

The Ojai & Ventura



VIEW



Vol. 1 • No. 10 • Issue 10 • Published in the Ojai & Ventura Gold Coast Region • **FREE** • January 2009



© 2008, Terry Komisak



© 2008, Joel Anderson



© 2009, Mary M. Long



© 2009, Ron Rowe

Ol' Time Service



ADOPTABLE PETS
K9 Heroes

- **RON ROWE**
- **RON ELLIS**
- **PETER MILHADO**
- **RICHARD SENATE**
- **ALASDAIR - GLOBAL WARMING**



© 2009, Joel Anderson

- **MUSIC/EVENT LISTINGS**
- **NORDIC SKI PATROL**
- **KHOLI ROCKS BOMBAY**
- **SAGE HILL TRAILRIDE**
- **MILITARY DOGS UPDATE**
- **TEACH THE CHILDREN**
- **ROCK N' ROLL**

INSIDE: • SUZA: BOOK REVIEW • SMALL BIZ TIPS • AUTO BAIL OUT • POLITICS • FRED SCHMITT



Fixing California's Finances

California Economy Headed Down a Dead End Street or....

— Art L. Isgur

If you are searching for a happy opinion article you are now advised to stop reading and search for another op-ed piece.

Almost nothing is certain, save uncertainty, when we deal with our state budget. It is quite easy to write that we, as a state, must pass a budget that includes meaningful tax increases with mega spending cuts. Everyone is willing to increase taxes, on someone else. Programs that benefit me, and people like me, are sacrosanct and therefore immune to budget slashes.

Let us start to look at this problem in a mature manner. The bottom 20 percent of state households earn less than one thousand dollars a month. There is nothing to tax there. The richest 1 percent of California families average more than \$1.5 million in income, annually. Now you know where to start looking for tax increases.

Let us be creative in the search for new, increased taxes. If you buy a typical newspaper you pay only forty-seven cents, plus three cents sales tax. Your friend goes to his/her favorite fast food eatery. They have super burritos for only ninety-nine cents. Your bill is, however, one dollar six cents because...yes...a sales tax. We'll return to this a bit later.

The Republicans in the state legislature strongly oppose any tax increase. Their mantra is, "Cut, cut, cut." Fair enough! Let us cut. We might cut, 100 percent, of the funding for California state universities and the University of California. That's correct, cut them out of our budget completely. But that still isn't enough to balance the budget! Let us now look at some really large ideas - how about closing, for six full months, our vaunted prison system? Now that is a great idea, correct? Just ask the GOP up in Sacramento. Here is another great idea that the Republicans will love: right after the Presidents' Day Holiday, (February 16, 2009), why not close all the public schools for the rest of the school year?

Let us assume, for now, that the federal government would allow this, but how about slashing the state human services and health budgets by about...70 percent?

If we follow the above Republican suggestions we could, just about, 'solve' our budget problem. Now we must do ALL of these, or at least some combination of these budget reductions, or we will not be able to balance California's state budget even if we eliminated everything else in the budget! How do you like them apples?

In the 'old days' we would be looking at deficit funding of programs (fixing our roads, levees and bridges come to mind) designed to put people back to work. They would become tax producers rather than tax consumers.

The state would be modernized and in a far better position to compete in this century. We can't do that! Why? Well we, you and me, and Gov. Schwarzenegger, passed umteen billions of dollars in bonds to balance previous budgets, (think of this as using a credit card to pay off other debts.) We are now 'maxed out'. We have no more credit. We can't borrow a thin dime from anybody.

So...we cannot borrow to solve our fis-

support literacy

cal problems. We are not going to close all the public universities in California. Likewise we are not about to open the gates of the state prisons. We can hope that the Obama Administration will help bail out California but rather than waiting to see if the US Senate will be able to stop a GOP filibuster in April, (by which time we might well be in economic quicksand), we just might consider a...a...tax increase, an income surcharge on the wealthiest 15 percent of families in the state. Along with some moderate budget reductions, this is a plan that just might get us to a promised land of reasonable taxes and reasonable expenditures. But that might be a topic for another day. Hopefully we can solve one problem at a time.

Art L. Isgur
a_igur@yahoo.com

EVENT CALENDAR

• thru Feb. 5, Paintings by Kirk Lowry & Iris Williams, Ojai Art Center, Reception Jan. 11, 1-3pm, S. Montgomery

info. 646-0117, or 640-6558

• Jan. 14, Crowfoot - Appalachian/Quebecois fusion Trio sensation, 7pm, Ojai Valley Woman's Club, 441 E. Ojai Ave., Tickets Avail. Ojai Creates, 606 E. Ojai Ave., Serendipity Toys, 221 E. Matilija St.

info. 665-8852

• Jan. 16, Upstairs Downtown Tour, Ventura, SanBuenaventura Conservancy is opening the doors of Downtown Ventura to reveal its secrets with an architectural and an archaeological tour, revealing some of the rarely seen interior spaces of Downtown Ventura - wome of which remain as nearly locked in time capsules. Included in the tour is the interior of the 1928 Elks Lodge, Erle Stanley Gardner's actual office. A special treat of this tour is an extremely rare inside look at the 1920s Washington Hotel, not seen by the public for nearly 50 years. The interior access stairs, originally U-shaped hallways, door and window trims, transoms and room numbers are as they were over 80 years ago. An extraordinary rare architectural feature for Ventura is the intact light well with individual windows at the rear of each guest room that opens into a secret corridor., 4-7pm.

Events Continued Page 7...

Ojai's Bridge to Nowhere



Photo. © 2009, Joel Anderson

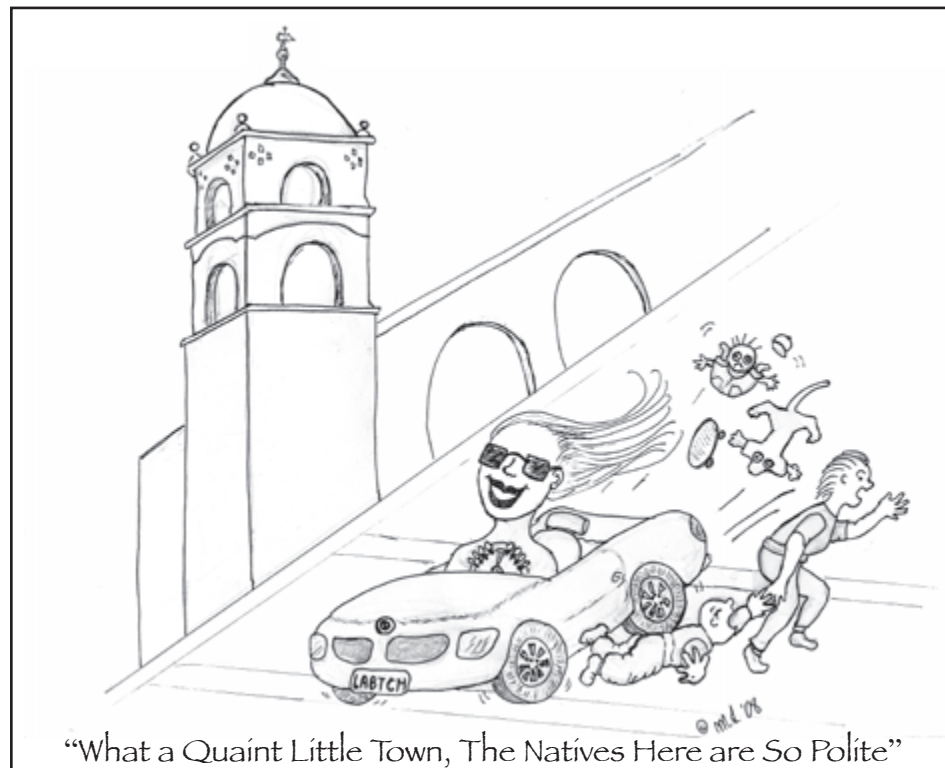
A Symbol of wasted millions, the San Antonio Creek "detour" bridge echoes the fatal design flaws of the doomed Thatcher Creek bridge which failed during the torrential rains of 1969.

"You seek truth as if it were the opposite of what you are."
— Krishnamurti

SPECIAL EVENT - PAULA KLEIN

Paula Klein (aka Paula Diets) will be celebrating her 53rd Birthday with her 1st Concert January 23rd. For more location/time info. go to paulaklein1@yahoo.com, after Jan. 12.

Paula Klein, Ojai
320-2313



"What a Quaint Little Town, The Natives Here are So Polite"

Letter

Understanding Gen

Dear Editor:
Earth Friend Gen, nudist she:
"There are some parts of me the law says you can't see unless you've a degree and it ends in M.D."

Robert Wolfe
Ojai



"Simple pleasures are the last refuge of the complex."
— Oscar Wilde

Last Weeks
NEWSPAPERS PILING UP?
Nobody picking them up?

Recycle!
Santa Paula/Saticoy
Standard Industries
1905 Lirio Road, Saticoy
805/643-6669

LETTER - 'I'M NO AXE GRINDER'

'Mystery' Person from L.A. Disses Ojai-Ventura View

Dear Editor:
I don't 'get' your paper. I'm not sure what your mission is. I have read it from time to time over the years, and have enjoyed it. It always was quirky and quaint, but had some kind of cohesion. Having just looked at the Dec. '08 View, my impression of it is...a chaotic, run-on sentence, with heavier-than-usual outbursts from the usual suspects. The graphics are reminiscent of when we manually cut-and-pasted (with wax) the columns into our high school paper.

I don't know, or care, if there has been a change of ownership lately, nor do I have political motivations or an ax to grind. I'm only writing because I want to see you guys do well. The region needs an informative, creative weekly paper. I used to look forward to pick-Axe-Grinder Continued Page 21...

Letters are Welcomed
editor@ojaiandventuraview.com

the Ojai and Ventura Real
VIEW

Editorial Policy

The Ojai & Ventura VIEW is FREE, owned by Stealthkat Publications, edited, and written by contributors, Printed by Western Web, 15,000 distributed in the Ojai & Ventura Gold Coast Region. Views in the VIEW do not necessarily reflect those of the editorial board, local government, corporations, advertisers or other dependent entities. Requests for news or feature coverage, or concerns about editorial or advertising content should be addressed to the editor. Sole responsibility for content of The Ojai & Ventura VIEW rests with the VIEW Editor and Editorial Board. VIEW graphic/content is copyrighted by Stealthkat Publications. After publication in the VIEW, the copyright of all written, visual and artistic material reverts back to the author, photographer, artist or advertiser, special agreements notwithstanding.

Distribution

Limit: One Copy Per Reader.
The VIEW may be distributed by authorized personnel/distributors only.



No person, without the permission of the publisher of the VIEW, may take more than one copy of each VIEW issue unless \$2 is paid to the Publisher for each issue.

For further information, contact:
circulation@OjaiandVenturaView.com
Letters & Submissions
Letters to the Editor & Submissions must be signed. Multiple publication submissions are discouraged. All letters must include name, address, and accessible phone number clearly printed. Names may be withheld, but not always, upon request. Libel will not be printed. All correspondence should be directed to:

the Ojai & Ventura VIEW
P.O. Box 1824, Ojai, CA 93024
editor@OjaiandVenturaView.com
Phone info: 805/640-8439 (640-VIEW)

Advertising
Advertising inquiries should be directed to:
the Ojai & Ventura VIEW
advertise@OjaiandVenturaView.com
We Reserve the Right to Refuse Any Advertising.
OjaiandVenturaView.com

911 Ventura: Hindsight is better than NO Sight...

R. ELLIS SMITH



Ventura's 911 Fee may go the way of the DoDo bird! Well, well, it seems once again the **Gang in the Ivory Tower**, (*Ventura city council*) using their ingrained power of "Hindsight" has begun to re-look at their ill-thought-out decision to raise the 911 fee to, as they put it, raise money to hire more Cops and Firefighters. **Mayor Christy Weir** said the raising of the 911 fee was one of the hardest decisions she ever had to make, almost as hard as deciding what her new hair color should be, I'll bet.

Of course **Councilman Neal Andrews** took a running jump (*at his size that's real difficult*), to make sure he was on the front of the bandwagon, after wearing a **McCain for President** badge for the last year and his guy taking a shellacking at the polls, I guess he figured he had to do something to improve his position with the voters, (*he is coming up for re-election*). Even **Councilman Brian Brennan** accused **Neal** of "grandstanding".

Of course the three most elitist **Council Members**, **Bill Fulton**, **Ed Summers**, and **Carl Morehouse** are all still undecided as to the fate of the 911 fee; they still have visions of millions of extra dollars running

rampant in their heads.

At this time, the 911 fee is facing a class-action lawsuit; **City Attorney, Mr. Ariel (Golden Boy) Calonne** stated that he would be handling the brunt of the legal defense, but said he could need outside help which could be costly. What, Lawyers are costly? I guess the 6 other people **Mr. Calonne** has in his office are just decorations, not used for any real work.

The Gang in the Ivory Tower figured the increased 911 fee would pay for most of the **\$3.3 million** cost of the present 911 system and they would have a big ol' pot of extra money to dip into.

Does anybody see any resemblance to the other major ill-thought-out decision that the **Gang in the Ivory Tower** made a few years ago to install "**Red Light Intersection Cameras**?" This plan was going to bring in **\$5,000,000** per year to the cities coffers. Not only did the **\$5,000,000** per year not appear but the city actually still loses a couple of hundred thousand dollars a year on that one.

Andrews said the confusion and frustration over the fee have eroded the public's trust and confidence in local government. This only goes to show how far out of touch **Neal Andrews** truly is. I hesitate to tell him that the trust and confidence in local government has been greatly eroded for many years, if it were to erode any further it would become a vast swamp land.

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

Small Biz: Tips for Success

— Jefferson Pinto

First things first, play your strength — your small size. Do exactly the opposite of what the big box retailer like Wal-Mart and Target does. As we slip into the dark ages, the art of customer service and value are soon becoming long lost arts. You can get the biggest bang for your buck in these two categories.

Improve your service:

This is the easiest way to differentiate your business from the star and the Bull's-eye. I'm not sure what Ms. "Spinster" Manors would say, but my take: If you have employees, train them.

- Out service the competition before, during and after the sale (sort of like the bionic man; make your service Better, stronger, faster)

- Be positive. Don't whine about the economy/election/global warming. If they want some negative validation, they can watch the 6 o'clock news on their own TV in HD at home.

- Listen and smile
- Make direct eye contact
- Be patient — Acting like you're in a rush tends to make customers uncomfortable as though they are putting you out.

- If you can't solve their problem, admit it and say, "I'd rather turn you down than let you down. May I suggest contacting _____"

- Don't be desperate. Dogs can smell your adrenaline when you panic, so can customers.

- Be genuine — Avoid the over-used canned greetings like. "How are you doing today?" Be yourself, no one

is more qualified than you. Greet someone the way you'd greet an acquaintance. "good morning/afternoon/evening", "Whasssssss uuuuuuuup", "Howdy".

- Don't be too politically correct; It wrecks of corporate phony bologna. Wishing someone a **Merry Christmas** or **Happy Hanukah/Chanukah**, **Happy Kwanza** is not offensive to most. If they bolt when you wish them a gesture from your person, se la vie (add **French** accent). Personally, I'm honored when someone of a different faith offers a happy _____ from a faith different from mine. How cool is it that they will offer me the best of what works for them in their life.

- Strike a balance between overbearing and customer neglect. "Can I help you find something?", "What brings you in today"

Change the value equation.

Avoid price competition: Instead of getting into the price war (sort of like starting a sword fight with a samurai) offer value in the form of:

- Offer unique or slightly better products or services
- Be more flexible
- Don't cater to penny pinchers, they aren't typically loyal to anything except the engraved dead presidents.

- Offer a special promotion that includes discounts. Be careful not to lower the lake and water down your image or reputation for quality.

- Promote your local business status and size. We've proudly lived in and serviced the people of this community for X years or Y generations.

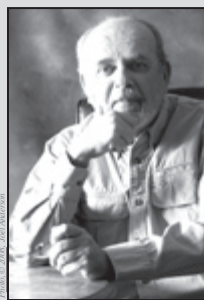
— Jefferson Pinto



"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!"



Can You Forgive Yourself? Ψ Can You Forgive Others?

Let's just hope the old saying '*the darkest hour is before dawn*' is true, because 2008 has been a very dark year. What on earth is going on in our present day culture? Our outgoing administration, who suffered from the disease of conceit, has left a hell of a mess behind. Poverty, homelessness, anxiety and fear are all around us. Sometimes it feels like the powers of destruction and creation are in a raging life and death struggle. Where there is light, there is shadow. Progress has brought us the healing power of penicillin and the light bulb, but also the abyss of **Hiroshima**.

Here are some questions for 2009. How much of our gross, excessive consumption is based on environmental degradations and destruction? How much are we, here in the west, beneficiaries of the exploitation of others on different continents? How much time do we spend watching television, shopping, desperately trying to make money, or trying to get laid...? Or all four? Are we going ninety miles an hour down a dead end street? How much have we traded in our daily creativity and joyfulness for social approval, economic success and buying things? Readers will have to answer these questions for themselves.

How do we heal our planet and ourselves? Several decades ago, a major conference was held in Dallas, I believe. The topic was '*Evil in the World*'. A lot of big guns from science, government, literature, Nobel laureates, medical doctors etc. showed up with all their theories regarding evil. When it was **Maya Angelou's** turn to speak, she got up and said something like, '*We can't talk about evil in the world unless we talk about the evil inside all of us....right here in this room.*' Wow! Bingo! What courage! This concurs with **Carl Jung**, who, at the end of his life, was asked what his hope was for our planet and his answer was, '*There is only hope if enough individuals do the inner shadow work!*' What is shadow work? It is living the examined inner life. It is the courageous acknowledgement that yes I can be greedy, selfish, cold, cowardly, cruel and yes...evil! This has been the content of many of my articles, as those readers that have hung in there with me over the years, know.

Therefore, it appears that we cannot really heal the planet unless we heal ourselves. Likewise, we can't love someone else unless we love ourselves. How? Here are some hints from **Jungian** psychology and **Native American Toltec** traditions I have gotten from **James Hollis, Ph.D.** and **Don Miguel Ruiz**.

Living the examined life, we explore the depths of our souls, both light and dark. It appears that if we don't go willingly into the shadow, eventually we will be dragged down via depression, anxiety, loneliness, illness, etc. Whatever we are not willing to face in ourselves will eventually hit us like a Mack truck. For myself, I know I've been lied to and I lied, I've been cheated and I've cheated, I've been betrayed and I've betrayed, I've been the recipient of cruelty and I've been cruel. The first step towards healing is to look in the mirror and stare at the naked TRUTH. Not what I want to be to others, but who I truly am...warts and all. Truth is painful, but it is the primary medicine. In my work, I know that eventually I have to tell my patients the truth, but truth has to be anchored in compassion, tolerance and love! The art of psychotherapy, as I know it, is speaking the truth at the right time.

After becoming conscious of the truth and the dark within us, comes the next step in our healing, namely forgiving others and ourselves. If we do not forgive ourselves and others, we will feel sick and poison ourselves with smoldering resentment, hate, jealousy, envy, revenge etc. Forgiveness is an act of self-love. Just maybe, the healing of our planet begins with healing ourselves. If I know I have a dark side within, I can be much more tolerant and empathic of others who have a dark side also. I do believe life can change if I forgive others and myself. So here is the process we talked about. First, we honestly and courageously face the truth about ourselves, including our darkness, with this acceptance of self in its totality comes self-love and forgiveness and love for others. Truth, forgiveness and love of self and others can heal our planet. Love always accelerates healing.

P.S. Dear Proprietor/Editor Joel Anderson and assistant editor Mary Long,

I want to thank you both for putting my articles in the *Ojai and Ventura View*. These articles have brought soulful people into my life and for that I am deeply grateful. As you know, our mutual friend, **Jeffrey SanMarchi**, editor and proprietor of the '*Voice*' died a year ago. This article as well as all the others is dedicated to him. Jeff would be proud of his lineage.

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

PETER RUDOLF MILHADO, PH.D.

Lic #MFT14142

35 Years Experience

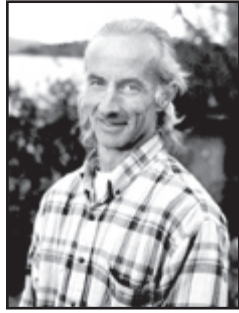
(805) 640-1810

Extensive Experience With Folks Over Forty
and Artists In All Creative Fields

Send your Letters
editor@ojaiandventuraview.com

Global Warming Update: China/US Show Increases

by Alasdair Coyne



The start of a new year is a good time to look at developments concerning global warming over the past 12 months.

While the topic has certainly stayed central in the minds of many citizens and policy-makers around the world, scientific studies have revealed up-to-date assessments of the risks posed by global warming to the ecological systems

that support our resource-intensive lifestyles. The assessments are not good.

Over much of the past decade, climate scientists have estimated that global warming could be limited to a 2 degrees centigrade increase, if global warming emissions were brought under early control and reduced. Emissions have however risen in recent years at a faster rate than ever, and some scientists now say it will be impossible to prevent an estimated 4.3 degrees centigrade of warming. Bear in mind that the last time the planet was 5 degrees warmer was 35-55 million years ago, when swampy forests were the predominant vegetation, and alligators lived close to the **North Pole**.

A climate change study released in early December, which took two years to complete, was produced by the **US Climate Change Science Center**. As well as predicting long-term drying of the **Southwestern US**, it foresees global sea levels rising by 4 feet this century. This means goodbye to hundreds of cities worldwide as we now know them, from **New York** to **London** and **Miami**, and disastrous losses of human living space in densely populated countries such as **Bangladesh**.

What's more, this recent study sounds an alarm about the risk of abrupt climate changes, which are predicted to occur when particular "tipping points" are reached. One example of a tipping point is when the **Arctic Ice Sheet** melts so much that the exposed dark mass of sea water absorbs enough solar heat that it does not freeze over again. (*This is in contrast to a glaring white ice cap, which reflects the solar heat back into the atmosphere.*) A tipping point marks a permanent shift to a new set of climate conditions.

