools and community colleges, in 1988. California has had budget problems for a few years. Public schools have had their overall budgets reduced by more than \$9 billion just in the past two years. This measure would force the state to pay back those dollars, to public schools and community colleges, starting in 2011. For this measure to pass,

**Proposition 1A** must also pass.

• **PROPOSITION 1C** changes the 1984 state lottery. At this time all lottery

profits, (about 34 cents of each \$1 taken in), are marked for public education. This amounts to about 1 percent of school budgets. This proposition would stop lottery profits from going to schools. The state would be able to borrow the profits to pay off state debts. The state would be able to sell 'lottery bonds' to raise the money, at once, to pay down those debts. The state would make up the money lost to schools so the school budgets would not be reduced. This would help pay off state obligations and continue our commitment to public education.

**California** voters, in 1998, approved increased tobacco taxes to help young children and their families. This money is administered by state and county **First 5 Commissions**. These commissions concentrate their efforts on health, parenting and school readiness. At the end of **June, 2008**, these commissions had **\$2.5 billion** in unspent funds.

• **PROPOSITION 1D** would allow the state to transfer **\$340 million** at once, and some **\$268 million** a year, for five years. These dollars would replace the reductions in essential services demanded by the state legislature (especially for health) for the very young. These dollars would not be paid back.

Back in 2004 we voted a 1 percent tax increase on incomes over **\$1 million**. That extra money was to be used to fund mental health programs, (especially early intervention programs).

• **PROPOSITION 1E** would transfer **\$460 million**, over two years, to maintain these mental health programs from cuts due to reductions in **General Fund** allocations. These dollars would not be paid back.

State legislators and other state elected officials earn between **\$116,000** and **\$212,000** per year. These salaries are usually raised at the rate of inflation.

• **PROPOSITION 1F** would deny these officials from salary adjustments or raises, when expectations are that the state income will fall short of state spending by at least 1 percent.

In the best of all possible worlds we would not have this election. The legislature would take action and the governor would sign the bills. We don't live in that world. I, as one voter and a retired public school teacher, will vote for these propositions... while holding my nose.

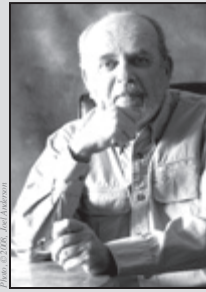
— Art Isgur  
a\_igsur@yahoo.com



*"If you want to be the 'best' all you got to do is have all of your employees Vote 100 times each."*

— Local 'corporate Advertising' Rep

**"Don't Tell Me Who I am... Let me guess !"**  
**Soul-Centered Psychotherapy** Ψ



**S**oul can't be pinned down and is never fully understood by the mind, every person is a mystery. Yet most of us know when we say our soul "breathes easier" in nature, or our soul "gets stirred" when we read Dostoyefski, Steinbeck and Herman Hesse, when we listen to New Orleans Blues, Bach's Goldberg Concertos, Hank Williams and Bob Dylan. It's the artists who have brought soul to consciousness throughout the ages. Not only the painters, writers, musicians etc. but especially those soulful people in our daily lives who live with compassion, individuality, humor, kindness and a sense of enchantment. Soul is closely connected to relatedness, depth of experience and the imagination. It's our responsibility to provide a hospitable environment for soul to show up and therefore do the best we can with the hand we're dealt at birth.

The pioneers of soul-centered psychotherapy are Carl Jung and James Hillman. In recent history, the great Sheldon Kopp and Thomas Moore have greatly contributed to soul work. Loss of meaning, addictions, violence, depression, lack of love and obsessions are signs that soul has been neglected. All lead to an inability to live creatively and results in isolation from people and nature. Many neurotic disturbances are caused by the hindering of our soulful and creative unfoldment. Psychological symptoms are actually signs of grace, they are messages from the unconscious that our life is out of balance and we are plagued by loss of soul.

At this point we need to turn inward and understand the underlying meaning of symptoms so soul can come back in our lives. If I decide to make a commitment to work with someone on a deeper level, I not only have to be vulnerable to their pain, but they have to be likely to become personally important to me on a soulful level.

James Hillman felt that the way through the world is more difficult to find than the way beyond it. The inner journey explores uncharted waters, where we find out that sometimes deviation from the usual is a special revelation of truth. There is no such thing as pathological imagination, only pathological acts. The uniqueness of a person is made of the insane and twisted, as much as it is of the rational and normal (S. Kopp).

There are no limits to exploring the realms of the imagination in therapy, but I do expect patients to act sanely and responsibly out in the community if they want me to accompany them on their journey. I concentrate on the therapeutic work and let the patient be in charge of his life. In deciding to do deeper work with someone, they're already acceptable to me as they are. If they have a need to change, I attempt to help find what is wanted and point out any self-defeating patterns that keep them from attaining their wants. Theories, methods, expectations, heavy moralism, authority, diagnoses, treatment plans and insurance requirements are all defenses against soul work (Moore). Friedrich Nietzsche said, "I mistrust all systemizers and I avoid them. The will to a system is a lack of integrity." Therapy is not an obsessive struggle for "personal growth." It is more about serving soul and the restoration of enchantment and the sacred in life. Soul is not ego. In therapy we invite soul to reveal itself. We serve soul and not the other way around.

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

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**Will the Ventura City Council Do The 'Repsonsible' Thing ?**



*Helen Yunker speaking before Ventura City Council at the May 4 Meeting*

City Council Meeting - May 4, 2009

**"Hope Springs Eternal"**

by Helen Yunker

**B**elieve it or not, this, I believe, is my 84th appearance at the **First Monday Public Communications** at council meetings. Fairly soon, it will catch up to my age by the time I reach 88 in September. Each time it becomes more difficult for me because the matter of the City Lot #7 has become less and less solvable, and my quality of life and my health more and more fragile. Not only I, but anybody who has followed the "Saga of the Slipping Slope" finds it mind-boggling that the City, after more than eleven years, has been unable to solve an erosion problem, primarily caused by 55 years of drainage operations thru its Lot #7, and exacerbated by the heavy El Nino rains of February, 1998.

Since that time I have been the victim of various outlandish instances of intentional delays, broken promises, deceit, disrespect and utter disregard for my civic and property rights, at the hands of non-caring **City Councils** (5 to date), whose main goal has always been to avoid admitting its

*Ventura Delays, Continued Page 21...*

**Send your Letters**  
editor@ojaiandventuraview.com  
multiple publication submissions discouraged

# Wine And Roses

by Ron Rowe



**S**weet is the breath of morn, her rising sweet with charm of earliest birds, pleasant the sun when first on this delightful Ojai he spreads his Orient beams on herb, tree, bush, fruit and flowers. What a delight to walk around the Ojai, flowers in abundance, a stillness in the air, summer is a coming in. Byron writes it better, *Violet paint is smeared grotesquely on the riotous foliage, daffodils and crocus dyes are emptied over limes and chestnuts, our eyes surfeit themselves on this gorgeous feast of colors, purple, mauve vermillion, saffron, russet, copper bronze, silver and old gold. The leaves are dipped and soaked in fiery hues and this mischievous artist will never rest until he has used up every drop.* Ah well, Verde que te quiero, Verde Verde viento Verde ramas.

If you are interested in commuting with nature go on the Ojai Conservancy Bird and Nature Walk, May 9, 8:30 to 11:30. You will enjoy a walk around the Ojai Meadows Preserves, call 649 6852, or [www.ovlc@ovlc.org](http://www.ovlc@ovlc.org) for more information.

I see that our national debt is 11 trillion, trillion with a "T", much of it owed to China. We have poured over 12 billion a month into Iraq and Afghanistan over the last six years and now President Obama wants 84 billion more for these senseless wars.

Washington policy makers contend we must keep our troops in the Middle East to curb terrorism. I believe it's our military presence in Iraq and Afghanistan that is driving terrorism against the US. No country that longs for national sovereignty wants a foreign army in its midst, as proved in Vietnam and against the Russians in Afghanistan. Didn't we teach that lesson to the British Empire in 1776? When will we ever learn...

China last year became the world's largest gold producer in the world, topping South Africa, which had held the top spot for over a century. In 2006 the world produced 161 exabytes of digital information, 3 million times the amount of information contained in all the books ever written, next year, the world will produce 988 exabytes of data.

Lots of talk lately about lobbyists; they spend over 3 billion a year in Washington and they get their money's worth. A University of Kansas study found that a single corporate tax break in 2004 enabled 800 companies to save a total of \$100 billion. In these hard times for retailers, Cadbury and Nestle chocolates posted double digit profit gains, as Candy sales nationwide are seeing a pickup in business. Also, if you love chocolate but are concerned about the calories, David Edwards, Harvard biomedical professor, has a treat for you called LE WHIFF, a lipstick sized mini inhaler that shoots calorie free chocolate mist into your mouth. The device grew out of Edwards research into a better way to deliver inhaled medicines, price, about two dollars for four puffs.

Sisterhood? A serene Italian convent near Barl, Italy has turned into all out nun on nun violence. Nuns at the Santa Clara convent had been chafing for months under the heavy hand of mother superior. The revolt turned physical, police were called, mother superior was roughed up by the nuns and required hospital treatment, she is appealing to Pope Benedict to intervene.

A Florida eighth-grader was suspended from school for passing gas on the school bus. The bus driver said Jonathan Locke passed gas and made the other children laugh, the smell was so bad and was humiliating. Johnson denied the fart was his, Warning to parents, don't feed beans to your children in the morning, especially if they are going on a school bus.

If your wife nags you, don't drink or live in a high-rise apartment. Russian, Alexi Rushkov, 28, became so fed up with his wife's nagging that he drank a bottle of vodka and jumped out of his six-story kitchen window. Miraculously he was unhurt...he staggered upstairs again and you guessed it, his wife told him what an idiot he was to jump out of the window. Alexi did what any red-blooded man would do, he drank more vodka and jumped out the window again. Medics arrived and treated him for bruises and they were amazed that he had survived the 75 foot fall with just a couple of bruises.

Wise sayings: banging your head against the wall will only use up 150 calories an hour. Never swallow water in a public swimming pool.

What is happening to men in England? A recent survey shows over 30 percent of men like to dress up like women. A British transvestite expert says that percentage is too low. He says cross dressers are career oriented married men who like to wear their wives wigs, brassieres, and pantyhose. A transvestite who calls herself, Mrs. Silk has opened a class in London teaching men how to walk in high heels and dress like a French maid, and to make matters worse, Metropolitan police Commissioner Sir Paul Condon is instructing his constables to be in doubt of a person's sex when conducting a search. This is important so as to maintain the constable's dignity as many embarrassing situations have arisen when arresting transvestites. The new guidelines advise the constable to ask, excuse me, which sex do you want to be treated as. Oh what happened to Englishmen like Drake, Raleigh, Cromwell, Churchill?

Uncertainty is the only certainty there is, and knowing how to live with insecurity is the only security. Looking for a way to reduce your weight? Try the Hydro physio-machine. It's a home exercise machine that offers all the benefits of hydrotherapy without a full sized pool. It's a water treadmill, you can adjust depths, warmth and resistant jets to fit your workout. Contact [www.hydrophysio.com](http://www.hydrophysio.com) oh, it's only \$52,000.

Did you know Professor Hitoshi Kodama, of Tokyo Institute of Learning, has written a book which only two people will understand, and he is one of them. It took him 10 years to write the 1200 page dictionary of Japanese and Friesian, a dialect spoken only in the north of the Netherlands. Only two Japanese are known to speak Friesian and the professor is one of them.

Looking for a greener cheap alternative house? Try the XS house. It's a ready-made 63 ft. square foot home. Tumbleweed tiny house company makes them, price \$37,000. Contact [www.Tumbleweedhouse.com](http://www.Tumbleweedhouse.com) for more info.

Time to rest and contemplate the following. Touch the earth, love the earth, honor the earth, her plains, her valleys, her hills and her seas, rest your space in her solitary spaces. And so it is. Peace to all living beings on earth.



Your comments are welcome  
Ron Rowe, Ojai  
[rhjrowe@aol.com](mailto:rhjrowe@aol.com)

# Grounds: Cold Coffee

by Lorraine Mariz



**I**t's hot outside and naturally it's time to think about coffee. Really! Iced coffee drinks are refreshing and fun.

In the quest for the perfect summer coffee drinks here are some options.

**Iced Coffee** – refrigerate your leftover morning coffee and pour it over ice in the afternoon. Or brew very strong coffee and pour over ice. Regular strength coffee gets watery when iced. Add cream and sugar to taste. Despite all the attention blended ice drinks get, plain iced coffee is the most popular cold coffee drink at **Java & Joe**.

**Iced latte** – Make 1 or 2 shots of espresso, pour over ice in a 16 or 20 ounce cup and fill with milk. Very refreshing!

**Iced Cappuccino** – My personal favorite. The key is the foam. As with the latte, make 1 or 2 shots of espresso and pour over ice. Add a little milk and lots of foam. I like the effect of the hot foam with the cold coffee. Be sure to use lots of ice.

**Blended iced mochas, vanillas, caramels, etc.** – I may be betraying the coffee house code but I will give out the recipe for flavored blended coffee drinks. It is amazingly simple. In a blender pitcher pour 2 ounces flavor, 2 ounces milk, 4 ounces cold, strong coffee and a 16 ounce cup full of ice and blend. For a coffeeless drink use 3 ounces of flavor and 5 ounces of milk. Ice cream, fruit, and crumbled cookies are fun things to add to blended iced coffee drinks. Be sure to use cold strong coffee. Hot coffee messes up the measurements and if the coffee is not strong enough you won't taste it in the drink.

Now you know the secrets of iced coffee. Use this information wisely.

Lorraine Mariz, Java and Joe, Ojai

## Poets Inspire Springtime Lovers...

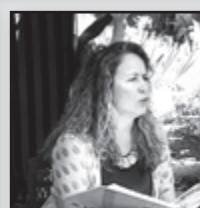


The ravishing Paula Spellman said, "To enjoy poetry, never stand if you can sit, never sit if you can lie down."

**Buddy Wilds and Tree Bernstein** (in photo - at far right) host a fund raising Poetry Festival at the Montgomery Playhouse, the benefit was for the June 6 Poetry Festival to be held at the Ojai Art Center.



Musician Tom Erickson romances the poets with a splendid acoustical ballad.



Poet Ellen Johnson reads her poetry to an appreciative audience.



Admiring Ken Crosby enjoys a hug from his favorite poet.

## ... Delight Ojai Audience



Photos © 2009, Ron Rowe

## PLAZA PANTRY

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*'Proactive' Housing Code Enforcement Policy Targets Elderly at City Council Direction*

# Senior Ventura Citizens Square Off Against Ventura City Council



Camille Harris, [www.vcord.org](http://www.vcord.org)



The Rev



(L-R) Pete Cosenza, Phil Marquez, 94-years old, Rosanna Carlson (Marquez), Angelina Marquez (Phil's wife), and Barbara Marquez-O'Neill.

Phil is a WWII Veteran, was born in Oxnard and has lived in Ventura over fifty years. The City of Ventura Code Enforcement cited Phil for a "possibly substandard" housing condition, which could result in the fixed income resident receiving a bill from the city, upwards \$15,000 to 'comply.'

Ironically, June 14 2004, Phil was 'honored' as **Community Treasure-Ventura Oral Historian**, from Councilman Brian Brennan, (then Ventura Mayor), who deemed the date "**Phil Marquez Day**"!

## It's All About Making Money



Andrew Stuffer, Chief Building Official & Sue Taylor, code enforcement official add things up.



City Manager Rick Cole, and Mayor Christy Weir



Barbara Marquez-O'Neill



Shame, Shame -Pete Cosenza admonishes Building Official Stuffer



Councilman Neal Andrews



Councilmembers: Morehouse, Summers and Brennan



Ventura Senior, cited.



Ventura Senior Daniel Cormode, cited.

## Despite Bad Economy City Goes Fundraising...

— by Camille Harris

The City Council in Ventura, under financial pressure, has now directed **Code Enforcement** to proactively target anyone and everyone where they can identify a code violation. This is an abrupt change from complaint-based enforcement in place since the very beginning of the department. This new policy affects owner-occupied homes, as in the case of **Les Goldberg**.

Mr. Goldberg is 90 years old, with cancer. In spite of his age and cancer, he takes in the homeless and distributes food four days a week to agencies that distribute food to the homeless and poor. Recipient of the **Jefferson Award** from **Jackie Kennedy**, he is known as "**Hero of the Homeless**" and is the author of **Living Judaism My Way**. Mr. Goldberg believes that what truly matters in life is what one can do for others.

Now he needs a good lawyer who has courage equal to his own. He is most angry that the money he is forced to pay the city will not go to help the homeless. He is angry because he knows that the majority of the

elderly will not be able to come up with the money to upgrade their homes to the city's satisfaction and may be put out themselves. Mr. Goldberg finds it ironic, that after having fought to save the homeless for over 40 years, he is now the victim of a policy which he says will create more homelessness.

One proactively cited person, **Susana Escobar**, has a disabled senior in her second unit, and she will be forced to put him out as she doesn't have the \$50,000 required to meet the city's demands. Her mortgage was granted upon having the modest income from the rental, so she may not even be able to keep up the payments and could lose her home.

Another senior, **Laura Swenson**, had to evict her low-income son from the safe second unit that was in place when she bought her property 16 years ago to support her retirement.

Another low income senior and nationally known artist, **Michael Pedizwiatr**, had to put out his low income renter and says he will have to sell his home and leave Ventura because he cannot financially meet the city's demands.

### Approach to Reform: Unresponsive

Unfortunately, the city of Ventura has established a pattern of not responding until there is a lawsuit, as



Angelina Marquez



Mayor Christy Weir, and Councilmen Fulton & Monahan



Councilman Carl Morehouse makes a point.

in the case of the expensive failed 911 fee attempt, **Helen Yunker** (see story page 21) and the city's refusal to even count the signatures on the **VCORD View Petitions** by the legal deadline. In the name of compassion, however, a class action lawsuit may be called for when we see the most vulnerable of our population facing homelessness and financial ruin.

Without comprehensive code reform for the 21st century, the elderly will still be vulnerable to subjective police powers and a code that can be interpreted by whim.

### Getting Grandma's House

Perhaps the city is planning an **Amnesty program**.

A member of the city's staff already wrote, "**Amnesty, then Be Nasty!**" The nasty part would be, once on the property, the city's demands tear down of additions or whatever else they can find, no matter that it is safe or not. This would bankrupt a senior on social security.

A member of the city Council said to the effect, "**We've got to get these old people out of their homes.**" The **City Manager, Rick Cole** justified his staffing increase for **Code Enforcement** as new "**revenue opportunities.**" Cloaked in the disguise of **Bad Codes, Continued Page 21...**

### U.S. Constitution - Bill of Rights 4th Amendment

*"The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized."*



"They made us many promises but they kept only one. They promised to take our land - and they did."  
— Red Cloud, Oglala-Lakota c. 1822-1909



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

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# Bad Banker Boys Feeding on the American Public

by Jefferson Pinto

**W**hen my son was in his early teen years, he had an affinity toward video games. Attempting to be a good parent, I blocked inappropriate content and imposed time limits. Ok son you can only play video games for two hours a day after your homework is done. Wow that was easy, not only was I a good parent but a smart one too. A few days later, I noticed he had been playing for quite a while. I thought, hmmm that sure seemed like longer than two hours. So I asked him, "How long have you been playing?" "I dunno" came the answer. OK, new rule: you must use a timer to ensure you don't exceed your time limit. Ah, I'm smart again – so I thought.

A few days lapsed and I observed him playing and the timer wasn't running. "Hey, how come the timer is not on?" "Oh, I forgot to start it." I thought, if I impose a penalty, he'll comply. New rule: If the timer isn't on and I catch you, you lose an hour. All was well for a few days and, once again, I caught him without the timer running. OK son you loose an hour. "Dad, that's no fair I wasn't playing the game, it was paused." I said, "Too bad." New rule: if the screen is on and the timer's not running you loose all your time for the rest of the day. I remember thinking wow I finally got this kid figured out. Things ran smoothly for a few weeks. One Saturday morning, I slept in late. When I opened my bedroom door, I heard the distinct sound of the timer starting (*It makes a chirping sound when you press the start button*). Knowing I'd been duped, I made my first stop the TV room. Just as I had suspected, the timer had less than 10 seconds on it and the game on the screen appeared to be well along. New rule: You can't play if I'm not awake. A few more iterations of the newer rules and the boy did get limited to two hours a day.

I thought, wow, this parenting thing is a lot of work. What happens when I die? What will stop him from being a "professional" gamer? My goal is to teach him to "police" himself (*self-restraint*). This testing your limits and the "you didn't tell me" excuses is something I know to expect from a teenager. After all, the human brain doesn't completely develop until about age 25.

