

Have a Thankful Thanksgiving!

FREE

# VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

Vol. 11, No. 4

Published Every Other Wednesday

Established 2007

November 22 – December 5, 2017



Gone but not forgotten.  
Photo by Michael Gordon.

## Celebrating the Life of an Irish Pig

He'd grown a little frail in his old age. Still, when he finally went to hog heaven, he broke a lot of hearts.

And so it is that, eight months after his sad public demise along the 2017 County Ventura St. Patrick's Day Parade route, the Great Inflatable Green Pig – everyone's favorite parade entry for 26 years – will be remembered this month in a mass community wake along Main Street in historic downtown Ventura.

The final procession of our porcine pal will begin at 5 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 30, in the parking lot at the Museum of Ventura County, at 100 E. Main St.

A throng of public mourners will join city dignitaries, St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee members, pall bearers hoisting the casketed pig aloft and four bagpipers as they make their way down Main Street to celebrate the pig's life and enjoy some libations along the way.

The Great Inflatable Green Pig – also lovingly known as Pig o' My Heart and Shamhock – collapsed from exhaustion and passed on March 11, in view of the parade judges among many others, on the occasion of Ventura County's 29th annual St. Patty's Day Parade.

To properly honor his memory, the parade committee spent months planning this fitting Irish Wake and Memorial Procession on his behalf.

The public is invited to come out and help celebrate a pig's life well

*Continued on page 4*



Ventura Police Officers joined the Castro family in 2016.

## In 2008, Corey Castro was seven years old and was treated for Gorham's Disease

The Ventura Police Department announces the 8th Annual Castro Family & Ventura Police Community Foundation Toy Drive. The community

is invited to donate unwrapped toys or gift cards for the patients and siblings of the Children's Center for Cancer and

*Continued on page 6*



## City Council to reduce qualified marijuana delivery services

by Burris DeBenning

To further restrict marijuana access in Ventura, City Council, at the meeting held on November 13, voted to limit the number of outside, approved medical marijuana delivery services from five to three to assure greater control of the delivery pipeline. Before November

13, staff had presented the limit to five delivery services that required both a delivery permit and business license to sell medical marijuana to City residents. According to some in Council, the original proposal of five services lacked

*Continued on page 8*



Sophia and Raphael enjoy the ministry with their parents.

## Fabio and Sylvia Simoes a dedicated family

"People need a friend...it is priceless to see the transformation, to see someone who is destroyed and without hope, able to live a normal life." Silvia Simoes

by Jill Forman

The Simoes are a charismatic couple: gracious, attractive, and hospitable. Yours truly showed up for the interview with two small children in tow, unexpectedly; Silvia set them up with toys and coloring supplies, and said, "All are welcome here."

In their native Brazil, Fabio trained as a dentist, Silvia as a physical therapist. They could have been enjoying an affluent existence, yet here they are in Ventura living a life of dedication and service. Instead of trendy clothes, they are wearing Salvation Army uniforms (which look like designer outfits on them.) Owing almost nothing, they live in a Salvation Army house. Instead of being titled "Doctor," they are both proud to be called "Lieutenant."

They are in charge of the Salvation Army services in Ventura, and loving it. "We never planned this, no background

*Continued on page 8*

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# GIVE THANKS THIS SEASON

## Mark Your Calendar • VENTURA FAMILY YMCA

### November 22 • November Break Child Care

With fun-filled activities like creating crafts and making festive treats, the Y will ensure a fun filled experience for your child.

### November 24 • California Pizza Kitchen Fundraiser

Dine on delicious pizza at the California Pizza Kitchen. From 11:00am – 10:00pm, 20% of your bill will be donated back to the Y!

### December 9 • Winter Program Registration Begins

Register for our upcoming Winter Programs like Youth Soccer, and swim lessons.

### December 9 • Santa Stops by the Y

With a donation of a new and unwrapped toy or gift, you can enjoy a fun morning with Santa!

## Birthday Parties at the Y

Have a blast by taking your birthday party to the Y! Available Saturdays and Sundays, the Y will provide a positive environment for your children to have fun and enjoy their birthdays.

Get more information and register for all programs at the Welcome Center or [ciymca.org/ventura](http://ciymca.org/ventura). Take advantage of lower rates and access more programs by becoming a member.

## Child Care for School Breaks

From Thanksgiving Break to Spring Break, the Y is hosting child care services to provide a positive and productive environment even when they are away from school. Register at the Welcome Center.

Upcoming Days: December 26 – 29 & January 2 – 5, \$120

VENTURA FAMILY YMCA • 3760 Telegraph Road, Ventura, CA 93003 • 805.642.2131 • [ciymca.org/ventura](http://ciymca.org/ventura)

## Youth Soccer League

### Season Dates

January 27 – March 17

### Registration Deadline

January 12

### Ages

3 – 14

Go for the goal! Through games and weekly practices, kids will make new friends, learn about teamwork, and have fun in a positive environment.

For more information, please email [vinny.savelich@ciymca.org](mailto:vinny.savelich@ciymca.org)



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20% of all proceeds go to the church • Contact: Pam Waldron 805/256-0756, [pimandjam@roadrunner.com](mailto:pimandjam@roadrunner.com)

## City News New Ventura library will be here soon

A new branch of the Ventura County Library will be opening on Hill Road across from the Ventura County Government Center at 1050 Hill Road. Grand opening event is on Sunday, December 3rd from 12 noon to 2pm. Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at 12:30pm. Enjoy BBQ compliments of the Ventura Downtown Lions Club and music from Rubicon Harmonix.

The new library will make use of technology to expand services, including laptop computers available for check-out for use in the library, a Makerspace 3D printer, and high speed internet access.

Kathy Thomson, President of Ventura Friends of the Library is looking forward to the opening of this much needed community asset. “The Friends of the Library are grateful for the support of the County Supervisors, County Library, the supporters of Ventura Friends of the Library and the City of Ventura for visioning and developing this needed facility.” The Ventura Friends of the Library raised and contributed \$200,000, much of which came from used book sales to local residents.

Supervisor Steve Bennett says, “This will be a very exciting day for us. We have pursued opening a library in East Ventura for many years, and I’m very pleased that we have now accomplished our goal.”

Event MC will be Ivor Davis, author

of The Beatles and Me. There will be a raffle of prints of Beatles photographs donated by Roger Whitehouse. Other attractions include John Bardi, strolling guitarist, crafting with Judee Hauer, clothes pin folk art doll maker, mood card readings and a photo booth.

## City of Ventura Classes/programs

Call 658-4726 to register, if you already have an account online, visit [www.cityofventura.ca.gov](http://www.cityofventura.ca.gov).

**Holidays on the Plaza-Holiday Boutique, Dec. 9, 10:00am-4:00pm free**

Holiday shopping, entertainment, food trucks, kid’s activities and more than 160 live, decorated, twinkling trees all over the park. Plaza Park, 651 East Thompson Blvd. For Boutique information call 654-7551.

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**18 years-adult**

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**18 years-adult**

**\*12/3-1/21 Su \$70/person #9876**

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*Continued on page 7*



# THANK YOU!

Ventura Unified School District would like to express our appreciation for the support of some of our community partners. Together we will continue to excel and innovate for the future of all our students.

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## HAPPY THANKSGIVING TO OUR AMAZING PARTNERS

From David Creswell, Superintendent; Velma Lomax, John Walker, Jackie Moran, Mary Haffner and Sabrena Rodriguez, Board of Education; and all of the staff at Ventura Unified School District





# VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

Member, Ventura Chamber of Commerce

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

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

# Opinion/Editorial



Sheldon (Governor) Brown  
Publisher-Editor

■ Some of our readers are confused about whether we can use their names in the Breeze. We, in fact, do not need permission to do so. Also, in most cases, when a person is outside - in the public - we do not need permission to include a photo of them. The exception is if the individual is under the age of 18, then we need parental approval.

Newspapers are, by definition, designed to serve the public's interest. "Put simply, the public interest is about what matters to everyone in society. It is about the common good, the general welfare and the security and well-being of everyone in the community we serve."

If you think about this, we, and every other newspaper would need to get permission from every person mentioned in every article, press release, police report and photo.

We, of course, don't use a name in a manner that might create a liability problem. We can't (or shouldn't) make a definitive statement such as, "xxxxxx killed his neighbor" unless that individual has been convicted of the crime.

■ In our "Mailbox" section there is a letter **taking me to task** for some of my comments (please read it). I really appreciate getting emails from readers that don't agree with me.

I wish that I received more that took me to task for what I say. Very important in a free society that we can discuss things in a civil manner, especially in the press. Except, of course the "fake news" about our president.

The only thing that I ask is that you tell me why you think I'm wrong or I won't print it. If you think my opinion on a subject is wrong I want to hear yours.

■ The West County Emergency winter shelter for **homeless people** is scheduled to open Dec. 15 at the National Guard Armory until March 31, at 1270 Arundell Ave. All people deserve at least this minimum protection during what can be a cold winter. Nobody deserves to

be left out in the cold/rain. Try it a few times and see how it feels.

■ Speaking of the homeless, many of these people are **clinically mentally ill**. I hear people asking why we allow the mentally ill on our streets? Why don't we just arrest them and put them in jail? Aren't they all violent?

According to the UC Firearm Violence Research Center, no more than 4-5% of all violence is committed by the mentally ill.

There are very specific laws regarding how folks can be incarcerated against their will, especially the mentally ill, and for very good reason.

Section 5150 is a section of the California Welfare and Institutions Code the (Lanterman-Petris-Short Act or "LPS") which authorizes a qualified officer or clinician to involuntarily confine a person suspected to have a mental disorder that makes them a danger to themselves, a danger to others, and/or gravely disabled. A qualified officer, which includes any California peace officer, as well as any specifically-designated county clinician, can request the confinement after signing a written declaration stating the psychiatric diagnosis that the diagnosing medical professional believes to be the cause or reason why they believe the patient to be "a danger to themselves or others" or the psychiatric disorder that has rendered the patient incapable of making their own medical treatment decisions.

Basically speaking, a danger to themselves means they have attempted suicide, a danger to others doesn't mean yelling at people or even threatening to harm them. It means physically assaulting them, and gravely disabled means not even able to feed themselves to the point if left alone they could die.

■ On Nov.12, the Cave, which is located inside Ventura Wine Company, held their Holiday Wine Tasting. The event featured wine tasting of over 100 wines, appetizers, music by the Vanise Terry Band and a keepsake wine glass. 250 tickets were sold, and it appeared that everyone showed up. The Cave is located at 4435 McGrath St.

# Mailbox

Brown

I do enjoy and appreciate your local news--However, in the last issue, I take exception to your last two personal observations, to wit:

First, as to the 2nd. amendment, back in 1791, if one were guilty of a capital offense, they were executed, and it did not take over 20 years which is the norm today, if at all....In this day, one needs more than a one shot weapon to defend oneself, but I will certainly agree that no one needs an assault weapon...

Secondly, as to protesting---they can protest until doomsday, but, they do not have any right to do so on the job. No employer has to condone this behavior in their business...You would not allow any of your employees to answer your phone or mail, etc. with any kind of protest...you would fire them immediately.

Let's face it...the Pros are either phony or cheapskates---it does not cost a dime to kneel or raise a fist, so why don't these overly paid athletes use some of their money, time, or influence to help set up programs in the crime ridden neighborhoods, or appear on the many talk shows to voice their issues? The real reason is

that they just do not care enough....

And, they certainly do not fool me with their useless actions....

Richard Pillow, Ventura

*Richard: Thank you very much for your comments. Read my column regarding those who disagree with me. And, by the way many-many professional athletes do contribute their time and money helping their neighborhoods and society. Sheldon*

Ventura Breeze:

Working with Sheldon and Breezy at this fine, local newspaper has been a great pleasure! Basically, they'll bend over backwards to make your idea happen and smile the entire time!!! In all seriousness, this newspaper is an important part of the West Ventura County community fabric. The Ventura Breeze fills a void left by the daily papers and provides an authentic view into the people and businesses who call this part of the world home. Thank you so much for all you do and for being the quintessential hometown newspaper!

Mark Andrizzi

Community Outreach Director

Treacy Villa

■ By now, I assume you know that 3 freshman members of the **UCLA basketball** team shoplifted (I don't need to say that they were suspected of this crime because they admitted doing it). They took items from several stores while the team was in China for a game.

One of the players originally stated, "I ain't (I just added ain't to my computer dictionary so it doesn't highlight it) got nothing to say." So much for student-athletes.

And his dad said, "Everyone's making it a big deal. It ain't that big a deal." Good grief his son is representing his family, his school and his country and his dad thinks it "ain't" that big a deal. Would it be a big deal to him if his son had used a gun to hold up the stores?

UCLA has announced that it has indefinitely suspended the players from the team.

UCLA's Coach, Steve Alford, said the three players will not participate in workouts or practices, will not travel with the team and will not dress for home games during the suspension, which is indefinite because the school is going through its legal process with the three students.

I certainly hope that their punishment from the school is more severe than a brief suspension.

■ Ventura has now shut down the entire main building at the **Pierpont Inn** Wyndham Garden, located at 550 Sanjon Rd. The lobby, Austen's Restaurant, offices and other uses are located in this building. The rooms remain open.

It has been over two years since the City first red-tagged (means shutting it down) a portion of the main building because DKN Hotels that own the Inn started construction without obtaining the required permits.

It is just amazing to me how a large company can be so clueless.

This means that the restaurant will miss income from Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's eve.

The Pierpont Inn is Landmark No. 80 on the city's registry of historic locations which makes this an even more serious situation.

Ventura Breeze:

This will be our last regular concert in the Poinsettia Pavilion (on Dec. 3). We will take the band "on the road" for 2018; and I will not be requesting monthly announcements for that period. All of us at the Old-Time Country Music Association want to thank you for your advertising support during this past year.

## Celebrating the life of an Irish Pig

Continued from page 1

lived and pay their respects to the end of a true legend.

For more information, email parade co-chair Nan Drake at nanodrake@aol.com, parade co-chair Jim Monahan at jim.monahan@att.net or parade committee member Tim O'Neil at tim@shamrocksf.com.

We encourage you to send your opinions to [opinions@venturabreeze.com](mailto:opinions@venturabreeze.com). Please limit them to about 300 words

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— Ray  
Bradbury





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# Business



Customers can eat light or go big with entrees.

## Boatyard Pub

Restaurant review by Jennifer Tipton

There’s a new look at the harbor and not just the recent overall renovations. Located at 1583 Spinnaker Drive, Boatyard Pub has made quite a presentation with a menu that ranges from a selection of fresh fish (which one would expect to find when dining in the harbor), assorted tacos and a “Fisherman Rib Eye”.

Owner, Shawn Hall along with his business partner, Bob Burtosh acquired ownership last year and after renovation opened the doors just several months ago. The interior has beautiful stained wooden walls and there are six 55” flat screen TVs! There’s live music except on Sundays during football season when they subscribe to “Live Ticket” so their football loving patrons can watch live football.

Boatyard Pub includes an open kitchen, a beautiful bar, tons of seating and two outdoor patios, both dog friendly. There is a fireplace on the back patio for when the weather gets chilly. Overall, the ambience is quite inviting but the menu even more so...

The menu reads, “Expert navigation ends here” and rightly so because it’s not a straight course to a selection! Appetizers involve temptations such as “Spinnaker Hot Crab Dip” loaded with artichoke, crab, parmesan and served hot and bubbly with Parisian baguettes, along with “Bacon Wrapped Jalapenos,” “Thai Chili Shrimp” (but the shrimp aren’t shrimpy sized), and my favorite, the “Crispy Balsamic Brussel Sprouts” with feta and candied walnuts. Prices range from \$8 - \$13.

Customers can eat light or go big with entrees, there are tempting salads and several “Deep Sea Fry” selections with fish and chips, shrimp and chips or a “Captain’s Combo that has both. Prices \$9 - \$26.

“Signature Sandwiches” vary from a balsamic veggie wrap made with hummus, quinoa, spinach, sautéed veggies and a balsamic reduction in a spinach wrap (which I shared with a friend one day for lunch and we both loved it!) or a charbroiled pub burger that is %100 angus chuck and the size of a small cow. Despite this, my granddaughter, Hannah (who normally eats like a bird) made history of the whole thing! This burger can be served with bacon, shoestring onions and BBQ sauce which call “Ventucky” style. Prices \$13 - \$16.

I have been here several times, my all-time favorite is drum roll worthy but

not for sissies – “Napalm Tuna” which is fresh ahi tuna, flash bomb stir fried with jalapeno peppers and fire sauce along with sticky rice and a heap of soy ginger slaw.

