

Happy Holidays to all from the Breeze!



VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

Vol. 12, No. 6

Published Every Other Wednesday

Established 2007

December 19, 2018 – January 2, 2019



The new face of the City Council. Photo by Richard Lieberman.

New City Council Members seated as three members depart

by Richard Lieberman

At the last most recent city council meeting, a large crowd gathered to honor three outgoing members whose service spanned nearly seventy years. Attendees also saw Ventura history in the making as the new council members were seated. Never before in Ventura history has the council been composed of such a diverse group.

Outgoing members Jim Monahan and Mike Tracy and Mayor Neal Andrews presided over the council for the last time as elected officials.

The evening was the first-time council members representing Ventura districts were seated. Members Sofia Rubalcava representing District one, Eric Nasarenko in District four, Jim Friedman in District five and Lorrie Brown in District 6.

Lorrie Brown is the first African American to join the council and Rubalcava the first Mexican-American to join in recent years. This is also the first time a majority of the board is female.

After taking their places, the board's first act was to unanimously choose Matt LaVere to be Mayor. The second vote was to choose Rubalcava as Deputy Mayor. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Ventura are picked by the council rather than a public vote.

Continued on page 22



Ventura will miss the iconic Vagabond and Joline. Might it return?

End of an era for Vagabond not what you thought!

by Richard Lieberman

The Vagabond Coffee Shop will close January 1st after 52 years of continuous operations. The announcement of the closing was made by Jolene McBee 74, owner of the coffee shop in early December. Owner Albert McBee died 15 years ago and longtime customers miss him to this day since Jolene took over.

Not much has changed in the last 52 years of operations. The food, the ambiance and the welcoming nature of



Co-owner Albert McBee is still missed after all these years.

the wait staff have stayed the same. The diner, located at 756 E. Thompson Blvd. until now has been untouched by time.

Claude and Joyce Nichols have been coming to the Vagabond for 25 years.

"We eat out most of the time, and I enjoy the comfort food here," Nichols said. "We are sad Jolene is leaving, but we understand she has to do it," he added. "There are just not many places like this anymore and it's sad to see the staff losing their jobs" he added.

The time for change has finally come and big changes are planned for the diner. Taking over on January 1 are property owners Vista Investments. Work will begin immediately on January 2 when Vista takes over the diner.

Rumors that Vista had "kicked out" McBee are simply not true. Zack Cohen, Special Projects for Vista Investments said "Over a year and a half ago we talked with Ms. McBee and she said she wanted to retire and she didn't want to renew the lease," said Cohen. "She wanted to retire and we gave her the opportunity to do so without having any ramifications connected with that," added Cohen. Some rumors concerned McBee's granddaughter and her current chef Christopher Castillo who wanted to take over and run the diner but were rebuked by Vista. Castillo, who said he did talk to corporate at one point about his plans to take over, but there were no further discussions after that call. "I figured I would have the opportunity to buy it," Castillo said.

Continued on page 12



Creswell did apologize for his remarks.

VUSD Superintendent has resigned

Surprising many, Ventura Unified School District Superintendent David Creswell has announced that he will resign after serving as Superintendent for only 16-months.

The announcement came after several weeks of controversy surrounding a sermon that came to light that he delivered while an elder at Redeemer Baptist Church in Riverside in 2016. Creswell worked for the Fontana Unified School District at the time of the sermon. Only School Board Trustee Mary Haffner called for his resignation.

Creswell will continue to be on district payroll until Aug. 22, 2019, the end of his contract. Creswell will be available to the district during that time to provide assistance to district management as requested.

In the sermon, Creswell gave examples from a high school yearbook of a gay couple and a transgender woman and made remarks that some in the community have deemed to be hurtful toward the LGBTQ community.

In the sermon he stated he was looking through a high school yearbook when on the superlative page under "Best Couple" he saw a gay couple embracing. He said, "Oh, boy. Here we go. Here's our world." He went on "Most Changed" was

Continued on page 22

VENTURA TOWNEHOUSE

CALIFORNIA'S CROWN JEWEL IN RETIREMENT LIVING

Ocean & Mountain Views • Over 12 Lushly Landscaped Acres
Spacious Standard & Remodeled Apartments and Villas
Anytime Dining in our Sun-Drenched/Full Service Dining Room • Full Kitchens
Delicious Home Cooking by Pro Chefs & 5-Star Pastry Chef • Live Music & Events
Weekly Excursions • All Day Transportation • Pets Welcomed

Call Now for a Visit! 805.642.3263

www.venturatownehouse.com • 4900 Telegraph Road, Ventura, CA 93003



This is a wonderful place to spend your retirement years! Staff is caring and attentive to all needs & there are many interesting people to meet. The grounds are spacious & beautifully taken care of. Bob & Barbara LeCroy, Residents

Get More Fun & Amenities for your Money!
CA LIC# 565801810



When our family grows stronger, so does yours.

The healing power of humankindness grows stronger when we bring together the smartest physicians we know. It's why we're welcoming Identity Medical Group into the Dignity Health family. They take great pride in delivering comprehensive and compassionate care, focused on patients' total health and wellness.

Our combined group of over 50 trusted providers will deliver quality care to the community from 15 convenient locations. Together, we will now be known as Dignity Health Medical Group. Most important, our patients will continue to be treated with the kindness you've grown to expect from all of us.

For more information or to schedule an appointment, call **805.738.3862** or visit **DHMF.org/ventura/providers**.

Hello humankindness®



Dignity Health Medical Group.
A Service of Dignity Health Medical Foundation



Camarillo

64 E. Daily Drive
805.738.3862

3901 Las Posas Rd.,
Ste 10
(805) 918-4476

2486 Ponderosa Drive,
Ste D-205
805.738.3862

5051 Verdugo Way,
Ste 100, 110
805.738.3862

Oxnard

2901 N. Ventura Rd.,
Ste 100
805.738.3862

1700 N. Rose Ave.,
Ste. 210, 220, 280
805.738.3862

1700 N. Rose Ave.,
Ste. 350
(805) 485-7877

Santa Paula

243 March Street
(805) 525-7131

247 March Street
(805) 933-6622

400 E. Santa Barbara St.,
Ste A
(805) 525-2121

Thousand Oaks

550 St. Charles Drive,
Ste 200
805.738.3862

Ventura

168 N. Brent St.,
Ste 502
(805) 641-2000



Ventura Executive Suites



Wishing you a Merry Christmas!

701 E. Santa Clara St.
Ventura Ca. 93001
805-653-2381
info@venturaexecutivesuites.com
www.venturaexecutivesuites.com

We offer : Free phone & High Speed Internet, (one year lease only)
Janitorial services five nights a week, mail services, 24/7 access, tenant parking lot, Access to conference rooms, fax/printer room, kitchen, & gym. Offices come fully furnished and we offer waiting areas through out the building with cable TV for your clients. Virtual Offices as low as \$50 a month! Free Daily Brewed Coffee & Tea Available!

Business



The cute one on the left is Breeze Publisher Emeritus Staci Brown. From a different WEV class, but all of the ladies deserve congratulations.

After 14 weeks of training graduates completed the course

Women's Economic Ventures (WEV) recently celebrated the accomplishments of 19 women and men who successfully completed WEV's Ventura County-based Advanced Spanish Self-Employment Training (SSET) course with a graduation ceremony held at Ventura Adult & Continuing Education (VACE) in Ventura.

After 14 weeks of training on topics including finances, marketing and sales, public relations and advertising, legal and insurance issues, record keeping, and how to write a business plan, these graduates completed the course with the necessary tools and support needed to start or expand their businesses.

"We are so proud of the dedication

and passion these graduates showed in class" said Leticia Sandoval, WEV Spanish Program Coordinator. "Even though some had to travel or come straight after a long day of work, they committed to doing the work and now have graduated with more confidence and the resources necessary to achieve their dreams. We can't wait to see how far they can go!"

The graduates range from first-time business owners to those who have turned to WEV to help expand their existing businesses. Graduate businesses and business ideas include blacksmithing, construction, day care providers, produce vendors, folkloric dresses, ice cream shops, personal empowerment coaching, housecleaning, and more.



Business



Twin Palms Sharlene is on left and Shannon on right. Or is it Shannon on the left and Sharlene on the right?

Twin Palms Health and Beauty Boutique

by Victoria Usher

Shannon and Sharlene Lenardson, the owners of Twin Palms Health and Beauty Boutique, have always been passionate about helping people heal. Having the ability to help people feel better both physically and mentally brings them the greatest joy. Shannon and Sharlene were born and raised in a small town in the San Fernando Valley known as Sunland/Tujunga, in the foothills above Burbank.

They attended California Healing Arts College where they became certified Massage Therapists ten years ago. After becoming certified/licensed, they began working for a day spa and a chiropractor. Their dream was to one day open their own Day Spa. In February 2013, they discovered the perfect location in Downtown Ventura to open their very own Day Spa, at 35 South Oak Street, and they made the move to Ventura, where they now call home.

May 3, 2013 was the Grand Opening of Twin Palms Health and Beauty Boutique! This year marks the milestone of their Fifth-Year anniversary! The two of them both love what they do, and they both love everything about the Ventura community.

Over the years they have continued their education and are now licensed Estheticians, (including Skincare & Waxing), Microblading Artists, and Spray Tan Artists. Soon, they will be adding Eyelash Extensions to their services as well.

Twin Palms Health and Beauty Boutique is open by appointment only Tuesday - Friday 12:00pm - 7:00pm and Saturday 11:00am - 2:00pm. Visit their website: Twinpalmshealthandbeauty.com. Call: 805-643-0100, or Email: Twinpalmshealthandbeauty@yahoo.com.



45 minute Facial & 30 minute Massage with Aromatherapy Only \$85! (normally \$105)

Waxing Now Available!

Military & First Responder Discount: \$10 off full price service

Call or text (805) 643-0100

35 S. Oak Street in Downtown Ventura

TwinPalmsHealthandBeauty.com

City News



City Council Members Christy Weir, Lorrie Brown, Sofia Rubalcava and Cheryl Heitmann have made history. Photo by Richard Lieberman.

Our newly installed City Council has made history in many ways

by City Council Member Christy Weir

I am proud to serve on the Ventura City Council, which has been an example of productivity over politics, the common good over personal interests. We have had differing political views, but have worked together with civility and respect. I am grateful for our past councilmembers' positive attitudes and professionalism. It has been an honor and a pleasure to work with outgoing councilmembers Jim Monahan, Neal Andrews and Mike Tracy.

Our newly-installed City Council has made history in many ways. First Latina, first African-American, first female majority, first district representation. Congratulations to Councilmembers Lorrie Brown, Sofia Rubalcava, Jim Friedman and Erik Nasarenko!

Fifteen years ago, there were no women serving on our City Council. I first ran for office in 2003, and was the only woman running out of 12 candidates. I served as

the only woman for 8 years. I am very happy now that our Council, for the first time in our 152-year history, more fully reflects our diverse population.

We now have elections by district, but we cannot govern by district. We all serve on the City Council together, and are responsible to every citizen in Ventura. Where a person lives is only part of his or her community experience. For instance, I currently live in Midtown, but I raised my family in Montalvo. My son's family lives in the college area and I attended Ventura College. Many of my friends live in East Ventura. I shop, work and eat downtown and on the westside. I enjoy time at the harbor and the beach. As public servants, it is our duty to care about our own neighborhoods and every square mile of this beautiful city. I look forward to working with our new City Councilmembers and our community partners as we make decisions to benefit all of our residents.

Apply now for City Council advisory board, commission and committee volunteer positions

Residents of Ventura are encouraged to apply for volunteer City Council Advisory Board, Commission or Committee positions that advise the City Council on issues related to development, arts, transportation and other specialized areas. The recruitment process is now open, and applications will be accepted through Wednesday, January 2, 2019.

Qualified applicants will undergo interviews with the City Council Appointments Recommendation Committee and the recommended appointees will be considered by the City Council. Volunteers must be willing to serve two to four-year terms; some positions require special qualifications.

Applications are being accepted for vacancies on the following Council Advisory Groups:

Continued on page 22

PSYCHIC CONSULTANTS

FREE with **Holiday Specials \$20**

Past • Present • Future

Palm • Tarot • Crystal Ball

See what the New Year has in store for you!!

AVAILABLE FOR EVENTS

psychicconsultants.net

107 Figueroa St., Downtown Ventura

(805) 628-3333

Because of the new year happenings the next issue of the Ventura Breeze will be available on Thursday, January 3 instead of Wednesday, January 2. We know it will be difficult for you to wait an extra day but well worth the wait.

We had a contest...



On our Facebook we asked readers to name this photo. Our selection committee chose "I know I'm not supposed to ask for a straw in CA but I just can't drink without one!" submitted by Barb Holden from Ventura as the funniest. She received 2 tickets to the Pompeii exhibit at the Reagan Library.



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.

PUBLISHER-EDITOR

Sheldon (Governor) Brown
publisher@venturabreeze.com

PUBLISHER EMERITUS

Staci Brown

Assistant to the PUBLISHER

Ana Baker

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Rebecca Wicks · Richard Lieberman
Sheli Ellsworth · Veronica Johnson
Shirley Lorraine · Victoria Usher
Jill Forman · Pam Baumgardner
Elizabeth Rodeno · Mira Reverente
James Francis Gray · Karen Leslie
Maryann Ridini Spencer

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

Bernie Goldstein
Richard Lieberman · Michael Gordon

DISTRIBUTION

Jaime Baker · Mary Thompson
Alfred J. Lewis · Richard Lieberman
Chris Lopez

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

Breezy Gledhill · Cindy Summers

WEB/ONLINE ADVISOR

Cindy Summers

PRINT PRODUCTION

Alfred J. Lewis/studioNothing

PRINTING

CA Web Print, Inc. (626)281-8989

CONTACT US:

EVENTS & HAPPENINGS

events@venturabreeze.com

OPINIONS

opinions@venturabreeze.com

ARTICLES AND PHOTOS

editor@venturabreeze.com

THE PET PAGE

scampclub@venturabreeze.com

ADVERTISING

advertising@venturabreeze.com

Ventura Breeze

1575 Spinnaker Drive, 105B, Box 393
Ventura, CA 93001

Phone 805.653.0791 Fax 805.641.1824



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

The folks who
know the truth
aren't talking...
The ones who
don't have a
clue, you can't
shut up!
— Tom Waits

Opinion/Editorial



Sheldon (Governor) Brown
Publisher-Editor

■ This is my last chance this year to wish you a **Merry Christmas** and a **Happy New Year**.

■ I received some complaints regarding articles in our last issue

talking about people who lost their homes in the **Thomas Fire**. The complaints say that we only published articles about those folks who are happy with how the city (planning and building & safety) handled their plans and permits.

We didn't pre-screen people who lost their homes to see if they were happy or un-happy. We certainly would be happy to accept any opinions regarding working with the city (good or bad). If you are unhappy, don't just say city (or Breeze) are idiots, please articulate why. Send comments to opinions@venturabreeze.com. Would love to hear from you.

■ I met with **Deya Terrafranca**, The Museum of Ventura County's new Library and Archives Director, who will manage their wonderful archives. I like the fact that she plans to make the archive library more accessible to all. The previous director thought of it as his own private collection and didn't easily share content with the community and the media. It is a wonderful resource of Ventura history. Read the article about her in this issue.

■ I expect great things from our "new" city council and city manager. Hopefully the council will let the city manager do his job and they will deal with more macro, rather than micro concerns. A fresh, open minded look at **marijuana businesses** in Ventura should be on their agenda, as we are losing lots of money to nearby cities.

Hope one of the new members brings a great sense of humor similar to what Mike Tracy provided to the council.

■ Time magazine has named a newspaper and four journalists, including Washington Post's murdered Saudi columnist Jamal Khashoggi, as its **Person of the Year**.

"They are representative of a broader fight by countless others around the world - as of December 10, at least 52 journalists have been murdered in 2018 - who risk all to tell the story of our time," Time wrote in an essay titled The Guardians and the War on Truth.

Retired Adm. William McRaven has stated, "I stand by my comment that the President's attack on the media is the greatest threat to our democracy in my lifetime," McRaven said, referencing remarks he made about Trump last year. "When you undermine the people's right to a free press and freedom of speech and expression, then you **threaten the Constitution** and all for which it stands."

■ After a loss, a star player of the **LA Lakers** stated, "I don't got nothing to say about that." Maybe he shouldn't say anything at all. And when they introduce the players they say which college they attended.

■ Ventura County supervisors want to find out why **firefighters** lacked enough water early on to fight the Thomas Fire. They have directed staff members to look for answers on what went wrong. The action came after they received a county disaster agency's review of the emergency response efforts that contains no mention of the water problems that slowed firefighting.

Ventura's report on the issue is still pending a year after the disaster.

Ventura officials blame the shortage to the rapid depletion of water from tanks, low water pressure in the hydrants, the loss of power and an inadequate number of backup generators. Shouldn't this be known and dealt with prior to the fires?

Our new City Manager, **Alex McIntyre**, said the city's draft report on the response to the fire is coming soon. He needs to deal with an issue that he had nothing to do with but maybe that will be a good thing with a fresh new look.

Trump suggested that "raking" would help stop the scourge of wildfires, so perhaps fire fighters should each carry a rake instead of a hose.

■ I'm sorry to see Ventura Unified School District Superintendent **David Creswell** quit (see article on this issue cover). I don't think it was necessary, but I feel that he might have been looking for a reason to step down. Ventura has had a tough time filling this extremely important position. In my opinion, school superintendent and city manager are the two of the most important positions in Ventura. Closely followed by the head of community development.

■ A two-year analysis by two dozen experts at universities found that the notion that **immigrants**, like the small group of asylum-seekers who traveled from Central American countries to the U.S.-Mexico border recently, are unhealthy and will bring disease into the U.S. This "is a false argument that is used to keep migrants out," one of the study's authors, stated Dr. Paul Spiegel, of the Center for Humanitarian Health at Johns Hopkins.

■ **Measles** increased 30% over the last year due to poor vaccination rates, the World Health Organization stated. Experts say that people who skip vaccination due to vaccine fears and poor health systems are to blame.

Over 6.7 million people contracted the measles in 2017, with 110,000 dying of the virus, WHO said in their report. Most of the infected people were children.

The measles vaccine has prevented 21 million deaths since 2000, WHO said, but recent, unnecessary fear of the vaccine has lowered the vaccination rate. The goal is for 95% vaccination. No scientific link has been found between vaccines and autism, as some fear, according to science and medical experts.

Measles is still common in many developing countries - particularly in parts of Africa and Asia. The overwhelming majority (more than 95%) of measles deaths occur in countries with low per capita incomes and weak health infrastructures.

Measles outbreaks can be particularly deadly in countries experiencing or recovering from a natural disaster or conflict. Damage to health infrastructure and health services interrupts routine immunization and overcrowding in residential camps greatly increases the risk of infection.

Health authorities in California have more power to insist that a dog is vaccinated against rabies than to ensure that child enrolled in public school are vaccinated against measles.

■ When **Clinton** lied about having an affair all Republicans screamed "Impeach him." When Trump lied about having affairs Republicans said "It ain't no big deal." Conclusion. Okay for Republicans to have affairs, it seems, but not for Democrats.

Mailbox

Hello Sheldon,

Read the new issue(Dec.5) from front cover to back cover, every word.

Very Nicely Done, Sir !!!

Your best issue of your illustrious history.

Mark "Ping Pong" Stienecker

Mark:

If you play ping pong you must be very intelligent which explains why you loved the issue. I understand that there might be some very important ping pong news coming to our attention soon.

Breeze:

I don't write to offer opinion; ever.

Yet when I saw the kudos to Patagonia I was bothered. I'd read the news in the LA times earlier in the day and heard it on KVTB, then saw your kudos.

