Ventura has a great future ahead
by Mayor Nasarenko

The 150th birthday of Ventura marks a crossroads for our city. It is a time when we both look back to 1866, the date we became a city, and look ahead to the 150 years ahead of us. As we do so, we have to acknowledge that Ventura is a little worn for wear and showing its age.

Still, it has a great future ahead, one that we need to begin preparing and planning for. What’s our responsibility to future generations, such as our children and their children? What investments do we make now that will pay dividends in the future?

Ventura must chart a course of stable, local revenue for its future.

We raise a lot of sales tax money in Ventura, but most of it doesn’t stay here in the city. Of the $176 million raised in fiscal year 2014-15, only about $24.4 million went to Ventura.

In fact, in fiscal year 2014-15, only about $3 million of the $176 million raised in Ventura, but most of it doesn’t stay here in the city. Of the $176 million raised in fiscal year 2014-15, only about $24.4 million went to Ventura.

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The vast majority of sales tax revenue we raise in Ventura doesn’t stay in Ventura.

About six and a half of the seven and a half cents we pay in sales taxes goes to the county and the state. Consequently, the vast majority of sales tax revenue we raise in Ventura doesn’t stay in Ventura.

And, for every dollar in property taxes we pay, only 16 cents stays in Ventura.

That is why I will ask my colleagues to place a sales tax revenue measure on the November 2016 ballot to guarantee a local funding stream.

The sales tax money we raise in Ventura needs to stay in Ventura.

In other words, Ventura money for Ventura.

Local money for fire stations, police officers and paramedics.

Local money for drinking water.

State of the state of development in Ventura, Part 2 of 2
by Rebecca Wicks

The future of development in Ventura is always a hot topic.

Most city officials and residents seem to favor controlled growth, as outlined in the 2005 General Plan, which details how the city prefers to grow.

This, according to City Manager Mark Watkins, includes big and small development.

“Some of the little projects are the most exciting to me,” said Watkins, pointing to The Trade Desk refurbishment.

Continued on page 6

Man shot to death in East Ventura

On Thursday, Dec. 17, at 8:30 a.m., the Ventura Police Department received a 911 call from a 20-year-old female at a residence in the 1600 block of Tapir Circle in East Ventura at the Todd Ranch Condominiums.

The female told officers that she had just been shot. Officers arrived and found the female outside the residence, suffering from multiple life-threatening gunshot wounds.

The female was immediately transported to VCMC and was admitted into surgery.

Inside the residence, officers found 47-year-old Douglas Blasler, of Ventura, deceased from gunshot wounds. They also found a 20-year-old female and a 16-month-old child inside who were uninjured.

The female shooting victim and her 16-month-old child were unharmed.

Brandon Ellis, on the loose and in custody, was captured in Rosarito, Mexico.

Continued on page 6

It has been an honor to serve as Mayor
by Cheryl Heitmann

Has been an honor to serve as the Mayor for the past 2 years. Has been an honor to serve as the Mayor for the past 2 years. Has been an honor to serve as the Mayor for the past 2 years.

It has been an honor to serve as the Mayor for the past 2 years. Has been an honor to serve as the Mayor for the past 2 years. Has been an honor to serve as the Mayor for the past 2 years.

Happy Holideeze From The Breeze!
New Year’s Eve Celebration
“North to Alaska”
8pm to 2am
Steak & Seafood - Greek & Belly Dance Show - FREE Photo Booth
Professional DJ & MC with Two Dance Floors (Swing & Popular)
Champagne Toast at Midnight - Spectacular Balloon Drop
$70 per person plus tax and gratuity
8 pm seating requires guaranteed reservations. Seating is limited.
No cancelation within 48 hrs.

Bring your friends for a night to remember!!
Early family seating til 6pm offering regular menus
(must vacate by 7:45 pm)
Open Christmas Eve - 11am - 9pm
Belly Dance Show at 6:30pm
Open Christmas Day - 11am - 9pm
Dinner Menu Served All Day
Open New Year's Day - Noon - 9pm
Belly Dance Show at 6:30pm

Ventura Harbor Village
805-650-5350
1583 Spinnaker Drive, Ventura
Lunch Daily 11am - 4pm
Dinner Daily from 4pm
TheGreekVentura.com
Open Christmas Eve - 11am - 8pm
Belly Dance Show at 6:30pm
Open Christmas Day - 11am - 5pm
Dinner Menu Served All Day
Open New Years Day - Noon - 9pm
Belly Dance show at 6:30pm

Make a New Year’s resolution to make more music with your baby!
Ventura Music Together offers parent-and-child music and movement classes for babies and toddlers (and the grown-ups who love them)!
Now registering for our 10-week Winter Session
Join us for a Free Demo at our new location:
970 Petit Ave, Ventura CA 93004
Thursday, Jan. 7
10:30 for mixed-ages (0-4yrs)
12 noon for babies (0-12 mos)

Space in each demo is limited, so reserve your spot early by registering at:
www.VenturaMusicTogether.com

Voted Ventura’s #1 All American 50s Diner
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This holiday season, give a gift that brings people together...send world-famous, exquisitely tender Omaha Steaks® Filet Mignons, Top Sirloins and more. Aged to perfection and flash-frozen at the peak of flavor, Omaha Steaks are 100% guaranteed and delivered to their door. You’ll save 76% when you send the Happy Family Celebration.

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4 (4 oz.) Omaha Steaks Burgers
4 (3 oz.) Gourmet Jumbo Franks
16 oz. pkg. Omaha Steakhouse® Fries
4 Caramel Apple Tartlets
Omaha Steaks Seasoning Packet
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Reg. $209.91 | Now Only $49.99

Order by 12/28
Be sure to ask about our side dishes and specialty desserts!

Exclusive Omaha Steaks Brews and Wines:

Beef Wellington prepared and ready to cook $31/lb
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Call or stop in now!
Order by 12/28
Be sure to ask about our side dishes and specialty desserts!
VENTURA 2016

Anniversary Celebration
A Yearlong Celebration

WEB: JAN 29 - MAY 3, WEDNESDAY
THRU MAY 31
FREE JAM - THRU THE MONTH!
FRI: JAN 27 - RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS
SAT: FEB 1 - LUCAS JOHN NELSON
JANUARY 23 - FIRST NIGHT FOOTBALL

New Year’s Eve Party 8pm

$80 Open Bar and Appetizers!
Main course served 8 PM
Italian - Seafood - Lounge
185 E. Santa Clara St
Downtown Ventura
nowventura.com
805.667.2200

Hours:
Mon - Thu 4pm - 10pm
Fri - Sat 4pm - 2am
Sunday 4pm - 10pm

Live Music, Bowling, Cocktails & California Cuisine.


UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, December 31st – NYE 2016
Saturday, January 29th – CITY BLOOMS
Friday, January 30th – FIRESTONE BEER DINNER
Saturday, January 31st – FOOD & DRINKS
Friday, February 5th – FORMER TURF DANCE
Friday, February 12th – FORMER TURF DANCE
Saturday, February 20th – THE BLOOM
Wednesday, January 6th – NEW RED HOT CHILE PEPPERS
Saturday, January 9th – NEW RED HOT CHILE PEPPERS
Thursday, February 4th – L.E. YOUNG
Saturday, February 6th – THE BLOOM
Saturday, March 5th – PICKLE OF MUSIC
Friday, March 11th – STICKER FIDONE

3

VENTURA NOW

New Year’s Eve Party 8pm

$80 Open Bar and Appetizers!
Main course served 8 PM
Italian - Seafood - Lounge
185 E. Santa Clara St
Downtown Ventura
nowventura.com
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2016 Membership and renewals:
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Sponsor $100; Business $250; Lifetime $1000.00.
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Contact: info@sbfol.org

全年的活动和服务手头的！

圣诞快乐，新年快乐！
NOW Ventura offers new dining experience
by Gail Field

This brand new venue, NOW Ventura, opened Dec. 2, is the brainchild of a trio of entrepreneurs. The trio consists of Executive Chef Dean Angelo, who hails from New Jersey and has long experience as a restaurateur at multiple venues in the east coast including restaurants Milan, Bizarros, Chaps, and Michaelangelo’s. Michael Anthony is the master mixologist from Los Angeles and more recently managing Lisa Vanderpump’s restaurant “Pump” in West Hollywood. He worked together with partner Rani John to launch the celebrities’ newest and highly anticipated hot spot. Anthony’s goal with NOW is to create a lounge environment where customers can relax and enjoy a variety of wines and specialty drinks. Anthony and Angelo worked together for nearly twenty years on a variety of dining projects. Rani John manages the marketing and operations of NOW and brings to the team his experience in Las Vegas promotions along with the opening of Pump in West Hollywood. “I’ve always wanted to open a project like this,” says John. “It’s great to do this with Mike and Dean who really know how to create great cuisine.” Why Ventura? “This city was listed as the number one place to live in the U.S. and the three of us liked what we saw here—ocean, beautiful weather and friendly people,” says John. “We’re all settling here with our families. We love this place and want to provide something special for the city.”

