

The Village Florist
646-6252
in the Arcade

For all your real estate needs...
Vivienne Moody
COLDWELL BANKER
Property Shoppe
798-1099

OJAI VALLEY NEWS

The Ojai Valley's newspaper since 1891

ojaivalleynews.com

116th Year, No. 21 • Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2008 • Newsracks, 75¢, retail stores, 70¢ plus tax • Yearly subscription, \$52



Photo by Rob Clement

Snow Job

A Caltrans snowplow driver clears a stretch of Highway 33 near Sespe Creek about 30 miles north of Ojai. The latest storm, expected to continue through today, has brought

rainfall totals ranging from 4.56 inches in Oak View to 6.01 inches at Matilija Dam. Rainfall totals for the year to date are now about average.

OUSD plans for next round of budget cuts

Schools search for \$1.6 million in cuts for next year, \$800k for 2010-2011

Sondra Murphy
sondra@ojaivalleynews.com

The Ojai Unified School District has the dubious distinction of being known as the poster child of declining enrollment of Ventura County schools and the state budget crisis is aggravating the financial fallout from that condition.

"It is in dire straits," said Ventura County Superintendent of Schools Stanley Mantooth. "Declining enrollment has been with us in Ventura County overall now for at least four years, some places more than others. Ojai has had the particular challenges with declining enrollment for a decade or so.

"Every time you lose a student, the district loses in the neighborhood of \$9,000 to \$10,000. When you lose students it's not easy to cut back proportionately. OUSD in particular has

done an excellent job in preserving its programs and cutting everything they can as far away from the classrooms as they can. It is now looking at its core programs, and that is not unique to Ojai. It is a terrible situation and the economy might be lending a hand there."

Ojai Unified School district held a special governing board study session Monday to begin early planning for its 2009-2010 and 2010-2011 budgets. Fresh from announcing its first-ever qualified certification last week, board members, administrators, staff and community met to look over preliminary numbers and formulate strategies.

Superintendent Tim Baird and Dannielle Pusatere, assistant superintendent of business and administrative services, submitted draft reports that broke down from which part of the \$25 million budget each department's supporting funds

Please see Schools, Page A-3

Home, schools linked by library

After-school homework program flourishes with volunteer aides

Linda Harmon
lharmon@ojaivalleynews.com

When people speak about getting involved in rebuilding America and contributing to their community they could be talking about Schoolinks, and the volunteers who make it work.

Schoolinks, an after-school homework program, has been serving Ojai Valley students and their families for more than 12 years. According to Anne Schrage, program coordinator, it offers children that extra help that parents sometimes aren't able to provide.

The homework centers operate at the Ojai, Meiners

Oaks, and Oak View libraries on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3 to 5 p.m., and Wednesdays from 2 to 5 p.m.

"There aren't many things I feel this strongly about," said Schrage, who was hired to run the program after she became active in the Ojai Valley Library Friends and Foundation, volunteering in the reading program at Topa Topa Elementary School.

Many students come from homes where parents speak English as a second language. Sometimes mothers bring in their children, often with younger siblings, and wait



Photo by Linda Harmon

The homework workshop group includes Valeria Luperico, left, Anne Schrage, Julie Albright, Eric Quezedl, Martha Schaffer, Jocelyn Villanueva and Yulisa Quezedl.

while their older children get help. Other times parents are working and aren't available to help their kids after school.

Schrage, whose salary and budget, including supplies, comes from an

Please see Library, Page A-3

Feds seek review of Casitas ruling

Issue at stake is 'taking' for fish ladder

Daryl Kelley
daryl@ojaivalleynews.com

Claiming that a three-judge appeals panel erred, federal lawyers have asked the full U.S. appeals court in Washington to review a September ruling in which the panel found that the federal government had seized Casitas Municipal Water District property by forcing it to provide water for a fish ladder built for the endangered steelhead trout.

That panel decision, if it stands, could potentially be

worth tens of millions of dollars for Casitas, the largest water district in the Ojai Valley. Either way, some experts say, the Casitas case could end up before the U.S. Supreme Court as a test of private property rights.

Last week, U.S. environmental lawyers asked the entire 11-justice Washington appeals court to reconsider the case, on which the appeals panel itself split 2-1 in overturning

Please see Casitas, Page A-3

Ojai Valley neighbors

Misty Volaski
misty@ojaivalleynews.com

USC Trojans football on Saturday; L.A. Raiders football on Sunday.

Many a young boy would've traded his little sister for such an experience. But for Ben Brucker, it made for a fairly typical autumn weekend — just one of the many perks of being born into the Furillo clan.

Yes, those Furillos — Brucker is the grandson of the great Bud Furillo, of "Steam Room," "Dodger Talk" and OVN fame. So it follows that, along with his older brother, Andy, Ben was raised in press boxes, dugouts, and locker rooms, meeting sports stars every weekend.

"Pete Rose almost hit me with a cup of coffee once," the Ojai resident fondly recalled. "He was angry about something." Once Rose realized that he'd nearly scalded the young Brucker, "He was really nice to me! He gave me a ball. We had a lot of signed balls around our house."

In the off-season, Brucker tossed around a football

peppered with the signatures of the 1984 Raiders, the year they won the Super Bowl.

"It's pretty scuffed up now," he laughed. "But my mom used to play with a Mickey Mantle baseball, so..."

All of which is not to say that Brucker didn't do normal Ojai kid stuff. He played AYSO soccer for 10 years. He went to Nordhoff. He still hangs out with friends he's known since kindergarten.

And he still lives in Ojai. "It just has some sort of draw," he said. After graduating from Nordhoff, Brucker set out for the University of California at Davis, then moved back south to finish up school at the University of California at Santa Barbara, where he majored in political science.

A world traveler, Brucker has been to Alaska, Europe, New Orleans, and all over the continental United States — more often than not, of course, for sporting events.

Now an account executive with Cumulus Broadcasting, which owns several radio



Ben Brucker

stations in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties, Brucker is still involved with the medium that made his grandfather the voice of a generation. At the radio stations, he still occasionally rubs shoulders with famous people. "I met John Tesh," he said. "Tesh is the man! He's my hero."

Famous folks aside, Brucker is pretty much your typical Southern California guy, with half his heart in the ocean. During the summer months he surfs after work until it gets dark, then takes his boat out for fishing and more surfing off the Channel Islands.

News Briefs

EARLY DEADLINES AT OVN: Deadlines will be earlier for the papers coming out the weeks of Christmas Day and New Year's Eve. The deadline for both the Dec. 24 and 26 issues will be Friday, Dec. 19, by noon. The deadline for both the Dec. 31 and Jan. 2 issues will be Friday, Dec. 26, by noon.

FOREST SERVICES CLOSES ROAD FOR SEASON: The popular Pine Mountain-Reyes Peak Road in the Ventura County portion of Los Padres National Forest is closed to vehicles for the winter. Ojai District Ranger John Bridgewater said the temporary closure is needed to prevent damage to the road surface during wet weather. The closure may be lifted during periods of dry weather and the road will remain open at all times to foot traffic. Pine Mountain-Reyes Peak Road (Forest Road 6N06) intersects Highway 33 32 miles north of Ojai. It provides access to Pine Mountain and Reyes Peak campgrounds and the Reyes Peak Trailhead.

HELP OF OJAI TO BENEFIT FROM TAMALES SALES: Gourmet Tamales will hold a tamale sale to benefit Help of Ojai on Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to noon at Little House, 111 W. Santa Ana St., with 45 percent of proceeds going to Help. Tamales will be sold at \$12 for a half dozen; this includes beef, chicken, pork, corn, pineapple and veggie tamales.

To guarantee your order, call Help of Ojai at 646-5122. Tamales will also be available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Inside



Sports

Besant Hill boys' basketball squad defeats Cate School, 54-34.

Page B1



Arts

Classic film, "It's a Wonderful Life," continues run at Art Center.

Page A8

Get your holiday tamales and support a great cause at the same time.

FREE SHOPPING BAGS COME COURTESY OF GREEN COALITION: When you go to the grocery store this Saturday, you will be offered a free reusable shopping bag, compliments of the Ojai Valley Green Coalition and its partners. Ojai's first Day Without A Bag is being staged to encourage the use of reusable bags. The Green Coalition tables offering the bags will be located at Vons, Starr, Rite Aid, Rainbow Bridge and Westridge markets. Call 653-8445.

Obituaries	Business	Opinion	Around Our Valley	Health	Performing Arts	Sports	Classified	People
A2	A4	A5	A6	A7	A8	B1	B2	B4

WANT TO SOUND OFF?

Post your thoughts on the OVN blog • ojaivalleynews.com



Operation Cleanup

Ojians pitch in for citywide project

Linda Harmon
lharmon@ojavalleynews.com

Saturday marked the first Ojai Cleanup Day sponsored by the city of Ojai and the Ojai Valley Chamber of Commerce. A group of about 15 volunteers, including City Council-woman Sue Horgan, joined project head David Brubaker picking up litter on both sides of the downtown corridor.

Valley residents met at the Park & Ride lot downtown for the citywide cleanup, fanning out in pairs to cover two to three block areas on either side of Ojai Avenue. Participant Martha Groszewski received positive feedback from people on the streets and invited them to be part of the next clean-up.

"Even the day laborers, gathered on street corners, joined in," said Groszewski, who has lived in Ojai for four years. Her two-person team picked up over five shopping bags and three large trash bags filled with everything from a pair of jeans to liquor bottles to one used diaper. The most prevalent items were cigarette butts, which don't decompose, and food wrappers and containers.

Brubaker, chief operating officer of Ojai Community Bank, said the idea behind the cleanup was to "make the city look a little nicer" and "take time out of this busy holiday season to come together." Both objectives seem to have been met with new acquaintances formed and a significant amount of trash being disposed of.

The project, which grew out of the joint city of Ojai and Chamber of Commerce's Marketing Ojai Committee, was the organization's first attempt

to initiate community action based on the Main Street America Plan.

"Our whole goal is to keep Ojai as it is; cute, quaint and clean," said Brubaker. "And market it such that the merchants have a chance to make it, but not ruin the feeling for the people that live here."

The plan is a community-driven, comprehensive method used to revitalize older, traditional business districts. The popular plan uses four committees to address use of human resources and volunteers, financial planning and fund raising.

"Parts of the plan are a good fit for Ojai," said Brubaker, who has been with the bank since March. Brubaker likes the emphasis the plan places on a grass-roots approach. He hopes to focus this approach using the plan's ideas to build and maintain the unique characteristics of Ojai. The plan encourages compatible new businesses that utilize vacant or under-utilized commercial buildings, increasing the aesthetic appeal of the entire district. The plan also sees "more unique, locally owned, new entrepreneurial ventures as the key to success."

Brubaker, who attended a similar event in Ventura two weeks ago, saw the cleanup as the first step to get people working together and create a little bit of camaraderie.

"Ventura does this quarterly," said Brubaker. "I'm hoping we can make this an ongoing event too."

Anyone wishing to become involved should contact Brubaker at Ojai Community Bank, 646-9909.



Carl Osborne Stephens Jr.

Carl Osborne Stephens Jr., 80, of Ojai, died suddenly on Wednesday, Dec. 3, 2008 in Anaheim, Calif., after celebrating his birthday at Disneyland with his family. He was born Dec. 3, 1928 in Huntington Park, Los Angeles, Calif.

His life work was in the trucking industry. He was a diesel truck and auto mechanic, truck and bus

driver, operated the Shell service station in Oak View, worked for the U.S. Forest Service in Los Padres National Forest and owned the local Video Adventures rental store in Ojai. Scouting was a major part of his life.

Mr. Stephens married Priscilla Woltz on Nov. 26, 1947. They had one daughter and later divorced. He married Barbara Ann Helm in St. George on Sept. 12, 1952. They had five children and one foster child. They lived in South Gate, Calif., and in 1966 they moved to Ojai.

He is survived by his wife, two sons, five daughters, 32 grandchildren and 42 great-grandchildren.

Preceding him in death were his two sisters.

Visitation was held from 9 to 9:40 a.m. in the Relief Society Room, Saturday, Dec. 13, at The Church of

Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 411 San Antonio, Ojai. Funeral service followed at 10 a.m. in the chapel. Interment was held Monday, Dec. 15, at 10 a.m. at Bardsdale Cemetery, 1698 S. Sespe St., Fillmore. Arrangements were under the direction of the Ted Mayr Funeral Home & Crematory, Ventura.



Karen Ann Panico
Karen Ann Panico, 53, of

Ojai, died Sunday, Dec. 7, 2008. She was born Karen Ann Boehme in Ojai, on April 26, 1955.

She was a nurse, a brown belt in karate, an angler, a hiker, a bike enthusiast, a gardener, a musician and church member.

Mrs. Panico is survived by her three children, Brandee Byrd, Jeffrey Taylor, and Daniel Panico; nine grandchildren; and her cousin, Gordon Stocks.

A celebration of life memorial will be held on Friday, Dec. 19, at 6 p.m. at Calvary Chapel, 195 Mahoney Ave., Oak View, CA 93022. Condolences may be sent to Calvary Chapel, c/o Daniel Panico, P.O. Box 1443, Ojai, CA 93024-1443.

Arrangements by Coast Cities Cremations, Ventura.

Sherwood A. Jackman

Sherwood Alan Jackman, 85, passed away December 9, 2008 surrounded by family and friends at home after a prolonged illness. He was born in Detroit, Michigan, April 14, 1923. A longtime Ojai resident, he, wife Barbara, and son Preston moved here from Santa Monica. Upon graduating from the Cranbrook School for Boys in Bloomfield, Michigan, he entered the University of Michigan, where he earned a Bachelor of Arts degree. He enlisted in the Navy and served on the battleship South Dakota as a Lt. JG during World War II.

From his early days the world held a great fascination for him. At Cranbrook he worked on the school paper, was on the wrestling team and appeared in numerous plays, including "Great Expectations," "Boy Meets Girl," and "The Petrified Forest" where he played Duke Mantee, the role which catapulted Humphrey Bogart to film stardom.

After the war he moved to California where he and his brother started and ran a hospital in the San Gabriel Valley. Later he began an insurance and finance company. He was also a skilled mariner and some of his most joyous times were spent on his boat, "The Cajun Queen," cruising to and from Catalina Island.

Fascinated by Ojai, he purchased an orange ranch and the family moved here 28 years ago. Later he and Barbara opened the Ojai Valley Gallery. For years he had his own table at Bill Baker's Bakery where he often assumed the role of greeter and maitre'd. He was a member of the Ventura Masonic Lodge and achieved the exalted status of 32nd degree. He had also been a member of the Ojai Rotary Club and the Chamber of Commerce.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara Ann Jackman, and son, Preston Anson Jackman.

A celebration of Sherwood's life will be held at Azu Restaurant, Monday, December 29, between 4 and 6 p.m. In lieu of flowers the family suggests a donation to Help of Ojai.

Arrangements by Ted Mayr Funeral Home and Crematory, 3150 Loma Vista Rd., Ventura.



Elizabeth "Betty" Thomas McAllister

Elizabeth "Betty" Thomas McAllister, 80, of Ojai, passed away at home on December 12, 2008 surrounded by family.

Betty was born and raised in Oxnard, California. She is a graduate of Santa Clara High School and graduated from Immaculate Heart College-Los Angeles in 1950 with a teaching degree. Betty was a teacher in Ojai and Ventura County for over four decades.

Loving mother of Patrick (Wendy) McAllister of El Dorado, Kan., Stephen (Barbara) McAllister of Copet, Switzerland, and Megan (Vijay) Sharma of Santa Barbara, Calif.; proud grandmother of Ryan McAllister, Matthew McAllister, Richard McAllister, Douglas McAllister and Simran Sharma; and sister to Margaret Enriquez (Jose), James Thomas, Clair Macklin (Walt), Mari Thomas and Ruth Thomas. Betty was preceded in death by her husband John Joseph McAllister and her brother Arthur Thomas.

Betty was very active in the Ojai community. She served as a member of the Ojai Historic Preservation Commission; board member of the Ojai Valley Museum; and member of St. Thomas Aquinas Church. She was the creator of the Ojai Historical Walking Tour. Betty was honored for her community service as one of Ojai's Living Treasures and as the Grand Marshal of the Ojai July 4th parade.

A funeral mass will be held on Friday, December 19, at 10 a.m. at St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic Church in Ojai.

In lieu of flowers a memorial donation may be made to the Ojai Valley Museum and Help of Ojai.

Mrs. McAllister has been entrusted to the care of the family-owned Joseph Reardon Funeral Home, 757 East Main Street, Ventura, CA, 805-643-8623.



Photo by Linda Harmon

Volunteers help clean up downtown Ojai Saturday.

Oak View Christmas Tree Lot

Direct from the grower in Oregon

Family owned and operated for 10 years

Next to Hilltop in Oak View

Bring this coupon and receive

\$5 Off \$20 - \$50 Trees

\$10 Off \$51 - \$150 Trees

\$15 Off \$150 Trees And Up

For each tree sold a donation will be made to Montessori School of Ojai and Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation.

open 8 am 207-8325

Providing the Ojai Valley with vital and factual information, about the Ojai Valley, for the Ojai Valley, since 1891!!!

