For the latest music events and news go to page 22!

FREE

VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

Vol. 9, No. 9 Published Every Other Wednesday Established 2007 February 2 – February 16, 2016

214,000 additional cubic yards of sand have accumulated in the entrance. Photo by Ventura Harbor Patrol.

Hazardous conditions in Ventura Harbor's entrance

by Stan Whisenhunt

Ventura Port District officials are waiting anxiously to find out if there will be additional funding for dredging at Ventura Harbor which is to begin any day now.

Heavy shoaling due to recent storms and high surf has caused hazardous conditions in Ventura Harbor's entrance.

Richard Parsons, dredging program manager for the district, said that 214,000 additional cubic yards of sand have accumulated in the entrance since Dec. 28.

Ventura Port District officials, working with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Coast Guard, have launched a two-phased program to address safety issues and to ensure that the upcoming dredging operation that is already scheduled can be expanded to address this safety issue.

Pleasure craft boaters have been warned by the Ventura Harbor Patrol to not venture out of the harbor, while com-

Continued on page 6

Artistic Director Nuvi Mehta highlighted the new Festival season and the benefits of listening to great music.

VMF announces exciting season lineup and new executive director

Artistic Director Nuvi Mehta announced the artist line-up of the 22nd Festival in a special briefing held at Ventura City Hall on Jan.21. With a new July schedule, the Festival takes place on the weekends of July 15-17 and July 22-24.

Doug Wied, President of the Board, began the evening by introducing the

Continued on page 19

2016 Executive Committee members James Perero, Steven Brown, Jeff Hata, Charnell Smith, Greg Van Ness, and Greg Gillespie. (Not pictured: Sam Benner and Matthew Graczyk)

Ventura Chamber installs new board

The Ventura Chamber of Commerce held its Annual Meeting and Board Installation on Wednesday, Jan. 20 at The Pierpont Inn. The event was attended by business members, City officials and dignitaries including Ventura City Council Member Cheryl Heitmann; Brad Hudson, Congresswoman Julia Brownley's Office; Angelica Cisneros, Assembly member Das Williams' Office; Michael MacDonald, Senator Hannah Beth

Continued on page 4

2015 Poster Contest winners: 1st Place Annie Sun, 14, of Newbury Park; 2nd Place Anna Sorensen, 11, of Simi Valley; and 3rd Place Emma Fong, 11, of Newbury Park.

2016 VC Fair announces poster contest for county youth

The Ventura County Fair has announced that the 7th annual Fair poster contest will be held for the 2016 Ventura County Fair. The contest is open to young artists in grades 5 - 12 who reside in Ventura County.

The theme of the 2016 Fair is "A Country Fair with Ocean Air" and will serve as the guideline to the imagery.

Continued on page 4

Ventura College hosts Financial Aid Super Saturday

Ventura College will host free hands-on workshops to assist students with the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and California Dream Applications.

The workshop event dates and locations are:

Saturday, February 6, 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Ventura College Santa Paula, 957 Faulkner Road.

Saturday, February 27, 8:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Ventura College main campus, MCE-341 & MCE-343, 4667 Telegraph Road.

Applications for FAFSA or California Dream may be submitted through

Continued on page 4

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You can always read the latest Breeze on our website wherever you are

The Ventura Breeze has launched a new and improved website "www.venturabreeze.com." The site provides many new features such as daily horoscopes, weather, surf reports from Surfline, along with photos and feedback from our wonderful readers. The site also includes our most current issue, all past issues, funny stuff from around the web and links to events and happenings in Ventura including local movie and theater listings. We hope you enjoy the site.

The New West Symphony
Harmony Project of Ventura County
Celebration Brunch

Sunday, February 14, 2016
11:00 am at the Marriott Ventura Beach
$300 per ticket

Presenting the
2015 Humanitarian Award to
Sandra and Jordan Laby
Harmony Project of Ventura County Founders

The Harmony Project uses music education as a tool for social change among low-income students in Ventura.

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Amanda McBroom

Actor
Erik Odom
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Rubicon Theatre Company

Official Host
MARRIOTT VENTURA BEACH

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or 805.497.5800

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COURSE 3
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COURSE 4
bacon wrapped chicken breast stuffed with mushroom, spinach and feta cheese, served with roasted red potatoes, a creamy corn succotash and lemon garlic cream sauce / *paired with Moët & Chandon Impérial Brut and Vueve Clicquot Brut*

COURSE 5
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, February 4th - E.N. YOUNG
Friday, February 5th - FIRESTONE FRIDAYS FT. ROCK CATS ROCK
Saturday, February 6th - CHAMPAGNE DINNER
Saturday, February 6th - THE MAIN SQUEEZE
Sunday, February 7th - SUPERBOWL SUNDAY
Friday, February 12th - HIRIE FT. THRIVE
Saturday, February 13th - TOM PETTY TRIBUTE
Saturday, February 20th - BLINK-180TRUE & GREEN TODAY
Sunday, February 21st - PASSAFIRE
Saturday, February 27th - DAVID BOWIE TRIBUTE
Saturday, March 5th - PUDDLE OF MUDD
Thursday, March 10th - GONZO
Friday, March 11th - STICK FIGURE SET IN STONE TOUR W/FORTUNATE YOUTH
Friday, March 17th - SAMMY J F. TENELLE
Thursday, March 31st - SEEDLESS W/TATANKA
Sunday, May 8th - JOHN MAYALL & CHARLIE

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FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH

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9am to 6pm, Friday, 9am to 3pm, Saturday
Ventura County Fairgrounds, San Miguel Hall
10 W. Harbor Blvd. Ventura
Hundreds of fine, antique and collectable watches and clocks for sale.
Entrance to the showroom mart on Friday, February 19 requires membership in the National Association. The display of clocks for travel and the onsite Seminars are open to the public on Friday, February 19, and Saturday, February 20. The Showroom Mart is open to the public on Saturday, February 20 for a $5 entry fee. Active Military, with identification, will be admitted free on the Saturday public day.
Bring this ad to the show on Saturday for a free evaluation of your watch or clock.
www.CHAIR2016.com for more information
National Association of Watch & Clock Collectors
NAWCC

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Business News

WEV provides business training

Women's Economic Ventures (WEV) provides business training to women and who want to start or expand an existing business. WEV is holding free, 1-hour informational sessions for their English course in Ventura County. Orientation will cover class details and help you determine readiness for the next Self-Employment Training (SET) course beginning in February. (SET courses are offered in English and Spanish in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties.)

Orientations are offered throughout the year and are required to enroll. Location will be given at RSVP.
Thursday Feb. 4 , 6-7 p.m. in Ventura

WEV's Women's Business Center offers a comprehensive 14 week, 56-hour Self-Employment Training (SET) program for women and men who want to start or grow a business. Programs are offered in both English and Spanish in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties, and provide week-by-week training on topics including finances, marketing and sales, public relations and advertising, legal and insurance issues, and record keeping. After the 14 week course, WEV SET graduates emerge with a completed business plan and the most important tools and resources they need to start a new business or grow their current business.

WEV is a nationally recognized, local non-profit that provides business training, small business loans, and many other resources. Since 1991, WEV has served over 12,000 clients, made over $3.5 million in microloans, and helped start or sustain an estimated 3,000 businesses supporting more than 4,000 local jobs.

Orientation location is subject to change. To find out more information or to register for the orientation, call 456-2342 or visit the website at http://wevonline.org/orientations. For more information about Spanish programs contact 456-2319.

Ventura Chamber installs new board

Continued from page 1

Jackson's Office; and Steve Offerman, Supervisor Steve Bennett's Office.

Outgoing Board Chair, Saurabh Bajaj presented an overview and highlights of the Chamber's many programs and accomplishments over the past year, thanking the Chamber members, Board, and staff for their support and contributions.

During the year, the Chamber increased its value in the business community through focus on partnerships with a variety of organizations and enhanced the visibility of the Chamber in the business community through increased attendance at Chamber and community functions. The Chamber became more proactive in advocacy for business and grew its focus on economic development. Education partnerships continued to be a source of pride with the Chamber's Teacher of the Month and Principal for a Day programs, and through Leadership Ventura.

Bajaj also highlighted some key numbers which included the organization's success in recruiting 120 new members, attracting nearly 2000 attendees to its major functions, and offering more than 170 opportunities for business networking and connections.

During Bajaj's term, the Chamber also experienced a leadership transition with the hiring of the new President and CEO, Stephanie Caldwell, who began her tenure in late April.

James Perero, incoming Board Chair, presented his vision and the Chamber's theme for 2016 – "Advocating for Business; Helping Ventura Thrive." Perero outlined the four key focal points of the Chamber as he addressed the goals for the coming year. Perero's plan includes working with the City of Ventura to improve the development process; increasing diversity and engaging with businesses in all areas of the city geographically, ethnically and by industry sector; recruiting hyper-growth entrepreneurs to start, grow and expand here in Ventura; and finally engaging with on the homeless issue. Outgoing Chamber Senior Director, Randy Hinton, installed the new Chamber Board Directors. Among the newly installed Directors were James Perero, Sam Benner, Steven Brown, Matthew Graczyk, Greg Gillespie, Jeff Hata, Charnell Smith, Greg Van Ness and Saurabh Bajaj.

Some Ventura Chamber businesses were also recognized for being long-time members, including Ventura Trophy Company, member for 50 years, and 25 year members Anchor Printing & Graphics, Assistance League of Ventura County, Gold Coast Recycling, Kiwanis Club of Ventura, Nicoll Insurance and Financial Services, and Whisenhunt Communications.

VC Fair announces poster contest

Continued from page 1

Artwork may be created in any medium but may not include the use of glitter, metallic paint, or 3 dimensional objects attached to the artwork. Designs must be 17" tall and 14" wide.

Poster designs will be judged on Theme, Originality, Composition and Skill. Entries will be accepted until the entry deadline, Friday, April 1. Entries can be brought to the Fairgrounds administration office at 10 W. Harbor Blvd. Office hours are Monday through Friday, 8am until 5pm.

Prizes will be awarded to the top three entries. First prize: $500, Second Prize: $250 and Third Prize: $100

The winning design will be used to advertise the Fair on posters, souvenirs, advertisements and other applications. Second and third place winning designs will also be used in various applications. All entries will be displayed in the Youth Expo at the Ventura County Fair.

The Ventura County Fair will begin its annual 12-day run Wednesday, August 3 through Sunday, August 14.

Rules, deadlines and other information can be found on the Fair website, www.venturacountyfair.org. For more information about the contest, call 648-3376 or send an email to info@venturacountyfair.org. (please put "Poster Contest" in the subject line).

Ventura Collegs host Super Saturday

Continued from page 1

March 2. Please visit www.fafsa.gov, www.caldreamact.org, and www.venturacollege.edu/finaid for the financial aid checklist of required documents to bring to the workshop. For additional details, you can also call the Ventura College Financial Aid Office at 289-6369 or email vcfinancialaid@vcccd.edu.

VENTURA BREEZE
Your Hometown Paper
Member, Ventura Chamber of Commerce

The Ventura Breeze is your free local community newspaper published every other Wednesday and circulated throughout Ventura and to many locations in Ojai and the Channel Islands Harbor located in Oxnard.

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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.

Opinion/Editorial

Sheldon (Governor) Brown
Publisher-Editor

■ The Ventura City Council has voted against (7-0) **medical marijuana** businesses and the delivery of medical marijuana in Ventura. This is in keeping with other county cities. Cities have until March 1 to set their own laws before State regulations take effect.

Neal Andrews and Carl Morehouse were part of the 7-0 vote but still expressed their concerns about not allowing medical marijuana delivery that was included in the action. I certainly agree with their concerns.

The City of Moorpark City Council has wisely removed the mobile delivery portion of their ordinance banning the selling of marijuana there. They will allow delivery of medical marijuana to qualified patients by a primary caregiver (now they need to figure who is a primary caregiver).

To deny delivery is "cruel and unusual punishment." Isn't that against the constitution? Hopefully the Ventura City Council will revisit this in the future and will allow delivery.

In fact, the entire opposition to marijuana bothers me. The harmful effects that marijuana has on society do not begin to compare to those of alcohol.

■ Have I mentioned that I hate the **California Coastal Commission**? I voted in favor of their creation years ago thinking that their job would be to provide assurances of beach and to protect our beaches and oceans. Their "concerns" have gone so much further than that charter. I think they interfere with the rights of citizens and cities to make decisions regarding projects that have absolutely nothing at all to do with the coast.

■ Since its original construction in 1872, the **Ventura Pier** has been a popular attraction in the County. In December, the Ventura Pier sustained extensive damage caused by 20-foot high surf.

The John S. Meek, Inc. cost proposal to repair the Pier is $1,173,990 and is based on the existing contract's schedule of compensation. The Option to Extend the contract for good performance has been executed by the City Council and the current term of the agreement will expire June 30, 2016. The Council felt that it is in the best interest of the City to negotiate an extension without competitive bidding based upon satisfactory performance by Meek and their emergency response during this year's El Nino. The council felt that the negotiated prices are fair and reasonable.

It is anticipated all repair and maintenance work will be completed by the end of February at which time the Pier can be reopened to the public. We shall see.

The Ventura Pier has Wave Wash Property Insurance with a $100,000 deductible per event. Staff met with the insurance adjuster to inspect the damage to the Pier, and the City was authorized to proceed with the stabilization and repairs. It is anticipated that the Wave Wash insurance will cover the entire costs of the emergency repairs, less the deductible.

■ The newly remodeled NOW Ventura Italian and Seafood Restaurant is open at 185 Santa Clara St. This site has been the location of several restaurants over the years. Breezy Gledhill, our senior account exec, and I recently had dinner there. The food, service and ambiance were excellent. The owners did a wonderful job of remodeling the interior which includes a lovely outdoor patio and a large room that can be used for special events.

■ Under the Charter adopted by the citizens of Ventura in 1934, the **City Manager** is "the administrative head of the City government . . . responsible to the City Council for the administration of all City affairs" including hiring and firing department heads, preparing the annual budget and ensuring the effective implementation of the City Council's policies and priorities. The City Manager advises Council on strategic direction for the City and responding to changing community needs. Most of all, the City Manager provides overall organizational leadership to ensure the effective daily delivery of services, projects and programs, guided by the City's 2005 General Plan." In other words **Mark Watkins** is the boss. His compensation is in keeping with other city managers in Ventura County. I think that he is an excellent city manager.

Moorpark	$261,000
Thousand Oaks	$261,000
Camarillo	$255,000
Ventura	$228,000
Simi Valley	$227,000
Ojai	$193,000
Fillmore	$187,000
Santa Paula	$183,000

■ You will be happy to know you can now sing "Happy Birthday to You" without feeling guilty because, now, you don't have to pay royalties. Judge George King recently ruled that none of the companies that have been collecting royalties for the last 80 years were entitled to do so.

■ There is not an updated status regarding the proposed opening of the full nude "**gentleman's club**" planned by Hala Enterprises LLC. Since the City Council set rigid conditions for this proposed use, the applicant has not contacted the city departments required to proceed with the project.

I don't know if Hala felt that the conditions were too difficult to make the business profitable, just changed their mind or have just not submitted the required documentations yet to the City.

■ We are not the only city with financial problems. In order to have sufficient funds to repair infrastructure, Thousand Oaks is considering selling city property, increasing city fees, and sales tax by a half cent along with other measures (these actions would generate $14 million but need voter's approval). Venturans may be asked to approve a sales tax increase in November.

■ For whatever reason, 2015 was **Earth's hottest year** on record and it appears that this trend will continue in 2016. If it does, this will be the first time that this trend has continued for 3 straight years.

Mailbox

Ventura Breeze

Regarding "Homeless Prevention Fund"

Homelessness is a symptom of America's living standards equalizing with the world's living standards created by "Free Trade Doctrines" (something none of the politicians seem to want to talk about)

Obviously there are other reasons: housing crisis, drugs & alcohol abuse and mental illness, but the loss of good paying blue collar jobs is the crux of the problem... The stratospheric rise in the cost of buying a home as well as renting a home... Never mind the high cost of owning and operating an automobile these days! College..? Forget about it for most high school graduates now due the cost.

The idea that we can "bring (good paying) jobs back" is so much political pablum that the country wants to hear, but the real systemic problem is all of us want "stuff" that is cheap.

Not even Bernie Sanders can end this nightmare.
Dave Gunall, Brookings, Oregon

Dear Sheldon

Thank you for highlighting the good work of the Homeless Prevention Fund in your latest publication. As stated in your article, it is much cheaper and more humane to help prevent a person from becoming homeless than to help them get out of homelessness. This fund is supported primarily by private donations from community members. It is often low on funds with the risk of not being able to help someone, often a family, with an average donation of $500 to keep them in their home. City council members are often asked, how can I help with the homeless problem in our city? This is one of the ways, we can all help. More information can be found on Venturahomelessprevention.org.

Thank you again for highlighting an important but little known resource in our community.
Former Mayor Cheryl Heitmann

Editor:

I am so glad that there is renewed interest in the city's short term rental policy. I have watched the rapid growth of this phenomenon in the last few years

Continued on page 8

The Ventura Breeze is looking for advertising advisors to sell advertising space in the Ventura Breeze to businesses and professionals in Ventura. Part or full time. Contact editor@venturabreeze.com for more details.

Whatever you think can't be done, somebody will come along and do it.

