



# VENTURA BREEZE

*Your Hometown Paper*

## Boys & Girls Club's Sinclair receives commendation

John R. Brant, a regional Vice President and Principal Wealth Advisor at Ventura-based financial planning firm KBD & Associates, has been involved with the Ventura Boys & Girls Club for the past 14 years serving as a volunteer, mentor and past president.

Recently, Brant traveled to Redlands for the Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year Awards for Southern California to cheer Stewart Sinclair on as he won the prestigious award. Sinclair also was one of six finalists selected from 500,000 youths to compete in Sacramento for the Boys & Girls Clubs State Youth of the Year Awards. Although Sinclair did not win the grand prize, he received a \$1,000 scholarship to help further his academic career.

When Sinclair started at the Boys & Girls Club more than 10 years ago he was timid, shy and had trouble socializing. The support provided to Sinclair by the Boys & Girls Club staff and his mentor, Brant, allowed Sinclair to blossom into a compassionate young man. "If it wasn't for the Boys & Girls Club of Ventura I might still be that shy little kid in the corner," Sinclair said.



The Boys & Girls Club's Stewart Sinclair met with Lt. Gov. John Garamendi, who presented him with a commendation certificate in his office at the state Capitol.

Sinclair, now a high school senior, has given back to the organization that has helped him by starting a science program at the Boys and Girls Club and has been instrumental in teaching a class that exposes kids to the world of science.

"I am very proud of Stewart and all of the things he has accomplished," Brant said. "These kids look up to us as mentors and guides and I feel privileged to have a part in helping them set and reach their goals." Brant goes on to say, "Many children spend afternoons home alone with no adult supervision or companionship. Young people need to know that someone cares and values them."