OJAI VALLEY NEWS

The Ojai Valley's newspaper since 1891

ojavalleynews.com

Ojai Valley Weather Report

Dec. 17, 2008

Seven Day Forecast	In-Depth Local Forecast	Today's Regional Map																																
<p>Wednesday Few Showers High: 52 Low: 32</p> <p>Thursday Mostly Sunny High: 55 Low: 34</p> <p>Friday Mostly Sunny High: 60 Low: 36</p> <p>Saturday Sunny High: 64 Low: 38</p> <p>Sunday Mostly Sunny High: 66 Low: 42</p> <p>Monday Mostly Cloudy High: 64 Low: 42</p> <p>Tuesday Partly Cloudy High: 65 Low: 41</p>	<p>Today we will see mostly cloudy skies with a 30% chance of showers, high temperature of 52°, humidity of 44% and an overnight low of 32°. The record high temperature for today is 88° set in 1998.</p> <p>Last Week's Almanac</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Date</th> <th>Hi/Lo</th> <th>Normals</th> <th>Precip</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Mon.</td> <td>62/49</td> <td>70/36</td> <td>0.00"</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Tue.</td> <td>67/45</td> <td>70/36</td> <td>0.00"</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wed.</td> <td>73/42</td> <td>70/36</td> <td>0.00"</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thu.</td> <td>78/48</td> <td>70/36</td> <td>0.00"</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fri.</td> <td>66/48</td> <td>70/36</td> <td>0.00"</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sat.</td> <td>58/47</td> <td>69/36</td> <td>0.00"</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sun.</td> <td>55/40</td> <td>69/36</td> <td>0.04"</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Rainfall since Oct. 4.40" Normal rainfall 4.43" Departure -0.03"</p>	Date	Hi/Lo	Normals	Precip	Mon.	62/49	70/36	0.00"	Tue.	67/45	70/36	0.00"	Wed.	73/42	70/36	0.00"	Thu.	78/48	70/36	0.00"	Fri.	66/48	70/36	0.00"	Sat.	58/47	69/36	0.00"	Sun.	55/40	69/36	0.04"	
Date	Hi/Lo	Normals	Precip																															
Mon.	62/49	70/36	0.00"																															
Tue.	67/45	70/36	0.00"																															
Wed.	73/42	70/36	0.00"																															
Thu.	78/48	70/36	0.00"																															
Fri.	66/48	70/36	0.00"																															
Sat.	58/47	69/36	0.00"																															
Sun.	55/40	69/36	0.04"																															
<p>Local UV Index</p> <p>0-2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11+</p> <p>UV Index 0-2: Low, 3-5: Moderate, 6-7: High, 8-10: Very High, 11+: Extreme Exposure</p>	<p>Weather History</p> <p>Dec. 17, 1987 - A storm in the southwestern U.S. brought heavy rain and heavy snow to parts of California, Nevada, Arizona, Utah and New Mexico. Charleston, NV was blanketed with 12 inches of snow. Lake Havasu City, AZ was drenched with 2.26 inches of rain.</p>	<p>Weather Trivia</p> <p>What is sleet? Answer: Frozen raindrops.</p>																																



Tamale Fundraiser for HELP of Ojai

Gourmet tamales will donate 45% of all sales to support HELP of Ojai

Saturday, December 20th 8:30am-12pm
111 W. Santa Ana

To guarantee your order, please call 805-646-5122

(Beef, chicken, pork, vegetable, corn and pineapple available for sale)

Get your holiday tamales and support a great cause as well

HELP of Ojai is a non-profit community organization serving the residents of the Ojai Valley.

Casitas:

(Continued from Page A-1)

a lower court decision. The lower court had found that the Bureau of Reclamation had not seized Casitas' private property when forcing it to provide water without compensation. But the appeals panel decided the water was private property and sent the case back to the trial court to be heard on that basis.

Now, lawyers for the Environmental and Natural Resources Division of the U.S. Justice Department have argued to consider the case.

The panel "clearly departed from binding precedent of the Supreme Court and this Court" in requiring that the Casitas case be considered under federal law for the taking of private property instead of under law relating to regulatory restrictions on property, the new petition said.

Indeed, federal lawyers even argued that Casitas had not lost a drop of water to the fish ladder that it has been forced to replace, since the Casitas reservoir and dam project is naturally replenished by rainfall.

But Roger Marzulla, a Washington lawyer representing Casitas, said Tuesday that he thinks reconsideration of the case will be rejected by most of the 11 justices, and the case will be returned to the trial court to be tried as a property taking, with compensation going to Casitas for its loss of water. The full appeals court decides to rehear cases decided by a panel only about once a year out of dozens of petitions, he said.

He said he expects a decision in January.

"The panel was correct," Marzulla said. "There are three water rights cases (decided by the Supreme Court), and in all the finding was that the

plaintiffs should recover."

Nor does Marzulla think the case should ever reach the Supreme Court, although property rights attorneys said it could set a precedent nationwide.

"I'd just like this case to go back to the trial court, and get it over with," he said. "I think the Supreme Court law is clear enough."

But that's not the way state and federal lawyers have seen the case since it was filed by Casitas in 2005 after the district was required to build a fish ladder on the Ventura River, and to provide water for it.

Casitas sought compensation for both the ladder and the water, but lost the case to reclaim the \$9 million for ladder construction.

J. David Breemer, a principal attorney for the Pacific Legal Foundation, a property rights group in Sacramento, said the appeals panel's Casitas decision "is very important because it says your water can't be taken without you being paid for it."

Before that ruling, Breemer said, the presumption was that the government had a right to take water being used by a private party without compensation to satisfy federal environmental law, such as the Endangered Species Act.

"Now the presumption is that they've got to pay for that water," he said.

If the Bureau of Reclamation is forced to pay for water to operate the fish ladder, the bill could total \$1 million to \$2 million a year, officials said. That compares with Casitas' annual budget of \$15 million.

Casitas estimates that it takes at least 3,200 acre-feet of water a year to guarantee that the steelhead migration can occur. The district charges farmers \$371 an acre-foot for water and residential customers \$444. It also

estimates that it would cost at least \$600 an acre-foot to import water for the fish ladder during a prolonged drought.

But Casitas is not counting its money yet.

Indeed, the five elected directors of the water district are split 3-to-2 on whether its a good idea to continue with the suit.

Last year, the board majority voted to press the litigation for a third year despite a steep \$500,000 cost and repeated setbacks, while the board minority said the suit was a waste of money and would undercut the Endangered Species Act if Casitas won.

That split has persisted, with Directors Jim Word, Bill Hicks and Pete Kaiser wanting to continue the case, and Directors Russ Baggerly and Richard Handley wanting to end it.

Also fighting against the Casitas case are state and federal lawyers who maintain that the river water Casitas gathers in its reservoir is owned by all of the people of California and not by the water district, and that it can be used by government agencies for the common good without compensation. It fact, that procedure is common when enforcing the Endangered Species Act.

Last year, a federal claims court judge agreed, ruling that a constitutional property right was not involved when the federal government required Casitas to provide water without compensation.

The claims court judge ruled that the Casitas case had to be considered under federal law that deals with the government's simple regulatory constraint of water use, and not as a "physical taking" of private property.

But after the appeals panel decision, and the new petition opposing it, the case appears wide open again.

Schools:

(Continued from Page A-1)

originated. The packet also contained dollar figures associated with programs and schools to aid the board in making \$1.6 million in anticipated cuts for next year and \$800,000 the following year. The information was intended to get the budget cutting process started and is expected to be continuously updated and fine-tuned as state budget decisions are made known.

"We are not going to solve the budget issue this evening," said Baird. "We are still in the input stage and will be there really for the course of the rest of the school year."

Dollar figures were not yet attached to specific positions. Vice president Kathi Smith said the process would be more efficient, "If we could get the dollar amount for each site and each department."

Member Pauline Mercado agreed. "Rather than backtrack, I need to have all the information in front of me. Looking at these FTEs (full-time equivalent job statistics), it's really hard to be able to determine the cost. We need to have the dollar amount."

Pusatere explained that it would be difficult to estimate the savings of cutting jobs because of the varying pay rates due to seniority. "It might not be accurate because you might be looking at the cost of a senior position, but bump a less senior position in your cuts," she said.

"The budget numbers are not exact," said Baird. "The missing component is staff recommendations. We will get the hard numbers for any recommendations and put them on the list for subsequent meetings."

"I would like to know grade-by-grade class size reductions," said clerk Rikki Horne.

"Also how many staff would be affected, if we eliminate it," President Linda Taylor added.

Possible strategy plans presented to the board included one-year, two-year and quick-response plans. Baird said that, at this point, administration is recommending a two-year plan because it would be the least disruptive to the curriculum.

"In a one-year plan, you essentially make all the cuts you need to make, but you have nothing left to cut the next year," he said. "In a two-year plan you say let's do some nasty cuts, but not all in year one and go into the reserves, knowing we still don't have the end to the two-year solution, but in case something else could be done. But you have to refill your reserves the next year. Right now, I'm leaning toward the two-year plan because the one-year looks really devastating and you've used one-time monies."

The quick response plan involves negative certifications that bring in the state and help districts qualify for 20-year emergency loans. That method results in loss of board control and, usually, the superintendent, substituting a state manager to make decisions based on financial assets and not necessarily the students' best interest.

In the information packet, Baird included some sample plans of other California school districts going through similar struggles and that have submitted negative certification budgets this year.

"Some districts are looking at rolling back salary schedules and reductions of work days," Baird said. OUSD currently has 184 work days and must have at least 180.

Two public speakers were critical of the way OUSD has handled the budgeting process. "I feel you are completely unrealistic to use the governor's October budget," said Bill Gilbreth. "If you don't really look at what is likely to be, you're likely to make the wrong decision." Gilbreth pointed to that opinion as why he did not support Measure P in the most recent election. The measure proposed a seven-year tax of \$89 per parcel in the OUSD boundaries.

Pusatere said that the district was awaiting an update from the state sometime next month, which is why some of the estimates are unknown.

"If you don't cut salaries, you're not showing the public that you're taking honest cuts," said Ron Wilson. "I think overall your service is outstanding, but it's a very, very difficult process for the public to understand."

"I can appreciate what Bill and Mr. Wilson have to say because we know this is dire," said Kathleen Smith, "but we have to look at everything."

"What's upsetting me is that my kindergartner is not going to get the same education that I received," said parent Marianne Ratcliff. "Ojai should be ashamed of itself for not passing the parcel tax. Mr. Gilbreth's letter to the editor made me angry and I wasn't angry tonight until I just heard it again. I'm dedicated to raising the \$7,000 to put another parcel tax on the ballot and swaying Mr. Gilbreth to write another letter to the editor encouraging support."

"I appreciate your efforts and that you are continuing to work on this," district employee Chuck Crawford told the board. "I understand categorical funding, but it's hard to explain that to someone who's just lost their job."

Meiners Oaks teacher John Hook boiled down the emotions associated with the meeting. "What is going to happen to the children, with no support services for students who are struggling?" he asked. "We need to realize what we'll be losing in human terms."

"And as we shed employees, it impacts the economy here," said vice president Smith.

"As a union, I think it's time to put our differences aside and work together in these difficult times," said Martha Ditchfield, president of the Ojai Federation of Teachers.

"In January, we will find out about our midyear cuts," said Taylor. "On Jan. 13, we'll have a continuation of our budget discussion and have more specific numbers. School funding is very complicated with all its categoricals and how it's spent and how we need to get loans every year because we don't get the money we're supposed to. I appreciate people who keep coming to these meetings."

"I want to thank John Hook and those people who talked about the faces of our employees," said Horne. "All of these people represent our students and that's why we're all here. The thought of obliterating the school district that my daughter still attends is devastating."

Library:

(Continued from Page A-1)

OVLFF yearly allowance of \$13,000, coordinates the volunteer staff at all three libraries.

"I have a marvelous staff of volunteers," said Schrage, who currently has 13 volunteers at the Ojai Library. "Some of them have been volunteering almost the whole time the program has been in existence. If people are reluctant to commit to a certain day they can even sign up for our substitute list."

According to Schrage, the libraries see an average of 200 to 300 students a month, from kindergarten to high school.

"I'm happy to say I've seen some great success stories," said Schrage. "We've worked with students from the earliest grades on to graduation."

Schrage had the mother of a former student run into her on the street and tell her that her son had graduated and was enrolled at Ventura College.

"At first he was struggling, but he just grew so much. It was just so wonderful working with him," said Schrage. "His understanding just grew so much it was so rewarding. Every year we have those kinds of success stories and that keeps me working."

Students come directly from school with their

homework, sign in, and then receive help in completing their day's assignments. It could be reading or math work sheets, a book report or research on one of the two laptop computers supplied by OVLFF.

Today the room is filled with nine students, although Schrage says this is not their busiest day of the week. Schrage has three teachers besides herself today plus the help of Julie Albright, children's librarian.

"I don't know what to do at my house because I don't know how to do my math," said 8-year-old Jocelyn Villanueva, as she works on her third-grade division.

That's OK because today she is reading the problems to Martha Schaffer, who helps her talk them out. Schaffer is 94 and has been volunteering with Schoolinks for 10 years, despite developing macular degeneration and losing much of her vision.

"I tell her to think of it as the opposite of multiplication," said Schaffer. "She knows her multiplication tables by heart. Instead of 36 divided by 6, I tell her to think of it as, what can you multiply 6 by to get 36?"

According to Schrage, the program desperately needs volunteers. The Meiners Oaks and Oak View libraries are especially in need as students greatly outnumber available

volunteers.

"My grandkids had two college professors at home so you know they got help," said Schrage, explaining why she got involved. She added, "It just helps level the playing field."

Anyone interested in volunteering can contact Marion Leeman at the Oak View Library, 649-1523, or Barbara Lightfast at Meiners Oaks Library, 646-4804.


The Ojai Valley News (SSN40598000) is published twice weekly, Wednesday and Friday, at 408 Bryant Circle, Suite A, Ojai California.

Postmaster send all address changes to Ojai Valley News, P.O. Box 277, Ojai, CA 93024.



Printed on recycled paper using soy-based ink

Holiday Sale



40% Off Clothing, Handbags, and Most Accessories

Café Hours:
Thursday - Saturday
noon - 3 pm / 5 pm - 9 pm
Sunday
11 am - 2 pm / 5 pm - 8pm

928 EAST OJAI AVENUE
805/640-0611
www.treasurebeachandcafe.com

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday Morning December 21st
Christmas Carol Sing Services
8:00 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.
(Nursery & toddler care provided)

Service for Families & Children
9:15 a.m.

"Double Take" Children's Christmas Pageant
Featuring The Children's Pageant Players
(Nursery & toddler care provided)

Wednesday Christmas Eve Services
Two Traditional Candlelight Services
5:00-6:00 p.m. • 7:00-8:00 p.m.
Special Holiday Music
Featuring James Antunez, Jeff Elliot & Andy Radford
(Nursery & toddler care provided)

Communion Jazz Service
11:00 p.m. - 12:00 midnight
Featuring music by Jimmy Calire & Friends

304 N. Foothill Road • 646-1437

OJAI PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Ojai Valley Business Profile



The Senior Nutrition Program is one of Help of Ojai's many key avenues of service to the community.

- 1. Name of Business:** Help of Ojai, Inc.
- 2. Manager/Owner Name:** By nonprofit board of directors.
- 3. When was business established?** 1968
- 4. What inspired you to start your business?** Help of Ojai was started with a mission to serve the Ojai Valley community. Help of Ojai has been serving the Ojai Valley community for 40 years and our programs bridge the gap from a place where the need exists and the need is met. Over the years, our programs and services include the provision of food for seniors; shelter, clothing and financial assistance for low income families and the homeless; senior supportive services including transportation, adult day care and hospice; and counseling and bereavement services.
- 5. How many employees?** We currently have 17 employees.
- 6. Who are your customers?** Help of Ojai serves the residents of the Ojai Valley community. We serve the elderly, children, disabled, working men and women, teenagers, these are individuals from all demographics and from all walks of life.
- 7. What is the secret to your success?** The secret to our success is the collaborative partnership and investment of our community.
- 8. What are your biggest challenges?** Help of Ojai's biggest challenges are the changing dynamics of our economy and what that means for our programs and services. Our other challenges include the changing needs of those in our community and how we can continue to meet the needs of those in our community.
- 9. What's new with you?** Help of Ojai is hosting a tamale fundraiser on Dec. 20 from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Little House, 111 W. Santa Ana. To guarantee your order, please call 646-5122. Gourmet Tamales will be selling pork, chicken, beef, vegetable, pineapple and corn. \$12 for one dozen and 45 percent of all proceeds will be given in support of Help of Ojai.
- 10. What would you like our readers to know about**

your business? Help of Ojai has been described as the "Heart of the Ojai Valley" bringing hope to the men, women and children who receive the services that are offered. Help of Ojai, Inc. is the only social service community organization in the Ojai Valley, which includes the city of Ojai and the unincorporated communities. Help of Ojai is the interface between these unincorporated areas and the county of Ventura. We provide service and support to one in four residents. This includes, but is not limited to, housing and financial assistance, transportation, clothing, hospice, senior services and activities, meals and food delivery services.