– Thelonious Monk

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 2016 BRAVO AWARDEES

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL
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  Nellie Akalp, CorpNet.com
- Lifetime Achievement Award
  Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, State District 19
- Corporate Leader of the Year
  Pacific Coast Business Times
- Community Advocate of the Year
  Lisa Rule, The Acorn
- NAWBO-VC Member of the Year
  Maura Raffensperger, Your Chief Simplicity Officer
- Visionary of the Year
  Maryann Ridini Spencer, Ridini Entertainment Corporation
- Innovator of the Year
  Andrea Gallagher, Senior Concerns
- Education Advocate of the Year
  Dianne McKay, Mustang Marketing
- Rising Star of the Year
  Adriana Perez, Skincare by Adriana
- Young Woman Entrepeneur of the Year
  Allie Anderson, Presh Events & Allie Anderson Designs

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National Association of Women Business Owners

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Theme Graphics & Design by Lluvia Arras-Sanchez

City News

Westpark Community Center receives a "Health Champion Award"

Ventura's Westpark Community Center is named a "Health Champion Award" recipient for its "excellent programs that contribute to a healthier Ventura County". The Partnership for a Health Ventura County (PHVC) bestows these annual awards on behalf of the Ventura County Board of Supervisors, which will recognize all recipients during a TBD March meeting as part of National Nutrition Month.

Westpark Community Center staff will make a public presentation of their award-winning programs on Thursday, February 4, at 9am, at the Ventura County Public Health Department, 2240 E Gonzales Road in Oxnard. Award winners are selected from the nominees each January by their related PHVC committees.

"Westpark Community Center is a true model for other organizations to follow in creating, supporting and sustaining a healthy environment for local Ventura residents," said Eddie Munizich, Chair of the Healthy in Your Neighborhood and at Home Committee.

The Westpark Community Center, operated by the City of Ventura Department of Parks, Recreation and Community Partnerships, offers food/produce distributions, health screenings, nutrition workshops, Zumba® classes, community health fairs, homework and tutoring support, physical activity and recreation opportunities, enrichment classes, sports leagues and youth camps – all while teaching Westside youth about the importance of self-esteem, leadership, good character, responsibility and respect.

City classes from photography to yoga

Call 658-4726 or 654-7552 to register, or if you already have an ACTIVENET account online, visit www.cityofventura.net. Check out hundreds more on our web-site.

Classes/Events held the Barranca Vista Center, 7050 Ralston Street, unless otherwise noted.

Carpinteria Seal Rookery Hike
18 years-adult
2/5 Friday 9:10 am-2:45 pm
$40+$20 materials fee #5666

Hike along the Coastal Vista Trail in Carpentaria. Stop to plein air sketch the harbor seals and new pups plus incorporate watercolor and ink pen. Meet at Ventura train station (Harbor Boulevard and Figueroa Street) by 9:10 am. Train leaves at 9:30 am. $22 train ticket not included in class fees--purchase online or on the day of at the station kiosk. Lunch (self-paid) at local spot. Leave Carpentaria train station 2:19 pm arrive back in Ventura 2:41 pm.

Learn Digital Photography (Beginning /Intermediate)
16 years-adult
2/6 Saturday 3-6 pm
$65 #5479

Build up your understanding of digital photography from basic concepts (first two hours) through advanced techniques (second two hours) including camera use, lenses, equipment, tripods, understanding exposure and composition. Classes held at the Barranca Vista Center, 7050 E Ralston St in Ventura.

Computer Animation Fundamentals with PC
8-12 years
2/8-3/7 Monday 3:45-5:45 pm
$125 #5636

In small groups students will focus on learning introductory computer drawing animation techniques and create original characters, voiceovers, speech and short animated stories! Bring pencils, snacks, and USB drive on final day. At Bible fellowship Church, 6950 Ralston St Room 206.

Introduction to Video Game Design
8-12 years
2/9-3/8 Tuesday 3:45-5:45 pm
$125 #5563

Beginning Game Developers will work with a partner to conceive, design and build their own original interactive video game, including characters, backgrounds and theme. Students will use creative and critical thinking to complete their games. Bring pencils, snacks, and USB drive on final day.

AM Yoga & Melt for Renewal
16 years-adult
2/9-3/1 Tuesday 8-8:45 am
$55 # 5579

The simple and deeply relaxing yoga poses of the Melt Method re-hydrate connective tissue to restore neurological balance, stability, and joint mobility. Bring towel, mat and dress comfortably. Instructor Mary Lincoln.

Ventura College to host fundraiser

The Ventura College Men's and Women's basketball teams, along with the Ventura Breakers Youth Basketball Club, will host its 17th annual barbecue fundraiser dinner and games on Saturday, Feb.6.

Adult tickets are $15.00. A child ticket (12 and under) is $12.00. Barbecue dinner at the Ventura College Sportsplex will be served from 4:00 to 7 p.m., and includes beef tri-tip and or chicken, chili, salad, bread and drink choice.

Ventura College will play Pierce College, with the Women's game at 5 p.m. and the Men playing at 7 p.m. Ticket prices include dinner and admission to both games.

Proceeds benefit VC men's and women's basketball and the Ventura Breakers Basketball Club. Information and tickets 289-6118, and www.vcweplayhard.com

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Hazardous conditions in Ventura Harbor
Continued from page 1

mercial fishermen have been advised to proceed at their own risk. The year's first sailboat race at the harbor, Ventura Yacht Club's PHRF Regatta 1, was cancelled and will be rescheduled. The second race of the year, Pierpont Bay Yacht Club's Spring Series 1, scheduled for Feb. 13, will be delayed if necessary.

Harbormaster John Higgins has met with the managers of the harbor's marinas and local yacht clubs to brief them on the situation and to advise their boaters to stay out of the entrance. He is working with the U.S. Coast Guard to issue warnings to commercial fishermen, going so far as to prepare warning fliers in Vietnamese to be sure that local fishermen in the area understand the safety issued posed by heavy shoaling. Boats, which by necessity need to leave or enter the harbor, have been escorted by the harbor patrol.

Meanwhile, Parsons, General Manager Oscar Pena and Port Commissioners Ev Ashworth and Greg Carson have been meeting with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, who are responsible for the dredging of the harbor, to help secure an additional $2 million for dredging.

Pena said that California Senator Dianne Feinstein and Congresswoman Julia Brownley "fully support the Port's requirements" and have reached out to the Corps of Engineers on behalf of the Port District.

The Corps of Engineers recently issued a dredging contract to Manson Company, which was scheduled to start dredging the harbor on Feb. 9. In light of the safety issues posed by the heavy shoaling, Manson Company operators hoped to have the dredge in place as early as Feb. 1, depending on sea conditions. The dredge was in Long Beach undergoing repairs.

The depth of the entrance channel, normally about 40 feet, is now 14 feet or less and narrow to the point that two boats could not safely pass one another in the entrance, said Higgins. The entrance channel width is normally 300 feet, but now because of all the sand, it is about 40 feet wide. The district estimates there are 900,000 cubic yards of sand in the harbor sand trap and entrance.

"While the situation will continue to deteriorate," Parsons said, "our team is putting everything is in place to get this remedied as soon as possible."

The Corps contract calls for dredging 460,000 cubic yards of sand. If the district is successful in gaining the additional $2 million, 340,000 more cubic yards of sand could be dredged.

The challenge is to get that additional money into the contract very quickly," Parsons said. Port District officials and commissioners have been meeting with senior personnel and staff of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District to coordinate the response to this emergency.

Higgins said three factors are making the entrance very dangerous - unusually large waves and swells from the El Nino condition, shoaling and a strong current - sometimes as fast as 10 knots - running along the inside of the breakwater.

The Tall Ships, Hawaiian Chieftain and Lady Washington, which had been at the harbor as a visitor attraction, left for Channel Islands Harbor on Jan. 21. "We think it is in everyone's best interest for the Tall Ships to leave now to avoid the potential of having them stuck here through early February," said Port District General Manager Oscar Pena at the time.

Pena noted that although the Harbor is experiencing entrance problems, all the businesses in the harbor are open.

Community Events

Magical Night at the Poinsettia Pavilion

Treat your Valentine, or your entire family, to an evening of magical entertainment on Saturday, February 13.

That's the date of the Poinsettia Pavilion's second annual Evening of Magical Enchantment. The event includes a stage show with three world class professional magicians. In addition, there will be close up magicians performing in the audience.

The bill includes comedy magician Shawn McMaster, a native son of Ventura, whose unique brand of magic and mayhem have been featured in appearances on such TV shows as Masters of Illusion and America's Got Talent.

He will be joined by Arthur Trace. Known as The Artful Deceiver, Trace's many awards include Stage Magician of the Year at the famous Magic Castle. He's also a past winner of an international award for magical entertainment that is equal to winning a medal at the entertainment Olympics.

David Zirbel, another performer of global stature, will be presenting his trademark classic magic and illusions. It will be one of his remaining appearances before he departs on another performance tour of Japan.

The entire event will be MC'ed by Ventura's own Dan "Pizza Man Dan" Collier.

Prior to the stage show and during intermission, guests will be entertained by Ventura-based magicians who will be demonstrating close-up effects in the audience. The local magi include Bob Lynn, Jim Spencer, and James Lantiegne, who is the resident magician with White Rabbit Entertainment which also operates the White Rabbit Magic Shop on Portola Street in Ventura.

In addition to the unparalleled magical entertainment, guests will be helping to enhance the Poinsettia Pavilion, since the event is a fund raiser to underwrite improvements at the Pavilion.

The doors open at 7 p.m. Auction items, adult beverages and other refreshments will be available. The show begins at 7:30 p.m.

Advance purchase tickets for this magical experience are $30 for adults and $15 for children 10 and under Tickets are available on line at http://pavetheway.bpt.me or at the Poinsettia Pavilion office. Admission at the door is $35. For information contact 648-1143.

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 4p.m. to 5:45p.m. at the Yolanda's Mexican Restaurant, 2753 Main St. Several people usually stay for a drink and a bite to eat afterward. Be sure to bring an interesting topic to discuss.

Ventura Poinsettia Dance Club meets every Monday from 7:30 p.m. to 9:45p.m. at the Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill. Ballroom, swing, Latin, mixers and line dancing. Members $10, non-members $12, first time dancers are free. Call Rick at 415-8842 for more information.

DBSA Ventura, the local chapter of the Depression & Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA) hosts two regular, confidential, peer-led, self-help support groups in the County. Every Tuesday from 6:30p.m. to 8p.m. at Bible Fellowship Church, 6950 Ralston Street in Room 301 of Building 300. Email DBSA_Ventura@yahoo.com, visit facebook.com/DBSA.Ventura or call 253-3289 for more information.

And 1p.m. to 3p.m. at the New Visions Center in Ventura on the first and third Saturdays of the month. Turning Point Foundation's New Vision Center is located at 1065 E. Main Street. Email DBSA_Ventura@yahoo.com, visit facebook.com/DBSA.Ventura or call 746-3106 for more information.

Feb. 4: Ladies Luncheon eat, meet, greet and shop at one of Ventura's Best Networking Events! 11:30 am - 1pm | Doors open at 11:15 am | $27-$30 at the door. Sit-down luncheon buffet. The Wyndham Garden Pierpont Inn - Pavilion Room , 550 Sanjon Road. Limited seating available so pre-register today! www.theLadiesLuncheon.com

Feb. 5: The First United Methodist Church,1338 E. Santa Clara St. is having a rummage sale on Friday, from 9am-3 & Saturday, February 6 from 9am-noon. There is kitchenware, jewelry, clothing, shoes, toys, linens, bedding, and collectibles. Sat. is $5 Bag Day, everything you can get in a grocery bag is only $5.

Feb. 7: Audubon : 8:00 a.m. Work Day Hedrick Ranch Nature Preserve. Leader Sandy Hedrick 340-0478. Arrive at 8:00 for self-guided birding which usually yields some interesting birds. Work from 9am – noon. Long pants and boots or closed shoes are required.

Feb. 7: Sunday free stage show, Old Time Country Bluegrass Gospel Music Association, 2-4:00 p.m., Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Rd. More Information 517-1131.

Feb. 9: The Ventura County Writers Club will be hosting screenwriter and radio talk-show host David Congalton at the Pleasant Valley Senior Center in Camarillo. Congalton was also the director of the Central Coast Writers Conference for 12 years. The event at 1605 Burnley Street starts at 7pm and is open to the public at no charge. Contact Sheli Ellsworth at 499.3490 for more information.

Feb. 9: Cause Hanna, PhD, Director, Santa Rosa Station will discuss the mission and activities at the Santa Rosa Island Research Station. The research station provides students, faculty, researchers, and our local community with the resources and opportunities to engage in natural and cultural resource based research and education via a partnership between the US National Park Service and CSU Channel Islands. Program will be held at the Poinsettia Pavilion beginning at 7:30pm.

Feb. 10: The Ventura County Camera Club will hold a critique meeting on Wednesday, at 7 p.m. at the Poinsettia Pavilion. 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 "Eyes". 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 908-5663. WWW.VenturaCountyCameraClub.com

Feb. 12: They are back. Rafe Hernandez & The Equinox Ensemble will be entertaining at Squashed Grapes Winery from 7-10pm. Come out and enjoy an evening of straight-ahead and Latin jazz in a cozy and intimate atmosphere at 2351 E. Main. Pizza and Italian food is also available.

Feb. 12: The General George S. Patton, Jr. Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution February luncheon meeting will feature the program "King Philip, the War, and the Chair", presented by genealogist Mr. Ken Lynch. The luncheon event will take place at 11:30 am in the Garden Room, Marie Callender's Restaurant, 1295 S. Victoria. All SAR & DAR Compatriots, friends, and visitors are welcome to attend. The cost for lunch is $20 per person, and includes a slice of pie. For additional information call Bill Bays 650-3036 or Robert Taylor 216-7992. For information regarding SAR membership and chapter activities, please visit the chapter website at http://pattonpatriots.org.

Feb. 13: The Ventura Beginners PC Users Group will meet Saturday, in the third floor lounge of the Cypress Place Independent Senior Living building, 1220 Cypress Point Lane, from 9:15 to noon for workshop and featured speaker. The workshop topic will focus on creating a Word document. The 11:00 program will be Dustin Dugger and Danica Chavez speaking on "Tech Q&A". There will also be an opportunity to ask questions about computer problems for beginners and intermediates. Everyone who would like to know more about their computer is welcome to attend any or all sessions. For more information call Marcie @648-1368.

Feb. 15: Channel Islands Parliamentarians will meet at 7 p.m. and will feature a lesson by Sandra Sanders titled "Let's Get Organized!" CIP meets at the Main Street Restaurant and Steakhouse, 3159 E. Main St. Those wishing to eat should arrive at 6 p.m. Non-members are welcome. Membership is $25 per year. For information Sharon Hillbrant 479-6738.

Feb. 15, Audubon 8:30 a.m. Camino Real Park and Great Backyard Bird Count Leader: Adele Fergusson 415-4304. The Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is an annual citizen science count sponsored by National Audubon Society and Cornell Lab of Ornithology. For the trip, meet at the park at 8:30 a.m. We will begin along Aurora Drive at the east end of the park and walk in.

Feb. 20, Audubon 8:00 a.m. Seal Beach Wildlife Refuge/Bolsa Chica. Leader: Karin Kersteter 901-2203. Joint VAS/CVAS trip – limited to 20 people! Pre-Registration required by Feb 11.

Feb. 21: The Ventura and Santa Barbara County chapter of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors (NAWCC) will meet Sunday in the Campus Student Center of Ventura College, 4667 Telegraph Road. The regular meeting starts at noon and at 11:00 there will be an informal workshop where a topic on clocks or watches will be demonstrated and discussed. There will be a mart where items will be for sale followed by an informational meeting and a program.

Anyone interested in watches and clocks, (modern & antique) is invited to visit and join the chapter. There is a $3 admission charge. Lunch is available for $5 more. More information about chapter 190 can be found at www.nawcc-ch190.com.

Ojai news and events

Ojai City Clerk Rhonda Basore announced this week she will be retiring from the City in April.

Basore currently serves as the elected City Clerk and appointed Records Manager. Basore stated she will be retiring from both positions on April 24. City Manager Robert Clark said he will ask the City Council to discuss how to fill the vacancy at a City Council meeting in February. The City Council, by law, can either appoint a successor to the post of City Clerk or call for a special election to complete the term.

Basore was appointed Records Manager in October 2010 by interim City Manager John Baker. In 2011 the City Council appointed Basore as City Clerk to complete the unexpired term of elected City Clerk Cynthia Burrell. Basore completed that two-year term, then was elected to the post in 2012 to a four-year term.

"Rhonda has been an extraordinarily motivated employee who has initiated numerous ideas to improve our ability to serve the public," said City Manager Robert Clark. "I want to express my thanks and best wishes for her retirement."

Stuart Tower, Ojai author, will read from his books at the Ojai Art Center on Monday, February 8th, at 7 p.m. Tower's latest book, *Branko*, delves into one of his most colorful characters in *The Wayfarers* (The Lighthouse Press, LLC, 2003). *The Wayfarers* is a compelling fictional tale based on the journey of Jewish immigrants from Romania to New York in the early 1900's. Steven Spielberg's praise for Tower's writings: "In today's fast-paced, electronic society, plain old-fashioned, captivating story-telling is rare... Tower has done just that." The event will take

Continued on page 8

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Community Events

The Southern California show of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors (NAWCC) is coming to Ventura. The show which attracts hundreds of vendors and watch and clock collectors will be held at the San Miguel Hall at the Ventura County Fairgrounds on February 19 and 20. A Friday morning program, "Time to Go," featuring traveling time pieces is free and open to the public, as is the Saturday morning program, "Music in Clocks and Clocks in Music." The Friday mart featuring thousands of clocks and watches for sale from vendors from California, Arizona, New Mexico and Nevada is open to members of the NAWCC. The sales floor is open to thepublic on Saturday, from 9am to 3pm. Admission is $5. Bring your clock or watch to the show for a free evaluation. Further information is available on the web at chair2016.com or at nkuns@verizon.net.