All day I had been wondering why a firm headquartered in Ventura; which has a significant homeless population/ problem, many residence still struggling from the Thomas fires and a city that would benefit greatly from cultural philanthropic donations (Botanical gardens, as example); why would Patagonia

donate to a global cause instead of putting that \$10M into our city?

Can you image what \$10M would do for those struggling in this City or even in the County (Borderline families)?

Instead of helping it's community further, they chose to make a political statement and what is as unsettling is you Sheldon applauding them versus calling them out.

Are you telling me you would rather they donate \$10M on something that may or may not be proven in our lifetime versus helping the people of a city that need it now, and with the holiday season upon us what a gift that would have been to those impacted to receive a portion of such a generous donation.

Seems to me you were being PC with your kudos, I'm disappointed in you.

What is our priority as a community, fighting with our Presidents view or help a community that has been ravished and struggled over the past year?

Instead of kudos I say shame on Patagonia for choosing to express their political views versus further helping a community that has helped make them

who they are.

Hector Borrego

PS: I'll bet there are a few Patagonia employees that sure could have used some of that ten mil!

Hector:

You can never say this again. "I don't write to offer opinion; ever."

Your points are very well taken, thanks and maybe you will offer other opinions in the future now that you have broken the ice.

Editor:

I was saddened to read that the Ventura Unified School District Superintendent resigned due to the actions of a single school board member. She was upset after reading about a sermon he delivered years ago in another city. He happens to be an ordained minister, as well as an education professional. Today,
Continued on page 9

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



City News



Contribute to the Homeless Prevention Fund at www.vhpf.net. Photo by Michael Gordon.

Annual memorial service for our homeless neighbors

On Saturday, Dec. 15, at Plaza Park a memorial was held to affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person. All were remembered by the names of the men and women who have died homeless, in Ventura, this year.

Consider these facts:

On average, being homeless takes 20 years off a person's lifespan.

Those suffering from mental illness and/or addiction need supportive services.

We still have no year-round homeless shelter in Ventura County.

Homeless individuals need permanent housing with ongoing supportive services.

This is the answer. It is compassionate, it saves money and is the right thing to do. Act today:

Contact your City Council members and County Board of Supervisors and tell them you support government playing an active role in ending homelessness.

Contribute to this year's shelter at www.downtownventura.org/shelter

Contribute to the Homeless Prevention Fund at: www.vhpf.net

Sponsored by Lift Up Your Voice to End Homelessness, Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura www.liftupyourvoice.org. For more information, call the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura at (805) 644-3898.



Film thanks first-responders.

CAPS in our community

The Perfect Firestorm, our documentary film that chronicles these personal stories of survival and healing during and following the devastating Thomas Fire had a series of successful screenings last week. Comments included "Emotional, heartbreaking and yet so much heroism and community pride" posted Kat Merrick and another told us "I learned so much and realized it wasn't just me, I wasn't alone". These were held at the beautiful Museum Pavilion hosted by the Museum of Ventura. We received such positive feedback that we have planned an additional screening on Tuesday January 22nd at 6pm at the Museum. Go to our website for information.

The film will begin airing on CAPS channel 6 beginning the 23rd of this month. The dates and times will be posted on the CAPS Media webpage. There will be other opportunities to view it in the new year. The Perfect Firestorm is a tribute to our entire community of

heroes who, in the face of an overwhelming crisis, responded with astonishing calm and then opened their hearts, hands and homes to rescue neighbors and strangers and together rebuild their lives. It cannot be said enough - Our community came together.

CAPS Media's community involvement continues. We are offering support including coverage of theatre productions and production of training videos for both the Micro Biology and Chemistry departments at Ventura College. In addition, we support both Ventura County Fire and the Fire Safe Council. Production for the Ventura County News Channel includes the most recent video which introduces America's Job Center. The center located in Oxnard offers support to search for jobs, build résumés, access career resources, and find information on education and training programs. The annual West Coast Community Media Awards are just around the corner. With over 50 public access centers participating we wait with anticipation to learn if any of our community-focused programs or those of our students or members have won awards. We will keep you posted.

Our mission is to educate and inform. We continue to educate members on what CAPS is and does and how they as members can contribute to local and global discussions. We train and mentor each member every step of the way. Do you have an idea? questions? We here to help answer them. Have you produced a film or video that you would like to share? Come attend the orientation and learn how you can participate. All training sessions are held Thursdays with the KPPQ-LP radio station's classes

VENTURA TOWNEHOUSE

CALIFORNIA'S CROWN JEWEL IN RETIREMENT LIVING

Look who won the wreath raffle!

4900 Telegraph Road, Ventura, CA 93003

805.642.3263

www.venturatownehouse.com
CA LIC# 565801810



On Thursday, December 13th, a lone suspect broke into and robbed the Namba Performing Arts Space, 47 So. Oak St. The entire crime was captured on security cameras. The suspect smashed the front glass door, entered directly to Namba's box office area and left with a small donation box with less than \$30 in it.

Namba is a non-profit organization serving our community with performing arts including music, dance, comedy, theatrical performances as well as community and civic events.



Police have not yet identified suspect. If you know who the individual is in the photo, please call Ventura Police at 805-339-4400 ext. 1169.

Jeffrey Willerth, Namba Director, said "While a smash and grab isn't in the spirit of our December holiday programming, we're thrilled nobody was hurt. Yes, only a few bucks were stolen but, like most local non-profits, we work really hard to raise every dollar to serve our community and it feels so unjust."

held on a Wednesday as well. Go to the web page for more information.

Commitment to our community continues as we share the Ventura City Council meetings live on channel 15. In addition, we air the City of Ventura's Design Review and Planning Commission meetings. The Ventura Unified School District and the Ventura County

Board of Supervisors meetings are also broadcast on channel 15.

Please contact CAPS Media at capsmedia.org or at 805.658.0500 for information about the screening and about how to join and become a member. Our mission is to create an engaged and informed community through participation in electronic media.

Spice-Topia

Spices. Teas. A Taste of Ventura

Get \$5 off \$20 with this coupon!
Thank you for shopping local this season.
Spices, Tea, Gift Baskets, Local Gifts

576 E. Main st. Ventura CA, 93001
(805)628-3267



EMPOWER MORE THAN YOURSELF.

JOIN
THE Y!

Join the Y in January for just \$20.19 or join during the community Open House January 5, 10am – 1pm and the entire month is on us!

URL: ciymca.org/ventura (Click: MEMBERSHIP)



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

VENTURA FAMILY YMCA
#VenturaStrong since 1887

Voted #1 gym
in Ventura County

3760 Telegraph Road 805.642.2131
ciymca.org/ventura

A New Year's Eve Party "Under the Tuscan Moon"

Monday | Dec 31 | 8 pm - 1:30am



Event Includes

- A Fancy Fare with Dancing to "Crosscut Band" until 1:00 am
- Multi Course Gourmet Steak & Fresh Seafood Plated Dinner
- Mediterranean Pasta & Dessert Bars
- Inside or Waterfront Heated Enclosed Patio
- Complimentary Photo Booth
- Champagne Toast at Midnight
- Festive Decorations & Party Favors
- No Host Specialty Cocktails & Full Bar Offerings

\$89.95
per person
+ tax/gratuity

**Make Your
Reservation Today!**
(805) 650-5350
Lynn@TheGreekVentura.com

The Greek
MEDITERRANEAN STEAK & SEAFOOD

Located in Beautiful Ventura Harbor
1583 Spinnaker Dr. Ventura CA 93001
www.TheGreekVentura.com



City News



Deya has launched library renovations and new programs including collections reorganizations and building renovations.

Museum of Ventura County names new Library and Archives Director

The Museum of Ventura County has announced Deya Terrafranca as its new library and archives director. Terrafranca will be responsible for managing all aspects of the regional special collection and historical research library, including collection development and supervision of more than 20 volunteers.

Terrafranca's appointment follows the retirement of Charles Johnson, who came to Ventura County nearly 30 years ago to take the position as librarian and became the Museum's longest serving staff member.

The library houses more than

170,000 items relating to Ventura County's history including maps, photographs, newspapers, books, periodicals, manuscripts, oral histories and video tapes, including many rare and one-of-a-kind, articles of incorporation and other county records.

"One of the Museum's goals is to increase the public's accessibility to the full breadth of the incredible library collection that has been amassed under the leadership of Charles, the Museum's Accessions Committee and its many volunteers," said Elena Brokaw, the Museum's Barbara Barnard Smith executive director. "Deya's experience working with Charles on this goal will help maintain continuity in moving it forward."

In addition, Terrafranca will spearhead the Museum's commitment to ensure that all at-risk collections are conserved and properly cared for, and that the entire collection is housed in one consolidated, climate controlled and ADA-compliant space that allows discovery, instruction, research, and collaboration.

Terrafranca has worked at the Museum for nearly two years in a variety of positions from visitors' services and administrative support staff to advancement director, responsible for cultivating corporate and individual donor opportunities, increasing membership and developing and promoting the museum's diverse programming, events and exhibits. Terrafranca holds a master's degree in library and information science from the University of South Carolina, Columbia, and a bachelor's

Continued on page 22



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.

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: www.facebook.com/groups/800215670039426/

The members of the Ventura Investment Group meet on Mondays for an informal discussion of recent economic events. The meeting is from 10 - 11:30 a.m. at the Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf at Telephone Road and Main Street. Visitors and potential members are welcomed. 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 might 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.

Mended Hearts of Ventura.Come share if you have had heart surgery or stent implant. Group meets the first Tuesday each month at Lemon Wood Mobile Park, 850 Johnson Dr. They have excellent speakers, leading Cardiologists, Nutritionists, Dietitians etc. from

our area. Contact Richard Hatcher at (805) 644-2733.

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 where grieving parents, grandparents and siblings over age 16 can come speak openly about their child, express feelings about loss, be listened to by others, and celebrate milestones. Meeting twice a month, on the first and third Wednesday from 7-9 pm at the Poinsettia Pavilion. 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.

The Ventura County Philatelic Society meet on the first and third Mondays each month at 7:30pm at the Church of the Foothills, 6279 Foothill Rd, Ventura. 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

Dec. 22: Christmas Organ Concert. The mighty pipe organ at First United Methodist Church and Music Director, Tyler Carlisle, will again be featured, embellished by the piano, choir and a decorated sanctuary to gently nudge us into the Christmas spirit. Saturday at 7 p.m. First United Methodist Church, 1338 East Santa Clara Street. Free! No tickets sold. Donations appreciated.

Dec. 28: Like to play acoustic music? Songmakers.org welcomes instrumentalists, singers, and singer/songwriters at all levels to join in a free song circle at the Bell Arts Factory Community Room, 432 N. Ventura Ave. 4th Friday of each month, 7 - 10 p.m. Listeners welcome! Mike Wittlin, (805) 750-8281.

Dec. 30: Get outside and explore the Santa Clara River hosted by The Nature Conservancy. This is one of the more beautiful properties and least visited of The Nature Conservancy in Ventura County. Join a naturalist on an adventure exploring the Santa Clara River corridor with no real established trails. Be prepared to get dirty or muddy. Durable hiking shoes, long pants and water are recommended. There are no facilities at this location. 250 S. Hallock Dr. Santa Paula. 9-11am.

Jan. 5: Kim Simons, "Dance of Deception" Author Signing Event. "She blasts music as she backs out of the driveway and then peels rubber as she drives away, leaving Lance standing in the driveway. Her hair flies out of the window as she blasts off. Lance is mesmerized; he wants her in the worst way. He hates himself for it." Bank of Books 748 E Main St. Saturday 5-7 p.m. (805) 643-3154

Jan. 6: Old-Time Country Bluegrass Gospel Music Assoc. Sunday 2-4 p.m. new location. Back to Poinsettia Pavilion 3451 Foothill Rd. Free admission, music on stage. Free parking. Open to Public. For more information call, 805-517-1131 or visit Facebook: OTCBGMA

Jan. 12: Wendy Dale Young Author Signing Event, "Behind the Eyes of Liberty Pearl" By Wendy Dale Young. Wendy is a first-time author, but



a published song writer. Wendy began her career at age 10, as a ballerina with The Bolshoi Ballet and later performed on Broadway and in London, England. She taught the performing arts to special-needs children and adults for 18 years. Saturday 1 -3 p.m. at the Bank of Books 748 E Main St. (805) 643-3154.

Ojai news and events

Ojai author Elizabeth Rose will visit the Ojai Library at 1 p.m. on Saturday, January 5, 2019, to deliver a presentation of her new book From The Fire which reflects on the Thomas Fire, co-authored with Deva Temple.

From The Fire is a book about hope and connection and the coming together of the Ojai community as well as a book about the devastation and trauma of the Thomas Fire. This book is a collection of photographs, writings, art, and reflection—entirely from members of the Ojai Community—that document the fire experience from the flames into the ashes to the regrowth on our land as well as within the community.

Elizabeth Rose will discuss the making of this book—from the inter-

views with over 45 community members to the process of culling through over 900 photograph submissions to sharing her experience meeting with so many Ojai community members.

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.

The Ojai Women's Fund (OWF) proudly names the 13 organizations selected to receive \$105,000 in 2018 community grant awards, which honor and support Ojai Valley nonprofits that serve local arts, education, environment, health, and social service projects. All funds were raised this year through OWF member donations and a Wilson Family Fund grant from the Ventura County Community Foundation (VCCF).

The Ojai Women's Fund will honor its 2018 grant recipients and celebrate good works in Ojai at a Grantee Gala Celebration, Thursday, January 17, 2019, 6:00 p.m., at the Ojai Valley Woman's Club, 441 E. Ojai Ave. All are welcome; please check OWF's website at www.ojaiwomensfund.org for further information.

Continued on page 22

*Wishes
come
TRUE*

*"My wish came true.
I wanted a home and family...
I finally found one."*

Welcome **A FOSTER TEEN INTO YOUR LIFE AND MAKE A LASTING IMPACT!**

This holiday season help a wish come true for a foster teen in our community.

Visit FOSTERVCKIDS.ORG/TEENS or call (805)654-3220 to learn more about becoming a resource parent!

FOSTERVCKIDS.ORG | (805)654-3220



Community Events

Library events

We are pleased to announce another exciting partnership between the Ventura County Library and the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library and Museum. On October 6, 2018, Pompeii: The Exhibition opened at the Reagan Library, featuring over 150 authentic artifacts on loan from the renowned Naples National Archaeological Museum in Italy. As with past Reagan Library exhibitions, library customers can enter to win free tickets at any of the library locations, and can use promotional code “LIBRARYMEMBER” for \$3 off admission from now until April 21, 2019.

Ventura Libraries
January 2019 Events
AVENUE LIBRARY
Children & Family Events
Building Blocks of Development - Birth to Five Years of Age
1/28 Monday @ 5:30- 6:30pm

Learn about the building blocks of child development from our special guest speaker from Ventura County Public Health.

Bilingual Early Literacy Class
1/7 & 14 Mondays @ 5:30-6:30pm

Join us every Monday for storytelling, nursery rhymes, flannel board fun and more!

Adult Classes & Events
Adult Education Class in English & Spanish
1/19 Saturday @ 4-8pm

Join Paul Rogers for help with English, computer basics, citizenship, drivers’ test, job applications, and more! See you in the community room!

E.P. Foster Library
Porfirio Gutiérrez Zapotec Artisan
1/5 Saturday @6-8pm

Join us for an immersive evening with New York Times featured master dyer & artist, Porfirio Gutiérrez.

Opera Santa Barbara
Free Noontime Concert
1/18 Friday @12-1pm

Spend Your Lunch Hour listening to members of the Mosher Studio Artist Program!

Ongoing Events
Twisted Stitchers Fiber Arts Club
1/3 & 17 Thursday @ 11am NEW TIME

Get together with makers from all across the fiber-arts world. Meet, teach, connect, share.

Children’s Events
Early Literacy Class
1/8, 15, 22, & 29 Tuesdays & 1/2, 9, 16, 23, & 30 Wednesdays @ 10:30am

Join us every week for stories, poems, music, movement, a simple craft, and fun!

Teen Happenings
Virtual Reality
1/8, 15, 22, & 29 Tuesdays @ 3:30-5:30pm

Explore the virtual world with these different VR platforms: Event is for ages 13-17.

Hill Road Library
Children’s Events
Early Literacy Class
1/2, 9, 16, 23, & 30 Wednesdays @ 10:30-11:30am

Join us every week for stories, poems, music, movement, and fun!

Adult Special Events
Planning for Your Child’s Financial Future
1/10 Thursday @ 6-7pm

This workshop will give attendees some strategies on 529 accounts, how

to talk age appropriately to kids about money, and how to set them on a path to be financially fit. Presented by Ventura County Credit Union (VCCU).

Medicare 101
1/11 Friday @ 10:30-11:30am

Join us for this workshop about the basics of Medicare. Learn how to sign up and file claims. Expert Debra Hilderman will be able to answer any of your questions!

Book Club: Outlander
1/29 Tuesday @6-7pm

Join us for a lively discussion of Outlander by Diana Gabaldon, our first Hill Road Library Book Club choice and our book for the month of January. All are welcome who have read the book!

Saticoy Library
Children & Family Events
Preschool Early Literacy Class
1/8, 15, 22, & 29 Tuesdays @ 10am.

Join us every week for stories, poems, music, movement, a simple craft & fun! Preschool Early Literacy Class

Family Coloring and Games
1/5, 12, 19, 26 Saturdays @ 10:30 a.m. - 12 pm

Games, Coloring and other art materials are available for drop-in participants to express their creativity. Children and Adults

3D Printer Demo
1/30 Wednesday @12-6pm

Come watch the 3d printer create objects! All ages, adults too!

Closures this Month
1st– Closed in observance of New Year’s Day
21st — Closed in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day
31st — Libraries open at 2pm due to staff meeting

The Ventura County Library is available 24/7 at www.ventcolibrary.org. Please visit website for information on the location and hours of the library closest to you.

Audubon events

January 5: Ventura Audubon Christmas Bird Count - Leader: Frank DeMartino 856-906-8733 or you may call one of the Section Leaders listed on website.

Birders of all skill levels are encouraged to participate. The more participants we have, the more areas we can cover and we can cover them more thoroughly. Sector Leaders usually start at 8:00 or 8:30 although some of the more ambitious leaders may start earlier!

January 6: 8:00 a.m. Hedrick Ranch Nature Area - Work day Leader: Sandy Hedrick 805-340-0478.

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

January 8: 7:30 p.m. VAS Monthly Program: Ventura Seabird Restoration on the California Islands... with Annie Little (USFWS) at the Poinsettia Pavillion - 3451 Foothill Road.

The presentation will highlight restoration efforts for seabirds on the Channel Islands and Baja California Pacific Islands, including invasive species removal, habitat restoration, and social attraction.

