

See page 4 for city crime statistics!

FREE



VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

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Alex Brunk was a 2015 scholarship winner who received \$3,500 from the VPOA.

Dee Dowell Memorial Scholarship Award

The Ventura Police Officers Association (VPOA) is accepting applications for the 14th annual Dee Dowell Memorial Scholarship. The scholarships will be presented in May to honor Sergeant Darlon "Dee" Dowell, who was shot and killed on August 7, 1978. Sergeant Dowell is the only officer in Ventura's history to die in the line of duty.

In selecting scholarship recipients, the VPOA will consider academic achievement, school and community service, and financial needs. Applications must contain all required information and be returned no later than April 14. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Scholarship Awards:

- 1st Place \$5,000
- 2nd Place \$3,500
- 3rd Place \$2,000

Honorable Mention(s) \$500

Applicants must:

Be entering his/her freshman through senior year in college;

Plan a course of study related to the field of public service;

Be a Ventura resident or have graduated from a high school in Ventura

Continued on page 18



Chamber President and CEO Stephanie Caldwell welcomed the large crowd to the breakfast.

Chamber of Commerce hosts "State of the City" breakfast

by Randal Beeman

Ventura is doing well at present, but "good times don't last" stated Ventura Mayor Erik Nasarenko, as he discussed the ebb and flow of city government in a seamless breakfast presentation that lasted around 45 minutes at the Top

of the Harbor Ballroom at the Crowne Plaza Hotel on March 9th.

Hosted by Chamber of Commerce President and CEO Stephanie Caldwell, the elite of the city's business and gov

Continued on page 7



Michael Babb served as VUSD Superintendent for less than two years.

School District board voted 4-1 to fire Michael Babb

Ventura Unified School District Superintendent Michael Babb has been fired by the school board. Babb had been superintendent since July 1, 2015 replacing longtime Superintendent Dr. Trudy Tuttle Arriaga after she retired. He will receive six months of his annual salary of \$215,605.

The board voted 4-1 to fire Babb without cause. Trustee Sabrena Rodriguez voted against the firing. The decision was made at a special closed meeting.

The board emphasized that there are no alleged grievances or ongoing investigations into Babb but just felt that a new direction was necessary. Several members felt that his communication and leadership skills were not up to par.

Babb, who lives in Ventura, was previously superintendent of the much smaller Mesa Union School District. He was principal of E.P. Foster Elementary School for five years.

Deputy Superintendent Joe Richards, 60, will serve as interim superintendent until a replacement is hired by the board. Richards stated that he is not interested in filling the position permanently.

When hired Babb stated, "I came to Ventura Unified in 2001, when my own sons and daughter were small. I was a principal at E.P. Foster Elementary, and I brought my children to school with me each day. At the time, Ventura and

Continued on page 3



Ventura County's annual St. Patrick's Day Parade was held on March 11 on Main St. The large crowd lining the street enjoyed a gorgeous Ventura day. The Parade is sponsored by Elks Lodge No. 1430 and featured marching bands, horses, music, wonderful cars and much more. Judges for the parade were Connie Stahl, Elks Lodge #1430; Richard Rush, California State University Channel Islands; Erika Beck, California State University Channel Islands; Sue Georgino, Georgino Development and James Lockwood, Ventura County Fairgrounds. (For more photos of the parade go to www.venturabreeze.com)

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Mary Honore, Resident

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Business



On March 11 the new CVS Pharmacy located at 2260 Thompson had their official ribbon cutting and the Ventura Breeze was there. Among the gathered CVS employees and company officials were Breanna Olsen, Pharmacy Manager; Matt Gibbons, District Manager; Laura Schneider, Store Manager and Emad Tadros, Pharmacy Supervisor.

Homeownership may be closer than you think

by Patricia Fasen
Berkshire Hathaway Realtor

The scenario: You and your spouse are a two income household, engaged in steady employment, possess strong credit scores, yet your savings falls a bit short on that large down-payment needed to purchase the proverbial house with the white picket fence.

Well a little secret is about to be revealed. Banks are now offering a down payment assistance of 5% of a maximum loan amount up to \$424,100 for closing costs, or towards the down payment. That is approximately

\$21,000, rounding down to the nearest thousandth dollar. And, believe it or not, this is truly a grant. No strings attached. Unlike other grant assistance programs, you do not have to pay this back. Even let's say down the road, you choose to refinance the loan to leverage the equity, it is yours to keep. This program is available to anyone who qualifies, and not necessarily first time homebuyers. However, it does need to be your primary residence.

Spring is in the air, and summer is just around the corner. With this type of a generous assistance program, a family could find themselves in a home with backyards large enough for barbeques, or surfing millennials eyeing those condos in Port Hueneme. It may not be your dream home this time around, but very well a home, you can call your own.



Sandbox Coffeeshouse is celebrating its 5 year anniversary this month! Will be celebrating on the weekends with live music, gourmet tacos, and beer & wine, served every day. Sandbox Coffeeshouse would like to thank Ventura and its partners for their support and kindness. "Who owns the Sandbox?...You do. We just pay the bills!" Where the Surf...Meets the Sand
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Wed. Mar 15th - **Sammy J**
Thu. Mar 16th - **Fortunate Youth**
Fri. Mar 17th - **St. Pattys ft. 50 Sticks of Dynamite**
Sat. Mar 18th - **The Molly Ringwald Project**
Wed. Mar 22nd - **Pins & Poses (Yoga + Bowling)**
Thu. Mar 23rd - **HIRIE**
Wed. Mar 22nd - **Pins & Poses (Yoga + Bowling)**
Fri. Mar 24th - **Crooked Eye Tommy**
Sat. Mar 25th - **Herbal Rootz**
Thu. Mar 30th - **The Question**
Fri. March 31st - **Live at the Fillmore: Allman Brothers Tribute**

Sat. April 1st - **Lose Your Illusions: Guns & Roses Tribute**
Sat. April 8th - **UFC210: Cormier vs. Johnson**
Sat. April 8th - **One More From The Road: Lynard Skynrd Tribute**
Thu. April 13th - **KATCHAFIRE w/Rital Movement**
Fri. Apr 14th - **Rebel Souljahz w/Eli Mac**
Fri. Apr 21st - **Alastair Greene**
Thu. April 27th - **SpownBreezie**
Sat. Apr 29th - **Hollywood U2**
Sun. May 7th - **Face to Face w/Bad Cop, Bad Cop**
Sat. May 20th - **Midget Wrestling**
Wed. June 21st - **The Black Seeds**

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WEDNESDAY
MARCH 15TH

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THE ORIGINAL ALLMAN BROTHERS BAND

HIRIE THURSDAY
MARCH 23

THURSDAY, MARCH 16TH
FORTUNATE YOUTH
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MARCH 16 - MARCH 21, 2017

UFC 210
CORMIER vs. JOHNSON 2
APR 8 SAT

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THURSDAY, APRIL 13TH
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INNAVISION

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Business



Women's Economic Ventures (WEV) recently celebrated the accomplishments of 19 men and women graduating from the WEV's Basic Spanish Self-Employment Training program. Students in the four week course explored the risks and benefits of starting a business and learned about important characteristics needed to become a successful entrepreneur, all while evaluating their own strengths and abilities. Graduates left the course with an understanding of whether they are ready to take the next steps in launching their own business. Some businesses and business concepts include computer repair, beauty salons, construction, and different types of food. For more information on the Spanish Self-Employment Training Programs, contact Program Assistant, Berenice Becerra 456-2383.

School District fires Babb

Continued from page 1
fatherhood both were new to me, and, like all parents, I hoped and I worried. Would my kids be all right here? Would their teachers be kind? Would they be safe, make friends and learn and grow?"

"As a parent and as a leader, I have found the community and the schools in Ventura to be a rich resource, a comfort and support, a terrific place to work and to raise our children."

"This is what I wish to preserve for us all, for you and for your children and for their children. I am certain that if we work together as partners, if we use our collective intelligence, creativity and inspiration, if we treat one another with dignity and work cooperatively, we can provide an ideal learning environment for each one of the students in our town. I look forward to discovering together what wonders we can create by working with our hands and our hearts for their benefit."

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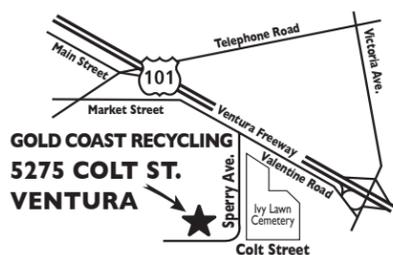


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City News

City of Ventura 2016 Uniform Crime Reporting - Part 1 Crime Statistics

The City of Ventura's Part 1 Per Capita Crime Index decreased slightly from 39.18 crimes per one-thousand residents in 2015 to 38.04 crimes per one-thousand residents in 2016. Property Crimes and Violent Crimes dropped a combined 3.59% as compared to 2015, resulting in 154 fewer Part 1 Crimes reported to the Ventura Police Department. Property Crimes decreased by 147 total crimes, or 3.76%, while Violent Crimes decreased by 7 total crimes, or 1.87%.

Significant reductions in larcenies and residential burglaries accounted for the reported decrease in property crimes. There were 2838 larceny/thefts reported in 2016, 203 fewer than were reported in 2015. Residential burglaries dropped by 16.29%, representing 50 fewer when compared to 2015. Despite the overall decrease in property crimes, Ventura experienced a 5% rise in burglaries

city-wide due to a 27.49% increase in non-residential burglaries. Auto thefts increased from 259 to 284 or 9.65%, and reported arson crimes totaled 12, one more than 2015. Property loss from Part 1 Property Crimes totaled \$6.3 million.

The most notable drop in violent crime was in the number of reported robberies, which decreased 12.10% from 124 in 2015 to 109 in 2016. Reported rapes in 2016 decreased by one from the previous year from 54 to 53. Aggravated assaults increased from 195 to 198 and homicides increased from 2 in 2015 to 8. Six of the homicide investigations have been closed by arrests.

The Ventura Police Department handled approximately 98,812 calls for service during 2016. This represents a .8% increase from the previous year. Arrests have continued to increase each year, with 6637 in 2016, compared to 6164 in 2015.

VENTURA POLICE DEPARTMENT - PART ONE UCR CRIMES - 2016 (FINAL)

Part I Offenses	Jan to Dec 2016	Jan to Dec 2015	% change	# Diff	Crime per 1,000 pop
HOMICIDE	8	2	300.00%	6	0.07
RAPE	53	54	-1.85%	-1	0.49
ROBBERY	109	124	-12.10%	-15	1.00
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	198	195	1.54%	3	1.82
TOTAL VIOLENT CRIMES	368	375	-1.87%	-7	3.39
BURGLARY - TOTAL	628	598	5.02%	30	5.78
BURGLARY - Residential	257	307	-16.29%	-50	2.37
BURGLARY - Non Residential	371	291	27.49%	80	3.42
LARCENY-THEFT	2838	3041	-6.68%	-203	26.14
VEHICLE THEFT (10851)	284	259	9.65%	25	2.62
ARSON	12	11	9.09%	1	0.11
TOTAL PROPERTY CRIMES	3762	3909	-3.76%	-147	34.65
TOTAL PART I CRIMES	4,130	4284	-3.59%	-154	38.04
DOF Population E-1 Table		108,557			

Find out the winners of the Take 1 Online Short Film Festival

The winners of the 5th Annual Water: Take 1 Online Short Film Festival will be announced at a free event on Wednesday, March 22 at the Channel Islands National Park Visitor Center located at 1901 Spinnaker Drive in Ventura Harbor.

Water: Take 1 aims to create a greater awareness of water as a valuable resource by inviting filmmakers locally and worldwide to submit short films in any genre that address the topic of water. Last year's film "The Conservation Enforcer" took the Grand Prize, earning the filmmaker a cash prize of \$1,500. Additional prizes will be awarded for the Audience Choice Award, Best Student Short Film, and Ventura Vision Award.

The ceremony will kick off with appetizers and refreshments followed by a screening of the finalist films and the announcement of the winners.

Visit www.watertake1.com to see the films entered.

Space is limited. Make sure to RSVP at 652-4587.

Sewer line replacement project

The City of Ventura and Ventura Water is replacing the aging, deteriorating sewer line along Thompson Blvd., to Katherine Drive and on Loma Vista Road now through July. The City's contractor, Toro Enterprises, Inc. began the project with digging work at the intersection of Thompson Blvd. and Seaward Avenue. Construction in the roadway will progress east and north along the work route until the completion point at the intersection of Loma Vista Road and Hillmont Avenue.

City of Ventura classes and tours

Check out hundreds more on website. Call 658-4726 to register, if you already have an ACTIVENET account online, visit www.cityofventura.net.

Continued on page 15



VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

Member, Ventura Chamber of Commerce

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

Hi Breeze:

Please make sure that if you covered the Trump Support/Anti-Trump Protest today (we didn't), you state in your article that the Pro Trump contingent were from out of the area; specifically from L.A. and Orange County. The anti-Trump contingent, of which I was one, were made up of Venturans.

As an participant/observer of the protest, I thought you'd like to write up my observations or quote them. In most cases the people there were polite and willing to just make their stance known. However, you had about 6 male

Opinion/Editorial



Sheldon (Governor) Brown
Publisher-Editor

■ On our cover is an article about the firing of Ventura Unified School District head **Dr. Babb**. I had one occasion to meet him when I contacted him after his hiring and we met in his office at the school district HQ.

We had a nice conversation and I told him of several articles that I would like written about the VUSD for the Ventura Breeze. He was very receptive and even had several of his own that he wanted to write about, and he even wrote them all down. We came up with a nice list.

I never heard from him again.

■ The all new CAPS Media radio station, KPPQ-LP, has officially launched and is live 24- hours a day at 104.1 FM. Even though it is a low-powered signal (3.5 mile radius), the channel is being heard in a larger area and being picked up in Pt. Hueneme and other areas outside of Ventura.

Breeze music writer **Pam Baumgardner** (venturarocks.com) is hosting her own show - a one-hour mostly local music show on Tuesdays from 5-6 pm. The show is also being rebroadcast as the station fills in their scheduling.

I might also have an upcoming show - I will keep you posted.

It's a really good station to listen to all of the time with programing from many other FM affiliates and great National Public Radio (NPR) programing.

■ The U.S. and **North Korea** are on a collision course towards nuclear war and our President is worried that Obama might be listening to his phone calls.

■ The City is taking action to provide housing for the **homeless**. This would include supportive services (such as mental health), which are as important as the housing need.

At their March 8 meeting, the Planning Commission approved (by a 6-1 vote) a code amendment that would create a zoning overlay district (Emergency Shelter Overlay District) that will provide a location where emergency shelters (for the homeless and their pets), with full supportive services, which can be established with a Condi-

Mailbox

ProTrump supporters who mingled with the anti-Trump contingent trying to get them to talk with them just so they could talk over their opinions. Listening was not their strong point. There were a couple of anti-Trump supporters that became belligerent in response. But most of the observed push came from the Pro Trump group from L.A. or Orange County. It was also obvious that those Pro Trump supporters intermingling had media equipment so they could then post their admittedly, one sided views on the web or twitter. Most of these were young college age students enjoying their use of media.

One other oddity that struck me, as cars drove by, I found that the Trump supporters often honked their horns in support. While the anti-Trump supporters just gave a thumbs up. Interesting. Thanks for your time, Joanne Fields, Venturan

Editor,

I see that somebody's proposing a new law allowing cyclists to roll through stop signs, saying that fewer cyclists will get killed if they don't have to spend as much time on the road. Sorry, but I can't see how rolling thought stop signs ever

tional Use Permit (CUP).

The Planning Division determined that there is no substantial evidence that the proposed sites would have a significant adverse effect on the environment, and that a negative declaration (ND) may be adopted.

At the meeting, Cappi Patterson spoke on behalf of the Buddy Nation (supporting dogs of the homeless) encouraging the Commission to also allow pets at the shelters. Many supporters of Buddy Nation were in attendance.

At the March 20 City Council meeting, the Council will consider adopting the Commission's recommendations.

Of course this is really the simple part, the difficult part will be finding a developer (non-profit?) that would build and support the shelters.

We are certainly not the only city with a homeless population. Venice is taking steps to house some of their homeless. A proposed homeless housing development will have 68 units and some retail shops that would serve as job training sites (very important).

Supportive services would be provided by four full-time case managers.

This is similar to finding a developer to build housing for veterans and their services. But, in many ways, much more difficult.

Speaking of veteran support, the city owns a 9.6-acre parcel in East Ventura - located next to the existing **Veterans Home** of California on Telephone Road. This property is being considered for Veteran housing.

The timing is critical so that the project might be provided with Proposition 41 funding that was passed by voters in 2014. It sets aside \$600 million for multi-family housing for veterans, with at least half of that going to those with very low incomes. The funding only lasts a few years and because the city has the available land adjacent to veteran services, this might help the project's chances of receiving State funds.