That's really nice Jefferson; what does that cute little story have to do with economics or public policy. Unfortunately, the same behavior for a grown adult is completely inexcusable.

Have you noticed that since our government passed the **Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP)**, it was said, to purchase assets and equity from financial institutions in order to strengthen its financial sector, there have been several iterations of new do's and don'ts? (*lots of new rules!*)

**By way of background:**

• **Loot During the Riot:** As the economy started to flounder, the government stepped in and said: *We have to act now! We have to stabilize the economy. We need to stabilize these large financial institutions* (Banks and Insurance companies). *Not to pass this legislation, is "unthinkable"*. They almost got it right. It would have been more accurate to say, "We're federal politicians. It would be unthinkable to have our wealth eaten up by the very monster we created."

• **We Can Legislate Our Way Out Of This: In October 2008, the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (EESA)** was signed into law (Also known as: **The Bail Out**).

• **Quick, Change My Order:** A modification of the EESA or **TARP Trouble Assets Relief Program** was passed. It sounds sort of like something you put on a leaky roof during the rain-storm. Folks, don't confuse the **Bail Out** with the **Stimulus Package** – that's a whole other **\$800 billion**.

• **It's Official: Last Fall, the government announces:** We've "officially" been in a recession since last **December**... Duh! That's sort of like saying the flooding in **Iowa** was "officially" a disaster. What a surprise, I may have a myocardial infarction (*heart attack*) from that surprise. It would have been nice if **Japan** had sent an "official" declaration of war before they bombed **Pearl Harbor**. Then again, there's the opposite strategy – the element of surprise. Go ask **General Custer** how well that worked on **Sioux Indians** at the **Battle of Little Big Horn**?

• **Great Job, Here's Your Bonus:** Many of the recipients of the TARP funds paid huge bonuses to their employees. **AIG** was to pay **\$165 million** in bonuses on the largest quarterly loss in their history of **\$61.7 billion**. *Thanks for doing such a great job of running the company into the ground. Here's your bonus.* As a side note: **AIG** lost **\$99.3 billion** last year making it the **Fortune 500s** largest loss of all time. My first recommendation: cut back on bonuses. Secondly, stop redirecting almost **\$40 billion** of TARP funding to foreign companies.

• **I Know The Horse Is Already Out Of The Barn, But Could You Lock It Anyway:** It didn't take our president and national leaders long to say "How do you justify this outrage to the taxpayers who are keeping the company afloat?" The banks response rationalization "Sorry we were contractually obligated to pay the bonuses." Hey



you can't do that when everyone else has taken a financial haircut. Well, there was nothing in the rule book about that. I have to raise a healthy skepticism about the **legitimacy of the "contract" and the compensation structure.**

• **Somebody missed the point of TARP:** Lending has declined at the top banks who received TARP funds. These institutions lent out **23 percent less money** in February 2009 than October 2008 of last year. Easter is over; stop hiding the nest eggs.

Note to politicians: check your homework before you turn it in. Oh yeah, be sure to include your conflict of interest with the beneficiaries of public funds, via Lobbyists, Political Action Committee's (PACs), etc.

• **Kick 'Em While They're Down:** TARP banks raise their fees to bolster profit. *These are tough times for all of our customers, but we are raising fees for the good of the whole.*

• **It's Not My Fault:** The **Former CEO of AIG (American International Group) Maurice Greenberg** said, "I don't feel any responsibility at all." If the CEO isn't responsible, who is? This sounds a lot like **Kenneth Lay**, the former CEO of the now defunct **Enron**, "The media was the cause of **Enron's failure**." I think he borrowed that line from every **Scooby-Doo** episode; "I would have gotten away with it too, if it weren't for you meddling kids."

• **The Mummy Unravels:** **Bank of America President, Kenneth Lewis**, testified under oath: as part of **Bank of America's** acquisition of **Merrill Lynch** he was told by former **Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson** not to disclose the **\$21 billion dollars** because it would "impose too big a risk to the financial system." That's sort of like saying, *I've got some good news and some bad news. The good news is you only have one day to live. The bad news is I forgot to tell you yesterday and it was for your own protection.*

**This behavior is disturbing on many levels:** 1) High ranking government officials advised the president of one of the largest banks in this country not to disclose something he was required to disclose 2) The bank CEO breached his ethical duty and followed the advice 3) the whole thing came to light during an investigation of the bonuses paid to **Merrill Lynch** employees. Who needs **Reality TV** or **The Jerry Springer Show** when we've got **CSPAN**?

• **NOW the "Truth" Comes Out:** **Fired President of Merrill Lynch** says he didn't approve the bonuses. That's nice why come forward now? Why not object several months ago when you were accused?

• **It Isn't Fair:** TARP recipients who are willing and able to

pay back the monies now are whining because the government still has an equity stake (**Stock Options**). One executive said, had we realized that was the case we wouldn't have taken the money. This sounds an awful lot like the same sort of loans you (*the banks*) were handing out to us (*the homebuyers*) not too long ago, which borrowers didn't comprehend the agreement and thought it was unfair too. That's what's referred to as a cruel irony, or mild economic justice.

Is there a pattern here? The government overfeeds the dog; the banks lock him in the house; and then asks the citizens to operate the pooper scooper. I think

TARP Funds Received	Fee Hikes				
	Credit Card Interest Rate Increase	Credit Card Fee Increase	Overdraft Card Fee Increase	Tax Refund Loans Interest Rate Increase	Offering High Interest Rate Loans
American Express \$3.4	✓				
Capital One \$3.6	✓				
U.S. BankCorp \$6.6				✓	
Wells Fargo \$25	✓	✓		✓	
J.P. Morgan Chase \$25	✓	✓			✓
Bank of America \$45	✓	✓	✓		
Citigroup \$50	✓		✓	✓	

Billions of Dollars Source: Wall Street Journal/Companies/U.S. Treasury Dept.

Thanks for doing your part to help the economy recover....

• **FOR YOUR PROTECTION:** Last Month, **J.P. Morgan Chase** (a **\$25 Billion TARP** recipient) reported "solid profits" and said: 1) "We could pay it back tomorrow. We have the money." 2) "We are frustrated with the 'Bail Out' stigma." 3) "We only took the money because it was in the country's best interest." 4) Word for word out of the **Wall Street Journal**, "It isn't fair we are painted with the same brush stroke as the weaker banks."

**Jefferson's Take:** CALL THE WAMBULANCE. All's fine and dandy when you are on the receiving end of a hand out, but when its time to "pay the piper" and the rest of the orchestra, your tune seems to have changed a little bit. Maybe they should have taken **Nancy Reagan's** advice – *Just say NO!*

• **But It Really Was An "Emergency":** If it was such an emergency, why does it seem the banks that were "too big to fail" didn't need the cash and are ready to pay it back so quickly?

you get the picture, and the fragrance.

**Stress Test?** The bank regulators are now conducting stress tests on selected banks. Why would you prescribe a medication (**Bail Out** cash) before examining the patient (**Banks**)? This is like prescribing morphine to a patient in the emergency room without examining the patient. By any other standard this is gross professional negligence.

**The Big Picture:** How much faith do you put on the rules and how much do you put on the person? I suppose that all has to do with the person. When you can't hold the CEO accountable, that's a real problem. With many years as both a public and private auditor, it is my opinion an unlimited number of rules is no substitute for *personal integrity*. Or in the words of my father, "locks are for honest people."

I had a teacher who said if you can choose between a Class A person in a Class B scenario or a Class B person in a Class A scenario, always put your bet on the class A person.

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In short, choose leaders who have consistently demonstrated competence and good character. Resist the temptation to go to the flashy “prestigious” new guy on the block with all the quick fixes. There are really two choices, either trust them or fire them.

The banks and the government aren't solely to blame. The citizens' insatiable taste for cash has contributed to their financial inflexibility and lack of options (*whether or not to pay the higher fee or interest rate*). The bank is charging, but you are paying. This is sort of like when a drug addict complains the dealer is charging too much – get help go to rehab and **GET OFF DRUGS**.

**Jefferson's Recommendations:** Huge chunks of legislation are implemented too quickly and surreptitiously. Any piece of legislation that has been passed by both houses ought to be available for inspection and comment for a reasonable period of time (*at least 30 days*) prior to signing it into law.

If the economy hinges on a few very large corporations, maybe we ought to consider diversifying the risk and prevent the imbalance of power into such overgrown institutions. **Adjust the balance of power:** 1) Pay off your consumer debt. Next time earn it first, then buy it. 2) Move your accounts to one of the institutions that didn't receive TARP funds – vote with your feet (*or in this case your dollars*). The smaller banks and credit unions probably have lower fees anyway.

In the land of opportunity, we ought give equal opportunity to fail. Let the criminals (CEOs) out of jail and let them fend for themselves among the rioting crowds (*Investors*). So long as it's legal and ethical, laissez-faire (*leave alone or Hands off*). To the victor go the spoils. The bankruptcy goes to the investors not the American citizens.

**Lessons Learned:** There is no substitute for integrity. Mr. Sears and Mr. Roebuck built the largest retailer in the world on a handshake. Do you think their partnership would have worked without integrity and trust? Giving money to someone who has proven to be incompetent is like lending more money to a crack addict and putting the pimp in charge as the Czar.

Lastly, the vast majority of banks in this country are well managed and neither solicited or received TARP funds. So it seems, the larger the size of the financial institution, the more top heavy and unstable it is.

## Your Credit and the Love-Hate Relationship Banks Have for Your Money

While it is imperative, in any analysis, to start solely with the facts and science, it is equally important to address the human and ethical factors.

Case and point: the manner in which the financial institutions in the country have treated people is deplorable. **Big picture: John and Johanna Q. Public feel hosed by the colossal national banks.** The general attitude is folks aren't so much frightened as they are angry.

Let's be clear here, it's not because of the lack of bank parking or because the candy dish is empty (*if there is one*). Nor is it that the pens are chained down and don't work very well. People expect to be treated honestly and fairly. The assumption is that the rules in effect are fair. But in reality, the banks figure if you can't convince them, confuse them. One of the best ways to walk away with bad feelings is to not have an understanding. Unfortu-

nately, according to “**The Golden Rule: Those who have the gold make the rules.**”

Since the **United States** went off the gold standard in 1933, it seems the bankers have been making the rules. **In short, the rules are too complicated, confusing and tend to be in favor of the rule maker.** There are a myriad of rules to protect the bank and ensure they get their money day-to-day, but when the banks “fall” on hard times, we citizens have to pay again in the form of a **Bail Out** and higher taxes.

Trust me on this one folks the *still higher taxes* are coming.

I know the colorful and bright **Las Vegas Strip** lights up the desert night, but who do you think pays for the electric bill - the tourists! What happens in **Vegas Stays in Vegas** - *including your money*. What the government spends, *the people pay*.

Given, there are many good rules to protect the banks from unscrupulous individuals. However, citizens are angry about the incongruity in the justice of having to pay dearly for the clearly poor choices of banking lenders and complicit borrowers.

Here are some recent changes to the rules that ended up costing the honest and responsible folks: (It's a horrible job, but someone has to pull the curtain to expose the shenanigans hiding out behind in the form of our financial wizards).

**Float Not Want Not:** Before the recent “change”, you could write a check and get a few days of float (*Before the money came out of your account...*). Nowadays, the banks can scan an image of your check-payment and clear it almost instantaneously. By the way you don't get your cancelled check back and the transaction appears as an electronic debit on your bank statement bearing the check number.

**Paper vs. Plastic:** Do you like the free airline miles, hotel points, Barney Bucks, and store credits you rack up when you pay by credit card? It may not be intuitively obvious, but the cost of those programs is charged back to the merchant from whom you made the purchase. Hello boys, and girls; can you say higher priced products? I knew you could.

Most jurisdictions prohibit the merchant from charging a fee for using a credit card, but they are allowed to offer a lower cash price for... By the way, cash and checks (*good ones that don't bounce*) carry no additional transaction fee to the merchant.

**“Free” On-Line Bill Pay:** It's true the banks transmit electronically or otherwise mail the payment. Here's the catch; the money is removed from your account several working days *prior* to the disbursement date. That's a lot of things, free isn't one of them. They get to use your money.

**Rule Changes:** Periodically a new set of rules gets stuffed into the credit card bill. *“These are our new rules. I hope you can read the 8 point font on the five fold double sided brochure printed on semi transparent rice paper. By the way if you don't like the new terms and conditions, let us know in writing and we'll cancel your card; otherwise the new rules take effect automatically.”* Like most people really understand the banking legalese. Let me pay my attorney \$300 per hour to review it, and I'll get back to you – NOT!

**Usury Laws?** The concept of usury (*A maximum limit on the interest rate that is charged*) dates back to 325AD. Usury comes from the **Medieval Latin usuria**, “interest” or “excessive interest”. Each state has laws

on the books. Most of these rules apply to person-to-person loans. Other rules apply only to other lenders (car loans, mortgages). Implemented in 1980, there are national laws that override state laws for **Nationally Chartered Banks**. (These banks have the word “**National**” or “**NA**” in their name.) In the 1960s your home mortgage was at 4 percent and your “charge cards” were at 6 percent or 7 percent. Nowadays, conventional mortgages are between 4 percent and 7 percent (depending upon when you commenced the loan) and your credit cards are between 19 percent and 30 percent. The borrow/savings spread seems to have increased from 3 percent to about 23 percent. Ouch, that's gonna leave a *mahk* on your bank balance!

**Debit Card Rules:** When you pay with a debit card, the cash comes directly out of your account. Unless there's fraud involved, you have no recourse in the case of a “*computer error*.” In the case of a credit card, there is a formal dispute and resolution process that doesn't require payment until the dispute is resolved.

**Punitive/Predatory Bank Fees:** So it seems the fees schedule is untamed. In the case of the bounced check (*assuming you do make good on it*) cost is \$25 charged to the check writer and \$25 charged to the check receiver. The banks *get paid* from both sides.

Given how long it takes a computer to reverse the charge and whack the account for the fee (at the speed of light with little or no human intervention, \$25 seems a little high considering the **National Average Hourly Wage** is around \$18 per hour. Forget the interest; the fee is exorbitant! The demographic reality in this country is that the lowest income individuals pay the highest interest rates, and more and higher fees than their less impoverished counterparts. This is sort of like watching the nature channel when the lion picks the weakest gazelle for lunch.

**Loan Application Fees:** “*Thanks for the loan application; I'm sorry your request has been denied.*” Home loans are being denied at an alarming rate, making loan fees a *growing source of revenue for the banks*. Why charge the fee before the loan is approved? Think about it; if you took a new car for a test drive, would you flinch if the sales person told you you'd have to pay for the gas to cover the test drive whether or not you bought the car? It seems a pre-screening without fees policy would be a whole lot more fair to the applicant.

For Sale? I have a personal friend who had an offer for the asking price of a home he'd like to buy that has gone unanswered since November of 2008 (6 months). Other acquaintances with pre-approved loans had offers for the asking price go unanswered for several months. Some banks did finally respond and *raised* their *original* asking price. This sort of behavior reeks of stalling the sale of the foreclosed homes until the market “recovers.”

**Auctions and the fine print:** Have you noticed the commercials touting the purchase of homes for pennies on the dollar have subsided? After the auction is over, the bank still has the right of refusal. And they have refused quite a few.

**Must be received by:** In the old days, when I was young, the payment was required to be postmarked by a certain date to be considered “on time.” Nowadays, with the exception of my mortgage, the payment *must be received*

## Computer Tech

### Think Before You Buy

by Mike Deering

When considering a new computer purchase ask, is more better, or are you just spending money needlessly? Take the time before you go shopping to consider “what” the computer is going to be used for on a continuous and everyday basis. Many times people “think” the machine is going to be used for playing games or graphic design for several hours a week, when in fact, the machine is rarely used for such purposes. This, in turn, becomes a larger expenditure. Then, other things needed for using the computer become neglected like laptop carrying cases, good surge protectors, legal copies of software, external backup drives, and maybe most important, a work area that is ergonomically safe.

Let's say you are considering a laptop purchase for basic word processing and e-mail. A laptop is needed because there are a number of places and times during the day that you cannot get to a desktop machine, then there is absolutely no reason to spend more than \$1,500, if that much. There is no need for the 17-inch plus screen.

Another example is the “family desktop” computer. Everything is done on this: letters, e-mail, taxes, banking, gaming, homework, picture storage and editing, and even sometimes, watching a movie. Some people are perfectly happy to drop over \$2,000 on such a machine, but won't spend \$20 to \$50 on a surge protector, or antivirus software, or an external backup drive. Go figure.

Moral of the story: Before you shop, sit down and really think about “how” this machine is going to be used, most of the time.

Mike Deering, Computer MD  
local computer service

by a certain date. When you're mailing the payment from **Southern California** to **North Dakota**, that adds up to a few days transit time.

Now all of a sudden the citizens have become the guarantor for the delivery schedule of the **U.S. Postal Service**. If your payment is one day late you get whacked with a huge late fee; however, if your payment is a few days early there is a clear lack of symmetry.

People are mad and are tired of being the bank's whipping boy. The incremental rule changes over the years have been taken out on the people.

Drive down the street, and observe which buildings are *newly completed* or *under construction*. Have you noticed a disproportionate number of them are banks?

Don't get mad, get smarter. Just say “NO” to nationally chartered banks, make your payments on time and don't bounce any checks.

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

jefferson@ojaiandventuraview.com

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# A Brief History of Environmental Activism in the Ojai Valley

by Alasdair Coyne

**T**he citizenry of Ojai has a long history of successful fights against major development proposals which threatened to change the nature of the Ojai Valley. This brief summary presents an overview of the biggest campaigns that Ojai residents have led over the past half century.



Some of these campaigns opposed specific projects slated for the Ojai Valley. Others contested proposals outside Ojai, whose air quality impacts would have led to greatly reduced air quality in the Ojai Valley. Air pollution blows in to Ojai from the direction of the ocean and gets held there by the hills that surround the valley.

Any history of environmental campaigns in Ojai must begin with Pat Weinberger, who moved here from Akron, Ohio in the early 1960s with her neurosurgeon husband Dr. Larry Weinberger.

Pat jumped into activism right away. Among her early campaigns were those that stopped the construction of a freeway through Ojai, from Carpinteria to Santa Paula, on the Hwy 150 route; and the blocking of 2 of 4 proposed electric generating units for Southern California Edison's Ormond Beach plant, reducing by half the proposed air quality impacts on the Ojai Valley.

Perhaps the campaign Pat is most proud of was the creation of the Teague Memorial Watershed around the edge of what was then the new Lake Casitas. Pat found out that the watershed was zoned for 10,000 single-family homes, which would have meant a new city of some 25,000 residents on five square miles of land west of the lake.



Tony Gwilliam and John Long

She enlisted the help of Congressman John Seiberling of Ohio, who she had grown up with and who was in a position in Congress to move federal legislation to establish the protected watershed. (Congressman Seiberling was a longtime champion of National Parks and wilderness areas.) The watershed was thus protected from development and the lake's water quality was preserved from a substantial source of contamination.

Pat also led a later campaign in the late 1990s, to protect Lake Casitas' water quality from being contaminated by the opening up of the lake to swimming. Body contact with the lake would have introduced dangerous bacteria into our water supply.

The other really big campaign that Pat Weinberger led was the opposition to U.S. Gypsum's proposal in the early 1970s to construct open-pit phosphate mines on the south slope of Pine Mountain, at an elevation of 6,000 feet, east of the summit of Hwy 33 between Ojai and Lockwood Valley.

The beautiful mountainside that forms the northern rim of Sespe Creek's watershed was to have been floodlit all night to allow the 24-hour mining of a 5-mile stretch of hillside. Half a million gallons of concentrated sulfuric acid was to have been stored on site, and Godwin Creek, a Sespe tributary, was to be dammed to hold highly acidic mine tailings.

As with the current sand and gravel mining plans for the Cuyama Valley, the main impact on Ojai of the phosphate mines would have been the convoys of up to 100 truck and trailer rigs coming down Hwy 33 through Ojai every day – 24 hours a day.

The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) held an all-day public hearing on the phosphate mining proposal at Nordhoff High School, attended by California's two Senators (Alan Cranston and John Tunney) and 1800 concerned citizens. In the end, the project was dropped when an enormous new deposit of phosphate was discovered elsewhere, causing the world price of phosphate to drop substantially. Without local opposition, which slowed the project down, the mines would have been in operation long before this price drop occurred.

Pat Weinberger also put a stop to a motorcycle race track past the top of Dennison Grade, and to a proposal for an Albertson's supermarket on the open field on Hwy 33 opposite the Nordhoff stadium.

She founded, organized and led two important environmental organizations – the Citizens to Preserve the Ojai and the countywide Environmental Coalition, both of which then had many hundreds of members who could be counted on to get involved and show up at public hearings.