Tom Armstrong, a senior advisor for global change programs at the **US Geological Survey**, stated that "there are really no policies in place to deal with abrupt climate change."

CHINA OVERTAKES THE US

Several developed nations managed to reduce their carbon dioxide emissions in 2007, including **Denmark** (8 percent), the **UK and Germany** (3 percent), and **France and Australia** (2 percent). On the other hand, **US** emissions rose by 2 percent. Those in **China** and **India**, two emerging industrialized nations, also rose steeply; in **China's** case by 7.5 percent, which is equivalent to one half of the 2007 worldwide increase. **China** is now the world's largest emitter of carbon dioxide.

Another problem is that the planet's oceans and forests, which were able to absorb a whopping 57 percent of carbon dioxide emissions between 1959 and 2000, are now absorbing only 54 percent of these emissions. In other words, they are getting maxed out in terms of their ability to absorb excess carbon dioxide, which is increasingly going to stay in the atmosphere instead, and speed up global warming.

Benjamin Santer, an atmospheric scientist at the **Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory** calls it "kind of scary" that the recent growth in worldwide carbon dioxide emissions exceeds the highest growth predicted only two years ago by the **International Panel on Climate Change**.

A global climate change conference in **Poland** in December produced "the bare minimum of what we needed for the talks," according to **Jennifer Haverkamp** with the **Environmental Defense Fund**. Several developing nations offered concrete plans to cut back their carbon dioxide emissions — including **Mexico** and **South Africa**. **Brazil** committed to reduce deforestation by 70 percent by 2017 — deforestation being responsible for about 20 percent of global carbon dioxide emissions.

Unresolved were basic questions of equitably balancing emissions cuts between rich and

poor nations. The conference in **Poland** was a stepping stone towards a new international climate change treaty in December of 2009.

AL GORE'S FIVE-POINT PLAN

In a November opinion piece in the *New York Times*, **Al Gore** spelled out his five-point plan to repower **America**, with a commitment to providing 100 percent of our electricity from carbon-free sources within 10 years. This plan would also result in a large degree of independence from overseas sources of oil and gas. Firstly, the **Obama Administration and Congress** should offer large-scale incentives for solar, wind and geothermal energy sources. Second, we should plan and build a unified, nationwide "smart grid" for the distribution of renewable electricity from its rural sources to the cities where it's needed. The cost would be around **\$400 billion** over 10 years.

Third, we should convert the nation's automobile industry to build plug-in hybrids to run on renewable electricity. This has the added benefit of the hybrid vehicles being charged overnight, during off-peak hours.

Fourth, we should get going on nationwide programs to make our buildings more energy-efficient. About 40 percent of carbon dioxide emissions in the **US** are from the energy needs of buildings for heating, cooling, and lighting.

Fifth and lastly, we should put a price on the burning of carbon fuels, to encourage greater investments in clean energy both nationally and internationally. This would include programs to slow deforestation worldwide.

CALIFORNIA CONTINUES TO LEAD THE WAY

In December, **California's Air Resources Board** unanimously approved a 134-page plan to reduce our state's global warming emissions by 15 percent from today's levels by 2020. The plan would require one third of **California's** electricity to come from renewable sources — far more than any other state has pledged till now. More than 43,000 comments were received by the **Air Resources Board** in the 18 months of public hearings that went into the new plan. Cuts to automobile carbon emissions are slated for 31 percent; cuts through energy efficiency, improved appliances and green buildings will total 20 percent; cap-and-trade transactions to foster greener energy will save 34 percent over current usage.

Details of the plan include incentives for local governments to reduce urban sprawl (which requires more car trips); capturing methane at landfills; the manufacture of much more efficient vehicles; and using less energy to transport and to treat water is a key factor — currently this uses up 20 percent of all the energy used in the state!

It's anybody's guess whether **California's** ambitious plans can spur the world to a greener future in time to stop severe changes to our planet's ecosystems that will threaten agriculture and the economy. **California's** energy use — although equivalent to the world's eighth largest economy — is still only 1.5 percent of the global total.

THE END OF OUR FULL-SPEED AHEAD CONSUMER CULTURE

It would be nice to think that concerned policy-makers were moving as one to address worsening global climate change. In fact, the inertia of business as usual is enormous — the global corporate machinery that devours the planet's minerals, forests and crops to design, manufacture and transport the plethora of consumer goods we believe we need. Politicians are still largely beholden to political contributions from the oil and gas and defense industries, though the reality of our situation requires a speedy shifting of government subsidies from these industries towards major green infrastructure programs.

Let's look at it this way — at a growth rate of 3 percent, the global economy doubles each 23 years. **Professor Rod Smith** of the **UK's Royal Academy of Engineering** has shown that "each successive doubling period

consumes as much resources as all the previous doubling periods combined."

In other words, a 3 percent growth rate between now and 2041 will consume as much natural resources of all sorts, as has been used by all humanity up until 2008. Obviously the goal of incessant growth is up against limited amounts of available natural resources, as well as the risks of global climate change. **Herman Daly's** book "*Steady State Economics*" is a good place to look further into how economics work at the end of growth as we have known it.

IS THE RECESSION A TIMELY NUDGE IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION?

If the richer nations are to drastically lessen their use of energy and resources over the coming decades, in order to limit the growth of global warming, people must first learn to focus their financial resources on what they really need, rather than what advertising has persuaded them to purchase.

It is interesting that the current recession is upon us exactly when it is vital to reduce the fossil fuel energy we consume daily. Perhaps the recession can serve as a reminder of what is more important than the quantity of stuff we surround ourselves with, whose manufacture is causing the planet to overheat.

Certainly, incoming **President Obama** seems set to focus more determinedly on the problem of global warming than has **President Bush**. His choice for **Secretary of Energy**, **Nobel-prize winning Steve Chu**, is someone who takes climate change seriously.

WHAT ARE WE TO DO?

The list of ways to reduce your carbon footprint is long enough to allow plenty of leeway for approaching the problem in your own way.

First, there's your house, which on average consumes 40 percent of our energy in the **US**. Replacing older appliances, as they wear out, with the most efficient models is straightforward. Having an energy audit of your home can reveal numerous ways to stop wasting energy. Invest in solar electric panels on your roof.

Second, your transportation energy, which is the next largest chunk of your individual energy consumption. Basically, try to drive less and carpool, or use mass transit or a bicycle more. Then there's flying, still the fastest growing transportation choice. It's crazy to be expanding airports at a time of runaway climate change. Help reverse this trend by flying a lot less often, and for shorter distances.

Third, there's the energy it takes to produce the food and goods you purchase. Buying locally grown foods is a great alternative. Avoid buying summer fruits and vegetables in wintertime, which are often shipped many thousands of miles. Buying more fresh foods also avoids the energy used to process and wrap and ship all the packaged foods in the supermarket.

Step away from the addiction to stuff, whether gadgets, clothes, or whatever. And talk to your family and friends to spread the word.

FOCUS ON THE LOCAL

While global climate change can seem too enormous a problem to confront, a lot of the solutions are local in nature and lend themselves to local activism. Locally, we can support producers of fresh fruits and vegetables. We can support local initiatives to generate renewable energy, at the household and/or community level. We can work to make public transportation more plentiful and available. We can support recycling efforts, and the local reuse of the recycled materials collected locally.

OTHER RESOURCES

Scientists are taking their climate change message directly to the public at web sites such as: realclimate.org, climatepolicy.org, climateethics.org

An informative web site encouraging energy and resource efficient building practices with a focus on *Global Warming Continued Page 8...*

RTC
LANDSCAPE

- Complete Tree Service Full Service
- Landscape Maintenance & Installation

Finest, Fairest
in Ventura County
Tiffany Smith
• 648-6766 - office
• 477-8401 - cell

**MOUNTAIN
MEADOWS
NURSERY**

Bare Root, Fruit Trees, Grapes, Berries • 646-0714
245 Old Baldwin Road • Ojai, CA 93023

Bailing Out Detroit: Pump it Up or Let it Go Flat ?

by Jefferson Pinto

Last month I addressed the need to define the problem, prioritize, and formulate a solution. This month, I'll introduce a framework for evaluating solutions.

One of the biggest challenges with developing solutions is to ensure the proposed solution actually addresses the core problem and underlying causes. This sort of assumes the problem or objective is accurately and clearly defined as well as agreed upon.

1. Solution/Evaluation Matrix

Problem/Cause	Solutions		
Problem: Auto Companies are nearly out of cash to run day to day operations. Cause: They are producing undesirable cars as evidenced by their decreasing market share relative to foreign competitors growing market share.	Solution 1: Cash Bail Out	Solution 2: Appoint Car Czar	Solution 3: Do not intercede: Let company restructure (File for Bankruptcy)
Is solution effective ?	Barely: Temporarily effective until they run out of cash as new car development cycle is ~3 to 4 years. It doesn't address core cause.	No: Like government "management" will solve marketing problem...	Yes: Company will have economic liposuction, heal, and will come back strong and more competitive. It's time to take their medicine.
Monetary Cost:	a) 20 something billion dollars or \$68 per citizen b) share holders value will be adjusted downward to actual	Not quantified	Unemployment benefits to laid off workers (for which they already paid into the fund)
Cost not to do it:	Unemployment benefits to laid off workers	None	Little incremental cost
Primary Benefits:	Top dogs will likely be ousted by shareholders	None are apparent	Self correcting, it will address the core issue
Primary Beneficiaries:	Shareholders of auto companies & suppliers	Unknown	Future car buyers
Undesirable Side Effects:	Sets a bad precedent and other hungry "kitties" will come for a handout	Adding another unnecessary person to the government payroll	None
Existing solutions:	Bankruptcy like all other troubled companies	Bankruptcy like all other troubled companies	Unemployment system is already established and funded
Conclusion:	Ineffective and costly solution	Half baked shoot from the hip ineffective ill developed solution	Best Solution: Effective Cost Efficient, Addresses core issues and causes

2) Realize government intervention has its limitations. The sad reality is public policy (*legislative or judicial*) is not right tool for all problems. Some problems are outside the realistic capability of our government to handle effectively or efficiently. Things in this category include:

- Raising children or anything else that involves a huge commitment is best handled by a loving competent family member. The epitome of this was manifest in the movie *The Truman Show* (1998) when a corporation owned a child and exploited him for the ultimate reality TV show.

- Preventing people from injuring themselves. The other day my son asked me, "Dad, is it illegal to kill yourself." I replied, "Yes, only if you do it all at once." It's difficult to care more for someone's health than they do. Smoking is the single most common behavior that leads to more preventable deaths in this country than any other. Let's face, it obesity is a huge problem in this country (Sorry for the pun, I couldn't resist). While it's convenient to blame the convenient drive through restaurant with the happy clown and the cigarette touting camel or cowboy, personal accountability of one's own health is something outside the reach of legislation.

- Bestowing "common sense" on those who lack it. Public policy doesn't work well if you design it for the lowest common denominator of society. You can't talk

(without a headset) or text while driving. If someone lacks the judgment to get off the phone or pull over, maybe **Darwinism** isn't such a bad thing. Besides, why do the rest of us who can walk and chew gum need to be inconvenienced? The cruel irony: the very same people that are too narcissistic to act responsibly won't change their behavior as a result of a new law.

3) Make sure the cure isn't worse than the original ailment

In my prior life, there was a problem with "missing" inventory. Understandably, management got kind of agitated and wanted it to stop. One of the suggested solutions was to add an additional form for verification. Because of the intense pressure to stem the losses, this suggestion floated around the room for about 15 minutes. I took all I could take and I could take it no mo'.

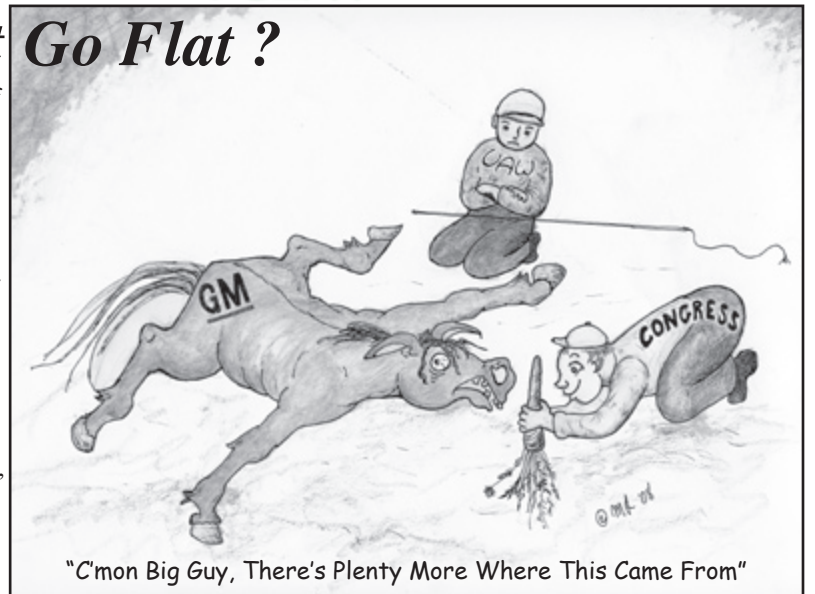
Finally said, "Folks that solution is the worst of both worlds: it creates additional administrative burden for the honest folks and it won't stop the dishonest folks. A real fix is to control the exits of the warehouse, and have all orders checked by another qualified and trained employee against the documentation upon exiting." (Sort of like when they check your receipt when you leave the big club warehouse stores.)

The poster child for "way too much too late" is the **Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002**. It was passed after huge fraud failures: **Enron Debacle** (The largest corporate malfeasance in history whereby the magnitude of the fraud exceeded the entire annual dollar value of blue collar crime in the country.) **Tyco International, Adelphia, Peregrine Systems and WorldCom**, etc. In each of these cases, the cause wasn't a lack of rules or procedures; it was caused by circumventing the existing rules (high level management fraud and collusion with the auditors). See why it's important to define the problem and causes before you formulate a solution?

Sarbanes-Oxley (SOX) not completely merit less; however, it comes closer to zero merit than to some reasonable merit. In its simplest form, **SOX** imposed a lot of redundant oversight committees, forms, and approvals/signatures on publicly traded companies.

4) Retrospect Analysis: One of the best tools to analyze the effectiveness of a policy is to go back in time and evaluate whether it would have worked on the past problems it is purporting to solve.

The above corporate irregularities (a polite word for fraud) were perpetrated by high level executives and or the now defunct auditors of **Arthur Anderson**. Making a crook sign a piece of paper stating they are telling the truth is like leaving fresh meat on the counter and telling



the dog not to eat just before you step out of the room. The additional piece of paper doesn't prevent anything it only helps in the prosecution after all the money is already "out of the barn". Instead of calling the **Sarbanes-Oxley** the "**Public Company Accounting Reform and Investor Protection Act of 2002**" a more appropriate name is the "**Accountancy Full Employment Act of 2002**."

5) Size up the cost

In concept, most people can all agree there is some cost associated with a solution; but, do we understand how the costs manifest themselves? It's no wonder goods can be manufactured in China and shipped half way across the world at a lower cost. Governmental cholesterol is one of the leading killers of jobs, productivity and global competitiveness (Another failure of our "economic health system").

I advocate gaining an understating of cost prior to executing the solution. Do we really understand what something costs? In its simplest form there are three costs in life: The cost to get it, the cost to keep it, and the cost to get rid of it.

Quantitatively, dollar costs are one thing. Qualitative personal "costs" are another. When you got married or decided to have children, did you understand the cost? (That's OK, I didn't either.) Sometimes you're committed, and that's life. My point, quantify the problem with known costs or reasonably estimatable costs.

In an earlier article, I advocated to stipulate the CPC or Cost Per Citizen. It's easier for most folks to comprehend if they see how much it costs them personally. I stand behind this recommendation.

4) Don't go grocery shopping when you're hungry

Stated in the positive, go grocery shopping on a full stomach. The pictures on the outside of the boxes start looking very good when you're hungry. It's easy to act irrationally and buy too much food. (I learned this the hard way in college.) The **Enron/Sarbanes-Oxley** was done when the embers were still hot and the wounds were still raw. Let the ashes cool and call in an expert fire investigator before buying more hoses and installing more hydrants.

5) Determine if government intervention always necessary

Sometimes doing nothing is the best solution. This reminds me of an old joke my father used to tell: This guy goes to the doctor and is told he needs to have one of his prized appendages amputated. He objects and seeks

Bail-Out Continued Page 11...



2110 Thompson Blvd - Ventura
support@venturahighspeed.com
(805) 643-4375

- Business Internet Solutions
- On-Site Computer Support
- Residential Internet Service
- Mac & PC Repair
- Website Hosting & Design
- Virus Removal & Protection

Ventura High Speed Internet provides fast, reliable and quality technical repair, maintenance, sales and solid upgrades on both PC's and Apple Computers.

We know hardware, software, and internet connect issues!
Integrity and Service that Can't be Beat !!!



Complimentary phone consultations
Free consultations for artists

Elizabeth Stewart

Certified Appraiser

Accurate
Qualified
Objective
Experienced

805.895.5005

What's it worth? \$

Find out for:

- Insurance
- Market Evaluation
- Estate Planning
- Inheritance
- Moving and Downsizing

elizabethappraisals@gmail.com

Grounds: Coffee Comfort

by Lorraine Mariz



Comfort Food is a food or drink that satisfies a craving caused by anxiety, nervousness, or something you just can't name. Comfort Food also evokes nostalgia for older, simpler times. Lately, the combination of dark winter mornings and evenings, and current events have caused me to observe that coffee and other hot drinks are wonderful comfort food.

People think of coffee as a wake-up and energizer. Coffee is those things but it also satisfies other needs. At **Java & Joe**, after 9-11am but while the weather was still warm; we made tons of blended mochas and cold, flavored lattes. The sweet, cold drinks are like ice cream or a piece of cake. They satisfy a need to indulge in something sweet and rich.



As the weather gets cooler and the days shorter people also need warmth. Rainy days especially call for cafe lattes and cappuccinos. Milky, foamy drinks are soft and soothing, like a hug you can drink (hokey, but true). On cold, rainy days we make mostly lattes. Coffee houses in the Pacific Northwest also sell mostly cafe lattes year round; it's that grey, wet weather.

Other hot drinks also provide comfort. All kids (and adults) like warm cocoa or cider when they come in from a cold, rainy, or long day. What about tea? In many parts of the world "what you need is a good cup of tea" is a phrase that's suits many occasions. Everyone knows that herb teas are among the few things that comfort sufferers of colds and flu. And remember **Beatrix Potter's Peter Rabbit**? After his hard day getting caught in **Mr. McGregor's** garden, **Peter's** mother put him to bed with a cup of chamomile tea.

So when you need comfort, remember your local coffee house. We provide feel-better beverages and we are glad to help.

Lorraine Mariz, Java and Joe, Ojai

SPECIAL EVENT - OJAI'S NORDHOFF HIGH CENTENNIAL COMMITTEE SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

Nordhoff School District started in 1909. The Ojai Museum will be installing a Nordhoff High School exhibit this spring as part of the Centennial Celebration. The group is welcoming enthusiastic community involvement in the project and also to serve on the committee. Contact Richard at the Ojai Valley Museum, 640-1390

Wine And Roses

by Ron Rowe



Chill airs, and wintry winds, my ear has grown familiar with your song, I hear it in the opening year, I listened and it cheers me long — from the poem, *Winter, by Longfellow*.

And yet another year greets us, the world is happy to see the old year end. **New Year's Day** was full of promises and fresh beginnings, of turning over a new leaf, with lots of resolutions to help us on the way. Alas and woe, so many good resolutions fall by the wayside within days of their being made. The intriguing question I pose, does it make any difference? Our valiant and determined efforts to keep our resolutions, are we really masters of our fate or are we pre-destined to live a life already mapped out for us? If so, resolutions on an exercise in futility, are they? One thing, we hope that **Pres-elect Obama** will keep his promises to the **US** and the world.

So many people write to me and say they overindulged at the **New Year's** parties, if you are one of them and still feel blah, try a **Bull's-Eye**; pour a jigger each of vodka and apple-jack into a tall glass, and filled with chilled champagne, or, **A Kiss in the Dark**, pour a jigger each of gin, blackberry brandy and dry vermouth, then fill with cold champagne. If these don't work, don't drink until next year or take two aspirin and call me a week later.

The new owners of **Coffee Emporium** restaurant lack the **Christmas** and more importantly, the **Ojai** spirit. Although the restaurant is closed at night, the owners have chained off the parking lot. Every previous owner has allowed the **Art Center Theater** patrons to park in the lot. In turn, the theater has given free full page ads in their programs and encouraged theater patrons to enjoy a dinner and see the show at a discount, plus checking the lot for any litter that may have been dropped. In spite of numerous meetings, the new owners continue with their **Scrooge-like-LA'-Spir-it**. What say you **Ojai** patrons?

Last week, I bumped into that young talented actress



Brittany Danyel finishing off her latte special at **Java and Joe** coffee shop. This young lady is one of those rare breed of women possessing, talent, beauty, intelligence, charm and wit. She is enjoying a brief respite after starring in the **Art Center Christmas** production, *It's a Wonderful Life*, of which I am certain broke all records for a two-

week **Christmas** run, playing to full houses for every performance. **Brittany** is preparing to audition for another play in February. She wouldn't divulge which play. This energetic lady is unattached at present, so, young men, a little info for you. She loves traveling, reads extensively, goes on nature hikes, and naturally the theater and is very fond of animals. I predict she will eventually be seen on the **London** and **New York** stages.

Speaking of the theater...the new **Globe Theatre** in **Stratford on Avon**, before the curtain rises on the play, two gentlemen of **Verona**, the ushers surprised the audience by saying, 'please be as loud, rude and obnoxious as you like, feel free to throw vegetables, mill about, eat, drink, yell bawdy remarks.' There are over 1000 seats priced from \$18-\$24. For a mere \$7.50 groundlings can stand in the yard in front of the stage and boo, cheer or hiss.

