



Lambert will start in Oxnard on February 4th.

Jeff Lambert leaves Ventura for Oxnard

by Richard Lieberman

Jeff Lambert, Community Development Manager for the past ten years is leaving Ventura to take a similar post with the City of Oxnard. As Community Development Director Lambert has managed current and future advanced planning for the city. His responsibilities for the City of Ventura included running Building and Safety, Code Enforcement, planning and economic development.

Ventura's acting assistant city manager announced recently that Lambert was "on leave" from his city post. Later in press releases from both Ventura and Oxnard, it was announced that Lambert will be taking a new position with the City of Oxnard.

As community development director for Ventura Lambert has been instrumental in partnering with Community Memorial Hospital for its new in-patient facility and parking structure, homeless shelter policy, downtown development, and recovery and rebuilding efforts in the aftermath of the Thomas Fire.

In Oxnard Lambert will take over the duties of Ashley Golden, who was promoted to assistant city manager last

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Ventura City Council members Cheryl Heitmann and Christy Weir and ex-council member Carl Morehouse were there showing support for the March for Justice. Photos by Bernie Goldstein.

Third year for March for Justice in Ventura

Even though the location changed because Plaza Park was saturated with rainfall an enthusiastic crowd celebrated the women's march. The starting point for the women's march through downtown was changed to the west of Plaza Park, at 133 S. California St. The event focused on empowering women but many men also attended.

It kicked off with speeches by local politicians and concerned citizens under sunny skies. Including State Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson who addressed participants at the third annual March for Justice. Women elected to city councils to the U.S. Congress spoke, along with activists and concerned artists. Several nonprofit groups set up booths around

the perimeter.

The march was held in tandem with the 2019 Women's March in held Washington, D.C. The local march was calling "Women Leading the Wave". In Washington is was called "The Women's Wave is Coming."

The local event, organized by the nonprofit group Justice for All Ventura County. Linda Livingston, one of the march organizers said, "The march provides an outlet for people wanting to get involved."

Besides the general support for women's rights and causes political protest was also evident during the march with many marchers carrying political signs.



David Ward has replaced Jeff Lambert as the Interim Community Development Director.

City of Ventura has new interim Community Development Director

The City of Ventura has announced that David Ward will serve as the Interim Community Development Director effective immediately. Ward recently served as the City's Planning Manager and has worked for the City of Ventura for approximately 10 years. He replaces Jeff Lambert who is now in Oxnard (see article).

David told the Breeze "In assuming my interim role, I will continue the department's current work plan efforts on the Thomas Fire Recovery, developing land use policy and ordinance projects such as the firearm ordinance and updated inclusionary housing ordinance, and expanded code enforcement efforts, as well as my oversight of the busy building permit office and planning permits processing through our 4 City Board/Committees. As Interim Director I am supported significantly by Yolanda Bundy, Chief Building Official and Jonathan Wood, Code Enforcement Manager, and the entire department staff as we work to accom

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City News

Ventura County is leading the nation on clean energy

by Carmen Ramirez
Mayor Pro Tem, Oxnard, and Director, Clean Power Alliance Board
and Christy Weir
Council Member, Ventura, and Director, Clean Power Alliance Board

Ventura County has become one of the largest communities in the nation to adopt 100% clean renewable energy. With the arrival of Clean Power Alliance (CPA), the County and many of its cities are dramatically reducing emissions in a simple and cost-effective way.

Last month, residents received the first of four mailers about the launch of Clean Power Alliance residential service in February. Service for nonresidential customers will begin in May.

Prior to Clean Power Alliance, we could only buy power from Southern California Edison (SCE). Now for the first time in our region's history, there is competition and we have a choice. The primary goal of Clean Power Alliance is to provide clean renewable energy at competitive rates. Clean Power Alliance is lean, transparent and accountable, overseen by locally elected representatives who answer to the public.

The majority of Ventura County's Clean Power Alliance member agencies are starting our residents and businesses at 100% clean renewable energy;

this includes the cities of Oxnard, Thousand Oaks, Ventura, and Ojai, and the County of Ventura (unincorporated area). Our five communities are joined by five others in Los Angeles county, so approximately one-third of Clean Power Alliance's one million customers will be invested in 100% renewable sources.

This will be the largest and most significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions ever achieved in these jurisdictions, and it will make our environment healthier and our air cleaner. For example, emissions from the generation of electricity used by Ventura County government facilities alone will drop from 19,500 metric tons of CO2 down to 72 metric tons per year.

It is fitting and appropriate that Ventura County takes the lead on reducing emissions, as we are particularly susceptible to the impacts of climate change. We continue to face water shortages even in winter, along with increasing frequency and severity of wildfires. Our coastal communities and Naval Base Ventura County face potential sea level rise, and some of our largest economic engines, including the agricultural industry, are already feeling the impacts of climate change. The leaders of Ventura County's 100% Green communities view this default choice as responsible governance, advancing a prudent, efficient and effective solution to a serious problem.

Clean Power Alliance customers can always choose among three rate options – Lean Power (36% renewable), Clean Power (50% renewable) and 100% Green Power (100% renewable). For just 7-9% above SCE's base rate (but 5% less

City News

than SCE’s comparable 100% renewable option), we have the opportunity to immediately invest in 100% clean renewable energy for our homes and businesses which will lead us away from polluting fossil-fueled electricity. The average resident currently pays \$112 per month for electricity; the 100% option would add approximately eight dollars, making their total bill \$120 per month.

Customers in 100% Green Power communities who are enrolled in CARE, FERA, or Medical Baseline will get Green Power at no extra charge. Those with solar net energy metering systems can receive bill credits, and more cash back than what SCE provides, when they produce more energy than they use.

Surplus revenues from CPA operations will be reinvested in our communities via local programs and benefits to customers. Through its Board and public Community Advisory Committee, Clean Power Alliance will work to develop community programs addressing such priorities as local renewable energy development and job creation, rebates and incentives for measures that will clean our air, and rate savings.

At any time and with no switching fees, customers can opt for another plan (Lean Power or Clean Power) that is cheaper or the same as SCE’s base rate and still has a higher renewable energy content. Customers can also opt out and return to SCE. SCE will continue to maintain transmission and distribution lines and handle billing for all customers, which will now include a line-item for Clean Power Alliance’s energy. Visit <https://cleanpoweralliance.org> or call the customer service center at 1-888-585-3788 for more information.

Be prepared for heavy rain sysystems

On Tuesday, January 15, 2019, through the evening on Thursday, January 17, 2019 significant storm system with heavy rainfall resulted in

voluntary evacuation orders for areas of risk for debris flow.

Advance measures should be taken to prepare for future storm systems.

Residents are encouraged to prepare for heavy rain and consider altering your travel and commuting plans.

The City of Ventura has established evacuation maps to assist residents with the best route to take during an emergency evacuation. The maps can be viewed on the City’s website at www.cityofventura.ca.gov.

Free sand and sandbags are available for city of Ventura residents (while supplies last) at the following location:

City of Ventura Sanjon Maintenance Yard, 336 Sanjon Road (public parking lot). Residents are asked to bring their own shovel.

Arroyo Verde Park, Marina Park, Grant Park, and the Ventura Pier will be closed for the duration of the storm. Any additional City of Ventura facility closures will be posted on the City’s website.

It is never safe to drive or walk into flood waters. A mere 6 inches of fast-moving flood water can knock over an adult. It takes just 12 inches of rushing water to carry away a small car, while 2 feet of rushing water can carry away most vehicles. When flooded turn around don’t drown.

Public Works crews have been, and continue to be, out in the community inspecting and cleaning catch basins to ensure debris basins and flood channels are clear. Properties near a burn area remain at increased risk for flooding, erosion and debris flow. The City encourages you to talk to your neighbors who may not be aware of potential hazards.

Community members are encouraged to stay informed through official sources:

Register for VC ALERT (www.vcalert.org) to receive emergency notifications.

Visit www.vcemergency.com to stay informed during an emergency.

In the event of a major incident or disaster, call the City of Ventura Hotline at 805-477-3711

Learn about emergency preparedness and flood information including weather service links and other helpful tips at www.ReadyVenturaCounty.org.

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Who doesn't want to be an author?

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Award-winning journalist, author and publisher Beverly Russell will give you all the answers about how to go about publishing your own book on a budget.

Classes for the six-week course will be at the Senior Center, 550 N. Ventura Avenue, and will take place every Thursday from 2-3 p.m, from February 7 thru March 14. Russell has self-published six books on a wide variety of genres including her own critically applauded autobiography. Other book topics she has written about include gardening, aging, cooking, meditation, as well as a children's book.

Author-editor Russell's classes will focus on indie book publishing – helping would-be authors to get their work published in a professional way using new digital technology.

Guest speakers at her classes include, Ventura author Ivor Davis, who will join Russell to talk about his own experiences in the self-publishing field.

Another guest lecturer will be Indie publishing counselor Ben Swihart who will talk about other success stories in the local self-publishing field.

Walk-ins welcome. Classes are \$5 per class of \$30 for the full six weeks course.

Jeff Lambert leaves Ventura

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month. "Lambert is action oriented and is committed to building a strong development team, continuing community engagement, and improving stakeholder partner-

ships to get things done," said Oxnard city manager Alex Nguyen. He also added "Jeff's experience and leadership will help Oxnard become a more business-friendly city. He will jumpstart our planning, building, and permitting processes to make projects easier for builders and homeowners."

Lambert will take over for Ashley Golden February 4.

"I am so thrilled to join the city of Oxnard team and community stakeholders to continue the City's forward movement," Lambert said. "The city's development and economic objectives can absolutely be achieved," added Lambert.

City of Ventura has a new Community

Continued from page 1
plish our community rebuild and other endeavors for 2019."

David Ward has been a planner at local public agencies throughout the California Coastal Region for more than 23 years, working for the Counties of Monterey and Santa Barbara, as well as the Cities of Morro Bay, Rancho Palos Verdes and Ventura. Ward holds a master's degree in public administration from Cal State Northridge and is a member of the American Planning Institute of Certified Planners.

From rural issues and resource protection to form-based codes, redevelopment and community plans, David has actively engaged with community stakeholders, project applicants and decision-makers to implement a local vision and create great places in our neighborhoods and community.

The Community Development Department has four divisions run by the Building & Safety, Planning, Code Enforcement, and Economic Development, with a staff of more than 50 employees run by the Community Development Director.



The City of Ventura, in conjunction with the Surfrider Foundation, recently installed a bench near the Ventura Pier. While this may look like an ordinary bench, it is made up of thousands of recycled cigarette butts, which would have continued to litter and be a threat to marine and wildlife if not collected. The Surfrider Foundation volunteers maintain and empty 76 ashcans located throughout the city and sends them to company TerraCycle, where they are melted down into plastic pellets and turned into various products.

The first ashcans were installed in late 2016, and to date, Surfrider has sent 250,000 butts to TerraCycle.

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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
Mark Stienecker

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



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What lies behind
us and what lies
before us are
small matters
compared to what
lies within us.

– Ralph Waldo
Emerson

Opinion/Editorial



Sheldon (Governor) Brown
Publisher-Editor

■ During the approximately eight years publishing the Breeze prior to Trump being elected president, I never have made political comments regarding Democrats or Republicans, conservatives or liberals because it was always just Washington doing business as usual. But, I have some real problems with the **Trump presidency** and feel that I must comment.

Other than an occasional political cartoon or my column, the Breeze never takes a **political view** in our news coverage. We are not as liberal a paper as some think.

There are some readers who say they love the Ventura Breeze, but they won't read it anymore because of my very limited words or the occasional editorial cartoon not supporting Trump.

I think that's a ridiculous reason to stop reading the Breeze, especially if you otherwise like it. There are approximately 30,000 to 40,000 words in each issue of the Breeze, so my comments (most of which are just quoting others) are about .003% of the words in the paper.

Would you divorce your spouse if you had a great marriage, but every two weeks they made a comment that you disagree with? I rather doubt it.

And if you do disagree with me, you have an opportunity to be heard in the Breeze. In fact, I'm only one voice, so if several readers write in disagreeing, that is even a stronger voice than mine. So, let's hear your comments at opinions@venture-breeze.com.

■ What the heck is going on with **Ventura City Hall**? Ventura is losing department heads and other important employees at an alarming rate (including the head of the Ventura Unified School District). Some have left by choice, and others (apparently) have been fired.

Just a few weeks ago a press release went out (see cover articles) stating that the City of Ventura has named

David Ward interim Community Development Director – with no mention of what happened to Jeff Lambert. When we asked about it, we were told by the sender that she couldn't comment and to call Assistant City Manager Barry Fisher. That call, and others, was never returned. The position of community development director is an extremely important one.

When I asked several City Council members what happened I was told "we don't know" or "can't comment." Several people mentioned that he was on "administrative leave," whatever that means. Did he quit or was he fired? Then, a few days ago, it was reported that he accepted the Development Services Director position for the City of Oxnard. Hopefully when he starts his new job we can get a statement from him. I think Ventura will miss Jeff, and I will, personally as he was always willing to help the press and answer our questions (as has Dave Ward).

We did get a response from a former city council member who wishes to remain anonymous.

"Off the record – city managers don't have "unchecked" authority to place employees (even those "at will" department heads who report directly to the city manager) on administrative leave. I truly do not know what happened in this instance but based on my experience I'd bet you lunch (hope I get it if he is wrong) it involved consultation with the City Attorney and Human Resources Director – which would lead me to believe there is substance behind the decision."

City work provides good pay, wonderful benefits and a retirement package which should attract and keep good employees for the long term. But that's not happening, and we would all like to know why. Is there an on-going problem at City Hall? The City is losing talented people with knowledge on matters big and small. This is especially concerning given the string of longtime department heads now gone with only newcomers in charge.

Does the City Council do too much micro managing regarding decisions that should be left to department heads and especially the City Manager to resolve, are they spending too little time on major issues?

There are three newly elected council members, a new city manager who started in November, and many executive positions either vacant or being filled on an interim basis. Just a few who have left include public works directors, economic development department heads, finance directors and assistant city managers. We have more interim directors now than permanent ones.

Time will tell if this just all a coincidence or indicative of deeper issues at City Hall. Our new City Manager, **Alex McIntyre**, and our new and old city council members, certainly have plenty to deal with. I am concerned with so many changes occurring since the city has a great many large issues it has to manager/resolve, and so many with knowledge have exited.

I hope Alex doesn't leave before he figures this all out. Perhaps our new Mayor, Matt LaVere, can guide all in the right direction. Plus, Ventura now needs to spend large amounts of money recruiting new executives.

I don't think the constant re-training of newcomers is the optimal way to effectively run the city.

■ Look for the Ventura Harbor's Harbor News newsletter insert in the Feb. 13 Breeze to learn all about what is happening in the Harbor.

■ According to a report by 13 federal agencies under the Trump administration, **climate change** is taking an increasing toll on the nation's environment, health and economy and the damage will increase over the century without swift action to slash greenhouse gas emissions. Maybe it's time for him to fire all these people who obviously have no idea what they are talking about.

■ Though it remains a concern, there has never been a terrorist attack by someone who entered the United States illegally through **Mexico**.

Mailbox

Dear Editor,

I'm writing to you in regards to a vile and disrespectful "cartoon" you published in your Jan. 16-29th edition.

I was appalled at the tasteless and unpatriotic smear of our current President. What so many seem to forget or have just decided they don't care, half of the population voted for and supports this President who was elected into office by the American citizens of this great country.

Allowing such a hate filled and biased piece to be in this newspaper was mind blowing to me and my family. We will no longer be reading your once appreciated paper.

Beth Brokken

Beth:

Thank you for your thoughts. A difference in opinion is what makes America great (not great again, we have always been great). Being able to express different views is vitally important to a democracy so keep your thoughts coming. Hope that you will give us another chance and continue to read the Breeze.