Help's 10 programs serve more than 10,000 men, women and children each month and it is our vision to not only ascertain the needs that are facing those in our community, but to assess the sustainability of our programs and services for the future. Help is an outlet of hope, and our "value" is how we deliver a vast array of human and community services that are not offered elsewhere.

When a senior needs a ride to the doctor, Help provides the transportation.

When a cancer patient needs emotional support, Help offers support groups. When an Alzheimer's patient needs physical and social activity and their caregiver needs respite, Help provides adult day care support. When a family is on the brink of losing their home, Help provides the financial assistance.

11. What is your favorite thing about living and working in Ojai? Ojai is a community that is invested in the quality of life that it provides to all who live here. It is amazing to see the good that Ojai is invested in and Help of Ojai is honored to be a part of such a giving and beautiful community.

Chamber Corner

Best practices for building green best way to keep costs lowered

At Supervisor Steve Bennett's Valley-Wide Discussion Group meetings last year, participants voted it their top priority to make the Ojai Valley a model green sustainable community.

While there are some obvious changes we can make right now, like replacing our incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescents or LEDs, to become truly savvy about going green we must negotiate a learning curve. Take, for instance, the common perception that going green costs more.

In the realm of construction, many people believe that building or remodeling a home using green building principles and materials is more expensive than sticking to conventional practices. Even some contractors and public building officials hold this misconception. What these individuals fail to recognize is that going green isn't all about using more expensive materials. For example, a building can be made more energy-efficient just by changing how the materials are used.

In construction, the term "best practices" refers to how a building can be completed in more energy-efficient ways. It doesn't necessarily make reference to the kinds of construction materials used. In action, best practices are quite different from "common practices," a term that denotes how buildings have traditionally been constructed (i.e., without regard for energy efficiency).

In the case of two identical buildings using the same construction materials, the one built using best practices will be more energy-efficient than the one built using common practices. The use of best practices doesn't compromise the structural soundness or durability of a building. The difference is more than what appears on the surface, and it may not be obvious to the casual observer. Infrared photo-

graphy has shown how buildings constructed with the use of best practices are twice as energy-efficient as ones built using common practices, the goal being to downsize the heating and air conditioning system for energy and cost savings.

Stacking floor joists, studs, ceiling joists, and rafters so they're all 2 feet apart and in perfect alignment, from one side of the building to the other, is a good example of best practices. Picture yourself driving through an agricultural area where rows and rows of lettuce plants are all perfectly lined up as you go by. This is also what a building being put up according to best practices should look like as you drive by! Why does this matter? Because less wood is required this way.

It also matters because wood is a poor insulator. Studs that are 2 feet apart, rather than the 16 inches used in common practice, allow for more insulation. Once this perfectly aligned and resource-efficient building is framed, the insulation contractor can come in and follow best practices that call for him to fluff and spread the material in a way that seals cracks and covers places where heated or cooled indoor air would otherwise be lost. And because the cost of lumber has been reduced, the savings can be used to increase the density of the insulation material to at least 6 inches.

Computer modeling has

proven that the savings in natural gas and electricity consumption per cubic foot far outweigh the extra labor hours required to install insulation using best practices. According to Ojai green builder Reggie Wood, of West Wood Construction, living in a poorly insulated house is like turning on a big heater in your car in the wintertime and driving around with all the windows down.

Builders, designers, architects, suppliers, and public officials across the United States must begin to educate the public about these unseen differences in construction. Consumers need to understand best practices and start demanding that these be used for their building projects. The U.S. Green Building Council has stated that the building industry must transform itself; it must intensify its efforts to reduce confusion and misconceptions about sustainable buildings, their proven quality, durability, and cost-effectiveness, and their benefits to the occupants' health.

Written for the Ojai Valley Chamber of Commerce by the Environmental Affairs Committee, whose members include chairperson Sheri Ann Cate of Ojai Valley Insurance Services, Dale Hanson of Ojai Valley Real Estate, Reggie Wood of West Wood Construction, Michael Lind of REC Solar, and Fred Fox of the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy. Edited by Sonia Nordenson.

If a friend totals your car, are you covered?

Call me today for a fast, free Good Hands® Coverage Checkup.

JILL OLIVARES
Insurance Agent
(805) 649-6090

378 N VENTURA AVE.
OJAI, CA 93023
jolivares@allstate.com
CA Lic. 0728682

Allstate
You're in good hands.

Average savings based on information reported nationally by new Allstate auto customers for policies written in 2007. Actual savings will vary. Allstate Fire and Casualty Insurance Company, Northbrook, IL © 2008 Allstate Insurance Company

The Village Jester

Your Local Pub & Restaurant
640-8001

Wednesday: Indian Curry Night/Date Night
Thursday: Live Music: Consider the Source Instrumental Bluegrass 8:30 p.m.
Friday: Live Music: The Sid Coen Trio Singing Standards from the American Songbook 8 p.m.
Saturday: Live Music: Preacher's Blues Band Raging Blues 9 p.m.
Sunday: Live Music: Jonathan McEuen 6 p.m.

107 S. Signal St.
(Behind theater)

Buffalo River Designs
Craftsman style handmade furniture

Bedroom sets, dining sets, hutches, bookcases, end tables, coffee tables & more...

646-6800

Ojai Home

WE PUT THE FUN IN FUNCTIONAL ART

HOME & GARDEN ACCENTS
JEWELRY, BEADS & SUPPLIES
TAROT READER FRIDAY, SATURDAY & SUNDAYS
"NOW RENTING FOREIGN & CLASSIC DVD'S"

304 N. MONTGOMERY ST. • 805.640.1656
NEW HOURS: OPEN 10:30 - 6:30 / SUN. 11-6 / CLOSED TUES.

Large jewelry inventory

All on SALE 10% to 60% off

Gem Quest Jewelers

Best Prices paid for scrap gold

108b N. Signal St. Ojai, Ca. 93023 Ph. 805-646-3836 Open Tues. thru Sat.

Court Document Preparation ~ Low Cost ~ You Save ~ No Attorneys

Christmas & New Year Special!

Complete Revocable Living Trust Packages, single or married persons all for the price of one discounted to \$500 only. Give your loved ones the gift of security in these especially trying times. Offer good through Jan. 09

Legal Document Assistance
Holly A. Campus
1102 Tico Rd., Ojai CA 93023
hollyloveslife@yahoo.com

Legal Doc. Assist. #10 County of Ventura
(805) 272-8027 (805) 320-7875

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

Own Your Home? Own Your Power!

California Solar Electric
License C-19 469924

Call Today! FREE SOLAR ESTIMATE

Most Efficient Designs Locally Owned Business
More Power in Less Space Excellent Referrals

SUNPOWER Premier Dealer **805.640.7903**
www.californiasolarelectric.com

Boccali's

Pizza & Pasta

Open 7 Days a Week in Oak View!!
Hours: Mon. - Sun. 4 - 9 p.m.
840 N. Ventura Ave. 649-1057

Hours: Mon & Tues 4pm-9pm
Weds - Sun • 11:45 am to 9pm
3277 E. Ojai Avenue 646-6116

WATKINS FENCE CO.

WOOD • WROUGHT IRON • CORRALS • ENTRY GATES • VINYL • CHAIN LINK
LICENSE # 773420

Come visit our new location at Builder's Mart for your next fencing project

- *Customized fencing
- *Large supply of Corrals & Shelters
- *Specializing in all types of fencing
- *Let us design your next horse facility large or small

805-649-1568

Reverse Mortgage

You've worked hard to own your home, now let it work for you!

Doug Jacobs • Reverse Mortgage Consultant
Office: 805-639-2317 • Cell: 805-218-3862

- Receive payments instead of making them
- Use money for home repairs, buying a car - whatever you choose!
- Cannot owe more than the value of your home

Borrower must be at least 62 years old. Call for detailed program information. Wells Fargo Home Mortgage is a division of Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. © 2008 Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. All rights reserved. #58955 6/08-9/08. Equal Housing Lender.

Suzanne's Mobile Pet Grooming

- We Come to You
- All Natural Products
- Most Pets Done in One Hour
- Natural Products
- Please Call for Apt. • 805-407-5119
- Locally Owned and Operated

"Ojai Residents" Tuesday

DAY SPA "Locals Only"

20% discount

Gift Certificates Available
Some exclusions do apply
For Appointment Call 640-1100

Soleil Tanning Spa

Great Stocking Stuffers and Gift Ideas
Gift Certificates Available

646-8260 • 423 E. Ojai Ave #106

Opening Ojai's Door

Ulrich Brugger
Guest editorial

"Ojai is a gem," said former Mayor Sue Horgan at a recent community meeting about marketing Ojai. I think everyone would agree with her, but not everyone seems to agree on how to market this gem, or not to market it!

Some very good observations on this topic have been printed in the Ojai Valley News recently, including George Kalogridis' letter and Bret Bradigan's editorial. One of Bradigan's main criticisms of the potential marketing plan of the city and the Chamber of Commerce is that it mainly deals with issues that address visitors after they've arrived in Ojai, not before. It primarily deals with the revitalization of Ojai's business district. However, there are some merits to this plan, especially if they become part of a more comprehensive and holistic marketing plan. If not, it will be just a waste of time and money.

The most important part of a successful marketing plan is the clear definition of the marketing product, which in this case is Ojai. This is not so easy because, according to the recent university market study about our town, Ojai residents themselves are not clear about their city's identity. For some, it's a spiritual community, for others it's a haven of artists, for others it's a tourist town, and for some it's a sleepy town. This shows that Ojai's identity is complex!

A holistic approach, however, suggests that Ojai has not merely one or two of these traits; it is all of them and more.

I would support clarifying Ojai's identity with five more-or-less equal distinguishing characteristics:

1. A beautiful natural environment
2. A wellness and spa destination
3. A haven of art and culture
4. A spiritual sanctuary
5. A historic downtown with fine shops, galleries and restaurants and, above all, creative and friendly people.

In short, Ojai is a place of nature, wellness, art, spirit and great people.

I wonder if there are any other small towns in the world with all these characteristics? This richness needs to be the focal point of Ojai's marketing plan. The danger is that the focus would be put on just getting people here for food, arts, and some great events. That would be a very limited approach that wouldn't do justice to Ojai. Also, that would bring visitors to Ojai that would just come and go, and not really appreciate the qualities that make Ojai a gem. The key to a successful marketing campaign would be to show all of Ojai's jewels and to attract tourists who are interested in appreciating them. These visitors would tend to stay longer per visit, invest more in Ojai, and return more often.

As I meet visitors and tourists on a daily basis, I know they are all coming to the valley for one or more of Ojai's five distinguishing characteristics. And all discover that Ojai is much more than they were told. They discover all the other aspects of this unique gem during their stay here. If the marketing of Ojai will be done more holistically and wholeheartedly, our time and energy will be more efficiently invested.

It's especially interesting to notice that a

large number of Ojai's visitors come here for health and spiritual reasons; especially the international visitors. This is because "over there" Ojai is known as a wellness and spiritual destination. If you look closely enough, you will discover that a great number of health practitioners, healers, yoga teachers, spiritual teachers, and spiritual writers live and practice here in Ojai. Also there are several very significant spiritual and wellness spa centers here.

That's why it's very important the new marketing plan doesn't ignore — as in the past — these two very important characteristics of Ojai: wellness and spirituality. A Chumash healer told me recently that if Ojai would be better advertised as a spiritual and wellness place, more people would come and local businesses would flourish because all these visitors will eat and shop in town. Everybody would be happy.

In summary, I propose that Ojai should be marketed in a comprehensive way, including its most distinguishing characteristics.

This brings me to my second suggestion; we should create events in Ojai during the weekdays, not just the weekends. Especially during times of the year that are not too busy, mainly winter.

In my hometown, for example, a comedy festival was created during the first 10 days of December. The results are the town is full during a previously slow time. In the summer, the town created eight weeks of concerts and music classes for beginners, advanced students and professionals. The town is full for eight weeks. With so many talented residents in Ojai, artists, musicians and filmmakers, it would be a benefit for many to create something similar here. However, nothing of this kind should be started before we have resolved the traffic problems.

My third suggestion is that the city should immediately open a financially viable and stable tourist office, which should take the appropriate short- and long-term action. Otherwise, more and more stores will close, and more people will leave Ojai because of lack of business and work. I also suggest that the tourist office should have an advisory board comprised of residents who represent the five areas that characterize Ojai: nature, wellness, arts and culture, spirituality and an historic downtown.

Only then will Ojai be marketed the Ojai way.

Remembering what Horgan said, "Ojai is a gem." I would like to add that it's our responsibility to advertise Ojai for what it is, a gem, and not what it's not, just a business center. It's easy to market Ojai to a big number of tourists, or to not market Ojai at all. In the first case, it could destroy Ojai, and in the second case, it will create more empty stores and empty pockets. The challenge is to market Ojai the Ojai way: attract quality tourists who will appreciate Ojai's special features — nature, wellness, arts and culture, spirituality, and the small town with friendly people.

Ulrich Brugger has been an Ojai resident for 22 years. He founded and runs The Ojai Retreat and Cultural Center located at 160 Besant Road, Ojai. The Ojai Retreat is a public, nonprofit educational and retreat center under California Law 501(c)(3).

thumbs up, down



• A reader sends a thumbs-up to Matilija Vet Hospital. "I've done business there for over 35 years and they continue with the integrity and love of each animal that I remember back to John Bee and John Lyon. Matt and staff helped save my cat and they saved us in doing so. The cat belongs to my 92-year-old dad, when dad is happy, we are all happy! Thanks, guys."

• A reader sends a thumbs-up to Paul Bergmann for breaking up two fistfights on the streets of Ojai in two weeks. "It takes courage to step out of your car and be an active peacemaker, instead of just driving by."



• A reader sends a thumbs-down to the city of Ojai and Public Works. "Here we are dragging out the reconstruction of the San Antonio Creek Bridge for another six months. You have some nerve complaining about the cost of the bypass. If it was not for the city officials who showed absolutely no guts at all with the Gridley Road homeowners, we would not be here with this issue and the bridge reconstruct would be well under way. Unbelievable!"

This column is meant to provide commentary on a specific act or statement and is not meant to imply blanket support or condemnation. Submit your suggestions by mail, e-mail or fax. Your name and a telephone number must be included for consideration, though they will not be published.

Thumbs may also be submitted on the Internet at ojaivalleynews.com/thumbs.html

Yul-A-Bombers

Some folks refuse to take a hint.

I refer, of course, to those once-a-year scribes, people who, every December, make like they're Samuel Pepys and send you 11 months' worth of diary pages, "edited" just enough to fit onto two pages of bond — three might require additional postage — set in 8-point, single-spaced, virtually marginless Times Roman.

They're terrorists, these holiday (news)letter bombers; no bones about it.

Sure, they might not be recognized by the State Department as such, but how else to classify a bunch of civilians who wage war on those with different beliefs?

Never mind that these terrorists' weapon of choice is a typewriter, that they torture-by-tedium, attack with minutiae: If we can indict people for slander, which Webster's defines as "disparaging words," it stands to reason that those hurling "boring words" — unbidden, to boot! — are guilty of some sort of crime.

But I'm sticking with "terrorism," because, like most militants, the holiday newsletter bomber is all but impervious to traditional counter-offense measures.

I know; I've tried 'em all. Beginning, back when I was receiving just four to five letter bombs a December, with the "ignore them and they'll go away" tactic.

Yet, like a particularly resistant strain of hoof-and-mouth, the bombs didn't go away; they branched off and mutated. Indeed, associates of the associates of acquaintances and never-met relations started sending them!

Next up, "Operation Offend." (It's no coincidence "offend" and "offense" are practically the same word; this is, after all, a war. Of, duh, words.) Head the buggers off at the pass, as it were. Particularly the original bombers — in CIA parlance, that's called "cutting

Kelly Feser Eells



off the head" — who I doused as early as the next Thanksgiving with some preventative antibiotics. For example:

The "born-again" braggart got a doctored-up picture of my family, even the then-baby, sporting capes and wiccan hats, underneath a Black Sabbath concert poster. "Trines and sextiles!" my greeting was signed.

The former co-worker who'd had the temerity to inform me she'd donated \$10 in my name to the Sierra Club got a picture of my neighbor's felled oak tree, which I captioned with a festive "Good Riddance!" (Is there anything more audacious than "giving" in another's name?)

Still, the December letter bombs came.

So I tried "shock and awe." Before the leaves turned, I sent a fecund cousin (who'd yet to acknowledge the multiple congratulatory booties and blankets I'd sent her — unless you count e-mail, which I don't — not when it's clear the gal knows how to rustle up stamp and paper when the mood strikes) a Planned Parenthood brochure. "Getting my cards out early," I scrawled across the bottom; "Ho, Ho, Ho."

An atheist who'd once been my boss and mentor, a woman who knows a lot about certain subjects but nothing about how to behave in mixed company — She'd toss "Jesus" around like he was predicate, interjection, everything but proper noun; use the F-word, in all its permutations, like a conjunction; substitute "Elijah" for "know-nothing putz," and, well, you get the idea —

received an invitation to join my Bible study group;

To a 40-something, still-living-at-home "eccentric genius" (who got my address from Yahweh-knows-where; apparently, restraining orders quit acting like Kryptonite once one's past puberty), I sent a missive which began, "Dear Mister Smartypantz, Cungradyoulashuns for your therd p-h-d and 11thpatton! Buy the way, wut IS a patton? And isp-h-d the same as beeing a docter, like can you rite perscripshuns? If yes, that wood be cool."

