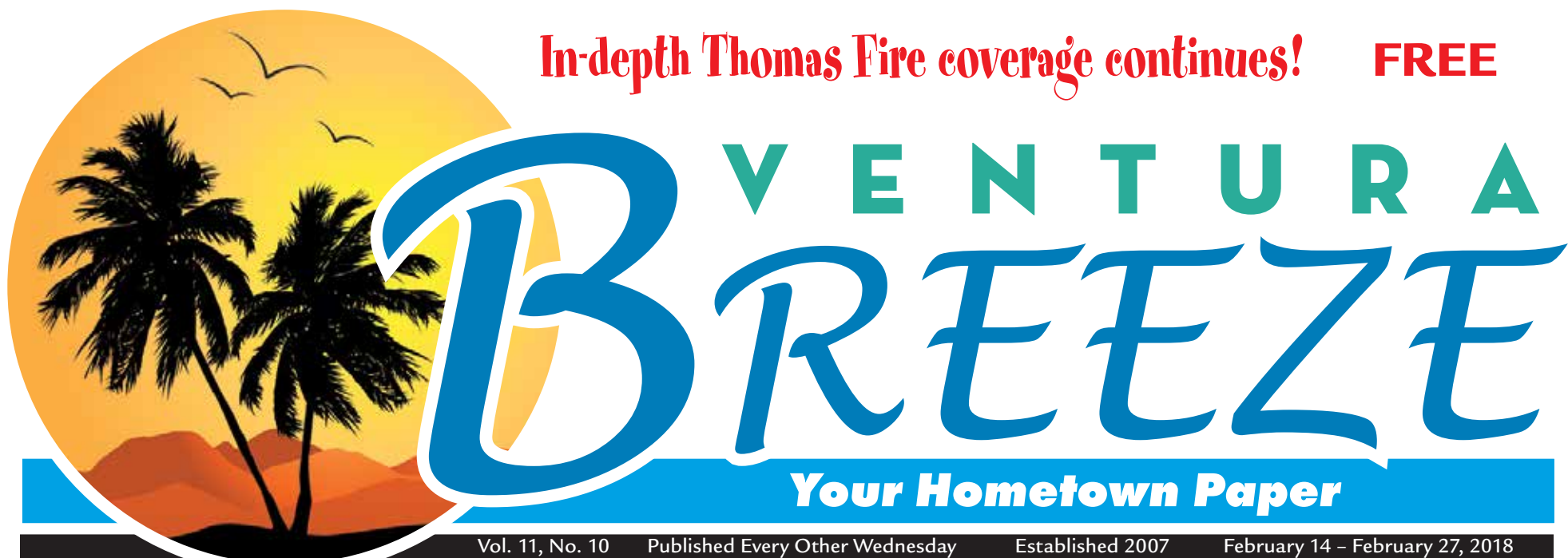


In-depth Thomas Fire coverage continues! **FREE**



Vol. 11, No. 10

Published Every Other Wednesday

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February 14 - February 27, 2018



The Museum announces the return of its Wearable Art Fashion Show.

Museum of Ventura County in the news

The Museum of Ventura County and CAPS Media are coordinating with the Ventura City fire and police departments, county fire and sheriff departments, other agencies and most importantly the Ventura County public to create an historical archive of the most devastating natural tragedy in county history. Throughout the next few months, the Museum and CAPS Media will be gathering stories and digital images as well as physical artifacts to assemble an historical record of the extraordinary sacrifices of fire fighters, law enforcement personnel and other first responders who tirelessly battled the devastating Thomas Fire, and the citizens of Ventura. Both organizations invite the public's participation and encourage those with a story to tell or a tribute or thank you to share, to submit their stories and digital images to help document our common experience.

"Documentation of the extensive impacts of the Thomas Fire on Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties has taken immediate precedence over our regular museum programs and activities," said Denise Sindelar, programs director, Museum of Ventura County.

Continued on page 21



The group is vehemently opposed to the proposed continuation of offshore drilling. Photo by Bernie Goldstein.

Offshore drilling opponents march from City Hall to Ventura Pier

by Richard Lieberman

CFROG (Citizens for responsible oil and gas) held a protest march in Ventura. The environmental group is working to stop the federal governments plan to

open the coastline to more oil and gas drilling. Since the 1980's offshore oil and gas leases have virtually been put on

Continued on page 22



The CalRecycle program is clearing the properties down to clean dirt and hauling away fire debris at no cost to the property owner.

CalRecycle is still accepting applications

Teams of bulldozers, excavators and other heavy equipment are working throughout the Thomas Fire burn areas as CalRecycle works to clear debris. Thirty-five teams are clearing properties with an expected completion date in April.

Property owners who have not signed up for the CalRecycle program, or the County's local program, face the possibility of having their property abated by the County and the cost added to their

Continued on page 22

Thomas Fire by the numbers

As the largest wildfire in the state's history, the Thomas Fire generated some staggering statistics. It burned 281,893 acres (440 square miles). At its most devastating, it was being fought by an army of firefighters more than 8,000 strong. More than 1,000 structures were destroyed. And the fire's most-sobering statistic is the 23 fatalities - including one firefighter - which resulted from the fire and its associated debris flow.

The County of Ventura, in cooperation with the cities of Ventura, Santa Paula, Ojai and Fillmore, initiated a fire recovery process weeks before the fire was even declared contained. The Ventura County Recovers website was launched on December 10, 2017, six days after the fire started. Since then it has had more than 45,000 unique visitors and about 200,000 page views.

"We understood early on that there would be a tremendous need for fire recovery information, and that it would have to be a cooperative effort," said Mike Powers, County Executive Officer. "The fire crossed many jurisdictional boundaries and our recovery process would have to do the same thing. The cities enthusiastically supported a unified approach and the result has been a streamlined, efficient and compassionate process."

A Local Assistance Center was opened in Ventura on December 13. On December 26, the Board of Supervisors approved the County's participation in the California Office of Emergency Services debris removal program. The Environmental Health Division of the County's Resource Management Agency has processed 665 Right-of-Entry forms for the program and is still accepting applications.

The property damage caused by the Thomas Fire was unprecedented in Ventura County, and the need for information was critical. The website helped, but the County and the cities wanted to be sure the public knew their local governments were active and engaged. As a result, 13 community town hall

Continued on page 7

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Business

Teryn and her dog, Cooper enjoying a day in Ventura.

A woman with a mission

by Gail Field

She's worked in countries in the heart of Africa and in rural towns in Latin America and Asia, following her heart and her love of helping others. She goes after her goals with enthusiasm and energy. She is Teryn Bonime, real estate agent extraordinaire. Through her working life in Ventura County, Teryn shares her insights into real estate and helps her clients get the best possible outcome in their quest to buy or sell a home.

"My love of helping others came from my father," she says. "He is a retired surgeon who travels to impoverished countries in order to perform much needed surgeries on people with cleft palates and other facial deformities. My sister also has her own organization and when I go on these missions, my role involves working with patients and handling non-medical responsibilities. Those experiences helped instill in me a desire to help people in my career, using the knowledge I gained in my own field."

"Now, when I work with clients in real estate, I like to think of myself as a champion for what they really want. I've learned to be a fearless and strong negotiator and use those skills to stand up for my clients."

Teryn has earned professional designations in her field including Master Certified Negotiation Expert (MCNE) and Certified Residential Specialist (CRS), among many others.

"I believe in delivering the best service while adhering to the highest level of ethical standards," she says. "My clients benefit, knowing that I am helping them to sell or purchase a home for the best possible price, in the shortest amount of time, with the least inconvenience. That is my promise to my clients."

Ventura is a long way from Teryn's missions in Zimbabwe, Ethiopia, Cameroon, Ecuador and Bangladesh, and she smiles to recall her adventures. "My experiences there under challenging conditions make me even more grateful to live and work in beautiful Ventura."

Teryn can be reached at her office with Keller Williams Realty, 1071 S. Seaward Ave., Ventura. Phone: 665-3474 or at www.teryndownthetoad.com.



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Opinion/Editorial



Sheldon (Governor) Brown
Publisher-Editor

■ The Botanical Gardens

Welcome Center is now being built (see article in this issue). The fire caused much damage to the Gardens, but it is very encouraging to see work progressing and green stuff starting to grow.

■ At the recent **fund raising concert** at Plaza Park, two of the most uplifting and encouraging speeches were given by our own Police Chief Ken Corney and Fire Chief David Endaya. They gave special thanks and tribute to all of those that were involved in the fires - those that lost their homes, the first responders, behind the scenes fire and police staff, and all Ventura city employees that made wonderful contributions. It is a testament to all of them that there was not one death in Ventura because of the fires. Proud of Venturan's for taking the fire seriously and evacuating even if not mandatory.

After so many folks died in Montecito who didn't leave when just "suggested," all future evacuations might be mandatory.

After experiencing the Thomas Fire fundraiser in Plaza Park, it makes me sad to think how great it would have been to have had similar concerts above city hall that were planned.

■ In **Mexico**, about one journalist or photographer is killed each month because of their coverage of the drug lords and gangs. This makes it the country only second to war torn Syria for such deaths

■ California added 859 new laws that will take effect this year. A slight decrease from 2016. That means that in 10 years there are almost 10,000 new laws. Scary ain't it? These are a few of my favorites:

You can't smoke **marijuana** in any way while driving or riding in a car on California roadways. So remember, not even if you are a passenger.

Schools in low income communities must provide tampons and other sanitary products to students in grades 6 through 12. Who determines what constitutes a low-income community?

School buses must have a child safety alert system that requires a

driver to make sure no kids are left on the bus. Couldn't they just yell, "Are there any kids left on the bus?" Though, perhaps if the kids have earphones on they won't hear it.

Californians who are transgender, intersex or don't identify as male or female can choose a gender neutral option on their birth certificates. How would they know this upon just being born?

No more **jaywalking** tickets can be issued for stepping into a crosswalk after the flashing signal begins as long as you can still cross safely before



Is the county waiting for a child to fall through these open rails at Foster Library and suffer serious injuries or even death before they enclose them?

time runs out. Who decides if it is safe, the pedestrian or the police officer who writes the ticket? I'm all for eliminating these signals all together as you might know.

All landlords in the state must provide information about bedbugs to apartment renters. What about cockroaches and fleas?

Using a ball hook to handle or control **elephants** will be against the law in California. Reminds me of the old joke about the guy standing at Main and Ventura Ave. blowing a horn. When a friend asks what that was, he said, "This keeps elephants away." The friend responded, "There are no elephants here." So he replied, "See? It works."

Vegetarian Augustynolophus Morrissi is now the official state dinosaur. I have requested that the Ventura Breeze be named the official state newspaper and that the grunion be the official state fish.

■ To thunderous Republican applause in his First State of the Union address, President Trump

announced that **Guantanamo** would remain open. It has been more than 10 years since a "prisoner" was sent there and operating the facility costs nearly \$11 million annually per detainee. Surely we can find a place to house them that costs less than \$11 million per detainee.

■ Dr. Patrick Soon-Shiong has purchased the **Los Angeles Times** and two other papers for \$500 million. I offered him the Ventura Breeze for only \$2 million but he wasn't interested. So, the offer stands if any of our readers are interested in purchasing the Ventura Breeze. A 10% discount is offered to Venturan's.

■ I'm glad to learn that the **Ventura Unified School District** along with the teacher and support staff unions have finalized their agreement for a pay increase.

The agreement includes a 2% pay increase for 2017-18 effective at an employee's mid-year point and a onetime \$400 bonus paid to each employee who has worked at least 50% of the 2016-17 work year. Also like the fact that part-time employees will also get a prorated one-time bonus in the agreement.

Not all union members were in agreement. Of those voting, 69% were in favor of accepting the agreement.

■ Removing sand, rocks and even shells from the beach is illegal. It is considered "tampering with geological features." Sounds ominous doesn't it? Better think twice the next time that you take a bucket of sand for your cat box. You and the cat might go to jail.

■ Ventura's own clothing giant **Patagonia** and other retailers are involved in a legal and political battle over President Donald Trump's plan to shrink two sprawling Utah national monuments.

Patagonia filed a lawsuit after Trump announced that Bears Ears National Monument would shrink by 85%. The lawsuit, filed in conjunction with a rock climbing advocacy group and other organizations, is among a group of litigation over the president's move to reduce the size of the monument and also cut in half the land protected in Utah's Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.

Mailbox

Just my opinion -

It drives me crazy when I can't find or can't read a street sign. I know, I could just use GPS, but I really like to see a street sign, especially in residential neighborhoods. You know, for visual memory in case I want to find the street again sometime. Many areas have few street signs, or no light near the signs or low branches covering the signs. I would love to see street signs that light up when it gets dark. How about it, city planners? Shirley Lorraine

Editor:

I attended the Thomas Fire Benefit concert held at Plaza Park. It was an amazing day, thoroughly enjoyable great music, food and people coming together and showing their love for each other. One thing that bothered me a little was the very long tribute to Kevin Costner's movies by showing clips from many

of his movies. Seemed this was more of a tribute to him then fundraising. I certainly do appreciate his attendance and realize that by him being there many more people attended and helped raise money for this wonderful cause.

Shirley Truddy, Ventura
Shirley:

We have heard this comment from others and do understand your feelings. Also some of the scenes and words from the clips were inappropriate for the very young folks that attended the concert with their parents. We understand that he shows movie clips whenever he is in concert but maybe less appropriate when he is appearing at a fund raiser. The concert brought in over \$1 million so all is forgiven.

Breeze:

Over the last year I've pretty much given up all hope for the human race., so imagine my surprise when

I actually did manage a brief flirtation with optimism a couple of days ago watching the Space X Falcon Heavy launch. And the Tesla Roadster heading toward Mars is the icing on a very groovy cake. Thanks, Elon. You put a smile on this weathered, old puss.

Alfred J. Lewis, Ventura

For the Record

In our last issue we had an article on Notes For Notes titled "Phil Gilley imagined a room full of musical instruments" that was not credited to the writer. The writer is Paul Peterson.

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



City News



Cheryl Heitmann honored, and introduced writing contest winners at a previous Art Tales.

A writing contest inspired by art

The City of Ventura is please to sponsor the 10th Annual Art Tales Creative Writing Contest. Open to writers worldwide, Art Tales invites imaginative writers of all ages to compose a short story or poem (500 words maximum) inspired by one of three Municipal Art Collection works currently on display at Ventura City Hall. “This year’s Art Tales theme ‘Music Inspires the Spirit’ invites you to share how art and its melody reach the invisible moving pieces inside your heart and soul,” states Tobie Roach, Public Art Project Manager.

The public is encouraged to visit historic Ventura City Hall, located at 501 Poli St., and enjoy two floors of eclectic artwork created by local Ventura County artists. A self-guided Municipal Art Collection brochure is available in room 226 and provides background information on the art and artist housed in the collection. The three pieces chosen for this year’s Art Tales contest can be found on the 2nd floor with a musical note symbol adjacent to each artwork. Creative writers are encouraged to select one of the three chosen artworks to inspire your writing. Writers unable to visit City Hall, may view the images, learn more about the art and artists and view a lesson plan for teachers on the Art Tales website at www.cityofventura.ca.gov/arttales. Entries are due no later than April 4.

A committee of professionals, educators, and City of Ventura staff

will judge entries on creativity, presentation, and correspondence to a specific artwork. Judges will select their top three choices for poetry and short fiction categories in three age divisions:

- Youth (12 years or younger)
- Teen (13-17 years)
- Adult (18 years and up)

For more information on how to enter and contest rules, view the Art Tales website, www.cityofventura.ca.gov/arttales.

City classes

City of Ventura Barranca Vista Imagination Center classes. Check out hundreds more on our web-site. Call 658-4726 or 654-7553 to register, if you already have an ACTIVENET account online, visit www.cityofventura.net Classes and events held at the Barranca Vista Center ~ 7050 Ralston Street in Ventura unless otherwise noted

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Save time and money with these seven meals. You will learn to prepare and put in the freezer for later; Instructor will provide grocery list before your workshop so you will have all your supplies the day of class. Instructor is Alison Oatman. Recipes and freezer bags are provided.

Continued on page 22



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The work at Kellogg Park is zipping along and looking great. The Park is expected to open in the spring. When it does open, you can hang out with Loo. He doesn’t say much, but can be very comforting in times of need.



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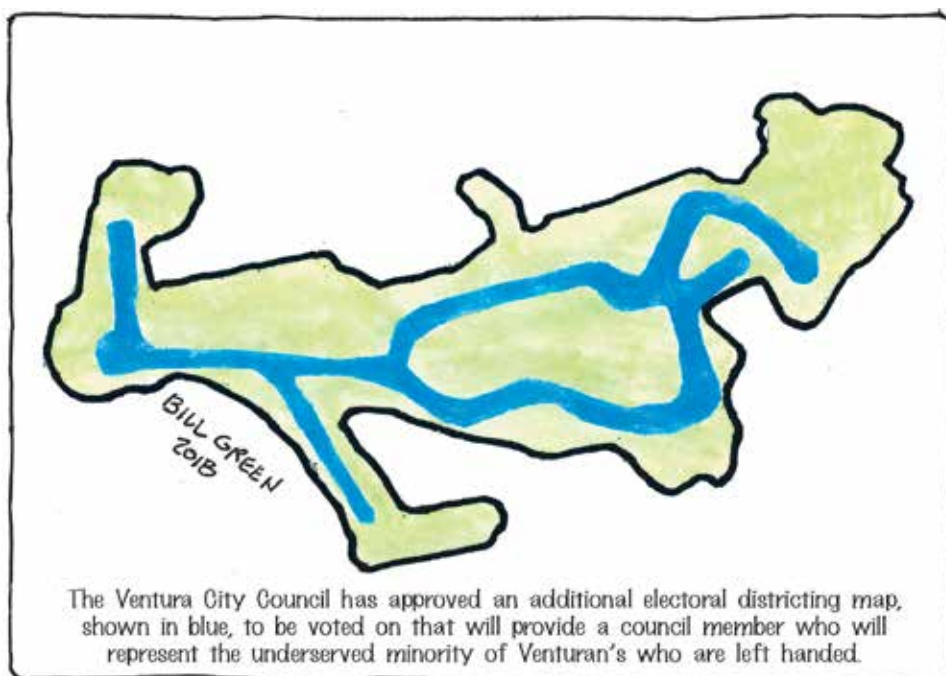
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Green with Envy



Community Events

Ventura events

by Ana Baker

Ventura Poinsettia Dance Club
Monday nights 7:30 - 9:45p.m. Poinsettia Pavilion. 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.