On Jan. 10 there is a time walk in **Matilija Canyon** with **Joel Robinson**. Meet at the farmer and cook restaurant. For more info check www.rsupovclouv.org

Greg Howe of **Dorset, England** surprised neighbors by buying a 35-foot **Christmas** tree and chopping it into three parts, putting the bottom 10-foot section in the downstairs den, the middle 10-foot in the bedroom directly above the den and the top section measuring 15 feet on the roof above the bedroom. When lit up and seen through the windows from the outside it appears to be one huge tree that has shot up through the house.

A preacher, **Mohammed Bello Masami**, age 84, was arrested in northern **Nigeria** for having 84 wives and 107 children, which infringes on **Islamic Laws**. He said, "God enables me to maintain such a large family. A man with 10 wives would collapse and die, but with my power given by **Allah**, I have been able to control 88 of them." A truly remarkable man. **Saudi Arabia** is the only country in the world in which all women, native and foreign are not allowed to drive, according to A.P.

The global financial crisis will add over 20 million people to the world's unemployed, bringing the total to 212 million by the end of next year. Plus the financial crisis has hit the art market. Last month, auctions at **Sothebys**, and **Christie's** brought in only 93 million, not the anticipated presale estimates of 206 million.

A sign in a four-star **Tokyo** hotel, *Is Forbidden please to steal towels, please if you are not person to do such terrible thing, Ignore this notice.*

Old wives remedies. For arthritis in the hands, knees, hips etc. consume a large handful of raisins soaked in gin.

Did you know over 15 percent of **Christmas** gifts are returned as not wanted.

I have done the calculations and your chances of winning the lottery are identical whether you play or not. Behind every successful man stands a surprised mother-in-law. If opportunity



Photo © 2009, Ron Rowe



SERENIPITY TOYS
Quality Playthings
For All Ages
10 - 5:30 • 7 Days a Week
Behind the Arcade • 646-2585

JAVA & JOE

SPECIALTY COFFEE, TEA AND GIFTS

is the place to find Ojai's

BIGGEST & BEST

COFFEE & TEA ASSORTMENT!

JAVA & JOE is located behind the Arcade in the heart of downtown Ojai
at 323 E. Matilija St., No. 105. (805) 646-3138

no sugar - no dairy - no guilt

Ojai Chocolat

Available at these fine locations

- Rainbow Bridge, Ojai
- Made in Ojai (on Matilija St.)
- Westridge Market, Ojai
- Montecito Natural Foods
- Farmer and the Cook, M.Oaks
- Ojai Sunday Farmers Market

chilipot-chocolat.com

646-0454



doesn't knock, build a door. If you are on the freeway and see traffic coming to you on both lanes, you are going in the wrong direction. If you can be disgruntled, can you be grunted when happy. A salami sausage snack list the ingredients as salt, pork, maltodextrin, e621 preservatives, sodium nitrate then at the bottom it states 100 percent pure meat, how is this possible?

Why is it that phenylalanine is used in so many of our soft drinks, and what is it?

Oh no, not again... a **British Rev.** required emergency surgery after a freak accident left him with a potato lodged in his rectum. **Trudy Watson**, an emergency room nurse who treated the clergyman said, the **Rev.** claimed he was hanging curtains naked in the kitchen when he fell backwards onto the kitchen table and onto the potato, I didn't question his story she said... This beats the **Rev.**, who was rescued from his living room, he was hanging from a beam dressed in a ballet dress, complete with tu tu and ballet shoes. A cleaning lady called the paramedics who saved him. He claimed he was trying to get into the spirit of *The Nutcracker Christmas* ballet, being produced at his church at **Christmas**. I have known many wacko revs in **England**, perhaps, that is why I am never surprised at their antics.

Another request from **Gregory**, a wine drinker living in **Ventura**. He wants to show his appreciation of the wine being offered at a friends house. How about **AH**, this fine wine is too lavish with its flavors. I compare it with the **Grande Ambureuse** who gives herself utterly, nakedly, and does not keep back the deepest secrets of her charm, but may lose the irresistible enchantment of mystery and find herself with nothing in reserve to hold her lover. When the first flood of passion is spent or try the following. This is a perfect bottle of wine, one of the most perfect wines imaginable. So simple, so gentle, teetering on the brink of the grave and with the quiet majesty of the sun. That has all but left a cloudless sky, and will in another second or too have disappeared into the sea.

Time now to sip a glass of **Stones** ginger wine, this **Christmas** wine of **England**, and to contemplate on the following, *Purer than the snow, subtler than the ether, is the self, the spirit within my heart, I am that self; that self am I.*

A happy, prosperous and healthy New Year to all readers.
your comments are welcome

Ron Rowe, Ojai
rhjrowe@aol.com

PLAZA PANTRY

ENGLISH TEA ROOM AND SPECIALTIES

Plaza Pantry Holiday Schedule

Closed for the Holiday from

Mon. Jan. 5 – Tues. Jan. 20, 2009

Re-Open: Wed. Jan 21, 2009 – 8-4pm

Thank you for your Patronage !!!

• Breakfast • Lunch &
• English Grocery Store

BREAKFAST FOR \$3.00

WED. THRU SUNDAY

8AM - 11AM

221 E. MATILILJA ST.

OJAI, CA

646-6325

Ventura Harbor Comedy Club Continues to Wow 'Em

by Amy Nicholas

Would comedy by any other name be as funny? It turns out that the **Ventura Harbor Comedy Club** is funnier than ever. Some of you may remember it as **Comedy at Hornblower's**, or more recently as **Comedy Esquire**, but the new owners of **Ventura's** funniest place in town want you to make no mistake about their jokes. They're not laughing at trumpet players or making fun of **English** gentry, they're bringing some of the hottest comedy acts from around the country to our own **Ventura Harbor**.

New owners, **Andres (Andy) Fernandez** and **Randy Lubas** – world renowned comedians in their own right – have created a seemingly endless lineup of top comedians to grace the stage of their intimate club. How? By convincing their all-star comedian friends into coming all the way to **Ventura** to put on a show for the local 21-and-up population. Who are these "stars" that are willing to perform in a little room with blue curtains all around in the fishy **Ventura Harbor**? If you watch **Comedy Central**, **Showtime** or **HBO**, the names **Bobby Collins**, **Craig Shumaker** and **Rob Little** probably mean something to you. They were last month's headliners. **Andy** and **Randy** even have wait staff capable of breaking into full operatic performance if called upon.

Andy and **Randy** must have some pretty good friends to get this kind of talent to our neck of the woods. But to keep it in perspective, these guys have been working alongside comedians such as **Drew Carey** for more than 50 years between them. **Andy's** humor is often referred to as "ethnic humor," but it's really more of a hilarious look into his family. "My mom is **Dominican** born and raised in **New York**. But my dad is really the 'ethnic' one. So a lot of my humor has to do with my take on my father and the way he was... which was not like all the other dads in the neighborhood. I mean he trimmed the hedges with a machete!" says **Fernandez**.

Randy's comedy takes more of a personalized, intelligent **Americano** approach. **Dick Versace**, **President of the Memphis Grizzlies** calls **Randy** "My favorite comedian! Clean, clever and smart. I had him perform with the **Indiana Pacers** for our troops, and for **The Grizzlies**. I would heartily recommend **Randy Lubas** for any (event)."

Judging by their sold-out shows and return guests, these guys know how to entertain. And they keep it fresh with weeknight themes ranging from **Rainbow Comedy to Clean Comedy to Jews Gone Wild**. Many shows also have a theme-inspired complementary dinner as well, with food catered from **Milano's Italian Restaurant**, **Margari-ta Villa**, **Harbor Sushi** or **Spinnaker's Seafood Broiler**.

"Everyone needs to laugh. At our club, it's cheaper than going to therapy," said **Fernandez**.

With ticket prices at \$15 for most shows and frequent 2-for-1 admission nights, these laugh-a-holics are serving up top-notch entertainment at prices that are cheaper than a movie out. And we all know we could use a little therapy after the holidays.

For more show times and information, please visit www.venturaharborcomedy-club.com or call 644-1500.

– Amy Nicholas

EVENT CALENDAR CONT.

Continued from Page 5...

available info. 310/305-7169

• **Jan. 17, Downtown Underground Tour**, led by archaeologist, **John Foster**: the actual consultants that discovered the mission ruins at the **Albinger Museum** in the 1970s. This tour will peel back the layers of time, hidden underground, of the people and cultures that created **Ventura**, and include the **San Buenaventura mission**, founded in 1782; the **Olivas Adobe** and the **Serra Cross**, first placed in 1782 as a traveler's guide to the settlement, according to the **Ventura Visitors Bureau**, 10-1pm.

available info. 310/305-7169

• **Jan. 18, Sunday Talk, Julie Tumamait, Chumash Elder**, singer, storyteller culture of the **Chumash**, **Ojai Valley Museum**, 2pm.
info. 640-1390

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

• **Jan. 23, Dance Jam Ventura, DJ Elixir**, 2343 E. Thompson Blvd, Ventura, 7-10pm.

info. 650-7112, www.waywebby.com/dancejam

• **Jan. 24 & 25, The Three Faces of the King, Tribute to the King of Rock & Roll**, **Oceanview Pavillion**.
info. 986-4818

• thru **Jan. 25, Sing Me Your Story, Dance Me Home**, **Ojai Valley Museum**.

info. www.ojavalleymuseum.org

• **Jan. 29-Feb 22, Buried Child**, **Ensemble Theatre Co.**, Santa Barbara, 914 State St.

info. 965-5400

• **Thurs. Jan. 15 - Feb 29, Annette Matrisciano Paintings**, **Sea Breeze Art Gallery**, 255 S. Laurel St., Ventura.

info. **Lisa Moore**, 643-3973

• **Sun. Jan. 18, Channel Cities Jazz Club, Ulysses S. Jasz**, **Pacific Corinthian Yacht Club**, 2600 S. Harbor Blvd, 1pm to 4:30pm.

• **Tues. Jan. 20 begins, Sierra Club Wilderness Basic Course**

info. **Teresa Norris**, 524-7170 or **LosPadresWBC@gmail.com**, www.lospadres.sierraclub.org/wbc
info. 981-7892

• **Tues. Jan. 20, Krotona Theosophical Society**, 7-9pm at Krotona.

info. 646-2653

• **Wed. Jan. 21, Ojai Valley Poetry Association**

Events Continued Page 9...

Your Unique Consumer Electronics Store in Ojai

Store Hours: 7-Days a Week
– Monday - Saturday: 9-6pm –
Sundays: 10-4pm

Happy-New-Year-2009!

Get Your Electronics Together

- Electronics
- iTunes
- Mp3 Players
- DVD's - Hot Movie Hits
- Bluetooth
- Cameras
- Cell Phones & Accessories
- Headphones and More

And Check out Our Low Prices on...

We're Always Accepting Special Orders
Stop in and Check with us
Check with the Pros, Check our Catalog

- ALL Memory
- SD Cards
- Thumb Drives
- Full Selection Now!

- **Digital Photoprocessing On Site**
- **Overnight Watch Battery Service Available**

Ojai Valley Electronics

307-B E. Matilija. St. Ojai • 646-7585

Printer Ink
Cartridges

Ojai Creates!
Art & Imagination
SUPPLIES

Office Supplies
CDs

'the best little art store in ventura county'

Art Alternative Canvas Sale – Jan 15 thru Feb 15

(805) 640-6558 • www.ojaicreates.com
606 e. ojai avenue • ojai, california 93023

VENTURA COUNTY WEIRD VIEWS

Treasure Hunters by Richard Senate



The cable channels are filled with innovative programs probing the unknown. They have shows like *Ghost Hunters*, *Monster Hunters* and most recently *UFO Hunters*. I believe there is room for another show in this genre. I

would like to propose a new program called *Treasure Hunters*. The goal would be to investigate legends of lost treasures with a special focus on those with a link to terrible curses and ghosts! The idea would be to discover if the accounts of the treasure are real. Is the legendary loot fact or fancy?

I even have an ideal candidate for a pilot episode. One need not look to some distant island or some far away desert ghost town to find a compelling story. One haunted treasure is located right here in **Ventura County**! The lost gold of the **Olivas Adobe** would make an ideal test case. The hidden wealth is estimated to be worth **\$75,000** in gold coins (now worth 20 times more in today's dollars).

In 1855 the two-story **Olivas Adobe** in **Ventura** was the center of a vast cattle ranch, operated by the wealthy family of **Don Raymundo Olivas**. He became rich selling beef to the miners in the gold camps of the **Mother Lode**. That year a **Yankee** buyer came to the ranch and bought a herd of steers to be driven north. As each head of cattle was trotted passed the gate, a gold coin was tossed into **Donna Teodora's** apron.

That night bandits raided the house. They got the drop on the family and took the heavy bags of gold coins, and everything they could steal, even pausing to rip the gold earrings out of **Teodora's** ears! The bandits escaped heading north. An angry **Don Raymundo** gathered a posse of local ranchers and went after the gang. They were heading north towards **Santa Barbara** and two were caught.

When questioned they said the gold was buried but refused (or they didn't know) to say where the treasure was buried. Their silence bought them only a slow death at the end of a rope.

Because the gold was so heavy, it was hidden so the outlaws could escape. Legends say it was buried someplace on **Red Mountain**, near **Foster Park**. Some accounts even say the leader of the bandits was the notorious bad man, **Joaquin Murrieta**. Some say his ghost guards the treasure even to this very day.

Maps showing the treasure site do exist, but over the years three men who went looking for the gold have died under mysterious circumstances. The most recent deaths took place in the 1930s when two men drove off a cliff. Were they, as some speculate, driven off the road by a ghost of **Murrieta** on his spectral horse?

The **Olivas Family** never recovered their lost gold but they were able to recoup their losses in just a few months. The real question is: does the treasure really exist?

Many family accounts tell of the great robbery and it is listed in a **Los Angeles** newspaper. This implies that a robbery did happen. The stories of **Murrieta** can be discounted as the date of the robbery is 1855 and **Joaquin Murrieta** was gunned down by lawmen in 1853. He could not have committed the crime as he was dead. The **Los Angeles** papers point to a lesser known, but equally vicious, outlaw named **Encarnation Berryessa**. Perhaps the similarity in names may account for the error. **Berryessa** met his end in

Los Angeles at the end of a rope, so he may not have returned to the **Ventura** area to recover his loot.

Was it possible for **Don Raymundo** to have made such a sum on the sale of one herd of cattle? Yes, tax records say he could have raised 1,000 head of cattle on the lands he owned (he was leasing lands even in the **Ojai Valley**). Cattle was selling for \$75 a head in 1855 so it is possible that he could have made such an amount in one sale. The gold would have been in the form of

WANTED JOAQUIN MURRIETA



thick octagon-shaped coins worth \$25 each. That would have meant that three coins would have been dropped into **Teodora's** apron. If it was only one, that would place the treasure at only \$25,000, still a great amount of gold. Another legend states that a member of the gang was caught and sentenced to life at **San Quentin Prison**.

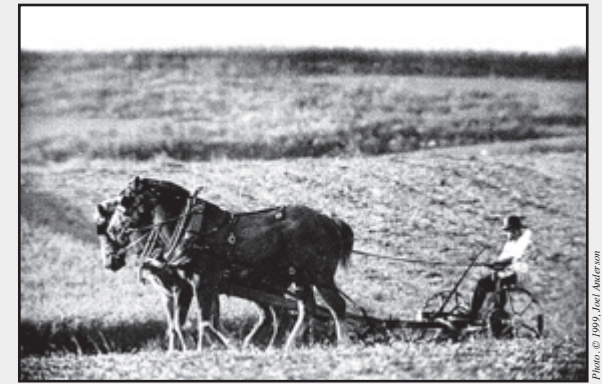
Before he died in 1890 he asked for a priest and confessed his role in the great robbery. He told the priest before he gave his last breath, how to find the gold.

"Go to Red Mountain. Turn your back to the sea. You will see below three oaks in a triangle. Under one will be buried pistols, under the other spurs, and under the third, Gold." The Priest came to **Ventura** with his shovel only to find the trees had been cut down or the directions were somehow wrong.

Perhaps metal detection equipment might find the gold or the pistols. The whole of **Red Mountain** today is all private property and permission should be secured before setting foot on the property. Never trespass for any reason and remember the terrible curse.

Visit the **Olivas Adobe** in **Ventura** and get the whole story of the great robbery and the speculation as to the location of the lost gold. The story is a good one and, with re-enactments and the input of psychics and professional treasure hunters, it would make a great TV show.

Richard Senate
www.RichardSenate.com



Global Warming Update

Continued From VIEW Page 4...

Ventura County can be found at: www.builditsmart-vc.org/vc/vc6.php

You can get involved with the **Ojai Valley Green Coalition**. Check out their web site for more: www.ojavalleygreencoalition.org

- Alasdair Coyne, Ojai
www.sespewild.org

Ojai City Council Promoting Packing Another 453 'Units' in Town...?

Does this translate into more condo villages, further destroying the once quaint Ojai atmosphere? Does the city council have stock in stucco? Expect more rubber stamp **Spanish Revival monstrosities** to spring up in Ojai if this goes through?

In last years elections, former city council member **Rae Hans-tad** was the only candidate (Chapparral Forum) who expressed regret at the extent of the S. Montgomery Arbolada "Condo World" expansion. With **Sue Horgan** back in the power seat, we can count on her to buddy up to the big out-of-town developers.

With higher air pollution standards reaping some benefits in the form of cleaner air for all of us, the council has apparently decided that's the green light to pack more houses into town. More houses = more people = more car traffic = more smog, right back to where we started...

Redevelopment consultant for the City of Ojai, Tom Figg said at the **Dec. 2 Ojai City Council Meeting**, "Population growth and air quality are not necessarily correlated with one another. What we've seen because of more arduous regulatory standards on emissions is that the population has grown considerably over the last 10-15 years and yet air quality has improved greatly, and so it's hard to make a direct connection to say that additional housing is going to translate to diminished air quality because that's not what the numbers suggest."

There's plenty of land available...435 units Ojai next cycle...
- Joel Anderson, Editor

lisa + mary boutique



Custom Blended Make-up
Facials, Massage, Waxing
Pedicures & Manicure

646-3100

307 E. Ojai Ave. Ste. 100
Ojai, CA 93023

OPAL DIAMOND PEARL ABALONE BLUE ZIRCON TOPAZ



Gems of the Earth ~ Designs of the Heart

GEM QUEST JEWELERS

SEE OUR SELECTION OF ORIGINAL AND CLASSIC JEWELRY

STEVE BRANDT

CATHY BARNETT

- Two experienced professional goldsmiths on premises
- Gold, platinum and silver design and repair
- Gem setting, remounting and restoration
- Wax carving and casting
- Watch repair and batteries
- We buy gold and diamonds

Free
cleaning &
checking

108 B N. Signal St., Ojai
805 646 3836

Open Tuesday to Saturday, closed Sundays & Mondays

Helping Our Children Grow: Opportunities Versus "Mistakes"

by Mariaemma Pelullo-Willis & Victoria Kindle Hodson



We often have parents ask us what they can do when their children become upset with mistakes. For example, recently, a mom reported that her son became very upset when he took a quiz and missed one question. He did not focus on the 9 out of 10 that were correct, but on the one that he missed. He didn't think he should be making any mistakes at all!

This can be a tricky issue. We need to examine our own actions, behaviors, and statements to see if we are contributing to the child reacting in this way. Many parents say that it's not coming from them – they are always positive and talk in terms of how many questions or problems a student gets right. That may be, but are we giving them messages in other ways during daily life that suggest that "mistakes" are "bad"? After all, we all grew up with the idea that the best score is 100 percent and the best grade is A+. If your children are in a traditional school program, this is certainly the message they are getting there.

We also need to realize that the word "test" in itself gives the idea that the student will be "measured" – and that the score determines how "good" or "smart" you are. This is a major reason why tests fail to teach or to be positive motivators in most students' lives. They are usually associated with feelings of stress or fear, and often lead to disappointment, sadness, and beliefs of inadequacy.

In contrast, let's look at people who perceive "mistakes" in a very different way. For example, it is said that **Thomas Edison** did over 1000 experiments trying to invent the light bulb. He was asked how he could keep going after making so many mistakes. His response: What mistakes? Each time I'm just learning what doesn't work, bringing me closer to what does work. Similarly, the most successful sales people look forward to being turned down by potential clients. Their reasoning: the more no's I get the closer I am to a big "YES."

These people are not seeing mistakes – they are seeing learning opportunities! Many of our best inventions – styrofoam, post-it notes, etc. – started out as "mistakes." The person involved was trying to do something else and something went *wrong* – lucky for us, someone saw beyond the mistake and a new invention was born. All of our famous inventors, scientists, and creative people made lots of mistakes – this is the only way they could get to the discovery they were looking for, by being willing to get it "wrong" so many times.

It's important to get this concept across to kids. And we need to make it "safe" for them to make mistakes. The number one

requirement for learning is safety. If our students do not feel emotionally safe to explore, try, and take risks in their learning, their potentials will not be realized. For example, there are so many kids who stop asking questions in the classroom or who don't raise their hands to participate because they are afraid of saying the wrong thing or saying something "stupid."

In order to be successful at anything, including learning, you have to be willing to make mistakes. It's the "fail your way to the top" attitude: if I keep trying, discovering, experimenting, I'll get there. This is what separates the people who achieve their goals from those who don't. In her book, "Work Less Make More," Jennifer White says, "Fail often so you can succeed sooner."

The more we can see "mistakes" as opportunities and incorporate this concept into our everyday family life, the better it will be for our kids. One way to get help with this is to read stories together of people who turned mistakes into opportunities. There are several books on this subject. If you go to Amazon.com and put "mistakes" in the search box, you will get a whole list. Here are a few to get you started:

- *Mistakes That Worked*, by **Charlotte Foltz Jones** (reading level 9-12 yr)
- *Accidents May Happen: 50 Inventions Discovered by Mistake*, **Foltz** (9-12 yr)
- *Whoever Makes the Most Mistakes Wins: The Paradox of Innovation*, **Farson**
- *Failing Forward—How to Make the Most of Your Mistakes*, **Maxwell**

If parents and teachers continually point out what students are doing "right" and if "mistakes" are treated as learning opportunities rather than "problems," students will get the idea. Wouldn't it be great if our kids could grow up seeing opportunities all around them?!