Ojai was also very fortunate in those days to have an activist owner/editor of the Ojai Valley News. Fred Volz covered the development battles in great detail, and editorialized loudly and clearly on the inside pages about any number of threats to the Ojai Valley. The vitality with which Fred Volz engaged the citizens of Ojai through the Ojai Valley News has been unmatched in the recent years of the paper's absentee ownership – and is sorely missed.

By the mid-1980s Pat Weinberger grew less active in environmental causes, chiefly due to her need to focus on the care of a daughter and later a husband, both with terminal ailments. Nobody that knows her would say that Pat ever retired, though!

Development proposals that rankled many Ojai citizens continued to be proposed through the 1980s and 1990s. The Palmer property, behind the Nordhoff bleachers, was the site of a proposed "big box" Vons store and a TG&Y on 9 acres – with 20 acres of new housing in back. Rich Handley and Winnie Hirsch were instrumental in opposing that project, starting in 1981.

Shopping center opponents first had to work to get candidates elected to the Ojai City Council who were against the project. The Ojai City Council rejected the project and the developer appealed to the courts. The CA Supreme Court declined to hear the developer's final appeal – and he went bankrupt. Other proposals for the property were put forward, but only in 1999 did the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy acquire the land as a permanent open space preserve – the Ojai Meadows Preserve.

Following a similar pattern, a developer by the name of Schuck proposed 150 townhouses on Besant Meadow, between the Ranch House Restaurant and Meiners Oaks Elementary School, around 1986. This proposal eventually failed and the owner also went bankrupt. Rich Handley led this campaign too, and this property as well was finally preserved in 2000 when acquired by the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy as part of the Ojai Meadows Preserve. Instrumental in the collapse of the Besant Meadows townhouses project was CalTrans' designation of the Hwy 33 rush hour bottleneck through Casitas Springs as Level F – their worst category of congestion. This led to Ventura County Supervisors voting to put a moratorium on new subdivisions in the Ojai Valley – until Hwy 33 is improved. The moratorium was backdated to where it



Pat Weinberger



Photo © 1995, Joel Anderson

prohibited the Schuck townhouses.

The early 1980s saw the threat of uranium mining in the Lake Casitas watershed, which was opposed by a group of Ojai citizens under the banner SUN – Stop Uranium Now.

The expansion of the Petrochem oil refinery adjacent to the 33 Freeway also came up in the 1980s. This would have led to major air quality impacts on the Ojai Valley. Stan Greene was a leader of the opposition to this proposal. Petrochem is now permanently shut down.

The early 1990s saw a proposal north of the Ventura River and east of the 101 Freeway, near the ocean. Taylor Ranch was slated for a Cal State University (CSU) campus, with as many as 35,000 residents. Once again, the air quality impacts on the Ojai Valley were considerable. This proposal also went down, and the Cal State Channel Islands (CSCI) campus was developed instead.

The biggest campaign of the last two decades in the Ojai Valley was the opposition in the 1990s to Weldon Canyon as West Ventura County's main landfill. In spite of clear and detrimental air quality impacts from the hundreds of trash truck trips per day, the powers were moving along the Weldon landfill proposal, to be operated by Waste Management Inc. Weldon Canyon is situated south of the 33 Freeway and west of Casitas Springs.

Hundreds of people turned out at the public hearings before the Ventura County Board of Supervisors. Major opponents of the landfill were Nina Shelley, then a longtime member of the Ojai City Council, and Ojai resident John Nava.

In the end County Supervisor John Flynn changed his position (his Oxnard constituents had housed the previous west county landfill – it was someone else's turn now, he had said) and voted against the Weldon landfill, which doomed the project.

The other big development proposal defeated in the 1990s was the Farmont Golf Club proposal north of Hwy 150 and west of Rancho Matilija. The writer of this column was the main opponent of this proposal, which dragged on throughout the 1990s. A lot of help came from Russ and Pat Baggerly, who also were both actively involved for over twenty years in keeping a close eye on our local government, and voicing their concerns. Another major ally was Ojai/Ventura Voice editor Jeff San Marchi, who printed over 50 articles about the Farmont proposal, over a decade.



Nina Shelley

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Most of the **Farmont** property eventually was purchased largely with funds set aside for open space preservation from a **California** voter-approved bond measure – and is now owned and managed by the **Ojai Valley Land Conservancy** as the **Ventura River Preserve**.

There'll be an entire article sometime soon in the **Ojai/Ventura VIEW** on the **Farmont**. The quick story goes like this – in the late 1980s, **Kagehisa Toyama**, owner of a conservative radio station in **Japan**, initially proposed a **Camp David West** on his **Ojai** property, an exclusive, golf course and hotel for world leaders to meet. **County Supervisors** voted it down as hotels are prohibited in open space zoning. **Mr. Toyama** then scaled it down to an exclusive golf course and clubhouse. Local opposition grew over the water needed for a golf course in an area of diminishing well capacity. **County Supervisors** voted for the project; opponents appealed to the courts. Eventually **Mr. Toyama** ran out of steam, and died before the property could be sold. The land was purchased by a **New York** developer, who later sold it (mostly) to the open space **Ventura River Preserve** and (partly) to a farmer who lives in **Rancho Matilija**.



The first decade of the new century has been relatively quiet regarding big development proposals in the **Ojai Valley**. But as we saw with the creation of the “**Stop the Trucks**” Coalition, opposing dozens of gravel trucks from passing through **Ojai** from **Lockwood Valley**, **Ojai** residents are ever ready to protect their beloved valley.

*Alasdair Coyne, Ojai*  
[www.sesepewild.com](http://www.sesepewild.com)

**‘Organic’ Gardening**

## Family Farms Under Assault by Upcoming Congressional Legislation

by **Sandra M. Blackburn**

**W**hat does organic really mean; is it just a fad or buzzword? In reality, anything (and everything) that is carbon based is organic, strictly speaking. The term was first used in relation to gardening in 1939, when **Lord Northbourne** coined the term “organic farming” in his book “**Look to the Land**” (written in 1939, but published in 1940). His conception was “the farm as organism” and a holistic, ecologically-balanced approach to farming, in contrast to what he called chemical farming, which relied on “imported fertility” and “cannot be self-sufficient nor an organic whole.”



That was the era that started the “organic” movement in farming. You thought it was something new.

The following excerpt is from the definition of “organic” that the **National Organic Standards Board (NOSB)**, adopted in April 1995: “*Organic agriculture is an ecological production management system that promotes and enhances biodiversity, biological cycles and soil biological activity. It is based on minimal use of off-farm inputs and on management practices that restore, maintain and enhance ecological harmony.*” Sounds familiar.

The **United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)** has spelled out a definition of “organic” that fits with what the term commonly implies: no hormones, no irradiation, no synthetic pesticides, and no sewage sludge. Those of us hoping to avoid most chemical detritus in their produce will get what we want by purchasing products labeled with the **USDA** “organic” logo. Not all synthetic substances are prohibited, such as plastic sheeting used as mulch, and others that may give some of us pause. We should still be aware that “100 percent organic” doesn’t mean, “free from chemical association of any kind.” Anyone with concerns can review the list of approved substances, as well as the list of substances under appeal, at the **National Organic Program (NOP)** website: [www.ams.usda.gov/nop/](http://www.ams.usda.gov/nop/)

How does **Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO)** fit into organic? Don’t forget that the **US of A** is the nation with the largest acreage (by far) of **GM** crops. Maize, soybeans, sugar beets, cotton and the list goes on. **America’s Monsanto** company, a great promoter of genetically modified agriculture, is currently filing suit against **Germany** for trying to ban **Monsanto’s GM** maize. Or does the **GM** maize belong to **US**?

Oh well. Invite the bugs into your garden. Good insects prey on many common garden insect pests, and offer us a safer, natural alternative to pesticides. Intersperse your vegetable beds with rows or islands of insectary annuals. They will add decorative elements to your vegetable beds and lure beneficials to their prey. Allow some of your salad and cabbage crops to bloom. Brassica flowers (cabbage, broccoli, brussel sprouts, bok choy) are all attractive to beneficial insects. Include plants of different heights in your insectary. Ground beetles require the cover provided by low-growing plants. Lacewings lay their eggs in shady, protected areas, so provide such places near crop plants. Fennel, angelica, coriander, dill, and carrot all produce the tiny flowers required by parasitoid wasps. Composite flowers (daisy and chamomile) and mints (spearmint, peppermint, or catnip) will attract predatory wasps, hoverflies, and robber flies. Grow green manure. Clover and vetch, commonly used as cover crops for soil enhancement, are also effective insectary plants. Herbs (coriander, dill and fennel) will attract hoverflies, lacewings, ladybugs and tachnid flies. Coriander (cilantro) is one of the top insectary plants, as are caraway, chervil, dill, fennel and parsley flowers. Aphid predators such as aphidius, need the pests to be present in order to reproduce. Understand that you can encourage host specific pests. These pests will remain on the desired plants in your insectary, providing an ideal breeding ground for the associated predators and parasites.

**Beneficial Predators**

- Aphidius
- Aphidoletes
- Beneficial mites
- Damsel Bugs (Nabidae)
- Dicyphus
- Ground Beetles
- Hoverflies
- Lacewings
- Ladybugs
- Pirate Bugs
- Tachnid flies
- Wasps (parasitic)

**Prey**

- Aphids
- Aphids
- Thrips, spidermite, fungus gnats
- Eggs of many pest insects
- Whiteflies, aphids, thrips, spider mites
- Slugs, small caterpillars and grubs
- Aphids, mealybugs and others
- Scale, aphids, mites, softbodied insects
- Aphids, mites
- Thrips, aphids, mites, scales, whiteflies
- Caterpillars, beetle and fly larvae
- Whiteflies, moth, beetle

A garden insectary should be thought of as a long-term permanent component of your garden. Results are not instant and conclusive; the benefits to your garden are cumulative. As your plantings mature and resident populations of beneficial insects are established, the need for pesticides and other aggressive insect control techniques will diminish. Your garden will become a more natural and balanced environment for the healthy production of vegetables and flowers.

Until that happens, here are some other useful alternatives to toxins in the garden: Natural composting methods, mulching and top-dressing your soil with compost or natural fertilizer is the best way to develop strong, vigorous plants, and strong plants resist disease and bugs better. Keep your garden area clear of debris, which is a breeding place for insects and be selective in your weeding (see above). Use clean mulch. Interplant and rotate crops, as insect pests are often plant specific. When plantings are mixed, pests are less likely to spread throughout a crop. Wet foliage encourages insect and fungal damage to your plant; water early so foliage will be dry for most of the day. If you’ve been working with infested plants, clean your tools before moving on to other garden areas. This will reduce the speed of invading insects.

**Caution:** Sprays that kill harmful insects will also kill beneficial insects. Use these homemade remedies selectively, at your own risk, only spraying the infested plants. Always wear protective clothing. And I don’t guarantee anything but death & taxes.

For soft-bodied insects (mites, aphids, mealybugs): Mix one-tablespoon canola oil and a few drops of liquid soap into a quart of water. Shake well and pour into a spray bottle. Spray plant from above, down, and from below, up to get the underside of the leaves. The oil smothers the insects.

The common horsetail plant is rich in silicon and helps plants to resist fungal diseases via increasing their light absorbing capabilities. Use on peach trees to control peach leaf curl. Use

on most plants to combat powdery fungi, and on vegetables and roses to control mildew. You can use this on seedlings and plants in closed environments and in greenhouses, to prevent damping off. To make: In a glass or stainless steel pot, mix 1/8 cup of dried leaves in 1 gallon of un-chlorinated water. Bring to a boil, then let simmer for at least 1/2 hr. Cool and strain. Store extra concentrate in a glass container. Will keep for a month. Dilute this mix, adding 5-10 parts of un-chlorinated water to one part concentrate. Spray plants that show any symptoms of fungal type disease once every 4 days. Spray your seed starting mixtures to prevent damping off.

For leafspot, mildew, and scab: Mix 3 tablespoons of cider vinegar (5% acidity) with one-gallon water and spray in the morning on infested plants. Good for black spot on roses and aspen trees too.

Milk, with its’ natural enzymes and simple sugar structures, can be used to combat various mildews on cucumber, asters, tomato, squash and zinnia foliage. It works by changing the pH on the surface of the leaves, making them less susceptible to mildew. Use a 50/50 mixture of milk and water. Thoroughly spray plants every 3 to 4 days at first sign of mildews or use weekly as a preventative measure. Milk can also be mixed at a rate of 2 ounces milk to 18 ounces of water and used as a spray every 7 to 10 days to treat mosaic disease on cucumber, tomato and lettuce.

And all this stuff is organic, in the finest sense of the word.

**Congressional Bills**

Please look to some **Congressional Bills** coming up. **H.R. 875**, **H.R. 759**, and **H.R. 1332**, are three major bills that have been proposed in recent months to address food safety issues. Various portions of **H.R. 875** and **H.R. 1332** will probably be implemented within the final version of **H.R. 759**, expected out of committee to the **House** for vote by **Memorial Day**.

These “food safety” bills seem to economically disparage family farms in favor of factory farms and transfer ever-more control over food to the **FDA**, rather than logically evaluating the root causes of food contamination, which are almost always caused by food processors not maintaining proper standards.

Foods such as spinach, peppers, almonds, peanuts, and others for which there have been recent contamination outbreaks are not inherently dangerous, and it is vital for any food safety legislation to seek to identify the root causes of contamination and deal with them accordingly. Whether it is the filthy animal feedlot up the road that has contaminated with salmonella the water used by the nearby spinach farm, or the improper cleaning of peanut-processing equipment by the industrial peanut processor, the contamination source is virtually never the farm itself, but some other link in the food processing chain. Organic farms are already under specific regulation, yet **H.R. 759** targets farms with more regulation, particularly disadvantaging small farms. It is important to make **Congress** aware of the facts and to urge a redirection of food safety efforts towards the real culprits, the food processors, rather than the farmers. Even **H.R. 875**, while mentioning the importance of “identifying and evaluating the sources of potentially hazardous contamination,” represents an enormous shift in power from the individual to the state, with ominous implications for food freedom.

To locate your representatives in Congress, and send them a message through their website, go to: [www.congress.org/congressorg/officials/congress/](http://www.congress.org/congressorg/officials/congress/)

Or you can call the **Capitol Switchboard** at (202) 224-3121 and ask for your senators’ and/or representative’s office. You can help to protect small, independent, organic farming and your own food freedom. Don’t let corporations continue to rule and ruin.

*Sandra M. Blackburn,*  
*Mountain Meadows Nursery*  
*Ojai, 646 0714*



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## Health Insurance Co's "Delay & Deny" Tactics

by Dr. Pete Barnes, D.C.

Many of you that have medical insurance pay a monthly premium which usually costs just short of a king's ransom. Many of these premiums are two or three hundred dollars for just one person.



When it's time to go to the doctor's office, you hope to recoup some of those steep payments by paying just a small portion of the charges (co-pay) or feel that the insurance should pick up the whole tab. All of a sudden you're told that your deductible hasn't been met and now you're paying out of pocket for the services you seek. Frustrating at the very least, but to keep those premiums down, you opt for a high deductible. Some of these policies have such high deductibles that the only way you're going to meet them is if you are suffering with a serious disease requiring extensive treatment and/or are hospitalized.

Let's say you're one of those "lucky" ones that work for a generous company that provides magnificent coverage that has no deductible or a very small one so that the first visit takes care of it. Now you're in a position to use that coveted plan. Now this is where the fun begins! Your doctor checks on benefits, those benefits are verbally confirmed and the billing is submitted to the insurance company for payment. Three, four, maybe even six weeks pass and all of a sudden your doctor gets a letter challenging those charges or partially paying the charges and remitting what they (the insurance co.) feels they should charge for those services. This is what they call "Usual & Customary." Or maybe that letter is requesting additional documentation of that visit before they even consider reimbursement.

These practices are common-place with insurance companies. They love to delay and many times deny paying what the policyholder (YOU) have paid for in coverage. These business practices are making more and more doctors apprehensive about accepting any type of insurance. Many doctors, with their practices being small businesses, cannot afford to wait and hope for payment, payments discounted, or continual business as usual denials for services rendered.

When it comes to personal injury cases it really gets interesting. Recently I had a patient, let's call her Alice, who had been involved in a rear-end automobile accident. The person that was at fault had Farmer's Insurance. Alice came in with all the proper information including a letter from the Farmers Insurance Adjuster including the claim number.

My office proceeded to contact Farmers to verify responsibility for payment and where invoices should be sent. The adjuster told us that payment would be made only after treatment was completed. When Alice was finished being treated,



we contacted the adjuster only to be told that payment would be made to the patient and that it was the patient's responsibility to pay us.

Staying in close contact with Alice, she called us a few weeks later upset and in tears. She told us that Farmers only offered to pay her \$1800 for the accident. That wasn't enough to even cover her medical expenses not to mention the pain, suffering, and inconvenience. She didn't know what to do. She didn't have the money to pay the difference and even if she did, was that fair for her to be penalized for being a victim of an auto accident not her fault?

When situations like that occur, which is quite often, an attorney must get involved to settle the matter. Unfortunately many months or even years will pass until the case is set to go to trial. Miraculously, right before the case goes to court, the insurance company settles out of court. What this has done is to delay payment so the billions that they sit on continues to grow with interest when a small portion of that interest would actually pay the claims, and the attorneys wind up making the money. Sad but true! Situations like this are happening every day.

Supposedly there is a governing body that oversees these insurance companies called the California Department of Insurance with an Insurance Commissioner ([www.insurance.ca.gov/contact-us/0200-file-complaint](http://www.insurance.ca.gov/contact-us/0200-file-complaint))

Well good luck getting anything done. These insurance companies are so FAT (wealthy) that they can sit on these claims and get FATTER and FATTER! And the beat goes on.

Dr. Pete Barnes, D.C.

The San Buenaventura Family Wellness Care

738 E. Main St., Ventura

DrPeteBarnes@gmail.com or 805-653-1326

## Sicily, the Tormented

By Mina French

There are some things you never forget. You may forgive, and it's good to forgive, but you may never forget when you are treated badly. The times when you are oppressed. The times when people steal from you, rape the women, and murder the citizens. It goes down in history forever and ever.



Sicilian Vespers (1846), by Francesco Hayez

On Easter Monday, March 30th, 1282, the Sicilian people were on their way to celebrate Vespers at the Church of the Holy Spirit in Palermo. They came from miles around for the celebration; they sang songs, danced and were very happy even though the French King Charles

of Angevin ruled at the time and the Sicilians experienced much oppression from the Frenchmen.

The Sicilians were living under a feudal system and the lands had been owned by the Sicilian Barons. But when Charles came into power with the help of the Pope, all the lands were taken under his ownership. Grain was taken from the people as well as cattle, pigs and horses, to supply the French officers expeditions. The French treated the Sicilians mercilessly, with rape, murder and theft.

As the Sicilian people waited for services to begin, a group of rowdy French officials joined them. They had been drinking and were very carefree as they caroused with the unhappy crowd who did not enjoy their company. A French Sergeant named Drouet pulled a young married woman away from her husband and made advances toward her. The husband became very angry and he pulled a knife and he stabbed Drouet to death. The other French officials ran to his defense but the Sicilians were angry. By the time the Church tolled Vespers, all the Frenchmen had been killed.

Throughout the land, the following cries were heard: "Death to the French." The Sicilians had been oppressed long enough. They killed every Frenchmen. By the time it was all over, 2,000 Frenchmen had been killed and war broke out.

The war lasted approximately 20 years. It is known throughout history as *The War of the Sicilian Vespers*. A war ignited by governments disregard for the people, who were the ones who paid the price.

Mina French  
Artnews510@aol.com

SOURCES: *Sicily, Three Thousand Years of Human History*, by Sandra Benjamin, 2006, Steerforth Press. *The Sicilian Vespers, A History of the Mediterranean World In the Later Thirteenth Century*, by Steven Runciman, Seventh Printing, 2005, Cambridge University Press.



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# Be Happy, Live Longer

— by Ed Tennen

Why do so many people feel the need to retain a youthful appearance? It could be compounded by the recent changes in economic and employment patterns and the rise of images that reflect youthfulness in the media. Unfortunately, for those in midlife and beyond, we are bombarded by messages that tell us that the more one's skin changes with age and deviates from youthful standards, the less "normal" and desirable we become.

We are continually reminded by advertisements that the wrinkles and sagging are not only unacceptable signs of aging — but that they should be prevented and corrected. There are non-surgical anti-aging procedures such as **Botox** and microdermabrasions for those seeking expedited results, and plastic surgery for more dramatic age-defying changes.