And for the record there are about 200 million eligible voters in the USA and Trump received about 63 million or 31% (not half) and Hillary received over 2 million more votes than Trump.
Breeze

Editor:

Regarding the announcement in the Star that "Time Out" will be reduced to a single page highlighting just 10 local events each week, all I can say (to quote Donald Trump) is: SAD!

I've been a Ventura resident for over 20 years, and in that time, I've watched the sad decline of the Ventura County Star from a truly vibrant local newspaper devoted to providing full coverage of local news (with a complete section unto itself totally devoted to local events, local nonprofits, clubs and societies, local issues, etc.) to a mere slip of a rag that simply reprints USA Today, along with local crime reports and obituaries.

I belong to a local nonprofit that hosts a local show each year—a nonprofit that primarily depends on

that show for its operating income. Years ago, before being purchased by USA Today, we could count on the Ventura County Star to give us a full article—often times on the front page of the Local news section—to help promote our show. All was good and well with the world. Well, that section of the paper totally evaporated, but we thanked our stars (so to speak) that "Time Out" still persisted and still provided at least a modicum of coverage with a tiny 1-inch space in the calendar section.

Now: Poof! That, too, is gone in this day-and-age of Donald Trump and the sad, sad, sad dissolution of local news reporting.

And you have the gall to spring it on us at a moment's notice! Nice going! At this rate, I'll be cancelling

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



Community Events



A Majestic sight – tall ships sail into Ventura Harbor.

Adventure, lore and more await visitors at Ventura Harbor

It's time to plan an adventure to Ventura Harbor Village as the majestic Tall Ships are voyaging back into town just in time for Valentine's Day and the Presidential Weekends! Hawaiian Chieftain and Lady Washington will commence their annual journey along the California coast to sail into Ventura Harbor on February 12th at noon until March 5th. The ships will dock in front of Ventura Harbor Village's waterfront promenade and their stay coincides with additional seaside activities for the whole family!

During select times, visitors have the opportunity to take a step back in history and hop onboard for a tour of a Tall Ship or better yet, book a spot for a special sail to see the ship in action. Tickets are now on sale! Please note: sail dates and tour times are weather pending and schedule may be subject to change. Please check VenturaHarborVillage.com for latest updates.

Seeking more excitement? Three-Hour Battle Sails or Two-Hour Adventure Sails, complete with firing cannons and hoisting of the main sails are just the ticket! Battle Sails feature a recreation of a naval skirmish with close quarter maneuvers. Adventure Sails take place out in the channel to experience life on the high seas. For Battle and Adventure Sail ticket reservations call 800-200-5239 or visit www.historicalseaport.org.

New in 2019 is the Natural History Sail on March 3 from 2pm to 4pm (on Lady Washington). Returning will be the Grand Arrival on February 12 at approximately noon (followed by tours), the Valentine's Day Sweethearts Sail on February 14 from 4pm to 6pm, and the ships will be open on President's Day, February 18, 2019.

The Hawaiian Chieftain and Lady Washington travel down the West Coast stopping in ports and harbors for historical and educational visits. These ships host over 8,000 school children a year. Educators should contact the Historical Seaport education office, 1-800-200-5239 to arrange dockside, or on-the-water programming while here in Ventura Harbor February 12 through March 5, 2019.

Rich in history and seaside lure, the visiting ships, Hawaiian Chieftain was built in Hawaii in 1988 and originally designed for cargo trade among the Hawaiian Islands. Launched in 1989, Lady Washington is a full-scale reproduction of the original Lady Washington, which was built in 1750s and was

one of the first U.S. flagged ships to explore the west coast of North America.

Share your Tall Ships photos by using #SeaTallShips and tag @VenturaHarbor on Instagram! For more Tall Ship information, please visit www.venturaharborvillage.com or Ventura Harbor's Facebook Page. Admission and parking are free at Ventura Harbor Village daily. For a complete schedule: www.historicalseaport.org or call 800-200-5239.

Ventura Audubon Society February events

February 2, 2019 8:00 a.m. Work Day Hedrick Ranch Nature Area
Leader: Sandy Hedrick
805-340-0478

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

February 9, 2019 8:30 a.m. Arroyo Verde Park
Leader: Raeann Koerner
805-701-1919

Arroyo Verde Park. Enjoy birding the oak woodland, grassy areas, and chaparral in this long, broad canyon. Early spring migrants may include Western Tanager, Rufous Hummingbird, Ash-throated Flycatcher, and Phainopepla.

February 17, 2019 8:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. Ventura Settling Ponds
Leader: Corine Barksdale
805-535-5173

Enjoy a morning of mostly waterfowl birding. Spotting scopes are always welcome.

February 24, 2019 8:30 a.m. Ojai Meadows
Leader: Tevin Schmitt
661-904-1563

This beautiful preserve is a birding hotspot and includes a restored wetland and native plantings. Target birds will include: Western Bluebirds, Sora, Belted Kingfisher, Western Meadowlark, Merlin, Cedar Waxwing, Lark Sparrow, Lincoln's Sparrow and White-crowned Sparrows.

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First Annual Charity Kickball Tournament

The Barracks Project West Coast is 100% volunteer run non-profit 501c3 supporting our honorably discharged veterans create stable living environments through service projects, financial assistance for housing, and coordination with career assistance.

They are hosting their First Annual Charity Kickball Tournament March 16 at Camino Real Park in Ventura. It's set to be their largest fundraiser to date and will go a long way towards helping veterans locally.

There are a number of ways to get involved with the tournament. First, there are still openings for teams to register or if individuals are interested they can place them on a team. Second, they are looking for sponsors and are offering several different packages with varying price points that are designed to provide a solid marketing platform. Last, they will need volunteers throughout the day of the event.

All of this information and how to register for any of the above can be found at www.tinyurl.com/tbpwckickball.

Ventura events

by Ana Baker

Ventura Poinsettia Dance Club Monday nights 7:30 - 9:45 p.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: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/800215670039426/>

The members of the Ventura Investment Group meet on Mondays for an informal discussion of recent economic events. Topics cover current events that affect stocks, funds, real estate, and interest-bearing investments. 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.

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

The Ventura County Philatelic Society meet on the first and third Mondays each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Church of the Foothills, 6279 Foothill Rd. Admission and parking are free. Come for a great evening. They are a fun group. Contact: Bill Garner (805) 320-1601 or sockonthenose@gmail.com

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 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. This can take time and require added patience. The Compassionate Friends provides a safe and

Continued on page 6



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TwinPalmsHealthandBeauty.com

Ventura events

Continued from page 5

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, in the Canada Larga room. On the following dates: Dec 5, Dec 19. For more information, contact Laura Lindsay, tcfventura@gmail.com

Co-Dependents Anonymous (CoDa) is a 12-step fellowship of men and women whose common purpose is recovery from codependence in the development and maintenance of healthy relationships. Every Friday at 6 p.m. at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 5654 Ralston (enter through side door off parking lot). Further information Deva (805) 814-5650 or Maryann Feb. 3: **The 1892 Dudley Historic House Museum will be open for docent-led tours from 1 - 4 p.m. Admission is free.** The museum is located at the corner of Loma Vista and Ashwood streets (197 N. Ashwood) in Ventura. For information please call 805-642-3345 or visit the website at www.dudleyhouse.org.

Feb. 5: LifeSource Women's Bible Study from 9 - 11:15 a.m. Community Presbyterian Church, 1555 Poli St. Every Tuesday morning following the school calendar. Study: "Hosea" by Jennifer Rothschild, who was blind at age 15. Cost is \$30.00 for book and registration (scholarships available). Please join us to experience God's gift of love, forgiveness and great fellowship. For childcare needs or questions please call Helen 805-644-3886. cpcventura.org

Feb. 5, 19: Ventura Retired Men will

meet at the Ventura Elks lodge on Knoll Drive at 11:30 a.m. for their twice-monthly lunch meetings. Those interested can stop in, introduce themselves, enjoy our social activities and programs, and we'll spring for your Elks lunch. Call Bob Likins at 805-587-1233 if you have a question.

Feb. 6: The Beach Cities Neighbors and Newcomers Club (BCNN) is a group of active women of all ages who live in Ventura, Oxnard, or Port Hueneme. Enjoy activities such as, bridge, dining, miscellaneous outings, reading, Mahjong, games, cooking, crafts etc. For more information, please come to our monthly meeting from 9:30 - 11 a.m. Guest speaker is Mike Rowan speaking on the subject of "Situational Awareness and Safety". Knights of Columbus Hall, 36 Figueroa St, parking and entry is on Santa Clara Ave. Look for the Blue awning at the back of the parking lot. No charge for meeting and no reservation is required.

Feb. 10: National Medicare for All Week of Action. Hundreds of events are happening across the country as activists come together to win Medicare for All. Ventura County host is the **Democratic Socialists of America Ventura County Chapter.** Topping Room, E.P. Foster Library Sunday, 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM. Contact DSA Ventura County Chapter <https://www.dsaventuracounty.org/>

Feb. 13: The Ventura Parkinson's Disease Support Group is having a Round Table Discussion on Wednesday, from 1- 3 p.m. at the Lexington Assisted Living 5440 Ralston Street. Come share your unique life experience that just might also help others. And come to LAUGH!

Community Events

Our discussion will open on an amazing positive note with a very special guest, Carol "Call Me Capable" Leish! For more details see full article in the Ventura Breeze Senior Section or call Patty at 805-766-6070.

Feb. 13: The Ventura County Camera Club will hold a meeting on Wednesday, at 6:30 p.m. at the Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Rd. The first part of the meeting will be an instructional workshop. This will be followed by the showing of member images. A professional photographer from the area will critique member's prints and digital images. This is not a competition but rather an anonymous discussion of the images. Anyone with an interest in photography is welcome and admission is free. Only members may submit images for critique. See the club's web site for more information about the club and examples of member's work or call 805-908-5663. WWW.VenturaCountyCameraClub.com

Feb. 14: Ventura Holistic Chamber of Commerce will be hosting their monthly Chapter Meeting. This month's topic is "Love Yourself... Love Your Business!". The meeting will be held at the Harbor Cove Café, 1867 Spinnaker Dr. from 11:30 - 1 p.m. All holistic professionals, practitioners, businesses and resource providers are welcomed to join us for lunch, networking, business development and fun. There is a \$12 fee which includes lunch and beverage. Please come a bit early to network and be sure to bring plenty of business cards to share. Please RSVP by contacting Julie Ridenour, Chapter President, (805) 223-1207.

California locales this time of year. In the kitchen, Starwood will share her popular medicinal mushroom chocolate truffle recipe and all participants will go home with some truffles they made by hand themselves, just in time for Valentine's Day.

The group will meet in the morning for an Herb Walk led by Kaufer and Starwood at the Ventura River Preserve followed by the afternoon session in a downtown Ojai kitchen and workshop space.

This workshop will go on rain or shine with substitution of morning indoor activities in case of heavy downpour and/or a 100% chance of heavy rain that morning.

The cost of the workshop including all materials is \$75. To register, please visit HerbWalks.com, email register@HerbWalks.com, or call 805-646-6281. Registrants will receive a confirmation email with all necessary info prior to the event.

Ojai Art Center February 10th at 6:00PM for a musical evening "From Berdichev to Broadway" featuring the world renowned Cantor A.L. Hurwitz and Reb Doniel on the piano.

Cantor Hurwitz is a soloist and performer from Brooklyn, NY whose brilliant voice has been featured all over the world.

The Ojai Arts Exchange has teamed up with Flamenco Dancer Wendy Castellanos to curate a night of authentic Flamenco music and dance. The show will feature Tony Triana strumming the Guitar, Antonio de Jerez, singing timeless gypsy melodies, Cristina Lucio, Jamie Padilla and Wendy Castellanos, setting the stage on fire with their entrancing movements.

The Ojai Underground Exchange is located at 1016 W. Ojai Avenue. Tickets are \$25. Visit www.squareup.com/store/undergroundexchange for tickets and www.ojaiartsexchange.com/events for more information.

More than 150 attendees gathered at the Ojai Valley Woman's Club on January 17 to attend the third annual Ojai Women's Fund Grantee Gala Awards Celebration. A total of \$105,000 in grant money was distributed to 13 nonprofit organizations providing services to the Ojai Valley community in arts, education, environment, health, and social services. The grants were funded by donations from 358 Ojai Women's Fund members and a contribution from the Wilson Family Fund grant from the Ventura County Community Foundation. The Ojai Women's Fund is an all-volunteer circle dedicated to making substantial grants to organizations that address critical needs in the Ojai Valley

Immerse in verse

The Ventura County Writers Club invites poets of all ages to enter its 19th Annual Poetry Contest. The contest welcomes all genres of poetry into two youth divisions and one adult division. Entries will be accepted through February 28 at 11:59 p.m. PST online via submittables.com. Winners receive cash prizes and opportunities to read their poems as well as publication in the club's newsletter and anthology. Poems can be up to 31 lines long not including the title and in doc, docx, or PDF format. Go to <http://www.VenturaCountyWriters.com/Contests/Poetry> for submissions or call Breeze contributing writer Sheli Ellsworth at 805.300.1365.



Villanova celebrate one of Villanova's traditions, International Day.

Ojai news and events

Villanova students, staff and families gathered on Monday, January 14 to celebrate one of Villanova's traditions, International Day. The annual event honors the rich diversity of Villanova students' heritage through food, dance, traditional dress, and music. International Day at Villanova dates back to the early 1990s, when resident student, Victor Yang '94 from Taiwan, expressed a desire to share his culture with his American classmates. The tradition has since blossomed into a highly-anticipated celebration with Villanova faculty and parents helping students develop food menus, and learn cultural dance and music.

Lanny Kaufer's Herb Walks series will present Jess Starwood, clinical herbalist and forager of wild medicine, on Saturday, February 9, for a workshop in Ojai entitled "Tasting the Wild: Foraged Flavors of Local Plants and Mushrooms." Starwood is the owner of SunRaven Apothecary in Thousand Oaks,

Participants will identify and experience several wild winter plants and mushrooms to be found in Southern



News & Notes



Meet Ventura's future city leaders

Mayor for a Moment, season 4, is in full swing. The student recognition program is a collaboration with the City of Ventura, the Ventura Unified School District and CAPS Media. Each month an outstanding 5th grader is selected by the individual elementary schools. The "young mayor" is invited to gavel the start of a City Council meeting and present an essay on a leadership topic to the council and community. CAPS Media produces an onsite profile on each young mayor that is shown at the City council meeting and at the VUSD board meeting. Worthy honorees thus far this school year are Tyleigh Matheson (Loma Vista), Jazzmn Viot-Preciado (ATLAS), Alexa Swanson (E.P. Foster), Ammar Atiah (Elmhurst), and Darby Mussehl (Blanche Reynolds).

An addition screening of *The Perfect Firestorm* – *The Thomas Fire Story* will be held at the Museum of Ventura County Agriculture Museum in Santa Paula on Saturday, March 9th at 1pm and 3pm. This is a free event, open to the public, no reservations are required. Go to our website for information. *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. The film is also airing on CAPS Media, go to capsmedia.org/schedule to find days and time. And, in response to requests from the community, the film is open for viewing on the CAPS Media website homepage – capsmedia.org.

Explore the possibilities at CAPS Media. Have you ever wondered what's

inside the CAPS Media Center - that red, black and glass building on Day Road, across from Foothill High school? There's a lot more inside than you can imagine including limitless creative opportunities waiting for you. To find out more come to orientation on the first Thursday of every month and learn how to become a member of CAPS and join our community of enthusiastic engaged member/producers. A CAPS Media staff member directs a tour of the television studio and radio station, displays and explains the equipment and resources that are available to Member/Producers, and answer questions about the benefits of becoming a CAPS Media member.