A new year is beginning....despite what is going on around us, what if we make a decision to coach our kids to see the opportunities presented in every situation? That seems to be a New Year's Resolution worth making!

Mariaemma and Victoria, Ventura
Co-authors of *Discover Your Child's Learning Style, Midlife Crisis Begins in Kindergarten, and The Power of You Now!*
www.learningsuccesscoach.com
Learning Center, 1590 E. Main St.
Ventura, 648-1739

EVENT CALENDAR CONT.

Continued from Page 7...

Agenda meeting, 7pm, Ojai Library
info. [Tree Bernstein, Ojai](mailto:Tree.Bernstein@Ojai.org)

• **Sat. Jan. 24, Naturalistic Pruning Workshop/John Lamar, Ojai Demonstration Garden, 10am-Noon.**

• **Tues. Jan. 27, War and the Soul - Edward Tick will speak, Krotona Theosophical Society, 7-9pm**

info. 646-2653

• **Wed. Jan. 28, Soil Building Workshop/Michael Inaba, Ojai Demonstration Garden, 401 S. Ventura St., Ojai, 10-11:30am**

• **Wed. Jan. 28, An Inconvenient Truth, Al Gore trained Jedi Gretchen Lewotsky, Speaker, Matilija Auditorium, Ojai, 7-9pm**

• **Fri. Jan. 30, Humanity's Ancient Relationship with Edible Seed Crops with Lorenz Schaller of Kusa Seed, presented by Santa Barbara Permaculture Network, Music by Russ Baggerly, 7pm, Santa Barbara Central Library - Faulkner Gallery, 40 E. Anapamu St., In honor of International Seed Swap Day, Santa Barbara Permaculture Network presents Lorenz Schaller of the Kusa Seed Society, speaking about Humanity's Ancient Relationship with**

Edible Seed Crops. The precious edible seeds of the earth - the cereal grains, grain-legumes, oilseeds and other precious edible seeds - have a history of small-scale cultivation and utilization with dates back more than 10,000 years. Lorenz Schaller's work and the mission of the Kusa Seed Society is to increase humanity's knowledge and understanding of this very ancient relationship.

info. 962-2571 or margie@sbpermaculture.org, www.sbpermaculture.org

• **Feb. 1, Keshet for Life, Keshet Chaim Ensemble 25th Anniversary Concert, Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza, 2100 Thousand Oaks Blvd.**

info. 818/986-7332, or kcdancers.org

• **Feb. 12 - Apr. 5, Event: Feb. 15, Awesome Art 2009, Ojai Valley Museum.**

info. www.ojavalleymuseum.org

• **Feb. 22, 7:30pm, The United States Air Force Band of the Golden West, Free to the Public, Oceanview Pavilion.**

info. 986-4818

• **Apr. 17 - May 17, California Missions, Exhibit, Ojai Valley Museum.**

info. www.ojavalleymuseum.org

Cottontail Creations Developing the Artful Soul

The creative soul is not always something that simply pours out of that select few, labeled "artist." We sincerely believe there is a bohemian in everyone who is willing to explore a little. Never having had a nurturing nudge in a creative direction or being told "follow your passion"; may have something to do with the lack of confidence.

We here at **Cottontail Creations** are a family-owned and operated business. Our main focus is the education of artists in **Art Clay Silver, Polymer**

Clay and Silver Chain Making. Dabble in these mediums and we are sure you will enjoy them as much as we do.

Interest in art in **Ventura County** is at an all time high. Our desire is to inspire art in all people, ages, and skill levels. Through art and art inspiration, we intend to give back to the community, which we have been a part of our entire lives. Let us **FREE THE ARTIST INSIDE YOU!**

Charlie Vanoni, Ventura
Cottontail Creations

Free the Artist Inside You!

CLASSES IN -

- **ART CLAY SILVER**
- **POLYMER CLAY**
- **BEADING**
- **SILVER CHAIN MAKING**

ALSO CARRIES -

- **RUBBER STAMPS**
- **BOOKS**
- **TEXTURES & PAINTS**



New Rubber Stamps Arriving Weekly

Cottontail Creations Art Center

- **GIFTS, JEWELRY AND ART SUPPLIES**
- **ONGOING CLASSES FOR ADULTS**

(805) 643-1700

1744 E. MAIN ST. • MIDTOWN VENTURA



Home of HipCat Scenes

The Kindred Spirit
An ever-changing collection
of jewelry, clothing, shoes & gifts

BEST WOMEN'S FINE CLOTHING IN OJAI!

805-646-8900
302 E. Ojai Ave. • Ojai



FOODIE VIEWS: Moqueca

Channel Islands Harbor

Absolutely Delicious !

R. ELLIS SMITH



I don't, or rarely, do a critique on a restaurant. However, once in a while you happen on a restaurant where the food, the ambience, the employees, and the owners are so in tune with each other, the beauty of the place deserves recognition.

The other day my wife and I were driving around the Channel Islands Harbor when I spotted a sign that said "Just Opening" it related to a new restaurant by the name of "Moqueca". It is a true Brazilian restaurant that has only opened a couple of weeks ago. Usually I make it a rule to not try new restaurants until they have been around for at least 6 months. But this one really looked inviting, besides my wife and I are real fans of Mexican food so we decided, what the hey, we had never tried Brazilian food and a friend of ours who has traveled to Brazil a few times has always told us the food was to die for, so lets give it a try.

I really got to tell you, it was one of the best decisions we have made this entire year. As soon as we walked into the restaurant, we were impressed with the beautiful decor (designed by the Owner Chef herself), Linen table cloths, china plates and sparkling silverware, the place was immaculate.

We were seated by one of the owners, (a full family establishment), on the enclosed patio overlooking the harbor, (by the way the restaurant is on the second floor in a newly built building, the old one burned down), just before you reach the Whales Tail. Moqueca, 3550 S. Harbor Blvd in Channel Islands Harbor, phone, 204-0970 and they even have a website where you can see the entire menu, www.moquecarestaurant.com

We met most of the owners, they were all gracious and very helpful in selecting a dish. My wife, not being as adventurous with food as I am, opted to order a Brazilian version of Chicken Stroganoff. She couldn't say enough good things about it. I love seafood, any kind of seafood, so I ordered Arroz De Polvo, Paella Style White Rice cooked with small pieces of extremely tender Octopus cooked in an earthenware crock with Baby Broccoli, Tomatoes, Onions, Cilantro and the Essence of Urucum, which is a Brazilian jungle fruit. I asked if they had a Brazilian hot sauce and they smiled and said sure. They brought me a small dish of extremely small chilies which should only be eaten one at a time with lots of food.... Both of these dishes were to die for....

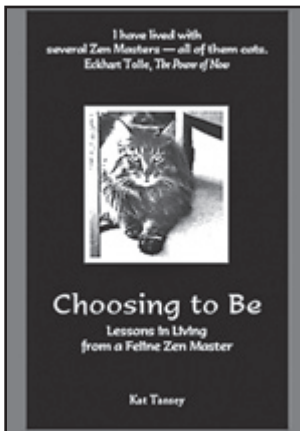
Of course I just had to try a Brazilian beer, they have both light and dark beers. I ordered the light one called Bahima, excellent choice. When I had finished the beer I, of course, had to try a famous Brazilian cocktail made with Cachaca called Caipirinha. It is made with limes and is reminiscent of a Mojito, again excellent choice. We had to try a desert, so my wife ordered a Pave De BomBom, crumbs of chocolate, (real chocolate) with layers of milk flan and Chantilly Cream. I went for the Mousse De Maracuja; it is a absolutely heavenly Passion Fruit Mousse.

We spent a couple of hours at the restaurant and when we left it was with the promise to ourselves that we would return and very soon. Do yourself a favor and amble on over to the Channel Islands Harbor for one of the finest eating experiences you will ever have.

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

CHOOSING TO BE: Lessons in Living from a Feline Zen Master

by Kat Tansey, iUniverse, Inc., 2008



BOOK REVIEW

"I have lived with several Zen Masters — all of them cats."

— Eckhart Tolle, *The Power of Now*

by Suza Francina

My cats gathered around and purred their approval as I read *Choosing to Be* by Ojai author Kat Tansey. I was a bit under the weather when this book landed on my doorstep, so mostly I read in bed, under the covers, usually with one cat settled at the top of my head, one curled around my feet and one against my chest. I am certain that both the healing energy of my nice warm cats and the reading of this calming, quieting book, hastened my recovery.

Choosing to Be revolves around a wise Maine Coon cat named Poohbear Deagooncoon, his kitten muse Catzenbear, and author Kat Tansey. These three characters take the reader on a journey from the depths of depression to the freedom of Buddha mind.

Kat Tansey has worn many hats in her life. She is a writer and life coach for women at midlife (and beyond) who want to transform and re-energize their lives. She has been a meditation practitioner for fifteen years and has enjoyed a unique relationship with cats since she was a little girl. It is no coincidence that her name is Kat!

In 1993, Kat was struck down by Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS). *Choosing to Be* begins with a note about how she descended from her executive office on the top floor of a sleek high-rise tower into the underworld of depression. In the opening chapter she describes how she considered ending her life rather than fighting her exhaustion and debilitating depression.

When Kat began writing *Choosing to Be* fifteen years ago, chronic fatigue, sensitivity to environmental pollutants, and other symptoms, were thought to be "all in your head." Anyone who has ever gotten a headache from sitting in a room with the smell of a new carpet, will relate to Kat's challenges to function in the day-to-day world.

When she first began writing her story, it's safe to say that the world was not ready for a book about a successful business woman struck down by Chronic Fatigue Syndrome who became deeply depressed and asked her Buddha Master cat to help her learn how to meditate and find the will to live.

Now the world recognizes the reality of Chronic Fatigue Syndrome. Drugs for depression are advertised like candy. Buddhist meditation and all things Buddha are mainstream. Books about mystical dogs, magical cats, animal communication, talking to God and other spiritual guides, are enormously popular. In this climate, a book about a talking Buddha Master cat seems perfectly natural and makes a friendly spiritual guide.

In "choosing to be" Kat made the wise choice to remove herself from the business world she had known for twenty years. Her inner journey to regain her physical, emotional and spiritual health marked the beginning of a very different life, one in which she had to learn to be a human being rather than a human doing. Thanks to her Buddha Master cat and her other guides and supporters, Kat emerged from this phase in her life with renewed energy. For practical reasons, she returned to the corporate world for several years, until she ultimately realized that her path was leading her elsewhere.

Eventually Kat returned to her real love, writing the book that has become *Choosing to Be*. *Choosing to Be* is a story about becoming fully present and achieving the freedom of enjoying life just as it is. Kat introduces the reader to Buddhist meditation and presents it in a way that anyone can relate to.

Kat and her partner Greg live in Ojai, where she conducts her coaching practice from her home, co-hosts her internet radio show, "Finding Magic in Midlife," and continues to write dialogues with her Buddha Master cat for her next book, *Walking with Wisdom*.

Signed copies of *Choosing to Be* are available at Ojai House or at Made in Ojai, and most bookstores. Copies are also available at the author's website www.choosingtobe.com and amazon.com

"Of all animals, the cat alone attains to the contemplative life. He regards the wheel of existence from without, like the Buddha." — Andrew Lang, 1844-1912

Reviewed by Suza Francina, www.SuzaFrancina.com

REAL VIEW

Holidays with an Alcoholic Pie Baker

— Heather Cornett

I remember Thanksgivings spent in bars being estranged and displaced from family and friends. There was the Thanksgiving I spent in jail, the Christmas we were all completely annihilated by noon and no one remembers what or if we ate, and of course the year I barely made it to my friends bathroom before puking red wine all over the walls, curtains, and bath towels.

It had always been this way; maybe not always to those memorable extremes, but always having to be at least somewhat polluted to survive the ordeal of being trapped in a room full of people who loved me.

Now, two years clean and sober, I still have my holiday meltdowns, and my method for "dealing" has been to drive off minutes before everyone is due to arrive and sit in my car by myself and read, hating everyone and everything and not return until begged and promised that everyone would excuse my behavior and leave me alone.

This year however, as providence would have it, my means of escape gasped it's last in the Vons parking lot yesterday; trapping shoppers up and down the aisle as it was loaded onto the truck and towed away.

So I am the (sober) alcoholic pie baker trying out a new recipe on the people next door.

As I take the pies out of the oven, they look weird to me. Are they done or not? I am suddenly grateful that other people will be drinking. Maybe no one will remember whether they were good or not.

— Heather Cornett

Skin and Body Therapy

A Holistic Day Spa

- Serenity Facial - 1 hour \$40.00
- Stress Massage - 30 Min \$25.00
- Waxing

appointments **646-4444**

891 Ventura Ave. Suite C, Oak View
(behind Casa De Lago)

Automaker Bailout...*Continued From VIEW Page 5...*

out other medical opinions. He finally finds a physician that says, "Amputation is not necessary." The man was relieved and said, "Thanks Doc I was really worried." Then the doctor replies, "Give it a few months and it will fall off by itself."

6) Beware of half-baked rationalizations

• We helped industry X; we have to help industry Y: How many U.S. call center employees lost their jobs to replacement low wage English language challenged people overseas? ("Mya name issa John, how meya I probide yew wis excerent serbice.") Should the government have interceded? The job loss was much quieter, slower, and without a whole lot of whining. Does the squeaky wheel get the grease? If there are four wheels and they are made in Detroit, apparently the answer is yes?

• Automobile manufacturing is an **American** tradition. We aren't preserving some sort of art form. These boys are a real business. At one time General Motors was the largest corporation on the face of the planet. If they want to preserve an art form, perhaps they ought to contact the Smithsonian Institution.

7) Will the solution set a bad precedent

Since the **Financial (AIG) Bailout**, a new standard has been set. "Well if you can bail out the financial institutions, surely you could spare a mere 20 billion for the auto companies, an **American** institution. Helpful hint: Just because we made one poor decision doesn't mean we need to make another one.

8) Determine if the solution enforceable?

• Is it objective? (doesn't require too much interpretation by 95 percent of the citizens)

• Is it manipulatable? Can the program be expanded far beyond its original size by creative manipulators (also know as: entitlement entrepreneurs). Oh my back hurts, I can't work, but I can go golfing 5 days a week. Please direct my disability check directly into my checking account so I don't have to endure the pain of driv-

ing to the bank to make the deposit.

In the case of the Automaker "situation", the core problem and cause of the auto maker insolvency is the failure to make cars that enough people will buy and fail-ure to trim fixed costs when market share eroded.

In summary, do the 8 step program before proposing the solution.

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

Megabucks !!!**2008 Wall Street Profit/Loss**

Wal-Mart + 12.7 Billion Profit
Exxon Mobil + 40.6 Billion Profit
General Motors - (38.7 Billion Loss)
Ford Motor Co. - (Minus 2.7 Billion Loss)
Goldman Sachs Group - 2.1 Billion Loss
Morgan Stanley + 2.36 Billion Loss
Bank of America Corp. + 6 Billion Profit
Fannie Mae - (Minus 2 Billion Loss)
Freddie Mac - (Minus 3 Billion Loss)
GMAC - (Minus 2.3 Billion Loss)
Delphi - (Minus 3 Billion Loss)

Source: www.companypay.com & *Forbes*

Following the bucks - Is the Party Really Over?**Show Me the Money: Top Paid CEO's - 2007**

Before things got really bad for folks (when the Wall Street Looting was in full 'Nostalgic' swing), the Highest-Paid CEOs were getting the big bucks in 2007. Most still are....

The 10 highest-paid CEOs in 2007 at Standard & Poor's 500 companies, below. The total pay figures total salary, perks, bonuses, above-market interest on pay set aside for later, and company estimates for the value of stock options and stock awards on the day they were granted.

1. Larry Ellison, Oracle Corp., \$84.6 million
2. John Thain, Merrill Lynch & Co., \$83.1 million
3. Leslie Moonves, CBS Corp., \$67.6 million

Source: *Associated Press & Standard & Poor's Index*

Earlier 'Vintage Lootin'**Big Bucks - 1999****Top Paid CEO's - 1999**

Could you say "No"?

1. Robert Devlin, American General Corp., \$45 Million
2. Michael Capellas, Compaq Computer Corp., \$36.8 million
3. Eugene Isenberg, Nabors Industries, \$28.5 million
4. Archie Dunham, Conoco Oil., \$24.9 million
5. Chuck Watson, Dynegy, \$23 million
6. Kenneth Lay, Enron Corp., \$21 million
7. A Maurice Myers, Waste Management, \$21 million
8. William Wise, El Paso Energy Corp., \$20 million
9. Jon Newton, V.P., American General Corp., \$20 million
10. Joseph Sutton, V. Chairman, Enron, \$17 million
11. Max Watson Jr., BMC Software, \$16.8 million

Source: *Associated Press & Standard & Poor's Index*

Why the Mainstream Press Would Like the Car Buyer to Forget About Glutenous Executive Bonuses

Based on Advertising Age's estimates of spending by General Motors Corp., Chrysler and Ford Motor Co., some \$7.3 billion is spent on marketing to big media in the U.S. alone.

Corporate Advertising adds an estimated \$3,000 to the price of every new car you purchase.

Source: *Advertising Age*

Court Document Preparation Low Cost. You Save. No Attorneys

(Formerly Holly's Self Help Docs. Preparation)



16-yrs-experience in the preparation & filing of court documents

Christmas Special!

- Complete Revocable Living Trusts
- Single or Married — \$500.00
- Only through Jan 09

The perfect gift of security for your loved ones during these economically trying times.

- Divorce/Legal Sep/Anulments
- Custody & Visitation
- Child & Spousal Support
- Modifications of the Above
- Living Trust Packages
- Will Packages
- Name Changes
- Misc. Doc. Prep.

(805) 272-8027

(805) 320-7875 (cell)

I Will Travel!

hollyloveslife@yahoo.com
HOLLY A. CAMPUS, LDA #10
Legal Document Assistant,
County of Ventura,
Expires 12/31/09.

I am not an attorney, may not give legal advice, select documents, or represent you in court.

**1102 Tico Road
Ojai, CA 93023**

Sicily the Faithful

by **Mina French**

To live your life in faith and goodness is a very difficult thing to do. Temptations are all around us as we journey through our experiences in life. To maintain a certain amount of integrity and not flinch is not easy. My mother, **Carla D'Amico**, lived with this integrity her whole life. And Carla's faith was strong.

Early on, Carla wanted to be a nun but when she asked the convent if they would take her the mother superior said she was too young. Carla was 16 years old then. Carla always loved God and always prayed. She always believed life could be better as she searched for ways to give my brothers and I a good home.

When I was very young, Carla worked in a brewery. She had left my father when I was five years old because he was not really a good man. At the brewery she made a more than good wage. We didn't have a car and Carla did not drive. She walked to the supermarket and pushed the grocery cart up a steep hill to the apartment where we lived. My mother worked 12-hour shifts. She

read books on history and philosophy in her spare time. She played games with us like monopoly, scrabble and chess. When people came over to visit, Carla always offered a great meal. We always had fresh flowers on the table. My mother would take the three of us on the bus to the local library or we would go to the greenhouse nursery to buy plants. Carla is a lover of green plants. She loves flowers so much.

In August, 2003, Carla was diagnosed with lung cancer. She had three quarters of her left lung removed. But then the cancer spread to her brain. In February 2004, the surgeon removed a large tumor from her brain. Her sisters, brother-in-law and niece came to visit from Europe then. Then the cancer spread some more. She had two rounds of chemotherapy and two rounds of radiation. The radiation took care of the ten small tumors in her brain. But then the cancer spread to her liver. We took a trip to **Houston, Texas**, to M.D. **Anderson Cancer Hospital** to see if there was anything they could do - there was nothing. Carla is now in a nursing home dying.

Carla D'Amico was born in **Palermo, Sicily** in 1941. Carla is one of seven children. She was married to my father in 1959 at the age of seventeen when she

moved to the **United States**. My father was adopted by his mother who was a distant cousin of my mother's mother. Dad was not a big help in the family so Carla left him.

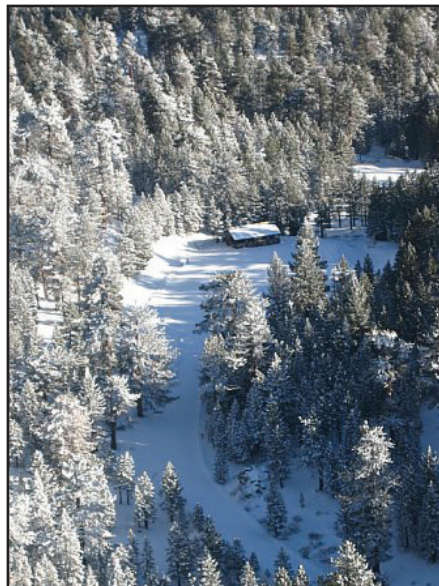
Sicilians are known for the closeness they share with their families. Carla always went back to visit **Sicily** and she called her brothers and sisters on the telephone on the weekends. Her sense of duty and responsibility to her family is strong. Carla believed that cleanliness is next to Godliness and so our home was always very clean. My mother sent us to a catholic school located on the west side of **Syracuse, New York**. She taught us about geography, politics and history and kept adding books to our library. She welcomed friends to our home with passion and gusto. She gave the best parties. They were always a lot of fun. **Christmas** was such a festive time of year. We had a german shepherd my mother named **Claudius Imperius**.

I will always be extremely grateful for the life my mother shared with me. Grateful for her love and friendship for her good counsel and above all her common sense. Carla always said that common sense was not so common after all.

Mina French
artnews510@aol.com



Mt. Pinos Nordic Ski Patrol assembles for training in the off season with the Ventura County Sheriff's Air Unit helicopter.



Mt. Pinos Nordic Ski Patrol base station.



