

See pages 10 & 11 for winning candidates



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One day the Ventura Botanical Gardens will again look like this.

Misconceptions about the Ventura Botanical Gardens

by Barbara Brown

Ventura Botanical Gardens, President
www.venturabotanicalgardens.com

Over the last few weeks since the Merewether Welcome Center opened, we've heard some misconceptions about the Gardens. Most of them come in the form of questions, so we thought we'd share them here:

Isn't this public land?

In 2012, VBG built the first garden pathway and installed the first plants on brushy slopes that previously had no access. In 2015, VBG was granted a long-term lease for the land and took on the challenge of building and maintaining it through private funding, grants and donations. Part of our long term general plan included paid admission. Many cities opt to engage in public/private partnerships when they do

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Ventura takes great pride in supporting our local arts community.

The Mayor's Arts Awards

On Nov. 8 the Mayor's Arts Awards were held at the Museum of Ventura County before an enthusiastic audience of several hundred. The Mayor's Arts Awards is a collaboration of the City

Manager's Office and Parks, Recreation & Community Partnerships Department. It recognizes those who have made a significant contribution to the arts in

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J.D. and Amber Drury honored at "Havana Nights."

An evening of good food, people and conversation

On Nov. 10, the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Ventura held 51st Annual Great Futures Gala & Auction.

"Havana Nights," at the Four Points Sheraton celebrating 80 years of serving local youth.

The evening included good food,

good people, and good conversation, all for a good cause! Supporting your community's youth! A cocktail reception of champagne, hors d'oeuvres and a spectacular Silent Auction was held before heading into the ballroom where even

Continued on page 21



"Yes, I can hear you just fine."

A scam warning from the Ventura Police

In the wake of critical incidents in Ventura County the Ventura Police Department encourages residents to be aware of scams that often follow disasters. The scammers often play on the emotions of people especially during major incidents.

If you are asked to make a charitable donation, please consider these tips: Donate to charities you know and trust. Be alert for charities that seem to have sprung up overnight.

Do not give out personal or financial information including your credit card or bank account number unless you know the charity is reputable.

Never send cash by mail.

Be suspicious of random calls requesting a donation.

Be cautious about clicking on links in emails requesting a donation.

Check out a charity before you donate by contacting the Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance at 703-276-0100 or at website www.give.org

The community is also advised to be aware of additional phone scams that have impacted residents:

IRS Scam: The scammer says money is owed and must be paid immediately by phone.

Edison/Gas Scam: The scammer says money is owed and if not paid immediately the service will be turned off.

Jury Duty Scam: The scammer says money is owed for not showing up to jury duty and if not paid jail time will occur.

"Can You Hear Me" Scam: Scammers are calling victims hoping to get them to

Continued on page 2

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Comē celebrate our 15th Anniversary with us!

City News

City of Ventura seeks input on short-term vacation rentals

The City of Ventura is seeking community input on the regulation and enforcement of short-term vacation rentals (STVR) in Ventura through an online survey at <https://www.city-ofventura.ca.gov/172/Short-Term-Vacation-Rentals>. The input will inform staff recommendations that will be presented to the City Council early next year. The survey is open now through November 27, 2018.

Short-term vacation rentals are residential units that are rented for less than 30 consecutive days. These units are currently allowed in the City with a permit and consistent with existing regulations. The City may consider amendments to the existing regulations and enforcement.

Before taking the survey, community members are encouraged to review the STVR information on the City's website that includes the Municipal Code, performance standards, how to report violations, and other various materials at <https://www.cityofventura.ca.gov/172/Short-Term-Vacation-Rentals>. Community feedback from previous public meetings is also on the website. For questions please call the Business License Office at (805) 658-4715.

The Ventura City Council directed staff to engage various stakeholders and the community to review and consider possible changes to the short-term vacation rental ordinance and related policies.

A scam warning from the VPD
Continued from page 1
say the word "yes" during the conversation that's being recorded. The scammer will later use the recording of the victim saying yes to authorize unwanted charges on the victim's utility or credit card account.

Text Message Phishing Scam: Scammers are using a new texting scam and spoofing banks' phone numbers and sending text messages to customers. A spoofed phone number hides the actual number the text is coming from and displays a number from a trusted source, like your bank. The text claims that your debit card has been used to make a purchase and if you do not recognize the transaction, you need to call their fraud prevention helpline. A phone number is provided for you to call. Because the incoming text looks like it's from your bank, people are falling for this. If you do call the number provided in the text, the fraudster will answer the phone. They will then ask you to confirm your sensitive banking details. This would allow the scammer to steal money from your account.

Grandparent Scam: A scammer poses as a grandchild and claims to be in jail and in need of money for bail. These imposters claim they are in another state or out of the country and need money wired to help bail them out of jail.

The community is urged to be vigilant and aware of these scams to avoid falling victim. Never follow directions from someone on the phone that requests personal information or money. Please report phone and computer scams to the Federal Trade Commission at 1-877-FTC-HELP or visit ftc.gov/complaint.

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Thursday, November 29th – 6 PM

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Location for Women with Low Thyroid:
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Location for Autoimmune Conditions:
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Limited Seating. May bring guests. Adults only.

Presentation by Tiffany N. Caplan DC, Board Certified in Integrative Medicine by the American Association of Integrative Medicine, Certified Functional Medicine Practitioner and Active Member of the Institute for Functional Medicine

The power of prayer fills the Ventura Family YMCA community room. IBF International Welterweight Champion, Chris Van Heerden, shared his stories of overcoming obstacles with the help of divine intervention and prayers answered.

The Ventura family YMCA began their annual Community Prayer Breakfast with songs of praise from Swoop Brown with Armed and Faithful, energizing the early morning crowd. With eyes closed, and hearts opened some shed tears as a sense of hope filled the room.

Ventura BREEZE

www.venturabreeze.com

Your Hometown Paper



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City News



Casa de Soria

by Jennifer Tipton

Located at 1961 East Thompson Blvd., Casa de Soria has been spicing up Ventura since 1958, that's 60 years of traditional Mexican cuisine! Originally owned by the Soria family, the restaurant has since changed hands, but the location remains the same. Until four years ago, the restaurant was quite small, but likely because the place was always packed with hungry patrons waiting to be seated, they expanded. The restaurant's new addition joins the original and the décor is festive, complete with pinatas and sombreros. A large dining area holding many booths and tables covered with brightly colored tablecloths joins the original part of Casa that also got a facelift with all new booths and tables. A large enclosed patio seating about 100 hosts an open bar on Friday and Saturday nights and is available for private parties. The outside patio welcomes dog friendly diners and there's now an adjoining parking area.

Our server, Roberto started us off with homemade tortilla chips, served warm along with fresh sweet and spicy salsa. The menu begins with a full page of Cantina selections offering a variety of margaritas. I had the Skinny Margarita made with Patron Tequila, Agave Nectar, fresh limes and oranges, so tasty, you would never guess it's less than 125 calories! Imported beer and wine selections offered as well.

Menu specialties include a Taco Salad with choice of chicken, beef or shrimp, served with the house creamy cilantro dressing made with ranch, guacamole, cilantro and squeeze of an orange, or chicken enchiladas with a homemade mole sauce. All served with rice and beans. \$9.95 - \$14.95

Selections such as Carne Jalisco, a grilled steak with grilled tomato, onion, bell pepper and topped with jack cheese, or the Pollo De Baja, a half marinated grilled chicken are served with rice and beans and soup or salad for \$11.95 - \$17.95.

Seafood selections include Salmon topped with mango or pineapple salsa, served with rice, sliced avocado and sautéed veggies and with choices like Lobster and Crab Enchiladas or Ceviche tostadas, it's every pescatarian's dream at \$13.95 - \$16.95.

Traditional side orders such as Albondiga Soup and Menudo with homemade tortillas are \$6.50 - \$11.50.

Combination Dinners present selections such as a chile relleno (allowing you to choose from a pasilla chile stuffed with cotija cheese or an Ortega chile stuffed with jack cheese) and of course, crispy tacos, tamales,

enchiladas, tostadas, burritos and taquitos – all served with rice and beans, add soup or salad for \$1.99.

One item combo \$10.95, Two item combo \$12.95, Three item combo \$14.95

The Enchiladas Suizas did not disappoint, the sweet and smoky flavor was as remarkable as the presentation!

Be sure to save room for desserts like Deep Fried Ice Cream, Gourmet Flan or Churros for \$3 - \$4.95.

Casa De Soria is open 11am to 9pm daily. Reservations not required and although there are no deliveries, orders can be placed to go. Lunch Specials are quite a deal at \$10.95 (dine in only).

For more information visit: casa desoria.com

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VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

Member, Ventura Chamber of Commerce

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

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Greek
philosophers'
liar's paradox
"I always tell
lies," a man
says. Is he lying
or telling the
truth?

Opinion/Editorial



Sheldon (Governor) Brown
Publisher-Editor

■ I think selecting **city council members** by district for the first time was a huge success and accomplished exactly what was intended. Ventura moved to district elections in response to threatened litigation that the current at-large voting system disenfranchised minority voters. The new council will have 4 four female members (out of seven) - two of which are minorities. Lorrie Brown is African American and Sofia Rubalcava is Mexican They will be sworn in on Dec. 10.

Congratulations to the new and returning city council and school board members. I think all of the candidates ran professional campaigns and explained their positions very well.

We also have a new City Manager. Hopefully, the new leaders will bring some interesting ideas and new creative thinking to address some of the challenges facing Ventura. I hope that opening of **marijuana** businesses is addressed because Ventura is losing a large amount of tax dollars, and Venturan's who use medical marijuana are still buying it in adjacent cities.

The **homeless** situation in Ventura (and every other city) remains an on-going problem. A lot of progress is being made to address this issue, and I hope the new City Council continues on this path. Neal Andrews was a big advocate for the homeless, so I hope another council member continues what he has started.

I want to personally thank the exiting City Council members **Neal Andrews, Jim Monahan and Mike Tracy** for their contributions to Ventura and the many hours (for perhaps \$2-3 dollars per hour) that they gave serving Ventura. A rather thankless job for the pay and abuse that they endure at times.. I'll miss Mike's sense of humor that he brought to the council. Who would have thought that an ex police chief could be so funny?

These are the email addresses of the new City Council members. All city employee emails include their first initials and last names @cityofventura.net. enasarenko@cityofventura.net;

cheitmann@cityofventura.net;
mlavere@cityofventura.net;
cweir@cityofventura.net;
srubalcava@cityofventura.net;
jfriedman@cityofventura.net;
lbrown@cityofventura.net;

■ When the **Thomas Fire** started in Santa Paula (it should have been called the Santa Fire, but that might have upset little kids) we couldn't imagine that it might end up here. And, when people living in Malibu heard of a fire starting in Oak Park, they thought that was in another country way on the other side of the freeway.

But with the combination of very dry conditions and high winds, fires, as we now know, can spread very quickly. Many people, including me, were upset because there was not enough water to fight the Thomas Fire. But, watching the recent fires convinced me that even with adequate water Ventura would still have lost hundreds of homes.

There was adequate water to fight the recent fires, but thousands of homes were lost and perhaps hundreds of folks lost their lives.

Another huge concern is what will happen to Pacific Gas & Electric and Southern California Edison as they face billions of dollars in potential law suits. What if they declare bankruptcy and there is no power. Could that happen?

Our Dec. 6 issue will focus on the Thomas Fire. If you have anything that you would like to share after a year has passed, I would love to hear from you. Please send to editor@venturabreeze.com.

■ There seems to be a lot of **angry people** these days. Maybe there always have been, but social media is allowing them to display their anger to large audiences. Much of the commentary is based upon misinformation that soon becomes the truth.

■ The new \$2 million+ **McLaren Speedtail** auto isn't street legal in California. This is okay with me, because I just plan to keep the one I just bought parked in my living room (might just make it into a bar).

■ If you thought that California didn't have enough laws, our State Legislature agrees with you. They passed 1,016 new laws in 2018 - some of which are so

innocuous, they are funny and useless.

■ I won't be commenting (much) further on national politics. I will just quote from other sources, like the following.

"Top White House adviser Kellyanne Conway on Sunday said President Donald Trump has met several times over the last year with Matt Whitaker, contradicting the president's claim last week that he "didn't know" the newly appointed acting attorney general.

"I don't know Matt Whitaker," Trump told reporters on the White House lawn Friday. "Matt Whitaker worked for Jeff Sessions and he was extremely highly thought of and he still is. But I didn't know Matt Whitaker."

But that's not what Trump told "Fox & Friends" last month.

"I can tell you Matt Whitaker's a great guy," the President told the hosts of his favorite cable news program. "I mean, I know Matt Whitaker."

As always, if you **disagree** or want to add comments, the Breeze welcomes (and encourages) you to submit these to opinions@venturabreeze.com.

■ On the 2006 SAT test, only 15% of the students wrote their essay answers in **cursive**.

A 2008 nationwide survey found elementary school teachers lacking formal training in teaching handwriting to students. Only 12% of teachers reported having taken a course in how to teach it.

In 2012, Indiana and Hawaii announced that their schools will no longer be required to teach cursive (but will still be permitted to), and instead will be required to teach "keyboard proficiency".

In a recent study which compared scores of students who took notes by hand compared to laptop computers, it showed that students who took notes by hand showed advantages in both factual and conceptual learning. Another study showed that children showed an acceleration in learning new words when they wrote them by hand rather than on a computer screen

"Mom; "Grandma sent me a letter could you read it to me?"

"Dad; I need to study the Constitution will you read it to me."

Mailbox

Dear Sheldon,

Are playing you devil's advocate by placing those pro-Trump letters in the Breeze today? I'll only refute one point in Ms Smith's letter; the one about Trump not needing money. He's raking in the dough at his properties, including Mar-a-Lago, which Trump calls the "Winter White House," (which has doubled its membership fee to \$200,000), and Trump International Hotel, (whose managers market it as a destination for diplomats, has raised room rates almost 60 percent).

In amounts large and small, Trump takes in money from political allies, and from the government he leads.

The Republican National Committee rents space in Trump Tower. So does the Pentagon. So does China's largest bank.

The government of Qatar this spring paid \$6.5 million for an apartment in Trump World Tower — joining the governments of Saudi Arabia, India and Afghanistan there.

Trump businesses overseas have gotten foreign government help, too.

China's government is reportedly lending \$500 million for a Trump-linked development project in Indonesia. China has also approved dozens of trademarks for Trump family businesses since he won the presidency.

In two "emoluments clauses," the Constitution forbids the president from taking money from individual states or from foreign governments

Responding to those restrictions, the Trump organization has pledged to donate profits derived from foreign entities to the U.S. Treasury. In 2017, that donation was \$151,000 — less than one-half of 1 percent of the \$40 million in hotel income the president reported.

A federal lawsuit filed by Democratic members of Congress and one filed by the governments of Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia accuse the president of violating the emoluments clauses.

While those cases await trial, the power of the presidency remains a major financial asset for Trump.

"The stars have all aligned," Eric Trump said last year. "I think our brand

is hotter than it's ever been."

Much of this was lifted from an article that I read on CNBC.

Carol Spector

Carol:

Not playing devil's advocate. Our readers have the same right to express their views as I have. Some folks don't think that I should have the right.

Sheldon

Breeze:

I decided to run for the Ventura School Board for a few reasons which I was able to bring light to and talk about in open public forums and hopefully get the attention of those parents and elected officials to act on them.

I ran because of social justice issues which affect our community, explicitly kids who are falling under the radar.

Continued on page 22

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

City News



WE'RE HAVING A CONTEST

Who is this a photo of (hint, he has something to do with the Ventura Breeze)? First (maybe even second) correct answer receives 2 tickets to the Pompeii exhibit at the Reagan Library. Answer to editor@venturabreeze.com.

You Are Invited!!

Ventura Townehouse will host
the VENTURA POLICE
& their K-9 DOG DEMONSTRATION!

Family and the Public are invited.

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Thursday, November 29, 2018 @ 2:00 pm
Please RSVP as seats will be limited.

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Two fires in West Ventura within minutes of each other

The first fire involved a vagrant encampment adjacent to the Emma Wood group camp. The area of the fire was nestled deep into a clearing, surrounded by Arundel and local fauna, close to the river mouth.

A second fire broke out shortly thereafter in the vicinity of Foster Park that started at approximately 10:34am. The second fire was larger and moving uphill and was initially reported as being started accidentally by heavy equipment on the property. A total of 22 apparatus including

engines, aircraft, and hand crews were part of the initial dispatch in attempt to quickly contain the blaze. The fire was reported to be an acre in size and was under the command of the Ventura County Fire Department, with Ventura City Fire units also assigned. An aggressive initial attack of the fire was successful in keeping the fire to a minimum.

The Ventura River fire involved an area approximately 100X100 feet. A total of 16 personnel were assigned; providing water shuttles and establishing significant hose lays deep into the river bottom to fully extinguish the fire. The incident is under investigation as being purposefully set, and the situation is being handled by law enforcement.

Both fires were fully controlled as of 1:00pm.

This 'n' That



Waste in American increases between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day.

Sustainability Now News

Tips for a more sustainable Thanksgiving

by Maryann Ridini Spencer
(@MaryannRidiniSpencer)

"I generally go to a friend's for Thanksgiving, and one of my favorite tricks for keeping it sustainable is to bring my contribution dish in a container that doubles as a leftover box. This saves a dish from being washed and the host from loaning one of theirs," said Michelle Stevens, Founder, The Refill Shoppe, a bath body home & clean store located in Downtown Ventura that promotes container reuse.