Member classes include a Production/Storytelling class on the 1st Thursday of the month, a HD videography/camera class held on the 2nd Thursday, Final Cut postproduction editing class on the 3rd Thursday, and CAPS Radio (KPPQ, FM 104.1) two-part classes on the 4th week. In every training session Member/Producers receive hands-on instruction in videography, video editing, radio production and more. All classes begin at 6pm at the CAPS Media Center, 65 Day Road. Once trained and certified, member/producers may check out CAPS Media's video cameras, tripods, audio gear and other production equipment to record their project and then book postproduction editing suites to craft the story they want to tell. Go to capsmedia.org for information or call 805-658-0500.

CAPS Media's mission is to create an engaged and informed community through participation in electronic media.

The future of neurosurgery explored at CMHS Seminar

Neurosurgery dates back to prehistoric times, when ancient civilizations first began the practice of drilling holes into skulls for medical reasons. Centuries later, in the early 1900s, a pioneering doctor named Harvey Cushing transformed the science of neurosurgery with discoveries that dramatically increased brain surgery survival rates. Since then, the medical community has continued to develop better technologies and neurosurgery techniques, and new innovations and research promise a bright future for this field of medicine.

The latest advances in neurosur-

gery and where they could lead will be the focus of a free seminar at 6 p.m. on Tuesday, Feb. 5, in Camarillo. Titled "The Future of Neurosurgery," the seminar is hosted by Community Memorial Health System as part of its 2019 Speaker Series.

The guest speaker will be Dr. David Westra, who specializes in neurosurgery. He received his medical degree at the University of Texas Medical School at Houston and completed a residency at the Loma Linda University Medical Center in Loma Linda, California. Dr. Westra is a member of the American Board of Neurological Surgery and a member of the Community Memorial Hospital medical staff.

The seminar will be at the Camarillo Library, 4101 Las Posas Road. Registration is free but reservations are required. For reservations, visit www.cmhshealth.org/rsvp or call Brown Paper Tickets at 800-838-3006.

PRIMROSE EXCURSIONS

**Registration for Spring Trips
Opens on February 7th!**

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PREMIER
WORLD DISCOVERY



Publisher Sheldon with GCTD new 2019 Board Chair Cheryl Heitmann.

GCTD announces changes

Gold Coast Transit District (GCTD), Ventura County's largest provider of public transit, has announced some changes in its Board of Directors and management team.

On January 9th, the GCTD Board of Directors elected Cheryl Heitmann as its 2019 Board Chair, and Port Hueneme Mayor Will Berg as Vice Chair. In addition, City of Ojai has appointed Councilmember Randy Haney to the District's Board after former Councilmember Paul Blatz decided not to run for reelection. He served on the council since 2010 and on GCTD's Board since 2013.

Councilmember Haney joins the five-member Board, which also includes City of Oxnard Councilmember Bryan MacDonald and County Supervisor John Zaragoza, that represents nearly 4 million annual passengers who utilize GCTD's

fixed route and paratransit services in western Ventura County.

Gold Coast Transit District provides safe, responsive, convenient, efficient, and environmentally responsible fixed-route bus and paratransit public transportation that serves the diverse needs of the cities of Ojai, Oxnard, Port Hueneme and Ventura, and in the unincorporated County areas between the cities. Utilizing a fleet of 56 clean natural gas-fueled buses, and 26 paratransit buses and vans, GCTD carries nearly 4 million passengers annually on its 20 bus routes. GCTD is the largest provider of public transit in Ventura County and is governed by a Board of Directors made up of an elected official from each member jurisdiction. For more information or to plan your trip, visit www.GoldCoastTransit.org.

Always wanted to learn about fly fishing?

The Sespe Flyfishers of Ventura will be conducting an introductory class on fly fishing and casting the fly rod on Saturday, Feb. 2nd, from 9:00 – 11:00 AM, and you are invited to join in at Chumash Park, Petit and Waco, in East Ventura (off Telephone Rd). There is no charge and all are welcome. Whether you are experienced or a complete novice they want to help you learn and enjoy this great sport. If you don't yet have your own rod, don't worry, just come and use one provided.

www.sespeflyfishers.org For more information Bob Smith at 805-647-3522.



Part of the mission water system for Mission San Buenaventura was the settling tank or receiving reservoir from which water was distributed to the church and to the few Spanish families who lived near the mission.

Easy to get to and a wonderful walk. Walking downtown it is easy to pass by Valdez Alley/Eastwood Park and to just keep walking but you are missing a wonderful experience by not entering it. It is right next to the Albinger Museum. Valdez is beautiful as you traverse its many stairs (difficult for some). Surprises await you as you take the walk to the top. The next time don't just walk by it take the journey and see the settling tank.



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Pattie Braga understands the deep and meaningful impact the Y has in the community.

YMCA to
kick off
its Annual
Campaign

The Ventura Family YMCA is gaining momentum to kick off Annual Campaign, a volunteer-lead effort that raises funds for programs that membership fees do not cover. Life enriching programs like LIVES-TRONG® and Third Grade Learn to Swim are supported solely by donations.

Annual Campaign Chair Pattie Braga understands the deep and meaningful impact the Y has in the local community. Braga believes “everyone in a beachside city should know how to swim. The Ventura Family YMCA saves lives with our Third Grade Learn to Swim program by providing free swim lessons to any third grader who has not learned how to swim.”

As the nation’s leading nonprofit, the Y is committed to strengthening communities through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. The Y is also one of the largest charities in the world, serving more than 45 million people in 119 countries.

Locally, with the help of volunteers and the generosity of the community, the Y is able to provide more than \$1 million dollars in scholarships annually in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. Scholarships allow families to become members of the Y, children to attend after-school care and camp, and teens to participate in Youth & Government programs, to name a few.

The Ventura Family YMCA is looking for volunteer campaigners to help raise much needed funds. Braga is a part of Annual Campaign because “it costs so little to make a huge impact.” If you believe in the Y’s mission and cause and would like to volunteer, contact the Y today.

Established in 1887, the Channel Islands YMCA is a charitable organization of seven YMCA branches serving Santa Barbara and Ventura

counties including: Camarillo Family YMCA, Lompoc Family YMCA, Montecito Family YMCA, Santa Barbara Family YMCA, Stuart C. Gildred Family YMCA in Santa Ynez, Ventura Family YMCA, and Youth and Family Services YMCA which operates Noah’s Anchorage Youth Crisis Shelter, the St. George Family Youth Center and My Home.

The Y is the nation’s leading nonprofit committed to strengthening communities through youth development, healthy living and social responsibility. The Channel Islands YMCA serves over 46,000 individuals and provides over \$1.3 million in financial assistance to families in need for child care, YMCA memberships, away and day camps, youth sports, and teen after-school programs. For more information about the Ventura Family YMCA visit www.ciyymca.org/ventura

Robbery
prevention tips
for convenience
store owners/
employees

by Ashley Bautista
Community Outreach Specialist

There has been an increase in robberies at local convenience stores in the City of Ventura. Persons, who own, operate or are employed by convenience store type businesses, may be susceptible to persons committing robberies. The Ventura Police Department urges store owners, operators and employees to use caution and to review the following safety tips:

Be alert for suspicious people loitering around the areas of your store/place of business.

Be alert to vehicles in your lots, or near or around your business for extended periods, with occupants inside.

Write down the description of the vehicle, the license number as well as a description of the occupant/s of the vehicle.

All excess cash not needed to conduct normal operations should be “dropped” in a safe. Preferably a time lock type safe accessible only by specifically authorized persons. This fact should be prominently displayed.

Vary routines when removing money from the business. Do not use a money bag, carry cash in non-descript packaging. Do not transport cash at the same time every day; do not carry cash, in large amounts or a long a distance to your vehicle. If practical make drops in pairs.

Have two (2) employees working together, open and close the business in pairs.

Business windows should be kept clear of items blocking view into the store, especially near/around the cash register. Police should be able to

News & Notes



WBC students resting at Sheep Camp monument in the snow. Photo by Michael Kuredjian

Wilderness course now in
its eleventh year

The local Sierra Club’s annual Wilderness Basics Course begins Feb 6, gathering local outdoor experts to teach and share tips on how to be safe and comfortable outdoors, enhancing day hikes to backpacking adventures.

Covering Santa Barbara and Ventura counties, the Los Padres Chapter’s popular course is in its 11th year and typically sells out. It caters to all physical levels and ages from teen to seniors.

WBC includes evening hands-on classes and day and overnight adventures, including car camp. Camaraderie always comes along.

WBC has close ties with the Search and Rescue teams in both counties; in fact, some surplus funds from class fees are donated to them. Other “after-cost” funds have been donated for trail maintenance to the Los Padres Forest Assn. and the chapter for use in its free

Outings, wildlife protection and trail access.

Volunteer leaders teach people the skills to enjoy the wilderness in 8 classroom sessions and guide the students on 4 exciting outings, sponsored by the Los Padres Chapter, Sierra Club.

Evening classes are held at Poinsettia Pavilion in Ventura Feb. 6 to March 27. Day, overnight and car camps are held in both counties. The course serves people of all levels from beginners to seasoned hikers, teens to seniors and outings are student’s choice, ranked from easy, moderate or strenuous. Various discounts apply, and a few scholarships are available.

To register:<http://bit.ly/LPWBC19>
For information call (805) 524-7170 or lospadreswbc@gmail.com.
www.facebook.com/lospadreswbc.

see into the store from the street.

Have adequate lighting operational both inside and outside of the business, on all sides.

Always have cameras recording both inside and outside. Ensure cameras are placed in such a way as to capture various images of persons in the store. Ensure employees can download, but not turn off, alter or erase video images. Know how to retrieve the video footage and have it easily accessible for the police.

Limit public access to one entrance/exit. Keep emergency exits secure. Do not allow patrons into unobserved areas of the business (private restroom, break area etc.)

Keep a cell phone at all times and do not hesitate to call 911 in the event you feel threatened or something is suspicious.

Be careful about mentioning how good business has been, how busy you are or how much money is made.

If you are the victim of a robbery, remember these tips:

Try to remain calm and follow the instructions of the suspect.

Assume that they are armed even if a weapon is not displayed.

This will be traumatic but focus on remembering a good description of the suspect/s, the vehicle and direction of travel as they leave. Also, the weapon and anything that was said.

As soon as possible (when it is safe) make sure that the first call you make is to 911.

Protect any evidence which may be left behind, such as anything that the suspect/s may have touched. If anyone witnesses the incident, ask them to stay until police arrive or get contact information so that they can be reached later.

As with personal safety in general, have a plan as how you will react to specific situations so that if a crime occurs, you will not be caught completely off guard.

Note: A shorter version of this was printed in the last issue.



News & Notes



Sinead Chilton, Director of Development and Marketing for School on Wheels, Anna Wagner OWF Co-Chair and Peggy Russell from OWF Steering Committee at the awards ceremony.

School on Wheels awarded grants by the Ojai Women’s Fund

On Thursday, January 17th, School on Wheels along with 12 other local nonprofits were awarded grants totaling \$105,000 by the Ojai Women’s Fund.

School on Wheels is a local nonprofit that celebrated its 25th Anniversary last year providing educational assistance to children and youth experiencing homelessness.

Their \$10,000.00 grant from the Ojai Women’s Fund (OWF) is to continue and expand their program in the Ojai Valley by recruiting, training and matching volunteer tutors with students living in shelters, motels, cars, on the street and in group foster homes. This funding will specifically support their program to a group foster home for sexually trafficked youth (Commercial Sexual Exploitation

of Children) ages 12-18.

Catherine Meek, Executive Director of School on Wheels is a resident of Ojai and also one of the newest members of the OWF. In 2018 they provided one-on-one tutoring and mentoring to over 3,500 children. Sinead Chilton, Director of Development and Marketing, accepted the award on their behalf and stated “Our hope with the funds you have given us is that we can recruit, train and match volunteers in Ojai that are willing to work with older students and be positive role models for kids that have experienced trauma that most of us cannot even begin to comprehend.”

To find out more about School on Wheels and to apply to be a volunteer tutor visit their website at www.schoolonwheels.org.



Tom Hilton -VP of Development, Brandy Beesley -Executive Director, Jann Huling and Carloyn Pillado -Tutoring manager helping the community.

Sustainability Now News

Project Understanding: Serving People in Need -Part one

by Maryann Ridini Spencer
(@MaryannRidiniSpencer)

“Giving a hand up, not a handout,” is Project Understanding’s slogan. For over 40 years with the support of the

community and many faith-based congregations, Project Understanding has been able to carry on a mission to provide hope to individuals and transform lives by developing and directing resources to provide food, housing, and educational programs to people in need. The goal of the organization is to move clients out of homelessness providing support, resources, and monitoring a client’s progress with a system of accountability.

“We can’t fix the entire world, Project Understanding exists to help the people we can,” said Project Understanding’s Former Board President and Treasurer, Kellie Meehan, also Owner/Creative Director, Searle Creative Group. “People get into bad situations for so many reasons, addiction, mental health issues, bad luck, and sometimes just bad choice. We provide our clients with a second chance; lifting them up in small ways that can make a big difference.”

“Unfortunately, the need for help in our county has not diminished, but continuously grows with many members of the community continuing to struggle with limited access to resources,” said Brandy Beesley, Executive Director of Project Understanding. “As the cost of living in Ventura County continues to rise, many are left with a choice between putting groceries on the table and paying rent. The reality is, the majority of people are living paycheck to paycheck, and all it takes is one minor setback or unfortunate situation to occur before they are facing homelessness.”

On an annual basis, Project Under-



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www.venturabotanicalgardens.com

standing provides 600-800 families per month providing groceries on a Bi-weekly basis. In 2017 They assisted 125 homeless to find residences through their Homeless 2 Home (H2H) program, helped approximately 64 individuals find supportive housing (through Shore at the WAV), and support a dozen pregnant women through Tender Life Maternity Home.

“We also help in times of major crisis. For example, we were extremely busy during and after the Thomas Fire providing special services and supplying things like clothes and blankets, which doesn’t ordinarily fall into our scope of services. However, in situations like the fire, when the need is so great, we strive to contribute in any way we can,” said Meehan.

To find out more about the organization as well as how to donate and volunteer, visit: projectunderstanding.org. Stay tuned for more about Project Understanding in Ventura Breeze’s next issue.

Plan for Surfers Point Managed Retreat project

The Ventura County Fairgrounds board has approved, by 7-0 vote, the conceptual design for the second

phase of the Surfers Point Managed Retreat project.

Barbara Quaid, Ventura County Fairgrounds CEO stated “I am grateful that the Fairgrounds and the City of Ventura are working together on keeping our beautiful bike path and shoreline a jewel for everyone to enjoy.”

The project is a joint effort by the city of Ventura and a joint powers authority of six coastal communities and the counties of Ventura and Santa Barbara. It aims to finish a project whose The first phase of the project was completed in 2011.

The conceptual design provides for the removal of the parking lot that runs adjacent to the bike path and just north of the restrooms. The bike path will come forward and the lot will move. The beach will widen to where the lot and bike path are now located.

When completed there will be 423 parking spaces, an increase over the 203 that are located there now



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News & Notes



In a very controversial agreement, the City agreed to pay \$2.3 million to buy this property.

Previous Harbor Community Church lot to be sold

Quoting, in part from a previous article in the Ventura Breeze written by Rebecca Wicks:

“Harbor Community Church has filed a lawsuit against the City of Ventura signaling the start of the next round in the fight over the church’s controversial homeless program. The program, which provides meals, showers and religious worship to a primarily homeless population, has been accused of being the source of a significant uprising in criminal activity in a once quiet residential neighborhood.”