There will be a regular Ventura Discussion Group meeting at 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. Bring an interesting topic to discuss if you can.

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

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. 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 countrylovers.com.

The Ventura County Philatelic Society meets on the first and third Mondays each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Church of the Foothills, 6279 Foothill Rd. Admission and parking are free. Come for a great evening. Contact: Bill Garner / 320-1601 or vcpsforyou@lycos.com.

Mended Hearts of Ventura. Come share if you have had heart surgery or stent implant. Group meets the first Tuesday each month at noon at Lemon Wood Mobile Homes, 850 Johnson Dr. Excellent speakers leading Cardiologists, Nutritionists, and Dietitians etc. from our area. Contact Richard Hatcher at 644-2733.

Are you a stamp collector? The Ventura County Philatelic Society meet on the first and third Mondays each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Church of the Foothills, 6279 Foothill Rd. Admission and parking are free. Come for a great evening. They are a fun group. Contact Bill Garner 320-1601 or vcpsforyou@lycos.com.

Feb. 15: The regular monthly meeting of Assistance League of Ventura County will be at the Chapter House, 913 East Santa Clara St. Doors open at 9:30 a.m., meeting begins at 10 a.m., with guests and new members welcome. Assistance League is creating "A Brighter Tomorrow for Today's Children" through several philanthropic programs. The Bargain Box Thrift Shop helps fund these programs. Find more information assistanceleagueventura-county.org or alvconline@hotmail.com. Telephone: Monday - Thursday 8 - 2 p.m. 643-2458

Feb. 15: East Ventura Community Council meeting a representative of the Ventura Police Department will give an update on crime and safety. Development Chairperson Dan Cormode will present information about development and water issues. Other

topics may be added to the agenda, so be sure to check the group's Facebook page for updates. The council represents those who live east of Victoria Avenue. Books in good condition are always accepted on behalf of Ventura Friends of the Library. The meeting starts Thursday at 7 p.m. at the First Assembly of God Church, 346 N. Kimball Road. The public is encouraged to attend and participate.

Feb. 17: Ventura Friends of the Library will hold a Book Sale at the Topping Room at E.P. Foster Library, 651 E. Main St. All genres, many Large Print titles and Children's books, books individually priced. Members admitted 9 - 10 a.m. Open for all 10 - 3 p.m.

Feb. 18: The Ventura and Santa Barbara County chapter of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors (NAWCC) will meet Sunday, in the Campus Student Center of Ventura College, 4667 Telegraph Road. The regular meeting starts at noon and at 11 a.m. there will be an informal workshop where a topic on clocks or watches will be demonstrated and discussed. There will be a mart where items will be for sale followed by lunch and an informational meeting and a program at 1 p.m. The program this month will be a presentation by Ken McWilliams on "Banjo Clocks". Anyone interested in watches and clocks, (modern & antique) is invited to visit and join our chapter. There is a \$3 admission charge. Lunch is available for \$5 more. Watches & clocks will be on display. Monthly meetings are held on the 3rd Sunday of each month at the Ventura College location. More information about chapter 190 can be found at www.nawcc-ch190.com.

Feb. 20: Speaker Antonio Sanchez Inviting California to Dinner: Bringing California native plant foods into your life and the future of native plant agriculture. This one of a kind presentation, led by native food enthusiast Antonio Sanchez, discusses the ancient and emerging field of California native foods and their cultivation. With an eye on the past and the many living traditions that have been passed down by local indigenous peoples, this unique lecture explores how old ways can combine with new ways to find a place in local gardens and kitchens. Doors open at 7 p.m., lecture from 7:30 - 9p.m., Topping Room, E.P. Foster Library. Website: www.cnpsci.org Email Contact: sanchezhorticulture@gmail.com. Co-founder of Nopalito Native Plant Nursery in Ventura.

Feb. 20: Retired men with some spare time. Drop in for a Tuesday meeting of the Ventura Retired Men at the Elks lodge. It's better than a movie, sure beats a bar and we'll pick up the tab for your lunch. Call Steve Carroll for all the fine print at 642-1359

Feb. 22: Portuguese Fraternal Society of America - The local chapter of PFSA (Council #128) will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday. This meeting is open to any person of Portuguese descent, or, interested in the Portuguese culture. The meeting will be held at Main Street Restaurant and Steakhouse, 3159 East Main Street. We will gather at 11:30 a.m. for a 12 p.m. no host luncheon/meeting. For more information and reservation please call Cora Corella at 483-6285.

Feb. 23: Ventura County Bell Arts Song Circle 4th Friday of each month, 7-10 p.m. Like to play acoustic



Community Events

music? Songmakers.org welcomes all lovers of acoustic music, instrumentalists, singers, and singer/songwriters of all levels to join in a free song circle at the Bell Arts Factory Community Room, 432 N. Ventura Ave. Listeners are welcome. Mike Wittlin, 750-8281.

Feb. 24: Open House for Hukuloa Outrigger Canoe Club. Saturday, from 10- 1p.m. Adults and children ages 9 and up are invited to try outrigger paddling. We are located at Ventura Harbor Cove Beach. Wear clothing that can get wet, sunglasses, hat, and sunscreen. You must be able to swim. Check us out at Hukuloaoutrigger.com

Feb. 24: Free Landscape Class-Regrowing from the Ashes: An Opportunity to Reestablish & Reclaim Our California Landscape. Come join us as we focus on understanding local fire ecology, and how to maximize this critical time's opportunities to transform our burnt and ash-blanketed landscapes back to their vibrant, lush, and resilient natural states. Saturday, from 9 a.m. to Noon at Oak View Park & Resource Center at 555 Mahoney Ave, Oak View. RSVP at bsandoval@casitaswater.com or 469-2251 Ext. 105.

March 3, 4: The Annual Gem, Mineral, Lapidary and Fossil Show of the Ventura Gem and Mineral Society (VGMS) takes place at the Ventura County Fairgrounds 10 - 5 p.m., Saturday 10 - 4 p.m., Sunday admission is free. Fairgrounds charges \$5 for parking. This show will feature 60+ displays of gems, minerals, fossils, and award-winning handcrafted jewelry. Among these will be educational exhibits of fossils collected locally in and around Ventura County. The show is the society's major fund-raising event helping to underwrite educational activities, including their annual college scholarship. For further details, call VGMS President Diane Cook 312-8467, or info@vgms.org, or web site at www.vgms.org.



Read to a certified therapy dog.

Ojai news and events

Lindsey Boubel and her basset hound George will visit the Ojai Library every second and fourth Wednesday from 3 to 4 p.m. Lindsey and George will also visit the Meiners Oaks Library every first and third Wednesday from 1 to 2 p.m. George is a certified therapy dog and will be available for children to read to as part of their new Paws for Reading program.

Shirley Waxman will visit the Ojai Library at 1 p.m. on Saturday, February 24, to deliver a talk entitled "POP Art and the American Dream." This talk explores the works of the most celebrated American Pop artists, including Andy Warhol, James

Rosenquist, Roy Lichtenstein, Jasper Johns, and Wayne Thiebaud, who all boldly experimented with new media and the American Dream.

At 3 p.m. on Saturday, February 17, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) will visit the Ojai Library to host a screening of the documentary film The Occupation of the American Mind. After the screening there will be a discussion facilitated by members of WILPF.

The Occupation of the American Mind explores the media-driven perception of Israel in the United States. This event is free and open to the public.

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. **Celebrity photographer Guy Webster returns to Ojai Photography Club with a presentation on "Second Look."** The event will be held on February 20, 7 p.m. at Help of Ojai's Kent Hall, 111 Santa Ana St. The general public is always welcome to attend. Find more information at www.ojaiphotoclub.com/

Herb Walks with Lanny Kaufer and the Ojai Valley Green Coalition (OVGC) will present renowned fire ecology expert and author Richard Halsey on Saturday, February 17, in Ojai for a workshop on how to create resilient gardens and homes in Southern California as residents go forward in the post-Thomas Fire era. The day will begin at 10 a.m. with a morning walk and continue at 1:00 p.m. after a lunch break with a slideshow talk.

The cost for the full workshop is \$25 for adults, \$20 for seniors 62-up, and \$15 for students 13-18 as well as those who lost residences or landscapes in the Thomas Fire. Admission for the afternoon session only is \$15 for the general public or \$10 for OVGC members. Scholarships also are available for the afternoon lecture through OVGC. For more information visit HerbWalks.com or call 646-6281.

The Ojai Mardi Gras Wake-Up! Krewe is excited to host the 28th Annual Mardi Gras Masquerade Ball, Saturday March 3rd, 7:30 pm till 1:00 am, at the Ojai Art Center, 113 Montgomery St.

This year's theme is "Moulin Rouge – Too Loose to Trek." There will be dancing, a costume contest, a traditional bead toss, can-can dancers, and the coronation of this year's Royalty, a ménage à trois: Queen Luce (Lucy Roadarmel), Queen Too (Nancy Nazario) and King Trek (Bruce Smith). Winners will receive a free ticket to next year's Mardi Gras.

Tickets for Mardi Gras are \$25 in advance and \$30 at the door. Advance tickets are available on-line at ojaimardigras.com, or can be purchased in Ojai at Studio Sauvageau, Cardinali Bros. Music, Ojai Coffee Roasting Co, and Ojai Creates. For more info call the Ojai Mardi Gras Hotline at 646-7843.

Local business resources offer recovery workshops

Representatives from the Small Business Development Center for Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties (SBDC), Women's Economic Ventures (WEV) and

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the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) will be presenting free workshops on resources available for small businesses affected by the Thomas fire and mudslides. The workshops will present information to help businesses that have suffered physical damage and/or financial losses connect with free consulting, business courses, emergency loans and long-term low-interest loans.

"We want business owners who have been impacted by the fire, floods and mudslides to know there is help available," said Clare Briglio, Economic Development Collaborative-Ventura County's special services coordinator. "The SBDC and WEV are co-sponsoring these workshops to provide local businesses with accurate information and assistance to access the help they need to recover quickly."

Workshops are available :

Thursdays, February 15 and 22

English workshop - 6:30 p.m.

Spanish workshop - 7:15 p.m.

WEV Office, 290 Maple Court, Suite 256 Ventura

For more information, call 965-6073 or email info@wevonline.org.

The SBDC is funded by the SBA and provides professional business assistance at no cost to businesses. Participating businesses are required to follow a well-defined scope of work and report their economic successes. These SBA milestones are defined as job creation, increase in sales, capital investment, jobs retained and businesses started.

EDC-VC is a private, nonprofit organization that serves as a business-to-government liaison to assist businesses in Ventura County by offering programs that enhance the economic vitality of the region. For more information about the Small Business Development Center, loan programs, manufacturing outreach and international trade program, or other services available to small businesses through EDC-VC, contact Bruce Stenslie at 384-1800 ext. 24 or bruce.stenslie@edc-vc.com. Or visit www.edc-vc.com.

Art festival to support fire-flood victims

The Ventura Unified School District Office in West Ventura will be the site of the Thomas Arts Festival, an art auction and benefit also featuring music and performing arts created to assist those rebuilding their lives as a result of the Thomas fires and flood. The event will take place Saturday, February 17, 2018 from 12 noon – 5:00 p.m. The address of the Ventura Unified School District Office is 255 W. Stanley Avenue, Ventura, 93001. Admission and parking are free. Donations will be accepted.

"Our community is filled with artists expressing many art forms, yet hundreds of neighbors suffered tremendous loss due to the recent fires and flood. Many of these people do not fit in the constructs of society because they focus on creativity and helping others and therefore may not qualify for traditional assistance," said Greg Gillis-Smith.

This event will showcase the creative work of local and surrounding artists, and introduce working artists to members of the community where relationships of mutual

support for the arts in the community can form beyond this event.

Food trucks will be on-site to offer their cuisine to attendees. A family art space will be a place for parents, care givers and children to come together and create art. Live performances by musicians and other performing artists will occur throughout the afternoon.

The Ventura Unified School District Office location is easily accessible from the Stanley exit off highway 33, with plenty of free parking

Ventura County Grand Jury open house

On Thursday, March 15, the Grand Jury will host an open house for prospective jurors and interested members of the Ventura County community. Please join the current Grand Jury along with public officials from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Grand Jury Chambers at 646 County Square Drive, Ventura.

An all-volunteer group, the Grand Jury investigates selected complaints that have been initiated by the public. After investigating these complaints, the Grand Jury issues written reports which include facts, conclusions, and recommendations. All eligible residents of the Ventura County community are encouraged to apply.

Applications are available online at the Grand Jury website www.ventura.org/grand-jury, or by calling 477-1600. Applications will be accepted until April 15, 2018.

Thomas Fire by the numbers

Continued from page 1

meetings were held at locations around the county, primarily to address debris removal concerns and now, federal assistance programs.

As the recovery process goes on, the assistance numbers continue to grow.

The Treasurer-Tax collector's office has waived 180 late fees for fire victims and first responders.

Emergency Medical Services has distributed 731,280 face masks.

Behavioral Health made 4,000 contacts during the fire response.

The County Clerk and Recorder's office has provided assistance to 314 fire victims and provided copies of 694 public records at no cost.

The County Public Works Agency has stockpiled and begun distribution of 45,000 sandbags and coordinated another 20,000 for the city of Ventura.

987 properties have been cleared of hazardous debris with only a handful of properties remaining.

665 properties have been registered for the state's CalRecycle burn debris removal program.

The County is working 181 active cases for fire victims needing housing. Thirty-three families have received assistance to date and eighteen have been permanently housed.

The Assessor's office has surveyed more than 2,000 fire-damaged properties.

The statistics are endless and growing daily.



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City struggles with fire and water recovery costs

by Burris DeBenning

Disasters are a curve ball for governments, and the Thomas Fire was no exception for the City of Ventura. Plans set before the emergency get shelved and funds must be rearranged to meet immediate expenses until federal relief arrives. Still growing, the cost of the Thomas Fire is estimated to be \$60 million. One fire official said that \$40 million is for debris removal alone. Without a guarantee, City officials hope the State and FEMA will reimburse the City for \$55 million, leaving \$5 million for the City to come up with. Interim City Manager Dan Paranick said, “we won’t know for a while about the reimbursement; it’s a risk.” A huge part of this cost is the water used during the fire.

Frustrated by the City’s water department after the fire, residents voiced their concerns at a special City Council meeting on January 30 to address how residents might be credited for the month following the fire. The City charged one citizen who lost her home \$946 for the time she was relocated, and she only paid \$82 in the previous month. The City credited her partially, but left the remainder, over \$350, for her to pay. A major contention was the massive water use by neighbors who prevented each other’s homes from burning. A resident who installed a rooftop sprinkler system said the water pressure in his area disappeared leaving residents and firefighters with no options. He likened the City’s water infrastructure and billing to “a monopoly with no competition that has overly complicated rate structures and a broken emergency water system.” Others told Council not to charge residents in evacuation zones for wastewater that was dedicated to preserving homes, not just wanton excesses flowing into the storm drains. Even Councilmember Erik Nasarenko asked staff, “why is it so complicated?”

Kevin Brown, the Water Department General Manager, responded that he did several reviews of other water agencies, including the one he formerly worked for, and found that rate structures across the board are like the City’s. The challenges for the City are determining who should get relief and how to do this without incurring legal troubles. In a presentation before Council, Brown elucidated the City’s existing water-wastewater rate structure, which is based on tiers of usage. The higher the tier, of which there are four, the more water use. When the fire hit and neighborhood spigots were all on simultaneously, residents normally in tiers 1 or 2 shot up to the higher tiers 3 and 4 for the period after December 4. Another mathematical nuance in the formula is that the City also determines a monthly bill based on the two-year average of daily use.

Since 2014, the Water Department has offered a relief program for situations like slow leaks and major plumbing ruptures. Every five years, residents may apply for a one-time relief claim that credits back the difference between the overage and the two-year average. But if a resident already applied for a relief claim within five years of

the fire, technically, by policy, they could not claim the fire for another relief credit. Also, the fire credit would be for some residents the one-time relief, meaning that if there was another exigency within five years, they could not receive the rate reduction. Brown solved this dilemma by proposing to waive the fire as a one-time claim, so residents would be entitled to relief from the fire and another incident occurring within five years.

Red tagged homes, Brown said, had their water bills stopped on the day of the fire, so they should not have been charged for time not occupying the residence. To ease temporary relocation costs, Brown proposed that Council should waive the \$52 meter activation fee customarily charged when someone occupies a new residence, such as an apartment or home rental. Council also recommended that staff study the possibility of waiving the \$52 fee when residents return to their newly built homes.

Another matter was neighbors who helped other neighbors fight the fire but did not lose or suffer damage to their own homes. Several residents told Council they used an excessive amount of water to tackle spot fires and catch embers at nearby houses and yards. Councilmember Cheryl Heitmann commented that “they were clearly trying to save other homes and property.” “Those should be reviewed on a case by case basis,” Brown said, “and any resident who feels their bill was unfair should fill out an application for relief.” Brown added “what typically happens is the resident will be credited the difference between the short-term high tier use and the two-year average normally billed at the lower tiers.”

Recouping the revenue lost due to these credits is a legal tightrope. Assistant City Attorney Miles Hogan, advising Brown and his staff that night, told Council that money to back-fill the losses, by law, could not come from rate increases or changes because that would make some customers’ bills look like subsidies. To keep everything equal, Hogan said, funds would have to come from non-rate sources, such as Water’s Care Program or even the General Fund. Furthermore, Water’s refund and loss coverage program must comply with California Proposition 218, the law requiring any rate changes or assessments to be approved by the local voters. City Finance and Technology Director Gilbert Garcia said that the City can file a claim with FEMA but that in his experience and discussions with the State and the City of Santa Rosa, which underwent a fire storm last fall, such reimbursements for high water use are rare.

By a vote of 6-0, Councilmember Nasarenko’s motion to waive the \$52 meter initiation cost for relocating residents and approve the Water Department’s scheme to credit fire zone residents was passed. Per City Attorney Greg Diaz’s advice, Council focused the relief only on the mandatory evacuation areas of the three fire zones running from the Avenue to Clearpoint. Staff will return at a later date to address possibly waiving the \$52 start fee for rebuilt residences.