The goal of the new managers in designing the setting is to create a place that is cool, upscale and sophisticated, punctuated with music of many genres. The trio completely refurbished the interior and exterior of the building, bringing a sense of modern sophistication in the design. Angelo wants “to live in the now because the past is history, the future is a mystery, today is a gift and that’s why they call it present... NOW.”

NOW Ventura offers great dining, featuring seafood and northern Italian dishes along with a hip atmosphere and a variety of musical selections. The restaurant currently opens at 4 p.m. with Happy Hour and continues through until 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday (closed Mondays), and until 2 a.m. Friday and Saturday. NOW Ventura is available for catering at the customer’s site as well, with the same great dishes.

Plans for the future include lunch during the week as well as a weekend brunch and live music. John says, “if you want a cool, classy place to spend your evening, this is it!”

Marianne: The next best thing indeed. I'm Breeze:
Ventura
limit them to about 300 words. We encourage you to send your opinions locations in Ojai and the Channel Islands Harbor newspaper published every other Wednesday
Rebecca Wicks • Richard Lieberman
The Ventura Breeze is printed with
Breezy Gledhill • Cindy Summers
Shirley Lorraine • Sheli Ellsworth
Veronica Johnson • James Spencer
Mira Reverente • Amber Hanson
John Ferritto • Bernie Goldstein
events@venturabreeze.com

Mailing Address:
The Ventura Breeze
1575 Spinnaker Drive
Ventura, CA 93001
Ph: 805.653.0791

The Ventura Breeze is printed with soy based ink on paper with minimum 40% recycled content.

We encourage you to send your opinions to opinions@venturabreeze.com. Please limit them to about 300 words.

Breeze:
We had a great Thanksgiving, hope you did too. And I hope you noticed we didn't make the cover of the Rolling Stone, but the Friends of the Library got the next best thing! The cover of the Breeze. Everyone was so excited to have our poster contest featured! From Marianne from Friends of the Library:
Marianne: The best thing indeed. I'm sure that people who make the cover of Rolling Stone just wish that they could be on the cover of the Breeze.

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Wiz/Org Exec Dir
Connie De La Rosa
Print Production
AlvfaJ’s Lewis/studioNothing
Painting
American Foothill Publishing Co.

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venturabreeze.com

opinions@venturabreeze.com
Articles and Photos
editor@venturabreeze.com
Advertising:
advertising@venturabreeze.com

Ventura Breeze
1575 Spinnaker Drive, 105B, Box 393
Ventura, CA 93001

Breeze:
We are getting great feedback on our articles and about the Breeze in general. Many are so pleased at the community services you offer in Ventura. Thanks,
Elizabeth Rodeno
Project Manager
CAPS Media Center

Sheldon:
The next event we just say how much I loved your Halloween Editorial plot & meant to tell you that months ago! -)
Thanks so much for all you do - how hard you work, so we in Ventura has another source of printed info/news!! You are awesome!! (and I did not know you so much "breezying" You spell Hannukah until I read your article! :) )
Yours Truly,
Patty Jenkins - Coordinator Ventura Parkinson's Support Group

Editor:
Since your “article” regarding the City Council’s errant 4 to 1 vote allowing the building of 55 so-called “executive” houses was so dreary of information regarding why people are against this project. I thought I would at least tell you my personal objections to it.
First, we don’t need more so-called “executive” houses in Ventura. What we need in Ventura is affordable housing so that the kids who are born and raised here can actually live here someday. Who are these “executives” anyway and why should the City Council bow down to them while ignoring the needs of our kids?
Second, it doesn’t take a genius, or an EIR, to know that you cannot place 55 so-called “executive” houses on open a hillside without causing significant en-...
Committee and the Council before the city will finalize the decision. After which the project will enter phase development. Number 6. Jenifen Village/Ventura East Village: Jenifen Village, the housing portion of the project which includes 83 residential units at Wells Road and Darling Road is currently under construction. And, with two more separate residential projects, nearby in final planning phases, the area is likely to see more units breaking ground soon. The commercial component of this area – Ventura West Village – envisons a 14,000 sq. ft. mar, 15,500 sq. ft. drugstore and a drive-thru restaurant has been all but stagnant in recent months. Number 5. Citrus Apartments and Citrus Place: One block from each other in East Ventura near Wells Road and Citrus Road, one project has been humming along. The 54-unit Citrus Apartments have been completed and are already occupied. The Citrus Place project has finished construction on phase one and two – 60 apartments and 60 townhomes respectively – and is currently in the final stages of phase three construction, which includes 59 single-family homes. The West Daly Group has filed for two additional projects in the area including Citrus 2, which includes 78 additional apartments, and the 43-apartment Carlos Drive Project. Number 8. Island View Apartments: Westminster Communities 155-unit apartment complex building Montalvo Square is currently under construction. The project which includes multiple buildings involves a good amount of grading and a fair amount of excavation according to Ward who expects the project to be under construction for most of 2016. Number 9. La Barranca: Ten “executive-style” homes on Foothill Road near Day Road are currently under construction. The homes were touted as having the potential to bring high-end income and business owners to Ventura. Number 10. Marriott – Residence Inn: The 128-room four-story hotel will sit on the sliver of land at 770 S. Seaward Ave. behind where Golden China currently resides. The project has successfully finished their first rounds of plan check review. The final drawings are now done and the developer can begin to break ground as soon as it pulls construction permits.

It has been an honor to serve as Mayor
Continued from page 1
According to our own 2014 citizen survey, 93% of our residents feel Ventura is a good place to live with 74% say we are headed in the right direction. I would like to highlight a few of our accomplishments over the past 2 years. Our wellness district continues to develop with the new hospitals at CMH and VCMC and the new parking garage for farmers market which will help support the revitalization of that area. With our newly hired economic development manager we are continuing our business visits on Telephone Road near the 101 and 126 Freeways across the street from Barnes & Noble, the project sits on 25 acres of farmland. The project has finished the planning process and is now about 70 percent done with its environmental review, according to Ward. Once this is completed, the document will be made available for public review and comment. Ward expects the City and the developer to work through traffic, water and sewer elements in the summer months, and spend winter 2016 months responding to public and other agency comments. Once this is completed, it will go through the Design Review parks safer and more inviting for everyone, we have worked with the Downtown Ventura Partners to establish a Parks Ambassador program.

We have established a mentorship on the expansion and establishment of new massage parlors to help control some of the illegal activity operating in some of these establishments.

And we adopted a no smoking ordinance for public places and asked the city attorney to bring back an ordinance on gun stores and gun dealers.

We have established a Water Commission, and a Charter Review Commission.

And we supported the establishment of a Senior Council on Aging to explore issues important to our Seniors.

During this past year, the city adopted our first ever sister city with Loreto Mexico.

Ventura is a unique beach town, made up of people who care, care about each other and care about our community: we are a community that works together to accomplish our goals.

For El Nino preparedness and flood information, including Weather Service links and other helpful tips, visit www.ReadyVenturaCounty.org/ elnino.

Man shot to death in East Ventura
Continued from page 1
Due to the drought, we have asked our residents to conserve water by 20% and have reviewed and adjusted our water rates which the state mandate for our city is 16%. Our cumulative water savings is 24%.

Establishing a new park on the Westside, which we refer to as Kellogg Park is a council priority. Wanting to make our 2 downtown

Free sandbags
Residents may pick up free sandbags and sandbags at the following City locations (please bring your own shovels).

Sanjorn Maintenance Yard: 336 Sanjorn Road
Ventura City Fire Station #1: 717 N. Ventura
Ventura City Fire Station #6: 10797 Darling Road
For El Nino preparedness and flood information, including Weather Service links and other helpful tips, visit www.ReadyVenturaCounty.org/ elnino.