Ojai news and events

Continued from page 7

place at the Ojai Art Center, located at 113 S. Montgomery, Ojai. There will be a reception. For more info, call 816-4099.

At the January 12, 2016 meeting the Ojai City Council voted to confirm the ban on transient rental of residential properties in all zones, and directed the City Attorney to prepare a resolution confirming the ban.

A transient rental is the renting or leasing of all or part of any structure for a period of less than 30 days. The ban does not include legally permitted hotels, motels, or bed and breakfasts. The resolution confirming the ban will be considered by the City Council on January 26.

The Ojai Municipal Code provides that land uses not expressly listed in the code are prohibited. Transient rentals are not expressly provided for in any zone. The Municipal Code also grants the Planning Commission the authority to permit a proposed use if it determines that a proposed use is substantially similar to another use listed and consistent with the General Plan. The proposed resolution confirms that transient rentals are not consistent with the General Plan. The proposed resolution includes a $500 per day fine for illegal operation of a transient rental.

Bed and breakfasts are listed as a permitted use in the Business-Professional Zone and a conditional use in the Village Mixed Use and Commercial-1 Zones. The proposed resolution confirms that only Bed and Breakfasts that comply with all federal, state and local rules will be permitted, including full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). This includes the existing code requirement that a Bed and Breakfast provide one parking space for each guest room, and two parking spaces for the resident family, none of which can be in the front yard setback.

At its December 8, 2015 meeting, the City Council directed the City Manager and City Attorney to begin enforcing the ban on transient rentals on February 1, 2016.

The Ojai Photography Club welcomes the return of Ojai based photographer David Baker to their February 16, 2016 meeting. The program begins at 7:00 PM, at Kent Hall, located at Help of Ojai's Little House, 111 Santa Ana St.

Baker will speak on "Luminosity Masks Using Photoshop." This will be a richly informative mini-workshop for photographers interested in advancing their ability to bring out the very best in their images.

Baker is internationally known for his creative website and graphic designs. He is best known in the United States for his web site design for the 1995 Academy Awards, Super Bowl XXX, Microsoft Windows NT site, and the California State Legislature.

After his presentation, Baker will review images submitted by club members. Monthly presentations are part of the Ojai Photography Club's community service outreach and visitors are welcome to attend.

The Ojai Photography Club, which is devoted to education, inspiration, and camaraderie, meets on the third Tuesday of each month, February – November. Only members may submit images for review. For additional information please visit: www.ojaiphotoclub.com/.

Mailbox

Continued from page 5

and am convinced that it is leading to a potential radical change in our community.

The situation where a number of the communities along the California coast are adopting regulations much stricter than Ventura inevitably will lead to Ventura becoming the center for short term rentals with all the issues that are involved. It seems to me that we have a situation where we have an ordinance that is basically un-understandable and which many people believe allows a revolving door allowing rentals pretty much all the time including every weekend.

Enforcement , including noise complaints, seems to not only rely on neighbors complaining , but also finding someone to complain to. If the city has an administrator for this area, and it's not clear that there is anyone since Janie Dunn retired, the person doesn't work weekends as far as we know, when they are most needed. Also, even though there are regulations it's impossible for the neighbors to really tell how many people are occupying a house.

Most cities have recognized these problems and have taken steps which include longer minimum rental periods to eliminate large one night parties and to attract more families. This community is a residential community and I can't think of anything that will change its character more than the transient nature of short term rentals. This may be our last chance to save our community from major deterioration and we should not let it pass without making the strongest effort possible.
Stefanie Roth-Ventura

Hi Sheldon,

Read your note in the Breeze on homeless in Ventura, with some folks making comments they should somehow be removed, despite fact many homeless in our community are not breaking the law...

It appears some in the Community do not consider fact the City has limited amount of resources to better help unfortunate homeless people in our community.

One way to help generate more funds that could be allocated to helping the homeless among other services, without raising local sales tax, is to entice all the many long-time local-yokel home owners in Ventura, who have lived in the same home for decades, (in some cases even willed to them through relatives) who contribute substantially less in property taxes per year than more recent home buyers due to Prop 13, to either pony up some voluntary contributions to help the homeless and fund a fairer share for local schools, roads and other basic services, or sell their homes at substantial profit, reinvest equity proceeds to purchase another local home, and if none of that suits, bugger on out... In addition, the Community needs to be open to build more upscale homes, which can generate substantially higher property tax base needed to fund services.

Prop 13 has negative side effects on some local communities in the State of California. Communities, including in Ventura County, that have higher property purchase turnover rates, generally have a continual higher property tax base of funds to work with, due to Prop 13. Communities like City of Ventura, which has a more static long time local yokel homeowner population, (many of whom are anti-growth / development) suffer due to lower, more static property tax bases. Even though only 16% of the property tax dollar may go to local coffers, 16% of $10k property tax per year pays a hell of a lot more local bills than a relatively paltry 16% of $1k or less...

What ends up happening in communities like local-yokel retro dominated Ventura, is the City Government is constantly on the prowl looking for ways to increase income, whether through parking fees, local sales tax increases or heaven only knows what, to support basic services that the existing local population does not contribute enough through percentage of property taxes to fund in the first place...
Sincerely,
Cris Sabo-Ventura

We received this correction (Even we make mistakes).

The photo and caption associated with your article of Jan. 20, 2016 about the Ventura Homeless Prevention Fund were not, in fact, related to the article.

The Ventura Homeless Prevention Fund keeps people who are currently housed from becoming homeless, which is the least expensive and most effective way to end homelessness. Every penny donated to the Fund goes directly to keeping people who are housed, in their homes.

Other agencies work with individuals and families who are experiencing homelessness.

Community Events

A ribald, raucous and politically incorrect good time.

A Funny Thing Happened at the Scherr Forum

by Sheli Ellsworth

Opening night at *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum* by the Cabrillo Music Theatre was a ribald, raucous and politically incorrect good time. Utilizing vaudevillian humor and burlesque bawdry, the cast launched the tale of Roman slave Pseudolus scheming his way to freedom with veteran showman Nick Santa Maria playing Pseudolus. Santa Maria led the comedic charge brilliantly. Flanked by the hysterical Larry Raben as Hysterium, the two ingenious funnymen had the audience in stitches for the entire two acts while they ad-libbed at will. Andrew Metzger as Marcus Lycus, "the merchant of love, gentlemen and procurer," introduced his own fresh conviviality as the flesh peddler next door.

The classic song, "Everybody Ought to have a Maid," was an instant audience favorite explaining the neighborhood courtesans were merely maids. However, choreographer John Charron did due diligence to disclaim this when the courtesans took the stage. Adeptly directed by Ovation winner Lewis Wilkenfeld, the entire cast ticked off exact comedic timing leaving no moment without hilarity. Look for mistaken identities, long lost children and blackmail!

The musical farce runs through Sunday, February 14, making it the perfect sweetheart date. Performances are Thursdays at 7:30 p.m., Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays at 2 p.m. There is an additional matinee with free parking on February 10 at 1 p.m. Tickets are on sale at the Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza Box Office at 2100 Thousand Oaks Blvd. They can also be purchased at www.cabrillomusictheatre.com or by calling (800) 745-3000.

The Ventura Breeze, Jaime Baker and the lady with no name will be there.

Earth Day Eco Fest Vendor / Sponsor registration open

Preparations have begun for Ventura's 9th Annual Earth Day Eco Fest, to be held Saturday, April 23rd from 10am to 5pm at Promenade Park. Exhibitor booths are available for organizations and businesses to spread their green and sustainable messages with a public that cares. "We are focused on making a positive change locally and globally. It's the perfect setting to connect with eco minded people in our community," says Event Chair, Toni Guy. The success of the festival would not be possible without our sponsors, whose support allows the festival to offer free admission. For Exhibitor Booths and Sponsorship opportunities visit www.venturaearthday.org.

"In our ninth year, the Ventura Eco Fest has grown into one of the most successful, highly attended events in the region. People come back each year because of our great vendors, live entertainment and fun family activities," says Guy. The festival brings the community together to have fun, connect with environmentally-minded organizations and businesses and to appreciate Ventura's spectacular natural surroundings. The festival has grown from being a school fundraiser to an award-winning community event, attracting approximately 5,000 visitors and features 100 exhibitors.

The festival is hosted by the Ventura Charter School of Arts and Global Education in cooperation with the City of Ventura. Profits from the day-long event go toward funding enrichment programs for Kindergarten through eighth-grade students at the tuition-free public school.

With 23 years in the auto industry, 18 of those in the commercial truck and fleet end Hector Cristena-Cruz has decided to take on a new Location and has accepted a position as Commercial Fleet Account Manager at Paradise Chevrolet in Ventura. Hector will be working with the same companies, cities, county agencies, school districts and individuals that he's had in the Los Angeles area, And now is here to provide all Ventura County with the full line of Chevrolet trucks, custom utility vehicles, vans, SUV's and automobiles for your fleet or personal use.

Barbara Meister from the Face Of Ventura *portrait series by Johanna Spinks.*

Benefactors' Ball to honor physicians and community leader Barbara Meister

The Community Memorial Healthcare Foundation is holding its 43rd Benefactors' Ball on Saturday, April 16, with proceeds benefitting the new Community Memorial Hospital.

At this event, three notable individuals will be recognized with the prestigious Cephas Bard Award, named after the founder of the first Community Memorial Hospital. Awardees to be recognized at this event are: CMH Physician – Dr. Thomas F. Golden, CMH Retired Physician – Dr. William L. Hart, and Community Member of the Year – Barbara Meister.

Festivities begin at 6 p.m. at O'Brien Hall at Historic Mission San Buenaventura. Dinner is set for 7 p.m., with dancing and music at 8 p.m. The evening is black tie optional.

The event represents an opportunity for residents to support community-based healthcare. The new Community Memorial Hospital will feature advanced medical technology, all private rooms and a considerably larger emergency department.

For information, tickets or sponsorship, visit www.benefactorsball.org, or call the foundation office at 667-2881.

Startup book clubs forming at Bank of Books

Seven new book clubs are starting at Book Club Headquarters in Bank of Books in Ventura. Join one of the startup book clubs and receive your first book for free!

Owner Clarey Rudd states "this is a great way to meet new people, which often in a book club, can lead to long-time friendships. This is very safe time to become involved when everyone will be new in these groups."

Manager of Bank of Books, Rob, indicates that the book clubs will start in the month of March, so now is the time to pick up the book for the group they will participate in. Nancy, the Book Club Organizer, is available to discuss book club startups with people wanting to start their own unique book club. If people need training to start a book club, this service is also available.

A 'Harry Potter Book Club' will begin in March and meet regularly for 6 months.

Each Book Club will meet in the Living Room downstairs at Bank of Books 748 E. Main, Ventura.

Nancy encourages ones to come and sign-up now to reserve your space, as each group will be limited in size. (The first person to sign up gets to pick the day/time of the meeting.) Each book club will meet monthly with a new book being discussed.

Contact Rob Radford or Nancy Buchanan 643-3154 for more information.

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Unfortunately, Meghan's journey at the center did not have a happy ending.

The City Center: A place for second chances

by Mira Reverente

When it rains, it pours. Blessings, that is. That pretty much sums up the past year for Meghan Long, a single mom of twin young boys.

Divorced, broke and in treatment for substance abuse, the 32-year-old's future was uncertain for a while. One step at a time, she tackled her issues, starting with a detox program, at Prototypes. "The program provided me with some much-needed structure," says Long of her four-month stint at the women's treatment center off of Victoria Avenue.

"We got up at the same time every day, completed our chores and attended classes, meetings or counseling sessions regularly," she says. "We had to 'act' like we were getting ready to go to work every day."

Upon "graduation" from the program, Long tackled her housing situation next and was fortunate to land a spot at The City Center, a transitional living center for families, along Thompson Boulevard.

"It's a working program for families in transition," says Jim Duran, executive director of the center. "It's for adults with children and the adults are required to get a job within 30 days."

That is exactly what Long accomplished in the first month of her stay. As a server at a local restaurant, she works Monday to Friday, while the boys are in pre-school. Occasionally, she'll pick up an evening or weekend shift, if her mom or dad can watch the boys.

For some of them with little or no financial literacy training, a few concepts like savings, budgeting and bill-paying are new. "The residents are required to allocate 30% of their pay for rent, 20% for savings and the remainder for groceries and other day-to-day expenses," says Duran. "We help them come up with a budget and we teach them the concept of interest - how their savings can grow in interest-bearing accounts."

The young mom appreciates all the new life skills she's picking up, including time management and personal accountability. She says, "We rotate through chores. This week, I'm supposed to sweep the laundry room."

"We also have to be home by 9 pm every day," she says of the curfew. "I don't mind because it's so peaceful and safe in here."

For anything and everything, the residents get support from the staff. Olga Hamra is a case manager who screens and interviews potential residents and helps them get settled once they're in.

"We talk about anything and I help them process whatever issues they're facing," she says. "In situations like Meghan's, stress and anxiety are fairly common."

Unfortunately, Long's journey at the center did not have a happy ending. She was evicted right around the holidays for breaking the rules.

"She had just earned a weekend pass," says Duran, explaining that residents earn weekend passes by completing assigned chores, achieving set goals - a reward for good behavior basically.

Long was given a second chance but had to make some amends by attending a couple of meetings. "She dragged her feet with the process," says Duran. "So we had to let her go."

He says, "We're all about chances and we're in it for people to win, but they need to do their part. They also need to learn that there are consequences to their actions."

Meantime, another resident has taken Long's place, joining many others on the journey to independence, full of promise and potential. Good wishes and high hopes abound at the center.

For more information on The City Center, visit thecitycenter.org.

News & Notes

April Davis leads the gathering in song at a Candlelight Memorial Service at Cypress Place Senior Living. The touching service was in honor of those who are no longer with us but are forever present in our hearts. Photo by Michael Gordon.

April Davis: gifted and giving

by Victoria Usher

I think we can all agree that music is something very special that can change people's lives in so many indescribable ways. It can turn strangers into friends or even bring happiness and comfort during times of sadness. When someone has a voice that has the ability to bring that type of joy to people's lives then that is truly a gift that should be shared with the world. Nineteen year old April Davis has been gifted with a beautiful singing voice, one which she happily and passionately uses to touch the lives of people of all ages.

What makes April so unique and special is the fact that she is able to reach the elderly and the Veterans with her singing at such a young age. Listening to songs that she hears in old movies makes her want to learn how to sing them, and when she finally does she sings them so wonderfully.

Singing the old time songs that April loves has helped her to create a strong connection with the elderly in town including the Alzheimer/Dementia units at the Memory Care Unit at Cypress Place. She sings regularly at Oxnard Family Circle and Cypress Place, but she has also sung at local assisted living facilities such as The Bonaventure, The Lexington, The Palms, and The Gables.

April has shared her love for singing with many people; she was a winner of the 2014 La Estrella singing contest at the Pacific View Mall, a finalist for the 805's Got Talent competition, she sang at the Ventura High Auditorium for the Festival of Talent, and she sang for an organization at the Fess Parker Doubletree in Santa Barbara. She has sung the National Anthem at Ventura College football stadium for various events, at her middle school, at her high school graduation, and before the political dignitaries at various Veteran events. And at the Pacific View Mall for Livingston Memorial VNA's annual Light Up A Life.

Singing has been a very large part of April's life since she was eight years old. There was an American Idol Contest at her after school program at Las Posas Child Care Center and she advanced to the final round, but April made the mature decision to sign up for vocal lessons instead even though she did win runner up.

April was first taught the Speech Leveling Singing method from her voice instructor Kathleen Kernohan. She now

Continued on page 19

California Attorney General Kamala Harris (center) was the guest of honor at the recent annual meeting and board election of the Ventura County Women's Political Council held at the Pierpont Inn. Harris just announced that she's running for Barbara Boxer's US Senate seat. Flanking her are Solair Kargodorian (left) and Thousand Oaks City Council candidate Angie Simpson (right).

Senior Living

Pull Out Section

Dr. Shah smiles when he remembers why he went into medicine.

Ventura Vein Center set to heal

by Gail Field

"There are 25 million people in the US with inadequate medical care for problems with veins, such as varicose veins, ulcers and other venous disease." The major challenge for medical community is to identify these patients and refer them to vein specialists. Dr. Haimesh Shah has addressed this problem for Ventura County residents by establishing the Ventura Vein Center. "We are the only comprehensive vein center in Ventura County dedicated exclusively in the diagnose and treatment of venous disorders," he says, "and we are committed to provide high quality care by offering personalized evaluation and treatment."

Dr. Shah smiles when he remembers why he went into medicine. "In medicine, I get to participate in doing something good for people. There is no greater joy than the one you feel when you manage to help patients with chronic venous disease."