Ventura Strong

Disaster victims may apply for food benefits until February 14

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) today announced that individuals and families impacted by the wildfires and/or mudslides in Santa Barbara or Ventura Counties may be eligible to receive one month of Disaster CalFresh food assistance.

A family of four with available monthly income and resources up to \$2,755 per month may be eligible to receive up to \$640 in food assistance through California’s Disaster CalFresh program. Households must apply for this assistance between Tuesday, February 6 and Friday February 9, 2018, and Monday, February 12 to Wednesday, February 14, 2018. In most cases, Disaster CalFresh food assistance benefits will be available within three days of the date of application.

“Disaster CalFresh food assistance is intended to help those negatively impacted by the wildfires and mudslides,” said CDSS Director Will Lightbourne. “We stand with these hard-working communities as they continue to recover. Giving families the ability to meet the basic need of food is a big step in that effort.”

The United States Department of Agriculture approved California’s request for Disaster CalFresh food assistance in response to the wildfires and mudslides in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. The program is known nationally as the Disaster Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or D-SNAP.

Wildfire and/or mudslide victims may apply for CalFresh disaster food assistance in-person at local social service agency offices throughout Santa Barbara and Ventura. Households unable to apply in person may designate an authorized representative to apply on their behalf and should contact their local social services agency directly for more information on this option (telephone information below).

Disaster CalFresh benefits will be provided via an Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card, which is like a debit card that can be used to purchase food items at grocery stores and other authorized retailers.

Individuals and families who lived or worked in Santa Barbara or Ventura may be eligible for Disaster CalFresh food assistance if the household experienced at least one of the following as a direct result of the wildfires and/or mudslides:

Damage to or destruction of the home or self-employment business;

Loss or inaccessibility of income, including a reduction or termination of earned income or a significant delay in receiving income due to disaster related problems; or

Disaster-related expenses (e.g. home or business repairs, temporary shelter, evacuation, etc.) that are not expected to be reimbursed during the disaster benefit period, or

Food Loss due to the wildfire and/or mudslide

Households already participating in CalFresh are not eligible to receive

Disaster CalFresh food assistance, but may be eligible to receive supplemental benefits based on their household size. Households already participating in CalFresh may contact their local social service agency to request supplemental benefits by phone or in person. Some households already participating in CalFresh may also automatically receive supplemental benefits based on the direct impact, such as mandatory evacuations, of the wildfires or mudslides in their community.

Individuals and families affected by the wildfires and/or mudslides who are seeking food assistance may apply for Disaster CalFresh until February 14, 2018 by visiting a social service agency in Santa Barbara or Ventura and can find additional application sites and more information online at <http://www.cdss.ca.gov/Disaster-Help-Center>.

In addition, individuals or families with new needs for assistance due to the wildfires and/or mudslides may always apply for regular CalFresh benefits and CalWORKs cash aid at their local social service agency or online at www.benefitscal.com.

Ventura Community Service Center
4651 Telephone Rd, Ventura
8:00AM to 5:00PM Monday through Friday
Open until 7:00 PM on Wednesday 2-7-18
Open until 7:00 PM on Thursday 2-8-18

Deadline for Thomas Fire victims to apply for Individual Assistance from FEMA is approaching

The deadline for residents affected by the Thomas Fire to apply for Individual Assistance through the Federal Emergency Management Agency is March 16, 2018.

Residents can apply online or at the Disaster Recovery Center FEMA is operating at the Ventura County Credit Union’s location in Ventura.

Ventura County Credit Union
6026 Telephone Rd, Ventura, CA 93003
Monday through Wednesday: 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Thursday and Friday: 9:00 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday: 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
Closed on Sunday

Representatives from FEMA, California Office of Emergency Services, the U.S. Small Business Administration and other agencies are staffing the center. Residents of any of the designated counties – Los Angeles, San Diego, Santa Barbara and Ventura – can seek help at the Ventura DRC.

Before visiting a DRC, fire victims are encouraged to apply online at DisasterAssistance.gov or by phone at 800-621-3362 or (TTY) 800-462-7585. Applicants who use 711 or Video Relay Service may call 800-621-3362.

The toll-free numbers are open 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week.

Applicants should have the following information at hand:

- Social Security number.
- Address of the damaged primary



Ventura Strong

residence.

- Description of the damage.
- Information about insurance coverage.
- A current contact telephone number.
- An address where they can receive mail.
- Bank account and routing numbers for direct deposit of funds.

Residents of the designated counties can find the closest DRC by going online at fema.gov/drc or texting 43362 with the message DRC and their ZIP Code. Standard message and data rates apply.



The Welcome Center was made possible with a generous gift from the Merewether's.

Merewether Welcome Center announced

In the ashy aftermath of the largest wildfire in California history, some very good news is in order, and the Ventura Botanical Gardens is providing just that. Recently at their Perennial Society event, President Barbara Brown announced the naming of the Merewether Welcome Center, made possible through a generous gift from Mike and Loretta Merewether.

“We’re proud to make this dream a reality,” says Mike Merewether while Loretta adds, “we’ve believed in this transformative project from the start. We couldn’t be more excited about this significant milestone in the development of the Gardens. It will be a wonderful gathering space for events and educational programs. This Center will serve as a way of announcing the Gardens.”

Through their generous gift, Mike and Loretta provided the financial support for the construction of the buildings designed by noted architect Martha Picciotti, a longtime supporter of the Gardens.

“The goal of the Gardens has always been sustainability. That’s one of the many reasons we’ve chosen the innovative use of shipping containers as green building materials,” states Ron Picciotti, partner in MP Designs. “Martha’s approach communicates the vision of the Gardens, and ties in practicality with beauty, reflecting both the ruggedness of nature and its subtle elegance.”

Martha adds, “The Merewether Welcome Center will be the first commercial shipping container project approved by the City of Ventura. Working closely with the City—Yolanda Bundy and Jeff Lambert— and VBG executive director, Joe Cahill, we’ve had a great team. Quality Containers, the container supplier and Schaub Construction, general contractor, are equally important members of the team.”

The containers will house a ticket/information and gift shop kiosk; a restroom accessible to the public; an educational center for lectures and botanical demonstrations, and storage for maintenance.

The Center’s outdoor spaces were designed by Nicole Horn and Noah Greer and will feature an entrance plaza with a

stunning ground display of butterflies marking the way to the entry point of the Gardens. Other highlights include new plantings, moveable furniture, flexible outdoor meeting spaces and a custom-designed, corten steel, hand-illustrated nursery fence structure, much like the one designed by BBM&D Strategic Branding for the Tracy Long site installed last year.

Construction began recently and the bracing for the vertical structure is already visible from City Hall.

Currently, the Gardens are closed due to the Thomas Fire for safety reasons and will remain closed for rehabilitation and construction. The grand opening of the Merewether Welcome Center is slated for late spring. The Gardens themselves will open some time after that. And while the Welcome Center and the Entrance Plaza have sponsors, there are other funding opportunities available including the nursery and irrigation system. If you are interested, please contact Joe Cahill at 232-3113, ext. 0.

The Ventura Botanical Gardens’ goals include encouraging visitors to strengthen their connection to nature. To find out more, visit www.VenturaBotanicalGardens.com and join on Facebook.

SBA plays a significant role in helping disaster survivors

Californians in Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles and San Diego counties who were affected by the December wildfires and recent mudslides and flooding, may be referred to the Small Business Administration (SBA) after applying for disaster assistance with FEMA. If you are contacted and asked to submit an application for a low-interest SBA disaster loan, don’t hesitate to apply.

Homeowners may borrow up to \$200,000 from SBA to repair or replace their primary residence. Homeowners and renters may borrow up to \$40,000 to repair or replace personal property. Businesses may borrow up to \$2 million for any combination of property damage or economic injury.


You don’t have to accept the loan, if you qualify. If you don’t qualify, you may also be referred back to FEMA for other grants, which covers items like disaster-related car repairs, clothing, essential household items and other expenses. Applicants can’t be considered for these grants unless the SBA loan application is completed and returned.

In planning your recovery, give yourself the widest possible set of options. Submitting the application makes it possible for you to be considered for additional grants, and if you qualify for a loan you will have that resource available if you choose to use it.

Applicants may apply online using SBA’s secure website at <https://disaster-loan.sba.gov/ela>. They may also call SBA’s Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 or email disastercustomerservice@sba.gov for more information on SBA disaster assistance. Individuals who are deaf or hard-of-hearing may call 800-877-8339.

For more information on California recovery, visit the disaster web page at www.fema.gov/disaster/4353, Twitter at <https://www.twitter.com/femaregion9> and WildfireRecovery.org.

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Our comeback has commenced.

News & Notes



(Left) Final denial barriers were deployed at the start of the exercise. (Right) Army Sgt. Taylor Coe, and Staff Sgt., David Brian in full hazmat suits simulate the decontamination effort.

Solid Curtain-Citadel Shield Force Protection Exercise held at Naval Base Ventura County, Point Magu

by Richard Lieberman

On a Monday morning at Naval Base Ventura County an exercise was held, Force protection was the intended goal with a realistic scenario based on a semi-trailer truck's driver not cooperating with U.S. Navy personnel to an entry gate at the base.

Immediately "final denial barriers" were deployed. The barriers are gates that protrude from the ground effectively making forward progress nearly impossible. Deployment of the gates signaled the start of an exercise scenario in which navy personnel and first responders investigated a substance leak from the vehicle. Close by Navy and civilian personnel became ill, displaying symptoms such as nausea, dizziness, difficulty breathing among other health complaints.

A hazardous-materials response

was initiated to discover just what the substance was and to treat those affected and to protect the base and its personnel.

Base commanding officer, Captain Chris Janke, said the operation combines "pieces and parts" of real-world events. This annual exercise has in past years covered scenarios like earthquakes, terrorist attacks and plane crashes.

"Security is our top priority for the people that live inside here and to safeguard the missions that are inside the base," Janke said. Janke added "the exercises play a crucial role in testing not only the responses of individual units from the base, but also include outside agencies like Ventura County Fire, Ventura City Fire, Oxnard City Fire hazardous materials units."

As the scenario progressed personnel

from the U.S. Army in full containment suits and gear, full face gas masks, air tanks and, thick dark color hazmat suits, removed toxic materials from the truck and proceeded to a decontamination area that was already set-up by federal firefighters.

For several hours fire, police, and other military groups coordinated with each other responding to the simulated emergency.

Roads at the base near the entrance gate were blocked off for several hours as the exercise continued. Two federal firefighters in full hazmat gear approached the truck which was parked at the entrance to the base and examined what was believed to be hazardous materials. Some base personnel were required to take detours as the exercise ran its course.

Cooperating fire personnel set up what looked like a very low shallow pool and proceeded to simulate decontamination on two participants by hosing them down and scrubbing outer clothing.

Janke added "Although we have a great team here and this equipment, it's not near the capability that the county has." Janke also said, "the exercises play a crucial role in testing not only the responses of individual units from the base, such as the Federal Fire Department but also coordination with outside agencies such as the Ventura County Fire Department." "We have to be prepared for this type of thing 24-hours a day." He also added "the exercise was an important event due to the infrequency of opportunities."



"In 2000 I moved to Ventura."

Giving a face to the homeless The heart behind the sign

by Karen Leslie, writer with heart

What is in the mind and hearts of the homeless and why the choices to live day to day off the grid of society?

A fascinating story of the road less traveled told by , homeless by choice Stuart W. Smeltzer known as "Bear" will inspire and open up a fresh understanding into why living homeless is not necessarily a way of living in hopelessness. "Bear's" journey started when he was born on January 23, 1965 at 7:23 am to father Charles Eugen and mother Patsy Ann Crow at Navarro County Hospital in Corsicana, Texas.

The voice behind the sign, Stuart "Bear" shares, "I don't remember most of my childhood before the age of 6 or 7 so I am going to start my story from there. I remember living most of my life in Oklahoma and Texas. I lived with my mom and dad until then and shortly after that I lived with my dad in Tulsa. I



News & Notes

was 12 when I moved back with my mom until I was 17. My mom passed away in 2008 and my father passed away in 2014. My grandfather made wicker lawn furniture and one summer day when I was 7, my cousin and I went out on his 100 acres to cut the trees he used, and while I was walking down the aisle between the trees, I walked into a sickle my cousin was swinging back and it took my eyelet out. I am still blind in that eye. I graduated from high school at 17 and started traveling the US at 19. I got a job as dishwasher at the Pire House in Key West, FL. They put me through college to be a cook which I helped pay with what I made. I worked for them until I was 26 when I lost my voice to cancer in 1996.

In 2000 I moved to Ventura. I have been homeless the whole time. In the last 8 years I have not been in any trouble and have traveled from San Diego to San Francisco to Oklahoma and more. I enjoy the way I live because it is the way I like to live. I don't steal or take things that are not mine. I work for a few people and have many friends. I have done artwork and written a book with all my poems in it and I find a way to earn my way doing part time work when I can find it or get it. Some of the reasons for living the way I do are because of the cost of living, so I live simply in a tent because I like being outside and sleeping outside and only keep the things I need one day at a time. I use what little money I earn to live on and have found this is the best way to be and stay happy. But, just because I am homeless does not mean I have to act or look homeless. I

do my best to stay clean and I treat people with respect. I don't fly a sign that says, "Homeless and hungry" and when I do it says, "Willing to work". I have a saying, live by treating others the way you want to be treated and show the same respect you want others to show you. Life is what we make of it. It can be good or bad and it is up to us to decide what makes us happy. I "choose" to be happy with my life and the way I live it makes me the happiest."

Be a chowderhead for a day in the Harbor

To coincide with the Historic Tall Ship Dockside Tours of Lady Washington on February 25 from 10 AM – 1 PM, Ventura Harbor Village restaurants are saluting both National Clam Chowder Day and beautiful Tall Ships by offering a Chowder Taste on Sunday, February 25 from 11 a.m. – 2 p.m. Select Harbor waterfront restaurants will ladle out a delectable variety of handcrafted chowders in celebration of the fruit of the sea. Seafood lovers can take a leisurely stroll and stimulate their taste buds while sampling delicious clam chowders amid stunning views of harbor. Tickets are priced at \$5 for 7 tastes and will be on sale from 11 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. (pending availability) on Sunday,



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February 25, 2018 at the Ventura Harbor Village promenade visitor booth in front of the Village Arcade & Carousel. Each ticket is good for one, four-ounce taste of clam chowder per restaurant. Tickets and wrist bands are provided to ticket holders. Ventura Harbor Village restaurants participating are: 805 Bar & Grilled Cheese; Andria's Seafood Restaurant & Market; Baja Bay Fish & Taco; Boatyard Pub; Brophy Bros. Restaurant & Clam Bar; Le Petit Café & Bakery; The Greek Mediterranean Steak & Seafood. All ticket holders will be entered to win 2 tickets aboard an Island Packers excursion to the Channel Islands National Park, a 4-pack of Coastal Cone Ice Cream gift certificates, and a Ventura Harbor sweatshirt.



Fire Chief David Endaya being interviewed on CAPS.

CAPS media ECTV crew are stars

The talented ECTV crew from El Camino High School recently interviewed City Fire Chief David Endaya, Continued on page 21



On Feb.3 over 5,000 people filled Plaza Park for the sold-out Thomas Fire Benefit Festival, with performances by Grammy Award-winning singer Olivia Newton-John, actor Kevin Costner and his band Modern West, singer-songwriter Colbie Caillat, swing band Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, three-time platinum hip-hop rap artist Super Duper KYLE a performance by the Bank of the Sierra choir. The concert raised nearly one million dollars for victims of the Thomas Fire. All the artists performed at the benefit free of charge. People who lost their primary residence in the fire can register at thomasfirebenefit.com to receive financial assistance. Photos by Bill Green and Pam Baumgardner.



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BY JONATHAN TOLINS

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News & Notes



Top elected officials attended the event including Ventura City Council members Erik Nasarenko and Christy Weir.

Cantil-Sakauye is the 28th chief justice

by Rosie Ornelas

On Saturday, January 27th, California Supreme Court Chief Justice Tani Cantil-Sakauye was the guest of honor at the Ventura County Women's Political Council Annual Meeting and Breakfast at Ventura's Pierpont Inn. Speaking to a sold-out crowd of elected officials, judges, lawyers, students, and members of the organization, the Chief Justice described her journey as the daughter of immigrants, raised by a single mother. She entertained the guests with her witty, charismatic style, relaying lessons she learned as a waitress and a blackjack dealer, jobs she held during college and law school.

Answering questions from the President of the Ventura County Women's Political Council, Jeannette Sanchez-Palacios, Cantil-Sakauye explained why she decided to write a letter to Attorney General Jeff Sessions objecting to his policy allowing immigration enforcement to take place in courtrooms.

Chief Justice also explained why she

decided to commission a task force to study the bail setting process in our judicial system, a process which she believes is based on economic status rather than the risk to the community. She has become a leading national advocate on reforming our bail system.

She is the 28th chief justice of the State of California. She is the first Asian-Filipina American and only the second woman to serve as the state's chief justice. In her capacity of Chief Justice, Cantil-Sakauye chairs the Judicial Council of California, the administrative policymaking body of state courts, and the Commission on Judicial Appointments.

"It was inspiring to have the Chief Justice of California come before our group" said Jeannette Sanchez-Palacios, VCWPC President. "Being only the second woman appointed to her position, Chief Justice Cantil-Sakauye is a prime example of what women can accomplish through tenacity and determination."

Among those who attended the event, top elected officials included Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson, Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin, Assemblymember Monique Limón, Presiding Judge Patricia Murphy, Judge Fred Bysshe and many other local elected officials from throughout the county.

The Ventura County Women's Political Council is a multi-partisan organization whose objective is to achieve equality for all women. It is the only organization in Ventura County dedicated to educating, training, and supporting women to run for office so that candidates can bring women's perspectives to every issue, foremost including reproductive health as well as social, educational, environmental and economic justice.

The 101st year of Girl Scouts selling cookies begins

Girl Scouts of California's Central Coast (GSCCC) enters the next century of Girl Scouts selling cookies with the Cookie Program through March 11. GSCCC is kicking off this season with the return of Girl Scout S'mores™, the

most popular flavor to launch in the 101 years of Girl Scouts selling cookies.