But the question remains, if aging is a natural process to be experienced by all, why are visible signs of aging met with increasing cultural disdain? Why do so many people see looking younger as a means to greater happiness and improved social standing? Does the technological fountain of youth strengthen ageist sentiments? Medical anti-aging procedures seem to ultimately undermine an individual's ability to accept his or her aging appearance without feeling insecure or visibility inferior. While patients can alter their appearance to pass as younger than they are, they can never actually become younger or effect a reversal of the calendar — but this activity has become an increasingly popular intervention, and a profitable venture in the medical marketplace.

Individuals should realize that true positive aging is actually about increasing physical and emotional comfort throughout life and this involves valuing every age and not succumbing to media characterizations of aging standards.

Here's a tip that can actually increase your life expectancy: be happy. Yes happiness does appear to protect against falling ill. One of the mechanisms behind that effect seems to be that chronic unhappiness causes stress, which in turn reduces the immune response. Another possible mechanism is that happiness adds to the chance of adopting a healthy life style.

To maximize your happiness as you age, try to ignore what you see in the culture about youth and happiness. Allow yourself to feel happy as you age and don't get caught up in worrying over things.

Here are some of my favorite ways to increase happiness: laugh more — a long-term strategy of maintaining a sense of humor about life can bring continual happiness, as well as less stress. Change your perspective: one quick and simple way to turn your mood around is to change your expectations and comparison. Instead of looking at what you don't have, look at all that you do have. Do a good deed: When you do something nice for someone else, your focus turns away from yourself and your own problems, and toward others and helping them feel good.

Of course, take good care of your health and, most importantly, let yourself go a bit. Don't think that you have to act your age!

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

## Swine Flu Foolishness

### Pandemic or 'Selling' Panic?

— by Linda Mac Dougall

How does the swine flu affect all of us? The pharmaceutical companies are really happy as they will sell anti-viral products such as **Tamiflu** right, left, and sideways. Flu shots will skyrocket even though they are not real effective against the normal flu since each year it is an educated guess as to what will come our way. And for this particular flu there is no 'shot', but they will happily devise one as soon as they can. Panic sells.

And how does this affect you? These remedies have side effects that can be just like the flu itself. And the vaccines usually have mercury included in them. To read more on this you can go to [www.mercola.com](http://www.mercola.com) and search for swine flu.

What we need to understand is that maintaining a healthy and hearty immune system is our best defense. That means eating well consistently and caring for ourselves by mitigating stressors in ways that work for us. Stress itself is a killer far more deadly than this flu that has been described overall as 'mild'.

If you wish a more natural approach to augment an enhanced immune system, I like this. Many essential oils are anti-virals and, when mixed with a carrier oil, are safe to use on the skin. **Ravensara** is my favorite because it is so gentle that you do not need to mix it with a carrier oil and yet it is quite powerful. It can be taken to work or other public places and can be used on the go. Some can be eaten or added to cooking.

Another item of interest I have not used yet, but am interested in trying can be found at <http://blogs.health-freedomalliance.org/blog/2009/04/25/miracle-mineral-supplement/>

Those who plan ahead don't have to panic and aren't at the mercy of commercial, man-made solutions that leave you with side effects and a sense of no control. Although there is no control over nature, we can use nature to deal with nature. And remember that death is the natural end to life and for those too weak to compete with illness, there may be no natural or unnatural way to sustain life. So what you can do, do and we will all be healthier and safer. Health is a journey.

*Linda Mac Dougall, Holistic Health Practitioner  
Massage Therapist*

## Homeopathy Swine Flu Defenses

### To Drug or Not to Drug?

by Joel Anderson

The reality is homeopathy is the *only thing that can cure* the swine flu, or any kind of flu without *only suppressing* the existing virus. If you take a vaccination, or use a vaccination, you're going to have severe side effects, according to **Dr. Theresa Dale, Ph.D**, an **Oxnard** based homeopathic doctor.

"The problem is that when you use **Tamiflu**, or you use any vaccination, you're going to suppress the disease and therefore you're going to have a mutation, it's going to increase the mutation aspect, because every time it's suppressed it's going to pop back up, but it might pop back up a little bit different," said Dale, who also pointed to the side-effects associated with using drugs to treat the swine flu, or any other flu.

"According to the five element theory of **Chinese Medicine**, which is the most accurate system of medicine, it's 2,000 years old... you suppress a virus or a disease then it's going to come back around, and it's going to come back around slightly different... that's called a mutation," Dale said.

"Scientists are calling this a *quadruple reassortant*

*virus*, and this is very very bad... however it's being caused, whether it's from the pig farms in Mexico, and then it's in the pigs that we're eating, we need to be sure that the only way to deal with it that will be effective will be to use homeopathy and nutrition. Get your immune system strong.

"They do that using a number of different things internally; eating alkaline diet, knocking off all the junk food, don't drink sodas, don't eat sugar... just do the right thing for the body; drink clean water, get enough rest, eat alkaline foods, do green juices.... In my book, **'Revitalize Your Hormones - Dr. Dale's 7 Steps to a Happier, Healthier and Sexier You'**, I have some of those recipes, and that particular book has very good recipes to balance the body, it also has emotional release techniques and vegetable juice fasting recommendations."

Dale also points to homeopathic remedies such as "All Flu" as having no side-effects, "Homeopathy is the only way to go."

People definitely want to avoid vaccinations, which only depresses the virus. Do use a protective mask, use a natural hand sanitizer product and wash your hands frequently. The absolute proven way to cure the swine flu would be to use a homeopathic remedy, which has been known for 200 years to cure it. The **Food and Drug Administration (FDA)** has approved homeopathic medicine as a cure for any condition, including the flu.

So, protecting yourself is as simple as using "All Flu" or an **FDA Registered homeopathic remedy** for flu. Detoxify the liver, kidney's, colon and blood, which strengthens the immune system. You can also use mushrooms, colostrum, Vitamin C, Vitamin D, ionic minerals, organic oregano.

Homeopathy is very cheap, and the drug companies don't make it. It's made by homeopathic pharmacies that don't make drugs."

*Dr. Theresa Dale, Ph.D, N.D. is a Medical Consultant, Traditional Naturopath, Certified Clinical Nutritionist, Founder & Dean, California College of Natural Medicine, President, The Wellness Center for Research and Education, Inc.*

*She may be reached at [www.wellnesscenter.net](http://www.wellnesscenter.net) or [www.cconm.com](http://www.cconm.com)*



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# VENTURA COUNTY WEIRD VIEWS

## When the Tsunami came to Ventura Richard Senate



**W**hen visiting the old Spanish Mission in Ventura one is struck by its unique architecture. The old church is surrounded by massive buttresses making them one of the dominate features of the building. These buttresses are physical reminders of a natural

disaster that struck the Mission December 21st, 1812. That morning, at about 9:15 am, an earthquake estimated at 7.1 on



the Richter scale, hit Ventura and Santa Barbara. The quake was centered off the coast and caused massive destruction. The front of the Mission was cracked and knocked out of plum by the violent shaking. Remarkably, no lives were lost in Ventura by the earthquake and only one native

convert was killed in Santa Barbara when a building toppled upon him.

But a greater danger faced the coastal communities. Because the center of the quake was between the mainland and the Channel Islands it caused a massive tsunami to form. The size of the wave is debated, but no one doubts it was destructive. One account states that in Santa Barbara the wave that came ashore was fifty feet tall. It rushed inland destroying three adobe buildings. A smaller wave hit Ventura, estimated by some to be thirty feet tall. The destruction caused in Ventura was greater due to the fact that the Mission community was closer to the beach. Fortunately, the Mission population ran for high ground along with the padres and watched the wave sweep inland. One witness reported that... "the whole mission

## Teaching Art: 'Process' Style

by Joel Anderson

**A**rt is both a necessity and a luxury, depending on the supplies available and how you approach your life. Some might prefer to take a "safer" route, preferring to categorize "art" as an activity, a career or end result "product," however Robin Schwartzburd sees art as an all encompassing process with rich and tangible "human" results. As one who teaches art, Robin, is interested in helping people recognize "that" artist within.

"There are a lot of people who just have a different way of thinking and a different area where they are creative, and so they don't really recognize that they are artists.

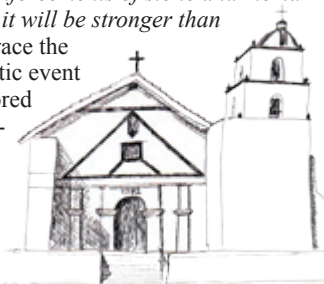
site appeared to settle and the fear of being engulfed by the sea drove all away."

One account states that the wave reached the very steps of the Mission Church! Because of the aftershocks the Mission population moved to the Chapel of Santa Gertrudis located in Casitas Springs for three months before returning to rebuild and re-enforce the Mission. The tsunami was so massive that it hit as far north as San Francisco where it flooded the plaza of that settlement.

Upon returning Fr. Jose Senan reported that the damage... "we are confident that with reinforcements of stone and mortar and strong braces (buttresses) it will be stronger than before." The buttresses that grace the building date from this traumatic event in 1812. The church was restored by the Chumash Mission converts and reopened in 1815.

Can such a disaster happen again? Geologists say that such events occur in our area every hundred years. With the large population that currently reside near the beach such a tsunami would result in a massive death toll. As it has been almost two hundred years since the last such quake, we are overdue for another tsunami. So, a word of warning is offered, if the ground shakes in coastal Ventura, it might be a good idea to head for the hills, quickly, it might just save your life.

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



They are!" said Robin.

But there's something more driving this Ojai art teacher, a sense of purpose, a sense of identity, of that which is unbuyable; a certain art soul.

"I personally feel like I would die if I didn't have art, and there have been times where it's dried up in me and I just felt empty, just a big void.... and for some of us it's an obvious thing where we identify ourselves as... artists and we say 'I need this, I need art, and I am an artist and that's what I do.'

"There are some people who aren't painters or graphic designers, or quilt makers. They might not say they're 'artists' but there are so many different forms of art... Leonardo da Vinci was designing helicopters... Is that not art? How is that? Is that science? Is that art? Where do you draw the line? I mean, he's recognized as one of the masters! A lot of the stuff that he created... with creativity... were these inventions, and I consider that art... Math... math is art!"

There is the aspect of being an "artist" or "artiste," if you prefer to call it, but there's also something about what IS art? Most definitions revolve around a "thing" which is human made, with the emphasis placed not so much on creating the "art" which often winds up as a piece of tawdry interior decorating adorning an art patron's wall. Some believe art spills out of a college art professor's curriculum. But this focus often dances around the process as "art." Beatrice Wood often smashed her less successful pottery just out of the kiln, against a wall, The Who (Peter Townshend) has a well-documented history of smashed and torched guitars (theatrical music 'art'). Is art a transitory element to the next level? What is the Ojai Day Mandala, if Caltrans can't erase it by next morning?

"I think that too much emphasis has been put on "product" and producing something.... the idea that you could work on a sand Mandala for days and then sweep it away and then... like, was it art just because it's gone? Did you

Kids Art, continued next page...

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*Kids Arts & Crafts - Robin, Alena, 9, and Rahel, 12.*

produce anything? That's a question! I really think that the process is much more important," said Robin.  
 Perhaps art is more closely related to the passing of time, and how it effects our lives than we think. The "product" of what we think is "art"... is what? Robin's daughter, Rahel, at 12, may know something many of us do not, "If you were to go back in time and just be there and see something, it would totally change the future, you never know..." she said.  
 Robin doesn't fit the mold, and she's comfortable, self-reliant, unaffected, and in fact revels in that that; "Everyone is different, so it's important when you're teaching creativity, that you let kids and people know that it's not about "this" project where we all produce "this" thing. It is good to teach people what the rules are, of how the material works, and then let them find their own way to create something that says what they have to say... you're going to actually get something that is 'art.' The cookie cutter stamp, to me, isn't "art."

Photo © 2009, Joel Anderson

— Joel Anderson

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# A Consciousness of Purpose in Ojai



Julie Tumamait and Sequoia Hamilton



Chumash Elder Art Cisneros, from Santa Barbara, gave thanks for the earth, and encouraged everyone to "clear their minds and remember where they came from."



Psychic Tess Whitehurst



Kelle Evans



Gayle Bertsch



Following a narrow road that is marked *Oak Grove School* we topped the edge of the Valley Rim and entered a magical world. Under a canopy of Oak Trees in a shallow valley where creator Sequoia Hamilton offered the first Conscious Living Festival at the site of the Krishnamurti school.



Living and working in *Meiner's Oaks* is a total life commitment for *Awakening's* editor Sequoia Hamilton, who likens the area to some of the Haight Ashbury areas of *San Francisco*. She loves living in *Meiner's* and says that not only is the area rich in diversity but "the people are extremely warm and friendly". Greeting visitors at the entry she told us that her heritage was *Cherokee Indian* and how she felt connected with the earth and natural living.

A beautiful day with beautiful weather harkened the festival visitors and we decided to explore the rich collection of people and practitioners in attendance. With a soft breeze and the sound of music wafting across the clean spring air it was almost as though one had taken a step back in time. Vender booths scattered the valley and friendly people exchanged ideas and services. Bringing everyone together for a *Chumash* prayer was Julie Tumamait. Gathering in a circle in the center of the valley floor Julie gave thanks for the earth and scattered the seeds of native plants, returning them to the soil from which they came. One could almost close their eyes and feel the presence of our native ancestors, as a random hawk circled overhead in the clear blue sky. "Your guides are here with you" said Julie softly....but I already knew that...as the circle drifted apart the Bell-like strains of a Xylophone ---carried the folk melody "it's a gift to be simple it's a gift to be free" on the breeze... I got goosebumps when I turned to see a child playing this Shaker folk tune made famous by Aaron Copeland's work *Appalachian Spring*. Did Marleigh know how perfect a choice this was.. or was her guide with her?

Up on the soccer field people were gathering for the *Chumash* fire-keeper's prayer. Art Cisneros from *Santa Barbara* stood on the grass and fostered the flame kept in the black bag at his feet. Joyfully he gave thanks for the earth, holding burning sage and encouraged everyone to "clear their minds and remember where they came from." As he passed the cleansing smoke of the sage around the circle of people holding hands, he reminded them "you are from the earth and she needs you to love, that's where loves begins." Was that the same hawk, the *Chumash* symbol of the beginning of spring, circling overhead, lifting his wings on the gentle currents of wind?

Feeling strangely peaceful I decided to sample the offerings of the vendors and choose a "psychic reading." Tess Whitehurst sat quietly under an oak tree, and welcomed me to sit for a reading. With her dark hair and her quiet, warm manner she seemed timeless as though she had walked out of a *Thomas Hardy* novel. A *Feng Shui* expert,



Lumina Love and Isha heal their spirits through meditation.



Psychic and published author it was a treat to meet her in this beautiful setting. A reading and an energy cleanse from Tess and I floated happily up to the outdoor amphitheater as there was a speaker just starting at the *Oak Circle* that beckoned me. *Ojai* resident Catherine Jones sat among a group of people discussing the power of the media and the influence of movies on the population. An Award-winning playwright and screenwriter, she has taught and lectured at universities, festivals and cruises worldwide... She believes that as writers move into production the potential for developing movies with positive and enlightening messages is expanded and should not be wasted. The author of "The Christmas Wife" which starred Julie Harris and Jason Robards, she pens with a conscience as to what she brings to the planet.

As I sat among the oaks, feeling profoundly lucky to be here, there was simply not enough time to visit and enjoy all the vendors, practitioners and artists on the "Soulful Sampler." There were representatives of the healing arts, in the spiritual, emotional and physical fields from the

psychic to the scientific. Fortunately organizers are planning to make these "happenings" a monthly experience.... Drifting buoyantly back into the valley and stopping for a hot cup of Chai at The Farmer and the Cook to replenish the inner gourmet, I was consciously aware of the beckoning beauty of *Pink Moment* seeping slowly over the *Topa Topa* mountains. At that moment in time, it was easy to remember where I came from, and easy to be profoundly appreciative of the unique spiritual quality of the *Ojai Valley*.

- Mary M. Long

NOTE: See page 13 for Next Festival, May 31

## Initiation

- by Mary M. Long

In the Valley of the moon, in the place that Jiddu Krishnamurti called the most perfect place on earth, came The Initiation. The ageless journey of the soul to enlightenment performed in a geodesic dome filled with stars, while a full moon sailed across the midnight blue sky of Ojai.... a select group of people witnessed the unveiling of the artistic creation of Alain S. Gauthier and André Ripa's multimedia experience.

Sound, music, dance and sumptuous imagery engulfed the audience in a spiritual catharsis to cleanse the soul and levitate the spirit.

Springing from a soul journey influenced by the teachings of St. Francis of Assisi and Krishnamurti, this work manifests itself as creation of the collaboration of like spirits with a desire to share a purpose. The *Ojai* performance was a special gift to the Valley which sprang from the *Conscious Living*

Festival as like-minded people met, imagined and made it happen.

Staged with only a few members of the touring cast, they presented the nucleus of the mother show, which was premiered with a full ensemble in *Portland, Oregon*. Raising support for a national touring company to take their heartfelt message on the road Alain, André, the beautiful Gianna and moving songstress Mortonette Stephens brought this spiritual metamorphosis to *Soul Centered*, on *Montgomery St.* as a special event.

Precision, detail and beauty in the tradition of *Cirque du Soleil* and *Cavalia* melded with the soul-centering message of *Krishnamurti* combined to comfort, challenge and inspire the captivated audience.

photos by Joel Anderson



# K9 War Hero Joins Rescue Boutique

**T**en year old Military Working Dog (Mwd), Hasso D171 alerted to his last Iraqi explosive in 2008.

After eight years of deployments, Hasso became disabled and was returned to the Miramar Veterinary Treatment Facility (VTF) in San Diego, with an uncertain future.

Because his handler was redeployed and Hasso was no longer able to work, he languished on the hard kennel floor for 8 months; his muscles atrophying, his spirit declining. Hoping someone would speak for him grew less likely as time passed.

Miramar VTF Vet Tech, Sergeant Louisa Vaughan, who had been championing Hasso for adoption, noticed his name had been placed on the euthanasia schedule. Hasso's brave life would be extinguished in barely two weeks. Vaughan bolted into action and called Debbie Kandoll, founder of Military Working Dog Adoptions, to report Hasso's emergency need for a retirement home. Debbie called her west coast partner Peggy Kenline Forino of Rescue Boutique. Peggy, who already has



Sergeant Louisa Vaughan with Hasso at the Vietnam War Dog Memorial

two large German Shepherd therapy dogs, immediately submitted an adoption application to save Hasso. Peggy's application was approved by the Department of Defense and Hasso's civilian retirement was assured.

Sergeant Vaughan offered to transport Hasso to Peggy's home in Westlake Village with a brief stop at the Vietnam War Dog Memorial where Hasso was recognized for his loyal service.

Hasso was welcomed to his new home with open paws by Peggy's dogs, Schindler and Karl.

This amazing K9 War Hero has already received his Canine Good Citizen certificate from the American Kennel Club (AKC) and he is now a certified Pet Assisted Therapy Dog.

His sweetness and affection made him a big hit during a recent visit with the veterans from all branches of the military At Home in Ojai senior living facility.

On Memorial Day, Hasso's lifetime of cou-

rageous service to his country will be honored during a special ceremony at the Port Hueneme VFW Post 3935 (300 S. Surfside Dr., Port Hueneme) presented by Commander Clay Cowgill.

Bomb Dog Hasso D171 now alerts to hugs and treats!

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Photo © 2009, Joel Anderson

Wilbur Long, U.S. Coast Guard, Bob Maxson, U.S. Army Airborne, Nina Shelly, U.S. Marine, and former Ojai Mayor, Peter Vasil, Army, (standing) Dr. Bill Pugh, Navy (not pictured).



Photo © 2009, Mary M. Long

## Common Ground: Veterans and Man's Best Friend

**M**ilitary Working Dog (MMD) Hasso visits Home Away From Home in Ojai and takes time to honor Memorial Day with his human comrades from the Armed services.

Regardless of which war was fought, all honored and served for their country's security. Many of the Veterans of WWII remembered their serial numbers, and recited them without hesitation. "I'm a proud marine" said Nina Shelly, former Ojai mayor, who described the service of her country as "very fulfilling." Gathering together with Hasso, a veteran of the Iraq war, the pride and patriotism for their country was unanimous.

Eager hands reached out to take the leash and pet the big beautiful German Shepherd. Smiles wreathed faces as the common bond of experience was exchanged.

The Shepherd, still vigilant in his retirement from active duty, took his guardianship of his new friends

calmly, but with a renewed sense of duty. Amazingly kind and gentle, Hasso seemed to understand that there were no bombs in the room, no prisons to guard, no riots to quell.