Yet still the yuletide bombs landed.

Worse, after exhausting pretty much every maneuver in my (admittedly Cold War-esque) repertoire, I'm now getting newsletters from people whose names don't even ring a bell.

So-and-so is proud to report she's reduced her carbon footprint by 30-or-whatever-metric-Al Gores this past year — yet boasts of this accomplishment on glossy, verifiably non-recyclable paper.

Joe Schmo declares — in multiply-exclamation-pointed!!! superscript — that Obama's election fills him with hope, that greater days are nigh, yada-yada-yada. (Certainly "greater days" are already here for "Joe": His missive came courtesy of whatever agency was fool enough to hire him. Oy, Joe, you don't respect me enough to buy a stamp, you don't merit my reading much past your metered envelope.)

Hmm, thanks for sharing. I surrender.

Here, just to make it official, let me type that in French ...

Wait! What am I doing? Newsletter bombers don't even read what we lob back at them, much less notice when we ignore them!

So, touche! you wily sons of 'um, misbegotten jackals!

Game back on.

psst: Merry stinking Christmas!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Youth granted by Rotary Club

JOANNA M. IWATA
AND RYAN AIKENS
OJAI VALLEY YOUTH FOUNDATION

On behalf of the Ojai Valley Youth Foundation, we wanted to convey our sincere appreciation to the Rotary Club of Ojai for their Fit Kids, Fit Ojai grant to support our 2008-2009 OYVF Youth Fitness and Nutrition program offered through our Oak View Teen Center.

Through this grant, we are now able to launch a unique ten-month series of after-school educational programs and fitness activities for Oak View teens through our new Fitness and Health Club. Our weekly programs focusing on health, diet, exercise and nutrition are specifically designed for teens along with the help of community fitness mentors who have been recruited for the project.

We expect that our teens will not only adopt healthier habits but also positively influence their peers, family and friends to engage in more healthier lifestyles — thanks to our Ojai Rotary Fit Kids, Fit Ojai grant!

Ojai' need for weeds fulfilling

S. WOLFE, OJAI

Here are the latest groanings from our pesticide-free "Weed Patch," aka the Downtown Community Food Garden,

in the form of a list of "weeds" that can be served up for dinner rather than be sprayed with toxic chemicals:

Lambs-quarters (leaves used in salads); dandelion greens (spring tonic plants Suzie S. really appreciated self-harvesting); purslane (for salads, can withstand drought, leaves have a slightly tart, lemony flavor, also useful as a ground-hugging, single rooted living mulch as per permaculture principles); amaranth (leaves are a substitute for spinach because it grows in the summer, also its sesame-like "seeds have a high protein content and are grown for grain," Sunset Western Garden Book, 2001, page 183).

And then there is chicory, which grows without irrigation and was once upon a time served to the inmates at Honor Farm in place of coffee. We see it growing all over Ojai's building-free lots. You know the ones. Their pretty sky-blue flowers attract pollinator bees to our zucchini and okra blossoms, and their roots are a hangout for earthworms. However, we would be happy to let our local locavores dig up a few of these plants as their coffee substitute, a good deal considering the roasted and ground roots sell for 81 cents per ounce at Rainbow Bridge. By the way, has the carbon footprint of imported coffee been calculated by anyone yet?

Lastly, crabgrass. (Crabgrass?! Wait you! Can't seem to get rid of you no-how. You are not wanted in

the garden nor on this list either. We will pull you out and pile you up, and haul you to the yard waste dumpster as soon as it's not full. In the meanwhile, in dry windy weather, we will water you down and be thankful that your large volume of desiccated matter is keeping the other weeds beneath you from spreading.)

Well, that's all for now from the downtown weed nursery. Y'all can catch me wailing at the wall mural; painted by Chaparral High School students over the existing dull gray cinder-block wall, its refreshing blue-green tones bring to mind Monet's "Water Lilies." It seems it would have to be bulldozed for the work of the skate park expansion — or not. (Thanks, Nancy.)

Write Here

Letters to the editor a cherished community institution. Here are a few tips to make it easier for you to speak up and be heard.

- Keep it local. Local issues get priority.
- Don't get personal. Stick to the issues.
- Keep it short. Shorter letters are easier to run, and read.
- Include your phone number for verification.
- E-mail to letters@ojaivalleynews.com. Mail to P.O. Box 277, Ojai, CA 93024.



Mission Statement:

To inform you about the issues and events in our community with diligence and dedication.

Ojai Valley News

Blog Comments

Post your thoughts at ojaivalleynews.com

Albi commented on the *Avary Pleads Not Guilty to Manslaughter charge*: "I'm a close friend of Andrea Zini, the man that almost one year ago was killed in Roger Avary's car crash. Andrea was so happy Dec. 22 during his wedding. I saw him for the last time that

night at 2 a.m. He was going to leave the day after for his honey moon in the U.S.A.

After that, I heard that he met Roger Avary, a friend of friends. Unfortunately.

We all miss him so much. Please help us by spreading this information.

The Ojai Valley News, published on Wednesdays and Fridays, is locally owned and operated by Ojai Valley Newspapers, L.L.C., 408 Bryant Circle, Suite A, Ojai, Calif. 93023. Phone (805) 646-1476.

Entered as second-class matter at the Post Office at Ojai, Calif. under the act of March 3, 1988, Adjudication

Decree No. 38975 by Superior Court, Ventura County, Feb. 26, 1952. Send forms 3579 to P.O. Box 277, Ojai, CA 93024.

Subscription rates by carrier are \$52 for one year, \$42 for seniors, \$32 for six months and \$22 for three months. Mail subscriptions are \$75 for one year, \$50 for six months and \$35 for three months.

EMPLOYEE DIRECTORY

	805.646.1476	Ext.
Bret Bradigan, publisher/editor		220
Lenny Roberts, managing editor		232
Scott Wintermute, production mgr.		221
Jodie Miller, business manager		218
Kristi Underwood, classifieds		210
Justine Cleak, advertising		228
Ross Falvo, advertising		222
Nao Braverman, reporter		235
Sondra Murphy, reporter		236
Daryl Kelley, reporter		234
Linda Griffin, editorial assistant		227
Kathy Eicher, production		217
Nancy Sandstrom, production		217
Jessica Walker, circulation		212
Mike Miller, sports		214
Mel Bloom		237
Earl Bates		238
Jessica Volk, Teen Page		221

This Week

Wednesday, Dec. 17 HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

— Today is the deadline to donate to the Holiday Food Drive to benefit Help of Ojai's Community Assistance Program. Any non-perishable food items will be appreciated. Drop boxes are available at many local businesses, including the Ojai Valley News, 408-A Bryant Circle.

FINANCIAL SEMINAR AT GABLES — "How to Increase the Safety of Your Portfolio" will be the topic of a free seminar presented by Eric C. Peterson, of West Coast Wealth Management, today from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the lounge at The Gables of Ojai, 701 N. Montgomery St. Refreshments will be served. Call 643-4600.

"SHAKESPEARE ALIVE" — The Gables of Ojai, 701 N. Montgomery St., will host nationally known David Himes and Richard Harwood today at 3 p.m. in a program featuring aspects of Shakespeare, such as imagery, honor, humanity, romance, insults, modern usage, music and comedy. Refreshments will be served. Call 646-1446.

N.H.S. BAND CONCERT — The Nordhoff High School Concert Band, String Orchestra and Wind Ensemble, directed by Bill Wagner, will perform today at 7 p.m. in the gym at Nordhoff High School, 1401 Maricopa Highway. Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for students and seniors.

Thursday, Dec. 18 FREE READING AND PLAY DAY

— Carol Castanon, Nan Tolbert Nurturing Center director, will host a free reading and play day for 0- through 5-year-olds on Dec. 18 from 3 to 4:15 p.m. at the Oak View Library, 555 Mahoney Ave., Oak View. Check out books at the library and then walk over to the center to read and play, ending with a group story, led by author-publisher Jody Shapiro. Call 646-7559.

AWARENESS IN ACTION — is an ongoing Feldenkrais class with Mary Jo Healy held Thursdays at 6:30 p.m. at Sacred Space Studio, 410-A Bryant Circle. First class is free. Renew your approach to fitness, decrease stress and refresh your sense of self. Everyone is welcome. Call 646-7006 for information.

**Friday, Dec. 19
PEACE VIGIL** — Bring signs and flags and join the peace vigil held every Friday at 5 p.m. at Libbey Park along Ojai Avenue by the fountain.

"TALES OF DESPEREAUX" — is playing Friday to Jan. 2 at the Ojai Theatre, 145 E. Ojai Ave. Tiny and graced with oversized ears, Despereaux befriends a princess named Pea and learns to read (rather than eat) books, reveling in stories of knights, dragons and fair maidens. This animated film stars Matthew Broderick and Emma Watson. Rated G. Showtimes: 7 p.m. nightly and Saturday-Sunday matinees at 2 p.m.

"IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE" — plays for only eight performances at the Ojai Art Center Theater, 113 S. Montgomery St., through Dec. 21, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. This is a fully staged version of an "Everyman" who, in a moment of despair, thinks of

committing suicide, but instead relives the love of family and friends with the help of a peculiar angel. Tickets are \$15 general, \$12 for students, seniors and Art Center members, and \$5 for children under 12. For tickets, call 640-8797 or go to OjaiACT.org.

"INSPECTING CAROL" — Theater 150, 316 E. Matilija St., will present the holiday comedy, "Inspecting Carol," through Dec. 28, on Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Admission is \$25 or two for one at the Sunday matinees. Buy four tickets to a single show and get fifth ticket free. Call 646-4300, visit theater150.org or stop by the theater.

Saturday, Dec. 20 HELP OF OJAI TAMALES SALE

— Gourmet Tamales will host a sale Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to noon at Little House, 111 W. Santa Ana St., with 45 percent of proceeds going to Help of Ojai. Tamales will be sold at \$12 for a half dozen; this includes beef, chicken, pork, corn, pineapple and veggie tamales. For a guaranteed order, call Help at 646-5122. Tamales will also be sold on a first-come, first-serve basis.

DAY WITHOUT A BAG

— When you go to the grocery store this Saturday, you will be offered a free reusable shopping bag, compliments of the Ojai Valley Green Coalition and its partners. Ojai's first Day Without A Bag is being staged to encourage the use of reusable bags. The Green Coalition tables offering the bags will be located at Vons, Starr, Rite Aid, Rainbow Bridge and Westridge markets. Call 653-8445.

"SOME CAN. SOME COULD. YOU WILL." — Deb Norton's Playwright Class will present "Some Can. Some Could. You Will," an evening of new short play readings, on Saturday at 4 p.m. and Sunday at 7 p.m. at Theater 150, 316 E. Matilija St., written by Cindy Frings, Tara Jefferey, Lisa Kalechstein, Nancy Kurland, Teresa Rooney and Valerie Levett and brought to life by Niki Blumberg, Laura Criswell, Richard Kuhlman, Chris Nottoli, Rachel Ticotin and others from the Theater 150 Ensemble. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at the door.

AN EVENING OF CHRISTMAS MUSIC — will be held Saturday at 7 p.m. at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 411 San Antonio St., Ojai, featuring the Ojai Presbyterian Church Handbell Ensemble, pianist Elisabeth Myles and students, the Wood Family of Ojai and a musical rendition of the nativity story. Admission is free and refreshments will be served.

**Sunday, Dec. 21
SANTA AT MADE IN OJAI** — Santa will be visiting Made In Ojai, 323 E. Matilija St., Sunday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Children can sit on Santa's lap and have a photo taken with him. The pictures will be made into cards and sent to your home address, compliments of Made In Ojai and SendOutCards.com. Call 646-2400.

FRED SCHMITT BENEFIT RIDE AND PARTY — A benefit to raise funds to help with Oak View resident and musician Fred Schmitt's medical expenses will be held Sunday at the Deer Lodge, 2261 Maricopa Highway; he was severely injured in a traffic accident on Sept. 24. The benefit



Photo by Dean Zatkowsky

'It's a Wonderful Life'

While the kids decorate the tree, Mary Bailey (Brittany Danyel) gets a disturbing phone call complaining about her husband George's behavior in bawling out a teacher. The kids are played by Brian Orser, left, Honzek Mikhalek and Taylor Luckenbach. The play, "It's a Wonderful

Life," concludes this weekend at the Art Center with performances at 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, and Sunday at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. the Art Center is located at 113 S. Montgomery St. For ticket information, check the Friday listing on this page.

starts with a motorcycle ride leaving from Entry Way General Store on East El Roblar Drive at 10 a.m. The Deer Lodge part of the benefit runs from 1 p.m. until late. Highlights include local musicians including Dr. Surf, April Hendrix, Euphoria and many more, happy hour-priced drinks, appetizers and a silent auction, plus a special guest performance by Schmitt. If you can't make it, and would like to donate, go to fredschiittmusic.com. For more information, call Mark at 797-2598.

COUNCIL HOUSE OPENING AND CELEBRATION — The Ojai Foundation, 9739 Ojai-Santa Paula Road, has completed its Council House meeting space and invites the public to come see it with a solstice and yuletide celebration on Sunday from 4 to 9 p.m. Highlights will include a spiral of lights ceremony with Peter Sterling on harp; singing-in-the-round with Madrigali Renaissance Voices; and feasting and dancing into the night with Tony Khalife, Judy Piazza and friends. Admission by donation. Bring treats to share. R.S.V.P. to 646-8343, Ext. 111, or contact@ojaifoundation.org.

WINTER SOLSTICE CEREMONY — will be held Sunday from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Celebrate the darkest night and the most ancient holiday of the season, with ceremony to release what is no longer needed and bring in the new, meditation, chanting and Dances of Universal Peace. \$20

advance, \$25 at door. Amira Susan Webster, Ph.D., MFT. 701-1327. (D19)

"A NIGHT OF JOY" — featuring the Ojai A Cappella Choir will be held Sunday at 7 p.m. at New Wine Harvest Fellowship, 441 Church Road, Ojai. Admission is free.

Monday, Dec. 22 CELTIC CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

— Ojai Concert Series will host an evening of seasonal music, songs and dance with Portland's Cul An Ti, featuring the Hanz Araki Band (an Irish quartet with a hint of Japanese flute) and Ojai's Irish step dancers, Elizabeth and Deirdre Wood of Celtic Spring, on Monday at 7 p.m. at the Ojai Valley Woman's Club, 441 E. Ojai Ave. Tickets are \$20 in advance and \$22 at the door (half price under 15). Call 665-8852 or go to ojaiconcertseries.com. (D19)

Tuesday, Dec. 23 LIBRARY PRESCHOOL STORY TIME

— The Ojai Library, 111 E. Ojai Ave., hosts a free Preschool Story Time on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 10:30 a.m. with themed stories and a craft for children between ages 2 and 6. Call 646-9901.

"AIDING BIRDS OF PREY" — Meditation Mount, 10340 Reeves Road, Ojai, will host Jonathan Smith and Melissa Hart of Cascades

Raptor Center in a multimedia program on "Aiding Birds of Prey" on Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. Donation: \$15. Preregister at meditation.com or call 646-5508. Proceeds will benefit the Ojai Raptor Center and Meditation Mount.

Down the Road

HEALTH CARE COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

— Rochelle Wilson, D.O., will host a free community discussion on "Health Care" on Dec. 27 from noon to 2 p.m. at 1202-C Maricopa Highway. All are welcome.

15TH ANNIVERSARY AT THE OJAI RETREAT — The Ojai Retreat, 160 Besant Road, will celebrate its 15th anniversary with a celebration on Dec. 30 from 6 to 9 p.m. Cost: \$20 advance registration or \$25 at the door. Call 640-1142 for reservations.

NEW YEAR'S EVE CONTRA DANCE

— The Ojai Art Center, 113 S. Montgomery St., will host a contra dance with live music on Dec. 31 from 8 p.m. until midnight, with special entertainment and refreshments planned for the break. Admission: \$15. Introductory lesson and hors d'oeuvres will be from 7:30 to 8 p.m. Susan Michaels will

be the caller, with music by the band, Bonfire. Call 933-0660 for more information.

NEW YEAR'S EVE MEDITATION

— Meditation Mount, 10340 Reeves Road, will host a New Year's Eve Meditation on Dec. 31 at 11:30 p.m. with Tara Blasco. Join in celebration by meditating together for the greatest good of the planet. Music will be provided throughout the evening by Joanie Chiarodit. Sparkling and hot ciders will be served afterwards. Call 646-5508.

Ongoing Events

MOMS CLUB OF OJAI

— The Moms Club of Ojai provides support for at-home and part-time working mothers through guest speakers, play groups, park days, babysitting co-ops, etc. Call 412-0105 for information or dates and times of meetings.

DIVORCE CARE WORKSHOP

— Mondays from 7:30 to 9 p.m., a Divorce Care Workshop is held at Ojai Valley Community Church, 907 El Centro St. Call 646-4324 or 640-8689.