Garage Door Services, Sales & Repair
A local, family-owned business with local technicians serving all of Ventura County
• Residential & Commercial • Replacement Parts • Preventive Maintenance & More
State of the state of development
Continued from page 1
ment of an existing building downtown and the opening of the new Toga Topa brewery. “That is what Ventura is really about – small business carry an economy – we don’t always notice it as much, but they are just as important.”

The process of starting a project – big or small – and the phases of reviews and approvals can seem complicated to an outsider. From the time a project is con- ceptually introduced to the time of actual construction can stretch years and even decades in some cases.

With more than 50 projects on the City’s Breeding Project, Last City Planning Manager Dave Ward admits shepherd- ing projects through the process is not a simple one.

“It’s a delicate dance,” admits Ward. “Projects go back and forth between the developer and City and when they are here on the City side we do our best to prioritize projects with the resources we have.”

More than two years ago the Breze published “10 projects that will change the face of Ventura.” Since then a number of other initiatives have been further developed by City as well as new projects made public.

“I’m personally excited about the Hilton Hotel project,” said Mayor Cheryl

Heintzmann of the proposed project across from the fairgrounds which includes a restaurant.

Another new project would include the possibility of building high-end apart- ments in the area where Joe’s Crabshack was. The project, which had to be approved by the Coastal Commission is in its infancy stages with its developers just entering the concept review stages.

“The project is not in the downtown core, but it is part of the Thompson corridor and aligns with the City’s Infill First strategy,” said Ward who said the project has received some initial favorable reviews. Other new projects include Kaiser Per- manente building a large regional medical center off Market Street (see more in this issue). The plans for the sizable multi-story building are currently in design review but are seemingly on an aggressive track according to Ward.

Finally, with the closing of the Montalvo Wastewater Plant, the City’s ini- tiative to revitalize the auto center area is poised to move forward. Proposed projects for the area include the extension of Olivia Drive and Johnson Drive. According to Watkins the City, owner and developer of a shared goal of the area including the likes of “destination retailers,” and other businesses that would bolster the auto mall itself. The creation of a specific plan of the area is expected to take shape in 2016.

More than two years ago the Breze published “10 projects that will change the face of Ventura.” Last issue updates for numbers 1 through 5 were provided, here are updates on the final 5 projects on the list.

Number 5. The Grove – A project that began before the recession, the community inclusion between 198-250 townhouses, apartments, courtyards and open space. The project sits on 25 acres of farmland. The project has finished the planning process and is now about 70 percent done with its environmental review, according to Ward. Once this is completed, the document will be made available for public review and comment. Ward expects the City and the developer to work through traffic, water and sewer elements in the summer months, and spend winter 2016 months responding to public and other agency comments. Once this is completed, it will go through the Design Review

From Page One
Ventura BREEZE
www.venturabreeze.com Your Hometown Paper

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For El Nino preparedness and flood information, including Weather Service links and other helpful tips, visit www.ReadyVenturaCounty.org/ elnino.
Ventura Botanical Gardens to celebrate “Sow In The New Year”

Join the Ventura Botanical Gardens for our annual Sow in the New Year on Saturday, January 9 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Celebrate and help brighten the gardens by sowing California native wildflower seeds.

Sow in the New Year is a family-friendly opportunity to get outdoors, enjoy spectacular ocean views and breathe in the crisp winter air while scattering the hillside with wildflower seeds. The seeds promised to be a living display of blossoms in the spring. Participants will have the chance to learn about California native plants, sustainability, water conservation, erosion control and the future of the Ventura Botanical Gardens.

Tracy Long, president of Ventura Botanical Gardens, commented, “Sow in the New Year is all about re-creating new beginnings. It is a fun opportunity for our community to create new plant life that will be enjoyed for generations to come. We welcome everyone to join us in this step toward developing the Gardens into a premier landmark.”

Addition to Sow in the New Year is free and open to all ages. Parking is available at the Summit Plateau (formerly the BBQ Area) off of Braker Drive. Guests may also use the upper parking lot above City Hall and hike the trail to the Summit Plateau. Gardener’s gloves, a water bottle, comfortable clothing and closed-toe shoes are recommended.

For more information, visit www.VenturaBotanicalGardens.com.

Christmas Day Music Show

The Christmas Day Music Show will be on Friday December 25 at 4pm featuring host Saint Pierre with original arrangements of holiday songs you love. Holiday art exhibit, name that tune games for prizes, the Garrett Hall Christmas Trio, plus other featured guest singers. Proceeds benefit kid artist student scholarships. At Amigos 546 E. Main Street. $20 per person includes a gourmet soup bar, tortilla bar, 1 drink, and show. Family gift certificates available. 479-4000 www.ConcerArtShow.org.

This is a non-profit 501 (c) 3 for public benefit and education. Who are dedicated to help provide opportunities to nurture youth to achieve their artistic dreams and goals. They seek out young gifted kids with the desire and potential talent in music and art who are financially unable to provide the means to nurture their goals.

Ventura events

by Ana Baker

Would you like to meet new friends? Whatever the reason, Ventura’s Conversation Group is the right place for you. This eclectic group meets Wednesdays from 4pm. to 5:45pm. Located at the Yolanda’s Mexican Restaurant at 2753 Main St. Several people usually stay for a drink and a bit to eat afterwards. We hope you’ll bring an interesting topic to discuss. We will take a holiday vacation until January 6. On January 6 we will have Tony Morgan as a speaker.

Free admission stage show, 2pm. to 4pm. First Sunday of every month. Old Time Country Bluegrass Gospel Music Assoc. Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foohill Rd. For more Information call 471-1311.

Ventura Poinsettia Dance Club meets every Monday from 7:30pm. to 9:45pm. Located at the Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foohill Blvd. Ballroom, swing, Latin, mixers and line dancing. Members $9, non-members $11. Call 407-9971 for more information.
Ventura Chamber Poinsettia Awards recognize Ventura’s finest. Photo by Kenny Bacher.

Chamber honors Venturan’s at Annual Poinsettia Awards luncheon

On Thursday, December 10, the Ventura Chamber of Commerce along with their title sponsor Montecito Bank & Trust presented the 19th Annual Poinsettia Awards. This luncheon, attended by more than 300 attendees, recognized individuals and organizations that have truly stood out in our community as exemplary in the fields of business, education, and public service. This year, the luncheon was celebrated at the Marriott Ventura Beach and was attended by City officials, legislative representatives, the Ventura Unified School District, and the local business community.

Chamber President & CEO Stephanie Caldwell stated “2015 Marks the 19th Annual Poinsettia Awards, a tradition that we hope to continue for many years to come providing more opportunity to recognize great accomplishments, creativity, innovations and individuals who make Ventura so special. On behalf of the Ventura Chamber of Commerce, our staff and Board of Directors I congratulate today’s Poinsettia Awards recipients and wish you all a very happy holiday and prosperous new year!” During the event, the Chamber awarded recipients in the following categories:

Volunteer of the Year – Hope Deck Small Business of the Year – Anxess Ventura Mid-Sized Business of the Year - Sespe Consulting

Large Business of the Year – Harrison Industries Non-Profit Organization of the Year – Project Understanding Young Professional of the Year – Caitlin Beavers Citizen of the Year – Dr. Leo Tauber Ambassador of the Year – Jann Huling Board Member of the Year – Steven Brown City of Ventura, Environmental Excellence Award – Shiner Supply City of Ventura, Employee of the Year – Kathryn Dippong-Lawson City of Ventura, Firefighter of the Year – Drew DeRousseau City of Ventura, Police Officer of the Year – Fabian Gutierrez VUSD Educator of the Year – Mardi de Witte VUSD Male Student of the Year – Justin Lucio VUSD Female Student of the Year – Fideley Ballmer Innovation Award – FreshRealm Jewel Key Award – Toba Brewing Company Shining Star Award – Matthew Graczky The Ventura Chamber of Commerce continues to be the largest and most comprehensive business organization in the City of Ventura – speaking on behalf of its member firms employing over 24,000 people. Members include companies of all sizes and industries, from start-up to established, entrepreneurial to corporate.