"He's so big," said Bob Maxson, taking the leash, "I've never loved up a dog that smelled so good. He's really clean." Mwd Hasso has a new job now, to bring his story and his affection to people in need, in hospitals and nursing homes and schools, as a therapy dog for Peggy Forino's Rescue Boutique.

Mary M. Long

[petviews@ojaiandventuraview.com](mailto:petviews@ojaiandventuraview.com)

EDITORS NOTE: For more information how you can help Military Working Dogs find a new life.

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



Photo © 2009, Joel Anderson

Earl Faith, civilian core, chief welder, Pearl Harbor



Photo © 2009, Mary M. Long

Lisa (Italian Greyhound) sits with Harriet

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## In Memoriam: A Perfect Ten



Morgan and Ten Speed

— Tracey Schwartz

Wednesday afternoon my sweet old boy passed away. He was fine all day, eating and hanging out. When I went to feed dinner, he was gone. There was no sign of a struggle, not even a mark in the sand.

Ten Speed was such a special horse, the kind that always greets you with a gentle nicker and makes sure to give you a nice touch when you are working around him. He always knew when I needed a little extra care. He was smart and intuitive. My husband called him '007' because he was so cool and steady.

When I purchased him ten years ago, I had already known him for many years. He had an impressive show career as a jumper and always jumped with his heart first. When not showing, he had lived in the stall next door to my horse and I just fell in love with him.

He was so cool and kind — a dignified gentleman. When he went up for sale, he came to live with us. He taught me so much and even dabbled with combined training and hunter classes. He had an incredible work ethic and gave everything, no matter what discipline.

Three and a half years ago, I came home one day and he was down. We rushed him to the hospital and he had colic surgery. They removed twenty-four feet of small intestine and gave him only a 50 percent chance to make it. He fought to survive and luckily had a veterinary team who fought as hard as he did. As often as I could, I sat in his stall at the hospital and read, or we walked or grazed until he returned home almost a month later.

Nothing quite prepared us for the dietary challenges that lay ahead. It took almost a year until he could return to solid food and, to the time of his death, we still fed him small meals four or five times a day. It sounds like a lot, but Tenny was one of those horses that never asked for much. He was gracious and kind.

After our daughter was born, we would park the stroller in front of his stall and he would "watch her" for us while we cleaned. He was our friend.

I would have liked to have said goodbye... but, he went out the way he would have wanted it, without a fuss on a beautiful spring day under a tree.

Rest in Peace my boy. I will truly miss you.

Tracey Schwartz



## EVENT CALENDAR

• **May 17, Hills on Wheels Ventura River valley cycling tour**, hosted visit to one of the Conservancy's conservation parcels. The ride will follow the award-winning bike path through historic industrial and rural landscapes with the Ventura Hillside as an ever-present backdrop. Begins 1pm @ the public parking lot, W. Main St., and the Ventura River, west of Patagonia and the Ojai Freeway overpass. Will continue to historic Foster Park, whereupon riders will turn around for the downhill run back to Ventura.  
info. [www.venturahillside.org](http://www.venturahillside.org), 643-8044

• **May 21-June 13, "Through the Window"**, Acrylic Paintings, Stacie Logue will be showcasing a collection of new works at the Sea Breeze Art Gallery in Ventura, the paintings are done on recycled brown paper, using reclaimed, framed windows. Her nighttime ritual of sky gazing is reflected in the images she depicts, often literally through her own window. Being rendered in vivid and cool hues, her subject matter dances in moonlight. Ms. Logue is committed to ecological methods of living within a light footprint and her creativity exemplifies her pledge to the planet. A "back-to-nature" quality and magic reality create the atmosphere imbued within many of her works.  
info. [www.seabreezeartgallery.com](http://www.seabreezeartgallery.com), 643-3973

• **May 24, Everlasting Moments**, Film sponsored by the Ojai Film Society, Ojai Theatre (formerly the Ojai Playhouse), 145 E Ojai Ave, Ojai, In his classic film *The Emigrants*, Swedish director Jan Troell chronicled the harsh conditions that drove his 19th century countrymen to leave their homeland for America.  
info. [ojaifilmsociety@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ojaifilmsociety@sbcglobal.net)  
[www.ojaifilmsociety.org](http://www.ojaifilmsociety.org)

• **May 28, Where East Meets West in California: Three Japanese American Communities in Santa Barbara County**, The Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP) presentation by Kent Haldan, Ph.D., at El Presidio de Santa Barbara State Historic Park, 7pm, The final offering in SBTHP's three-part community lecture series, Haldan will draw upon extensive oral history research from his doctoral dissertation and forthcoming book, "Where East Meets West in California," to highlight the Japanese American experience in Santa Barbara Counties.  
info. [sbthp.org](http://sbthp.org) or 965-0093

• **May 30, 2pm-6is-pm, Dancing Oaks Ranch, Home-**

## Disaster Cat Relief

Being prepared for natural disasters includes being prepared to evacuate with our pets whenever possible.

A friend gave me this great tip after my first experience trying to rescue my cats following an earthquake. Your carriers may not be stored where you will end up having access to them.

Have an alternate plan of storing king sized pillow cases in various locations in your home in case you cannot get to your carriers.

You can drop the cat in the pillow case and tie a not leaving breathing space - the cat can then be easily transported.

If you can reach the carrier, you still may face a situation where a highly stressed pet is going to be very difficult to put into the carrier. Stand the carrier up against a wall with the opening facing the ceiling.

Scruff the cat by the neck and lower the cat into the carrier rear first and force yourself to slam the door very quickly. You will only have one opportunity in most emergency situations, so act calmly but firmly.

For those kittens and cats that love to play in the dirt of your houseplants - try filling the area with pine cones standing straight up. This usually keeps most cats out of the plants.

— Cristin Goetz



"Bless the beasts and the children, For in this world they have no voice They have no choice, Bless the beasts and the children, For the world can never be, The world they see, Light their way When the darkness surrounds them, Give them love, Let it shine all around them..."  
— The Carpenters, 1971

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## Company Cat of the Month "Sterling"



Photo. © 2009, Mary M. Long

Sterling - caught stalking the bird cages at Wachter Hay and Grain, apprehended by Madeline and Emily Brock and held for some lovin'. Sterling has a major in Public Relations for the Morehart family business with a minor in Ornithology. A beautiful one year old Russian Blue, she says she is proud to be an American!  
Wachter Hay and Grain, in Ojai  
114 S. Montgomery Street, 646-4581

grown Talent Show, Potluck Picnic under the Oaks. Join us at our home for 4 hours of Folk singers and Celtic musicians, Past favorites like Smitty West, Don and Patricia Cardinali, Cindy Kalmenson and the Ojai Mardi Gras Band will be joined by many new and talented local musical artists. We live in the hills between Ojai and Carpinteria in a lovely oak-filled valley on Highway 150, Suggested donation, \$10,  
info. 4585 Casitas Pass Rd., 665-8852

• thru May 31, Chekhov Vaudvilles, "The Proposal" & "The Boor", directed by Francisca Beach, Ojai Valley Grange, Fri. and Sat. at 8pm, Sun. at 2pm., Senga Classic

Events Continued Page 18...

## Designs by Sina



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## THE LEASHES END

by Ron Rowe

The seal club slaughter is in progress in **Canada**; the kill quota is 280,000. If you watch the **Humane Society's** video of these brutal killings you will wonder, as I did, what kind of human being can club these defenseless week old pups to death. Unfortunately, many of the pups are skinned alive; the sea and ice run red with their blood. Join the protest by boycotting **Canadian** fish products, and don't buy any clothing made with a seal-skin. Visit [www.hsus.org/protect-seals.html](http://www.hsus.org/protect-seals.html) and sign up.

Good news for **Easter** rabbits; **P.E.T.A.** has convinced **Petco** to stop selling rabbits, thanks to the thousands of e-mails sent in protest. Your complaints and support do achieve results, so keep them going.

Fish are pretty smart cookies. **Dr. Dean Pomerleau**, and his son **Kyle** have taught their fishy friends to swim through hoops, and push fish sized soccer balls through nets, you can see for yourself by visiting [www.fish-school.com](http://www.fish-school.com)

Scientists at **Stanford University** have discovered that fish have the reasoning capacity of a five year old child, plus **Dr. Phil Gee**, a psychologist at the **University of Plymouth** says, that fish can tell what time of day it is. He has trained his fish to collect food by pressing a lever at specific times of the day, his research shows 65 percent of fish owners say their fish have a sense of humor.

More fishy tales.... researchers also found that lobsters that are boiled in water die in agony. A **Professor Robert Elwood**, a researcher in **Northern Ireland**, found out that crustaceans, such as crabs and lobsters feel pain, and even remember the pain. When crabs had their legs twisted off, the crabs died, even though they did not need the missing limbs... So, before you eat that lobster, think about the pain.

Watch your step around your pet dog and cat. Eighty-six thousand (86,000) **Americans** go to the emergency room every year because of falls caused by their pet. Dogs caused 88 percent of the injuries, cats 12 percent. Did you know, a caterpillar has 12 eyes? A baby blue whale is 25 feet long, at birth. Centipedes always have an uneven number of pairs of legs. Male boors form harems. Female tarantulas kill 99 percent of the babies they hatch.

After an intensive study in **Germany**, scientists found that children of divorced parents who have a dog are less aggressive and better adjusted. Over 50 percent of children without dogs are prone to vandalism, irritability and aggressiveness. Thirty-eight percent of children without dogs misbehaved in order to get attention. **Psychologist Tanya Hoff** said that pet dogs provide children from divorced families with a sense of security and help stabilize their mood swings.

An **Orangutan** at the **National Zoo in Washington, DC** has stunned all keepers by whistling. **Bonnie**, 32 years-old, is the first orangutan documented making this sound, which is surprising, because no one tried to directly teach her. Her **Zookeeper, Erin Stromberg**, said the mystery of the Phantom whistler is finally solved; Bonnie learned on her own by imitating the sounds of zookeepers.

Even dogs have two lives. **Sophie**, an **Australian**



Ron and his companion, Dudley.

**Sheepdog** fell overboard as the owner's boat hit heavy seas; she swam six nautical miles to **St. Bee's Island**. Rangers who patrol the area found her six months later. She had reverted to a feral state and refused food from the Rangers. Taken back to **Sydney**, she immediately recognized owner **Janet Griffith**; she barked and banged the cage, and when let out just about flattened poor **Jan. Sophie** is now back home again and I doubt if she will ever want to go sailing again.

**Only in America:** **Robert Wirth** of **Florida** lost his home because he walked his dog without a leash. The court ordered him to pay \$40,000 in fines, back interest and legal fees for breaking the law and walking his dog without a leash seven years ago. **Robert** owes \$60,000 to his lawyer for contesting the fine; his home has now been foreclosed.

**Rico**, a border collie, is the world's smartest dog; this nine-year-old canine is able to correctly fetch 48 out of 50 randomly chosen toys from his collection of 250 toys, when the owner calls out each item's name. **Rico** was tested by **Dr. Julia Fischer** and her colleagues at the prestigious **Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany**. Last month on a TV show he tested his memory against human contestants in a game show, and he beat them all, paws down.

Toy poodle **Chandra**, of **Canada**, has the honor of being the dog with the most repertoire of tricks in the world. He is listed in the **Guinness Book of World Records**; he knows 470 tricks including playing the piano, riding a skateboard, etc. **Dudley**, the standard poodle, who lives with me, sits when bribed and howls when I play the bagpipes. Want to know more about your dog? It's claimed that dogs are the intellectual equal of a five-year old human being, they have the thought processes, do rudimentary mathematics, and act as if they have a good memory and consciousness. Dogs think in odor identification, while humans have 7 million smell receptors in their nose, dogs have 225 million. The part of a dog brain that analyzes smell is 40 times larger than in human beings. They can hear high-frequency better than humans and read human's body language and emotions. The odors we generate change as we change moods, because of this canines can recognize when we are upset or happy. Dogs seem to relax more when listening to classical music, rather than heavy metal. I agree; I play **Gilbert and Sullivan** to my dogs with some **Bach and Beethoven** thrown in. For more information, read, "**How Dogs Think**," "**Understanding the Canine Mind**" or "**Ask your Animal, Resolving Behavioral Issues through Intuitive Communications**" by **Marta Williams**. Also read "**Bees Dance and Whales Sing**,

**the Mystery of Animal Communication**" by **Marjorie Facklam**. It explains and explores the mystery of animal communication and behavior. An excellent book for all members of the family. Now read the book and save your money instead of spending it on a pet psychic.

Guess what the hottest hobby in America is? Bird-watching. It's good news to see the people are tuning out TV and tuning into nature. The joy of hearing and seeing a yellow bellied sapsucker or a purplepeaked pulpecker at dawn is incredible. Birdwatching can change the way you think about the world.

Time to be away and to remember, most living things beyond a certain level of consciousness have the same requirements that we do, to love and be loved, to need and be needed. Go forth and spread peace, love, and happiness to all human beings on earth.

Namaste

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

## EVENT CALENDAR

Continued from Page 17...

Stage Co., 381 Cruzero St., Ojai. info., 646-4885

• **May 31, Noon-6pm, Conscious Living Festival, Ojai, at Oak Grove School, On the majestic 150-acre oak-lined mystical campus of Krishnamurti, Admission is FREE (some lectures and sessions at event have costs), Rare appearance: Max, the Crystal Skull, Group Meditation with MAX: 2pm & 3:30pm - \$30/pre-registration, \$40/day of event., 220 W. Lomita, Meiners Oaks. We welcome you to our festival - an afternoon set aside for personal and planetary transformation.**

info. [www.consciouslivingfestival.com](http://www.consciouslivingfestival.com)

• **May 31, 3-5pm, Ventura County Storytelling Guild Meeting, All aspiring or current storytellers 18 years of age or older of all levels of experience should attend. Bring a 10-12 minute story to tell if you wish and a good set of ears. Bell Arts Factory at 432 N. Ventura Ave.**

info. **Elaine Muray, 407-2538**  
[elaine@embodiedvoicestoryarts.com](mailto:elaine@embodiedvoicestoryarts.com)

• **thru July 6, A Pigment of my Imagination, Art Show, featuring Phyllis Doyon and Wendy Lefkowitz, will display their art at Fox Fine Jewelry. Doyon's watercolor paintings exude color and emotion. She paints with exuberance and flair, intriguing the viewer with her confident strokes. Doyon's wide range of styles and subjects, encourage her patrons to become collectors of multiple pieces. The watercolor art of Wendy Lefkowitz features whimsical views of the beauty around us. A strong feeling for the glory of nature is reflected in the many floral pieces in her portfolio. Her still lifes combine cut flowers and cherished possessions.**

info. **Fine Fox Jewelry, 210 Main St. Ventura**  
**Debbie Fox, 652-1800**

• **June 11-14, Ojai Music Festival, (63rd Festival), featuring Music Director Grammy-winning chamber ensemble eighth blackbird & Artistic Director Thomas W. Morris. Joining the sextet will be composer Steven Mackey, actor/singer Rinde Eckert, Tin Hat ensemble, pianist Jeremy Denk, and recorder music ensemble QNG. This season, the four-day Festival, which for six decades has become well known for its fearlessness in championing pioneering musical ideas and personalities, pushes the envelope again with programming that reflects the qualities that have made eighth blackbird a growing musical phenomenon—genre-defying variety in wildly collaborative and visually dramatic presentations.**

info. [www.ojaifestival.org](http://www.ojaifestival.org), 646-2094

• **June 12, Dance Jam Ventura, Lively variety of music to dance to, 7-10pm, Ventura NIA Center.**

info. [www.waywebby.com/dancejam](http://www.waywebby.com/dancejam) or call 650-7112



## Adoption Links

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

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# Don't Let me Guess... Tell me !

by Mary M. Long

**M**ary Jo Murphy, stood struggling to compose herself after animal communicator Lydia Hiby had finished reading her dogs. "Sam seemed relieved" she said... Her adopted Border Collie, "Sam" had been a rescue and Lydia was able to fill in the untold story of her traumatic past. "I was amazed at the things she said immediately; she was calm and focused." **Mary Jo** was one of a limited number of



"O.P." and "Poppers"

pet owners who had the opportunity to meet world famous Lydia Hiby in person at



Mary Jo Murphy, R.N., nutritionist, author/speaker, artist, pictured here with her pet portraits.

## Linda's Claws and Paws in Ventura.

Coming in as an admitted skeptic, **Mary Jo** left believing in Lydia's ability to perceive and transfer information from animals to their human counterparts. Curious, I asked if I could sit in on one of the sessions. **Cindy Dieter**, and her Red Tri Australian Shepherd "Ranson" came into the room and immediately Lydia said "Don't tell me anything, I like to do a cold reading."



Cindy Dieter and Ransom.

She began to convey what the dog's concerns were to its owner. You could actually see that **Ranson** understood and was aware that someone was speaking for him. Lydia actually "steps into the animal" using the vibrations and mental images they give her to create a dialog between the pet and its owner.

I have some interest in psychic phenomena and am aware that there are a lot of *second-career pretenders* who are capitalizing on the *pet-psychic craze*, so I had expected the usual theatrics; guessing games and leading questions

that most wannabes bank on to make a living. Starting with a completely cold reading, Lydia looks and acts like someone you might meet at the stable, except that when she speaks she becomes a channel for your animal's thoughts. Wearing a horsey t-shirt and jeans she is completely *without pretense*; she speaks for the animal, *plain and simple*.

Lydia said that as a child she wanted to grow up to be a "fairy godmother to the animals," well it looks like that's pretty much what she has become. She is in demand from pet owners and veterinarians all over the world to help owners and medical practitioners tune-in to what the animal is trying to tell them.

Impressed, I had to run home and get my **Black Tri Aussie "Poppers."** I couldn't let the opportunity go by to find out if he had something to say to me. I wasn't disappointed.



Lydia and Ransom communicate.

Lydia immediately started telling me what was on his mind, with riveting accuracy. Then she turned to me and said "he wants to know where his sister went. She's a blue merle with odd eyes." I caught my breath and got goosebumps, as I realized she was referring to the puppy I had brought home to be raised with him. He had adored her but I had returned her to the breeder for

another puppy from the same litter, (a **Red Merle** named "O.P.") which I thought better suited my lifestyle. How would I have known that he was still wondering where the



Linda Lamon pictured with Lydia Hiby.

little odd-eyed merle went? "Well how does he like O.P.?" I asked hopefully, feeling guilty for having replaced the first puppy with the little red. "He says she's a brat, she doesn't mind you, while he

does everything you say", said Lydia.

Chagrined, I decided to contact the breeder to ask about the whereabouts of the "other" puppy. I was happy to find out that not only had she qualified for the **Nationals in Obedience** but she is also working on her conformation championship in the **Australian Shepherd Club of America, (ASCA)** altered division. I did my best to explain to **Poppers** where his "lost" puppy went, and that she was in a great home!

I am pretty sure he followed the dialog, at any rate he was definitely listening intently as I tried to verbalize and picture the message to him. Just to be on the safe side though, I have asked his breeder to e-mail me a picture of his sister in competition. I don't want anymore guilt trips, or any more excuses for **Poppers** sleeping on my bed when I'm not at home and leaving a big muddy spot which he pretends he knows nothing about.

I guess it's back to bootcamp now for **O.P.** as she has a lot of work to do to catch up to the accomplishments of her sister. Feeling rather guilty about owning such gorgeous dogs and not utilizing their talents, I had also asked **Lydia** what **Poppers** really wanted to do with his life. She said that although he could have been a show dog he would really rather have been a **Therapy Dog**, but for children rather than seniors. As he smiled his *oh-so-happy Aussie smile* at me, I knew that **Lydia** was right. This dog does have a purpose and it's to make children happy, not to mention his primary purpose, which is to take care of and protect his owner.... "moi".....

— Mary M. Long, [petviews@ojaiandventuraview.com](mailto:petviews@ojaiandventuraview.com)

## Someone Told Me it's All Happening at the Humane Society

### Ojai Humane Society - Adoptable Pets



Sage Blundell age 14 cuddles "Oreo", 8 month old Chihuahua puppy at Ojai Humane Society. Who's waiting for YOU at the Ojai Humane Society?



Misty, short-haired tabby, very petite, and ohhhhh, so sweet!



Bengi does his impression of a Big Cat in the 'Lion' Habitat... Elvis (below) is unimpressed...

Miss Kitty seems to say she's "queen of all she surveys"

Where Are You Going Today?

How about the Humane Society? The Animals Will Love You if You Do!

[www.humanesocietyvc.org](http://www.humanesocietyvc.org)

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

UPCOMING SPECIAL... June is Adopt-a-Cat Month, and the Humane Society will be offering a Two for One Adoption Price for Cats!