Requests for qualification to be the project's developer have been submitted to the City and are due by March 22. A few companies will be selected to be part of official proposal process selection

during a public hearing scheduled for as early as May. Developers with experience managing veterans housing and services will be preferred.

Veteran's shouldn't get too excited about moving in yet it would be at least 3-years before any activity would start on the site.

■ Continue to watch your consumption of water. Even though Lake Casitas (one of our three water supplies) is about 40% full, so we are still in **drought**. All of the current rain we have experienced is still not enough to get us out of our drought. It seemed like a huge amount of rain, but is still just a little over an average year of rainfall here, and we have had five years of drought. And, it seems that our rain season is coming to an end.

■ The killing of animals for their ivory tusks is incredibly cruel and unnecessary. Of course, killing animals for their meat is still somewhat cruel but perhaps necessary for survival.

The solution to this is being implemented in LA County where ivory worth hundreds of thousands of dollars have been seized from shops selling them in the County. Existing laws do ban the sale of this material.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife agents are enforcing the laws. A small step, but one that would stop such sales if retail stores that purchase ivory goods lose all of their product.

■ From the LA Times: "The nation's pediatricians are pushing back against parents who resist having their children **vaccinated** against a broad range of dangerous diseases by calling on states to stop offering waivers to those with non-medical objections to the practice."

I certainly agree. As an example, polio, which was basically wiped out, is making a comeback in some third world countries because polio vaccination workers are being killed by ignorant groups that think that this is a Western plot to eliminate them.

■ At the March 13 City Council meeting City Manager Mark Watkins announced the Ventura Water General Manager has resigned and will be leaving her position in 4 weeks. Perhaps in the next issue we will have further information regarding this.

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



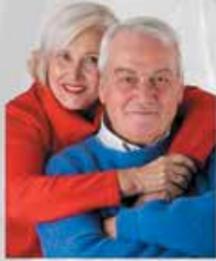
If people knew how hard I worked to get my mastery, it wouldn't seem so wonderful after all.

– Michelangelo





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Community Events

Half Full or Half Empty: Managing Water Conflicts

Thanks to recent rains, many are tempted to think the drought is over. Learn the opinions of three local water experts as they share their insight at Half Full or Half Empty: Managing Water Conflicts, 5:30-7:30 p.m., April 13 at the Ventura County Museum Plaza Pavilion. Sponsored by Ventura-based law firm Ferguson Case Orr Paterson.

The evening includes a panel discussion on the challenging water issues confronting Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. Speakers include Josh Haggmark, City of Santa Barbara, Matthew Fienup of Cal Lutheran University and Susan Mulligan, Calleguas Municipal Water District.

The evening will begin with a reception from 5:30-6 p.m. followed by the main program. Refreshments will be served. This event is free to the public, however reservations are required. RSVP to cdickey@fcoplaw.com or call 659-6800.

Ventura events

by Ana Baker

Men, already or nearly retired, gather with the Ventura Retired Men's Group at noon on the first and third Tuesday each month at the Ventura Elks lodge in a relaxed atmosphere for a healthy lunch(\$15), a topical program of interest, and various other enjoyable activities. Call Steve Carroll for details at 642-1359.

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

There will be a regular Ventura Discussion Group meeting at Main Street Restaurant 3159 Main St., Wednesday from 4 p.m. to 5:45 p.m. Several people usually stay for a drink and a bite to eat afterward. Bring an interesting topic to discuss if you can.

Ventura's ACBL Duplicate Bridge Club offers games for all levels of play. Learn the game, play with your peers, and earn master points while you are having fun. There is a game every day of the week. Check out their website at www.vcbbridge.org Life is Better with Bridge.

March 16: At the next meeting of the East Ventura Community Council, Jackie Griffin, Ventura County Library system Director, will report on the new East Ventura library scheduled to open in 2017. Deputy Mayor Neal Andrews will give a presentation on city issues and general concerns and questions. Ashley Bautista, of the Ventura Police Department's Civic Engagement Unit, will present a crime update. The meeting starts at 7 p.m. at the First Assembly of God Church, 346 N. Kimball Road. For more information contact John McNally, Chairman EVCC 804-7558

March 16: Assistance League of Ventura County. Chapter House, 913 East Santa Clara. 9:30 a.m. meeting begins at 10 a.m. with guests and new

members welcome. Assistance League is creating "A Brighter Tomorrow for Today's Children" through several philanthropic programs. The Bargain Box Thrift Shop helps fund these programs. Find more at assistanceleagueventura-county.org or alvconline@hotmail.com. Telephone: Monday thru Thursday 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. 643-2458

March 18: Ventura Friends of the Library will hold a Buck-a-Bag Book Sale at Vons at Telegraph and Victoria on Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Restock your bookshelves along with your groceries. We'll provide the bag. Fill a plastic bag and take home a bag of books for just \$1. Fill a larger paper bag for \$2.

March 19: 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. Starts at noon at 11 a.m. There will be an informal workshop where a topic on clocks or watches will be demonstrated and discussed. There will be a mart where items will be for sale followed by lunch and a program "Show and Tell" where members bring interesting and unusual clocks, watches and other horological items to discuss. There is a \$3 admission charge. Lunch is available for \$5 more. Watches and clocks will be on display.

March 19: Sunday, Ventura Life and Love Hypnosis Meetup. 3:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. Dr. Vondie Lozano, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and Certified Hypnotherapist, hosts Spring is in the Air Group Guided Imagery/Hypnosis. Free. Ventura E.P. Foster Library, Topping Room. For more information go to www.meetup.com/live-your-best-life-hypnosis/events/

March 20: CA Zeta Chi parliamentarians will meet at 7 p.m. and will feature a lesson by Sandra Sanders entitled "Agendas." At the Main Street Restaurant. Those wishing to eat should arrive at 6 p.m. Non-members are welcome. Membership is \$25 per year. For information, contact Sharon Hillbrant, 479-6738, or check out zetachi.webstarts.com.

March 22: The College Area Community Council will meet on Wednesday, at 7 p.m. Council meetings include speakers and discussion on topics of neighborhood and community interest. During the upcoming meeting Kathy Bremer will make a presentation on the Telegraph Corridor Design Project. An update on the issue of Ventura College parking will be given and the upcoming CACC officer elections will also be discussed. The Council, which represents citizens between Mills and Victoria bordered by Foothill and Hwy. 126, meets in the Wright Event Center at 57 Day Rd. on the Ventura College campus. Free parking is available adjacent to the Event Center. 644-8695 for more information.

March 22: How do our brains explain the way we relate to current events and business trends in this increasingly technological world? These are topics Rebecca D. Costa will address. Rebecca is an American socio-biologist. She is the recipient of the prestigious E.O. Wilson Biodiversity Technology Award, host of the syndicated radio program, "Empowering, Provocative, Thoughtful," presented by Congregation Am HaYam, at 7:30 pm at 4839 Market Street, Unit C. Tickets are available at www.amhayam.com/events or at eventbrite.com for \$18.



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Community Events

March 24: Spring Swing Big Band dance featuring the Ventura Jazz Orchestra with the vocal stylings of Anna Kasper and Eliya Frantz. Big band arrangements, quick steppin if you can. Friday, 8 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. at the Poinsettia Pavilion \$15.00 admission at the door. Free refreshments and parking. 648-1143 for more information.

March 25, 26: Annual Book Sale at Olivas Adobe on Saturday and Sunday. 4200 Olivas Park Drive. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Choose from hundreds of books!

March 26: The Christian Science churches of Ojai and Ventura will host a free, hour-long lecture entitled "The Healing Power of Unselfishness" on Sunday, at 2 p.m. at the E. P. Foster Library, Topping Room. Lois Carlson will talk about learning to cultivate unselfishness, and what it means to live in a state of communion with the divine. All are welcome to attend. Child care will be provided. For more information, call 642-4891 or go to PrayerThatHeals.org.

March 27: Southern steelhead are an ocean going form of rainbow trout that need freshwater for survival, and cold, clean water within their environment is vital to the species success. Water quality in the Santa Clara River, has deteriorated as a result of pollutants draining off surrounding urbanized and farmed land. Strategies for protecting the water quality in the estuary, as well as other stream and river habitats, will be presented in 'Attaining Clean Water for Fish, Farms and Families' at 6:30 p.m. at the Oxnard Performing Arts Center (Hueneme Room), 800 Hobson Way, Oxnard.

March 28: The City Center's Charity Cafe Fundraiser at Red Brick Pizza. Tuesday 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. at 4990 Telephone Rd. At the time of ordering, be sure to mention The City Center. Red Brick Pizza will donate a healthy portion of that order The City Center.

March 30: Project Understanding, Life Worth Living Breakfast. Thursday, 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. at the Pierpont Inn, 550 Sanjon Rd. The breakfast is to tell our inspirational story and to listen to testimonies of lives that have and continue to transform. Learn about our programs and learn how to get involved. Guests will be given an opportunity to make a financial contribution at the event. Table sponsorships are available and start at \$600. For more information, please contact Lisa Marquez 236-4583 or email lisamarquez1@allstate.com or RSVP at hopeworthgiving2017.eventbrite.com

April 3, 17: The Ventura County Philatelic Society. Two Mondays 7:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Church of the Foothills, 6279 Foothill Road. Admission and parking are free. Stamp trading and camaraderie. Come for a great evening. Contact: vcpsforyou@lycos.com or 320-1601.

Ojai news and events

The Ojai Concert Series continues its commitment to bringing outstanding musicians to Ojai with an evening of exciting French Canadian "Québécois" folk music on Saturday, March 18th (7pm), by the "rarely on the west coast, but famous on the east", Yves Lambert Trio playing some delightful Quebec

folk music.

In 1976 Yves Lambert formed the now legendary La Bottine Souriante, a Quebec folk band specializing in traditional Québécois music with a modern twist. Ojai Valley Woman's Club, 441 Ojai Ave. \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. For more info or directions to the Ojai Valley Woman's Club, go to www.ojaiconcertseries.com or call 665-8852.

"Hollywood Nights: Letting Our Stars Shine" is the theme for this year's annual auction at Villanova Preparatory School. Villanova provides a challenging, and rigorous college preparatory curriculum, taught by a world class faculty, in a family environment that promotes the development of the mind and heart of young adults from diverse backgrounds.

Villanova continues to rely on the generosity of businesses, families, alumni, and friends to assist in providing a quality education and programs for the students. This year, the auction fundraising goal is to raise funds to build a new Art Center. Donors and sponsors will have their names and/or businesses proudly showcased in the printed program and on the school website. The event will be held at the parish hall at St. Thomas Aquinas Church in Ojai, on March 25 with silent auction viewing and appetizers from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Dinner, entertainment and DJ. (Cover2Cover) after 7:00 p.m.

All inquiries welcome! Please call Tessa Hottinger at 646-1464 ext. 126.

The Ojai Photography Club shifts into high gear with a presentation by Juan Carlo Mendoza, Ventura County Star staff photographer, "Photojournalism: Integrating Life and Lens." His presentation will include numerous recent images. He will speak about his career as a photojournalist, the stories behind his images and his passion for the outdoors, which includes living in a tree house! Tuesday, March 21, at 7:00 p.m. in Help of Ojai's Kent Hall, 111 West Santa Ana St.

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/.

The Ojai Playwrights Conference announced performers and honorees for its 20th Anniversary Benefit Gala "Celebrating 20 Years of Visionary Voices" scheduled for Saturday, April 8 the Benefit begins at 4:00pm at Matilija Auditorium with an extraordinary event created especially for this evening. Following the show, the festivities continue at Topa Mountain Winery, with a evening of fine wines, festive cocktails, a "Farm to Table Feast" prepared by some of Southern California's finest chefs, and a live auction!

Writer and performer Cynthia Waring will visit the Ojai Library at 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 18 to present a workshop titled "The Power and Healing of Writing Your Memoir." Waring, author of the published memoir Bodies Unbound and author and performer of two one-woman shows, will be sharing her process of memoir writing. She will also discuss how writing can integrate memories and heal old wounds.

Participants will get a chance to write a story of their own using the

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Monday, March 20th, 4 - 5:30 PM



Grand Opening!!

Saturday, March 25th, 8 AM - 5 PM

Both events will have Raffles, Light Refreshments and Giveaways!

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August 7- 15, 2017

Highlights: Calgary, Athabasca Glacier, Banff, Lake Louise, Jasper, and Waterton National Parks

\$1799 pp / \$250 single supplement



Door prizes, refreshments and special incentives for attending the show.

Location: 1500 Palma Dr., Ventura/2nd floor training room. Call to receive a detailed flyer/itinerary

guidance of the instructor during this one and a half hour workshop. For more information www.BodiesUnbound.com. Please bring a journal to write and pen!

This event is free and open to the public. For additional information, contact Ron Solórzano, Regional Librarian at 218-9146. The Ojai Library is located at 111 East Ojai Ave.

Spring Hebrew School session is starting March 20 at the Jewish Community of Ojai. The school teaches beginning Hebrew reading and writing, Jewish holidays, and ethics and values to children 3rd grade and up. The 10 week sessions help prepare students for their B'nai Mitzvah training. Come join for an Open House on March 13 at 6:30 PM at our Temple located at 530 West El Roblar Ave., Ojai to meet teacher, and see the school. For further info, visit www.ojaitemple.org, call 646-4464, or contact Pearl at 646-1721.

Chamber of Commerce hosts

Continued from page 1

ernment listened as Caldwell spoke of the need for the Chamber to reach all areas of our diverse city, to recruit high growth industries to Ventura, to ease the business startup process for new companies, and to address the homeless situation.

Mayor Nasarenko began his address with a snapshot of municipal finances, noting that Ventura is enjoying a four-year budget surplus and previous draws on the cash reserves prior to 2012 are being repaid.

Under the stewardship of City Manager Mark Watkins, the city is prepared to fix streets damaged by

recent storms, buckled sidewalks, clean up street medians and tree wells, and continue to fund Fire Station #4, which had previously been funded by a federal grant.

Nasarenko highlighted several new projects coming on-line, including the Community Memorial Hospital, the wing of the Ventura County Medical Center, and Kaiser Permanente's medical suites next to the 101 Freeway.

He stated that "Patagonia and the Trade Desk are both expanding their headquarters in Ventura, VW is building a new facility, and Portside Ventura Harbor remodeling is well under way including the addition of 220 new apartment units by 2019."

On a cautionary note, Nasarenko spoke to the "fiscal pressures" on the city, including pension costs, the need to build cash reserves that meet regional standards, the ongoing discussion about affordable housing, and the dearth of water supplies, which have not disappeared with the recent rains.

Since the early 1900s local Chamber of Commerce organizations have worked as city boosters and to represent the interests of the business community in local government. Members pay dues and elect officers. Staff are hired to run programs that further the mission of the Chamber.

The Mayor was keen to praise the Chamber for their support of Measure O this past November. The measure increased the sales tax in Ventura from 7.25% to 7.75%, which is expected to bring an additional 11 million dollars to city coffers this fiscal year. The law requires all of the money is spent within the city.



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News & Notes



You can watch the Parade on CAPS website.
Photo by Michael Gordon.

Radio classes commence

by Elizabeth Rodeno

CAPS Media held a successful Radio KPPQ Membership Training earlier this month! It was a full studio and an excited group of 12 new radio members on March 1st and 2nd. Staff helped folks find their footing and their radio voice. The first session covers Membership Program Information and Preliminary Training and the second session is a Radio Presentation and Performance Practicum. Classes are being held every month at the CAPS Media Center for Member/Producers to learn how to host their own programs and share the information and stories the public are eager to hear.

Did you miss the St Patrick's Day Parade? You can see our coverage of it, hosted by Tim O'Neil and Jerry Breiner and filmed by the CAPS staff and Interns, on our website (www.capsmedia.org), where you can find all our other great programs to stream anytime, day or night.

At the beginning of this month, CAPS Media completed a major upgrade of the Digital video studio to full HD capability. The upgrade includes new cameras, pedestals, teleprompters, monitors and more in the studio and control room. We invite you to stop by and check out all the great new equipment!

Coming up in April we have our regularly scheduled classes. If you become a member this month, you can sign up for our April Orientation Class, happening Thursday, April 6th at 6:00 PM. We will also be offering HD Camera Class on Thursday, April 13th at 6:00 PM and Final Cut X Edit Class on Thursday, April 20th at 6:00 PM. These training classes for CAPS Media Member/Producers to learn how to operate video cameras, edit, run the studio and produce radio programs are scheduled on the CAPS Media website at <http://www.capsmedia.org/events>. Registration for all classes begins April 1st.

Looking for a place to hold a club or community meeting? The CAPS Media Center conference room is available for nonprofit and other organizations to hold meetings for up to 30 people. We will include a tour of the CAPS Media Center.

Another amazing perk? You're surrounded by multimedia professionals when that pesky Powerpoint doesn't work! Call us for availability and scheduling 658-0500.