January 12: 8:30 a.m. Ormond Beach Leaders: Cynthia Hartley 805-795-4115 & Adele Fergusson

Continued on page 22

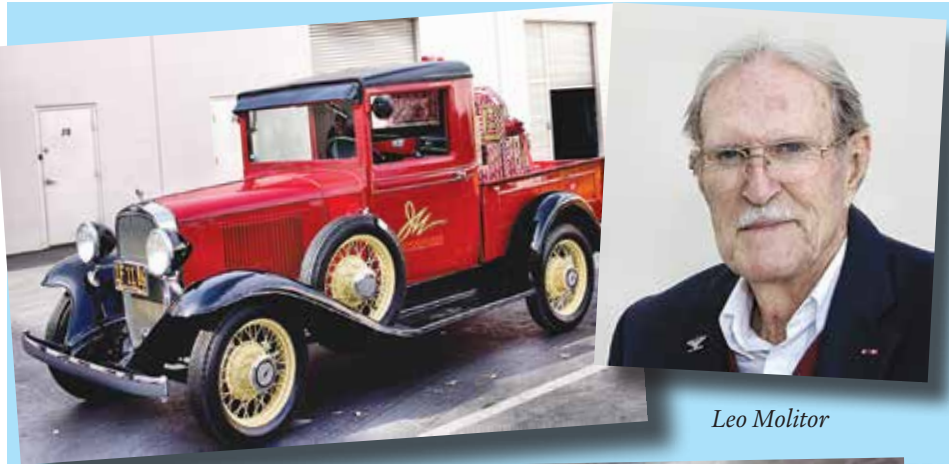
The Little Girl

by Ariel Rahder-Ventura College

The little girl you find under the cardboard box,
Is hungry for basic needs,
Dirty from countless days,
And shivering from the holes in her socks.
This little girl doesn’t ask for much,
But she has wants and needs.
But you wouldn’t know, would you?
Because no one ever asks the little girl on the streets.
Her daily life is a struggle,
Even at 7 years old.
Her mother, her protector,
Can’t even protect her from the cold.
She’s had various homes,
From corners to shelters.
School was her sanctuary
Until her mother stopped taking her.
Her friends are the leaves,
The stuffed animal she found in the trash.
Her imagination is her savior,
Because it’s the only thing that lasts.
This little girl is deprived,
Of stability and the basics.
She just wants a home,
And food she’s never tasted.
People walk by every day,
With looks of pity or disgust.
They forget she’s a little girl-
A human-
Like the rest of us.
They forget she has hopes and dreams,
That are as real as yours or mine.
Hers will just be harder to achieve,
But impossible is not a word she allows herself to be defined.
The odds are stacked up against this little girl,
But she has the strength of a warrior and it continues to unfurl.
She lacks the opportunities that you and I’ve been graced with,
Such as a steady education and annuals with the dentist.
Even at such a young age,
She has the ability to distinguish,
Right from wrong,
And to choose to not be diminished.
She’s experienced more in 7 years,
Than many in a lifetime.
She’s managed to retain her innocence,
As she continually prays for a sign.
She prays someone will save her,
She prays for a home.
She prays for steady meals,
She prays to not be alone.
She prays for fitted clothing,
That keep her cool during the summer and warm in the winter.
She prays for a bed,
And for stories to be read to her.
She prays for friends,
She prays for shoes.
She prays for stability,
And for shampoo.
The little girl holds on to her hope,
As tight as her dirty stuffed animal.
She knows her mother’s fate is not her own,
So she prays for a miracle.
As she gets older,
She learns to get herself around.
She is wary of strangers,
And those who push her down.
She excels in school,
Studying harder than most.
This little girl grows up,
Into a woman who can boast-
About how she was born into poverty
With torn socks and shoes.
She was on her own with nowhere to go.
But she didn’t let that define her sense of being,
Instead she worked hard and had hope,
And now she’s finally free and living.



News & Notes



Leo Molitor



Sylvia Taylor-Stein, Santa Claus and Elbie Daw.

The Board of Directors

Visitors journeyed back in time to the 1950's at Christmastime.

The gift of giving

by Karen Leslie, writer with heart

A winter wonderland in Ventura you ask? Yes indeed! On December 9th, 2018 Santa Claus arrived, HO HO HO-ING to the 2nd annual open house Fundraiser Benefit for The Ventura County Ombudsman Program.

Visitors journeyed back in time to the 1950's at Christmastime, to the small Minnesota town of Anoka, also known as the Halloween capital of the world. The lighted 1500-piece community Snow Village was collected and assembled with passionate devotion over a 22 year span by board member Elbie Daw. From fine wines, handmade baskets to collectible cars, guests enjoyed the ultimate wonderland experience!

"Do not cast me away when I am old; do not forsake me when my strength is gone."

The Ventura County Ombudsman Program began when Bee Ellisman's mother was in a nursing home and witnessed firsthand the need for advocates for elderly residents. In 1989 founders, Ellisman and Shirley Radding along with one staff member and two volunteers began monitoring 12 Ventura County nursing facilities, advocating for decent care and quality of life for 1,482 elderly residents.

In 1988, the founders incorporated Long-Term Care Services of Ventura County Inc, a non-profit charitable corporation. In 1991 the program was named a model by the state of California for its outstanding efforts on behalf of the elderly.

Ambudsman is a Swedish word meaning advocate. Executive director, Sylvia Taylor-Stein shares, "Sixty percent of those who live in nursing homes have no family or friends to watch out or visit them and are too fearful, vulnerable or frail to represent themselves. No other agency or program exists solely for the elderly. Each year The Ombudsman Program provides long-term care elders, their families and the community at large over 20,000 hours of free service. The non-profits greatest asset provides a value of \$160,000 of in-kind services to seniors and the disabled. The program is federally mandated and does not receive financial support from federal or state government. As a result the program depends on funds from sources that include private foundations, community development, block grant funding, individual and public contributions."

Jaw dropping U.S. numbers for the Ombudsman Program in 2016; There are 53 State Ombudsmen -1,300 full-time equivalent staff -7,331 volunteers trained to investigate and resolve complaints - information regarding long term care to 378,526 individuals - visited 28,473 long-term care facilities - provided information and assistance to 115,708 LTC facility and staff - attended 1,974 training sessions and worked to resolve 199,494 complaints.

In 2017, the state of California alone; investigated 41,834 complaints, responded to 26,392 calls, visited

PRIMROSE EXCURSIONS

Happy Holidays!

Let's travel together in 2019!!

805.535.5170 primroseexcursions.com

Travel Prelude Event!

January 10th • 10:30- 12 noon
We'll preview 2019-2020 trips

Italy, Smoky Mountains, NYC, Colorado, Newfoundland, Lake Tahoe
Scotland, Greece, Catalina
Zion Nat'l Park & more

Door Prizes and special discounts!

Event Location: 1500 Palma Dr., Ventura.
Call or email to RSVP

Shangri-La Care Cooperative

Adult & Medical Dispensary Now Open

408 Bryant Circle, Suite G, Ojai, CA
805.640.6464
Visit us online at www.SLCC.info
State permit # M10-0000182-temp
Monday - Saturday 10am - 7pm | Sunday 12pm - 7pm
Follow us on Instagram @SLCC_Ojai

4,105 facilities and provided 68,948 individual consultations.

The Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP) advocates for residents of nursing homes, board and care homes and assisted living facilities. As mediators, LTCOP's addresses a variety of complaints; violation of resident's rights and dignity - physical, verbal or mental abuse - deprivation of services necessary to maintain residents physical and mental health - unreasonable confinement - poor quality of care including personal hygiene, slow response to requests for assistance, improper transfer or discharge of patient and inappropriate use of chemical or physical restraint. Other rights include; citizenship, privacy, freedom, information, residency and expression.

Retired Army Colonel and 20+year Ambudsman member, Leo Molitor shares, "It only takes a compliment or touch on the shoulder to electrify a resident"

Sylvia shares, "The program's goal is to continue to bring strong effective advocacy and support services that help ensure a higher quality of life for this neglected population, a group whose numbers are expected to double in the next 10 years."

Santa's Christmas wish, "Peace for the world."

Mailbox
Continued from page 4
many pastors are bi-vocational for a variety of reasons, including financial. His sermon was Biblically based and not mean spirited. Christianity teaches us to hate the sin, but

love the sinner.

I urge the Superintendent to withdraw his resignation. This type of modern day anti-Christian persecution should not be allowed to stand. It is my hope that pastors and Christians in our community will come along side this wonderful man and give him your support. If we fail to stop this kind of mean-spirited madness, what will it lead to?

Bill Bays

Hi Sheldon!

I left Art City the week after Bad Exhibition: Value in Art closed.

I have taken a position as Associate Research Fellow at Sichuan University, and am enjoying my first real job and salary with benefits in this lifetime. Being a Bohemian is fun and all, but it's not too good for the teeth and body, long term. This is a really good chance to round out my resume and help me find a way to apply my skills, both academic and creative, as a professional once I return.

I will be back in Ventura for both winter and summer vacations, and am focusing my energy on finding an academic position in Southern California once my three year contract here is completed.

How are you doing? How's Ventura? I do so appreciate all the support you and the Breeze gave to both myself and to Art City while I was curator there.

Sophia Kidd
Sophia was a Breeze writer for many years prior to living in China and obtaining her PhD from Sichuan University. Very exciting that she has obtained this position. We wish her well. Perhaps she could launch a Sichuan Breeze.

CONGRATULATIONS 42ND ANNUAL VENTURA HARBOR PARADE OF LIGHTS WINNERS!

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS

<p>SWEEPSTAKES SAIL BOAT 30' & OVER: SEA OF GOLD</p>	<p>SWEEPSTAKES POWER BOAT 26' & OVER: GIRLY GIRL</p>			
<p>SAIL 30' & OVER: 1ST PLACE: FORGET ME KNOTS 2ND PLACE: LUCKY STAR</p>	<p>POWER 26' & OVER: 1ST PLACE: KOKORO 2ND PLACE: SURF RIDER</p>	<p>SHOWSTOPPER: BAIT N WAIT</p>	<p>SHOWSTOPPER: YOLO</p>	<p>PEOPLE'S CHOICE AWARD: DISCO DINGY</p>
<p>POWER 25' & UNDER: 1ST PLACE: QUICKTIME</p>	<p>NON-PROFIT: 1ST PLACE: KISS</p>	<p>HUMAN POWERED: 1ST PLACE: HOKULOHA</p>	<p>DINGY/DUFFY: 1ST PLACE: DIAGAMMA 2ND PLACE: DARKSIDE DINGY</p>	

VENTURAHARBORVILLAGE.COM

The **VENTURA BREEZE** Your Hometown Paper and **VENTURA CHAMBER of COMMERCE**

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.

News & Notes



Celebrating their victory!

Cabrillo Middle School brings home robotics honors

The Riptide Robotics team from Cabrillo Middle School in Ventura recently participated in the First LEGO League Los Angeles Area Championship Tournament, after winning the Champion's Award at the Ventura Regionals. They came home with the coveted First LEGO League Research Project Award for the work they did on their project, the "Veggie-Sphere."

This year's theme "Into Orbit" allows teams to build and compete with their robots but also expands the challenge and asks all teams to develop a project that would allow for humans to stay alive, healthy, and happy while living and working in outer space. This team took the problem of growing food in space and

developed the “Veggie-Sphere.”

“Finding a way to grow food in the dark, without gravity, and very little soil was a hard problem to tackle. Through many tries and failures we think we developed a way that would allow astronauts to grow vegetables in these conditions,” stated team member Sam Quiroz.

“We were provided with the opportunity to talk with NASA Engineers in Florida, we took a tour of NASA’s Jet Propulsion Labs and worked with engineers at Sessa Manufacturing who assisted us in developing our prototype,” stated team member Connor Upham.

Coached by JD Sessa, the Riptide Robotics team is made up of ten students; Alicia Ali, Alexander Blomquist, Olivia Blomquist, Emiliano Ferro, Matheus Gamble, Sam Quiroz, Burton Sessa, Conner Upham, and Scott Vreeland. The team is currently fundraising and looking for additional sponsors to assist them with project/robot costs and the purchase of two new laptops. Individuals can donate to their GoFundMe page at www.gofundme.com/help-cabrillo-robotics-blast-off and companies who wish to sponsor can reach out to fundraising committee member and team parent, Marianne Quiroz at Marieanne.quiroz@yahoo.com.

FIRST LEGO League is an international program for 9 to 16-year-old children (ages vary by country) created in a partnership between FIRST and the LEGO Group in 1998 to get children excited about science and technology – and teach them valuable career and life skills. Children work alongside adult Mentors to design, build, and program autonomous robots using LEGO MINDSTORMS® and create an innovative solution to a real-world problem as part of their research project.



News & Notes



Long-anticipated ribbon-cutting held at hospital.

CMH is now open

Community Memorial Health System has successfully completed the State of California inspection of the new Ocean Tower at Community Memorial Hospital. The hospital received an exemplary report that noted no deficiencies and has moved into the new building on Sunday, Dec. 16.

“Our staff should be commended for this extraordinary accomplishment. This commitment to excellence is what makes Community Memorial Health System so special,” said Community Memorial Health System President and CEO Gary Wilde. “I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank our Board of Trustees, our Foundation Boards, volunteers, physicians and staff for their dedication and support in realizing this dream.”

On Dec. 11 CMH held their long-anticipated ribbon-cuttings just a few days prior to the opening of the hospital.

Besides the opening remarks of CEO Gary Wilde welcomes were made by Mayor Matt LaVere, Richard Rush PhD Chairman of the Board of Trustees CMHS, Lamar Bushnell MD Chief of Staff and Leslie Leavens Leavens Ranches.

A flag presentation was by local boy scouts and choral singers entertained the guests. Drinks and finger food, including great deserts were provided.

After the tent reception was completed 3-different ribbon cuttings were performed in front of the holiday decorated hospital entrance.

The new Ocean Tower is a six-story, 355,000 square-foot, state-of-the-art building featuring 250 all-private rooms. The new building also includes an expanded emergency department with 37 private treatment rooms; 10 new surgical suites with leading-edge medical technology, advanced diagnostic and imaging capacities and integrated IT systems; expanded critical care

capabilities; and an entire floor devoted to moms, babies, and children, with a larger Neonatal Intensive Care Unit and an eight-bed pediatric wing.

The new Ocean Tower at Community Memorial Hospital opened to patients on Sunday, Dec. 16, when all the patients were transferred from their rooms in the old Mountain Tower to their new ones in the Ocean Tower.

The transfer of CMH patients to the new building took the bulk of the day on Sunday and was completed without incident. Overall 130 patients were moved.

“The transfer of our patients into their new rooms is a final and much anticipated step in opening our new hospital to the community. We’ve been waiting a long time for this day and are thrilled it arrived and all went well as expected,” said CMH President and CEO Gary Wilde. “We remain grateful for the community’s ongoing support of our new hospital.”

Community Memorial Health System built the new Ocean Tower to meet seismic requirements that the state of California mandated after the 1994 Northridge earthquake, to replace an aging structure built in the 1960s, and to attract the next generation of physicians. The new CMH will better meet today’s needs and expectations for high-quality care and patient privacy. All 250 rooms in the six-story Ocean Tower are private rooms.

The Ocean Tower is adjacent to the current/old hospital, now called the Mountain Tower. The Mountain Tower will remain in use and serve a variety of functions, including housing rehabilitative services, the GI Laboratory, respiratory therapy, laboratory services, nuclear medicine, physiology, nutrition services, the growing Graduate Medical Education Residency Program and administrative offices, among other uses.

A NEW COMMUNITY MEMORIAL HOSPITAL NOW OPEN



Community Memorial Health System

OurNewCMH.org

A not-for-profit organization.



MAKE THE HOLIDAYS *Easier* AT CLEARWATER!

We'll Pay For Your Move!



LIMITED TIME OFFER!

Receive
\$2,000*
towards moving costs.
Call for full details and
to schedule your tour.


CLEARWATER
at RIVERPARK

New, 55+ Active Adult Community Resort-Style Amenities

Full Calendar of Wellness and Lifestyle Programs
Walking Distance to The Collection at Riverpark
On-site Restaurant and Pub • Pets Welcome**

805.366.3533

CLEARWATERatRIVERPARK.COM

750 Clyde River Place, Oxnard, CA 93036

© 2018 Clearwater Living. All rights reserved. Features, amenities, and programs subject to change without prior notice. *Call for complete details. **Breed restrictions apply. CA BRE#1849138

55+ 



News & Notes



Light Up a Life is a thoughtful and heartfelt way to honor memories.

All proceeds support and ensure the continuation of hospice and bereavement programs

by Lee Sherman

Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurse Association's "Light Up a Life" event provides comfort, solace and an opportunity for those who have lost someone to honor their loved one's memory. And the acts of remembrance extend far beyond Ventura County.

I first became aware of Livingston in 2013 when I attended one of their free bereavement and grief counseling group sessions. I lost my younger brother in a car accident many years ago, and it always seems to affect me in a big way around the holidays. In speaking about my loss in the group session and sharing in the grief of others, I found a way to cope with my feelings, improve my outlook and regain my holiday spirit.

Now I am Livingston's on-staff grant writer and have had the opportunity to "pay-it-forward" by participating in this year's "Light Up" at Pacific View Mall. This was especially meaningful to me as I lost two dear friends this year, one to prostate cancer and one to pneumonia and both under the age of 50. Unfortunately, due to the timing and circumstances of their deaths I was unable to attend either funeral as they were both in New York and previous family commitments as well as limited finances, made it impossible for me to be there in person. Feeling a bit isolated out here, away from friends and family, I was especially glad to purchase hand-written ornamental stars in honor of their memories and send them back to their families, who I know are going through a very tough holiday season themselves. And while neither of my friends lived in California, both had visited me on several occasions and would be pleased to know they were remembered here. Seeing their stars on the trees, hearing their names read aloud and viewing their photos in our memorial slide show brought me much joy and peace.

And it's not just an East Coast – West Coast thing. At each "Light Up" event rocks are placed on the chairs in the audience to hold down our paper programs. Each rock has an inspirational word written on it such as "Peace", "Love", "Joy" and "Family". Attendees are free to take them home at the end of the program. Casey O'Neill, daughter of our Director of Community & Professional Relations Mike O'Neill, took one of these rocks with her on her pilgrimage to Santiago Spain. As customary for the Camino de Compostela, she left the memento as an honor to her trek across the northern coast of Spain at the Cathedral of St. Stephen, blending our local tradition with ancient traditions of the past, half a world away.

For those we've lost near or far, recently departed or long gone, "Light Up a Life" is a

thoughtful and heartfelt way to honor their memories and spread some joy this holiday season. All proceeds support and ensure the continuation of Livingston's compassionate hospice and bereavement programs throughout Ventura County. If you would like to learn more please visit www.lmvna.org.



Jolene McBee from the Face Of Ventura portrait series by Johanna Spinks

End of an era for Vagabond...

Continued from page 1

Cohen addressed this issue. "One thing that triggered all the rumors was that several people said they wanted to take it over and they were going to run it and continue her legacy, and that we were shutting it down," Cohen said.

Cohen explained that McBee's granddaughter and Chef Castillo didn't fully understand the situation. "We spoke to everyone who was interested, we spoke to all of them," Cohen added. Castillo was just not in a position to buy. He explained that in order to take over the diner, a multi-year lease would be required, a security deposit of \$20,000, another seven thousand just to open the doors, and an estimated \$100,000 to \$200,000 to bring the restaurant up to code.

Additionally, Cohen said "The restaurant has been struggling for the past couple of years. Customer base has eroded, people have left the community and new people coming in have not become customers, and new business has not been filtering in," said Cohen. "A diner is a diner, it has old-time food choices. The company's intention is to source local fresh foods and hire Venturan's for staff positions. "The restaurant had many items on the menu that has not changed in 50 years," he said.

Cohen also wants to make it clear that the company has owned this property since 1997 and that "we are in it for the long run" The Vagabond diner will be back in about a year depending on how extensive repairs and acquiring new equipment will take.

One of McBee's oldest and reliable customers Adrian Osung who has been coming nearly every day since 1966 thinks the closing "is regrettable and I don't like it." He added "It feels like it is taking the heart out of me. I don't accept it yet" he added. Customers for so many years he adds "Every chance me and my wife had we would come here." Osung, remembers McBee's husband Albert who he describes as a "very beloved person" and even after Osung's wife died he still continues to come to his favorite restaurant. "It's almost like being a part of the family and I hope it comes back."

The Ventura community will forever miss the iconic Vagabond run by two great people who truly created a legend. McBee's departure will leave a gaping hole in the hearts of generations of Venturans. Likely the Vagabond will not be the same when it reopens, but maybe just maybe it will come back stronger and for generations yet to come there will be a new Ventura legend.