"Whenever I have friends and family over for Thanksgiving, I always use real plates, silverware, and napkins that I can wash and reuse," said Kim Pagano, radio host of 1590 KVTM AM's The Kim Pagano Show. "This helps us do our part to save water."

"One way I keep sustainable at the holidays is to send electronic invites when I'm hosting an event," said Diane de Mailly, local business owner, President of DDM Metering Systems and NAWBO Ventura. "This saves on paper and other natural resources."

Waste in American households increases more than 25% between Thanksgiving and New Year's Day according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Below are additional ideas on how you can join local business owners and residents in helping to contribute to the sustainability of our community.

Make a list and check it twice

Take a tip from good ole Santa and always shop your cabinets and make a list before you leave the house for the market. Bring your reusable bags for grocery transport (and keep some extra in your car's trunk in case you require additional bags).

Enjoy leftovers in soups, casseroles, smoothies, and other dishes

Thanksgiving wouldn't be Thanksgiving without the leftovers. "To stay sustainable, I think of creative ways to use leftovers. There is nothing worse than throwing out food," said Ashley Pope, owner of Downtown Ventura's Spice-Topia, a specialty spice and tea store. "Flavored olive oil and a nice spice blend can turn leftover meat and veggies into something completely new. There is a lot of great ideas on pinterest.com, too."

To help avoid contributing to our crowded landfills, enjoy leftovers in sandwiches, omelets, smoothies, soups, and other recipes. You can also freeze items to use for a later date. Put single portions or amounts you know you will use in containers for easy use.

Compost your scraps

Since up to 50% of food in the U.S. goes to waste each year, when it becomes trash it releases methane gas and contributes to global warming. That's why a viable solution for you and the environment is to compost your leftovers and scraps. Composting also increases the nutrient density of your soil. Compost bins are available in all sizes (to use in your kitchen or yard).

Fill your dishwasher and laundry machine

Run your dishwasher and laundry machines only when they are full. Be sure to scrape food residue (vs. rinse) off your plates before loading them in your machine. The EPA states that running the dishwasher when it's full can eliminate one load of dishes per week and save the average family nearly 320 gallons of water annually.

Purchase organic goods from a local certified farmer's market

By choosing locally grown organic foods, you are helping to prevent the usage of millions of pounds of poisonous pesticides and fertilizers and emission of greenhouse gas emissions. Eating fresh and local also tastes better.

Present Our First Annual

HOMETOWN FAVORITE Food and Drinks

Vote today for your favorite food and drinks in Ventura.

The top three winners in each category will be included in the HOMETOWN FAVORITES issue in January, 2019.

See the categories and vote at...

venturabreeze.com/favorites-voting

Votes will be accepted until December 30, 2018.



On Nov. 12, at 3:07pm, the Ventura City Fire Department units responded to a reported structure fire in the 100 block W. Harrison Ave.. The first arriving crew found a storage shed and two vehicles on fire. Numerous calls were received as the smoke was visible for blocks. Crews initiated an immediate fire attack and achieved knock down very quickly. Firefighters completed overhaul and ruled out extension further into the uninvolved portion of the building and all adjacent structures.



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

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.

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.

Cross Town Hikers join in on Wednesday nights for a moderate-paced hike that includes views of Ventura from the cross, a walk out to the end of the pier, and a stroll along the Promenade back to the Museum. Four miles with an 800-foot elevation gain. Meet at 7 p.m. sharp at the fountain across the street from the Mission. Join Facebook page for more information: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/800215670039426/>

The members of the Ventura Investment Group meet on Mondays for an informal discussion of recent economic events. Topics cover current events that affect stocks, funds, real estate, and interest-bearing investments. 10 - 11:30 a.m. at the Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf at Telephone Road and Main Street. There are no dues or requirements to participate, and all levels of experience are welcomed.

First Wednesday, of each month, 6 - 10 p.m., Gold Coast Modular Railroad Club meets at the Murphy

Auto Museum, Oxnard. Now exhibiting Saturdays and Sundays, 10 - 4 p.m. Visitors and new members are welcome. Member initiation fee \$10, monthly dues \$20, \$10 for Juniors. Murphy Auto Museum, 2230 Statham Blvd., Oxnard. www.gcmrc.com. For more information, call (805)229-7429.

Retired men enjoy a visit to a meeting of the Ventura Retired Men's Group at the Ventura Elks lodge at 11:30 a.m. on the first or third Tuesday of the month. Stop in and introduce yourself for a complimentary lunch, interesting program, and a relaxing good time with your peers. Give Bob Likins a call at (805) 587-1233 for details.

Musicians' Sober Support Meetup @ FIND (A Friend in Deed) every Monday night 7-9 p.m. Bring acoustic instrument(s) for jamming after sharing support for sobriety. Bell Arts-Studio 39-432 Ventura Ave. For further information A.Friend.In.Deed. Ventura@gmail.com.

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 (805) 320-1601 or sockonthenose@gmail.com

When a child dies, The Compassionate Friends (TCF) can help a family move forward through the grief journey. The Compassionate Friends provides a safe and supportive place. Meeting twice a month, on the first and third Wednesday from 7-9 pm at the Poinsettia Pavilion. On the following dates: Nov 21, Dec 5, Dec 19. For more information, contact Laura Lindsay, tcfventura@gmail.com,

Co-Dependents Anonymous (CoDa) is a 12-step fellowship of men and women whose common purpose is recovery from codependence in the development and maintenance of healthy relationships. Every Friday at 6 PM at Kaiser Health, 1000 Hill Rd. 2ndfloor lobby. Further information Deva (805) 814-5650.

Nov. 23: 8:30-10:30am. Santa Clara River Holiday hike and nature walk hosted by the Nature Conservancy. Come join the Nature Conservancy and get outside to burn off Thanksgiving dinner. The hike will be along the Santa Clara River corridor where there isn't much water but there are still signs of water and wildlife. Many birds use this area as a refuge. Bring good hiking shoes, water and binoculars



(optional). 1368 Mission Rock Rd. Santa Paula. If you have any questions please contact Amy Davis at 770-853-4715 or guideamy@gmail.com.

Dec. 1, 2: The Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura Annual Arts and Crafts Fair will take place on Saturday, Dec 1 and Sunday, Dec. 2, from 9-2 p.m. The fair features a large variety of items for every budget, including jewelry, crafts, knit and crochet, textile art, photography, mosaics, 2D and 3D art, and more. The fair will be held in Berg Hall at the church, located at 5654 Ralston St. All are welcome. Ample parking is available in the back of the church.

Dec. 2: Sunday 1-3pm Old-Time Country Bluegrass Gospel Music Assoc. Knights Of Columbus Hall, 36 Figueroa..Free admission, music on stage and jamming. Free parking in the rear. For more information call, (805) 517-1131 or visit Facebook: OTCBGMA.

Dec. 2: Channel Islands Chamber Orchestra's holiday concert at 3 p.m. KuanFen, Artistic Director and Miriam Arichea, Choir Director. Hänsel & Gretel Overture, Engelbert Humperdinck, Nutcracker: Suite No. 1, Op. 71a, Piotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, Harp Concerto in B at Major, George F Handel, Composer; Elaine Litster, Harpist, "In the Bleak Midwinter", Gustav Holst. First United Methodist Church 1338 E. Santa Clara Street. Donation of \$20 at door appreciated. Youth 18 and under free. For more information call (805) 320-8856 or visit website www.CHICOVC.org.

Dec. 7: Friday 5-7pm, Lewis Goldstein Book Signing - Author Lewis Goldstein has an MFA in Art and Art History and is a full-time professor at Barstow Community College. With illustrator Arianna Grinager, he has published "Of Fleas and Fleadom-A Tale of Two Vermin" a graphic, epic poem in rhyme. Goldstein has also written Hey Zeus and Back to Eden and The Eco-Adventures of Adam and Eve. Check out Lewis and his books at Bank of Books 748 E. Main St. (805) 643-3154.

Dec. 8: Saturday, 4-8 pm. Live Music provided by the Joe Tourist Band. Join in for a fun filled evening of live music! Bank of Books 748 E. Main St.

Dec. 16: Join in for an afternoon of live music and celebration with four local bands at noon at the Hill Road Library. The Darling Kathleenes, Nick Schlesinger, Jasper Ridge, and The Legendary Don Cheddy. They will share original folk-pop and Americana music with the community. This event is free and open to the public. The Hill Road Library is located at 1070 South Hill Road in Ventura. Hours of service are 10 - 6 p.m. Monday through Wednesday, 2 - 6 p.m. Thursday, and 10 - 2 p.m. Friday through Sunday.

Ojai news and events

Ojai has been threatened by wildfires many times over the past century. Several were the largest wildfire in California history. The newest exhibition at the Ojai Valley Museum examines the Thomas Fire and other fires that impacted the valley.

The museum is housed in the former St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic church. The original church on the site burnt in a 1917 wildfire. It, and other fires, give historical context to the Thomas Fire which began in Upper Ojai last December.

The December one-year anniversary of the Thomas Fire will no doubt be an important touchstone for everyone who lives in the valley. The free exhibition runs through January 27, 2019.

The Ojai Valley Museum is located at 130 W. Ojai Ave. Free parking is available behind the museum, off Blanche Street.

For more information, call the museum at (805) 640-1390, ext. 201, email ojaimumuseum@gmail.com, or visit the museum website at OjaiValleyMuseum.org.

The holidays are on the way, which means that Santa Paws is coming to town! The Humane Society of Ventura County's annual two-day holiday photo-shoot event will take place on Sundays, Dec. 2, at the HSVC's shelter in Ojai, at 402 Bryant St. Hours are 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. both days.

Adults, children and pets are welcome to pose in photos with or

Continued on page 8

VENTURA COUNTY BALLET PRESENTS

THE NUTCRACKER

with the VENTURA COLLEGE SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

20th YEAR ANNIVERSARY

FOR TICKETS: VENTURACOUNTYBALLET.COM · VCB EVENTS: 805.323.6620

Special thanks to: VENTURA COLLEGE, CITY OF VENTURA CULTURAL AFFAIRS, CAPITAL MORTGAGE SERVICES, VCCF SMITH HOBSON FOUNDATION, CONSORTIUM MEDIA, JORDAN LABY AND HELEN YUNKER

PHOTOGRAPHY: TARA PIELAET & DINA PIELAET · DESIGN: SAMANTHA A. HSU-JANAMLY DESIGN

OXNARD PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

DECEMBER 1 - 2PM
DECEMBER 2 - 2PM

VENTURA COLLEGE PERFORMING ARTS CENTER

DECEMBER 7 - 7PM
DECEMBER 8 - 2 & 7PM
DECEMBER 9 - 2PM

Executive Director
KATHLEEN NOBLIN

Choreographer
MARINA FLIAGINA

Music Director
ROBERT E. LAWSON



Community Events

Tech Today with Ken May

Have I been hacked?

Just like driving a car, sooner or later you may have an accident no matter how secure you are. Below are clues to help figure out if you have been hacked and, if so, what to do. The sooner you identify something bad has happened, the more likely you can fix the problem.

Clues You Have Been Hacked

Your anti-virus program generates an alert that your system is infected. Make sure it is your anti-virus software generating the alert, and not a pop-up window from a website trying to fool you into calling a number or installing something else. Not sure? Open your anti-virus program.

You get a pop-up window saying your computer has been encrypted and you have to pay a ransom to get your files back.

Your browser is taking you to all sorts of websites that you did not want to go to.

Your computer or applications are constantly crashing or there are icons for unknown apps or strange windows popping up.

Your password no longer works even though you know it is correct.

Friends ask you why you are spamming them with emails that you know you never sent.

There are charges to your credit card or withdrawals from your bank account you never made.

How to Respond

If you suspect you have been hacked, the sooner you act the better. If the hack is work related, do not try to fix the problem yourself; instead, report it immediately. If it is a personal system or account that has been hacked, here are some steps you can take:

Change Your Passwords: This includes not only changing the passwords on your computers and mobile devices, but for your online accounts. Do not use the hacked computer to change your passwords; use a different system that

you know is secure. If you have a lot of accounts, start with the most important ones first. Can't keep track of all your passwords? Use a password manager.

Financial: For issues with your credit card or any financial accounts, call your bank or credit card company right away. Use a trusted phone number to call them, such as from the back of your bank card, your financial statements, or visit their website from a trusted computer. In addition, consider putting a credit freeze on your credit files.

Anti-virus: If your anti-virus software informs you of an infected file, follow the actions it recommends. Most anti-virus software will have links you can follow to learn more about the specific infection.

Reinstalling: If you are unable to fix an infected computer or you want to be surer your system is safe, reinstall the operating system. Do not reinstall from backups; instead, backups should only be used for recovering your personal files.

If you feel uncomfortable rebuilding, consider using a professional service to help you. Or, if your computer or device is old, it may be easier to purchase a new one. Finally, once you have rebuilt your system or purchased a new one, make sure it is updated and enable automatic updating whenever possible.

Backups: A key step to protecting yourself is to prepare ahead of time with regular backups. Many solutions will automatically back up your files daily or hourly. Regardless of which solution you use, periodically check that you are able to restore those files. Quite often, recovering your data backups is the only way you can recover from being hacked. Law Enforcement: If you feel in any way threatened, report the incident to local law enforcement. If you are the victim of identity theft and are based in the United States, then visit <https://www.identitytheft.gov>.

possible by funding received from the California Council for the Humanities Library Innovation Lab Grant for the project entitled "Celebrate Mixteco Culture," and partnerships with MICOP, CSUCI, El Rio NFL, and UCSB.

"Library Innovation Lab: Exploring New Ways of Engaging California's Immigrant Communities" is a new statewide competitive grant program offered by California Humanities. The program encourages California libraries to develop creative and innovative programs to respond to the needs and circumstances of today's immigrants and immigrant communities and foster more inclusive communities within our state.

This event is free and open to the public. For additional information, contact Irma Morales, City Librarian, E.P. Foster Library at (805) 256-4414 or Yvonne Becerra, Library Technician and Grant Coordinator at (805) 701-4315.

The Foster Library is located at 651 East Main St. Hours of service are 10am to 7pm Monday through Thursday, 10am to 5pm Friday and Saturday, and 1pm to 5pm on Sunday.

Celebrating the holidays in Downtown Ventura

Downtown Ventura celebrates the Holiday Season with over 100 fresh-cut, decorated trees and multiple events in historic Plaza Park.

Holidays at the Plaza, one of Downtown Ventura's signature holiday events, returns to Plaza Park from Dec. 7, 2018 to Jan. 2, 2019. The event is marked by the Candy Cane Forest, which is made up of rows upon rows of freshly cut Christmas trees lined up in the park, each decorated by a different local organization, family, or individual.

Groups and individuals who are interested in sponsoring a tree can do so for \$300. The online form to sign up for tree sponsorship is available at HolidaysAtThePlaza.com.

In addition to the Candy Cane Forest, Holidays at the Plaza hosts events through the month of December:

Outdoor Movie Pajama Party: Dec. 7 – Holidays at the Plaza will be screening two classic holiday films for free, starting with the 1966 *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* at 6 p.m., followed by the 2004 *The Polar Express*. Food trucks will be available and Santa will make an appearance. The event is presented by Pacific Western Bank.

Holiday Boutique: Dec. 8 – From 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Plaza Park will host vendors offering handcrafted, one-of-a-kind gifts. There will also be live entertainment and Santa will be available from noon to 2 p.m. Attendees are invited to bring a toy for Toys for Tots or a coat for Coats for Kids, in exchange for which they will receive a raffle ticket for available prizes.

Rock 'N Roll Breakfast with Santa: Dec. 15 – Busy Bee Cafe, Live 105.5, Ventura Rental Party & Events, and Montecito Bank & Trust are hosting this casual breakfast with Santa from 8 to 11 a.m. Tickets are \$10.

Yoga with Santa: Dec. 16 – Grassroots Yoga will be leading this donation-based yoga class, which Santa will join, starting at 10 a.m. All ages are invited.

Silent Night Disco: Dec. 22 – At a silent disco, there is no traditional sound system. Instead, every attendee gets a pair of wireless headphones, so they can tune into the DJ's music. The Silent Night Disco will run from 6 to 10 p.m. and is open to all ages. Tickets are \$20 and include one pair of headphones and a Ventura Coast Brewing Co. beer or non-alcoholic beverage.

The Annual Holiday Tree Lighting Ceremony returns to Ventura this month with the largest light display in city history. The yearly celebration of the season will begin at 6:00 pm at Mission Park on Friday, November 30. This year's event will include live entertainment from several local choirs and dance groups, bounce houses for the kids, and vendors offering food and drinks.

At 7:00 pm, Santa will be arriving

by Fire truck, and will join the Mayor and Mission San Buenaventura's Father Tom Elewaut to lead a countdown to light the trees.

Once the trees are lit, the evening will continue with dancing under faux snowfall in the park and opportunities to mingle with the gathered community.

Other ways to celebrate the season include Small Business Saturday on November 24. Shop local for your holiday gifts and get great deals.

Additionally, FOOD Share's 7th annual CAN-tree Drive runs from November 30 to December 2 at Figueroa Plaza. Individuals, families, and groups can bring cans to donate to FOOD Share, Ventura County's Food Bank.