As always, you can watch Channel 6 to hear what the public has to say and watch Channel 15 to experience the city's vision to provide the best and clearest information for all. And now you can tune into KPPQ at 104.1 FM to hear some great radio! All programs are also available to the public via streaming service on our website. Go to www.capsmedia.org to see what our members are creating for you and sign up to be part of the story. A full year's membership is just \$25 for a TV membership and \$75 for a TV and Radio membership. For more information, contact us at info@capsmedia.org.

Ventura Hillside Conservancy events

River Restoration Saturday. On Sat., March 18, VHC staff, volunteers and members of the California Conservation Corps. will join forces from 9 a.m.-12 noon to clean up trash and clear paths at the Willoughby Nature Preserve. River Restoration Saturdays are a part of VHC's ongoing efforts to bring the Ventura River back to its natural state and make it more welcoming to human and wildlife visitors alike.

Volunteers should meet VHC staff at 9 a.m. next to Conservancy's kiosk on the Main St. Bridge along the bike path near downtown Ventura (at Main St. & Peking Streets). Participants must be 16+ years, should wear pants, long sleeves, closed-toe shoes and sunscreen and are encouraged to bring a water bottle.

Ethnobotany of Local Native Plants: On Thurs., March 23 at 7 p.m., Angela Rockett Kirwin, Adjunct Professor of Anthropology, will discuss the edible and pharmaceutical uses of a variety of local native wild plants. For thousands of years, the indigenous peoples of California sustainably gathered, managed and used local plants for food, cultural practices and environmental stewardship. Discover the rich history of some of the plants that cover Ventura's beautiful hillsides.

This free community lecture, a part of the Ventura Hillside Conservancy's ongoing Environmental Speaker Series, will take place in the Santa Paula Room at the Poinsettia Pavilion.

All events are free but reservations are highly recommended. RSVP at www.ventura-hillside.org/events.

For more information call the Ventura Hillside Conservancy 643-8044.

Buck-A-Bag Book Sale

Restock your bookshelves along with your groceries!
We provide the bag.
Fill a plastic bag and take home a bag of books for just \$1.00.
Fill a larger paper bag and take it home for \$2.00.

Saturday, March 18, 10:00am to 3:00pm
Vons, Telegraph and Victoria
Contact: friends@venturafriendsofthelibrary.org
www.venturafriendsofthelibrary.org



Enjoying the sounds of the Equinox Ensemble Latin jazz blues band at Squashed Grapes were Staci Brown, Breezy Gledhill, Johanna Spinks and Alfred Lewis.

What is Altrusa International?

Altrusa is an acronym. Amity - Loyalty - Talent - Reciprocity - Unity - Service - Achievement.

Altrusa is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization where all their services, scholarships and fund-raising projects go to the local community.

Fundraising efforts include an annual luncheon and entertainment function; annual member brunch and donations from local businesses. Altrusa's primary service

projects include nursing scholarships at Ventura College and CSUCI, Family to Family, Books for Teens at Blanchard Community Library, Project Understanding Tutor Centers, West Park after school programs, Literacy, Cal-Vet Ventura Library and Khepera House.

Many of the people who benefit have families with young children. Many of the children in the programs Altrusa supports are underprivileged and their efforts make a difference in these children's future successes.

Altrusa is a club first founded by Mamie L. Bass in Nashville Tennessee on April 11, 1917. This means Altrusa International is celebrating 100 years of service and Altrusa of San Bue-

naventura is celebrating 69 years.

Altrusa International, Inc. has clubs in eight countries. The clubs in the United States are divided into 12 geographical districts. The Ventura club belongs to District 11.

Altrusa's mission statement is "Our country is as great as we, it's citizens make it. Therefore, we pledge our loyalty to its ideas and it's endeavors for the welfare of mankind. We strive to fulfill our civic obligations."

Altrusa offers to the business and professional people of the community an opportunity to touch each other's lives and be broadened by an interchange of interests and by a sympathetic consideration of the viewpoints of others.

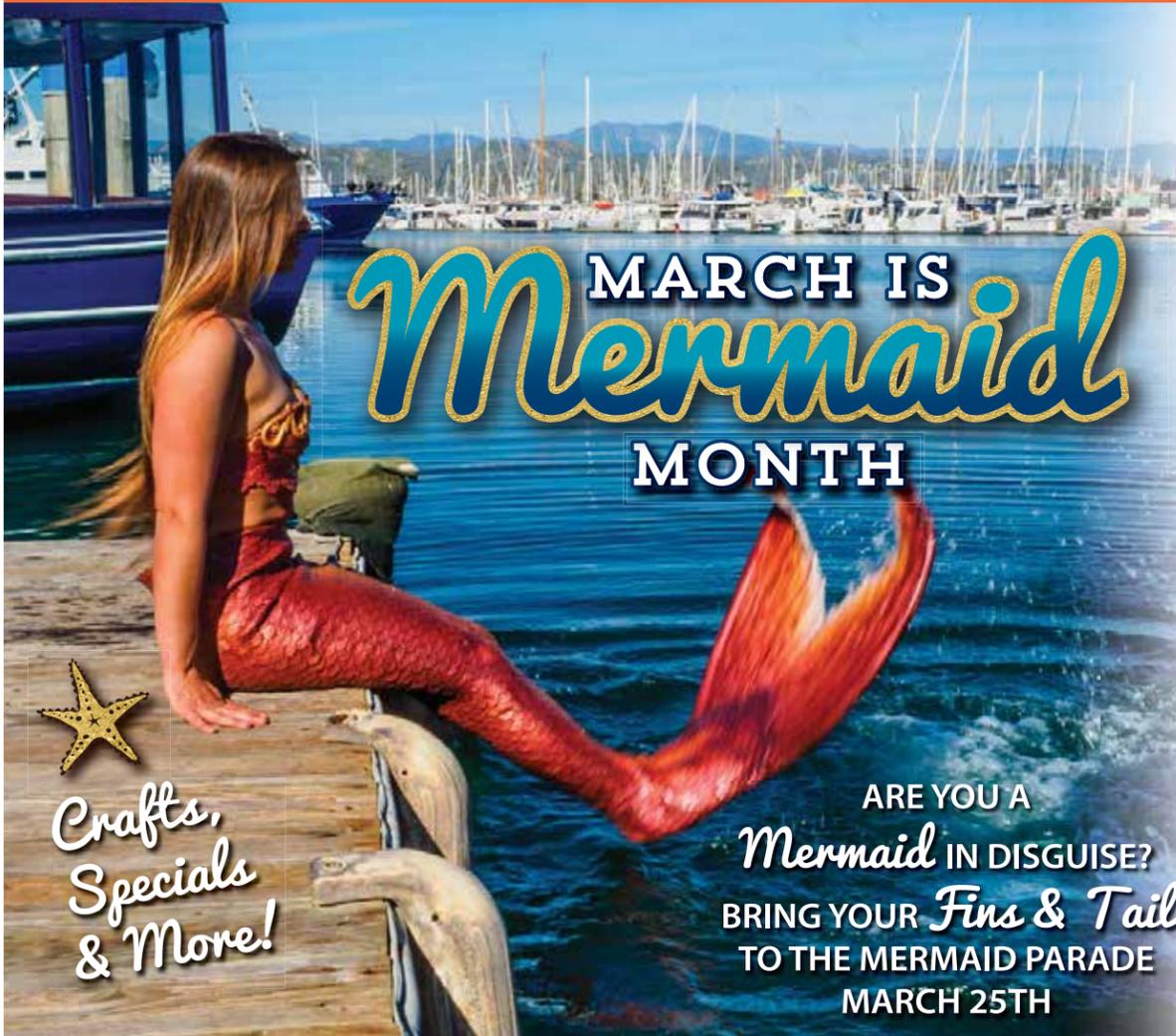
If you'd like to make a difference in your community and see what Altrusa is doing and how you can help attend a meeting. Business meetings are held on the second Thursday of each month at 11:30am at Main Street Steakhouse and Restaurant in Ventura. Dinner meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of each month, at 6pm. These locations vary.

For more information please contact Barbara Lindquist at 795-2704 or email her at barbara456@sbcglobal.net.

Be sure to look for the ad in this issue for an upcoming Altrusa fundraiser on April 1st, featuring world renowned magician, Shawn McMaster!



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SATURDAYS**

March 11, 18 & 25 | 1-4 PM

**SIDEWALK
CHALK ARTIST**

March 11 | 1-4 PM



MERMAID PARADE

March 25 | Starts at 1 PM



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News & Notes



Take a morning trip through the farmers market with Kat Merrick of Totally LocalVC. From the Face Of Ventura by Johanna Spinks.

Ventura County Ag Week

Ventura County Ag Week is a time to reflect on the importance of Ventura County farmers and ranchers and the county's agriculture industry. It will take place March 20th -26.

Ventura County farmers and ranchers are truly stewards of the land; they are raising more on fewer acres and competing in a challenging global marketplace. While also working to protect Ventura Counties precious soil and water resources.

The agriculture industry is essential to our economy and the way of life in Ventura County. Agriculture has been attracting farmers since the 1800's and continues to be the number one employer in our county. Many of our founding farm families still remain today with the current generations carrying on their families' legacy.

Ventura County students will have an opportunity to hear firsthand from local farmers, and chefs as they visit schools throughout the county during Ventura

County Ag week.

Ventura County Ag Weeks goal is to highlight the important role agriculture plays not only to our county but the world.

Many events are planned:

March 21, Ventura County Ag Week Awards Luncheon and National Ag Day celebration. Farmers, ranchers, chefs and ag educators will be honored at the 2017 Ventura County Ag Day Awards Luncheon, held at the Limoneira Ranch in Santa Paula. The festivities will kick off with an opening speech by Henry Gonzales our Ventura County Agricultural Commissioner.

Thursday March 23rd - 5:30pm- 8:00pm-Free event.

Grapes and Hops 454 E Main St. There will be a free Meet the Farmer Mixer. Close Des Amis, Ojai Vineyards, Surf Brewery and Topa Topa Brewing will be on hand providing samplings of their locally produced libations. Come out and mix mingle with local farmers and taste the flavors of Ventura County.

Farm to Fork Cooking Class. Take a morning trip through the farmers market with a local Chef and our very own Kat Merrick of Totally Local. As they walk you through all the in's and out of local sourcing. Saturday March 25th 9:30am - 11:30. \$65 per person .

Guests will experience first-hand the connection from farm to fork at the Totally Local Ventura County Ag Week Farm Tour. March 26th - 9:00 am - 2pm

Cost \$85 includes lunch and tasting

Eat Local - Hug a farmer all week long

Local restaurants, wineries, brewers and purveyors will be highlighting their locally created weeklong specials.

Further information at TotallyLocalVC.com or TotallyLocalVC@Gmail.com.

Friday, March 17, 2017
at the Vagabond from 12 noon!

*St. Patrick's Day
Special*

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with **Carrots &
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Anahi Morelos, Marta Y. Alvarez and Alexandra Alamillo at the local premiere of Dream Big.

Two deserving young women received scholarships

Recently Ventura-based YCE, Inc. a woman-owned engineering and surveying firm, hosted the local premiere of Dream Big – Engineering Our World at the Collection's Century Riverpark 16 theater. Over 400 enthusiastic guests were greeted by YCE, Inc. owner Marta Alvarez who then viewed Dream Big, a larger-than-life movie celebrating engineering wonders of the world through the telling of heartfelt stories of human ingenuity.

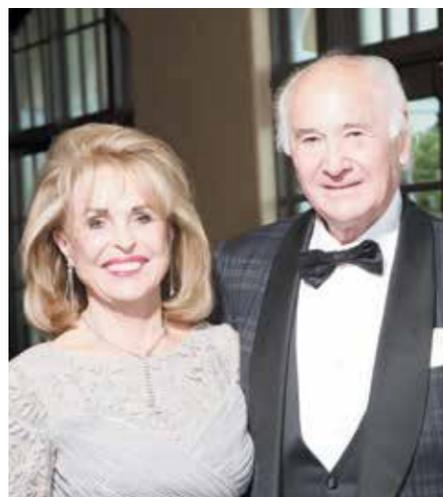
In conjunction with the premiere, YCE, Inc. awarded scholarships to two deserving young women. A three-member judging panel read over 50 applications before selecting Anahi Morelos, a Lompoc High School senior who was awarded the \$750 engineering scholarship and Alexandra Alamillo, a Camarillo resident & Cal Poly SLO Agricultural and Environmental Plant Sciences student who was awarded a \$750 agriculture scholarship.

The Society of Women Engineers 2016 Engineer of the Year, Marta Alvarez was named one of three national winners in the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Dream Big contest. Alvarez strongly believes in giving back to her community and to the fields of engineering and agriculture. "I saw this as an opportunity to really celebrate women in engineering and agriculture," stated Alvarez. "That's why we decided to incorporate two scholarships for local, tri-county female students."

YCE, Inc. is a full-service civil engineering and land-surveying firm located in Ventura. Founded in 1986

by Marta Y. Alvarez (PE/LS/MASCE), civil engineer and land surveyor. YCE is a nationally recognized Minority/Women-Owned Business Enterprise (M/WBE) employing engineers and land surveyors.

Marta was just announced by NAWBO-VC as their Bravo Innovator of the Year!



Don and Bonnie Carlton are Community Leaders of the Year.

Benefactors' Ball announces 2017 Cephas Bard Award Honorees

The Community Memorial Healthcare Foundation is holding its 44th Benefactors' Ball on Saturday, April

News & Notes

22, with proceeds benefitting the new Community Memorial Hospital.

At this event, four notable individuals will be recognized with the prestigious Cephas Bard Award, named after the founder of the first Community Memorial Hospital. The Cephas Bard award honors those who enhance the reputation and quality of Community Memorial Hospital.

Awardees to be recognized at this event are Community Leaders of the Year – Don and Bonnie Carlton, CMH Physician of the Year – Dr. Dominic J. Tedesco and CMH Retired Physician of the Year – Dr. Siegfried O. Storz.

To begin the festivities to celebrate the opening of the new hospital, this year's Benefactors' Ball will be held "Under the Stars" at the new Community Memorial Hospital.

Tickets can be bought individually or by table of eight. Sponsorship package opportunities are also available. For ticket or sponsorship information, visit www.benefactorsball.org, or call the Community Memorial Healthcare Foundation at 667-2881

Market Match and Cal-Fresh (SNAP) programs prove successful

Both shoppers and California farmers are benefitting from the Market Match and the Cal-Fresh (SNAP) food programs offered by the Ventura County Certified Farmers' Market Association (VCCFM). Market Match is California's healthy food incentive program, which uses grant dollars to match or double a portion of the customers' federal nutrition assistance benefits, like Cal-Fresh (SNAP), for the exclusive purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables at their certified farmers' market.

The Market Match program is available at three Ventura County Certified Farmers' Markets: the Midtown Ventura Certified Farmers'

Market held on Wednesdays from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Pacific View Mall, the Downtown Ventura Certified Farmers' Market held on Saturday mornings from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon held in the City Parking Lot, at Santa Clara & Palm Streets and the Thousand Oaks Certified Farmers' Market held at The Oaks Shopping Center, east end parking lot at Wilbur Road and Thousand Oaks Blvd. from 1:30pm to 6:00pm.

The VCCFM received their first grant last year which will end in Spring 2017 and is applying for another grant which will begin in July to extend their Market Match program for two more years. "This is a win-win for both our farmers and shoppers who benefit from this program," stated Karen Schott, Operations Manager for the Ventura County Certified Farmers' Market Association. "We have seen over a 100% increase in program utilization since we started offering Market Match and we are delighted to join together in this public health partnership," she continued.

According to VCCFM officials, Market Match has helped the VCCFM markets by alerting Cal-Fresh/SNAP recipients that they can utilize their benefits at a farmers' market while providing greater affordability for their families with the added grant benefits. VCCFM notes that California farmers are benefitting by the increasing market sales and the opportunity to introduce new customers to the benefits of purchasing fresh, local produce. All Cal-Fresh/SNAP and Market Match benefits are administered through a token system available at the VCCFM Market Information Booths. The markets also accept the WIC (Women, Infants and Child) food programs at each of their locations, although there is not an established matching grant program for the WIC recipients at this time. "Expanding the WIC program will be our next goal in the process," added Schott.

For more information on the Market Match Program or on the Ventura County Certified Farmers' Market Association call 529-6266 or visit www.vccfarmersmarkets.com.



Ventura County Jewish Film Festival wound up its 14th annual season this month with a screening of the award winning short film "A Children's Song" a heartwarming story that delved into the history of Jews fleeing from Nazis at the outbreak of World War II, and settling in Shanghai.

Stars of the film showed up for a Q and A, included actor comedian Lee Lawrence, ten year old ViviAnn Yee, and 11-year-old Adam Chernick, with Ventura Temple Beth Torah compere Ivor Davis.