The menu offers generous portions with something for everybody, mushroom poblano tacos for the vegetarian and a special selection for kids.

Boatyard Pub serves breakfast, lunch & dinner 7 days a week.

## Would you like to expand your existing small business?

Are you ready to become an entrepreneur, or expand your existing small business? Afraid to “go it alone,” or unsure how to proceed? WEV’s training programs guide you in taking the next step. Attend a free 1-hour orientation, where you’ll meet a WEV representative that will help you determine if SET, EXPLORE, or another WEV program is right for you!

WEV’s business training classes are offered in English and Spanish throughout Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. Free orientations are held throughout the year and are required for enrollment in a training program.

Exact locations given at registration. Free but registration is required. Tuesday, December 5th, 12-1 PM, Ventura.

Orientation locations are subject to change. For more information, and to register for an upcoming orientation, visit WEV’s Web site at <http://www.wevonline.org/orientations>.

### In 2008, Corey Castro was seven...

*Continued from page 1*

Blood Diseases at the Ventura County Medical Center. Donations, for ages infant to 18 years, will be accepted at the Ventura Police Department located at 1425 Dowell Drive Monday through Friday between the hours of 7:30 am and 5:30 pm until December 15.

In 2008, Corey Castro was seven years old and was treated for Gorham’s Disease, a rare bone disease. As a patient, he was asked if he wanted to pick out a toy from the center’s toy box. Corey discovered the toy box needed more toys and asked his family if they could help fill the box for other children receiving treatment at the center. The Castro Family worked to make that dream a reality and has since provided toys and gifts to more than 1,500 patients and their siblings. The effort raises awareness about the only pediatric oncology and hematology center in Ventura County. The Castro Family expanded their effort by partnering with the Ventura Police Community Foundation. Ventura Police Officers join the Castro family in hosting a holiday party for the children and their families and help pass out gifts with Santa and Ventura Police K9s.

“Bringing joy to the brave junior crime fighters at VCMC is a humbling experience. Many of these children are fighting for their lives. We appreciate this opportunity to partner with the Castro Family and our community in providing a special evening for the children and their siblings during the holiday season,” said Commander Sam Arroyo.



# Community Events

## Ventura events

by Ana Baker

**Ventura Poinsettia Dance Club Monday nights 7:30 - 9:45pm. Poinsettia Pavilion 3451 Foothill. Ballroom, swing, Latin and line dancing.** \$10 members, \$12 non-members. Dance lessons 6:45 - 7:15 \$5 for couple \$3 for single. Call Rick 415-8842 for more information.

**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.vcbridge.org](http://www.vcbridge.org). Life is Better with Bridge.

**The Ventura Retired Men’s Group welcomes interested men to their semi-monthly Tuesday lunch (\$15) meetings at the Ventura Elks lodge.** This regular congenial social event, besides a healthy, satisfying meal, supplies a welcome atmosphere to talk and joke, hear a speaker on a variety of relevant topics and brighten your week. Hear more from Steve at 642-1359

**Country Western Line Dancing every Tuesday 7 - 9 p.m. Instruction every night. Located at the Moose lodge, 10269 Telephone Road.** More information at [country-lovers.com](http://country-lovers.com).

**Do you know what the present administration’s foreign policy is? Find out the answers to this and other tantalizing questions at the Ventura Discussion Group at the Main Street Restaurant 3159 Main St. Wednesday from 4 - 5:45 p.m.** Several people usually stay for a drink and a bite to eat afterward. You are invited to bring an interesting topic to discuss.

**Ventura County Philatelic Society meets the first and third Mondays each month.** Do you collect stamps? 7:30 p.m. at the Church of the Foothills, 6279 Foothill Rd. Admission and parking free. Contact Bill Garner 320-1601

**Mended Hearts of Ventura meet the first Tuesday each month at the Community Memorial Hospital - 8th floor.** We have excellent speakers - leading Cardiologists, Nutritionists, Dietitians, etc. from our area. Come share with us if you have had heart surgery or stent implant. Contact: Bill Garner 320-1601

**DBSA Ventura County support group for depression and bipolar disorder meets Tuesdays, 6:30 - 8 p.m.** A free weekly peer-led support group meeting at the Encounter Bible Fellowship Church campus, upstairs, Room 426/428, 6950 Ralston St. 633-0736 for recorded information or visit [www.DBSAlliance.org](http://www.DBSAlliance.org).

**Assistance League of Ventura County creating “A Brighter Tomorrow for Today’s Children” holds its monthly meetings on the third Thursday of each month at the Chapter House, 913 East Santa Clara St.** Doors open at 9:30 A.M., meeting begins at 10:00, with guests and new members welcome. Find more information [assistanceleagueventuracounty.org](http://assistanceleagueventuracounty.org) or Email [alvconline@hotmail.com](mailto:alvconline@hotmail.com). Telephone: Monday – Thursday 8 - 2 p.m. 643-2458.

**Conversational Spanish in a small group setting. Saturdays at**

**10:30 a.m. at the Foster Library, 651 E. Main St.** Registration not required. For information Louise Vien 643-7064, [louisev99@juno.com](mailto:louisev99@juno.com)

**Nov. 29: Sandpiper Toastmaster Club. 6:30 -7:45 am. Ventura County building. Human Services Agency Office. 855 Partridge Drive 2nd Floor.** Meetings have speeches, table topics, evaluations, free coffee and fun.

Lots of parking outside the building. Thereafter they meet every Wednesday.

**Dec. 2: You are cordially invited to attend Jodi Farrell’s Music Studio’s Annual Student Holiday Concert on Saturday, at Ventura Vineyard Christian Fellowship Church at 1956 Palma Drive, Suite A.** Showtime 2-4 p.m. Special guests band: Ron Barnett: piano, Jim Rankin: bass, Brad Strickland: guitar, Manon Franklin: drums and Ray Dean Mize: viola. Attendance is free. Donations are most welcome. Refreshments served following the show.

**Dec. 2, 3: The Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura annual Fine Art and Crafts Fair will take place on Saturday, from 9-2 p.m. and Sunday, Dec 3 from 11-1 p.m.** The fair features a large variety of art, photography, mosaics, jewelry, stained glass, crafts, textile art and more. The fair will be held in Berg Hall at the church, located at 5654 Ralston St. All are welcome. Ample parking is available in the back of the church.

**Dec. 3: Old-Time Country Music Free Country Christmas Concert 2-4 p.m.** Located at the Poinsettia Pavilion 3451 Foothill Blvd. For more information visit [www.oldcountry-grassband.com](http://www.oldcountry-grassband.com), or call 517-1131

**Dec. 3: Servants of the Father of Mercy, 1544 Morse Avenue. Free decorate the Christmas tree Youth and Family Sunday.** It’s a potluck 2-5p.m. Children decorate a real live Christmas tree, Light the first Advent candle along with Blessing of the tree and wreath. RSVP Mobile (310) 595-4175 Email: [Info@ServantsoftheFather.org](mailto:Info@ServantsoftheFather.org)

**Dec. 14: Come meet the members of Ventura County Professional Women’s Network at the Membership Mix & Mingle.** Enjoy complimentary light refreshments and holiday inspired desserts, Thursday, from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Hosted by VCPWN and member Marta Alvarez at YCE. Inc. 1587 Morse Ave., Suite A. For additional info email: [VCPWN-Membership@gmail.com](mailto:VCPWN-Membership@gmail.com) or 380-6887 Feel free to come in your festive attire.

**Dec. 16: On Saturday, 1-4 p.m. Amnesty International USA Local Group #452 is holding its annual Write-a-thon at College United Methodist Church, 4300 Telegraph Road on the corner Telegraph and Baylor.** This event is part of Amnesty International’s Write for Rights campaign, the world’s largest letter writing event, which engages people to speak out on behalf of prisoners of conscience, human rights defenders and communities at risk from around the world. Drop in between 1- 4 p.m. to write letters. Your hand-written letters, combined with hundreds of thousands of others from around the world, can change the lives of this year’s 12 cases. They furnish paper, pens, stamps, snacks and good company.

## Ojai news and events

by Veronica Johnson

**The Ojai Community Chorus will conclude 30 years of entertainment with its presentation of “Stargazing”.** The concert will explore the themes of stars and light, and how they are such an integral part of the holiday season. The concert will feature traditional songs as well, and will also include a Children’s Ensemble.

The performances will be held Dec. 2 at 7 p.m. and Dec. 3 at 3 p.m. at the Ojai United Methodist Church, 120 Church Road. A boutique and bake sale will also be held.

Suggested donation is \$25 for general admission and \$20 for seniors and students. Tickets are discounted \$5 if purchased in advance from chorus members, St. Thomas Aquinas Thrift Store, or online at <https://bpt.me/3168004>.

**The Ojai Art Center Theater will present “Animal Crackers - The Marx Brothers’ Musical” from November 24 - December 17.** Performances will be on Fridays and Saturdays at 7 pm and Sundays at 2 pm. Tickets are available online at [www.OjaiAct.org](http://www.OjaiAct.org). Or call to reserve tickets at 640-8797. The Ojai Art Center is located at 113 S. Montgomery St. For more information, please contact: [Kathleen@kathleenkaiser.com](mailto:Kathleen@kathleenkaiser.com)

**Mary Eckhart will visit the Ojai Library at 1 p.m. on Saturday, December 2, to deliver a talk entitled “The Artful Reader: Art Plus Books! Magic!”** Ms. Eckhart comes to us via the Santa Barbara Museum of Art’s Community Speakers Program.

Lost in the reverie of a book, the “gentle reader” has been an absorbing subject for artists throughout the ages. 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. Hours of service are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Friday through Sunday.

## Footworks Youth Ballets presents 14th Nutcracker

Footworks Youth Ballet presents Tchaikovsky’s famous classical holiday ballet The Nutcracker on December 9th and 10th in two full-length performances at the Oxnard Performing Arts Center. They’ll be accompanied by the Footworks Community Orchestra and singers from the Carpe Diem Chorus. Family friendly matinees on both days begin at 2 p.m.

This 14th annual production of The Nutcracker will dazzle audiences with its colorful costumes, professional sets and live orchestra and choir. Artistic director Kirsten Oakley also adds a little twist to the story each year, providing a freshness and whimsy that makes each year special.

Founded by Kirsten Oakley, Footworks Youth Ballet was created with the goal of providing a place for young people to thrive and grow through the joy of dance as they learn the art and

discipline of classical ballet. Technique classes are offered through Oakley Ballet Center, for children ages 5-18.

In keeping with the mission of Footworks, senior student dancers perform in principal roles such as the Sugar Plum Fairy or Snow Queen, giving young artists the opportunity to partner with professional male guest artists. As Oakley explains, “Even if a student leaves ballet after high school, they take with them a great appreciation for the classics, having explored the art form to its utmost and seen the results of their dedication and effort.”

For each ballet production, Footworks Youth Ballet hosts a sold-out performance for over 3,000 school-aged children to see the ballet. Most of the tickets for the children are provided at the reduced fee of \$5.00 each, and many of the students qualify for free tickets.

Join Footworks Youth Ballet for their Family Educational Hour one hour prior to each show to learn about the production, costumes, ballet history and music.

The Nutcracker, presented by Footworks Youth Ballet.  
Sat. Dec. 9th, 2:00 pm  
Sun. Dec. 10th, 2:00 pm  
Oxnard Performing Arts Center  
Tickets \$19, \$24, \$29  
Call 486.2424 to buy tickets, or order online at [footworksyouthballet.org](http://footworksyouthballet.org)

### City of Ventura Classes/programs

*Continued from page 2*  
Tango, East/West Coast Swing, Cha Cha, Waltz, Rumba, Country/Nightclub Two Step. Then register with the session codes below. \*No class 12/24 & 12/31. 3007 Bunsen #E, 805-650-2719. [www.pmhouseofdance.com](http://www.pmhouseofdance.com). Wear suede or leather bottom shoes, no sneakers or flip-flops please. Instructor Patricia Monico.

**Line Dance with a Twist**  
**18 years-adult**  
**12/4-1/17 M/W 1-2 pm \$60 #9814**

Experienced line dancers enjoy exercise fun with a twist of salsa, ballroom and jazz. At BVC. Instructor Jackie Ringhof.

**Saturday LEGO Workshops, Ninjaneering 5 – 10 years**  
**12/9 Sa 10:00am – 12:00pm \$30 #9392**

Learn the way of Spinjitzu, build the Fire Temple, race Skull Trucks, and encounter the mighty Dragon! Imagine and build unique and fun LEGO while exploring the fantasy world of Ninjago. This is an ideal way to prepare young Ninjaneering Masters with LEGO camp. AT BVC. Must register by the Wednesday before class.

**Understanding and Helping Your Reactive Dog**  
**18 years – adult**  
**12/9 Sa 10:00am – 12:00pm \$20 #9408**

Does your dog whine, bark or lunge at other dogs, animals or people? Do you wonder why he reacts this way? Do you want to learn how you can help? This seminar will teach you why your dog may respond the way he does and ways that you can help your dog become less reactive. No dogs at this seminar; please. Registration due by November 26th. At 3521 Arundell Circle #B. Instructor Veterinary Technician/Certified Instructor Shannon Coyner RVT, CPDT-KA, KPA CTP. [www.venturapetwellness.com](http://www.venturapetwellness.com).





# Community Events

## Ventura libraries December events

**AVENUE LIBRARY**  
**CHILDREN & FAMILY EVENTS**  
**Bilingual Early Literacy Class**  
12/4, 11, 18 Mondays 6:00 pm – 6:45 pm  
Join us every week for stories, poems, music, movement, a simple craft & fun!  
Adult Classes & Events  
**SuperBrain Yoga**  
12/16 Saturday 10:00 – 12:00 pm  
Facilitated by Ellen E. Morano  
Attend this hands-on workshop to improve memory, achieve mental clarity, and gain emotional calmness.  
**Adult Literacy Classes**  
**Laubach Literacy English Classes**  
In the Meeting Room  
12/4, 11, 18  
Mondays 11:00 am - 12:00 pm  
**Pumarosa English Classes**  
In the Meeting Room  
12/4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20, 27 Mondays & Wednesdays 9-10am & 6-7pm  
Learn English in a fun environment that combines conversation, singing, and technology.  
**FOSTER LIBRARY**  
**ADULT PROGRAMS & SPECIAL EVENTS**  
**Twisted Stitches Fiber Arts Club**  
12/28 Thursday @ 10:30am  
Get together with makers from all across the fiber-arts world. Meet, teach, connect, share.  
**Coffee & Conversations**  
12/18 Monday @ 9-10am  
Child Development Resources of Ventura County will discuss their role in developing, securing, and promoting a variety of programs and resources to serve the needs of children, families, and the community.  
**ONGOING EVENTS**  
**Poetry Open Mic Night**  
12/7, 21, & 28 Thursdays @ 7:30-9pm  
On these Thursday nights, come join this group of writers as they meet in the Topping Room to share their work.  
**CHILDREN’S EVENTS**  
**Early Literacy Class**  
12/5, 6, 12, 13, 19, 20, 26, & 27 Tuesdays & Wednesdays @ 10:30am  
A great way to introduce your child to early literacy and the library. Join us weekly for stories, poems, music, movement, a simple craft, and fun!  
**Teen Happenings**  
**Makerspace Open Workshop**  
12/6, 13, 20, & 27 Wednesdays @ 4-6 pm  
Come by the Makerspace to learn, create, and share STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math). 3D printing, coding, stop motion animation, and so much more!  
**TAG Teen Advisory Group**  
12/5 & 19 Tuesdays @ 5-6pm  
TAG meets every month on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month. Now is the time to join TAG, if you want to share ideas, meet new people and have a great time shaping the library teen program.  
**HILL ROAD LIBRARY**  
**Grand Opening and Ribbon Cutting Ceremony**  
12/3 Sunday @ 12-2pm  
Fun for the whole family!  
**Children’s Events**

**Early Literacy Class**  
12/6, 13, 20, & 27 Wednesdays @ 10:30am  
A great way to introduce your child to early literacy and the library. Join us every week for stories, poems, music, movement, a simple craft, and fun!  
**SATICOY LIBRARY**  
**CHILDREN & FAMILY EVENTS**  
**Early Literacy Class**  
12/7, 21, 28 Thursdays 9:30 am - 10:30 am & 11:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Join us every week for stories, poems, music, movement, a simple craft & fun!  
**Monthly Maker Day**  
12/12 Tuesday 4:30 pm-5:30 pm  
Join us for this design and 3D printer workshop.  
**Adult Classes & Events**  
**English Classes**  
12/4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20, 27  
Monday & Wednesday 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm  
ESL Conversation Groups hosted by Laubach Literacy of Ventura County

## BikeVentura celebrates ten years

BikeVentura and the Ventura Bike HUB continue to expand their presence in the City and County of Ventura. The non-profit organization will move their operations to 490 N. Ventura Ave. This move is the largest expansion for the non-profit and is fitting for its ten year anniversary. In addition, BikeVentura recently opened a Bike HUB in the City of Fillmore.