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## Bands at the Cove

by Joel Anderson

I love that guitar, it's like my girl, it sounds like nice and bright but crunchy, you know, I love it," said Johnny NoSleeves (*Radio Threat*) after a heated Punk Rock set at the Red Cove, Ventura. NoSleeves, who plays a 6120 Gretsch guitar and lent some guitar support to *Rocken Dead* at the recent show said, "I'm a big fan of *The Cure*, just a lot of different punk band influences, you know. Just trying to take it all in..."

*Rocken Dead* started as a garage band about five years ago, adding "Alex" as the fourth member of the band. Bands come and go, but according to Alex, this band gets together for the fun of entertaining the crowd.

"Dude, I'm a 400 lb mother... I like to entertain people. We were gonna break up earlier this year, but we've been getting a good response so we're gonna keep it together for a while, see how things go and you know... we all have day jobs, unlike other bands we don't really plan to "make it" anywhere.

"We just want to have a good time, as long as people can forget about their problems at home or at work or whatever their doing, and we can entertain people, that's all we're going to do," said Alex.

All these musicians have great talent and *Radio Threats* vocal/guitarist, Favio was no exception. He told a slightly similar tale; a few rockers that got together to have some fun and make music. "... we're a band called *Radio Threat*... Oxnard... I used to be in a band called *Confession of the Monster*. We broke up the other band...we were sittin' around, not doing anything, we were just getting bored man you know... so we started writing -- me and Johnny, our guitar player. I write everything... I do it all, except for the covers of course....

I got arrested in *Virginia Beach* when I was drunk one time, then uh... the South don't like us man... hahaha, cause I was from *Oxnard, California* they wanted to keep me for 3 months... hahahahaha, alot of money... and alot of time... and I'm out and.... hahaha only had to be in there for a week."

Yet another band, *The Iron Outlaws*, plans on making runs to *Ventura* from their *Bakersfield* hide-out. *Outlaws* Vocals/guitarist Danny Garone said known local *Venturan* Paul Cartwright (fiddle player) is an "honorary *Outlaw*" and plays when he can, fitting his



The Iron Outlaws

enough to keep "the little lady" satisfied?

Vixen Magdalene, the organizing talent behind the Burlesque troupe, *Vixen's Vixen's*, brought a few of the exceptional little ladies with her to *Ventura's Red Cove* recently.

"We have *Dizzy Von Damme*, and *Nancy Sinultra*. "My x-boyfriend is playing tonight, *Alex* from the *Resistors*, he's the upright bass and bass guitar. He and I do alot of shows together, he books them, I bring the girls, so... we all work together, we've been doing so many shows.... there's probably like a good hundred of us who are a tight knit bunch, so whenever I need girls, I just call out whoever I want."

Vixen, who hails from West L.A. is interested in bringing back a certain 50s *Betty Boop* lost innocence to burlesque. Perhaps this is a reaction to the 'power biotch' lack of class, all to common nowadays.

"It's fun, it gives me an excuse to be in public in my underwear... the feathers and the rhinestones, yes, absolutely.... where else can I wear them in public without being looked at odd...?"

"It's the art of the tease, we're here to tease the

### Vixen's Vixen's

Back at the Red Cove: May 30

string work into their sound nicely. "Yeah we love *Buck Owens* and *Merle*, kind of an influencing effect... a little bit of *Bakersfield Sound* songwriting... country, with our own stuff too, the stuff we listened to and grew up doin', a little punk, a little rock, little this, little that..." said Garone.

*The Resistors* drummer, *Mark Healy* pointed up some of their liquid talent, "Alex Vogul is bass guitar; and then *Mike Ray* is guitars and vocals, his guitar actually cut out... his guitar was cutting out through the set, so it sounded kind of funky, but when he's got his reverb going, it sounds real good." — Joel Anderson

info. [www.myspace.com/resistorsmusic](http://www.myspace.com/resistorsmusic)  
[www.myspace.com/radiothreat](http://www.myspace.com/radiothreat)  
[www.myspace.com/therockendeat](http://www.myspace.com/therockendeat)  
[www.myspace.com/theironoutlaws](http://www.myspace.com/theironoutlaws)

## Burlesque Punkers Rock the Cove



The Resistors



Photos © 2009, Joel Anderson

audience, not just to take it off... the idea of just an image that a lot of us love, and we want to portray it. We grew up with our dad's calendars and magazines and you see how beautiful all the women were in the past, and it's sad.... that beauty and that class has disappeared in today's world. There's a loss of innocence in this type of performance, so we're here to try to bring it back.

Vixen is all modern American with 50s sensibilities in all the right places. "We're in a country where anybody can make it, so I'd rather be here even if we are on down times, than in a repressed culture... I say again the innocence and the image of it... but nobody wants to be barefoot and in their kitchen pregnant all the time.... anymore. We broke free from that, we don't want to go that far back. We fought hard for that freedom."

— Joel Anderson

[www.myspace.com/vixen\\_magdalene](http://www.myspace.com/vixen_magdalene)



info. [RedCove.net](http://RedCove.net)



Radio Threat

## Kool Kars in Ventura

### 'Highway Patrol'



"I've won more trophies with it unpainted...hahaha than the painted cars I have," said C. Darryl Struth of his modified '29 Model A Sports Coupe. The car sports a TSI front suspension, and "runs very smoooooth."

Lynn Menick (right & top right) and his newly aquired '55 Buick "Highway Patrol" Special, same model used in the 50s Law Enforcement Show starring Broderick Crawford.

Said Lynn, "She's stock, runs good... hadn't run in 32 years, picked it up from the guy, he couldn't make it run, I had it runnin' in about 3 hours... runs great. We're just bringin' her back and cleanin' it up a bit."



"Cindy" never misses a car show.



Photos © 2009, Joel Anderson

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**BAD BUILDING CODES...**

*Bad Codes Continued from Page 5...*

safety, could the real purpose be to reassess property taxes to a higher level from hardship sales of the homes of the elderly and low income residents? Fines and fees go to support the **Code Enforcement** department, but property taxes go to the **General Fund** to be spent at the whim of the **City Council**.

**Challenges are Linked**

There are two challenges that must be addressed to protect the poor and the elderly and both can be accomplished through Grandfathering with a private home safety inspection.

**1. Legalizing second safe affordable units.** This allows seniors to remain in their homes and the poor to have safe, affordable shelter while allowing the city to meet state affordable housing requirements. The reason this must be done by private, state and city licensed home safety inspectors brings us to the second challenge.

**2. Grandfathering past improvements.** **Ventura**, historically, has been a blue-collar town and people did their own maintenance and improvements. **Ventura** turned a blind eye and the pattern of **Don't Ask Don't Tell** was firmly established. The older properties have been continually improved since the town began and sometimes citizens needing to choose between fees to the city or going without, chose to put the money into their homes and improved their properties without permits.

Therefore, you can't do one without the other because seniors will not let the city onto their properties to inspect a second unit, knowing they will be cited for everything and anything that came before. An amnesty plan for second units wouldn't be successful *without grandfathering* for prior improvements.

**What We Need**

What we really need is a true **Citizens Committee** to recommend comprehensive code reform for the 21st century. **Ventura's** codes are onerous, subjective (what's "unsightly?") and are simply impossible for some of the older homes to meet.

Their proactive, rather than complaint-based, approach also lends itself to selective enforcement and will be used to quell dissent. I cannot begin to tell you how many are frightened to speak up, from the bottom to the top of the economic spectrum, no one is safe from subjective police powers.

Citizens need to know that they have the right to deny access to their properties under the **4th Amendment**. If you are a senior or low income person at risk of this policy or can help, please contact us at [Camille@vcord.org](mailto:Camille@vcord.org) or 805-648-1902

**Camille Harris, VCORD**  
(Ventura Citizens for Responsible Development) [www.vcord.org](http://www.vcord.org)

**Dear Mayor Weir & Councilman Andrews,**

— **Michael Pedziwiatr**

I was present at the appeal board meeting of **David and Laura Swenson**. I feel your own 90 year old grandmother would not stand a chance against a bunch like these.

Two members were absent. Because of this the **Swensons** should be entitled to another appeal.

This was a stacked deck that no card shark in Vegas would dare bet against. I feel this is a sham. I will not abide to be judged by an unfair and biased group. I will somehow by whatever will and strength I have bring this to a higher authority.

Please do the right thing and enable your citizens with our proper rights.

The right to liberty, privacy and the pursuit of happiness. My right to be an artist is being

**"Hope Springs Eternal"**  
City Council Meeting - May 4, 2009

by **Helen Yunker**

*Yunker Continued from Page 3...*

obligations to fix its landslide problem and to avoid at any cost setting a precedence for responsibility in possible future City-involved land issues.

And the cost has been very high - **\$506,000+** of the taxpayers' money to browbeat and victimize me to achieve its goal. Sadly, this outlay of cost has continued to rise over the past 11 years, inasmuch as the **City** had done nothing to abate the ongoing erosion which continues to eat away my lot and is now dangerously close to my foundation. In addition, the **City** has done an irresponsible and miserable job of monitoring and overseeing the development plan which committed its buyer (who purchased the lot in late 2004) to stabilize and develop the lot within 3 years from date of purchase. This contingency expired **Feb. 18, 2008**, with nothing having been done, and left the buyer in default, with the **City** now negotiating with the buyer in an effort to reach a new agreement. There is no way that the **City** wants to regain a liability position in this matter. I can't blame them for wanting to get off the "hot seat" no matter what it takes.

On **May 21st** the **Lot #7** matter is scheduled as a regular agenda item for discussion and possible disposition/resolution. It has taken over 11 years to get to this point. Just as it has always generated my high hopes over the years, whenever new people were elected to Council, that maybe someone

Photo © 2009, Joel Anderson



*Dave and Macy*

threatened. I was not informed that a warrant was needed to see my property. Why do they not inform you of this right?

I felt threatened and harassed by phone calls from the fire inspector.

This was why I let them in.

My property was not cited for safety code violations !!!

This type of power is unsafe and not just. The code enforcement department cannot be fair. In twelve years there have been no fires or problems on my property that indicate an unsafe environment. I live across the street from a fire department! I feel violated and trod upon. This is unfair.

Please abate this unfair problem that is causing me great stress and loss of sleep.

The members of the board really gave no thought or discussion regarding SAFETY.

The discussion focused on the permit that was not paid for 50 years ago.

Why should we be held accountable for this? Why should our personal property be taken away from us by our own government? Would you destroy a structurally sound cottage that you owned and know is safe? What purpose does this serve? Do you really wish to uproot a family that contributes to this city in a multitude of ways?

These are my feelings. I am hurt by your actions, **The City of Ventura, CA**, and those of the code enforcement inspectors.

My sister was a dispatcher for the **East Chicago Fire Dept.** for many years.

I became friends with her squad. I constructed an art piece in honor of the fallen firemen of

Photos © 2009, Joel Anderson



*Eighty-seven year old Helen Yunker addresses an unresponsive city council.*

would finally recognize the "selective persecution" treatment I have endured over the years on a problem I never caused, and that it was time to un-victimize me, and give me back my life. But this has never happened. To my knowledge the only solution the **City** is considering is to have the Buyer install a temporary berm at the top of the eroding slope, to give him time to find a new buyer and recoup his investment to date. The lot has actually been on the market since November, '08.

I am not anticipating recouping the \$1/4 million hard cash it has cost me. I can only entreat the **City** to come up with a reasonable and fair solution that will spare me the torture and frustration of dealing with a new buyer and the curse of **Lot #7**. At 87- 1/2 years of age, the very least I deserve (as do we all) is to enjoy the rewards of hard work and **Golden Rule** living - to enjoy my family, my many precious friends, and the love and respect from a grateful community for my ongoing efforts to enhance its quality of life, which I want to continue to do, whenever possible. Put yourselves in my shoes. Ask yourself --- would this situation have been tolerated, or even been allowed to exist had you owned this lot ?? Or your sister ? Or your mother ? Or your brother ? Or a friend ? Or anybody else ?? Then, why me ??? Why me ???

My fate and that of **Lot #7** is scheduled to be heard, discussed and decided

nine eleven.

The action of this city's fire inspectors paints a stain upon and blemishes these realities/memories.

I wait to see the path you chose at the city council meeting this next Monday.

I expect your course of action to be the fair and correct one.

*Thank you.*

*Respectfully yours,*  
**Michael Pedziwiatr**

**CITY ROAD TRIPS...**

*Continued FROM Page 2*

and that's real close to **\$500,000**, plus the amount allocated for vehicle expense is somewhere around **\$300,000** it seems you have about 55 employees taking city owned (tax payer owned) vehicles home with them.

**Rellis Smith**

[rellis39@sbcglobal.net](mailto:rellis39@sbcglobal.net)  
[www.californiachile.com](http://www.californiachile.com)

"Meditation is the understanding of the totality of life in which every form of fragmentation has ceased. Meditation has no beginning and no end. In it, there's no achievement, no failure, no gathering, and no renunciation. It is a movement, without finality, and so beyond and above time and so beyond and above space. When there is that intelligence which is born of compassion and love, then all these problems will be solved simply, quietly."

— Jiddu Krishnamurti



*Mayor Christy Weir appears to listen to Helen Yunker. Is she?*



*Helen walks away from her 84th City Council address.*



*City Attorney Ariel Calonne and City Manager Rick Cole.*

**Helen Yunker** addresses a still complacent **Ventura City Council** at the May 4 meeting. **Mayor Christy Weir** and **City Manager Rick Cole** (top) made no comment. According to

sources, **City Attorney Ariel Calonne** (new to **Ventura**, **Ventura** politics, and his position as **city attorney**) was originally shocked at **Helen's** predicament, and attempted to resolve the matter, however was quickly read the "ride act" by **Mayor Weir**.

**Helen's case** is scheduled to be heard **May 21, 7:00 pm** at **Ventura City Hall**.

at a **Special City Council Meeting** set for **May 21st** at **7:00 pm**. I look forward to seeing you then.

*Respectfully submitted,*  
**Helen Yunker**

*"Do not feel fear, allow the body and allow yourself to let go and understand that fear burdens the immune system and that's a proven fact. There is a branch of science called Psychoneuroimmunology at UCLA that has proven that your emotions lower your immune system, if they're negative and fearful."*  
— **Dr. Theresa Dale, Ph.D., N.D.**

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# 'Rockin' in the Free World' - Kyle Hunt and the King Gypsy



Jon Long: drums, Kyle Hunt: guitars/vocals, John Sagar: guitars Brandon Romero: bass

photos © 2009, Joel Anderson

"I'm tired as hell, we just played the **Star Lounge**, what is it? April 25th, Saturday Night... Good Crowd, it was packed man, I can't even breath... right now... A lot of Ojai fans come out and support us every damn show

man... Ventura.... they finally started to see what Rock and Roll is, man," said Kyle Hunt after performing with his band, "Kyle Hunt and the King Gypsy, in their usual and entertaining high energy Rockin' hard driving

style, during Ventura's Art "Rock" Walk. Kyle came back for another set, covering Neil Young's, 'Rockin' in The Free World'... GO G.W.!

[www.myspace.com/kylehuntacousite](http://www.myspace.com/kylehuntacousite) — Joel Anderson

## Part II: Jackie Lomax - The Liverpool Years

by Joel Anderson

**Jackie Lomax**, Ojai bluesman and rocker, will be heading for his hometown, Liverpool, U.K., in August as part of the Cavern tours 'Beatles Week' celebration of the Jan. 30, 1969 'Beatles Rooftop Concert.' Jackie Lomax was Apples first signed artist.

In this Issue we focused on Jackie's early Liverpool years; *The Undertakers*, the sound, the street and, of course, rock and roll and *The Beatles*. (To see part I, See April Issue Online at [www.OjaiandVenturaView.com](http://www.OjaiandVenturaView.com))

"I'm looking forward to this. It's gonna be great (playing with *The Undertakers*) with a horn section. It's like, what I've always wanted to do.... I've always written stuff with horns in mind, as it's shown on my albums, you know it's pretty obvious.

My friend over there, Brian "Saxophone" Jones, he's a world class player when it comes to playin' a sax solo, this guy stands out. He's gonna be in the band" — Lomax

### INTERVIEW — Jackie Lomax

**JOEL:** When you were growing up, your parents were 'working class' (Jackie's father worked in the mills on the docks), give me an idea of the area.

**LOMAX:** "Liverpool was a port; boatbuilding and deliveries from all over the world. There are 26 miles of docks on the Liverpool side and 13 on my side....a big heavy industrial dock scene. Well, there's a wide river, a very active tidal river, the Mersey, hence the 'Merseyside Sound.' That river separates two counties, one is Liscard and the other is Cheshire and that's where I'm from, Cheshire... the other side of the river.

**JOEL:** What other musicians came from there?

**LOMAX:** Hardly any, we had one guy from the Liverpool side, he still runs the band (*The Undertakers*) in Liverpool now, the sax player is also from Cheshire. Brian Jones is the sax player, Jeff Nugent is the guitar player, the leader of *The Undertakers* band.

**JOEL:** Where were *The Beatles* from?

**LOMAX:** They were from Liverpool.... there's a tunnel you know under the river. Now, Liverpool is the big city and I'm from what you call the village, on the other side, in fact it

used to be called *Liscard Village*... Wallasey... you just get in a van and drive under the river and you're there... and that's where the shops are and all of that. Now you can take a bus or a train through, because they've built all this stuff, the trains work really good...

**JOEL:** Did you ride motorcycles?

**LOMAX:** Later, we all got motorcycles at one point. It's fun.... traveling together is fun on bikes, but if you go too far (for a gig) you get frozen, that's England and it's inclement weather. And then you can't play because your hands are frozen... to the bike....so we had to cut that down to 60 miles, not 100.

**JOEL:** So you got a van?

**LOMAX:** Well, we always had a van '...sitting on a cornflake waiting for the van to come' (singing) *John Lennon*...

**JOEL:** Tell me about how *The Undertakers* formed?

**LOMAX:** Well, there were very few people playing guitar where I was from.... and like I was in a band and the drummer left to join *The Undertakers*. Once there, he said why don't you get Jackie, he's a good bass player, and I'd never played bass in my life... they just showed up one day and they said 'do you want to join our band?' and I said 'yeah.' So they said 'Ok you're the bass player' and they gave me a Gibson Bass. We had one rehearsal and we did two gigs that night.

**JOEL:** How were the fans?

**LOMAX:** It was great.... these were not concerts; they were dances. This is when people danced and crowded up by the stage staring at you the whole time... it was exciting. Because it was Liverpool, there were fights over chicks....

people with too many pints inside of them, but we had bouncers for that....guys in tuxedos walking around, huge like mountains, you start any trouble... they would just pick you up and throw you down the stairs....

**JOEL:** So you would play with other bands? Was this at *The Cavern* at that time?

**LOMAX:** It was the only place offering rock n' roll at that time.... then all these other clubs popped up because it was such a good idea and they were making a lot of money. I mean, you have to understand.... there were crowds three and four deep going all the way down the street and around the corner to get into *The Cavern*...

**JOEL:** These people whose parents were in the war?

**LOMAX:** These people who go to dances, are looking to get away from all of that.... it's kind of

pessimistic, it's kind of straight; your dad's usually a stern guy where I came from.... like they just wanted to get out and have fun, and these were just dances so there wasn't booze involved in the place. These people got drunk before they got there, if they were going to... and it (being a musician) was a way to pick up chicks as long as you didn't have to fight her boyfriend, which happened a lot...!

**JOEL:** Were there any socio-economic factors to 'life in Liverpool' and generating a rock n' roll band?

**LOMAX:** In Liverpool you were just, you know, living from paycheck to paycheck. So like, yeah shift work. Working overtime just to make it, you know what I mean? Working 12 hours a shift!

It's very regressive, it keeps you from thinking that you're worth a shit and you should go for it.

'NO, you're poor, you know it's impossible, it sort of sets you up as a victim. You know...'

**JOEL:** Break out of that mold?

**LOMAX:** ...for me it was like 'we need equipment, right'? Well you're never gonna get enough money to buy equipment, what? NO, that's wrong! If you get more money each night, you can save a pound each night, you can afford that amp that you wanted, after a while. You know, if you get organized....

And *The Undertakers*, I must say, spent more money on equipment than they did on clothes, you know. That was our main thing, cause we were kind of scruffy, unlike *The Beatles*.... you have to understand, the first bass amp I had we had to build, there wasn't one available to go buy. We bought an amplifier that was in a little cage with all the tubes showing, and then we built the speaker that's shaped like a coffin... it's *The Undertakers*. And it just needed a cabinet to stand up in, well it was shaped like a coffin, people thought that was wonderful, and it worked.

**JOEL:** Electronic genius?

**LOMAX:** No, I'm totally useless in that. The bands guitar player, Chris Huston, he was the genius, comes to wiring, and he became a great engineer and a great producer because he worked in the studio, you know? And he's famous in his own right... they've been doing a documentary on him, Chris Huston...