The City of Ventura Holiday Candlelight Tours of the Historic Olivas Adobe was held on Sunday, December 9. Attendees of all ages, looking to get into the holiday spirit enjoyed this event while learning about life in the late 1800s. Tours experience what life was like long ago at this expansive adobe home and courtyard built between 1847-49 by Don Raymundo Olivas. Visitors took a step back in time at this California Historical Landmark as the Olivas Adobe Historical Interpreters, a non-profit volunteer group, performed scenes in period costumes in each of the Olivas rooms. Cookies and holiday singing was presented in the "library." Photos by Lisa McGuirk and Bill Green.



Senior Living

Pull Out Section



If you are really active skiing is a great way to stay fit.

6 ways to stay physically active in winter

by Kathleen Zuke

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services just released the 2018 Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans. The guidelines recommend that adults move more and sit less throughout the day by engaging in a combination of aerobic activities, as well as balance training and muscle strengthening.

Exercising during the winter months can be challenging as temperatures drop, roads and sidewalks are slippery, and storms prevent outdoor activities. Here are 6 ways to keep active this season.

1. Explore arthritis-friendly exercise videos

Check out these short videos with exercises focused on reducing joint pain through stretching and building strength. There are options for working out your upper and lower body, as well as trying out Tai Chi, all in your own home.

2. Find an exercise class near you

It can be hard to stay motivated while exercising alone. Find an evidence-based exercise class that can offer different options for activities and provide an opportunity to meet up with friends.

3. Go mall walking

This Mall Walking Resource Guide provides ideas for walking solo or with a group at a local mall. Moving your regular walks inside for the winter provides a warm, safe, and well-lit environment to keep active.

4. Take steps to prevent falls

If you do walk outside, take precautions to avoid slips and trips on icy sidewalks. Check out how you can Winterize to Prevent Falls.

5. Get a workout to go

Go4Life's Workout to Go guide has several options for exercising in your own home, including hand grips, wall pushups, and arm raises.

6. Find an indoor community pool or track

Many local Parks and Recreation Centers and YMCAs offer physical activity options, such as swimming, walking on indoor tracks, and group exercise for older adults.

Kathleen Zuke is Senior Program Manager for NCOA's Center for Healthy Aging. Her work focuses on empowering individuals and communities to better manage chronic conditions.

Start your year end planning now

by Jayson Cohen

American Legacy Solutions

It may seem as if the end of the year is very far away and that there is no need to start making end of the year financial plans as of yet. However, the reality is that the end of the year, and the activities which surround it are busy. At times, with all the festivities going on, it becomes close to impossible to do anything sensible where financial planning is concerned. You should consider starting your end of year plans now because early plan may spare you the heavy fines. Here are a

Celebrate the Season!

by visiting luxurious
Regency Palms
Senior Living Community!

Services & Amenities

- Surrounded By Quiet Residential Areas
- Customized Room Design; Extra Storage & Landscape Views From All Rooms
- 9 Courtyards For Enriching Outdoor Activities; Grand Child Play Area & More
- Chef Inspired Restaurant Style Dining
- Nursing Staff On-Site
- Beauty Salon & Nail Spa Pampering
- Signature Amenities; Movie Theater, Fitness Center, & More
- Signature Programs; "Go Fit For Life" Program, "Montessori Moments In Time" Memory Care Program, & More
- All Inclusive Resort Style Living; Housekeeping, Transportation, Cable TV/Wireless Internet, & More

Call today, schedule a tour, receive a gift card (limited time only), & learn more about our one of a kind community culture along with our very exciting early bird savings promotion. **805-954-8739**

REGENCY PALMS

SENIOR LIVING

1020 Bismark Way • Oxnard, CA 93033
regencypalmsoxnard.com

Pending Lic. #565802470

few things that you should consider doing right now.

If It's Time, Get Your RMD

You probably know that you are supposed to start making withdrawals from your IRA or other retirement plans when you reach the age of 70 and a half. If you don't take your RMD on time, you may be forced to pay a 50 percent excise tax on the amount which you will have failed to distribute. This is another reason why working with a Financial Advisor can help you avoid penalty's and anxiety.

Making A Charitable Contribution

Did you know that if you make a charitable contribution using a Qualified Charitable Distribution, you will get a tax exemption of the amount and the amount donated could also qualify as RMD? If you have not made any donation this year, perhaps now is the right time to make a meaningful contribution from your IRA. Again, seek professional guidance on this strategy.

Other Tax Mitigating Strategies

This is the perfect time to look into all your accounts and see whether there are tax gains which you can still capitalize on this year. If you do not understand how having investments such as mutual funds could affect your taxes and distribution, talk to a financial expert and have everything straightened out before the year ends and you are left with massive losses in your hands.

Avoid Tax Deferral

Don't Delay! When the year is coming to an end, some postpone all their tax related items until a later date. Tax deferral may seem like a quick fix to grow your money, but it is important to note that it puts off your taxes as opposed to getting a permanent resolution to the problem. If you are employed,

it may be wise to fund your employer sponsored plan as much as possible to get the full match of the company. After all, free money is indeed the best kind that there is, right?

Yes, all of this takes knowledge and effort but can pay off with the proper plan. We are here to help you plan for everything that comes with a successful retirement. Start early, plan ahead and you will have the best shot at a confident retirement

Eligible for the Medicare Special Enrollment Period Due to the California Wildfires?

by Rick Beavin

California Market President Humana

The federal government has announced a Special Enrollment Period (SEP) for people with Medicare impacted by the wildfires in California and who live (or did live at the time of the disaster) in impacted areas where the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) declared an emergency or major disaster. This SEP is also available to people who don't live in impacted areas, but rely on help making health care decisions from friends or family

Continued on page 15



Livingston Memorial

Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice
est. 1947



Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice is the oldest and only non-profit home health and hospice care agency in Ventura County. We have been making house calls and serving residents of all ages since 1947, regardless of their ability to pay.

Free Community Education & Support Services

- Bereavement Support Classes
- Diabetes Education Classes
- Joint Replacement Classes
- Speakers Bureau
- Advanced Directives and POLST Education

- Skilled Nursing Care
- Rehabilitative Care
- Palliative Care
- Hospice Care
- Personal Care



Accredited by
The Joint
Commission

Home is where the Heart is
When you need help at home, one call is all it takes.

(805) 642-0239



AMERICAN LEGACY
SOLUTIONS

Your Local Insurance Resource Center Specializing in

Medicare – Long Term Care – Investments
Dental – Life Insurance – Estate Planning

5808 Telephone Rd. - Suite 200 Ventura, Ca 93003

805-684-6480 www.alegacys.com

Senior Living



"Listing the purpose for which the medication is prescribed is very helpful."

The California Senior Legislature announces top legislative priorities for 2019

The California Senior Legislature (CSL) adjourned its 38th Annual Legislative Session and announced the Top Ten State Legislative Proposals and Top Federal proposals earlier this week. Members will advocate diligently during the 2019 legislative session to have state lawmakers carry and support these priorities.

The following were listed as the top ten State Legislative proposals:

AP-18: Labeling of Prescription Drugs

This measure would require physicians and surgeons to include the purpose for which the medication is prescribed on all prescriptions, unless the patient requests that this information be omitted.

AP-2 Transportation: Seniors' & Disabled Individuals' Access to Transportation to Medical Services

This measure would authorize the use of moneys in the electric program investment charge to fund grant programs in counties to provide transportation to nonemergency medical services for the senior and disabled populations located in rural, desert, and mountain areas through the use of energy renewable vehicles.

SP-10 Financial Elder Abuse: Mandated Reporting

This measure would amend the definition of "Mandated Reporters of Suspected Financial Abuse of an Elder or Dependent Adult" to include the officers and employees of businesses licensed under the Money Transmission Act for

making wire or money transfers and that would increase penalties, including providing for full reimbursement of losses.

SP-7 Veterans Housing: Affordable Rental Housing

This measure would establish a rental housing assistance program and would require the Department of Veterans Affairs to coordinate access to affordable housing with existing State and Federal Veterans services.

AP-7 Fall Safe Housing

This measure would amend the Building Homes and Jobs Act to ensure that specific falls prevention structural features designed to prevent falls and facilitate aging in place are built into new housing using funds generated by the Act.

AP-8 Affordable Housing for the Elderly

This measure would, for the purpose of meeting housing element goals under the Planning and Zoning Law, classify housing units participating in a home-sharing arrangement in which at least one of the occupants is an elderly person who qualifies as a person of low or moderate income, as defined, as very low income households.

SP-4 Dental Insurance

This measure would memorialize the Legislature and the Governor to enact legislation that would require the Department of Insurance to commission a study to determine whether requiring Medi-Cal and private dental insurance plans to provide increased dental coverage at low cost for seniors would result in lower overall costs to the state for emergency room visits and inpatient hospital treatment.

AP-17 Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

This measure would require any facility that provides electric vehicle charging stations for public use or common use to provide at least one van accessible station regardless of when the electric vehicle charging stations were added to the facility.

AP-15 Homelessness: Seniors & Persons with Disabilities

This measure would propose that a count of the number of homeless individuals include the number of seniors and individuals with disabilities that are homeless.

AP-3 Travel Safety

This measure would require all hotels, motels, inns, and bed and breakfasts to install grab bars in the tub and shower areas and nonskid surfaces on the tub and shower floors in all rooms available for public accommodation.

The following were identified as the



KEEP LIVING YOUR GOOD LIFE.

Like the city it thrives in, Cypress Place has a naturally vibrant vibe. Feel the welcoming spirit of Ventura's most respected resort-style senior living community.

Call 805-835-4072 to schedule a visit.



Independent Living
MOVE IN SPECIAL ONE MONTH FREE RENT*
*Call for details



CYPRESS PLACE
SENIOR LIVING

1200/1220 Cypress Point Lane • Ventura, CA 93003 • CypressPlaceSeniorLiving.com



License #565801008

Senior Living

Top Federal Legislative proposals:
AFP-2 Medicare Durable Medical Equipment: Grab Bars

This measure would memorialize the Federal Government to adopt appropriate regulations for the Medicare Program, or to enact appropriate legislation, that would add grab bars to the list of covered durable medical equipment under the Medicare Program, upon an evaluation by the Medicare Program to demonstrate that grab bars meet the requirements of durable medical equipment.

SFP-2 Medicare: Penalties

This measure would memorialize the Congress and the President to adopt appropriate regulations for the Medicare Program, or to enact appropriate legislation, that would prohibit Medicare late enrollment penalties related to the enrollment for Medicare parts A, B, and D.

For more information contact Janice Bailey, CSL Staff Services Manager, at (916) 552- 8056 or jbailey@seniorleg.ca.gov.



African Americans are more likely than whites to develop the condition.

A possible way to reduce dementia

Older African Americans with mild cognitive impairment (MCI) who got help setting goals to be more socially, physically, or cognitively active had slower memory decline than those who did not receive such help, concludes an NIA-funded study published Sept. 10 in JAMA Neurology. The results point to a possible way to reduce dementia risk in African Americans, who are more likely than whites to develop the condition.

Past studies suggest that a more active lifestyle may help prevent cognitive decline, but few of these studies have included African Americans. MCI—a condition in which people have more memory problems than normal for their age—often, but not always, leads to memory loss and other signs of dementia.

In the study by researchers at Thomas Jefferson University, Philadelphia, 221 African Americans age 65 and older with MCI (average age, 76 years; 79 percent female) were randomly assigned to one of two interventions, and 164 completed the trial. One group received “behavioral activation,” in which community health workers helped them choose goals to be more active, then develop step-by-step action plans. Goals included, for example, relearning how to play chess or rejoining a church group. The control group received “supportive therapy,” conversations with community health workers that did not involve setting goals. Both groups had 11 one-on-one, in-home sessions with African-American community health workers, with each session lasting 1 hour, over 2 years.

After 2 years, the behavioral-activation group participated in significantly more cognitive activities, the researchers found. There were no differences in physical or social activity levels. Both groups had memory decline, measured by performance on a standard memory test, but the behavioral-activation group declined by just 1.2 percent, compared with 9.3 percent for the control group. In addition, behavioral activation was associated with stable everyday function and improved executive function.

The study provides evidence that a behavioral intervention can slow memory decline in older African Americans at risk for dementia. Although several factors may influence cognitive decline in this population, it’s possible that planning a more active lifestyle could reduce the disparity in dementia risk between African Americans and whites.

This research was funded by NIA grant 1R01AG035025. ClinicalTrials.gov number NCT01299766.

Reference: Rovner BW, et al. Preventing cognitive decline in black individuals with mild cognitive impairment: A randomized clinical trial. JAMA Neurology. doi: 10.1001/jamaneurol.2018.2513.

Eligible for the Medical Special...
Continued from page 13
members who live in the impacted areas.
The SEP will run at least through

Customize Your Move-In Special for a Limited Time!

PICK ANY TWO ITEMS FROM THE LIST BELOW

- 2 Year Rent Freeze
- \$1000 Off Rent First Three Months
- Furnished Apartment
- Free Pack-N-Move up to \$1000

HOLIDAY PICK 2

LIMITED TIME OFFER!
Please call for more details on this special offer and to select your choice suite before they're all rented!

805-647-0616
*OFFER EXPIRES 12/31/18



The Palms At Bonaventure
Assisted Living & Memory Care
111 North Wells Road, Ventura, CA 93004
RCFE#565802467

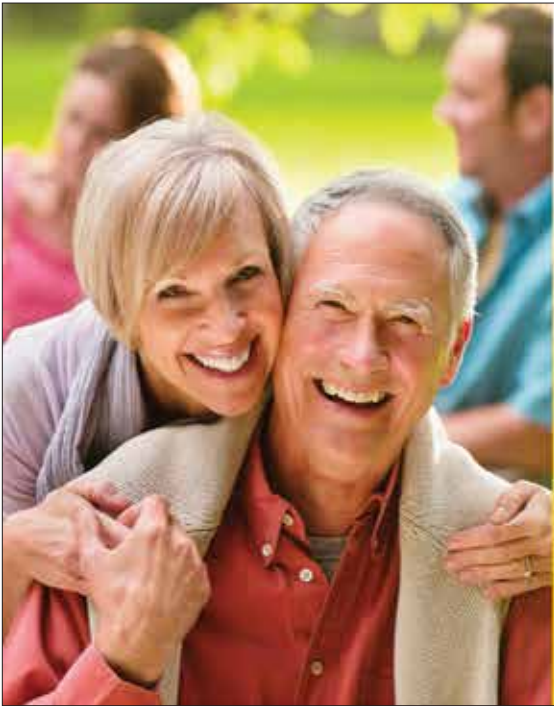
March 8, 2019, giving individuals with Medicare additional time to change their Medicare medical and prescription drug plans for 2019, including Medicare Advantage plans, in the event they were unable to do so during another qualifying enrollment period.

If you are eligible for Medicare, qualify for the SEP, and haven’t yet selected a 2019 Medicare Advantage or Prescription Drug Plan here are four simple steps to help you make the best decision:

1. Review your current Medicare health plan. Look at what you’ve spent on health care in the past year, including hospital expenses and prescriptions. Evaluating what you spent in 2018 will help you decide whether your current health plan meets your needs, both financially and medically.
2. Know your options for Medicare coverage:

- Original Medicare (Medicare Parts A and B): Provides basic coverage for medical services and supplies in hospitals, doctors’ offices and other health care settings. Original Medicare does not include coverage for most prescriptions and includes cost-sharing in the form of deductibles and coinsurance.
- Medicare Advantage (Medicare Part C): Includes all the coverage offered under Original Medicare, and typically also includes prescription drug coverage. Medicare Advantage plans may include additional benefits as well, such as dental, hearing and vision coverage; a nurse advice line; and a fitness program. Medicare Advantage plans are offered through private insurers, like Humana, and are steadily gaining in popularity: The number of Americans choosing this

Continued on page 16





VICTORIA CARE

Blending time-honored therapies and innovative programs with an obsessive focus on excellent customer service and clinical outcomes

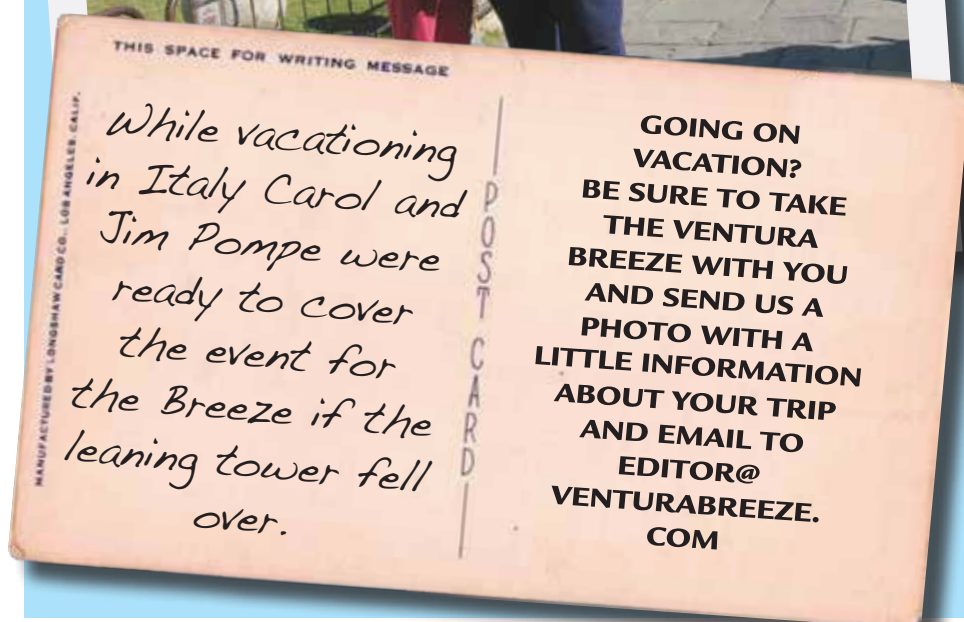
Thank you Ventura County for selecting Victoria Care Center as a FAVORITE in the recent Readers Choice survey.

When you need great physical, occupational and/or speech therapy following an illness, stroke or surgery, pick the PARC at Victoria

Skilled Nursing – Post Acute Rehab

www.VictoriaCareCenter.comwww.ThePARCatVictoria.comwww.FriendsOfVictoria.org

805-642-1736
5445 Everglades Street • Ventura, CA 93003



New report spotlights education in Ventura County

For the first time, Ventura County's major educational institutions have combined their resources to create a report that encompasses educational programs and achievements from elementary school to graduate school. The 2018 Ventura County Education Report

to the Community is now available to view and download.

California Lutheran University, CSU Channel Islands, the Ventura Community College District and the Ventura County Office of Education jointly produced the 20-page publication. The report highlights the innovative ways Ventura County's K-12 schools, community colleges and universities are expanding educational opportunity and achievement. The report also takes a look at the growing effort by educators to prepare students for the working world by providing the knowledge and



On Dec. 14 & 15, the Ventura Harbor celebrated the season with its 42nd Annual Holiday Parade of Lights & Fireworks. The 2018 theme paid homage to all things 70's. It featured a very colorful Boat Parade and Harbor Village festivities!

Senior Living

Eligible for the Medical Special...

Continued from page 15

option is expected to climb to 36 percent in 2019, up from 33 percent in 2017, according to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

- Medicare Prescription Drug Plans (Medicare Part D): Offers coverage for prescription medications. Such a plan can be added to Original Medicare, a Medicare Supplement (Medigap) plan or to some Medicare Advantage plans (that do not include prescription drug coverage), some Medicare Cost Plans, and some Medicare Medical Savings Account (MSA) plans.