“On May 14, two days after the City Council meeting, the church closed Operation Embrace. On May 15, temporary City Attorney Juli Scott reported Harbor Church pastor Sam Gallucci sent her an email stating he was going to consult with church elders to decide whether the church would sue. The following day the church filed a lawsuit and restarted its services.”

“The suit argues the church’s First Amendment freedom of religion rights have been violated and also cites the Religious Land Use and Institutional-

ized Persons Act.”

“In a very controversial agreement, the City has agreed to pay \$2.3 million to buy the property at 3100 Preble Ave. with Harbor Community Church agreeing to leave Ventura.”

The lot has been cleared, Brad Starr, P.E. Engineering Services Manager City of Ventura Public Works Department told the Breeze “The City is preparing a plan for the sale of the property that was the Harbor Church. The property will be sold for the development of 4 single family residences. The price is to be determined by high bid at this time. The schedule to start selling the property is at the end of January.”

“The zoning is R1-7, therefore single-family homes with minimum 7,000 square foot lots. This was the original underlying zoning for this property. A Tract Map has already been recorded with the County of Ventura that split the lot into 4 parcels and addresses have been assigned by the City.”

The selling of these lots will certainly not re-cover the \$2.3 million paid for it plus the expense of demolition and legal fees.

Donors strongly urged to give blood with Vitalant as soon as possible

As severe winter storms continue to traverse the country, and cold and flu season is in full swing, the one-two punch is hitting blood centers hard and drastically impacting community blood supplies. Severe weather can also lead to more accidents and an increased need for blood.

Currently, there’s a critical need for platelets and type O blood donations; however, all blood types are needed. In emergency situations, when a patient’s blood type isn’t known, doctors reach for type O blood first until the patient can be stabilized. Platelets have a very short shelf life—only 5 days. In Ventura and on the Central Coast, Vitalant needs

to collect 1,225 donations per week to replenish the supply and meet the needs of area patients.

Vitalant strives to maintain a 4-day supply of type O blood; currently we’re at less than half that amount for our nationwide supply. Additionally, blood donations collected in late December and early January were down 47 percent compared to the first two weeks of December making it challenging to maintain an adequate blood supply.

Donors are strongly encouraged to give blood in the coming days to immediately rebuild the community blood supply. To schedule an appointment to give blood, go to vitalant.org or call 1-805-543-4290. Walk-in donors are always welcome.

“We typically see a drop in donations around this time of year because people are not only recovering from the holidays, many are also suffering from the flu and other illnesses,” said Susan Noone, Regional Director. “Add bad weather to the mix and it makes it extremely

Continued on page 15



Senior Living

Pull Out Section



If you had a good retirement plan you could be living in this.

Retirement planning mistakes to avoid

by Jayson Cohen
American Legacy Solutions

Retirement should be a time of rest, relaxation, and play. It should be about focusing on those pursuits that you wanted to do when you were younger, but you have yet to cross them off of your bucket list.

Failing to plan for a comfortable retirement, however, can be a major stressor in the life of someone facing their golden years. Recreational hopes and dreams can quickly be squashed in the wake of news that you haven't set up things to be nearly as prosperous as you'd hoped. Learning what to do, and what NOT to do, as you plan for this time in your life will be key to being able to enjoy these years. Here are some things to avoid as you plan for this exciting time in your life:

Don't Rely Solely On Social Security
You may have been somewhat misled with regard to social security---it was never meant to replace your original paycheck.

Social security will cover approximately 40 percent of your pre-retirement income, and unless you are intending to pare down your expenses in retirement, its best to put other things in place to make sure you can live comfortably.

Social security funds are also subject to availability, so if market fluctuations affect the overall health of this national account pool, you could also be affected.

Don't Assume Cost Of Living Will Be Cheaper

If you think of your day to day living expenses like food, clothing, and utilities, it is likely that these expenses will not go away in retirement. You might even find that certain expenses, like health care and leisure entertainment, actually go up during this time. To plan for a comfortable retirement, you'll need to take into account all of these potential expenses when you budget what your

cost of living will be.

Don't Neglect Catch-Up Contributions

Many people simply don't prioritize adding to their retirement savings in their early years of contribution to the workforce--most of their income is spent on student loan payments, housing, and supporting their families.

After 50, people can take advantage of a catch-up contribution option, where you are able to put additional money into an IRA or another retirement account. While a startlingly low percentage of people over 50 do take advantage of the catch-up option, it is strongly recommended that you look into this as an efficient way to expand and grow your retirement portfolio.

Don't Forget Those Taxes

It may seem at first with social security and other avenues of income streaming in that you have a pretty healthy influx of cash at your disposal. Stop and consider whether you have paid Uncle Sam his dues. Most retirement income is still taxable by law; up to 85 percent of social security income is still taxable! Interest and investment income are not immune to tax regulations either, even in retirement. Staying informed and making wise decisions with the counsel of trusted financial advisors will be key to maximizing your profit while minimizing your tax liability.

An Ounce Of Prevention

You've heard the phrase, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure". It is especially true when planning for retirement. Making smart decisions now and preparing for this time will ensure that your golden years are just that. We are here to help you create a plan that will help you achieve a successful retirement.



Carol brings her incredible sense of humor.

Am I the only one who feels this way?

by Patty Jenkins

You are not the only one! Come join us and meet others who live daily with the challenges of a disability. The Ventura Parkinson's Disease Support Group is having a Round Table Discussion on Wednesday, February 13th from 1PM to 3PM at the Lexington Assisted Living (5440 Ralston Street, Ventura). Come share your unique life experience that just might also help others. And come to laugh! Our discussion will open on an amazing positive note with a very special guest, Carol "Call Me Capable" Leish!

Carol has an incredible sense of humor and has lived with her disabilities for most of her life. As a child, Carol sustained speech and vision disabilities

Continued on page 14



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"Kids this is a foreign language called cursive. Maybe you need tutoring."

Become a reading tutor for adults

Ventura County Library Adult Literacy READ Program is now recruiting Adult volunteer tutors who would like to help other adults improve their reading and writing skills. No teaching experience is required and the training is free. The next five-week tutor training series will be starting in February.

The READ program trains adult volunteers to provide free one-to-one reading instruction for adults in need of basic literacy skills. Instruction in basic literacy includes the development of phonetic reading skills combined with communication skills. Ventura County Library is encouraging residents to take this opportunity to volunteer as a tutor or encourage someone you know to take advantage of the free program.

After completion of the five-week training, tutors will meet with their adult learners at locations throughout the county. Tutoring is scheduled by the availability of the tutors and the learners.

Illiteracy is an issue that can be debilitating in so many ways for adults who never received the proper instruction. Adults who are unable to read have a much more difficult time with many daily activities that others may take for granted, along with a clear disadvantage in today's competitive job market.

For more information about how you can support literacy and make a difference in someone's life, call (805) 677-7160.

Senior Living



"Maybe this class wasn't for falling in love?"

VCAAA award-winning Fall Prevention Program opens course registration in Ventura

The Ventura County Area Agency on Aging's award-winning Fall Prevention Program has opened registration for A Matter of Balance, a series of evidence-based classes that focus on increased mobility and balance. Registration is now open for a class at the E.P. Foster Library in Ventura. The class is free and open to all individuals 60 and older.

A Matter of Balance emphasizes practical strategies to manage and prevent falls. Participants will learn to view falls as controllable; set goals for increasing activity; make changes to reduce fall risks at home; and exercise to increase balance and strength.

Nationally recognized research shows that one in four adults over the age of 65, and half of the population over the age of 75, fall each year. Of those individuals, half will die within a year from complications and injuries sustained from the fall.

A Matter of Balance welcomes all individuals concerned about falls, as well as those who are interested in improving balance, flexibility, and strength. Individuals who have recently experienced a

fall, or who have restricted activity due to the fear of falling, are encouraged to participate.

The course at EP Foster Library is slated to begin on February 5, and will be held in the Library's Topping Room on Tuesdays through March 26 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m. EP Foster Library is located at 651 E. Main Street in Ventura.

To learn more about the program, or to register for this or any upcoming class, please contact the VCAAA Fall Prevention Coordinator, Dina Ontiveras, at (805) 477-7343.

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

The Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period (MA OEP)

Beginning in 2019, there will be a Medicare Advantage Open Enrollment Period (MA OEP) from January 1 through March 31 each year. During this time, MA-eligible beneficiaries will be able to change their MA Plan or elect Original Medicare and coverage under Part D. Changes are effective the first of the following month.

The MA OEP replaces the Medicare Advantage Disenrollment Period (MADP), which previously gave beneficiaries the option to disenroll from MA and enroll in Original Medicare from January 1 through February 14. Now, in addition to switching to Original Medicare, individuals can use the MA OEP to switch to another MA Plan.

When counseling clients about the MA OEP, it is a good idea to recommend that they still use Fall Open Enrollment (October 15 – December 7) to make coverage decisions. Waiting to use the MA OEP means a later start date for important coverage changes. Additionally, remind Original Medicare beneficiaries that they are not eligible to use the MA OEP.

Unlike the Fall Open Enrollment Period, which allows beneficiaries to make any number of changes to their coverage (with the final change taking effect January 1 of the following year), beneficiaries are only able to make one change during the MA OEP.

MA OEP and other enrollment periods

The MA OEP takes precedence over all other Medicare Advantage and Part D enrollment periods, except the Initial Coverage Election Period (ICEP).

The ICEP is the period during which an individual newly eligible for MA can request to enroll in a plan. The ICEP occurs simultaneously with a beneficiary's Initial Enrollment Period (IEP), but when it ends depends on when the beneficiary enrolls in Part B.

If an individual chooses to enroll

Senior Living

in an MA Plan when their ICEP and MA OEP are occurring simultaneously, the ICEP takes precedence. Generally, their MA enrollment should take effect the first of the month following enrollment (as long as the effective date is not before they have both Parts A and B).

If a beneficiary uses their ICEP election opportunity to enroll in an MA Plan and they are still in the MA OEP, they are eligible to use their MA OEP election Beneficiaries eligible for other enrollment periods during the MA OEP must use the MA OEP. After using their one-time election during the MA OEP, they may use any other enrollment periods to which they are entitled.

Case example #2: Mr. B is an Extra Help beneficiary. He used the MA OEP to switch to a new MA Plan, effective February 1. Unfortunately, a few of his drugs are not on his new plan's formulary, and his pharmacy is out of network. Mr. B can use his quarterly Extra Help Special Enrollment Period (SEP) to change plans in February, with an effective date of March 1.

Nia technique arrives at Avenue Adult Center!

by **Nia Green Belt**, Teacher, and native Venturan **Christy Cantrel**

The dance fitness modality called Nia has been practiced in Ventura for more than 15 years. Starting in February, the movement form will be available through the city of Ventura Parks and Recreation at the Avenue Adult Center, offered several times per week.

Nia (originally an acronym for non-impact aerobics) is a holistic workout designed to be adaptable to individual needs and abilities. By rewarding pleasure over pain and embracing comfort, Nia delivers a full body and brain workout experience while helping people form a deeper connection to themselves and their body.

Nine movement forms from the dance arts, healing arts, and martial arts combine with 52 moves for the base, core and the upper extremities to inspire the class with a variety of dynamics used to provide body friendly choreography that can create opportunities to increase flexibility, agility, mobility, strength and stability!

Registration now open, checkout the

My Ventura guide mailed to residents, call (805) 658-4726 or go to www.cityofventura.ca.gov/recreation.

Questions and more information? (805) 216-5216.

A vaccine for Alzheimer's could be within reach

by **Matthew R. Bailey**
President of the Foundation for Biomedical Research

In November, researchers at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center announced that their experimental vaccine had prevented the development of substances associated with Alzheimer's in mice. The scientists hope to start clinical trials in humans soon. If the vaccine lives up to its promise, it could prevent half of dementia cases.

These findings stand out as just the latest example of the power of animal research. Cures for dementia are on the horizon -- and animal models will be the means by which they arrive.

Neurodegenerative diseases like Alzheimer's exert an immense toll on those who suffer from them, their families, and the broader economy. The number of Americans who died of Alzheimer's more than doubled between 2000 and 2015. It's now the country's sixth-leading cause of death. Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia are projected to cost the nation \$277 billion in 2018.

Parkinson's afflicts nearly 1 million Americans and costs the country roughly \$14 billion per year. And every day, 15 Americans are diagnosed with ALS, or Lou Gehrig's disease. Only 10 percent of them will live more than 10 years after diagnosis.

Animal research is crucial to reducing the burden of diseases like these.

Consider how such research has already improved our understanding of Alzheimer's. By studying monkeys and mice with similar brain abnormalities, scientists have discovered molecules and genetic mutations associated with the disease. Researchers have also been able to prove that obesity and head injuries increase susceptibility to Alzheimer's.

Recently, University of Florida researchers found that a special protein could reduce the plaque that builds up in the brains of mice with Alzheimer's. That could



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lead to the development of a drug that stops the progression of the disease.

Animal research is also yielding breakthroughs in the fight against Parkinson's. A few decades ago, with the help of monkeys, scientists developed a surgical treatment called "deep brain stimulation" that blocks irregular nerve signals. The therapy has helped tens of thousands of people with Parkinson's.

New research points to a way to stop Parkinson's entirely. At the University of Queensland in Australia, scientists have been working with a small molecule that has halted the loss of brain cells in several animal models. They're aiming to start human trials in 2020.

There's hope on the horizon for people with ALS, too. With the help of mice and rats, scientists at the Washington University School of Medicine recently identified a therapy that could

reverse neuromuscular damage in people with an inherited form of ALS.

Animal research helps not just humans but animals themselves, too. Dogs, for example, experience a disease similar to Alzheimer's that affects their memory and responsiveness. So treatments that help reduce Alzheimer's in people could yield therapies for our canine companions as well.

Some animal activists are opposed to this research. They argue that computer models or cell cultures should be used instead. But these supposed alternatives are not yet nearly sophisticated enough to illustrate how a treatment -- especially for a disease as complicated as Alzheimer's -- will work within a complex living organism.

Neurodegenerative diseases are becoming the scourges of our time. But thanks to animal research, there's hope in sight.





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How to make an exercise plan

Some people can plunge into a new project without planning ahead. Others find that writing a plan is helpful and keeps them on track. When it comes to motivation, the first few months are crucial. If you can stick with physical activities you enjoy, it's a good sign that you will be able to make exercise and physical activity a regular part of your everyday life. An exercise and physical activity plan might be a good way to help you:

Stay motivated to include physical activity as part of your daily life.

Be organized so you can fit exercise and physical activity into your current lifestyle.

Know what you need to move forward. Do you need to get new exercise shoes or clothes? Do you need equipment, like weights or a tennis racket? Will you have expenses (like health club fees) that you need to fit into your budget?

What to Include in Your Physical Activity Plan

Your reasons for being physically active.

Your short- and long-term goals.

The activities you plan to do. Include all 4 types of exercise—endurance, strength, balance, and flexibility.

When, where, and with whom you will be active.

Things you need to do to get started and keep going.

How Much Exercise Should I Plan to Do?

Aim for moderate intensity endurance activities on most or all days of the week. Try to do strength exercises for all of your major muscle groups on 2 or more days a week, but don't exercise the same muscle group 2 days in a row. For example, do upper-body strength exercises on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday and lower-body strength exercises on Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. Or, you can do strength exercises of all of your muscle groups every other day. Don't forget to include balance and flexibility exercises.

Make It a Plan That Works for You

When you are deciding on your activity plans, you'll want to:

Make your plan realistic based on your current activity levels and the amount of time you can dedicate to exercise each week.

Make your plan specific. Include all of the details of who, what, where, when, and how you'll be active each week.