During Girl Scout Cookie season, each G.I.R.L. (Go-getter, Innovator, Risk-taker, Leader)™ sets out to sell cookies while also building entrepreneurial and business skills. The Girl Scout Cookie Program® not only teaches girls these skills, but also powers amazing experiences for them. The cookie program teaches girls five fundamental skills that are essential to leadership: goal setting, decision making, money management, people skills, and

Continued on page 21



At the Knights of Columbus Hall, 36 Figueroa St., our firefighters received awards from a group of dignitaries including City Council Member Matt LaVere who thanked them for their service to Ventura.

The event also included the swearing in of the Board of Directors for the Democratic Party of Ventura. Photo by Michael Gordon.



Senior Living

Pull Out Section



Senior plans to read the Breeze until he's 120. Photo by Michael Gordon.

Donald is looking for a new girlfriend at 104

by Jennifer Tipton

Donald Gay Wright born November 11, 1913 in South Sutton New Hampshire resides at Cypress Place Senior Living in Ventura. I first met Don at Cypress when I did a wellness clinic there and he and many of his neighbors would line up to get their blood pressure checked. Don was 102 at that time and always looked so put together with his hair neatly combed and sporting a rather dashing bolo tie.

Catching up with the now 104 years young gentleman was quite a delight! When I asked for this interview, Don told me, "Oh, I like to talk!"

Don grew up in a family of show business, "my folks did vaudeville; my mother sang and played the piano, there were marionettes, dogs, doves and Punch & Judy". He still has one of the ventriloquist puppets named "Billy" that he promised his father he'd care for sitting in the corner of his apartment and wearing one of his father's hats from show biz days.

Don's middle name "Gay" is a family name. "John Gay came to America by ship in 1630", he told me. The Gay brothers had a factory that made Melton fabric, the heavy wool fabric that was used for United States Army uniforms.

Don himself was a Captain in the U.S. Army. "I was in the army for 25 years and was a high school dropout throughout my army career", he laughs. "I've worked all kinds of jobs - Forestry Department, Highway Department and once for the County with zoning reinforcement, I knew a lot of judges". He said he liked his position with military government the best and the most exciting thing he's done was to help set up the government in (South

Korea. "I'd love to straighten out North Korea", he added.

I asked him what activities he enjoys, and he said, "I'm a camera bug, I have about twenty cameras; in the older days we developed our own film and it was a big thing when it wasn't black and white anymore!". Lately he's become quite the artist, Don's apartment is filled with his work including a Mona Lisa sketch that won him a ribbon.

And the age-old question (pardon the pun) - "To what do you attribute to your longevity?" (I didn't tell him I'd read in a previous interview he gave all the credit to shredded wheat) ... and he responded, "shredded wheat!". I did tell him that I read he performed a drum solo at his 104th birthday party and Don said, "I've been playing the drums for ninety years! I played with the Big Bands".

With the next issue of the Breeze coming out on Valentine's Day ... I asked, "are there any secret crushes we should know about?"

And Don replied, "a while ago, a lady named Cookie came to my door and said, 'what happened to our relationship?', I was 103 and didn't think I had any relationship! But we really did fall in love; she was a great lady. I couldn't imagine that at 103 I'd have a girlfriend!". Don said, "I asked the Lord for a friend, and then Cookie showed up, and then He took her away, and He hasn't sent a replacement yet!"

Donald G. Wright has 4 children, 10 grandchildren, 20 plus great grandchildren and 6 great-great grandchildren.

Don sums it up, "I enjoy the time I have on earth!"

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Senior Living



Rae Huffman playing with Wayne Agnew who is just getting started at 75.

95th birthday celebration held for Rae who is still fiddling around

by Amber Hansen

The Old Time Country Bluegrass Gospel Music Association celebrated member Lady Rae Huffman’s 95th birthday during their meeting-concert held at the Poinsettia Pavilion on February 4th. Rae is a native Californian with a deep-rooted love for music-from classical to bluegrass. Lady Rae has been active in the music community for most of her life- she began with the violin, before discovering her passion for fiddling in the mid 1970’s. She has been a member of the Old Time Fiddler’s association for many years and a member of the Old Time Country Bluegrass Gospel Music Association since its creation in 2013. Her musical career has spanned her lifetime and she has achieved many

accomplishments along the way. Lady Rae continues to inspire through her music and frequently performs with the Old-Country Grass Band.

Going back to 1979 Rae was the ladies state champion in the fiddle division, she has owned the violin that she plays at concerts for more than 85 years starting when shew as 10. Her early training was in playing the classics and the great tunes of the swing era.

A humble woman she stated “music has been a joy to me, all of my life.”

Wayne Agnew estimates they have played more than 1000 gigs together over the past 20 years.

Her daughter Kathy Rae Huffman said “Rae is very special to so many of

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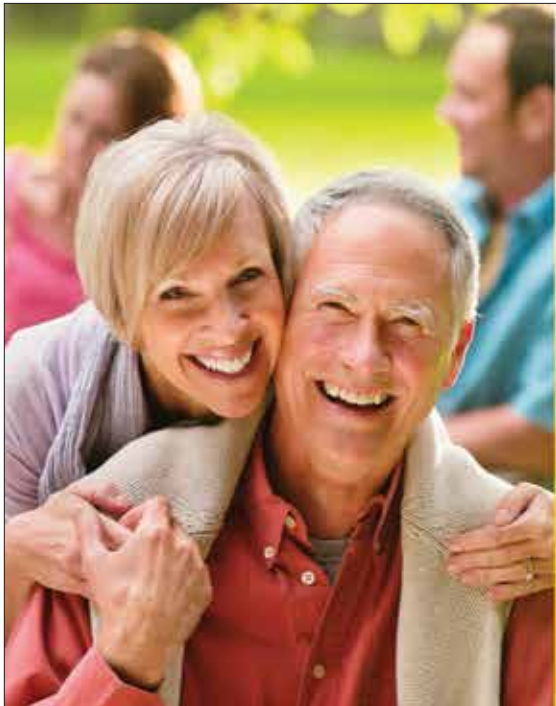
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Senior Living

us. She has been a corner stone of the organization and the band. She has always been willing to play anytime, anywhere. Music has kept her strong, active and young at heart !!!

“She first came to Oxnard in the 1950’s with her Seabee husband. After moving around for a number of years with the military, they settled in Oxnard to retire, in the 1960s.”

“Mother and dad (he died in 1995) were involved with the Old Time Fiddler’s for many many years. She has rarely missed a concert, only when she was in the hospital with pneumonia a couple of years ago.”

Beginning on the first Sunday of March from 2:30-4:30PM, the Old Time Country Bluegrass Gospel Music Association will meet in the Knights of Columbus Hall in downtown Ventura. The meetings with the fine music and chatter are free so join them for a fine afternoon.

Free tax preparation for Ventura county residents

The Ventura County Area Agency on Aging and the AARP Foundation are partnering to offer tax preparation services to residents of Ventura County. This service is free and available to anyone of low to moderate income, and may be especially suited to those 50 and older.

To receive services, individuals must bring all necessary documentation, including applicable Social Security cards, a photo ID, a copy of 2016 tax return, and 2017 documents showing income from all sources including wages, Social Security, interest, dividends, investments, self-employment and pensions. For individuals that itemize deductions, please provide total figures for each category of deduction, including medical, charitable contributions, property tax, and mortgage interest. Any individual that received a health insurance statement (Form 1095-A, 1095-B or 1095-C), is asked to also bring the required documentation. Volunteers are unable to prepare returns for married taxpayers who file separate returns, or for taxpayers with rental property income. Volunteers are also unable to prepare out-of-state tax returns.

AARP representatives will be available on Mondays and Wednesdays from 12 p.m. – 4 p.m. through April 16 at the VCAAA offices located at 646 County Square Drive in Ventura. No appointment is necessary, and participants are not required to be AARP members. This location is accessible to individuals with disabilities.

The AARP Foundation operates the AARP Tax-Aide program under a cooperative agreement with the IRS. To help you complete your tax forms, AARP’s trained and IRS-certified volunteers will see personal information that you give them about you and your finances. There’s no fee and no sales pitch for other services and AARP membership is not required.

The Ventura County Area Agency on Aging, an agency of the County of Ventura, is the principal agency in Ventura County charged with the responsibility to promote the development and implementation of a comprehensive coordinated system of care that enables older individuals and their caregivers to live in a community-based setting and to advocate for the needs of those 60 years of age and older in the county, providing leadership and promoting citizen involvement in the planning process as well as in the delivery of services.

Tai Chi Balance Classes seeking volunteers to train to teach seniors

Improve Balance, Increase Strength, Help Others

RSVP will offer volunteer instructor training in February for a senior Tai Chi program, providing active retirees a way to serve their community through teaching classes while also improving their own balance and staying fit.

The two-day training with the Tai Chi: Moving for Better Balance Master Trainer is scheduled for Friday and Saturday, February 16 and 17, in Ventura. Several follow-up practices with other trained volunteers will be scheduled before volunteers lead a class. Most volunteers will practice over 30 hours before being certified to teach. Attendance at quarterly in-services will also be required. No experience is necessary, but

Continued on page 16

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Senior Living



Be prepared just in case.

Forum examines community disaster preparedness

How prepared are we for the next disaster? Attend “A Call to Action”, a community-wide disaster education forum, presented by the Ventura Council for Seniors on Tuesday, February 20th. It will take place at Ventura Adult and Continuing Education, 5200 Valentine Rd. Registration will begin at 9:00 am. The program will be from 9:30 to 11:30 am and will include a personal story of loss and resiliency, and a panel that will discuss useful advice in disaster preparedness. Spanish language interpretation will be provided. A free lunch will follow, courtesy of the Downtown Ventura Rotary. Please RSVP to 648-3035.

Tai Chi Balance Classes

Continued from page 15

volunteers must be age 55 or older and make a six-month commitment to teach three hours per week.

For more information on the instructor training or to register to be trained as an instructor, please call 385-8023. The free classes will be held in the four west county cities served by the Oxnard RSVP.

A federal grant received by the City of Oxnard and its RSVP program funds the free exercise classes, which are being offered in partnership with the Ventura County Area Agency on Aging.

Tai Chi: Moving for Better Balance follows curriculum developed at the Oregon Research Institute (in Oregon) where studies showed improved strength and balance, increased mobility and reduced incidence of falls among seniors who participated in the classes.

The 12-week evidence-based program consists of a core eight-form routine of Yang-style Tai Chi with built-in exercise variations. It teaches participants balance skills and good body alignment by using coordinated and flowing movements. The classes are intended for adults age 60 and older who can walk easily with or without assistive devices.

RSVP is currently recruiting volunteers to lead the classes in Oxnard, Ventura, Camarillo and Port Hueneme; bilingual volunteers are particularly needed. Volunteers team teach to allow for vacation and sick time. All RSVP volunteers must be age 55 or better.

One in three Americans over the age of 65 fall every year and falls are the leading cause of both fatal and non-fatal injuries among older adults. Falls threaten seniors' safety and independence and generate enormous economic and personal costs, according to the National Council on Aging.

Falling, however, is not an inevitable result of aging. Through practical lifestyle adjustments, participation in evidence-based falls prevention programs, such as Tai Chi: Moving for Better Balance, and other interventions, the number of falls among seniors can be substantially reduced.

Those interested in taking the 12-week class, but not being an instructor, should call the Ventura County Area Agency on Aging's fall prevention program at 477-7347 to have their name put on the waiting list.

RSVP is a volunteer recruitment and placement program, helping people 55 and older find volunteer positions that match their interests, talent and available time. The Oxnard RSVP has almost 575 members and is sponsored by the City of Oxnard. To learn more about being an RSVP member or to discuss other volunteer opportunities, call 385-8023.



Gramma Denise thinks her first grand baby, Louvelle Dawn Gledhill, 4-months-old is the cutest grandkid in the entire universe. Do you have one that you think is even cuter? If so send photo to editor@venturabreeze.com.

This 'n' That

Tech Today with Ken May

Securing the home

Several years ago, creating a cybersecure home was simple. Today, technology has become far more complex and is integrated into every part of our lives, from mobile devices and gaming consoles to your home thermostat and your refrigerator. Here are simple steps for creating a cybersecure home.

Almost every home network starts with a Wi-Fi network, controlled by your Internet router or a separate, dedicated wireless access point. They both work the same way: by broadcasting wireless signals. Securing your wireless network is a key part of protecting your home. We recommend the following:

- Change the default administrator password to your Internet router or wireless access point. The admin account is what allows you to configure the settings for your wireless network.
- Ensure that only people you trust can connect to your wireless network. Do this by enabling strong security.
- Currently, the best option is to use the security called WPA2. By enabling this, a password is required for people to connect to your home network, and once connected, their online activities are encrypted.
- Ensure the password used to connect to your wireless network is strong and that it is different from the admin password.
- Many wireless networks support what is called a Guest Network. This allows visitors to connect to the Internet, but protects your home network, as they cannot connect to any of the other devices on your home network. If you add a guest network, be sure to enable WPA2 and a unique password for the network.

The next step is knowing what devices are connected to your wireless home network. Almost anything can connect to your home network today! Once you have identified all the devices on your home network, ensure that each one of them is secure by having automatic updating enabled on them. By enabling automatic updates, your devices are always running the most current software, which makes them much harder for anyone to hack into.

The next step is to use a passphrase for all your accounts. This is a type of password that uses a series of words that is easy to remember, such as “Where is my coffee?” or “sunshine-doughnuts-happy-lost”. The longer your passphrase is, the stronger. Use a different passphrase for each device and account. This way, if one password is compromised, all your other accounts and devices are still safe. We recommend you use a password manager, which is a special security program that securely stores all your passwords for you in an encrypted, virtual safe.

Finally, enable two-step verification whenever available. It uses your password, but also adds a second step, such as a code sent to your smartphone or an app on your smartphone that generates the code for you. Two-step verification is probably the most important step you can take to protect yourself online, and it’s much easier than you think.

Sometimes, no matter how careful you are, you may be hacked. If that is the case, often the only way you can recover your personal information is to restore from backup. Make sure you are doing regular backups of any important information and verify that you can restore from them. Most mobile devices support automatic backups to the Cloud.



Hosts, George Alger and Sandra Siepak, Michelle Hoover, Petrina Sharp and Bill O’Connor will make you a star. Photo by Our Ventura TV/George Alger.

Our Ventura TV

TV viewers in Ventura County are invited to tune into “Our Ventura TV” the weekly talk-show television series airing on Ventura CAPS TV Channel 6. The insightful program spotlights local newsworthy guests discussing timely topics in and around Ventura County that are both appealing and informative to local audiences.

“Our Ventura TV,” features many of the non-profit organizations, community advocates, and leaders, as well as artists that make up the culture and diversity of Ventura County,” stated George Alger of Skyworks Marketing who is the Creator, Host, and Producer of the program.

Directed by Petrina Sharp, along with Assistant Director Bill O’Connor and Michelle Hoover in Production the show delivers inspiring feature segments

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and engaging conversational interviews worth watching.

The program also features artists and performances by musical guests. Regular “Our Ventura TV” Hosts include; Sandra Siepak, Bob Taylor and Ed Wehan.

“Our Ventura TV,” focuses on the people and organizations in Ventura County who enrich the lives of others,” commented show Host Sandra Siepak. She recently interviewed Mayor Erik Nasarenko and also Assemblymember Jacqui Irwin of the 44th District highlighting their successful efforts here in Ventura County as well as reps from the Ventura Port District, Many

Mansions and the Teddy Bear Cancer Foundation.

She added, “One of the most important elements is featuring interview guests dedicated to making a significant difference to the lives of others. Hopefully our talk show encourages viewers to become more involved and ultimately contribute back to the community.”

“Our Ventura” is broadcast on CAPS Ventura TV Channel 6 five times a week and online. Check local listings for times and dates. There are many new shows planned for 2018. If you would like to be a featured guest on the program or for more information go to www.ourventura.com.

Person to Person

by Jennifer Tipton

I asked 6 of our younger Venturans ages 6-9, “What do you like about Valentine’s Day? (and are there any secret crushes we should know about?)”



Jayson Rivera, age 7

“I really do like to play with my toys and make Valentines, well I really actually buy the Valentines at the store”.

Any secret crushes? “Well... I like Joanna”. (Mom adds “that changes every week”)



Marcia Castor, age 9

“I’m 9 ½, but you can consider me 9, I guess. I like to pass out treats like stickers and gummies to my class”.

No secret crushes. Any special Valentine? “My dog Rocky, he’s a black lab, no boyfriends yet”. (Mom said she can’t have one until she graduates college and hopes she’ll stick to the contract.)



Brice Peters, age 8

“I like sharing Valentines with candy in them cause I’m pretty sure it’s about sharing and caring.”

Any secret crushes? “No...not really.”

Any special Valentines? “My parents.” (You gotta love this kid!)



Issac Dunlap, age 7

“I make cards for my friends and family with paper, tape and staples. I made one today for my brother. Sometimes I put candy in them like ... chocolate chips.”

No secret crushes but Issac tells me his special Valentine is a boy in his class, “my friend Ira, but he already knows”.



Tegan Farnsworth, age 9

“I like getting the cards and sometimes they have candy in them, especially the ones with chocolate, those are my favorite!”

No secret crushes. Any special Valentine? “My cat Rascal is my favorite Valentine, I love her!”



Bianca Davis, age 6 ½

“Well, I especially love getting secret admirers! I don’t have any yet ... but I wish I had one.”

Any secret crushes? “Are you asking for the truth? Cause then I have to whisper, cause no one wants to hear the truth.”

And she did. (Bianca – your secret is safe with me.)

The Pet Page



Dedicated to Scamp

SPAN Thrift Store is providing \$10 spays and neuters for low income cat and dog friends.

In the SPAN Thrift Store parking lot 110 N. Olive St. (behind Vons on Main). Friday, March 2nd. Please call to schedule an appointment 584-3823.

Hi, Sheldon:
Hope this email finds you well! Thank you again so much for featuring Mojo's Story. Without your help I don't think we would have raised the money in time. Mojo was sent home the day after surgery. It's been a rough week but he's finally starting to feel a little better and move around a bit. Vetsurg was wonderful to Mojo! Dr. Holsworth even donated the implants for Mojo's surgery which took off \$250 from the bill. They also donated a treatment called PRP (protein rich plasma) which helps in speeding healing.