The regular collection schedule will return the week of Jan. 3-8, 2016. In Ojai, Harrison will maintain its regular Monday pickup schedule both weeks. As a special holiday feature, residents may put out twice the amount of trash at no extra charge during the two weeks following Christmas. Please make sure the trash is in bags. We will also collect extra recyclables, but please make sure to flatten all boxes.

Also, Harrison is making it easy for their customers to recycle their Christmas trees. All customers need to do is remove the ornaments, hooks, lights, tinsel, bows, nails and tree stand, then cut the tree into sections no more than 4 feet long and place in the yard waste barrel on their scheduled pickup day. Also, flocked trees can be recycled. For more information, call 647-1414.
Each year a family is selected for the honor of lighting the Memory tree at the ceremony. This year it was the family of Lisa Tackett. After an arduous eight-year battle with cancer, she succumbed on October 3rd at age 45, leaving behind husband Todd Tackett, 22 year old son Easton, and daughters Rachelle, age 25, Kaycee-Rae, age 14 and Taylin, age 11.

As her girls stood with poise alongside him, a composed and courageous Todd Tackett spoke about coping with loss during the holidays. “At this time of year, after a devastating loss and emotional turmoil, we need to rely on our faith and what Christmas is about. Those of us who have experienced the loss of a loved one have a mission field before us, to come alongside those who are still going through it, to lift them up and give them comfort, just as we have been comforted.”

Lisa and her family profoundly touched the lives of the hospice team that cared for her; particularly the volunteers who spent hours at her side providing care.

Hospice volunteers are like earth’s angels, and will often say they receive more than they give. A new training session begins January 7th. For more information, call Maddy Hazard at 640-0239 x775, or email her at mhazard@lmvna.org.

Many studies find fitness equals better mental ability
by Tucker Sutherland
Editor, SeniorJournal.com

A new study released today declares that older adults who take more steps than most by walking or jogging performed better on memory tasks. Really, how could this be news? It is just another way of looking at physical fitness and how it enhances memory and cognitive ability. But, this one does find a new twist.

As the editor of SeniorJournal.com for 16 years I have reported on dozens of studies that have come up with the same findings. A lack of physical fitness, which can be obtained in many ways, helps people stay mentally fit as they age.

“I’m not complaining but I am declaring this is an established reality – exercise equals better mental performance as people age.”

This research started with the question, “Could staying physically active improve quality of life by delaying cognitive decline and prolonging an independent lifestyle?”

“Absolutely,” is the answer I could have provided before their study. It has been proven over and over – perhaps hundreds - that primarily have varied only by the technique used to gain the physical fitness – running, walking, swimming, weightlifting, dancing, hula hoop, etc.

The differences in this study is it looked at groups of both young and old adults. Which leads them to look at long-term versus short-term memory.

The report appears online in the Journal of the International Neuropsychological Society.

The study included 29 young adults (ages 18-31) and 31 older adults (ages 55-82) who were a small group of varied exercise duration called an ActiGraph, which recorded information including how many steps each took, how vigorous the steps were and how much time it involved. These are used in many, many studies of physical exercise.

Participants also completed neuropsychological testing to assess their memory, planning and problem-solving abilities.

In addition to standardized neuropsychological assessment of executive function (planning and organization abilities) and long-term memory, participants engaged in a laboratory task in which they had to learn face-name associations.

The researchers found that older adults who took more steps per day had better memory performance.

And, what will appeal to many elderly is the association between the number of steps taken was strongest with a task that required recalling which name went with a person’s face - the same type of everyday task that older adults often have difficulty with.

In young adults, the number of steps taken was not associated with memory performance.

It is long-term memory that is improved by activity.

This lead them to the conclusion that the effects of physical activity extend to long-term memory - the same type of memory that is negatively impacted by aging and neurodegenerative demenences such as Alzheimer’s disease.

“Our findings that physical activity is positively associated with memory is meaningful for a variety of reasons. Everyone knows that physical activity is a critical component to ward off obesity and related diseases. Knowing that a lack of physical activity may negatively impact one’s memory abilities will be an additional piece of information to motivate people to stay more active,” explained corresponding author Continued on page 10

SKILLED NURSING

Serving the needs of Ventura County for more than two decades, Victoria Care Center has been rated by U.S. News and World Report for excellence in the skilled nursing facilities in America. In addition, Victoria has been awarded the highest 5 Star rating by CMS for clinical excellence while earning for some of the highest accuracy rates in a post-acute setting.

POST-ACUTE REHAB CENTER

The rehab process is challenging both physically and mentally. The VMRC helps people recover from surgeries, regain physical and mental abilities. It is the most sophisticated facility of its kind in Ventura County, providing a variety of programs for patients suffering from neurological injuries, chronic conditions, and chronic pain.

Local and state government agencies as well as private insurers support the VMRC, making physical therapy and rehab services affordable and accessible through Medicare, Medicaid, and veterans and other government health care programs. Victoria Care Center provides a meaningful support system for patients and their families.

FRIENDS OF VICTORIA

Friends of Victoria helps therapy patients to achieve their physical, emotional and spiritual goals. It is the mission to provide therapy patients with hope, compassion, support, and the resources they need to achieve a better quality of life.

www.FriendsOfVictoria.org

www.VictoriaCareCenter.com

805-642-7136
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Your Hometown Paper
www.venturabreeze.com
Ventura BREEZE

December 23, 2015 • January 5, 2016

Ventura BREEZE
Many who celebrate the holidays, have a common understanding of “I’m behind my gift shopping”, or “I have a loved one in the hospital and have not yet started one decoration, etc. for the holidays”. We often say to one another “Take care of yourself” which is easier said than done. If your household situation has changed during the holiday season (such as a loved one home from the hospital and requires care, or other reasons that may set you back from the preparations) it may be time to think about changing what has been your yearly holiday traditions if only for a season. It may help with some of the most pressing preparations, trying something new and most of all, helping you feel less stress along with enjoying your family to the fullest. Here are a few ideas that some families have done when their household situation has changed but the holiday spirit still lives:

Make sure your list, this year, includes time for you to relax in whatever you enjoy. Most lists do not include YOU time only things that have to be done. You need to bring back your energy during the holiday rush. Teenagers are always seeking ways to make money so pay one of your neighbors teenagers to help with the Christmas list such as candies, socks. Perfumes, colognes, and some food items that are not too difficult to find.

No time for a big fancy Christmas dinner, its o.k. when a situation has a temporary change to have a pizza party, sub sandwiches with salad, peanuts with M & M’s and cookies etc.

Being together with simplicity and some help can bring more joy and relaxation to you during unexpected changes.

Senior News Line
by Matilda Charles

Why do we retire when we do? The answer isn’t as simple as “I’ll be 65 on a certain date” or “That’s when I’ll have enough savings.” The answer to why we pick a time to retire is fairly complicated. The Stanford Center on Longevity teamed up with Fidelity Investments to debunk some of the myths about how we decide when to stop working. They based their research on responses from 12,000 participants age 55 and older, so it was no small study. Here are some of the results:

Myth 1 – We don’t retire until we have enough money. That makes sense, but half the participants said their retirement is tied to a specific date, not to the amount of money they’d saved. If necessary they would adjust their lifestyle to what money they did have.

Myth 2 – We want to spend time with our spouse. This might be true for men wanting to spend time with wives, but women would rather spend time with grandchildren.

Myth 3 – We’re struggling financially and regret having to be frugal. Again, not necessarily so. A whopping 82 percent are happy they retired when they did, and 85 percent consider it rewarding. Almost as many said that adapting to having less money is easier than they thought. One-third wished they’d started saving earlier.

Myth 4 – We have to keep working to survive. Over half of the participants said they liked working and felt valued.

Myth 5 – We’re taking advantage of retirement to travel and enjoy hobbies. For one-quarter of respondents, that’s true. The rest implied that they enjoy the free time to do whatever they want – even if it was nothing.

There’s something to be said for doing absolutely nothing, even if it’s on a retirement budget.

Brain games and puzzles can keep our brain cells firing, but now, for the first time, researchers have discovered that if we go back to college, we’ll increase our cognitive capacity – the amount of information the brain is capable of retaining at any one moment. The Tasmanian Healthy Brain Project recruited seniors who agreed to take cognitive tests before they enrolled in college, and then assessed them each year for three years.

The results were strongly positive: More than 90 percent of those who waited for a year, either full or part time, had a “significant increase in cognitive capacity.” Researchers plan to follow those students to see if continuing to study could delay or reduce dementia. It didn’t seem to matter what classes the participants took, or whether they were in person or online. Age, well-being, social connections and gender didn’t change the results.