SUICIDE GRIEF GROUP

— To halt the endless rounds of "why?" and "what if?" for people bereaved by the suicide of a friend or loved one. Call Susie Salguero at Help of Ojai, 646-0752.

LOW VISION SUPPORT GROUP

— Is your low vision causing problems in your daily living? The Low Vision Support Group of the Braille Institute meets each Tuesday from 1 to 2 p.m. at Little House, 111 W. Santa Ana St., Ojai. Here you will learn skills for independent living, and about the many free services of the Baillie Institute. There will be special assistance for those with macular degeneration. Come and bring a friend to this caring and helpful group. It's all free. Call 646-8461.

COMPULSIVE EATERS ANONYMOUS H.O.W.

— meets Wednesdays from 9 to 10 a.m. at the Ojai Valley Alano Club, 575 W. El Roblar Drive, Meiners Oaks. Call 646-5787 or 646-5907.

OJAI VALLEY CAMERA CLUB

— meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. sharp at Little House, Kent Hall, 111 W. Santa Ana St. Photographers of all levels and guests are welcome. Come share your interests. Each month a professional speaker-judge discusses techniques and offers critiques. Photo submissions require membership (\$20 year). Call 649-1147 or visit ojaivalleycameraclub.com.

HEPATITIS C SUPPORT GROUP

— An Hepatitis C Support Group meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. Call Susie Salguero at 646-9752, Ext. 19.

Real People Real Bankers Real Solutions



Whether you are looking to open a personal checking or savings account, invest in your future, surf the online banking services, or look for a line of credit, auto loan, or a business loan, be it construction, business lines, or commercial real estate, you'll find it easier than you ever imagined. Call us at 646-9909 and you'll always be greeted by a REAL PERSON. **We are here for you...Really.**



Ojai
Community
Bank

Banking for You!

Open Monday-Thursday - 9 am to 4:30 pm • Friday - 9 am to 6 pm • Saturday - 9 am to noon (drive up only)

805-646-9909

Telephone Banking • 877-652-4888

402 West Ojai Avenue

www.ojaicommunitybank.com



Member FDIC



Pets Welcome

HOLIDAYS AT THE INN

On Thursday, December 25th, join us for our lavish Holiday Grand buffet. Seatings are available from 1pm to 7pm. Reservations required. Call 805-640-2100.

Celebrate the New Year at the Inn! Maravilla will be serving a special prix fixe menu with optional wine pairings. Afterward, enjoy dancing and a balloon drop at midnight. Call 805-640-2100 for reservations.

Gift Cards from the Inn make a great gift for anyone on your list. Call 805-640-1111 or visit ojaioresort.com to purchase your gift card today.



OJAI VALLEY INN & SPA

905 Country Club Road, Ojai California www.ojaioresort.com



Enormous
Before
Christmas Sale

Cashmeres
Wool &
Cotton

50% - 65% Off

125 E. OJAI AVE.
Open Every Day
10 to 5
646-2970



Nathan Kaehler

HERBS & SUPPLEMENTS

"You made your decision, chestnut, and leaped to earth, burnished and ready... Because you are only a seed, that buried will again open toward the heights the simple majesty of foliage, the dark damp plan of new roots... of another chestnut tree in the earth."

— Pablo Neruda, 1954
"Ode to a Chestnut on the Ground"

Among the tragedies of American history one of the greatest is lost to memory for many in the 21st century, -the decimation of the American chestnut (*Castanea dentata*)

Chestnuts winterize kidneys. cool Earth

forests. About 4 billion chestnut trees were lost by 1950 from a fungus imported on imported chestnut trees or wood in the late 1800s (first identified in New York in 1904) that's about two dozen trees for every individual in the country at that time or an average of 80 million trees per state (most grew east of the Mississippi). Many were centuries old, more than 100 feet and 4 or 5 feet in diameter. Lighter in weight, higher yielding of lumber and more easily worked than oak (also as rot resistant as redwood) chestnut wood was used for everything from furniture to railroad ties and nearly all homes and barns built in the eastern United States between 1600 and 1900.

American chestnuts are not extinct. Seedlings and small trees abound, but they get the blight about the time they flower and begin to reproduce. Efforts have been ongoing since the 1930s to breed fungal resistance of the Chinese chestnut into American chestnut trees. The USDA discontinued research in 1960,

but efforts continue through the American Chestnut Foundation. The foundation has now completed six generations of cross-breeding and the resulting nuts will receive testing on many forest sites until 2015 to 2020. Another foundation goal is to identify a gene or genes from Chinese chestnut for possible gene transfer.

Chestnuts have been cultivated as a food staple in the Mediterranean basin (sweet chestnut-*Castanea sativa*) for millennia and still are, for example, in Corsica. The nuts are roasted, cooked into soups or stews, or milled into flour for breads, pancakes and pastas (the original ingredient for polenta). Candied chestnuts have been popular in France since the 16th century. A series of harsh winters, introduction of wheat and mulberries, unfortunate associations with poverty and poor nutrition, and "ink" disease combined to dramatically reduce chestnuts in Europe over the past three centuries.

In Asia, Chinese chestnut-

Castanea mollissima and Japanese chestnut-*Castanea crenata*, have been in cultivation perhaps longer than rice. They are often, for example, eaten raw or steamed with vegetables or rice.

While there is no significant history of using chestnuts medicinally in North America, there was at least some tradition of using them (or chestnut leaves) in Europe for cough, and they are widely esteemed for their medicinal properties in China. There they are understood to supplement the body's yang (upward, light, warm) energy making them good for weakness in the low back, legs and knees and for frequent urination, asthma or cough due to kidney weakness (eat 1 or 2 ounces raw or cooked daily). They can also ease diarrhea (1 or 2 ounces pureed and cooked for 15 minutes).

When I was young my dad and I loved woodcarving. We once visited a father and son in northeast Iowa who cut and air-dried hardwood flitches for woodworking. I was captivated by large pieces of chestnut wood and conversation about small stands of trees insulated from the blight. We took home a large chunk of chestnut which my dad many years later gave me. Still later a friend

made me a small personal symbol from this wood which I treasure as a hope-filled connection to the past. I dream of living to see the beginnings of the return of the American chestnut forests. It is a strange paradox that these trees, possessing a strong yang (upward, light, warm) energy could be an antidote to global warming which requires yin (cool, moist, downward-moving) energy to balance it — but forests of these trees could help enormously. In the meantime, eating the nuts during the holidays can support our kidney energy

during its most vulnerable time, the colder winter months. In traditional Chinese medicine the kidney is understood to harbor the will, our ability to get things done. So a few chestnuts can also help strengthen the resolve within each of us to "open toward the heights" and grow into "another chestnut tree in the earth."

This article is provided as a public service by Nathan Kaehler, M.A., L.Ac., Ojai Herb and Acupuncture Clinic, ojaiherbs.com. It is provided as general information rather than professional advice.



Risa D'Angeles

ASTROLOGY

Winter solstice, Capricorn, the currency of time

Risa's complete astrological forecast can be read at ojaivalleynews.com. Click "Risa" to the left of the online poll.

Esoteric astrology as news for the week of Dec. 18 through 24:

The year is almost over, winter (Capricorn, solstice) begins Sunday, Hanukkah begins Monday, Christmas is next Thursday and the New Year is two weeks away. Amidst the many celebrations there is a feeling of seriousness, (Capricorn), endings (2008) and new beginnings. The past 17 years Pluto in Sagittarius provided us with many goals, ideals, ideologies, visions and religious fervor. Now a new serious and practical element has entered our lives with Pluto entering Capricorn. As Capricorn's month begins with Saturn,

Capricorn's planet, hovering near the moon (daily life, feelings) Thursday and Friday, and with Pluto (transform) in Capricorn (time, money), we become practical, develop a disciplined sense of timing, understand time as a valuable currency and that to maintain the viability of our communities we must circulate our monetary currency locally. Capricorn (practical) works through Saturn (on the personality and soul levels) and Saturn (disciplinarian) helps us understand that time (used in form and matter) is the means through which we achieve our life's purpose and also the medium through which we serve others (the only way the principle of abundance truly works). These are Capricorn tasks. In this last week of preparing for the holy days let us ask, "Are we using our currency of time (minutes, hours, days) with focused and practical attention? Are we circulating our financial currency within our communities" and "How are we serving others?" (Read more plus Celestial Events and a morning meditation at nightlightnews.com)

Risa D'Angeles is founder and director of the Esoteric & Astrological Studies and Research Institute, a contemporary wisdom school in Santa Cruz, Calif., which also publishes Night Light News available by subscription at nightlightnews.com.

For information call (831) 426-1143 or e-mail risa@surfnetusa.com.

Deer Lodge site of Schmitt benefit

Musicians come to aid of crash victim at Sunday benefit

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

Riding eastbound on Highway 150, a car pulled out in front of him — the force of which broke both arms and landed him on the hood of the car. Panicking, the driver proceeded to pull away and then slammed on the brakes.

This caused Schmitt to windmill and land in a supine position on the pavement breaking his pelvis in three places. Twelve hours of surgery, 28 days in the hospital, plates and pins holding him together, he is on the road to recovery. Saddled with bright optimism toward that recovery, it is a slow and painful process.

For those who do not know him, Schmitt is the father of five, motorcyclist, prolific songwriter, guitar, piano and harmonica player, performer, music producer, sound engineer, music teacher and promoter of the Hillside Festival.

A benefit to raise funds to help with Schmitt's expenses will be held Sunday at the Deer Lodge, 2261 Maricopa Highway. The benefit starts with a motorcycle ride leaving from Entry Way General Store on East El Roblar Drive at 10 a.m. If you are not going on the ride, then the Deer Lodge part of the benefit runs from 1 p.m. until late. Highlights include local musicians including Dr. Surf, April Hendrix, Euphoria and many more, happy hour-priced drinks, appetizers and a silent auction, plus a special guest performance by Schmitt. If you can't make it, and would like to donate, go to fredschmittmusic.com. For



Fred Schmitt

more information, call Mark at 797-2598.

Why everyone should get into the sauna

Robin Bernhoft
OVN contributor

We live in a toxic world. Most of the volatile organic chemicals (VOCs) which interfere with human (and animal) health are fat soluble, and are stored in subcutaneous fat, or in fatty organs like the brain, the liver, the kidneys, and the endocrine glands.

Think of your body as a time release capsule. Every so often, your fat releases a "puff" of stored VOC into your blood stream. These interfere with neurotransmitters, mimic or block hormones, especially estrogen, and distort cell membranes, with damaging effects on metabolic function. (What

that means in English is insulin, thyroid hormone, and a host of other functions no longer work quite right. That's where a lot of type 2 diabetes comes from. Think about what happens if you throw a wooden sandal into the gears of a machine. That's what toxic chemicals and metals do to your body, at a microscopic level.)

The Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta wrote, in the year 2000, "... virtually all human diseases result from the interaction of genetic susceptibility and modifiable environmental factors." Your body is like a rain barrel — throw in enough mold toxins, pesticides and herbicides, lead and mercury, and it eventually overflows,

causing symptoms of pretty much any disease in the book, including accelerated aging.

The way back to health is to lower the level in the barrel — get the toxins out, and allow the body to heal and regain normal functions. You do that by getting your liver up to speed by various means, and getting the chemicals out.

One of the best ways to get chemicals and metals out of the body is through judicious use of the sauna. Saunas have been around for millennia, in many cultures. They have been studied scientifically in recent years, and demonstrated to cause excretion of chemicals and metals (especially

mercury), and to lower body burdens of such toxins.

Infrared sauna is probably the most effective, as the light penetrates about 5 cm. into the body, heating the volatile chemicals, which go out through sweat or through the breath. Consistent use of the sauna, with careful replacement of fluid and electrolytes, can effectively lower body burden of toxic chemicals and turn back the clock on aging and disease. Even heart patients can use it, under careful supervision.

It's no accident so many ancient cultures — Native Americans, Finns, Irish, Turks, Japanese — discovered the beneficial effects of sauna. It works.

Dr. Barnes has moved!

Dr. Barnes is Board Certified as a fellow of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Services include: annual gynecologic exams, treatment of female problems, prenatal care and delivery, Gynecologic surgery and laparoscopic surgery.

NEW! 3460 Loma Vista
Ventura, California 93003
805-289-9405

Lois Barnes, M.D., Ob-Gyn

Office Hours:
Monday thru Thursday 10 AM to 7 PM, Friday 10 AM to 5 PM
** Dr. Barnes takes PPO insurance, Medicare, Tricare and VCHCP
Please check whether your insurance qualifies when making your appointment.

Chemical Free Water With Out The Water Bill

HANSEN WELL SERVICE

FOR ALL YOUR WATER WELL DRILLING AND PUMP SERVICE NEEDS

Serving the Ojai Valley community since 1926

(805) 646-4802

Ojai Business Center

PERSONALIZED CHRISTMAS CARDS
bring in your family photo

CHRISTMAS SHIPPING
Authorized Shipper for
UPS • FedEx • DHL • Post Office

open 9 to 7 m-f 9-5 sat 12-4 sun
226 W. Ojai Ave. Ste. 101
646-4690 obci@sbcglobal.net

Tamale Fundraiser for HELP of Ojai

Gourmet tamales will donate 45% of all sales to support HELP of Ojai

Saturday, December 20th 8:30am-12pm
111 W. Santa Ana

To guarantee your order, please call 805-646-5122
(Beef, chicken, pork, vegetable, corn and pineapple available for sale)

Get your holiday tamales and support a great cause as well

HELP of Ojai is a non-profit community organization serving the residents of the Ojai Valley.

Gladstone Counseling Center

FREE Depression Screening

Call for a FREE consultation with a qualified therapist.

646-9724

Offices located in the Seville Bldg., 530 W. Ojai Ave., Suite 208

REGAIN YOUR HEALTH AND FEEL GREAT NATURALLY

FirstLine Therapy
A Therapeutic Lifestyle Program

This specialized program is recommended by leading health professionals and targets underlying causes of chronic illnesses by incorporating a sensible eating plan, exercise, nutritional supplementation, and stress management to get beneficial results.

The Recommended Program includes:

- Consultation with MD and counselor
- Initial testing and follow-up testing
- Your personal nutritional guidebook
- Personal exercise evaluation
- Weekly follow-up sessions
- Nutritional supplements

Get started on improving your health, losing weight and feeling great for as little as \$180*
Call for details!

Robin A. Bernhoft, MD
A Center For Advanced Medicine

1200 Maricopa Hwy Suite A,
Ojai, Ca 93023 **805-640-0180**

* Follow up appointments, nutritional supplements, and lab work not included in price.

Ojai Herb & Acupuncture Clinic

805.640.8700 www.ojaiherbs.com
115 Pirie Road Ojai, California 93023

Custom Herb Prescriptions
Gentle Acupuncture
100% Herbs & Products

Nathan Kaehler
MA, LAc
Licensed Acupuncturist
80423
MA Psychologist

Problems of mind or later years
Psychosomatic challenges
Skin disorders / conditions
Herbs for children and teens

Calendar of Events

Mythic mouse comes to Ojai

"Tales of Despereaux" is playing Friday to Jan. 2 at the Ojai Theatre, 145 E. Ojai Ave. Tiny and graced with oversized ears, Despereaux befriends a princess named Pea and learns to read (rather than eat) books, reveling in stories of knights, dragons and fair maidens. This animated film stars Matthew Broderick and Emma Watson. Rated G. Showtimes: 7 p.m. nightly and Saturday-Sunday matinees at 2 p.m.

'Inspecting Carol' continues

Theater 150, 316 E. Matilija St., will present the holiday comedy, "Inspecting Carol," through Dec. 28, on Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Admission is \$25 or two for one at the Sunday matinees. Buy four tickets to a single show and get fifth ticket free. Call 646-4300, visit theater150.org or stop by the theater.

Christmas music on tap at LDS

"An Evening of Christmas Music" will be held Saturday at 7 p.m. at The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, 411 San Antonio St., Ojai, featuring the Ojai Presbyterian Church Handbell Ensemble, pianist Elisabeth Myles and students, the Wood Family of Ojai and a musical rendition of the nativity story. Admission is free and refreshments will be served.

New Wine hosts 'Night of Joy'

"A Night of Joy," featuring the Ojai A Cappella Choir, will be held Sunday at 7 p.m. at New Wine Harvest Fellowship, 441 Church Road, Ojai. Admission is free.



Photo by John Hankins

'Wonderful' Gala

Fond memories of the impact of the film, "It's a Wonderful Life," were in the spotlight during Ojai ACT's sold-out gala opening last Friday. The blow-up photo shows Oscar-winning actress Donna Reed, who played Mary Bailey in the film, and her family at their farm in Iowa. Reed's son, Tony Owen Jr. (left and the boy standing next to lamb in picture) was invited by director Gai Jones, right, to talk about how the film changed his mother's life.

Review: 'Wonderful Life' gives glimpse of joys of small-town life

Joyce McWilliams
OVN contributor

Happy holidays from the Ojai Art Center Theater's presentation of "It's a Wonderful Life," adapted from the movie directed by Frank Capra.

The Ojai Art Center is proud to present this charming play in the tradition of our own beloved community theater, a tradition of simplicity, a sense of delight in performance, and the joy of acting on stage.

