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OJAI VALLEY NEWS

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Seized horses puts strain on Humane Society

Three family members arrested on suspicion of cruelty to animals

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After acquiring 14 horses in late September from a Lockwood Valley ranch, trepidation over the safety of the remainder of the animals compelled officials to return with a search warrant Wednesday.

"The Ventura County Humane Society was very concerned about the remaining horses," said spokeswoman Kathleen Kaiser. "When the sheriffs arrived, they found an additional 38 neglected horses, as well as carcasses of dead horses in the nearby forest." Of the original 14, one mare has died.

According to Ventura County Sheriff's Capt. Ross Bonfiglio, deputies served the search warrant as part of an ongoing investigation and made three arrests in a cruelty to animals case involving malnourished and emaciated horses on a 21-acre Lockwood Valley ranch.

The joint operation included the use of four veterinarians as well as members of the U.S. Forest

Service, Ventura County Animal Regulation, the Ventura County Humane Society, the Ventura County Sheriff's Department, Emergency Evacuation Rescue Team, and several volunteers.

During the search of Cochemo Ranch, located in the 16,000 block of the Curtis Trail, deputies recovered evidence and arrested Ernie, Joan and Cecelia Bor. They were arrested on suspicion of numerous counts of felony cruelty to animals, according to Deputy Bill Hollowell of the Lockwood Valley Station and each has posted \$10,000 bail. After an assessment of the animals, 38 more horses were deemed to need off-site care. Some were voluntarily relinquished by ranch owners and others were impounded by the Humane Society. The remaining 57 horses were left at the ranch and the area was designated as a temporary animal shelter with those horses held under the care of Ventura County Department of Animal Regulation until the ranch owners returned Thursday. According to director Kathy Jenks, the care of the



Photo by Scott Wintermute

Two of the 38 horses suspected of being neglected by their owners arrive Wednesday at the Ventura County Humane Society shelter on Bryant Street. The

emaciated animals were either seized by authorities or voluntarily relinquished by the owners at their 21-acre ranch Lockwood Valley ranch.

remaining horses will be closely monitored.

Shelter officials estimated that it would take a minimum of \$100,000 to bring the horses back to health. "We have 38 new horses on shelter grounds right now," said director Jolene Hoffman at the Ojai shelter. "There are a lot of pregnant mares and we'll have to put together more piping to secure them. We'll also

need horse shelters and funds to provide veterinary care and food."

The time factor for recovery is a significant part of the cost. "This could be six to nine months of trying to get these horse back to health. The weight goes off fast, but you have to be careful about putting it back on to avoid colic," said Hoffman. The shelter also must take care in how they supply

the corrals, avoiding shavings or hay bedding usually provided. "When they're starving, horses are going to eat anything they can get," Hoffman said they also need manure scoopers known as "apple pickers," large wheelbarrows and large water containers able to hold about 500 gallons.

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City wants full Mallory Way EIR

Owners want to destroy 18 of 25 former motor lodge turned rental units, remove 35 healthy trees

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After substantial opposition from local residents, the city of Ojai has decided to require a full environmental impact report for the Mallory Way bungalows project, according to city planner Katrina Schmidt.

"This gives us a broader forum for the public to comment on the process and we thought that would be a good thing," said Abe Leider, a planning consultant with Rincon Consultants, who is the project manager for the EIR. As a result the Mallory Way project won't appear before the Planning Commission until early 2009, he said.

Tucked away in a quiet neighborhood surrounded by oak, California pepper and eucalyptus trees, the Mallory Way cottages have been among Ojai's few moderately priced rental units for years.

Just walking distance from downtown, the modest homes, clustered together in a friendly semi-circle, were among Ojai's best-kept secrets until about four years ago.

In 2004, a project to tear down the majority of Mallory Way rental units to make room for brand-new two-story condominiums was met with controversy at a Planning Commission meeting. The item subsequently dragged on for four years, and drew public attention to Mallory Way, especially during the 2006 City Council elections.