“We have outgrown our current space and can’t wait to fill the new one,” shared Tobias “Toby” Smith, Program Director for BikeVentura.

The Bike HUB is a do-it-together community bicycle shop and second-hand bike thrift store with affordable refurbished bikes to help get people started riding, staffed by master mechanics and volunteers. The HUB began as a mobile bike station in 2012, though the group was formed in August 2007 with a primary focus of advocacy and bicycle safety.

“BikeVentura is well on its way to fulfilling its mission of a safe, healthy community through bicycle-centered education and empowerment,” stated John Buccola, Board Chairperson for BikeVentura.

BikeVentura is a project of VCCOOL; an active, grass-roots non-profit, charitable corporation. On the web at [www.bikeventura.org](http://www.bikeventura.org).

## Annual Light Up A Life to benefit Livingston Hospice

Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurse Association has begun its 33rd Annual Light Up A Life campaign. The beginning of the campaign coincides with National Hospice and Palliative Care month, November, and runs through the holiday

season. The campaign goal is to raise \$110,000 to benefit Livingston Hospice, the first Medicare Certified hospice in Ventura County.

This year’s celebration includes:  
Saturday, December 2, 2017 – 4:30pm  
Constitution Park, Camarillo  
Thursday, December 7, 2017 – 6:30pm  
Pacific View Mall, Ventura  
Thursday, December 14, 2017 – 5:30pm  
Chaparral Auditorium, Ojai

Livingston invites all residents of Ventura County to support this year’s Light Up campaign. Memory Stars can be ordered online for \$25 each at [lmvna.org](http://lmvna.org) or by calling 642-0239. Event sponsorship is also available.

Livingston Hospice is a special kind of care for the terminally ill, their families and caregivers. Hospice care addresses and meets the physical, emotional and spiritual needs of patients. Services are provided in the patient’s home, wherever their home may be. Livingston’s hospice team, including our medical director, nurses, social workers, spiritual care providers and volunteers, combine their expertise, passion and compassion in providing end of life care. Bereavement services are provided to family and friends by our dedicated staff of grief counselors.

Hospice patients live with a variety of diagnoses that include heart disease, Alzheimer’s, lung disease and cancer. Anyone with a life expectancy of six months or less who is no longer receiving cure-oriented treatment is eligible for our hospice care, regardless of age or ability to pay. The goal of cure is replaced with the goal of comfort, dignity and quality of life.

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**Marijuana delivery services**  
*Continued from page 1*

clarity as to five being the precise number, or whether it would be possible to institute a tighter limit. After Council discussed the matter among themselves and questioned Jeff Lambert, City Community Development Director and the City Attorney, Greg Diaz, Council decided on a motion to set the limit to three allowable delivery services.

While state residents approved Proposition 64, the Adult Use of Marijuana Act (AUMA) in November 2016, Ventura City Council, with strong support from local law enforcement, adopted an Interim Urgency Ordinance that extended a citywide moratorium on commercial cultivation and sales until mid-November 2017. The state is not expected to develop or institute AUMA regulations until January 2018. AUMA also defers medical use and sales to local jurisdictions, so Ventura is not obligated, at any time, to allow commercial cultivation or dispensaries. Tonight’s vote centered on the latest staff recommendation for a cannabis restriction ordinance that would only allow vendors outside city limits to sell marijuana to residents medically authorized for use.

In earlier discussions of the ordinance, staff recommended that only five businesses be allowed to sell in the city. After staff presented the latest iteration of ordinance on November 13, Councilmember Mike Tracy asked if the number five was final. Other members were concerned as well about the clarity and “magic number” issue. Mr. Lambert responded that five was based on the Council’s direction to “go slow” and assess the true medical need

among residents. The City Attorney and Police Chief Ken Corney agreed that five was not a mandate, but was a reasonable number of services that staff and law enforcement could monitor. Staff went on to say that the range of three to five was based on studies in other municipalities.

Councilmember Christy Weir voiced concern about the regulation process itself, and that five delivery services seemed more unwieldy than a lower number. Staff and Council concurred that Council had full discretion to amend the ordinance by restricting the number of outside sellers to three. One citizen protested that local delivery services were being disadvantaged by the ordinance. The motion to amend carried 7-0.

*Note: Burris DeBenning is a new contributing writer to the Ventura Breeze. He will be reporting on City Council news and other related stories.*

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**Fabio and Sylvia Simoes...**  
*Continued from page 1*

in social service; we just fell in love with the opportunities to serve people.”

Fabio, in addition to dentistry, studied music; he is a classical guitarist with 17 albums recorded. In 2002, he was invited by the Salvation Army to come to the United States on a religious visa, and he coordinated music schools with 200 students in Southern California for over 7 years.

Silvia came on a student visa to learn English; she lived in the Long Beach area, and was planning to take her boards to be a therapist in the United States. But, she says with a chuckle, “God intervened.”

They met at a Salvation Army Brazilian ministry in 2005 and were married in 2006; their children are Sophia, 8, and Raphael, 7. They worked in their respective fields, music and physical therapy, until 2012.

They were “challenged” to go to seminary and become officers in the Salvation Army. They decided that “People are more important than things...we are here to offer hope in all ways.” In the Salvation Army, both members of a married couple attend seminary. They started in 2012, at a campus in Rancho Palos Verdes, graduating in 2014. Ventura is their first assignment.

The first two years here were spent organizing, learning about the community and about the Salvation Army facilities here. They have several locations with a variety of services, which are frequently changing due to funding fluctuations and the needs of the local populace.

Their children enjoy the ministry which calls for the whole family to work together. Their kids encourage them, and they have been able to bring more families into their church. “When we started we had two children in our program – ours – and now we have more than 40.”

Their Ventura ministry includes the church and headquarters on Petit Street, the Hope Center downtown on Oak Street with outreach and case management among other services, spiritual care for the residents of a senior living facility on the Petit property, family units on Bell Way with housing specialists, an eye clinic in association with the Rotary, recuperative care for post-hospital patients in association with the Health Care Agency, and many other programs planned.



# News & Notes



The church has some interesting history.

## First United Methodist Church celebrates 150 years

by Jennifer Tipton

It all started with a Bible study group in 1867, before that Ventura had only one church, the historic Mission of San Buenaventura, founded in 1782 by Padre Junipero Serra.

The location for First United Methodist church has changed several times with the first built in 1874 on Oak Street and then a new structure on Oak and Meta in 1891 that served as a beacon to all travelers passing through Ventura on Highway 101. Due to an expanding congregation, the church moved again in 1928 to its current location at 1338 East Santa Clara.

Being part of Ventura for 150 years, the church has some interesting history ...

In 1917, one of the ministers was overseeing the Easter sunrise service at Serra cross, he began the walk up the steep road before dawn and when he arrived at the top, he suddenly fell dead at the foot of the cross shocking everyone!

On December 21, 1921 Troop 102 of the Boy Scouts of America was organized at The First United Methodist Church and is there today as the oldest troop in Ventura.

When the church moved to its current location, the building on Oak and Meta was sold to the Salvation Army, it burned to the ground shortly thereafter.

The memorial windows in the sanctuary were dedicated in 1929 with the beautiful rose window donated by the American Legion in memory of the men who died in WW1.

In 1950, Ventura College Miss

Mildred Keys instructor and chairman on their Commission on Education passed away and the family established the church library in her memory, the Mildred Keys Memorial Library

I met with Barbara Tomblin, a minister at the church since 2002 and Dave Stork, a church member since 1948. When asked about the changes in the church, I'm told they have added a contemporary (more casual) service to accompany the traditional service on Sunday mornings and the sanctuary now offers an audio induction loop for the hearing impaired, Dave said, "you can sit in the parking lot and listen to the sermon!"

Dave belonged to Troop 102, he was one of 5000 attending the boy scout jamboree in 1950, and it was Dave's dad that did the woodwork seen in the sanctuary today.

The First United Methodist Church is an onsite tutoring center for Project Understanding and some members are very active in the community; Dave's wife, Midge is on the Board of Directors with Ventura Botanical Gardens and Shelly Foote is a volunteer at the museum after being a costume historian at the Smithsonian (Shelly's parents were married in the church).

Barbara shares, "there have been a lot of changes, except for the music program which has always been exceptional", she reports the Director of Music, Sally Rose Bates has commissioned a song writer to compose a song just for the church's 150th anniversary.

On Sunday, November 19th, First United Methodist Church will celebrate its 150th anniversary beginning at 8am and including a special all community Thanksgiving lunch.

For details visit [www.fumcventura.org](http://www.fumcventura.org)



Students from Pacific High School on CAPS set.

## Information and education at CAPS Media

Pacific High School students are getting involved at the CAPS Media Center by producing a series for their AIM program exploring Ancestry, Immigration and Memories. CAPS Media staff will provide the training and support for the Pacific teams of six conducting interviews with family members. The CAPS Media component provides the students with a hands-on introduction into the world of multimedia, a vital skill in today's world. The Pacific project, along with the award winning CAPS Media/ECTV program with El Camino High School students, demonstrates CAPS Media's commitment to engage and support Ventura's students.

Representative districting is moving quickly in Ventura and every resident

Continued on page xx

# 805 Gift Emporium

\$5 off any purchase of \$25 or more!

Not valid with any other offer, must percent coupon, valid through 12/6/17



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!**

3875 Telegraph Road, Suite A  
Across from Classic Cleaners

805.658.0805

Monday - Saturday  
9:00am - 6:00pm

## Ventura Audubon Society December field trips and the Christmas bird count

**December 2, 2017 8:00 a.m. Work Day Hedrick Ranch Nature Area.**  
**Leader: Sandy Hedrick (805) 340-0478.**

Arrive at 8:00 for self-guided birding which usually yields some interesting birds. Work from 9am – noon. Long pants and boots or closed shoes are required. Bring water, gloves & sun protection.

**December 9, 2017. 8:30 Camp Bartlett**

**(Santa Paula) Private Property Leaders: Karen Laing (907) 351-5176 and Adele Fergusson (805) 415-4304**

This is a hike near Sisar Canyon. We will walk through an old oak forest and then hike up into the hills where there is active oil pumping. Birds that we could see include acorn woodpeckers, Hermit thrush and Steller's jay.

**December 17, 2017 Christmas Bird Count**  
**Leader: Frank DeMartino**

This is the 118th annual Christmas Bird Count conducted by National Audubon. The CBC is the longest running citizen science effort on record. We are looking for additional birders to improve our count over last year when we recorded 175 species and more than 19,000 individual birds. Please email Frank DeMartino at ([frank@colynx.com](mailto:frank@colynx.com)) if you would like to participate.

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Free kids fun

Choirs

Snow

Inflatable snow globe photo booth

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**Friday, Dec. 1**  
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Choirs & Dancing 6:00pm  
**Santa, Snow & Lights 6:45pm**  
At Mission Park & the Mission



[downtownventura.org/holiday](http://downtownventura.org/holiday)







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On Nov. 14, Sheila Lowe and James Francis Gray shared a book signing at Mimi's Café in Ventura.

## Ventura resident Sheila Lowe pens new psychological thriller

"In the dead of winter, handwriting expert Claudia Rose journeys to Maine to retrieve a manuscript about convicted female serial killer, Roxanne Becker, written by Professor Madeleine Maynard, who was, herself, brutally murdered. While searching for the manuscript Claudia uncovers Madeleine's explosive research, which exposes the shocking truth about a group of mentally unstable grad students dubbed "Maynard's Maniacs."

"The professor's academic success and personal fortune made her the envy of fellow faculty members, and the University anticipates being the beneficiary of Madeline's estate. But

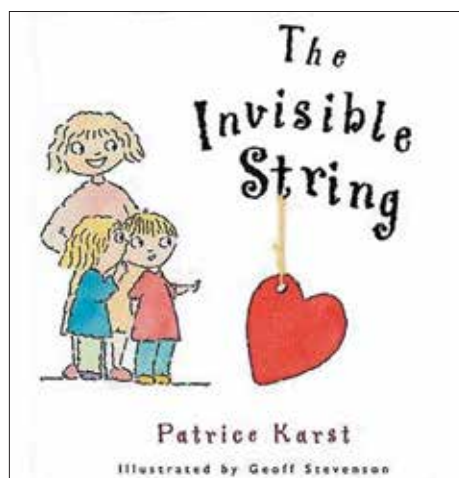
when a charming stranger shows up claiming to Madeleine's nephew, brandishing a new will, all bets are off."

The mother of a tattoo artist and a former rock star, Sheila Lowe lives in Ventura with Lexie the cat, where she writes her award-winning Forensic Handwriting mystery series. Like her fictional character Claudia Rose, Sheila is a real-life forensic handwriting expert who testifies in court cases. Despite sharing living space with a cat—a very bad one at that—Sheila's books are decidedly non-cozy. Visit Sheila Lowe online at [www.sheilalowe.com](http://www.sheilalowe.com).

Written Off is available where fine

## News & Notes

books are sold. Published by Suspense Publishing, Written Off is available in trade paper (ISBN: 9781976507915, 266 pages, \$12.99) and eBook (\$3.99) editions.



Love binds us to each other.

## Bestselling author to launch sequel

by Sheli Ellsworth

Local author, Patrice Karst, is planning the sequels to her bestselling (2000) children's book, The Invisible String. Karst describes the book, that has sold more than 250,000 copies, as a heart-warming and reassuring story that addresses the issue of separation anxiety for children of all ages.

Karst's "string" is the love that binds us to each other, reminding us that we are never alone, and that when we are loved beyond our wildest imagination. "I simply wrote it because it was something that had comforted my son Elijah from me being gone all day as a single working mother and I wanted him and all others to know that this string transcends time and space and that love connects us all and always will and nothing is stronger than love—not time or space or anger or even death."

Karst says the book is also being used by school districts, therapists, hospitals and hospices, the military, the prison system, divorce attorneys, foster and adoption programs, bereavement groups, etc. and helps children understand what love really is.

Karst, who has been writing since she was a teenager, is also the author of The Smile That Went Around the World, and the adult books: God Made Easy and The Single Mother's Survival Guide.

She wrote her first book as the result of a difficult break-up. Karst says she, "... has been on a fascinating spiritual journey since she was a young girl looking out in awe at the glistening stars."

Born in London, England, Karst moved to Ventura from Ojai a couple of years ago and lives at the beach with a zany wiener dog named Coco. She loves living in Ventura. She says the food, the people, the hills and the beach make for a unique Bohemian vibe.



View the decorated boats in Ventura Harbor. Photo by Doug Mangum.

## Island Packers has cruises for all occasions

Island Packers offers a special holiday gathering. Schedule a Ventura Harbor holiday cruise or whale watching trip aboard the 64-foot catamaran.

These cruises offer a fun, unique way to bring relatives and friends together for an outdoor activity. View the decorated boats in Ventura Harbor as well as the decorated lighted homes in the Ventura Keys.

Island Packers offers the following holiday cruise selection:

One-Hour Caroling Cruises: Passengers can sing along with the crew or just relax and admire the decorated homes and boats in the Ventura Keys. The caroling cruise is 6:30-7:30 p.m. Hot and cold beverages and items from the snack bar are available for purchase. (Passengers may not bring alcohol on board.) Cruises are December 8, 12, 13, 14, 17, 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23. The fare is \$16 per adult, \$13 per senior (55+), and \$10 per child.

Ventura Parade of Lights: Friday, December 15 & Saturday, December 16. Passengers board our 64-foot catamaran at 6:15 for cruise from 6:30-8:30 p.m. to see the holiday lights, the boat parade,

*Continued on page 16*

# BOD&B

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If you have a trust, is it up to date? **It should be!**

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Joe Spurnias Murky and Peter Van Nodas as Scrooge; Photo Credit: Lew Braunton



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## News & Notes



David Friedlander cutting the ribbon with help from Stephanie Caldwell, Ventura Chamber of Commerce. Photo by Michael Gordon.