Dr. Shah describes the Ventura Vein Center, founded just a year ago, with enthusiasm. "Treatments for varicose and spider veins are minimally invasive, relatively painless with very few side effects. They are performed in the privacy and comfort of our clinic, under local anesthesia. Patients are able to walk immediately after the procedure and most individuals are able to return to work the same day."

Venous disease is a chronic, progressive disease, and patients need to get early medical attention. There are multiple stages of venous disease. "Working in hospital settings, I have noticed that when patients come in for treatment, they are often already in the late stages of the disease. Vein problems occur due to weakened vein wall and damaged vein valves. The risk factors include age, family history, pregnancy, standing for long periods, abdominal straining, and obesity. As a result, patients suffer from leg cramps, leg heaviness, aching pain, burning, itching, leg swelling, numbness in the legs, darkening of the skin and skin ulcers. Here at the Ventura Vein Center our goal is to help people heal by providing early treatment to slow the progression of the disease, allowing them to enjoy greater comfort and a healthier lifestyle. We are here to provide a complete service to help patients by providing compassionate and comprehensive treatment."

Dr. Shah has extensive experience treating patients with vein problems, including venous insufficiency related ulcers. Dr. Shah serves as a Medical Director for Hyperbaric Medicine and Wound Healing Center at St. John's Hospitals. In addition, Dr. Shah has served as a committee member for the Department of Medicine at St. John's hospitals in 2013 and 2014. He is an active staff member at St. John's Regional Medical Center (Oxnard), St. John's Pleasant Valley Hospital (Camarillo) and Los Robles Hospital and Medical Center (Thousand Oaks).

The Ventura Vein Clinic has two state-of-the-art locations: Ventura and Camarillo. The website is www.venturavein.com and features helpful information to prospective patients. The Ventura clinic is located at 2991 Loma Vista Rd., Suite A103. Phone: 484-4625. The clinic is open Monday -- Friday from 8 am to 5 pm. Consultations in Spanish and English are available.

Health Insurance Counseling and Advocacy Program

"Are you a Target of Healthcare Fraud?" Protect yourself from Medicare Fraud. What are the Free Preventive Services? How will Extra Income Work for you? Tuesday, February 9, Ventura Avenue Adult Center, 550 North Ventura Avenue, Ventura, 12:30pm to 1:30pm.

For more information on the presentations contact HICAP at 1-800-434-0222.

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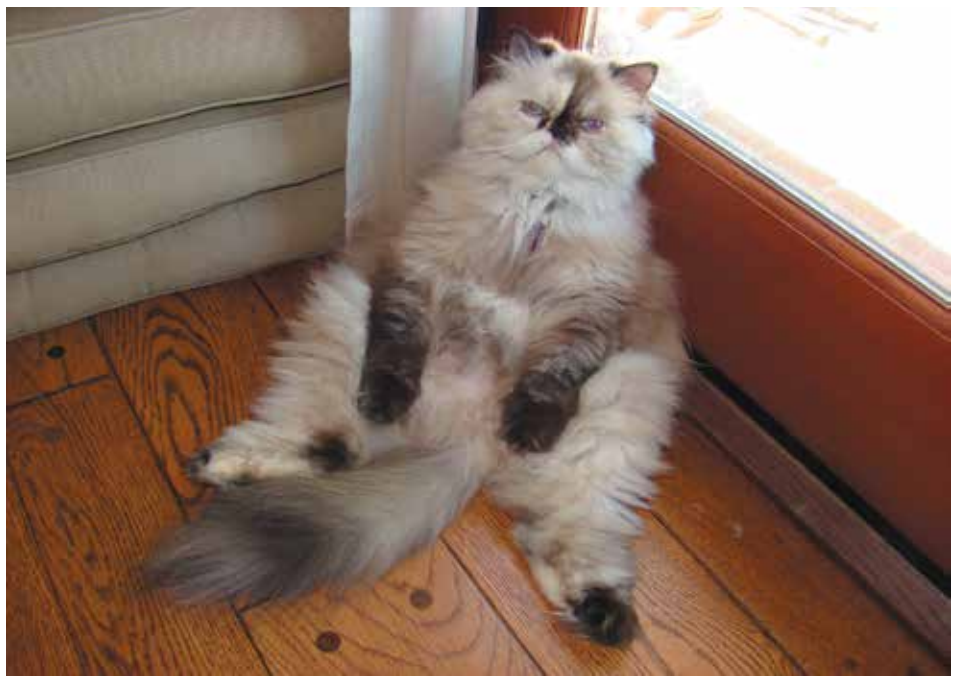
Senior Living



Pets can provide emotional and physical benefits. Savana even helps Scamp emotionally when he misses a meal.

A Tender Touch Senior Placement

Benefits of pets to elderly love ones

by Connie De La Rosa

Sometimes, as seniors age, they become more withdrawn, losing the desire and ability to develop new relationships. Pets offer needed companionship, but they can increase the quantity and the quality of social interactions among their owners. Seniors who are pet owners, engage in more frequent conversations and focus on current interests and activities, which can bring unity because of other senior friends or neighbors who share common interest with their pets.

Pets can provide the emotional and physical benefits associated with pet therapy. Fish, birds, and other animals can reduce loneliness and bring healthy behaviors as well. It can bring motivation because of the responsibility involved in caring for a pet and for those who have dogs, pet owners must take their dogs out for a daily walking which encourages the senior to also get out for that daily walk.

Things to consider when choosing a pet:

Type of pet. Give careful thought to what would be the right kind of pet for you or your loved one's lifestyle and activity level. Dogs can make wonderful companions but demand greater care and training than cats, birds, or fish.

Future situations. Choose a pet that's good for both your current circumstances and what's may occur in the future. Are you planning to stay in the same place for many years, or will you be making a transition to an assisted-living facility? Some retirement communities have regulations that would affect the type of pet you could bring with you but most small animals are welcomed with a pet deposit fee.

Allergy considerations. People with allergies should be cautious when choosing a pet.

Cost. Seniors living on a fixed income must consider vet bills, meds, food and or litter care/cost.

Contingency plan for care. Make sure to plan for the pet's future in the event that you or your loved one is no longer able to care properly for the animal. Also, be sure to be prepared for the sense of loss that this can bring. For many who have come to depend on their pets for companionship, attention will be essential.

Make sure the congress is taking care of your needs.

5 ways congress can support seniors in 2016

In his final State of the Union address, President Obama called on Congress to strengthen Social Security and Medicare for all Americans. The National Council on Aging (NCOA), the nation's leading advocate for older adults, offers five ways Congress can further support seniors this year.

"Older Americans deserve the support of their families, their communities, and their government to age independently and with dignity," said Howard Bedlin, NCOA Vice President of Public Policy & Advocacy. "We made important progress in 2015, but there is still work to be done on behalf of our nation's seniors, especially those who are struggling. We are ready to work with Congress to find bipartisan solutions."

In 2016, NCOA urges Congress to:

1. Renew the Older Americans Act (OAA) and Elder Justice Act (EJA)

Renewing the OAA and EJA—both overdue for reauthorization—will strengthen and modernize aging services to meet the diverse needs of the growing older population. The OAA funds critical, cost-effective programs, including job training and placement under the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), health promotion and disease prevention, senior nutrition, senior centers, caregiver support, and more. The EJA provides for a nationally coordinated, multidisciplinary approach to the silent crisis of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

Senior Living

2. Restore investments in aging services

Community services help older adults improve their health and economic security, allowing them to stay independent and avoid costly care. Yet, investments in these services have failed to keep up with costs and the rapid growth in the senior population Despite recent relief from budget caps, FY16 non-defense discretionary funding remains 12% below its FY10 level, and FY17 funding will fall to an historic low as a share of the economy, resulting in service reductions and growing waiting lists for older adults and their families.

3. Advance legislation to improve access to Medicaid home and community-based services and finance long-term care (LTC)

The number of Americans needing LTC will more than double as the baby boomers age. Medicare does not cover it, and private LTC insurance is unaffordable for most. Seniors often have to spend-down their life savings into poverty before getting help from Medicaid—which has an institutional bias, with mandatory nursing home but optional home care coverage. Several Medicaid reforms to promote access to home care have or will expire, including Money Follows the Person, which expires this year, and the Balancing Incentives Programs, which expired last year.

4. Improve chronic care under Medicare

The vast majority of older adults cope with multiple chronic conditions, which account for 95% of their health care costs. Last year, the Senate Finance Committee formed a bipartisan Chronic Care Work Group, co-chaired by Sens. Johnny Isakson (R-GA) and Mark Warner (D-VA) to improve chronic care for Medicare beneficiaries.

5. Introduce legislation to address the Medicare low-income protection cliff

For Americans under age 65 receiving health insurance through the Marketplaces, eligibility for cost-sharing assistance is set at incomes below 138% of poverty, with no asset test. Yet for those on Medicare, eligibility for this assistance is set at 100% of poverty, with a stringent asset test that penalizes those who do the right thing by saving. At the same time, the average Medicare household spent 14% of total costs on health care in 2012, while non-Medicare households spent just 5%. Beneficiaries with incomes between 100% and 200% of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL) feel the heaviest burden of out-of-pocket health care spending.

To learn more about the pressing senior issues Congress can address this year and how to take action, sign up for NCOA's advocacy alerts.The National Council on Aging (NCOA) Learn more at ncoa.org and @NCOAging.

"What happens when I can't take care of myself?"

The Ventura Parkinson's Support Group will host Debra Mansfield, Owner of The Lynd Group at their meeting Wednesday, February 10, from 1:00 to 3:00 pm at The Lexington Assisted Living, 5440 Ralston St., Ventura. Public welcome, no admission fee.

The best time to talk and plan for long term care is before you need it. Over 70% of Americans over the age of 65 will need care and the average stay in a care facility is 3 years; will Medicare cover that cost and if not, what can one do to protect one's finances? Come explore the ins and outs of "Long Term Care", care giving choices, and alternatives at this meeting.

Debra has very recent personal experience with "the assisted living care system" and has the most recent developments in long term care to share with us. She and The Lynd Group have been helping the community plan for their financial futures since 2009. Debra also has a personal connection to Parkinson's disease.

Please check in at the front desk for directions and sign-in. Extra parking is graciously available across the street from the Lexington in the Baptist Church parking lot. Call 766-6070 for further information. Reservations are not required.

Free monthly education classes

Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurse Association supports the total well-being of our community. As part of their services, they host free monthly education classes throughout the county which include the following in Ventura.

Ventura: Adult Bereavement Support Group Wednesdays, February 3, 10, 17, and 24 from 6:30-8:00 pm at Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurse Association office, 1996 Eastman Ave., Suite 109. These groups are open to individuals who have experienced loss and are free of charge. Call 642-0239 for more information or email griefinfo@livingstonvna.org.

Ventura: Newly Bereaved Support Group Thursday, February 11th from 6-7:30 pm at Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurse Association office, 1996 Eastman Ave., Suite 109. This monthly group is designed for adults who have recently experienced the loss of a loved one and is free. Call 642-0239 for more information or email griefinfo@livingstonvna.org. These groups meet every 2nd Thursday of each month.

Ventura: Tuesday, February 2nd from 1-2:30pm at Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurse Association, 1996 Eastman Ave, Suite 109. These meetings are held on 1st Tuesday of each month. General information is provided about Type 2 Diabetes with emphasis on the development of an individualized plan of care that includes diet, medication, exercise and blood sugar monitoring. Call 642-0239 for more information.

Ventura: Thursday, February 4th from 1:00-2:00pm at Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurse Association offices, in the Community Room at 1996 Eastman Avenue, Suite 109 in Ventura. You will learn what to expect before, during and after knee or hip replacement surgery and how to be an active participant in your care. These meetings are 1st Thursday of each month. For information or to RSVP call Dinah Davis at (805) 642-0239 ext. 739.

Ventura: Monday, February 8th for both English and Spanish speaking. English 4:00-5:00pm and Spanish 5:30-6:30pm at Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurse Association offices, in the Community Room at 1996 Eastman Avenue, Suite 109 in Ventura. You will learn what to expect before, during and after knee or hip replacement surgery and how to be an active participant in your care. For information or to RSVP call Dinah Davis at 642-0239 ext. 739.

Senior Living

Rita Solomon Kovacs, Patrick Treacy and Colleen Conboy make Treacy Villa a wonderful place to live.

Decades of heartfelt care the hallmark of Ventura's Treacy Villa

by Karen Helen Szatkowski

Treacy Villa, on the corner of Mills and Loma Vista, is a landmark of some note in our fair city. Established in 1987 by Mr. Patrick Treacy, it has taken on the challenge of caring for our aging population and has provided a uniquely warm family setting for the residents.

The care provided ranges from temporary stay, assisted living, diet management, memory care, diabetic management, hospice and respite care. Throughout the facility there are unusual framed collections of locks and latches on the walls for manipulation by the residents that enjoy some tactile activity. The rooms are airy and well-kept and the atmosphere is homey, cheerful and serene.

The facility houses 49 residents with rarely an empty bed. The exceptional aspect of Treacy Villa is the founder, Patrick Treacy, who visits daily for breakfast and lunch, hugging residents and greeting the staff members with his Irish charm and wit as well. Treacy left Ireland as a young twenty-two year old and found his way into caregiving and the startup of a facility in Santa Barbara until permanently settling in Ventura. He tells everyone that asks that he is married to Treacy Villa and its residents. Many of these have been Ventura notables in our community.

The money matters aspect of eldercare is paramount and increasingly troublesome. To combat this as much as possible for the residents, Treacy Villa's fee system is All Inclusive (with the exception of medicine.) The residents and their families also receive a quarterly newsletter with pithy quotes and detailed "what's going on" at the Villa. Any visiting relative or friend can spend significant time with the staff and or Mr. Treacy to fully understand the care they are providing for their loved one.

The leadership of the facility includes Treacy's "right hand" Colleen Conboy, Administrator and "left hand" Sarah Stonebraker, Director of Resident Care Services.

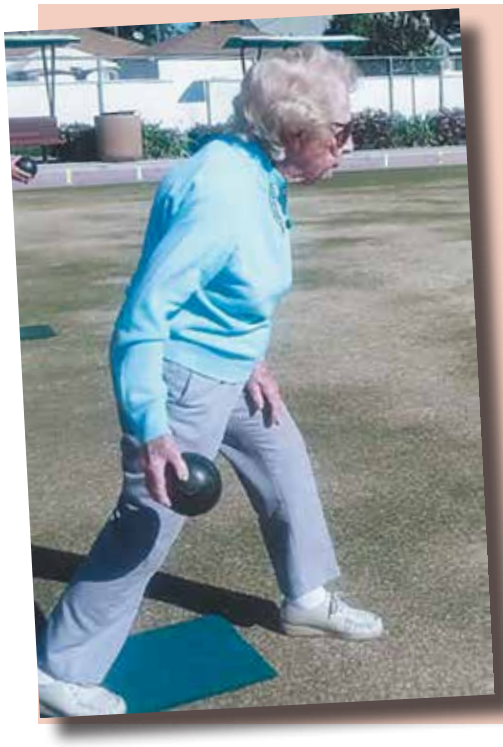
Rita Solomon Kovacs is the Marketing Director.

These women have not years but decades with Treacy Villa and will, without provocation, expound on the highest quality of care that is provided and the outstanding staff retention. These attributes flow directly, they say, from the commitment and concern that Mr. Treacy wakes with every day as he contemplates his duties at the Villa.

Patrick Treacy stated "Working with the elderly was not my goal, but every day, every smile since has told me I am blessed to be able to make a difference in these people's lives."

Coleen Conboy went on to say "When we see our families relax, we've done something good." And Rita Solomon-Kovacs, "Treacy Villa is truly an exceptional find. Stop by to see us, you will be glad you did!"

3482 Loma Vista, Ventura 644-1292



Edith Dowsing celebrated her 100th birthday with her friends from the Oxnard Joslyn Lawn Bowling Club on Monday, January 18. She and her husband, Reg Dowsing, were founding members of the club in 1986. Originally from England she is an avid golfer, pool player and lawn bowler.

Do your kids know what all of these meds are for?

Why Create a Family Health History?

A family health history is a written record of a family's health. The history contains information about a family's medical conditions, lifestyle habits (for example, whether anyone in the family has smoked), and where and how family members grew up. It's like a family tree for health.

What a Family Health History May Reveal

You can use a family health history to see if you, your children, or your grandchildren might face an increased risk of developing serious health problems. These health problems might be common ones, such as heart disease, cancer, or diabetes. They could also be less common diseases that are passed from one generation to the next, such as hemophilia or sickle cell anemia.

People can't change the genes they inherit from their parents, but they can change things like diet, physical activity, and medical care to try to prevent diseases that run in the family. This is good news because many diseases result from a combination of a person's genes, lifestyle, and environment.

Actions That May Reduce Disease Risk

A health care professional can use a family health history to help assess a person's risk of certain diseases. The professional might recommend actions to lower the chance of getting those diseases.