While some Eucalyptus Street residents applauded the suggestion of the so-called upgrade to their next door neighborhood at a 2006 Historic Preservation meeting, the majority of attendants rebuked it.

Opponents of the project cited the historical significance of the community, which was originally built as an auto court in the 1940s, with each cottage named after a racehorse. In 1997 the cottages also appeared in Oprah Winfrey's movie, "Before Women Had Wings."

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Skate park bonus features may require more donations

City, Skate Ojai to discuss possibilities Tuesday

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The city will meet privately with Skate Ojai Tuesday morning to sort out some perceived discrepancies between the cost of a skate park designed by Site Design Group Inc., and the skate park budget.

Kanten Russell, the lead designer for Site Design Group, said that the firm had constructed the design, which was presented to the Planning Commission last week, with the approximately \$360,000 budget at top priority. But designers had added some bonus features, an

extra deck area, and some additional transition areas and ledges that could be added on in case Skate Ojai received some additional money or in-kind donations from the community.

"We have two designs," said Russell. "One that is within the budget, and one that would cost more with added features. The added features could be included if some additional donations come in, or they could be added in the future after the skate park is built, if more money is made available then. Of course, we can't assume that the donations

Please see Skate, Page A3

An Evening with David

Ojai's noted historian to field questions from Peter Fox at Art Center Monday

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On Monday, the Ojai Center for the Arts Literary Branch will present "An Evening with David Mason." Ojai's favorite historian will read a ghost story and talk about its origins, as well as answer questions from Peter Fox regarding the changes this town has seen during the course of Mason's life.

"I have been a member of the Art Center since 1948, so I always try to lend my support whenever possible," said Mason. "When I was a kid, we didn't live too far from the Art

Center and I think my mother used it as an invariable babysitter."

Mason said he made his acting debut at the Art Center in a 1948 production called "Archibald and the Turkey Feather." "I was Archibald, so I was starring," he laughed.

The ghost story Mason plans to read will take about half an hour. "It's an old, old one, a true story of the area," he said. "I think it's called 'Ghost of the Casitas' and was written around 1924." As far as the rest of the conversation, Mason said, "I have left it entirely up to Peter."

Please see Mason, Page A3

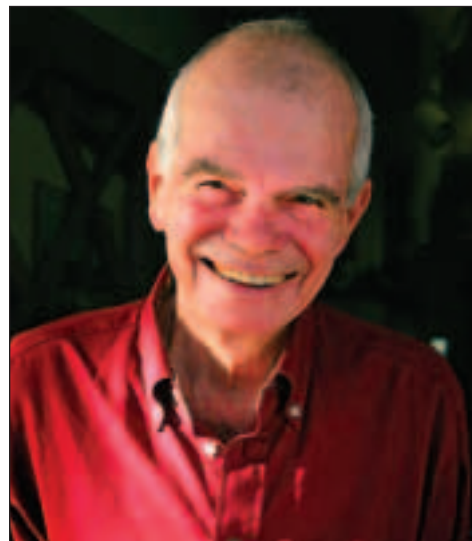


Photo by Scott Wintermute
 David Mason

Ojai Valley neighbors

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As a professional musician, Randall Marsh estimates he has played with thousands of bands. The son of a Bushnell, Fla. politician, Marsh plays guitar, but his first love was drums. "In my hometown, the high school was on the other side of the road from the elementary school and the marching band would be out there practicing," said Marsh. "The sound of the snare drum was the coolest thing I'd ever heard."

Marsh joined the school band to get access to drums and took to them naturally. "But the band teacher would say to me, 'This is not a rock band, Mr. Marsh.'"

He played with local groups and, after high school, Marsh ended up in the progressive city of Gainesville. An ad in a music store led him to meet guitarist Mike Campbell. They played together for about a year before the bass player quit. "Tom Petty's band had just lost some players and I got an audition. After

my first rehearsal, I heard them talking about needing a guitarist. I said, 'I know a guitarist.' Mike came in and just blew everybody away."

