#### Event to Help Local Metro-Link Victim's Foundation

by Rebecca Wicks

The Lighter Breeze.

Dean Latey Brower was one of the vactima of the Sept. 12 Metrolink crash in Chatworth and now local biometers. on Veneura are coming together to organur an event to benefit his family. As the Beower family has learned, sometimes help surfaces from unexpected places.

Tangerenz, a local salon in Ventura is the main business putting the fundraning event together. What's notable is no one at the salon ever met Dean Brower.

We were reading the articles about the people affected in this hoerible accident and his story moved me," said Januar Ethier co-on ner of Tangerenz "There was something special about the

Continued in page 8.



A fundrance will be held at the Ventana Comedy Club to ravie money for the fatherless Bow-

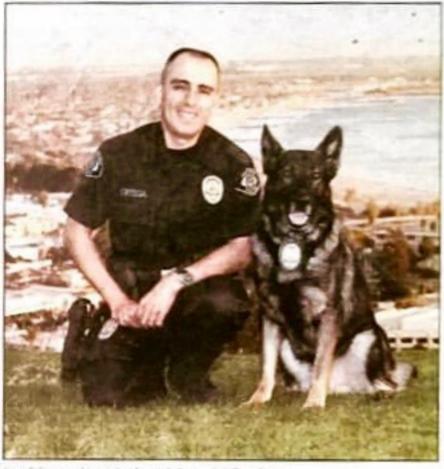
### Felix is retiring

by Becca Richman

Officer Jack Ortogs and K9 Felix are crime-fighting partners at the Ventura Police Department. At almost ten years old. Felix is getting ready to settle.

"He's carned a good exputation. He's carned his estimment," Orrega said, and tematked that, although Felix still has the ability and energy to work he has a bothersome elbow and mild arrhitis and really deserves to have some good quality, healthy retirement years. Ortega, who is quiet and even mannered has worked for the Ventura PD for 15 years and pattnered up with Felix 7-plus years ago in the exceptionally disciplined role of K9 handler. The two carned certification through interners schooling, with the officer in courses on codes and others and the dog in less theoretical subjects like apprehension (snarling staring and taking down had guys) and narcotics. Felix was imported from overseas at just 11 weeks old. His experience. Orrega said, spans the police parrol spectrum, as he has overcome people physically, scarched cars for drugs, demonstrated his skills at public service events, and found, with nose to the ground," a number of perpetrators. On one of the latter occasions Felix fetched, unprompted, County Jail and Probation paperwork dropped by an unknown firring suspect, and so effectively reputied back to Ottogs the man's identifying information.

'He showed us who the gus was before we found him." Ortega recalled. He said. "We ask for a lot our of these dogs - to work, to have contage, and to have the drive to work." He described Felix as able to handle stress well, to intimidate and be aggressive, but as essentially gentle and rolerant. Felix lives at the Orrega household but will not assume the role of "family dog" until retirement. Oreega said, "I'm strict on him He doesn't eat people food or lay on the couch," and called himself "not master" but "the pack leader, even though it is a very small pack." Ortega takes all re-



Soon Follow in the grounding his work data with Orlian Orlega

sponsibility for Felin's behavior and while their bond is strong, ultimately he is not recepted to put Felix's safety above that of the public or other officers. During the interview, Felix billed on the grass outside the police department, a deep brown and black, good-natured ball of muscle, squieming cheerfully with his pows in the air. Afterward. he bounced about Ortrga's legs, looking for his toy and perhaps acknowledgement for patiently waiting out all the talking. Ortega said it will be tough for Febra to retire: "He'll have to get used to not working. At 5:30 in the morning. Felis's internal clock says it's time to go to work." And hard for him, too, to give up his favorite place, the back of the "Felex" black and white. Now, though, he might at least try out a covered spot on the living room couch as a close second.

The Veneura Police Department ourrently has four police dogs. Felix, Carlos. Eros and Ferro. Although Felix came to Ventura as a puppy, and Eccs and Ferro were bred here, the majority of the working canines in Ventura County are imported from Germany, said National Police Dog Foundation, and local, veterinarian, Ron Dalzell, Not coddled there, he said, they are from a group of German Shepherds raised in a manner to be "champion working dogs." They are usually imported at about a year and half and then serve until they are aged

The National Police Dog Foundation works to introduce skilled and able dogs to agencies. They have a home base in Ventura; board member, Judi Reilly, peaises local handlers, police department personnel, and other individuals who have donated time, energy and money toward caring for the dogs. According to Reilly, it takes about \$21, 500 to train and maintain each dog - funding which is very difficult to reach on individual donations. With Felix retiring. the Foundation needs to ensure they have funds to support another dog for the Ventura ream, and they face similar situations throughout the county.

Using police dogs at high risk situitions allays dangers to the public and officers, Dalzell said. "We don't even recognize that we've had so many lives saved just because of the dogs' presence. Their value to the community is just unbelievable." He ralked about a man with Alzheimer's who had wandered away from home and was discovered, having fallen and hurr himself at a remote area. by a police dog. He reflected on a number of situations and said, were it not for the dogs, "We would have read different newspaper headlines."

Please visit www.NationalPoliceDog-Foundation org for further information.

# Artist Union Gallery to feature images by Scott Jacobs

A fundraiser will be held at the Ventura Con

edy Club to raise money for the fatherless Box

er family

Scott Jacobs, a local homeless military vet, was inspired to paint a portrait of Barack Obama on Nov.4 after voting in his first election.

Scott went to Main St. to paint a powerful, traffic stopping image of Obama

On Nov. 22 the Artist Union Gallery will feature his images at the close of our 'Election Collections' exhibit

For more information, contact Dona Wieckowski at 766-1353 or Laurie Pegg-Scott at 650-8252.

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