If we’re lucky enough to have a college nearby and the ability to pay for a class, it’s a matter of calling for a course catalog and an application. If you prefer free or reduced-cost education, go online to find a FAFSA application (Free Application for Federal Student Aid). You’ll learn which grant programs give money to seniors. Another place to start is online at www.aaseniorcenteringuideforcollege.com. The site is a guide to colleges that offer reduced or free tuition for seniors. Even if a listing says information about tuition waivers from a certain college couldn’t be found, the contact information is there. So where does that leave us if we don’t have access to a nearby college? Call the local library and ask about “lunch and learn” meetings. Or, for a real thrill, search for “open courseware” on the Internet, and you’ll find thousands of free online classes from top universities.

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Many studies find fitness equals better mental ability

Continued from page 9
Scott Hayes, PhD, assistant professor of psychiatry at Boston University School of Medicine and the Associate Director of the Neuroimaging Research for Veterans Center at the VA Boston Healthcare System.

This work was supported by the Department of Veterans Affairs, Rehabilitation Research & Development Service, and Clinical Science Research & Development Service (MV). Assistance with participant recruitment was provided by the Massachusetts Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center (P50-AG035134) and Boston University Alzheimer’s Disease Center (P30-AG13846).
Parkinson’s Support Group
The Ventura Parkinson’s Support Group will host Wayne Pickerell, Vice President and Clinical Research Manager of Neurosearch, Inc. at their meeting on Wednesday, January 13, 2016 from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm at The Lexington Assisted Living at 5440 Ralston St.
Wayne Pickerell has been involved in Parkinson's Disease for over 15 years and managed Clinical Research for Neurosearch for over a decade. Thanks in large part to the leadership role of the Michael J. Fox Foundation, research is advancing rapidly and there is promising work being done to improve treatments for PD. Wayne will discuss new treatments that are being studied and progress in the search for a cure to Parkinson's disease!
Please check in at the front desk for directions and sign-in. Extra parking is graciously available across the street behind the Lexington in the Breeze Church parking lot. Call 766-6070 for further information. Reservations are not required.

“Suitcases for kids a success for kids and seniors alike

Sometimes it’s the little things that make a big difference. At least that’s what the residents and staff at Cypress Place Senior Living in Ventura were hoping when they launched their Suitcases For Kids fundraiser in mid-September of this year.

Through the program, the senior community began collecting suitcases for children in the Ventura County Foster Care Program. “When a child enters foster care for the first time, it is usually in a time of crisis and confusion. Often the child’s possessions are hurriedly stuffed into a garbage bag or box,” said Patti Hunt, past president of the Ventura County Foster Parent Association.

The child then shows up at the doorstep of a foster home, frightened and scared, holding this trash bag or box according to Hunt.

“All of us here at Cypress Place Senior Living feel a child’s life is worth more than a trash bag or box,” said Mike Macke, one of the marketing directors at the senior community. “That is why we began collecting the suitcases to give to these children.”

And collect them they did. From September 16th until October 16th, 2015, the senior community collected over 300 suitcases from a variety of donors throughout Ventura County. “The amount of donations was absolutely amazing. We can’t thank everyone enough,” said Macke.

Foster children were then invited to the senior community on December 8 to pick out a suitcase of their own choosing, visit with Santa Claus, create their very own decorative luggage tag, and enjoy hot chocolate, cookies, and holiday cheer by Cypress Place residents, who couldn’t wait to welcome the kids.

“Our hearts go out to these kids, and we just want to show them as much love and affection as we can,” said Ginny Gordy, one of the residents at Cypress Place who volunteered her time for the fundraiser. “It brightens our day to see their beautiful, smiling faces. I think it’s as beneficial to us as it is to the kids,” added Evelyn Clifford, another Cypress Place resident who volunteered to help.

According to Hunt, whose parents also reside at Cypress Place, and who were instrumen tal in the suitcase giveaway as well, a suitcase not only benefits the child, but also mental in the suitcase giveaway as well, a suitcase not only benefits the child, but also the foster family because it is one less expense to worry about.

“This suitcase collection means a lot, and I know my parents love being part of it as well.”

“I love the color of this suitcase it goes with my clothes.” Photo by Michael Gordon.

Ventura Council for Seniors meets East and West

“East Side, West Side, all around the town” may be an old song, but it’s a great new tune for the Ventura Council for Seniors (VCS) reaching out to the people who need its vital services anywhere within the city.

Starting in January, the VCS will alternate its meetings between the two borders of Ventura, starting with the West Side (Ventura Avenue Adult Center (VAAC), 550 N. Ventura Ave.), then alternating each month to the East Side (Silvercrest Senior Residence at 750 S. Oxnard Ave.). The meetings are between 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. the third Wednesdays of the month.

“This will help us serve the huge popula tion growth of seniors, many of whom live on the East side and are underserved,” said VCS Chair Suz Montgomery. Alternating meetings should get more adults involved in the critical issues facing seniors, she added.

The VCS is now more than ever focused on solving problems, and all ages are encouraged to get on the mailing list and attend the meetings where your voice can be heard and acted upon. While seniors are the focus, the VCS welcomes anyone who has useful services, family members, care-givers and adults who are nearing retirement age.

Issues include transportation, education, recreation, medical and more.

To find out more, obtain agendas or get involved go to: http://www.cityofventura.net/adult.

The schedule is announced in the Silver Tsunami newsletter published by the city. get it by calling 648-3035.

Meet Our Team

Whether you have visited us before or are hearing about us for the first time, we would love to have you as our guest to meet our amazing team. With our enriching activities, unparalleled services and endless opportunities we offer our residents the best of skilled living! At The Palms at Bonaventure, numerous amenities are included in one monthly rent, and there is never a lease or buy in fee. We also offer additional personal services, and because we focus on individual needs and preferences you only pay for the services you need.

Friends and family are always welcome at The Palms at Bonaventure, and while you’re here, join us for a complimentary meal and personal tour to experience our gracious lifestyle for yourself.

For more information, please call
805-647-0616
Kay Rich started volunteering for Assistance League of Ventura County where she met Penny Barnds and Bill Brewer, meal coordinator for Habitat volunteers. “Penny encouraged me to become involved with the Rubicon Theatre’s Grandas Dames and the feeding of the cast and crew.” Since 2007 Kay Rich has been preparing meals for the theatre’s cast and crew. For a couple of years prior to that she helped feed the folks that built Homes for Habitat. “When there are matinees and evening performances, the crew must be fed in between. In addition, we (Grandas Dames) provide meals for the cast and crew’s Meet and Greet and two meals during Tech Week.” The labor of love amounts to a dozen or more meals per week. “When the production is large, like Fiddler on the Roof, My Fair Lady and A Christmas Carol, there may be 40 people to feed.” Rich is not afraid to ask her friends for help and her husband has become a permanent part of the preparation, transport and set-up crew.

How does Rich do it? “I’m not a gourmet chef. I’m an industrial cook, specializing in comfort foods. Costco, Vons and Ralph’s help me a lot.” Rich prepares the dishes at home keeping in mind gluten-free, non-dairy and vegetarian requirements. “There is always a variety of taste. Costco, Vons and Ralph’s help me a lot.” Rich prepares the dishes at home keeping in mind gluten-free, non-dairy and vegetarian requirements. “There is always a variety of taste. Sometimes life has plans of its own. The Riches moved to Ventura from Santa Clarita in 2005. They had a beach house on Silver Strand and decided to make it their permanent one when they retired. Kay taught fourth grade and had always stayed busy raising her family and earning a master’s degree. “After retiring and moving to the beach, I wanted to connect and make new friends.”

Kay Rich definitely sizzles.

Caterer to the stars

by Sheli Ellsworth

Local couple Kay and Jerry Rich never dreamed of a life in the theatre. Nor did they ever envision hobnobbing with thespian types...but sometimes life is suited for their young toddlers and also for infants who attend First Steps. They are both truly passionate about making sure that everyone is fed and then clean up. The meal and set it up buffet style, see that everyone is fed and then clean up. They receive no compensation or reimbursement for the cost of the food.

What keeps the Riches in love with Ventura (besides all that work)? “There is the fabulous weather...the attitude of the people living in Ventura and the surrounding area that is relaxed, friendly and community oriented. We are lucky to have so many fields of berries and other produce to keep a sense of connection to the earth.”