## Kids & Families Together celebrates new center

On Thursday, Nov. 9 Kids & Families Together and the Ventura Chamber of Commerce celebrated the opening of their new center with a ribbon cutting and open house at 864 Santa Clara St.

In addition to the headquarters for Kids & Families Together operations the new center houses children's therapy rooms, training facilities and room to grow.

The celebration included tours of the center, wine and appetizers and musical entertainment.

Volunteer Beth Morris stated "The new location for Kids & Families Together is sunny, warm, and welcoming, just like the amazing people who work there".

Ventura Councilmember Matt LaVere and Ventura Community Development Director Jeff Lambert were

there celebrating the opening.

Kids & Families Together is a not-for-profit support, education and counseling resource center that provides services for individuals and families in foster care, kinship care and adoption, for the preservation of families and the physical, emotional and mental health of children. Kids & Families Together provides services through its collaboration with the Ventura County Human Services Agency and Ventura Behavioral Health Agency as well as other family serving organizations throughout Ventura County.

For more information about how to get involved with Kids & Families Together or utilize their services please contact David Friedlander, President/CEO & Co-founder (818) 643-1446 x 100 or email him at david@kidsandfamilies.org.



Charleen Morla and Jann making friends with the homeless.

## Be kind to one another

by Jann Hurling

Can you make a difference in someone's life today? It's not money that is required, it's a simple smile and actually listening to a story. Say hello, ask them their name, where are they from...everyone has a story, embrace them and listen. Most of all don't judge.

I saw a man pushing a shopping cart with a dog in the cart. I got excited and started to walk over to him. I watched his mannerisms and he put his head down and did not want to make eye contact. As I got closer I said, "Hi, my name is Jann," and he would not look up. I said "These are my dogs, Minnie Mojito and Sir Buddy Winston III," and

he looked up and smiled and asked me what their names were again. He said his dogs name was Sunny and he was Pete. We talked about his life journey and that he missed his family. He made some bad choices and I said that doesn't make you a bad person.

We talked, walked and laughed. As we walked we got close to a little corner store so I asked him to hold my dogs leashes. I went in picked up some water, munchies and dog food. I bought him cigarettes and a big candy bar. I gave him the bag and a big long hug! And told him I will never forget him.

Driving down Pierpont I looked over at Surf Liquor and saw my homeless neighbor that calls himself Charcoal. Charcoal is a picky homeless friend! He doesn't want left over food. I yelled Charcoal and he turned around and said hi Miss Jann. I pulled over and got the best hug ever! We sat and talked about life and I said do you want a smart water and he said...honestly I want a Budweiser!!! I laughed and got him a smart water! He is a great guy with demons. My life is better because I have Charcoal as my friend.

I met Joey on my walk tonight! He joined me and we shared stories. He missed his mom a lot so I said let's call her and 45 minutes of talking and crying they reunited and he is going home to Orem, Utah.

*Continued on page 22*





# Senior Living

Pull Out Section



It was her actual 94th birthday on the day of the jump.

## Livin' the dream: The sky's no limit

by Mike Macke

Senior Director of Sales & Marketing Cypress Place Senior Living

Have you ever had a dream? Winifred "Winnie" Lester did. Winnie is a resident at Cypress Place Senior Living in Ventura. She resides in their Independent Living community, a specially designed community for active seniors.

One of the signature programs at the community is called Livin' The Dream, the purpose being to provide residents with the opportunity to accomplish a goal or dream that they have always wanted to do.

Just shy of her 94th birthday, Winnie shared that her dream was to go skydiving. Asked why she wanted to skydive she replied, "When I was 80 I saw that George Bush Sr. jumped when he turned 90. If he can do it, I can do it," she said.

When Cypress Place Senior Living Vibrant Life Director, Kathy Ver-

non-Cole, got wind of Winnie's dream, Kathy and the staff at Cypress Place went to work to fulfill that dream. With the help of Winnie's granddaughter, Christi Lester, and the staff at Skydive Coastal Camarillo Winnie made her first skydive, at the tender age of 94!

Since it was her actual 94th birthday on the day of the jump, residents and staff from Cypress Place, along with a large contingent of family and friends, were waiting for Winnie at the landing site with a birthday cake and candles, and monumental cheers.

"I loved it, I loved it, I loved it," enthused Winnie in between trying to regain her equilibrium once on solid ground.

The adventure was nothing short of incredible according to Winnie. And having her family and friends, and



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neighbors from Cypress Place, there to greet here when she landed truly made it a memory-making, adventure of a lifetime for Winnie.

Cypress Place Senior Living is at 1200/1220 Cypress Point Lane. To learn more about Cypress Place Senior Living of Ventura, visit their web site at [www.cypressplaceseniorliving.com](http://www.cypressplaceseniorliving.com).

## Free community education classes and events

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

### Social Services/Bereavement Groups

Ojai: Caregiver Support Group Monday, December 4th and 18th from 10:00 am – 11:30 am at Continuous Care Center, Fireside Room, 1306 Maricopa Hwy, Ojai (behind Ojai Valley Community Hospital). Find encouragement and hope during your time as a caregiver. Share, listen and explore thoughts and feelings about the struggles, losses and successes of caring for your loved one. For more information call (805) 633-9056.

Ojai: Adult Bereavement Support Group Tuesdays, December 12th and 26th (2nd & 4th Tuesdays) 10:30 am-noon at Help of Ojai, West Campus 370 Baldwin Rd., Ojai. These groups are open to individuals who have experienced loss and are free of charge. Call 642-0239 for more

information or email [griefinfo@livingstonvna.org](mailto:griefinfo@livingstonvna.org).

Oxnard: Adult Bereavement Support Group on Mondays, December 4, 11, 18 and Tuesday, December 26 from 3:00-4:30 pm at First Presbyterian Church, 850 Ivywood Dr., Oxnard. These groups are open to individuals who have experienced loss and are free of charge. Call 642-0239 for more information or email [griefinfo@livingstonvna.org](mailto:griefinfo@livingstonvna.org). If you have any schedule questions, please check the website calendar (<http://lmvna.org/calendar/index.html>) or call us.

Ventura: Adult Bereavement Support Group Wednesdays, December 6, 13, 20, and 27 from 6:30-8:00 pm at Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurse Association office, 1996 Eastman Ave., Suite 109. These groups are open to individuals who have experienced loss and are free of charge. Call 642-0239 for more information or email [griefinfo@livingstonvna.org](mailto:griefinfo@livingstonvna.org).

Ventura: Newly Bereaved Support Group Thursday, December 14th from 6-7:30 pm at Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurse Association office, 1996 Eastman Ave., Suite 109. This monthly group is designed for adults who have recently experienced the loss of a loved one and is free. Call 642-0239 for more information or email [griefinfo@livingstonvna.org](mailto:griefinfo@livingstonvna.org). These groups meet every 2nd Thursday of each month.

### Diabetes Classes

Ventura: Tuesday, December 5th from 1-2:30pm at Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurse Association, 1996 Eastman Ave, Suite 109. These meetings are held on the 1st Tuesday of each month. General information is provided about Type 2 Diabetes including predia

*Continued on page 16*

You are invited to join us as we remember and honor loved ones and special friends.

## 33<sup>RD</sup> ANNUAL Light Up A Life Celebration

### MEMORY TREE LIGHTING CEREMONIES

Commemorative stars can be purchased at <http://lmvna.org/lightupalife/> or by calling (805) 642-0239 x775.

#### Camarillo Tree of Life

Saturday, December 2, 2017 – 4:30pm  
Constitution Park, Camarillo

#### Ventura

Thursday, December 7, 2017 – 6:30pm  
Pacific View Mall, Ventura

#### Ojai

Thursday, December 14, 2017 – 5:30pm  
Chaparral Auditorium, 414 E. Ojai Ave., Ojai

Camarillo Musical Guests



Duo Subito

Ventura Musical Guest



Sherry Hursey

Ojai Musical Guest



Mark David

**All events are free to attend. For additional information please contact Maddy Hazard at (805) 642-0239 x775 or [lightup@lmvna.org](mailto:lightup@lmvna.org)**





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## Senior Living



James Rochow joined the U.S. Air Force and served as a pilot in the Korean War.

## Spreading positivity: Just how impactful volunteers can be

by Katie Dawes

80-year-old James Rochow was a well-known resident in his assisted living community. Preferring to go by Jimmy, he was friendly with the staff, social with other residents and stole the hearts of many volunteers. Despite his approachable nature, he was not always so willing to engage. James had Parkinson's disease, a disorder of the central nervous system that affected his bodily movement resulting in severe tremors. Parkinson's disease is incurable and it is estimated that seven to ten million people are living with Parkinson's disease.

Before being diagnosed with Parkinson's disease, James lived in Brooklyn. He eventually joined the U.S. Air Force and served as a pilot in the Korean War. Post-war, James moved to California where he met his wife and had a daughter. After 30 years and his diagnosis, James and his wife were unable to care for themselves. They both decided to move into an assisted living community where they spent most of their time together. Two years after they moved in, James' wife passed away, leaving him alone with an incurable disease.

James became depressed and isolated himself from both his community and extended family. He was placed in a wheelchair indefinitely and had constant joint pain. His disease brought upon severe tremors and uncontrollable

shaking. The loneliness and solitude became increasingly more apparent to staff. Pacifica Senior Living Executive Director Stacie Dawes recognized James' loneliness and wanted to come up with a way to engage him on a more personal level. Stacie decided to pair James up with volunteers in an effort to increase his level of communication and personable interaction.

"The importance of volunteers in senior lives is incredibly necessary," said Pacifica Senior Living Executive Director Stacie Dawes. "I always believe volunteers breathe life into the souls of seniors because it allows them to tap into the youth of their lives. The smile it brings to their faces makes our volunteer program a vital staple to our daily activities."

James and several volunteers immediately established a strong connection, one that was visible to the entire community. James went from being isolated and introverted to having daily visits with the volunteers in communal spaces. His face would light up as he told them about his days in the Korean War. He shared the significance of his Air Force baseball cap that never left his wheelchair and always encouraged the volunteers to join him for after lunch ice cream. He taught the volunteers how to play poker and checkers, which eventually inspired James to set up a poker club within the assisted living community.

"I remember the first time James taught me to play poker. He was so excited," said Pacifica Senior Living volunteer Katie. "He won, but offered to buy me ice cream as a consolation prize. We would meet every Thursday to play and James would always have a huge smile on his face when he saw me walk in."

After interacting with the volunteers, James went from being in a depressive and isolated state to a youthful and engaged community member. He did not let his Parkinson's disease consume his life and allowed the volunteer program to enhance his assisted living experience. James became a teacher, listener and a friend to the volunteers, impacting not only his life but their lives as well.

The volunteer program has made a significant impression on James' life and on the lives of so many other assisted living community residents. Pacifica Senior Living has continuous volunteering opportunities for anyone looking to make a difference in a seniors life. For more information on becoming a volunteer please visit our website, <https://www.pacificaseniorliving.com/>.

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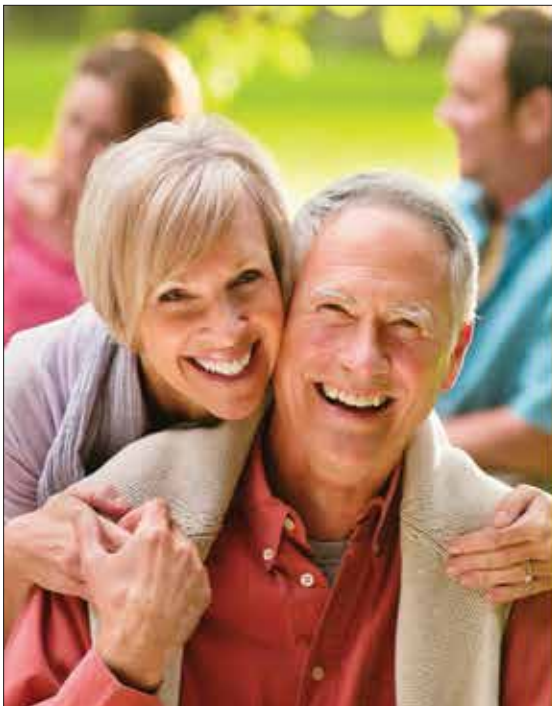
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# Senior Living



The Port Hueneme Color Guard participated in the Veterans Day Celebration.

## The Townhouse thanked all participants in their Veterans Day Celebration

The Ventura Townhouse has been home to many Veterans and spouses over the years. They have enjoyed the company of Veterans from every branch of the armed services, including Veterans of WWII, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War. Regardless of service type, rank, or role, they sincerely appreciate the service of all Veterans. On November 11th they

celebrated Veterans Day in a big way. The annual Veterans Day ceremony began with color guards, 30 minutes of patriotic music by the Ventura British Brass of 27 pieces, and a program at the front garden by the flag pole. A bagpipe procession, to a wreath-laying at the flagpole concluded the commemoration, followed by the viewing of Veterans posters made by their Intergenerational Group; Pacifica High School Staff & Students. Personal recognition was given to the Veterans of Ventura Townhouse who spoke about their call to duty. The Townhouse thanked all Veteran's and all Veteran's families for their sacrifice and dedication to the United States and its citizen's by giving us the right and privilege to freedom in our homeland. The Townhouse thanked all participants in their Veterans Day Celebration. They are Ventura British Brass, Port Hueneme Color Guards CSSN Cruz, AC3 Shaw, CS2 Vaughan, and CS2 Henson, National Champion Bagpiper Steve Bausch, Ventura Townhouse Veteran Speakers Beatrice Haitz, Joseph LaRocca, John Wright, Art Karma, Chris Christman, and Lois Argend.



Stephanie Caldwell, Chamber President & CEO is holding one end the ribbon while it was being cut by Monica Schrader, Ventura County Regional Director and Rhonda Spiegel CEO for the California Central Chapter at the Alzheimer's Association opening of their new offices located at 2580 E. Main St. The cutting took place on Nov. 16. There was a toast to celebrate the new office, refreshments and giveaways. Photo by Michael Gordon.



Retired Army Capt. Donald Wright, a resident of Cypress Place Senior Living in Ventura, celebrated his 104th birthday on Veterans Day, November 11th, 2017. A celebration in his honor, as well as honoring all the Veteran residents at Cypress Place, included food and entertainment, and a drum solo by Cpt. Wright, which delighted the large gathering of his family and friends, and fellow residents and neighbors at the senior community.

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#### Wine Down Wednesday December 6 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.

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## Island Packers has cruises

*Continued from page 10*

and ending with an onboard view of the fireworks display at 8 p.m.

Hot and cold beverages from the snack bar are available for purchase on these cruises. (Passengers may not bring alcohol on board.) The fare is \$35 per adult, \$32 per senior (55+) and \$25 per child (12 and under). Discount rates for groups of 10 or more. Advanced reservations recommended.

Private Group Holiday Parties (great for company functions): Cruise options are: a buffet-style dinner, a no-host or host bar, and entertainment. Group rates are available for 30 up to 100 passengers. Contact Island Packers for private charter information.

Whale Watching Excursions, December 26 through April marks the official start of the gray whale

migration. Regular trips are scheduled through mid-April. Departure times are listed daily on the Island Packers website. Rates start at \$38 per adult for this half-day trip.

Island Packers Gift Certificates are great stocking stuffers and gifts! They are easy to purchase by calling the office or stopping in at Ventura location, 1691 Spinnaker Dr.

Recommended cruise attire: Passengers are strongly encouraged to dress in layers with a coat and gloves, and wear flat shoes. The Island Packers gift shop offers a variety of warm fleece pullovers and vests, T shirts and hats to purchase if needed before boarding.

For information, reservations or to purchase gift certificates: Visit [www.islandpackers.com](http://www.islandpackers.com), call 642-1393, or visit Island Packers at 1691 Spinnaker Dr., Suite 105B, in Ventura Harbor Village.

## Senior Living

# It's open enrollment time!

by Carol Chybowski  
*American Legacy Solutions*

We have all been bombarded lately with TV ads and mailed circulars the last month or so touting various plans and companies to choose from during the Annual Open Enrollment Period for Medicare. Just what is Open Enrollment and who should utilize it?

The Annual Open Enrollment Period for Medicare is designed to allow people to change their part D Prescription Drug Plan if needed. This is the only time of the year people are allowed to change (barring a special circumstance) prescription plans. Those with Medigap / Medicare Supplements and stand-alone Prescription Drug Plans are affected, as are those who have Part C plans that include prescription drug coverage.