- Medicare Supplement (Medigap) Plans: Pays most costs not included under Original Medicare, such as deductibles and coinsurance. These plans do not have a set provider network, and enrollment is not limited to the Medicare Annual Election Period but they are often subject to underwriting. These plans are also sold by private insurance companies, like Humana. Medicare Supplement plans on the market today do not include prescription drug coverage.

3. Comparison shop. Research a plan's out-of-pocket costs, and its network of

doctors and hospitals. Check to see if your prescriptions are on your plan's formulary (list of covered drugs), as these can change each year. Compare plan benefits, such as dental, vision and hearing benefits; a fitness program; virtual doctors and behavioral health coverage.

4. Ask an expert. You are not alone! There are resources if you have questions:

- If you prefer to learn more in person, you can meet with a licensed sales agent. To speak to a Humana licensed sales agent call 1-877-877-0714 (TTY: 711) 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. local time, seven days a week.

- If you prefer to do your research online, you can visit websites such as Medicare.gov and humana.com/medicare to view and compare plans in your area.

- You can also call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) (TTY: 1-877-486-2048) 24 hours a day, seven days a week to speak to someone by phone about 2019 Medicare plan information.

To learn more about Special Enrollment Periods, visit Medicare.gov or call 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227) (or TTY: 1-877-486-2048), 24 hours a

This 'n' That

skills sought after by local employers.

The report is being released by the Ventura County P-20 Council, which is a group of local education, business, government and nonprofit leaders who collaborate on educational issues.

The report is available to view as a digital magazine or download as a PDF document at www.vcp20.org/report. Printed copies are available at the Ventura County Office of Education at 5100 Adolfo Rd. in Camarillo.



Goal is to raise \$10k to get a Children's Dream Racer Car built.

We are healthcare advocates

by Jolene Bibian

I'm part of a committee planning a local 5k in Ventura scheduled for January 12th, 2019.

This event is our first attempt at our goal of raising \$10k to get a Children's Dream Racer Car built for VCMC Pediatrics unit. These cars are built by Mark 'Smitty' Smith who worked on NASCARs in the 90's. He sold his shop in 2008 to use his talents in building Children's Dream Racer cars for children in hospitals receiving care. They are designed to help ease the anxiety of children going through treatment and help them "just" be kids in an otherwise scary situation.

I'm the president-elect of "Ventura County Association of Health Underwriters". We are not underwriters, but

rather healthcare advocates. VCAHU proudly serves our community with a vision of providing access to private sector solutions for health insurance through the unbiased advice of local agents and brokers.

Incoming presidents of the local association are encouraged to lead an event within the association prior to their term as president. Typically, these are aimed at our own industry by way of professional development. This time around, we decided to do an event that was community facing. If we meet our goal, and get that car to the kids, we will be the first west coast chapter of our national association to do so! We would love for our VCMC kids to have one of these cars and for our community to be a part of making that happen! The power of play is a vital resource for the healing process.

Registration is open for the 5k and readers of the Breeze can use a promo code BREEZE to receive a discount.

We encourage registering before Dec 12th to help in planning efforts.

People can donate and register online: <https://runsignup.com/Race/CA/Ventura/VCAHU5k>

We are also actively looking for community members to fill our sponsorship spots or include their raffles prizes for the morning of the 5k.

Updated Dashboard provides clearer picture of school performance

A redesigned and expanded California School Dashboard is now available to the public at www.caschooldashboard.org. The Dashboard, which debuted

Continued on page 28

News & Notes



The Gold Coast Board of Directors are catching the elf.

Catch the “ELF on the GO” Holiday Bus

Catch the “Elf on the GO” Holiday Bus at a stop near you. Gold Coast Transit District (GCTD) is excited to announce the third annual appearance of its popular “Elf on the GO” holiday bus.

This year’s “Elf on the GO” is merry and bright with its colorful red design. With a highly visible full bus wrap, onlookers will be thrilled to see elves happily making toys, wrapping presents and hanging lights. Some elves are even playfully peeking through the windows inviting folks to hop on board where they will find festive decorations and holiday music.

GCTD’s 40-foot holiday bus will appear throughout GCTD’s service area through January 4th. Surprise visits

from “elves” bringing cheer, bearing candy canes and posing for “sELFies” will occur randomly throughout the season. Passengers are encouraged to take pictures, tag #ElfontheGO and post to Facebook, Twitter or Instagram for a chance to win goodies and prizes.

“We are thrilled to once again do our part to spread holiday cheer throughout the communities we serve”, said GCTD General Manager, Steven P. Brown. “It’s something we look forward to each year as it brings joy to the passengers who board and smiles to passersby who see it”.

Sightings of the “Elf on the GO” bus can be tracked by searching #ElfontheGO on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram or by visiting www.GoldCoastTransit.org.

In January we celebrate the life of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Martin Luther King, Jr. was one of the main leaders of the American civil rights movement. A Baptist minister by training, King became a civil rights activist early in his career, leading the Montgomery Bus Boycott. His efforts led to the 1963 March on Washington, where King delivered his “I Have a Dream” speech, raising public consciousness of the civil rights movement and establishing King as one of the greatest orators in American history.

In 1964, he became the youngest person to receive the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to end segregation and racial discrimination through civil disobedience and other non-violent means.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day is a United States federal holiday marking the birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. It is observed on the third Monday of January each year, which is around the time of King’s birthday, January 15.

King was assassinated on April 4, 1968, in Memphis, Tennessee. He was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Jimmy Carter in 1977. Martin Luther King Day was established as a national holiday in the United States in 1986. In 2004, King was posthumously awarded a Congressional Gold Medal.

Mountain lion sightings in hillside neighborhoods

Residents have reported mountain lion sightings in residential hillside neighborhoods in Ventura.


This alert is for information only and has been issued as a precaution to our community. Mountain lion attacks are very rare but the Ventura Police Department would like to remind residents of a few simple tips to protect you and your loved ones from mountain lions:


- Do not feed deer. It is illegal in California and it will attract mountain lions.
- If you see a mountain lion do not approach it, especially one that is feeding or with offspring.
- Most mountain lions will try to avoid confrontation.
- Avoid hiking or jogging in hillside areas when mountain lions are most active—dawn, dusk, or at night.
- Keep a close watch on small children when hiking.
- If you encounter a mountain lion, do not run; instead, face the animal, make noise and try to look bigger by waving your arms; throw rocks or other objects. Pick up small children.
- Bring in small pets during the evening and early morning hours.
- Ventura’s hills are a natural

Moving In? Moving Out? Moving Up?

I can help you with that.

CalDRE 01985025





ADELA TRAINOR
YOUR REALTOR

805.701.7694
TeamTrainor12@gmail.com
@TeamTrainor12



The Helpful Honda guys dispatched their iconic Helpful Honda Holiday Treats Truck to surprise kids of all ages with free treats! The Free Treats Truck visited the Kids & Families Together Holiday Party at 864 E. Santa Clara on Saturday, December 8th to bring extra joy to the kids. Over 280 Kinship, Adoption, and Foster kids came together and got new pajamas, took photos with Santa, and Caregivers picked out gifts for the kids while they watched a movie.

Kids & Families Together, in partnership with Heart 2 Heart, invited Foster/Resource, Kinship, and Adoptive Families for the fun filled day.

Photo by Richard Lieberman.

mountain lion habitat. Their primary prey is deer, but they have also been known to attack livestock and pets, and on very rare occasions, humans. Mountain lions are generally solitary, elusive and avoid human contact. The recent fires may have brought more wildlife to our area.

The Department of Fish & Game has been notified of this activity.

7-Day river cruise to raise funds to support those affected by disaster

Hathaway Dream Vacations in Carpinteria has partnered with The Local Love Project and Chocolats du CaliBressan in Santa Barbara to host the Local Love Project River Cruise, which will raise funds to support those affected by disaster or in time of need. The unique fundraising cruise aboard AmaWaterways’ AmaCello departs Lyon, France on September 5, 2019, for a 7-day river cruise.

Don Hathaway, Dream Vacations franchise owner said “We are privileged to have the opportunity to collaborate with two community leaders in hosting this fundraising cruise for the Local Love Project.”

The Local Love Project River Cruise will visit Lyon, Vienne, Tournon, Avignon and Arles.

The Local Love Project activates and organizes members of the

community to help in providing items necessary to neighbors impacted by the Thomas Fire and mudslides as they work to restore their lives.

Kat Merrick CEO said, “Totally Local VC’s Local Love Project is honored to be partnering with AMA Waterways, Hathaway Dream Vacations and Chocolats du CaliBressan to help raise much needed long-term recovery funds for Thomas Fire survivors. This will be a once in a lifetime experience that truly gives back to our community.

Fares start at \$3,749 and are based on double occupancy, space is limited. For more information on the Local Love Project, or to book your trip with Dream Vacations, please call 805-978-5870 or visit <http://dhathaway.dreamvacationsgroups.com/TheLocalLoveProject>.

Storyfest

At Storyfest, held at the school district grounds we took an informal survey of the kids that attended.

Here are their responses:

- Favorite desert- ice cream
- Favorite place to visit- tie Canada and Hawaii
- Favorite color- pink
- Favorite subject- math
- Favorite pet- dog, cat a close second
- What they want to learn in school
- Time tables
- Geography
- Science
- Poetry
- Music
- Cursive
- Math
- Sign language
- Division

The Pet Page



Dedicated to Scamp

A thief was caught on camera stealing thousands of dollars from the CARL Thrift Store. The thief was caught on the store's surveillance video pulling back a curtain, and going into the manager's office repeatedly, before he leaves the store with an estimated \$2,400. CARL rescues and takes in dogs



This horrible man, who stole from CARL, must be caught.

that need a home, and provides them medical care.

"He basically came in and wiped everything out," said Mary Saputo, president of the Canine Adoption and Rescue League. Our vet bills last year were in excess of \$105,000. We had had a very profitable week so it was a sizeable chunk of change that he stoled" Saputo said. "This is an all-volunteer thrift shop, nobody is paid a penny and we work very hard. For this man to come in

and just help himself to around \$2400, that makes a difference for some little creature out there."

Mary came up with the idea to make up for the stolen money by holding a raffle. Two-dollars for a chance to win a \$100 Petco gift card. The winning raffle number will be picked on December 23rd.

How to enter:
CARL Thrift Store 2750 E Main.
Venmo: @loveallanimals
PayPal: carldogs@yahoo.com

"As we completed our trifecta to three Ojai parks, Sarzotti, Soule and Libbey, I felt my usual sense of immense gratitude for the time I get to spend with



"We would much rather be taking a long walk." Kai, Jafar and Baker.

my two favorite huskies. Kai is seven and his older cousin, Jafar, is twelve. Along with my daughter's three-year-old border collie mix, named Baker. These dogs have taught, and continue to teach me, some of my life's most important and cherished lessons. Spending time with any of these wonders of humanity can't help but rub off on lucky people ... like me!" Marty Kinrose - Dog Walker.

Scamp Club

(Scampclub pets are not for adoption.)



Hi: my name is Chewbacca "Chewy" Hubina. I'm a poodle puppy and I love Ventura, the ocean and long walks! I do get into lots of mischief and sometimes I have to go outside when I've been naughty, but mostly I'm a wonderful fellow and I've been pretty good, Santa!

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.



Buddy.

My Empty Lap-Remembering Buddy by John Darling

I look at my lap in front of me and
My hands are the only things I see.
The warmth that was there has gone away,
So I cry knowing that the cold is here to stay.
Though many others could fill this space,
No one could ever really take your place.
I still see your eyes showing me the love
That will now only come down from up above.
No longer do I have a friend to go with me
To share in all the things I do and see
The beds you used to have everywhere
Have been given to other dogs to share
No longer do I have to buy your food
Or replace the worn out toys that you chewed
I can walk where I want without looking down
To see if you're under my feet, dancing around
For such a little dog, you were a lot of work
Yet your kind sweet ways always made me smirk
But you're gone now so I can do as I please
Supposedly my life will be much more at ease
Yet I will mourn for you each passing day
Wishing that it didn't have to be this way...



The Buddy Nation Cookbook cover girl, Candy has lost her battle with cancer. Beloved companion for 9 years of Richard Flores she lost her battle on November 28th. Candy was sweet and loving right up to the end, wagging her tail and nudging for a pat or scratch.



Therapy dogs at CMH can be very beneficial and therapeutic for those waiting for care. Contact Pam Schuman Therapy Dog Coordinator at pssifty@gmail.com or 805-650-6032 to see if your dog would make a good therapy dog.

SPAN Thrift Store
SPAY/NEUTER ANIMAL NETWORK
We are an all volunteer, nonprofit organization
More Spays - Less Strays
Volunteers Needed!
Donations Always Appreciated!
Spay and Neuter for Low & No Income Families in Ventura County
805.641.1170 110 A & B N. Olive St., Ventura CA 93001

LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS & Gently Used Household & Clothing Products.
www.spanonline.org



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 Anakin, a 7-year-old Labrador mix who is in need of a new home as I started not getting along with my litter mates. I have a great personality - active, affectionate playful and outgoing. I know basic commands and I'm good on leash. I'm house and crate trained, know how to use a doggie door and will let you know if I have to go outside. I'm good with older children, but have never been around younger ones. I just want to be loved.



Say hello to Ripley! This gorgeous girl is friendly, playful, and loves affection. She knows some commands and is a great learner! Her favorite activity is fetch and she is quite the pro at it. Not only is she easy to walk, but she is also easy to bathe! She loves to get scrubbed during baths and doesn't give her volunteer friends any trouble. She has wonderful manners and can't wait



to find a loving family that will appreciate her many wonderful qualities. Ventura County Animal Services - Simi location - 670 W. Los Angeles Ave. Ripley A690403.

Holiday Cruises

From Ventura Harbor

Caroling

Cruise the Ventura Keys

Dec. 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 6:30 - 7:30p.m.

\$16 Adult • \$13 Senior • \$10 Child

Dan Harding©2013

Gift Shop and Gift Certificates
Island Day Hikes • Camp • Kayak • Whale Watching
805-642-1393 ISLAND PACKERS.COM

Youth



Students to launch experiment to learn about laws of science in space.

Eighth grade students work with NASA

by Dylan McHenry, Malia Sanchez, and Sara Milesi

The eighth grade students at Ventura Missionary School are partnering with NASA and Quest for Space in conducting an experiment hoping to learn more about laws of science in space. “This is a great opportunity for the students to be a part of real life science and engineering while conducting an experiment where the results will be helpful for NASA and their exploration to Mars” says science

teacher Mrs. Woods.

They will launch an experiment to the International Space Station (ISS) in February, 2019 to see if the properties of heat transfer change in space. The experiment will help the students learn, and will also provide information for NASA. NASA has been experimenting with combustion, and found there were some surprising results. It turns out that heat transfer is different in microgravity, and this experiment will help to further this research. In the experiment, the class is working together and conducting those experiments on Earth first. The same experiment will then be performed in space and they will compare the results. In the experiment, they will use the same heat source, conductor, and method of recording in each experiment. The difference will be limited amount of gravity and oxygen that is found on the ISS. In order to learn how to build the experiment, the students first built and programmed robots using the Lego EV3.

This experiment is helping NASA know a little bit more about how heat transfers in space. In future Extravehicular activities (EVAs), space walks, they can know what to expect with the transfer of heat in the space around the astronaut, in the Extravehicular Mobility Unit (EMU),space suit, and even stars and large bodies in space, such as planets. This exciting experiment is due to launch in February, so keep an eye out for the ISS. There were three experiments that the class could choose from.

“We all voted on doing the third experiment where we put a ceramic resistor between two heat and humidity sensors with a fan to move the air and see

which sensor heats up and cools down faster,” explained VMS student Isabella Rodriguez. This experiment is not only fun for the students, but it also provides an opportunity for the workers at NASA and Quest to see students getting involved and engaged in the world around them. Along with VMS, 13 other schools across the nation will be partnering with NASA and Quest. “I think

it’s awesome that I get to be part of such a great experiment and I’ve learned so much.” said Alivia Baker, VMS student. The eighth grade class is very excited to launch the experiment, and eager to find out the results. So wish them luck and a fun learning experience!

Ventura Missionary School
805-644-9515 www.venturamissionary-school.com



The 2018 Annual Poinsettia Awards were held at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel at the Ventura Harbor. Held on December 6, the program is sponsored by the Ventura Chamber of Commerce. The awards program honors those who make a difference in the community. Pictured above, the honorees are (by category) Small Business of the Year, Dyer Sheehan Group, Inc., Mid Size Business of the Year, Ventura Grocery Outlet, Large Business of the Year, Aera Energy, LLC, Non-Profit of the Year, Bike Ventura, Innovation Award, Waypoint Ventura, Young Professional of the Year, Josh Damigo, Ambassador of the Year, Pat Pothier, Environmental Excellence Award, Leashless Brewing, Police Officer of the Year, James Brittle, Firefighter of the Year, Colby Morrison, VUSD Student of the Year, Ryan Sequeira, VUSD Educator of the Year, Michael Gennaro, Jewel Key Award, Chad Caldwell, Citizen of the Year, Jim Monahan.

Photo by Richard Lieberman.



Voted #1 Best Pest & Termite Co.



O'Connor Pest Control
"Family Owned and Operated Since 1952"

FREE TERMITE INSPECTION
FREE ESTIMATES
Same Day Service M-F
ECO SMART PRODUCTS
805-644-5501
www.oconnorpest.com



KEVIN O'CONNOR, President
"Look for the ANT on the Door!"



Volunteers sorting the debris they picked up... some is trash and some are recyclables. Photo courtesy of MERITO Foundation.

Sustainability Now News

MERITO Foundation: Inspiring our youth to become environmental stewards

by Maryann Ridini Spencer
(@MaryannRidiniSpencer)

"We all deserve to live in a world with clean air, clean water, and abundant, healthy food sources and it's all our responsibility for the care of our planet," said Rocio Lozano-Knowlton, MERITO Foundation's Founder and Executive Director. "Research has shown that the best time to influence children and reinforce healthy habits is from a young age. At MERITO Foundation, we've made it our mission is to teach children how to think, act and live sustainably."

MERITO (Multicultural Education for Resources Issues Threatening Oceans), established as a not for profit in 2014

after being a program of Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary for nine years, educates youth about ocean health and environmentally friendly practices through education programs, hands-on conservation, and in-the-field citizen science experiences.

"We work to provide opportunities to demonstrate to students first-hand how their actions can impact the environment," said Lozano-Knowlton. "During field retreats, students learn about our watershed as well as collect field data that contribute to ongoing scientific research." In our in-classroom educational outreach programs, they engage in the development of environmentally-friendly products as well as spearhead projects and activities that help reduce their school's carbon footprint and utility costs."

MERITO's two main programs feature MERITO Academy, a comprehensive hands-on Earth, and ocean science education program that provides educators with the tools to teach students about current issues facing our ocean and coastal environments. The EECCOA Program (Energy Efficiency to Mitigate Climate Change and Ocean Acidification), is a project-based science education program that provides energy, climate, and ocean literacy services and products to 8th-12th-grade teachers and their students. Every year the program culminates with a public award ceremony honoring event winners with cash prizes. Both MERITO Academy and EECCOA are aligned to the Next Generation of Science Standards (NGSS) and Common Core Standards (CCSS).

"The teachers can select certain components of our programs based on their needs (i.e., curriculum, field experiences, student projects, etc.). Our only requirements are that teachers instruct 10-15 lesson plans

This 'n' That

through the school; allow us to administer pre and post-program evaluation to their students, and to guide their students to deliver an end of year projects," continued Lozano-Knowlton.

With MERITO programs, teachers choose when and which lessons to teach, as well as if they would like to have their students participate in MERITO's field experiences.

MERITO works with a host of top educators and environmental and ocean science professionals to help develop their bilingual curricula, field activities, instructional guides, and educational videos, and to date, MERITO's teacher training workshops have trained 413 educators working with school districts across Ventura and Santa Barbara counties.