Actions to reduce the risk of disease may involve:

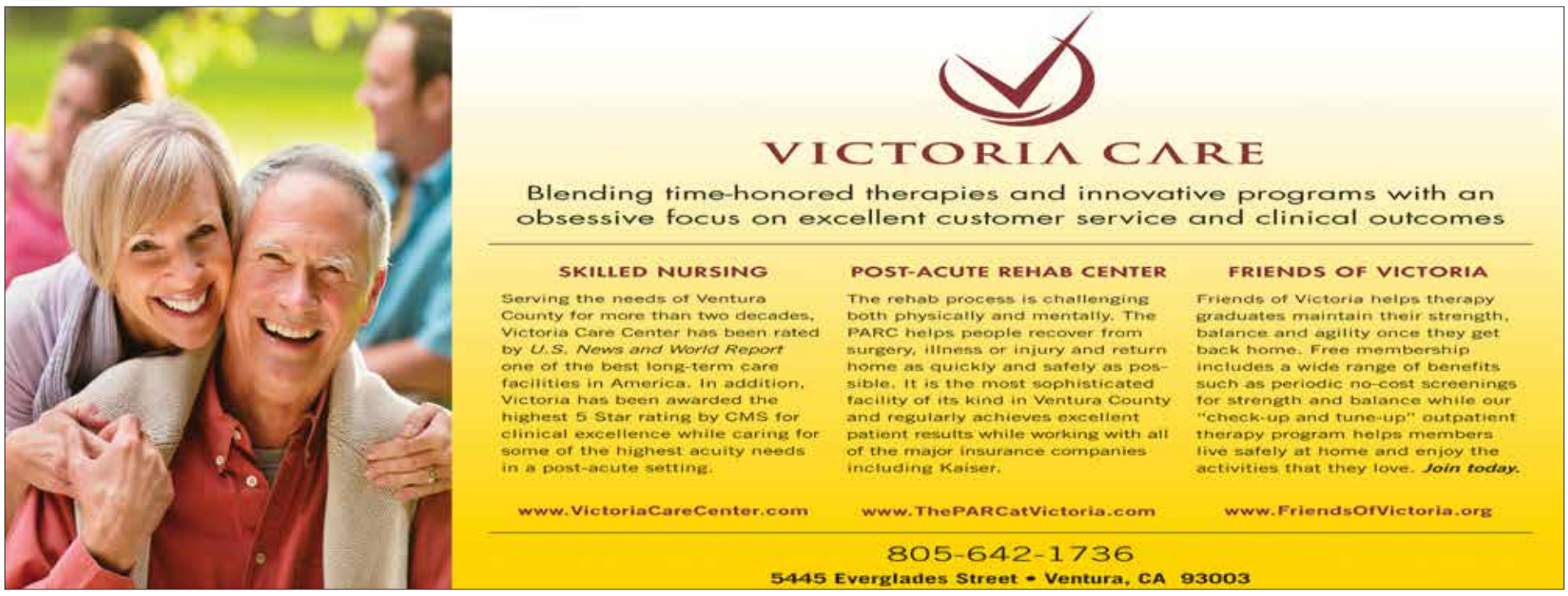
lifestyle changes, such as eating healthier foods or exercising more
getting certain medical tests
taking medicines that are more effective based on your specific genes.

For example, a son with a family history of diabetes might be told to lose weight and exercise more. A daughter who is considering having a baby might get tested to see if she carries a gene for a rare condition that runs in the family.

How You and Your Family May Benefit

For older adults, a family health history might help explain why you have developed certain health conditions. But it is important to know that simply getting older increases the risk of many diseases, too.

Creating and sharing your family health history with your health care professional can help you be healthier. But perhaps the biggest benefit is providing information that may help your children and grandchildren live longer, healthier lives.



News & Notes

Community members and church leaders came together Thursday morning, January 29th, at the River Community Church to support the "Life Worth Living" breakfast and information meeting of The City Center Transitional Living. The breakfast was planned and presented by Executive Director °Pastor Jim Duran. Some of those in attendance were Lori Harasta, Stephanie Caldwell, President and CEO of the Ventura Chamber of Commerce; Steve Bennett, Ventura County Supervisor; Christy Weir and Carl Morehouse, Ventura City Council members and Cheryl Heitmann, former mayor and council member, who all pledged to help address the homelessness issue. Current residents brought some members of the audience to tears with stories of their struggles and success. The City Center currently houses about a dozen adults and their children, who are in transition. During the 12 to 18-month program, the residents work on two main goals: gainful employment and permanent housing. The City Center is located at 837 E. Thompson. www.theciitycenter.org

Earthscape art project led by sand artist, Andres Amador. Photo by John Ferritto.

VVCB in the news

The Ventura Visitors & Convention Bureau (VVCB) is excited to announce that they have been named finalists for the 'Commitment to Community' award in Visit California's 2016 Poppy Awards.

This special project is being recognized by Visit California at the Poppy Awards and Industry Recognition Gala Feb. 23 in Oakland, when the winners will be revealed.

The Visit California Poppy Awards are a biennial contest that honors the best and brightest of California tourism promotion. Winners will be selected by a panel of industry marketing experts in 10 categories ranging from best public relations campaign, to best digital campaign to best regional collaborative marketing campaign.

VVCB entered the awards based on Ventura's first temporary earthscape art project led by sand artist, Andres Amador. This project was innovative and creative from the start.

The Board of Ventura Visitors & Convention Bureau (VVCB) is pleased to announce a title change for Executive Director, Marlyss Auster. Effective immediately, Ms. Auster's title will be President and CEO. Board Chairperson, Nancy Pedersen, stated "This title is more consistent with industry standards as tracked by Destination Marketing Association of the West, and warranted based on Ms. Auster's stellar work at VVCB."

Ms. Auster joined VVCB as Executive Director three years ago. In that time she has revamped and revitalized the organization by building a strong, enthusiastic team that, under her leadership, operates in an environment where new ideas and creativity flourish. That team has put VVCB at the forefront of driving tourism to Ventura and has worked to develop and strengthen partnerships with all stakeholders involved in that effort.

Ms. Auster's decision to involve stakeholders to develop VVCB's branding set the pace for VVCB's overall strategy to grow partnerships and value community collaboration to promote Ventura. Ms. Auster also led efforts to bring sand artist Andres Amador to Ventura to create temporary earthscape art that introduced VVCB's new branding and created opportunities for community ownership and engagement.

Ms. Auster is highly respected in the industry and was recently elected President of the Central Coast Tourism Council (CCTC). She also was instrumental in gaining Ventura recognition as a finalist for Sunset Magazine's Travel Awards Municipal Makeover category.

Professor Scamp, Ph.D (Pretty Happy Dog)

Professor Scamp
Ph.D

■ The connection between animal cruelty and domestic violence is well-documented. Abusers often harm pets to intimidate and control their victims or to prevent them from leaving. Too often, victims of domestic violence stay in dangerous relationships and delay seeking help out of fear for the safety of the pets they must leave behind. Even though I think it is wonderful that they want to protect their animals it is still very sad.

In order to protect domestic violence victims and their pets, 28 states, as well as the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico, have enacted laws that allow courts to include pets in domestic violence protection orders.

To expand to all states the federal protections offered in the Pet and Women Safety Act of 2015(PAWS Act) Sponsored by Rep. Clark, Katherine M. [D-MA-5] will help victims of domestic violence and their pets escape abusive environments and seek the safety and shelter they need. This bipartisan legislation will make crossing state lines to injure a pet an offense punishable by up to five years in prison. The bill will also allow victims to recover veterinary costs and will establish grants to help house victims and their at-risk pets.

In the latest action, on March 31, 2015 it was referred to the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security, and Investigations. Don't they have a committee on cruelty to animals?

Please urge your representative (Hannah-Beth Jackson 805-988-1940) to support this important bill by placing a phone call to her office.

Here is a sample script you can use when speaking to the receptionist: "Hi, this is Scamp and I am your constituent residing in Ventura. I'm calling today to urge Senator Jackson to support S.1559, the Pet and Women Safety Act, to protect victims of domestic violence and their pets. Thank you."

■ In cities' across the nation, we see recurring issues that prevent willing pet adopters from adopting pets or keeping their adopted animals in their homes. Here are some of the most common reasons that family-pets end up in the shelter system:

Many people don't know that most adoption agencies provide some free services for eligible pet parents. Caring for a pet can be costly, and in some instances, cost-prohibitive. Legal and community requirements such as vaccinations and registration fees can cost money, as can services necessary for the pet's wellbeing. Depending on an animal's age or medical issues, things like spay/neuter surgery, x-rays, blood tests or routine vet check-ups can add up. The high expense of owning a pet often leads people to relinquish animals to the shelter system; they simply can't afford the cost of care.

Excessive noise, pawing, jumping, energy and destruction are all challenging traits that are common in many pets(certainly not me, I am a pussy-cat like Savana). With a bit of time and dedication on both the pet and parent's part, these behavioral issues can be trained or managed—however, many pet parents don't know how to go about finding the resources to fix the problem. The lack of awareness and access to behavioral training are often leading pets back into shelters, and out of loving homes.

Unfortunately, there are many rental properties or communities that restrict the pets that residents can have. Some areas have weight restrictions (good thing that I am on a diet), while others have breed restrictions which could exclude dogs like pit bulls, Rottweilers and Doberman Pinschers. For pet parents relocating to restrictive housing like this, their only option may be to make the heartbreaking decision to relinquish their pets to local animal shelters. In addition, prospective pet parents who already live in restrictive housing will be limited to certain types of animals when adopting—ultimately putting a strain on the animal shelters in those communities.

■ **by Victoria Usher**

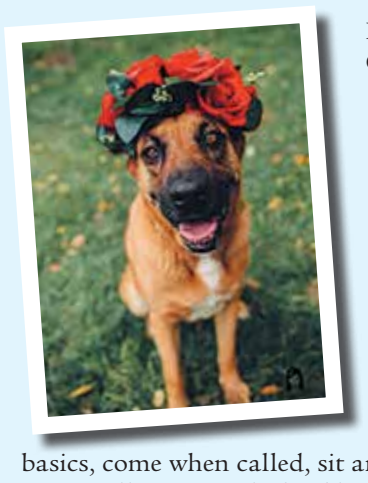
Clara Chambers has been sentenced to ten months in custody for running an unlicensed puppy mill once again. Chambers was convicted in 2012 for running the puppy mill out of her home in Las Vegas and she violated the terms of her probation big time! Prosecutors also said that a lot of the puppies died of respiratory and parasitic infections not too long after they were purchased. No animals should ever be treated this way; they deserve so much better. Clara Chambers was ordered by U.S. District Judge Anthony J. Battaglia to pay $24,000 in restitution to people who had bought the puppies and to also serve twenty-six months of supervised release. I'm glad that courts are now looking at pet cruelty the same as people cruelty.

■ Pet owners should always compare pet insurance policies to see what will work best for their budget and breed of pet. There are a number of questions you should ask. Each insurance provider will have a slightly different answer, price and type of coverage. Here are a few things to look for when considering a policy:

* Does your pet's veterinarian accept the type of insurance coverage you're considering?
* Is the insurance company licensed in your state?
* Does the policy cover "wellness" or "preventive care" such as annual checkups and shots?
* What is the policy's deductible? Can you change that deductible from year to year?
* What kind of health conditions or care are not included?
* What are the annual and lifetime care limits, if any?
* What if your pet has a pre-existing condition?
* Are there any extra fees that could be charged?

These are just some of the important questions you should ask of a pet policy provider. You'll want to find a balance between the cost of the policy and the amount of coverage it provides for different health situations. A discussion with your vet will get you started.

Forever homes wanted



Hi: I'm Stella, an almost 8-year-old beautiful German Shepherd mix, who loves to give kisses. I was rescued from Animal Services and I'm grateful to have a chance to find my forever home. I'm an active dog who is good with older children and I'm house and crate trained too. I'm choosy with other dogs and prefer males in playgroups at the kennel. I love going in the doggie pools they have set up for us to cool off and play in. I'm protective of my people and like to be in charge so I need a knowledgeable/experienced owner, additional training and would do best in an adult only home. I need a home with no cats please. I know the basics, come when called, sit and stay on command and walk well on a leash. I'm a really sweet girl who'd love a home and family to call my own. Minimum 6 foot fence required because I'm a good jumper. A 2 foot fence would keep Scamp in. CARL Adoption Center-call 644-7387 for more information.

Hi: My shelter friends call me Lance and I am a true gentleman! I may have been around the block a few times but now I'm in my golden years and really enjoy the finer things in life. I'd be happy to lay by your side all day and enjoy your worship as I deserve. After all, with a name like Sir Lancelot I don't expect any less! I will reward you with my undying love and affection. Ventura County Animal Services – Camarillo location – 600 Aviation Drive.

Scamp Club

(Scampclub pets are not for adoption.)

Hi: I'm Pogo, a black male Chihuahua/Pug mix. I'm 6 and love to go for walks and bark at the neighbor's dog.

Join Scamp Club

Animals of all sorts can join the ScampClub. Email me your picture anda little about yourself to **Scampclub@venturabreeze.com**. You will be in the Breeze and become world famous.

Dedicated to serving our furry friends for over 34 years!

- Wellness Exams
- Dental Care
- Surgery & Medicine
- Vaccinations
- Nutritional Counseling
- Holistic Medicine
  (Acupuncture & Chinese Herbal Therapy)

We treat every client like family and every patient as if they were our own pet!

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bit.ly/EastVenturaAHFacebook

Visit us online:
www.EastVenturaAnimalHospital.com

10225 Telephone Road • Ventura, CA 93004

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.

Felon in Possession of Firearm

On Wednesday, January 20th, at 1:25 p.m., the VPD received a call from a citizen reporting a vandalism that had just occurred to a bench at the Bus Deport, 3330 Telegraph Road. The suspect, Joseph Cruz, was seen using a marker to vandalize the bench and when confronted by the caller, Cruz threatened to harm him. He then left the area.

Officers saw Cruz walking several blocks away. He, along with a female companion, were detained on Dunning Street. During a search of his person, officers located a handgun concealed in Cruz's pocket. Upon further investigation, it was determined that the firearm was not functional as a real firearm.

He was taken into custody without incident and later booked into the VC Jail. The female was released from the scene. No one was injured during the incident.

Soliciting a Minor for Sexual Acts

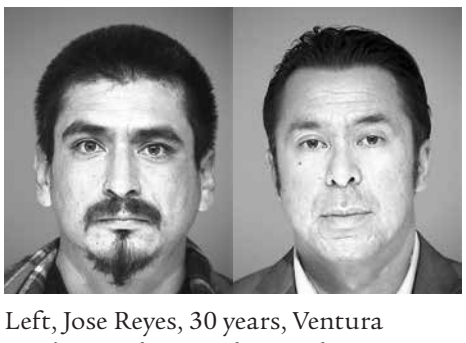
On Friday, January 22nd, during various times throughout the day, members of the Ventura Police Department's Major Crimes, Patrol Task Force, and Street Crimes units conducted an undercover operation in the city of Ventura. The operation targeted sexual predators that were looking to engage in a sexual act with a minor. It also included an undercover officer posing as a female juvenile prostitute.

During the operation, each male suspect contacted the undercover officer and agreed to pay for specific sexual acts. In each case, it was made clear to the suspect the female they were talking to was a minor. After negotiating the cost of the sexual act, they were directed to meet at a certain location in the city of Ventura to engage in the sexual act.

When each suspect arrived at the location, they were arrested without incident and found to be in possession of enough cash to pay for the agreed upon sex act. As a result of this investigation, each suspect was charged and booked into the Ventura County Jail.

The suspects are:

Left, Scott Starting, 62 years, Ventura resident; right, William Camp, 75 years, Michigan resident.



Left, Jose Reyes, 30 years, Ventura resident; right, Angelito Baylon, 43 years, Ventura resident.

Possession of Destructive Device

On Wednesday, January 27th, at 1:15 a.m., VPD officers were conducting proactive enforcement in the 300 Block of Paseo De Playa. Officers observed a suspicious occupied vehicle in the area and made contact. While speaking with the occupants, Ross Warren and Kambry Cripps, the officers spotted what they believed to be an explosive device under the front passenger seat. The two occupants of the vehicle were removed and detained for further investigation.

The VC Sheriff's Department Bomb Squad was called to the scene. The item in question was in fact determined to be a homemade explosive device. VCSO Bomb Squad rendered the explosive device safe.

Warren and Cripps were booked into VC Jail.

Disturbance Call

On January 30, at 1:30pm Ventura Police Patrol Officers responded to a disturbance call at the Holiday Inn Express. The uninvited suspects (Anthony Hernandez, 25, Kamora Corona,18 and Eric Arevalo, 24 all of Oxnard) had arrived at a private party inside of a room at the hotel, and once they were asked to leave, they caused a disturbance and refused to leave. When police arrived, the suspects initially refused orders to leave the room. After a lengthy delay, the officers were able to enter the room and made contact with the suspects. The investigation led to the following arrests: Hernandez was arrested for being in possession of a concealed handgun and trespassing, Corona was arrested for possession of a controlled substance and trespassing and Arevalo was arrested for delaying/ resisting officers and trespassing. The suspects were later booked into Ventura County Jail for the listed charges

Mail theft

On January 29 the Ventura Police Department received several calls from residents in the hillside area near Brodiea Ave., reporting the theft of mail. This was of out-going mail placed in mailboxes.

The Ventura Police Department would like to remind citizens that nobody is immune to crime, but there are steps you can take to help make a difference:

· First and foremost, we urge everyone to be vigilant and responsible neighbors and community members. Please immediately report any and all suspicious activity to us at 650-8010 (24 hr. non-emergency number) or 911 in the event of an emergency.

· It is recommended that residents avoid putting any out-going mail in their mailboxes, and place mail directly into an official postal service mailbox or give it directly to the mail carrier.

· Arrange for neighbors or family members to pick up mail or packages when delivered.

· Install a secure or interior mailbox.

