The Ojai & Ventura

VIEW

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Ventura's New Gallery

summertime blues

Ventura City Still Stalling...

Helen Yunker

Friday, June 5

Editor, Ojai and Ventura View,

I am sending you a copy of my presentation before the Council on June 1st. It hasn't changed my situation at all, if I have to depend on another buyer, whomsoever it might turn out to be, that is if there is another, eager and panting to take over the problem and construction. I will still be strung out for 3 more years....

Regarding the city's violation

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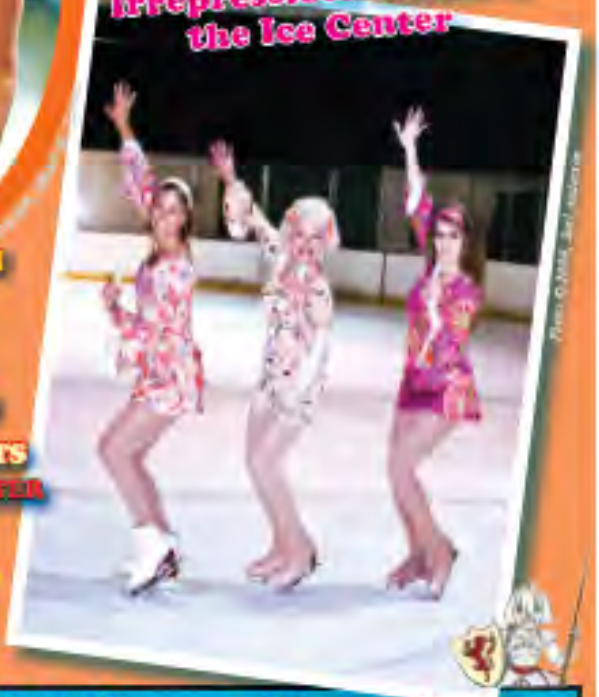
Scam Alert

Irrepressible Sheila & the Ice Center



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Ventura's Latest 'Treasure' Trove, Phil Marquez

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Power Lover

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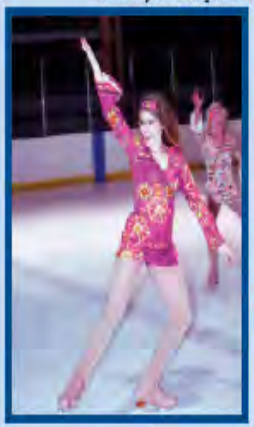
Inside: • Art • People • Politics • Music • K9 VFW • Is 'Activism' Democratic ?

The Effervescent and Irrepressible Sheila Cluff

"I think what brings people here... it's a unique sport, it's artistic, it's self-discipline, a lot of concentration and yet it's a good physical sport.
French Canadian Skater,
- Nadia Lefebvre Chapman



Elizabeth McLeman, Arnelle Stafford, Shelley Denise Pendleton, and (back right) Nadia Lefebvre Chapman

Sabrina McNeil

"Death in the Desert" Oil on Canvas. Yvonne Bowen who said, "For me painting is very freeing. It allows me to express myself and my views on life and death."

"Exclamation" Multi-media, Jacqui Goglia, Museum Associate Director. She said, "It's all process based for me. I never look at a piece with an idea of what it's going to look like when it's done... the joy comes during the painting."

"Tribal," Mixed-media, collage. Rachel Lattimer, Museum Associate Director, who said, "I'd like to own a non-profit gallery someday to give student artists exposure."

Denise Pendleton

– by Mary M. Long

Lacing up her custom-made ice skates from her days of touring with *Sonja Henning*, *Sheila Cluff* had no idea that she was not just accompanying her granddaughter Sophia on a skating lesson, but renewing a skating career for herself.

Stepping out onto the ice after almost 50 years, at **Channel Islands Ice Center** in **Oxnard**, Sheila felt like she "...had never been on skates in her life before." Clutching on to the hand rail laughing she attracted the attention of ice center pro Mike who said "One, you've skated before," (*can't hide talent*). Two, go get some rental skates." Well... there have been a few changes to the skating profession over 50 years! The modern ice skates are constructed with more ankle support now than they used to be.

Never hesitating, Sheila decided to hop on an airplane, reasoning that at her age if she was going to skate she needed the best equipment. Flying to New York to visit the same artisans who had crafted her last skates, she ordered a brand new pair of custom made boots and blades from Terry Skate Co. "It made a huge difference in getting back to skating" said Sheila, who has devoted her lifetime to physical fitness and conditioning.

"I got a little bit better" she said, and soon "these wonderful kids had me hooked"! Not taking "No" for an answer, it wasn't long before the **Ice Center** professionals were eyeing Sheila for the part of *Mrs. Claus* in their annual Christmas production. "Well... they told me they needed someone with white hair but I said they must be crazy, I'm not going out there at my age," laughed Sheila. Well, they must have known she had a soft spot for children because when they told her that all the proceeds went for Christmas presents for Foster children (*Ventura County Childrens' Services Auxiliary*), it was a done deal for Sheila.