**JOEL:** Were you creating the 'wheel'?

Gifts of the Family  
7th Generation

**TAROT**

BY NATALYA

FOR APPT. 805-794-6921

# Chronic Stew Vocals



Photo © 2009, Joel Anderson

There's a tasty new feminine spice being added to **Chronic Stew !!!** Red Hot Rock vocalist **Wendy Lee**, 2004 Rock Vocalist of the Year (Los Angeles Music Awards) has been officially added to the Stew Pot. Rick Zavadil and Wendy Lee will be stirring things up with Rocker's Trip Brown, Richard Metcalfe and Patrick Duffy for a hot new sound. Things are really cooking for a tasty auditory treat that will leave fans begging for more glorious Stew.



Contact Trip, [www.myspace.com/chronicstew](http://www.myspace.com/chronicstew)

**LOMAX:** I don't know what we were doing. I would never argue that we knew what we were doing. We just went on from good thing to good thing.

You know being on television, that's a big step, that's when my father forgave me..... That's showbiz, that's showbiz..... before that I was in a "gang"...

**JOEL:** Were **The Beatles** just the right people at the right time, or...?

**LOMAX:** Yeah, all of those things and a lot more.... This wasn't a time where the concept of 'jamming' in **Liverpool** had any power at all. If you started jamming in **Liverpool** they would say 'oh they've lost the point where are they going'? It was like creating records...that was the idea. Yeah, **The Beatles** were the first band I saw that sounded like a record! **The Beatles** were very good at say doing...**Buddy Holly** and **The Everly Brothers**, because they had that great harmony between **John** and **Paul**. It was very important, hardly anyone had harmony you know, blended voices....I know **George** joined them vocally later but he didn't really like it at first, he was shy about it.

**JOEL:** Was that a natural connection?

**LOMAX:** They were good, no doubt about it, and **George** would play the solo exactly as the record, it sounded authentic...they were balanced.

**JOEL:** **John Lennon**, pretty anti-war, was he always like that?

**LOMAX:** He was just a controversial guy. If there was a controversy going on he wanted to get in on it. In all great stuff, man there's an element of truth about it. War is over if you want it...there's a truth to it. It may be oversimplified and a little like shock value, but I think that's **Yoko's** influence too. Remember the bed-in, in Amsterdam? That was going on while I was at **Apple**.

**JOEL:** Were you closest to **George Harrison**?

**LOMAX:** I was from the other side of the river. When we were in our teens we started playing in bands, they (**The Beatles**) were one of the first bands. We were friends with all of them. We all went to the same cafes. I worked with **George** the most in '68, but that was way after **Liverpool** and **Germany** and all through those (early) years, we were running around the country playing gigs every night like they were. Sometimes you never meet up with bands because they're playing another rotation, they were playing the same clubs, but like 2 weeks after us. It was literally every night, we lived in a van.

**George** was quietly impressive; he was very funny you know, as funny as anyone in **The Beatles**, but quietly so, droll you know....very intelligent, very knowledgeable, very sure of himself.

I used to spend days at his house playing stuff. Somebody gave me a bootleg copy of 'Sour Milk Sea,' with him singing it and I was playing bass...and it was pretty good.... a little 4 track.

**John Lennon** was there one day and he

was showing **George** the song 'Bungalow Bill' and he asked me to sing on the chorus and you can hear that quite plainly too. They were all coming in and out having toast and tea.

**JOEL:** Jackie, tell me about Sour Milk Sea?

**LOMAX:** Well, that's **George Harrison's** song. It comes from the **Tantric** teachings of **India**, apparently. I'm not sure if this is a correct interpretation; the earth goes through it's own stages...every 26,000 years it gives a little shudder and mixes things up, and for a period it's dormant and that's called Sour Milk Sea....and then it rejuvenates itself and we're off on another cycle. **George** wrote that when he was off in **India** with the **Maharishi**. I hadn't heard it because he wrote it in **India**...**George** was the one who stayed away the longest...making me worry that we weren't going to do what he said....so it was the first thing we recorded when

he came back, and it came off great... and **Paul**, **Ringo**, **George**, **Nicky Hopkins**.... with **Eric Clapton** wailing away over the top of it.

**JOEL:** You just wanted to play your music?

**LOMAX:** Yeah...getting down. I didn't think we were going to do a whole album, at the first. Well we did 'Sour Milk Sea' it was a single you know, then I knew we needed a B side... 'Fall Inside Your Eyes,' it worked....it became the B side to all the other singles we did. Each one trying to, you know, make a hit.

**JOEL:** Tell me.

**LOMAX:** I had a song I really liked and I got together with **Mal (Evans)**, **The Beatles** roadie, and went in the studio on **Apple Records**. I had a song called 'New Day' and I thought that was a good single; we recorded that.

**George** was away and I was hoping he wouldn't feel a betrayal about me doing this, because 'Sour Milk Sea' for some reason didn't become a hit. 'New Day,' I still think it's a good song. It is a single.... conceived as a single. **George** came back and, much to my surprise, he went in the studio with my guitar player in the band and laid over these double guitar licks, which really added to it.... and I thought 'Oh, **George** is on board he thinks it's a single too,' but no it didn't go.... I don't know, maybe it was a lack of radio play or something.

Then he comes along with this idea 'How the Web was Woven,' written by **Dave Most**. That was a great experience because we worked with **Leon Russell**, he's a wonderful musician. He played almost everything on the track, including slide guitar, using my lighter as a slide. It was pretty amazing to me, but I must say I wasn't 100 percent into this song, you know it was like, I guess I thought my song was better.

I may have been wrong, because **Elvis** did that song later on. You know, **Elvis!** So **Elvis** must have heard my version. His was more dramatic than mine, it was good too. Well, we'd already recorded quite a few tracks... we did 7 tracks in **Los Angeles**, before the singles, we did some in **Abbey Road**, we had enough for an album I believe.

**JOEL:** You were at the **Shea Stadium Concert**.

**LOMAX:** That was in '65 when I saw them at **Shea Stadium**. They were a great tight band, professional and really on the button, but the crowd wasn't listening....they just screamed. I stood right by the stage, so I could hear it.

I hooked up with **Brian Epstein**....he was interested in taking me back to **England** as a singer. He invited me and I went to the stadium with **The Beatles**, it was coooool... I had breakfast with them too.

It was fantastic to have breakfast with **The Beatles** you know. That's the time...we had toast and jam and tea with **The Beatles**, what was it....the 14th floor or something of the **Madison Hotel** and some girl tried to climb up

the outside of the building, had to be taken off by the fire truck, beneath, while we were there. We were all lookin' out the window, it was crazy around there.

**JOEL:** Going back, was there a 'Liverpool Sound'?

**LOMAX:** Yeah, the songs that we 'copied' together were rhythm and blues. For instance, the closest **The Beatles** got to R&B was 'Twist and Shout,'...**Isley Brothers**. Well, we did that song and when we found out that they were doin' it, we dropped it, and we did another song from **The Isley Brothers**; 'How Deep is the Ocean,' which is an old song, but 'their' version.

And that's what we always did... if there was a conflict of doin' the same song, we'd just drop it and do something else from the same album.

... 'Twist and Shout' is R&B,

it's not **Pop**, but they never really went that way, they were more **Pop** and.... **Pop**, to me, is just cutesy stuff and is not much depth to it.

There was a 'Liverpool Sound' because we were not doing the usual stuff that everyone else was doing, like **Irish Showbands**; they have a lead singer, they have a female singer, they have a male singer, they have a band, they usually have horns or something else. And they do all the hits that are playin' on the radio, but

## SPECIAL EVENT - VENTURA RACEWAY VENTURA RACE & BIKE FESTIVAL - JUNE 20

Ventura Raceway is celebrating its 100th Anniversary this year (and their renewed lease!) Save the Date and come celebrate June 20, with the best of Flat Track Motorcycle Racing from local Venturans and traveling motorcycle enthusiasts alike. At (right) Norm Neumann riding for Ventura's "The Shop" smokes the Ventura Raceway on a WR750 Harley Davidson, July 8, 1995.

info. [www.venturairaceway.com](http://www.venturairaceway.com)  
[www.cycleshop.com](http://www.cycleshop.com)



chester, they'd go to **The Cavern**, they'd sit in the front row and write down lyrics to the songs that we were doin'. So I spot them in the front row, writing lyrics and I sang all the wrong lyrics. The next time we saw them, they were singing the wrong lyrics to these songs and I thought that was wonderful. It's like espionage. It sounds silly now doesn't it, because it was somebody else's song? But that happened."

## Birthday Bash

**Jackie Lomax** rockin' his 65th Birthday at Ojai's Village Jester. Backing Jackie up were; Jack Joshua, bass, Dave Stewart, drums, Roger House, guitar, and Gwenovive Lamb, sax.

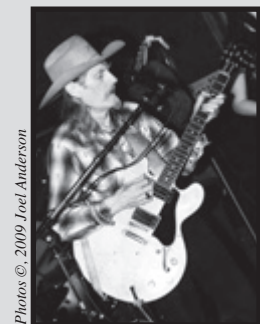
**Jackie** played quite few songs from his 'The Ballad of Liverpool Slim... Plus' album... "Pawn in Your Game," 'There's a Woman in there Somewhere,' 'Spank Yourself,' 'The Blues Made Me Do It,' 'Baby Slow-Down,' and 'Friend-A-Mine,' Jackie's heartfelt tribute to **George Harrison**.

How did Jackie come up with the title, "The Ballad of Liverpool Slim"?

"Well, I was on a pool team for the Hub and I think I came up with it me self because someone said, 'Minnesota Fats couldn't come up with a shot like that.' So, I couldn't be Minnesota Fats, so I said I'm more Liverpool Slim and they all laughed... so the name stuck and it sounds bluesy. It sounds like a blues guy, doesn't it?"

Now being distributed in Europe, Asia, & the U.K., Jackie Lomax' **The Ballad of Liverpool Slim** also features Mark Andes, Jim Calire, Mario Calire, Eddie Duenez, Pete Howard, Jack Joshua, Phil Salazar, Dave Stewart.

more info. [www.jackielomax.com](http://www.jackielomax.com)  
Available Online: [angelair.co.uk](http://angelair.co.uk)



Jackie, jamming with friends on his 1959 Gibson ES 335, and always plugs into his 1961 Fender 'Showman' Amp, given to him years ago by Joey Mullin (Badfinger).



that... That wasn't appealing to us in **Liverpool** at all, because the dance bands were 'straight' people.... straight people.... there's no rock and roll in that.

We were doin' **Little Richard** and **Chuck Berry** and personally I was doing **Solomon Burke** and **Ray Charles** and **James Brown**, but little known songs, not the songs that you associate with those people, you know what I mean? ...the songs that weren't well known. But people thought we were writing stuff, we didn't tell them any different, we let them think we were writing it. We wouldn't give ya the exact album that it came from in case you would take it to your band and do it yourself. You understand? That was what was happening. We guarded our material like it was **Fort Knox**. You had to like guard your material against other groups doin' it.

For instance, **The Hollies** came from Man-

## SPECIAL EVENT - OJAI'S NORDHOFF HIGH REUNION - CLASS OF 1989/AUGUST 1ST, 6-10pm

Come Celebrate at Camp Comfort, 11-1pm and later that night... at The Art Center, 6-10pm info, [Michelle Dohnr](mailto:Michelle.Dohnr@sbctv.com); 272-8118  
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# KOHLI'S MUSIC PIT

An Interview With Queensryche

“Exploring the Mind of an ‘American Soldier!’”



© 2009, Greg Watermann

Queensryche - Michael Wilton, Geoff Tate, Scott Rockenfield, Ed Jackson

by Michael Kohli

We've seen it in the movies, we've seen them on the news, but do we really know all that goes on inside the mind of an **American Soldier**? They face death in the eye in a constant day to day battle. They leave their families for years at a time. And, there always comes a time when a soldier meets the enemy face to face and whoever kills first wins – whoever dies loses. No matter what the soldier thinks and feels, they have to act fast before the bullet hits them. Many of them watch their best friends die at their side. The psychological side of a soldier's mind goes through many different levels of emotion for months and years at a time.

The majority of **Queensryche's** songs are based on a soldier's psychological state of mind. Whether it's a person having an emotional breakdown, “*Where Squares Fit The Round*,” or if it's a drug user who gets brainwashed by a top government official and is used/trained to be an assassin, or a person that sees shadows of spirits and they've been locked away in a room — taken away from society, “*Who does he see? Maybe he's looking at me.*”

After the highly successful sequel album/tour for, “*Operation: Mindcrime 2*,” **Queensryche** started on a new concept story project. Over the course of three years – **Geoff Tate** started talking to his father who finally opened up to him about his experiences in the **Korean War**. After talking to more soldiers – the stories became future additions to the next chapter of **Queensryche**.

On the day of the release for the new **Queensryche** album, “*American Soldier*,” I spoke to lead singer, **Geoff Tate** about the album and the soul behind this new concept-story album. In listening to this album, I came to appreciate all our soldiers go through to serve our country. At the same time, it I am frustrated with our government and the way they send out soldiers – so quickly, hundreds at a time. Each life of a soldier has a world surrounding them before they enter any war. The emotional toll it brings to the families, friends, and loved ones back home is hard to match what awaits the soldier who goes to war.

The album explores soldiers, not only from our current war but all the way back to **World War II**. From soldiers on the ground to soldiers in the sky, the album explores their life from multiple angles.

A band could only represent a war, properly, if the music lived up to the soundtrack. And, with **Queensryche's** multi-talented members, they deliver a flawless and perfected album. When they release a new project, they deliver, especially on this album; from the opening track, “*Sliver*” to the final track, “*The Voice*,” the album takes you on a journey better than any book, movie, or news story. It takes you right into the hearts of the battleground. Here to explain more about the album project, I give you **Mr. Geoff Tate!**

speaking to you again. Last time we spoke was backstage after your Agoura Hills show where I told you about my ‘gook luck Vegas story.’ And we spoke a few years back when you released your first solo album?”

**Geoff Tate:** “That's right. How've you been?”

**Kohli:** “I've been great, thanks! **American Soldier** is a brilliant album. Now that the process in making the album is complete and you just released it today, how do you feel about the overall finished product?”

**Geoff Tate:** “Oh, I was very pleased with the record and the outcome of it. It's really satisfying for the band to create something out of nothing. We always feel very successful and very good about ourselves when we put a project together. Especially this project. The content of it. It's very special to all of us. What an adventure it was making this thing! Having all these different conversations and interviews with different soldiers and hearing their stories. Trying our best to put those stories into musical form that is respectful to their stories.”

**Kohli:** “How did you guys choose which soldiers' stories to put on the album?”

**Geoff Tate:** “Well, it was a long process. It started with a conversation I had with my father a few years back. I grew up in a military family. He was a war veteran of Korea & Vietnam. And, he never talked about his experiences. I was visiting him while I was on tour a couple of years ago. We were sitting on the back porch at his house. He just really opened up about his experiences in Korea. And, this was a first for me. My jaw was on the table! Luckily, I had my little video recorder and stuck it on the picnic table and recorded the conversation. Listening to his story really got me thinking about him and what he experienced. It made me curious about other soldiers and what they experienced. I really just started talking with different soldiers I met at airports, supermarkets, & backstage at shows. The more stories I got, the more curious I became. The more interesting it was to me. So, I started conducting more formalized interviews with people. Filming them, which really turned out to be beneficial. It really allowed the band to experience the story first hand. Come away with impressions that became musical themes to tell their story.”

**Kohli:** “As a concept album – does the story of **American Soldier** itself follow one soldier or is it a combination of soldier events?”

**Geoff Tate:** “Every song is a unique perspective on what the soldier's life is like and what they experience. All the lyrics on the record are their thoughts and their viewpoints. Which was very different for me because we usually write a record based on our own beliefs and feelings about things. We were acting as biographers in a sense. Taking their words and making them into songs. It really is like walking in a soldier's boots for awhile and understanding their perspective. It's an album for them and by them.”

**Kohli:** “Has this project changed your views on the wars at all? Have you learned a lot from this experience?”

**Geoff Tate:** “Oh, yeah – I learned a lot from it. One thing that really fascinated me was that no matter who I talked to, whether they were in **World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Somalia, or Iraq**, the soldier's experience remains consistent and constant. Because, what they deal with and what they experience are real human events. They deal with the loss of their colleagues and friends, they deal with managing their own fear, and they deal with being separated from their families and their children. These are constant themes that came from everybody I talked to.”

**Kohli:** “Could you explain the story and meanings behind ‘*At 30,000 Ft*’ and ‘*Remember Me*’?” Those are the two songs I'm currently addicted to.”

**Geoff Tate:** “‘*At 30,000 Ft*’ is of course written from a pilot's experience in the **Gulf War**. What really struck me about the conversation that I was having with this particular pilot was that he was talking about how disconnected he was from the floor below. He was flying 30,000 ft. above the enemy, locking on targets and pushing buttons. And, he'd fly back to the main ship, the carrier. It's a completely different situation than a soldier on the ground. What I tried to do musically was to try to capture that feeling of being separate from what was going on down below. And, that feeling of being disconnected.”

“*Remember Me*’ is really about feelings that soldier's have especially in a wartime situation. They are separated from family and friends. They want to hold on to some kind of feeling of security that's at home. Sometimes, they get married really young and they are not really prepared to deal with the emotional distress that they find themselves in. A lot of them just break up and it's a constant theme throughout all the interviews I did.”

**Kohli:** “What can we expect from this upcoming tour?”

**Geoff Tate:** “What we're doing with this tour is presenting three of our records live. **Rage For Order, American Soldier, & Empire**. We've prepared all the songs on each of those records and made up two setlists and we'll be alternating through those live so that people that come on multiple nights will be able to see and hear all the songs from those records.”

**Kohli:** “Will we see any of your acting skills on stage during this tour?”

**Geoff Tate:** “No, this isn't really much of a theatrical presentation like the **Mindcrime** show was. This is kind of a story telling show. We're going to focus on the soldiers' stories as best as we can. We like to produce film and video/visual interpretation and marry that with the music. On the video, we'll be having people talk on the past albums as well.”

**Kohli:** “Are you guys doing anything special for the album's release today?”

**Geoff Tate:** “This is what I'm doing; I got up at

4:00 am this morning and went to my local radio station. I did morning interviews all over the country. I did 20 cities this morning. I'm actually on the phone until 3:00 this afternoon doing more interviews. Then tomorrow, the band goes out to **Los Angeles**. We're going to be performing on **Rockline** which is a syndicated show and goes out to 70 different stations. And, we'll be doing appearances at record stores.”

**Kohli:** “What's next for **Queensryche**?”

**Geoff Tate:** “This album has been close to three years in the making. So, just having completed it and we're starting the next phase of it, which is the touring cycle, which will take us into Spring of next year. We usually perform in about 28-30 different countries. I imagine along the road, we'll probably come up with ideas for the next record.”

**Kohli:** “With the current Online age – is it easier now to be **Queensryche**? To find fans and sell records?”

**Geoff Tate:** “I wouldn't say easier. It's different. The mechanisms are different. Online is where a lot of information is found these days and we find ourselves more focused on online publications. More than we've ever been. It's a brave new world out there. We're very excited.”

**Kohli:** “Where do you see **Queensryche** a few years from now? Can we still expect more **Queensryche** albums in the future?”

**Geoff Tate:** “Oh yeah, we've been a band since 1981. I don't think any of us looked more than a year into the future. We kind of just go with the flow. We love making records and we love playing live. We're very lucky to do both those things.”

**Queensryche, Continued Page 26...**

“The more you can increase fear of drugs and crime, welfare mothers, immigrants and aliens, the more you control all the people.”  
— Noam A. Chomsky

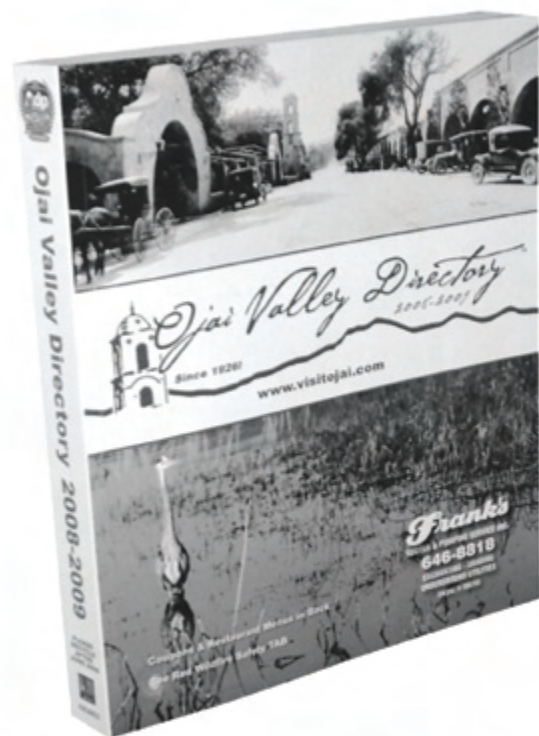
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## INTERVIEW

**Kohli:** “How have you been?”

**Geoff Tate:** “Oh, you know – I've been busy. I like that. I've been doing interviews and preparing for the tour and I've got time to pay attention.”