Senior Living

Pull Out Section



Play will be followed by a traditional Irish feast.

Annual Wearin' o' the Green to benefit CAREGIVERS

The 25th Annual McGrath Family Wearin' o' the Green returns on March 17 to benefit CAREGIVERS: Volunteers Assisting the Elderly.

At the centerpiece of this annual event, which is being presented by Danny's Deli & Grill with Jack & Wendy Collings, is the Norm Weitzel Open. The tournament, one of the original fundraising events established to benefit CAREGIVERS, dates back to 1992 when Ventura locals Jack Collings and Norm Weitzel raised the first \$1,546. Following Weitzel's death in 2014, the tournament was renamed--in perpetuity--The Norm Weitzel Open.

In 2015, The McGrath Family stepped up by adopting the St. Patrick's Day tradition as their way of showing their commitment to CAREGIVERS and Ventura County seniors.

Last year, in Ventura County, CAREGIVERS served more than 800 frail seniors thanks to dedicated student and adult volunteers. This included 65,587 hours of volunteer time--all at no cost thanks to the Ventura County community and donor support.

Sponsors for the 2017 program include The McGrath Family, Danny's Deli & Grill with Jack & Wendy Collings, The Weitzel Family, Collings & Associates, Former Ventura Mayor Jack Tingstrom, ARTZworks.com Gallery & Workshop, Bill & Elise Kearney; Ginny & Bob Camarillo, Gold Coast Health Plan, Hishmeh Enterprises, MediTech Health Services, Law Offices of John D. L. McBride; Vitas Healthcare; Wedgewood Wedding & Banquet Centers; Coast to Coast Computer Products; and TransA

Continued on page 14

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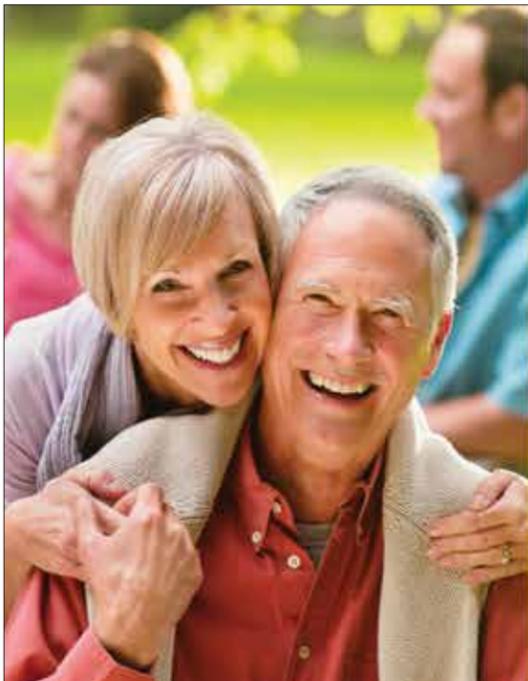
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Senior Living



Peggy Younes was asked "Are you the lady of the house?"

Seniors swing into action to prevent scams

by Lori Harasta

Scammed! "How could I have fallen for it?" Peggy Younes asked herself as she hung up the phone. The next day she found herself testifying about her experience at the Stop Senior Scams presentation at Cypress Place Senior Living in Ventura.

The Stop Senior Scams Acting Program is a series of skits, cleverly and humorously presented by professional actors that tell tales of one scam after another. There's the "Grandparent" scam, the "IRS" scam, and the "Sweetheart" scam. The latter is when someone reads an obituary, shows up at the door of the surviving spouse and claims he/

she knows the deceased, wooing and deceiving the grieving mate.

Then there's the "Yes" scam. A cold-caller asks, "Are you the lady of the house?" or "Are you the homeowner?" or "Can you hear me?" The idea is to get you to say "Yes". A recording of your "yes" could be used as "proof" that you signed up for a product or service or authorized the use of your credit card.

At the end of the Stop Senior Scams Acting Program, Director Adrienne Omansky encouraged Peggy to stand up and tell her story to the audience.

"It was a cruise scam. They called and told me I had won a \$5,000.00 travel package! All I needed to do was present a voided check for confirmation. After talking for a while to two very charming ladies, they passed me off to the "certified confirmation officer" who asked what the routing number was on my check, and then kindly requested the nine numbers that followed. Those guys were good! I've never fallen for a scam before!"

Fortunately, with Peggy's fast thinking, there was a happy ending. She googled the name of the company and nearly fainted when the word "scam" showed up in the search box. She quickly called her bank, which immediately closed her account and opened a new one for her.

According to Director Omansky, "It's nothing to be ashamed of. We're all vulnerable. We all need to help each other." The actors have all been scammed themselves, a key motivator in their desire to spread the word about how to avoid falling victim.

To report senior scams, call Adult Protective Services (APS) at 654-3200.

President Trump misunderstands what government drug price negotiations entail

by Peter J. Pitts

Former FDA associate commissioner, president of the Center for Medicine in the Public Interest

President Donald Trump recently pledged to let federal officials negotiate the prices of drugs covered under Medicare. He claims this will save taxpayers billions of dollars.

Nobody doubts that Trump and his team are shrewd negotiators. But the sorts of "negotiations" that Trump refers to have nothing in common with haggling over a real estate deal. Instead, the action that Trump has proposed -- repealing the non-interference clause, originally drafted by Democratic Senators Ted Kennedy and Tom Daschle -- would result in Medicare drug prices going up and patient choice going down.

This clause has been the key to Medicare's success. Between 2004 and 2013, the Medicare "Part D" prescription drug benefit program cost an extraordinary 45 percent less than initial estimates. Premiums for the program also are roughly half of the government's original projections.

These unprecedented results are largely due to Part D's market-based structure. Beneficiaries are free to

choose from a slate of private drug coverage plans, forcing insurers to compete to offer the best options to American seniors. This year, seniors can choose from among 746 plans nationwide, with an average monthly premium of around \$35.

Such great choice and low costs have led to widespread support for the program. In fact, nine out of ten seniors report satisfaction with their Part D coverage, according to a recent survey.

Through their own negotiations with drug makers, private insurers that offer Part D plans have had great success in keeping pharmaceutical prices down. In fact, the Congressional Budget Office observed that Part D plans have "secured rebates somewhat larger than the average rebates observed in commercial health plans." The non-interference clause prohibits government officials from intruding in these negotiations.

Doing away with the non-interference clause, on the other hand, "would have a negligible effect on federal spending." In a report from 2009, the CBO reiterated this view, explaining that such a reform would "have little, if any, effect on [drug] prices."

In fact, allowing the feds to negotiate drug prices under Part D likely would have a negative effect on the program. The CBO explains that to achieve any significant savings, the government would have to follow through on its threats of "not allowing [certain] drug[s] to be prescribed."

In other words, the government might drop some drugs from Medicare's coverage. Patients who need those drugs would then be forced to pay for them out-of-pocket, which would make

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medicines vastly more expensive for the seniors that Trump wants to help.

If patients couldn't afford the prescription, then they might switch to a less effective drug or stop taking the medicine altogether. Their health would suffer.

Unfortunately, this isn't a hypothetical consequence. Just look at what's happening with the Veterans Affairs formulary, which permits government interference. The VA covers barely 80 percent of the 200 most popular drugs in the country. Medicare, which doesn't allow for government meddling, covers 95 percent of these medicines.

Letting Medicare go the way of the VA would be devastating for seniors.

Senators Kennedy and Daschle knew what they were talking about. The President should pay close attention.



Nancy was a cheerleader in college.

A grand party will be held

Nancy Dressler will be celebrating her one 100th birthday on April 11. A grand party will be held for her on April 9 at the Poinsettia Pavilion. She was born in 1917 in Kansas City, Missouri to Pauline and John Noonan.

She grew up in St. Louis and was a cheerleader in college. In 1939 she met her future husband Ken Dressler who served in the Air Force. He and was assigned to Naknek, Alaska in 1954 during which time Nancy and her children lived in Ventura where they built their hillside home on Hilltop Dr. Ken retired in 1970 and the family settled in to their Ventura home. Ken passed away in 2010 after 58 years of marriage to Nancy

Nancy volunteered at Community Memorial Hospital as a Pink Lady for many years. She still lives in her Ventura hillside home.

Social Security-questions and answers

by Social Security Administration

How can I get a form SSA-1099/1042S, Social Security Benefit Statement?

SSA-1099 is a tax form we mail each year in January to people who receive Social Security benefits. It shows the total amount of benefits you received from Social Security in the previous year so you know how much Social Security income to report to IRS on your tax return.

Using your online my Social Security

account. If you don't already have an account, you can create one online. Go to Sign In or Create an Account. Once you are logged in to your account, select the "Replacement Documents" tab;

Must I pay taxes on Social Security benefits?

Some people who get Social Security must pay federal income taxes on their benefits. But, no one pays taxes on more than 85 percent of their Social Security benefits.

You must pay taxes on your benefits if you file a federal tax return as an "individual" and your "combined income" exceeds \$25,000. If you file a joint return, you must pay taxes if you and your spouse have "combined income" of more than \$32,000. If you are married and file a separate return, you probably will have to pay taxes on your benefits.

How do I earn Social Security credits and how many do I need to qualify for benefits?

We use your total yearly earnings to figure your Social Security credits. The amount needed for a credit in 2017 is \$1,300. You can earn a maximum of four credits for any year. The amount needed to earn one-credit increases automatically each year when average wages increase.

You must earn a certain number of credits to qualify for Social Security benefits. The number of credits you need depends on your age when you apply and the type of benefit application. No one needs more than 40 credits for any Social Security benefit.

How do I apply for Social Security retirement benefits?

You should apply for retirement benefits three months before you want your payments to start. The easiest and most convenient way to apply for retirement benefits is by using our online application.

You can apply by phone - 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778), Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. or In person - Visit your local Social Security office (Call first to make an appointment.)

At what age should I start receiving my Social Security retirement benefits?

Choosing when to start receiving your Social Security retirement benefits is an important decision that affects your monthly benefit amount for the rest of your life.

You can start receiving your retirement benefit as early as age 62, or as late as age 70. If you claim it early, your monthly amount will be reduced. On the other hand, if you delay claiming your benefit, your monthly amount will be increased for each month of delay. These adjustments are permanent for the rest of your life.

The increases from delaying your benefit can be large. For example, a worker with a \$1,000 benefit at her full retirement age of 66 would receive \$750 a month if she starts her benefit at age 62, or \$1,320 a month if she delays until age 70. Married couples have two lives to plan for. If you are the higher earner, delaying starting your retirement benefit means higher monthly benefits for the rest of your life and higher survivor protection for your spouse, if you die first.

Where can I go to find answers and general information quickly about Social Security's programs and procedures?

You can visit our Frequently Asked Questions webpage located at <https://faq.ssa.gov/ics/support/default.asp?deptID=34019&referrer>. Calling us at 1-800-772-1213 (TTY 1-800-325-0778), Monday through Friday from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.; or contacting your local Social Security office.

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Medicare questions answered

by Margie Johnson Ware
Aging and Health Specialist and Bonnie Burns, Medicare Specialist

How will I pay for my prescription medications on Medicare?

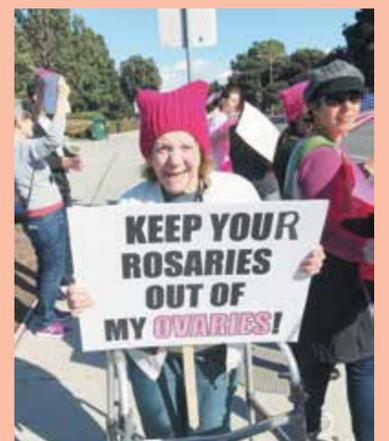
If you are not covered by employer insurance, and haven't signed up for a Medicare Advantage plan that includes prescription drug coverage, you will need to sign up for a Part D (prescription drug coverage) plan to cover your medications.

In some cases you may have been automatically assigned to a Part D plan if you get Extra Help or Medicare Savings Programs. A call to 1-800-MEDICARE will allow you to find out if you have been automatically enrolled. If so, you will want to speak with the representative and make sure that all of your medications are covered in the plan they put you in. If they are not covered, you can choose another plan. You can also contact your local SHIP (State Health Insurance Assistance Program) for help with this process.

What if my disability responds to treatment and I am able to return to work?

First, speak to a representative at the Social Security Office about how many hours you are allowed to work and still retain your SSDI payments. If you return to what the Social Security Office considers "substantial gainful activity" (i.e. a paying job above a certain income level, depending on your disability), you are still eligible for Medicare for seven years.

If new employment provides health insurance, then the employer insurance will become the primary payer if there are more than 100 employees, and your Medicare will become secondary—but still available in case your circumstances change.



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NCOA statement on the American Health Care Act

by James Firman

National Council on Aging (NCOA)
President and CEO

Access to health care, long-term care, and affordable health insurance is a fundamental building block of healthy aging. While NCOA is pleased that many important ACA Medicare provisions remain untouched in the House proposed repeal and replace legislation, we are very concerned about the impact several of the provisions will have on older Americans and their families.

Our greatest concern is with the Medicaid proposals that impact tens of millions of our nation's most vulnerable, low-income citizens. Although we are grateful the proposal does not turn Medicaid into a block grant program, imposing caps on federal contributions to the program has nothing to do with repealing the ACA, and would fundamentally restructure a 50-year-old federal payment guarantee based on a percentage of actual costs.

Per capita caps would limit federal payments to states based on a preset formula, shifting the risk of rising health costs to states and making it easier to cut the programs by simply dialing down growth rates. We fear that, over time, significant cuts would result in major reductions in services, particularly in states that may be disproportionately penalized by the capping formula. Per capita caps also fail to adjust for Americans' increasing longevity and need for expensive long-term care.

Medicaid helps pay for care for nearly two out of three nursing home residents and provides more than 3.2 million seniors and people with disabilities access to home and community-based services. We support state innovation and delivery system reforms to improve outcomes and achieve cost-efficiencies, such as shifting from institutional to home and community-based services. However, we are concerned that federal per capita caps combined with cuts could slow innovations that require up-front investments and that flexibility could undermine important federal consumer protections.

We are also troubled that the legislation gradually eliminates the important Medicaid expansion, which extended health insurance coverage to 11 million adults, including about 1.5 million people aged 55-64, and that it repeals incentives to improve access to Medicaid home and community-based services under the Community First Choice program.

While we are pleased that Medicaid assistance with out-of-pocket costs for low-income Medicare beneficiaries would not be subject to the per capita caps, we are concerned that Section 14 of the Ways and Means Committee bill would weaken the Medicare Part A Hospital Insurance Trust Fund.

The bill also repeals important premium cost protections for pre-Medicare older adults by increasing the current age rating band from 3:1 to 5:1 or more. For Americans aged 55-64, this will mean premiums could increase as much as several thousand dollars a year and may no longer be affordable. When members of this age group cannot afford care, they often come into Medicare less healthy.

Finally, we were disappointed at the repeal of the Prevention and Public Health Fund, which represents our nation's greatest commitment to public health and preventive services. This fund has improved access to disease prevention, vaccines, and health screenings for all Americans.

We are disappointed that hearings will not be held before voting on a bill that has far-reaching implications for Americans of all ages and that we will not have the Congressional Budget Office analysis of the bill to know how many people might lose their insurance coverage.

NCOA stands ready and willing to work with the Administration and Congress to craft and implement effective, responsible solutions to improve health care for our citizens, particularly those who are vulnerable or disadvantaged.

Inspector General's Office targeted for senior scams

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Office of Inspector General (OIG) recently confirmed that the HHS OIG Hotline telephone number is being used as part of a telephone spoofing scam targeting individuals throughout the country. These scammers represent themselves as HHS OIG Hotline employees and can alter the appearance of the caller ID to make it seem as if the call is coming from the HHS OIG Hotline 1-800-HHS-TIPS (1-800-447-8477). The perpetrator may use various tactics to obtain or verify the victim's personal information, which can then be used to steal money from an individual's bank account or for other fraudulent activity. HHS OIG takes this matter seriously. We are actively investigating this matter and intend to have the perpetrators prosecuted.

It is important to know that HHS OIG will not use the HHS OIG Hotline telephone number to make outgoing calls and individuals should not answer calls from 1-800-HHS-TIPS (1-800-447-8477). We encourage the public to remain vigilant, protect their personal information, and guard against providing personal information during calls that purport to be from the HHS OIG Hotline telephone number. We also remind the public that it is still safe to call into the HHS OIG Hotline to report fraud. We particularly encourage those who believe they may have been a victim of the telephone spoofing scam to report that information to us through the HHS OIG Hotline 1-800-HHS-TIPS (1-800-447-8477) or spoofoig@oig.hhs.gov. Individuals may also file a complaint with the Federal Trade Commission 1-877-FTC-HELP (1-877-382-4357).