J.D. Bamford

Photo ©, Kiran Nimmagadda

Rick S

Chillin' with the Mt. Pinos Nordic Ski Patrol

by Janet McNeil, D.V.M.

Why just go play in the snow when you can learn some nifty ski mountaineering, rope rescue techniques, avalanche safety, winter survival skills, outdoor emergency care/ professional CPR, meet really neat eccentric characters and eat really well.



Photo © Terry Komisak

The Southern California Nordic Ski Patrol is a volunteer organization working in partnership with the **United States Forest Service (USFS)**, providing winter ski safety service including emergency first aid and search and rescue.

I really came for the food. Not being near a ski village, the **Mt. Pinos Nordic Ski Patrol** adds a cooking test to their candidate requirements. The potluck meals are gastronomic delights. This is not a place for dieters, or rather you can (and are encouraged to eat) since you burn up a lot of calories skiing and staying warm. How many other things do you do that tell you it's OK to eat lots of Chocolate?

Seriously, if you like to ski **Nordic** (cross-country), telemark, or even snowboard, joining the **Nordic Ski Patrol** on **Mt. Pinos** will make your winter weekends and holidays a lot brighter. The **Nordic Ski Patrol Base** near the **Chula Vista** campground, at the top of **Mt. Pinos** is about 2-3 hours from **Ventura**, a lot closer than the alpine ski areas like **Mammoth**. At 8,831 ft, it is a great location for fresh air, condor watching, and astronomy as well as winter sports. The benefit of joining the ski patrol includes the best (and free) parking while on duty. Otherwise, a **Forest Adventure Pass** is required on weekends.

The **Mt. Pinos** patrol has been active for 28 years and has been voted number one (with-in the ski patrol ranks) **Nordic Ski Patrol** several times, most recently in 2006. Patrol members come from a variety of backgrounds, including non-techies like me who are still developing skiing skills. Since the active patrol roster has a lot of talent, learning new ski techniques and having access to the best professional instruction is a major bonus. As a candidate, I learned a lot more about winter than I had ever known before. Winter survival skills, like making emergency shelters and snow caves, dressing and feeding yourself appropriately for these situations, navigating, and avalanche safety, among others, get taught in a thorough and often hands-on way (candidates spend a night in a shelter they make as part of the certification process - don't worry, the patrol has not lost anyone yet). I will never be complacent about being out in the winter backcountry, but I also can enjoy it more that I know how to take care of myself and others in this setting.



Dr. Janet McNeil, D.V.M.

Photo ©, Patricia Brandon

Patrol members are certified in **Outdoor Emergency Care** and **Professional CPR/AED**. While some skills do not get exercised as often as others, packaging potential spinal injury victims on backboards for transportation by helicopter or ambulance happens frequently. Nordic ski areas have a lot less dramatic crashes, but hit-by-tree on the sledding slopes happens a lot. **Hypothermia**, altitude-related illness, and minor injuries are other common things our patrol deals with. Being able to help in emergency situations often carries into the non-snow season when patrol members offer first aid services at special events or just in their daily lives. Teamwork within the patrol and with the **U.S. Forest Service** is essential. A sense of humor is also a good thing to have when dealing with multiple agencies, emergency services, and the public, which can be very international.

There is a whole other side of **Mt. Pinos** a lot of the world never sees, but when the mountain entices visitors into dangerous situations, by terrain or weather changes (which can happen quickly), the patrol swings into its search mode. Cell phone service is very tenuous in this wilderness area, making communications difficult. The patrol uses radios to keep communications flowing at all times while on duty.

Some patrol members also have search and rescue dogs who are qualified for the winter environment, being able to handle searching in the snow, finding buried victims in avalanche situations, and generally being diplomatic as well as keeping their handlers warm when necessary.

The **Mt. Pinos Nordic Ski Patrol** also sells packaged snacks, maps, and **Forest Adventure Passes** to raise funds for first-aid supplies. Most weekends from November to April, depending on the snow from year to year, patrollers are on duty. One weekend a month is required during the season, but most patrollers come more frequently.

For more information, www.nordicbase.com

- Janet McNeil, D.V.M



Photos ©, Richard Basaldu

Janet McNeil, auxiliary patroller practices self-arrest with ice axe.



Jim Laage, Patrol Director



Gwynne Pugh

Photo ©, Kiran Nimmagadda



Darin Chase, candidate and Mike St. Cla



Off season with the Ventura Cou

The Mec



Mike's General Motors/Chevrolet Corvette, 1985, 330 horsepower, 4-Bolt Main. First year of the tuned port fuel injection, second year of the Corvette body style. Mileage: 26 mpg on the open road, 16.4 mpg around town.

Mike Gaddis has been a mechanic for over 40 years, having worked everything from a Maserati to a Volkswagen and everything in between for customers and companies. I asked Mike about the Economic Bailout (and trucks) and the future of the auto industry.



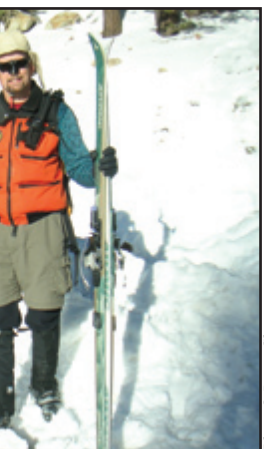
Patrol with Aussie "Kody".



Patroller Patricia Brandon and Border Collies, Kelsey and Reese head out to patrol on snowshoes.



Mt. Pinos Patrol, Steve, J.D., and Cindy.



Patroller, senior patroller and instructor



Headed back to Camarillo Airport, Nordhoff Ridge Rd., and Chief Peak just ahead.



Patroller Patricia Brandon and Border Collie, Kelsey.



Photo Courtesy: Nordic Ski Patrol



County Sheriff's Air Unit helicopter.



Rick Stein with Aussie "Kody".



Mike St. Clair and Darin Chase.



Photo Courtesy: Nordic Ski Patrol

Mechanic: Mike Gaddis on the Bail-out, GM Quality, and Auto Economics

by Joel Anderson



Photos © 2009, Joel Anderson

Well...I'm a GM fan more than anything. The CEO's are getting a twelve million dollar bonus for what? And the company is going under...c'mon...somebody is bullshitting somebody...if they give them the loans... When they start cutting the fat out of a company they ought to start at the top. That would save the company major bucks," said Mechanic Mike Gaddis.

Mike doesn't believe General Motors and the other big auto makers can't make it because people aren't buying their cars.

"I don't think so..... I see an awful lot of GM cars out there on the road, and they make exciting cars to drive, the Cadillac, their little sport car, that is on the Corvette platform...that thing is baaaaad. Look around, they're not hurting for vehicles on the road. GM has everything from Hummers to Saab (owned by GM), Olds, Pontiac.....

Look at the Hummer it's one of the best 4 wheelers you can buy for towing, any kind of job you want to do it will do it. The companies are huge, you know Allison (tractors), all the Delco stuff is all General Motors from the air compressors that cool the air in your car...they make all that stuff."

For Mike, it's actually an exciting time for auto technologies as far as the really high tech engineering going into the engines and the cars themselves.

"They are doing more, running cleaner, getting better economy, no pollution and now they can make them with horsepower! Their trucks...they're sporty look-

ing...I'd LOVE to have a new Chevy pickup. they make all these, you know, cool cars like the Monte Carlo SS, the Corvette....

Mike feels the GM SUV's are among the best on the road for power and fuel efficiency. "Also the Tahoe with the flex fuel that can run on different fuels...and they're also trying to make green cars that can run on anything. I guess they're doing a really good job as far as I can see. You can take a Tahoe and get 20 miles per gallon. I think that GM can compete with the Japanese cars hands down," Mike continued.

"Americans aren't making throwaway cars anymore like in the late 70s.... Vegas and Pintos.... You didn't fix them when they broke, you just threw them away and bought a new one. They weren't made to be fixed...the doors and hatches were welded on, the hood too...there was no adjustment. They were just making trash cars," said Mike.

"I know they are on top of things now...As far as I can see there's some good quality in Chevys. They go a long time...you can put a lot of miles on them. I see them with 250,000 miles and they still run good and drive good.... Chevy is competitive with anybody.

"You can call up and order a full-on race motor, right in the crate, and they will deliver it to your door. What other company does that? And they have such a variety of engines, you can buy from a complete 4-cylinder economy motor to a fire breathing 500 cubic inch big block, as complete as you want it. You just say what you want done to it and they'll do it.

"In the 70s and early 80s they lost all that. To make them burn clean...they lost all the horsepower. Your dad's station wagon would blow off your new Camaro or Corvette...it kind of pissed you off...they were just dogs That's when they were sticking the catalytic converters on...around 1975 and in that era...that's when the horsepower went..."

Mike said GM has made great improvements in quality control in all their products. "Now, with my Corvette, when it was in the assembly line, each of the workers had a code that they put on the car saying what they've done, what they've assembled or manufactured..

So in the future if there's any problem, they can go right back to that guy. These cars aren't the flimsy fragile little cars that everyone thinks they are. They run forever if you do the maintenance on them. I just enjoy the Corvette because it drives goooood. It never ceases to amaze me. I wouldn't be afraid to drive this car anywhere."

"I do think the bailout is good, they need to do something, but I think they also need to find out who's spending the money because there's some mismanagement of funds there some place. If they're going to help anyone, they should help GM. They make some of the finest cars on the road..." said Mike.

- Joel Anderson



THE LEASHES END

by Ron Rowe



Ron and his companion, Dudley.

For the past 15 years, **Pet Love Pet Store** has been a fixture in the **Beverly Hills** shopping mall, showcasing cuddly puppies for sale in the glass walled windows. Now, thanks to **Best Friends Animal Society**, who has targeted the store for the past six months, they have announced another victory; the pet store will close at the end of January. The **Animal Society** has been waging a campaign to stop **Los Angeles** pet shops from selling puppies born in inhumane puppy mills. Puppy mills are a disgrace to **America**. In November rescuers rescued over 1000 dogs living in filthy conditions from a mass commercial breeder in **Virginia**. Last month, over 1500 dogs were rescued at a **Parkersburg, West Virginia** breeding facility. The puppy mill capital of the East is **Pennsylvania**. You can help by not buying a puppy from a pet shop, adopt a pet from the local **Humane Society** www.humanesociety.org or visit site www.stoppupmills.org

Military working dog adoptions, are seeking donations. This is a worthy organization that helps transport retiring military dogs for adoption. At present the military requires that the adopting family pay transport costs from **Iraq** and other war zones to the **United States**. Incidentally, of the approximately 4,000 military dogs sent to **Vietnam**, only 404 came home. Most were destroyed, euthanized, or released into the jungle to fend for themselves. This was the reward for serving the U.S. faithfully and devotedly. Don't let this ignoble fate that awaits the faithful war dogs serving in **Iraq** happen. You can help. Please contact www.militaryworkingdogadoptions.com for more information.

The **French** do care about animals. A new volunteer group called **Adeo Animals**, which translates to **So Many Animals in Latin**; the objective of the group is to help care for and save homeless animals, strays, victims of accidents and to provide medical assistance, surgery and spay/neuter services and provide food.

Mother nature does protect animals. **Randy Goodman** of **Missouri** shot a big buck deer. As **Randy** approached the downed buck it suddenly reared up and attacked him, knocking him to the ground and repeatedly bashing him with his antlers before running away. Ah, a deer's revenge is sweet...

A three-year-old boy, **Jaylyn Thorpe** of **Halifax County, Va.** wandered away from his babysitter and got lost in the **Virginia** woods. Temperatures dropped to 17°. After 21 hours, rescuers found the boy sitting under a tree with his 12-week-old puppy snuggled against him. **Sheriff Stanley Noble** said, "the puppy saved the boy's life, it's a miracle."

If you are a male spider, it pays to be small and puny. Researchers in the *Journal of Evolutionary Biology* claim, although hulking male spiders outcompete smaller males in head-to-head competition, the small ones mature faster and get to the females faster, plus they produce 10 times as many

offspring.

Now that it is getting a little cold and frosty at nights, make certain your dog is kept warm. **Kerry Payne**, manager of a **Wisconsin** humane shelter, rescued an elderly border collie that had spent the night frozen to the sidewalk. Its belly and hindquarters were stuck to the icy pavement. He was released by having warm water poured over his back and rear quarters.

A very enlightening book, *One at a Time, a Week in an American Animal Shelter* by **Diane Leigh** and **Marilynne Gayer**, explains how 10 to 12,000 animals enter some kind of animal shelter in the **US** every year with only a 50 percent chance of being adopted. One animal every 40 seconds will be euthanized. It's a very compelling and compassionate book written by former humane shelter workers.

To **Greta in Ventura**, who is interested in dog training; no, you don't need to be certified or licensed to be a so-called dog psychic or dog trainer, unlike massagers or hairstylists who need to have a state license and pass a state exam. Anyone, including you, can claim to be a dog trainer, or pet psychic. No state or local license required.

I suggest you read *The Dog Listener* by **Jan Fennell**. It will teach you how to train and communicate with your dog. Also read *Animals in Translation* by **Temple Grandin**, and **Kathryn Johnson**. The *Rosetta Stone* by **Cheryl S. Smith** tells you the key to communication between humans and canines. It provides the key to unlocking a secret language. It goes beyond understanding nonverbal signals, categorizing canine body language into eyes, ears, mouth, tail and body posture. And lastly, dogs do communicate. In my experience they communicate with their ears, mouth, stance, plus eye contact. I think they rely more on their bodies rather than their vocal cords to communicate. Hope this helps you before beginning your new career.

Did you know over 12 billion animals are killed for food and billions more used for research, hunting and manufacturing. Two good books by attorney **Stephen Wise**, *Drawing the Line*, and *Rattling the Cage* explains it all. **Stephen** has built his reputation defending animals in court, well worth reading.

Barry asks fleas in winter? Yes **Barry**, in a recent study of 80,000 dogs in 47 states, over 16 percent had fleas during winter.

There is a hedgehog rescue group. Hedgehogs are unique adorable pets and take up little space. Each has a unique distinct personality, but like other exotic pets they are bought and often discarded on impulse. For more information on adopting a hedgehog check www.hedgehogwelfare.org

A duck's quack doesn't echo, and no one knows why. Ants never sleep.... A Berlin businessman is offering a breath of fresh air to city slickers. He has launched a **Rent a Sheep** program to keep your lawns trimmed or

even take them for a walk. It should be called **Ewe Rent Them...**

More parrot stories. **Sandra Beehar** of **San Francisco** wants to find a home for her foul-mouthed parrot, **Stanley**. A neighbor took her to court for the second time complaining the parrots swearing day and night upset her. The judge tried to be friendly to **Stanley**, alas **Stanley** told the judge to keep those bleeping hands off him and go to bleeping hell. The judge fined **Sandra \$800**.

After having been at sea for eight years, I would suggest that **Sandra** find a retired sailor for **Stanley**....

A wife learned of her husband's affair when their pet parrot spilled the beans. After being away for five months visiting her sick mother, she was surprised to hear the parrot saying 'I love you **Stella**, divorce, divorce, be patient. I will tell the bitch soon.' Oh, the wife's name is **Mary** and she has filed for divorce....

The latest research on dogs intelligence remains unchanged in 2008. Ranking number one is **Border Collie, Poodle, German Shepherd, Golden Retriever, Doberman, Shetland Sheepdog, Labrador, Papillon** and **Rottweiler**. Least intelligent are **Afghan Hound, Basset Hound, Basenji, Bulldog, Chow, Borzoi, Bloodhound, Pekinese, Mastiff, and Beagle**. Judges from the **American (AKC)** and **Canadian Kennel Clubs (CKC)** conducted the tests. Any comments from readers?

Now that the elections are over, if you want to keep out of jail, don't register your dog to vote. A **West Palm Beach** woman registered her poodle to vote. She is now facing a felony charge; she could receive a five-year sentence....

Whenever an animal is forced into the service of men, everyone must be, in turn, concerned for any suffering it bears on that account. Not one of us may permit any preventable pain to be inflicted, even though he would be interfering in something that doesn't concern him. But no one may shut his eyes and think the pain, which is therefore not visible to him, is not existing. This quote could be in large letters in every city and animal circus in the world.

Peace to all living beings on earth.

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



Come See Sir Bud!
SALE January 31st New Year's Celebration 1 pm to 4 pm
25% off everything (excluding food) - refreshments and raffles

Non-Anesthetic Dental Clinic – Saturday, Jan. 31

• Buy one can of Party Animal Dog Food and receive a free can.
Offer limited to stock on hand.....one per customer, Woof Woof!

Specializing in Raw Food Diets for Cats & Dogs

Mon - Fri 11:00 am - 7:00 pm • Sat 10 am - 6:00 pm • Sun 12:00 - 4:00 pm

LINDA'S CLAWS & PAWS

LOCALLY OWNED AND OPERATED - OPEN 7 DAYS
1865 East Main St. Ventura • (805) 648-6060

Emergency Pet Kits

- Earthquake Preparedness
- Wholesale Latex Gloves

online at www.etamerica.com
in Van Nuys at **866-305-1753**

What Dogs Really Want

by Kristin

What does a dog want most after the needs of food, water and shelter are met? What more is needed to give a dog a sense of security based on the fulfillment of all of his or her instinctual needs? The answer is: Proper leadership, discipline, and consistency from his owners.

These qualities in the owner are what give the dog a sense of knowing his place in the family group (or pack), a sense of belonging to a family that understands his instinctual drives and can direct him in their expression in a socially acceptable manner.

When the dog moves with the group he wants to know who is in charge. If the dog cannot sense that a person is in charge, then he feels that he MUST be in charge – or he will be in danger. Then he or she must challenge every new situation to prove himself and feel safe.



Kristin and GSD, Helgen

Photo © 2009, Joel Anderson



German Shepherd, Viking.

Photo © 2009, Joel Anderson

Without proper human leadership through training – the animal takes over rather than looking to his human for directions on how to act in any new situation.

Without the proper human guidance the dog is insecure and his insecure energy causes other dogs to feel insecure.

There are many forms of love. Administration of proper training is a responsible form of love. An irresponsible form of love is to allow the dog to take over, and not to correct the dog when his behavior is aggressive, annoying or dangerous to himself and others. Some people mistakenly fear that if they discipline their dog,



Photo © 2009, Joel Anderson

Viking plays Frisbee with his owner, Kristin. even properly and humanely, they will lose the animal's love. Or they simply don't know what to do to properly change unwanted behavior into a healthy response. My training program will teach you how to do this easily and effectively.

Allowing a dog to remain uncorrected when his behavior is dangerous or annoying will breed aggression in the dog. It will not buy you a pal. The dog needs your active leadership to learn how to please YOU. Dogs are highly intelligent, thinking and feeling creatures; but canine psychology is different than human psychology. To fully love and deeply communicate with your dog you must understand this difference; and how to successfully access canine psychology. My training program will teach you how to do this so that you can safely and confidently negotiate any situation with your pet.

In a properly balanced training program a dog is loved and praised, corrected and guided, and joyfully played with in a specific manner.

This creates a very secure, loving, respectful and fulfilled animal.

Then, you can take Spot for a walk or a run, exercise, play or socialize him safely and happily.

In short, proper training allows the dog to safely express his drives. Good training produces a fulfilled well-balanced dog and a wonderful relationship between dog and owner in all aspects of their lives together. They work together like a team. Teamwork. It's great!

– Kristin

Animalinstinctsdogtraining.com
1-800-688-8828

MILITARY WORKING DOG UPDATE

Four Paws on American Soil



by Mary M. Long

When Military Working Dog Dexter 3067 alerted to the presence of explosives outside Abu Ghraib Prison he was just doing his job. By his side, his handler M1 Kathleen Ellison, knew that with Dexter as her partner she had "struck gold." Knowing that he had saved her life, she promised him that she would never forget, and that someday she would be back to get him. Dexter had struck gold too, in finding Kathleen. With Dexter returning to his home station in Naples, Italy, Kathleen was issued a new canine partner and deployed to Afghanistan, but she never forgot Dexter. When she received word that he had been classified as "excess" by the U.S. Military she was determined to make sure that he was not euthanized and that he would be able to retire at home with her. Going through the chain of command she received little encouragement until last April when she was advised to contact Debbie Kandoll of Military Working Dog Adoptions.

Now home at last, after 10 years on foreign soil in the service of his country, Dexter is finally back in the United States of America. On Dec. 29, Kathleen Ellison and Debbie Kandoll met at a Naval Support Facility in Grigcignano, Italy to finally reunite Kathleen and Dexter. As Kathleen had said, "He saved my life, now it's time to save his." Meeting Dexter and calling him by her own personal nickname for him, Dexter was ecstatic to see his old friend. "We haven't seen him so happy in months," said a staff member at the facility. "Dexter hasn't stopped smiling," said Debbie Kandoll. Although Debbie said she was initially careful how she approached Dexter, she soon realized that Dexter was "a precious angel." "He's a love muffin", she said with laughter.

Staying overnight at Rome's Airport Hilton, then up before dawn to arrive at Fuimicino Airport in Rome, Dexter handled everything with German Shepherd bravery and intelligence. Flying from Rome to Atlanta, and then to Milwaukee where Kathleen Ellison and Dexter were welcomed by media, well-wishers and representatives of veterans organizations Patriot Rider, and the Save-a-Vet Foundation.

On Dec. 31, Military Working Dog Dexter 3067 was ceremoniously inducted into the Fox Lake American Legion post 703 as the first card carrying veteran Military Working Dog in their history!

While the vets served up a steak dinner for their K9 hero they made due with snacks for themselves. "He deserves it," said Post Commander Jerry Kandeziorski, and everyone agreed. Dexter seemed to think it was a pretty good gig as he accepted a large rawhide bone and a bag full of toys for his retirement package.



What's an old dog to do with new toys? Enjoy them and learn to play all over again after years of hard work, discipline, and service.

Until Kathleen returns to the states permanently, Dexter will be

under the care of Danny Scheurer at the Save-a-Vet Foundation. Danny's goal is to provide a retirement home for all military dogs that cannot be placed in private homes so that none of our retired MWDs will ever have to be euthanized again. "They are our brothers," said Danny.