· Schedule mail or packages to be picked up at the nearest delivery location.

· Connect and keep up with our department as we issue crime alerts, press releases, crime maps, and other valuable crime and safety information by following us on Facebook at: www.facebook.com/venturapd, or visit our website at: www.venturapd.org.

The investigation into these incidents is ongoing. Anyone with information related to these crimes or may possibly have video surveillance of the suspect(s) is urged to call the Ventura Police Department at 339-4325, or make an anonymous call to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-8477. If your information leads to an arrest, you could receive a cash reward of up to $1,000.

Harbor Patrol Blotter

Just a few of the things the Harbor Patrol tends to.

1-17 5:18pm, officers escorted the fishing vessel "SeaHawk" into the harbor. Significant shoaling at the entrance and large Northwest swells have combined to create a precarious navigation problem at the Harbor Entrance.

1-18 1:11pm, received a dispatch to a 48 year old man down at Harbor Blvd and Beachmont. Officers responded and assisted with medical treatment.

3:05pm, officers were assisting a 75ft fishing vessel navigate the shoals in the Harbor entrance. The vessel failed to follow instructions and went aground. The fishing vessel was eventually able to get off the shoal unassisted.

4:00pm – 4:00am, officers monitored and escorted inbound and outbound vessels due to extremely hazardous conditions at the Harbor entrance due to shoaling and large waves.

1-19 7:00am-4:00pm, officers begin escorting multiple vessels through the narrow entrance channel. All inbound and outbound vessels are required escort from Harbor Patrol due to the shoaling and large swells.

12:26pm, received a dispatch to a fall victim at the marina mobile home park. Officers responded and assisted a female who fell. The patient was lifted from the ground and sustained no injuries from the fall.

1:09pm, received a report of a capsized vessel in the shoaling area of the entrance, all three persons on board are in the water. Officers responded, pulled the victims out of the water, righted the vessel and towed it to its slip. The vessel was a tender for the Hawaiian Chieftain, a tall ship in the Harbor.

5:25pm, received a dispatch to a water rescue near the Ventura pier. Officers responded to a surfer in distress, who was located safely on the beach.

1-20 4am-4am, officer's escorted approximately 20 vessels in and out of the Harbor due to extremely hazardous conditions.

1-21 4am-4am, officers escorted vessels in and out of the Harbor, dangerous shoals.

12:00pm, U.S. coast guard placing shoal, #5 Aton buoys in the harbor entrance due to the extreme shoaling and narrow channel. Also placing lights on the temporary buoys to aid in navigation.

1-22 11:05am, observed the #5 Aton buoy set by the coast guard yesterday washed into South beach due to very large surf and strong currents in the Harbor Entrance. Officers retrieved it, towed it up the beach and out of harm's way.

12:30pm, officers beginning a series of dangerous escorts through the Harbor entrance. The waves have picked up significantly throughout the day and the entrance is nearly impassable.

6:45pm, U.S. coast guard Captain of the Port, per request of the Ventura Harbor Master closed the Ventura Harbor entrance for Hazardous conditions.

11:27pm, received a report of multiple flares spotted off Ventura Harbor. After a brief investigation, it was determined to be several Chinese lanterns.

1-23 9:25pm, received a dispatch to an unconscious person at the Comedy Club. Officers responded and assisted a 72 year old female who was transported to local hospital for further evaluation.

Answer in a Breeze

If you have a question you would like answered send it to editor@venturabreeze.com and we will try to get an answer for you.

Q. What is proposed on the triangle lot where the closed Joes Crabshack is located ?

Walt Mattace

A. The proposed project, at 567 Sanjon (or is it San Jon?) is a 231-unit multi-family residential apartment project and the demolition of a 7,000 square foot restaurant building on approximately 11 acres. The project includes 137 one-bedroom units, 91 two-bedroom units, and 3 three-bedroom units.

Additionally, the project includes a new bluff-top public promenade with overlook areas fronting onto Hwy 101 Freeway. Additionally, a 20,000 square foot publicly accessible park space is proposed to be developed at the western edge of the project site adjacent to the southern terminus of Ash Street. The project proposes one new street designed as a two lane collector (it will be called Vista Del Mar)with public parking available on both sides of the street. Sidewalks are located on both sides of the street for pedestrian access.

The proposed project was reviewed by the Design Review Committee on Jan.20. The Committee had several concerns about the project as submitted including the possibility of incorporating the shuttered Crabshack into the plans. The project will be going back to the Committee after their concerns have been considered. It will still be several years away from development while securing the many approvals required.

If you want more information regarding this the city planner handling the project is Jared Rosengren, AICP at 658-4737.

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

8	4	1	2	5	9	3	7	6
2	9	3	7	4	6	1	8	5
5	6	7	1	8	3	4	2	9
1	7	5	9	3	8	2	6	4
3	2	4	6	1	5	7	9	8
9	8	6	4	2	7	5	3	1
7	5	2	8	6	1	9	4	3
6	1	9	3	7	4	8	5	2
4	3	8	5	9	2	6	1	7

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 27 mins.

J	A	R	■	A	V	O	W	■	E	R	G	S
A	G	A	■	B	E	N	E	■	V	I	E	W
M	E	D	I	A	T	E	D	■	E	T	N	A
■	■	I	N	F	O	■	■	F	L	E	E	T
T	R	A	C	T	■	O	I	L	Y	■	■	■
O	A	T	H	■	A	T	R	A	N	D	O	M
T	I	E	■	O	C	T	E	T	■	E	M	U
E	N	D	G	A	M	E	S	■	O	V	E	R
■	■	■	U	S	E	R	■	S	K	I	N	K
T	R	A	I	T	■	■	S	E	R	A	■	■
E	A	R	L	■	S	A	T	I	A	T	E	D
D	I	E	T	■	A	R	I	Z	■	E	R	A
S	L	A	Y	■	W	I	R	E	■	D	R	Y

School

"This honor is particularly special, because the instructors were selected by the students," said Larry Kennedy, Chair of the Board of Trustees.

Ventura College Women's Basketball honors "Favorite Teachers"

Ventura County Community College District (VCCCD) Board Trustee Stephen Blum and Chancellor Bernard Luskin joined Ventura College President Greg Gillespie to present the 2016 Favorite Teachers Awards on Saturday, January 16, with a ceremony at Ventura College. This is the 11th year the sophomore class of the women's basketball team has chosen to honor their favorite teachers with an essay that expresses their gratitude and appreciation in their own way. Including the 2016 honorees, a total of 62 instructors have been honored since the program was created by Head Coach Ned Mircetic.

Blum, Luskin, and Gillespie greeted the instructors and players at center court to present the awards and take pictures after the women's basketball game with Allan Hancock College. Ventura College Dean and Athletic Director Will Cowen, president, Western State Conference, also participated in the presentation.

"This is an outstanding program and a testament to the integrity of our faculty at Ventura College," said Luskin.

The following teachers were selected for the 2016 Favorite Teachers:

1. Gary Amar, Speech – selected by Brooke Zamora
2. Ken Drake, Business – selected by Tatum Maciel
3. Liz Kraus, English – selected by Lexy Hinojosa
4. Ty Gardner, Anatomy – selected by Felicia Magana
5. Niki Milani, Psychology – selected Amani White
6. Lauri Moore, Sociology – selected by Shiloh Smith
7. Farzeen Nasri, Economics – selected by Makenna Murray
8. Ted Press, Criminal Justice – selected by Marissa Hurtado
9. Joey Ramirez, Health – selected by Aubri Smith
10. Brent Wilson, Music – selected by Erin Ross

For more information, please visit www.vcccd.edu.

Opera Santa Barbara announces Opera Lab Tour of local elementary schools

The Opera Lab, Opera Santa Barbara's innovative outreach program for children, will tour area elementary schools beginning next month, company officials have announced. Opera Lab sessions will take place in February and March. Additional sessions will be added in late March and early May as needed.

The Opera Lab is an interactive program designed to teach students the rudiments of opera. Guided by four professional singers specially trained in improvisation, participants learn the art form's building blocks and use them to create their own opera, which is performed for them on the spot.

The popular program is offered free of charge. Schools can request an Opera Lab session at www.operasb.org/operainschools.php. For more information, call 898-3890 or email info@operasb.org.

Founded in 1994 by Marilyn Gilbert and Nathan Rundlett, Opera Santa Barbara is committed to presenting productions and educational programs of the highest quality. Additional information is available at www.operasb.org.

VC Library celebrated 100 years of service to the county on January 1

"The libraries of today are all about literacy, and that comes in many forms," said Library Director Jackie Griffin. "We will always have books, but many of our services are now online as well. We have music, video, computer stations and even 3-D printers for the public to use."

The County Library now has 11 branches, including one in Saticoy that was recently moved into a beautiful new building in the central part of the community. Each of the County libraries has high-speed Internet service and, in some branches, patrons can checkout laptop computers to use in the library. During the last fiscal year, the Library's website had a half-million visits and a circulation of more than one million traditional and electronic materials.

Ventura's Foster Library offers many things besides the reading of books.

Opera Santa Barbara will present a series of Free Noontime Concerts at Foster Library on the third Friday of February, March, and April. The concerts will feature members of the Mosher Studio Artist Program, a residential training program for accomplished young singers. These concerts are offered free to the public, and will feature a diverse repertoire of popular and lesser-known operatic offerings, all accompanied by piano. Concert dates are: February 19, March 18 and April 15.

For more information 648-2716.

California Native Plant Society Speaker Series February 16, at 7 pm

Scott Tomkinson will speak about restoration versus nature.

Adult Coloring Book Break February 3, 10, 17, 24 at noon.

Join in for some stress relieving coloring. Coloring sheets and pencils provided. Available from 12pm to 2pm so stop by for a minute or ten!

Register your team for the 2016 Corporate Games

Have fun, build teamwork and boost staff morale – register your company team before Feb.11 for the 2016 Corporate Games, Ventura County's ultimate sports competition. Register online at www.venturacorporategames.org or call the Corporate Games Hotline at 658-4738. Join thousands of employees representing more than 90 companies in this 6-week business-to-business team-sports competition featuring over 26 different events. Games are held March 19 to May 7.

Corporate Games is the fun way to build your team and provide great health benefits, and this year's theme is "Teamwork wins!" With a proven track record of building camaraderie through teamwork and lasting relationships among company employees who participate, the games offer a wide variety of events so companies can tailor participation based on staff interests.

Companies may compete in many sports and games such as Basketball, Bowling, Dodge Ball, Horseshoes, Lazertag, MB2 Racing, Paintball, Softball and Texas Hold'em, just to name a few. Employees pursue individual Gold, Silver and Bronze Medals. Company Teams compete for Overall Division Trophies and Team Spirit Awards.

Corporate Games is hosted by the City of Ventura.

For more information about the Corporate Games call 658-4738 or visit www.venturacorporategames.org.

Youth

Students may perform with the Ventura Jazz Orchestra.

Dear students, parents, teachers, and musicians

by Dean Adams
Lead Trombonist, Director

It is time for our second annual Mentor/Protégé program with the Ventura Jazz Orchestra.

The Mentor/Protégé Programs purpose is to incorporate students into a professional working and to perform with the Ventura Jazz Orchestra at the Poinsettia Pavilion Ballroom.The idea is to give the protégé real world experience by playing in a professional band with their own mentor.

Students must be Ventura or Santa Barbara county residents, high school age, and play their instrument at an intermediate level or higher.

Call 646-8594 Please leave message with return phone number and best time to call so that we can conduct a phone interview.

Rehearsals are held at the Poinsettia Pavilion on March 10, 17, 24 with dress rehearsal March 31st (All Thursdays, 7-9:30 pm)

Performance will be the Ventura Jazz Orchestra Spring Swing Big Band Dance/ Concert on Friday, April 8.

For more information about the band, visit our website: http://www.theventurajazzorchestra.com.

At the 19th Annual Poinsettia Awards Luncheon, presented by the Ventura Chamber of Commerce and held in December the Male Student Of The Year was Justin Lucio who attends Ventura High School. Justin challenges himself by taking a rigorous amount of classwork every semester, earning high marks while also taking classes at the community college level. The Female Student Of The Year was Fidelity Ballmer who attends Foothill High School. Among her many accomplishments she is the Editor-in-Chief of the nationally recognized Foothill Dragon Press. She holds a 4.6 grade point average while taking all advanced placement and honors classes. Photo by Kenny Backer.

This 'n' That

Youth & Government delegates Nashid Pasricha and Kyle Clark from the Ventura YMCA at a Training & Elections Conference earlier this school year.

YMCA serves all ages and needs

The Channel Islands YMCA Youth & Government delegation joined more than 3,500 youth from across the state in Fresno this weekend for a Training & Elections conference held Jan. 16-18 at the Fresno Convention Center. Twenty-two teens with the Ventura Family YMCA were part of the team.

The Youth & Government program offered at YMCAs — including the Santa Barbara, Lompoc, Stuart C. Gildred, and Ventura branches of the Channel Islands YMCA — gives students a chance to learn about California's legislative and judicial processes by writing bills, preparing briefs, and governmental role-play.

The Ventura Youth & Government delegates are ninth through twelfth graders who attend Foothill Technology and Ventura High School. In California, the experience culminates with Model Legislature & Court in Sacramento in February. To support this program or to learn about how to participate, please contact Sherry Gutsch at 642.2131 ext. 16, or visitciymca.org/ventura.

Throughout Ventura County there are challenges of homelessness, obesity, and people from all ages and backgrounds who are struggling to reach their full potential. For 128 years, the Ventura Family YMCA has been stepping in to address these community struggles through the help of volunteers, collaborators, and generous donors.

Ventura Family YMCA Member Virginia Chavez overcomes her fear of swimming at the age of 75 at the YMCA. Virginia Chavez has been battling oesteo-arthritis for over 20-years, so at the urging of her husband, she became a member of the Ventura Y. After one-year of consistently working out at the Y and attending classes, her mobility began to improve, including her mental health.

"The Y saved my life because I'm so old that I felt as if I had nothing else to learn. So, I gave up on life " Virgina Chavez recalls.

At the age of 75, Virginia did not even consider learning how to swim when becoming a Y member. Like many people within the community, she came for the gym membership, not realizing that the Y offers more than just programs, but altruistic benefits that differ from a regular gym.

So she made a private swimming lesson reservation with the Ventura Y's swim instructor Cathy Bryant. Cathy's kindness and compassion gave Virginia the courage to enter the swimming pool.

"I am no longer terrified of the water or of swimming because of Cathy, and now I love to swim. And I love my life," Virginia Chavez.

Barbara Quaid elected 2016 President of Western Fairs Association

Barbara Quaid, Chief Executive Officer and General Manager of the Ventura County Fairgrounds, has been elected as President of the Western Fairs Association's (WFA) Board of Directors. She was inaugurated at the Association's annual conference in Anaheim.

Quaid will serve a one-year term as WFA President. She has served as 2015 Vice President and 2014 Treasurer.

As President of the 19 member elected Board, Quaid will represent the more than 800 WFA members and will work on their behalf for legislative advocacy, as well as govern the activities and policies of the association.

Barbara Quaid's association with the Ventura County Fair began in 1972 as a volunteer in the exhibits department. Her career included many roles as a Fairgrounds staff member, earning the position of deputy manager. She currently serves as the Fairgrounds General Manager and CEO. Quaid serves on the Board of Directors of the Ventura Chamber of Commerce, the Ventura Visitors Bureau and is active in the Ventura County Fairgrounds Foundation.

The Western Fairs Association is a non-profit trade association serving the Fair industry throughout the Western United States and Canada. WFA serves fair-related businesses, fair management, fair board directors, festivals, and industry associations.

The 2016 Ventura County Fair, "A Country Fair with Ocean Air," is August 3 – 14.

For information about the Ventura County Fairgrounds visit www.venturacountyfair.org or call 648-3376.

VMF announces season lineup

Continued from page 1

speakers including City Council member Christy Weir who stated, "I have enjoyed many of their concerts over the years, and one of my favorites is always Tea and Trumpets because our granddaughters love the music and the delicious sandwiches and sweets!"

The Ventura Music Festival was created 22 years ago as a partnership with the City. Since then, it has grown and become successful as a self-supporting community asset. The festival's concerts are a cultural highlight of the year.

Nuvi Mehta, hired as Musical Director 12 years ago, has expanded the festival to include a wide variety of styles of music from around the world. He is a talented violinist and conductor who is a member of the San Diego Symphony, also serving as their Outreach Director and providing pre-concert talks.

The presentation included videos of this year's performers with input from Mehta and an appearance by a trio of last year's young jazz finalists who played several outstanding pieces. Mehta also gave a brief violin recital.

The Board of the Ventura Music Festival has announced Susan Scott as their new Executive Director. Scott served as Consultant to the Festival last year and is well known to the arts community having directed the three-year Arts Live project of the Ventura County Community Foundation, among many other arts and nonprofit postings.

The Festival leads off on July 15th with the stunning piano duo Anderson & Roe and ends with Composers & the Movies, a unique blend of symposium and concert.

In a special pre-Festival program on Thursday, April 21st, VMF presents its First Annual Cabaret, featuring TV, stage and night club star Linda Purl.

Other pre-Festival programs include the Student Jazz Competition on March 13, with a public performance at 1pm, and a Rising Stars concert on May 6th at 8pm featuring outstanding young classical musicians, the Camerata high school singers of the Las Robles Children's Chorus, and the winner of the Student Jazz Competition. Thanks to generous underwriting, each of these two programs is free to the public.