"Through our programs, students get exposed to careers in science, technology, engineering," added Lozano-Knowlton. "The knowledge they gain helps encourage them to pursue careers related to the ocean, the environment, as well as art-related fields, all with the intent and a passion for preserving our precious natural resources."

"When we take students out into the field or expose them to issues impacting our natural environment, we've found the kids love to come up with ideas and solutions that make a difference," said Lozano-Knowlton, "Engaging in environmental problem-solving and contributing possible solutions excites and empowers them."

The MERITO Foundation has educated 14,581 students to date in understanding our watershed, ocean, and climate change sciences programs at over 25 public schools in Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties. Help support MERITO Foundation's mission, donate or volunteer. Find out more about MERITO's programs and events. Visit www.meritofoundation.org or email info@meritofoundation.org

Kaye Mand selected as County Chief Financial Officer

Kaye Mand has been selected as the new County Chief Financial Officer.

The appointment was made by County Executive Officer Mike Powers following a thorough, nationwide search which resulted in more than 150 applicants, including numerous strong internal and external candidates.

Mand has more than 28 years of fiscal analysis, accounting and management experience in a variety of roles with the County. This experience includes 18 years with the Auditor-Controller's Office as well as 10 years with the County Executive Office. She has had many years of extensive involvement with the development of the County's overall budget, as well as department-specific budgets.

"Over the years, through her hard work and dedication, Kaye has become widely respected and trusted by department and fiscal leadership Countywide," said Powers. "We are truly fortunate to have someone with Kaye's depth of budget and finance experience, integrity and commitment to the success of our County assume this important role."

In her new role, Mand will be responsible for overseeing the County's \$2.24 billion budget and providing fiscal leadership to the County's agencies and departments.

Mand began her career as an accountant with the Auditor-Controller's office in 1990. Her exceptional financial and management skills resulted in many promotions including: Senior Financial Analyst, Fiscal Manager and Program Management Analyst. Most recently, she has worked as a Senior Deputy Executive Officer leading the fiscal team in the County Executive Office. Her financial leadership has helped the County to maintain its strong position of fiscal health and greatly supported the County's achievement of the highest credit rating possible by both Standard & Poor's and Moody's credit rating agencies.

In addition to her in-depth financial experience Mand holds a bachelor's degree in biology from the University of Winnipeg, a post-baccalaureate licentiate in accounting from the University of British Columbia and is a Certified Public Accountant. Mand is a resident of Ventura and will start her new position at a salary of \$245,909.



If you are near Von's on Harbor by Seaward at the right time you can be entertained by Lori and John Redding with 91-year old dad Robert Hamilton collecting your needed donations for the Salvation Army. They have been entertaining at a Kettle for over 5-years. The Bellringer program is collecting donations for the Salvation Army through Christmas.

YOU'RE INVITED!!
to our
West County VCOE Holiday Gathering & Silent Auction




- Live Music • Light Refreshments
- Take your picture with Santa
- Make a bid on a holiday basket

December 19th, 5:30-7:30
@ Dorothy Boswell School
5190 Loma Vista Road, Ventura, CA 93003



This 'n' That

Coats for kids can be left at numerous locations

Four Seasons Cleaners and the Rotary Club of Ventura collaborate to implement The Coats for Kids Project. November 2018 marked the fifteenth year of this project and again this year the Rotary Club of Ventura South joins the effort. The clubs initiate the collection of coats at numerous locations. Four Seasons Cleaners cleans the coats and organizes their distribution.

Last year over 5,000 coats were given to needy children and adults in the Ventura and Santa Barbara communities. This year's goal is to collect, clean and distribute 5000 coats and jackets. Recipients of the coats include the Boys and Girls Clubs, The Salvation Army, Casa Pacifica, Project Understanding, churches and other service organizations.

Due to the extraordinary generosity of Sonny Shah, owner of Four Seasons Cleaners, in the past 14 years over 60,000 coats and jackets have been cleaned and distributed to those in need.

Each year the Downtown Rotary Club of Ventura distributes coats at its annual Holiday Party in December. This year the club plans to give coats and jackets to over 70 children from Lincoln, E.P. Foster and Sheridan Way Schools.

Collection boxes were placed in

businesses, schools and public parks in Ventura County the week of November 1. Members of the Downtown Rotary Club of Ventura and Rotary Club of Ventura South are collecting the donated coats and jackets and delivering them to Four Seasons Cleaners for cleaning and sorting. They will then be distributed to service organizations in the community. The project will continue until December 31.

The need for coats for citizens of our community continues to be critical. Making the world a better place to live, one coat at a time, is a goal worth achieving.

Coats for Kids is organized by the Rotary Club of Ventura and sponsored by Four Seasons Cleaners. Eyedentity Graphics, KVTa and Hilford Moving & Storage are the Media Partners.

More information about the project is on the Rotary website www.venturarotary.org. It includes an interactive map of the 54 collection sites throughout Ventura County, including both Trader Joes locations in Ventura, Lassens and Green Thumb International. The hashtag for Facebook and Instagram is #coatsforkidsventura.

Donate a coat and make someone's life better!

Torah in Ventura.

Those present were charged with taking actions to ameliorate the situation at the border: contacting elected representatives, serving at the border, and donating to organizations that are supporting the migrants.

Event co-sponsors included: Indivisible Ventura, Democratic Moms of Camarillo, Indivisible Ojai, Buen Vecino, and Coastal Alliance United for A Sustainable Economy (CAUSE).

CLUE-Ventura County is on the web at www.cluevc.org and can be reached via email at clue@cluevc.org.

Each year, during the holiday season, Vitalant experiences the "perfect storm"

Most hospitals in Ventura County have one thing in common, they receive blood from Vitalant, formerly United Blood Services. Who donates this much needed blood? Citizens of Ventura County just like you, who have realized the importance of keeping a healthy blood supply in our community. Ready at a moment's notice, many units of blood are used for emergency situations, but what many people don't realize is there are units that are transfused to local patients on a daily basis.

Each year, during the holiday season, Vitalant experiences the "perfect storm" where the blood supply declines, but holiday usage increases.

Here are 5 reasons why your holiday blood donation is so important and impactful:

1) It's cold and flu season. When blood donors get sick, they are unable to donate, leaving a gap in regular donations. During

this time of year, anyone who is healthy and is able to donate is needed to help make up for those who are under the weather.

2) So many of us are really busy with travel and holiday plans and regular blood donations get put on the back burner. The blood supply is especially reliant on new donors and those who donate only a couple of times a year to help see it through the holiday slump.

3) Inclement weather. It really is mostly gorgeous here in Ventura County, but when it rains, it tends to change the number of donors we get through the doors this time of year.

4) Local colleges take a break. When Ventura County's collegiate population decreases, so does the blood supply. Colleges have traditionally been a reliable source for volunteer blood donors, and their absence is truly felt.

5) Traffic. Increased traffic, the hustle and bustle of the holidays can trigger more trauma situations where the number of mass transfusions increases. The blood supply, must always be at ample levels to handle these types of situations, it's the blood on hospital shelves that saves lives, and during the holidays, keeping those shelves full can be a challenge.

There is no substitute for human blood, and each unit that's transfused has an awesome blood donor behind it. Imagine waking up to a text saying your blood is on its way to the hospital to be transfused to a patient. What a feeling of awe to be able to participate in transforming another human life.

Give blood Dec. 17 – Jan. 2 in Ventura at 2223 Eastman Ave, STE A and receive a \$20 movie certificate through Vitalant's Donor Rewards Store. Potential donors can search for a convenient blood drive at www.vitalant.org or call 1.805.543.4290. Walk-ins are welcome.

VPD helping keep roadways safe

The Christmas and New Year's holidays are ways to spend time with family and friends ringing in another year, but also a time when people can make poor choices that put themselves and others at risk on the road.

During the high-visibility enforcement campaign Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over, which runs until Jan. 1, the Ventura Police Department will have more officers on the road conducting saturation patrols looking for drivers



Make your Christmas Party an Unforgettable Event

Invite Santa

Or plan a Magical Santa visit in your home
ProfessionalNaturalSantaClaus.com

760-626-7139

suspected of driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.

In addition, a DUI checkpoint will be held on December 28, 2018 between the hours of 8:00 pm and 3:00 am at an undisclosed location within the city limits. Officers will be looking for signs of alcohol and/or drug impairment, as well as checking drivers for proper licensing.

DUI Doesn't Just Mean Booze. Marijuana, prescription drugs and over-the-counter medications can also be impairing, especially in combination with alcohol or other drugs.

"Drunk driving continues to be a huge problem in this country, and more recently, marijuana and drug-impaired driving," said Sergeant Michael Brown. "People are out and about shopping for the holidays and going to or hosting parties, so it is important that everyone acts responsibly behind the wheel."

Homicide victim identified

On Dec. 14, at 10:30pm, the Ventura Police Command Center received a call of gun shots being heard near the intersection of Peacock Avenue and Hummingbird Street. Ventura PD patrol officers responded to the scene and located a male victim in the roadway who had sustained multiple gunshot wounds. The victim was transported to Ventura County Medical Center where he later died from his injuries.

The 34-year-old victim has been identified as Ventura resident Diego Aguilar.

Ventura police Cmdr. Tom Higgins stated "the victim had been riding a bicycle when one or more people fired shots from a passing vehicle."

People of many faiths come together for SOS!

"First we pray, then we act for justice." So the Rev. Dr. Betty Stapleford opened the Interfaith Prayer Vigil at the "Sunday of Solidarity with Refugee Families" in Ventura on December 9th. It was held at the corner of Victoria and Telephone at the Ventura County Government Center.

Dr. Stapleford is a Unitarian Universalist minister in Santa Paula and co-chair of Ventura County Clergy and Laity United for Economic Justice (CLUE-Ventura County), convener of the event.

Dr. Stapleford welcomed the large crowd present and continued, "On this Sunday of Solidarity we have gathered to draw strength from each other and from those who have traveled so far, only to languish at our Southern border but with the hope of claiming asylum in the United States."

Anne Ward, a member of the North Oxnard United Methodist Church and part of the organizing committee, said, "People of faith are frustrated. We cannot accept the fact that those seeking asylum are being treated so poorly and our asylum laws are not being followed. We cannot allow such cruelty to continue in our name."

"Judeo-Christian scripture tells us repeatedly to welcome the stranger," said event co-chair the Rev. Melissa Campbell-Langdell, pastor of All Saints Episcopal Church in Oxnard.

Stories of some of the migrant asylum seekers were read. Prayers were said for the migrants and for the people there to strengthen their resolve to call for changes to policies now hurting would-be asylum seekers. The vigil concluded with a call to action emphasized by the blowing of the Shofar, the Jewish ceremonial ram's horn, by Rabbi Lisa Hochberg-Miller of Temple Beth

Happy Holidays

★ **Trash & Recyclables or Green Waste Pick Up** ★

Information for the Christmas & New Year's Holidays

Since both Christmas and New Year's Day fall on a Tuesday this holiday season, Harrison Industries will delay its regular trash collection for Tuesday through Friday customers during the weeks of Dec. 24-30 and Dec. 31 to Jan. 5. The holidays will not affect Monday's customers.

Residents may put out twice the amount of trash at no extra charge during the two weeks following Christmas. Please make sure the trash is in bags. We will also collect extra recyclables, but please make sure to flatten all boxes.

Remember to recycle your Christmas tree by removing the ornaments, hooks, lights, tinsel, bows, nails and tree stand. Cut the tree into sections no more than 4 feet long and place in the yard waste barrel on your scheduled pickup day.

Flocked trees can be recycled too!

Thank you and Happy Holidays

To order services & to pay bills online go to www.ejharrison.com

E. J. Harrison & Sons
647-1414



This 'n' That

New City Council Members...

Continued from page 1

“Our job, our duty, is to the city as a whole,” said LaVere after becoming mayor. “What is best for Ventura always has to be our mantra; and I think if we set that example, future councils will follow us” he added. “The council looks different, thinks differently and has members from different backgrounds, and that diversity and collective experience will be the board’s biggest strength.”

Commenting on long term member Jim Monahan LaVere stated “The night Monahan was sworn in for the Ventura City Council in 1977, I was nothing but a sparkle in my mom’s eye.” LaVere, a Ventura native grew up hearing Monahan’s name in his household. Never in his wildest dreams did he ever think the two would serve together. Council members spoke of Monahan’s willingness to provide tours of the Westside, where he was raised, and his eagerness to provide historical references.

Mike Tracy never got a tour of the Westside neighborhood but said, “he appreciated Monahan’s support in 2009 when he first ran.” “He told me all the secrets” even though they were running against each other.

Members thanked Tracy for his straightforward and candid style and his humor. “You have kept us laughing while you have kept us thinking.” Said council member Christy Weir.

“Neal is a guiding force when it came to his focus on those less fortunate, including people who were homeless or had mental illness.” Andrews also brought valuable expertise to organizational management.”

Council member Cheryl Heitmann shared memories of the time they served on the county’s advisory board for mental health and thanked him for bringing the Scottish Seaside Highlands games to the city.

Retiring member Neal Andrews said disagreeing was good in that it could lead to a better outcome. He urged the council to work together and to remember they served the people of Ventura.

Monahan said, “the years went by in a flash.” He added that he was sorry for everyone that lost their homes in the Thomas Fire and hoped to see them rebuilt. “It won’t be whole until we get everyone back in their homes again.”

Mike Tracy urged the new council to empower city staff. “Tell them what we want done and then hold them accountable and then get out of the way. Get to know the staff but don’t meddle.”

Nasarenko said serving another term a “privilege” and said he looks forward to working collaboratively on behalf of all residents.

Brown said she planned to focus on the refinement of the city’s general plan, which helps guide growth in the city, and helps spur development off Johnson Drive. “I plan to serve the people of Ventura with the intent to highlight issues ignored in the past on the east side but not them exclusively.”

Returning council member Friedman, who served on the council from 1995 to 2003, said it was like Yogi Berra who once said : “It’s Déjà vu all over again” He said he got a good sense of the pulse of the community from visiting 2500 homes in the district. “I look forward to working with my colleagues collegiately and cooperatively to get some good things done here.”

Rubalcava spoke in Spanish and English. She encouraged people to bring

their passions and interests and get involved. “This doesn’t work without you,” she said” There’s seven people up here who are making decisions but we need your input, we need your vision and we also need your work.”

Nearly 73 percent of registered voters casted a ballot on this last election up from 26 percent in 2013. The top vote getter in the election was Brown, who received 3,533 votes. Rubalcava received 1,767 votes.

A new and vibrant time has come to the council. Here at the Breeze we wish our new council members the best of luck in their new positions and congratulations to Ventura voters whom we believe have chosen wisely.

Members emails: They would love to hear from you.

enasarenko@cityofventura.net;
cheitmann@cityofventura.net;
mlavere@cityofventura.net; mayor
cweir@cityofventura.net;
srubalcava@cityofventura.net;
deputy mayor
jfriedman@cityofventura.net;
lbrown@cityofventura.net

VUSD Superintendent has resigned

Continued from page 1

a transgender woman who was pictured in makeup and a dress.

“This is the definition of most changed? This is the definition? There’s a growing sector of our culture, of our society, that says that’s good and that’s normal, and not only do they embrace it, we’re now celebrating it.”

Creswell did apologize for the remarks after meeting with people in the LGBTQ community in Ventura.

Creswell said he’s received a lot of messages since his announcement asking him to reconsider his decision. Many in Ventura do not feel that he should have resigned.

“My decision was not made in haste,” Creswell wrote. “I have thought, processed, and spoken with a lot of wise and caring people. My wife is at the top of that list. I did hurt people with what I said. Some can heal from that. Others cannot, and I can respect that. I will be working with the school board on an exit plan that will include my resignation. I am proud of everything that I have said and done here in VUSD and have enjoyed working with a gifted group of people. I know that you will continue to work for the future of every student.”

Creswell, who joined Ventura Unified in August of last year, said the job of the superintendent is a tough one, and one that takes ‘everything you have when you have full support. Clearly I am not in that position.”

He is the second superintendent to exit before his “term” was up after former Ventura Unified Superintendent Dr. Trudy Arriaga retired. Michael Babb was removed in 2017 after being fired (4-1) by the board.

Superintendent David Creswell’s last day on the job will be Dec. 21. Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Jeff Davis will serve as interim superintendent. Davis will serve as interim until the board selects, once again a permanent superintendent.

Sabrena Rodriguez, school board president, read a joint statement. “We are grateful for his 18 months of service to the students and community of Ventura Unified. During his tenure, we boosted test scores, enhanced and diversified our curriculum, improved attendance, graduation and college readiness. We want to

recognize that during Dave’s tenure as superintendent we adopted history and social science text that focused on ethnic and social justice and the contributions of historically marginalized communities.”

Museum of Ventura County names...

Continued from page 6

degree in sculpture and political science from Concord University in Athens, West Virginia.

In her library experience Terrafranca has worked in administration, cataloguing, reference, research, circulation, and programming. She has served as programs coordinator, supervising city librarian and assistant director of library systems in Ventura and West Virginia. In those roles she launched library renovations and new programs including collections reorganizations and building renovations.

“As a librarian, my experiences in libraries have ingrained a deep respect for a sense of place; I believe our history can help us connect to that sense of place and create a sense of belonging. I think belonging is critical to active engagement in our community’s life and future. The first-year plan for the library is to increase the public’s access to the full breadth of the incredible library collection which has been amassed under the leadership of former librarian Charles Johnson, the Museum’s Accessions Committee, and many additional volunteers. My goal is to ensure that all at risk collections are conserved and properly cared for, and that the entire collection is housed in one consolidated, climate controlled, and ADA compliant space that allows discovery, instruction, research, and collaboration. That goal is several years out but we are getting jump start on it! The community’s access to this rich cultural history has to be expanded and that will take place through a consolidated catalog, online access to the collection contents, and digitization of items like maps and photographs.”

“We are thrilled to have someone with Deya’s qualifications take over the role of library and archives director,” said Kate McLean, the Museum’s board chair. “Her extensive knowledge and library expertise, coupled with her first-hand experience with the Museum, makes her an ideal person to step into the role. We will support her efforts in every way possible.”

Apply now for City Council...

Continued from page 3

Downtown Parking Advisory Committee, 1 position (open until filled)
Investment Committee, 2 positions
Library Advisory Commission, 1 position
Public Art Commission, 2 positions
Ventura Port District Board, 1 position

Citizens interested in applying for a board, commission or committee can download the application online at www.cityofventura.ca.gov/935/Recruitments or may be obtained from the City Clerk’s Office at City Hall, 501 Poli Street, Room 204. Applications may be submitted by e-mail to cityclerk@cityofventura.ca.gov,

by fax to the City Clerk’s Office at (805) 641-1046, by mail to the City Clerk’s Office P.O. Box 99, Ventura, CA 93002, or hand-delivered to the City Clerk’s Office at City Hall. The application deadline is 5:30 pm on Wednesday, January 2, 2019.

For more information call the City Clerk’s Office at (805) 658-4787.

Ventura Police Department...

Continued from page 21

Highway Patrol Statewide Integrated Traffic Records System.

“Drunk driving continues to be a huge problem in this country, and more recently, marijuana and drug-impaired driving,” said Sergeant Michael Brown. “People are out and about shopping for the holidays and going to or hosting parties, so it is important that everyone acts responsibly behind the wheel.”

Funding for impaired driving enforcement operations are provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Audubon events

Continued from page 8

805-415-4304.

Join us at this excellent coastal location, where we will look for a variety of waterfowl, such as Willets, Whimbrels, Black necked Stilts, Black bellied Plovers and other interesting birds. We will also look for Yellow-headed Blackbirds, Peregrine Falcon, and Blue-Gray Gnatcatchers. Please bring a scope if you have one.