Make physical activity a priority. Put it on your "to do" list every day.

Make being active easy and fun. Do things you enjoy but pick up the pace a bit.

Make it social. Ask a friend or family member to be your "exercise buddy."

Move Your Way link: Want to get more physical activity? Build a weekly plan

Adjust your plan as you progress or if your schedule changes. You may find that things like vacation or illness can interrupt your physical activity routine. Don't get discouraged! You can start exercising again and be successful.

Go easy on yourself. You are not alone.

The sooner you resume some sort of activity, the easier it will be to get back into your routine.

Think about the reasons you started exercising.

Believe in yourself!

If you are finding that your current activities are getting easier to do, find ways to challenge yourself. You can push yourself a little further by:

Adding new physical activities to your exercise routine.

Spending more time being active.

Adding distance to your normal routine.

Increasing the intensity of your activity.

Remember to check your progress monthly to see if you need to step your exercise plans up a notch!

Find an exercise buddy or buddies to help keep you motivated and maintain your exercise routine. Having a standing date with a friend or family member can help you stick to your plan.

New Congress begins slowly, but seniors' priorities remain on the docket

by Marci Phillips

NCOA Public Policy and Advocacy

As the partial government shutdown extends and becomes the longest one on record, we continue to monitor the effects on benefits and services that older adults rely on.

Only 5 of the 12 FY19 appropriations bills have been enacted into law. Those 5 bills provide 75% of federal

Senior Living

government funding, and many aging services programs are included. FY19 funding is secure for Older Americans Act (OAA) and Elder Justice Act (EJA) programs, Senior Corps, the Medicare State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP), and the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

However, several other programs have not been funded. These include the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), low-income housing assistance, senior transportation programs, and elder justice and consumer protection initiatives administered by the Justice and Treasury Departments. To date, there have not been any reductions in these services for older adults. But if the shutdown continues, harmful effects will begin to emerge in February and March.

Also caught up in the FY19 funding debate are continuing efforts to extend expired Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) programs that allow older adults to remain in their own homes longer. These include the Money Follows the Person (MFP) and Spousal Impoverishment protection programs. On Jan. 8, with leadership from new Energy and Commerce Committee Chairman Frank Pallone (D-NJ), the House passed the Medicaid Extenders Act of 2019 (H.R. 259), which provides 3-month extensions for these programs. We are hopeful the Senate will pass the bill by unanimous consent soon.

What's ahead for FY20

Traditionally, the annual appropriations debate kicks off with the release of the President's budget request in early February. Due to the shutdown, we believe this will be delayed and the Congressional debate will be postponed until all FY19 funding is enacted.

An important element for FY20 will be the need for another 2-year deal to raise the caps on discretionary spending. Congress has done this in increments over the past few years, and this year they are facing a 9% cut (from \$597 to \$543 billion) in non-defense discretionary spending and an 11% cut (from \$647 to \$576 billion) for defense spending if the caps are not raised.

For FY20, NCOA will continue to focus on funding for a range of aging services, calling particular attention to protecting and increasing investments in falls prevention, Chronic Disease Self-Management Education (CDSME), SHIPs, and the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP).

Due later this year are renewals of key statutes impacting older adults.

The first is renewal of authority under the Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA) to provide targeted funding for SHIPs, Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs), Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs), and the National Center for Benefits Outreach and Enrollment (NCBOE) to find and enroll eligible low-income older adults into benefits programs. The current authority expires Oct. 1. NCOA is advocating to make this initiative permanent to eliminate the need for regular renewal.

Also up for renewal is the Older Americans Act. Reauthorization provides an opportunity to update and modernize the OAA to better serve the rapidly growing older population and strengthen the ability of the aging services network to address their needs. We are focused on strengthening research, demonstration, and evaluation activities through the creation of a new Innovation Center; protecting investments in falls prevention, CDSME, and SCSEP; enhancing efforts to coordinate and promote federal resources for home modifications; building upon senior center modernization secured in the last reauthorization; and enhancing the measurement of economic security of older adults.

As these debates ramp up, the NCOA Public Policy and Advocacy team will provide additional details about these proposals and how you can help ensure benefits and services for older adults are protected and strengthened in this Congressional session.

Am I the only one who feels this way?

Continued from page 11

as a result of an auto accident. Instead of focusing on her injuries, Carol has chosen to focus on her abilities and strengths. Carol enlightens people by focusing on the strengths that people with disabilities have and demonstrates that there is always a way to get around a situation by either improvising or accommodating to it.

Carol has realized the importance of educating adults and youth to become more accepting of others and started her "Call Me Capable" in-service presentations, and also developed the Call Me Capable™ Game. She inspires her audience with her humor and genuineness and leaves them with an awareness that we are all more similar than different.

"Through the lessons of life, I have realized my goal to help others," says Carol. "Remember the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson, 'Life is a succession of lessons that must be lived to be understood.' I have and continue to learn lessons of how to educate others, to make them more aware of what I can do—what they can do, too. Thus, remember to Call Me Capable, and Yourself More Capable."

The Ventura Parkinson's Disease Support Group welcomes the public along with our members, their care-partners and new friends who find themselves navigating the challenges of Parkinson's Disease and other neurological conditions. Thanks to the generosity of the Lexington Assisted Living, we host our meetings every second Wednesday of the month from 1 to 3PM. There is a drop-off/loading and unloading driveway in the front of the Lexington. Extra parking is graciously available across the street in the Baptist Church parking lot.

Attendees are invited to check in at the front desk for directions to the 3rd floor and sign-in at the meeting so we can keep in touch with you. Reservations are not required. For more information, call Patty at 805-766-6070. The Ventura Parkinson's Disease Support Group is an independent and volunteer-organized group, not affiliated with or a part of any other organization or group.



This 'n' That

2018 by Venturans for Efficient & Responsible Government (VERG)

Last year was a most transformational year in Ventura's history. Every aspect of life in Ventura was affected. The city was in the national spotlight, twice. Leadership changed but at a high price. Old ways of doing business didn't change, though. Overall, it was a year to remember.

December 2017-To understand 2018, you must appreciate December 2017 and the Thomas Fire. The fire destroyed 535 houses in Ventura. The city was the epicenter of the national news.

Thirteen months later, Ventura had the opportunity for the most significant economic stimulus since the oil boom but failed to capitalize on it. Rebuilding the homes will stimulate the local economy by \$350 million. The only thing standing in the way of that economic windfall is the city. What are the lessons we learned from the Thomas Fire? Good question. Thirteen months later we still don't know that answer. The city has yet to produce a report on its findings.

January 2018-The Montecito mudslides closed off transportation into and out of Santa Barbara along the 101. Many Venturans that work in Santa Barbara were unable to commute.

March 2018-The City Council waffles on second-story height restrictions for rebuilding Thomas Fire victims' homes, delaying the rebuilding process and adding costs for many.

April 2018-Jamal Jackson slays Anthony Mele, Jr. on Ventura's promenade. Once again, the city was thrust into the national news.

Ventura Police increased patrols along the promenade. The City Council approved funds to continue the patrols. Arrests increased after the incident.

Post-incident, the Police department reviewed its procedures. There have been changes to the security camera monitoring as a result. The review also concluded the call was not improperly prioritized when it came in two and a half hours before the murder.

Since May, the community has returned to business as usual.

June 2018-Ventura Police officers sign a new contract with a 5% pay increase. The timing of the announcement was questionable, but the contract was a fair one.

July 2018-The City Council instructs Ventura Water to focus on connecting to State Water over Direct Potable Reuse (DPR). DPR takes recycled wastewater and injects it back into the drinking supply.

The City Council approves a \$600,000 per year "roving" fire engine and three paramedics over the objections of Interim City Manager Dan Paranick. Ventura Fire hired two of the three paramedics before the Council approved the funding.

September 2018-Ventura Water hires eight new positions. The City Council approved the department's budget that included these positions. Ventura Water based that budget on Direct Potable Reuse (DPR) projects being the city's top priority. When the

Council realigned Ventura Water's priorities in July, the department didn't adjust its manpower requirements.

October 2018-Ventura Water begins installing new digital water meters. It is a \$9 million project that will take three years to complete. The new meters allow more precise leak protection. The new meters also measure water usage more precisely. You can expect your water bill to be more accurate, too.

November 2018-Ventura held its first City Council elections by voting district. Lorrie Brown (District 6), Jim Friedman (District 5), Erik Nasarenko (District 4) and Sofia Rubalcava (District 1) won. The candidates raised a record amount of money, despite campaigning in districts instead of citywide. The cost-per-vote skyrocketed to win a seat from \$2.75 per vote in the last election with an open position to a record-high \$26.42.

December 2018-Alex McIntyre starts as City Manager. He replaces Mark Watkins who resigned in November 2017. The city had operated with an interim-City Manager since January 2018. McIntyre comes to Ventura from Menlo Park where he was City Manager for six years.

Ventura's new City Councilmembers are sworn in. The Council has four female members: Lorrie Brown (District 6), Cheryl Heitmann (District 7), Sofia Rubalcava (District 1) and Christy Weir (District 2). Ventura has its first female-majority City Council in history. It's also the most diverse set of Councilmembers the city has ever had.

Cabrillo receives \$10,000 Edison International grant

Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation is pleased to announce it has received a \$10,000 Edison International grant to help fund the 2019 Rodney Fernandez Leadership Fund STEM Scholarship Program.

The Rodney Fernandez Leadership Fund STEM Scholarship Program, created in 2011, honors the legacy of Rodney Fernandez, Cabrillo's founder and Executive Director for 30 years (1981-2011). The Scholarship continues Fernandez's legacy of community building by cultivating the leadership of residents to attain their goals, empower themselves and to take action and improve the quality of life in their communities.

The scholarship program provides funds for students who wish to pursue education and careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). To be eligible, students must be enrolled in and/or continuing college education, in the process of applying to an accredited institution, or enrolled in an under-

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graduate or graduate program, and household income must be less than or equal to 80 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI) for Ventura County. High school applicants must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 to apply.

Margarita H. de Escontrias, Cabrillo's CEO, said this grant will allow Cabrillo to provide STEM scholarships for underrepresented groups and lift financial barriers for those with aspirations for careers in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math.

"Funding from Edison International enables Cabrillo to provide scholarships to motivated and talented students, many from immigrant families who are first-generation college students. These grants will help youths in our community to reach their educational and leadership potential. They will help diversify our workforce in these fields and benefit our community," she said.

In 2018, Cabrillo awarded a total of \$12,500 to 13 recipients and received a total of 21 applications for the Rodney Fernandez Leadership Scholarships.

"Each year, members of our scholarship review panel are deeply moved and touched by the applications and appreciate the applicants' willingness to share their experiences and struggles as well as their triumphs," said de Escontrias.

In addition to high quality, safe and secure affordable housing, Cabrillo creates a ladder of opportunity for its low-income residents through comprehensive housing services and educational programs, which include the Rodney Fernandez STEM Scholarship program.

Cabrillo will schedule applicant information sessions in the spring. Dates for these sessions, applications, and additional details will be available on the Cabrillo website cabrilloedc.org in April. Please contact the Resident and Community Services Department at RCS@cabrilloedc.org with any questions.

About the Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation: Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation's mission is to provide comprehensive housing services and community economic development activities through a community-building approach that facilitates self-sufficiency for individuals and families who are most lacking in opportunity in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties. Incorporated in 1981, Cabrillo's early roots were in response to a farmworker commu-

nity's demand for secure housing. Although this continues to be important, today there is a more widespread need for affordable housing in this region. As such, Cabrillo now provides housing and resident services for low- to moderate-income residents and families, including farmworkers, seniors, veterans and individuals with special needs.

Doners strongly urged to give blood

Continued from page 10

difficult to maintain an adequate blood supply for patients who need it."

Volunteer blood donors must be at least 16 years old, weigh at least 110 pounds and be in general good health. Additional height/weight requirements apply to donors 22 and younger, and donors who are 16 and 17 must have signed permission from a parent or guardian.

Vitalant ("Vye-TAL-ent") is the nation's second largest community blood service provider, supplying comprehensive transfusion medicine services for nearly 1,000 hospitals and health care partners for patients in need across 40 states. Vitalant inspires local communities to serve the needs of others and transform lives through the selfless act of donating blood. Every day, almost 5,000 blood donations are needed to meet the needs of people throughout the country, and Vitalant's 780,000 donors supply 1.8 million donations a year. In addition to blood products, Vitalant offers customers transfusion services, medical consulting, quality guidance, ongoing education, research and more. For more information and to schedule a donation, visit vitalant.org or call 877-258-4825 (877-25VITAL).

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Daniel Friedlander is the principal attorney and mediator of his law office

Casa Pacifica welcomes new member to board of directors

Casa Pacifica is proud to welcome Daniel Friedlander, Esq. to its Board of Directors this year. Comprised of 24 individuals, Casa Pacifica's board members offer a wealth of experience and expertise in a wide range of areas, such as the legal field with several lawyers; in financial services with representatives from a number of banks, investment, and insurance services; in business with a variety of industries from the medical field to construction to agricultural management to equipment rentals; in the field of education with the retired superintendent of the Moorpark Unified School District; as well as several community advocates.

Daniel Friedlander is the principal attorney and mediator of his own law office in Westlake Village, California. His primary areas of practice include civil litigation, land use, real estate, usury, environmental, landlord-tenant, commercial and business law, mediation, and alternative dispute resolution.

Casa Pacifica Centers for Children and Families is a crisis-care and residential treatment facility for foster or at-risk children in Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties. The agency is the largest non-profit provider of children's mental health services in both counties

and administers a number of community-based programs designed to strengthen families and keep children in their homes and communities. Casa Pacifica is also a foster family agency, which recruits and trains families for potential placement with a foster youth. For more information about Casa Pacifica visit its website www.casapacifica.org or call the Development & Public Relations Department at (805) 445-7800.

Red Cross issues emergency call for blood donors

A donation shortfall over the winter holidays is prompting the American Red Cross to issue an emergency call for blood and platelet donors to give now to prevent a blood shortage from continuing throughout winter and affecting patient care.

The Red Cross collected more than 27,000 fewer blood and platelet donations the weeks of Christmas and New Year's than needed to sustain a sufficient blood supply. During this period, about 1,350 fewer blood drives were hosted by volunteer sponsor groups than required to meet patient needs as busy holiday schedules kept many donors away.

Right now, the Red Cross has less than a three-day supply of most blood types on hand, well below the ideal five-day supply needed to respond to emergencies and daily hospital needs. Blood products are currently being distributed to hospitals faster than donations are coming in.

All eligible donors, especially platelet donors and blood donors with type O blood, are urged to make an appointment to give in the coming days to help restock the shelves for hospital patients. Eligible donors can find a blood or platelet donation opportunity and schedule an appointment to donate by using the free Blood Donor App, visiting RedCrossBlood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767). Volunteer blood drive hosts are also critically needed to prevent the shortage from worsening this winter.

You can give on Feb. 8, 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., at Buena High School, 5670 Telegraph Road.

Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit [## This 'n' That](http://RedCross-</p>
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Blood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

Blood and platelet donors can save time at their next donation by using RapidPass® to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of their donation, before arriving at the blood drive. To get started, follow the instructions at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass or use the Blood Donor App.

For more information, please visit RedCross.org or CruzRojaAmericana.org, or visit Twitter at @RedCross.

Ventura Police Community Academy

The Ventura Police Department's Community Academy is coming! Have you ever wanted to know more about police operations? Not the 'TV' version, but the facts? Here's your chance! The Community Academy will take you on a ride-along with a patrol officer, show you what a SWAT team does, let you experience a simulated firearms training course, give you a look at issues officers face in our community and much more.