That band was called Mudcrutch. "They were more country rock and we were more psychedelic and we just sort of merged into this new hybrid thing and basically did that for four to five years." After recording one 1974 single, the band broke up. Petty, Campbell and keyboardist Benmont Tench were later to reconnect as Tom Petty and the Heartbreakers.

"I kept trying to find bands. I delivered flowers, washed dishes, worked at restaurants, played in cover bands and got a few gigs," said Marsh. "but by '86, I was just tired of L.A."

About this time, Marsh and friends came to Ojai to hear Krishnamurti speak. "We walked around Ojai and I was just blown away. It was so nice and calm and peaceful." After moving here, Marsh spent the next 20 years giving drum and guitar lessons to students



Randall Marsh

around Ojai and catching the occasional gig, including playing with Campbell and Petty from time to time.

Last year, Marsh was contacted about reuniting Mudcrutch and was suddenly rehearsing, recording and touring around California. Their self-titled CD was released last spring to critical acclaim. "In November, Mudcrutch will be releasing tunes from the live shows and there will be a VH1 special," Marsh said.

Marsh is enjoying the next phase in his musical journey and feels at home in Ojai. "I'd just as soon live here till I die," said Marsh. "California is a different country. It's way ahead. What Gainesville is to Florida, California is to the world."

News Briefs

McEUEEN BAND AT SACRED SPACE: Jonathan McEuen will perform in a full band show Saturday at 8 p.m. at Sacred Space Studio, 410-A Bryant Circle, sponsored by Pesticide Free Ojai. Donation: \$20 at the door. Call 646-6761.

'MAN ON WIRE' AT OJAI THEATRE: The Ojai Film Society will have a special screening of the extraordinary documentary, "Man on Wire" (U.K.-USA 2008), Saturday at 4:30 p.m. at the Ojai Theatre, 145 E. Ojai Ave. This screening is a fundraiser for the nonprofit OFS. All tickets are \$10 (no advance ticket sold). This film is rated PG-13.

'BOOK BOOGIE WOOGIE' The Ojai Valley Library Friends and Foundation will host the Ventura Jazz Orchestra performing in a "Book Boogie Woogie" concert to benefit the Ojai Valley libraries on Saturday from 7 to 10 p.m. at Libbey Bowl. Tickets are available at all Ojai Valley libraries. Admission: \$15 for adults, \$10 for students, \$5 for children under 12.

ART CENTER PRESENTS 'THE NERD': "The Nerd," Larry Shue's uproarious take on promises you wish you hadn't made, is playing at the Ojai Art Center Theater through Oct. 19, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 7 p.m. Tickets to the show, at 113 Montgomery St., are \$18 general, \$15 for students, seniors and Art Center members. For reservations, call 640-8797 or OjaiACT.org.



Sports

NHS Rangers will host the undefeated Fillmore Flashes tonight at 7:30 at the Ojai Valley Community Stadium
Page B1



Arts

Sandy Wolk's "The Nest" is one of the featured works as the Ojai Valley Museum Celebrates Art through Nov. 16.
Page A10

FRESH-ROASTED CONCERTS: Performances To Grow On's Fresh Roasted Concerts will open its series with Moira Smiley and Voco today at 7:30 p.m. at Matilija Auditorium, 703 El Paseo Road, Ojai. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$22 at the door; available at ptgo.org, 646-8907 or Ojai Creates and Ojai Coffee Roasting Co.

'THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST': The play will be performed by Nordhoff High School drama students in the cafeteria on Saturday at 7:30 p.m., Sunday at 2:30 and 7:30 p.m. and Oct. 16 and 18 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets at the door are \$5.

Blotter/Obituaries A2 Much Ado/Pets A4 Opinion A5 Religion A8 Arts A10 Sports B1 Around Our Valley B2 Food & Beverage B3 Classified B4 People B6

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