January 19: 8:30 a.m. Soule Park Leader: Linda Easter 818-519-2833

Situated in east Ojai, this large park offers grasslands, large deciduous trees and riparian habitat that bring out winter feeding flocks of sparrows, bluebirds, and warblers and year round habitat for thrashers, woodpeckers, raptors and more.

January 27: 8:30 a.m. Canada Larga Leader: David Torfeh 805-794-5334

Meet near the beginning of the road off Hwy 33. We will carpool from that location as we walk and drive this long county road. Target species will include Barn Owl, Western Bluebirds, Lark Sparrow, Roadrunner, Phainopepla and various species of swallows.

Ojai news and events

Continued from page 7

Now in a third year of local philanthropy, the Ojai Women’s Fund has already created substantial community impact by raising and awarding \$229,000 to Ojai Valley nonprofits. OWF warmly welcomes all women of the Valley share the joy of local giving through OWF membership. Visit www.ojaiwomensfund.org to learn much more.

December 21 is Third Friday in Ojai. Every month the Ojai Valley Museum, galleries, and shops plan something special. Third Fridays in Ojai is an opportunity for locals and visitors to enjoy the village during special early evening hours. Every month provides you with a little different experience. Standout experiences in December include an exhibition opening reception, live music, and lots of sales.

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.

Prowling Arrest

On December 4, at approximately 8:30pm, the Ventura Police Department Command Center received a 911 call from a resident in the 2400 Block of Lexington Dr. reporting that she had just returned home and there was an unknown male subject in her backyard. The Reporting party further said that all of her gates were locked and the subject had to jump her fence to gain entry into her backyard.

Officers were dispatched to the area and located a subject matching the description the Reporting Party had given dispatch at the corner of North Katherine Dr. and East Main St. This subject was identified as 27 year old Simi Valley resident Christopher Bruney. Bruney was later positively identified as the subject who was in the Reporting Party's yard and placed under citizen's arrest.

After the arrest, Bruney was searched and found to be in possession of a usable quantity of Methamphetamines.

A review of the Ventura County Superior Court website shows that Bruney has been recently arrested for brandishing a deadly weapon and Hit and Run.

Theft from Person and Elder Abuse *Update with Arrests*

On November 17, at approximately 3:30pm, the Ventura Police Department Command Center received a 911 call of a purse theft that just occurred near the intersection of Potomac Ave. and Kennebec St. The suspect was last seen getting into an awaiting vehicle being driven by another suspect and fleeing the area northbound towards Northbank Dr. The suspect vehicle was described as a white, later model SUV.

During the investigation, officers determined the 73-year-old female victim was walking down the street when she was approached by the suspect. The suspect grabbed the victim's purse and pulled it from her shoulder. He then got into the awaiting vehicle, which fled the area.

VPD Detectives reviewed surveillance video in the stores where the victim's credit cards were later used, and identified all (3) suspects, 18 year old Ventura resident Kaleb Dixon, 18 year old Thousand Oaks resident Josiah Shephard and a 16 year old male juvenile from Thousand Oaks.

Assault with a Deadly Weapon (Stabbing)

On December 6, at approximately 4pm, the Ventura Police Command Center received a call of a physical fight in the 1400 block of Chipmunk Circle in the City of Ventura. The reporting party noted that one of the persons involved in the fight was lying on the ground.

Ventura Police patrol officers responded to the area of Chipmunk Circle and located one of the parties involved, later identified as 31 year old Ventura resident Carlos Gonzalez. At about the same time, a Ventura Police officer assigned to the Ventura County Medical Center informed patrol officers that a stabbing victim had arrived at the hospital, claiming to have been stabbed while involved in a fight.

Officers ultimately learned that the victim was walking his dog when he

came across Gonzalez and his brother. Gonzalez kicked the victim's dog and then insisted on fighting the victim. The victim attempted to avoid a fight; however, Gonzalez would not stop instigating a fight. Ultimately, Gonzalez and the victim became involved in a physical fight. During the fight, Gonzalez pulled out a knife and stabbed the victim two times in the upper body. The victim then had a family member drive him to the hospital.

Officers contacted Gonzalez and his brother near the scene of the stabbing and took Gonzalez into custody without incident. Gonzalez was booked into the Ventura County Pretrial Detention Facility for Assault with a Deadly Weapon.

The victim's injuries were moderate, but not life threatening.

Armed Robbery

On December 7, at approximately 5pm, two male suspects entered the Rabobank located at 1171 S. Victoria Avenue in the City of Ventura. At least one of the suspects was armed with a handgun. The suspects demanded money from the bank tellers and were ultimately given an undisclosed amount of cash. After gathering the cash, both suspects fled on foot to a white vehicle that was parked nearby and they were last seen driving away southbound through the parking lot.

Both suspects were wearing nylon stockings over their face and head. One suspect was wearing a grey colored hoodie sweatshirt and dark pants. The other suspect was wearing a dark T-shirt and dark pants.

At the time of the robbery, there were several bank employees and a few customers present inside the bank. One customer was shoved aside as a suspect attempted to gather money off of the counter, but nobody was injured during the robbery.

Sexual Assault and Burglary Arrest

On December 7 at 7am, the Ventura Police Department Command Center received a 911 call from an adult female reporting that she had just been sexually assaulted in a room at the Ventura Beach House Motel, 1220 E. Thompson Blvd. The suspect, later identified as 38 year old vagrant Jesus Arreola, who was known to the victim and others at the motel, was last seen fleeing from the area on foot.

Officers arrived on scene and learned that Arreola had forced his way into the victim's motel room and assaulted her while she was sleeping. Officers checked the area, but were unable to locate Arreola.

Today, 12/08/18, at approximately 1100 hours, officers saw Arreola walking in the area of E. Main St. and Lang St. He was contacted and taken into custody without incident.

Battery on Police Officer and Felony Resisting Arrest

On December 11, at approximately 9:30pm, the Ventura Police Department Command Center received a 911 call from a resident in the 500 Block of Lincoln Drive reference a subject who was disturbing in the area and appeared to be under the influence. Officers arrived on scene and contacted a subject later identified as 27 year old Simi Valley resident Christopher Bruney who was outside of his car and walking in the middle of the road. Officers ordered Bruney to the side of the road, but Bruney refused and got into his car and drove away.

Officers followed Bruney as he

VENTURA TOWNEHOUSE

CALIFORNIA'S CROWN JEWEL IN RETIREMENT LIVING

The dolphins wish you Happy Holidays!

4900 Telegraph Road, Ventura, CA 93003

805.642.3263

www.venturatownehouse.com

CA LIC# 565801810



stopped a short distance away. Officers contacted Bruney and asked for his compliance and for him to step out of the car to determine if he was safe to drive. Bruney refused and began to swing his fists at officers, hitting them. Officers attempted to control Bruney who continued to resist, and officers had to deploy a Taser. More officers arrived on scene as Bruney continued to struggle. Bruney was finally taken into custody.

The two initial responding officers suffered minor injuries and were treated at the scene and returned to full duty.

After the arrest, Bruney was searched and found to be in possession of a usable quantity of Methamphetamines.

Harbor Patrol Blotter

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

11-28 12:50pm, officers en route in Boat 19 to train with U.S. coast guard helicopter with hoisting rescue basket and transferring from the deck of the patrol boat a few miles offshore. This is/was periodic training between the agencies.

11-29 7:08am, received a dispatch to a swift water rescue at Harbor Blvd and the Santa Clara bridge. Officers assisted multiple agencies with the rescue of a female transient from an isolated area of the river caused by the high water. The victim was rescued via a paddle board and transported to local hospital for further evaluation for environmental exposure from the rain and storm.

12-1 4:12pm, observed a 38ft sailboat under power, not sail outbound of the harbor. Officers attempted to contact via VHF 16 to obtain the skippers intentions but were unsuccessful. The sailboat made a labored transit to the #2 entrance buoy due to the extremely rough conditions, then turn towards

Anacapa Island.

12-6 9:25am, received a report of a transient sleeping in front of the business at 1400 Spinnaker. Officers responded and found a male with an encampment. He was issued a warning and gathered his belongings and moved.

12-7 7:05am, while on patrol officers observed the Santa Clara Rivermouth had breached sometime last night. It was flowing pretty heavily into the ocean.

12-8 6:40pm, while patrolling the breakwall, officers contacted several vessels engaged in hoopnetting for lobster. Various violators were issued warnings.

12-9 3:33pm, received a report of two Personal Water Crafts being operated recklessly near the Ventura Pier. Officers responded, found the violators and made contact. Educational warnings were issued to the operators.

12-10 11:19am, dispatched to a medical at Ventura West Marina D-dock. Officers responded and found the patient at the top of the gangway. The patient advised he was suffering from some broken ribs. He was eventually transported to local hospital for further evaluation after treatment.

4:45pm, received a report of a large sea lion lying on a HarborTown point dock. The reporting party wasn't sure if the animal should be out of the water. Advised that sealions are mammals and spend about half their life out of water.

7:35pm, received a request to tow a disabled 40ft commercial fishing vessel. Officers responded and safely towed the vessel to its slip near the launch ramp.

8:05pm, while on patrol, officers received a request to tow a disabled commercial fishing vessel from the U.S. coast guard. Officers responded and took over the tow from the coast guard near the #2 entrance buoy. The vessel was safely towed to its slip in the Ventura Harbor Village I-dock.

12-11 9:45am, dispatched to a structure fire by FireCommandControl. Officers responded and assisted VFD with the call.



by Pam Baumgardner
VenturaRocks.com

Here's to wishing you holidays filled with love, laughter, and of course, lots of music! With that being said, let's get going with what's on everybody's minds, "How to bring in the New Year!"

The following parties are listed in alphabetical order: The Blue Agave will have a DJ, The Boatyard has Karen Eden with Bill Macpherson, then Troy Edwards celebrating on New York time when the ball drops at 9 pm our time (Midnight New York Time), the party starts at 5:30 and goes until 9:30. Café Fiore has a DJ in the Tree House Lounge and Action Down up front. Casa Bella should be hopping with A.D.D. playing all night. It's the Estrada Brothers at Copa Cubana at the harbor. The Crystal Method will take over Discovery. It's DJ Sharp at The Garage where they're putting on a masquerade ball. Grapes and Hops will have the Brandon Ragan Project in the house. It's What the Funk at the Keynote Lounge, then another earlier celebration on New York time at Leashless Brewing with FIDO. The Saloon BBQ has an 80's themed promo with DJ, Arockalypse Now will keep it rockin' at The Star Lounge, and it's Mark Masson jammin' at Vintura at the Wine Rack.

Please be safe this New Year's, there will be plenty of taxis, Lyft and Uber drivers available, so play it safe and plan on a designated driver or alternative ways of getting around.

Quick Notes: Do note that Oak and Main will reopen soon; Bombay's will offer bands 1 - 11 pm on Saturday, December 22, including sets from Medicine Hat, Blues Bullet, Brother Earl & the Cousins, and Rose Valley Thorns; Discovery hosts a Holiday Jamboree on Sunday, December 23, including The Rays, Rvrboy, VOC, King's Revenge and Aaron Pax Taylor; The Bearded Clams with actor Patrick Warburton on vocals will take over the Hong Kong Inn on Thursday, December 20, playing nothing but Pearl Jam cover tunes; The Gentleman's Blues Club return for another Sunday Blues-filled afternoon at Grapes and Hops on December 23; and finally, the Rubicon will end it's run of Rodger's & Hammerstein's South Pacific on Sunday, December 23, but don't miss their popular fundraiser, Kids for Kids: The Circle of Life on Saturday, December 29, the musical variety show's proceeds to providing scholarships for summer camps and other educational activities at the Rubicon.

It turns out the Hong Kong Inn plans to continue to keep their doors open while searching for new tenants and Adam and Josh from Squashed Grapes will continue to help book jazz while waiting to open their new jazz club midtown. Keep in touch on VenturaRocks.com but do note they have Tom Scott scheduled for Friday, December 21.

Do you have any music-related news

or upcoming shows you want help publicizing? Please send all information short or long to Pam@VenturaRocks.com, and for updated music listings daily, go to www.VenturaRocks.com.

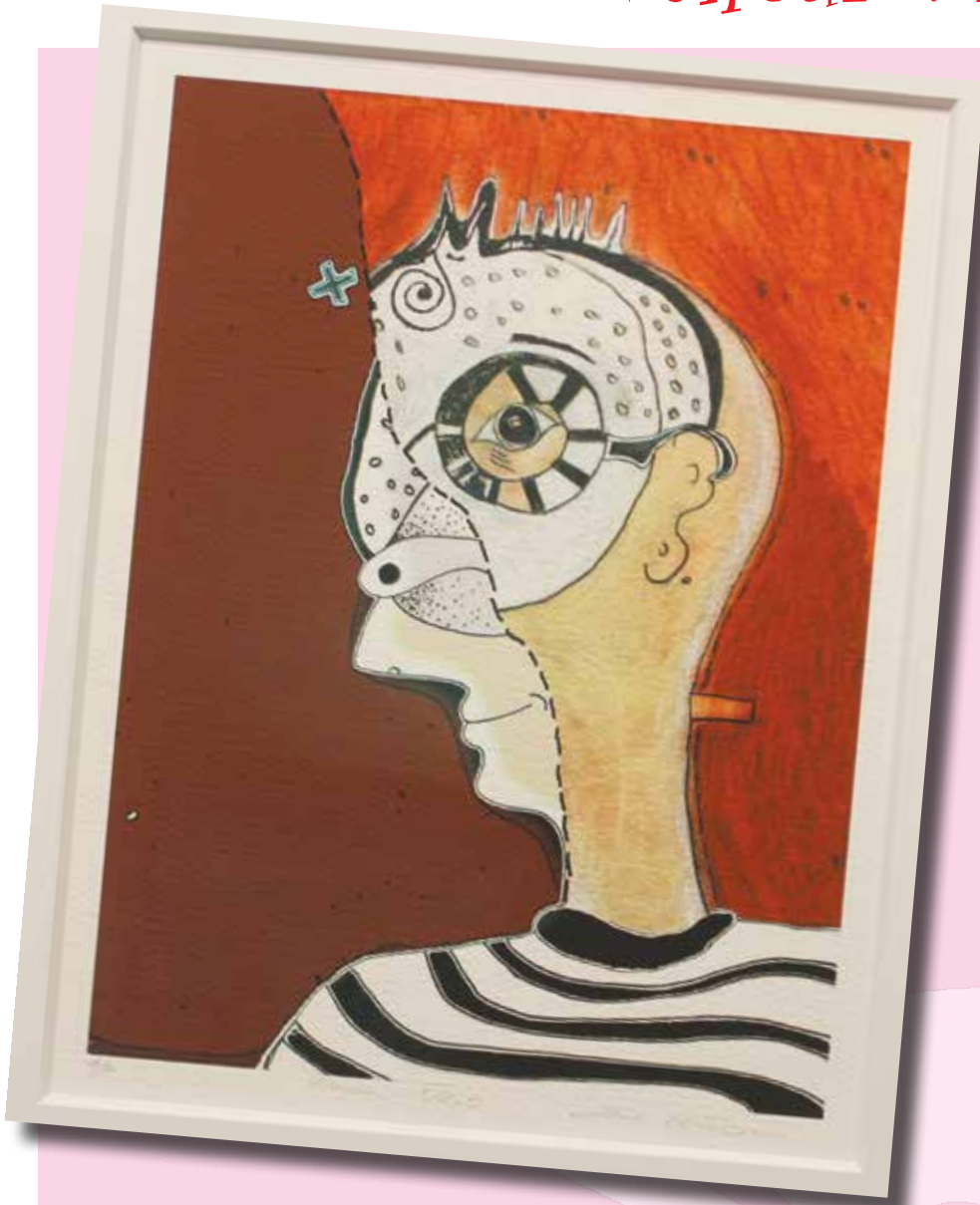
Music Calendar

For more events go to VenturaRocks.com

- Blue Agave**
185 E. Santa Clara
Fridays: Mariachi Band; DJ
Saturdays: DJ
Mon 12/31: NYE Party w/ DJ
- Boatyard Pub**
Ventura Harbor Village
Tuesday-Thursday 6 pm, Friday & Saturday 7 pm
Tuesdays: Jason Ho
Thursdays: Bluegrass Jam
Wed 12/19: Karen Eden
Fri 12/21: Teresa Russell & Stephen
Sat 12/22: Two's Company
Wed 12/26: Troy Edwards
Fri 12/28: Jason Ho
Sat 12/29: Hot Roux
Sun 12/30: Troy Edwards
Mon 12/31: NYE Party w/ Karen Eden & Bill Macpherson, Troy Edwards
- Bombay Bar & Grill**
143 S. California Street
Friday & Saturdays: DJs
Sat 12/22: 1-11pm Old Soul, Rose Valley Thorns, Bad Leaf, Sea at Last, Medicine Hat, Blues Bullet, Brother Earl & the Cousins, Hubcap Stealers
- Café Fiore**
66 S. California Street
Wed 12/19: Taboo Trio
Thurs 12/20: Rick Whitfield
Fri 12/21: Front Loaders
Sat 12/22: Holgers Heros
Wed 12/26: Big Adventure
Thurs 12/27: Coso Live
Fri 12/28: Instone
Sat 12/29: Rick Whitfield
Mon 12/31: NYE Party w/ Action Down, & DJ in Tree House Lounge
- Casa Bella**
391 E. Main Street
Thursdays: Danny D
Mon 12/31: NYE Party w/ A.D.D.
- The Cave**
4435 McGrath Street
5:30 - 8:30 pm
Weds & Saturdays: Varon Thomas
Thurs & Fridays: Warren Takahashi
- Copa Cubana**
Ventura Harbor Village
Week nights 6 pm; Weekends 7 pm; Sundays 4 pm
Tuesdays: Jerry McWorter Trio
Sat 12/22: Havana Cinco
Sat 12/29: Havana Cinco
Mon 12/31: NYE Party w/ Estrada Brothers
- Discovery**
1888 Thompson Blvd
Sat 12/22: Fishbone, Kyle Smith
Sun 12/23: Holiday Jamboree w/ Rvrboy, The Rays, VOC, King's Revenge, Aaron Pax Taylor, Beers Brothers, and more...(3-10 pm)
Thurs 12/27: Bo Napoleon w/ Jason J
Fri 12/28: Shaky Feelin'