Many veterans who lived through the heartbreak of having to leave their working dogs behind when American troops pulled out of Vietnam, want to make sure that such callous treatment of military dogs never happens again. Of approximately 4,000 dogs which were sent to Vietnam, only 204 came home. Most were destroyed, euthanized, turned over to the South Vietnamese Army, or set free in the jungle.

With the passage of the Military Working Dog Bill H.R. 5314 in 2000, great progress was made to make it possible that these dogs be adopted into knowledgeable civilian homes, or to retire with their military handlers. However, many dogs still slip through the cracks and are euthanized, despite years of loyal service saving thousands of civilian and military lives. Knowing this, Debbie Kandoll founded Military Working Dog Adoptions to help facilitate placement for these retiring canine war heroes.

According to Debbie, the reunion of Kathleen and Dexter would not have been possible without the help of Congressman Walter Jones (R-N.C.) and Representative Maurice Hinchey (D-N.Y.). Military Working Dog Adoptions has covered the expense of transporting Dexter back to the states which has depleted their cash reserved for this purpose. They are asking for donations, even the smallest donations are welcome, for the Retiring Military Working Dogs that will be coming home.

For more information, visit the Military Working Dog Adoptions' website at www.militaryworkingdogadoptions.com or contact them through Simi-based www.rescueboutique.com

"Kathleen is a woman and a soldier of honor and integrity" – Debbie Kandoll (MWDA)

Comments Welcome, Mary M. Long
PetViews@OjaiandVenturaView.com



BRING OUR K9 WAR HEROES HOME



- After saving thousands of lives, these courageous Military working Dogs are at risk of euthanasia when they retire.
- Unless we speak for them!
- Civilians can adopt retiring Military Working Dogs

• Donations are needed to transport our K9 Heroes Home

• Help Us Help Them
Find out how
– contact Debbie Kandoll



www.militaryworkingdogadoptions.com

MAKE YOUR RESERVATION NOW
PET ASSISTED THERAPY VISITS

Assisted Living Facilities
Hospitals
Memory Care
Hospice

Bite Prevention Presentations
for kids 5 to 10

WWW.RESCUEBOUTIQUE.COM

Happiness is a Well Behaved Dog

ANIMAL INSTINCTS!
DOG TRAINING
1-800-688-8828

KRISTIN
Locally Owned & Operated
26 Years Experience
animalinstinctsdogtraining.com

Ojai Humane Society Update

Thoroughbreds on Fast Track to Rosy Future

by Mary M. Long

Eager faces pop over the fences as Patti Neal approaches the horse herd at the Humane Society in Ojai. Recovering from their nightmare in Lockwood Valley these horses are making up for lost time, and except for their seasonal winter coats they are starting to bloom. However, it's not just groceries but the knowledgeable and affectionate handling by Becky Holder, Humane Society kennel manager, and horse experts Missy Henderson and Patti Neal, that's bringing about the turnaround.

"Here's Sweet Pea", said Patti as a furry nose thrusts between the pipe corral rails to accept a treat. Patti's hands rub over the horses' faces as they ate, knowingly finding the favorite scratch points of each horse.

The horses have acquired working names from staff which reflect their appearance and personalities. "I could name them all", said Patti, "that's Partner, Windy, Casper, Race Horse, Cricket, Lily," and the list goes on. "This one chose me," said Patti, patting a bay mare "She stands between me and that aggressive mare over there to protect me while I'm feeding". Young and old, the quality of the American racing Thoroughbred is apparent to the knowledgeable eye underneath their winter woolies. Some of the older horses have lip tattoos, which means that at one time they had careers on the racetrack. Their identities a mystery, the tattoos and their descriptions will help staff track down their histories with the help of the Jockey Club.

With the legal wrangling months away from being resolved, the Humane Society will be preparing for nine foals this spring. "Anything helps," said Holder. The Humane Society will be needing community support to care and feed for these animals and they are hoping to raise enough funds to have a barn built in time for the first foals. "All the local feed stores have helped," said Becky. "Wachter's, American Feed, Ojai Valley Feed, Ventura Hay, they have all been a big help".

Eventually the time will come when these horses will be looking for new owners. In a market where there is little demand for Thoroughbred horses, due to the waning of Paramutual betting and the trend toward Warmbloods for the hunter/jumper ring, it will be a challenge for Humane Society personnel to find appropriate homes for them.

"Where they came from and what they went through, they appreciate everything we are doing for them," said Holder.

All applicants will have to go through an approval process to adopt one of these horses. With the knowledgeable and committed staff that the Humane Society has caring for these horses, it will be an odds-on favorite that these horses will have the best possible chance at a good life. In the stretch run now, with plenty of food to bury their muzzles in, their renewed faith in human kindness should be rewarded with hope for a future.



Patti Neal and Casper

Photo © 2009, Mary M. Long

For more information on how you can help, or to make a donation call 646-6505 or visit the Humane Society webpage at www.humanesocietyvc.org

Comments Welcome, Mary M. Long
 PetViews@OjaiandVenturaView.com

Adoptable Pets Ojai Humane Society

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



Spunky



Speedy



Charlie



Elsa Prays for a Home



Nine Little Abyssinians

...and Miss Kitty Holds Court



Photos © 2009, Mary M. Long

Aussie Rescue: Mah Mah & Pah Pah



Mah Mah & Pah Pah, need a home as owners have lost theirs. These great family dogs would prefer to stay together.

Donation of \$100 (for the pair) to Aussie Rescue Of SoCal, Inc. Linda's Paws and Claws, 1865 Main St., Ventura, provides a free 35lb. Bag of Dog Food and 40% off any supplies!

Contact Linda - 648-6060

If you can't adopt but would like to help Aussies in need you can send a donation to 22265 Lantana Dr., Perris, Ca. 92570. Aussies Sly and Deuce are awaiting funding for much needed medical attention !!!

Adoption Links



- carlvc.org
- bunssb.org
- www.vcar.us
- petfinder.com
- aussierescuesocal.com

VENTURA VETERINARY HOSPITAL

- BIRDS • CATS •
- DOGS • RABBITS •
- REPTILES • RODENTS

A FAMILY PRACTICE FOR YOUR PETS

JAMES HERON GRAY, D.V.M.
 MEMBER: AAV, AVMA, CVMA

JANET McNEIL, D.V.M.
 MEMBER: AVMA, ARAV



MON-FRI 7:00AM - 6:00PM
 SAT 8:00AM - 1:00PM

648-2797

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



ADVANTAGE FRONTLINE



LEATHER FABRICATION & REPAIR

Ojai Leatherworks & Saddlery

HOME OF THE "SADDLE DOCTOR"

BUSINESS HOURS

MONDAY - FRIDAY 11-6

SATURDAY BY APPOINTMENT

Italo De Los Reyes, proprietor

649-1411 • 305 OLD GRADE ROAD, OAK VIEW

Scooping and Hauling

Too busy, tired or injured to do the Poo ?
 Poop Scooping and Junk Hauling.
 Call the Pros... The Doody Bros !

- Convenient & Affordable
- Professional & Prompt
- Licensed & Insured
- All Pet Waste Considered



On a mission from dog!
www.doodybros.com



805-658-POOP
 For cleaner, healthier and happier communities !



Track Animal
 Cruelty Crimes

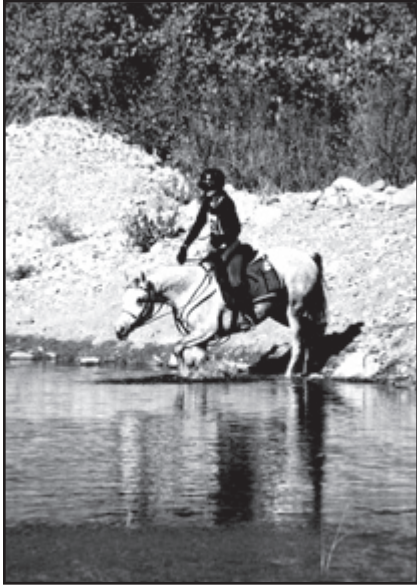


No Dummies Guide to Competitive Trail Riding

by **Mary M. Long**

Come on honey, it'll be a piece of cake", the words of my friend echoed in my head. Yeah, sure I thought looking at my fat round **Arabian** mare. Thirty-five miles? You've got to be kidding! Nevertheless I relented, being ever the wimp under pressure, and I signed up to participate in the **Sage Hill Competitive Trail Ride in Santa Barbara**.

Four am, my mare thinks I have completely lost my reason and decides that discretion is the better part of valor and declines to be caught. Walking after her, carrot clutched in my hand, alternating between entreaty and profanity I eventually wooed the poor suspicious creature to put her head into the halter. Once she was in the trailer, we flew the distance to **Paradise Campground** in an attempt to be present for our starting time.



Mary Long and Lacy.

Pre-ride vet check...I trotted her out for the judge only to have her start bucking when the saddlebags started jangling and flopping on her sides. "Are you sure you can stay on that thing" snickered someone from the sidelines. Embarrassed, I mounted and heard another smart mouth mutter "looks like too much tummy for this sort of thing to me". I hoped he was referring to my horse and not me.

Since I had arrived alone, management paired me up with a riding partner I had never met. I soon found out why nobody else wanted to ride with him. "Now don't ask questions, and just stay right behind me" he said. Yeah...right...I thought. Off and running, I had no idea why my partner started at such a fast pace until we were on a narrow shale path with a steep drop off to my left. "Stay close", my partner explained, "we have to be the first ones on this ledge, because if my horse has anyone in front of him he doesn't look where he puts his feet." Oh great...guess what, oh big cheeseola, my horse doesn't like being in the back either.

I was beginning to get a bit of respect for what real trail riding was all about. As the trail got narrower and the switchbacks got more frequent, I tried hard not to look at the sheer drop-off to my left. I prayed fervently that my horse understood the concepts of gravity and mortality. Reaching the summit, we were rewarded for our temerity with a grandiose view of the **Santa Barbara Mountains** covered with wild grasses and a view of the islands. Gee I thought, this will make for great conversation at cocktail parties. Up and downhill with people and horses dropping out as we went, we followed the route knowing that there were judges stationed along the way to grade us on our trail-riding technique and horsemanship. Just ahead of me someone was in trouble, evidently they had worn a perfume which the local bees mistook for the scent of pollen. Whew... I'm glad I just smelled of sweat. Every few miles there was a Pulse and Respiration stop where I would remind the officiating veterinarian that I really didn't care if I won, and to please pull my horse if she showed any sign of distress. Yeah right...do **Arabians** ever get tired? Not mine...a game little mare I was amazed at her ability to preserve life and keep on trying.

First day survived, that night was a pleasant surprise with campfire music and great barbecued food. Wrapped in a blanket I enjoyed a bit of the old west in the mountains of **Santa Barbara**. Proud of myself for not being a bit sore, I felt smug about taking the advice of a friend and wearing pantyhose to reduce friction underneath my breeches. My lovely little **Arab** was looking a bit tired but after a

night's sleep she was ready to go at the crack of O'God in the morning. "Back your horse up between those two boulders" ordered the judge. Oh my god is he kidding!!!! My **Arabian** mare was hot for the trail and going backward was the last thing on her mind. "How about straight up instead" she said. Yeah... a likely conclusion, I thought. "Never mind" said the judge, "we don't want anyone getting hurt here". Grrrrr, I hated to give up the fight but rationalized that getting out of bed, tacking up for the trail and then going backwards was indeed a stupid idea, and just maybe the horse was just smarter than both of us.

Uphill and downhill we went, then back through the **Paradise Campground**. I heard the words "water crossing" shouted from somewhere ahead of me. Up and over the bank and before us spanned a sizeable and scenic river. Proud of myself for being prepared, I had spent months schooling my horse (who thought the world consisted of a 24' pipe corral) on water crossings. Those trips down into the **San Antonio Creek** really paid off. Gently down the bank and carefully through the water, we were a picture perfect water crossing with only the mild sacrifice of wetting my custom made boots. Other horses were plunging and swimming, riders shouting. Somehow we had navigated the streambed without hitting the deep spots. Beginner's luck I guess.

Mid afternoon my caffeine deficient brain was beginning to play tricks on me. Scanning the slopes for a coffee shop, I was missing my mid afternoon pick up. "All day I faced the barren waste without the taste of Java" Now I was singing to myself. "Coffee?" said my partner, smirking as he whipped a canned cappuccino out of his saddlebag, and slurped it down in front of my astonished face... Yeah...well I only had the "coffee mirage" which flitted in and out of my imagination...visions of Lorraine smiling and saying "the usual?"

Second day of the ride people were relaxed and friendly, in the true spirit of good sportsmanship. "Your horse looks tired, he needs to rest," said my partner to one of the other competitors. That's interesting, I thought, his horse looks just fine to me. As we rode off my partner shared his philosophy, "Well if you say that to some of these people they will let you ride ahead and they never know the difference." GEEZ...and I thought people were doing this just for fun!!!!!! I guess the killer instinct just never leaves the generic jerk...mile after mile my partner hogged the lead leaving



Mary Long and Lacy.

my mare struggling to keep up. No matter how politely I asked that we switch-off, all I could see in front of me was a horse's ass. The reality of riding a three gaited horse behind a singlefooter is that you alternate between fast walk and trot in a frustrating series of accelerations and decelerations to make the 4-6 mile optimum pace for trail riding.

I was growing angrier, until I finally decided that no matter what, I would leave him in my dust at the finish line. Descending the final hillside, I planned my revenge plotting my sprint to the finish line. Yaaa!!! I yelled, and with a burst of speed my little mare plunged to the front with people cheering on both sides of the trail as we raced to the finish line. With great gratefulness, I felt the love and appreciation that a horseman feels for a really good horse. What an awesome little mare, or as my dad would have said "now that's a horse"..

Cooling out my animal and retrieving my award for good horsemanship along with my photos, which would immortalize my trek into the world of rugged trail riding, I was happy to have indulged my pioneer spirit. With a monotonous world of arenas, circles, and ridden patterns, getting back to the original relationship of horse and rider as partners in travel reminded me of how much has been

lost in the process. I'll have to try this again, I thought...only next time I'll have to be careful not to get stuck with the leftover riding partner...and oh yeah... I'll have to remember to bring some canned cappuccino.

For information on **The North American Trail Ride Conference (NATRC)** visit their website at www.natrc.org. Rides can be between 2 to 3 days with distances of up to 80 miles depending on the

division. There are rides for all levels. The next ride for Region 2 is scheduled **Mar. 14-15** in beautiful **Estrella Mountain Park, Phoenix Arizona**.

*Comments Welcome, Mary M. Long
PetViews@OjaiandVenturaView.com*



Adoption Links

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

Natural Health for Pets
Junia Childs D.V.M.
Holistic Veterinary Medicine
Acupuncture
805.646.9695
www.naturalhealthforpets.com

The Balanced Horse
Energy and Nutritional Balancing
Sharon Lindsay
Equine Bio-Energy Analysis

805-647-5037 res.
805-746-6070 cell

Dynamite Nutritional Products Distributor

Designs by Sina

• Illustrations • Wardrobe
• Event Costumes • Miracles

Sina Taylor
323.661.1424
designsbysina@sbcglobal.net



GOOD...



The
...SITUATION

Photos ©, 2008 Joel Anderson

Stopping by Ventura's Good Club, I found garage-band-rooted *The Situation* (Mark Masson, Devin Lane and Rob Jeffries) once again to be in **GOOD** form! Check their www.myspace.com/thesituation2 for gigs.



Caffe Bella

Wine Bar & Pub ♪ Dancing ♪ Fine Art
Italian flourishes meet
Irish hospitality

Open Tuesday - Sunday
Happy New Year From
all of us at Caffe Bella
79 S. California St.
Ventura
(805) 643-2171

Call Bella to host your party

- Wednesday, Jan. 14 8pm - Dan Wilson
- Thursday, Jan. 15 8pm - Fly to Blue
- Friday, Jan. 16 8pm - Brendan James "Be Willing"
- Saturday, Jan. 17 8pm - Michael Ann
- Sunday, Jan. 18 2pm - Denise Vasquez & Randy Martinez "Sunday Afternoon"
- Wednesday, Jan. 21 8pm - Dan Wilson
- Thursday, Jan. 22 8pm - Michelle Lewis

Queen
Stella
Cigars

Visit www.myspace.com/cafebella
for Full Live Music Calendar

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



Photos ©, 2008 Joel Anderson

Beatrice Wood Art

"Prices reasonable
and unreasonable"

40 South California

By Appointment

805-643-0111

www.MamaOfDada.com



Let the Healing Begin

It started out with a few musicians and an idea; to help out a friend. By the time Dec. 21 rolled around a large group of musicians, friends & family from Ventura County, and beyond, had organized a benefit on behalf of musician Fred Schmitt.

Fred had been riding motorcycles since 1972 and, as fate would have it, Sept. 24, was blindsided by a careless driver.

Fred (top left, acoustic guitar) pulled through, with a little help from his friends & family; Landy, the Catterwailers (Marc Bobonic, Bob Bartosh Dana Teague), Morgen, Drew, Le Petit Protest, Emy Reynolds, Karen, Euphoria (Sunny Erickson, David Gorospe, Onah and friends, April Hendrix, Lanny Kaufer, Dr. Surf, Evelyn Hays, Phyllis, Timothy Teague, Jerry Kenton, Mimi Milne, Mr. Bear & Andrea, Alexis, Susie, Leilani, Brit, Drew, Charlene, Keldon and Alex, Riki and Marika, Dustin, Matt and Lauren, and many more. With friends like these Fred is definitely well on the mend!

HOLIDAY HANGIN' WITH THE LOCAL FOLKS

Photos ©, 2008 Joel Anderson



THE HUB



America's First Aid & Safety Resource

Dwayne A. Bower
General Manager

Phone: 805.646.1491
805.352.3434
805.646.1130

Zee Medical Services Company
107 S. Bryant Street • Ojai, CA 93023

Tunno Design

Newsletters • PowerPoint Presentations
Advertising • Brochures • Website Design • Logos

DONNA TUNNO
Graphic Artist

(805) 650-1850
donna@tunno.com

THE DATING CONFESSIONS

**You Are Perfect for Me
You Are Not my Type**

By Ali K.

It's a new year...2009 and that means new beginnings. It's a time to break bad habits and to stop bad dating patterns.

After my sister touted, "Do you realize you date the same men over and over again – they just have different names," I had to admit to her that she is right. I have always had a dating pattern and that is usually dating wildly inappropriately; I was picking unavailable men with a penchant for non-monogamy and have wondered why I am still single.

My new motto for 2009 will have to be "I only date available men who are into monogamy." I want to break my pattern of being single and that can only happen if I choose different men. This simply means: Breaking my pattern.

I think a lot of men should break their dating patterns. Women are usually more forgiving and willing to bend a little with who they will date. I know some Women are gold-diggers, but not all Men seem to want everything neatly in a box with a bow – dating doesn't work that way.

I remember meeting a guy and we hit it off, but then he asked my age and height. He basically said, "You are three years older than I prefer and three inches too short... so... you are out of my wheelhouse." I laughed, because this coming from a barely pushing 5'8 guy who is slightly balding who only wants to date women over 5'10 who are not over 30. It's men like this that are total players and will continually have sex with random women, because they will not even make room for something out of the norm – the irony is that the tall women typically don't want to date a short man. A guy friend once said to me, "I only date really tall, thin women who are not that smart or good in bed." He then wondered why his relationships didn't work out. He also confessed, "I've cheated on every woman I've ever dated." Go figure.

I had another guy friend who said, "I only date brunettes with long hair and brown eyes." Everyone has a type and is so set in their ways, but then wonders why they are single. Hey, I used to have a type too – brown hair, brown eyes, spiky hair, with broad shoulders...blah, blah, blah. But, then I met someone who had blonde hair, blue eyes and he absolutely became my type. He turned me on more than any other guy I have ever been with – our chemistry was extraordinary.

I recently actually perused **Craig's List** and found some ads to show how Men have a distinct set type – and seem unwilling to bend.

Ad One: "You would have a clear complexion, suitable curves, fine hair, a toned body, maybe shapely legs and a shapely behind. No taller than 5'8". And if you're 5'8" you probably shouldn't be more than 130 lbs.



This is simply because I tend to go for women who have a waist size of 26" or less; in general, 24" or 25" is the ideal." All I can say to that is "good luck." He should pay to have his dream model girlfriend manufactured in a lab.

Ad Two: "I'd like to meet somebody around 25-30." Hmmm. But his dream girl could be 32 and he is already cancelling that potential opportunity out.

Ad Three: "Don't ask me why but these waif and sick looking skinny women here in L.A. don't do it for me. I'm from the east coast and prefer passionate, busty, curvy women with class." I got to give it up to this one for liking curvy women.

Ad Four: "I'm a very normal professional, Caucasian guy that happens to like women who are a bit older (up to 45)." So he likes cougars and gives older women a good time.

Ad Five: "I like a woman with a great face, a great smile, and great curves." Well this one is kind of nice. I have had many guy friends and these ads sounds just like them. I had one guy friend tell me, "I only date slutty chicks. I am a slut myself." Hmmm. Not sure what to say to that – maybe therapy to deal with some intimacy issues. He did tell me he is 'small' down there, so maybe all the random sex validates his manhood.

I just find it so amusing that people (mostly men) are missing out in life. I am not saying that people should settle or date someone they aren't attracted to, but perhaps having a bit of flexibility and dating someone who is totally not their type- could potentially be the most exciting thing that has happened to them in years. Sometimes we have to let go of 'our type' to find something even greater than we imagined finding. I have always dated short guys and men who are unwilling to commit. Maybe it's time to date taller men who love monogamy!

Comments welcome
spiralgrl@yahoo.com
- Ali K.

AWESOME
Quality • Efficiency
Attention-to-Detail
Replacement Windows
Custom Mirrors
Custom Shower Doors
New Screens • Screen
Repair • Re-Screening
Custom Work • Installation
Specialty Restoration



Classic Custom Auto Glass
OJAI VALLEY GLASS
525 N. VENTURA AVE. OAK VIEW
646-3319

Ellie's Birthday at Caffe Bella



Ellie's Birthday, Dec. 19 at Caffe Bella proved to be a great time - Frank Barajas (above) and Travis (of The Jimmy Mooks, above and top right on drums) Kirstie (right) and her Great Pyrenees 'Yogi Bear' who's hangin' with Randall Richman, Nuala and Ron.