Ojai news and events

Continued from page 7

without Santa. The shelter will have festive costumes available for attendees' pets. Pocket pets, reptiles, rabbits and birds are all welcome!

In addition, during the Dec. 2 event, the HSVC will host its annual bake sale and Firefly Ceramics will once again be on hand with its special Tiles for Tails program. For a \$25 donation benefiting the HSVC, attendees can design their own tile that will be permanently displayed on-site at the nonprofit shelter.

The main event both days will be the photo sessions, which include five to 10 images and start at \$30.

Santa Paws is the HSVC's largest community event of the year, bringing in some 300 families. All proceeds go directly toward the daily operations at the shelter.

For more on the event, contact Cooper at GregC@HSVC.org or 805-646-6505, ext. 112.

On Sunday, December 2, 2018 at 3pm, Chamber On The Mountain will present the Amerigo Trio, with pianist Bernadene Blaha, at Logan House in Upper Ojai (adjacent to the Beatrice Wood Center for the Arts at 8585 Ojai-Santa Paula Rd.).

The Amerigo Trio, made up of violinist Glenn Dicterow, violist Karen Dreyfus, and cellist Inbal Segev, Audience members are invited to stay and meet the artists at a reception following the performance. Tickets \$25.00 at ChamberOnTheMountain.com.

The Holiday Vegetarian Soups with Chef Randy event will occur on Sunday, December 9, 2018 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at Lavender Inn, located at 210 E Matilija Street. There's something about these easy-to-make soups that are perfect for the holidays. Included in the \$75 cost of this class is a copy of Randy's new book, the Ojai Valley Make-Ahead Cookbook. Call 805-646-6635 for reservations.

Freelance writer, filmmaker, and animal advocate Petrine Day Mitchum will visit the Ojai Library on Sunday, December 9, at 1 p.m. for a book signing and meet and greet session for her book *Snout About Town*.

The Humane Society of Ventura County will be a joint host for this event, and will receive a portion of the proceeds from the day's book sales.

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.

What is Mixteco: Tu'un Savi?

Join in as Ventura County Library presents "Mixteco: Tu'un Savi, The Language of the Rain," presented by Silvia Ventura Luna, M.A., at E.P. Foster Library on Saturday, December 1, at 3pm.

The Mixteco language, Tu'un Savi, is an oral language with numerous variants. Mixteco is an indigenous language predominantly from Oaxaca, Mexico; yet, the language has a strong presence in Ventura County and throughout California. This presentation will briefly discuss the Mixtec history, culture and language.

Also enjoy a special dance performance of Baile de China and Baile de Piña, Oaxacan regional dances, presented by children from the El Rio area Mixteco community, who have been practicing their dances weekly through this special Library program.

Ventura County Library is honored to host this event, made

News & Notes



Monique Limon visits ECTV's Punto de Interes.

CAPS Chat

Generosity and Spirit

by Elizabeth Rodeno

The holiday season is here. Sharing food with friends and family is an important community event and Ventura proved how important it is. Endless food, essentials and support have been generously provided to all in need this past year.

A One Year Thomas Fire Remembrance Event will be held Dec. 1st at the Libbey Bowl in Ojai. The event hosted by Totally Local VC will have 4 bands, food trucks and a artist's market. There will be service organizations from around the county providing information and aid to continue to help those are recovering from the fires. It's a good place to find resources in one place and support the community. We look forward to seeing you there. CAPS Media will continue to share our The Thomas Fire Stories with the community via video and radio in honor of those affected by the fire.

The Poinsettia Awards hosted by the Chamber honor local individuals and organizations for their service to the community and will be held December 6th at the Four Points Sheraton. These awards recognize the outstanding achievements of businesses and individuals who make a difference in our community. The Mayor's Art Awards recently held at the Museum featured local artists and supporters of the arts. CAPS is proud to count many Mayor's Art Award recipients over the years as members.

The events over the past several weeks have been trying for many throughout the state of California and in our backyard. Many of our close neighbors and friends experienced horrors none of us could ever comprehend. The many community groups and organizations who rose up after the Thomas Fire have mobilized to assist those in need elsewhere. The generosity of these individuals and groups is inspiring and proves that everyday people can make a difference.

We welcome the Ventura City Council that convened with the new members elected from the first district wide elections in Ventura. Our coverage on channel 15 continues as we broadcast live the City Council, Planning Commission and Design Review Committee meetings. We also rebroadcast the County of Board of Supervisors meeting.

Don't forget we continue to air Thomas Fire Stories project every Friday at 6 and 6:30pm on CAPS Channel 6. CAPS Radio - KPPQ-LP is broadcasting them regularly on 104.1fm and on the myTuner app available on your phone and smart speaker. Tune in Thursdays at 5:30pm on KCSB 91.1fm in Santa Barbara to hear them too. These stories are informative, honest and uplifting.

KPPQ continues to educate and inform listeners everywhere. Tune in and be surprised by your community programming. Support community radio by becoming a producer, engineer or programmer. Training classes will get you on your way. You can tell your friends that you have your own radio show.

Community Member engagement is CAPS Media Center mission. We are here to support members in creating an informed and educated community through electronic media. Become a member, take the Orientation, enroll in classes and create powerful and entertaining media to share with us. Orientation classes for media makers are held the first Thursday of every month. Go to capsmedia.org for more information.



The specific objectives of the exercise included testing the agency's emergency response plans.

Ventura County Public Works Agency prepared for the worst

When a natural disaster hits such as a fire or a flood, preparation is always key to the survival of life and property

Continued on page 28

PRIMROSE EXCURSIONS

IKEA® Shopping Spree
12/8

Sing Along "White Christmas"
12/23

Rose Parade
1/1

"Come From Away"
1/6

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Colorado, Newfoundland, Lake Tahoe
Scotland, Greece, Catalina
Zion Nat'l Park & more

Door Prizes and special discounts!



Location: 1500 Palma Dr., Ventura/2nd floor training room. Call or email to RSVP



On a beautiful Saturday, October 13 the annual StoryFest was held on the beautiful lawn area at Ventura Unified School District Education Service Center located on Stanley Ave. This free event featured story-telling, book giveaways and plenty of fun. At the Ventura Breeze booth Mary Thompson asked small kids to draw a picture of themselves, here are a few.



A group of CSUCI students and teachers participated on an exciting exploration of Santa Rosa Island on October 20th. One of the students brought the Breeze along in case they got stranded and needed to pass the time and be informed (Obviously a brilliant straight A student, move her to the head of the class). Photo by Denise Wenger.



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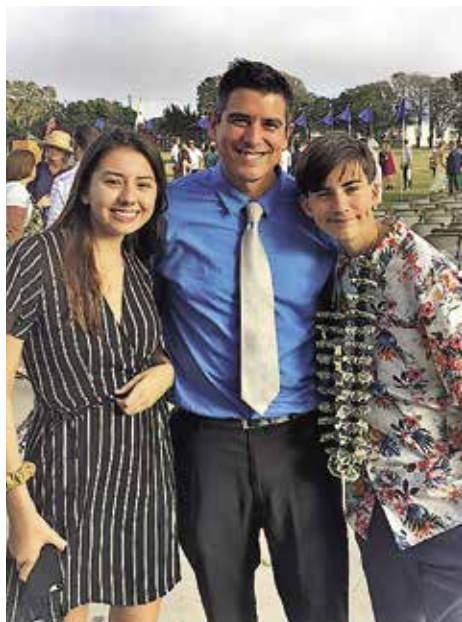


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“My passion comes through my volunteer work.”

by **Mat Almaraz**
School Board

As a parent volunteer for the past 14 years, and as a 20-year volunteer for American Youth Soccer Organization in this community, I am invested in this School District.

My 2 brothers and 4 sisters had my same experience going thru the same schools I did. I have had the amazing experience of going thru this amazing school system thru Portola, Anacapa and Buena. My passion comes through my volunteer work, my 41-year residency, having attended VUSD schools myself, and

for the education of my children, 14 nieces/nephews and my future grandchildren.

My investment in the community:

- Two term PTO President at Mound Elementary. I assisted in creating a new science technology magnet for the school
- Member of Parent Advisory Committee for Mound Elementary and DATA Middle School
- Member and Membership Chair DATA Middle School PTSA
- School site student representative for Buena High School 1995 and School site member for Mound Elementary
- Member of Inaugural Foothill Technology High School Booster Club

My goal is to give parents a voice on the Board and in the classroom as well as continue the district's innovative, unique great programs and support for all VUSD students. Also, to look at new ways to insure safety and security for our children.

My experiences through my life, the 9 different VUSD schools my children or my nieces and nephews have attended through VUSD, will guide me in continuing to steer VUSD to a great future. As my statement goes to all parents, Get involved, be involved and stay involved !!

Thank you and as Chris Prewitt would say. “Make it a great day”!!! Miss his inspiration and voice daily. But his love carries this district on. True hero.

Thank you,
Matt Almaraz, Area 5
Board Member Trustee
Mpalmaraz4vusdschools@gmail.com.

News & Notes



Lorrie was elected because she galvanized support among a base of voters.

Lorrie Brown the first representative of District 6

This election cycle has brought an unprecedented number of firsts, not only was this the first district election, the winners represent the first city council female majority. In addition, Lorrie is the very first African American council member elected. These are statistics worth celebrating, however, this is not what got her elected.

Lorrie was elected because she galvanized support among a base of voters who have followed her and increased their support over the last five years. In 2013, she brought in approximately 6,883 votes and in 2016 about 10,000. This past November she won with 65% of the vote. She struck a chord with the voters and offered a fresh approach with balanced perspectives.

Brown explains her district as the NorthBank/Johnson Corridor because the district line begins at the 101 freeway and travels along the Northbank of the river on the east until it hits Rameli. Rameli takes it to Telephone, then cuts over to Montgomery. It is then topped at the 126, encompassing those who live around Kimball Park and the Government center. The district shares Victoria with District 2 on the West border and touches District 5 on the East border.

In her own words “First, I would like to thank everyone for their support of my campaign! When I walked the neighborhoods, residents seemed to be most concerned about sidewalks, trees, water rates and the Johnson Corridor and I have had these concerns myself for years. Montalvo needs sidewalks, residents want groceries not more convenience stores, Johnson drive needs revitalizing after the loss of Toys R Us and Kimball Park is still not finished.”

Lorrie as council woman elect has a big job ahead. She brings an unprecedented amount of experience to the council, bringing a decade of experience working in the public sector and a successful career in economic development, administrating public budgets for special district programs responsible for funding many city services.

She says, “I am ready for this job.”

The councilwoman elect has not only marched to victory but has demonstrated what it means to lead, even in the face of insurmountable odds, she remained a leader during tough circum-

stances and continued to move forward. As cited by the VC Star on November 7th, the third time proved to be a charm for Brown. This is the type of dedication the council needs.

Brown communicated that she plans to take action on the issues that matter most to her constituents and wants to: work to protect the integrity of the General Plan updates, including inclusionary housing, water infrastructure, traffic and transportation. She plans to be the voice for unpopular concerns and do everything she can to improve the city's overall experience for merchants and residents on the Eastside and beyond. She feels this can be accomplished by seeking new ways to increase revenues.

Brown said “I believe it is very important to acknowledge that the current council has managed the tough job of keeping the City of Ventura relevant and as we move into our future we must find ways to continue to respect the natural habitat that surrounds us while identifying opportunities to be proactive, responsive and pragmatic. We need to continue to define ourselves independent of the current models that exist, which means moving Ventura's vision forward.”

Brown would like to invite the community out to see the three new council members sworn in December 10th at 6p.m at the City Council meeting. Not only will there be three new council members there will be a new Mayor and Deputy Mayor sworn in.



Dannenberg has held many school positions.

I hope that I can help the district address the issues

by **Jerry Dannenberg**

I am Jerry Dannenberg and I have recently been elected to the Ventura Unified Board of Education, Area 4.

First and foremost I would like to thank my family, friends and supporters who made it possible for me to run for the Ventura Unified Board of Education. I would also like to thank all those who helped me with my campaign. Finally thank you to those of you who voted for me. My commitment to all the voters and parents in the district is that I will be an advocate for all children.

This year marks a major transition for the district with the retirement of several district key leaders. The board has hired a very well-grounded Superintendent in Mr. David Creswell. Mr. Creswell has in turn hired a great administrative team in the district office to move the district forward in the years to come. It is my hope that I will be able to help the Board, Mr. Creswell and his team with some of the district history and with my 41 years of experience as an educator.

For those in the community that don't know me, I have been a teacher, teacher's



News & Notes

union president, principal, district office administrator, Superintendent, and Adjunct Professor of Education for the three local universities. Sixteen of my 41 years in public education were spent in the Ventura Unified School District. I served as principal of Juanamaria Elementary School, Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources and Assistant Superintendent of the Educational Services division of the School District.

My wife, Melinda, and our two children moved to Ventura 32 years ago. Both my children graduated from Ventura Schools and went on to graduate from the state university system. We have five grandchildren. One has graduated from Ventura and is presently attending college. The other four are presently attending Ventura Schools.

I hope that I can help the district address the following issues in my first four years on the Board:

An aggressive approach for dealing with problematic bullying and racism in our schools.

Equitable learning opportunities for all students including making sure that all high school students have the same number of class periods available to them. We also need to make sure they have the same opportunity for Advanced Placement Classes at all high schools.

Safe schools for all students.

Proactive fiscal management of district resources that insure balanced budgets that provide the best learning opportunities we afford.

A focus on academic rigor to help all students. I would also like us to work towards an International Baccalaureate Program in one or more of our high schools.

We need to make our employee salaries more competitive so that we are not losing our teachers and employees to other school districts or different careers.

We need to fully staff all of schools with counselors who can help our students deal with the pressures of today's world.

We need to look at the feasibility of putting air conditioning in our classrooms to make them the best learning environment for our students and the best work environment for our employees. We also need to look into renewable energy source success solar energy to help reduce our future energy costs.

I am looking forward to being a member of the Governing Board and I can't wait to get started. Once again I would like to thank everyone that supports me and voted for me. Thank you.



Freidman returns after 15-years.

The campaign is behind us and now the hard work begins

by Jim Freidman

I am thrilled and honored to have been elected to the Ventura City Council after a 15-year hiatus. Having previously served as mayor and council member from 1995-2003, I can say that this campaign was very different from previous ones where candidates ran for city council seats "at large."

I found that campaigning in a district required a more grass roots approach and resulted in a greater opportunity to meet with voters face-to-face.

My priorities were straight-forward; enhancing public safety, increasing city revenues through economic development (not higher taxes and fees), repairing our crumbling infrastructure and addressing our water and homeless issues. I rang doorbells in over 2,000 homes and spoke to hundreds of people. I was encouraged to find that my priorities were pretty much in line with that of the residents I spoke with. For the most part, people seemed genuinely appreciative that a city council candidate took the time to come to their front door. Sure, there were a few people who were bothered by the interruption, but that was a very small minority of the people I met.

The campaign is behind us and now the hard work begins. My main concern are the fiscal challenges we face as a city. Everything we want and need costs money. Just like your own household, we have to be able to pay our city bills. I do not believe we can tax and fee our city into prosperity, so we had better get very serious about enhanced economic (business) development. I will be pushing this agenda for the next four years and hope that my colleagues on the city council will see the merits of making economic development a top priority.

The benefits of economic development will not happen overnight, so it is possible that we will need to take a serious look at our budget priorities. I believe the city council should look into holding quarterly budget workshops where the council and public can roll up their sleeves and get an intimate understanding of how we are spending our money, and just as important, where our money is coming from. I sincerely hope that our residents will be engaged in this process. The more participation we have from our residents, the better and more transparent the budget process will be.

Campaigns are never easy. They can bring out the best and unfortunately, sometimes the worst in people. Now is the time to set aside our differences and work together to help make the city we love, the very best it can be. It's not going to be easy but we should start working towards that goal right away. I want to thank all of my friends and supporters and all District 5 residents who took the time to vote in this, our first, district election.



Lomax has served as a Board Member for the past 25 years.

First, I would like to thank the voters

by Velma Lomax

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very seriously. And, thank you for placing your continued confidence in me as a Board Member. Having served as a Board Member for the past 25 years, it is exciting to continue for the next four years.

My planned focus for this next term is to make sure that educational opportunities are available and equitable to all students of our district. We are a Unified School District and we need to make sure that we remember that we represent all students regardless of which schools they attend. Bottom line, our job is to be the voice for all students.

I also intend to continue the focus on Career and Technical Education (CTE). As a retired CTE teacher, I know the importance of giving our students a skill and experience regardless of their future education pathway. I have seen students who would not otherwise attend college decide to go and graduate from college after being exposed to skills in CTE courses. I firmly believe that ALL students can learn given exciting, engaging and meaningful instruction.

Finally, I want to continue the important work of making sure that our employees are paid well. Funds are dwindling, but we can become creative to make sure that our employees are honored and valued for their hard work. It takes all the employees, certificated and classified to make education work – we need to honor that.

Again, thank you for re-electing me to the Ventura Unified School District Board of Education. I will use my passion and influence to work hard for all the students and families of our District. Velma Lomax, Trustee Ventura Unified School District (805)216-0363



"I am grateful to the voters for re-electing me and eager to get to work in addressing their issues."