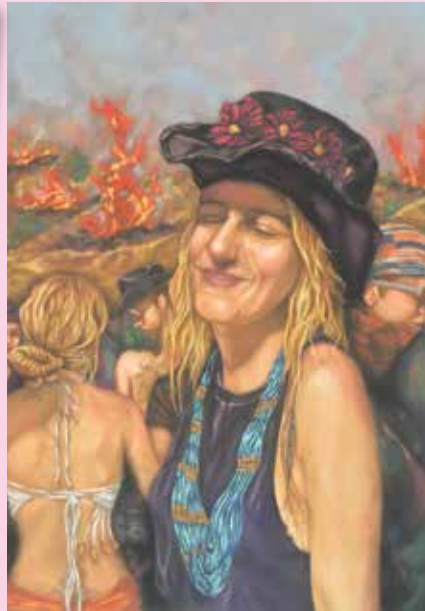
- Sat 12/29: Led Zepplia
Mon 12/31: NYE Party w/ The Crystal Method
- Duke's Griddle n Grill**
1124 S. Seaward
Wednesdays: Karaoke
- El Rey Cantina**
294 E. Main Street
Fridays: DJ
Saturdays: DJ
- Four Brix**
2290 Eastman Avenue #109
Music 5:30 - 7:30 pm
Fri 12/21: Frank Barajas
- Garage**
1091 Scandia Avenue
Mon 12/31: NYE Party w/ DJ Steve Sharp
- Gigi's Cocktails**
2493 Grand Avenue
(805) 642-2411
Thurs, Fri & Sat: Karaoke
- Golden China**
760 S. Seaward
(805) 652-0688
Karaoke seven nights a week 9 pm
Tuesdays 7 pm: Open Mic
- Grapes and Hops**
454 E. Main Street
Wed & Thurs 6 pm; Fri & Sat 8 pm, Sun 4 pm
Fri 12/21: Guy Martin
Sat 12/22: Ray Jaurique & the Uptown Brothers
Fri 12/28: Shawn Jones
Sat 12/29: Salty Suites
Sun 12/30: The Gentleman's Blues Club
Mon 12/31: NYE Party w/ Brandon Ragan Project
- Hong Kong Inn**
435 E. Thompson Blvd
Thurs 12/20: The Bearded Clams w/ Patrick Warburton
Fri 12/21: Tom Scott
Sat 12/22: The Rockin' Henrys
- Keynote Lounge**
10245 E. Telephone Road
Tues, Wed and Sun: Karaoke
Thursdays: Open mic night
Fri 12/21: Reign
Sat 12/22: Los Locos
Fri 12/28: DJ
Sat 12/29: DJ AVG
Mon 12/31: NYE Party w/ What the Funk
- Leashless Brewing**
585 E. Thompson Blvd.
Tuesdays: Open mic
Fri 12/21: Jason Ho
Sat 12/22: Doc Ventura
Thurs 12/27: Mark Masson
Mon 12/31: NYE Party (7:30 - 9:30) w/ FIDO
- Limon y Sal**
598 E. Main Street
Fridays: DJ
Saturdays: DJ
Sundays: Instone (1-4 pm)
- Made West Brewing**
1744 Donlon Street
Thurs 6 pm; Sat 4 pm; Sun 3 pm
Thurs 12/20: Hannah Jobus
Sat 12/22: The Collective
Sun 12/23: Milo Sledge Trio
Thurs 12/27: Shay Moulder
Sat 12/29: The Rose Valley Thorns
Sun 12/30: Shaky Feelin'
- Majestic Ventura Theater**
26 S. Chestnut Street
Sat 12/22: Thundercat
- O'Leary's**
6555 Telephone Road
Wed: Karaoke
Fri 12/28: Live Band Karaoke
- Paddy's**
2 W. Main Street
Wednesdays: Karaoke
Fri & Sat: DJs

- Red Cove**
1809 E. Main Street
Thursdays: Music Club Open Jam Night
- Rubicon Theater**
1006 E. Main Street
12/19 - 12/23: Rodger's & Hammerstein's South Pacific
Sat 12/29: Kids for Kids 2018
- Saloon BBQ**
456 E. Main Street
Fri 12/21: DJ Vinyl Party
Sat 12/22: DJ Office theme party
Fri 12/28: Lady Freqq DJ set
Sat 12/29: Ragged Jubilee
Mon 12/31: NYE Party w/ DJ 80's Prom Theme
- Sandbox Coffeehouse**
204 E. Thompson Blvd
805-641-1025
Thurs 6 pm, Weekends noon
Thursdays Open Mic
Sat 12/29: Dennis Russell
Sun 12/30: Chelsea Paolini
- Sans Souci**
21 S. Chestnut
Sundays: DJ Darko
Mondays: Karaoke
Tuesdays: DJ Nick Dean
Wednesdays: Open mic
Thursdays: DJ Spinobi
- Star Lounge**
343 E Main Street
Thurs 12/20: Karen Eden
Fri 12/21: CRV
Sat 12/22: Shawn Jones
Thurs 12/27: Katie Shorey
Fri 12/28: Brandon Ragan Project
Sat 12/29: Red Rhythm
Mon 12/31: NYE Party w/ Arockalypse Now
- The Tavern**
211 E. Santa Clara Street
(805) 643-3264
Sundays: DJ Steezy Steve
Tuesdays: Karaoke
Thursdays: Get Right DJ
Fri 12/21: Last Resort Club
Sat 12/22: The Black Stripes
Fri 12/28: DJ Stezy Steve
Mon 12/31: NYE Party Masquerade party with DJs
- Topa Mountain Winery**
821 W. Ojai Avenue
Music 2-4 pm
Sat 12/22: Patricia Avis Family Christmas
Sun 12/23: Natalie Gelman
Sat 12/29: Danny McGaw Band
Sun 12/30: Dan Grimm Band
- Vintura at the Wine Rack**
14 S. California Street
(805) 653-9463
Sundays music at 3 pm
Wed 12/19: The Swilys
Thurs 12/20: Ben Buttner
Fri 12/21: Vanise Terry & Jon Francis
Sat 12/22: Déjà vu Too
Sun 12/23: Epitome of Dreams
Thurs 12/27: Andy D
Fri 12/28: Kevin Longden & Friends
Sat 12/29: Frank Barajas & the Corsican Brothers
Mon 12/31: NYE Party w/ Mark Masson
- Winchester's**
632 E. Main Street
(805) 653-7446
Music at 8:30 pm; Sundays at 2:30 pm
Fri 12/21: Acoustic DNA
Sat 12/22: Kenny Devoe
Sun 12/23: The Swilys
Fri 12/28: CRV Acoustic
Sat 12/29: Mark Masson
Sun 12/30: The Catterwailers
- The 805 Bar**
Ventura Harbor
Music at Noon
Saturdays: Kenny Devoe
Sundays: Kenny Devoe



The whimsical but thought provoking art of **Jane Peterson** can be seen at her new working studio located at Dab Art, 1793 E. Main.

Peterson holds a Masters of Fine Arts from the University of Iowa, and her work can be seen in collections from coast to coast. She works in an assortment of mediums, ranging from paint, oil, watercolor, wood, ceramic (mixed-media), sculpture, and photography. She also is affiliated with Galerie 102 in Ojai and TAG Gallery in Santa Monica. Janepete7@gmail.com.



While the World Burns, 1st Place winner, 2018 Open Competition, pastel, by Veronica Lambert.

Ventura art group readies big national show

Buenaventura Art Association is gathering the best recent works by talented amateur and professional artists from throughout Southern California and the nation to showcase in Ventura early next year.

BAA's 33rd annual Open Competition will be displayed Feb. 9-March 2, 2019, in the Martin V. and Martha K. Smith Pavilion at the Museum of Ventura County, 100 E. Main St., Ventura. Two- and three-dimensional

original artworks offered for sale are eligible for online-only entry at www.buenaventuraartassociation.org. Entry deadline is midnight Jan. 26, with notification of acceptance via email on Jan. 29.

Cash awards and association memberships are the prizes. First, second and third places will earn \$500, \$350 and \$250, respectively, and one-year memberships. Four honorable mentions will come with \$100 prizes and six-month memberships.

An opening reception and awards ceremony will be 5-7 p.m. Feb. 9.

The fee for each piece submitted is \$15 for BAA members and \$20 for nonmembers, plus a \$3 processing fee per total entry. A \$10 fee will be added for works over 4 feet in any direction. Complete entry and shipping specifications are in a prospectus on BAA's website.

Juror for the competition is noted California painter William Wray. He worked in animation as a teen in the late 1980s before studying fine art at The Art Students League in New York, then worked in commercial art for 15 years on the "Ren and Stimpy Show," comic books, and as a contributor to Mad Magazine. Wray returned to oil painting in 2005, eventually finding success and satisfaction exploring what he terms "realistic abstraction."

BAA's new gallery home in Studio 30 at Bell Arts Factory, 432 N. Ventura Ave., is open 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Thursdays through Sundays. For more about the 64-year-old nonprofit artists cooperative and its programs, visit www.buenaventuraartassociation.org or call 805-648-1235 during gallery hours.



Dab Art at H Gallery in Midtown Ventura displays a variety of art styles. H Gallery + Studios is a 10,000 square foot vintage building completely dedicated to the arts. Included is a large 3000 square foot main gallery on the first floor and a 2700 cubic foot suspended installation area all of which is focused on contemporary artists, while promoting a wide spectrum of genres and mediums. To complete the creative atmosphere are a total of 18 artist studios where local artists work, create and display their work.

Dab Art, 1793 East Main Street 805 626 887 www.DabArt.me

Show Time

A View from House Seats

Escape to the islands with South Pacific

by Shirley Lorraine

Some theatrical experiences just stay with you. The current production of South Pacific on the Rubicon Theater stage is one of those. I grew up on the songs of this show, listening to my father singing in the living room. It is the show that endeared me forever to the theater. And it has not lost its appeal. Apparently, others feel the same, judging by the full houses and sold out shows.

First premiered on Broadway in 1949, the timeless musical by Rodgers and Hammerstein still resonates with passion and emotion. The play, based on James Michener’s “Tales of the South Pacific”, weaves its magic through two love stories set in and around an exotic island during World War II.

South Pacific deals with sensitive subjects involving prejudice, acceptance, forgiveness and yearning, all as pertinent now as they were when the material was first written.

This production, deftly directed with insight and depth by Katharine Farmer, features a two-keyboard accompaniment by Brent Crayon and Jen Oikawa. Ben Davis as Frenchman Emile de Becque and Madison Claire Parks as Navy Ensign Nellie Forbush make a formidable pair in the lead roles. They deliver in fine fashion the beautiful Some Enchanted Evening, I’m Gonna Wash That Man Right Outa My Hair and more.

The enchanted young lovers Lt. Joseph Cable and Liat are played by Alex Nee and Jamie Yun to youthful perfection. Nee’s Younger Than Springtime is heartfelt and poignant. Jodi Kimura’s Bloody Mary is tuned to a fine edge. She entices Lt. Cable with the haunting Bali Hai, leading him to paradise.

Dealmaker sailor Luther Billis is given a well-crafted comic touch by Kirby Ward. He puts his all into There is

Nothing Like a Dame and the hysterical Honey Bun numbers. Ward is surrounded by an athletic cast of sailors/dancers who fill the stage with spitfire. Likewise, Nurse Forbush is aided throughout by a bevy of talented nurses/dancers to keep the sparks flying and the toes tapping.

Emile’s children, played by Isabella De Los Santos and Ian Nunney, are both excellent. They deliver their song Dites-Moi and French dialogue with confidence and conviction. Both have participated in the Rubicon’s Stinky Feet Youth Theatre and learned well. They are each a talent to watch in the years to come.

Key Navy personnel Captain Brackett and Commander Harbison, played by Andy Umberger and Joseph Fuqua, display the crisp demeanor one associates with an officer.

The multi-use set pieces easily transform the scenes, backed by scenic projections which bring the audience onto the islands with the players. The compact stage seems to expand, and contract as needed to accommodate the large cast as well as the intimate scenes.

There are reasons South Pacific has long been an audience favorite. The music and lyrics are eloquent and meaningful. The characters and situations face familiar life hurdles. The energy, passion and sincerity are palpable. Even if you’ve seen South Pacific many times before, you will want to see it again. But hurry, seats are filling fast.

South Pacific runs through December 23. Performances are Wednesdays at 2 and 7 p.m., Thursdays at 7 p.m., Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 and 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. Rubicon Theater, 1006 E. Main St, Ventura. Www.rubicontheatre.org or (805) 667-2900 for tickets. Prices vary. Make reservations soon as many shows sell out.



On Dec.11, at 2pm, Ventura fire crews responded to a reported structure fire in east Ventura in the 9900 block of Basswood Ct. . The first arriving unit discovered a single-family residential structure with smoke emitting from the attic. Fire crews initiated a rapid interior fire attack coordinated with firefighters performing vertical ventilation on the roof. Simultaneously, firefighters performed a search for occupants inside the structure. Additional fire crews were assigned to protect adjacent structures being exposed to the fire and protect interior furnishings with salvage operations. One civilian was treated on scene and transported to a local hospital.



Reception introduced the new Ventura Film Society 2.0.

The Ventura Film Society is about to be reborn

The Ventura Film Society 2.0 hosted a reception at the Museum of Ventura County on December 7th to preview its 2019 season. Commentary from past VFS members and introductions from past VFS director Lorenzo Destefano, along with new Executive Director Mike

Miller were presented.

The Ventura Film Society is about to be reborn. Founded by Ventura-based filmmaker Lorenzo DeStefano in 2008, the VFS brought over 400 films to discerning audiences before going on hiatus in 2016 so that Lorenzo could produce and direct his film, Hearing is Believing. He has just completed his play Shipment Day which opened in Hawaii.

By video Lorenzo congratulated the new VFS Team of Mike Miller, Braedon Freeland, Gina Nemo, John-Arthur Ingram and Justin Viar as they embark on the next generation of bringing independent films and filmmakers to Ventura. He also thanked all who have supported the Society and asked for their financial support as well.

“Please support their efforts in the coming months as they continue on their own path of celebrating Film as Public Art and bringing people together in the dark.” stated Lorenzo Destefano, Founder & Former Director, Ventura Film Society.

The Ventura Film Society’s mission is to provide a foundation for our community to grow and thrive through the art of film with imaginative and compelling cinematic experiences in our city.



King’s duties are to oversee the foundation’s \$2.7 million annual budget.

Anne Paul King Named Ventura College Foundation Executive Director

At its September 26 meeting, the Ventura College Foundation board of directors named Anne Paul King executive director of the foundation. King had been interim executive since July 2017 when she assumed the post vacated by Norbert Tan. King previously served as the foundation’s director of development.

“There are no words to describe how incredible of a leader Anne is,” says Rob
Continued on page 28

CALL & BOOK YOUR PRIVATE EVENT!
805-253-7163

Discovery
VENTURA

LIVE MUSIC • BOWLING • FOOD & DRINK

12/22: FISHBONE W. KYLE SMITH
12/28: SHAKY FEELIN'
12/29: UFC 232: JONES VS GUSTAFFSON 2
12/29: LED ZEPPLICA - "THE LED ZEPPELIN EXPERIENCE"
12/31: NYE PARTY W. THE CRYSTAL METHOD
1/4: SGT. PEPPER - TRIBUTE TO THE BEATLES
1/5: HEAVY PETTY - TRIBUTE TO TOM PETTY
1/9: SCHWAYZE
1/11: CORAZON DE MANA - TRIBUTE TO MANA
1/12: YACHTLEY CREW

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 22ND

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 28TH

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 29TH

SATURDAY, DEC 29TH

MONDAY, DECEMBER 31ST

FRIDAY, JANUARY 4TH

FULL CALENDAR & INFO
DISCOVERYVENTURA.COM
1888 E. THOMPSON BLVD.



**Holiday Shopping
Just Got More Rewarding!**
November 1st – December 31st

- 3% CASH BACK** for every \$1 you spend online or in-store—including Amazon!¹
- 0% Intro Rate** for the first 6 months²
- No balance transfer fee**³
- FIXED RATE** as low as 8.45% APR⁴
- New accounts** receive 10,000 bonus points⁵
- No annual fee**

APPLY TODAY!

- Ventura** | 1794 S. Victoria Avenue, Unit B
- Channel Islands** | 1651 E. Channel Islands Boulevard
- North Oxnard** | 1921 N. Oxnard Boulevard
- Camarillo** | 761 Daily Drive, Suite 100

Visit our website for more branch locations!



PremierAmerica.com/CashBack | 800-772-4000

¹Cash back remitted in the form of statement credit to your Premier Privileges Rewards Mastercard® account. Receive 3.00% Cash Back on net signature purchases made from November 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018 based on select merchant category codes (visit PremierAmerica.com/CashBack for all merchant category codes). Earn 1.50% Cash Back for all other net purchases during this promotional period, and on all net purchases after December 31, 2018. ²Introductory rate of 0% applies during the first 6 months on all new accounts, then a fixed APR ranging from 8.45% – 17.95% will apply. ³Waiver of transfer fees applies to balances transferred from another lender to Premier Privileges Rewards Mastercard® via a transfer request submitted to Premier America Credit Union in-branch or online. Premier America Credit Union does not grant reward points for balance transfers. ⁴APR = Annual Percentage Rate. Qualification and rate is based on assessment of individual creditworthiness and our underwriting standards. All credit union loan programs, rates, terms and conditions are subject to change at any time without notice. ⁵New card accounts receive 10,000 bonus points if \$500.00 is spent in the first 3 months. A deposit to be maintained in a share savings account (\$5.00 for consumers and \$250.00 for businesses) is required to join Premier America Credit Union. Insured by NCUA. Equal Opportunity Lender.

This 'n' That

Updated dashboard...

Continued from page 16
in 2017, has a new look that makes it easier to see how individual schools and districts are performing in six statewide measures of student success. For the first time, the Dashboard is providing data on chronic absenteeism and college and career readiness along with the four other state measures that were reported previously. The six measures are:
Academic Performance
Chronic Absenteeism (new for 2018)
College/Career Readiness (new for 2018)
English Learner Progress
High School Graduation Rate
Suspension Rate

The Dashboard also shows how particular student groups are performing in each of the six measures. In addition to racial and ethnic categories, the Dashboard reports results for these groups:
English Learners
Foster Youth
Homeless
Socioeconomically Disadvantaged
Students with Disabilities

“The Dashboard is part of a larger state effort to continuously improve public education and is a visual representation of student performance across multiple indicators. As a County Office of Education, we benefit from data being presented in a manner that assists us in understanding strengths and areas for growth among our districts and schools,” says Dr. Antonio Castro, Associate Superintendent for Educational Services at the Ventura County Office of Education.

The Ventura County Office of Education provides a broad array of fiscal, training and technology support services to local school districts, helping to maintain and improve lifelong educational opportunities for children, educators and community members. VCOE also operates schools that serve students with severe disabilities and behavioral issues, provides career education courses, and coordinates countywide academic competitions including Mock Trial and the Ventura County Science Fair. Learn more at: www.vcoe.org.

Anne Paul King

Continued from page 27
van Nieuwburg, Ventura College Foundation board chair. “She’s committed, determined, focused and everything about her comes from the heart. Anne’s nonprofit knowledge and instincts set her apart from so many nonprofit leaders. We are so lucky to have her.”

King’s duties are to oversee the foundation’s \$2.7 million annual budget, especially to build a solid donor base to increase for support student scholarships, academic program enhancements, equipment and other needs that build student success. The Ventura College Foundation is in its 12th year of its VC Promise program, which pays for the tuition costs of first year students at the college.

The need for foundation support is vital. Seventy percent of Ventura College’s 13,000 students live under the poverty line, 40 percent are the first in their families to go to college, 30 percent are food insecure and 18 percent are housing insecure. Many students hold multiple jobs.

“I am so proud to serve Ventura College students, many of whom face daunting daily challenges and still have the determination to attend school, so they can improve their lives and those of their families,” says King. “Through the VC Foundation and its donors, students have increased access to a Ventura College education, textbook lending programs, scholarships and grants. It’s our goal to remove the financial barriers that so many of our students experience.”

King, a Thousand Oaks resident, has 24 years of development experience in the nonprofit industry including local work to help found the Conejo School Foundation for the Conejo Valley Unified School District, and national experience as the director of affiliate advancement for Volunteers of America in the Washington D.C. area. Ventura College is the third institution of higher education that King has supported professionally.



More than 100 elaborately decorated trees are on display for “Holidays at the Plaza” at Plaza Park running through Jan. 2. Families, businesses and nonprofits decorated the trees in their own unique way. The purpose of the Holidays at the Plaza is to bring holiday cheer to the community.

Holidays at the Plaza also had some ticketed events. Many of the events were free, and any funds raised will be used to make downtown Ventura cleaner and safer. The last remaining paid event Silent Night Disco, will take place from 6 to 10 p.m. Dec. 22. Admission is \$20, and food trucks will be on site throughout the evening. People wear headphones and can listen to different channels of music ... so you’re dancing and singing but it’s quiet to everyone looking in because you have your headphones on.

For more information about Holidays at the Plaza, visit holidaysattheplaza.com or call 805-641-1090.