There are many reasons to take this opportunity to review your current coverage. One is that the plans themselves change from year to year. Premiums go up, deductibles get higher, and prescription medications are added or subtracted from formularies from year to year. What has been a good plan for you this year may not be a good plan next year.

Another reason to review your plan is that your own needs have changed. Have you stopped taking an expensive medication? If you chose a plan based on coverage of that medication you are no longer taking, you may be paying too much for coverage you no longer need.

How can you find out which plans are available in your area? The annual Medicare & You book includes a list of plans for our area. HICAP can also provide you with a list, and give more detailed instructions on how to choose a plan. But those lists can be confusing, particularly when you try to compare costs of individual medications across plans. Prices

can vary greatly depending on the dosage and whether the medication is tablet, caplet or liquid—even if it's the exact same medication in all three instances. Prices also vary by which pharmacy you are using and what type of contract they have with the manufacturers.

The same reasoning holds true for Part C plans that include drug coverage as well. Those plans can and do change their formularies from year to year. Because your medical coverage is tied in with your prescription coverage, it might not be as simple to change as a stand-alone plan. It is not necessarily a good thing to switch provider networks because of prescription coverage. But there are still options available to you if you need help with getting a medication covered or affording the cost of a high priced medicine. If this is a concern, make sure you compare all options equally and talk with a trained and licensed individual to help with these decisions.

## Free community education classes

*Continued from page 13*

betes, with emphasis on meal planning, medication, exercise, blood sugar monitoring, and new developments in diabetes.

## Joint Replacement Classes

Ventura: Thursday, December 7th from 1:00-2:00pm at Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurse Association offices, in the Community Room at 1996 Eastman Avenue, Suite 109 in Ventura. You will learn what to expect before, during and after knee or hip replacement surgery and how to be an active participant in your care. These meetings are 1st Thursday of each month.

Ventura: Monday, December 11th for both English and Spanish speaking. English 4:00-5:00 pm and Spanish 5:30-6:30 pm at Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurse Association offices, in the Community Room at 1996 Eastman Avenue, Suite 109 in Ventura. You will learn what to expect before, during and after knee or hip replacement surgery and how to be an active participant in your care.

For information or to RSVP call Dinah Davis at 642-0239 ext. 739.

\* VENTURA COUNTY BALLET PRESENTS \*

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Ventura College  
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Kathleen Noblin  
Choreographer  
Marina Fliagina  
Conductor  
Robert Lawson

with the **Ventura College Symphony Orchestra**

## Oxnard Performing Arts Center

Saturday, December 2 - 2 PM  
Sunday, December 3 - 2 PM  
Box Office: 805-486-2424

## Ventura College Performing Arts Center

Friday, December 8 - 7 PM  
Saturday, December 9 - 2 PM & 7 PM  
Sunday, December 10 - 2 PM

**SPECIAL RATES FOR CHILDREN**

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Sponsors: Ventura College, City of Ventura Cultural Affairs, Consortium Media, Capital Mortgage Services, Jordan Laby & Helen Yunker



# News & Notes



The Ventura Family YMCA hosted its Annual Prayer Breakfast on Wednesday, November 15 at the Ventura Family YMCA. The popular annual gathering of local religious and community leaders featured keynote speaker, Chelsea Shaw, a two time national champion with the University of Oregon’s Acrobatic and Tumbling team and motivational speaker.

Along with Shaw’s appearance (shown addressing the gathering) attendees enjoyed breakfast generously donated by The Palms at Bonaventure as well as musical performances by Rubicon Harmonix and Laura Callen.

For 12 years, the Annual Prayer Breakfast has inspired and united the community to come together for the common good. Eight churches, Anthem Church, Harvest Bible Chapel, New Harvest Ventura, River Community Church, Mission Church, South Coast Fellowship, Mission San Buenaventura and Temple Beth Torah dedicated their time and efforts to making this event possible.

Photo by Michael Gordon.



All of the squid seiner slips are occupied with some vessels.

## The fleet’s in!

Cooler water temperatures and other favorable sea conditions have returned the Ventura Squid Fleet to the Ventura Harbor Village. In late October and early November squid landings are increasing. They are currently averaging over 500 tons per day.

All of the squid seiner\* slips are occupied with some vessels even rotating in a shared slip arrangement.

All three squid offloading companies are currently in full operation with individual seiner vessels making squid landings at

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Greg Ryan Glass  
LMT, HHP, CAS, CH

the Ventura Harbor Fish Pier daily, Monday through Friday.

One vessel, Ocean Angel II, made a landing the second week of November of 100 tons of squid. At \$1,000 a ton this vessel received a \$100,000 payday. The Port District receives \$7.99 for each ton off-loaded by the squid companies.

News of the Ocean Angel II landing has resulted in an enormous number of requests for seiner moorage in the harbor which unfortunately they cannot accommodate.

The previous three squid seasons proved largely disappointing for California with small individual vessel loads and missed quotas.

The current squid landings are re-igniting enthusiasm among the fishermen and delighting visitors to Ventura Harbor who can observe the vessels arriving into the harbor and the activity of the squid being off-loaded from the Ventura Harbor Village Promenade.

Frank Locklear  
Manager, Ventura Harbor Village Marina, Commercial Fisheries and Technology

“The Ventura Harbor Village welcomes the return of squid to the area. The presence of the squid fishermen and their vessels paint a colorful maritime picture of the harbor. Please come visit the Ventura Harbor Village and enjoy all the wonderful food, activities, sights and sounds that the Ventura Harbor provides.”

\*Seine (/seIn/ SAYN) fishing (or seine-haul fishing) is a method of fishing that employs a seine or dragnet. A seine is a fishing net that hangs vertically in the water with its bottom edge held down by weights and its top edge buoyed by floats. Seine nets can be deployed from the shore as a beach seine, or from a boat. Boats deploying seine nets are known as seiners.



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Ventura BREEZE





# The Pet Page



**Dedicated to Scamp**

Sponsorship makes an ideal gift at any time of the year for an animal-loving friend or relative – birthdays, holidays, as a ‘thank you’ gift, or simply to say ‘I love you’! – either for a cat lover who has everything, or for friends and family members who love making a difference in the lives of animals. Your sponsorship gift of \$25 or more, helps a cat or kitten awaiting adoption into a forever home. When you sponsor a cat or kitten as a gift, you will receive a certificate to the recipient and include both of you in the monthly Surfcat Mewsletter mailing. You can choose the message or dedication you want on the certificate.

Surfcat...Providing compassionate care and community connections for cats in need of forever homes. Surfcatcafe.org or 500-7125.

In honor of America Recycles Day, the Canine Adoption and Rescue League (CARL) is accepting redeemable bottles and cans at their kennels located at 901 Mission Rock Road, Santa Paula. All proceeds from the recycling of plastic bottles and aluminum cans goes back to the kennel to help the dogs living in the sanctuary. CARL has been helping homeless dogs in Ventura County for the past 20 years. Alternatively, drop off the clean redeemable bottles and cans to the donation basket inside the back door of Pet Barn at 3203 E.Main.

While the holidays can be the most wonderful time of year for people, it can be one of the most dangerous for pets.

Dr. Ryan Keane at Eastown Veter-

inary Clinic in Grand Rapids says pet owners should be aware of the health and safety hazards that are lurking in their homes during the holidays.

In addition to the obvious things an ingredient called Xylitol can be fatal, even in small doses.

In less than 24 hours, Xylitol can result in liver failure. The ingredient is becoming more popular in foods like peanut butter and sugar-free candies and gums.

When you decorate your tree, keep the tinsel off branches that are close to the ground, where your cat can easily grab them. “They have barbs on their tongue that point backwards so if they get a piece of string or tinsel on their tongue, they kind of have to swallow it. It can’t come back out,” Dr. Keane says.

We’re all guilty of sneaking a treat or two under the table, but keep in mind that a small portion for us can be a calorie overload for your animal. “Very small amounts are fine, the problem is when everybody wants to give that animal a small amount at family gatherings it’s all cumulative and adds up,” Dr. Keane says.

Dr. Keane suggests keeping an extra eye on your pet after you have company over and if they’re acting abnormally, it may be a sign they were exposed to something toxic. If you see this immediately get the pet to their vet.

Experts have known for some time that dogs have poor vision, and are up to eight times worse than humans at seeing things in deta.

Scientists have developed a test for dogs and found that they struggle to tell red and green apart, much like color

## Scamp Club

(Scampclub pets are not for adoption.)



Hi: I’m Bodie! I love to play ball and go for walks and adventures! I was adopted and came to live in Ventura. I love my new family and life; now I smile all the time!

## Join Scamp Club

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

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**Dr. Nancy Scott**  
MS, DVM, DACVECC



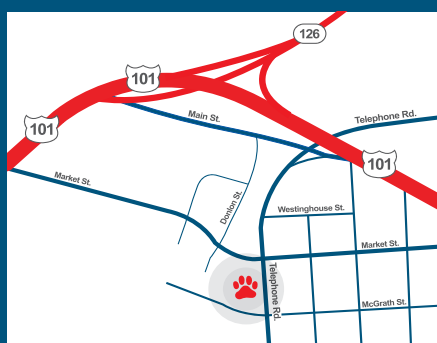
**Dr. Sarah Gray**  
DVM, DACVECC

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5:00 pm to midnight

Saturdays  
2:00 pm to midnight

Sundays  
6:00 am to midnight



blind humans, a condition known as deuteranopia.

So they can hardly see a red ball on the green grass.

This is important for people directly involved in dog training but also for fols who want to improve their dog’s attentive skills during some activities such as play. If at the park and you want to get your dog to bring back a ball falling on the green grass it would be better if you thought of using blue instead of red toys.

Dog owners have a lower risk of death from cardiovascular disease or other causes, a study of 3.4 million Swedes has found. The team analyzed national registries for people aged 40 to 80, and compared them to dog ownership registers.

They found there was a lower risk of cardiovascular disease in humans of dogs, particularly of hunting breeds. Researchers said it may be active people who choose to have dogs.

“The results showed that single dog owners had a 33% reduction in risk of death and 11% reduction in risk of heart attack,” compared to single non-owners, said lead study author Mwenya Mubanga of Uppsala University.

Dr Mubanga said: “Perhaps a dog may stand in as an important family member in the single households.”

For their study, published in Scientific Reports, the team looked at data from 2001 to 2012. In Sweden, every visit to a hospital is recorded in national databases - while dog ownership registration has been mandatory since 2001.

Owning a dog from breeds originally bred for hunting, such as terriers, retrievers and scent hounds, was associated with the lowest risk of cardiovascular disorder.

**Thirty-five dogs found inside robbery suspects home**  
by Victoria Usher

Inside the home of 72-year-old

Robert Bustamante Flores, Corona bank robbery suspect, authorities discovered thirty-five dogs being kept in horrible conditions. They had been locked inside the home all day and all night, every single day. Animal Control officers were able to save the dogs, seven of them being small puppies and then took all of them to the Corona Animal Shelter so that they could be evaluated and fed.

Flores told detectives that twenty-six dogs were living inside his home when they asked him about the robbery. Once a search warrant was obtained four animal control officers and investigators searched the house together and found thirty-five dogs along with possible evidence of robbery. The good news is those dogs are now safe and have very recently become available for adoption! Hopefully they will all find their forever homes soon!

A local Lancaster dog has won the 18th annual AKC Humane Fund Awards for Canine Excellence (ACE) in the Search and Rescue category! Each year the AKC® Humane Fund celebrates five loyal, hard-working dogs that have significantly improved the lives of their owners and communities. “Piglet,” a Lancaster Search & Rescue dog has brought closure to many grieving families.

“Piglet,” a six-year-old Catahoula Leopard Dog, is rigorously trained and certified to find human remains on land and in water. Each year Piglet and handler, Lori Wells spend hundreds of hours training, testing, and answering the call of duty for law enforcement agencies in California, Nevada, Arizona, and Utah. At nearly 7 years old, Piglet has built a reputation as an unparalleled search resource.

Piglet is unique not only for her diligent work ethic and talented nose, but also for her infectious ‘smile’. She always lights up the room at community events and fundraisers and is happy to make new friends, human and canine alike.



# The Pet Page

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.

## Forever homes wanted



Hi: I'm Bunny a 5-year-old Dachshund/Shih Tzu X in need of a new home. I came from a situation of too many dogs in the home. I'm good with other dogs, but I'm under-socialized to people. I know C.A.R.L. will help me find my forever family. Could that family be yours? Please stop by and meet me, I'll be waiting. Canine Adoption and Rescue League C.A.R.L.



Adoptable Milk Dud absolutely adores attention. This young and energetic bunny arrived at Ventura County Animal Services in July and was immediately a favorite of shelter visitors. Potential adopters frequently ask to visit with Milk Dud, and they are always entertained by his antics, but he has yet to find his forever family. Milk Dud is looking for a safe and loving indoor home where he can receive endless pets and nose scratches and enjoy lots of room for play. VCAS at 600 Aviation Drive in Camarillo and ask for ID #A668887. For details about offsite rabbit adoptions, bunny nail trims, compatibility dates, and adoption hours, please visit [www.facebook.com/VCASBunnyBrigade](http://www.facebook.com/VCASBunnyBrigade).

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**Holiday Raffle!**  
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Come in and buy your tickets now and support our spay and neuter mission in Ventura County!  
**Tickets are 6 for \$5 or \$1 each.**  
**Volunteers Needed!**



"I'm as cute as a dog, so may I take a tennis ball?"

## Youth



Girl Scout Troop donates socks to the homeless before the cold season.

## The girls have helped collect items for the needy

As the weather begins to cool down, local girl scouts teamed up with Ventura's Hypno Comics Store to donate socks to homeless in need.

Girl Scout Troop 61686 annually sets aside a portion of proceeds from their fall product sales of nuts, candy, and magazines to support a service project to help "make the world a better place," to honor the Girl Scout Law.

After considering a few different options, troop members voted to support the Los Angeles Dumbledore's Army's 2nd Annual Dobby's Sock Drive in support of the Midnight Mission.

The troop was able to make a donation of \$100.00 worth of men's, women's and children's socks which will be distributed to the homeless before the cold season. Several

troop members showed up on delivery day to personally deliver the socks to Hypno Comic's owner George Chase. Chase was pleased to see such a big contribution be made to his location's collection box.

This is one of three collection drives supported by the comic book store; later in the year the store also helps to collect food and toys. The troop is happy to support these kind of collections, as in previous years the girls have helped collect many items of need including children's books, pajamas and birthday supplies for hospitalized children.



Elena Brokaw and Board Chair Kate McLean accepting a donation Amy Fonzo.

## A "Moment of Gratitude"

The Museum of Ventura County and California Resources Corporation (CRC) hosted a "Moment of Gratitude," on Thursday, Nov. 9, to thank city and county officials and community members for their support throughout the Museum's fiscal challenge. In a special presentation, CRC's Amy Fonzo, manager, external relations, gave the museum a check

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for \$5,000 to seed the museum's new corporate giving program, and encouraged other corporations to 'meet us or beat us' in their support of the museum.

Ventura County Community Foundations Director Vanessa Bechtel, in attendance at the event, responded by committing VCCF to a Corporate Platinum Membership of \$2,500.

In addition, Elena Brokaw, who recently accepted the permanent position as executive director, introduced the Museum's new board of directors and shared an update on the museum's progress over the past four months, including the securing of \$1.675 million in corporate and individual gifts, and the procurement of one main location in Camarillo to be used to catalog and store the museum's extensive collection. Brokaw credited TOLD Corporation's Rod Gilbert, who

is a special advisor to the Museum with being instrumental in securing the new storage location.

"The museum has so many treasures that for years have been packed away in storage," said Brokaw. "We are eager to begin a formal process of identifying and cataloging the entire collection, and expanding our programming to incorporate all of the pieces of history currently in our care."

The Museum of Ventura County celebrates, preserves and interprets the art, history and culture of Ventura County, the California Channel Islands and the surrounding region through its collections, exhibitions, events, educational programs, publications and its research library. Located at 100 East Main St., the Museum is open Tuesday - Sunday 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. Visit [venturamuseum.org](http://venturamuseum.org) or call 653.0323 for more information.





Please join us for the

# Grand Opening Event!


IMAGINE... A NEW EASTSIDE VENTURA LIBRARY!


Ventura County Library is pleased to announce the grand opening event of the new Hill Road Library in Ventura.

**Featuring:**

- Library information and tours
- Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at 12:30 pm
- BBQ compliments of Ventura Downtown Lions Club
- Performance by The Rubicon Harmonix
- Fun for the whole family!

