

# ROTARY SPOKES

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## Aspire: Entrepreneur Education Initiative

Today's presentation comes from Sean Bhardwaj.



Earlier this year, in March, students across Ventura were fine-tuning business proposals in time for a program finale that resembled "Shark Tank," the reality show about entrepreneurs looking for a willing investor. But instead of snarky billionaire investors, students from Ventura College and Foothill Tech, Buena, Pacific and Ventura high schools made pitches to community and business leaders.

The project is part of Aspire: Entrepreneur Education Initiative, a program directed by Sean Bhardwaj, a Foothill Tech alumnus and USC graduate. Bhardwaj, 24, has helped create a four-week curriculum like what might be found at a business school. The project requires students to work in a group to brainstorm an idea, create a business plan and launch a website. Graduating students need these kinds of skills as they enter a competitive, digitized workforce, Bhardwaj said.

"Before, you would go to college, and if you were set in the straight and narrow, you're set for life," Bhardwaj said. "Now the impetus for this generation is to create their own opportunities, find what they're passionate about."

Economics teacher Kurt Miller, 26, has been encouraging students to think of a profitable business that investors can sink their teeth into. "At the end of the day, they want to know how they're going to make money from your business plan," Miller told his students. "Be confident. You own this."

The idea is to get students to collaborate and find solutions

across multiple academic subjects, something Bhardwaj calls "deep learning." That concept also is the cornerstone of the Common Core standards, a new set of academic expectations to be implemented in fall 2014. Common Core favors long-term class projects overwork sheets and assessment that's based on performance rather than multiple-choice exams. "It's not that multiple choice is the issue; it's using that as the only metric in school," Miller said. "With the business project,

students do not necessarily have to answer questions on a test. They have to come up with their own questions."

Kathy Asher, assistant superintendent of the Ventura Unified School District, said that when Common Core takes effect, classrooms will look just like the district classrooms working on the business plans today, "What struck me is: Here is this economics class utilizing math in terms of their budget ... marketing skills, PowerPoint presentations, public speaking," Asher said after judging an early round of pitches at Foothill Tech. "This is Common Core state standards at its best."

*This item was adapted from a VCSTAR article.*

### Ventura Rotary Social Event at Foster Park, Sept. 15

Our annual picnic! Bring your favorite picnic food to share in a potluck. This is a casual, family Sunday event. The fun starts at noon. You can contact Terry Schaeffer for more information.

## Meeting Recap of August 21

Courtney Lindberg began the proceedings, followed by a rendition of 'My Country 'tis of Thee' led by RoseAnn Hill.

Terry Schaeffer reminded the club of the upcoming Club social at Foster Park on Sunday, September 15. This is a potluck so bring something to share. Rotarians, their family and friends, Rotaractors, Interactors are all invited. This will also be an opportunity to meet and speak to our District Governoe Jack McClenahan in a more relaxed setting.

Mario de la Piedra reminded everyone again of the upcoming Color Run 5K race and that anyone interested in helping out can attend an organizational meeting at 11:15 this week. We need volunteers for both this event and the upcoming Ventura Marathon as well.

In his Rotary Moment, Mike Anderson pointed out two things. First, he is grateful for the club teaching him the words to our compilation of patriotic songs, which he sings to his son. Secondly, Rotary opens up the realm of unintended consequences and how they can shape important life events. For instance, knowing fellow club members Ellyn Dembowski and Jim Spencer opened up a teaching opportunity at Ventura College.

### Program

Ron Calkins introduced the program, newly hired Ventura City Manager, Mark Watkins. An apt introducer, it turned out as Ron, retired City Engineer, was the one who hired Mark in 1987 as an engineer on his staff. Mark eventually took a position at the City of Thousand Oaks, but maintained his home in Ventura. Mark has three children. He likes to sail and surf and has conquered all 14,000 foot high peaks in California.

Mark shared the extent of his responsibilities in the City, overseeing some 600 employees and a \$89.6 million general fund. There has been a budget decrease of \$18 million over the last 5 years, even with increasing revenues. This is due to the need to pay off borrowing that has occurred recently.

The comparison between Thousand Oaks and Ventura is a striking comparison between a very young city and a very old city, with the attending infrastructure issues and

## Today's Program

*Sean Bhardwaj*

*Aspire*

Introductions:

Dave Loe

Rotary Moment:

Dave Bianco

Fining:

Mary Kay Doubek

expense.

Issues that are at the fore for city government includes homelessness and vagrancy, crime reduction, reopening and funding Fire Station #4, streets, parks and infrastructure.