The Community Academy is scheduled to begin April 10 and will be held on 10 consecutive Wednesday nights from 6:00 to 9:00 pm. Each night features a new topic, with speakers, demonstrations, and discussions. Select nights include a visit to the Ventura County Criminal Justice Training Center, Ventura County Sheriff's Aviation Hangar and the Ventura County Jail. We'll answer your questions and give you an in-depth behind the scenes look at police operations.

Community Academy participants are selected by the Ventura Police Department through the application process. Applications are available at the Ventura Police Department or online. Applications accepted until March 13, 2019.

Potential candidates must meet the following criteria: minimum age of 18 years, live or work in the City of Ventura, no felony convictions, no misdemeanor convictions within two years of application.

The Community Academy aims to educate residents on the capacity and operations of the Ventura Police Department so that police officers and community members can work together to make Ventura a better and safer place.

For more information, please contact Community Outreach Specialist Ashley Bautista 805-339-4317 or abautista@venturapd.org.

Location at the Ventura Police Department, 1425 Dowell Dr. with some classes off site.

Mailbox

Continued from page 4

my subscription and just getting a free copy of USA Today at a local hotel.

One unhappy long-time Star subscriber, Jim Brace-Thompson

And putting your information in and reading the Ventura Breeze of course.

Editor:

I live south Oxnard as do my friends and I would like to share our concerns. We feel south Oxnard has the most crime in the city, my neighbors and I are uncomfortable in our own community. We feel there are not enough quality stores, restaurants and places to shop in the south area. The vagrants are extremely aggressive and are increasing.

The stores that are located in our area are run down, inundated with homeless individuals, crime and the quality of the items being sold is usually sub par. Vagrants scour the parking lot at Ralphs accosting people as they load groceries in their cars and the parking lot is full of potholes. My neighbors refuse to shop there so we get in our cars and drive to Camarillo or Ventura to shop.

There are no decent restaurants in our area so what do my neighbors and I do when we feel like eating out? Same. Same for all shopping needs because we are afraid of having our cars broken into or worse. Crime is a huge problem in our area, there is usually a shooting or stabbing every weekend and every several days, someone is arrested for driving with a loaded gun. Drunk drivers and hit and runs are common. This past weekend a drunk crashed into a backyard on Pleasant Valley Road. Vagrant standing on the median kick cars that are stopped at the light. There is a homeless encampment behind Oxnard College. My retired neighbor wants to move out but the value on his five bedroom home with a huge backyard is won't pay for a condo in another city because the property values are so low. South Oxnard is in need of an overhaul.

Jose Medina - Oxnard

Breeze:

Well, well, well, it appears as though not everyone shares my opinion regarding Patagonia...

Ah the difference of opinion; a key cornerstone in what Made America Great.

Freedom of choice is an inherent value in a democratic society. You can choose to give charitable contributions and you can choose not to. You can donate 1% of your annual sales to help the climate concerns, and do this quietly; or you can choose to boast of a charitable sum of \$10M for the purposes of marketing your brand. Believe me I get it; broadcast to the country that you oppose the President and watch the sales revenue climb. Conversely endorse the President and watch your revenue slip away. Sadly, It's today's economics 101.

My point; which I'm allowed to express (thank you Sheldon) is that; great I dig efforts to help in any manner in which one chooses, but why tie it to politics. Some of this country's greatest philanthropists are never known, they chose to donate to a cause for the simple reason that they felt compelled to, versus trying to drive revenue.

Describing a marketing campaign as a charitable contribution is disappointing. Again I say shame on Patagonia.

Hector Borrego

Editor:

I, and many others, have waited for over two years for President Trump to release his tax returns. Why has he refused to do this? What is he hiding? Let's hope the House of Representatives make this a top priority!

Judith A. Beay-Ventura



Volleyball players at the end of San Pedro didn't let high surf and big waves keep them from enjoying a play day at the beach.

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.

Suspicious Circumstances

On January 15, at approximately 2pm, the Ventura Police Department Command Center started receiving multiple 911 calls from employees inside of the Human Services Agency at 855 Partridge Dr. reporting shots being fired inside the lobby. Numerous officers from the Ventura Police Department responded to the scene and contacted the suspect, later identified as 31 year old Port Hueneme resident Royce Denson, who was found unarmed in the front lobby. Denson was detained.

During the investigation officers learned that Denson was in court earlier today and had public services taken away from him that were provided by the Human Services Agency. Denson went to the main office and started disturbing inside the lobby. He became upset with the employees and began banging his fists on the counter. Employees secured the front office, while other employees inside the building heard what they thought were gunshots and called 911.

Officers conducted a thorough search of the entire building to ensure it was safe for the employees, who had gone into a lockdown.

As a precaution, nearby Portola Elementary School was immediately placed on lockdown until it was determined no further threat existed.

Denson was arrested for trespassing and a violation of probation.

A review of the Ventura County Superior Court website shows that Denson has been convicted 8 times in the past 2 years. The various charges included resisting arrest, possession of a controlled substance, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Assault with Deadly Weapon (handgun used)

On January 18, at approximately 12am, the Ventura Police Command Center received a call of a gunshot victim in the area of Mission Park. Officers quickly arrived on scene and were informed by witnesses that the victim was transported by a passerby to Community Memorial Hospital. Officers met the victim at the hospital as the victim was suffering from a single gunshot wound to his lower leg. The Victim was stabilized and was later transported to Ventura County Medical Center where he was treated for his moderate injuries.

The Officers that had arrived near Mission Park located a crime scene and evidence of the shooting. Detectives were notified and along with a crime scene investigator took over the scene. No officers were injured in this incident. The suspect was a 49 year old adult male, his name has been withheld.

This is an active investigation, and anyone with information regarding this incident is asked to contact Ventura Police Department Detectives at 805-339-4488.

Conspiracy to Commit Crime, Battery and Contributing to the Delinquency of a Minor Arrest

On January 20, at approximately 6pm the Ventura Police Department Command Center received a 911 call from a 20-year-old male reporting that he had been shot in the back by subjects

in a passing vehicle. The victim started to follow the suspect vehicle while he remained on the phone with the dispatcher, but stopped after it was determined he had been shot by a paintball gun. The victim sustained minor injuries to his back.

With the description of the suspect vehicle provided by the victim, officers were able to contact the owner of the suspect vehicle. The suspects, later identified as a 17-year-old male Ventura resident, who was the driver and 18 year old Ventura resident Terrell Vaughn, identified as the shooter, met with investigating officers at the Ventura Police Department.

At the conclusion of the investigation, officers determined that the 17-year-old and Vaughn conspired to drive around the city and shoot people with the paint ball gun.

The juvenile was cited and released to his parents for conspiracy and battery. Vaughn was arrested for conspiracy, battery and contributing to the delinquency of a minor. A third 18-year-old passenger that was in the vehicle was not arrested.

If others were victimized by being shot with a paintball gun, please contact the Ventura Police Department Watch Commander at 339-4416.

Strong Arm Robbery

On January 24, at approximately 12:15am, the Ventura Police Department Command Center received a 911 from a witness that heard the victim yell for help saying that his phone had been taken.

Officers arrived and contacted the victim who said he was at the 76 station waiting for a friend to pick him up when the suspect came over to him and engaged him in a conversation about the music he was playing. While the victim was talking to the suspect, the suspect grabbed the victim's I-phone from his hand and began to run away. The victim tackled the suspect and tried to get his phone back, but the suspect began to hit the victim several times in the head and face. The suspect was able to get away and fled northbound on Victoria Ave.

Ventura Police Officers and The K9 unit attempted to locate the suspect but were unable to locate him. The suspect was described as a white male, 25 years old, blonde hair, wearing a grey flannel and black pants. Using the Find My I-phone app officers were able to locate the victim's phone nearby as the suspect either dropped or discarded the phone as he fled.

The victim sustained minor injuries from this incident and was treated at the scene by Ventura Fire paramedics. This is an ongoing investigation, anyone with information regarding this crime is asked to call the Ventura Police Department at 805-339-4488.

Harbor Patrol Blotter

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

1-09 7:15am, while on patrol, officers observed large waves breaking all around the harbor. Waves are expected to build throughout the day, Marine Safety and Harbor patrol officers making preparations of the impact of the big swell.

1-10 1:42pm, dispatched to a water

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rescue, surfer in distress off of Martha's Vineyard lane. Officers responded and searched the area, eventually finding a few surfers who were not in any distress, just riding big hazardous waves.

1-12 9:33am, while manning the operations center, received a report of a transient sleeping in the 1593 Restrooms. Officers responded, found the subject and removed him and his belongings from the restrooms.

1-13 8:55am, dispatched to a fire in the riverbottom. Officers responded with Ventura Fire Department and discovered a light smell of smoke but were unable to locate visible smoke or fire in the area reported.

1-14 4:50pm, while on patrol officers made beach hazard assessment. Large waves and extremely strong lateral currents affecting shoreline from South Jetty to Santa Clara Rivermouth. Beach erosion is significant, a few ft from water enough to leaving just a few feet from the beach dunes to the waterline.

1-15 8:40am, while performing pre operations of the patrol vessels, officers were chased by a large aggressive sea lion off the dock.

1-18 7:01am, Beach Hazard Assessment, officers responding to and observing several incidents related to the High Surf and Small Craft Advisories. Severe beach erosion, storm surge has sent water into the parking lot at Harbor Cove forcing patrol to close the South end of the lot, several of the navigation buoys in the Harbor are off station and the out-rigger clubs were advised of the high water and were forced to move their canoes to higher ground at Harbor Cove.

10:01am, dispatched to a water rescue at the Ventura Pier, surfer in distress. Officers responded in the fireboat and found the surfer not in distress.

2:00pm, received a dispatch to a water rescue, swimmer in distress off of San

Pedro Lane. The swimmer made it safely to the shore, no injuries.

1-19 10:20am, received a request from the captain of the disabled National Park Service Ocean Ranger for a tow. Officers responded and towed the vessel.

1-20 7:45am, officers are observing "King-Tides" and recording the event through-out the harbor. Tides: 6.9ft at 7:54am. No damage was reported.

5:12pm: while on patrol, officers received a report of a vehicle colliding with a fire hydrant at 1575 Spinnaker Drive, sheering it off. Officers responded with VFD, VPD, Ventura Water and Carlson Towing. No injuries were sustained by the subject. The water was turned off and the vehicle towed.

8:15pm, observing the "Blood Moon" lunar eclipse occurring. Also observing strong winds, 35-40 knots out of the West.

1-21 10:59am, dispatched to a medical in the Ventura Marina Community. Officers responded and assisted VFD/AMR with a female with moderate injuries.

3:45pm, received a report of a possible fuel spill at Ventura Isle Marina. Officers responded, searched the area, found a small sheen, but UTL source.

6:17pm, received a report of a vessel in distress from VPD dispatch. While responding, received call from the captain of the disabled vessel, they have wrapped their prop with line from a hoopnet. Advised to put on lifejackets and drop anchor. After difficulty ascertaining the location of the vessel due to the captain's lack of local knowledge and Small Craft Advisory conditions, officers were able to co-ordinate with Ventura Fire to rescue the 3 persons onboard who were cast overboard in the rough conditions. All 3 persons were evaluated for moderate injuries, later released. Vessel stranded on the rocks.

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

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



The Pet Page



Dedicated to Scamp

■ Starbucks completed their Community Day of Service at the CARL kennels on January 23. These strong and hard workers picked up heavy artificial turf and took it to the

dumpster, sanded and painted a picnic table, pulled weeds and cut down a dead tree. Thank you, Starbucks, for picking CARL to do your Day of Service! Some of the employees may be returning to be volunteers!

■ Animal hospital turns to underwater treadmill to help cats and dogs improve their health.

Imagine being able to give your pet the benefits of a one-hour walk with only 10 minutes of effort. It's a concept that's being tested by an animal hospital. The Walden Animal Hospital is home to an underwater treadmill. It's an exercise machine on which dogs -- and sometimes cats -- can get a really good workout in a short amount of time. The treadmill is being used to help pets recovering from surgery, or to help them lose weight and become more active.

The Walden Animal Hospital has a water treadmill which helps dogs increase resistance, eases pressure on joints and increases circulation. Hospital staff member Lariviere says the underwater treadmill helps animals build up muscle mass, without it being pain. "The water provides resistance," she said.

■ According to a new study in the Journal of Anthropological Archaeology humans may have domesticated dogs 14,000 years ago, during the Epipaleolithic period. It was the beginning of a beautiful relationship.

The study, by archaeologists from the University of Copenhagen and University College London, looks at animal bones found in a Neolithic settlement known as Shubayqa 6, established 11,500 years ago, in the Black Desert of northeast Jordan. The bones suggest that the site's residents were using their dogs to help them hunt which was the beginning of dog domestication. It hasn't been clear, the researchers stated, whether that process was deliberate or accidental, but this new evidence of canine-assisted hunting implies that these Stone Age humans were highly dependent on their dogs.

At Shubayqa 6, the evidence for a hunting partnership between humans and dogs, who would've been more similar to wolves than the domesticated canines we know today, is written in the bones themselves. The remains bear "unmistakable signs of having passed through the digestive tract of another animal," said lead author Lisa Yeoma and some are larger than anything even the most determined humans could shove down their gullets.

■ Since the legalization of marijuana in California, cases of pets accidentally eating pot have jumped 130 percent. What should you do if your pet ingests marijuana? Get your pet to the vet immediately.

Many times, inducing vomiting is the best solution and then observation until the effects wear off. In most cases this is not life-threatening but leave the care to your vet so they can monitor their vitals.

■ Armstrong Ambulance (in Arlington, MA) EMS staff members received in-depth training from veterinarian Beth Eisenberg that would help them treat a K-9 injured in the line of duty.

EMS providers trained with a black lab to learn how to properly listen to its heart and lungs, as well as how to locate its pulse. They also learned how to provide safe transport, how to treat trauma wounds and practiced CPR on a K-9 mannequin.

"We work closely with police departments and other law enforcement agencies which includes their K-9 members, so we want to be prepared to provide critical lifesaving aid to anyone at a scene who may need it," Armstrong CEO Richard Raymond said. "Our team members did an excellent job building an understanding of how they can provide immediate help to injured dogs just like they would with an injured person."

■ While vitamin D is "an essential nutrient for dogs ... very high amounts can cause serious health problems like kidney failure or death," the FDA said in a statement. Dog food recalls were issued after pet owners contacted the food and drug agency with reports of vitamin D toxicity in their dogs after they consumed food from some brands.

"FDA scientists have evaluated samples of some of these products, and state and private lab test results indicate that the food contained as much as approximately 70 times the intended amount of vitamin D," the FDA added.

In severe cases, vitamin D toxicity can lead to kidney failure or even death in dogs. Those who survive may have "long-term impairments," including kidney or heart disease, which require "life-long management," according to VCA Animal Hospitals.

If your dog eats one of the affected brands, be on the lookout for vomiting, loss of appetite, increased thirst, weight loss, increased urination and excessive drooling -- all of which are signs of vitamin D toxicity, according to the FDA.

"Pet owners should discontinue feeding these recalled products," the FDA said, noting "the only pet products that have been impacted are food made for dogs" at this time.

Contact your vet to find out recalled products.

Scamp Club

(Scampclub pets are not for adoption.)



Hi: I'm Pheobe another lucky dog. My mom rescued me when I was 10 days old and bottle fed me. I'm a big girl now and love people and running on the beach. Happy to be living life in Ventura.

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.



"I'd much rather be surfing in Ventura."



Starbucks employees serviced the CARL kennels in Santa Paula.