**Kohli:** “First of all, let me say it's an honor to be

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# Original Gangster or Wimpy

by Larry Naron

As the headline states some of us tend to be delusional where our criminal enterprises are concerned. The case I'm referring to is currently being heard in **Santa Barbara Superior Court**. The murder of **Adam Markowitz** by **Jesse James Hollywood** and cronies.

As the story goes **Adams'** big brother **Ben** owed **Hollywood** \$1,200 behind some marijuana that had been fronted. Apparently, when **Hollywood** and his crew were searching for **Ben** with collection on their mind, they stumbled upon his 15-year-old brother. This is where it gets ugly. Anyone with any sense knows you don't randomly kidnap people. The reason is the prison time is long and the rewards are rarely worth the risk. If you are stupid enough to kidnap someone you wear a mask so you are not easily identified later.

Now, you find yourself in a vehicle with a buddy who is just dead set on kidnapping someone and is so brazen they reveal their identity. Get the hell out of the car and call the nearest law enforcement agency. This is the only way that you will avoid prosecution later. Did I mention kidnapping is a serious crime with severe penalties. In the case of **Adam Markowitz**, **Jesse James Hollywoods'** friends got totally pulled in by his stupid decision. It was not their \$1,200 so what would cause them to risk their freedom so foolishly? Friendship, loyalty, money or a false sense of duty. These are the things that will put you on death row or in prison for several years. No, I never saw the movie **Alpha Dog** which claims to be an accurate representation of these events, but I did work at a hospital for the criminally insane and a federal penitentiary. There truly is nothing in a prison for a young man with his whole life ahead of him. Don't let stupid decisions land you there.

Now you have this kid in your control and you go to a party and keep the kid tied up, blindfolded and a lot of your acquaintances at the party see this scared 15-year-old boy. At this point you should call the parents of the kid, beg for their forgiveness and tell them you will deliver their child to wherever they say. You, as the leader of this motley crew, get scared. You start contemplating the gravity of the situation and realize that you are prison bound.

Yep, this was your *brilliant* idea and the rest of these guys were just following your orders. So you leave some guys with the kid and head home because if you are some place where everyone can see you, at the time of the murder, and you think you're off the hook. Here in lies the problem when stupid people start to "think." It reminds me of **G.I.G.A.** The garbage "in" is the flawed logic the person has used to reach their conclusion. The garbage "out" represents the flawed conclusion based on their flawed logic.

Now **Hollywood**, safely back at home, tells his buddy to kill the kid. The buddy who might normally have enough sense not to complete this evil act has been sucked so far in, he starts to believe it is the only way out. Not to mention **Hollywood** has agreed to forgive a drug debt. This buddy is now waiting to be killed by lethal injection by the **State of California**. **Hollywood**, being the wimp he was, took off. He didn't even testify at your trial to tell the jury it was all his idea, which might have granted you a small measure of

leniency. Of course **Hollywood** was profiled on **Americas Most Wanted** and captured in **South America**, while you have been rotting in prison he was lying about who he was and victimizing a woman down there by impregnating her and making her think he had feelings for her. The problem is that people like **Hollywood** are sociopaths and they are the only ones they truly care about.

So now we will endure a trial where **Hollywood** will try and convince the jury that his buddy just decided to murder this kid on his own with no instruction from him. I don't imagine **Hollywood** will take the stand since he has already proven he cares about no one but himself and credibility could be a serious issue.

So now we come to the title and I must unequivocally say **Wimpy**. True gangsters don't kill kids. They also don't kill adults behind \$1,200. They just beat the tar out of you and tell you if they don't have their money the next time they see you they will beat you again. This gets most peoples attention since \$1,200 doesn't pay a lot of doctor bills. By murdering a defenseless kid you are saying "I'm a coward and small time." You have risked your freedom over chump change and now you reap your just rewards.

If you have any teenage kids you may want to point this story out as an example of what happens when you don't say "NO" to someones lunacy. **The Bird Rock Bandit** story is a story along similar lines where young people are lead astray by their leader that you may find interesting. The head of that "gang" is now serving 20 years to life for delivering a punch that resulted in the death of another young man.

The trial is slated to begin **May 15** in **Santa Barbara Superior Court**.

## CopWatch – Ojai

Good Afternoon Watchers,

We seem to be experiencing more Domestic violence calls than normal. In these types of incidents it is very important that we are called as soon as possible. Many times we arrive at these calls while they are still just verbal arguments. Your deputies are trained in crisis intervention and can usually calm the parties down and give them resources for counseling and other social services available to them.

When we are called later in the incident, the fight has often already turned physical and your deputies are challenged with separating the parties and sometimes requesting needed medical assistance for the victims. Many times this may lead to arrest and even an emergency restraining order being issued. Either way it is always better for us to get called early rather than later in the incident.

If you have neighbors or loved ones who are involved in a heated argument and you feel someone needs to intervene, please call us. We want to get involved way before the incident turns to violence. I know this is a sensitive subject and some people do not like to be the neighbor who calls for this type of incident. I will tell you that more people are injured during domestic disturbances than they are during home burglaries or vehicle thefts.

Here at **City Watch** we want the safest neighborhoods possible. That means safe for all of us from all types of crimes. Part of having a safe neighborhood is being a good neighbor and watching out for each other even during those difficult times. With our current economic times, tempers may tend to flair a

little higher than normal. Your deputies want to be there to stop any violence and offer their help in any way they can. If you know someone who might need help, please call, we will do what we can. If you do not call we may never know whether or not that person really needed our help.

On the upside of things, we are doing much better with our vehicle burglaries and our thefts from vehicles. Our calls for suspicious subjects and vehicle continues to increase. There is a direct correlation between the increased calls for service and the reduction of specific crimes in a given area. This is another sign that you are taking back our neighborhoods and the crooks are getting the message.

Remember you can register your traffic concerns with me and I will forward them directly to our traffic officers. This is a quick and efficient way to solve some of those neighborhood traffic issues.

Please do not forget to sign up for free home vacation checks while you are out of town this summer.

Some of you have asked me to define the legend on our **City Watch Maps**. Ok here we go.

- **Assault:** This is a crime where you are victims of a serious battery like *Assault with a Deadly Weapon* or *Assault with Great Bodily Injury*.

- **Burglary:** This is breaking into you home, business, out building or a locked vehicle.


- **Larceny:** Theft of any type. Theft over \$400.00 is grand theft. Theft under \$400.00 is petty theft.

- **Misdemeanor Assault:** This is basic battery like punching your neighbor in the arm. Not much damage but still a rotten thing to do.

- **Robbery:** The taking of your items by force or fear.

Well I hope that helped those of you who were unsure of the meanings.

Have a great weekend and keep up the good work.

 Your friend and neighbor, Joe



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- Fri, May 22, 8pm - **Los Dudes**
- Sat, May 23, 8pm - **Brendan "Be Willing" James**
- Sun, May 24, 3pm - **Frank Barajas, Sunday Aft.**
- Tues, May 26, 8pm - **Jimmy Mooks "Comedy"**
- Thurs, May 28, 8pm - **Delaney Gibson w/Friends**
- Fri, May 29, 8pm - **Ed Berghoff & Dan Wilson**
- Sat, May 30, 8pm - **Catfishry**

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**VIEW MUSIC LISTINGS**

- Caffé Bella, Ventura - Fri. May 15 -Ed Berghoff & Dan Wilson, 8pm - 643-2171
- The Shores, Oxnard - Fri. May 15 -Chronic Stew, 9pm - 985-0621
- Whale's Tail, Oxnard - Fri. May 15 -Bad Ego Trip w/Tom w/the Weather - 985-2511
- Zoey's, Ventura -Fri. May 15 -The Northstar Session & Be Willing James Trio, 8pm - 652-1137
- Cold Spring Tavern, S.B. - Fri. May 15 -Bent and Hot Blast Florence, 7-10pm - 967-0066
- Caffé Bella, Ventura - Sat. May 16 -Big Joe Hurt, 8pm - 643-2171
- Rock City, Camarillo - Sat. May 16 -Chronic Stew, 9pm - 383-3555
- Worley House Concert, Bakersfield - Sat. May 16 -Nathan McEuen Band, 7pm
- Whale's Tail, Oxnard - Sat. May 16 -The Legalizers - 985-2511
- Zoey's, Ventura -Sat. May 16 -Diamonds Under Fire & Eugene and the 1914's, 8pm - 652-1137
- Cold Spring Tavern, S.B. - Sat. May 16 -Jan Smith, 2-5pm/Los Lanphars, 6-9pm - 967-0066
- SOHo, S.B. - Sat. May 16 -Which One's Pink w/John Stack - 962-7776
- Caffé Bella, Ventura - Sun. May 17 -David & Freda-R&B, Sun Aft, 3pm - 643-2171
- SOHo, S.B. - Sun. May 17 -LBHS Jazz/Club Mercey Deehoof - 962-7776
- Cold Spring Tavern, S.B. - Sun. May 17 -Tom Ball & Ken Sultan, 1:30-4:30pm/Roy Schmeck and the Schmecktones, 4:30-7:30pm - 967-0066
- Zoey's, Ventura -Mon. May 18 -Lex Land & Friends w/Yellow Red Sparks, 8pm - 652-1137
- SOHo, S.B. - Mon. May 18 -Inga Swearingen w/Elia Villafranca & Kristin Korb - 962-7776
- Caffé Bella, Ventura - Tues. May 19 -Mari Rosa On Tour from Boston, 8pm - 643-2171
- SOHo, S.B. - Sun. May 19 -Jen & Abby, Lee Koch, G. Anderson & Schyler - 962-7776
- American Idol, L.A. - Wed. May 20 -Nathan McEuen Band, 8pm
- Caffé Bella, Ventura - Thurs. May 21 -Delaney Gibson w/Friends, 8pm - 643-2171
- SOHo, S.B. - Thurs. May 21 -Izabella w/The Orlando Napier Band - 962-7776
- The Canyon Club, Agoura - Thurs. May 21 -Leon Russell/The Spazmatics - 879-5016
- Chumash Casino, Santa Ynez - Thurs. May 21 -Joe Cocker, 8pm - 1/800-585-3737
- Caffé Bella, Ventura - Fri. May 22 -Los Dudes, 8pm - 643-2171
- Whale's Tail, Oxnard - Fri. May 22 -The Distance between w/Seconds from Disaster - 9pm - 985-2511
- SOHo, S.B. - Fri. May 22 -The 805 Project w/Somos Son - 962-7776
- Whale's Tail, Oxnard - Fri. May 22 -Rising Son - 9pm - 985-2511
- Caffé Bella, Ventura - Sat. May 23 -Brendan "Be Willing" James, 8pm - 643-2171
- SOHo, S.B. - Sat. May 23 -Area 51 - 962-7776
- Caffé Bella, Ventura - Sun. May 24 -Frank Barajas, Sun Aft, 3pm - 643-2171
- SOHo, S.B. - Sun. May 24 -Sonido Moreno - 962-7776
- The Beachcomber, Oxnard - Sun. May 24 -The Seizure, Uni & Barry "California Gold", Make Me, - 985-6030
- Ventura Theatre - Sun. May 24 -Scott Weiland, - 653-0721
- Ojai House, Ojai - Sun. May 24 -Mairéad, 4-6pm - 640-1656
- Cold Spring Tavern, S.B. - Mon. May 25 -Sara Haze w/Loomis and the Lust,

- 2-5pm - 967-0066
- Caffé Bella, Ventura - Tues. May 26 -Jimmy Mooks "Comedy", 8pm - 643-2171
- SOHo, S.B. - Tues. May 26 -Lilia Broussard, Christopher Hawley, & Erik Janson - 962-7776
- The Canyon Club, Agoura - Tues. May 26 -Robin Trower - 879-5016
- SOHo, S.B. - Wed. May 27 -Glen Phillips - 962-7776
- Caffé Bella, Ventura - Thurs. May 28 -Delaney Gibson w/Friends, 8pm - 643-2171
- Zoey's, Ventura -Thurs. May 28 -The Bluegrass Jam, 6am - 652-1137
- Universal Bar & Grill, Universal City - Thurs. May 28 -Chronic Stew, 8pm - 818/766-2114
- SOHo, S.B. - Thurs. May 28 -Club Mercey Presents: The Submarines - 962-7776
- Caffé Bella, Ventura - Fri. May 29 -Ed Berghoff & Dan Wilson, 8pm - 643-2171
- Zoey's, Ventura -Fri. May 29 -Barry Miller Presents, Night of Music/Poetry, 8pm - 652-1137
- Cold Spring Tavern, S.B. - Fri. May 29 -Sean Wiggins and Paul Houston, 7-10pm - 967-0066
- Aliso Elementary School/American Cancer Society Relay for Life, Carpinteria - Sat. May 30 -Chronic Stew, 10:30am
- Whale's Tail, Oxnard - Sat. May 30 -Stud Dexim Band - 9pm - 985-2511
- Zoey's, Ventura -Sat. May 30 -Phil Cody, The Calamity & Delaney Gibson, 8pm - 652-1137
- Cold Spring Tavern, S.B. - Sat. May 30 -Vince Chafin and friends2-5pm, Steve Key, Jean-Luc Fraikin and The Front Country Four, 6-9pm - 967-0066
- Zoey's, Ventura -Sun. May 31 -Brian Vanderark of the Verve Pipe w/Nikki Jean, 8pm - 652-1137
- Cold Spring Tavern, S.B. - Sun. May 31 -Tom Ball & Ken Sultan, 1:30-4:30pm/Pie, 4:30-7:30pm - 967-0066
- The Beachcomber, Oxnard - Sun. May 31 -After School Special, The Knee Highs, - 985-6030
- Star Lounge, Ventura - Sat. June 6 -Chronic Stew, 9pm - 648-4709
- Castoro Cellars, L.A. - Sat. June 6 -Nathan McEuen Band w/John McEuen, Chelsea Williams, 7pm
- Santa Ynez Days @ The Jones House, Santa Ynez - Sat. June 13 -Nathan McEuen Band, Chelsea Williams, 7pm
- Throckmorton Theatre, Mill Valley - Sat. June 13 -Robben Ford, 8pm
- The Shores, Oxnard - Fri. June 19 -Chronic Stew, 9pm - 985-0621
- The Shores, Oxnard - Sat. June 20 -Chronic Stew, 9pm - 985-0621
- Huck Finn Jubilee, Victorville - Sat. June 20 -Nathan McEuen Band w/Ricky Skaggs and Kentucky Thunder, Lonesome River Band, and More..., 4pm

**QUEENSRYCHE...**

Continued from Page 5...

We are very grateful to our fans." **Kohli:** "What do your kids think of your music?" **Geoff Tate:** "Well, I have five kids. They are all different ages. My oldest is 24 and my youngest is 10. They've all grown up with music and they've grown up with our music. There's some things they like and some things they don't care for. But, this album, 'American Soldier,' is special for me because my daughter, Emily, sings a song with me. That was really a fun endeavor that we both enjoyed quite a bit. She's actually going to go on tour with us in the summer and sing that song live." **Kohli:** "Is that the song, 'Home Again'?" **Geoff Tate:** "Yeah, that's really fun. I think it's going to be a special thing live." **Kohli:** "I love the fact that no matter what obstacles you face - since you've been a band since 1981 - you've managed to have a lengthy nonstop career of touring and recording. Each album you make is more and more exciting and no matter what comes in the way - Queensryche always pulls through on its own. And, your range of fans

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**Mairéad**

**Born in Dublin city, Ireland, Mairéad's musical journey has taken her through many styles and to many places, culminating at a crossroads where she is poised to take up her position with the great musical messengers of our time. Singing since the age of three and classically trained soon after, her early days were focused on classical, jazz and folk.**

**Emigrating to the US in 1994, and following a brief sojourn in St. Louis, Mairéad relocated to New York City. Instantly inspired by the passionate collision of Manhattan's musical textures, Mairéad formed and fronted Too Cynical To Cry, a neo-bohemian pop collaboration with British songwriter Justin Robert James. After producing their album 'What Are You Afraid of?', Too Cynical To Cry toured along side such luminaries as Van Morrison, Natalie Merchant, Elvis Costello, and Tracy Chapman, as well as on Sarah McLachlan's Lilith Fair Tour.**

**In late 1999, Mairéad decided to disband Too Cynical To Cry, opting to focus on her solo**

today still goes everywhere. Musicians know Queensryche and rock fans crave new Queensryche music. No matter what music is in - there is always a new Queensryche album mixed in. Are you happy with how long you've managed to stay as Queensryche? Are you happy with the overall Queensryche almost 30 year project?" **Geoff Tate:** "It's always been our philosophy that as long as we're happy with the record and everybody in the band is into it, satisfied with the performances and the creative outflow, we'll just keep doing it. One thing that drew us together years ago was that we all really get along well. We have a lot in common musically. Some bands don't. We love making music together and traveling."

**Kohli:** "On the new Guns N' Roses album, I've heard a lot of Ryche influence throughout the album. Well, it is sort of a concept album. But, certain elements - I hear a lot of influence coming from you, especially on two songs, 'There Was A Time' and 'Prostitute.' Have you heard the new 'Chinese Democracy' album?"

**Geoff Tate:** "No. Axl Rose - he was always a Queensryche fan from way back. That happens, if you're around for a long time. You tend to influence a lot of people in different ways. There's nothing better than a compliment from another fellow musician. That always feels good."

**Kohli:** "If you ever got the call from Axl to do a Chinese Democracy/American Soldier tour - would you be up for it?"

**Geoff Tate:** "Oh sure! We like to tour. We play a lot of festivals around the world. It's always a good time to kind of get to know other people and other bands. See what their scene is like, talk music, & talk business. We always have a standing offer that any musician that's in town and has the night off or if we're in town, we always extend the invitation to come out, sit in with us, and play a couple song."

**Kohli:** "On your recent cover album, 'Take Cover,' you guys did a live cover of U2. Have you ever crossed paths with Bono at all?"

**Geoff Tate:** "No, I've actually sat and had a long conversation with the bass player, Adam a couple times in my life. But, never met Bono. I've heard a new track from the new U2 album. Kinda interesting, I'll have to pick that one up."

**Kohli:** "Any other artists that you're currently into?"

**Geoff Tate:** "I really like that new album by the Kings of Leon. I like quite a few songs on that record. It's a really good record I think."

**Kohli:** "Thank you so much for taking the time out to talk with me today!"

**Geoff Tate:** "Oh yeah, my pleasure! Nice talking to you again."

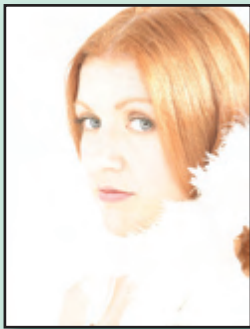
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material. Following a period of artistic transition, **Mairéad** released her 2003 breakout solo debut recording *'Open The Door.'* Co-produced by the artist, the body of work exuded a significant leap in her song craft and artistic depth, garnering rave reviews and inspiring *New York's Irish Voice* to conclude "I find myself getting drunk on her sparkling spirit. *'Open The Door'* is a sweet concoction of folk dusted with Celtic mysticism, and abstract romance in the spirit of *Van Morrison.*" *'Open The Door'* firmly established **Mairéad** as a leading voice of a new community of accomplished and successful artists inspiring a positive message through their music and saw her back on the road opening for **Bob Dylan** and two consecutive appearances at the renowned *Glastonbury Festival*, alongside **Paul McCartney**, **Oasis** and **Radiohead** among others.

In 2003 **Mairéad** met **Jim Goodwin** (*The Call, Sparks, John Cale*) on a collaborative project called *RISE*, (a multi artist album created in the wake of September 11th). The musical connection was



alchemic and within weeks they began working on her sophomore solo release. *Dawn Of Revelation.* This album represents the artist's true coming of age. Here, in the body of her strongest songs yet, lies the essence of an artist whose time has emerged. "Dawn is an album that is not afraid to deal with the complexity of issues that currently face us as individuals and a collective," says the artist. For certain, the songs contain a sparkling musical depth married with lyrics of integrity and clarity. **Mairéad's** live performances have been captivating her fast growing audiences for some time now. She performs with an enchanting charisma that is rare in these days. Her shows have been separately described as 'spirited', 'naked', 'powerful' and 'joyous'.



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