Shalisa Chamberlain
The Jackson Laboratory for Genomic Medicine's new program, the Tallwood Canine Cancer Research Initiative will create a biobank of dog tumors to provide researchers around the world with new insights into cures for cancers in dogs, and humans too.

Owners of dogs diagnosed with cancer can opt to have their veterinarian (if their practice is participating in the research initiative) remove their dog's tumor during treatment and donate it to the program.

Using comparative genomics, they can identify which parts of DNA could contribute to an increased risk of specific types of cancer in certain dogs. Then look for corresponding regions in people to gain insights into new mechanisms that cause similar cancers in humans. This strategy is particularly useful for cancers that are rare among humans, but more commonly found in certain dog breeds

In an effort to better align their current resources to workload and to properly care for and enrich the lives of the animals in their care, Ventura County Animal Services will be closed to the public every Monday beginning March 1, 2018, for pet adoptions. This closure will affect both the Camarillo Animal Shelter at 600 Aviation Drive and the Simi Valley Animal Shelter at 670 W. Los Angeles Avenue.

The shelter will be open for those who have found lost pets.

RedRover, a national nonprofit animal welfare organization, was awarded a \$433,000 grant from an anonymous foundation in support of the RedRover Relief Domestic Violence Assistance Program. This generous grant will allow RedRover to offer more financial assistance for safe pet boarding and veterinary care through the Safe Escape program, increase their Safe Housing grant amounts from \$6,000 up to \$20,000 and launch a pilot program that enables domestic violence shelters to create their own plan to help survivors of domestic violence and their pets escape abuse together. The grant also funds general operating costs for the program.

All too often, domestic violence victims stay in abusive homes for fear of subjecting their animals to abuse if they leave. RedRover Relief Safe Escape grants pay for temporary boarding and/or veterinary care to enable a domestic violence victim to remove pets to safety so that no member of the family is left behind.

Since helping its first victim of domestic violence with a RedRover Relief Safe Escape grant in 2007, RedRover has awarded 382 grants to help 688 people with 13,897 nights of boarding for their pets. Since the inception of the Safe Housing program in 2012, 58 grants have been awarded to domestic violence shelters for a total of \$238,720.

RedRover is partnering with SAF-T to work toward the goal of having at least one pet-friendly domestic violence shelter in each state. Deadlines to apply for Safe Housing grants are May 15 and October 15 each year. To learn more, visit: <https://RedRover.org/SafeHousing>

More information about RedRover's domestic violence resources can be found at RedRover.org/Domestic.

A white Maltese dog mix that had been dyed purple with human hair dye was severely burned and weakened, and the animal required three months of treatment including pain drugs, antibiotics, intravenous fluids and wound care, Pinellas County, Fla., Animal Services staff say. The dog has a new owner who says "it's amazing how she loves everybody and knows no strangers, despite how she was treated." If you want a colored pet get a parakeet.

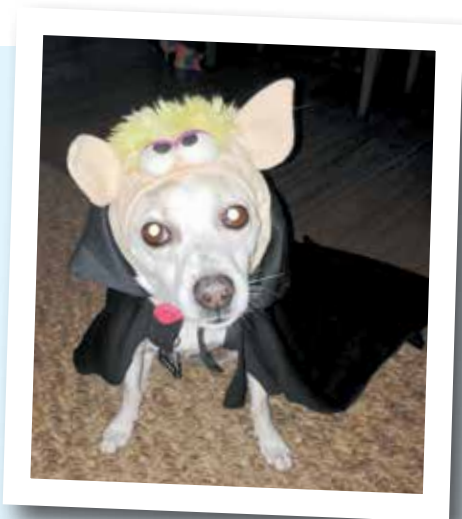
You wouldn't know it by looking at her now, but a KC couple's 7-month-old puppy Rottweiler almost died after she ate a bottle of Gorilla Glue.

Now, Theresa Sanders and Aaron Blake are just thankful for their energetic comeback.

Scamp Club

(Scampclub pets are not for adoption.)

Hi: I'm Maddie!! My family rescued me from the pound when I was very young. I like to terrorize the neighborhood when I escape the yard and run on the beach with my family and snuggle too! I don't know how old I am. I don't really have big ears and 4 eyes.



Join Scamp Club

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

"The Gorilla Glue apparently has a sweet smell that the dogs like," he said. "She went at it and had it so fast."

Veterinarian Philip Allen said, as a result of ingesting the glue, Lucy suffered a severe growth the size of a cantaloupe in her stomach. Allen said had her owners not brought in the puppy right away, Lucy would have been dead within a day.

In fact, Blake and Sanders said everyone was convinced Lucy wouldn't survive.

"Walking away from her and

thinking she was not going to live was just awful," Sanders said.

The couple signed Lucy over to the veterinary clinic, posted their final farewells to their beloved pet on Facebook. However, the heart-sick couple had no idea that Allen, who has two dogs himself, refused to let Lucy go. Allen performed emergency surgery on the ill pup and removed the large mass from her stomach. By the next day, Lucy was out of intensive care and eating again.

Moral dog's and gorilla's shouldn't eat glue.



Mojo is recovering nicely.

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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 home wanted

What this elegant little lady might lack in traditional beauty, she more than makes up for in loyalty and devoted companionship. She is intuitive about where she needs to be in your life - always present at precisely the right time. She is a powerfully calm presence and would do well in a similarly calm household without other pets, though she does get along with other cats. Not as playful as the younger crowd, she is older and wiser and would like someone who might enjoy sharing an afternoon in a sunny spot. Whitney is currently in foster care and is waiting patiently for her furrever family. Ventura County Animal Services – Camarillo location – 600 Aviation Drive -Whitney A661107



News & Notes

Eye on the Environment

Avoid weed waste: Native regrowth is best, not planted rye

by David Goldstein

PWA, IWMD and

Jessica Craven Goldstein

Master Gardener, UC Cooperative Extension

The brief, hard rain two weeks ago caused calamities to the north, but local hillsides are now sprouting hopeful shoots of green. You may be tempted to help nature's process by spreading seeds on hillsides stripped bare of vegetation, but erosion, flooding, fire danger and weed removal are the possible price to pay for planting incorrectly.

Whether on your own slopes or in the hills above local cities, lessons learned from past good-intentioned mistakes should apply. A recent email with warnings and instructions from two non-profit groups summarize these lessons.

According to the California Native Plant Society and Channel Islands Restoration, botanists, ecologists, and other professionals have found past efforts to quickly spread non-native seeds on denuded hillsides appeared successful in the short term, but caused more problems than they solved.

For example, a standard practice of the past was to plant ryegrass, which grows rapidly with little water; however, "after agencies called it a success and moved on to the next project, it would dry out..., resulting in greater fuel for fires" according to the two non-profits. Worse, these non-natives displaced perennial bunchgrasses, which send down deeper roots and are therefore more resistant to drought.

The good news is our hillsides, at least the ones left in a natural state, usually store seed banks of native grasses which respond quickly to fire.

Dense, old-growth chaparral burns quickly in fires, opening space for seeds in the soil to sprout following stimulation by the fire. Even the bigger species can benefit from fire. Roots and stumps can sprout, and acorns may germinate and grow with less competition and better access to soil nutrients. Eventually, "a complex interweaving of different root types can stabilize the soil better than any artificial seeding mix that could be devised," according to the groups.

For erosion control on more developed landscapes, these experts recommend wattles (such as straw-stuffed tubes of netting) and biodegradable mats made from material such as coconut fiber or jute. Choose a wide weave so plants can sprout through it. Aqua Flow in Ventura and Coastal Pipco in Oxnard are the two largest local farm and landscape supply stores carrying these products. Home Depot in Oxnard also has wattles (\$29.95), as does Green Thumb in Ventura (\$34.99), but neither has mats or landscape nets in stock as of last week.

"Break the Chain" film to be shown in Ventura

Learn what you can do to break the chain of human trafficking at a special movie screening and question-and-answer session with the maker of "Break the Chain," winner of the best documentary feature at the Los Angeles Cinema Festival.

The movie, "Break the Chain," will be shown Wednesday, Feb. 21, at the Museum of Ventura County, 100 East Main St., Doors open at 5:30 p.m. and the film starts at 6:30 p.m. The event is free.

Organizers say that Ventura County has a role in the global human trafficking issue. Young people forced

into the human trafficking system are often housed in local hotels, away from the glare of Los Angeles.

Following the film there will be a panel discussion including:

Laura E. Swanson, producer and co-director of the film;

April de Pretis of the Ventura County Coalition Against Human

Trafficking; Michael Munn, Ventura County district attorney's office investigator;

Christian Perez of Interface Child and Family Services;

Junemarie Justus, founder of The Acorn Project, and

Cheryl Heitmann, Ventura City Council member.



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Photo by Lotti Keenan

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The project will include 11 special needs units.

Cabrillo completes grading on affordable housing project

Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation has completed grading on Phase II of Snapdragon Place Apartments, and construction will begin in March.

Cabrillo is developing the project in partnership with the Housing Authority of San Buenaventura, which will serve as the property management company.

Snapdragon Place Apartments is a new construction development located at Snapdragon Street and Lost Angeles Avenue in East Ventura. Cabrillo completed Phase I of the project, which included 28 units, in 2015. Phase II will provide another 22 homes.

Phase II will consist of five two-story buildings enclosing a landscaped interior courtyard. The unit mix includes four one-bedroom homes (640 square feet), 10 two-bedroom homes (958 square feet), and eight three-bedroom homes (1,177 square feet).

The project will include 11 special needs units, of which, four one-bedroom units are designated for homeless veterans through the Veterans Affairs

Supportive Housing program and seven non-VASH units. All units, except for the manager's unit will have Section 8 vouchers for families and individuals with incomes between 30 to 60 percent of the area median income.

The development will share access to the 2,000-square-foot community center completed during Phase I of the project. That space includes open space with a barbecue and a play areas.

Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation's mission is to provide comprehensive housing services and community economic development activities through a community-building approach that facilitates self-sufficiency for individuals and families who are most lacking in opportunity in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties, and adjacent areas of Los Angeles County. Incorporated in 1981, Cabrillo's early roots were in response to a farmworker community's demand for secure housing. Although this continues to be important, today there is a more widespread need for affordable housing in this region. As such, Cabrillo now provides housing for low- to moderate-income residents and families, including farmworkers, seniors, veterans and individuals with special needs.

Treatment of back pain the subject of a free CMHS Seminar

Diagnosing and treating back pain, along with the causes, will be the focus of a free seminar on Wednesday, Feb. 21, "Ouch! My Aching Back."

This 'n' That

Community Memorial Health System is hosting the seminar as part of its 2018 Speaker Series.

The guest speaker will be Dr. Antulio Aroche, an orthopedic spinal surgeon. Dr. Aroche will discuss what causes back pain and how joint and bone problems have become a leading cause of disability that affects how people walk, run, lift, bend and play. He will review ways to diagnose back pain as well as treatment and rehabilitation options for patients.

Dr. Aroche is an orthopedic surgeon who specializes in spine surgery. He was dual fellowship trained in orthopedic and neurosurgical spinal surgery at New England Baptist Hospital in Boston. Dr. Aroche completed his orthopedic surgery residency at Michigan State University in East Lansing. He is a member of the North American Spine Society, the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons and several honor societies. Dr. Aroche is an active staff member at Community Memorial Hospital in Ventura and Ojai Valley Community Hospital.

The Feb. 21 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. For reservations, visit www.cmhshealth.org/rsvp or call Brown Paper Tickets at 800-838-3006.



Last year's event raised over \$160,000.

"Puttin on the Ritz"

On March 10th, the National Charity League, Inc., (NCL) Ventura County Chapter Juniors, will host "Puttin on the Ritz," a 20's-inspired gala featuring both a silent and live auction offering a wide variety of desired experiences, travel adventures, and original works by local artists. For 14 consecutive years, NCLJ Ventura Chapter has devoted their philanthropic efforts to support the Children's Cancer & Blood Diseases Program at Ventura County Medical Center (VCMC), collectively raising over \$1.3 million. The funds raised have been used for critical needs of the program such as medical staff salaries, equipment, training and social service support for families in crisis. More specifically, NCLJ Ventura has financed the construction of a child-friendly infusion room, play room, and a resource library for patients and their families. A portion of their fundraising efforts are also going toward establishing a Ronald McDonald Family Room at Ventura County Medical Center.

Given the recent destruction of the Thomas Fires, this year's will additionally fundraise for Thomas Fire Relief and the reconstruction of the Ventura Botanical Gardens. In addition the silent and live auction bidding, guests will enjoy an open bar reception, live entertainment, a gourmet dinner, live entertainment and dancing. Sponsors of

this year's Gala will be welcomed early at a private cocktail reception and escorted to the theatre.

Last year's gala themed "Encante de Mision," was held at the San Buenaventura Mission, raising over \$160,000 for the Children's Cancer for Blood Diseases at VCMC.

Majestic Ventura Theater - Tickets \$195. Tickets and sponsorship opportunities available online at ncljuniorsventura.org.



Evacuation routes can be found at www.venturapd.org.

Ventura residents urged to plan ahead and be prepared for natural disasters

The City of Ventura encourages residents to be prepared for possible natural disasters. Residents living in and around Thomas Fire burn areas or near flood-prone areas, need to prepare for possible storms in 2018. Police Chief Ken Corney and Fire Chief David Endaya provided a presentation about preparation efforts at the January 22, 2018 Ventura City Council meeting encouraging the community to stay informed and take action by reviewing the following points:

Sign up to receive VC Alert mobile messages by contacting the VC Alert Hotline at 648-9283 or visiting www.vcalert.org. Subscribers will receive emergency notifications such as evacuation notices specific to their neighborhood.

Make sure extra supplies are on hand at home, including: a flashlight, water, food, personal medical supplies and filled prescriptions. Learn how to prepare an emergency kit at www.readyventuracounty.org.

Monitor www.vcemergency.com or call the information hotline at 805-465-6650 during an emergency to stay informed on evacuations, road closures and important emergency information. Review evacuation routes. The Ventura Police Department has created recommended evacuation routes to help with traffic flow during an emergency. The information will be provided at all Community Council meetings, door to door in impacted areas and online at www.venturapd.org.

Get to know your neighbors! During an emergency public safety resources are limited. Residents are encouraged to help alert neighbors during an emergency and to stay connected to their neighborhood on Nextdoor.com. Nextdoor

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This 'n' That

is a private social network. Over 20,000 Ventura residents are using Nextdoor. It's also a platform to receive alerts from the City of Ventura and crime and safety information from the Ventura Police Department.

Get connected! Residents are encouraged to attend Monthly Community Council meetings. The City of Ventura has seven neighborhood Community Councils. Any resident, business owner or property owner can join their area group. The Ventura Police Department provides a monthly crime and safety update at each meeting and guest speakers provide information specific to the represented council. More information about meeting times and locations can be found at www.cityofventura.ca.gov or by calling 339-4317.

During an emergency listen to the directions provided by public safety officials. Mandatory Evacuation orders are initiated when danger is imminent. Voluntary Evacuations orders are initiated when residents should begin preparing for a potential mandatory evacuation order to be issued. The threat to lives is not yet imminent during a voluntary evacuation. A Shelter-in-Place Order is initiated when conditions exist that may endanger the lives of those in a defined area. Access to the area under a shelter in place order may be restricted by road closures.

Preparing and staying informed can help save lives and property. For questions or more information please contact Ventura Police Department Civic Engagement Specialist Ashley Bautista at 805-339-4317 or by email at abautista@cityofventura.ca.gov.

Vendor applications now available for City of Ventura 4th of July Street Fair

The City of Ventura is now accepting vendor applications for the 43rd Annual 4th of July Street Fair, scheduled for Wednesday, July 4, 2018, from 10 am to 5 pm. Located on Main Street in historic downtown Ventura, the street fair stretches nine blocks and draws upwards of 50,000 visitors annually. Craft, food, commercial, non-profit and activity vendor applications can be found online at www.cityofventura.ca.gov/streetfair. Completed applications can be mailed or hand-delivered to City Hall, 501 Poli Street, Room 218, Ventura, CA 93001. Applications will be taken on a first come, first served basis through Thursday, April 12, or until spaces are filled.

This year's street fair theme, "Ventura Strong," will showcase handmade arts and crafts by more than 200 artisans and feature children's activities, savory foods and three stages of entertainment. Children and adults with their bicycles and little red wagons are invited to dress up and participate in the Pushem-Pullem Parade, sponsored by the Ventura East Rotary Club. Parade participants will assemble at Cemetery Park at 9 am and parade down Main Street at 9:30 am towards the Street Fair. Sponsorship opportunities are also available. Street Fair information, applications and sponsorship forms can be found at www.cityofventura.ca.gov/streetfair.

CAPS media ECTV crew are stars

Continued from page 11

City Police Chief Ken Corney and Councilmember Erik Nasarenko in the CAPS Media Studio. The production was profiled in an extensive weekend feature article in the VC Star. The interviews are part of ECTV's ongoing series of programs on the Thomas Fire. Throughout the year the students will explore a wide range of stories featuring people impacted by the fire.

The recognition for the ECTV students continue with the crew's unprecedented five nominations as finalists for the Alliance for Community Media WAVE Awards (Western Alliance Video Excellence). Categories include Community Issues, Informational Culture, Informational Lifestyle, Informational Talk Show and Educational Access. The ECTV nominations are part of an impressive twelve nominations for the entire CAPS Media producers. The ECTV and CAPS Media producers are in competition with video producers from across the western United States.

CAPS Media is collaborating with the Ventura City Fire and Police, Ventura County Fire and Sheriff, the Museum of Ventura County, other community agencies on the Thomas Fire Stories Project. The project will feature personal stories of individuals and families whose lives were dramatically changed the night of December 4th and include extraordinary accounts of heroism, sacrifice, tragedy and healing.