*Ron Calkins introduces the guest speaker whom Ron had initially hired years ago.*



*Ventura City Manager Mark Watkins gives the club a report on the City.*

## Pakistan and Israel hit by polio setback

The battle to eliminate polio has hit apparent setbacks in northern Pakistan, where new cases are being reported, and in Israel, where the discovery of the virus in the sewage system has led to a mass immunization campaign. Fourteen suspected cases of polio have been discovered in Pakistan's insurgency-racked north-west, where Taliban militants have banned vaccination workers. Although the country is awaiting the result of tests on stool samples from the affected children, a surge in cases could strike a major blow to the government's intense efforts to exit the small group of nations that has failed to eradicate the disease. All but two of the children were from North Waziristan, the most troubled of the seven tribal "agencies" that comprise the Federally Administered Tribal Areas, a semi-autonomous region of Pakistan that borders Afghanistan and is a hotbed for militancy.

The majority of strikes by the CIA's unmanned drone campaign occur in North Waziristan, a situation that last year prompted Taliban commander Hafiz Gul Bahadur to block the anti-polio campaign in the agency. Militants in other areas have enacted similar bans, saying they will lift them only when drone strikes end. In North and South Waziristan, more than 260,000 children under five have not been immunized since June 2012. In tribal, highly conservative parts of the country health workers are regarded with intense suspicion. Popular fears are often stoked by local religious leaders who claim the vaccines are part of a western plot to sterilize Muslims.

According to the global polio eradication initiative, 181 cases had been recorded worldwide this year between January and 13 August. A total of 71 were in Afghanistan, Nigeria and Pakistan, countries where the disease is endemic.

Bruce Aylward, who leads the World Health Organization's global polio eradication campaign, pointed out that the actions of Gul Bahadur were not in line with the expressed views of the Afghan Taliban, which published a statement on its website two months ago about the importance of vaccinating children against polio (with the rider that it should be done in a manner appropriate for Muslims).

Meanwhile, Israel has launched a mass inoculation program, aimed at reaching more than a million children

over the next three months, after one of the three strains of polio was detected in the country's sewage system. No one in Israel has developed the virus since the discovery of type one in the south of the country earlier this year. It has since spread to sewage systems in the centre and the north. Type one was identified in neighboring Egypt in December.

Drops containing vaccine against types one and three of the virus are being administered orally at health clinics. Israel routinely immunises children against polio, but this campaign aims to boost the level of protection. About 182,000 children were inoculated in the first three days.



*Mike Anderson shared his Rotary Moment.*



*Courtney Lindberg kicks things off with her invocation and introductions.*

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED! ROTARY-FUNDRAISING-OPPORTUNITIES!

**VENTURA MARATHON  
BEACH PARTY**

SEPT. 7TH & 8TH  
VENTURA PROMENADE

LIVE LOCAL BANDS  
FREE KIDS ACTIVITIES  
ARTS & CRAFT VENDORS  
LOCAL VENDORS  
BEACH GAMES  
BEER GARDEN  
FOOD TRUCKS

[www.VenturaBeachParty.com](http://www.VenturaBeachParty.com)

**Volunteer Meeting immediately after Club Meeting!**

**THE COLOR RUN.**

Ventura County Fairgrounds // October 19, 2013  
[TheColorRun.com](http://TheColorRun.com) // \$5 off code: SRSLYFUN5K

**Volunteer Meeting at 11:15 before Club Meeting!**

### Upcoming Events

<b>District Governor Social</b> Sun., Sept 15, Noon Foster Park	<b>Ventura Marathon</b> Sun, Sept. 8, 7:00 am Ventura Pier
	<b>The Color Run 5K</b> Sat., Oct. 19, 9:00 am Ventura Fairgrounds

<b>July Birthdays</b>	<b>July Anniversaries</b>
Wayne Bruce, Aug 01	Ron Bamieh, Aug 13
Kristin Taylor, Aug 05	Ron Calkins, Aug 14
Harald Wulff, Aug 15	Rosa Lee Measures, Aug 20
Dave Wallace, Aug 16	Eliane DeBlauw, Aug 21
Saurabh Bajaj, Aug 18	John Williams, Aug 26
Dave Loe, Aug 19	Terry Schaeffer, Aug 28
Sylvia Cheatham, Aug 20	
Eliane DeBlauw, Aug 21	
Erik Feingold, Aug 23	
Daniel Holmes, Aug 24	
Andrew Soter, Aug 31	

**Rotary Club of Ventura  
Club #691**

**Ron Burton**  
Rotary International  
President

**Jack McClenahan**  
District 5240 Governor

**Irene Henry**  
Club President

[www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)

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	Secretary	Jim Deardoff
	Recording Secretary *	Larry Emrich
	Treasurer	Connie Young
	Assistant Treasurer *	Mark Sauer
	Immediate Past President	Indy Batra
		<i>*Non-Voting Position</i>
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Assistant Director	Roz Warner	
<b>Community Service</b>		
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Assistant Director	Steve Warriner	
<b>International Service</b>		
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Assistant Director	Albert McCartney	
<b>New Generations</b>		
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