It's a time to share this holiday season with friends, family and neighbors on and off stage. The health of a community is dependent upon its members to participate and enjoy the creative arts in a supportive communal atmosphere. And what better time than the Christmas season!

This is the story of George Bailey's plight as a small-town banker in the time of the Great Depression and the pathos of his trying to hold on. The generosity of his spirit and the integrity and courage he displayed by the lending of money in faith and good conscience, with slim resources afforded him, is the keynote of this play.

George trusted in the good people of Bedford Falls and they trusted him. He represents that quality of spirit that is exemplary of

the American character. The significance of this story implores us to look ahead with hope for the best to come during these troubling times.

There were good solid performances by Gabriel Olivera as George, who gave us some lovely tender moments with his sweetheart, Mary, played by Brittany Danyell, who gave us a charming rendition of the teenagers great love for George, who subsequently became his wife. Both of these young actors gave us an honest portrayal of their relationships. Also to be mentioned were Steve Grumette as the cantankerous greedy old miser, Henry F. Potter, the richest man in the county, portrayed by Grumette in his usual impeccable performance style, and Doug Hill as Clarence Oddbody, George's silly guardian angel. And, silly he was indeed! The townspeople and Uncle Billy, that poor careless creature portrayed amply by Ron Rowe, gave us a typical cross stratum of a small-town America in the early '40s.

This show ends this weekend and runs Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. Tickets are sold at the door: \$18 general admission, \$15 for students, seniors and Art Center members. Or call 640-8797 for reservations.



The Hanz Araki Band will play Monday at 7 p.m. at the Ojai Valley Woman's Club.

Celts for Christmas

Concert Series event features Celtic-Japanese fusion band

Join Ojai Concert Series for a celebration of Christmas with songs of the season, Irish step dancers, and a fresh new take on Irish traditional music that will knock your socks off the chimney.

"Celtic Christmas" with Portland's Cul An Ti, featuring Hanz Araki and his band, and Ojai's celebrated Irish step dancers Elizabeth and Deidre Wood, of Celtic Spring, will be held Monday at 7 p.m. at the Ojai Valley Woman's Club, 441 E. Ojai Ave.

The Hanz Araki Band has created a singularly original new sound, a Celtic-Japanese hybrid,

that honors both styles and their traditions while adding a fresh new element to traditional Celtic music.

Irish flute player Araki is the quintessential world music musician. With strong Gaelic roots on his mother's side and his love of the shakuhachi (the traditional bamboo "Zen flute"), taught to him by his father, Araki has created a fresh new sound. He is the world's only sixth generation shakuhachi player.

His ability on the flute and his uncanny command of traditional songs is mesmerizing. He has performed around the

world with the Juno Award-winning Paperboys, played with the Seattle Symphony, and is featured on more than a dozen recordings and soundtracks.

Doors open at 6:30 for will-call and at 6:45 for ticket buyers. All seating is first come, first serve. Ticket prices for kids under 14, who are watching the show, are half off the parents' ticket price.

Purchase tickets in advance at Ojai Creates, Serendipity Toys, and Cardinali Brothers Music. For more information go to ojaiconcertseries.com or call Shane at 665-8852.

Nordhoff musicians tune up for tonight

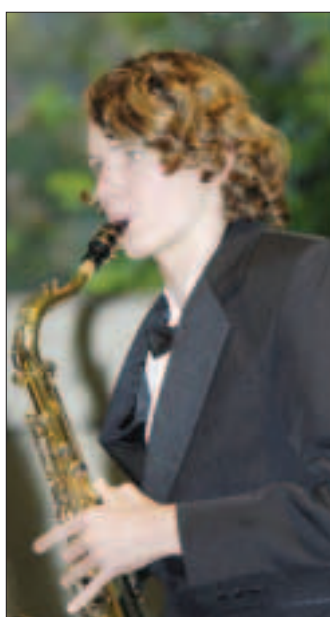
Three different ensembles featured

The Nordhoff High School music program will deliver a full slate of performances today at 7 p.m. in the school's gym, featuring the concert band, string orchestra and wind ensemble, directed by Bill Wagner.

This is the final performance of the year for NHS musical luminaries. Many members of the perennial award-winning ensembles have again enjoyed a successful fall season in the marching band. For their efforts in this season's competitions, they were invited by the Southern California School Band and Orchestra Association to the Marching Band Championships at

Pasadena City College on Dec. 6. Although they didn't win that competition, judges rated them highly for overall musicality and marching abilities. Wagner noted that the winning bands seemed to rate higher based on elaborate field props and theatrics, and maybe that is a direction they would have to go in order to win.

Tickets are \$5 for adults and \$3 for seniors and students.



Tristan Walczak

Check for after-print or late-breaking news on the OVN online ticker.

YOUR VALLEY, YOUR NEWS.

ojaivalleynews.com

Mac Specialists

Let OjaiPixels help you choose, maintain, troubleshoot and maximize the enjoyment of your Apple Macintosh experience

OjaiPixels
805.798.7070

info@ojaipixels.com ©2008, Lloyd Heslip

I don't want All the business...



Mike Willett
320-8174

...just yours!

COLDWELL BANKER

Property Shoppe
646-7288

PERLA BATALLA
HOLIDAY CONCERT & CD RELEASE GALA

Friday, December 19th at 8pm
Zoey's at the Lodge
11 S. Ash Street, Ventura

Tickets and Info call: 652-1137 or visit zoeyscave.com

Perla's Very First Holiday Album, "We Three Kings"

Available locally at Ojai House - Kava Gifts Ojai Creates - Made in Ojai

perla.com

With Special Guests Conjunto Zacmandu!

Casa Bella

Ojai Valley's newest residential care facility for the elderly.

Respite Care (short term care) now available.

Whether you want to simplify your life or need assistance with daily tasks- Casa Bella offers something for everyone...

Spacious private and semi private rooms that open up to your own private patio.

Please inquire for a personal tour
(805) 272-8164

451 Walbridge Wy.
(in Meiners Oaks, corner of Lomita next to fire station)
www.casabellaojai.com

License# 565801569

OJAI ART CENTER THEATER
PRESENTS
A SPECIAL HOLIDAY SEASON PRESENTATION
A FULL STAGED PRODUCTION OF ONE OF THE BEST LOVED FILMS OF ALL TIME!

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE

Adapted by James W. Rodgers
From the film by Frank Capra
Directed by Gai Jones

Featuring
Gabriel Olivera
Douglas Hill
Linda MacNeal
Ron Rowe
Brittany Danyel
Steve Grumette

DECEMBER 12, 13, 14
19, 20 & 21
FRIDAYS AND SATURDAYS AT 8 PM
SUNDAYS AT 2 PM AND 7 PM

Please Call (805) 640-8797

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!

150 Inspecting Carol

THE FUNNIEST HOLIDAY PLAY YOU WILL EVER SEE!
Written by Daniel Jaffee and The Seattle Repertory Theater Company
Directed by Richard Ashman

THE MEN WE HAVE TO BE IT BEAUTY!

THEATER 150 316 East Matilija Street Ojai, CA 93023
TICKETS: www.theater150.org or 805.646.4300

fr. & sat. at 8 pm and sun. at 2 pm through December 28, 2008
TICKETS \$25 • 2 for 1 Sundays • student and senior discounts

Coyotes cage Cate

Besant Hill boys' basketball squad defeats Cate School, 54-34

Mike Miller
mike@ojaivalleynews.com

It is rare to see a high school basketball team create the kind of buzz that the Besant Hill Coyotes are generating these days. Besant Hill joined the Condor League this year and they instantly became the favorite to win the league title thanks in large part to the trio of Yannick Atanga, Ivan Matip and Francois Tchoyi.

Head basketball coach Randy Bertin said, "Besant Hill is a very diverse campus. About 25 percent of our students are international students and our basketball team reflects that level of diversity. We have players from China, Cameroon, Korea, Taiwan and Ojai." The basketball program was started as a part of the school's dedication to developing well-rounded students according to Bertin, who also serves as the school's director of advancement. "All of our students are involved with some kind of physical fitness. It can be an organized sport or hiking, but everyone is active," added Bertin.

Atanga, Matip and Tchoyi are all attracting attention from Division I college coaches from across the country, but Bertin noted that

it isn't basketball that makes them special. "They are all great players, but, first and foremost, they are here at Besant Hill because we are a college prep school and they are wonderful students and even better individuals. It is such a pleasure to be around these kids, they are all very impressive young men," added Bertin.

Luckily for Bertin and Besant Hill, the three stars will be back again next season because Matip and Atanga are juniors this season and Tchoyi is only a sophomore. Atanga has the undivided attention of several major college programs such as UCLA, Stanford and Gonzaga. Despite standing 6 feet 8 inches, he also displays a wealth of athleticism and potential according to many scouts.

Matip is a slick ball handler with a soft outside jump shot who can go by defenders with ease or pull up and shoot the ball with tremendous accuracy. Bertin noted that Matip is likely to be headed to an Ivy League school when his time at Besant Hill is over. Tchoyi is impressive despite only being a sophomore. Standing 6-5, Tchoyi is a force on the boards and is extremely athletic and quick.

There is a local flavor to the team as well with freshman guard Gunnar Von Burg. "Gunnar is going to be a big part of our team this year as a freshman. He will be one to watch and has impressed us with his speed," noted the head coach.

"We want to continue to be humble but set high goals and expectations for our program so we will continue to learn from all of our games."

— coach Randy Bertin

The Coyotes are currently 5-1, with their only loss coming at the hands of Bishop Diego. "We learned a great deal from that game. We shot eight for 29 from the free-throw line, which is very uncharacteristic for us. We want to continue to be humble but set high goals and expectations for our program so we will continue to learn from all of our games," said Bertin.

Starting a basketball program has presented some challenges for the school. The team does not have a gym so they practice outside. "We are the only CIF team that practices outdoors," laughed Bertin. "I will never cancel a practice because of weather."

The program has set lofty goals, but Bertin is cautious in his optimism. "Our first goal is the winning the Condor League and then we will see what happens from there. When we started this program we decided that we really wanted to do it the right way. Our goals are challenging ones but also very



Photo by Karen Bertin

Gunnar Von Burg, Besant Hill starter and Ojai resident, handles the ball in Besant Hill's Saturday game vs. Cate at Cate. Besant Hill won the contest, 54-34.

achievable," concluded Bertin.

2009 Boys' Basketball Roster: Francois Tchoyi, sopho-

more; Poosh Chen, junior; Peter Zhang, junior; Sam Park, freshman; Dan Grosbach, junior; Zac Pease,

senior; Gunnar Von Burg, freshman; Kason Chen, junior; Ivan Matip, junior; and Yannick Atanga, junior.

NHS basketball preview

Mike Miller
mike@ojaivalleynews.com

Overview:

The Nordhoff Ranger boys' basketball team is eyeing a return to the CIF play-offs this season and head coach Mike Probyn thinks that his team stands a great chance at making some noise this season. "We moved into the Frontier League which is still going to be tough. The league is very balanced and every game will be close, but I think that we will be able to do well," said Probyn.

After having a tough time in the Tri-Valley League, the Rangers are looking forward to life in the Frontier League. "The Tri-Valley League was very competitive for a program our size, it is exciting to know that we are going to be able to compete every night and be in the mix for a play-off spot," added Probyn.

The Rangers have already notched some good wins early in their season. They currently sit at 3-5 with wins over Kilpatrick, Santa Ynez and Channel Islands. Last week's 54-38 win over Channel Islands comes two weeks after losing to them, 70-44, which shows marked improvement by the Rangers.

Probyn welcomes back four players who gained a great deal of experience last season. Logan Crow, Matt Smith, Tanner Starbard, and Brandon Swezey all played a lot of minutes last season and will be called upon to score points and play solid defense this season according to Probyn.

The Rangers' strength this season will be in their numbers. "We do not have one superstar player, we are pretty balanced so everyone will need to step up this season and contribute. Our tempo is going to be important as well. We can't go too fast or too slow because we are not a big team. If we can keep up our defensive intensity and keep our opponents in the 50-

point range, we will do well this year," added Probyn.

As for the Frontier League, Probyn eyes Fillmore as the favorite going into the season. He noted, "Anything can happen in high school sports, but I think that Fillmore is the favorite only because they have the best player in our league with Noah Aguirre. But like I said, this league is very competitive and you can win or lose on any given night no matter who you play. We will need to be ready to play every night."

Just because the Flashes are favored going into league play, don't expect the Rangers to shy away from looking to take that top spot. "Our goal certainly is to win our league and make the play-offs," concluded Probyn.

Summary:

The Rangers are not a big team as far as height is concerned, so getting inside position for rebounds will be an integral part to their success. The good news for NHS fans is that they have some great athletes to put on the floor. Crow and Sean Bettles are both very athletic and if they can continue to develop, the Rangers will return to the play-offs.

The roster consists of Logan Crow, Matt Smith, Tanner Starbard, Brandon Swezey, Sean Bettles, Trevor Leal, Davis Bauer, Paul Johnson, Travis Volaski, Mike Espinoza, Scott Sparks and Frank Davis.

NHS alumni hoops game Tuesday

Nordhoff boys' basketball will host its annual alumni game Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. All former Ranger hoopsters are invited to show up and play a practice game against the current team. For more information, contact the NHS athletic department at 646-4343, Ext. 1764.

Toads hoops beat 'Cats, 59-34

Mike Miller
mike@ojaivalleynews.com

The Villanova Wildcats (2-5) and Thacher Toads (2-1) boys' basketball teams met in a cross-town non-league matchup last Thursday night and the Toads rolled to victory, 59-34. Thacher came into the game having played two games with only four practices under their belt. Head coach Jason Carney said, "We have played extremely well for only having had four practices. It is a credit to our kids and now we leave for break so they'll need to do it all over again when they return."

The Wildcats entered the contest against the Toads banged up and coming off a tough part of their schedule. VPS head coach Matt Murphy said, "We were just flat tonight and a little spent emotionally. Our defense was OK, but we could not score. We have a lot of young players so we are going to have our ups and downs."

Villanova was able to

hang tough in the first half and went into halftime trailing by only five points. Both teams committed several turnovers in the first half, but then Thacher settled into a rhythm in the third quarter and began to pull away.

The Toads got a boost from junior guard Casey Wyman, who was able to slice through the lane and dish the ball off for easy inside buckets. "It was nice to have Casey step up like that. This was his best performance since his freshman year," added Carney.

Joe Tobin and Trevor Currie were the beneficiaries of several passes by Wyman. Carney added, "We had a big size advantage down low so I expected us to be able to pull away in the second half. Villanova played hard and you have to give them credit. They are well drilled but we were just able to get things straightened out in the second half."

Senior forward Wyatt Oroke paced the Wildcats

"We had a big size advantage down low, so I expected us to be able to pull away in the second half."

— Thacher coach Jason Carney

on both ends of the floor and made several nice plays because of his hustling style of play while scoring 12 points. Murphy and company missed the services of their junior point guard, James Engesser, who did not play due to an injury.

Tobin scored a career-high 13 points, Wyman added 13 points and six assists, Currie scored 12 points and Quinn McMahon grabbed eight boards for the Toads.

The Wildcats will host Wilsonville High School from Oregon on Saturday at 7 p.m. while the Toads return to action on Jan. 9 when they travel to take on Newbury Park Adventist.

Temporary fix till permanent solutions

Volunteers of all ages came out in full force Saturday to clean and repair the temporary Skate Park in downtown Ojai.

The crew painted the front, back and sides of the

half pipe, eradicated graffiti and added fresh paint, filled more than 13 bags with leaves, fixed screws sticking out of the half pipe and other ramps and fixed the fence.

They also replaced rotten wood and painted it, then used the skate light for a new feature and created a new ramp in the right corner of the park to replace the pyramid that was taken out a while back.

People also cleaned out all the trash behind the wall, weeded the planter on the back wall, picked up trash from in and around the Skate Park, replaced missing railing and cleaned up old wood and materials.

"We found two bike racks and pulled them into the Skate Park and the kids immediately started using them to put their bikes in," said Sunday Rylander. "It was such a great experience and the kids were stoked to get the park back in shape, since we will be using it for the next seven months until demo starts on the new concrete skate park."

"Once pulled it off with no budget, donations from the many Skate Park supporters and some hard work. A special thank-you to the parents who hung out all day and shared their time and skills with everyone: Wendy Hilgers, Dave England, Mark



Photo by Sunday Rylander

Carl Rylander, left, works to fix the transition on the ramps while Michael Meagher, Jack Meagher, Sam Hatfield, Phillip Morales, Sivan Stoneman, Charlie Van Lent and Kiefer Rylander help paint the ramps on their Skate Park.

Soule Park Men's Golf Club

De. 13 Christmas Tournament Results

First Place Gross Tie

Dan Cole and Chris Tirona 73
Paul Rogers and Bob Ridgway 73

First Place Net Tie

Buzz Lind and Jerry Crook 61
Paul Zalesky and Frank Ferro 61

Third Place Net

Mark Robbins and Jim O'Neill 62

Fourth Place Net Tie

Jay Ackerman and Jim Exon 63
Pual Miller and Mike Althoff 63

Saturday Skins Net

Sixth hole Bill Hatch birdie 3
Ninth hole Jim Exon birdie 2
14th hole Don Crouse, eagle 3
15th hole Scott Davenport birdie 2
16th hole Don Crouse birdie 3
17th hole Paul Forchione birdie 3

Closies

Jerry Crook No. 3, 7'4.5"
Jim Exon No. 9, 36"
Bob Ridgway No. 15, 5'2"

Thanks to Glenn Fichera, Jerry Crook, Russ Stoltz, Rick Husted and Jim Coultas for helping out during the tournaments this year, and to Soule Park for supporting the Soule Park Men's Golf Club.