Annual Wearin' o' the Greet

Continued from page 11

merica Financial Advisors. Leprechaun sponsors include Signarama; Roadrunner Shuttle and SMART (Senior Marketing Alliance Round Table). Cash and Hole-In-One Contests are sponsored by DCH Toyota of Oxnard, William L. Morris Chevrolet, Kirby Auto Group and The Bunker Indoor Golf.

Individual player spots start at \$150. Shotgun start is 9 a.m. at Buenaventura Golf Course, followed by a traditional Irish feast of corned beef and cabbage. Auction and raffle prizes are generously donated by the business community.

For information about CAREGIVERS and the 25th Annual McGrath Family Wearin' o' the Green presented by Danny's Deli & Grill with Jack & Wendy Collings, call 658-8530 or visit www.vccaregivers.org/wotg.php

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News & Notes



That's Jennifer with her arm around the birthday boy.

Celebrating my hubby's birthday in the Ventura Harbor

by Jennifer Tipton

The Ventura Harbor has several top picks for dining out for my husband's birthday we chose Brophy Bros. one of his favorites. Sunday, March 5th was my husband's 60th birthday.

Part of the charm of Brophy's is certainly the ambiance. You can choose to sit inside in a cozy booth or the bar and enclosed outdoor patio both which have beautiful views of the harbor.

I reached out to Brophy's several weeks ago to arrange a surprise birthday dinner. Kerry was amazing at communicating with me via email. She put a special menu together and offered suggestions for my vegan friends. Kerry wanted to be sure all food would come out at the same time for such a large group. A special table was set up for us out on the patio and there were heat lamps as the evening was a bit chilly.

Two servers split the table down the middle. The service was outstanding! The drinks kept coming, waters were refilled and bread baskets

replaced (which wasn't easy because the sourdough is super yummy and at least one friend is a "breadie").

Brophy Bros. is primarily a seafood restaurant however there are a variety of choices on the menu. My husband's favorite is the shrimp and crab salad. Kerry added that to our custom menu.

Back to our party ... yes, all the food came out at the same time. They did a plate of grilled veggies for our vegan friends. The servers knew who ordered what even though some of us were trading places at the table not in an effort to confuse them but to visit with those at the opposite end of the table. The servers kept up! A special shout out to one of our servers, Tyler. He presented the cake with candles lit and sang with us. Although it was more work for them, checks were separate as we requested.

Hard work must pay off because Kerry tells me Tyler is now the weekend manager Saturday and Sunday afternoons.

City classes

Continued from page 4

Classes held at the Barranca Vista Center, 7050 E Ralston St unless noted.

Canine Body Language Seminar

18 years-adult

3/18 Sa 0 am-12 pm \$20 #7699

Identify signs of anxiety versus playfulness and open new lines of communication with your pet. Led by Registered Veterinary Technician/Certified Professional Dog Trainer Shannon Coyner. Please leave your dog at home for this seminar. Classes held at 3521 Arundel Circle #B.

Erle Stanley Gardner's Ventura teen-adult

3/18 Sa 1-3 pm \$20 #8089

Meet at City Hall's front steps for admission to the former courtroom where the crusading lawyer and author of 84 Perry Mason books held audiences spellbound during such cases as "Fairchild vs Burnet."

Learn Digital Photography

16 years-adult

3/18 Sa 3-6 pm \$65 #8195

Brent covers camera use, lenses, equipment, tripods and understanding exposure and composition from basic concepts through advanced techniques for beginner/intermediate digital photographers.

3D Printing Level 1

8-16 years

3/22-5/17 W 4-5:30 pm \$149+\$25 supply fee #7961

New age artists and designers will scan, model, morph and 3D print their projects using fun and easy Google Sketch-up and Autodesk Tinkercad. No class 4/5.

Weird California!

12 years-adult

3/23-4/6 Th 6:30-7:30 pm

\$40 #7959

Probe our local unsolved mysteries and murders and learn about our pygmy mammoths, intricate Chumash canoes, wooden Mission bells, an 1847 skirmish and 1945 Japanese bombing.

Lunchtime Fitness with Jackie

18 years-adult

3/24-4/26 M/W/F 11:30 am-12:30 pm

\$60 #7676

We mix low-impact aerobics, muscle toning and stretching with a few dance moves, some Pilates and yoga. Instructor Jackie Ringhof.

Mysterious Main Street Tour

teen-adult

3/25 Sa 8-10 pm \$20 #8090

Meet at City Hall's front steps for a "night walk" through Ventura's historic district with stories (some ghostly) about its lost treasures, gunfighters, battles and visits by a famed battleship and a president soon to be assassinated.

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We'll give you the "Mrs." and you can make the "Mr."

Save The Date





Professor Scamp, Ph.D (Pretty Happy Dog)



for the 20th Annual Pooch Parade and Pet Expo.

The Pooch Parade is C.A.R.L.'s largest fundraiser of the year, and a major touchstone for the local rescue community. The day begins with a charity walk that leads into a large festival celebrating pets. Dozens of animal rescues, non-profits, and vendors are expected to exhibit at the beachside event.

The fundraiser is greatly expanded for its 20th consecutive year. C.A.R.L. has moved the Pet Expo to Shoreline Drive, adjacent to Surfer's Point, the Expo has been restructured with a focus on broadening its appeal.

"The Pooch Parade is about raising funds, but it's also about raising awareness for the plight of rescue animals," commented C.A.R.L. President Mary Saputo.

Beer and wine will be served at the Expo for the first time, and contests, games, and activities are planned for kids.

The Pooch Parade is on May 7. To learn more about the event, register for the charity walk, or register as an exhibitor, visit <http://poochparade.org>.

Canine Adoption and Rescue League (C.A.R.L.) is a 501c3 registered non-profit, no-kill, all-breed dog rescue and sanctuary. Since 1996, C.A.R.L. has rescued and placed thousands

of unwanted, sick, abandoned, and homeless dogs. Dogs in the adoption program are placed in pre-screened, loving and secure homes.

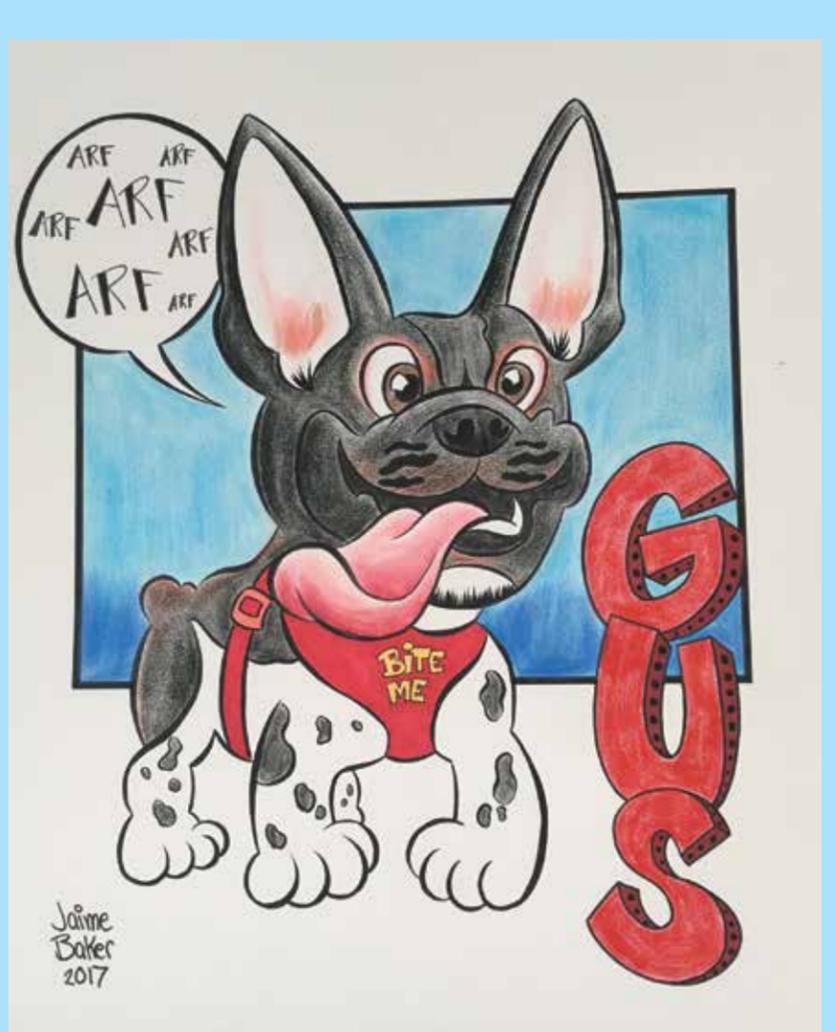
This brought a smile to my face for sure. February 28th was the greatest day ever for inmates and their new best friends. A day that had been in the works for nearly two years! The day Pivot brought their first dogs into Todd Road Jail. Rusty, Brando, Lipit, and Chance all arrived and were met by the Ventura County Sheriff Office officers and others. The team of employees at VCSO & Todd Road Jail Facility have embraced Pivot's canine educational outreach program.

The day was amazing from the moment the dogs were removed from the transport van and escorted to the lush green grass of the newly installed play yard. They were introduced to the staff, posed for a few pictures and then were greeted by their inmate friends. The morning was filled with smiles and tears of joy.

It takes courage to believe in second chances. Pivot's program is designed for second chances, a win-win for both humans and "last chance" dogs.

Pivot's mission is to encourage individuals to find their voice through innovative animal literacy based programs that are designed to develop personal and vocational skills by becoming responsible, productive members of the community. Each individual student learns patience, compassion and responsibility by caring for, training, and finding forever homes for last chance shelter animals.

Check them out at www.pivotareo.org or call 889-4800.



This is a wonderful drawing of my friend Gus by Jaime Baker. If you want a nice drawing of a dog or person text Jaime at 805-794-1808 or email him at tygertailzz2@aol.com.



Ruckus, 3 years old, died tragically on Harbor Boulevard when he ran into the street. Beloved by many, missed by many. R.I.P. dear Ruckus.



Sheriff Geoff Dean, Senior Deputy Shawn Pewsey, Captain Randy Downard, Tara Diller, Director-VC Animal Services, Donna Gillesby, Deputy Director-VC Animal Services, Commander Ron Nelson and Assistant Sheriff Eric Dowd at Todd Road Jail.

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Saturdays
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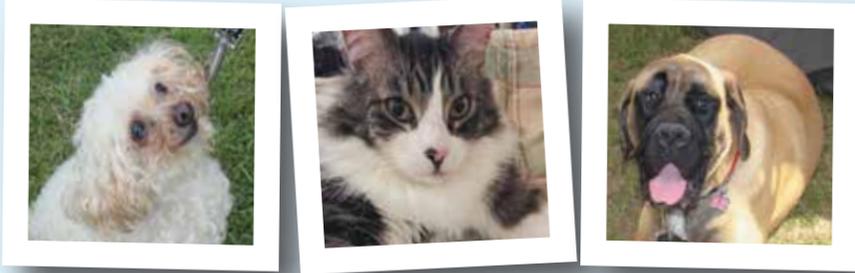
Sundays
6:00 am to midnight



Professor Scamp, Ph.D

Scamp Club

(Scampclub pets are not for adoption.)



These are 3 Scampclub animals, Corky, Laura and Rita, but I just can't find their information. A computer failure and not mine I'm sure.

SPAN Thrift Store

SPAY/NEUTER ANIMAL NETWORK

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More Spays - Less Strays

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Families in Ventura County

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LostCatVentura.com and LostDogVentura.com are free resources for finding lost pets in Ventura County, and where you can post a notice to find your lost pet.

Join Scamp Club

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

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This 'n' That



Downtown Ventura Partners will be cleaning your butts.

New efforts to reduce cigarette butt litter downtown

by Lars Davenport

Environmental Specialist, Ventura's Environmental Sustainability Division

If you've visited downtown Ventura recently you may have noticed the newly installed cigarette butt cans in areas with the worst cigarette butt litter problems. While smoking is not permitted downtown or in almost any other public space in the city, there is still a considerable amount of cigarette butt litter making its way into our streets, storm drains, waterways, and beaches. In fact, cigarette butts are the most commonly collected item during local beach cleanups.

In the first month that the five

downtown cigarette butt cans were installed, all of the cans were being used frequently, and Surfrider estimated that 4,000 cigarette butts were collected from the new cans.

These efforts are part of a larger Hold On To Your Butt (HOTYB)

campaign that Surfrider is leading, with support from the City of Ventura and other local groups. Downtown is the first area in the city to receive cigarette butt cans, with more cans set to be installed on City property in other areas soon.

Surfrider also offers a community cigarette butt can sponsorship program, where you can sponsor a collection can at your business or in your community. Email hotyb@ventura.surfrider.org or visit ventura.surfrider.org/ for more information.



On March 3, just after 10:30am a fire ravaged a single family home in the 800 block Jazmin Ave. in East Ventura. The first on scene Engine Company found the kitchen, several rooms, and the attic in flames. Crews aggressively fought the fire and searched the building for occupants-- based on several reports by bystanders that people were still inside. The fire was knocked down within 18 minutes. After a very thorough search, it was determined that no one was in the home at the time of the fire.

The neighbor was the first person to report the emergency. She stated the fire quadrupled in size in the few minutes it took for crews to arrive on scene from the original 911 call.

The four bedroom, two bath home also had extensive smoke damage. Fire investigators determined the fire started in the kitchen area and the exact cause is under investigation. A total of 6 residents were displaced from the fire. Red Cross responded to the scene and provided immediate aid to the family. Ventura Building and Safety red tagged the main residence. Preliminary estimates put the loss at \$250,000 to the structure and \$50,000 in contents.



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Fifteen of the original alumnae attended the event.

Ventura College state champions inducted into hall of fame

The Ventura College 1996 and 1997 women's basketball state champions were formally inducted into the Ventura College Athletics Hall of Fame during a ceremony recently held at the Athletic Event Center at Ventura College. As part of their 20th anniversary reunion, the teams were the first in school history to be inducted into the Ventura College Athletics Hall of Fame.

The honorees travelled from around the world, including Washington, Tennessee and Paris, France, to return to the campus and proudly accept their honors. Out of the 17 team members, 15 of the original alumnae attended the event. The 1996 and 1997 women's basketball teams earned the first two state championships for the Ventura College women's basketball program.

Leading to the state championships between 1995 and 1997, the Ventura College women's basketball team was nearly undefeated winning 71 out of 72 games. They outscored their opponents by an average margin of 35.7 points. "To look back at the accomplishments of these young women is very inspiring," remarked VCCCD Trustee Stephen Blum. "We will forever cherish the memory of their success and the pride of team spirit they contributed to the campus environment at Ventura College during that era," added Blum.

The 1995-96 team finished 35-0, beating all opponents except three by double figures, while the 1996-97 team finished 36-1, ferociously responding to an 81-75 loss to San Jose City in the final of the Gilcrest Invita-

tional at College of the Sequoias; snapping a 42-game winning streak. Thereafter they didn't just win their final 29 games, they put up 100 or more points a school-record seven times.

"The legacy that these women have left on sports at Ventura College is monumental. The team's spirit of excellence and dedication exemplifies Ventura College athletics" shared Coach Ned Mircetic. The team members were presented awards by Ventura College President Greg Gillespie, Ventura County Community College District Trustee Stephen Blum, retired Ventura College assistant coach and team mentor David Breslin and coaching staff from 20 years ago, including head coach Ned Mircetic and assistants Tara McLean Emery and Maria Christine.



Amenities will include three new neighborhood parks.

147 new homes coming to the Westside

On March 22, at 11:30 a.m. a groundbreaking ceremony for Solana Heights – 147 new homes in Ventura's Westside neighborhood will be held.

Solana Heights, the master-planned community developed by CalAtlantic Homes, will bring 147 new homes to Ventura's housing market including 116 single-family homes with two story floor plans and 3-5 bedrooms, as well as 31 townhomes with two and three story floor plans and 3 to 4 bedrooms. Several of the homes will have coastal views.

Solana Heights' family-friendly amenities will also feature three new neighborhood parks totaling 1.5 acres of outdoor gathering spaces with play equipment, picnic tables and barbecues, and a gated

This 'n' That

dog park.

The groundbreaking will be held at 2686 N. Ventura Avenue at School Canyon Road. Follow the signs for parking. Please wear comfortable walking shoes; this location is an active construction site.

Speakers will include City of Ventura Mayor Erik Nasarenko, CalAtlantic Vice President of Project Development Ken Melvin and Division President Elliot Mann.



College staff members met to share best practices for serving veterans on college campuses.

State-wide initiative to serve student veterans

The Ventura County Community College District Veterans Resource Center Coordinators from Moorpark College, Oxnard College and Ventura College met with managers from California Lutheran University, California State University, Channel Islands, and National University to discuss best practices for helping student veterans achieve success. Leading the discussion was VCCCD Trustee Larry Kennedy, Chancellor Bernard Luskin and Vice Chancellor of Educational Services Rick Post, all United States Navy veterans. The meeting included all of the cooperating higher education institutions in Ventura County that have a veteran's center.