If the feeding of the stars isn’t enough, Rich also volunteers for her other passion, the Assistance League of Ventura County, an organization dedicated to enriching the lives of Ventura County’s youth. The Assistance League School helps three to five-year-olds with speech and language delays; their Operation School Bell provides new clothing for needy school age children; the Girls Club/Teen Club is an after-school enrichment program and the B.U.F.F.Y Bear program provides cuddly bears for children in crisis. Rich volunteers at least twice monthly at The Bargain Box an upscale thrift shop, and major fundraiser for the organization. How does Rich find the energy for her volunteer activity? “I swim a mile at the Pierpont Racquet Club a couple of times a week and attend Sizzlin’ Seniors exercise classes.”

Kay Rich contributes to the Ventura culture by using her cooking skills.

News & Notes

The Myers family enjoying time spent with Santa at the YMCA

The Ventura Family YMCA presented their annual Santa Stops by the Y event on December 12. This was an opportunity to find holiday presents at the Y event on December 12. This was an opportunity to make the best of your holiday shopping experience! The children who participate in fun crafts! The donations will benefit low income families by giving them the opportunity to participate in fun crafts! Those attending were asked to bring one unwrapped toy or gift per child to enter.

The donations will benefit low-income families by giving them the chance to find holiday presents at the ACTION Foundation’s Christmas Shoppe. The children who participated in the event had their photo taken with Santa and a fun time making Christmas themed crafts.

The ACTION Foundation is a non-profit service group providing volunteer services to the cities of Ventura County. ACTION works with local churches and agencies including Indian Dancers, the YWCA, The Salvation Army, Domestic Violence Shelter, Caring Neighbors, Many Mansions, Lutheran Social Services, Area Housing Authority, YMCA, and others.

They assist these groups in meeting various needs of the elderly, disabled, special needs and low-income families.

The Ventura Family YMCA is located at 3760 Telegraph Road.

The Ventura Family YMCA

Two moms write grant for playground equipment for their babies

by Victoria Usher

Betsy and Maritza are two extremely kind and strong mothers who both are currently with their babies at a very specific grant. Pacific High School is a project based learning school. Betsy and Maritza are involved in a project known as SPARK. SPARK is a project where you choose your own project and then in the next two years have 1-year-old little boys who attend the on campus children’s daycare called First Steps where there is a playground outside. Unfortunately the playground lacks equipment that is suitable for their young toddlers and also for infants who attend First Steps. This is what truly inspired these two mothers to come up with the wonderful idea to raise money in order to have an all ages friendly playground for everyone who attends First Steps. They are both truly passionate about making sure that all of the children that come to First Steps have an all-around happy and healthy environment and a large part of that includes having an appropriate playground for them.

Betsy and Maritza both had ideas such as fundraiser, Silent Auction and Bake sales but they decided that writing up a grant might be a better idea. Once they had a final version to write the grant they then contacted Diann Block to get her help in guiding them through the process. “What is truly impressive is that it is a student driven idea that they passionately pursued into a grant that the public can help fund,” said Diann Block, Teacher at Pacific High School.

The Myer’s family enjoying time spent with Santa at the YMCA

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Harrison installs storm water treatment system

Harrison Industries, one of the oldest and largest privately-owned refuse businesses in the U.S., has Islander Beach Community Service District in mind. It is in full-service facility for self-haulers that also houses a buy-back center for recyclable materials (aluminum, glass, plastic bottles, paper products, etc.) as well as a free drop-off center for electronic waste (old computers, televisions, copy machines, etc.) and anti-freeze, batteries, oil and paint (ABOP). Using a customized collection system, filtration and disinfectant system, rainwater that has come into contact with industrial activities at the Colf Street site is diverted into a series of filters and 6,000 gallon tanks where it is cleaned and disinfected. The fully automatic system, equipped with measuring devices, process alarms and remote access, removes filters and 6,000 gallon tanks where it is cleaned and disinfected. The fully automatic system, equipped with measuring devices, process alarms and remote access, removes

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Do you have a grandkid that you think is even cuter? If so send their photo to editor@venturabreeze.com.

Ventura events

Continued from page 7

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Extra Toppings - $1 each

Due to the recent high surf conditions the Ventura Police Department evacuated the few citizens who were on the Ventura Pier and closed it to the public. The Pier sustained structural damage including wooden pilings, cross-bracings and handrails that were destroyed. City of Ventura Public Works staff are working with inspectors to evaluate the extent of damage, stabilize to prevent further damage and to assess repairs needed. The Pier will remain closed until determined it is safe to re-open. Also one of the pines trees near Surfiers’ Point fell over and there continues to be erosion impacting the bike path and promenade. Visitors are advised to avoid the area until repairs are made. Photo by Bob Messina.

Jan. 13: The Ventura County Camera Club will hold its bi-monthly meeting on Wednesday at 7 p.m. located at the Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Rd. A professional photographer from the area will critique member’s prints and digital images. Each month a special topic is chosen which features some interesting aspect of photography. This month’s topic is “Texture.” Anyone with an interest in photography is welcome and admission is free. Only members may submit images for critique. See the club’s web site for more information about the club and examples of member’s work or call 908-5863. www.ventura.countycameroclub.com

Jan. 17: The Ventura and Santa Barbara County chapter of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors (NAWWC) will meet Sunday, in the Campus Student Center of Ventura College, 4667 Telegraph Road. The regular meeting starts at noon and 11 a.m. there will be an informal workshop where a topic on clocks or watches will be demonstrated and discussed. There will be a mix of presentations which range from the history and technology of clocks to a discussion of antiques and collectibles. The meeting is open to all who have an interest in horology or enjoy talking about the history of time pieces.

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New system represents an industry innovation that combines technology with storm water quality runoff regulations.

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Do you have a grandkid that you think is even cuter? If so send their photo to editor@venturabreeze.com.
A few minutes later the firefighters and come over and help you.'

We had just called animal control when the told (I guess only if a cat gets stuck in a tree).

I have very limited tools and absolutely my wife, who also went straight to panic.

"I went straight to panic and got Cathy, It's tail was caught in the serpentine belt."

screaming. I stopped the engine, popped hitting the hood, then loud feline

out on my daily rounds, but when I started the car I heard a loud bang, like something

people thought was totally sick, but he was a great cat and he lived with us for the rest of his life!"

I have a rabbit for adoption in this issue so asked my friend J. Elaine Fowell, D.V.M. at East Ventura Animal Hospital a question about rabbits.

Q. A rabbit friend (being famous I have known a bit of time in the house. Hachi has good house manners, but my son and I are not as good as she is and sometimes we have accidents. We had kids as little as 4-years-old come visit us and we loved them. We can’t remember ever meeting a cat but we like dogs. We are bilingual Spanish English. We are all very loving once we know you and we like going on walks with you. C.A.R.L. Adoption Center, 644-PETS(7387). Ventura County Animal Services – Camarillo location – 600 Aviation Drive. Chance A628823.

Chance has been a good boy all year long and has one wish for Santa: to hop again. This gentle

I have one wish for Santa: to hop again. This gentle

from Scamp the dog indeed.
Police Reports

by Veronica Johnson

Police reports are provided to us by the Ventura Police Department and are not the opinions of the Ventura Breeze. All suspects mentioned are assumed to be innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Residential Burglary

On Tuesday, December 8th, at 7:21 p.m., a neighbor called the VPD and reported a possible residential burglary in process at 1231 S. Victoria Avenue. Officers located a male subject, Jeffery Brown, reporting that a suspect, Rayvonn Richardson, just attempted to rob him of his cell phone while walking in the 2700 block of E. Victoria Avenue.

Brown told officers he was walking down the street when he was approached by Richardson, who asked to use his phone. When asked for his cell phone back, Richardson pulled out what appeared to be a small flashlight and Wilson threatened to shoot him. Brown grabbed his phone and fled the area. He then notified the police.

Richardson was located by officers and detained. Richardson was booked into the VC Jail. While inside the jail, he found to be in possession of a controlled substance. Richardson was also booked for possession inside a jail facility. Richardson was located by deputies and detained. Richardson was booked into the VC Jail. While inside the jail, he found to be in possession of a controlled substance. Richardson was also booked for possession inside a jail facility.