**1050 S. Hill Rd., Ventura**





## Hill Road Library

SUNDAY,  
**December 3, 2017**  
NOON – 2 P.M.  
1050 S. Hill Road  
Ventura, CA 93003

Ventura County Library wishes to thank the sponsors of this very special event:

- Ventura Friends of the Library
- Ventura Downtown Lions Club
- Ventura County Credit Union
- Event MC Ivor Davis, Author of The Beatles and Me
- Music by John Bardi, Guitarist
- Children's Crafts with Judee Hauer, Clothes Pin Folk Art Doll Maker
- Friends' Raffle - Prints of Beatles Photographs donated by Roger Whitehouse
- Nina's Gallery Photo Booth
- Ask the Flowers - Mood Card Readings

*Ventura County Library*

# Youth



The high school Youth and Government delegates of Ventura Family YMCA are on a mission to raise supplies to create care packages for US soldiers overseas. Every year the Youth and Government of California devise a Social Initiative for Y delegations across the state to participate in as part of their #BeTheChange movement.

The Ventura Delegation are assigned to collect snacks and treats. The Youth and Government is a cause-driven program that strives to engage high school youth in a hands on experience that educates them on government while fostering their ideas, leadership skills, character and critical thinking.



On Thursday November 16th Ventura High School had their totally awesome, annual Cardboard Boat Race. It is a long-standing, student run, lunchtime activity.

Each team is given a refrigerator box-size piece of cardboard, a roll of duct tape, a yardstick, and a box cutter. They are not allowed to leave their 10' x 10' area in the parking lot while building their "cardboard boat"

The races then take place in the school pool. Teams try to get their cardboard boat across the pool without sinking! At least 1000 kids were on the pool deck watching the races! Good, clean fun!

Even Principal Carlos Cohen gave it a try.

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We asked Jeff Hereford, City of Ventura Transportation Engineer how the new signs on the Pierpont Lanes came to be "The story is very simple.....a couple residents asked the City's Transportation Division if we could install street name signs at the end of each of the lanes facing the beach. The reason for the signs is so that in an emergency situation someone can tell emergency personnel exactly where the incident is occurring along Pierpont beach. The City felt it was a good idea so we went ahead and purchased the street name signs and our crews installed them."

Photo by Murray Robertson



The Coffee Connections Wednesday morning networking meetings are held every week, 8:00 – 9:30 a.m. at Spice-Topia, 576 E. Main St. in downtown Ventura. They start the meeting right after reading the Breeze.

Sitting front row center is Debbie Echevarria of Your Business Support, the founding leader of the Coffee Connections networking group with the Ventura Breeze contributing writers Carol Leish and James Francis Gray at her side. For more information visit their web page [www.ybstoday.com](http://www.ybstoday.com).

Photo by Michael Gordon.



# 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.

## Felony Resisting a Peace Officer, Possession of a Controlled Substance Arrest

On November 4, at approximately 1am, a Ventura Police patrol officer was contacted by a witness in the 200 block of Santa Clara Street who was reporting a physical altercation to the front of the Tavern Bar. The witness identified two of the involved parties, a male and female, who were still on scene.

As the officer was attempting to contact the parties to determine their involvement in the altercation, the female suspect, 26 year old Ventura resident Natalie Carr ran from the officer. A second officer arrived on scene and detained Carr, along with the male suspect, 21 year old Ventura resident Liko McBride. Both suspects refused to cooperate with officers as they attempted to gather information.

During the investigation, officers learned the two were involved in the earlier altercation but were unable to establish a crime had been committed at that time. As the officer was informing the parties they were being released without pending criminal charges, Carr stood up and advanced towards the officer in a threatening manner. The officer took physical control of Carr in order to take her into custody and prevent her from striking him. McBride interfered at this point and physically assaulted the officer while trying to free Carr. The officer lost control of Carr as a result, but was able to take McBride to the ground as he continued to resist. Once on the ground, Carr began to strike the officer in the head and upper torso.

The second officer on scene physically detained Carr who continued to try to assault officers. Once Carr was taken into custody, additional officers arrived on scene and assisted in detaining McBride.

## Prowling Arrest, Possession of Drug Paraphernalia

On November 15, at approximately 10:30am, the Ventura Police Department Command Center received a 911 call from a resident in the 300 block of S. Brent St. reporting that a subject was just seen attempting to enter a neighbor’s side gate. The caller saw the subject, later identified as the suspect 32 year old vagrant Brittany Austen, reaching over the gate and yelled at her to stop. Austen fled on foot and was last seen running westbound on Preble Ave.

Officers responding to the call saw Austen, who matched the description, and detained her several blocks away from the residence. She was positively identified and arrested.

## Suicidal Subject

On the November 15, at approximately 1pm, a Ventura Police Officer was on patrol when he observed a subject, later identified as a 19-year-old male adult, standing on the outside railing of the California St. overcrossing of Highway 101. The subject was standing on the catwalk of a freeway sign, which was approximately 20 feet above the roadway and

vehicles traveling in the southbound lanes of the highway.

The officer immediately made verbal contact with the subject and began attempts to negotiate with him, while additional officers closed California St., and the California Highway Patrol closed both the northbound and southbound lanes of Highway 101. The Ventura City Fire Department was also called to the scene and remained on scene for the duration of the incident.

At first the subject was uncooperative although the officer, who is trained in crisis intervention, continued attempts to negotiate with the subject for approximately 1.5 hours. The officer was finally able to convince the subject to climb back over the railing onto California St. Once he was safely away from the ledge, officers detained the subject.

## Narcotic/Opiate Related Arrests

On November 15, Detectives with the Ventura Police Department Street Crimes Unit conducted two separate investigations involving the sales and unlawful use of opiate based controlled substances.

On November 15 at 8:30am, Street Crimes Detectives made contact with an unknown suspect who was offering to sell an opiate based controlled substance over an online website. Detectives negotiated a price and set a meet location in the Ventura Gateway Center parking lot.

Detectives were waiting at the meet location for a short period of time when two female suspects arrived on foot. Detectives watched as one of the suspects answered calls from an undercover detective.

Uniformed detectives then moved in and detained 30 year old Ventura resident Thea Goldstein and 24 year old Ventura resident Taylor Carr. Both were found to be in possession of Suboxone, an opiate based narcotic.

Later in the day, at 2:45pm, Street Crimes Unit Detectives served a search warrant at a residence in the 9300 block of Neath St reference the suspect, 28 year old Ventura resident Christian Shatswell, using forged prescriptions to unlawfully obtain oxycodone and hydrocodone, both an opiate based narcotic, from several local pharmacies.

Shatswell was detained during the search warrant and later arrested for the felony crimes of obtaining a controlled substance by fraud, using a forged prescription, and commercial burglary.

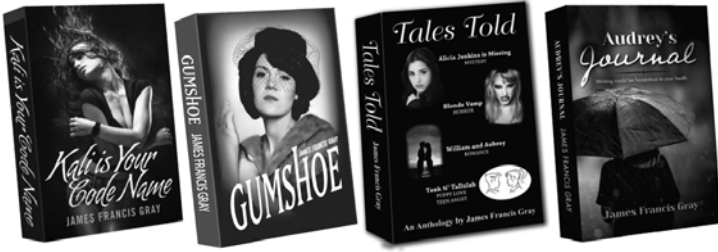
# Harbor Patrol Blotter

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


**11-08** 10:10pm, received a request for assistance “jump-starting” a vehicle in the Harbor Village parking lot. Officers responded and successfully assisted starting the vehicle.

**11-09** 6:21pm, received a report of a disabled motor vessel in the A-Basin of the Harbor. Officers responded and found the vessel adrift. A language barrier existed but officers were able to ascertain the issue, the captain was lost; he was towed to the launch ramp and

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assisted with directions.

**11-10** 6:23pm, received a report of a boat fire at VIM D-dock. Officers responded and found a sailboat with exhaust coming out of a blower vent. The blower was turned off and no fire was discovered.

**11-11** 1:32pm, received a report of a disabled sailboat 1 mile South of the harbor. Officers responded, took the disabled vessel en tow and safely delivered the vessel to their slip in Ventura West Marina.

3:00pm, received a report of a disabled motor vessel at the entrance to the Harbor. Officers responded and towed the vessel back to their slip in VWM.

**11-12** 11:55pm, received a report of an overdue boater from the skipper’s mother. It was determined that the individual was on a commercial fishing

vessel out at Anacapa Island and that no reports of vessel accidents were received. Relayed U.S. coast contact info.

**11-13** 7:45am, received a report of a disabled motor vessel in danger of colliding with moored vessels at VIM C-dock. Officers responded, taking lines from the adrift vessel and securing it into an empty slip at C-dock until TowBoat U.S. could arrive and tow them to the boatyard.

2:00pm, received a request from U.S. coast guard to assist with attaining coordinates of navigation buoys in the area. Officers assisted with transporting the coast guard on the fireboat to the buoys.

4:25pm, received a report while on patrol of a transient using the fuel docks restroom as an abode. Officers stood by while the individual gathered his belongings and moved on.

# Dialysis access options to be addressed at free CMHS Seminar

Dialysis access options for kidney failure patients will be the focus of a free seminar that Community Memorial Health System is holding on Wednesday, Dec. 6.

Dialysis vascular access is a surgically created vein used to filter toxins, waste and extra fluid out of a person’s blood as treatment for kidney failure. Considered a patient’s lifeline, vascular access allows for roughly a pint of blood to be filtered every minute. Access options include arteriovenous fistula, arteriovenous graft, venous catheter and peritoneal dialysis. Dr. Kevin Major, who specializes in vascular surgery, will explain each of these access options, short-term vs. long-term use, and how to prevent problems that require further treatment.

Dr. Major received his medical degree from the University of Toledo College of Medicine and Life Sciences and completed general surgery residency training at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles and fellowship training in surgical critical care at Cedars-Sinai, including a vascular surgery fellowship at the University of Southern California. He is board certified in all three specialties and is an active

member of the Community Memorial Hospital medical staff.

The seminar will begin at 6 p.m. in the eighth-floor Nichols Auditorium at Community Memorial Hospital, 147 N. Brent St. Registration is free but reservations are required. To secure reservations, please visit [www.cmhshealth.org/rsvp](http://www.cmhshealth.org/rsvp) or call Brown Paper Tickets at 800-838-3006.

# Employee or Independent Contractor Seminar

Employment Development Department (EDD)invites you to attend aNo Charge an Employee or Independent Contractor Seminar on December 6, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

EDD Tax Office Training Room  
4820 McGrath Street, Suite 200

To make reservations, visit the EDD website at [www.edd.ca.gov/Payroll\\_Tax\\_Seminars/](http://www.edd.ca.gov/Payroll_Tax_Seminars/) or call 866-873-6083.

The EDD is an equal opportunity employer/program. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Requests for services, aids, and/or alternate formats need to be made prior to the event by calling 866-873-6083 (voice) or TTY 888-547-9565.

— Weekly SUDOKU —

Answer

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

— King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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



# This 'n' That

## Ventura Unified School District

by Jennifer Tipton

### Ventura Unified School District’s Five High Schools

School Name	Location	Enrollment	Year Founded	Principal	Phone	Website
Buena	5670 Telegraph Rd.	1895	1961	Bobbi Powers	289-1826	<a href="http://www.venturausd.org/buena/home.aspx">www.venturausd.org/buena/home.aspx</a>
Ventura	2 N. Catalina St.	2155	1889	Carlos Cohen	641-5116	<a href="http://www.venturausd.org/ventura/home.aspx">www.venturausd.org/ventura/home.aspx</a>
Foothill Technology	100 Day Rd.	1000	2000	Joe Bova	289-0023	<a href="http://www.foothilltechnology.org">www.foothilltechnology.org</a>
Pacific	501 College Dr.	150-200	1990	Diedre Monarres	289-7950	<a href="http://www.venturausd.org/pacific/home.aspx">www.venturausd.org/pacific/home.aspx</a>
El Camino	61 Day Rd.	300	2008	Cheryl Burns	289-7955	<a href="http://www.elcaminohighatvc.org">www.elcaminohighatvc.org</a>

## Public Invited to opening of Native Plant Demonstration Garden

The National Park Service, California State University Channel Islands (CSUCI), and the Ventura Master Gardeners welcome the public to attend the opening of a native plant demonstration garden on Saturday, December 2 at 10:30 am at Channel Islands National Park in Ventura Harbor. The Channel Islands Park Foundation will also be hosting a native plant sale at the park visitor center from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

The native plant garden demonstrates how easy it is to create a drought tolerant home garden using plants native to our region and the California Channel Islands. The plants featured in the garden are readily available at local nurseries, easy to maintain, produce less yard waste than your average lawn, and have beautiful blooms that vary throughout the year.

The garden includes a dry rock river feature that collects any runoff and rain water into a seasonal pool and irrigation holding tank, demonstrating a good method of managing seasonal water flow. The stream also functions to infiltrate and recharge the groundwater at the site.

At 9:30 am and 1:00 pm a panel of garden experts with the Ventura Master Gardeners and CSUCI will discuss techniques to consider when creating your own home native plant garden. There will be educational booths sponsored by organizations including the City of Ventura Water, CSUCI, and Channel Islands Restoration at the event.

“Using island and California

native plants in your home garden is a great way to help to preserve our Mediterranean-type ecosystem”, said Channel Islands National Park Service Superintendent Russell Galipeau, “It is one of the most imperiled ecosystems in the world and is home to remarkable levels of plant diversity.”

The Mediterranean ecosystem is also one of the rarest ecosystems, occurring in only five regions in the world with characteristic mild wet winters and warm and dry summers. Although these regions cover only slightly more than 2% of the world’s land areas, combined they have approximately 20% of all of the plant species in the world. Channel Islands National Park preserves some of the finest remnants of these coastal ecosystems in America.

## Opening of the restored Meister Hall

A gala event celebrating the opening of the newly restored Meister Hall will take place at Temple Beth Torah, 7620 Foothill Road at 6 p.m. on Saturday December 2.

“I am delighted that Meister Hall has been given such a magnificent makeover,” said long time Temple member Barbara Meister, “and I am happy that we continue to be an integral part of the Temple’s remarkable history in Ventura County.”

Almost 40 years ago Meister Hall was named to honor the generous support of longtime residents Barbara and Larry Meister, and it has since served as the venue for countless Temple events—from weddings to bar mitzvah’s to the

annual Jewish Film Festival.

The Dec 2nd fundraiser features a landmark four course wine-maker’s dinner, live music and a live auction.

Arrivals at Temple Beth Torah will be ushered into the newly restored community center which has just undergone a major six month refurbishment.

This opening event, sponsored by the Temple’s Brotherhood, includes an exciting evening of gourmet food with matching wine introduced by oenophile (a lover or connoisseur of wine) Ron Halpern, a long time Temple Beth Torah member. Jay Kosoff will be MC for the evening.

Tickets for this special event, are \$75.00 and reservations can be made by calling Temple Beth Torah at 647-4181.

### Information and education at CAPS

*Continued from page 9*

is encouraged to get involved in the determination of the district mapping for the city council representatives. Go to [www.CityofVentura.CA.Gov/districtelections](http://www.CityofVentura.CA.Gov/districtelections) to get meeting information for December as the process moves forward culminating in early January.

Season three of the city’s Mayor for a Moment program features exceptional fifth graders who are selected by the faculty of elementary schools throughout the city. Each month a young mayor is introduced at a city council meeting by a CAPS Media produced video followed by the student banging the gavel and presenting an original essay.

Ventura’s Spotlight on Local Business recognition program is in full swing with CAPS Media producing informative videos on unique and interesting businesses in the area. The series exposes new businesses and their importance in the community to Ventura. In addition, CAPS Media continues to create videos and supporting media materials for vital services and agencies including Ventura police and fire. All these programs can be found on channel 15 or on the CAPS website.

The Ventura Police Department shares the city crime statistics and offers helpful hints to stay safe every day on KPPQ-LP at 104.1fm. KPPQ is a great place to share your non-profit’s story and events. Support your local community by volunteering.

Learn engineering and radio production. The final radio training class of 2017 will be held Wednesday November 29th. Call or email us at [radio@capsmedia.org](mailto:radio@capsmedia.org) for all the information.

CAPS Radio, KPPQ 104.1 FM and CAPS Television (Channel 6 & 15) are streaming worldwide. Now everyone in and outside of Ventura can enjoy the diversified programming on CAPS Media on cable, on the radio airwaves and streaming on the web. Go to [capsmedia.org](http://capsmedia.org).