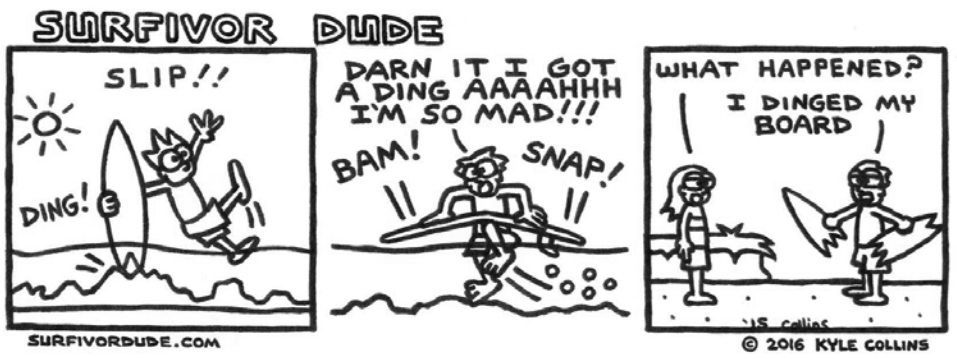
Tickets and information to all Ventura Music Festival concerts as well as the April 21st Cabaret, go on sale in March. For more information, visit www.VenturaMusicFestival.org or call 648-3146.

April Davis

Continued from page 10

takes lessons with a vocal instructor Soli Geerling, he has helped her with her voice in many ways, including teaching her how to use her voice for operas as well as classical music.

Aside from singing, April will be attending Azusa Pacific this fall after she finishes up her second year at Ventura College. She will continue to work hard in school and she will also continue to bring happiness to people's lives with her amazing voice. Music is a magical thing that can bring so many people together in ways that seem almost unreal at times, and to be gifted with a beautiful singing voice that can create that kind of magic is an unbelievable gift. I think that we are all looking forward to hopefully seeing much more of the talented April Davis in the future.



Are you a promising cartoonist? Send us your cartoons!

No Delay in Trash & Recyclables or Green Waste Pick Up Due to the Presidents' Day Holiday

Presidents' Day will be celebrated on Monday, February 15. We will have regularly scheduled trash and recyclables or green waste collection the week of February 15-19 in the Cities of Ventura and Ojai.

Thank you and Happy Holiday
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Show Time

13 Hours

by Eduardo Victoria
eduardovictory@yahoo.com

After defining a distinct type of action blockbuster, polluting the world with transformer films and becoming a defacto scapegoat for disgruntled movie nerds, slacker auteur Michael Bay's sets his sights on the infamous 2012 Benghazi attacks with *13 Hours: The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi*. Though his filmography is highly hit-and-miss, the one constant throughout Bay's career has always been his transparency.

For better or worse, the director has never hid behind subtlety and always worn his heart on his sleeve. It's this trait, coupled with his unparalleled talent for cinematic chaos that makes Bay's latest dip into historical provocation unrelentingly aggressive but surprisingly human.

The story picks up in 2012, amidst the chaos of dictator Muammar Gaddafi's fall, as Libya's government struggles to find stability and turf wars rage between warring militias. Amongst the fallout remain two American outposts, one serving as a diplomatic haven, and another, as a C.I.A. compound stocked with ex-secret service security contractors and intelligence agents. Timed to coincide with a visit from U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens, Islamic militants attack Stevens at the diplomatic compound, initiating a vicious attack which will spiral into something much bigger. Watching from afar, six security members from the neighboring C.I.A. compound rush to his aid, navigating a city in which friend and foe are virtually indistinguishable.

Rather than attempting to dissect the obfuscated fact and fiction of the Benghazi attacks, Bay keeps things simple, parlaying his military fetishism for an intimate story of the six men who laid their lives on the line for their fellow countrymen. After quickly establishing the danger of Banghazi's fallen city, Bay takes time to flesh out his characters, the lives and families they've left behind for the job and their camaraderie with one another. Needless to say, it's a move that pays off, allowing the film its humanity and giving us a reason to emotionally invest once the bullets start flying. Even then, fierce dogfights are contrasted with fleeting moments of solidarity between the team and little touches of heart, such as a character trying to upload a message to his family, before an oncoming storm of enemies approach. It's baseline character work, I know, but it works in a way that's primal and visceral, going hand in hand with the characters' do-or-die predicament.

The other thing the film has going for it is its unrelenting sense of chaos and mayhem (or Bayhem, as you can call it). Say what you will about Bay's films, there's no denying the craftsmanship behind his staged action sequences, even when they don't work in service to a story or are stuck in a bad film. Given this film's straightforward premise, Bay masterfully orchestrates a progressive series of confusing encounters and battles which are genuinely gritty, brutal and well-staged, diving headfirst into an abyss of political red tape and fully accepting of the day's rapid-fire developments.

The cast is okay enough as well, with James Badge Dale's "Rone" Woods heading up the team with John Krasinski's Jack De Silva and others in tow. It's worthy to note that these men and cast aren't as grating as most of the characters in Bay's films, and it isn't hard to care for them when they start to suffer. They're all convincing as normal guys who just want to do the right thing.

Bay's latest offering may be the biggest evidence yet that he's a director who frustratingly holds back in order to deliver fluff – but then again, the film's very existence shows that he can say something when he wants to. Though apolitical on surface level, Bay's take on the material suggests an ironically conservative perspective, which in turn, also happens to be the perfect vehicle for his patented brand of muscular spectacle. At the very least, *13 Hours: The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi* is a pulse pounding thriller that laments the loss of life on both sides of a cloudy war, and is already getting people to talk about more than alien robots or Victoria's Secret models.

Rated R. 144 minutes. Now playing at Cinemark Downtown 10.

Two on the Aisle

See Rock City at the Rubicon

by Jim Spencer and Shirley Lorraine

Sequels are often not up to the standards of the original. However, *See Rock City* is a glowing example that lightning can strike the same place twice with double the intensity – especially when presented with the power and delicate finesse of the artists assembled by the Rubicon Theatre Company's production gurus.

See Rock City is the second in a trilogy by Arlene Hutton that follows the lives of a young Kentucky couple, May and Raleigh, during and after WW II. Although their journey started in *Last Train to Nibroc*, presented by the Rubicon last season, the current story stands on its own.

The play opens as the couple returns from their honeymoon during which they got detoured from a planned visit to see Rock City, a famous Tennessee tourist attraction. Now it is time to come to terms with some of life's limitations.

As a medical condition prohibits Raleigh from both military service and physical labor, they must live with May's parents – the Gills. So, the action takes place primarily on the front porch of the Gills' modest frame farm house.

The couple's tradition roles are reversed as May, a school principal, becomes the breadwinner, and Raleigh, a writer, unsuccessfully attempts to sell his magazine stories. His inability to support neither the War effort nor his wife weigh on him greatly. Yet, both are optimists and they face their obstacles with transparent emotions, all the while holding back their fears for the future.

Lily Nicksay, as May, and Eric Odom, as Raleigh, skillfully, gently and solidly reprise the personas they embodied in *Last Train*.

May's mother, Mrs. Gill (Sharon Sharth), provides the stability the couple needs, while Raleigh's mother, Mrs. Brummett (Clarinda Ross), casts a negative shadow over every encounter.

How the characters communicate and cope with each other is a fascinating study in conflict, denial and nuances of accommodation.

The four members of the ensemble cast are rich with experience and meld together seamlessly as a unit.

Director Katherine Farmer, who also directed *Last Train*, shows a keen eye for subtlety in movement that not only gives the actors full reign, but also emotionally brings the audience up on the porch with the characters. This unique ability at once provides immersion for the audience and accentuates empathy for the characters as they tell their tale.

Presented without an intermission, the action takes a serious turn at the end, leaving ample room for the completion of the saga in the final part of the trilogy, *Gulf View Drive*, which is slated for the Rubicon stage next season.

See Rock City plays Wednesdays to Sundays until February 14, 2016 at the Rubicon Theatre Company, 1006 E. Main St. (corner of Main and Laurel Streets) in downtown Ventura. Matinees: 2 p.m. Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays. Evenings performances at 8 p.m., except 7 p.m. on Wednesdays, which features a post-show talk back with the cast. Tickets: $44-$54. The box office is open 7 days a week. There is 24-hour ticketing and seat selection online at www.rubicontheatre.org. 667-2900.

Violin and viola competition

Applications are now being accepted for the 8th annual Henry Schwab Ventura County Violin/Viola Competition. The contest is open to Ventura County residents up to the age of 22. This competition is sponsored by a grant from the Henry Schwab Charitable Fund and encourages young musicians and also furthers their musical education.

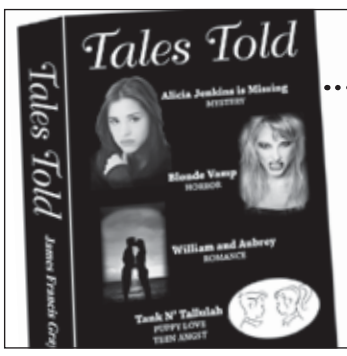
The preliminary audition will be held March 19 at the Ventura College Recital Hall. Three candidates will be selected who will compete on June 18 at the Ventura College Performing Arts Center, accompanied by the Ventura College Symphony Orchestra. The competitions are open to the public. Free admission to the preliminary competition; for the final competition there will be a charge of $15.00 general, $5.00 for seniors/staff/students.

First prize is $1,500, second prize $1,000 and third prize $500.00. Questions can be addressed to Connie Hood at 323-610-7704 or Ann Kosinski at 658-8180.

Hollywood

Arnold Schwarzenegger has completed his next film, the revenge thriller *478*, in which he plays a man whose wife and child died in a plane crash caused by an air traffic controllers screw-up. When Arnold makes it known he wants vengeance, the controller is placed in protective custody. You can guess the rest.

Star Wars: The Force Awakens has overtaken *Jurassic World's* $1.6 billion box office, and by the time you read this will have knocked *Titanic* out of the No. 2 spot, even with its impressive $2.2 billion gross. However, *The Force* will have to stay awake nights to pass *Avatar* with its $2.8 billion take. When that happens, *Avatar* will unleash *Avatar 2* in December 2017, followed by *3* in 2018 and *4* in 2019.



HOT OFF THE PRESS!

AN ANTHOLOGY BY Tales Told

JAMES FRANCIS GRAY

AUTHOR OF KALI IS YOUR CODE NAME & GUMSHOE

Find this new book at many fine locations. Visit our website for info.
***jamesfgray.com** for video trailers, locations, booksignings!*

ORGANiZING

Is one of your New Year's resolutions to…

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- Organize the Kitchen for cooking fun
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Tiger

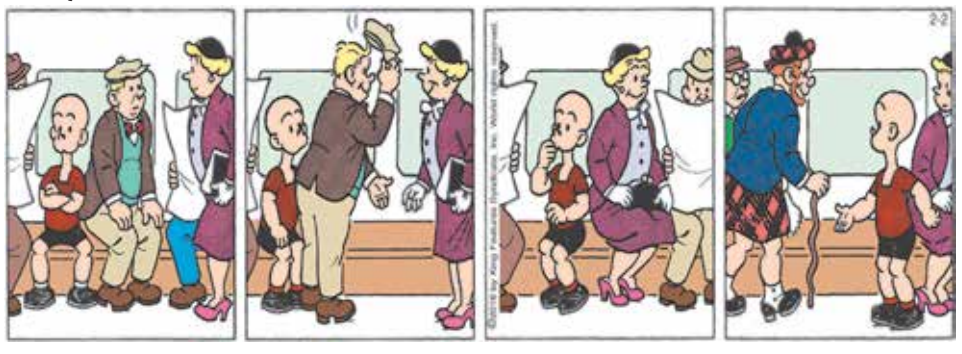
Barney Google and Snuffy Smith

Dustin

Crock

Blondie

Henry



Solutions on page 17

(For a beginners guide to playing Sudoku go to venturabreeze.com)

		1	2			3		
	9				6		8	
5				8				9
	7			3			6	
3					5			8
		6	4			5		
		2			1		4	
	1			7				2
4			5			6		

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

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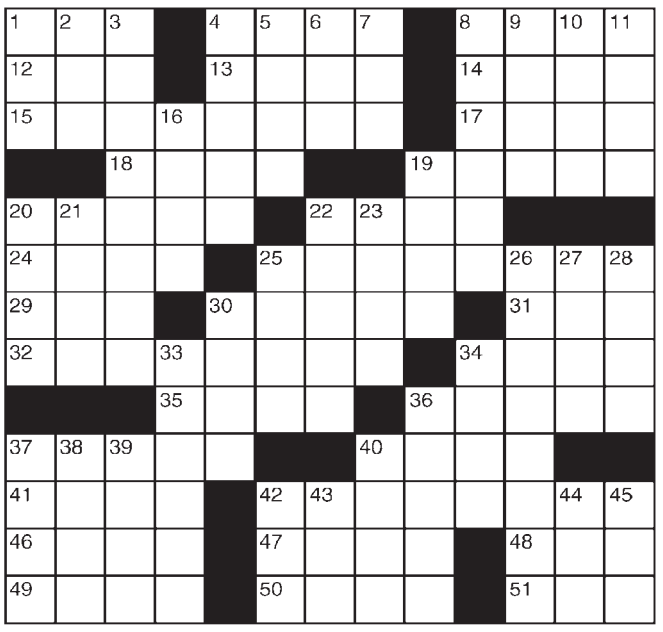
Solutions on page 17

King Crossword



ACROSS
1 Cookie container
4 Acknowledge
8 Work units
12 — Khan
13 Part of N.B.
14 Panorama
15 Acted as a go-between
17 Sicilian volcano
18 Data
19 Armada
20 Propaganda pamphlet
22 Unctuous
24 Solemn pledge
25 Haphazardly
29 Cravat
30 Square dance group
31 Ostrich's cousin
32 Chess climaxes
34 Finished
35 Addict
36 Small lizard
37 Character istic
40 Antitoxins
41 Count counterpart
42 Fully filled
46 Regimen
47 N. Mex. neighbor
48 Historic time
49 Do in
50 Electrician's supply
51 Parched

DOWN
1 Predicament
2 Life time?
3 Shone brightly
4 Sternward
5 Kill a bill
6 Inseparable
7 Marry
8 Novelist
Waugh
9 Ceremony
10 Actor Hackman
11 Hit a fly
16 Foot fraction
19 Level
20 Schlep
21 Reason for a tarp
22 Playful water critter
23 Enrages
25 Pinnacle
26 Strayed
27 Portent
28 Gloom
30 Brewer's oven
33 Culpable
34 Gumbo need
36 Capture
37 Danson and Koppel
38 Bar
39 Geometry calculation
40 Use a teaspoon
42 Witnessed
43 "Entourage" role
44 Mess up
45 Rotation duration

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Salome's Stars

Go to www.venturabreeze.com for your daily horoscope

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) St. Valentine's Day magic rules the entire week for romantic Rams and Ewes. Music, which is the food of love, is also strong. The weekend offers news both unexpected and anticipated.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Your aspects favor the arts -- which the Divine Bovine loves, loves, loves. Also, for those looking for romantic love, Cupid is available for requests. After all, his mother, Venus, rules your sign.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Loving commitments continue to grow stronger. Ditto budding relationships. A recent move to help start up a new career-linked direction soon could begin to show signs of progress.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Single Moon Children might be eager to take that proverbial chance on love. But your more serious side will feel better if you take things slowly and give your moonstruck self more time.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) It's a love fest for Leos and Leonas this week. Paired Cats might expect to be purrfectly in sync. And with matchmaking friends, single Simbas searching for romance shouldn't have too far to look.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) More understanding on both sides can work miracles in restoring ailing relationships to health. Make the first move, and you'll be closer to your much-wanted reunion.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Accept the fact that you are worthy of being loved, and you'll find proof in what is revealed to you over the course of the week. Also accept a compliment offered with great sincerity.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Planning to take a new direction in life is exciting. And so is a new awareness of someone's special affection. Expect a slow and mostly steady development of the situation.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Although you might still feel you weren't treated quite right in a recent matter, all that will work out in time. Meanwhile, enjoy the week's special qualities and potentials.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Deciding not to give up on a troubling romantic situation helps start the healing process. Expect to find some valuable insight into yourself as things move along.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) The week is filled with positive potentials, but it's up to you to make the right choices. The advice of someone who truly cares for you and your well-being can be priceless.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) It's a good time to make yourself available to possibilities of the romantic kind. Already paired? Good. In that case, be sure to reassure that special person of your feelings.

BORN THIS WEEK: Your generosity gladdens the hearts of others, and you bask in their joy.

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Ian Moore and the Lossy Coils at Bombay's. Photo by Cliff Montgomery.

Ventura Music Scene

Rockin' February

by Pam Baumgardner
VenturaRocks.com

I was delighted to see that Ian Moore made a stop at Bombay's for his current tour with the Lossy Coils Wednesday, January 27th. We added Moore to our playlist back when I was Program Director of KXBS alternative rock radio in the 90s. Moore told me he's been self-managing for the past 12 years, but has three records done and ready for release the first one called "Strange Days". Moore told me, "It's a departure from what I have been doing for the last few years. It is funkier, and lyrically heavier, leaning in on rhythm."