Photo by Rob Clement

David Guthrie drives home finishing nails on a recent addition to the long defined "temporary" Skate Park near the Park & Ride.

Highlove, Carl Rylander, Moe, Michael Meagher, Judy Gabriel, Bobbi Woodz and Joanna England."

Classifieds

Classifieds@ojavalleynews.com

Ojai Valley News • Wednesday, Dec. 17, 2008 B2

Deadlines for placing your ad

For Wednesday's paper, Monday before 4 pm.
For Friday's paper, Wednesday before 4 pm.

We accept personal checks, Visa, Mastercard, Discover, American Express & Debit.

WE RESERVE THE RIGHT to require that any ad be paid in advance of publishing. REFUNDS will be mailed within 30 days of cancellation. READERS are cautioned to make no investments before thoroughly investigating any advertisements in the

Classified columns, which require investments in stocks, samples, equipment or cash bond in order to obtain a position. READERS are cautioned to thoroughly investigate services and products advertised in this publication. Consumers are urged to use prudence in their patronage. Advertising in this publication in no way represents an endorsement by the publisher.

DISCRIMINATION: Any advertisement with respect to the sale or rental of a dwelling, or with respect to an employment opportunity that indicates **ANY PREFERENCE, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, creed, sex, national origin or ancestry, marital status, number of tenants, status with respect to public assistance, disability, age and affectional or sexual preference is unacceptable.** Advertisements For Roommates: Advertisements for roommates may specify gender, but only in two cases: **IF the accommodation involves shared living space, or IF the housing is a dormitory in an educational institution.**

Keep in mind: Advertisements for apartments or housing not involving shared living space may not specify gender. Where living space is shared, only the gender of a roommate may be specified, and the ad may not specify race, religion, or any other protected class. THE PUBLISHER assumes NO FINANCIAL responsibility for errors nor for omission of copy. Liability for errors shall not exceed the cost of that portion of space occupied by such error.

PETS & ANIMALS



CALLIE & CISCO
Callie and Cisco are wonderful dogs with easy-going personalities. They are adorable and affectionate 8-year-old Labrador mixes. This brother/sister pair love to go for walks and are easy to walk together, and they love going for rides in the car. They are very bonded to each other and we'd love to keep them together. Callie and Cisco are hoping to find their forever home just in time for the holidays!

THE CANINE ADOPTION AND RESCUE LEAGUE
Pet Adoption Center 3004 Telegraph Rd. Ventura, CA 93003 (805) 652-1001 www.carlvc.org

FREE Rhodesian Ridgeback neutered male to good home. He has a lot of energy & needs a family that can give him the right amount of attention. Please call Andrew @ (951) 310-6940.

RENTALS, APARTMENTS

1 + 1, \$895/mo.
2 + 1, \$1,100/mo.
Clean! 640-8836.

2 + 1 downtown Ojai. Upstairs, lots of light, carport, Indry. rm. N/P, N/S. \$990 + dep. 646-3587.

2 + 1, 1,250 square feet, nice view of the mountains, big deck, open floor plan, big shady yard, washer & dryer, filtered water, HD satellite TV, broadband wireless internet. Near Highway 150 & 33, no dogs, no smokers, \$1,300. 805-640-5171.

DOWNTOWN, 2 + 1, upstairs unit, water, trash, carport included, on-site laundry. Avail. after Jan. 1, no pets, \$980 + \$1,960 dep. Good refs req. call (805) 684-4178.

RENTALS, BUSINESS

BRYANT St. warehouse, 1,750 sq. ft., w/h & a/c, \$1,650 p/mo. 646-2263.

OJAI: 408 Bryant Circle,
THE OJAI VALLEY NEWS BUILDING
Office & industrial suites, 1,600 to 3,481 sq. ft.
REDUCED RATES!
AVAILABLE NOW!
(805) 563-9400

RENTALS, COTTAGE

MOVE IN SPECIAL!
1/2 MONTH FREE RENT!
Downtown Ojai, quiet neighborhood. Studios to 3 bdrm. from \$850 + deposit. Storage & patios, SWT paid, laundry facilities on-site. **The Becker Group,** 653-6794.

RENTALS, HOUSES

2 + 2, 2-car garage, fenced yard, great area. Avail. now \$1,800 + sec. All Properties, 640-8449.

3 + 1 in Upper Ojai, country living. Fenced yard, work shed, Indry. rm. N/S, \$1,375 + dep. 646-3587.

3 + 1 new paint, carpet, carport/shed. Water pd., \$1,600/mo. 642-7076.

3 + 2.5 on 1 oak filled acre, w/detached guest house. Close to Villanova, quiet & peaceful. \$3,200/mo. 729-6464.

EAST End, 1 + 1 guest house, past the Big Dip, to the end of a quiet lane. High ceilings. Hardwood floors. Walk-in closet. Laundry. Large kitchen, stainless fridge. \$1,650. 798-0175.

HORSE property, Casitas Springs, quiet loc., 2 + 1, 1 acre, horses & pets OK, \$1,450. 760-878-2134.

RENTALS, HOUSES

MIDCENTURY mansion, best view in Ojai, \$7,500/mo. 805-861-0888. valleyvistaojai.com

NICE weekly/monthly short-term 2 + 1. Fully furnished w/internet & utils. 805-798-0434.

OAK View 3 + 2. Large private lot. \$1,900 + sec. Great area! Bonus room. 908-391-3343.

OAK View. 1 bdrm/1 bath duplex. Covered carport and private rear yard. \$775 + \$1,000 dep. Available now. CENTURY 21 Buena Vista. 805.525.7118.

OAK VIEW, 3 + 1, \$1,450 + \$700 dep. 661-623-0514, 805-746-4566.

RENTALS, HOUSES

OJAI, 4 + 2, dining rm., fireplace, A/C, appliances, w/d, garage. \$2,500 p/m + dep. Ojai Property Management. 649-6915.

OJAI, 5 + 3, remodeled, 3 separate entries, great for extended family, close to downtown \$2,500/mo. 805-358-1912.

RENTALS, ROOMS

PRIVATE room, \$750 includes utilities. 1st + last. 646-0477.

Your world in four clicks or less.
ojavalleynews.com

RENTALS OFFICES

621 W. Ojai Ave, 470 s.f./upstairs. Great views! \$500/mo. Larry/Dennis, 646-7288.

ARCADE Plaza office space, upper level, approx. 750 sq. ft & 1,040 sq. ft. \$70 per sq. ft. per month. Retail space, approx. 1,950 sq. ft. Can not be divided/\$1.50 per sq. ft. Herrick Property Mgt. M-F, 646-8169.

OFFICE- Multiple choices, downtown & Bryant St., \$350 to \$2,000 p/mo. 646-2263.

RENTALS TO SHARE

LARGE townhouse to share, 2 bdrm., pool. \$455 per. mo. + utils. 646-4016.

SERVICES OFFERED

AFFORDABLE roofing, new installation and repair. 681-0744.

HOUSECLEANING. Weekly & bi-weekly. Paula Creed, 646-7041.

MATH tutoring, all levels, low rates. 640-7101.

ORGANIC LOCAL GARDENING, ojaigardening@gmail.com

WANTED TO BUY
WANTED: looking for a nice washer to give as a gift. As inexpensive as possible. Please call, 797-0327.

Advertise in The Ojai Valley News!

Call our display department at (805) 646-1476. Extensions 222 or 228

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BECOME a Shaklee Distributor. Help yourself and others become greener, in more ways than one!! Call 805-207-3447 to find out more!

APPLIANCES FOR SALE

ENERGIZER Vitalizer machine, CHI Relaxation, like-new. \$125, 804-6404.

FIREWOOD

MIXED cords, oak/hardwoods & pine. \$225 per cord. Ojai Valley free local delivery. 649-9090.

SPLIT seas. oversized cords, euc., oak, mixed, \$300 & \$225. 947-6462.

Your world in four clicks or less.
ojavalleynews.com

FOUND

FIND SOMETHING? We run "found" ads 2 times at no charge. Call 646-1476, Ext. 210.

KEY with 2 key chains found on Ventura River trail. call 646-3238 to describe.

FREE

FREE palm tree & bamboo removal, 640-8065.

HELP WANTED

F/T exp. service plumber wanted. People skills, clean appearance & good attitude. Call Bill @ Quick Plumbing, 646-4327.

HOUSEKEEPER - for housework. References required, 805-798-1149.

HELP WANTED

OJAI Valley Community Nursery School needs preschool teacher. Monessori training, 12 ECE. Call Jennifer Wing at 798-0422.

LOST

CELL phone lost on Blanche between Ojai Ave. and W. Oak St. Reward. 804-7252.

MISCELLANEOUS FOR SALE

WETSUIT, men's small Excel Infinity 4/3. Excellent cond., \$120, 804-6404.

MOTOR VEHICLES FOR SALE

1966 Mustang. Collector's car, all original, Pony package. Only 85K. Runs like a dream. Red/black leather, black plates, \$17,000. Phil, 340-0404.

1998 Mercedes 500 SL convertible/hardtop with winch, \$17,000 OBO. Phil, 340-0404.

GREAT Ojai classic. One-of-a-kind '76 MBZ 280 4-door. High miles, but professionally maintained, runs great, regular gas, white/blue, \$2,500 OBO. Phil, 340-0404.

Advertise online in the Business Directory. Results for your business just one click away! Place your ad online at www.ojavalleynews.com Or call 646-1476, Ext. 210

Questions on placing an ad? Contact kristi@ojavalleynews.com

Deadlines will be earlier for the papers coming out the weeks of Christmas Day and New Year's Eve. The deadline for both the Dec. 24 and 26 issues will be Friday, Dec. 19, by noon. The deadline for both the Dec. 31 and Jan. 2 issues will be Friday, Dec. 26, by noon.

SUDOKU

									4	3										

Level: Beginner

Here's How It Works:
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

NEW YORK TIMES PUZZLE

No. 1214

NAME THAT PHRASE By Trip Payne Page / Edited by Will Shortz

Across	59 Hindu honorific	127 Tinnitus causes	15 It's on the back of the \$1 bill
1 Small amount of power	61 Once known as "Heroes" actress	128 Kiss on the cheek, perhaps	16 Bleak
5 Where opposite sides meet	62 Larter	129 Putting in a row, like Sampras's rackets?	17 Home of the world's largest aquarium
11 Fireplace tool	63 It's said for stress	133 More affordable	18 What a stamped hand may allow you to do
16 Be bold enough	67 Chewed out	135 Conductance unit	19 Typography units
20 Eponym of a North Carolina "-ville"	69 Comes in dramatically, like West?	136 Suffix with fail	21 Cologne trio
21 Skeptical response	72 Baghdad's ___ City	137 Person of learning	26 Viracocha worshiper
22 Use TurboTax, perhaps	73 More furtive	139 Court case where Ripken is one of many plaintiffs?	27 Rick's love, in film
23 Particular	75 Threshold	143 Trickle	29 Bedside workers, often: Abbr.
24 Mother of Cronus	76 Needing air freshener	145 ___ tape	34 Relax
25 Like Rudner's audiences after a good joke?	77 Better-suited	146 Don't fold or call	35 Hairstylist José
28 "Stormy" seabird	79 Funny frame	147 Banishes to Elba, e.g.	36 P.D.A. part: Abbr.
30 Zool. or ecol.	80 Largest U.S. movie theater chain	148 Light brown	38 Humorist George
31 Drama that uses masks	83 "___ Millions" (Eugene O'Neill play)	149 Spotted	39 Woman in "Othello"
32 Supremely macho	86 The rite place?	150 Nautical measure	42 Sidestep
33 Treat for Damone?	89 Black, in a way	151 Recipients	43 Cheese with eyes
37 Northern star?	91 "The Neverending Story" author	152 Having similar genetics	44 Turmoil
39 Drool catchers	95 McAn's favorite novel?	1 Down	45 Say "#@%!"
40 Volkswagen coupe convertible	99 Astronomical collision results	2 Boxer's approval	46 Try to unearth
41 Runners may round them	101 Tyrrhenian Sea port	3 "Quickly," quickly	48 Spelling clarification
42 Like fries, typically	102 Dict. tag on "tzar"	4 Horror film enjoyed by Turner?	51 -like, alternatively
43 Sunlit ledge	103 It may be radical	5 It holds a service	53 "Take a Chance ___" (Abba song)
44 Google search result	104 Duped	6 More whimsical	54 Tripod, sometimes
45 Delhi-to-Madras dir.	105 Op. ___	6 Fish with toxic blood	55 Banned chemical
47 Author Dinesen	106 Odds of Alda winning an Oscar?	7 Trees with soft wood	56 Skin layer
49 Exist	110 Take on	8 ___ curiae (friends of the court)	57 Shoulder frill
50 Attack vigorously	112 Piece of software, for short	9 Mixer	60 Going nowhere
52 Where Paul stays when performing in New York?	115 Patron saint of goldsmiths	10 Official lang. of Mauritius	64 Half 19-Down
58 Carol ending?	116 Sign of a champ	11 Roy Orbison and Marvin Gaye, e.g.	65 Fill in (for)
	117 Unwrap, in verse	12 Musical that inspired Redding?	66 "The Daughter of Time" author
	119 Sound	13 Agcy. with the Office of Disease Prevention	68 Choking spot
	120 Knave	14 Scintillate	70 "... if ___ saw one!"
	123 ___ a customer		71 Tulip chair designer Saarinen
	126 Gilbert and Sullivan princess		74 "Dies ___"
			78 Standard partner
			79 Accord rival
			81 Clearly impress
			82 Take turns?
			83 Parts of a range: Abbr.
			84 "The light has dawned!"
			85 Seminary subj.
			87 Flower typically given to Neeson?
			88 Brand of nonstick cookware
			89 "W." director
			90 "This can't be!"
			92 How Goldin and her rivals finish in photography competitions?
			93 Boring things
			94 Cosmetics magnate Lauder
			96 Available, in a way
			97 Dirty
			98 Levitate
			100 Mathematician Lovelace
			107 The Gang's leader
			108 ___ lady
			109 Sarah Palin's husband
			111 Taiwan's setting
			112 Mean: Abbr.
			113 One just out
			114 Georgia or Virginia, e.g.
			118 Dupes
			121 Teacher's teaching
			122 Airport monitor info, for short
			124 Comes back the same
			125 Common noun ending
			126 Really existing
			127 Part of R&D: Abbr.
			129 State tree of Texas
			130 Organic fertilizer
			131 Physicist Schrödinger
			132 Trotter fodder
			134 Brownish songbird
			138 Actress Polo
			139 Contents of jewel cases
			140 Uncle, in Uruguay ending
			141 Played a heart, say
			142 Little: Suffix
			144 86-Across, e.g.

For any three answers, call from a touch-tone phone: 1-900-285-5656, \$1.49 each minute; or, with a credit card, 1-800-814-5554.