CAPS Media is recording interviews with members of the public, fire fighters, first responders, officials and others who want to share their story. Everyone in the community impacted by the fire is invited to contribute to the archive of our common experience. Radio and television interviews will be conducted in Santa Paula, Ventura's Westside, Northside and Ojai. Each interview is expected to last 15-20 minutes and will be conducted by CAPS Media producers. Selected stories will air on CAPS Television and Radio KPPQ 104.1 FM, and stream on capsmedia.org. Visit capsmedia.org to find a convenient day and time to record your story and add it to the museum's historic archive.

CAPS Media has set up an easy process for the public to share stories, photos and video for the historic project. Go to the CAPS Media website homepage (capsmedia.org), on the Thomas Fires Stories image click on the Read More arrow in the lower right corner. The page presents more details on the project and step-by-step instructions on how to contribute photos, video and other media. If you have a story to tell or a tribute or thank you to share, send an email to thomasfirestories@capsmedia.org or call the CAPS Media Center at 658.0500.

CAPS Media's mission is to create an engaged and informed community through participation in electronic media. Join our community of enthusiastic engaged member/producers. To find out more come to orientation on the first Thursday of every month and learn how to become a member of CAPS. Member classes include HD videography/camera class held on the 2nd Thursday, Final Cut postproduction editing class on the 3rd Thursday, and CAPS Radio (KPPQ, FM 104.1) two-part classes on the 4th week. In every training session Member/Producers receive hands-on instruction in videography, video editing, radio production and more. All classes begin at 6pm at the CAPS Media Center, 65 Day Road. Once trained, member/producers may check out CAPS Media's video cameras, tripods, audio gear and other production equipment to record their story and then book postproduction

Yeah! *FREE Coffee Day Again!

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editing suites to craft the story they want to tell. Go to capsmedia.org for information or call 658-0500.

101st year of Girl Scout cookies

Continued from page 12

business ethics. Almost 1 million Girl Scouts nationwide participate in the cookie program each year, generating nearly \$800 million in sales during the average season.

"As girls participate in the iconic Girl Scout Cookie Program, they are part of the largest girl-led entrepreneurial program in the world while learning to take the lead and make an impact in their communities," said Girl Scouts of California's Central Coast CEO Jody Skenderian.

All of the net revenue raised through the Girl Scout Cookie Program—100 percent of it—stays with the local council and troops. This year, girls will sell cookies door-to-door and at booth sales, as well as through Smart Cookie, an innovative and educational web-based app that helps girls run and manage their Girl Scout Cookie businesses online.

To find cookie varieties available along California's Central Coast, visit www.girlscoutcookies.org, the official Girl Scout Cookie Finder app, free on iOS and Android devices.

To join or volunteer, visit www.girlscouts.org/join and www.girlscouts.org/volunteer.

Museum of Ventura County

Continued from page 1

CAPS Media will record interviews with Thomas Fire first responders, officials and the public impacted by the tragedy for inclusion in the documentary project and for broadcast and streaming on CAPS Television and Radio.

To submit a video, go to capsmedia.org and follow the steps outlined to upload video content. To submit a personal story, a tribute or thank you and/or to share digital images, send an email to thomasfire@venturamuseum.org.

"CAPS Media is excited to continue our creative collaborations with the Museum of Ventura County," said Patrick Davidson, executive director, CAPS Media.

The Museum has announce that a \$1

million gift has established the Barbara Barnard Smith Museum of Ventura County Executive Director Fund which will provide permanent and ongoing financial support for the museum's executive director position.

Barbara Barnard Smith is the great-granddaughter of William Dewey Hobson, often called the Father of Ventura County. She established the Fred W. Smith Gallery, named for her father, and in the early 1990s led the creation of an endowment to support the George Stuart Historical Figures.

Barbara has established numerous philanthropic funds, and has received many honors, including the State of Hawai'i Governor's Award for Distinguished Achievement in Culture, Arts, and Humanities in 2008.

"We are excited and extremely grateful for this very generous philanthropic investment by Barbara Barnard Smith. We are so fortunate that she and our community value the museum as an important asset and resource," said Elena Brokaw, the Barbara Barnard Smith Executive Director.

The Museum of Ventura County announces the return of its Wearable Art Fashion Show and has opened its call for entries, with an entry deadline of March 1. "Wearing Our Stories: Rising from the Ashes" focuses on stitching together the stories of courage amid destruction and mending the devastation left behind by the Thomas Fire. The challenge for artists, artisans and community members is to tell their stories through an article of clothing or accessories designed for this wearable art show.

There is a \$15 entry fee or \$20 for two entries. One to three photos of your design will be accepted with each entry. If your piece is not complete, a description and/or sketch of your design is acceptable, or a description and photo of your design in progress. Submissions can be sent by mail or email. Visit <https://venturamuseum.org/upcoming-exhibitions/> to download the submission form and/or prospectus. For more information, please email abermudez@venturamuseum.org.

The fashion show will take place March 30 at the Museum's Smith Pavilion.



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Presidents' Day will be celebrated on Monday, February 19. We will have regularly scheduled trash and recyclables or green waste collection the week of February 18-24 in the Cities of Ventura and Ojai.

Thank you and Happy Holiday
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647-1414



Cornejo was a founding director of the Santa Clara Valley Bank.

Ventura County Fair Board of Directors elects new President, Vice President

The Ventura County Fairgrounds has announced the 2018 Board of Directors elections. Leslie Cornejo will serve a 2 year term as president of the Board and Leah Lacayo has been elected to the position of Vice President. The 2 year terms will include the annual Ventura County Fair and Ventura County Spring Fair.

Cornejo has served as a board member since 2008. She has been owner and manager of Santa Paula Travel Service since 1988. Cornejo was a founding director of the Santa Clara Valley Bank.

Lacayo is serving her 2nd appointment to the Ventura County Fairgrounds Board of Directors. Her first appointment included a term as President in 2005. She also served as Board President in 2014. Lacayo serves on the Board of Directors of California State University Channel Islands Alumni & Friends and is a trustee on the Ventura County Fairgrounds Foundation.



A family business run by Ryan, his wife Davina and his close friends.

A true homegrown and handcrafted company

by Lyvonne Klinger

The DeCants have built the non-profit, Industry Horror from the ground up with a passion for giving people gifted with special needs a place to feel safe and become independent, contributing members of our society. Industry Horror is a small, grass roots, family business run by Ryan, his wife Davina and his close friends for over 7 years.

A true homegrown and handcrafted company Ryan has found a way to evolve his workspace into an environment where he can design and print his work while training and employing a small staff of only special needs people.

He stated "Our goal is to provide awareness and resources as well as encouragement and confidence for the autistic and special needs community. As we face the challenges of trying to grow our non-profit business into a well-known hub for special needs people to participate in a creative environment while learning to become self-supporting to whatever degree they can be, we are confident that with some help from our community we can make this company a place of hope and fulfillment."

He went on to say "I find it very easy to be passionate about life, when feeding

Ventura Strong

on its dreams. It's not so much the hope of mankind that I am worried about, it is the lack of self-reflection and the decline of the pursuit of knowledge. The future is now. And the world is at our finger tips."

They are located at 518 E Main St, Ventura.

CalRecycle is still accepting applications

Continued from page 1
property tax bill.

"This is a public safety issue," said Environmental Health Director, Bill Stratton. "It is imperative to clean these properties so the recovery and rebuilding process can move forward."

The CalRecycle program operates at no direct cost to homeowners. Under the program, properties are cleared down to clean soil and the debris is taken to a landfill. But homeowners must sign up for the program. Almost 700 properties have been approved for the CalRecycle program and approximately 50 properties have already been cleared.

Fire victims who have not yet filed applications for the program are strongly encouraged to do so as soon as possible. CalRecycle is still accepting applications, for areas where the teams have not already completed their work.

The Right-of-Entry forms necessary for the program can be found on the Ventura County Recovers website, the Environmental Health Division at the County Government Center, Ventura City Hall, and the Debris Removal Operations Center (DROC). The DROC is located at 290 Maple Court, Suite 120, Ventura. The County Government Center is at 800 South Victoria Avenue in Ventura.

"We really want people to take advantage of CalRecycle's no-cost program," said Stratton. "But the fact is, every one of these properties must be cleared one way or another."

Offshore drilling opponents march

Continued from page 1

hold. This past January the Department of the Interior released a proposal to sell oil and gas leases in federal U.S. waters, including off the coast of California.

The rally dubbed "Walk to the beach, Hands Across the Sand" started at noon on February 3, 2018 at Ventura City Hall. Speakers heralded the immense dangers to our coastline and the marine life that depends on the sea and shore to survive.

Kimberly Rivers Executive Director of CFROG said "This march is to compel our Federal Government to protect our coast from this crazy plan." CFROG a five-year-old organization was created by a group of residents who saw local oil and gas projects in their areas and, participated in the Ventura County conditional use permit process and, they didn't like what they saw in terms of the county planning process that they believed the city councils involved were "advocating for the oil and gas companies" said Rivers.

About 70-100 people participated in the march and Director Rivers said, "she was pleased with the turnout." "The fact is that Ventura County oil and gas is an integral part of the county economy, but in fact other sectors contribute as much." She added. "We are like a watchdog, watching the regulatory and oversight agencies," said Rivers.

The group is vehemently opposed to the proposed continuation of offshore drilling. The current administrations plan that the federal government has put forward,

potentially opening the entire coast to more leasing and drilling fly's in the face of public sentiment said Rivers.

As the march progressed horns from supporters and some from detractors honked their messages to the demonstrators. The march progressed to the coast near the Ventura Pier where demonstrators formed a line across the sand in protest.

The CFROG organization plans to continue monitoring the regulatory and oversight agencies and will attempt to stop the federal governments plan to open our coastline to more oil and gas drilling. "The risks are just to great." Said Rivers.

City classes

Continued from page 5

Friday Zumba Fitness Party!

16 years- adult

2/23-3/30 F 6:15-7:15pm

\$40 + \$7 drop-in fee #10608

Join us Friday nights for a Zumba dance fitness party. At BVC. Certified Zumba Instructor Linda Skene.

Yoga for Life

16 yo - adult

2/20-3/20 Tu 5:10-6:10pm \$65

#10164

Non-intimidating poses and breathing reduce stress, strengthen the back, improve balance and leave you feeling great. Bring towel, mat and dress comfortably. Instructor is Mary Lincoln.

Saturday Acrylic Painting

15 years- adult

3/3 Sa 11:30am-3:00pm

\$55 + \$10 supply fee #10532

Create your own masterpiece as you learn to paint freely and blend colors with ease. By the end of this workshop, you will have a 16x20 completed acrylic canvas (ready to hang) of the photo or picture of your choice. No sketching or art experience needed. All levels welcome. Bring a non-perishable lunch to enjoy in the park. Instructor is Laura Brooks.

PiYo Live!

18 years – adult

2/26-3/26 M 7-8pm

\$40 or \$76 #10629

PiYo combines the muscle-sculpting, core firming benefits of Pilates with the strength and flexibility advantages of yoga. We crank up the speed to deliver a true fat-burning, low-impact workout that leaves your body looking long, lean and incredibly defined. Bring yoga mat and water. Instructor is PiYo certified Francine Gomez.

Pet First Aid & CPR

18 years – adult

3/3 Sa 9am-1pm \$20 #10522

In an emergency knowing pet first aid can save your pet's life. In this class, you will learn first aid for wounds, heat stroke, broken bones and much more. You will also learn how to perform CPR on a variety of animals. Please leave your dog at home. Seminar led by Registered Veterinary Technician/Certified Professional Dog Trainer Shannon Coyner. Class held at 3521 Arundel Circle #B.

Group Meditation and Mindful Living adult

3/1-4/5 Th 7-8pm \$63 #10507

Learning and practicing silent meditation is easiest when together in a group where energies converge for this single purpose, followed by mindful living tips. In this six-week class, you will be taught a method for mind-body health, be guided in and out of a 15-25 minute silent meditation or use the silent method of your choice and be provided with tips for developing or deepening mindful living in your daily life. Beginners, past students and meditators are welcome. We sit in chairs but you are welcome to bring your mat if that's your preference. Instructor is Kimberly Wulfert, Ph.D Psychologist.



Leslie Wilde, Dena Marlatt, Ann Powers and Breeze staffer Cindy Summers all traveled from Siskiyou County, CA (at the Oregon Border) to Sacramento to take part in the 2018 Women's March. And still took the time to read the Breeze.

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.

Vehicle Burglary and Arrest

On January 29, at approximately 12pm, the Ventura Police Department Command Center received a call of vehicle burglary that just occurred in the 2100 block of Channel Dr. The victim reported seeing the suspect, later identified as 18 year old Ventura resident Ruben Garcia, enter his vehicle and remove property. Garcia was seen fleeing on a skateboard northbound on San Clemente St.

Officers responding to the call saw Garcia several blocks away and detained him. Garcia was positively identified by the victim and arrested. The property that was taken from the victim’s vehicle was found in Garcia’s possession and returned. He was found to have additional items of property in his possession that officers suspected was stolen, but could not locate any victims.

Several minutes prior to receiving the call, an additional call was received of a subject possibly casing in the area of Thompson Blvd. and Catalina St. Garcia matched the description of that subject.

Prowling, Vehicle Tampering, Possession of a Controlled Substance and Resisting Arrest

On January 31, at approximately 5:30am, the Ventura Police Department Command Center received a call from a resident in the 1100 block of Bath Ln. reporting that a subject, later identified as the suspect 38 year old vagrant Dylan Merry, was breaking into a neighbor’s parked vehicle. Merry was described as wearing a beanie, mask and a hooded sweatshirt.

With the description given by the caller, officers arrived on scene and saw Merry walking away from the area and attempting to contact him. Merry began running and officers chased him on foot. After a foot pursuit that ended the next lane over on Montauk Ln., Merry was taken into custody as he attempted to climb a fence of a residence.

During a search, officers found that Merry was in possession of a controlled substance.

Disturbance Arrest

On February 1 at 3:30pm, the Ventura Police Command Center received a call of a disturbance at Buena High School. The caller said that the suspect, 28 year old Ventura County resident Michael Flint, was screaming at passerby’s and making lewd gestures. the caller told dispatchers that Flint was running towards the CVS Drug store across the street from the school. As officers arrived on scene, Flint saw them and attempted to run away. the arriving officers were able to catch Flint in the parking lot of CVS and began their investigation.

As officers began to investigate, they learned that Flint was on the Buena High School campus near the tennis courts and was seen moving bags belonging to students. The students confronted Flint and he took off running towards Victoria crossing the street going towards CVS. While in the parking lot of CVS, Flint started chasing a group of female students who were in the parking lot. In fear of their safety the students ran back to the campus with Flint following them.

Flint was seen by the responding

officers who contacted him. Flint was arrested for child endangerment, vehicle tampering and disrupting presence on a school grounds.

Probation Search Arrests

On February 2 at 7am, Ventura Police Department Street Crimes Unit Detectives conducted a probation search in the 100 block of James Dr after receiving several complaints of possible narcotic sales taking place at this location. One of the residents, 43 year old Ventura resident Victor Leon, is on probation for maintaining a residence for narcotic use.

Detectives located over an ounce and a half of suspected methamphetamine and a half ounce of suspected heroin in 52 year old Ventura resident Jose Leon’s room. Victor Leon was found in possession of narcotic paraphernalia and two bikes that had their serial numbers ground off.

Detectives also contacted two subjects sleeping in a vehicle parked in front of the targeted residence, 29 year old Ventura resident Robert Barreto and 31 year old Oxnard resident Stephanie Baca.

Barreto was found in possession of a switchblade-type knife and possession of a concealed firearm in a vehicle after an unloaded shotgun was located in the back seat where he was sleeping.

Baca was found to have outstanding warrants on narcotic related charges.

Conspiracy to commit a Battery

On February 2, at approximately 8:30pm, the Ventura Police Command Center received a call of a subject with a gun. As officers arrived on-scene they discovered that the victim was walking from his garage to front door of his home when the two suspects approached him asking his name. The victim told them his name and the two suspects, later identified as 40 year old Ventura resident Joseph French and 49 year old Ventura resident James Solis, immediately attacked the victim, punching him in the face. As the suspects battered the victim all three ended up inside the victim’s house. During the attack the victim asked why they were attacking him and one of the suspects yelled at the victim, accusing him of having an affair with his wife.

During the commotion and in fear for her husband’s safety the victim’s wife retrieved a handgun to protect her husband. She fired two rounds at the suspects. Neither of the suspects was struck and both took off running away from the house. The suspects fled the scene in a white pickup truck. A description was broadcast to surrounding Ventura Police units. A Ventura Police Motor unit was in the area and saw the suspect’s truck as it was driving away. Once additional units arrived to assist in stopping the truck, a high risk stop was conducted and the two suspects were detained.

The investigation revealed the two suspect’s conspired to commit a battery on the victim. However during the incident they discovered that the victim was not their intended target and had misidentified him. The victim sustained minor injuries but refused medical treatment.

Registered Sex Offender Compliance Sweep

On February 2 at 8am, officers from multiple allied agencies including the Ventura Police Department, Ventura County Sheriff’s Department, Port Hueneme Police Department, Simi Valley Police Department, FBI, Homeland Security, State Parole, Ventura County



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District Attorney’s Office, Ventura County Probation, and the High-Tech Task Force conducted a citywide compliance check of registered sex offenders.

Officers inspected thirteen locations that resulted in six arrests: Michael Baltazar 23, Felony Violations of Probation, Possession of sexually explicit material, Possession of narcotic paraphernalia. James Call 55, Felony Violation of Probation, Possession of technology devices*. Jack Rickman 51, Felony Violations of Probation. David Floyd 62, Felony Violations of Probation, Possession of sexually explicit material and Possession of ammunition. Edward Rosales 43, Felony Violations of Probation, Possession of sexually explicit material and Possession of technology devices. David Potter 53, Felony Violations of Probation, Possession of sexually explicit material, Possession of technology devices, and Possession of Narcotic Paraphernalia.

All six suspects were later transported and booked into the Ventura County Main Jail.

* A general term to describe any device capable of accessing the internet such as smart phones, tablets, computer systems.

Harbor Patrol Blotter

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

1-29 7:10am, received a report of a attempted break-in at the National Park Service office. Officers responded with VPD and searched for the suspect in the village. An individual fitting the description was questioned by PD. 10:25pm, received report of a disturbance at a unit in the Ventura Harbor Community. Officers responded with VPD and resolved the disagreement. **1-30** 12:45pm, received a dispatch to a medical in the Harbor Village. Officers responded and assisted VFD/AMR with the unconscious patient. 2:05pm, received a report of a female transient disturbing at the Coffee Dock in the village. Officers responded and found local transient screaming. After it

was ascertained there was no emergency, the female was asked to move on.