Deputies continued follow-up on this case, investigators learned that the suspect committed two separate robberies that occurred at different locations within a short period of time.

On 10/21/15, when Richardson robbed Jales Sanabria, and 10/22/15, robbing a 16 year old juvenile. All 3 of the cases were solved by the Ventura County District Attorney’s Office and Robbery charges were filed against the suspect.

 Attempted Armed Robbery

On Saturday, December 12th, at 12:19 a.m., the VPD received a call from the Harbor Patrol, reporting that, after 7:15 p.m., a male subject, Anthony Godinez, was seen running south of Gaviota Street. As officers approached Godinez, he obtained a large rock from the side of the roadway and threatened to throw it at Brown and threatened to shoot him. Brown grabbed his phone and fled the area. He then notified the police.

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after the "final" installment of the Star Wars saga, the latest entry proves that there are plenty of stories left to tell in the galaxy far, far away. newcomer to the series J.J. Abrams wrote the script with veteran Star Wars writer Lawrence Kasdan. also returning are composer John Williams and the "holy trinity" of actors Mark Hamill, Carrie Fisher, and Harrison Ford (amongst others) from the original films. Set 30 years after the return of the Jedi, Resistance pilot Poe Dameron (Oscar Isaac) secures a map leading to the planet Jakku, Rey and the newly named Finn now must work together to protect BB-8, the adorable prentice turned against him. Stowed away in his droid, BB-8, the film harkens back to the days of A new hope, the empire strikes back, and Jedi. Practical sets, effects, and makeup create an immersive and authentic feel and look. In terms of story, the plot is nothing special and relies far too much on nostalgia from past films. A shunning and hindrance for Star Wars fans, Abrams and Kasdan hit beats from past films and even take the look from setting like Hoth and adapt them into their story. Upon repeat viewings (which this movie is primed for) this becomes more and more forgivable, but detail that comes across as lazy in such a finely crafted film. A true stroke of wonder is the chemistry between Ford, Boyega, and Ridley - with the elder Ford being a very emotional center for the film's entire story. He is the heart of the original films returning to bring us into the new series. If he were not in the film, it simply wouldn't work. Another successful and meta-type element to the film is Adam Driver's Kylo Ren. At times, certain actions by Ren had me questioning if this character is a commentary on all who idolize Darth Vader, one of the most vile and evil villains in film history, who is now strewn across children's books and clothes for toddlers, a darkly ironic fact. Holding the entire film together is an amazing score by composer John Williams. Themes for older characters are recalled at the right time and incorporated into new works presented in a grandioso, old-fashioned way. A full orchestra gloriously enriches the film's soundtrack and provides tension, emotion, and triumph. The music accompanying the first demonstration of the first order's starkiller base is an amazingly tragic cue that only someone like Williams could write.

It's a Fair and Fine Season at Rubicon Theatre Company

It's already shaping up to be a remarkable season at Rubicon Theatre Company this year with their resplendent opener, the two piano version of My fair lady and the world premiere adaptation of Charles Dickens A christmas Carol by Rubicon Founder, Karyl Lynn Burns. What can audiences look forward to experiencing in 2016? The season features two American Premieres, a beloved classic, a one-person drama about an American icon, and a campy musical send-up of '50s Sci-fi films loosely based on Shakespeare's The tempest. The next mainstage production opening January 27 is see rock city the second play in the nibroc trilogy by Arlene hutton. Those who saw the ovation nominated Last train to nibroc will want to discover how may and Raleigh's Appalachian love story continues. Even for those who missed the poignant Last Train to Nibroc at Rubicon, See rock city stands alone as a funny, touching and universal portrayal of a young couple very much in love. Next up is Jethro Compton's stage adaptation of the film classic The man who shot liberty valance in its American Premiere on the Rubicon stage in March, directed by Rubicon Artistic Associate and multiple award-winner Jenny Sullivan. Another American Premiere follows with Sabina berman's extras. In this new adaptation, a Hollywood film crew arrives in a village in Mexico to shoot a major motion picture, wreaking havoc on the fragile ecosystem of the community. Two major stars from Mexico, brothers Bruno and Osideo Bichir, play all of the characters - starlet, director, crew and the locals who are working as extras on the set. Next in the season is David Rintels' riveting tale of Clarence Darrow. This trenchant and timely drama is based on the landmark cases of the illustrious, controversial trial lawyer who at one time commanded over a quarter-million dollars for each case. Rubicon's season opens on October 22nd, with a dress rehearsal benefit of Porgy and Bess for the benefit of the Rubicon Foundation for Education. The season finale is built around a gala of 1950's and 1960's rock-and-roll classics and a roller-skating Robby the Robot. Subscriptions to Rubicon's 2016 Season include discounts of up to 15%, discounts for tickets purchased for friends, guaranteed seating, ticket insurance, free exchanges (with 72 hours' notice), and advance notice of special events. Single tickets for each of the shows are also on sale and available via our box office at 1006 E. Main Street (Laurel entrance) or by phone 667-2900 or online: www.rubicontheatre.org. It's a Fair and Fine Season at Rubicon Theatre Company
Go to www.venturabreeze.com for your daily horoscope

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Handle a potentially awkward situation by warming up your confidence reserves and letting it radiate freely. Also, expect an old friend to contact you.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) It’s not too early for the practical Bovine to begin planning possible changes for 2011. A recent contact can offer some interesting insights.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) A request for an unusual favor should be carefully checked out. Also, check the motives behind it. Your generosity should be respected, not exploited.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Party time beckons, but for some Moon Children, so do some workplace challenges. Deal with the second first, then you’ll be free to enjoy the fun time.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) A warm response to an earlier request might be a positive indicator of what’s ahead. Meanwhile, Cupid could pay a surprise visit to single Leos looking for love.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) How you respond to a proposed change in a project could affect your situation. Be prepared to show how well you would be able to deal with it.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) The revelation of a secret could cause some changes in how to deal with a workplace matter. It very likely also validates a position you have long held.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) The savvy Sagittarian might be able to keep a family disagreement from spilling over by getting everyone involved to talk things out.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Be careful not to push people too hard to meet your ideas of what the holiday weekend’s preparations should be. Best to make it a cooperative, not coerced, effort.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) An unexpected request could make you rethink a position you’ve had for a long time. Meanwhile, plan a family get-together for the weekend.

RIDDLE OF THE WEEK:

You might find it was a fluke to try to use your sympathetic nature to get you to accept a situation you’re not comfortable with. Good for you.

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Lighter Breeze

Solutions on page 15

Solutions on page 15

Zits

Barney Google with Snuffy Smith

Buckles

Blonde

Buckles

Tiger

Solutions on page 15

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row, column and each small 3-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★

★ Moderate-Challenging

★ ★ ★ HOO BOY!®

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Ventura BREEZE


Your Hometown Paper

www.venturabreeze.com

Ventura BREEZE
Ventura Music Scene

Ventura rooks another year!

by Pam Baumgardner
VenturaRocks.com

We’re in the final stretch for 2015 and Ventura Rocks at CAPS Media is finally scheduled. The debut episode features Medicine Hat and will air several times including a Christmas evening broadcast at 8 pm on Captseg.org/program-schedules for all air dates.