PUBLIC NOTICES

OVN11-15-08
Published Ojai Valley News
November 26, 2008
December 3, 10 & 17, 2008
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File Number 20081119-10018058-0
Ventura County Clerk and Recorder
Philip J. Schmit
File Date: 11/19/2008
THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS:
Modern Classic Limousine
Articles of incorporation or organization number filed with the California Secretary of State: 200710910129
State of incorporation: CA
Street Address of Principal Place of Business:
199 E. Wilbur Rd., Thousand Oaks, CA 91360, Ventura County
Full Name of Registrant (Individual)/ Corporation/Limited Liability Company: Classic Bus and Shuttle, LLC
231 Rosemount Court Westlake Village, CA 91361
THIS BUSINESS IS CONDUCTED BY: A Limited Liability Company
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on N/A.
I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct.
(A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.)
Classic Bus and Shuttle, LLC
s/KENNETH J. HARTER
Kenneth J. Harter
President
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of VENTURA County on date indicated by file stamp above.
NOTICE – in accordance with subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a fictitious name statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except, as provided in subdivision of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in

the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in residence address or registered owner. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code).
OVN11-16-08
Published Ojai Valley News
November 26, 2008
December 3, 10 & 17, 2008
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File Number 20081118-10017946-0
Ventura County Clerk and Recorder
Philip J. Schmit
File Date: 11/18/2008
THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS:
Builders Mart
Street Address of Principal Place of Business:
300 N. Ventura Avenue, Oak View, CA, 93022, Ventura County
Full Name of Registrant (Individual)/ Corporation/Limited Liability Company: Bruno Leon Dubeau
11267 Oakcrest Ave. Ojai, CA 93023
THIS BUSINESS IS CONDUCTED BY: An Individual
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on 10-31-89.
I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct.
(A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.)
s/BRUNO L. DUBEAU
Bruno L. Dubeau
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of VENTURA County on date indicated by file stamp above.
NOTICE – in accordance with subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a fictitious name statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on

which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except, as provided in subdivision of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in residence address or registered owner. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code).
OVN12-02-08
Published Ojai Valley News
December 3, 10 & 17, 2008
ASAP #2934879
NOTICE OF TRUSTEE'S SALE TS # CA-08-176522-ED Loan # 0699359634 YOU ARE IN DEFAULT UNDER A DEED OF TRUST DATED 6/24/2005. UNLESS YOU TAKE ACTION TO PROTECT YOUR PROPERTY, IT MAY BE SOLD AT A PUBLIC SALE. IF YOU NEED AN EXPLANATION OF THE NATURE OF THE PROCEEDING AGAINST YOU, YOU SHOULD CONTACT A LAWYER. A public auction sale to the highest bidder for cash, cashier's check drawn on a state or national bank, check drawn by state or federal credit union, or a check drawn by a state or federal savings and loan association, or savings association, or savings bank specified in Section 5102 of the Financial Code and authorized to do business in this state, will be held by duly appointed trustee. The sale will be made, but without covenant or warranty, expressed or implied, regarding title, possession, or encumbrances, to pay the remaining principal sum of the note(s) secured by the Deed of Trust, with interest and late charges thereon, as provided in the note(s), advances, under the terms of the Deed of Trust, interest thereon, fees, charges and expenses of the Trustee

for the total amount (at the time of the initial publication of the Notice of Sale) reasonably estimated to be set forth below. The amount may be greater on the day of sale. BENEFICIARY MAY ELECT TO BID LESS THAN THE TOTAL AMOUNT DUE. Trustor(s): MADISON CLARK PURKERSON AND JULIE SCHALL-PURKERSON, HUSBAND AND WIFE AS COMMUNITY PROPERTY WITH RIGHT OF SURVIVORSHIP Recorded: 6/30/2005 as Instrument No. 20050630-0160153 in book xxx, page xxx of Official Records in the office of the Recorder of VENTURA County, California; Date of Sale: 1/2/2009 at 11:00 AM Place of Sale: At the main entrance to the Government Center Hall of Justice, 800 South Victoria Avenue, Ventura, CA. Amount of unpaid balance and other charges: \$849,342.88 The purported property address is: 624 SOUTH LA LUNA OJAI, CA 93023 Assessors Parcel No. 018-0-022-075 The undersigned Trustee disclaims any liability for any incorrectness of the property address or other common designation, if any, shown herein. If no street address or other common designation is shown, directions to the location of the property may be obtained by sending a written request to the beneficiary within 10 days of the date of first publication of this Notice of Sale. Pursuant to California Civil Code 2923.5 (c), the beneficiary or authorized agent declares as follows: In compliance with California Civil Code 2923.5(c) the mortgagee, trustee, beneficiary, or authorized agent declares: that it has contacted the borrower(s) to assess their financial situation and to explore options to avoid foreclosure; or that it has made efforts to contact the borrower(s) to assess their financial situation and to explore options to avoid foreclosure by one of the following methods: by telephone; by United States mail; either 1st class or certified; by overnight delivery; by

personal delivery; by e-mail; by face to face meeting. If the Trustee is unable to convey title for any reason, the successful bidder's sole and exclusive remedy shall be the return of monies paid to the Trustee, and the successful bidder shall have no further recourse. Date: 11/21/2008 Quality Loan Service Corp. 2141 5th Avenue San Diego, CA 92101 619-645-7711 For NON SALE information only Sale Line: 714-730-2727 or Login to: www.fidelitysap.com Reinstatement Line: 619-645-7711 Erik Rasanen If you have previously been discharged through bankruptcy, you may have been released of personal liability for this loan in which case this letter is intended to exercise the note holder's rights against the real property only. THIS NOTICE IS SENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF COLLECTING A DEBT. THIS FIRM IS ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT ON BEHALF OF THE HOLDER AND OWNER OF THE NOTE. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED BY OR PROVIDED TO THIS FIRM OR THE CREDITOR WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. As required by law, you are hereby notified that a negative credit report reflecting on your credit record may be submitted to a credit report agency if you fail to fulfill the terms of your credit obligations. ASAP# 2934879 12/03/2008, 12/10/2008, 12/17/2008
OVN12-06-08
Published Ojai Valley News
December 10, 17, 24 & 31, 2008
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File Number 20081118-10017959-0
Ventura County Clerk and Recorder
Philip J. Schmit
File Date: 11/18/2008
THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS:
Rincon Strategies
Street Address of Principal Place of Business:
5332 Sandpiper Way, Oxnard, CA 93035, Ventura County

Full Name of Registrant (Individual)/ Corporation/Limited Liability Company: Christopher M. Collier 5332 Sandpiper Way Oxnard, CA 93035
THIS BUSINESS IS CONDUCTED BY: An Individual
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on N/A.
I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct.
(A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.)
s/CHRISTOPHER M. COLLIER
Christopher M. Collier
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of VENTURA County on date indicated by file stamp above.
NOTICE – in accordance with subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a fictitious name statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except, as provided in subdivision of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in residence address or registered owner. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code).
OVN12-10-08
Published Ojai Valley News
December 17, 2008
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR BANK TO ESTABLISH A Branch Office
Notification is given that Pacific Capital Bank, a National Association located at 20 East Carrillo Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101, has filed an application with the Comptroller of the Currency on Tuesday, December 02, 2008, as

specified in 12 CFR 5 for permission to establish a limited purpose office operating as Santa Barbara Bank & Trust, a division of Pacific Capital Bank, N.A. and known as Santa Barbara Bank & Trust Ojai at 530 W Ojai Avenue, Suite 101, City of Ojai, County of Ventura, State of California, 93023.
Any person wishing to comment on this application may file comments in writing with the Director for District Licensing at the Western District Office, Comptroller of the Currency, 1225 17th Street, Suite 300, Denver, Colorado, 80202-5534, within thirty (30) days of the date of this publication.
OVN12-11-08
Published Ojai Valley News
December 17, 2008
NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR CHANGE IN OWNERSHIP OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE LICENSE
Date of Filing Application: December 8, 2008
To Whom It May Concern:
The Name(s) of the Applicant(s) is/are: FEAST BISTRO INC
The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control to sell alcoholic beverages at: 254 E OJAI AVE OJAI, CA 93023-2737
Type of license(s) applied for: 41 – ON-SALE BEER AND WINE – EATING PLACE
OVN12-12-08
Published Ojai Valley News
December 17, 24 & 31, 2008
January 7, 2009
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File Number 20081210-10019125-0
Ventura County Clerk and Recorder
Philip J. Schmit
File Date: 12/10/2008
THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS: J.S. Construction
Street Address of Principal Place of Business:
414 N. Fulton St., Ojai, CA 93023, Ventura

County
Full Name of Registrant (Individual)/ Corporation/Limited Liability Company: John Steven Clause 414 N. Fulton St. Ojai, CA 93023
THIS BUSINESS IS CONDUCTED BY: An Individual
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on March 10, 2008.
I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct.
(A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.)
s/JOHN S. CLAUSE
John S. Clause
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of VENTURA County on date indicated by file stamp above.
NOTICE – in accordance with subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a fictitious name statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except, as provided in subdivision of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in residence address or registered owner. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code).
OVN12-13-08
Published Ojai Valley News
December 17, 24 & 31, 2008
January 7, 2009
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
File Number 20081209-10019057-0
Ventura County Clerk and Recorder
Philip J. Schmit
File Date: 12/09/2008
THE FOLLOWING PERSON(S) IS (ARE) DOING BUSINESS AS:

Lalos Fast Food
Street Address of Principal Place of Business:
1580 N. Ventura Ave., Ventura, CA 93001, Ventura County
Full Name of Registrant (Individual)/ Corporation/Limited Liability Company: Angel Soto
1308 Cruzero St. Ojai, CA 93023
THIS BUSINESS IS CONDUCTED BY: An Individual
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed on Jan. 1 05
I declare that all information in this statement is true and correct.
(A registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false is guilty of a crime.)
s/ANGEL SOTO
Angel Soto
s/ANGEL SOTO
Angel Soto
Owner
This statement was filed with the County Clerk of VENTURA County on date indicated by file stamp above.
NOTICE – in accordance with subdivision (a) of Section 17920, a fictitious name statement generally expires at the end of five years from the date on which it was filed in the office of the county clerk, except, as provided in subdivision of section 17920, where it expires 40 days after any change in the facts set forth in the statement pursuant to section 17913 other than a change in residence address or registered owner. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before the expiration. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another under Federal, State, or Common Law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., Business and Professions Code).
Fax Legals & Announcements to: 646-4281

Businesses & Service Directory

AUTOMOTIVE

LOZANO'S AUTO REPAIR

Free Estimates

Brake • Engine • Clutch • Tune-Up
Complete Auto Repair Service

106 Park Rd.
Ojai, CA 93023
(805) 421-9781

COMPUTER

WINDWARD COMPUTER

Apple Macintosh Repair
Maintenance • Troubleshooting

ON-SITE Service for Home and Small Business
Professional, Friendly & Affordable

(805) 646-3802

CONSTRUCTION

Coastal Constructors
Since 1980
A Division of Coastal Constructors Inc.
(805) 640-1351 Lic# 8913790
Visit us at: Coastalconstructors.com

-Home Remodeling
-Commercial Ten. Imp.
-Solar Electric Systems
-Green Construction

-Design -Plans -Permits -Construction

Custom Holiday Gifts
Unique, high quality, durable custom-designed products. Choose an image from our collection or use your favorite photo!
Mugs, Coasters, T-shirts, Ornaments, Keychains, Pens, Trainers, Notebooks
Get Your Orders in Soon!
www.dixietruck.com • (805) 446-6266

SCREEN PRINTING

LIGHTNING RIDGE
screen printing & embroidery
T-SHIRTS
TEAM UNIFORMS
CAPS • JACKETS
BANNERS • SIGNS
lightningusa.com
650-7455

GARDENING

Efrain's Gardening Service "Quality Care at Affordable Prices"

Landscape Maintenance
Irrigation systems
Tree Trimming & Pruning
Weed Abatement
Tractor Work
Clean-Ups

Free Estimates Available 7 days a week

Office: (805) 646-2917 20 years experience
Weekly • Bi-Weekly • Monthly

TAXI SERVICE

CLEAN, RELIABLE, PROMPT
(805) OJAI
646-TAXI
CAB 4 YOU
VENTURA (805) 850-9200
AIRPORTS, CASINOS, EVENTS, TOURS

HAULING

Weed Abatement
Hauling
Other Services
Sanchez Hauling Service
Since 1990 Free Estimates
P.O. Box 595 Oakview, CA 93023
Phone: 649-5906
Cell: 890-3353

TILE & STONE

RED CANYON TILE & STONE
Tile & Stone Installations
Tile repairs • Pool tile repair • Re-grouting • Resealing • New & remodels
30 years experience
Dennis Willey
home: 805-646-2203
cell: 805-908-1195
License #886184



Rotarians name Alex Manriquez November Student of the Month

Paul Thomas and Ray Smith
OVN contributors

The Rotary Club of Ojai-West has named Nordhoff High School senior Alex Manriquez as Student of the Month.

Dr. Jim Halverson made the presentation Dec. 2. He explained, "The student is nominated by the counseling staff at Nordhoff for having overcome unusual circumstances, or for going above and beyond what is expected of a good citizen-student. Despite a diagnosis of autism, Alex has done both."

Special education instructor Lora McWhirter told the club, "Generally, when you hear autism, you think of a small classroom and students who stay there. But Alex has always set very high standards for himself. He is now taking general education classes."

"Alex impressed Ms. Widders and other counselors by taking the standardized California Exit Exam," McWhirter said.

"Everyone is awaiting the results, which won't come back until January. When the other students had left for home, Alex was still at his desk, making sure everything was perfect on his essay."

Heather Farley, a graphics arts instructor told the club, "I teach very complex computer programs, such as Adobe Illustrator. Many teachers have failed to learn it, but Alex has mastered it. He's a very talented artist. And a wonderful, wonderful human being."

Manriquez volunteered to speak to the club. Many honorees are too shy to do so. He said, "I've been trying to get A's and B's. I love my classes. I moved here in the summer of 2005 from Carpinteria. Ojai has a beautiful landscape and the beautiful meadows are my favorite. I love to read and someday I would like to work as a librarian."

"I'm honored and surprised by this," he added.

Dr. Halverson gave



Photo by Ray Smith

Nordhoff High School senior Alex Manriquez was awarded \$100 by Rotary Club of Ojai West's Dr. Jim Halverson Dec. 2. Manriquez hopes to become a librarian.

Manriquez a certificate of achievement, and a check

for \$100 to help him further his education.

BRIDGE CLUB

The Ojai Valley Bridge Club meets every Monday and Friday at 12:30 p.m. at the Ojai United Methodist Church on Maricopa Highway, across from Nordhoff High School. Everyone is welcome, and singles will be provided with a partner. Call 646-1211 for more information.

The winners for Monday, Dec. 1, were: 1st N/S, Joan Glenn and Marie Offerman; 2nd N/S, John Eliason and Dick Zizic; 3rd

N/S, Donna Bennett and Carol Myers; 1st E/W, Ina and Hal Daniels; 2nd E/W, Judith Murphy and Ginny Rockefeller; 3rd E/W, Martha Snyder and Tee Downard.

The winners for Friday, Dec. 5, were: 1st N/S, Marvil and Richard Dickason; 2nd N/S, Elinor Hood and Mary Anita Hill; 1st E/W, James Gay and Hal Daniels; 2nd E/W, Jody Martin and John Vachet.

YOUR FRIEND IN REAL ESTATE



Ross Falvo
REALTOR®
207-5094



rfalvo@troop.com
rfalvosellshomes.com



Scott Wintermute
photography

805.415.9166
Scott.Wintermute@gmail.com

Art Center, Help team to gather food

The Ojai Art Center Theater and Help of Ojai teamed up to gather food for needy families this last Sunday at the matinee performance of "It's a Wonderful Life." Nearly 400 items were collected as patrons received a reduced ticket price for each food item they brought in for the show. The items will be distributed as part of Help of Ojai's Adopt a Family program and year-round Community Assistance Program. Those interested in still donating food items to Help of Ojai projects should contact C.A.P. at 640-3320. "It's a Wonderful




Pictured with food donations are Gai Jones, director of "It's a Wonderful Life," and Eddie Danner, Help of Ojai volunteer.

Life" continues at the Ojai

Art Center, 113 S. Montgomery St., through Sunday. Shows are Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 1 and 7 p.m. Reservations can be made at ojaiact.org or by calling 640-8797.

Nurture Your Spirit



Help Heal Our World

Join us at the Universalist Unitarian Church of Santa Paula

10:30 am Sundays
Rev. Carolyn Price, Minister
www.uucsp.org 805-525-4647
An Historic Church with a Vision for Tomorrow
740 E. Main St., Santa Paula

Ojai Valley's #1 Tire Center!
since 1971

649-2830
Oak View

TIRE MAN
Tires • Wheels • Brakes • Shocks • Alignments

Ventura Oaks
RV THERE YET?

Full hookups including sewer and 30/50 amp electric. Rest rooms, laundry and hot showers! Easy access to beaches, harbors, hiking, fishing, sightseeing. Your Southern California charm is waiting to be explored! Come stay a while, long-term RVers always welcome. Very reasonable monthly rates.
Call
805-649-9103

Donate Your Car or Truck
to the Humane Society of Ventura County

- Tax Deductible
- Free Towing
- No DMV Hassle

To Donate call (805) 640-8128



Triple Nickel
Instrument Repair

Justin R. Veenhuis
Justin 541-292-4276

Holiday Food Drive
Benefiting HELP of Ojai's Community Assistance Program

Now until December 17, 2008

Bring your non-perishable goods for donation to families in need in the Ojai Valley.
Drop boxes available at local businesses listed below!
Or at the Ojai Valley News office at 408-A Bryant Circle.



- Canned Vegetables
- Dried Pasta
- Sugar
- Canned Fruit
- Cereals/Oatmeal
- Baby Foods
- Flour
- Sauces & Soups
- Peanut Butter

Any non-perishable food items appreciated!

Sponsored by Ojai Chamber of Commerce Members

- Allie - Kathleen Nolan • Around the Corner/Plush Surroundings • At Home in Ojai • Basket Case • Casa Bella • Conejo Mountain Funeral Home • EarthPlay Eco-Store • The Estate Plan • Healing Touch • Heritage Financial • J.A. Sandefur Construction • Kava/Home/Garden/Gifts • Law Offices of Dave Neville • Maggie Garrett, L.Ac. • The Nan Tolbert Nurturing Center • Ojai Culinary Studio • The Ojai Phone Book & City Books • PartiAnimalz • Right Click Computer Services • Staklee - Brad Hudson • Tonya Peralta Appraisal Services • Troop Real Estate - Ross Falvo • Vesta Home & Hearth • Zack's Fine Jewelry

Has your computer been naughty this year?

...hopefully not too naughty.



ventura Highspeed Internet
www.venturahighspeed.com
805-643-4375

Mac and PC Repair
Highspeed Internet
Data Recovery
Web Development
E-mail Accounts (ojaimail.net)
Local Customer Service