CAPS Media’s mission is to create an engaged and informed community through participation in electronic media. Our goals are to Engage, Educate and Inform. Informational and instructional classes are conducted every month with orientation on the first Thursday, HD videography/camera instruction on the 2nd Thursday, Final Cut post-production editing classes on the 3rd Thursday, and CAPS Radio (KPPQ, FM 104.1) on the 4th week, all at 6pm at the CAPS Media Center. CAPS Media Member/Producers receive hands-on instruction in videography, video editing, radio production and more. Once trained member/producers may check out CAPS Media’s video cameras and other production equipment and book postproduction editing suites to craft the program they want to share. Details of training and signups are at [capsmedia.org/events](http://capsmedia.org/events).

Anyone who lives, works or attends school in the city of Ventura may become a Member/Producer. Annual membership fees are only \$25 for an individual and \$75 for a non-profit organization. CAPS Radio DJs require an additional annual fee of \$50. For complete information go to [capsmedia.org](http://capsmedia.org).

### Be kind to one another

*Continued from page 12*

I stopped at Vons and as I walked I hear “Jann” real loud. I turn around and see Leroy and Francis my homeless neighbors, they had their heads lifted high and proud. (Which our homeless rarely do in public) I was so honored they remembered me that I ran to them and hugged them! I honestly felt that they had a purpose and a reason today and to see smiles was priceless. We can make a difference, learn a name, give a smile and give a little hope to our friends, even if homeless.

1700 E. Thompson Blvd.  
Ventura

805.648.1070

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Fri & Sat 11am - 10:30pm Sun Closed

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10" mini 1 topping \$9.95  
Extra Toppings - \$1 each

Monday thru Thursday – Extra Large Pizza, one topping, \$10.<sup>99</sup> or Spaghetti, \$5.<sup>49</sup>



# Person to Person

by Jennifer Tipton

Thanksgiving 2017! What are you thankful for?



**Kelsey Burkan**  
age 70 Owner  
of Kelsey's  
Vegan Bakery &  
Fudge

"I'm thankful that we're all still here on earth and to have the opportunity to do the best we can, to be kind and loving to everyone." She adds, "and always thankful for friends and family."



**Lorne and Aaron Marchant**  
ages 49 & 47 (brothers)  
with Harvest  
Gathering Farm

Without hesitation, Aaron says "Family! (but take my brother out of the equation)." Lorne responds, "Yeah, he probably loves my kids more than me!" Lorne adds that he is thankful "for personal growth and a knowledge of self."



**Wendi Mitchell** age 50  
Co-Owner of Blue Ridge Honey and Member of

**Ventura Chamber**  
"I'm thankful for Wayne Scott, the researcher at Channel Islands University for all the hard work he's doing to stabilize the health of Ventura County's honey bees."



**Taylor Cooper**  
age 25 works at Ace Hardware

"I'm thankful for my family, they're always there for me- 24/7 and 365! They are actually my friends because when you're going through hard times, they are the ones there for you!"



**Peter Nicholas**  
age 74 Retired Sales & Marketing Director

"I'm thankful that my wife and I came here from Wales 25 years ago." Pete has had many health issues and was told 16 years ago that he had only one year to live! He attributes this to the health care he has received here and says, "I play golf, just took up bowling and I'm the champion shuttle board player at O'Leary's!"



**Susannah Kegler** age 26  
Ventura College Nursing Student Currently

**working on her C.N.A. and applying to the Nursing Program in February** "I'm just thankful to be out of school and get to spend some time with my daughters!"

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

### HAPPY THANKSGIVING!

From Ventura Executive Suites

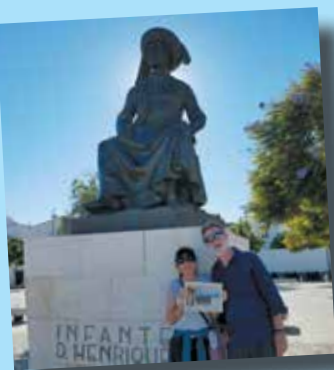
**CALL FOR A TOUR TODAY!**



# This 'n' That

# On Vacation

From left to right.  
Carl Morehouse and Janna Minsk sharing the Breeze with Prince Henry the Navigator in Lagos, Portugal. Being a navigator Prince Henry especially enjoyed the Harbor Patrol reports.  
Diana Murphy-Roberts, James Francis Gray, Mary Carr and Marcia Gray enjoying a surprise birthday party for Marcia in Fort Myers, Florida. Her best present was receiving the Breeze.  
The Breeze's own contributing writer Jill Forman outside the World Famous Giant Artichoke Restaurant in Castroville, CA. After eating deep fried artichoke heart, artichoke soup, and artichoke bread she finished reading the paper.  
Eliane and Rick White In Baja Mexico. This place is owned and managed by Americans ex patriots. They cook a feast and really took good care of us. Sat in front of the post office and read the Breeze.  
Left it in the snack bar seating area for the next tourist.



## The Perfect Gift! Visit the Channel Islands National Park



- Hike
- Kayak
- Camp
- Whale Watch
- Wildlife Cruises
- Holiday Cruises

Gift Certificates Available

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by Pam Baumgardner  
VenturaRocks.com

The holiday season is in full swing with Ventura looking as lovely as ever with music keeping us as lively as ever. To start off with, it's the "social event of the year," Ventura Winter Wine Walk and Holiday Street Fair on Saturday, December 2. The holiday street fair is free and runs from Noon until 8 pm; the main stage of music is also free and located at the corner of Main and California with City Hall as the backdrop. The bands rockin' the event this year are the Road Brothers, Adelaide and the Bomb. Then of course it's the Wine Walk (21 and over) which typically sells out every year; it runs from 4 until 7 pm.

Squashed Grapes is hosting a fundraiser for the local chapter of Notes for Notes on Saturday afternoon, December 2, from 1:30 to 4:30 pm with two acts on the bill. Firstly, it's the East Valley Road band featuring Notes for Notes students who are raising funds to help them get to a Blues competition in Nashville, and then it's Patrick Warburton's band called The Bearded Pearl Clams featuring Pearl Jam tunes. Yes, you read that right, it is that Patrick Warburton of Seinfeld and Rules of Engagement fame. It's all about raising awareness about this amazing program available to our up and coming young musicians here in Ventura where they have a state-of-the-art recording studio available to them and soon a mentoring program featuring a Master's program with key local musicians. You can learn more about this non-profit organization at NotesForNotes.org.

The Surfrider Foundation's 8th annual Pints Against Plastics benefit will be held at Discovery on Saturday, November 25th, with Through the Roots and Rising Son providing the reggae. The fundraiser is for litter prevention efforts for Ventura County beaches and rivers. Find out more at Ventura.Surfrider.org.

Quick notes: Kick off the holiday weekend with pre-Thanksgiving fun on Wednesday night, November 22, with Yachtley Crew at Bombay's; Nathan McEuen returns to town with a show at Grapes and Hops on Friday, November 24, with what he calls Nathan McEuen and the Enormous Ego Band; there's a Numbskull Productions show at the Garage with Captured! By Robots on Friday, November 24; catch The Tenderloin and Spivey Spi at Duke's on Seaward on Friday, December 1; the Old Time Country Music Christmas concert

will be held on Sunday, December 3, at the Poinsettia Pavilion; and just released, the soundtrack to the documentary featuring local blind musician, Rachel Flowers, "Hearing is Believing."

And finally, Ray Jaurique and the Uptown Brothers are working on their second release. Ray told me he's penned ten or eleven new songs and that this one will include some special guest players; they're working out of Castaway 7 Studios here in Ventura.

Do you have any music-related news or upcoming shows you want help publicizing? Please send all information short or long to Pam@VenturaRocks.com, and for updated music listings daily, go to [www.VenturaRocks.com](http://www.VenturaRocks.com).

## Music Calendar

For more events go to [VenturaRocks.com](http://VenturaRocks.com)

### Amigos Cafe & Cantina

546 E. Main St.

805-874-2232

Mondays: Musician's Night Out

Tuesdays: Open Mic

Sat 11/25: Medicine Hat

Fri 12/1: Sin Chonies

Sun 12/3: The Tossers

### Bombay Bar & Grill

143 S. California Street

Fridays: DJs; Karaoke

Saturdays DJs

Wed 11/23: Yachtly Crew

### Café Fiore

66 S. California Street

Wed 11/22: Big Adventure

Fri 11/24: Self Righteous Brothers

Sat 11/25: Alex Nestor

Tues 11/28: Fabulous Hangovers

Wed 11/29: Donna Butler

Thurs 11/30: Cosolive

Fri 12/1: Holgers Heros

Sat 12/2: Young Denspey

Tues 12/5: Bernie Meisinger

### Casa Bella

391 E. Main Street

(805) 340-1119

Music starts 7 pm

Fridays: Encore

Saturday: Ricky Williams

### Cask Alehouse

5952 Telegraph Road

(805) 765-4201

Music 7-9 pm

Sat 11/25: Jason Ho

Sat 12/2: Sarah Lightman

### 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 6 pm; Weekends 7 pm;

Sundays 3 pm

Tuesdays: The Jerry McWorter Trio

Fri 11/24: Martinez Brothers

Sat 11/25: Havana 5

Fri 12/1: Havana 5

Sat 12/2: Havana 5

Sun 12/3: Roger Bridges

### Cork

1930 E. Main Street

Music 6-8 pm

Wed 11/22: The Swillys

Wed 11/29: The Swillys

### Dargan's Irish Pub

593 E. Main Street

Sun 12/3: The Sunday Drivers

### Discovery

1888 Thompson Blvd

Late Fridays 10 pm: Flashback

Fridays

Late Saturdays 10 pm: Disco Bowl

Wed 11/22: Herbal Rootz

Fri 11/24: The Stoneflies, Blown Over

Sat 11/25: Surfrider Fundraiser w/

Through the Roots, Rising Son

Thurs 11/30: Legalizer Cornerstone

### Downtown Ventura

Sat 12/2: Ventura Winter Wine Walk

with Road Brothers, Adelaide, The

Bomb

### Duke's Griddle N Grill

1124 S. Seaward Avenue

Fri 12/1: The Tenderloin & Spivey Spi

### El Rey Cantina

294 E. Main Street

Fridays: 4 pm Xoco Moraza and

Friends

Saturdays: 9:30 DJ Erock

### Garage

1091 Scandia

Fri 11/24: Captured! By Robots

Sat 11/25: Shattered Badge, Plot,

Flyswatter, Short Temper, Fist Fight

on Ecstasy, Ghetto Blaster

Fri 12/1: Prayers, War of Icaza

### Gigi's Cocktails

2493 Grand Avenue

(805) 642-2411

Thurs, Fri & Sat: Karaoke

### 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

Fri and Sat 8 pm; Sundays 3 pm

Fri 11/24: Nathan McEuen & the

Enormous Ego Band

Sat 11/25: Johnny Hawthorn Band

Sun 11/26: Shawn Jones

Fri 12/1: Shane & Maggie

Sat 12/2: TD Lind

Sun 12/3: Melody Bird

### Hong Kong Inn

435 E. Thompson Blvd

Mondays: Karaoke

Thursdays: Gypsy Blues Band

Fri 11/24: Hi Hat Entertainment

presents Flattop Tom & His Jump

Cats

Sat 11/25: Hellhounds

Fri 12/1: Hi Hat Entertainment

presents Rob Stone Band

Sat 12/2: Big Tweed & the Detroit

Sportsmen's Congress

### Keynote Lounge

10245 E. Telephone Road

Tues & Wed: Karaoke

Thursdays: Open mic night

Fri 12/1: Black Canyon Band

Sat 12/2: Crosscut

### Leashless Brewing

585 E. Thompson Blvd.

Thurs 11/30: Danielle Stacy

Fri 12/1: Jason Ho

Sat 12/2: The Inside Break

Sun 12/3: Skin and Bones

### Majestic Ventura Theater

26 S. Chestnut Street

Tues 11/28: Deorro

### O'Leary's

### 6555 Telephone Road

Tuesdays: Free Jukebox

Wed 11/22: DJ Cue

### Paddy's

2 W. Main Street

Wednesdays: Karaoke

Fri & Sat: DJs

### Poinsettia Pavilion

3451 Foothill Road

Sun 12/3: Old-Time Country Music

Christmas Concert

### Prime

2209 E. Thompson Blvd

Tuesdays: Danny D

Fridays: Mike Moody

Saturdays: Jessica Ash

### Red Cove

1809 E. Main Street

Thursdays: Music Club Open Jam

Night

### 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 12/2: Will Overman

### Sans Souci

21 S. Chestnut

Sundays: DJ Darko

Mondays: Karaoke

Tuesdays: DJ Nick Dean

Wednesdays: Open mic

Thursdays: DJ Spinobi

Fri 12/1: Power Syndicate

Sat 12/2: Corpse I Stole

### Squashed Grapes

2351 E. Main Street

Music 7-10 pm

Wed 11/22: Dan Zimmerman, Teka

Kevin Winard & Doug Webb

Fri 11/24: TrioKait

Sat 11/25: Sabine

Wed 11/29: Bevan Manson & Friends

Thurs 11/30: SBCC New World Jazz

Ensemble

Fri 12/1: Hans Ottsen Trio

Sat 12/2: 1:30 pm Fundraiser for

Notes for Notes with East Valley

Road, The Bearded Pearl Clams

Sat 12/2: Rachel Flowers Trio

Tues 12/5: Jazz Jam

### Star Lounge

343 E. Main Street

Tues: Karaoke

Thurs: DJ Trolvbe

Fri 11/24: Irie Smile

Sat 11/25: Shawn Jones

Fri 12/1: The Bomb

Sat 12/2: Arockalypse Now

### The Tavern

211 E. Santa Clara Street

(805) 643-3264

Sundays: DJ Steezy Steve

Tuesdays: Karaoke

Metal Wednesdays

Get it Right Thursday DJs

Wed 11/22: Viminal, Eiris

Fri 11/24: Sick Boy

### Wicked's Brew

4561 Market St

Sun 11/26: Hot Cuppa Three

### Vintura at the Wine Rack

14 S. California Street

(805) 653-9463

Fri 11/24: Rebel Rose

Sat 11/25: Kevin Longden & Friends

Sun 11/26: Rhythm 805

Thurs 11/30: Family Reunion Trio

Fri 12/1: Rebel Rose

Sat 12/2: James Broz; Frank Barajas

& Corsican Brothers

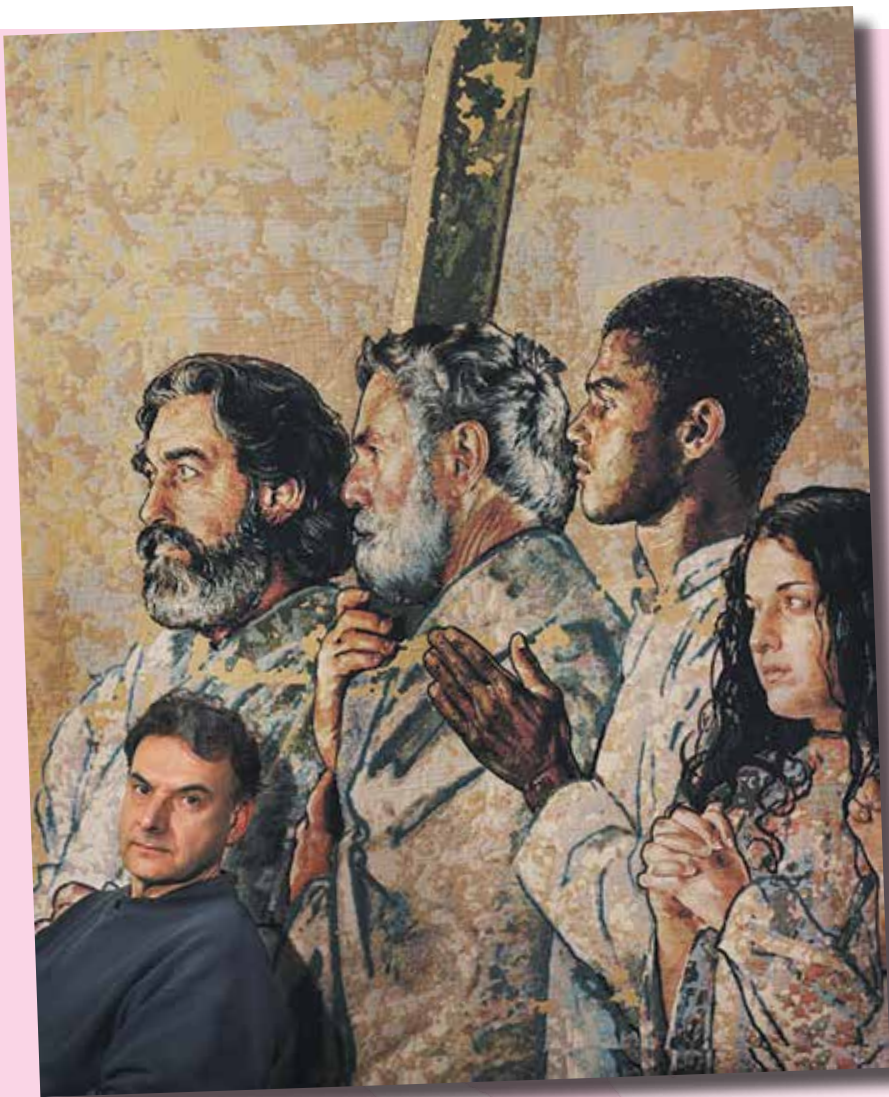
### The 805 Bar

Ventura Harbor

Music at noon Sat & Sun with Kenny

Devoe





Focus on the Masters presents **John Nava** free lecture and benefit book signing.