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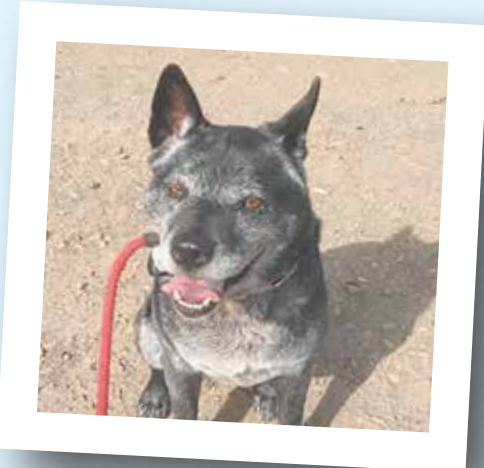
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The Pet Page

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

Forever homes wanted

Hi: I'm Lucy, a 9-year-old Lab/Chow mix who is an active outdoorsy type of gal who loves to hike, chase balls, ride in the car and just lounge around. I was rescued from the Agoura Shelter by a volunteer there (Mary O., who is also my sponsor) because I didn't get along so well with the other dogs in playgroups, so I'll need to be your one and only in the home. I'd make a great companion you'll be happy with just me! Canine Adoption and Rescue League C.A.R.L.



Adoptable Marlon is one of dozens of underage rabbits who came under the care of Ventura County Animal Services in 2018. So many baby bunnies arrive at VCAS after being bought on impulse and then discarded. The VCAS Bunny Brigade foster program provides a safe and loving temporary home for sweet little bunnies like Marlon until they are old enough to be spayed and neutered and can be made

available for adoption. The Bunny Brigade provides education for potential adopters and offers all supplies for healthy indoor living at a reasonable cost. Visit facebook.com/VCASBunnyBrigade. Ventura County Animal Services - Camarillo location - 600 Aviation Drive. Marion A685245



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This 'n' That



Evans was a senior manager for the Human Services Agency.

Workforce Development Board of Ventura County names new executive director

The Workforce Development Board (WDB) of Ventura County has named Rebecca Evans as its executive director. Before joining the WDB, Evans was a senior manager for the Human Services

Agency within the County of Ventura. While with the Human Services Agency, Evans oversaw programs including Homeless Services, the Homeless Management Information System, RAIN Transitional Living Center, Veterans Services and programs involving the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act. "There is a natural connection between our economy, our workforce and quality of life," says Evans. "For our economy to thrive, we need skilled, qualified workers to retain and attract employers who offer high demand, high wage jobs. This enables workers to afford to live where they work, right here in Ventura County." Evans says, as executive director, her job is to support WDB goals. The WDB board has identified three sectors—healthcare, manufacturing and clean and green technologies—sectors that are creating new jobs with potentially high wages. "Throughout her career, Rebecca has been committed to workforce and economic development, social equity, designing and implementing programs and working with a diverse set of partners and stakeholders to drive community, workforce and business needs," says Gregory Liu, WDB chair. "We are excited that Rebecca has joined the WDB as we continue to support programs that grow our workforce and enhance business opportunities in Ventura County." Evans earned her Bachelor of Arts and Masters of Arts in Psychology from the University of West Georgia. She completed a Post Graduate Series in Management and Organizational

Behavior from California Lutheran University. She is a current member of the Ventura County Civic Alliance Executive Committee, a founding member of the United Women's Leadership Council of United Way and former member of the P-16- (now P-20) Council on Education. The Workforce Development Board of Ventura County administers federal funds that help to support America's Job Center of California locations and other free job seeker, youth, and employer programs and services in Ventura County. For more information, call 800-500-7705 or visit <http://workforceventura.org>.

Almost half a million dollars in new Housing Choice Voucher funds to be distributed

The Housing Authority of the City of San Buenaventura (HACSB) has partnered with Area Housing Authority of the County of Ventura (AHACV) and the Oxnard Housing Authority (OHA) to distribute almost half a million dollars in new Housing Choice Voucher funds from the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) Mainstream Voucher Program. The HUD Mainstream program provides funding to assist non-elderly persons

with disabilities who are transitioning out of institutional or other separated settings, at serious risk of institutionalization, homeless, or at risk of becoming homeless. The HACSB-AHACV-OHA partnership received funding sufficient to support up to 45 families countywide. This partnership among housing agencies is the first of its kind in our region and reflects an ongoing trend of partnership among county and city jurisdictions in Ventura County to combat increasing homeless concerns. This year's HUD funding for this Mainstream Voucher Program is the first since 2005, and prior funding was not awarded to local agencies. HACSB's Chief Executive Officer Denise Wise said, "This Housing Authority partnership and competitive grant win contributes significantly to our efforts to provide affordable housing in an increasing costly Ventura rental market for disabled residents. These Mainstream funds will assist our community in permanently housing disabled residents." The Housing Authority partners also assembled a service network of providers to commit support to clients housed through this program. HUD recognizes the necessity of wraparound supportive services and the Ventura housing agencies were successful in rallying the support of a variety of organizations, including the County Human Services Agency, VCAAA, NAMI, the Salvation Army, Turning Point Foundation, and the County Whole Person Care program. For eligibility screening, beneficiaries should contact partner agency service coordinators or call 211.

Continued on page 24



by Pam Baumgardner
VenturaRocks.com

Congratulations to the Ventura Music Festival as they celebrate their Silver Anniversary this year. They announced their 25th year line up earlier this week, so be sure to go to www.VenturaMusicFestival.org to see all the performances scheduled and to pick out which ones you plan on catching this summer. Meanwhile, you can get tickets for their Anderson & Roe Piano Duo at the Ventura College Performing Arts Center on Saturday, February 9.

The Los Angeles version of ARK Kizomba Festival is being held February 8-11 in Ventura this year and while their claim that our City “stays up late” might be stretching it, this is the perfect destination with our ocean breeze at the fairgrounds to help cool off dancers in between sets. As best as I can figure out, it’s three days of dancing, DJs, classes and demonstrations with an all-nighter Friday night kicking off at midnight going until 6 in the morning. For ticket information, DJs, and more understanding, go to www.AmericanRiveraKizombaFestival.com.

Squashed Grapes continues to book jazz shows at the Hong Kong with M’Phaka on Wednesday, January 30 featuring Karl Hunter (Big Bad Voodoo Daddy), Hans Ottsen, Danny Connel & Tyler Hammond; then it’s Tony Ybarra & Friends on Thursday January 31; Jen Staves & the Bluzfish Trio on Friday, February 1; and the return of The Doug Webb Group featuring Danny Carey of TOOL on Saturday, February 2.

The Ventura College Performing Arts Department will be presenting Dido and Aeneas Thursday, January 31, through Sunday, February 3. The opera which was composed over 350 years will be sung in English and has been updated with a modern interpretation covering such themes as cyber bullying, depression, peer pressure and how social medias has changed how we communicate with one another.

Quick Notes: Know, Brosky’s Revolt and Shattered Badget play Concrete Jungle Brewing on Friday, February 1; Salzer’s Records hosts a Meet and Greet with Las Cafeteras at noon on Friday February 1; Four Brix Winery continues their Friday happy hour shows 5:30 – 7:30 with Fido on February 1, and Inna Rude Mood on February 8; Anchor & Bear play Topa Topa Brewing on Friday, February 1; Ventura Bike Hub will offer music for First Fridays on February 1 with Las Criaturas, QVO, Sarah Tonein and Moon Pillow; Last in Line with Fallen Saints plays the Majestic Ventura Theater on Saturday, February 2; Rubicon Theater concert “Side by Side” fall on Saturday and Sunday February 2 and 3; Lee Scratch Perry performs at Discovery Friday, February 8; Medicine Hat and Brother Earl and the Cousins play Sans Souci Saturday, February 8; music returns to Oak and Main on Saturday, February 9 with Mandex; and Camerata Pacifica presents an afternoon of Beethoven &

Reich at the Museum of Ventura County Sunday afternoon, February 10.

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

Boatyard Pub

Ventura Harbor Village

Monday-Thursday 6 pm, Friday & Saturday 7 pm

Mondays: Milo Sledge

Tuesdays: Jason Ho/Frank Barajas

Wednesdays: Mark David McKinnis

Thursdays: Bluegrass Jam

Bombay Bar & Grill

143 S. California Street

Thursdays, Friday & Saturdays: DJs

Café Fiore

66 S. California Street

Wed 1/30: Fabulous Hangovers

Fri 2/1: Self Righteous Bros.

Sat 2/2: Rick Whitfield

Tues 2/5: Bernie Meisinger

Wed 2/6: Bryan McCann

Fri 2/8: David Prince

Sat 2/9: The Collective

Tues 2/12: Donna Greene

The Cave

4435 McGrath Street

5:30 – 8:30 pm

Weds & Saturdays: Varon Thomas

Thurs & Fridays: Warren Takahashi

Concrete Jungle Brewing

4561 Market Street

Fri 2/1: Know, Brosky’s Revolt, Shattered Badge (5 pm)

Copa Cubana

Ventura Harbor Village

Tuesdays: The Jerry McWorter Trio

Dargan’s Irish Rub & Restaurant

593 E. Main Street

Sun 2/3: The Sunday Drivers (4 pm)

Discovery

1888 Thompson Blvd

Wed 1/30: Surfer Joe

Thurs 1/31: The Oles, Cydeways, Tripeed Up

Fri 2/1: DSB

Sat 2/2: Highway Starr

Wed 2/6: Oilly Dokilly & Playboy Manbaby

Thurs 2/7: Tomorrow’s Bad Seeds

Fri 2/8: Lee Scratch Perry

Sat 2/9: Waddy Wachtel Band

Sun 2/10: Yellowman

Duke’s Griddle n Grill

1124 S. Seaward

Wednesdays: Karaoke

El Rey Cantina

294 E. Main Street

Fridays: DJ

Saturdays: DJ

Four Brix Winery

2290 Eastman Avenue

Music 5:30 – 7:30 pm

Fri 2/1: Fido

Fri 2/8: Inna Rude Mood

Garage

1091 Scandia Avenue

Mondays: Karaoke

Sat 2/2: Peyote Radio

Fri 2/8: Brewtality Metal Night

Sat 2/9: Veers

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

Thurs 1/31: Tommy Marsh

Fri 2/1: Jodi Farrell

Sat 2/2: Ray Jaurique & the Uptown

Brothers

Sun 2/3: The Tossers

Thurs 2/7: The Session with Tas Cru

Fri 2/8: Rose Valley Thorns

Sat 2/9: RJ Mischo

Sun 2/10: The Salty Suites

Hong Kong Inn

435 E. Thompson Blvd

“The Grape Presents Jazz” series

Wed 1/30: M’Phaka

Thurs 1/31: Tony Ybarra

Fri 2/1: Jen Staves & the Bluzfish

Sat 2/2: Doug Webb featuring Danny

Carey (TOOL)

Keynote Lounge

10245 E. Telephone Road

Tues, Wed and Sun: Karaoke

Thursdays: Open mic night

Leashless Brewing

585 E. Thompson Blvd.

Tuesdays: Acoustic open mic

Fri 2/1: BeJammington

Sat 2/2: Leashless House Band

Sat 2/9: Midlife Crisis Band

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 1/31: RJ Bloke

Sat 2/2: The Art of Funk

Sun 2/3: The Collective

Thurs 2/7: Matt Sayles & Guest

Sat 2/9: Ben Wylen

Sun 2/10: 50 Sticks of Dynamite

Majestic Ventura Theater

26 S. Chestnut Street

Sat 2/2: Last in Line, Fallen Saints

Tues 2/12: Atmosphere

Museum of Ventura County

100 E. Main Street

Sun 2/10: Camerata Pacifica –

Beethoven & Reich (3-5 pm)

Namba

47 S. Oak Street

Fri 2/1: Aki Kumar’s Hindi Man

Blues

Sun 2/10: Kristen Marlo & Gina

Belliveau

Oak and Main

419 E. Main Street

Sat 2/9: Mandex

O’Leary’s

6555 Telephone Road

Wed: Karaoke

Fri 1/25: Live Band Karaoke

Paddy’s

2 W. Main Street

Wednesdays: Karaoke

Fri & Sat: DJs

Poinsettia Pavilion

3451 Foothill Road

Sun 2/10: Soul Infustion

Red Cove

1809 E. Main Street

Thursdays: Music Club Open Jam

Night

Rubicon Theater

1006 E. Main Street

Sat 2/2: Side by Side concert (8 pm)

Sun 2/3: Side by Side concert (2 pm)

Sandbox Coffeehouse

204 E. Thompson Blvd

805-641-1025

Thurs 6 pm, Weekends noon

Thursdays Open Mic

Sat 2/2: Steve Bedau

Sat 2/9: Kristen Marlo & Gina

Belliveau

Sun 2/10: Jo Johnson & Kendall

Sans Souci

21 S. Chestnut

Sundays: DJ Darko

Mondays: Karaoke

Tuesdays: DJ Nick Dean

Wednesdays: Open mic

Thursdays: DJ Spinobi

Sat 2/9: Medicine Hat, Brother Earl

& the Cousins

Star Lounge

343 E Main Street

Thurs 1/31: Karen Eden (7 pm)

Fri 2/1: Action Down

Sat 2/2: CRV

Fri 2/8: Colette Lovejoy Band

The Tavern

211 E. Santa Clara Street

(805) 643-3264

Sundays: DJ Steezy Steve

Tuesdays: Karaoke

Thursdays: Get Right DJ

Topa Topa Brewing Co.

104 E. Thompson Blvd

Fri 2/1: Anchor & Bear (6-9 pm)

Ventura Bike Hub

490 N. Ventura Avenue

Fri 2/1: Las Criaturas, QVO, Sarah

Tonein, Moon Pillow

Ventura County Fairgrounds

10 W. Harbor Blvd

Fri 2/8: ARK Kizomba Festival

Sat 2/9: ARK Kizomba Festival

Sun 2/10: ARK Kizomba Festival

Ventura Performing Arts Center

4700 Loma Vista Road

Thurs 1/31: Dido and Aeneas

Fri 2/1: Dido and Aeneas

Sat 2/2: Dido and Aeneas

Sun 2/3: Dido and Aeneas

Sat 2/9: VMF - Anderson & Roe

Vintura at the Wine Rack

14 S. California Street

(805) 653-9463

Sundays music at 3 pm

Thurs 1/31: JD Wolff

Fri 2/1: Mark Masson Duo

Sat 2/2: Blonde Faith

Winchester’s

632 E. Main Street

(805) 653-7446

Music at 8:30 pm; Sundays at 2:30 pm

Fri 2/1: Andy D.

Sat 2/2: The Tossers

Fri 2/8: The Swillys

Sat 2/9: Heckle & Jeckel w/ Divebar

Steve

Sun 2/10: Crooked Eye Tommy

Crossroads

1901 Speakeasy

649 South B Street, Oxnard

Music 7-10 pm

Fri 2/1: Danny McGaw w/ Tim

Arnold

Sat 2/2: Leona Scodi

Fri 2/8: Brandon Ragan

Sat 2/9: The Swillys

The 805 Bar

Ventura Harbor

Music at Noon

Saturdays: Kenny Devoe

Sundays: Kenny Devoe



Christina Altfeld, Ventura fine art printmaker, is now the artist in residence at the Channel Islands Maritime Museum. She has a complete printmaking studio set up and is working on a hand printed book focusing on her voyage at 11-years-old emigrating from Sweden on board a ship to the U.S. In addition, she has a gallery display of her ocean inspired art.

Christina will be doing a printmaking workshop on February 9th 10:30 am-12:30pm. RSVP the museum at 805.984.6260. Channel Islands Maritime Museum, 3900 Bluefin Circle Stop by to see a printmaker in action. www.cimmvc.org



Birds on a Wire, Pajaros en el Alambre by Rafael Perea de la Cabada

A conversation with **Rafael Perea de la Cabada** Sunday, February 17, 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Museum of Ventura County, 100 E. Main St. Celebrating its 25th Anniversary, FOTM is excited to partner this year with the Museum of Ventura County, where each artist's interview will be filmed before a studio audience.