The VCCCD is leading a state-wide effort to expand and improve veterans' services on college campuses. Kennedy, Co-Chair of the Community College League of California Veterans Caucus, shared the Caucus goal to increase the organization's membership of individuals and institutions to advocate on behalf of veterans and encourage state and federal support in funding for counselors and other needed services for student veterans. "Things were different when I returned from Vietnam," stated Kennedy. "Today's students need more than VFW halls. In addition to academic support, they need re-entry and transitioning support. We would like to see a Veterans Resource Center on every community college campus in the state," Kennedy added.

Chancellor Luskin and members of the Board of Trustees, including Chair Bernardo Perez and Trustee Stephen Blum, attended the Association of Community College Trustees National Legislative Summit in Washington, DC, Feb. 13-16 to connect the CCLC Veterans Caucus with ACCT and national legislative staff. Meetings are scheduled with representatives from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, the U.S. Senate and other legislators to address issues specific to student veterans.

"With an estimated 1.8 million veterans residing in California, the state's veteran population is the largest in the nation. Many of the increasing number of veterans returning from Iraq and Afghanistan will look to one of the 113 community

colleges as the most easily accessible and affordable educational options available. In fact, more than 61,000 veterans, and active duty service members, enrolled at a community college in 2013-14," said Kennedy.

"The California Community Colleges are urging Congress to fund more counselors for veteran students and fund the Centers of Excellence for Veteran Student Success in the Higher Education Act," explained Chancellor Luskin.



Amber Nozzi is a scholar-athlete.

Buena High student was the Irish Belle

Amber Nozzi served as this year's Irish Belle for the 2017 County Ventura St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Amber is a senior at Buena High School. She is a scholar-athlete who played volleyball at Buena all four years and will be graduating in June with summa cum laude honors. Nozzi is involved in her school's Renaissance Leadership program that recognizes and rewards students for their academic achievements and improving school culture and climate. She also is active in the California Scholarship Federation and Habitat for Humanity.

Nozzi is a teacher in the children's ministry at New Life Community Church in Oxnard and in the fall will attend Westmont College and major in business and economics.

Her duties as the parade's 6th Irish Belle were to attend promotional activities supporting the parade and to ride in the convertible that leads the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee entry.

Dee Dowell Scholarship Award

Continued from page 1

within the past three years, or a Ventura Police Department employee or employee's child.

Have a grade point average of 3.0 or better (based on a 4.0 system); Maintain a grade point average of 3.0 or better if selected as a recipient;

Submit a resume of school and community activities, including a copy of transcripts through the most recent semester;

Submit a typed essay of 1,000 words or less on "Service, what it means to me";

Submit a letter of recommendation from a public servant.

For additional information, please contact Cpl. Cameron Goettsche at 339-4400 or email at cgoettsche@venturapd.org. Applications are available at the front desk of the Ventura Police Department located at 1425 Dowell Dr. - named after Sergeant Dowell.

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 JAMES F. GRAY PRINTING 2261 Palma Dr. #2, Ventura (805) 650-2786
 READ CHAPTER ONE FOR FREE ON AMAZON.COM

'IN SEARCH OF THE BABES - SEE PAGE 143
 Author's Note: I said to my wife while penning this ditty, "I have to put myself into the mindset of a boy, 15." And she said, "You are a boy, 15."

Police Reports

by Cindy Summers

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.

Possession of a Controlled Substance with a Loaded Firearm Arrest

On March 3, at approximately 2:30am, a VPD officer conducted a traffic enforcement stop near the intersection of Palm and Main Street. The vehicle continued westbound and the driver later identified as 36 year old Ventura resident Rawls Amores appeared to be shuffling around in the vehicle. Amores yielded to the officer in the 200 block of Main Street. As the initial officer contacted Amores at the driver's side window a secondary officer approached the passenger side window. The secondary officer observed a Glock Model 19 on the passenger floor board in plain view. The secondary officer alerted his partner and Amores was detained. Further investigation revealed the firearm in question was loaded and Amores was found to be in possession of methamphetamine.

Amores was arrested for being in possession of a controlled substance while in possession of a loaded firearm. He was transported to the Ventura County Main Jail where he was booked. The vehicle that Amores was driving was impounded as he was also driving on suspended license.

Violation of Parole and Felon in Possession of a Firearm Arrest

On March 3, at approximately 4:30pm, VPD Street Crimes Unit Detectives received information that a male subject was "live streaming" himself over a social media site while he handled a firearm and ingested narcotics.

The detectives were able to view this site and observed these actions and recognized the subject as 22 year old Ojai resident Ivan Reyes, a known convicted felon who had been paroled from state prison in the last year.

VPD Street Crimes Unit Detectives coordinated efforts with the Ventura County Sheriff's Department and responded to the Ojai neighborhood where Reyes lives. After a brief surveillance of his residence Reyes was observed outside holding an object concealed and wrapped in an article of clothing.

Uniformed officers moved in and detained Reyes and discovered the object he was holding was a .357 revolver, similar to the one he was seen handling on his social media site.

Reyes was taken into custody without incident and transported to the Ventura Police Department for questioning. The firearm that was recovered was determined to have been reported stolen from a residential burglary in Ventura that occurred in 2015.

Reyes was later transported to the Ventura County Main Jail where he was booked for a parole violation and a felon in possession of a firearm. The circumstances of how Reyes came to be in possession of the stolen firearm are still under investigation and may lead to additional charges being filed.

Possession of a Loaded and Concealed Firearm with a High Capacity Magazine, and Threats

On March 4, at approximately 6:30pm, the Ventura Police Department Command Center received a 911 call of subjects heard fighting inside of Barranca Vista Park, 7050 Ralston St. When officers arrived at the park, they observed two subjects, one of them later identified as 41 year old Temecula Gabriel Luna, physically fighting and detained them both. As an officer was conducting a

search of Luna, a gun fell out the bottom of his pant leg and onto the ground. He was taken into custody.

During the investigation officers learned that while involved in the physical altercation, Luna made threats to harm the victim with the gun. The gun was never displayed.

Luna was arrested and later booked into the Ventura County Jail for possession of a loaded and concealed firearm with a high capacity magazine and threats.

Residential Burglary Arrest

On the March 5, at approximately 5:45am, the Ventura Police Department Command Center received a report call reference a residential burglary at a residence in the 100 block of Barry St. Officers arrived and during the investigation learned that while the victim was not home, an unknown suspect had broken a window and entered the residence sometime overnight. A large amount of alcohol was stolen.

Officers obtained information that the residents in a neighboring home may have been involved in the burglary and made contact with several subjects inside, including the suspect later identified as 18 year old Ventura resident Michael Owens. Owens was found hiding inside a bedroom.

During a search of the residence, officers located the stolen alcohol and found evidence to connect Owens to the crime. He was arrested without incident and booked into the Ventura County Jail for burglary.

A second 36-year-old male was also contacted inside the home and found to have several outstanding warrants for his arrest. He was arrested without incident and booked into the Ventura County Jail.

Felon in Possession of a Firearm, Resisting Arrest, Malicious Harm to Police Dog, Possession of Deadly Weapon

On March 8, at approximately 5pm, an alert citizen called the Ventura Police Department and reported that a male subject was in front of a residence cutting the grass with a handgun visible in the back of his pants.

Ventura Police patrol units were dispatched to the area, and further investigation revealed that the person in question was on active probation, and is a person prohibited from owning or possessing a firearm. Officers attempted to make verbal contact with the suspect, identified as 54 year old Ventura resident Lonnie Ellis, and an elderly female exited the residence and was cooperative with the investigation. Ellis initially came to the door but he refused to comply with the officers orders, was verbally combative and went back inside the residence.

After several additional attempts were made verbally to order Ellis from the residence, he exited the front door and came outside, but again refused to cooperate and was verbally combative. A Ventura Police K-9 was used to take Ellis into custody, during which Ellis attempted to physically and maliciously harm the K-9.

Ellis was ultimately taken into custody with the assistance of the K-9. During a search of the residence a handgun and metal knuckles were located. Ellis was transported to the Ventura County Medical Center for minor injuries he sustained, then transported to the Ventura County Jail and booked for the above mentioned charges.

Narcotic sales, Possession for sales, Identity Theft arrests

On March 9, at 7am, Ventura Police Department Street Crimes Unit Detectives concluded an investigation into the

suspected sales of methamphetamine from a residence in the 1300 block of Mead Ave.

This morning VPD detectives and patrol officers served a search warrant and detained several subjects who were inside the residence. A search was conducted and detectives seized over an ounce of methamphetamine with an estimated street value of over \$1,000.00.

A handgun and a small amount of heroin was also recovered from the residence. Three adult males were arrested: 52 year old Ventura resident Shaun Landy, 56 year old Ventura resident Clifford Landy and 27 year old Ventura resident Anthony Maxwell.

Shaun Landy was arrested for felony sales of methamphetamine and identity theft, his brother Clifford was arrested for felony possession of methamphetamine for sales, and Anthony Maxwell was arrested for five outstanding misdemeanor warrants for burglary, theft, and narcotic violations.

All three suspects were later transported to the Ventura County Main Jail and booked on the above listed charges.

City Code Enforcement responded to inspect the residence due to sub-standard living conditions.

Arson Arrest

On March 11, between the hours of 12:00am and 3:30am, Ventura City Fire personnel along with Ventura patrol officers responded to numerous fires throughout the city. The fires started in the area of Shenandoah Street and Portola Road at approximately 12:30am. At 1:45am, Ventura city fire and VPD responded to four additional fires in the 2400-2600 block of Main Street.

At approximately 3:30am, an alert citizen observed a female subject, later identified as 37 year old Ventura resident Elisabeth Hurtadovera, set a fire to a trash can and shopping cart in the area of Ventura Avenue and Prospect Road. The citizen contacted the Ventura Police Department Command Center and continued to watch Hurtadovera as she proceeded northbound on Ventura Avenue. Officers arrived on scene and contacted Hurtadovera in the area of Barnett and Ventura Avenue.

Hurtadovera admitted to setting the fires. She was arrested and booked at Ventura County Jail for Arson.

Harbor Patrol Blotter

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

2/18 2:14pm, while on patrol officers discovered a stalled vehicle on Navigator Drive with two persons trapped inside. The vehicle was eventually pushed out of the flooded street, both persons rescued and no injuries were reported. 11:55pm, officers observed 3.6 inches of rain in the last 24 hours. Also, the Santa Clara river is flowing dramatically, depositing debris along the beach.

1:05pm received a dispatch to a water rescue at the Ventura Pier. Officers responded, but it was determined to be floating log from the storm.

3:12pm received a report of a 50ft motor vessel listing heavily. Officers responded to VIM and assisted maintenance and dewatered the vessel.

3:52pm received a dispatch to a water rescue at the Ventura Pier. Officers responded with Ventura fire and State Parks lifeguards. The kite surfer made it safely back to shore.

2/21 6:55pm received a report of a 46ft sailboat lost in the fog. Officers responded and assisted U.S. coast guard search for the vessel. The inexperienced captain is unable to use his navigation equipment. After searching for hour, the vessel was located a mile offshore of the Mandalay beach power station. After escorting the vessel to their slip, officers conducted a safety inspection and found numerous deficiencies.

2/22 2:40pm, received a dispatch to a water rescue at the pier, kite surfer in distress from FCC. Officers responded and assisted State parks lifeguards with the call. The victim was safely returned to the beach.

Weekly SUDOKU Answer

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

King Crossword Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

S	O	L	O	A	T	M	A	W	O	L
A	R	A	B	L	E	A	L	E	G	O
N	E	W	S	W	E	E	K	L	E	S
D	O	N	E	E	E	V	O	K	E	S
		S	E	R	F	O	W	L		
A	I	L	S	E	L	L	O	H	O	
F	R	O		H	A	U	N	T	N	I
T	E	N		O	M	I	T	A	G	E
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B	A	A	L		H	A	I	R	L	I
B	R	I	E		I	L	K		I	O
S	O	R	T		P	I	E		A	N



Ventura Music Scene

Local music and more!

by Pam Baumgardner
VenturaRocks.com

The Wine Rack on California Street has been sold. Darcy is moving on creating a family and taking over is Kristen Shubert who will be rebranding the venue soon as Vintura. She's cutting back the music to weekends but I don't think it will be for long as she gets grooved in on Ventura's music scene.

The Sandbox Coffeehouse is celebrating their five-year anniversary with live music every weekend, which come to think of it, they already do. Congratulations to Todd and the crew and thanks for giving a platform to artists to share their craft.

ARC of Ventura County is working on raising awareness about people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. They've put together a great event for Saturday, March 18th at Bombay's which will run 5-8 pm called, "Let's Go Out!" It coincides with March being the National Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month. Come out and enjoy the music from Fishfry, Seth Pettersen, The Vonettes and Deejay Steph. There is no cover, so bring the entire family!

Grapes and Hops is hosting a special event on Sunday, March 19 to help raise funds for FOOD Share featuring music from Crooked Eye Tommy, Jade Hendrix and Mr. O. Tickets are \$25; the affair runs 5-9 pm.

To what was once home to the legendary Beatles that influenced the world with their music, comes a new wave of musicians from the city of Liverpool. The Falling Doves, Barry Sutton, Cal Ruddy and Sam Rabette (all Liverpool natives) will perform music that inspired American rock n roll. There'll be music from The Beatles, The La's, as well as their own compositions. Catch them on their Liverpool Legends Tour at Oxnard's Copper Blues March 24th.

The Cask Alehouse is offering up music for the East Enders here in Ventura. They're located at 5952 Telegraph Road. You'll find live music on Thursday nights at 8 pm. They'll have Soul 4 II on March 16th, Frank Barajas on the 23rd and Lee Koch on the 30th.

There will be a Nat King Cole birthday celebration at Squashed Grapes on Friday, March 17 with Tilford Jackson and Friends; the Doug Webb group featuring Danny Carey of TOOL returns Saturday March 18; and the Denny Seiwel Trio featuring founding member of Paul McCartney and Wings will be there on Saturday, March 25.

And finally, my radio show, "The Pam Baumgardner Mostly Local Music Hour" on KPPQ-LP 104.1 FM is starting to generate interest. I'm spinning tunes Tuesdays 5-6 pm with songs from Lee

Koch and the Grinders, Bruce Forman, Joaquin Peck, Shelby Figueroa, Jade Hendrix, New Liberty, the Galactic Polecats, Brent Franklin, Dona Oxford and more. The station has been rebroadcasting the show during the week, so be sure to check in often for our local talent.

Do you have any music-related news or upcoming shows you want help publicizing? Or would you like to submit your music for possible inclusion on my radio show? Please 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 Karen Eden & Bill Macpherson; 9 pm Musician's Night Out
Tuesdays: Open Mic
Thursdays: Mark Masson and Phriends
Sundays: 9 pm Karaoke

Bombay Bar & Grill

143 S. California Street

Wednesdays: Jam Night
Fridays: DJs
Saturdays: DJs
Sat 3/18: 5-8 pm Let's go Out with Fishfry, Seth Pettersen, The Vonettes
Tues 3/21: 7 pm Wish Radio, Sheer, Lumb, Age

Café Fiore

66 S. California Street
(805) 653-1266

Wed 3/15: Donna Butler
Thurs 3/16: Fabulous Hangovers
Fri 3/17: Alex Nestor
Sat 3/18: Instone
Tues 3/21: Fabulous Hangovers
Wed 3/22: Big Adventure
Thurs 3/23: Fabulous Hangovers
Fri 3/24: Red Muffs
Sat 3/25: Otis Hayes
Tues 3/28: Donna Butler

Cask Alehouse

5952 Telegraph Road

Music at 8 pm
Thurs 3/16: Soul 4 II
Thurs 3/23: Frank Barajas

The Cave

4435 McGrath Street

Weds & Saturdays: 5:30 - 8:30 pm Varon Thomas
Thurs & Fridays: 5:30 - 8:30 pm Warren Takahashi

Copa Cubana

Ventura Harbor Village

Week nights 7 pm; Sundays 3 pm
Tuesdays: The Down Home Trio
Fri 3/17: Toni Jannotta, Tom Collins, Danny Young
Sat 3/18: Hot Roux
Sun 3/19 3 pm Hot Roux
Fri 3/24: Ian Peters

Sat 3/25: Estrada Brothers

Sun 3/26: 3 pm Karen Eden

Dargan's Irish Pub

593 E. Main Street
Sun 3/19: 4 pm The Sunday Drivers

Discovery

1888 Thompson Blvd

Late Fridays 10 pm: Flashback Fridays
Late Saturdays 10 pm: Disco Bowl
Wed 3/15: Sammy J featuring Jordan T Analea

Thurs 3/16: Fortunate Youth

Fri 3/17: 50 Sticks of Dynamite, Galactic Polecats, Cooper & Queen

Sat 3/18: The Molly Ringwald Project

Thurs 3/23: Hirie

Fri 3/24: Crooked Eye Tommy

Sat 3/25: Herbal Rootz, Danielle Stacy Trio

El Rey Cantina

294 E. Main Street

Saturdays: 9:30 DJ Erock

Fri 3/17: 4 pm Xoco Moraza and Friends; 9:30 Sin Chonies

Fri 3/24: 4 pm Xoco Moraza and Friends; 9:30 DJ/Karaoke by DJ Gold

Dust

Garage

1091 Scandia Ave

Wed 3/15: Final Blood Spit, Sin-Kontrol, The Rays, Species Unknown

Fri 3/17: Back to the 80's dance party w/ Imaginary Boys

Gigi's Cocktails

2493 Grand Avenue

(805) 642-2411

Thurs, Fri & Sat: Karaoke

Sundays: 7 pm Open mic / blues jam

Golden China

760 S. Seaward

(805) 652-0688

Karaoke seven nights a week 9 pm

Tuesdays 7 pm: Open Mic

Grapes and Hops

454 E. Main Street

Wednesdays: The Swillys

Thurs 3/16: Tim Arlon & Danny McGaw

Fri 3/17: The Salty Suites

Sat 3/18: Brandon Ragan Project

Sun 3/19: Fundraiser with Crooked Eye Tommy, Jade Hendrix, Mr. O.