Photos ©, 2008 Joel Anderson



The Likely Lads - Mai's Cafe

Mai's Cafe in Midtown Ventura is doing something unique; booking bands based on talent, not how many concert goers the band draws. This is something which was more prevalent in Ventura in the 90s.

The Likely Lads (Steve Pairman & Simon Elbaum, and Orin), from Oak Park, is a band that's writing their own music and draws from diverse influences such as the Kinks, Russian folk music and even a little bit o' the Irish. Sings

Simon, "Poppa was a Vodka Drinker, Momma was a Wishful Thinker..." With a modest sense of upbeat humor, The Lads say they started out as "less than a garage band...it was hey let's pick up a guitar and mess around...we started recording on my computer... music industry kinda crazy as it is...we just try to have a good time...Love the Kinks...Dave Davies ----- is definitely a huge influence on my guitar."

-- Joel Anderson



The Likely Lads - 'Poppa was a Vodka Drinker, Momma was a Wishful Thinker...' www.myspace.com/thelikelyladsus

Every 75 seconds, another innocent citizen is incarcerated by psychiatry.

Psychiatrists rely upon commitment laws that empower them to strip people of basic rights and force them to undergo unworkable, harmful and punitive "treatments"—funded by insurance or taxpayer dollars.

The Citizens Commission on Human Rights (CCHR) is an international voice for people

abused within the mental health system.

If you, a loved one or friend has been forced into a psychiatric facility, made to undergo "community mental health treatment," committed involuntarily or harmed by psychiatric treatment, contact CCHR.

We will take action.

**REPORT PSYCHIATRIC ABUSE.
IT'S A CRIME.**

Contact: Citizens Commission on Human Rights International
www.cchrventura.org • P.O. box 449, Camarillo, CA 93011
805-371-1576

All inquiries and communication will be handled in strictest confidence.



GENERAL PUBLIC WARNING:
Psychiatry is hazardous to your mental health.

MEDIA VIEW

Corporate Media... the pitiful abducted hostage?

Toughie Times for not so 'Local' Corporate Chain-Print Rags

Tough times for *not so* 'locally' based corporate chain papers has meant the discerning *post-economic-crash* 'press' consumer has perhaps begun to read through their lines with their pocket books.

The LA Times (*Tribune Co.*) has declared bankruptcy, the Star Free Press (*Scripps closed Ventura offices*) is in the process of stripping out 20 more employees, VCR-reporter (*Southland Publications chain-based in Pasadena*) is shrinking its pages, seeking interns, and one of their editors is actively looking for employment elsewhere. They're also having difficulty communicating with area merchants.

Has anyone noticed the Ojai Valley News (*Tuscaloosa, Alabama, Buchanan Communications-based chain paper*) recently reduced the width of its paper from 13 11/16" to 11 15/16"? Shrewd... And one of their prime star writers has called it splittsville, permanently and for



Now closed Star Free Press offices in Ventura.

far elsewhere away from the Ojai Valley...

Could it be that these corporate chains have become overindulgent, fat, lazy and put themselves in the position of requiring an emergency intervention diet of light vittles, cornmeal and grits? Surely every so often you'll see one (or two or three) of these chains eat one healthy apple (in the form of a 1/2 way... decent well-intended-by-the-writer news story), but that's all make believe facade intended to keep their paper mache rep. looking healthy.

When Otis Chandler retired as owner of the Times he was not happy, later in 1999, when the other controlling interest side of the Times family formally made the editorial dept. accountable to the advertising dept. This meant Times news gathering was further watered down in deference to the big bucks corporate Times advertisers' whim. And boy did they whim...Otis was particularly not happy at this sell out and said to reporters at the time that Times management had been "unbelievably stupid".

No wonder the U.S. of A. has been getting a lemon-squeezing all these years... What with Wall Street's cozy "wink-wink" love affair with the look-the-other-way corporate-media and corrupt government — ah the vestiges of zero press accountability ala No Rules Wall Street free-for-all... One need only scan their littered pages to notice that there is a distinct absence of hard news and a Plethora of Press Releases (PR - propaganda) presented as "news" stories, ie: Ventura Breeze, others, etc. But wait, show pity?

Perhaps it's not the mainstream media to blame? Perhaps they have simply become a complacent and willing victim of greedy corporations and bad governance....

As in the Stockholm Syndrome (remember Patty Hearst?); a psychological response sometimes seen in an abducted hostage (corporate media), in which the hostage shows signs of loyalty to the hostage-taker (greedy business and improper government influence), regardless of the danger or risk in which they have placed themselves. An object of pity or...

Could watered down corporate rags simply and finally be getting their just due from too many years of business as usual (soft news peddling) in their unnatural sleeperover with big government and payola-corporations? Time will tell... Look and Listen... can you hear the soul sucking sound?

— Joel Anderson, editor

Priorities: Ventura Mayor Weir's Hair Doo!

**R. ELLIS SMITH
It's so Wonderful Really....**



As I was reading the Heart Felt, Warm and Rosey, article written by our illustrious Mayor, Ms. Christy (Big Hair) Weir, (who was appointed by the Good Ol' Boys, not elected by the citizens) I really thought it was a very good piece of "PR" for the Gang in the Ivory Tower, they really need all the help they can get.

There were only a couple of small items that I took umbrage with. The first was the fact that she said the Council repealed the ill-thought-out 911 fee because the fee was unpopular with the citizens. The real truth being that the 911 fee was to be taken to court as an illegal tax, and the council knew full well they would definitely lose the case, they of course decided to repeal the fee.

She then went on Proudly to exclaim that the "Citizens for Responsible Development" placed a measure designed to limit building height on the November 2009 ballot, even though the City of San Buenaventura has had, and still has, an ordinance covering the height of all buildings built within the city boundaries.

She went on to exclaim that Tourists are flocking to our downtown area and buy frantically from our local Ventura businesses. Maybe she can explain that to the many businesses that have folded up their tents in this last year?

Finally she pointed with pride to the fact that the city had spent multi-millions of dollars on improving the sewer, water, and street paving, (drastically interfering with local commerce), in what she called the oldest part of town. It's obvious that Ms. Weir has never visited our "worst maintained" part of town, the Ventura Avenue area. Also is the fact that if the multi-million dollar, sewer, water, and street paving program didn't take over twice as long as originally planned it probably would not have cost 1/2 as much. Hey but nobody ever said the City of San Buenaventura could really plan anything that didn't take twice as long as expected and cost twice as much. Another fact about the improvement was if the Gang's in the Ivory Tower, (present and past) would have taken care of the infrastructure as we grew (preventive maintenance), there would not have been a need for such an expensive revamp.

But good luck to the Gang in the Ivory Tower in their quest to reduce the cities budget by \$8,000,000 in the next two years, judging by their past history

there is about as much chance of that happening as there is for the Gang to stop whining about needing more tax money.

By the way, I noticed that Ms. Weir neglected to mention the fact that the Gang in the Ivory Tower lost over \$10,000,000 (10 million!) of our tax money playing the stock market (in high-risk investment bank obligations instead of highly safe Treasury instruments and other government-backed securities) when Bears Stearns went lopsided. At this time they are gearing up for a "BID" tax. This is a tax on businesses to pay for improving the downtown area, of course any increase in taxes to the business owners only means higher prices for their goods.

Weir also failed to mention the forgiveness of a \$500,000 loan to the Ventura Housing Au-

thority, a so called "non-profit" organization. It is truly a non-profit, at least a non-profit to the citizens of Ventura, if you go on the web site of the Ventura Housing Authority (www.hacityventura.org/about_hacsb_boc.html) you will see how many individuals are being paid handsome salaries by the "Non-Profit" Ventura Housing Authority.

Oh yeah, for the new year, you have something to look forward too, the Gang in the Ivory Tower is planning to place Parking Meters along Main Street and California Street. So Happy New Year, hope you remember all this when it comes time to vote for new council mem-

bers.

PS: Has anybody else noticed the similarities in the Hair Style of Ms. Weir and Ms. Kennedy the one running for NY Senate ????

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

SUPPORT LOCAL
BUSINESSES

Job Interview Tips

An interview gives you the opportunity to showcase your qualifications to an employer, so it pays to be well prepared. The following information provides some helpful hints.

Preparation:

- Learn about the organization.
- Have a specific job or jobs in mind.
- Review your qualifications for the job.
- Be ready to briefly describe your experience, showing how it relates to the job.
- Be ready to answer broad questions, such as "Why should I hire you?" "Why do you want this job?" "What are your strengths and weaknesses?"
- Practice an interview with a friend or relative.

Source: U.S. Dept. of Labor

Art & Jenny's
SEWING MACHINE
CENTER
We Carry the Best
Exclusive Janome
Dealer • Free Estimates
Sales • Service
www.artandjennys.com
Call 643-8536
2124 E. Thompson Blvd.
3 Blocks West of Seaward
in Ventura

Computer M.D.
Local Computer Service
Your Office or Mine
Eve. & Wknd. Appts.
Ojai/Ventura - 805-798-0916
mike@itatemycomputer.com

911 Boondoggle Cost Ventura \$ 61,500

Wasting Taxpayer Money 101

R. ELLIS SMITH



I sent an inquiry to the *Gang in the Ivory Tower*, (Ventura City Hall) and asked if the city had hired a outside consultant to help in putting the 911 fee plan together and exactly what the cost of the 911 fee plan was. Here is the answer I received back.

RE: your request to the **City of Ventura** Tuesday, December 16, 2008 11:39 AM From: "srepede@ci.ventura.ca.us" <srepede@ci.ventura.ca.us> View contact details

To: rellis39@sbcglobal.net

In response to your question, the city did not hire an outside consultant to assist in the formation of the 911 fee. The city's total cost for formation and implementation was \$61,554. The revenue received so far was \$438,925.

Thank you for your question.

Of course now that the Gang in the Ivory Tower, (Ventura city council) has decided to "repeal" the 911 fee all of that money will go back to the folks it was taken from, (wonder if the city will pay interest on that money?). So all in all the **Gang in the Ivory Tower** has once again taken a big ol' pot of our hard earned tax money (\$61,544) and tossed it in the sewer, no wonder we are \$4,000,000 in the hole on the budget.

Since the city has no idea who they collected money from it will be up to the individual citizen to provide proof the city took the money, then make out a request for a refund, then wait 6 to 8 weeks to finally get the refund.

In the mean time the **Gang in the Ivory Tower** will be contemplating their next money grabbing scheme. It would seem the Gang has a credo when it comes to their money grabbing schemes, it goes ... "If at first you don't succeed, try, try, again."

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

LETTER

Endangered Species Act Revoked by Bush Admin

View Editor:

I am writing the *SF Chronicle* on behalf of our spiritual ecology corps Board of Regent. The **Regents of the Bhumi Devi Brigade** have prompted me to inquire why your newspaper (*Chronicle*) has kowtowed to the dominant-paradigm and neglected to dialogue upon this outlaw executive administration outlaw executive decree of Dec. 11th annul our nations bellweather **Environmental Act, the Endangered Species Act (ESA)**. The fundamental question we as a people should be asking is who are these people (*The Bush Mob*), what is their intention in particular with our nations platinum environmental law, are they act unlawfully that is are they decided and governing against the wishes of our nations populous and what can we as a people do about it, if indeed their actions are treasonous; against the will of this land and its people.

When it comes to their assault of

the **ESA**, you should have no doubt, my fellow citizen about their intention. They view this people powered congressionally enacted environmental protection act as a pain-in-the-ass for their corporations cronies from many sectors especially the petrochemical industry, the cattle and livestock, the oil-energy sector, timber and land development demigods. It simply hinders their process. So we're supposed to either accept or opposite it, right? wrong? Not this time, our nation, a nation which prides itself on the emerging green living paradigm, higher education, and the intelligence of protecting the gift our benevolent and universal creator left us with here in **America** deserve more.

Consequently, our board members appeal to the communities and citizens of this nature rich homeland we call the Bay area to first rally around immediate "stop-gag" solution known as congressional review, an obscure law enacted in 1996 that allows congress to reject laws through an expedient yet thorough review of them, that fail to muster up to benefit the constituency and the nations land as they see it. That means to email, fax, call or write **Senator Feinstein** or **Boxer** today and demand a congressional review of this outlandish unnecessary incursion into the **Endangered Species Act**. Concomitantly, with these forceful appeals to congressman and senators, a dialogue of this abominable action should transpire day to day for the next six weeks on every media venue, and right wing outfits like **CNN** and **Fox News** should harbour biological sympatico sympathetic to the plight not only of our nation's endangered wildlife but outlaw politicians who will be facing the like of capital punishment in the days ahead as they are apprehended for treasonous acts not limited to, but including:

- tempering with constitutionally sanctioned procedure like habeas corpus
- lying to fulfill desire to expand oil empire in Iraq
- neglecting responsibility to regulate Wall Street and the Interior Dept. lease programs for Oil and Gas
- subjecting people to Torture
- attacking Environmental Acts with habeas intent
- obsecding with elections through inter agency manipulation
- looting the treasury and on and on and on

The country, as we all know is a shambles, this is a perfect *Shakespearean Lela* (play or outcome) of people who seize power through impropriety (ala Hamlet). Their assault on the **ESA** is basically the proverbial straw that broke the camel's back; It is time to move together; into action. For the **Regents of the Bhumi Devi Brigade**.

On Her Behalf,
Dr. Isha Mazer
Sp. Attache

Gifts of the Family
7th Generation

TAROT
BY NATALYA

FOR APPT. 805-794-6921

Economics 101

R. ELLIS SMITH



Thousand Oaks needs \$4,000,000 in budget cuts, have high hopes that sales tax in their city will remain stable, they have been working on a **Financial Strategic Plan** for over a year, don't seem to be in unmanageable condition.

Mr. Hugh Riley, Moorpark city manager says, "Things aren't exactly rosey for

Axe-Grinder...

Continued From VIEW Page 2...

ing up a copy of the View, but am less inclined to do so lately.



Thanks for listening,
David Allen
Newbury Park

EDITORS NOTE: The VIEW has a No-Idiot-Blogger-Policy, which requires Letters to the Ed. include letter writers true name, address and phone.

The above letter was emailed to the VIEW Dec. 28. The VIEW emailed the letter writer back, requesting the required identifyin' info, but received no response from the individual.

To illustrate our No-Idiot-Blogger-Policy, the VIEW has nevertheless reprinted the anonymously emailed correspondence.

If anyone (including the said emailer) would like to provide the identifying information the emailer, the VIEW will be happy to buy you a cup o' coffee, at a privately owned and operated coffee house.

2009, but they aren't really dire either." They expect no city job eliminations in the near future.

Ojai at this time is right on budget, **City Manager Mr. Jere Kersnar** said. Sales tax in **Ojai** is still holding steady.

Fillmore says their fiscal outlook at this time is very healthy. They have \$1.8 million in reserve and an ending cash balance of over \$200,000. They also say no layoffs are expected.

Camarillo will receive \$2,000,000 from new Military housing development and city manager **Mr. Jerry Banksron** said "busi-

Economics Continued VIEW Page 22...

Lee Fitzgerald Show



Profiling Interesting People,
Community Events,
Exciting Happenings...

OJAI -
Tuesdays Ch. 10 8:00 pm
Wednesdays Ch. 25 8:00 pm

VENTURA -
CAPS-TV Ch. 6
Thursdays 9:30pm

OXNARD -
Oxnard College TV Ch. 15
Wednesdays 11am • 2pm • 9pm
Fridays 11:00 am
Sundays 11:30am

Announce your event, or become a sponsor of this popular program airing county wide in 10 cities, reaching over 1 million homes

Inquire with "Dr. Lee"
805-701-1489

info@valleyvideofoundation.org

Guitar Planet Rock Your New Year !!!

New Year's Guitar Lessons - \$99 a month

"We Will Make You Better Than Good !!!"

Limited Openings for Lessons - All Private 1 on 1

We Will Rock Your New Year !!!



Gabriel McCool (at left) began Guitar Planet lessons with instructor Joe Baugh. Gabriel (with his accoustic guitar at left), is making plans on moving up to an ESP Electric.

Says Gabriel, "I want to learn some rock n' roll music like Queens, "We Will Rock You".

Going over the chords," Guitar Planet Studen Karina Ruiz is learning Latin Jazz. Shown here with a nice "Aged" look ESP Viper Guitar.

2009

Hey, **Guitar Planet** Now Has Openings Available for Guitar Lessons - Hotter Than Ever !!!

Guitar Classes
Ultimate Teachers

BRUCE, JAKE, JOE
MAX AND RANDY

ESP Guitars
Starting at \$179

We have a great selection of equipment for the pro musician and beginner
Check us out for your Musical needs in 2009



1822 E. Main St., Midtown Ventura • 648-4633
WWW.GUITARPLANET.US

VIEW 'REAL' CLASSIFIED ADS

Clothing/Textiles

3000 PC CLOTHING, never worn. Men, Women & Children's \$4,000 All. In Ventura, Bob 310/529-3637

Consignment/Antiques

SANTA BARBARA CONSIGNMENT CO., New Location, We Moved ! 330 State St. Now taking Consignment Items. Send Photos to info@sbconsignment.com 805-568-1425

Environment

L.A. TRASH - Are you concerned Greedy Soulless Developer Corporate Types are moving to Ventura/S.B. Counties & bringing their nasty habits with them; trash, smog, and smarmy business practices? Are they trying too hip to be cool?

email: editor@ojaiandventuraview.com

Health

MASSAGE SPECIAL - \$50 hr. 1st appt. in Chiropractic Office. Therapeutic Techniques from Holistic Health Practitioner. Chronic conditions, accidents, pain syndromes. Health Coaching. Linda 805-202-6379

Lost & Found

FOUND, KEYS and USB DRIVE belonging to writer, Peggy Kissner. Contact Lisa or Mary at Lisa and Mary's Boutique, 307 E. Ojai Ave. Ste. 100, 646-3100

Music Instruction

GUITAR LESSONS. Ventura's Guitar Planet Rocks - 648-4633

JAZZ PIANO LESSONS - Learn technique, theory, reading, improvisation, blues, bebop and a deeper understanding of music. Beginners welcome. Over twenty years teaching experience. For more info call Scott at 272-8186

PIANIST FOR YOUR EVENT - Piano included! Dance, sing along, or easy listening! In Vta, Bob 310/529-3637

TRUMPET LESSONS - Expert Teacher - All Levels Call 377-0917

Professional

COST EFFECTIVE DOCUMENT PREPARATION: Divorce, Legal Sep., Custody, Child & Spousal Support, Living Trusts and Wills, Probate. Are you in need of Assistance, but feel the Financial Strain we all have been experiencing? Call me. I can make a Payment Arrangement and my Costs are Low. See Display Ad, page 5, Holly A. Campus - 16-years-experience. 805/272-8027.

Psychic

PSYCHIC DEBBIE SENATE will give readings or give readings to your special party. In times like these, a psychic reading might be the perfect thing for seeking a new direction.

For inquiries email HaintHunter@aol.com

Services

HOW CAN I HELP? Bob 310/529-3637
NEED SOME HELP AROUND THE HOUSE? painting, gardening, yard clean-up, etc...? Please call Kelly@805-512-2789
NEED SOME HELP MOVING? packing, loading, unloading? Please call Kelly@805-512-2789

OFFICE CLEANING - Licensed & Insured 216-5095

WEDDING PLANNER ETC., I can design dresses, rings, flowers, decorations, planning. Also fine gold settings, personal assisting, organizing, time management, massage, tutor (worked with autistic kids for 10 years), paint, murals, garden, and clean. Kayte, 258-3931

Studio Space

LARGE ARTIST STUDIO AVAILABLE IN VENTURA. 24-hour access, kitchen, exhibit space in Gallery, security and a great community of artists. Have been in business almost 5 years. Call Sandra 805/643-3973

VIEW CLASSIFIED ADS

To PLACE An Ad

LINK: OjaiandVenturaView.com

Check Out our FREE Classifieds

advertise@ojaiandventuraview.com

Mid-town Ventura at Billy O's



Photos © 2008 Joel Anderson



Jackass Rocks a Full House

Jackass 'Cowpunked' to a packed Ventura house at Billy O's recently, where a lot of old friends got together for a lot of genuine high-energy-good-times and great West Coast Sound. Toby Emery (Raging Arb) and Peter Finestone (Bad Religion) (top left), Charlie Peterson (lower, left, Big Tweed) sat in. Even Ventura's Finest stopped in "for the entertainment."

www.myspace.com/jackass

KOHLI'S MUSIC PIT

By Michael Kohli

Members of The Return reunited Dec. 28 at Ventura's Bombay Bar & Grill for one night while Andrew Gavigan was visiting from his new home in New York.

While being home for Christmas The Return decided to do one more gig. It was so much fun. I got to see lots of people from back in the GVC days! Members from Army Of Freshmen, No Motiv, Susan D. and many others were all there. I was recently thinking of bringing back my 'Hey, Who's That' photo collage column and decided The Return's show would be the best show to start from again.

The Return was one of the first bands I worked with back when we did shows together at The Elk's Lodge, Breakdown Room, Hot Shots Billiards, Nicholby's and more. It was good to see them live again! Hopefully, the band will play more if Andrew visits back home more often! The night ended with Gentlemen taking the stage. Great night for live music!!!

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

Rent this Space
As Low as \$10 Bucks

"Hey Who's That?"



The Return at the Bombay Bar & Grill



Susan D. with Friends

Photos © 2008, Michael Kohli



Gentlemen in Ventura!

Kohli's Music Pit
Kohli Rocks Night.
Live bands, acoustic artists, DJ Kohli & more
Nicholby's Nightclub.
410 E. Main St. Ventura, CA (805) 653-2320
Coming October 2008.
Stay tuned to Nicholbys biz & Kohlismusicpit.com
Visit us on myspace!!!