1-31 2:45pm, while on patrol in Boat 17, officers observed two hazards to navigation, logs in the main channel of the harbor. The hazards were removed.

2-1 10:40am, received a report of a hazard-to-navigation inside the breakwall, two large logs adrift. Officers responded, towed and removed the hazards.

11:00am, providing traffic control with patrol vessels for the dredge H.R. Morris. Dredging of the Harbor Entrance began shortly after the tenders Pup and Cub placed the guide wires and spud for the dredge.

4:29pm, received a dispatch to a fire at 1600 Spinnaker Drive. Officers responded and after a brief search discovered a small fire smoldering in the river bottom in a homeless encampment. Patrol transported two VFD firefighters in the patrol 4 x 4 truck to extinguish the blaze.

2-2 9:30am, received a report of a large hazard-to-navigation about a mile south of the Harbor from a commercial fishing vessel. Officers responded and found a 30ft long telephone pole adrift. It was taken en tow to the launch ramp.

2-3 12:30pm, received a report of blueish/green grease balls washing up on Harbor Cove. After a brief investigation, it was determined from the dredge. Officers assisted Manson employees with picking up the baseball sized blobs. U.S. coast guard investigated the incident.

4:53pm, dispatched to a water rescue at the Ventura pier, kite surfer in distress. Officers responded and assisted VFD/ State Parks with the call.

2-4 5:19pm, while on patrol, officers found a vessel with mechanical failure. The small boat was taken en tow to their slip in VWM D-dock.

9:00pm, received a report of a female transient dressed like a prostitute harassing people in the village. Officers responded and contacted the female. She was convinced to leave the village.

2-5 10:40am, observed heavy fog around the Harbor, less than half mile visibility. Officers activated the fog signal.

2-6 10:20am, dispatched to a residential fire alarm in the keys. Officers responded and assisted Ventura FD with the call.

1:40pm, received a report of a diesel spill near Ventura West marina A-dock. Officers responded and found a light sheen that wasn’t retrievable. No source for the spill was located.



by Pam Baumgardner
VenturaRocks.com

There have been a number of events that have brought our community together over the years but few made as big an impact as the Thomas Fire Benefit Festival did. They were able to raise over \$700,000.00 for victims of the Thomas Fire. One hundred percent of the ticket sales along with a percentage of the food, beverage and t-shirt sales went to the fund. Add to that the fact that day was virtually flawless what with the videos in between acts (produced by Mark Gillard), the speeches, the performances by Olivia Newton-John, Kevin Costner and Modern West, Colbie Caillat and all the others, it was an amazing day that brought us together so we could stand with those who lost everything. Mark Hartley told me that for him the most important aspect of the day was that everyone rose to the occasion to help, from City staff, VPD, the artists performing for free, the sponsors, all those who rolled up their sleeves and got it done, to the people who showed up to support, he confessed that it was a tremendous feeling.

It truly was cathartic and I couldn't love this town more.

And yet another event to help our community heal through music will be held at Mission Park on Sunday, February 25. This one features Grammy-nominated, Perla Batalla; Tom Scott and the LA Express; Grammy-winning artist, Diego Garcia; Ventura Music Festival Artistic Director, Nuvi Mehta as well as other special guests. This family friendly event is absolutely free to the public, no tickets or reservations are necessary and you're invited to bring low profile chairs or blankets to sit on at the park. The concert is expected to run from 3 - 4:30 pm.

I'm looking forward to new music coming from Jade Hendrix, the first single, "Purpose" is set to be released February 15. Hologram Empire has a new album with a June 22 release date. It features other local artists including Danielle Stacy, Lauren Peterson as well as other guest artists; the band had their television debut January 31 on the PBS show, Celebration of Music.

Congratulations to Jon Gindick for pulling off another successful Blues Harmonica Jam Camp at the Pierpont Inn this past week. It was a treat for those who caught a couple of the outings so camp players could perform in front of an audience including gigs at the Hong Kong Inn and a Jam Camp Revue at Grapes and Hops.

Quick notes: Yachtley Crew continues their Thursday night residency at Bombay's through February; Tribal Seeds "Roots Party" with the original Wailers and the Expanders will be at the Ventura Theater, Saturday, February 17; the Young Dubliners return to Ventura for a show at Discovery on Wednesday, February 21; and the Dive Bar Messiahs make their debut appearance at Grapes and Hops on Saturday, February 24, you know it's gonna be a scene!

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.

Music Calendar

For more events go to VenturaRocks.com

- Boatyard Pub**
Ventura Harbor Village
Tuesdays: Jason Ho
Wednesdays: Mark McGinis
Thursdays: Blue Grass Jam
Fri 2/16: Teresa Russell
Sat 2/17: Karen Eden and Bill Macpherson
Sun 2/18: Corsican Brothers
Fri 2/23: Teresa Russell
Sat 2/24: Beach City Sound Club
Sun 2/25: Déjà vu Too
- Bombay Bar & Grill**
143 S. California Street
Thursdays: Yachtley Crew
Friday and Saturdays: DJs
Sun 2/18: The Inside Break; Robert Quindaro
- Café Fiore**
66 S. California Street
(805) 653-1266
Wed 2/14: Donna Butler
Thurs 2/15: Coso Live
Fri 2/16: Instone
Sat 2/17: Red Muffs
Tues 2/20: Bryan McCann
Wed 2/21: Big Adventure
Thurs 2/22: Self Righteous Bros.
Fri 2/23: The Collective
Sat 2/24: Self Righteous Bros.
Tues 2/27: Mari Nobre
- Casa Bella**
391 E. Main Street
(805) 340-1119
Music starts 7 pm
Fridays: Encore
Saturday: Ricky Williams
- Cask Alehouse**
5952 Telegraph Road
Music at 7 pm
Wed 2/14: Jade Hendrix
Sat 2/17: Mason Summit
Sat 2/24: Doc Ventura
- The Cave**
4435 McGrath Street
5:30 - 8:30 pm
Weds & Saturdays: Varon Thomas
Thurs & Fridays: Warren Takahashi
- Copa Cubana**
Ventura Harbor Village
Week nights 6 pm; Weekends 7 pm; Sundays 3 pm
Tuesdays: The Jerry McWorter Trio
Wednesdays: Creative Open Mic Jazz Jam
Saturdays: Havana 5
Fri 2/16: Jazz Express
Sun 2/18: Brandon Ragan
Fri 2/23: Martinez Brothers
Sun 2/25: Karen Eden
- Cork**
1930 E. Main Street
Music 6-8 pm
Wed 2/14: The Swillys
- Dargan's Irish Pub**
593 E. Main Street
Sun 2/18: 4 pm Sunday Drivers
- Discovery**
1888 Thompson Blvd
Thurs 2/15: For Peace Band
Fri 2/16: Coso Franklin
Sat 2/17: Heavy Petty
Sun 2/18: Josh Heinrichs, SkillinJah, The Steppas, White Glove Service
Wed 2/21: Young Dubliners
Thurs 2/22: The Aggrolites
Fri 2/23: Hollywood Stones
Sat 2/24: The Molly Ringwald Project

- El Rey Cantina**
294 E. Main Street
Fridays: Xoco Moraza & Friends
Sat 2/17: Sin Chonies
Sat 2/24: DJ DCMOFO
- Four Brix**
2290 Eastman Avenue
Music 5:30 - 7:30 pm
Fri 2/16: Midlife Crisis
Fri 2/23: Karen Eden & Cary Park
- Garage**
1091 Scandia
Thurs 2/15: Bonnie "Blue" Shay Moulder, Greer, The Book of Abel
Fri 2/16: Spider, The Lungs, Total Massacre
Sat 2/17: Riley Real
Thurs 2/22: All Pigs Must Die, Baptists, In Decline
- Grapes and Hops**
454 E. Main Street
Thurs 2/15: The Groove Lounge
Fri 2/16: The Salty Suites
Sat 2/17: Mojo Monkeys
Sun 2/18: Hot Cuppa Three
Wed 2/21: Durango Songwriters open mic
Fri 2/23: Shawn Jones Trio
Sat 2/24: The Dive Bar Messiahs
Sun 2/25: Alastair Greene & Debbie Davies
- Hong Kong Inn**
435 E. Thompson Blvd
Mondays: Karaoke
Wednesdays: Open mic night w/ Beer Brothers
Thursdays: Gypsy Blues Band
Fri 2/16: Hi Hat Entertainment presents: Dale Peterson Trio
Sat 2/17: RJ Mischo
Fri 2/23: Hi Hat Entertainment presents: Raoul Bhaneja
- Keynote Lounge**
10245 E. Telephone Road
Tues & Wed: Karaoke
Thursdays: Open mic night
Fri 2/16: Black Canyon Band
Sat 2/17: What the Funk
Fri 2/23: Sean Wiggins
Sat 2/24: Cross Cut
- Leashless Brewing**
585 E. Thompson Blvd.
Tuesdays: Galactic Jazz
Thursdays: Live Jazz Jam Sessions
Wed 2/21: The Swillys
- Made West Brewing**
1744 Donlon Street
Thurs 2/15: Sam Kulchin
Sat 2/17: FoxTrax
Sun 2/18: RJ Mischo and his Red-hot Blues Band
Thurs 2/22: Wanderlodge
Sat 2/24: Bad Leaf
Sun 2/25: Sea at Last
- Majestic Ventura Theater**
26 S. Chestnut Street
Sat 2/17: Tribal Seeds
- Margarita Villa**
Ventura Harbor
Fri 2/16: Blown Over
Sat 2/17: Dive Bar Messiahs
Sun 2/18: Living Daylights
- Mission Park**
Next to Museum Downtown Ventura
Sun 2/25: Perla Batalla, Tom Scott and the LA Express, Diego Garcia, Nuvi Mehta
- Museum of Ventura County**
100 E. Main Street
Thursdays 11:30 am: Warren Takahaski
- O'Leary's**
6555 Telephone Road
Wednesdays: Karaoke
Fri 2/16: Karen Eden
Sat 2/24: Live Band Karaoke
- Paddy's**
2 W. Main Street
Wednesdays: Karaoke
Fri & Sat: DJs
- Patio at Players Casino**
Auto Center Drive
Thursdays: Hermano's Herrera Trio
Fri 2/16: Pull the Trigger
Sat 2/17: Carmen & the Renegades
Fri 2/23: Vanisse Terry Band
Sat 2/24: Carmen & the Renegades
- 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
Sat 2/3: Raised on Vinyl
- Rhubline Restaurant**
1510 Anchors Way
Wed 2/14: Karen Eden & Cary Park
- Saloon BBQ**
456 E. Main Street
Fri 2/23: Sin Chonies
- Sandbox Coffeehouse**
204 E. Thompson Blvd
805-641-1025
Thurs 6 pm, Weekends noon
Thursdays Open Mic
Sat 2/17: Tequila Picnic
Sun 2/18: Ashton York
Sat 2/24: DJ Indakut
Sun 2/25: Addison Street
- Sans Souci**
21 S. Chestnut
Sundays: DJ Darko
Mondays: Karaoke
Tuesdays: DJ Nick Dean
Wednesdays: Open mic
Thursdays: DJ Spinobi
- Squashed Grapes**
2351 E. Main Street
Wed 2/14: Eric Harrington
Thurs 2/15: Coda
Fri 2/16: LJ & the Boyz
Sat 2/17: RJ Root with Jim Fox
Tues 2/20: Jazz Jam
Wed 2/21: Dog Fish
Thurs 2/22: Richie Goods and Nuclear Fusion
Fri 2/23: Tony Ybarra & Friends
Sat 2/24: Barrelhouse Wailers
- Star Lounge**
343 E. Main Street
Tues: Karaoke
Thurs: DJ Trolbe
Fri 2/16: Los Locos
Sat 2/17: Pull the Trigger
Fri 2/23: Power Syndicate
Sat 2/24: Whiskey Stone
- The Tavern**
211 E. Santa Clara Street
(805) 643-3264
Sundays: DJ Steezy Steve
Tuesdays: Karaoke
Metal Wednesdays
Get it Right Thursday DJs
Fri 2/16: Soul Infusion
Sat 2/17: Die Evil Die, Ninefinger
Fri 2/23: The Caverns
Sat 2/24: Black Stripes
- Topa Mountain Winery**
821 W. Ojai Avenue, Ojai
(805) 640-1190
Music 3-5 pm
Sat 2/17: Shawn Jones
Sun 2/18: Patricia Avis Trio
Sat 2/24: National Cash
Sun 2/25: Wanderlodge
- Vintura at the Wine Rack**
14 S. California Street
(805) 653-9463
Sundays music at 2 pm
Wed 2/14: Toni Jannotta
Thurs 2/15: Dogfish
Fri 2/16: Jodi Farrell & Jim Rankin
Sat 2/17: Kevin Landen & Friends
Sun 2/18: Epitome of Dreams
Thurs 2/22: Andy D
Fri 2/23: Bushwhackers
Sat 2/24: Déjà vu Too
Sun 2/25: Epitome of Dreams
- Wicked's Brew**
4561 Market Street, Suite C
(805) 275-2334
Thurs 2/22: Vivien Mason & Jimmy Calire
- The 805 Bar**
Ventura Harbor
Music at noon Sat & Sun with Kenny Devoe
Fridays 5-7: Kenny Devoe
Sat 2/17: Carlo
Sat 2/24: Teresa Russell



Oil on canvas by **Robert Wassell**

The past decade was rough on art galleries across the country and Buenaventura Art Association, started 64 years ago in Ventura, is no exception. Red can be beautiful on a canvas, but never on a balance sheet.

Fortunately for this artists' cooperative, the generosity and foresight of its members — both current and past — provide the inspiration and the means to deal with some vital changes. Key to the transformation is that BAA owns its longtime home at Santa Clara and Fir streets in downtown Ventura. It is the legacy of founding Vice President Clophine Dooley, who bequeathed \$400,000 in the late 1980s used for its acquisition. Remaining funds went into a cash reserve that subsidized the nonprofit's operations during the long recent downturn, but that cushion is now gone.

So BAA directors have just listed the building for sale; a portion of the proceeds will be judiciously used to reinvent how the group operates. Toward that goal, the association wants to gather the ideas, suggestions and dreams of all area residents about how it can best serve the needs of the community and art creators. Since inception, it has been a network of imaginative people, not a physical location, that makes BAA what it is.

Meanwhile, exhibits will continue at the downtown gallery, starting with a benefit show by loyal longtime member Robert Wassell.

Through March 10, about 40 of Wassell's oil paintings will be exhibited, with all sale proceeds going to BAA. New works by other association members will fill the remaining wall space. A reception for all of the artists will be 5-7 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 17.

Buenaventura Gallery, 700 E. Santa Clara St., is open 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays. To offer your ideas or help, or for more information, visit the gallery in person or online at www.buenaventuragallery.org or call 648-1235 during gallery hours.



Hawaiian Chieftain by Lorna Amundson. An original watercolor for sale at the Gallery.

Tall ships and sailors are welcomed by the Harbor Village Gallery and Gifts

by The Harbor Gallery artists

Hear ye! Hear ye!! The public is invited to join us. The artists at Harbor Village Gallery and Gifts welcome the sailors of the tall ships The Lady Washington and the Hawaiian Chieftain with special events taking place at the Gallery. The big welcoming party is the first weekend of their arrival on Feb. 17 and 18. On Saturday and Sunday from

12-3pm outside there will be a special kids activity, led by gallery artist Kitty McGinnis, to make a floating sailboat. There will also be live music on Saturday the 17 by the talented duo Ruby Skye.

Meet a sailor in person on Tuesday, February 20 and hear their tales of their voyages at sea at the Sailor's Tea inside the gallery from 12-3pm. The sailors of the ships will enjoy refreshments such as tea and cookies offered at the gallery and donated from Trader Joe's in Ventura and the Coffee Dock at the Harbor. Sailors will also be given a goodies bag of much needed toiletries such as toothpaste, soap and sunscreen all donated and provided by artists from the Gallery. These donations are welcomed by the sailors as their journey from harbor to harbor can be treacherous and taxing. Their stop here at Ventura Harbor is key for them to pick up needed supplies and do any necessary repairs on the ship.

On Tuesday, February 20 The Harbor Gallery and Gifts is also hosting Plein Air artists to setup easels and their artwork. The Plein Air artists will be painting live in the courtyard in front of the Gallery and near the tall ships. We welcome the public to come and watch them paint live and learn a little about the on-site painting process. This event is hosted by our gallery watercolor artist Lorna Amundson.

Throughout this exciting time for us, the Tall Ships and the Ventura

A Conversation with **David Singer**

Sunday, February 25, 3 to 4:30 p.m.
Oxnard's Levity Live at The Collection
591 Collection Blvd.

To learn about David, visit www.SingerClarinet.com

David Singer, clarinetist extraordinaire, has performed at the White House and played with Yo Yo Ma at the Spoleto Festival. He is equally comfortable at Moorpark High School, nurturing and encouraging young musicians. His students feel privileged to work with a true artist who does more than teach technique -- he builds confidence, motivating them to perform at the highest level. Free to FOTM members, \$15 for public; \$10 for seniors.

To RSVP visit www.FocusOnTheMasters.com or call 653.2501.

Join for a celebratory dinner at the Ojai home of Steve Newkirk and Virginia Kron immediately following the Artist Spotlight Interview. Paid reservations are essential and required prior to February 20. We expect this AfterGLOW to sell out.

\$30 FOTM members, \$40 Non-members.



Dorothy Hunter

October 20, 1929 - January 30, 2018

Focus on the Masters mourns the death of extensively documented painter Dorothy Hunter. Often referred to as an abstract artist, Dorothy felt her work should more accurately be called abstract impressionism because the ideas and inspiration came from what she had seen and experienced.

Dorothy had intended to pursue a career in psychology, but marriage and a family altered that course. While rearing four children, she developed a studio practice of painting at night when all was quiet.

Dorothy exhibited in galleries on the East Coast, from Miami to Montreal. Her work was shown in the Corcoran Gallery of Art, the Smithsonian Museum, the Baltimore Museum of Art and the Walters Museum. She was widely collected, and her work was included in the Federal Art in Embassies program.