Fri 3/24: Tex Pistols

Sat 3/25: Shawn Jones

Hong Kong Inn

435 E. Thompson Blvd

Mondays: Karaoke

Thursdays: Gypsy Blues Band

Fri 3/17: Hi Hat Entertainment presents Karen Lovely with Teresa James

Fri 3/24: Hi Hat Entertainment presents Morganfield Burnett

Keynote Lounge

10245 Telephone Road

Tuesday and Wednesday: Karaoke

Thursday: Open Mic

Sunday: Karaoke

Fri 3/17: Brandon Ragan Project

Sat 3/18: Black Canyon Band

Fri 3/24: Crosscut

Sat 3/25: CRV

Majestic Ventura Theater

26 S. Chestnut Street

Fri 3/24: Leftover Crack, Starving

Wolves, Bad Cop/Bad Cop

Margarita Villa

Ventura Harbor Village

Fri 3/17: Cross Cut 805

Now Ventura

185 E. Santa Clara Avenue

Sat 3/18: Leigh Vance and Friends

O'Leary's

6555 Telephone Road

Tuesdays: Free Jukebox

Wednesdays: Karaoke

Paddy's

2 W. Main Street

Wednesdays: Karaoke

Fri & Sat: DJs

Poinsettia Pavilion

3451 Foothill Road

(805) 648-1143

Fri 3/24: Ventura Jazz Orchestra Spring Swing Dance

Red Cove

1809 E. Main Street

Thursdays: Music Club Open Jam Night

Sat 3/18: The Big Problem, Killroy, Death on the Radio, THB, Bootleg Brigade

Rookees Sports Bar & Grill

419 E. Main Street

(805) 648-6862

Fri and Sat: Rotating DJs

Sandbox Coffeehouse

204 E. Thompson Blvd

805-641-1025

Thurs 6 pm, Weekends noon

Thursdays Open Mic

Sat 3/18: Jacob Barba

Sun 3/19: Ptrick Gillham

Sat 3/25: Steve Bedau

Sun 3/26: Tisa Adamson

Sans Souci

21 S. Chestnut

Sundays: DJ Darko

Mondays: Karaoke

Tuesdays: Transform Tuesdays w/ DJ

Wednesdays: Open mic

Thursdays: DJ Spinobi

Sat 3/25: Raised on Vinyl

Squashed Grapes

2351 E. Main St.

805-643-7300

Live jazz music 7-10 pm

Wed 3/15: Hans Ottsen and Friends

Thurs 3/16: David Gorospe

Fri 3/17: Tilford Jackson & Friends

Sat 3/18: Doug Webb Group featuring Danny Carey of TOOL

Tues 3/21: Jazz Jam

Wed 3/22: Morales Piano Trio

Thurs 3/23: Lett, Mancini and Dutz

Fri 3/24: Ventura Jazz Collective

Sat 3/25: Denny Seiwel Trio

Star Lounge

343 E. Main Street

Tues & Thurs: Karaoke

Fri 3/17: Jan Michael & the Vincents

Sat 3/18: Action Down

Fri 3/24: Big Adventure

Sat 3/25: Los Dudes

Surf Brewery

4561 Market Street

Music 6-8 pm

Sat 3/18: Catterwailers

Sat 3/25: Mitchell Blake

The Tavern

211 E. Santa Clara Street

(805) 643-3264

Sundays: DJ Steezy Steve

Metal Wednesdays

Get it Right Thursday DJs

Fri 3/17: DJ

Sat 3/18: Dojo Loach

Fri 3/24: The Caverns

Sat 3/25: The Black Hips

Topa Topa Brewing Co.

104 E. Thompson Blvd

(805) 628-9255

Music 6 pm

Tuesdays: Jeff Uzzel

Wednesdays: Open mic

Thurs 3/16: Strangely & Shay

Traveler's Café

1070 E Front Street

Music 5:30 - 7:30 pm

Sat 3/18: The Swillys

Sat 3/25: The Swillys

The Wine Rack (Vintura)

14 S. California Street

(805) 653-9463

Fri 3/17: B&V Acoustics

Sat 3/18: Jodi Farrell

Fri 3/24: Keith Cain

Sat 3/25: Tom and Milo

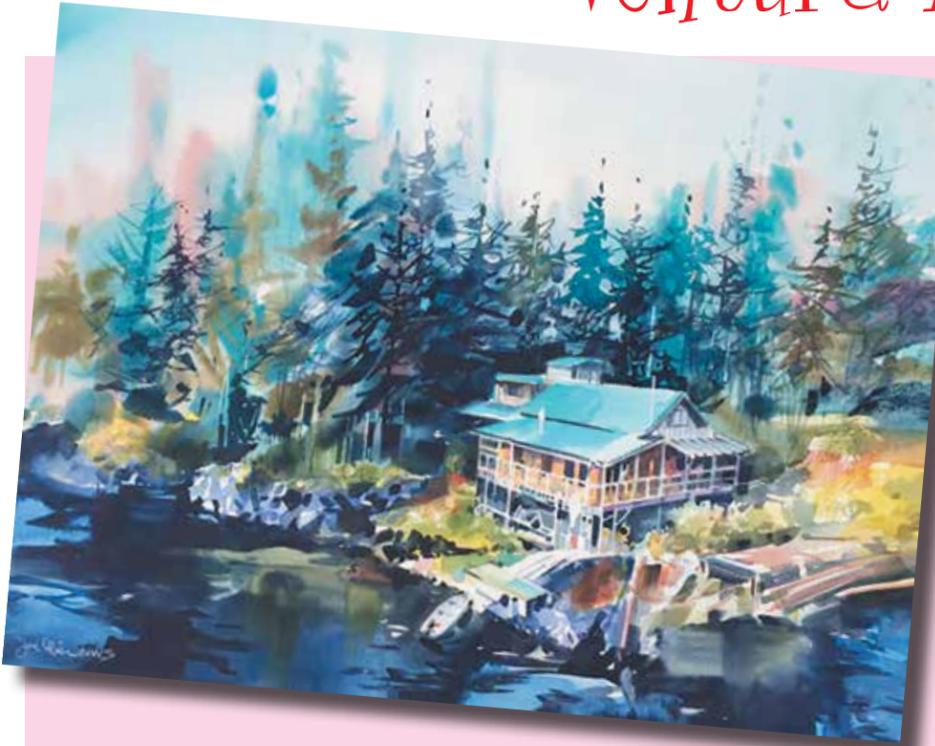
The 805 Bar

Ventura Harbor

Sat & Sun: Noon Kenny DeVoe

Sat 3/18: 8 pm Teresa Russell

Sat 3/25: 8 pm Jason Ho



Margy Gates at Fox Fine Jewelry



Kay Zetlmaier at Very Ventura

As part of Arts & Eats held in downtown Ventura on Saturday, March 18 from 6 – 8pm. over a dozen galleries, restaurants and shops open their doors for art receptions and complimentary tastes. Visit Downtown Ventura, stroll Main Street and explore over a dozen galleries, restaurants and shops during this free event! Between the galleries stop for tasty bites at participating shops and restaurants. This event goes from 6pm till 8pm.

There is convenient free parking at two city lots. Visit www.foxfinejewelry.com/event/article/arts-eats/ for map of locations and parking.

Joe Cibere and Margy Gates will display their art in “H2O Watercolors” at Fox Fine Jewelry from March 16 – May 14 with an Art Reception on March 18 from 6 – 8:00pm. Musician **Corinn Conant** will sing and play guitar during the reception.

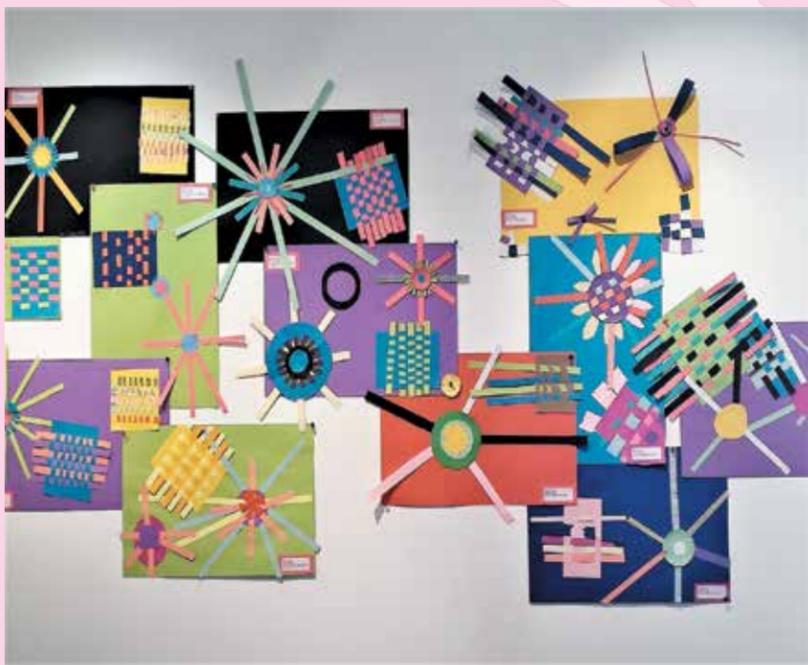
Joe Cibere has been a commercial artist for forty years. He has worked as a designer, illustrator, photographer and creative director for many top U.S. brands.

A native Californian, Margy Gates holds a Master of Fine Arts degree from Claremont Graduate University.

Very Ventura Gift Shop & Gallery is pleased to present a Plein Air art exhibition inspired by “City by the Sea.” Group exhibition featuring **Kay Zetlmaier, Ray Harris, Christine Beirne and Sparkle Taylor.**

Fox Fine Jewelry; 560 E. Main St. 652-1800; foxfinejewelry.com

Very Ventura Gift Shop & Gallery; 540 E. Main St. 628-3540; very-ventura.com



FOTM Learning To See Youth Outreach Spring Art Showcase from March 15 – April 24. Sponsored by the California Arts Council

Come to this celebration of youthful expression, and see how art creates connections to cultures and histories from around the world. This exhibit features artwork created with Learning To See Outreach in the World History class of Mr. Andrew Vasquez at Green Middle School in Port Hueneme. This unique 12-week program and exhibition was made possible by a grant from the California Arts Council.

Ray D. Prueter Library
510 Park Ave, Port Hueneme

Hours:
Monday 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Tue & Wed 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Thu - Sat 12 p.m. - 5 p.m.
(Closed Sunday)

Focus on the Masters is an art appreciation program that documents, preserves and presents the works and lives of accomplished contemporary artists. www.FocusOnTheMasters.com

For more information about Learning To See, contact Aimee@FocusOnTheMasters.com or 653.2501.



The whimsical art of **Jane Peterson** can be seen at her studio-gallery located at H Gallery+Studios located at 1793 E. Main. Peterson holds a Masters of Fine Arts from the University of Iowa, and her work can be seen in collections from coast to coast. She works in an assortment of mediums, ranging from paint, oil, watercolor, wood, ceramic (mixed-media), sculpture, and photography.

Dabster Arts offers a variety of affordable weekly classes, workshops and artist retreats. Their programs are designed for individuals to learn diverse artistic processes and subjects from credentialed instructors and master artists. Their master artist instructors and unique venue provide a one of kind learning atmosphere.

Two of the most popular classes are Figure Drawing on the first Saturday of every month and Visual Journaling offered once every other month.

Figure drawing is a guided instruction figure drawing class. In this

life drawing class, students can learn simple and effective drawing figure drawing techniques. Each student will be given ample time to study the shapes, values and edges of the figure and explore different techniques.

Visual journaling is about connecting with your inner you. The beauty of visual journaling is that anything goes. It's a place where you can express and explore your feelings through images, writing, and just playing with the materials. It's about rediscovering creativity as play. It's about expressing your authentic self.



Try Something New this Year and Explore YOUR Creative Side

Weekday Classes
Weekend Classes
Paint Parties
Paint & Sip Events
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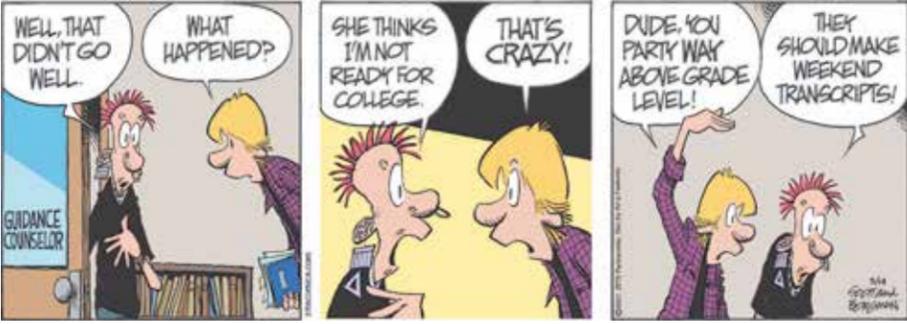
4601 Telephone Rd #112
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FREE PARKING
805-643-6400 - RedBrickArt.com





Lighter Breeze

Zits



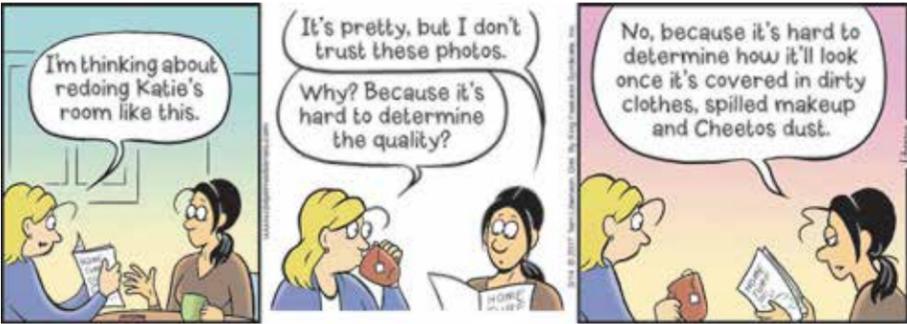
Tiger



Take It From The Tinkersons



Pajama Diaries



Crock



Carpe Diem



Solutions on page 19

(For a beginners guide to playing Sudoku go to [venturabreeze.com](http://www.venturabreeze.com))

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

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!