Ventura City Councilmember Erik Nasarenko to serve another term

Ventura City Councilmember Erik Nasarenko was re-elected to the seven-member city council, finishing first

among six candidates with 44 percent of the vote. His closest challenger received 24 percent of the vote in a contest that, for the first time in Ventura history, was decided by voters casting ballots in districts rather than at-large. The 48-year-old prosecutor was elected in District 4, which includes the communities of Hidden Valley, Ondulando, Clearpoint, Juanamaria, Hobart Park, Amador, The Farm, and neighborhoods stretching east beyond Wells Road to the county line.

"I am grateful to the voters for re-electing me and eager to get to work in addressing their issues," said Nasarenko. "Traffic, buckled sidewalks, high water rates and limited shopping opportunities for East End residents were among the issues I heard about the most."

While more than 100 rebuilding permits have been issued to date, Nasarenko also heard from Thomas Fire victims concerned with the slow pace of obtaining approvals, an area he pledged to work on and address. In October, the City Council allocated more money to hire outside consultants to assist with grading permits, an added resource that will assist the City's land development section and help to expedite certain rebuilding projects.

Nasarenko's campaign emphasized the public safety resources he funded during his first term, such as adding more police officers to patrol Ventura streets and the re-establishment of a roving fire engine staffed with licensed paramedics.

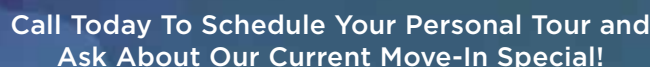
"Medic Engine 7 and the nine new police officers that recently graduated from the Academy are already making a positive difference in Ventura, including on the East End," commented Nasarenko.

He also discussed and campaigned on importing water to Ventura through the State Water Project, a 700-mile system of reservoirs, aqueducts and pumping stations that bring Sierra snowmelt to southern California. The City is currently conducting environmental studies on a 7-mile pipeline between Camarillo and the East End which, once complete, will enable Ventura to receive the new water.

"When we blend imported water with East End groundwater, District 4 residents will receive a higher quality, better tasting product," said Nasarenko, who added the connection should be completed in 2022.

"I really look forward to working with the new councilmembers, as well as our new city manager," said Nasarenko. "As they prepare to take the dais, I want to thank Mayor Andrews and Councilmembers Tracy and Monahan, who have given so much to make Ventura a special place. Their positive impacts to Ventura will continue well beyond their years of service to the city."

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On Veterans Day, Sunday, November 11, the Ventura Townehouse presented its annual Veterans Day Ceremony out doors at the front of the Townehouse. The large patriotic gathering included residents, veterans and guests. The salute to all our men and women in uniform included patriotic concert music by the Ventura British Brass and a color guard. Personal recognition was made to the many veterans living at the Townehouse many of whom spoke of their call to duty and shared their military experiences.

With bagpipe music playing a wreath was laid at the flagpole which concluded the outdoor ceremony. Inside the Townehouse information was available explaining veterans' benefits and refreshments were served.

To know the road ahead, ask those coming back

by Jayson Cohen
American Legacy Solutions

"To know the road ahead, ask those coming back" is the famous Chinese proverb although for this article it may be more fitting to say, to know the road ahead, ask those looking back. Everyone has different ideas of what it is like to retire. However, their ideas may be based solely on what they assume or what they have heard. The only way to know for certain is to ask people who have

gone through it. Here are several facts and myths that you should learn more about the retirement planning experience.

A lot of people assume that boredom is a common occurrence for people without jobs. This is not an issue for those who have their days planned out. Many retirees claim that they have very few boring days. They say that they simply have more time to invest in things that they enjoy doing. Those who are struggling with boredom are encouraged to create their day-to-day schedules and list the activities that they now have time for.

Many people worry about the high costs of covering a retirement. They automatically assume that without having a steady income, they will run out of money quickly. However, some retirees claim that their lives have become simpler with fewer responsibilities. They have given up the activities that they did

during their workdays and now spend more idle time at home. Of course, retirement expenses are less of a concern when proper planning takes place.

Retirement does not have to mean no work forever. There are numerous retirees who have taken on part time jobs or gigs to make a supplemental income. They do this to add to their current income or to cover costs for vacations or recreational activities. Other people continue working just to remain occupied. For every retiree, there is a work activity that he or she can do to stay active.

Planning is a task that few people look forward to about retiring. Without a well-detailed plan, any retirement is not guaranteed to go smoothly. An injury or accident could happen unexpectedly and cause major losses to a person's budget. People should plan their retirements carefully like they are

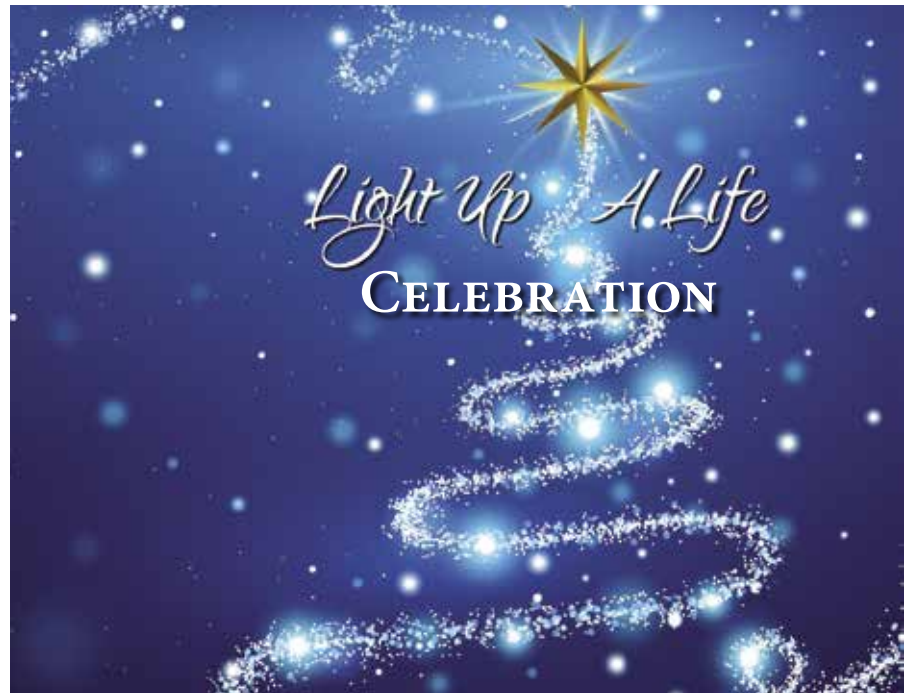
planning their careers.

A retirement does not have to be figured out in a short period of time. You could learn more about planning for a retirement while you are retired. For many retirees, the most helpful experiences are faced firsthand. Do not stop learning about the retirement process before you begin it and remain open to gaining more knowledge through your retirement years.

Declining health is an obvious concern for retired seniors. Young retirees in their 30s or 40s also worry about their health because they are more idle after quitting their jobs. We should be so lucky! Some retirees are less active and more likely to become lazy or overweight than employed workers. Regardless of age, it's important that they keep track of their health until the last days of

Continued on page 16

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Senior Living



There are more than 1.3 million World War II veterans over the age of 85.

Helping our nation's senior heroes

According to Census data, more than 20 million Americans are veterans of foreign wars. Roughly half of those veterans (9.2 million) are aged 65 and older, including more than 1.3 million World War II veterans over the age of 85.

Though our nation's heroes may have the gift of longevity, with more years often comes a greater strain on financial resources. If you or a loved one is a veteran, read on to learn about the variety of public and private benefits that can help you afford to remain independent, healthy, and secure.

Types of veterans' benefits

Veterans' benefits come in many forms—from cash grants and education assistance to home and community-based services. Eligibility for many programs depends upon the length and type of service, whether you incurred any service-related disability, and your household income. Many of the programs described below are available to veterans of all ages who qualify.

Veterans' pensions are administered by the Veterans Administration (VA) and provide a monthly cash benefit to those 65 years of age or older or who are disabled at any age. The amount you receive depends on your income, number of dependents, and the program's pension rate for the year of your application.

Disability payments are available to veterans who suffered an injury/disease or worsening of such a condition while on active duty. Extra compensation is available if you have very severe disabilities or limb loss, dependents, and/or a seriously disabled spouse.

Financial aid for education is also available through the Montgom-

ery GI Bill Active Duty (MGIB-AD) or Post-9/11 GI Bill to help pay for tuition, books, fees, examinations, and housing expenses for graduate and undergraduate degrees, and vocational and technical training.

The Aid and Attendance (A&A) and Housebound benefits are two programs that provide financial help for veterans and surviving spouses who require the regular attendance of another person to assist in eating, bathing, dressing, and toileting. It also helps pay for care in assisted living facilities. This benefit is only available to those with a wartime service record (and their spouses) who are aged 65 and older and who also qualify for a VA basic pension.

The Choice Program can help you find health care services in your community, as an option to bypass waiting for appointments with the VA or traveling a long distance to get to a VA facility.

VA Blind Rehabilitation Services help you remain independent by providing services if you are blind or have low vision. The services can take place in an inpatient or outpatient facility or in your home, based on level of need.

Veterans' home loans help members of the military secure mortgage loans to purchase a home. The VA administers a guaranteed mortgage loan through an approved lender. A VA loan will protect you if you end up having trouble paying your mortgage, as the VA will guarantee repayment of the loan to your lender.

Caregivers of veterans may also be eligible to receive help through programs such as:

Adult Day Health Care (ADHC) services, which enable the veteran to participate in supervised, safe activities outside of the home, giving the caregiver an opportunity to take time for self-care.

Respite care of up to 30 days per year to provide a break from their caregiving duties.

All the programs are included in BenefitsCheckUp.org, NCOA's free and confidential online benefits screening tool.

Completing the BenefitsCheckUp® questionnaire will show whether you or a loved one are likely eligible for the programs, and provide information on where to get assistance with your application, including through the Veterans ON-line APplication (also called VONAPP), a regional VA office, or the VA toll-free helpline at 1-800-827-1000.



"Thank you for coming to help me with my chores I needed help."

Sharing caregiving responsibilities

by the National Institute on Aging

Caring for an older family member often requires teamwork. While one sibling might be local and take on most of the everyday caregiving responsibilities, a long-distance caregiver can also have an important role.

First, try to define the caregiving responsibilities. You could start by setting up a family meeting and, if it makes sense, include the care recipient in the discussion. This is best done when there is not an emergency. A calm conversation about what kind of care is wanted and needed now, and what might be needed in the future, can help avoid a lot of confusion.

Decide who will be responsible for which tasks. Many families find the best first step is to name a primary caregiver, even if one is not needed immediately. That way the primary caregiver can step in if there is a crisis.

Agree in advance how each of your efforts can complement one another so that you can be an effective team. Ideally, each of you will be able to take on tasks best suited to your skills or interests.

When thinking about who should be responsible for what, start with your strengths. Consider what you are particularly good at and how those skills might help in the current situation: When thinking about who should be responsible for what, consider your limits.

A spouse or the sibling who lives closest to an aging parent often becomes the primary caregiver. Long-distance caregivers can help by providing emotional support and occasional respite to the primary caregiver. Ask the primary caregiver what you can do to help. Staying in contact with your parents by phone or email might also take some pressure off your parent or sibling. Just listening may not sound like

much help, but often it is.

Long-distance caregivers can also play a part in arranging for professional caregivers, hiring home health and nursing aides, or locating care in an assisted living facility or nursing home.

Long-distance caregivers may find they can be helpful by handling things online—for example, researching health problems or medicines, paying bills, or keeping family and friends updated. Some long-distance caregivers help a parent pay for care; others step in to manage finances.

Offer to arrange for respite care. Respite care will give your parent a break from caregiving responsibilities. It can be arranged for just an afternoon or for several days. Care can be provided in the family home, through an adult day services program, or at a skilled nursing facility.

Your parents may need more help from home-based care to continue to live in their own home. Some people find it hard to have paid caregivers in the house, but most also say that the assistance is invaluable.

In time, the person receiving care may have to move to assisted living or a nursing home. If that happens, the primary caregiver will need your support. You can help select a facility. The primary caregiver may need help adjusting to the person's absence or to living alone at home. Just listening may not sound like much help, but often it is.

For More Information About Caregiving National Respite Locator Service www.archrespite.org/respitelocator



"When are the seniors going to give me their toy list?"

Be a Santa to a homebound senior

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the Ventura Avenue Adult Center (VAAC) Home Delivered Meal Program (HDM).

The VAAC has partnered with Home Instead Senior Care of Thousand Oaks to collect “wish list” items for needy homebound seniors. A tree will be placed in City Hall at the Parks, Recreation & Community Partnerships (PRCP) department (room 226) and will contain paper ornaments reflecting the wishes of these particular seniors. Please purchase the desired item and return it with the ornament attached to PRCP. No need to wrap, Home Instead will be taking care of that!

The Be a Santa to a Senior drive will run until December 6. Gifts will be delivered to our seniors the week of December 17 by our Home Delivered Meal Volunteers.

Thank you in advance for your generous donation and for brightening the lives of lonely or isolated seniors in our community. For more information visit the Adult and Senior Services website or contact Cheryl Bucklin at 805-654-7557 or cbucklin@cityofventura.ca.gov.

Three common ways your social security payment can grow after retirement

by Jim Borland

Acting Deputy Commissioner for Communications

You made the choice and now you are happily retired. You filed online for your Social Security benefits. They arrive each month in the correct amount exactly as expected. But, did you ever wonder if your Social Security check could increase?

Once you begin receiving benefits, there are three common ways benefit checks can increase: a cost of living adjustment (COLA); additional work; or an adjustment at full retirement age if you received reduced benefits and exceeded the earnings limit.

The COLA is the most commonly known increase for Social Security payments. We annually announce a COLA, and there’s usually an increase in the Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) benefit amount

people receive each month. By law, federal benefit rates increase when the cost of living rises, as measured by the Department of Labor’s Consumer Price Index (CPI-W). More than 66 million Americans saw a 2.0 percent increase in their Social Security and SSI benefits in 2018. For more information on the 2018 COLA, visit <https://www.ssa.gov/cola/>.

Social Security uses your highest thirty-five years of earnings to figure your benefit amount when you sign up for benefits. If you work after you begin receiving benefits, your additional earnings may increase your payment. If you had fewer than 35 years of earnings when we figured your benefit, you will replace a zero earnings year with new earnings. If you had 35 years or more, we will check to see if your new year of earnings is higher than the lowest of the 35 years (after considering indexing). We check additional earnings each year you work while receiving Social Security. If an increase is due, we send a notice and pay a one-time check for the increase and your continuing payment will be higher.

Maybe you chose to receive reduced Social Security retirement benefits while continuing to work. You made the choice to take benefits early, but at a reduced rate. If you exceeded the allowable earnings limit and had some of your benefits withheld, we will adjust your benefit once you reach full retirement age. We will refigure your payment to credit you for any months you did not receive payments. Your monthly benefit will increase based on the crediting months you receive.

Retirement just got more interesting since you learned about potential increases to monthly payments. Social Security has been securing your today and tomorrow for more than 80 years with information and tools to help you achieve a successful retirement.

Dangerous cooking mistakes to avoid

by Adam Ghering

Public Affairs Specialist with the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that 1 in 6 Americans gets sick from foodborne



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poisoning each year. Older adults are at an increased risk of more serious infections from food poisoning due to medications, age-related weakening of the immune system, and other underlying conditions.

At the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), we have some great information to keep your family safe from foodborne illness year-round, and especially during the holiday season.

Do not wash your turkey and meats before cooking. Rinsing your poultry can actually spray bacteria up to three feet! Think about what you keep within three feet of your sink. And for all that mess, rinsing your turkey doesn’t actually eliminate very much bacteria.

Do not stuff your turkey the night before cooking. The cavity of a turkey actually insulates your stuffing from the cold temperatures of your fridge

and causes bacteria to multiply. To save time, but also stay safe, prepare your stuffing the night before, refrigerate it in a separate container, and add it to your turkey just before popping it in the oven.

Thaw your turkey and meats in the refrigerator. Setting your turkey out on the counter to thaw is not safe. After just two hours, your turkey enters the danger zone of unsafe temperatures—40-140° F—and bacteria will begin to multiply, even if the center is still frozen. You can cook your turkey from the frozen state; it will just take 50% more time. Two other safe options are to either use cold water or a microwave to defrost.

Use a food thermometer to ensure the internal temperature of the turkey is 165° F.

Any temperature below 165° F means that E-coli bacteria could still be

Continued on page 16



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Senior Living

Dangerous cooking mistakes

Continued from page 15

lurking, which can cause serious illness or even death when consumed. Ovens cook unevenly, so make sure to take temperature measurements from both sides of the bird. For even cooking, it's recommended that you rotate and flip your turkey often. Don't forget to check the stuffing separately to make sure it reaches 165° F.

The food you don't eat should be in the fridge within two hours of cooking and use those leftovers within four days.

While sitting out, hot food, like green bean casserole, must be kept at a temperature of 140° F or greater, while chilled food, like cranberry sauce,

must be kept at a temperature of 40° F or less. Any perishable food that sits out of its recommended temperature safe zone more than one hour should be tossed.

Cool hot food quickly to 40° F in order to avoid bacteria growth. Divide larger food, like your ham or pot of sweet potatoes into smaller containers to speed up the cooling process or stick them directly in the fridge.

Store leftovers in airtight packaging or containers for up to four days in the fridge or 3-4 months in the freezer. To eat leftovers, either thaw them via the fridge, cold water, or microwave, or reheat them frozen. When reheating, ensure your food reaches a temperature of 165° F or greater by using a

food thermometer to test.