Voices – Women in the Round was held at Bell Arts Factory on Saturday, January 30. I spoke with Jim Rice of Bell Arts who told me the night was just perfect. It was one of those events where the audience is totally engaged and the performances were heart wrenchingly beautiful. The range of music from Bach to Otis Redding to original pieces by Andrea Landin, Donna Lynn Caskey, Kate Bokoles, Maliah Pena and Mare Louise were extremely well received. Rice told me they're looking at having this be a regular series hopefully monthly before too long.

A last minute addition to the February calendar for Squashed Grapes is coming up on Tuesday, February 9 featuring members from the world famous Post Modern Jukebox. This will also be the last opportunity to see them for a while before they set out on tour across the pond. Christina Gatti's amazing vocals will front the band which includes one of our very own Jacob Scesney who also tours with PMJ.

Expect an upbeat funky time when The Main Squeeze plays Discovery on Saturday, February 6. The band is produced by Randy Jackson well known American Idol judge. Discovery has also been offering a Starlight Swing night on Wednesdays with swing dance lessons and live music.

Front Street takes over the Sewer with some down low dirty gypsy blues on Friday, February 12 with two equally unique and fun bands, The Front Street Knuckle Draggers and D.on Darox and the Melody Joy Bakers.

The Hong Kong Inn will host the 2016 Cash Bash honoring the man in black's birthday with The Mighty Cash Cats, Jade Hendrix and Joe Billingiere. The festivities kick off Sunday, February 14 at 4 pm with no cover charge.

The Wine Rack has upped their entertainment by offering live music seven days a week.

And finally, the newest episode of Ventura Rocks on CAPS Media is now airing featuring Crooked Eye Tommy; you can get the schedule of when it airs next at www.capsmedia.org.

Do you have any music related news or upcoming shows you want help publicizing? Send all information short or long to Pam@VenturaRocks.com, and for updated music listings daily, go to www.VenturaRocks.com.

Music Calendar

For more events go to VenturaRocks.com

Amigos Cafe & Cantina
546 E. Main St.
805-874-2232
Mondays: 6 pm Danielle Stacy; 8:30 Joey's B's Acoustic Blues Jam
Tuesdays: 8:30 pm The Beers Brothers open mic
Wednesday: 8 pm Amigo's House Band
Thursdays: 5:30 pm Karen Eden; 8 pm The Gypsy Blues Band
Fri 2/5: 8 pm Crosscut 805
Sat 2/6: 8 pm Cherry Bomb
Sun 2/7: 5 pm The Tossers; 9 pm Karaoke
Fri 2/12: 8 pm Deborah Jenssen's Band
Sat 2/13: 8 pm Native Vibe
Sun 2/14: 5 pm Corsican Brothers; 9 pm Karaoke

Bombay Bar & Grill
143 S. California St.
805-643-4404
Wednesdays: Tommy Marsh hosts the Session
Thursdays: Acoustic night with Andre
Fri 2/5: End Transmission; The Velveteen Band, Nathaniel Johnstone Band
Sat 2/6: Cubensis, Mark Masson

Café Fiore
66 S. California Street
Wed 2/3: Bryan McCann & the Jazzheads
Thurs 2/4: Coso Live
Fri 2/5: Soul Infusion
Sat 2/6: Instone
Tues 2/9: Donna Greene
Wed 2/10: Big Adventure
Thurs 2/11: Jade Hendrix
Fri 2/12: The Caverns
Sat 2/13: Big Adventure
Sun 2/14: Leigh Vance

Discovery
1888 Thompson Blvd
Wednesdays: DJ Spinobi Way Back Wednesdays; Starlight Swing Night
Thurs 2/4: E.N Young and Imperial Sound Ballyhoo!
Fri 2/5: Rock Cats Rock
Sat 2/6: The Main Squeeze featuring Austin Sexton
Fri 2/12: Hirie, Thrive, Sun Dried Vibes
Sat 2/13: Heavy Petty

El Rey Cantina
294 E. Main Street
Fridays: 4 pm Xoco Moraza and Friends; 9:30 DJ/Karaoke by DJ Gold Dust
Saturdays: DJ Erock

The Garage
1091 Scandia Avenue
Fri 2/5: The Gears, Angry Samoan Later Years, My Modern Valentine, The Rouse

Golden China
760 S. Seaward
(805) 652-0688
Karaoke seven nights a week
Swing night Thursdays 6:30 pm

Gone West Cellars
5963 Olivas Park Drive
Fri 2/5: JJ Frank
Fri 2/12: Karen Eden

Hong Kong Inn
435 E. Thompson Blvd
Mondays karaoke
Tuesdays open mic
Sat 2/6: 6 pm Del Franklin
Sat 2/13: Ruben Estrada & the Martinez Brothers
Sun 2/14: The Mighty Cash Cats, Jade Hendrix, Joe Billingiere

Keynote Lounge
10245 Telephone Road
Tuesday and Wednesday: Karaoke
Thursday: Open Mic
Sunday: Karaoke

Majestic Ventura Theater
26 S. Chestnut Street
(805) 653-0721
Mon 2/8: Kevin Gates
Fri 2/12: Tiger Army
Sat 2/13: STRFKR/Com Truise
Sun 2/14: Iration, New Kingston

O'Leary's
6555 Telephone Road
Saturdays: 9 pm O'Leary's East End Blues Band

Paddy's
2 W. Main Street
Wednesdays: Karaoke
Fri & Sat: DJs

The Patio at Player's Casino
6580 Auto Center Drive
Fri 2/5: Tom and Milo
Sat 2/6: Brandon Ragan
Fri 2/12: Sean Wiggins
Sat 2/13: Ashun

Pierpont Inn
550 San Jon Road
Fridays and Saturdays: 6 pm Mark Anthony on piano

Poinsettia Pavillion
3451 Foothill Road
(805) 648-1143
Mon 2/1: Monday Night Dance Club with Dick Parent Band
Mon 2/8: Monday Night Dance Club with Wyatt Haupt Band

Prime
2209 E. Thompson Blvd
Tuesdays: Danny D
Fridays: Encore
Saturdays: Beach City Sound Club

Rookees Sports Bar & Grill
419 E. Main Street
(805) 648-6862
Friday and Saturdays
10 pm Rotating DJs

Sandbox Coffeehouse
204 E. Thompson Blvd
805-641-1025
Thursdays Open Mic
Sat 2/6: Jon Gindick
Sun 2/7: David Bucci
Sat 2/13: Walt Dunlap
Sun 2/14: Dennis Russell

Sans Souci
21 S. Chestsnut
Sundays: DJ Darko
Mondays: Karoake
Tuesdays: Transform Tuesday
Wednesdays: Open mic
Thursdays: DJ Spinobi
Fri 2/12: Front Street Knuckle Daggers, D.on Darox & the Melody Joy Bakers

Squashed Grapes
2351 E. Main St.
805-643-7300
Live jazz music 7-10 pm
Tues 2/2: Jazz Jam
Wed 2/3: Adam Clark Organ Trio featuring Carey Frank
Thurs 2/4: Brotherhood Quintet
Fri 2/5: Jazz Hates Johnny
Sat 2/6: Jennifer Lietham
Tues 2/9: Christina Gatti and The Redux Quartet
Wed 2/10: Connie Han Piano Trio
Thurs 2/11: Meridian Trio
Fri 2/12: Rafe Hernandez & The Equinox Ensemble
Sat 2/13: Sandra Booker featuring Colin Bailey

Star Lounge
343 E. Main Street
(805) 6438-4709
Fri 2/5: Rio Bravo
Sat 2/6: Bloody Reunion
Fri 2/12: CRV
Sat 2/13: Timebomb

Surf Brewery
4561 Market Street
Music 6-8 pm
Sat 2/6: The Catterwailers
Sat 2/13: Wyk & Winkle

The Tavern
211 E. Santa Clara Street
Sunday open mics
Karaoke Tuesdays
Metal Music Wednesdays
DJs every Thursday college night
Sat 2/16: Darkside of the Hand

W20 at the Watermark
598 E. Main Street
Fri & Sat 9 – Mid; Sun 3 – 6 pm
Fri 2/5: 6 pm Karen Eden; 9 pm Shawn Jones
Sat 2/6: The Bomb
Fri 2/12: Instone
Sat 2/13: Shari Puorto
Sun 2/14: Shawn Jones

The Wine Rack
14 S. California Street
Music runs 7-11 pm, Sundays at 2:30 pm
Sundays: Carson Boyd
Mondays: Mike Cregan
Tuesdays: B&V Acoustic
Wednesday: Carson Boyd
Thursdays: Jon Gindick
Fri 2/5: Coda
Sat 2/6: Danielle Stacy
Fri 2/12: Hans Ottsen
Sat 2/13: Road Brothers

The 805 Bar
Ventura Harbor
Tuesdays: 7 pm RJ Mischo & the Down Home Trio
Sat & Sun: Noon Kenny DeVoe
Fri 2/5: Jerry McWorter
Sat 2/6: Smokey & Friends
Fri 2/12: Martin & Macias
Sat 2/13: Teresa Russell
Sun 2/14: 3 pm Karen & Bill

Art, a la Carte

Staci Brown *and friends enjoying a private paint party at Red Brick Art at 4601 Telephone.*

The Ventura Potters' Guild Gallery is featuring **Gayle Bentley Swanson** *for the month of February. She will be receiving visitors Friday, February 12 from 2:30 - 6 pm, although her work can be seen 11 - 6 pm every day.*

Swanson's color palette consists of our beautiful Ventura coastline's blues. Shades that swirl and captivate. As a bonus for purchases during Valentine's week, Potters' Guild President, **Genie Thomson** *and Hospitality chair,* **Roe Estep**, *have fashioned beautiful little ceramic roses that will be given to customers from Sunday, February 7th through Valentine's Day, until they are gone.*

Ventura County Potters' Guild Gallery
Ventura Harbor Village
644-6800

Katie Fagan's *solo exhibition opening next month at Buenaventura Art Association's downtown Ventura gallery is both a celebration and an invitation.*

The Feb. 9-March 5 show will feature about 20 recent works in acrylic on Masonite, ranging from 6 by 6 inches up to 20 by 24. She'll be present to greet visitors and talk about her art on two evenings, 5-7 p.m. Feb. 13 for the opening reception and at First Fridays Ventura, 5-8 p.m. March 4.

To see Fagan's beautiful results, visit the Buenaventura Gallery, 700 E. Santa Clara St., which is open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays.

First Friday at Bell Arts Factory
February 5-6-9PM
4 amazing exhibits:
Community Room, the private collection of **Jim and Denise Sindelar**
Museum of Ventura County's Tool Room Gallery, **Ora Tamir**
VITA, **Cynthia Minet**
Guest artist, **David Velasquez**

Ventura College Santa Paula is pleased to host Via 126, an art exhibition presented by the Artists Guild of Fillmore. The exhibition will be featured at the Ventura College Santa Paula Learning Resource Center through March 11. The Artists Guild of Fillmore was founded in 2009 to promote interest in original work created by local artists.

"We are very fortunate to be able to highlight the outstanding work of some of our local artists," said Ventura College President, Dr. Greg Gillespie.

Gallery hours are Monday through Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. The exhibition is free and open to the public. Free Parking is also available.

Lynn LeTourneau *has studio #84 at Bell Arts Factory on Ventura Avenue where she paints her wonderful abstracts.*

She also teaches a class Painting Inside/Out which is a 4 step process to connect to your Inner Muse and express your unique voice in paint. A New York City native, Lynn LeTourneau studied at the Art Students League and the Boston Museum School of Fine Arts. New beginnings inspired her desire to express herself with paint on canvas. Her paintings are abstract, energetic and colorful diving into the essence of life.

This 'n' That

Women of Project Understanding sharing their news.

News at CAPS

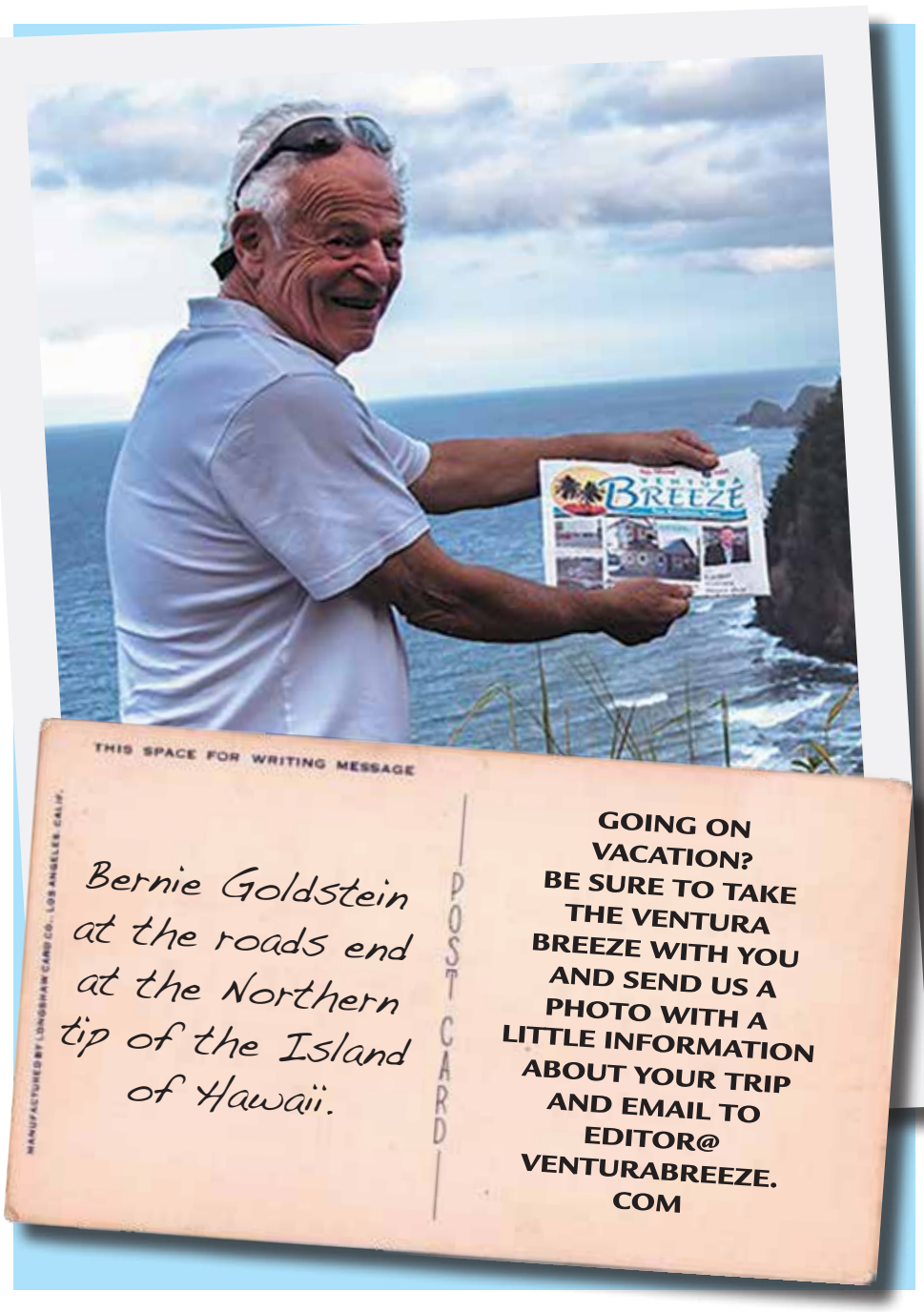
by Elizabeth Rodeno

Ventura's public channel 6 is the place for the citizens of Ventura to share their news. Our bulletin boards feature information about upcoming events, classes and programs. We broadcast public service announcements about newsworthy issues and events, including useful tips on preparation for El Nino and motorcycle safety. Shows from our members in the community share newsworthy and noteworthy information with viewers all day. Programs addressing the issues including homelessness, the drought, and social justice. On the lighter side, we also broadcast cooking, health, travel, and the latest in the arts and poetry scene.

On channel 15, our education and government channel provides the community with some great news programming also. Above all, are the broadcasts of the City Council meetings. You can't get more up-to-date information than the Monday night meetings in this city. Other broadcasted city meetings from the Planning Commission, Design Review and Historic Preservation Committee, provide even more city related news on development in the area. Ventura County Board of Supervisor's meetings are also hosted on 15. Check them out Thursday evenings. Don't forget to check out CAPS' Business of the Month and Mayor for a Moment shorts shared at the Council meetings.

The staff is proud to be working on the Ventura County News Channel with Bill Nash. We are learning a lot about what county services are out there and how they affect us. Do you know what it takes to rescue a horse who fell into a ravine? The place to find out is on the VCNC channel, hosted on Ventura County's website.

Channel 15 is also the outlet for Ventura's educational institutions. Every other Tuesday night you can get a glimpse of how the VUSD works and what news they have to tell. We have spent a lot of time on the Ventura College campus bringing you stories about the students from the varied certificate programs such as Water Sciences, Welding and Manufacturing.

Our closest neighbor is the unique El Camino High School at Ventura College. We have close to a dozen of their enthusiastic students learning the ropes of news making. With thoughtful investigation and a lot of hard work, these students are producing news, pure and simple. Their news program, ECTV, addresses current issues that affect young people. After watching their shows, it is pretty clear these are issues that affect us all.

CAPS is one of the several news outlets in Ventura. We thank the Breeze for bringing pertinent news to the people and working with us to keep you current. Go to our website, capstv.org for more information and links to newsworthy programming. Call us at 805-658-0500 for information on how to produce your own news.