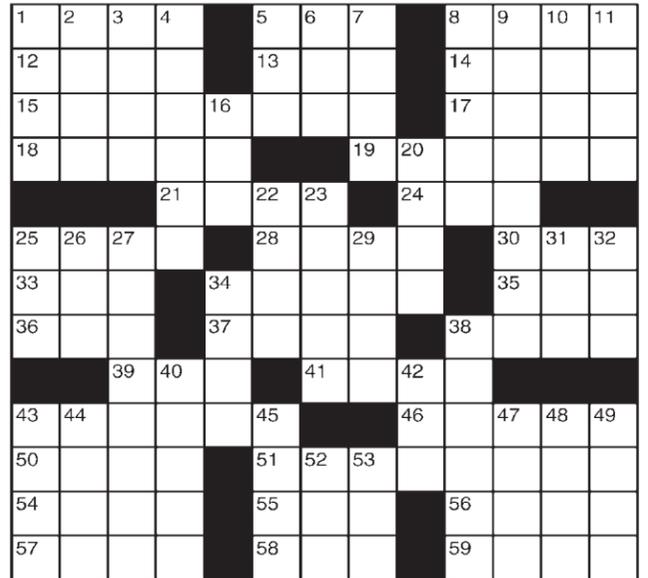
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Solutions on page 19

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Without help
- 5 \$ dispenser
- 8 MPs' quarry
- 12 Speedy steed
- 13 Meadow
- 14 Toy block name
- 15 Time rival
- 17 Dregs
- 18 Recipient
- 19 Brings forth
- 21 Feudal worker
- 24 Hooter
- 25 Isn't well
- 28 Hebrew month
- 30 Discoverer's cry
- 33 To and —
- 34 Visit habitual-ly
- 35 Zero
- 36 Coffee break hour
- 37 Leave out
- 38 On in years
- 39 Martini ingredient
- 41 Banish to Hades
- 43 Cultural, as some cuisines
- 46 Pass along
- 50 False god
- 51 Thin, as a fracture
- 54 Soft cheese
- 55 Kind



- 10 Curved mold- ing
- 11 Privation
- 16 Teeny
- 20 Electrical measure
- 22 Paper quan- tity
- 23 Liquid
- 25 Toward the stern
- 26 Anger
- 27 Classical music lover
- 29 "Do — others ..."
- 31 Hasten
- 32 Ancient
- 34 " — soit qui mal y pense"
- 38 Aviatrix Earhart
- 40 Bay, for one
- 42 Bobby of hockey
- 43 Recedes
- 44 Poi base
- 45 Item in a pot, maybe
- 47 MGM mascot
- 48 Con
- 49 Nays' undo- ers
- 52 Muhammad or Laila
- 53 Eisenhower

DOWN

- 1 Beach matter
- 2 Twistable treat
- 3 Tennis venue, maybe
- 4 Preoccupy
- 5 Hearty brew
- 6 Ball prop
- 7 Create
- 8 Let
- 9 From Sunday through Saturday

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Go to www.venturabreeze.com for your daily horoscope

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) This is a good time to reassess important relationships, both personal and professional, to see where problems might exist and how they can be overcome. Keep communication lines open.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) It's not easy to bring order to a chaotic situation, whether it's in the workplace or at home. But if anyone can do it, you can. A pleasant surprise awaits you by week's end.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Be careful that you don't make an upcoming decision solely on the word of those who might have their own reasons for wanting you to act as they suggest. Check things out for yourself.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) A personal relationship that seems to be going nowhere could be restarted once you know why it stalled. An honest discussion could result in some surprising revelations.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) That unexpected attack of self-doubt could be a way of warning yourself to go slow before making a career-changing decision. Take more time to do a closer study of the facts.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A workplace problem needs your attention, now, before it deteriorates

to a point beyond repair. A trusted third party could be helpful in closing the gaps that have opened.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A recent family situation could give rise to a new problem. Keep an open mind and avoid making judgments about anyone's motives until all the facts are in.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Rely on your always-sharp intuition to alert you to potential problems with someone's attempt to explain away the circumstances behind a puzzling incident.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Although you still need to do some snipping of those lingering loose ends from a past project, you can begin moving on to something else.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) With your self-confidence levels rising, you should feel quite comfortable with agreeing to take on a possibly troublesome, but potentially well-rewarded, situation.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Travel is favored, both for business and for fun. The end of the week brings news about an upcoming project that could lead toward that promised career change.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) You might feel suddenly overwhelmed by a flood of responsibilities. But if you deal with each one in its turn, you'll soon be able to hold your head above water and move on.

BORN THIS WEEK: You have a wonderful way of offering comfort as well as guidance. You would do well in the healing arts.

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Show Time

Get Out



Breeze rating from 1 to 4 palm trees, 4 being best.

by Manuel Reynoso

Written and Directed by Jordan Peele, starring Daniel Kaluuya, Allison Williams, Bradley Whitford, Caleb Landry Jones, Stephen Root, LaKeith Stanfield and Catherine Keener.

Black photographer Chris Washington (Daniel Kaluuya) travels to the suburbs to meet his white girlfriend's affluent parents. What starts as an awkward family get together quickly becomes far more insidious.

Jordan Peele's directorial debut was stronger than I would have anticipated. To be blunt, I was never huge fan of the sketch show Key & Peele. So coming into *Get Out* slightly skeptical, I was pleasantly surprised how strong of a debut Peele has made with *Get Out*. It's funny, scary, provocative, and at times, far too real. As difficult it is to swallow, *Get Out* brings to light the struggles of being a black man, in a white world.

For his first major motion picture directorial debut, Jordan Peele clearly already has a distinct style that lends itself very well to the thriller genre. He's set up how ominous an otherwise docile suburban white family was in very clever ways. While letting striking imagery lead up to a very intense climax. Jordan Peele has definitely shown he has the chops to direct a major motion picture.

Peele's screenplay is where is strongest talents lie. Incorporating the black experience into an engaging mystery thriller with equal parts horror and comedy is absolute gold. The film twists and turns, terrifying us one moment, and making us laugh at loud the next. But *Get Out's* biggest strength is in its pacing. The constant feeling of escalation and tension is so organically paced you will not notice yourself inching ever closer to the edge of your seat the whole time. Despite the constant escalation of dread, the comedy aspect never breaks this tension. Instead it is welcomed respite, saving you from becoming fatigued from the continuous tension.

The political nature of the screenplay was provocative and edgy, sadly I do believe it lets up on the political side of the film towards the end. Peele opted to have the climax be more intense and action packed, which while has its own strengths in the film, just left the political nature of the film feel a tad glossed over.

Outside the wonderful script, I would sum up the rest of the film as solid. Nothing else stood out as exceptionally praiseworthy. Daniel Kaluuya performance as the lead was definitely good but nothing I found all that exceptional. Cinematography was utilitarian, while the camera work presented the scenes nicely, I felt it could have better complimented the film's striking and engaging imagery. I'm not putting down the film with these observations, just noting the film was not particularly exciting in these other aspects.

Peele has made his intentions to create more films based on social demons loud and heard. And I for one am looking forward to these films very much. *Get Out* was very clear in its purpose to add a black perspective to the

thriller genre. So if *Get Out* accomplished anything at all, it showed the power of storytelling from a perspective frequently ignored in mainstream media. And I for one want to see more.
1H44M rated R

A View from House Seats

Faith vs fantasy disputed in *Agnes of God*

by Shirley Lorraine

Reality and fiction collide in John Pielmeier's compelling drama *Agnes of God* now playing at the Elite Theater in Fisherman's Wharf, Oxnard. The story centers on a young postulant, Agnes, who gives birth in a convent. She denies knowledge of having done so and of even being with child. She is accused of murder when the newborn is found discarded. A psychiatrist, Dr. Livingstone, is engaged to explore her mental state to stand trial. Conflict arises when the Mother Superior disagrees with Dr. Livingstone's methods of inquiry. As details unfold, the layers of denial, concealment and complicity raise more new questions than answers.

The trio of actors rise to the challenging material with confidence. Agnes, played to angelic heights by Abbe Fralix, is clear of voice and portrays inner strength beyond her years. The clarity in her singing voice is amplified by the simple and effective staging. Initially it was a bit jarring to have no introductory music. However, once Fralix began to sing, the nuance became understandable.

She is well countered by Lynn Van Emmerik as Doctor Martha Livingstone, a court-appointed psychiatrist whose own internal entanglement in the complex story causes her to examine the motivation behind her personal desire to search out the truth, no matter how painful. The Doctor's lack of religious conviction battles with the equally strong beliefs held by the Mother Superior.

Giving stoic humanity to the beleaguered Mother Miriam Ruth is Celeste Russi. Russi's performance is simply riveting as she fulfills the roles of mother, protector, friend, confidant, savior and defendant to Agnes. She has her own reasons for discouraging Dr. Livingstone digging to the bottom of the mysterious issue. Conflict upon emotional conflict arises as the story deepens.

A dramatic staple offering for many community and regional theaters since the early 1980s, director Tom Eubanks has enthusiastically chosen to direct the play for the third time in his career. He states that it brings out new meaning and insights for him each time it is staged. This production clearly shows the depth to which Eubanks has asked his actors to reach. In response, all three deliver solid performances.

A bare-bones stage setting gives the actors and the audience alike additional opportunity to be fully immersed in the material. Light pools are used effectively for accentuating thought or time changes. Costuming is on point. Both nuns appear comfortable and at home in their habits, moving about easily in the voluminous folds of fabric.

Agnes of God does present questions relating to faith, belief and love. However, the material goes beyond religious boundaries to explore emotions and coping mechanisms

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at the Courtyard by Marriott
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For more information contact
Barbara Lindquist (805) 795-2704
or by email: Barbara456@sbcglobal.net

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common to humans of all levels.

To be sure, it is not an uplifting evening at the theater given the sordid and sobering subject matter. But, knowing that going in, it is well worth attending. *Agnes* is a deep work that is mesmerizing, especially in that it is so well staged and performed. The intricacies are disturbing and not appropriate for children.

Agnes of God runs through April 2. Friday & Saturday eves 8 PM, Sunday matinees 2 p.m. General admission \$20. Seniors/Students/Military \$17. Reservations are encouraged 483-5118. Elite Theatre Company, 2731 Victoria Avenue, Oxnard. www.elitetheatre.orgATRE



At the Rubicon

Rubicon Theatre Company presents a special one-night-only concert featuring Golden Globe Award-winner Amanda McBroom in voices on Tuesday, April 25 at 7 p.m. Amanda McBroom's new concert celebrates her recently released CD, "voices," with her first re-cutting of "The

Rose" since 1980 (in a duet with country legend Vince Gill). The CD also features the Tom Paxton classic "The Last Thing on my Mind," one of Johnny Mathis' biggest hits, "12th of Never," and ten new songs.

Rubicon Theatre Company, 1006 E. Main St.

Tickets are \$69.50 plus a \$4 processing fee. Tickets may be purchased in person through the Rubicon Theatre Company Box Office at the corner of Main and Laurel in Ventura (Laurel entrance and downstairs) or online at www.rubicontheatre.org. To charge by phone 667.2900.

Mailbox

Continued from page 5

of trimming up the landscape along Seaward Ave. west of Ocean, near the train bridge. It is so much better to look at and for the pedestrians...now there is more available sidewalk.

It's just wonderful, until you get to the chain-link fence section on the westbound side. It is a real mess full of palm branches and dead limbs, etc.. Who is responsible for upkeep of that area? The landscaping appears to have all been planted at the same time along the street.

Thanks!
Christi Cunningham
Ventura

Breeze:

I just have to say that we love the way the Breeze is going. You have created a wonderful bi-weekly local newspaper and we hope it becomes essential reading for all of Ventura!

Shane from Ojai Concert Series



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\$59 per Adult

Photo by Lotti Keen

Authorized Concessioner for Channel Islands National Park
ISLANDPACKERS.COM 805.642.1393



Enjoy watching the gentle giants of the sea and dolphins too! Photo by Doug Mangum.

Whale watch season is now underway

Winter whale watching off the beautiful Central Coast of California runs from December to mid-April. An Island Packers whale watch is a perfect way to gather with family and friends to view the Pacific Gray Whales as they migrate through the Santa Barbara Channel on the way between their feeding grounds in Alaska and their breeding grounds in Baja.

Other possible sightings include humpback or fin whales, and occasionally Orcas, all of whom visit the productive waters of the Channel to feed on rich resources found in the majestic waters.

The Half Day Whale Watch Cruise provides stunning views of the Ventura coastline or the Channel Islands, wherever the whales may be sighted.

The Island Wildlife Cruise Half Day tours the north shore of Anacapa Island where visitors will see the historic lighthouse, view the highly photographed Arch Rock, enjoy a closer look at the California sea lion, spotted harbor seals and other wildlife.

Annual mammal sightings often seen also include minke whales, and sometimes the largest animal ever on the planet the majestic blue whale. Common dolphin populations often appear on the scene to delight passengers as they frolic with the boat, and ride the bow and stern waves.

Rates for half-day trips are \$38

for adults, \$34 for seniors and \$28 for children age 3-12. Children 2 and under are free.

"All year long, we invite visitors to come aboard our boats for an exciting and educational Nature Discovery Tour of the Channel Islands National Park," stated Cheryl Connally, Office Manager at Island Packers.

Island Packers is the authorized concessionaire the Channel Islands National Park, family owned since 1968. The main office is located at 1691 Spinnaker Drive in the Ventura Harbor Village. For more information visit the user-friendly website or to book online at www.islandpackers.com or call 642-1393.

Tech Today with Ken May

How did Amazon take down the internet?

On Tuesday, February 28th, an Amazon cloud server, specifically an AWS cluster of servers in the US-EAST-1 region, stopped responding. Sites and web apps like Mashable, Trello, Giphy, Quora, Netflix, Spotify, Slack, Pinterest and BuzzFeed, as well as tens of thousands of smaller sites all were suddenly down or slowed to a crawl. To the average person, all we saw was that a ton of sites and apps in common usage were not working. How does this happen?

It was so bad that Amazon wasn't able to update its own service health dashboard for the first two hours of the outage because the dashboard itself was hosted on AWS.

"This is a pretty big outage," said Dave Bartoletti, a cloud analyst with Forrester. "AWS had not had a lot of outages and when they happen, they're famous. People still talk about the one in September of 2015 that lasted five hours," he said.

The reason this affected so many sites is because Amazon's AWS platform hosts virtual servers used by all of these businesses. Amazon's S3 cloud storage systems were also affected. SO, even a site not running on an AWS server might have issues if it's data

This 'n' That

was on S3. For example, a business might store its videos, images or databases on an S3 server and access it via the Internet.

As it turns out, it was all due to human error. A simple typo. As Amazon explains it, some of its S3 servers were operating rather sluggish, so a tech tried fixing it by taking a few billing servers offline. A fix straight from the company's playbook, it says. "Unfortunately, one of the inputs to the command was entered incorrectly and a larger set of servers was removed than intended." Whoops.

As for why the problem took so long to correct, Amazon says that some of its server systems haven't been restarted in "many years." Given how much the S3 system has expanded, "the process of restarting these services and running the necessary safety checks to validate the integrity of the metadata took longer than expected."

Cyence, an economic modeling platform, shared some data that show the ramifications:

- Losses of \$150 million for S&P 500 companies

- Losses of \$160 million for U.S. financial services companies using the infrastructure

Apica Inc., a website-monitoring company, said 54 of the internet's top 100 retailers saw website performance slow by 20% or more.

Ouch!

Amazon apologized for the issue and said that it has put schemes in place to avoid the same problems caused by human error in the future. Let's have this stand as a reminder to have adequate failover systems in place! Never put all your eggs in one basket.



"Just not sure if I can afford to buy this house?"

Diane Elizabeth Huntington Loring has left Ventura (and America)

by Diane Loring

Related to one of the Signers of the Declaration of Independence, Samuel Huntington and in protest of the recent election of a president not being qualified or fit to be representative of what the Declaration stood for, Diane Elizabeth Huntington Loring has left America. Samuel Huntington was Diane's uncle four generations removed and son of Nathaniel Huntington her great grandfather five generations removed.

When revisiting the Declaration of Independence it strikes me how most charges made against King George

III (whom I share a common ancestor with both of us descendants of our great grandfather line of Edmund Tudor), seem to be in direct correlation to many of the charges currently being made by, including myself against Donald Trump.

It is fascinating on many levels to read the Declaration of Independence and realize what has not changed in America after two hundred and forty years, specifically no mention of women and what is afforded them as equal citizens. It seems instead America has come full circle by electing the very representation of what they loathed and were originally leaving, King George III ruler of Great Britain, Ireland and the Thirteen Colonies.

While women were not mentioned in the original Declaration of Independence, they have had the opportunity for over ten years holding absolute power and percentage of the vote to right the Declaration of Independence and their unstated inequality once and for all. They have unequivocally rebuked that opportunity twice in ten years, electing a President who again, if you read carefully in the Declaration, sounds much like the reasons two hundred and forty years ago the Signers of the Declaration of Independence vilified King George III.

I have spent most of my life fighting the good fight for women and equal rights for all. My forefathers have been fighting from the beginning as well as my foremothers. My father, uncle and grandfather fought in World War II. My step-grandfather was shot down over Germany, captured by Hitler, spent years in a prisoner of war camp and was ultimately awarded a Purple Heart. These were good, honorable, ethical men who also had a high regard for the women in my family and I believe would be mortified by America's choice of president. All the while they were gone, women held down the home front, working outside the home, while raising children.

At this point I believe America is in a very sad state and downward spiral of cyclic dysfunction and either women need to exercise the power they hold for epic change or quit the fight altogether and be content with their status. I have chosen to return to my ancestral home of London, England and truly feel that I am home safe where lives her Royal Majesty, my relative and Queen.

Best of luck to America. God Save the Queen.

County Grand Jury has commended VCMC

The Ventura County 2016-2017 Grand Jury has issued a report on the accreditation status of the Ventura County Medical Center. At the Joint Commission's last full survey in June, 2014 the hospital was approved for 3 years, the maximum allowed. Subsequent follow-up reports have demonstrated satisfactory performance.

The Grand Jury report commended the Ventura County Medical Center for its performance and dedication to improving the quality of patient care.