If you have additional food safety questions call the USDA Meat & Poultry Hotline at 1-888-674-6854 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Eastern, Monday through Friday, and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Eastern on Thanksgiving Day.

Food safety is a year-round concern. The National Council on Aging (NCOA) is working with senior centers across the country to host Food Safety 101, a special program taught by a USDA Food Safety Ambassador.

Encourage a senior center in your community to apply to host a class. Share this link with your center director, so they can sign up: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2016Food-Safety101>.

To know the road ahead

Continued from page 13

retirement.

Retirement is one of the most unpredictable events in life. Many people plan for years but still face challenges that surprise them. While some people may assume that retirement is boring, some retirees claim that it's the most exciting period of their lives. It's important to plan well for the retirement planning experience and make the most from this period in your life.

As with most experiences in life, proper planning can help make your retirement more enjoyable. We are here to take a second look at your retirement plan or create a plan that helps you achieve your goals.

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Toys for Tots will be collected until December 12.

NALA to help Toys for Tots

The NALA, a boutique marketing agency headquartered in Ventura has teamed up with a plethora of clients this holiday season to help Toys for Tots

fulfill its mission, which is to collect new, unwrapped toys each holiday season and distribute them as Christmas gifts to children in need. The NALA's collective cause marketing program encourages businesses across the country to collect during this time of year.

The NALA and its sister company, STARKART, will be collecting toys for Toys for Tots from now until December 12. New, unwrapped toys can be dropped off at the office located at 1891 Goodyear Ave., Suite 620. Additional STARKART/NALA offices collecting include their Encino office located at 5535 Balboa Blvd., Suite 210 and their San Diego office located at 8305 Vickers Street, Suite 209.

"We have been helping small and medium-sized businesses stand out in their communities for over 30 years. Through our new collective cause

News & Notes

marketing initiative, the hope is to not only help the business stand out, but make a bigger impact for the cause," said Tiffani Tendell, Vice President - Communications and Business Development at the NALA, which has introduced a multitude of diverse small businesses to one of its many top-rated charity partners.

Toys for Tots is a program run by the United States Marine Corps Reserve, which distributes toys to children who may not otherwise receive a gift for Christmas. It was founded in 1947, and since its inception the Marines have distributed over 530,000,000 toys to more than 244,000,000 children across the United States.



First 5, provides early childhood education, health and family support services.

FIRST 5 Ventura County selects Interface Children & Family Services as new place- based service provider

First 5 Ventura County (F5VC) is pleased to announce its new strategic partnership with Interface Children & Family Services, to provide essential programs and services for Ventura County's nearly 60,000 children prenatal - 5 and their families. Families seeking resources and more information may visit www.first5ventura.org

"Since our inception nearly 20 years ago, First 5 Ventura County Neighborhoods for Learning (NfLs) have been a cornerstone in the community, providing early childhood education, health and family support services," said First 5 Ventura County Executive

Director Petra Puls. "We are excited to partner with Interface Children & Family Services to ensure that families have the support they need to give their young children prenatal to age 5 a strong foundation for success in school and life."

Interface Children & Family Services was selected through a comprehensive review process to implement F5VC's redesigned place-based Neighborhood for Learning (NfL) initiative. The expanded partnership with Interface Children & Family Services allows F5VC to continue making a positive impact on the lives of Ventura County children and families through valuable programs, resources and community partnerships that support early childhood development.

Interface will be responsible for providing Parent and Child Together Classes and Family Support Services such as case management and Triple P Parent Education, throughout Ventura County. Interface plans to partner with the Mixteco Indígena Community Organizing Project (MICOP) to address the needs of Mixtec families and New Dawn for the Triple P Positive Parenting Program. "We're delighted to have First 5 Ventura's confidence to implement the redesigned place-based NfL model. We're looking forward to the partnership - we share an intense passion for improving futures for young families and their little ones. We are honored to partner with NfL's, to learn from their trusted and successful histories in their local communities, and to do our part to bring everyone together for the critical work of strengthening young children and families," said Interface Executive Director Erik Sternad.

First 5's primary revenue source is from California's Proposition 10 tobacco tax, which is distributed to county First 5 Commissions to fund early childhood programs. In light of revenues continuing to decrease annually with Californians smoking less, the F5VC Commission has carefully contemplated how to best utilize its limited funds. The redesigned Neighborhoods for Learning initiative gives F5VC the ability to implement a cost-efficient model that meets the needs of the local community and relies on sustainable investments and innovative partnerships. "We recognize that we must work differently moving forward to achieve maximum impact with limited dollars," said Puls.



News & Notes



A Paso Pacifico ranger patrols the beach near Ostional, Nicaragua, on the lookout for illegal poaching. Photo by Hal Brindley.

Paso Pacifico responds to viral turtle poaching video

Turtle poaching in Central America is not a new issue, but some poachers have recently become even more emboldened to carry out this illegal activity. The current political unrest in Nicaragua has only made the situation worse for endangered sea turtles, as critical resources continue to get diverted to other issues.

Ventura’s own Paso Pacifico has long been at the forefront of protecting sea turtles and their eggs, and developed the award-winning InvestEGGator decoy egg with GPS tracking in 2016 to deter poachers who use the cover of night for protection.

But a new threat emerged recently, as poachers have been seen wading into the water and carrying out nesting sea turtles in broad daylight. One poacher was even captured on video carrying a helpless sea turtle over his shoulder during a busy weekend at a beach in Nicaragua.

Soldiers typically patrol this protected beach and wildlife refuge during the nesting season, but for an unknown reason, soldiers were not present when the viral video was taken. Paso Pacifico does not have jurisdiction to patrol this particular beach, but they are stepping up efforts to increase their presence in nearby areas. Thanks to the power of social media, the Paso Pacifico team was able to quickly spread the word and generate solutions for this urgent issue.

Just days after this disturbing early-August video went viral, Paso Pacifico raised enough funds to hire two new rangers to monitor beaches in hopes of deterring illegal poaching, and the goal is to continue adding to that number. The new rangers began their assignments patrolling Nicaraguan beaches this October.

“We have been so encouraged by the response we’ve received from our dedicated supporters,” said Paso Pacifico Founder and Executive Director Dr. Sarah Otterstrom. “It’s reassuring to know that others in our community, both locally and across the globe, are as concerned about this heartbreaking behavior as we are. Thanks to the generosity of SEE Turtles for matching funds, we have more than doubled our original fundraising goal in a matter of days, but our work isn’t done. The more money we raise, the more rangers we can hire to protect these threatened sea turtles.”

Paso Pacifico already has a presence on many beaches in the Paso

del Istmo region of Nicaragua, but is looking to expand their reach in light of recent events. For every \$5,000 raised, Paso Pacifico is able to hire an additional turtle ranger to monitor Nicaraguan beaches.

The mission of Paso Pacifico is to restore and protect the Pacific Slope ecosystems of Mesoamerica. These habitats include the endangered dry tropical forest, mangrove wetlands, and eastern Pacific coral reefs. By working with local communities, landowners, and partner organizations, Paso Pacifico restores and protects the habitats that form building blocks for wildlife corridors. Paso Pacifico also lends its expertise to help migratory wildlife on the Central Coast of California, including threatened migratory birds and whales that over winter in Mesoamerica. Through its high-impact programs, Paso Pacifico has established itself as one of the world’s leading biodiversity conservation organizations.

Top 5 holiday celebrations in Ventura Harbor Village

This year Ventura Harbor Village has a dazzling array of holiday events, shopping and dining by the sea. Ventura Harbor is a one-stop destination for all things sparkling on the water:

Kids eyes are guaranteed to light up when they spot Santa cruising by on a paddle board! Old Saint Nick is temporarily trading in his sleigh for a paddle on Saturday, December 8 from 11 am-Noon in Ventura Harbor Village. The Santa Paddle is a family fun event that’s free to join in. If you are in need of rental equipment, it’s a good idea to arrive early to secure your rental needs. The starting point is Ventura Harbor Village bay, then on to the Channel Islands National Park Visitor Center and back (approximately 1 hour). A \$40 Gift Card prize will be awarded to the most festive outfit. If paddling isn’t your

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Choirs & Dancing 6pm
Santa, Snow & Lights 6:45pm

At Mission Park & San Buenaventura Mission

Come and enjoy the NEW lights on the Mission Bay Fig Tree and the Historical Mission Norfolk Pines!

downtownventura.org/holiday

thing, electric boats can be rented at Ventura Boat Rental to go alongside the paddle.

A burst of yuletide song captures the essence of the holidays aboard Island Packers Holiday Caroling Cruises. With a breeze in your hair and song on your lips (or not, feel free to just listen and enjoy), you’re sure to feel festive as the holidays are on their way! Invite friends and family for an evening on the water to view all the decorated homes along the water with a one hour Island Packers Caroling Cruise aboard a 64’ catamaran.

The 42nd Annual Parade of Lights and Fireworks on Friday and Saturday, December 14-15, sets the perfect mood for the holidays with brilliant displays of boat decorations and colorful lights sparkling at the seaside. This year’s 2018 theme is “Rocking on the DOCK Side of the Moon,” is a nautical play on words to the timeless Pink Floyd album, “Dark Side of the Moon.” The event will take your breath away with its spirit, beauty, and groovy vibes that pays homage to the 70’s. Anticipated schedule: 5pm – Kids Carnival Rides & Ferris Wheel, 6:30pm – Boat Parade of Lights, 8pm – Fireworks both Friday & Saturday evenings. Plus, Saturday only there will be

a 70’s dance party in the Ventura Harbor Village at 5:15pm. Get your bellbottoms ready and get down to disco favorites before the closing night of the boat parade! Come early Saturday, December 15 for best parking and the Winter Wonderland & Holiday Marketplace event from 1-5 pm. Make your dinner reservations in the Harbor early.

This festive seaside event harks back to traditional celebrations with complimentary Santa and Mrs. Claus photos, Santa’s live reindeer, and faux snow fall, oh my! Winter Wonderland & Holiday Marketplace at Ventura Harbor Village from 1-5pm on Saturday, December 15, 2018 offers all ages the perfect setting for shopping local this holiday season. Rediscover the joy of gift giving as you wander through the Harbor’s festive Village and visit more than a dozen boutiques. Every 15 minutes take a wintry selfie under the faux snowfall, visit with holiday characters, listen to Dickensian Carolers, participate in kid’s holiday crafts, reminisce with a Toy Soldier Band, and much more. The Annual 42nd Ventura Harbor Parade of Lights & Fireworks follows at 6:30 pm. Free entrance and parking. www.Ventura-HarborVillage.com/events.

The Pet Page



Dedicated to Scamp

Bio-Detection by Victoria Usher

At the American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene in New Orleans, double-blind lab tests have shown how two canines can correctly pick out the scent of children infected with malaria parasites seventy percent of the time. While all the schoolchildren appeared healthy, blood tests administered on-site discovered that thirty children were actually carrying the disease. This work is just a proof of concept, but the hope is that one day bio-detection dogs could be deployed at airports, ports of entry, or other border crossings, in order to prevent asymptomatic carriers of the parasite that causes malaria from bringing it back into areas where the disease has been eradicated.

The work was funded by a \$100,000 grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, which has made malaria a priority in recent years. In their facilities an hour outside of London, human trainers place a few drops of a standard training liquid into small glass jars. The dogs are instructed to walk down the line, pausing to sniff each one. If they stop at the new smell a trainer croons, "That's it, good dog." The dogs eventually learn that if they stop, sit, and point at the right jar, they will get a treat.

Some specialist toothpastes for human-use contain ingredients which are unsafe for pets, for example xylitol, an artificial sweetener that is very poisonous to dogs. Chewable treats and bespoke dental diets aimed at preventing plaque hardening are recommended as alternatives.

More than half of the dog owners surveyed by OnePoll said they thought bad breath was normal, rather than a symptom of poor dental health. Some admitted giving their dog chewing gum when bad breath struck, while others thought a haircut would purify the scent.

There were also respondents who thought their dog's unsavory habits might be the root cause - and sought to keep toilet lids firmly shut to stop them drinking the water.

Only a fifth of dog owners worried about bad dog breath being a sign of a serious health problem, the survey found.

Rodney Zasman, a leading London veterinary surgeon, said: "A lot of dog owners aren't aware of how important it is to look after their dog's dental health." Poor care of dogs' dental hygiene can result in complications such as dental plaque, gum disease, tooth abscesses and difficulty eating.

"Bacteria can spread from the

teeth and gums causing damage to the kidneys, liver and the heart. Painful and extensive dental surgery and treatment may be needed to cure this."

Recently a group of Illinois veterinary students went on an unusual field trip. The board of the Human Animal Bond Association student chapter organized a trip to tour the new dog training program located at Shawnee Correctional Center (SCC) in the small town of Vienna, Ill.

SCC houses about 1800 inmates and is a medium to maximum security prison. The program called SWATT, or Shawnee Wellness Assistance Therapy Training, was started in March, 2018 and is run by Angela Galbraith in conjunction with Project Hope Humane Society of Metropolis, Ill., which supplies the dogs and the funding for their care.

A unique feature of SWATT is that, while the program helps both the inmates and the dogs, it also helps our U.S. veterans. When the dogs graduate the training program at the correctional center, they are given, free of charge, to veterans who have applied to adopt them.

The dogs receive basic obedience training from the inmates with the assistance of a professional dog trainer, who donates her services to the prison. The dogs receive their Canine Good Citizen Ready certificate and then are ready for advanced training, which involves more specialized skills and varies according to the needs of their future owners.

The dogs are taught about wheelchairs and how to properly approach people in them. They are taught about navigating stairs and elevators or retrieving items. Also, during their stay in the prison, the dogs are brought out to local veterans' events to help acclimate them to different social situations. They visit the VA homes and attend local parades. Angela said the veterans just love when the dogs visit; the visits really brighten their day.

A woman who bred and sold sick puppies from her Plainfield home to people across New Jersey will never own a pet in the state again, under a sentence handed down.

Suzie Bourdouvaes, 38, pled guilty to two counts of third-degree animal cruelty and was sentenced to probation. She was barred for life from owning, breeding, or selling pets in New Jersey.

The New Jersey SPCA and the prosecutor's office searched her home after a yearlong investigation and seized 19 puppies of "varying ages and medical states" that were living in "unsafe and unsanitary conditions," Union County Assistant Prosecutor Patricia Cronin said in the release.

Authorities said Bourdouvaes

Scamp Club

(Scampclub pets are not for adoption.)



Hi! I'm Thomas! I am four years old. I have the best life with lots of cuddles, chicken, cheese and hotdogs! I am pretty spoiled. Maybe I shouldn't be eating all that stuff.

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.

had hoarded dozens of sick puppies, many of which died under her care. Many of the dogs she sold died despite their new owners' desperate attempts to save them, officials said.

This was not her first time selling sick animals. She previously pled guilty to selling them out of her car in Plainfield in 2015, and she was ordered to pay nearly \$20,000 in restitution, the prosecutor's office said.

The dogs seized from her home

were placed into the care of the Cranford-based Best Friend Dog and Animal Adoption and Traveling Paws Animal Rescue, as well as Brendan's Meadows Rescue in Mountainside.

Bourdouvaes must also pay over \$30,000 in restitution to her customers, undergo a psychological evaluation, comply with all ordered treatment, and submit to periodic monitoring.

Mutts



R.I.P. Ethel, 2002-2018

Ethel was half of a pair of Siamese sisters - her twin being Lucy (of course). Ethel was a cross-eyed little bundle of fun and the loved and loving companion of Jane Van Note for all of her sixteen years. She will be deeply missed by Jane, Lucy, Copper, Jack, Charlie, Princess, Orange, Alice, Taz and Cappi.

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The Pet Page

Lost pet? Go to LostCatVenturaCounty.com or LostDogVenturaCounty.com - free websites for finding and posting when you've lost or found a cat or dog.

Forever homes wanted

Hi: I'm Monkey, a playful American Staffordshire Terrier / Labrador mix. I was adopted into what I thought was my forever home, but it was not meant to be. Thankfully C.A.R.L. doesn't give up on their adopted dogs; they always take us back. They say I'm a 'movie star' as I appeared in a Hyundai commercial. I'm pretty chill, but don't enjoy being left alone. Although I'm learning, I'm not the easiest to get on a leash, but once leashed I walk great. I'm good with other dogs as long as they don't show aggression towards me. If they do, I will stand up for myself. I'm good with older children, but it's unknown how I'd do with younger ones. I do need a home with no cats. I'm a former therapy dog and I know basic commands. I'm house/crate trained and know how to use a doggie door. Please stop by and meet me. Canine Adoption and Rescue League C.A.R.L.



Looking for a low key girl...Gwen is your dog. She is a shy but loving big ole puppy. Basically, she just wants to be by your side and enjoy all the scratches you can hand out. She walks well on a leash or sleeps real well on your couch. Come and share your love with Miss Gwen!!!
Ventura County Animal Services - Simi location - 670 W. Los Angeles Ave. A693378



THIS SPACE FOR WRITING MESSAGE
 Jeannette and Steven Albeck celebrated their 10-year anniversary in October in Cabo San Lucas, Mexico!
 They are one-year behind the Breeze that just celebrated number 11.