Economics 101...

Continued From VIEW Page 21...

ness's continue to flourish in this area. It's not going to be bloody but we still need to be watchful."

Pt. Hueneme will see a balanced budget and an increase in public safety says City Manager Mr. Dave Norman.

Oxnard, the largest city in Ventura County has a \$15,000,000 dollar reserve and a balanced budget. Mayor Tom Holden says the city may be in better shape than any other city in the county.

Simi Valley says cuts won't affect city services. City Manager Mr. Mike Sedell said "we're going to survive, the sky's not falling."

Ventura: the city is scrambling to fix a \$4,000,000 shortfall which could swell to over \$10,000,000 by the end of 2009. City Manager Mr. Rick Cole says "this is the worst economic picture for Ventura since 1991." There will have to be city job eliminations, and extreme service cuts to the public sector, the city will spend only on top priorities, as soon as they can figure out which are the top priorities.

We don't anticipate any recovery for at least 2.5 years, Mr. Cole said.

The fact that the City of Ventura was the only city in the county that had invested heavily in Lehman Brothers Holdings Inc., Washington Mutual and Bears and Stearns which caused a \$10,000,000 (\$10 million!) plus loss to the citizens of Ventura, and the fact that the city council agreed to huge salary increases and massive pension increases for firefighters which will cost an additional \$1.2 million dollars per year, and the fact that they gave away \$500,000 to the Ventura Housing Authority, may of course have something to do with the fact that the City of Ventura is suffering much worse than any other city in the county.

This election cycle the City of Ventura has 4 council seats up for grabs....if the people of the City of Ventura really want to show the Gang in the Ivory Tower, (Ventura City Hall), exactly how they feel about the way they are conducting the business of our city this is the perfect opportunity. When it comes time to vote all you have to remember is one thing, VOTE NO ON ALL INCUMBENTS. If we get enough good people in the council perhaps we can convince them to consider replacing the present top administrators.

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

VIEW MUSIC LISTINGS

- **Caffé Bella**, Ventura – Wed. Jan. 14 – Dan Wilson - 643-2171
- **Caffé Bella**, Ventura – Thurs. Jan. 15 – Fly to Blue - 643-2171
- **SOHo**, S.B. – Thurs. Jan. 15 – Club Mercy Presents: The Meat Puppets w/Benji Hughes - 962-7776
- **The Chumash Resort** – Santa Ynez, Thurs. Jan 15 – Howie Mandel - 1-800-248-6274
- **The Canyon Club**, Agoura – Thurs. Jan. 15 – Stanley Clarke/The Spazmatics - 818-879-5016
- **Caffé Bella**, Ventura – Fri. Jan. 16 – Brenda James “Be Willing” - 643-2171
- **Cold Springs Tavern**, S.B., Fri. Jan. 16 – Cinder Jean w/Robt. Postel 7-10:00, 967-0066
- **SOHo**, S.B. – Fri. Jan. 16 – Somos Son w/the 805 Project - 962-7776
- **The Canyon Club**, Agoura – Fri. Jan. 16 – Rock Tribute/Gabriel Iglesias - 818-879-5016
- **Velvet Jones**, S.B. – Fri. Jan. 16 – Brazilian Night, 965-8676
- **Zoey’s Café**, Ventura – Fri. Jan. 16 – Sally Jaye and All Spots to Black! - 652-1137
- **The Fillmore**, San Francisco – Fri. Jan. 16 – Willie Nelson, 415/346-6000
- **Ventura Theater**, Ventura – Fri. Jan. 16 – Rebelution State Radio - 653-0721
- **Hi-Cees**, Ventura – Fri. Jan. 16 – Preachers - 650-7773
- **Caffé Bella**, Ventura – Sat. Jan. 17 – Michael Ann - 643-2171
- **Viper Room**, L.A. – Sat. Jan. 17 – Pussy-cat Dolls, 310/358-1881
- **The Canyon Club**, Agoura – Sat. Jan. 17 – Eric Johnson - 818-879-5016
- **Hi-Cees**, Ventura – Sat. Jan. 17 – Baby Sister - 650-7773
- **Cold Springs Tavern**, S.B., Sat. Jan. 17 – D.G. Johnson 2-5/Claude Hopper w/Colin John 6-9, 967-0066
- **SOHo**, S.B. – Sat. Jan. 17 – Lenka w/The Little Ones/Soul Majestic - 962-7776
- **Ventura Theater**, Ventura – Sat. Jan. 17 – Latin Lockdown Tour - 653-0721
- **Velvet Jones**, S.B. – Sat. Jan. 17 – Cornerstone, 965-8676
- **Zoey’s Café**, Ventura – Sat. Jan. 17 – John McEuen (Nitty Gritty Dirt Band) Jonathan & Nathan McEuen along with Sally Jaye - 652-1137
- **The Fillmore**, San Francisco – Sat. Jan. 17 – Willie Nelson, 415/346-6000
- **Caffé Bella**, Ventura – Sun. 2pm. Jan. 18 – Denise Vasquez & Randy Martinez “Sunday Afternoon” - 643-2171
- **Cold Springs Tavern**, S.B., Sun Jan. 18 – Spencer the Gardener 1-4/Los Blues 4:30-7:30, 967-0066
- **Hi-Cees**, Ventura – Sun. Jan. 18 – Blue Stew - 650-7773
- **SOHo**, S.B. – Sun. Jan. 18 – Vickie Genfan & Andrew Jackson - 962-7776
- **Beachcomber**, Oxnard – Sat. Jan. 18 – Chronic Stew, 985-6030
- **Caffé Bella**, Ventura – Wed. Jan. 21 – Dan Wilson - 643-2171
- **The Fillmore**, San Francisco – Wed. Jan. 21 – The Walkmen, 415/346-6000
- **SOHo**, S.B. – Wed. Jan. 21 – Doug In-goldsby w/Jeff Pevar & Friends and Peter Galloway - 962-7776
- **Velvet Jones**, S.B. – Wed. Jan. 21 – Off with their Heads/My Ass, 965-8676
- **Viper Room**, L.A. – Wed. Jan. 21 – Missing Persons, 310/358-1881
- **Zoey’s Café**, Ventura – Wed. Jan. 21 – Ones to Watch Wednesdays! - 652-1137
- **Caffé Bella**, Ventura – Thurs. Jan. 22 – Michelle Lewis - 643-2171
- **The Chumash Resort** – Santa Ynez, Thurs. Jan 22 – America - 1-800-248-6274
- **Velvet Jones**, S.B. – Thurs. Jan. 22 – Bang, Bang Thursdays, 965-8676
- **The Fillmore**, San Francisco – Thurs. Jan. 22 – Femi Kuti, 415/346-6000

- **SOHo**, S.B. – Thurs. Jan. 22 – Cats ‘n Dogs Presents: Orlando Napier & Joe Brooks - 962-7776
- **The Canyon Club**, Agoura – Thurs. Jan. 22 – Willie Nelson/The Spazmatics - 818-879-5016
- **Zoey’s Café**, Ventura – Thurs. Jan. 22 – The Bluegrass Jam - 652-1137
- **Caffé Bella**, Ventura – Fri. Jan. 23 – Kiley Oliver & Artis Ford - 643-2171
- **The Canyon Club**, Agoura – Fri. Jan. 23 – Gilby Clarke - 818-879-5016
- **Cold Springs Tavern**, S.B., Fri. Jan. 23 – Gates and Goodell w/Michelle Lewis 7-10, 967-0066
- **The Fillmore**, San Francisco – Fri. Jan. 23 – Rebelution/State Radio, 415/346-6000
- **SOHo**, S.B. – Fri. Jan. 23 – Club Mercy Presents: Kaki King - 962-7776
- **Velvet Jones**, S.B. – Fri. Jan. 23 – Numb-skull Presents Sweet and Tender Hooligans, 965-8676
- **Velvet Jones**, S.B. – Fri. Jan. 23 – Numb-skull Presents Sweet and Tender Hooligans, 965-8676
- **Hi-Cees**, Ventura – Fri. Jan. 23 – Steve White & The Barstool Pigeons - 650-7773
- **Caffé Bella**, Ventura – Sat. Jan. 24 – Frank Barajas - 643-2171
- **Cold Springs Tavern**, S.B., Sat. Jan. 24 – Kelly’s Lot 2-5/Bryson Van Cleve w/Jill Marie 6-9, 967-0066
- **Hi-Cees**, Ventura – Sat. Jan. 24 – Los Blues - 650-7773
- **SOHo**, S.B. – Sat. Jan. 24 – Spencer the Gardener - 962-7776
- **Velvet Jones**, S.B. – Sat. Jan. 24 – D\$’s Reggae Gold B-Day Bash w/ Humble Soul and special guest Jeffa, 965-8676
- **The Canyon Club**, Agoura – Sat. Jan. 24 – Wild Child - 818-879-5016
- **Ventura Theater**, Ventura – Sat. Jan. 24 – Molotov - 653-0721
- **Zoey’s Café**, Ventura – Sat. Jan. 24 – Shane Alexander, Shades of Day, Amber Rubarth & Geoff Pearlman - 652-1137
- **Caffé Bella**, Ventura – Sun. Jan. 25 – Maveric Award Nominees - 643-2171
- **SOHo**, S.B. – Sun. Jan. 25 – Coyell Auger Sample Trio - 962-7776
- **Hi-Cees**, Ventura – Sun. Jan. 25 – Blue Stew - 650-7773
- **SOHo**, S.B. – Tues. Jan. 27 – Kris Delmhorst & Jeffrey Faucault - 962-7776
- **Caffé Bella**, Ventura – Wed. Jan. 28 – Dan Wilson - 643-2171
- **The Fillmore**, San Francisco – Wed. Jan. 28 – Katy Perry, 415/346-6000
- **Velvet Jones**, S.B. – Wed. Jan. 28 – Short Bus Drive Bar Crawl, 965-8676
- **The Canyon Club**, Agoura – Wed. Jan. 28 – Broadway in Concert - 818-879-5016
- **The Canyon Club**, Agoura – Wed. Jan. 28 – Broadway in Concert - 818-879-5016
- **Zoey’s Café**, Ventura – Wed. Jan. 28 – Ones to Watch Wednesdays! - 652-1137
- **Caffé Bella**, Ventura – Thurs. Jan. 29 – Owen Plant - 643-2171
- **Velvet Jones**, S.B. – Thurs. Jan. 29 – Del the Funky Homosapien, 965-8676
- **The Fillmore**, San Francisco – Thurs. Jan. 29 – Adele, 415/346-6000
- **The Canyon Club**, Agoura – Thurs. Jan. 29 – The Janks/The Spazmatics - 818-879-5016
- **Caffé Bella**, Ventura – Fri. Jan. 30 – Isaiah - 643-2171
- **Shores**, Oxnard – Fri. Jan. 30 – Chronic Stew, 984-5533
- **Cold Springs Tavern**, S.B., Fri. Jan. 30 – Sean Wiggins and Paul Houston 7-10, 967-0066
- **Hi-Cees**, Ventura – Fri. Jan. 30 – West Coast Project - 650-7773

- **The Canyon Club**, Agoura – Fri. Jan. 30 – Lights & Queen Nation - 818-879-5016
- **The Fillmore**, San Francisco – Fri. Jan. 30 – DeVotchKa, 415/346-6000
- **SOHo**, S.B. – Fri. Jan. 30 – The 805 Project with Son Oeste - 962-7776
- **Ventura Theater**, Ventura – Fri. Jan. 30 – Michael Franti & Spearhead w/Soliloquists of Sound - 653-0721
- **Velvet Jones**, S.B. – Fri. Jan. 30 – Snot, Instinct of Aggression, Shuvel, Armed for the Apocalypse, 965-8676
- **Zoey’s Café**, Ventura – Fri. Jan. 30 – Joey Ryan, Delaney Gibson and Ari Herstand - 652-1137
- **Caffé Bella**, Ventura – Sat. Jan. 31 – Porter - 643-2171
- **The Canyon Club**, Agoura – Sat. Jan. 31 – Royalty Entertainment Presents... Snot - 818-879-5016
- **Cold Springs Tavern**, S.B., Sat. Jan. 31 – Vince Chafin 2-5/The Excellent Tradesmen 6-9, 967-0066
- **The Fillmore**, San Francisco – Sat. Jan. 31 – DeVotchKa, 415/346-6000
- **SOHo**, S.B. – Sat. Jan. 31 – Led Zepplica - 962-7776
- **Ventura Theater**, Ventura – Sat. Jan. 31 – Lucha VaVoom - 653-0721
- **Velvet Jones**, S.B. – Sat. Jan. 31 – Numb-skull Presents Youth Brigade, 965-8676
- **Zoey’s Café**, Ventura – Sat. Jan. 31 – The Restless Hillbillies - 652-1137
- **SOHo**, S.B. – Sun. Feb. 1 – Official SB International Film Festival Closing Party - 962-7776
- **Hi-Cees**, Ventura – Sun. Feb. 1 – Blue Stew - 650-7773
- **Hi-Cees**, Ventura – Sun. Feb. 1 – Blue Stew - 650-7773
- **SOHo**, S.B. – Mon. Feb. 2 – Jazz Jam with Jeff Elliott - 962-7776
- **The Fillmore**, San Francisco – Tues. Feb. 3 – Raphael Saadiq, 415/346-6000
- **SOHo**, S.B. – Tues. Feb. 3 – Christina Grimm, Rich Phillips, & Kenny Edwards - 962-7776
- **Caffé Bella**, Ventura – Thurs. Feb. 5 – Owen Plant - 643-2171
- **The Chumash Resort** – Santa Ynez, Thurs. Feb. 5 – Charo - 1-800-248-6274
- **The Fillmore**, San Francisco – Thurs. Feb. 5 – Eagles of Death Metal, 415/346-6000
- **Caffé Bella**, Ventura – Fri. Feb. 6 – Amanda Marsh - 643-2171
- **Hi-Cees**, Ventura – Fri. Feb. 6 – Ray Jay - 650-7773
- **Velvet Jones**, S.B. – Fri. Feb. 6 – Numb-skull Presents The Adolescents, 965-8676
- **Caffé Bella**, Ventura – Sat. Feb. 7 – Pi - 643-2171
- **Velvet Jones**, S.B. – Sat. Feb. 7 – Woodpecker from Mars-Tribute to Faith No More, 965-8676
- **SOHo**, S.B. – Sat. Feb. 7 – The Bird and the Bee/The Messengers - 962-7776
- **Ventura Theater**, Ventura – Sat. Feb. 7 – The Art of Bellydance - 653-0721
- **Hi-Cees**, Ventura – Sat. Feb. 7 – Steve

- **White & The Barstool Pigeons** - 650-7773
- **SOHo**, S.B. – Mon. Feb. 9 – SBCC Lunch-break & Goodtimes Bands - 962-7776
- **SOHo**, S.B. – Tues. Feb. 10 – Time Reynolds & TR3 w/The Marcus Eaton Trio - 962-7776
- **SOHo**, S.B. – Wed. Feb. 11 – Animal Liberation Orchestra (ALO) - 962-7776
- **Caffé Bella**, Ventura – Thurs. Feb. 12 – Isaiah - 643-2171
- **Caffé Bella**, Ventura – Fri. Feb. 13 – Direct from Dublin “John Tormey” - 643-2171
- **The Fillmore**, San Francisco – Fri. Feb. 13 – NOFX, 415/346-6000
- **SOHo**, S.B. – Sat. Feb. 14 – Pin-Down Girls/Hot Buttered Rum - 962-7776
- **Ventura Theater**, Ventura – Sat. Feb. 14 – Malo - 653-0721
- **The Fillmore**, San Francisco – Sat. Feb. 14 – Reverend Horton Heat, 415/346-6000
- **The Fillmore**, San Francisco – Sun. Feb. 15 – Lykke Li, 415/346-6000
- **The Fillmore**, San Francisco – Tues. Feb. 17 – Susan Tedeschi/James Hunter, 415/346-6000
- **Caffé Bella**, Ventura – Thurs. Feb. 19 – Sarah Heathcoat New to Ventura - 643-2171
- **The Chumash Resort** – Santa Ynez, Thurs. Feb. 19 – Lewis Black (Comedy-Politics) - 1-800-248-6274
- **Ventura Theater**, Ventura – Thurs. Feb. 19 – The Reverend Horton Heat - 653-0721
- **Caffé Bella**, Ventura – Fri. Feb. 20 – Dan Grimm - 643-2171
- **Caffé Bella**, Ventura – Thurs. Feb. 26 – Fly to Blue - 643-2171
- **The Chumash Resort** – Santa Ynez, Thurs. Feb. 26 – Little Big Town - 1-800-248-6274
- **Caffé Bella**, Ventura – Fri. Feb. 27 – Delaney Gibson - 643-2171
- **Caffé Bella**, Ventura – Sat. Feb. 28 – Direct from Dublin “John Tormey” - 643-2171
- **The Chumash Resort** – Santa Ynez, Thurs. Mar. 12 – Jewel - 1-800-248-6274
- **Greensboro Coliseum** – North Carolina, April. 12 – Grateful Dead - www.dead.net
- **Verizon Center** – Washington, April. 14 – Grateful Dead - www.dead.net
- **John Paul Jones Arena** – Charlottesville, NC, April. 15 – Grateful Dead - www.dead.net
- **Times Union Center** – Albany, NY, April. 17 – Grateful Dead - www.dead.net
- **Madison Square Garden** – April 25 – Grateful Dead - www.dead.net
- **The Forum** – LA, May 9 – Grateful Dead - www.dead.net

email the **VIEW YOUR MUSIC** listings@ojaiandventuraview.com
Next Issue of the **VIEW** Out Jan. 30

Po Girls and Friends at the Lobero



Photo © 2008, Joel Anderson

The Po Girls and friends entertained the crowd during the holidays (Sings Like Hell Series Thanks to Peggie Jones – www.singslikehell.com) at Santa Barbara’s Lobero Theatre with a mellow selection of folk and a bit of soulful funk. Local Michael Jerome showed up with a little help with the drumming as well as Glen Phillips (Toad the Wet Sprocket), earlier: info.Lobero.com

support small business

NY? Local? Still Sending Your ADVERTISING \$\$\$\$\$\$\$ Outa’ Town, & Down the Drain to that IMPERSONAL LA-OWNED CORPORATE PAPER? Advertise Locally with Local Folks & Get Much More for Your Ad Dollar @ www.OjaiAndVenturaView.com

Stiix BILLIARDS
Billiards for the Whole Family
Home of the
75¢ Stiix Dog
 2520 E. Main St., Ventura
 641-2020
 Amateur 9 Ball Tourney
 on *Tuesday Eves*

OUR STAND
 I offer options that fit just about any family or budget. Don't wait. Call me today.
(805) 649 6090

JILL OLIVARES
 Insurance Agent
 378 N VENTURA AVE
 OAK VIEW
 jillolivares@allstate.com
 CA Lic: 0728682

THE TIME TO START THINKING ABOUT LIFE INSURANCE IS BEFORE YOU NEED IT.

Allstate.
You're in good hands.

Source: LIMRA U.S. Life Insurance Ownership, 2005 Study. Insurance subject to availability and qualifications. Allstate Life Insurance Company (ALIC), Northbrook, IL and Lincoln Benefit Life Company (LBL), Lincoln, NE. © 2007 Allstate Insurance Company

SUPPORT SMALL BUSINESS

MOTORCYCLE INSURANCE

RATES AS LOW AS \$85 PER YEAR!

Specializing in Serving Motorcyclists Since 1985!
650-0151
 1766 E Thompson Blvd, Ventura

GOURLEY INSURANCE INC.
CA LIC #0C36806
*Plus policy fees

STRETCH YOUR ADVERTISING DOLLAR LOCALLY

advertise@ojaiandventuraview.com

Asking \$289,000
 This home has easy access to all amenities. 3+1. Custom Kitchen Cabinets, Living Room has Ceiling to Floor Windows. Master Bedroom with Extra Storage.

Asking \$379,000
 Spacious renovated home on corner lot. 3+2 Beautiful Saltillo Tile Floors, Open Kitchen, Spacious Bedrooms, Brick Fireplace in Living Room, Backyard Pool.

Elba Sanchez
 Broker, Owner
(805) 649-1913

Century 21
 OJAI VALLEY

www.century21ojaivalley.com

KEEP YOUR AD DOLLAR LOCAL

defend freedoms

Photo © 2009, Joel Anderson

Attention Subaru Owners

\$10.00 OFF Any Service!

SUBARU Avenue Wheel Shop has a 15 year Senior Subaru Technician on staff full time! Avoid dealership service costs and see us today!

AVENUE WHEEL SHOP
First Class Service
SINCE 1944
A Full Service Automotive Shop
 805-643-2032 M-F 8am to 6pm AvenueWheelShop.com
 720 Ventura Ave., Ventura CA 93001

Chose a GREEN automotive shop!
 Visit our web site for details!

FOREIGN • DOMESTIC • HYBRID • CARS & LIGHT TRUCKS

JANIS' ART GARDEN • GALLERY • 646-2555
SIGN UP FOR CLASSES NOW!

FOUNTAINS STATUARY POTTERY

Janis' Art Workshop offers unique opportunities for Creativity. Surrounded by the whimsical art gardens, featuring over 50 local artists, Students learn a variety of mediums.

VISIT OUR OJAI ART GARDEN!
ENJOY CLASSES IN PAINTING, MOSAIC, SCULPTURE & DRAWING
 410 W. OJAI AVE. • OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK • 646-2555

ojaiartworkshop@sbcglobal.net • ojaiartworkshop.com

Plants/Fountains/Pottery

GOLD • SILVER All work done on premises • Custom Jeweler • Fully Insured

DAVID WHIPPLE, GOLDSMITH
 535 W EL ROBLAR
 OJAI/MEINERS OAKS
 640-0212
davidwhipplegoldsmith.com

PLATINUM

22 kt. Frog
 22 kt. Lapis Diamond Ring

Have Issues ? Write
editor@ojaiandventuraview.com
 Available Online at:
www.OjaiAndVenturaView.com