She came to California in 1984 and joined Studio '83, Buenaventura Art Association, Artist's Union, and Studio Channel Islands. She exhibited at the Carnegie Art Museum and the Museum of Ventura County.

In her later years, she continued to work on small canvasses, with a color palette that changed somewhat after cataract surgery.

Dorothy is survived by her sister, Nancy Roll, and four children; Sandy Hunter, Christie Otranto, Stuart Hunter, Kim Hunter Papaski and their families.



Metta National, (art in the dark) by **Anna Karakalou**, with projection mapping by **Panos Skourtis**.

Vita Art Center will turn the lights out to create a unique experience of art in the dark. Mult-platform artist, Anna Karakalou will be exhibiting a fully immersive show at the Vita Art Center. Incorporating elements of traditional media, projection mapping by Panos Skourtis, digital painting and an introspective soundscape.

The shows previous iterations were seen in Labastide, France, as Efterpi and at the WAV Gallery as Inner National which was, unfortunately postponed to a one night only opening/closing due to the Thomas Fires.

Noting inner connectivity in a dark universe, Anna Karakalou paints colorful mirrors of recognition for us to see ourselves in. The images and portraits mirror the inner-self. The dark projection space of the exhibition map out the connection of the universe of all souls. -Marija Skara (Finnish Press)

Until Feb.23., Vita Art Center, Bell Arts Factory, 432 N. Ventura Ave.



Harbor we are also offering a special coupon deal 10% off any single item in our Gallery from the time of the arrival of the tall ships on February 13, till their departure on March 5. Plus, the gallery will be filled with maritime and tall ship related art.

Lastly as a non-profit association that supports local artists and art related events like this in our community, throughout the month of February for a \$1 donation you can post a heart on our wall in honor of someone you love or to show your love for art. Hearts for Art are available at the front desk of the Gallery.

For more information about these events call 633-2750 or visit us on Instagram or Facebook at Harbor Village Gallery and Gifts or on the web at Buenaventuragallery.org.

Sign Up Now - Don't Miss The Fun! Pastel class! Feb.24, 1:30-4:30 We will be doing a lovely koi painting. It is so much fun. Tasia is a great teacher too. Cost is \$57.00 including materials. This is the first pastel class for 2018. Tasia guides you from the beginning to the end and you leave the class with a painting created by you!

Email vcartscollective@gmail.com Or call to reserve a spot at 676-1540. Only 8 spots. Email vcartscollective@gmail.com.

The Arts Collective Studio <vcartscollective@gmail.com>

Pacific View Mall - 2nd Floor next to Sears
The Arts Collective Studio is an initiative of the Ventura County Arts Council

The Arts Collective Studio is made possible, in part, through a grant from the City of San Buenaventura's Parks, Recreation and Community Partnerships Department.

Lighter Breeze

Mother Goose and Grimm



Beetle Bailey



Hi and Lois



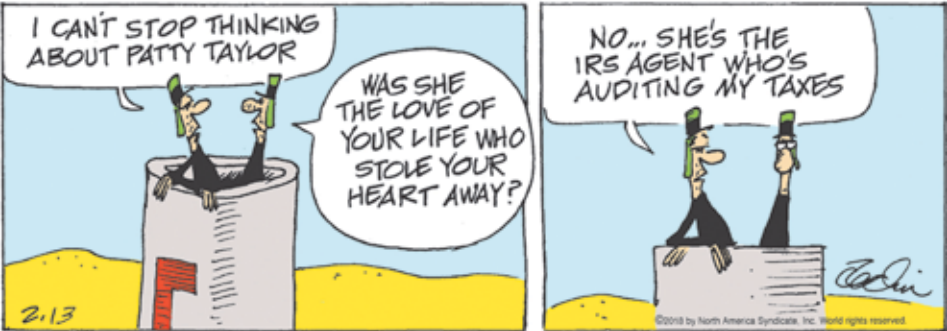
Hagar the Horrible



Barney Google and Snuffy Smith



Crock



Solutions on page 23

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

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

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 23

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Greek consonant
4 Cold War weapon
8 2000 election scrap
12 Fool
13 Law office worker, for short
14 "Les Miserables" author
15 Accelerator
17 Quite excited
18 Tidy (up)
19 Altar affirmative
21 Vanna's cohort
22 Flame from a burner
26 Impersonator
29 Whatever amount
30 Timetable abbr.
31 "American —"
32 Golfer Ernie
33 Bivouac structure
34 Fresh
35 Individual
36 Emanations
37 Big talker
39 Morsel
40 Playwright
41 Strong points
45 Not up and about

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15				16					17			
18							19	20				
				21			22			23	24	25
26	27	28				29				30		
31					32				33			
34				35				36				
37				38			39					
				40			41			42	43	44
45	46	47				48	49					
50						51				52		
53						54				55		

DOWN

- 1 Labels
2 Pronto
3 Beatles' —
4 Poison antidote, maybe

- 5 West Point newbie
6 Top supporter
7 Slanders
8 Utter disorder
9 Embrace
10 Past
11 Pooch
16 Student
20 Rotation duration
23 Scoff
24 Sicilian spouter
25 Makes lace
26 Chinese dynasty
27 Notion
28 Neatens the lawn
29 Microbrewery product
32 Betrothed
33 Rwandan tribe
35 Scull tool
36 Grocery areas
38 Hen
39 — profundo
42 "Zounds!"
43 From one end to t'other
44 Branch
45 Carte lead-in
46 Acknowledge applause
47 Listener
49 Foreman foe

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wrong.
LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Your loyalty to a friend in a tough situation earns you respect from people you care about. Those who criticize you don't understand what friendship is all about.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Stop being the wool-gathering Lamb, and start turning that dream project into reality. You have the ideas, the drive and the charisma to persuade others to follow your lead. So do it.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You've scored some big successes. But remember that all hardworking Ferdinands and Ferdinandas need some time to restore their energies and refresh their spirits.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You're gaining a stronger mental image of what you're trying to achieve. Now look for the facts that will help get this to develop from a concept into a solid proposal.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Some of you eager-to-please Moon Children might want to delay some decisions until midweek, when you can again think more with your head than your heart.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) A new business venture seems to offer everything you've been looking for. But be careful that that rosy picture doesn't betray traces of red ink under the surface.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A volatile situation needs the kind of thoughtful and considerate care you can provide right now. There'll be plenty of time later to analyze what might have gone

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Your strong work ethic is rewarded with the kind of challenging opportunity you love to tackle. Now, go ahead and celebrate with family and/or close friends.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A legal matter you thought had been finally resolved could require a second look. But don't make any moves without consulting your lawyer.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Taking charge is what you like to do, and since you do it so well, expect to be asked to lead a special group. This could open an exciting new vista for you.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) An important matter might wind up being entrusted to you for handling. The responsibility is heavy, but you'll have support from people able and eager to help.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) A spouse or partner might make an important, even life-changing, suggestion. Consider it carefully. It could hold some of the answers you've both been looking for.

BORN THIS WEEK: You always try to do the right thing, and for the right reasons. No wonder people have come to depend on you.

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Show Time

The Post



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

by Manuel Reynoso

The Post is a 2017 American historical drama directed and produced by Steven Spielberg and written by Liz Hannah and Josh Singer. Starring Meryl Streep as Katharine Graham and Tom Hanks as Ben Bradlee. *The Post* depicts the true story of the Washington Post’s involvement with the leaked Pentagon papers, highly classified documents detailing the United States’ difficulty to end the Vietnam War.

Historical Dramas tend to be an easy sale for me. They are almost always relevant to the times, while also being pretty entertaining. To *The Post*’s credit, all that applies to it as well, but I do find it to be a little too predictable. Now, predictability has always felt like a loaded complaint to me. The very nature of screenplay writing itself is very formulaic, but there’s still enough creative freedom to subvert expectations, which is what I felt *The Post* failed to do. So while *The Post* had fantastic acting and great subject matter, I found myself not as engaged as I would have liked.

Tom Hanks and Meryl Streep’s performances were great, there is no doubt about that. However, I do think their performances were almost squandered on poorly fleshed out characters. Ben Bradlee is almost a caricature of the romanticized newspaper editor, and the amount of time dedicated to Katharine Graham’s social life was just not engaging more me. While it helps fleshed out the stakes that she faced during this time, I couldn’t find enough interest in it to justify the time spent on it. It felt almost outside the main story at times, and I do believe a lot of it could have been cut out for time spent on more engaging story beats.

While the personal narratives of these characters wasn’t engaging, every scene involving the Washington Post and the investigation into the Vietnam War documents completely engrossed me. The journalists and writers operating together as a single unit felt like a character itself. I felt the character development was best shown through Washington Post itself as an organization, more so than with Tom Hanks and Meryl Streep. It was absolutely a story more about the group than the individual, and I wish there would have been more time spent on the men and women who made this newspaper possible.

With a bit more focus on the Washington Post’s involvement in the investigation, I felt *The Post* would have better exemplified the importance of an independent newspaper. Every bit of the subject matter felt as relevant today as it did back then. The actual story *The Post* illustrates is where the film wins me over. A story of government corruption and questionable war motives and how media can provide a check against it is really the kind of story we can learn from right now. While It has its problems, the overall story is definitely worth the watch. PG-13 1h56m

A View from House Seats

Visions in Chiffon Float at Camarillo Playhouse

by Shirley Lorraine

Camarillo’s Skyway Playhouse opens their 2018 season with *Five Women Wearing the Same Dress* by Alan Ball. Set in 1993 Knoxville, Tennessee in a bedroom of the bride’s home, the five bridesmaids use the room as a preparation area, a hide-out, a refuge and a place of self-discovery. They all must endure the matching ensembles with shoes and hat to match in their own way.

The play features five quite different women who have all consented to be a bridesmaid to a bride for whom most of them hold a measure of disdain but have their own reasons for saying yes. For any woman who has been through the bridesmaid gauntlet of matching gowns that only look good on one person, never all, the empathy is palpable. And hysterical.

Directed by Brian Robert Harris, the rapid pace keeps the action moving swiftly as the women seek refuge from the over-the-top reception going on in the garden. Harris has certainly chosen his cast well. Each actor is perfectly suited to her role, adding both subtle and not-so-subtle nuances to differentiate them even beyond the well written script.

The bride, Tracy, and groom, Scott, are discussed in depth but never seen. The outrageous ceremony is raked over the coals, each from a different perspective which heightens the amusement. The disparity in the well-defined characters results in almost continual enjoyment.

Kelly Whitaker plays Trisha, a former friend of the bride who has a “tainted” reputation to uphold with pride. Whitaker delivers a smooth performance with layers of depth.

Sarah Boughton portrays the mousy character of Frances with precision. A cousin of the bride, Frances brings her overt religious beliefs to the front, to the delight of all.

Meredith, the bride’s pot-smoking younger sister, displays her rebellious and angry nature in the form of actor Maddie Boyd with precision.

Kelsey Klinghoffer gives the role of Georgeanne, a well-rounded performance that accents her standing as an insecure former friend who really wonders why she was chosen to be a bridesmaid in the first place.

Completing the five is Julie Fergus as Mindy, the lesbian sister of the groom. She gives a solid, pragmatic performance that levels out the other four nicely.

All five deliver compelling performances. They are all so different, yet find commonalities they can work with.

Near the very end, David White appears as Tripp (the only male in the cast), an usher who hits it off with Trisha. Although the role is minor, White sparkles in its brevity.

The production is rated PG due to strong language and some themes that are discussed. Despite the abundance of explicatives, the language is woven into the characters so well that it fits rather

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The door to your dreams hinges on me!

than detracts and does not reduce the humor of the piece in the least. In places, it even adds to the characterizations. Kudos to Harris, the cast and crew. It was an evening well spent.

Five Women Wearing the Same Dress continues through March 4 at the Camarillo Skyway Playhouse, 330 Skyway Drive near the Camarillo airport. Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$15 for seniors, students and military. Not recommended for younger children. Contact the box office at www.boxoffice@skywayplayhouse.org or call (805) 388-5716. Season subscriptions are available. Curtain is 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, 2 p.m. on Sundays. Note: added performance on Thursday, February 22 and no performance on Saturday, Feb. 24.



Restaurant Review

The Sushi House

by Jennifer Tipton

Living here in our little seaside town we have many sushi restaurants accessible to us, but at this location The Sushi House brings more to the table than just great food.

Located at 1127 S. Seaward Avenue, this modest little eatery is just a short walk to the beach. Along with the customary sushi bar and tables inside, there are two outdoor patios. The back patio is only set up for seating when a private party is scheduled and can accommodate 28 guests.

The large menu includes a full page of appetizers such as an Avocado Bomb, Baked Mussels or “Ganja” which consists of a savory mix of minced garlic, jalapeno and spicy tuna wrapped in a Japanese mint leaf, then dipped in tempura and served with a garlic jalapeno sauce - (bring breath mints).

Prices range from \$5 - \$13.

The next page is devoted to salads and extras. One can choose from the traditional house salad with a house made dressing or for the more adventuresome there’s the Anacapa Tako and Eel Salad which contains marinated octopus.

Prices range \$6 - \$15.

Extras include Wasabi root imported from Japan for \$3.

Next is an entire page for special rolls with resident names like “Pierpont”, “Surfer’s Point” and “Rincon”. Prices



2/18: HEAVY PETTY
A FREE CONCERT FOR THE COMMUNITY
2/18: JOSH HEINRICH
2/21: YOUNG DUBLINERS
2/22: THE AGGROLITES W/SLIGHTLY STOOPID HORNS
2/23: HOLLYWOOD STONES: TRIBUTE TO ROLLING STONES
2/24: THE MOLLY RINGWALD PROJECT
3/4: SPAWNBREEZIE
3/8: TOMORROWS BAD SEEDS
3/9: THE CRYSTAL METHOD
2/24: THE MOLLY RINGWALD PROJECT



TRIBUTE TO THE ROLLING STONES
HOLLYWOOD STONES
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23RD



YOUNG DUBLINERS
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21ST



FRIDAY, MARCH 9TH
THE CRYSTAL METHOD



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\$13 - \$17.

Then come more specialties! A full page of them at \$8 - \$16.

The page for entrees includes a dish called “Japanese Dynamite” made with lobster and scallops, several noodle dishes and combination bowls for \$8 - \$16.

Lastly the Bento Sushi and Sashimi page. The Bento Box Combo is served with soup, salad, rice, 4 pieces California roll – plus two more choices! This one is nice because you can do the lunch or dinner portion. Other selections are the Premium Sushi Dinner at \$21 and the Tsunami Sashimi at \$24.

“We” had the Bento Sushi Box lunch at \$11 each.

The food was excellent and the service outstanding - extra napkins showed up and drinks were freshened up without asking. The Sushi House is dog friendly and there are heaters in the patio for when it’s chilly. Parking at the end of Seaward can be a challenge but we both had no problem.

Good food, nice ambiance and a walk on the beach – doesn’t get much better than that.

Open for lunch and dinner Sun.-Tue. 12-3pm and 5-9pm and Wed.-Sat. 12-3pm and 5-10pm .

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The program builds healthy children and communities.

Kids from the Harmony Project dedicate concert to first responders and victims of Thomas Fire

The student musicians in the Harmony Project of Ventura dedicated their performance during First Friday on February 2, at the Bell Arts Factory to the victims of the Thomas Fire, and to the first responders and firefighters who bravely aided in battling this devastation.

“Most of the kids in our program and their families were impacted in some way by the Thomas Fire, and they feel a personal sense of gratitude towards first responders, and empathy to the many families who were displaced or lost their homes,” said Anne Case, director of New West Symphony Harmony Project of Ventura County. “Our kids want to share their music with the community, and they want to extend a special invitation

to people directly impacted by the fire.” The students also made personal cards and posters promoting Friday’s concert.

“Music has always been a healing and soothing part of our lives, and it is our hope that this concert can both support the victims who were affected by this tragedy, and honor the responders for their heroic efforts,” said Natalia Staneva, executive director of the New West Symphony.

Harmony Project of Ventura County is a tuition-free after school music program of the New West Symphony. The program builds healthy children and communities by providing instruments, after-school music instruction and mentorship to families who would otherwise not be able to afford it. Classes are taught by professional musicians who actively perform, compose, record, and collaborate throughout Southern California. They act as mentors to our students, holding them to high standards and fully embodying the mission and values of Harmony Project.

Founded in 1995, the New West Symphony is a professional orchestra that draws its players from the rich talent pool of professional Los Angeles-area musicians. The Symphony is the resident company of the Thousand Oaks Civic Arts Plaza and the Oxnard Performing Arts Center. It presents six Masterpiece Series concerts annually, and provides a number of educational opportunities for local youth through its annual Symphonic Adventures concerts, its traveling Music Van, and the Harmony Project of Ventura County. For information go to newwestsymphony.org and follow on Facebook www.facebook.com/newwestsymphony.

Youth



Anna Sorensen, James Lockwood and Jorja Garcia at 2017 poster award presentation.

Ventura County Fair announces Poster Contest for County Youth

The Ventura County Fair has announced that the 9th annual Fair poster contest will be held for the 2018 Ventura County Fair. The contest is open to young artists in grades 5 - 12 who reside in Ventura County.

The theme of the 2018 Fair is “A Country Fair with Ocean Air” and will serve as the guideline to the imagery.

Artwork may be created in any medium but may not include the use of glitter, metallic paint, or 3 dimensional objects attached to the artwork.

Poster designs will be judged on Theme, Originality, Composition and Skill. Entries will be accepted until the entry deadline, Friday, April 6. Entries can be brought to the Fairgrounds administration office at 10 W. Harbor Blvd. in Ventura. Office hours are Monday through Friday from 8AM until 5PM. (Closed from 12-1PM daily)

Rules, deadlines and other in-

formation can be found on the Fair website, www.venturacountyfair.org. For more information about the contest call 648-3376 or send an email to info@venturacountyfair.org. (Please put “Poster Contest” in the subject line)

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

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

The Ventura County Fair will begin its annual 12-day run Wednesday, August 1 and continue until Sunday, August 12.

For more information about the Fair, or the poster contest, please call the Ventura County Fairgrounds at 648-3376 or visit www.venturacountyfair.org.



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