GOING ON VACATION?
 BE SURE TO TAKE THE VENTURA BREEZE WITH YOU AND SEND US A PHOTO WITH A LITTLE INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR TRIP AND EMAIL TO EDITOR@VENTURABREEZE.COM

This 'n' That

Ventura Police Department receives Traffic Education and Enforcement Grant

The Ventura Police Department has been awarded a \$200,000.00 grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) for a year-long enforcement and public awareness program. The traffic safety program is intended to educate the public on safe roadway habits and deter people from violating traffic laws or practicing other unsafe behaviors that lead to injuries and fatalities.

"Unsafe behaviors account for 94 percent of traffic collisions," said Traffic Sergeant Michael Brown. "This grant emphasizes education and enforcement which will help keep Ventura streets safe."

The grant from OTS will fund various education and enforcement activities for the 2019 federal fiscal year:

DUI checkpoints and saturation patrols to take suspected alcohol/drug-impaired drivers – and those unlicensed or with a revoked/suspended license – off the road.

Traffic safety education presentations for youth and community members on distracted, impaired and teen driving, and bicycle/pedestrian safety.

Patrols at intersections with increased incidents of pedestrian and bike collisions.

Checking for seat belt and child safety seat compliance.

Motorcycle safety operations in areas with high rider volume and where higher rate of motorcycle crashes occur.

Speeding, red light and stop sign enforcement.

Warrant service operations targeting multiple DUI offenders.

Compilation of DUI "Hot Sheets" identifying repeat DUI offenders

Probation supervision for high-risk DUI offenders.

Specialized DUI and drugged driving training to identify and apprehend suspected impaired drivers.

Court "stings" to cite individuals driving from DUI court after license suspension or revocation.

In 2016, 3,623 people were killed in crashes across the state, a 7 percent increase from 2015, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Particularly alarming is the rise in pedestrian deaths, with 867 pedestrians killed on California roadways in 2016, a nearly 33 percent increase from 2012. Along with the growing dangers of distracting technologies like phones and drug-impaired driving, this grant funding will provide opportunities to combat these dangerous and illegal behaviors.

"Almost all crashes are preventable," OTS director Rhonda Craft said. "Education and enforcement go hand in hand helping change behaviors that cause devastating crashes."

Funding for this program is provided

by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The Ventura Police Traffic Unit is scheduling traffic safety education presentations with the support of this grant. Community Groups are invited to schedule a presentation by calling Ventura Police Community Outreach at 805-339-4317. Presentations are provided to youth and community members on distracted, impaired and teen driving and bicycle/pedestrian safety.

Ventura County Strong

by Vitalant

Our hearts go out to those impacted by the tragic shooting in the late hours of November 7th in Thousand Oaks. Vitalant was able to support the blood

needs of patients early Thursday morning. There was a tremendous outpouring of support from the local community with potential donors lining up to give blood through the weekend and into the following week. Vitalant was able to extend donation center hours as well as add blood drives in the area to accommodate the community who wanted to donate in honor of those who lost their lives.

The staff at Vitalant remain in awe and thankful for the amazing support by each and every citizen who came out to ensure blood would be on hospital shelves when needed. In normal circumstances our blood donors are inspiring. In this instance, with grief in their hearts and a major fire breaking out, the folks who donated remained undeterred from their mission of transforming the lives of others with their donation.

It is the blood already donated and tested waiting on hospital shelves that
Continued on page 28



Santa Clara Street around 1900, maybe earlier. The stately building to the left is the Hill Street School above Poli Street, the Mission bell tower is visible to the right. Source: David Reel.

Business



Carolyn adds her special touches of natural ingredients.

Carolyn’s Natural Organic Handmade Soap

by Mira Reverente

Not all soaps are made the same. There are some that are good for you and some that may do more harm than good. Soap entrepreneur and cancer survivor Carolyn Aranda can attest to this.

Lather is the best medicine

Since being diagnosed with stage 1 uterine cancer about 30 years ago, Aranda has been particular about what she puts in her body. “I do a lot of research on scents and chemicals like

parabens and sulfates. They are typically found in cosmetics, shaving and hair care products, which are absorbed by the skin,” says the Camarillo resident and mother of two grown children.

She started experimenting and making her own soaps and laundry detergents three years ago. In the process, she learned about the three ways to make soap, settling on the melt and pour method which involves melting the soap

base glycerin and pouring into molds or containers. She says, “It’s the simplest and least toxic way to make soap.”

Aranda adds her special touches of natural ingredients such as goat’s milk which is great for lathering. Sometimes, she’ll add olive oil or use it separately. To add natural color, she uses blueberry or turmeric. For packaging, she also tries to use as little plastic as possible.

Sudsational and soaptastic

For the holidays, Aranda has a few holiday-themed designs up her sleeves. Think gingerbread men, snowmen, snowflakes, snow crystals and Christmas trees.

In the past, she has churned out stars for the 4th of July, pumpkins for the beginning of fall, some Halloween designs and seashells for the summer. “Others just have regular bar soaps, but I can jazz up the soaps with various interesting designs and even two-toned ones,” she says of her unique sudsational and soaptastic products.

Prices range from \$5 a piece to \$4 for three or more soaps. Small soaps retail for \$2. Custom orders are encouraged although there is a wide variety of designs and scent combinations like

lavender, lemongrass and peppermint to choose from. There are no minimums.

Raising the bar

Variety is the spice of life, and soaps apparently. Aranda is currently concocting more soap varieties and promoting gift baskets for the holidays. Think corporate and party giveaways. She’ll help you come up with a theme and put together gift baskets to match your idea, drawing upon her years in corporate America.

She also looks up to her husband for his business acumen. “He inspired me to break away from the 9 to 5 grind, pursue my interests and set up my own business,” she says.

She’s also dabbling with the idea of widening her reach and shipping internationally. Also, adding more adult themes for bachelor and bachelorette parties.

Look for her at a farmer’s market or bazaar near you soon. Soap is the limit for this solo entrepreneur!

For more information go to <https://www.facebook.com/Carolyns-Natural-Organic-Handmade-Soap> or call 747.231.SOAP (7627) or email carolyn6991605@gmail.com.



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JUDGES’ CHOICE WINNER



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PEOPLE’S CHOICE WINNER

The City of Ventura has announced the winners of the 13th annual Photo Contest. Each year the City receives some spectacular images and this year was no exception with 73 photographers submitting 258 amazing images in four categories; Environment, Architecture, Culture and Community and Parks and Recreation.

A set of judges, all visual arts professionals from the City of Ventura, awarded “Judges’ Choice Winners” and 382 members of the public voted online for the “People’s Choice” awards. The City Council honored these winners at the City Council meeting held on November 19.



Last minute shoppers rejoice!

Holiday Boutique

Saturday, Dec. 8, 11 am - 4 pm
at Historic Plaza Park, Ventura



- ★ Shop our hand-crafted, unique, one-of-a-kind vendors
- ★ Enjoy live holiday entertainment
- ★ Take a photo with Santa (cost associated)

For more information contact
kdippingong@cityofventura.ca.gov

Kick off weekend for



This 'n' That

Museum of Ventura County begins documentation of recent tragedies

As curator and repository for Ventura County's history, the Museum of Ventura County is reaching out to Ventura County fire and sheriff departments, other agencies and, most importantly, the Ventura County public to create a historical archive and personal documentation of the shooting at the Borderline Bar and Grill in Thousand Oaks on Nov. 7, 2018, as well as the devastating Hill and Woolsey fires. The museum has launched "rapid response collecting" to secure donations of photographs, links to video, artifacts, stories and other elements related to these tragic events.

"Rapid response collecting" is a term used by museums across the country, including those in Orlando and Las Vegas, in response to events such as mass shootings. The Museum of Ventura County is working with Pamela Schwartz, chief curator of the Orange County, Florida, Regional History Center, who led the documentation efforts for the Pulse Nightclub shooting in 2016. She will actively guide gathering photos, artifacts, documents and more that tell the stories of the Borderline shooting and that honors its victims and survivors.

Also throughout the next few months, the Museum will be gathering stories and digital images as well as physical artifacts to assemble the historical record of the extraordinary rescues, bravery, sacrifice and service

of fire fighters, law enforcement personnel and other first responders who battled—and continue to battle—the raging fires in Ventura County, as well as community members who reacted to the crisis with steadfast calm and opened their hearts and hands to help those in need. The Museum invites the public's participation and encourages those with a story to tell, or a tribute or thank you to share, to submit their stories and digital images to help document this community experience.

The public can send submissions of photographs, links to video, and stories related to either event to the Museum via email at submissions@venturamuseum.org or can arrange to submit other formats by contacting Curator of Collections Anna Bermudez at abermudez@venturamuseum.org.

The Museum of Ventura County celebrates, preserves and interprets the art, history and culture of Ventura County, the California Channel Islands and the surrounding region through its collections, exhibitions, events, educational programs, publications and its research library, and serves as a gathering place for the community. Located at 100 East Main Street, the Museum of Ventura County is open Tuesday - Sunday 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. For more information, visit venturamuseum.org or call 805-653-0323.

New Economic Development Collaborative funding to double service area

The Economic Development Collaborative has been awarded \$475,000 in new funding from the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) and the California Small Business Development Center Network for the enhancement and expansion of its services and programs promoting business growth and sustainability. The funding doubles EDC's Small Business Development Center's capacity to serve the business communities of Ventura, Santa Barbara and Los Angeles counties.

EDC will be rolling out new programs to help businesses navigate opportunities in global trade and assist early-stage firms seeking second-stage financing and equity investors. In addition, EDC will expand its role in helping businesses recover from disasters. EDC will deliver a training program to strengthen its SBDC advisors' disaster response capacity and it will support disaster outreach and communication for a network of business recovery services across multiple jurisdictions. In addition, EDC will expand its capacity for assisting businesses that need debt financing. As part of its outreach, EDC will focus efforts on women, minority and veteran owned businesses, with a concentration

in the disaster-declared regions.

"We are excited about this opportunity to double our outreach and service capacity," said Bruce Stenslie, EDC president and CEO. "EDC's Small Business Development Center is positioned to serve as one of the key resources in the region for economic vitality in Ventura, Santa Barbara and Los Angeles counties, giving businesses, community partners and civic leaders the support and services they need to succeed."

For more information about EDC programs and services, visit edcollaborative.com or call 805-384-1800.

The Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) serves as California's single point of contact for economic development and job creation efforts. GO-Biz offers a range of services to business owners including: attraction, retention and expansion services, site selection, permit streamlining, clearing of regulatory hurdles, small business assistance, international trade development, assistance with state government, and much more. For more information visit: www.business.ca.gov

The SBDC is funded by the Small Business Association 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, job retention and business started.

EDC is a private, nonprofit organization that serves as a business-to-government liaison to assist businesses in Ventura, Santa Barbara and Los Angeles counties by offering programs

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that enhance the economic vitality of the region. For more information about the Small Business Development Center, loan programs, manufacturing outreach and international trade programs, or other services available to small businesses through EDC, contact Bruce Stenslie at 805-384-1800 ext. 24 or bruce.stenslie@edcollaborative.com. Or visit www.edcollaborative.com.

Ventura County Medical Center receives national recognition

The American College of Surgeons National Surgical Quality Improvement Program (ACS NSQIP®) has recognized Ventura County Medical Center as one of 83 ACS NSQIP participating hospitals that have achieved meritorious outcomes for surgical patient care in 2017. As a participant in ACS NSQIP, Ventura County Medical Center is required to track the outcomes of inpatient and outpatient surgical procedures and collect data that assesses patient safety and can be used to direct improvement in the quality of surgical care.

The ACS NSQIP recognition program commends a select group of hospitals for achieving a meritorious composite score in either an "All Cases" category or a category which includes only "High Risk" cases. Risk-adjusted data from the July 2018 ACS NSQIP Semiannual Report, which presents data from the 2017 calendar year, were used to determine which hospitals demonstrated meritorious outcomes. Ventura County Medical Center has been recognized on the "All Cases" Meritorious list.

Each composite score was determined through a different weighted formula combining eight outcomes. The outcome performances related to patient management were in the following eight clinical areas: mortality, unplanned intubation, ventilator, renal failure, cardiac incidents (cardiac arrest and myocardial infarction); respiratory (pneumonia); SSI (surgical site infections-superficial and deep incisional and organ-space SSIs); or urinary tract infection.

The 83 commended hospitals achieved the distinction based on their outstanding composite quality score across the eight areas listed above. Seventy-one hospitals were recognized on the "All Cases" list and 71 hospitals were recognized on the "High Risk" list; the 71 hospitals represent ten percent of the

708 ACS NSQIP participating hospitals for calendar-year 2017.

Fifty-eight hospitals were recognized on both the "All Cases" and "High Risk" lists; 12 other hospitals were on just the "All Cases" list, and 13 other hospitals were on the "High Risk" list only – yielding 83 hospitals in total.

An evening of good food
Continued from page 1

more fun was had! Fine dining, hearing from this year's honorees, and bidding on the all-exciting Live Auction.

Opening comments were made by Board President Maria Ventura and the 2018 Youth Of The Year Marco Cardenas, from Buena High who thanked the Boys and Girls Club for the wonderful contribution that they have made to his life.

CEO Partt Birmingham stated "it is my sincere hope that as you enjoy the excitement, laughter and kinship of the evening, that you too will feel like a part of our family and know that you are making a difference. All proceeds raised this evening will be used to provide academic success, character and good citizenship and healthy lifestyles for the members of the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Ventura."

The evening honored to outstanding community leaders J.D. and Amber Drury. In 2010, they were asked to create a thrift store that would be a source of funding for the Boys & Girls Club. They then established the Avenue Thrift Store located at 222 Ventura Avenue.

J D is also known for presenting Ventura's summer surf festival the Surf Rodeo and on occasion can be heard performing with his band Raging Arb and the Redheads. Both he and Amber graduated from Ventura High School.

He stated "we are very proud of our contribution of almost \$400,000 so far the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Ventura. Amber and I, along with manager Micci House, and our staff are dedicated to maintaining the quality reputation and popularity of the store. Our ever changing inventory is the key to our success and we would like to remind you how much we appreciate your continuing contributions. Amber and I invite you to visit the store on Ventura Avenue, we are open seven days a week. Thank you so much for your continued support."

The cost to provide critical services and to run all four of the boys and girls clubs is \$150,000 per month with the cost of services for one child per year is \$2,500. Parents are only asked to pay \$50 a year for annual membership. No child is turned away for lack of ability to pay and many can't.

Visit bgclubventura.org for more information about the Club.



This 'n' That

Mailbox

Continued from page 4

There is a lack of communication between teachers, school counselors and school psychologists. Part of this missing communication is our staff is overworked to actually identify issues and give attention needed to our students. I also, ran to ensure that the after school program ASES continues to be funded and open to all students who may need the after school help. I know that most of our community are working families and the ASES program is such an asset to our community. I wanted to see our students be encouraged to become engaged in civics at the local level during election time and education of on the importance.

I ran on environmental justice issues that must to be addressed at our schools. Some of our schools are lacking proper recycling programs on campus. All of our schools are utilizing single use plastics and Styrofoam containers, which are either being littered or going straight to the landfill. I wanted to see a city bus voucher program to cut down on pollution and the amount of cars coming on and off campuses. I wanted to see Green Technologies offered at the High School level with a new Green focused vocational and trade school in the future. The Farm to School Program is a great mechanism that we have going at some of our local schools, but I wanted to see that expanded upon; as well as, offering plant based vegetarian options in the cafeterias.

Lastly, it was a non-partisan race, but I let people know that the ideas and principles I was running on were part of the Green Party's platform. I hope I encouraged others to look into joining the Green party and being part of the true political revolution!

Keep being the change that you want to see
Anthony Krzywicki

Dear Editor:

Who likes the Ventura River interface with the city? Imposing walls of rip rap and long lengths of barren dirt keep people strictly apart from a natural River experience.

Up until now, the Santa Clara River has avoided the same fate. Its north bank is not artificially channelized, and hundreds of acres have been acquired in anticipation of a future nature and recreation corridor.

Not for long. The city plans to channelize the Santa Clara River with a levee made of boulders and barren dirt to expand the auto center. Nevermind that levees as flood protection are a losing battle, the city proposes to make this ill-conceived project part of the Olivas Park Drive Extension and Olivas Park Specific Plan (OPSP). Heard about it? Unlikely. Ventura community development manager has kept public engagement on this project extremely minimal. Even more disturbing is that, if approved, an OPSP revision will give the community development manager authority to make final project approvals and take away that authority from Planning Commissioners and Design Review Committee members.

On 10/17/18 the project was on the joint planning commission - design review committee agenda. Panelists expressed a great deal of concern to the community development staff about the levee. They pointed out the short sightedness of ignoring the River value and

the failure to provide public access with just even a bike path along the crest! Among other things, the commissioners instructed staff to get the word out to the public about the Olivas Park Drive project.

Time to stop repeating history destroying our last natural resources for development! Sierra Club and Friends of the Santa Clara River want a living Santa Clara River and are working with National Parks Service to produce a concept for a Santa Clara River Loop trail. Join us.

Thank you,
Nina Danza, PE

Dear Councilmember:

Those of us that are residents in the Pierpont area are most impacted by STVRs. We were given our chance to voice our position during the STVR working group. I know because I was a participant. The survey that the city is disseminating on STVRs does not in any way shape or form represent what was presented to you as a result of the working group. We clearly and unanimously in writing and discussions voiced our position. We do not want more regulations or enforcement on STVR nuisance. We want an end to STVRs in our neighborhood. We simply want the city of Ventura to strictly enforce the zoning codes as written. That's it. If there is an R in the zoning then business is prohibited.