Rafael Perea de la Cabada is a multi-disciplinary artist whose work is steeped in the artist's rich cultural heritage. His intuitive approach draws from his personal experience, incorporating deep narratives layered in symbolism. To learn about Rafael Perea de la Cabada, visit www.RafaelPerea.com

Free to FOTM members, \$15 for public; \$10 for seniors.

AfterGLOW Fundraising Event: The public is welcome to join the artist for a celebratory fundraising dinner at VITA Art Center, located just steps from the museum, immediately following the program. Paid reservations are required prior to February 12.

\$30 FOTM members, \$40 Non-members. To RSVP visit www.FocusOnTheMasters.com or call 805.653.2501.



The oil paintings of **Hilda Kilpatrick-Freyre** are on display at Rincon Brewery in Ventura located at 4100 Telegraph.

Art Tales writing contest now open

Parks, Recreation & Community Partnerships is proud to sponsor the 11th Annual Art Tales Writing Contest. This writing contest, inspired by art, is open to writers worldwide. Contestants are asked to view four selected pieces from the City's Municipal Art Collection and compose a short story or poem (500 words or less) based on one. This year's theme "Objects of Curious Happen-

stance" plays upon the whimsical and creative nature of the four selected artworks. The community is invited to view the art in person, during regular business hours, on the 2nd floor of City Hall, 501 Poli St.

Writers, in three age categories (youth, teen, and adult), will find information on how to enter, teacher lesson plans, and biographies of the artists on the Art Tales website. All entries must be submitted through email, and only one entry may be submitted per person. The deadline to submit is Wed., April 10. For more information contact Tobie Roach at 805-658-4759 or arttales@cityofventura.ca.gov.



VenturaBreeze2 (yes inspired by our Ventura Breeze), Graphite On Paper, 7.5 x 9.5 inches

Vita Art Center presents **Derek Boshier** Tapestry & Drawings

First Friday Opening: February 1 from 6-9pm

Exhibit Dates: February 1 thru February

Film viewing and discussion with Derek Boshier, Sunday, February 10, 3 - 5pm, \$5 (members free) The screening program will include Boshier's award winning short film. "An Englishman in L.A., Mr. Boshier."

Born in Portsmouth in 1937 Derek Boshier first came to prominence with his paintings as a student at the Royal College of Art in London where he studied alongside David Hockney.

Boshier burst onto the British art scene in the sixties as one of the young artists who pioneered the British pop art movement. Now in his eighties and living and working in LA, Derek remains as energetic and prolific as ever.

Vita Art Center, 28 West Main St.

805-644-9214

www.VitaArtCenter.com

Lighter Breeze

Mother Goose and Grimm



Baby Blues



Beetle Bailey



Pros and Cons



Shoe



Take It From The Tinkersons



Solutions on page 17

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

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

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Solutions on page 17

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Nickelodeon's explorer
5 Phonograph stat
8 — podrida
12 Acknowledge
13 "Born in the —"
14 Tide type
15 Korea-based sitcom
16 Laterally
18 Tartan patterns
20 Go by
21 "Star Wars" princess
23 Saute
24 Motorcycle attachments
28 Consider
31 Historic period
32 Prepare to pray
34 Chicken-king link
35 Weaver's filling thread
37 Revolvers, e.g.
39 Air safety org.
41 Soon to come
42 Coral rings
45 Money, slangily
49 Secondary job
51 Anger
52 Infamous Idi
53 Enjoyment

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16			17				
18					19			20				
				21			22		23			
24	25	26					27		28		29	30
31				32				33		34		
35			36		37				38			
			39		40		41					
42	43				44		45			46	47	48
49						50			51			
52					53				54			
55					56				57			

DOWN

- 1 Moist
2 Elliptical
3 Parks of civil rights fame
4 For some time
5 Muscovites et al.
6 Omega pre-ceder
7 Put together
8 Ahead
9 2012, but not 2013
10 Potato chip brand
11 Church section
17 Sprite
19 Pack of cards
22 "The results —"
24 Stitch
25 Anger
26 Jonquil's cousin
27 Dregs
29 Shady tree
30 More, to Manuel
33 Toy block name
36 Skill
38 Richard III's cry
40 The whole enchilada
42 Pronto, on a memo
43 Fourth dimension
44 Winnow
46 Easter emblem
47 Lotion additive
48 Chops
50 Convent denizen

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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Seeing the silly side of some really ridiculous situations helps give the Lamb a new perspective on how to handle them. Some important contacts can be made this weekend.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Try to complete your outstanding tasks by midweek. This leaves you free to take advantage of new possibilities -- both professional and personal -- opening up by week's end.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) With both your creative side and your energy levels rising this week, you should be able to tackle that too-long-neglected project again. A family member might have important news.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) An explanation you requested seems to be more confusing than enlightening. You should insist on clarifications now, rather than deal with problems that might arise later.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Your energy levels might be ebbing a bit. But that's no excuse for taking catnaps when you could be working on those unfinished tasks. There'll be time to curl up and relax by week's end.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) It's a good time to get those ideas out of your head and into a readable format if you hope to have them turned into something doable. A good friend is ready with worthwhile advice.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Careful -- you might be stepping into dangerous territory if you decide to "exaggerate" the facts too much. Remember: The truth speaks for itself and needs no embellishment.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Although your workplace successes have earned you many admirers, there are some colleagues who are not among them. Be careful how you proceed with your new project.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) You might have to go into great detail to explain why you're currently reluctant to make changes to an already prepared plan. Be sure you have all the facts to back yourself up.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Travel plans might still be uncertain. But instead of getting upset about the delay, open yourself up to other possibilities, and begin checking out some alternative destinations.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Changing conditions might require you to alter some of your plans. While you might be agreeable to this, be prepared with explanations for those who do not want changes made.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Although you might have to deal with some detractors who aren't too kind in their critiques, you gain points when you're willing to stand up and defend your work.

BORN THIS WEEK: You have a gift for creating a warm and loving environment between yourself and others.

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Show Time

A View from House Seats

Classic clicks at Conejo

by Shirley Lorraine

Harper Lee’s Pulitzer Prize winning novel, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, has come to life on the Conejo Players stage. It was required reading for me in high school and made a lasting impression. The story tackles many aspects of humanity including innocence, fear, prejudice, assumptions and racial inequality. It is as relevant today as ever.

Now playing at the Shubert Theater on Broadway, the play is enjoying a revival across the nation. Conejo’s contribution to the revival is noteworthy, engrossing and thought-provoking.

Set in Alabama in the 1930’s, the play centers around the accusation, trial and conviction of a young black man. He is represented in court by Atticus Finch, a local attorney known for his compassion, dedication and fierce determination to see justice applied fairly. Sadly, he knows going in that he probably will not be victorious. The townspeople rally against him, threatening his family, their mob mentality leading the way.

Finch does all he can to protect his two children, Scout (modeled after Lee’s own childhood) and Jem. The children become acutely aware of the wrongs being done and question the proceedings.

Veteran director Tom Eubanks makes his debut with this season opener, doing so in fine style. The setting is a street scene that transforms into the courtroom and back again.

Experience shows in this capable cast. Leading the way as Atticus Finch is Alan Wasserman, who portrays the inner strength and fortitude necessary to weather the negativity that surrounds him. Daughter Scout is ably played by Julia Kirkpatrick, paired with Neirin Winter as son Jeb. Both display comfortable stage presence. My one challenge to them is to project more fully so that all their lines can be heard. In the first scene that sets up the entire play, the underscoring music, while lovely and meaningful, tended to overshadow their soft voices.

Turning in a notable performance is Todd Tickner as Bob Ewell, the father of the supposed victim. Tickner seems to revel in inviting the audience see his true character.

James Miller becomes Heck Tate, the local sheriff, sympathetic to Finch but also aware of the reality of the era and neighborhood feelings. A grown-up version of Scout (Jean Louise) played by Ronna Jones, adds clarifying narration and insights as the play unfolds. Other solid characterizations are presented by Dale Alpert as the Judge, Sharyn Grose as Calpurnia, the children’s nanny, Melanie Lindgren as Stephanie Crawford, and Rita McCaffrey as Mrs. Dubose.

The cast is excellent overall, each giving full measure to their characters. The experience shows, even in the smallest parts.

To Kill a Mockingbird withstands the test of time in terms of ongoing relevance and continues to make an important statement. Yes, there are a few outdated, prejudicial terms used, as was common at the time. In this case they are key to the plot.

This revival will surely spur discussions and retrospection into our outlooks on justice. Go see it if you can.

To Kill a Mockingbird continues through February 9. Performances are Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sunday at 2 p.m. www.conejoplayers.org or 805-495-3715 for tickets. Adults \$20, Students, Seniors and Military \$18.



Chamber welcomed the 2019 Board of Directors at annual meeting. Photo by Dan Holmes.

Board Chair, Shannon Hillygus shared his vision for the year

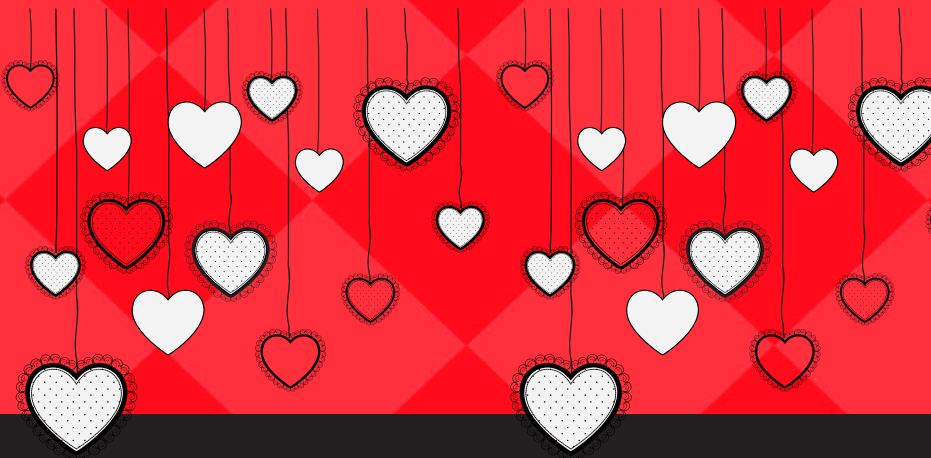
The Ventura Chamber of Commerce hosted its Annual Meeting and Board Installation at the Pierpont Inn Thursday, January 16, 2019. Not only does this membership gathering serve as the annual meeting to officially elect the Board and Officers for the year, but it is also a celebratory evening recognizing long-time members for their commitment and engagement.

Chamber president and CEO, Stephanie Caldwell welcomed the members and shared that in 2018 the Chamber welcomed 161 new members to the ranks, increased its revenues and decreased expenses. Outgoing Board

Chair John Silva shared some of the Chamber’s accomplishments for the year which included working with the City on the homeless issue, engaging in economic development and forming a task force to support the economic development efforts called Talents & Synergies.

The 2019 Board Chair, Shannon Hillygus shared his vision for the year and vowed to continue the efforts that are already underway. 2019 will be a year of change, with new City Leadership and a new Council, the first elected under the district model, the Chamber remains committed to working on


OXNARD PERFORMING ARTS CENTER




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8 pm Friday, Feb. 8

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oxnardperformingarts.com

behalf of business with our City leaders to continue to make Ventura the best place to live, work, play, raise a family and do business!

Welcome to the 2019 Board of Directors:

Shannon Hillygus, 2019 Board Chair
Brad Golden, Chair Elect
Mike Anderson, Treasurer
John Silva, Immediate Past Chair
Alice Love, Vice Chair Marketing
Michele Newell, Secretary
Brian Pendleton, Vice Chair Economic Development
Charnell Smith, Vice Chair Membership
Bonnie Atmore, Director
Pattie Braga, Director
Nick Deitch, Director
Vincenzo Giammanco, Director
Rondi Guthrie, Director
Doug Halter, Director
Sandy Smith, Director
Jeff Sukay, Director
Amy Towner, Director
Greg Van Ness, Director
Michael Velthoen, Director
Joey Zumaya, Director
Saurabh Bajaj, Senior Director
Nan Drake, Senior Director
Jim Duran, Senior Director
Mary Jarvis, Senior Director

Long term members were also recognized including:

30 Years
ST Rent-It Trucks, Inc.
Rayco Roofing Contractors
BBM&D Strategic Branding

50 Years
McDonald’s Restaurant

60 Years
Taft Electric
Chicago Title Insurance Co

70 Years
Southern California Edison Company
AT&T

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1/23: REVEREND HORTON HEAT W. VOODOO GLOW SKULLS & THE DELTA BOMBERS
1/24: PATO BANTON W. TREVOR GREEN & LOS NAUTICALS
1/25: METALACHI
1/26: SUBLIME DAY
1/26: SHAKY FEELIN'
1/27: WWE ROYAL RUMBLE
1/30: SURFER JOE
1/31: THE OLES X CYDEWAYS X TRIPPED UP



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This 'n' That



Angela earns a seat at the table wherever she serves.

Angela Moyd is the newest City Center Board Member

Angela Moyd takes a vision and makes it a reality through sound strategy development. She intuitively sees the threads of opportunity that wind through an organization, brings them together into a coherent who and helps others extend their thinking.

She is an inspirational leader, motivational speaker, and entrepreneur who shares stories taken from her 30+ years of experience in non-profit administration that inspires action while at the same time is grounded in financial information that levers the business.

Respected as a credible voice in decision making, finding strategic financing partners, and establishing governance boundaries. Angela earns a seat at the table wherever she serves. The City Center Transitional Living 837 E. Thompson Blvd. Ventura 805- 628-9035

VUSD Parcel Tax Oversight Committee (PTOC) seeks applicants

The Ventura Unified School District has three (3) vacancies on the PTOC

and is accepting applications. In accordance with PTOC Bylaws, the District is required to conduct an application process for replacement of members. If you are interested in submitting an application, you will find the application on this website link: <https://www.venturausd.org/business/BusinessServices.aspx>.

You may also contact the Business Services Department at (805) 641-5000 ext. 1202 to request an application. Applications are due January 31, 2019.

Almost half a million dollars Continued from page 19

The HACSB is the largest residential landlord in the City of Ventura, with 376 public housing units, more than 1,500 Section 8 vouchers, and over 450 non-profit affordable rental units. The agency is actively working to increase the supply of affordable housing and to improve the quality of life for hundreds more of the low-income residents throughout the City of Ventura.

The AHACV is an independent, non-profit agency serving the residents of Camarillo, Fillmore, Moorpark, Ojai, Simi Valley, Thousand Oaks and the unincorporated areas of Ventura County with 2,542 Section 8 vouchers, 355 public housing units and over 700 affordable rental units. The mission of AHACV is to be a leader in providing opportunities and assistance to people in need of affordable housing through development, acquisitions, and partnerships.

The OHA's mission is to provide decent, safe, and sanitary housing for low-income families and to relieve the shortage of affordable housing in the City of Oxnard. The OHA owns 664 public housing units, and manages over 1,800 Section 8 vouchers. The OHA owns an additional 280 affordable tax-credit housing units, in limited partnership with other entities. The OHA also supports the availability of affordable housing units through its Affordable Housing and Rehabilitation Division (AHRD). The primary activities for the AHRD include financial assistance to low-income first-time homebuyers, assistance to low-income homeowners for housing rehabilitation and financial gap assistance to Community Housing Development Organizations to increase supply of affordable housing units.

An astronomical high-rough tide brought seawater well above its usual path unto our beaches and some homes. Photo by Mark Stienecker (stairs by Richard Lieberman).