Sheila and Sonja

Breaking the ice, so to speak on performing, it wasn't long before the wonderful people at the rink had Sheila returning to competition, flying last year to **Oberstdorf, Germany** for the adult nationals. Competitiveness is an indelible part of Sheila's character and she made the comment, *hanging over the boards*, that she thought that the ensemble groups "weren't very good and that we could do better." The idea was born, and the very next year she was competing in the newly formed group, to the music from the broadway hit, *Cats*. "Last year, we were cats... we had cat outfits with fur hats and tails. I was Rumpelteazer the naughty cat with pearls. We did a really good job at the recital here, and then we were going to the nationals in San Francisco. But then, while I was at a skating camp in Aspen, I did a jump that was difficult for me... I landed on my hip instead of my blades and fractured my hip," said Sheila.

ICE SKATING CONTINUED, PAGE 20...

SEWING CLUB'S SUMMER WORKSHOPS
July 10 is children's all day workshop, which includes skating, lunch, fun and games; the adult workshop is July 11 and includes skating, fitness with Sheila, lunch and lots of fun.
Call the *Channel Islands Ice Center* for more info, 988-4440

Cure for the Summertime Blues

– by Joel Anderson

Summertime Blues can mean surf, music or once particular mood at any given moment. Where the blues meet California and Main Street in Ventura, it means Art and a new and exciting gallery there on the corner.

"We love it," said Jack Reilly, *Cal State University Channel Islands* (CSUCI) chair of the art department and professor of art, and Director of the gallery. "We we're hoping to accumulate a number of artworks that have to do with summertime, also dealing with the elements of the color blue, perhaps the mood '*being in the blues*,' etc., etc., from that song, "*Summertime Blues*."

CSUCI has been working with the buildings owner, Mark Hardley to build a new curriculum in entertainment. "I guess you could say he's a philanthropist of the arts," said Reilly." I asked him at a meeting one day 'I hear you have some property in Ventura? How about giving us a gallery space to use?' And he immediately replied, 'Yes.'

"That space turned out to be the Earl Stanley Bank building. So that's how it started and then it took us about a week or two to get into the space. I rallied up all the alumni, the students and the faculty to fill the gallery. Well, we had to move fast and also it doesn't have blank white walls like so many conventional galleries, so what I did... I went ahead and bought 35 easels, and we had some other easels also that we use for plein aire painting, so we had a lot of paintings on easels as opposed to on the walls, which actually works. I was a little concerned about showing paintings on easels, but it turned out pretty nice and really allows us to use the space in an interesting and unique way." Reilly enjoys the contrast between the primarily mixed media and abstract art now set against the traditional early 20th Century architecture. The 4 story building, built in 1923 as the "First National Bank," is so named after famed Ventura Lawyer of the time, Earl Stanley Gardner who retained offices there from 1923 to 1933.

"I like to refer to it as the Louvre of Ventura, it looks more like the interior of the Louvre that it does like any commercial gallery you'll see around today. Best location in town..." Reilly, an avid surfer, is clearly thrilled about the gallery's location and the *blues* themed artwork, significant access to the viewing public; the timing couldn't be better. It's easy to see why he's popular among students.

Jacqui Goglia, associate gallery director (and recent art graduate) is also excited about their first public opening, "...our first opening reception... and it's just us, open to the public, so we're really excited. And it's our Summer Show!"

Blues Continued Go Back To Page, 12...

Photos © 2009, Joel Anderson

You may not recognize Christina Dei, as a Hockey player, that is until you see her hit the ice with the ferocity and determination of the other players who match her size... mostly that, and with the exception with the heads!

"I had a lot of problems... I had a lot of men say... would give me a hard time, 'You can't be *out here*'... When I was a kid there were no women playing hockey at all and so... I always wanted to do what I couldn't do, so, yeah I decided to drop figure skating and do something I wasn't supposed to do, and I came out here and did hockey," explained Dei, who plays on the Division 4, Icemen team in the Adult Hockey League, based at The Channel Islands Ice Center.

The center has a wide range of organized Hockey teams fit for all ages, but the glass ceiling it may have once had is clearly going way, and is evident is the friendly smiles of the towering Team *Icemen* who, one wonders, may be thinking about a name change to *Ice-people*.... at some point...

Christina had trained with the same coach who trained Figure Skaters Tiffany Chin and Scott Hamilton, and has the light-hearted smiling grace to prove it, but given her character, change was inevitable. "Right now I'm playing deep, left side, and I kinda float around. I can play any position, but right now I'm playing for this team at deep. (*Penalty box ???*) I was. First time ever yeah, hahahaha. He said I had slashed twice, but actually my version of the story was the guy had grabbed my stick, when I turned to pull it out, it spun around. Everybody has their own version so... hahahahahah.... aright...

Joel Anderson