The multi- billion dollar vacation rental industry is clearly behind the writing of this sham survey. It doesn't come close to asking the right questions. I would answer none of the above to virtually every question on it as would a vast majority of residents in the Pierpont neighborhood. Where are the real questions? Like: Do you think grey market, unregulated hotels should be allowed in a residential area despite public opinion. Or how about: Should out of town STVR investors be able to gobble up the available " executive housing" the city so desperately craves? Or how about: Do you think there should be a nightly rate for the view overlooking the Pierpont Elementary school playground?

We want and will eventually get what Santa Barbara got. An end to the destruction of our coastal neighborhoods and a restoration of true zoning enforcement. Give them a couple of years to unwind. And then give us back our neighborhood!

Thanks
Tim Colavito and family

Misconceptions about the VBG

Continued from page 1

not have taxpayer funds to develop or maintain a property or asset.

Why do I have to pay for a public trail?

Most hiking trails, like those in the Santa Monica Mountains or Los Padres National Forest, were built, funded and maintained through ongoing taxpayer dollars. VBG does not receive ongoing funds from either the City's annual budget, the state budget or the federal government. Over the past 18 months, it's become clear that the Gardens need support from the people that visit it. We'd like to continue free access, but we can't do that and provide for short or long term sustainability. With an interest in being as inclusive as possible, we offer free access on Tuesdays along with free scheduled guided tours. Children age 18

and under are also free, as are EBT card holders, and educational groups.

The cost of \$7 per visit is too high. Couldn't it be more like \$2 per visit?

A great deal of thought and consideration was given to the cost. Comparative research was done between other non-governmentally funded gardens and we felt this pricing model the best for balancing sustainability and affordability. For those who visit the Gardens often, the \$45 annual membership fee is equivalent to \$3.75 per month. If you use it 4 times in a month, that's equivalent to 93 cents per visit. Many were visiting every day or even twice a day, so for frequent visitors, the cost becomes significantly less than \$2.

I like to visit in the morning and in the evenings. Can you extend the hours? We are considering extending the hours when funding becomes available,

Why are dogs only allowed on Tuesday and Wednesday?

In the interest of being inclusive, rather than exclusive, we want to ensure that anyone visiting our garden can enjoy it free of distraction. We've had many complaints about dogs, but we don't want to exclude them entirely, so we have opened up two days a week for dogs. In addition, because we are an organization about plant conservation and education, we have to balance environmental and conservation issues.

How did the gardens fare after the devastating Thomas Fire?

The entirety of the Gardens burned and every plant was, in some way, touched by the fire. The good news is that some of the plants survived. For example, the pepper trees at Summit Plateau look almost untouched. Most of our plants, however, were burned and many to the ground.

The Mayor's Arts Awards

Continued from page 1

2018.The selection committee was Peter Graves, Georgeanna Lees and Jen Livia.

Kathryn Dippong Lawson Arts, Education & Historic Sites Supervisor, Community Partnerships opened the evening by welcoming the standing room crowd who enjoyed delicious finger food and drinks on the patio.

The Awards presenters were Paul Lindhard, Donna Granata, Todd Collart, Bill Kearney, Heidi House, Marlyss Munguia Auster, and David C. Creswell.

Matt LaVere, Deputy Mayor opened the evening. "On behalf of the City of Ventura and the City Council, I would like to thank you for attending the 14th Annual Mayor's Arts Awards. This is our opportunity to recognize the extraordinary accomplishments of seven distinguished artists, patrons, educators, and

leaders. Ventura takes great pride in supporting our local arts community. Arts and culture help to promote the unique identity of our city. These seven incredibly gifted individuals are diverse in the gifts and talents that they provide to our community daily and have made indelible contributions to our city. I would also like to extend my thanks to this year's Awards Selection Committee members."

This year's Art Award winners are: Elena Brokaw Arts Leader. She has served as a leader in the arts in Ventura for over 25 years. She began her career working in the City of

Ventura's Cultural Affairs Division in 1993. She created Ventura ArtWalk and Java Jump. She served as the founding director of the Ventura Chamber Music Festival, co-authored Ventura's Cultural Plan, Creating California's New Art City, worked to secure \$1 million in grant funding to seismically retrofit the historic Olivas Adobe, worked on the Working Artists Ventura mixed-use housing development and now serves as the Executive Director of the Museum of Ventura County.

Broc Ellinger Emerging Artist. Broc is an artist from Ventura. Broc focuses his creativity on the medium of photography. His recent endeavors into photojournalism and portrait work have established him as a prolific and diverse photographer. He received the 2016 Ventura County Star Favorite Local Artist award, the 2017 Ventura County Fair Professional Division Best of Show, and 2017 1st place California Professional Firefighters Contest.

Jasmine Duncan Student Artist. Jasmine is a stand-out scholar, athlete, and artist. Jasmine first began dancing when she was four years old. She has developed her dance skills at the Ventura County Ballet Company, Joffrey Ballet in Chicago and received special tutelage from the San Francisco Ballet. In addition to her ballet, she is a talented artist who was nominated for Featured Artist of the 1st Annual VUSD Student Art Show. As a scholar she is on the Distinguished Principals honor roll and is enrolled in Advanced Placement Courses.

Stefoni Rossiter Arts Educator. Stefoni pursued a career in theater in her twenties and then embarked on her life's calling, being a teacher. She taught first at the preschool level, then elementary in Ventura Unified School District's (VUSD) open classroom then as Ventura High School's drama teacher.

Kelly Stevens Creative Entrepreneur. Kelly is the owner of super-buzzy, Inc. Kelly has contributed to the community in many ways over the years. Her most recent contribution was to coordinate the collection of donated materials and quilts from around the world for the Thomas Fire Quilt Project - a project which has, at last count, donated over 1,000 quilts to families who lost their homes in the fire and subsequent mudslides.

John White Artist in the Community. John is a painter, sculptor, and performance artist who has been exhibiting for over 40 years. John's work is included in numerous museum collections, including Los Angeles County Museum of Art, Guggenheim Museum in New York, La Foret Museum in Tokyo, and many others. He is the recipient of three National Endowment for the Arts grants and was recognized as the 2018 Artist of Distinction at the Ventura ArtWalk.

Patti Channer Arts Patron. Patti is an elegant example of community art patronage. She has long supported the arts in Ventura including Focus on the Masters, Ventura County Arts Council, Ventura ArtWalk, Ventura Botanical Gardens and the Ventura Film Society. When Patti takes hold of an idea, or cause she can single-handedly take it from concept to reality in record time.

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 Pursuit Arrest

On November 11, at approximately 10pm, officers responded to the Victoria Village shopping center in regard to male who was acting erratically and driving his vehicle in circles outside the Vons supermarket. When officers arrived, they observed the suspect, 49 year old Ventura resident Joseph Jack driving a pickup truck in the parking lot while smoking a controlled substance.

Officers attempted an enforcement stop on Jack who refused to comply and continued to drive in a large circular pattern. After several minutes, officers successfully deployed a tire deflation device which flattened all four tires on Jack's vehicle. Jack eventually stopped but remained in his vehicle and continued to ingest the controlled substance. Jack refused to exit the vehicle after numerous requests causing officers to approach and attempt to remove him. A window to the vehicle was broken and Jack physically resisted officer's efforts to take him into custody. A Ventura K9 was inserted into the cab of the truck where Jack was taken into custody after a brief struggle.

Jack was placed under arrest and treated for minor injuries he sustained as a result of the K9 deployment. He was later booked into the Ventura County Jail for felony evading police, driving while under the influence of a controlled substance, possession of a controlled substance and resisting arrest.

Lewd acts with a minor arrest

In October of this year, Ventura Police Major Crimes Detectives began investigating a sexual assault involving Daniel Luna and a juvenile female, age 15. Over the course of the following two weeks, Detectives confirmed that 41 year old Ventura resident Daniel Luna had been involved in ongoing lewd acts with the victim since February of 2018.

On November 13, at 740am, Detectives arrested Luna and served a search warrant at his residence in the 400 block of Thompson Blvd. Detectives recovered evidence linking Luna to the crimes. Luna was interviewed by Detectives then transported to the Ventura County Jail where he was booked for multiple felonies related to lewd acts with a minor.

This investigation is ongoing, anyone with additional information is asked to contact Det. Josh Butler at (805) 339-4466.

Vehicle Burglary Arrest

On November 16, at 3:25pm the Ventura Police Command Center received a call of a subject rummaging through a vehicle. The witness told the dispatcher that the vehicle belonged to a friend of his and that the person inside the vehicle was unknown to him. The witness also told the dispatcher that he confronted the individual and she (31 year old vagrant Raylene Juarez) told him she had permission to be in the vehicle. After the confrontation, Juarez exited the vehicle and left the area.

As officers arrived at the scene, they began searching the area eventually locating Juarez a short distance away. They stopped Juarez, and the witness was able to positively identified her as being the person who was inside the vehicle. Juarez was found to be in possession of property from the vehicle. Officers contacted the owner of the vehicle who told them he did not know Juarez and confirmed that the property in her possession came from his vehicle.

Juarez was arrested without incident and booked into the Ventura County Jail for felony vehicle burglary. A search of the Ventura County Superior Court shows

that Juarez has been arrested 13 times this year and has three open cases pending. The majority of these arrests are drug-related.

Harbor Patrol Blotter

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

10-23 4:16pm, during shift change, received a dispatch to a water rescue, kite surfers in distress near the Ventura Pier. Officers responded in the Fireboat along with Ventura fire, State Parks, VC sheriff helicopter and AMR medics. When officers arrived on scene they found two kite surfers performing self-rescues and making their way to the beach downcoast of the pier.

10-24 10:55pm, received a report of a submerged vessel in the Ventura Keys at 1000 block of Peninsula. Officers responded and found a 17ft center console motor boat sunk to its bimini at the dock. TowBoat US was contacted for the salvage

10-25 9:57pm, while on patrol, officers observing the welfare of a homeless woman screaming while walking towards the beach. She eventually made it to the beach without incident, except for screaming profanities.

10-26 2:40pm, received a request to assist an individual who lost her Ipad. After an exhaustive search, including assistance from the "find my Ipad" application, the lost item was discovered by officers at the Brophy Brothers restaurant in Santa Barbara

10-27 7:10am, received a report of a large disabled dive vessel just outside the Harbor requesting assistance. Officers responded and assisted the dive boat Sprectre safely return to their slip in Ventura Harbor Village.

10-28 11:50pm, received a report of a vessel operating recklessly in the main portion of the harbor from a live aboard. Officers investigated and found a vessel fitting the description of the disturbing party and made contact at the launch ramp. The operator admitted to the violation and was sternly warned to refrain from reckless and negligent operation in the future.

10-29 11:30pm, while on patrol in the vehicle, officers observed several vehicles illegally parked without permits in VHV overflow lot. Parking citations were issued to several vehicles and individual's camping in their vehicles were asked to leave the area to find appropriate areas to camp/sleep.

10-30 7:25am, while on patrol, officers observed a couple beach camping near Surfers Knoll lot. A written warning was issued to the pair for illegal camping

10-31 5:55pm, while on patrol, received report of an injured seabird, a grebe at the launch ramp. Officers were able to capture the bird and transfer to bird rescue.

11-01 2:15pm, observed 4 swimmers caught in a rip current while on patrol in the fireboat. The swimmers were not in distress and were assisted out of the rip and to shore with suggestions on how to escape a rip current from the boat.

11-03 11:30pm, while on patrol near the Harbor entrance, officers observed a Personal Watercraft engaged in hoop netting. The fisherman's voyage was terminated due to the illegal night-time operation of a PWC.

11-07 1:20pm, received a dispatch to a traffic accident at Harbor and Olivas Park Dr. Officers responded with AMR, VFD,

You Are Invited!!

Ventura Townehouse will host
the VENTURA POLICE
& their K-9 DOG DEMONSTRATION!

Family and the Public are invited.

You don't want to miss this!

Thursday, November 29, 2018 @ 2:00 pm
Please RSVP as seats will be limited.

LOVE
donations
welcomed.

VENTURA TOWNEHOUSE

CALIFORNIA'S CROWN JEWEL IN RETIREMENT LIVING
4900 Telegraph Road, Ventura, CA 93003
805.642.3263
www.venturatownehouse.com
CA LIC# 565801810



VPD and VCFD to assist a motorcyclist who collided with a truck at the inter section and suffered a lower leg injury. The patient was treated and transported to local hospital for further evaluation.

11-10 7:43pm, received a request for a jumpstart from the owner of a disabled vehicle near Island Packers. Officers responded and successfully jumpstarted the disabled vehicle.

11-11 1:41pm, received a "Mayday" call for a disabled vessel off of the Mandalay powerplant. Officers responded in the fireboat and towed the vessel to safety. The tow was eventually passed to TowBoat US.

11-13 3:15pm, received a request for a lift assist from a tenant of the Ventura Marina Community. Officers advised dispatched, responded and were assisted by Ventura FD with the fall victim. No medical was involved with the call.



The SEEAG initiative will reach 10,000 children.

SEEAG receives Grant

Students for Eco-Education and Agriculture (SEEAG) was selected to receive a \$218,684 California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Specialty Crop Block Grant for SEEAG's "Ventura County Child Wellness Initiative," a program that is designed to educate and inspire children to eat healthy by adding locally grown Ventura County specialty crops to their diet.

The SEEAG initiative will reach 10,000 children including low income, Title 1 students in grades second through fourth during school and after school through its Farm Fresh Mobile Classroom. Students will learn about the nutrients and health

benefits of Ventura County specialty crops such as berries, celery, citrus, tomatoes and avocados. A different crop will be highlighted each month.

According to a UCLA study (A Patchwork of Progress), about 35% of fifth, seventh and ninth graders in Ventura County are overweight, which puts them at risk of developing diabetes, heart disease and asthma.

Through the Ventura County Child Wellness Initiative, SEEAG will introduce hands-on activities to increase children's knowledge of, preference for, and consumption of fresh California fruits and vegetables. Students will learn to prepare healthy after-school snacks using locally grown crops. SEEAG will partner with local growers to donate fruits and vegetables that students will take home to share with their families. Recipe cards and information about local farmers' markets will further support healthy eating at home.

"A CDFA representative visited us in April and saw firsthand the impact our programs were making," says Mary Maranville. "SEEAG has been putting on these kinds of programs for 10 years. The knowledge they bring to students and the students' positive response are what make it all worthwhile. These kids are learning a different, healthier way to eat that we hope will stay with them throughout their lives."

Founded in 2008, Students for Eco-Education and Agriculture (SEEAG) is a nonprofit organization that aims to help young students understand the origins of their food by bridging the gap between agriculture and consumption through its agricultural education programming. SEEAG's "The Farm Lab" program based in Ventura County teaches schoolchildren about the origins of their food and the importance of local farmland by providing schools with classroom agricultural education and free field trips to farms. Through this program, over 20,000 elementary school students in Southern California have increased their understanding of the food journey.

For more about SEEAG and learn how to sign up for its programs, go to www.seeag.org.

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

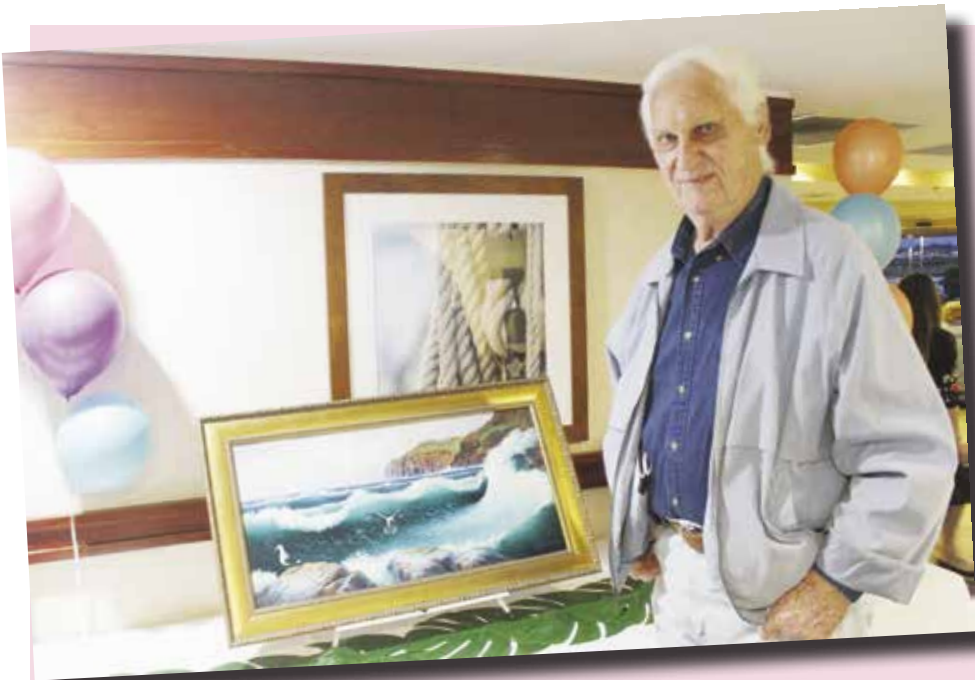
6	2	4	1	7	9	5	3	8
1	9	3	5	2	8	7	6	4
5	8	7	4	3	6	9	1	2
2	5	8	7	6	1	3	4	9
3	1	6	8	9	4	2	7	5
7	4	9	2	5	3	1	8	6
9	3	1	6	8	2	4	5	7
8	7	2	3	4	5	6	9	1
4	6	5	9	1	7	8	2	3

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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



On Nov. 10, the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Ventura held "Havana Nights", at the Four Points Sheraton celebrating 80 years of serving local youth which included a live auction. The auction included "Channel Islands" an oil painting by local artist **Tony Jankowski**. His paintings have been shown in galleries throughout the United States and the world. He has won many awards and completed numerous private commissions. It sold for \$3,700 which was a bargain.