John Nava, renowned painter and creator of the highly-praised tapestries at the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in Los Angeles, will discuss his newly-published book, *Sacred Material: The Art of the Tapestries of the Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels*, on December 10 from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. at Levity Live at the Collection in Oxnard. This is a free event Sponsored by Paula Spellman

*Sacred Material* recounts the ground-breaking techniques employed in creating the three monumental commissions, *The Communion of Saints*, *The Baptism of the Lord* and *The New Jerusalem* for the Cathedral. The commission, combined with Nava's keen knowledge of art history, masterful painting techniques and state-of-the-art pioneering technology, secured his place in the first chapter of the history of 21st Century American Art.

A generous portion of the proceeds from the sale of *Sacred Material* will benefit Focus on the Masters wide-ranging arts education programming. Purchasing your copy at this event is a marvelous opportunity to add to your own arts library and to continue the legacy of Focus on the Masters.

RSVP required by calling 653.2501 or on line at [www.FocusOnTheMasters.com](http://www.FocusOnTheMasters.com). Your copy can be reserved when you RSVP. \$75 payment for the book will be due at the event.

Individuals who reserve their book before Wednesday, December 6 will be entered to win a portrait of John Nava by FOTM Founder Donna Granata.



Ventura artist **Jane Peterson** has been hard at work, the past two years, developing a Graphic Novel. The story centers on her character, Jane Gumm I.S.S.T: Inspector of shapes, smells and textures. Jane Gumm works with a coterie of extraterrestrials, and animal-human hybrids (her staff). She follows standard forensic procedure, collecting evidence, to unravel mysteries which "present themselves", sometimes Literally, at her doorstep. Jane Gumm has been given a grant, by the Federal Government, to root out "irregularities".



Award winning artist, **Frances Spencer**, invites everyone to a solo exhibit of her art at the WAV (Working Artists Ventura) theater gallery, January 5-26, 2018. The Opening Reception is on First Friday, January 5th, 6-9 pm. Free to the public. Funding has been made possible by a Puffin Foundation grant.

The centerpiece of the exhibit, "War and Peace: Diptych," illustrates the theme, Peace and Love Will Save the World. Spencer has won many national awards and ribbons including first prize for a block print at the Ventura County Fair. Her large painting, "Jazz Club," was the cover illustration for the summer concert series, Music Under The Stars, in 2011. Her solo show, "The Visionary Art of Frances Spencer," was on display at Ventura City Hall during summer of 2014, and chosen for a special showing by the Art Walk committee.

Frances is also a playwright, whose plays and musicals have been produced professionally and on college campuses in the San Francisco Bay Area and locally. Her screenplay, "The Ant Colony," was a finalist in Hollywood's Shriekfest Film Festival in 2010.

WAV Theater Gallery 175 S. Ventura Ave.



**Hector Vargas, Environment  
City of Ventura Photo Contest  
winners announced December 4**

The City of Ventura 12th Annual Photo Contest winners will be honored at an exhibit and reception in the Bridge Gallery at City Hall, 501 Poli Street, on December 4, 2017, at 5:30 pm. Following the reception, Mayor Erik Nasarenko will award certificates to contest winners in Council Chambers at 6 pm. The winning photos will be on display in City Hall, December 4 through January 31, 2018.

Seventy-two photographers submitted 240 images in three categories; Environment, Architecture, and Culture and Community. Members of the public voted online for the "People's

Choice" awards and a second set of judges made up of visual arts professionals from the City of Ventura awarded "Judges' Choice" winners.

Photo Contest winners are:

Category 1- Environment

Judges' Choice- **Chris Ramer**

People's Choice- **Hector Vargas**

Category 2- Architecture

Judges' Choice- **Steve Cattanaach**

People's Choice- **Tammy Sims**

Category 3- Culture and Community

Judges' Choice- **Steve Cattanaach**

People's Choice- **Jeffrey Grunigen**

Judges' Choice Honorable Mentions

**Rip Rippey**

**Jacqueline Counter**

"The stunning and creative submissions we received this year encapsulate the natural beauty of Ventura and embrace the feeling of pride in our community," stated Nancy O'Connor, Parks, Recreation, and Community Partnerships Director.

The 2017 entries can be viewed at [www.cityofventura.ca.gov/photocontest](http://www.cityofventura.ca.gov/photocontest). The 2018 Photo Contest will open on February 5, 2018.



members, \$10 for non-members.

The exhibit's extensive collection of Barr's iconic photographic images leads the viewer through Barr's extraordinary life and career, from his early beginnings in Ventura to his fashion career in New York City and back again to Ventura.

Experience the highly-acclaimed fashion and beauty imagery of photographer **Neal Barr** and meet the artist at the opening reception for the new exhibition, *In High Style: The Photography of Neal Barr*, 6-8 p.m., Dec. 8, at the Museum of Ventura County, 100 E. Main St. Admission is \$5 for



Lighter Breeze

Mother Goose and Grimm



Baby Blues



Crock



Hagar the Horrible



Hi and Lois



Moose and Molly



Solutions on page 21

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

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

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!

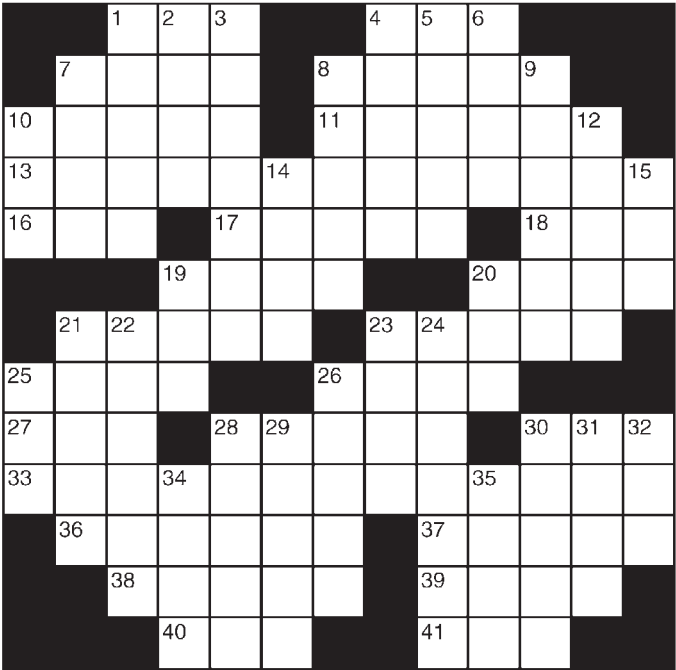
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Solutions on page 21

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 AAA job
- 4 Fed. purchas- ing org.
- 7 Hindu gar- ment
- 8 Intended
- 10 Takes to the waves
- 11 Sweater material
- 13 Paycheck recipients
- 16 Still
- 17 Partners
- 18 By way of
- 19 Nerd-pack fill
- 20 Take five
- 21 Polecat
- 23 Bank feature
- 25 Kind
- 26 Fork part
- 27 Commotion
- 28 Enraged
- 30 Illuminated
- 33 One-on-one sites in church
- 36 Esprit de corps
- 37 Screwdriver ingredient
- 38 Construction fastener
- 39 Previous nights
- 40 Understand



- 41 Scooted
- 8 Spars
- 9 Go places
- 10 Agent
- 12 Preferred invitees
- 14 Foundered
- 15 Perched
- 19 Deposit
- 20 Regret
- 21 Gomorrah's sister city
- 22 Swedish money
- 23 Henry —
- 24 Massachus-
- etts city
- 25 Pouch
- 26 Boob tube
- 28 Go
- 29 Archipelago part
- 30 Burdened
- 31 Types
- 32 Airport safety org.
- 34 Icebox, for short
- 35 PBS science show

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well reward you with a pleasant surprise.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) Like the sensible Libra you are, you no doubt started your holiday shopping already. But be careful to keep within your budget. Shop around for the best buys.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) Love and friendship remain strong in your aspect over the next several days. This is a good time to develop new relationships and strengthen old ones.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) A beloved family member has news that will brighten your holidays. Also expect to hear from friends who had long since moved out of your life.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) Family and friends are in for a surprise when you accept the need to make a change without being talked into it. (Bet it surprised you, too -- didn't it?)

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) Restoring an old friendship might not be as easy as you hoped. You might want to explore the reasons for your former buddy's reluctance to cooperate.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) Your party-going activities pick up as the holiday season takes off. Enjoy your plunge into the social swim as you make new friends and renew old friendships.

**BORN THIS WEEK:** You are caring and considerate -- two wonderful attributes that endear you to people of all ages.

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# Show Time

## Thor: Ragnarok



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

by Manuel Reynoso

*Thor: Ragnarok* is a 2017 American superhero film based on the Marvel Comics character, Thor. The film is directed by Taika Waititi from a screenplay by Eric Pearson, Craig Kyle and Christopher Yost. Starring Chris Hemsworth, Tom Hiddleston, Cate Blanchett, Tessa Thompson, and Mark Ruffalo. With *Ragnarok* close at hand, Thor must escape the alien planet Sakaar to save Asgard from his powerful sister, Hela. It's no secret that I'm pretty biased when it comes to most blockbuster superhero movies. I personally think they are becoming a little too formulaic for my tastes and tend to have pretty mediocre fight choreography. So I have to admit, I came into *Thor: Ragnarok* a little skeptical. I can confidently say that *Thor: Ragnarok* has to be my favorite installment of the Marvel Cinematic Universe. I saw a huge improvement in the fight choreography and cinematography in comparison to previous films. The acting was also top notch, and every performance was memorable and well executed. However, *Thor: Ragnarok* had a bit of magic that made it all the more enjoyable for me, and from what I can tell the director Taika Waititi was the reason behind every bit of my enjoyment.

Now for me personally, the story is not what makes this such a great watch. To be blunt, the story itself was likely the least memorable part of this whole film. It was pretty safe and predictable like the other Marvel films, but *Thor: Ragnarok* was able to stand out with its cinematography. There were some amazing shots in this film that felt like a mix of comic book panels and Norse art. The fight choreography was also noticeably better this time around. There was a refreshing lack of shaky cam fight scenes, and each battle had its own distinct style to it.

What makes *Thor: Ragnarok* my favorite in the MCU is the stellar performances by the cast. Chris Hemsworth's ability to portray as a hyper-masculine god with childlike naivety is golden. His timing and sense of humor absolutely carry the film for me, and rest of the cast does not sit idly by. Tessa Thompson shows what a strong supporting actress can do, and Tom Hiddleston continues to enjoy every minute of being Loki; but none of these performances or any of these scenes would have half as good without the excellent direction of Taika Waititi.

Physical comedy has to be the easiest way to get a good laugh out of me, and Taika Waititi is phenomenal at directing this. He was able to turn physical comedy into endearing character traits. From benign, playful body language, to silly slapstick humor, it all felt so genuine to each character and none of it felt out of place. Every character delivered their type of physical humor uniquely, and it really helped bring individuality to the cast. *Thor: Ragnarok* is just a lot of fun and it's funny in its own original way thanks to Taika Waititi. It may lack in having a memorable narrative, but that shouldn't stop you from enjoying this film. Rated PG-13 2h10m

A View from House Seats

## Santa Paula ushers in the season

by Shirley Lorraine

Santa Paula Theatre Center wraps up 2017 with a holiday classic, "It's A Wonderful Life: The Radio Play" by Tony Palermo. Playing through December 23 on the main stage with an extra performance on Thursday, Dec. 21, the stylish telling of this classic story of humanity and Christmas Eve redemption is nostalgic, warm and familiar. The 1946 Frank Capra film of "It's A Wonderful Life" starring Jimmy Stewart is a seasonal standard and the story is part of the holiday must-see-every-year line-up for many.

It is Christmas Eve, 1948. Radio station WNBC in New York is preparing to present a live performance of *It's a Wonderful Life*. From the moment patrons enter the theater, the mood is set. The audience becomes the "live audience" for the radio broadcast and is asked to participate throughout. Popular music and commercials from the era fill the airwaves to add to the nostalgia. When a blizzard prevents the stars from showing up, the station employees scramble to fill in to put on the show.

The tale within a center around George Bailey, who has grown up in the small town of Bedford Falls, Anywhere, USA. His plans to attend college, tour the world and do something special with his life are smashed when his father dies and George must take over running the family savings and loan business. He is pitted against Mr. Potter, a wealthy man who desires to take over the entire town. As often happens, George finds himself too busy with daily life to pursue his dreams. Circumstances spiral downward despite his well-meaning efforts and he soon is contemplating ending it all to give his family the insurance payment his demise would affect.

Along comes Clarence, a 292-year old bumbling but loveable angel who is charged with helping George so that he can earn his wings. George learns how Bedford Falls would have been had he never been born, and comes to see that life is indeed wonderful as it is. Clarence gets his wings at last.

Director Fred Helsel has chosen a tight ensemble of seasoned players including Ron Rezac, Sindy McKay, Peggy Steketee, Doug Friedlander, Scott Blanchard, Isaac Deakyne, Elixio Flores, Andrew Garrett, Erin Hollander, Lois Lorbach and Leslie Nichols. Sound effects produced live on stage are effective and fun to watch. Delightful costuming by Barbara Pedziwiatr lends just the right period ambiance.

Performances are strong throughout with each actor playing numerous roles as the radio show is presented, with varying voices, accents and personas. Laughs ensue as the characters struggle with their tasks in myriad amusing ways. Some of the evening's strongest humor is given non-verbally in the background while the broadcast is on air. It would be worth attending a second time just to focus on the antics and character embellishments going on behind the scenes. Clearly, the cast is having a ball. Consequently, so does the audience. Catch it

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before it goes off air.  
Santa Paula Theatre Center, 125 S. 7th Street, Santa Paula  
"It's a Wonderful Life" runs through Dec 23. Friday & Saturday eves 8 PM, Sundays at 2:30 p.m. and Thursday,

December 21 at 8 p.m.  
Reservations are recommended  
www.santapaulatheatercenter.org/805-525-4625  
Adults \$24, Students and Seniors \$22, children under 12 \$18.



## Answer in a Breeze

Question: Why is the pedestrian bridge over the freeway closed?  
Shelby Young

Answer: Being remodeled to meet standards of the Americans with Disability Act (ADA). The over \$750,000 budget will include new handrails and landings as necessary to meet the regulations for people with disabilities. It should be noted that ADA requirements have made life much easier for those with disabilities. Project taking much longer than planned.

Do you have a question? Send it to editor@venturabreeze.com.



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VENTURA CHAMBER of COMMERCE

The Ventura Chamber of Commerce invites you to the...

# Poinsettia Awards Luncheon

**Thursday, December 7, 2017**  
**11:30am – 2:00pm**  
Ventura Beach Marriott  
2055 Harbor Blvd., Ventura

The Poinsettia Awards recognize outstanding achievements of businesses and individuals who make a difference in our community.


**\$45 Chamber Members**  
**\$55 Non-Members**

Bring a new, unwrapped toy donation for "Spark of Love"  
Donations will be presented to the Ventura Fire Dept.


Small Business of the Year • Mid-Sized Business of the Year  
Large Business of the Year • Jewel Key Award  
Non-Profit of the Year • Young Professional of the Year  
Volunteer of the Year • Citizen of the Year  
Chamber Ambassador of the Year  
Environmental Services Award















# It's Turkey Time

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**2014 MAZDA MX-5 MIATA**  
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**2017 MAZDA6**

**NEW**



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**2017 MAZDA CX-5**

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