Nothing like being one degree of separation from Miles Davis, Dizzy Gillespie, Frank Sinatra and more; that’s exactly what went down at Squashed Grapes when drummer extraordinaire, Colin Bailey, was in the house, Saturday 19 Dec. Mr. Bailey has not only played the cream of the crop but he was also the drummer for the Charlie Brown Christmas special. Bam! And just a final note before we move on from Christmas, giving the gift of music is always a treat, especially when you’re supporting local artists and picking up music such as Tommy Marsch’s Crooked Eye, Tommy Butterflies & Snakes, Medicine Hat’s Whiskey and Waves, the self-titled NaVaNaX, Honey Owl’s Early Bird, Hat’s Whiskey and Waves; the self-titled 1091 Scandia Avenue, Friday-1/1; Lucidial, Public Nuisance, All-a-bear Golden China 760 S. Seaward (805) 652-0688 Karaoke seven nights a week Swing night: Thursdays 6:30 pm Friday and Saturday: 7 pm Postmodern Jukebox 2351 E. Main St. (805) 643-7300 Live music - 10 pm Wed 12/23: Tilden Jackson’s “Carols and Wine” Sat 12/26: Danny Janklow band featuring tap dancer, Sarah Reich of Postmodern Jukebox Star Lounge 343 E. Thompson Blvd (805) 643-4709 Sun 12/20: Whiskey Stone Thurs 12/31: Thru 12/31: NYE Party with Cross Cut Fri 1/1 Karaoke Surf Brewery 4561 Market St. Sat 12/26: Breaux & Drees (Dan Grimm and Friends) The Tavern 211 E. Santa Clara Street Saturday open mic Karaoke Tuesdays Metal Music Wednesdays DJs Thru Thursday college night Thru 12/31: Thru 12/31: NYE Masquerade Ball with DJs Ventura Beach Club 281 E. Thompson Blvd Thurs 12/31: Thru 12/31: NYE Party with Shaky Feelin’, The Christopher Hawley Rogers, Korea, 9 Lives, more… W20 at the Watermark 598 E. Main Street Fri & Sat 9–Mid; Sun 3–6 pm Thurs 12/26: The Bomb Sun 12/27: The Legalizers Thurs 12/31: Thru 12/31: NYE Party with DJ EROK and DJ Ciera Sat 1/1 Jen Bosnick The Wine Rack 14 S. California Street Music runs 7-11 pm, Sundays at 3 pm Mondays: Mike Cregan Tuesdays: Frank Barajas and Doug Johnson Wed 12/23: Carson Boyd Lane Mondays: Dan Johnston Thurs 12/24: Jon Gindick and Friends Sat 12/26: Road Brothers Thrus 12/31: Thru 12/31: NYE Party with Ventura Jazz Collective Fri 1/1/ Hans Otten Sat 1/2: New Year’s Jazz Collective The 805 Bar Ventura Harbor Tuesdays: 7 pm RJ Mischo & the Down Home Trio
Wendy Winet (formerly Wendy Lefkowitz) and Lynn Fogel will display their art at Fox Fine Jewelry from January 21 – March 6, 2016. An artists’ reception will be held on Saturday, January 23 from 6 – 8pm.

Wendy Winet, a New York City native, has drawn and painted since she was a young child. Her family valued art education, taking weekly trips to the museums. Remembers Winet of the Museum of Modern Art. Winet graduated with a Bachelors of Fine Arts in Fashion Design from Pratt Institute.

Lynn Fogel has always been an artist, although she left the art world and worked in corporate jobs. But she was unhappy. Fortunately, it didn’t take Fogel long to return to her calling.

Fogel grew up in Santa Barbara, moving to New York City for her corporate career. Unfulfilled, she returned to art, training at The New England School of Art and Design, and at Montserrat College of Art. Fogel returned to Santa Barbara in the early 90’s. For the next 19 years she sold her art at the weekly Santa Barbara Arts and Crafts show on the boardwalk, along with other local galleries. Last year she moved to Ventura.

Fox Fine Jewelry hours are Monday – Thursday, 10:30 – 7:00pm; Friday and Saturday, 10:30 – 10:00pm; Sunday 12:00 – 6:00pm. Fox Fine Jewelry, 560 East Main St.

On occasion we will be featuring the art work of Breeze staff (and close relatives), this ink drawing is by Michael Brown, son of Publisher Sheldon.

So Long 2015!!

Hey, all you artists out there! If you want the Breeze to keep covering the Ventura Art Scene, you’ve got to keep sending us your events! Email to editor@venturabreeze.com

Hello, 2016!!
Opera welcomes promising young vocalists

Opera Santa Barbara will welcome four promising young vocalists for 17 weeks of performances, training, and community events under an expansion of its artist residency program early next year. The company’s new Mosher Studio Artist Program will enable four singers and an apprentice vocal coach to take part in Opera Santa Barbara productions, outreach activities throughout Santa Barbara and Ventura counties, and coachings and masterclasses with top industry directors and conductors. The inaugural complement of program participants will arrive in Santa Barbara on January 18. Their residencies will conclude in May.

Under its original artist residency program, founded seven years ago, Opera Santa Barbara would host four singers for about five weeks of training and rehearsals prior to each of the company’s three annual opera productions, culminating in on-stage appearances as secondary performers.

Under the new Mosher Studio Artist Program, participants will tour four elementary schools in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties as part of the company’s Opera Lab, which uses improvisational theatre techniques to encourage children to “create their own operas.” To schedule a “pop up” performance, contact Opera Santa Barbara at 898-3890 or info@operasb.org.

Through a related partnership, qualified UCSB voice students will be eligible to participate in the Mosher Studio Artist Program. Mezzo-soprano Melody Clementz, a doctoral candidate at UCSB, will be among the new program’s inaugural participants.

Opera Santa Barbara is seeking local homeowners to serve as housing donors for Mosher Studio Artists. Donors will receive a stipend of $2,000 for the full 17-week period. Each artist requires a private bedroom and bathroom and wireless internet access. For more information, contact Opera Santa Barbara at 898-3890 or info@operasb.org.

Hotels to host Special Olympics Athletes in Parade of Lights

The Four Points by Sheraton and owner, Joseph Fan celebrate another year as a major sponsor of the Ventura Harbor Village Parade of Lights. As part of the festivities, they will host 120 Special Olympics Athletes, their family members, and chaperones from Ventura County, who will be on board three vessels entered in the parade on Saturday, December 19. This is, by far, the largest participation by Special Olympics Athletes.

Joseph Fan, President of Brighton Management, is owner of the Four Points by Sheraton Ventura Harbor and the Holiday Inn Express Ventura Harbor. The hotels are proud sponsors of Special Olympics Ventura County.

“For almost 10 years Joseph Fan and Victor Dollar, Sheraton’s General Manager, have included Special Olympics Athletes in their parade entries. The generosity that they show our Special Olympics athletes, along with meeting space they provide for Ventura County Special Olympics staff and volunteers, is so appreciated. We truly value their support and enthusiasm for our Special Olympics program,” states Regional Director, Peggi Preston.

Special thanks go out to the Channel Island Sea Ray Owners Club who provided the three vessels. The Taiwan Hotel Motel Association of Southern California and its members and friends provided additional funding for the event. Special Olympics Ventura County (SOVC) offers free of charge year-round sports training and competition opportunities to over 500 individuals with intellectual disabilities, ages 8 years and up, in 10 different sports at over 20 training sites throughout Ventura County.

For more information on Ventura County Special Olympics, please call 650-7717 or visit www.sosc.org/ventura.

Wish Kid Sarai Celebrates National Believe Day at Macy’s

On Friday, Dec. 11, Macy’s and Make-A-Wish celebrated the seventh annual National Believe Day, the cornerstone of the retailer’s annual Believe campaign which helps Make-A-Wish grant wishes to children with life-threatening medical conditions across America.

The wish of Sarai, who needs a kidney transplant is “I wish to go to Hawaii with my family.”

Sarai’s favorite color is red, her favorite singer is Meghan Trainor, and she loves Kit-Kats.

Make-A-Wish Volunteers were stationed throughout the story with clues for Sarai as she collected gifts for Macy’s that will prepare her for her wish to go to Hawaii! H’lau Hula O Pualalaina’ualii’s Hula Dancers entertained friends and family to surprise Sarai at the final station.

Jabe has a great surfing future in front of him. Photo by Sundium (@suthethbwn).

Thirteen year old finds time for everything
by Irene Chiang

Jabe Swierkocki, a 13 year old Ventura local, has a bright future ahead of him as he masters surfing. Sponsored by Roberts Surfboards, Fox, Prolite and Sun Bum, Jabe surfs Ventura’s waves for four hours or more daily, all the while training hard for his next surfing competition.

Making time for schoolwork and surfing, he attends the California Virtual Academy at Los Angeles (CAVA). Surfing since he was five years old, Jabe and his mother Samara realized that the constant trips between surfing competions and between home did not allow enough time for schoolwork or surfing. They needed another learning option for Jabe, and they found it at CAVA, a tuition-free, online public school available to local students in grades K-12 who are residents of Los Angeles and Ventura Counties. At night he can do his studying as part of his online curricu-lum. Jabe says the thing he is most proud of are his grades.

On top of training hard for surfing competitions, Jabe maintains an honor roll at his online school, and skate-boards as another hobby. The desire to challenge himself and continue to improve has surfing inspires him to get out in the ocean every day. Keep up with his adventures on Instagram at @jabe_swierkocki