This month, Buenaventura Art Association (BAA) is upholding a pair of year-end traditions—the Small Image Show and Holiday Boutique—in its new gallery home, Studio 30 at Bell Arts Factory on Ventura Avenue.

The art show will feature members' original works no longer than 14 inches on a side, sized and priced for gift-giving. The boutique will present a changing mix of artisan crafts, jewelry, fine art photos, cards and other paper items, and wearable art for purchase on three weekends.

The Holiday Boutique coincides with events at the adjacent Bell Arts Factory. BAA's boutique will be open 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Dec. 8, 9, 15 and 16. The gallery also will be open 6-9 p.m. Dec. 7 for First Friday.

An open studios night and opening of the Artisan Holiday Market in the Tool Room Gallery will be 6-9 p.m. Dec. 7. Bell Arts also will be open 11 a.m.-4 p.m. on Dec. 8, 9, 15 and 16.

Buenaventura Art Association is a 64-year-old nonprofit artists' cooperative that recently moved to Bell Arts Factory, 432 N. Ventura Ave., Ventura. Gallery hours are 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Thursdays through Sundays. For more about BAA and its programs, visit www.buenaventuragallery.org or call 805-648-1235 during gallery hours.



This amazing art installation, located at the Museum of Ventura County is made of raw combed sheep wool. By Chilean born artist **Minga Opazo** the work is inspired by the fundamental processes of the textile industry. Born in Chile she is now a resident of Ventura. Minga is currently attending the California Institute of the Arts to receive her master's degree. The Museum does not need to be open to view this art as it can be seen from either side.



Ventura County Potters' guild member **Marilee Stockman** will be presenting a PowerPoint program and talk about Southwest American Artist **Roxanne Swentzell**. Swentzell is from the Santa Clara Indian Pueblo and comes from a family of renowned potters and sculptors. As a child she learned to articulate emotion through her small clay sculptures. She is known for her figurative sculptures that have captured the hearts of people all over the world. Stockman participated in a five-day workshop with her and will be telling about that amazing workshop.

Students and the public are welcomed to attend. Free at the Ventura Avenue Adult Center

550 N. Ventura Ave. Monday, November 26, Doors open at 7 pm, Program begins at 7:30 pm.



Artist Spotlight Interview with Erika Lizée

All of us at Focus on the Masters share the grief that has engulfed our community. The fires and the shooting at the Borderline Bar have personally affected members of our Focus family. Our hearts are heavy. We are postponing our documentation and Artist Spotlight Interview

with Erika Lizée until our 2019 season. We are great believers in the healing power of the arts, especially during difficult times. But, the immediate needs of our loved ones and our communities are the priority. We also want to

make sure that Erika's art students at Moorpark College - who are grieving for one of their own - would be able to attend.

We are on standby to assist artists in need of documentation of their work. FOTM also has free art supplies available to artists who lost their studios in the fire.

We all know from experience that love is mightier than fire and thicker than smoke. We will all get through these difficult times together.

Thank you for your understanding and tremendous support.

FOTM Board of Directors, Staff and Volunteers



The seniors living at the Ventura Townhouse keep up their wonderful art skills by participating in the art classes offered at the Townhouse. This is just some of their work.

Lighter Breeze

Mother Goose and Grimm



Arctic Circle



Pros and Cons



Beetle Bailey



Carpe Diem



Crock



Solutions on page 23

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

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

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Solutions on page 23

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Nitwit
- 5 High-arc shot
- 8 Book after the Gospels
- 12 Rainbow
- 13 Ram's mate
- 14 Exceptional
- 15 Team leaders
- 17 Skewer
- 18 Massage
- 19 However
- 21 Frog's cousin
- 24 Business abbr.
- 25 Rate of speed
- 28 Part of a Batman costume
- 30 Height of fashion?
- 33 "Born in the —"

- 34 Gem
- 35 "— Got a Secret"
- 36 Recipe meas.
- 37 Addict
- 38 From the start
- 39 America's uncle
- 41 Lascivious
- 43 Jane Good-all's topic
- 46 Thesaurus compiler
- 50 Leak out slowly
- 51 South American rodent
- 54 Ready for customers

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12					13			14		
15				16				17		
18						19	20			
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33				34				35		
36				37				38		
		39	40			41	42			
43	44				45		46		47	48
50					51	52	53			
54					55			56		
57					58			59		

- 55 Beerlike beverage
- 56 Satan's forte
- 57 Pirate William
- 58 Gasoline stat
- 59 Hunt for

DOWN

- 1 Clark or Cavett
- 2 Algerian port
- 3 Prop for Sherlock
- 4 Will subject
- 5 Hawaiian garland
- 6 Possess
- 7 Above all others

- 8 Firebug's crime
- 9 Type of monkey
- 10 Advanced math
- 11 Adam's third son
- 16 Commotion
- 20 Any of Rome's seven
- 22 High pair
- 23 Wooden pin
- 25 Deposit
- 26 Donkey
- 27 Overturned
- 29 Existed
- 31 11-Down's mom

- 32 Kitten's comment
- 34 Bound
- 38 Pueblo structures
- 40 Fix the Constitution
- 42 Type of humor
- 43 Diner employee
- 44 Arizona tribe
- 45 Con game
- 47 Donated
- 48 A Great Lake
- 49 Chat
- 52 Matterhorn, e.g.
- 53 "— o' My Heart"

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LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Try to avoid signing on the dotted line in the early part of the week. You need time to study issues that weren't fully explored. Later in the week might be more favorable for decision-making.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) A new development could snarl travel schedules or other holiday-linked projects. Some flexibility might be called for to deal with the problems before they get too far out of hand.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Relatives seek your advice on a matter you'd rather not be involved in. If so, use that sage Sagittarian tact to decline the "offer," so that no one's feelings are needlessly hurt.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) A shift in planning direction might help you speed up your progress toward achieving that long-planned goal. Trusted colleagues are ready to offer some valuable support.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) An unexpected demand for settlement of an old loan could create some pre-holiday anxiety. But you might not really owe it. Check your records thoroughly before remitting payment.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) It's a good time to get into the social swim and enjoy some well-earned fun and games with those closest to you before you have to resume more serious activities next week.

BORN THIS WEEK: Your ability to sense the needs of others makes you a wise counselor for those seeking help with their problems.

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Show Time

A View from House Seats

Classic Christie mystery intrigues

by Shirley Lorraine

Santa Paula Theater Center closes out its 2018 season with a classic Agatha Christie drawing room murder mystery now through December 16. A lesser known work, the play version was an adaptation of an earlier novel of Christie’s own by the same name. Several key points were assigned new identities and adjustments made to the original setting.

The result is a charming, albeit wordy (quite common to the time and style), mystery featuring Christie’s trademark fascinating characters, all of whom harbor secrets. A murder is committed, everyone is a suspect, and the surprising truth ultimately comes to light.

Director Fred Helsel has assembled a seasoned cast which carries off each distinct characterization with aplomb and conviction. This is truly an ensemble piece wherein each character tantalizes the audience with snippets of information to be pondered and pieced together.

The setting is London, England, year 1948, at the home of Sir Henry and Lady Angkatell (Ronald Rezac and Peggy Stekete) who have invited several friends and relatives to enjoy a weekend in the country. Things begin to go awry as their son Edward (Trent Trachtenberg) clashes with guest John Cristow (Chip Albers) and his seemingly dim wife Gerda (Joy Goldowitz). Also present is cousin Henrietta Angkatell (Jordawn Howard), Cristow’s mistress and Midge Harvey (Morgan Bozarth), a family friend.

The house is maintained by long-time family butler Gudgeon (Doug Friedlander) and a new housemaid, Doris (Jadzia Winter). As one character so well states “The thing about murder is that it upsets the servants so”. After all, they must maintain the manor.

The plot thickens when actress Victoria Craye (Vivian Latham), a former

mistress of Cristow, rents a house on the same lane. When Cristow is found shot, Inspector Colquhuon (Andy Brasted) and Detective Sergeant Penny (Eric McGowan) arrive to piece together the puzzle.

One should pay close attention to the subtle hints in the dialogue as the play progresses. As all the characters employ English accents and due to the quirks of the vocabulary of the era, this can be a challenging aspect for some. There are so many plot twists and turns it wouldn’t be out of line to make notes for reference at intermission.

The exquisite setting by Taylor Kasch, beautiful period costuming by Barbara Pedziwiatr and just the right touches of mood music attributed to Helsel and Allan Noel add to the overall charm of the piece.

The play is filled with underplayed humor. Only one character, that of Lady Angkatell (Peggy Stekete) seems purposely designed to trigger laughs, which she does easily. Sir Henry (Ronald Rezac), her long-suffering devoted husband, gently guides her to saner pastures when needed. Both are a delight. All the characterizations are definitively outstanding.

By today’s standard of fast-paced, non-stop action that quickly telegraphs details, the elaborate exposition in this play may seem a bit extended to some. However, it is a classic style well worth the journey. Settle back and enjoy the wordplay.

The Hollow continues Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2:30 p.m. through December 16. Adults are \$24, seniors and students \$22, children 12 and under \$18. (805) 525-4645 or www.santapaulatheatercenter.org for ticket and seating information.



Madison Claire Parks stars in South Pacific.

Rubicon Theatre Company concludes 20th anniversary season

Rubicon Theatre’s 20th Anniversary Season culminates with a two-piano version of Rodgers and Hammerstein’s

soaring epic South Pacific, helmed by award-winning director Katharine Farmer and featuring a cast of 28 led by Tony honoree Ben Davis (Baz Luhrmann’s La Bohème) and Madison Claire Parks (Luisa in The Fantasticks Off-Broadway).

Based on James Michener’s Pulitzer Prize-winning masterpiece “Tales of the South Pacific,” the musical is set on an exotic island during World War II. The plot follows two love stories about seeming-opposites brought together by the circumstances of war and torn apart by prejudice and fear.

The timeless score includes beautiful ballads such as “Younger the Springtime” and “Some Enchanted Evening,” exuberant up-tempo songs like “I’m in Love with a Wonderful Guy. Ovation Award-winner Brent Crayon serves as Musical Director and First Keyboard Player, and Lee Martino (multiple Ovation and L.A. Drama Critics Circle Awards) is choreographer.

According to Producing Artistic Director Karyl Lynn Burns, Rubicon’s production of South Pacific will be approached as a play with music, much like Rubicon’s prior productions of Fiddler on the Roof, My Fair Lady and Man of La Mancha. “As a regional theatre company in a small venue, we hope to offer audiences an especially intimate, in-depth connection to the storytelling and the relationships.”



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Director Farmer and Mike Billings (Sets, Lights and Multimedia) conceived a set made up of military issue pieces that the ensemble will move to create various locales. “The idea is that we as American military in wartime are trying to maneuver and manage what happens on this little island in a culture that has different values than our own,” says Farmer. “

“The cast members of this South Pacific are also a part of what we believe will make this show different,” says Burns. “Katharine and the team have found artists with gorgeous voices who are also extraordinary actors intent on mining the rich human truths of their characters,” continues Burns.

Ben Davis was a Tony honoree for Baz Luhrmann’s La Bohème, in which he played Marcello. He has also starred on Broadway as Trevor Graydon in Thoroughly Modern Millie, Javert and Enjolras in Les Misérables, the Preacher in Violet, and others.

Madison Claire Parks received critical acclaim this year for her portrayal of Sarah Brown in Guys and Dolls with both Musical Theatre West and Theatre Under the Stars. She is perhaps best known for her more than 400 performances as Luisa in the historic Off-Broadway production of The Fantasticks in New York.

Rubicon Theatre’s production of South Pacific runs Dec. 5 through 23 at 1006 E. Main Street (the corner of Main and Laurel). The show begins with low-priced previews Wed., Dec. 5 at 7:00 p.m., Thurs., Dec. 6 at 7:00 p.m. and Fri. Dec. 7 at 8:00 p.m. The gala opening is Sat., Dec. 8 at 7:00 p.m., and is followed by a party with the cast and local dignitaries at Aloha Steakhouse For other dates and tickets, go to www.rubicontheatre.org or call 805.667.2900.

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This 'n' That
How the
Ventura City
Council works

There are 7 members of the Ventura City Council. Each member must be a registered voter in the City. In the past they were elected at-large. Starting with the 2018 Election, four Councilmembers were elected by Districts with the remaining three Councilmembers to be elected by Districts in 2020. Until a City Councilmember is elected by Districts, they remain “at-large”.

Elections to select Councilmembers are held on the 1st Tuesday after the 1st Monday in November of the even numbered years. The newly elected Councilmembers will assume their seat on the City Council in December and serve for a term of four years.

At the same time, the Council is reorganized and one of its members is selected to be Mayor by the members of the Council. The Mayor serves a term of 2 years and is the presiding officer of the Council. The Mayor has been delegated the responsibility to act as the City Council’s ceremonial representative at public events and functions. The Deputy Mayor is also selected in the same manner and serves a 2-year term.

City Councilmembers serve a term of 4 years with the terms being staggered on a 2-year basis with three (3) members being elected at one election and four (4) at the next. The terms commence the day of the first regular meeting in December following the election.

Island Packers
announces
holiday cruises

This holiday season, Island Packers in Ventura will be offering seasonal cruises for family and friends, as well as group functions. Ventura Harbor Holiday Cruises and Whale Watching trips are splendid ways to celebrate the winter season.

- One-hour Holiday Caroling Cruise in Ventura Harbor on select dates between 12/11 – 12/23. Cruises are December 11, 12, 13, 16, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22 & 23. The fare is \$16 per adult, \$13 per senior (55+), and \$10 per child.
- Ventura Harbor Parade of Lights Cruise and Fireworks: 12/14 and 12/15. Cruises depart at 6:00, 6:20 & 6:40p.m. Cruises are approximately 2 ½ hrs, cruise to see the holiday lights and boat parade, and end with an onboard view of the fireworks display. Fare is \$35 for adults, \$32 for seniors and \$25 for children under 12. Group rates available.
- Private Group Holiday Party Cruises Great for company functions, group rates available.
- Winter Whale Watching starting 12/26 and runs through mid-April This annual event is best seen up close and personal aboard a comfortable catamaran.

Ventura Country Story

Continued from page 19
transforms lives. That’s why it’s crucial that donors help to constantly replenish the supply, so we remain ready for tragic

situations. Vitalant saw 269 new Ventura County donors in 5 days, with a total of 684 red cell units donated from new and existing donors right here at home. There is a great need for those first-time donors to continue donating. Blood donations are declining nation-wide, with an even greater seasonal decline during the summer months and around holidays and flu season.

If you are interested in donating blood, please take time to search for a convenient blood drive at www.vitalant.org or stop by Vitalant’s donor center in Ventura at 2223 Eastman, Suite A. Walk-ins are welcome, however hours do vary, so appointments are strongly suggested. There are several area blood drives that might interest possible donors. On Tuesday, November 27th Ventura Orthopedics is hosting a blood drive from 11am until 3pm at 2221 Wankle Way in Oxnard. On Sunday, December 2nd Our Lady of the Assumption Church will serve as a donation location from 8:45am until 2:15pm at 3175 Telegraph Road in Ventura.

Ventura County Public Works

Continued from page 9
and it’s never too early to start. The Ventura County Public Works Agency (VCPWA) conducted Storm Day, an annual disaster simulation drill, on Oct. 18, which focused on preparation for flooding stemming from a natural disaster and infrastructure damage.

Storm Day 2018 simulated a severe storm and a scenario depicting emergency response to structural damage to local dams and underground water lines triggered by an earthquake. In light of the Thomas Fire and Montecito Mudslides, this year’s exercise was created to assess VCPWA’s preparedness to address similar, potential devastating events in Ventura County.

During the exercise, Public Works crews worked to clear out a culvert under Central Avenue that was clogged with thick mud utilizing a remote-control skid steer and excavator to clean out a bridge storm drain. Crews also practiced their flood fighting protection measures at Sycamore Dam and practiced installing and testing their portable emergency generators at the Silver Strand pump stations.

The annual exercise underscores VCPWA’s role as first-responders. In floods, debris flows, fires, earthquakes, or any other emergency circumstances, VCPWA works alongside the Ventura County Sheriff’s Department, the Ventura County Fire Department, and emergency medical personnel to provide critical infrastructure support and maintain public safety. The exercise is used to create severe but plausible scenarios to test agency emergency response. The Storm Day 2018 training mobilized VCPWA to its emergency Field Operations Centers, Department Operations Centers, and it’s Agency Operation Center.

The specific objectives of the exercise included testing the agency’s emergency response plans and processes, evaluating information and communication procedures, analyzing the efficiency of agency operation centers, and testing the process and procedures to respond to a local state of emergency. The drill also helps identify any areas for improvement in the emergency response plans.