

VC Fair wins top awards, page 9!

FREE

VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

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We need to make sure that the City Council is spending this money wisely.

Apply now for Measure O Citizens' Oversight Committee

Residents of the city of Ventura are encouraged to apply for volunteer positions on the Measure O Citizens' Oversight Committee. The Committee's responsibilities include review of the projected revenues and recommended expenditures for the funds generated by Measure O and to make recommendations to the City Council as part of the City's budget process. After a review of the independent audit, the Committee shall provide findings to the City Council.

The seven members of the Committee are restricted to residents and registered voters of the city of Ventura at the time of their appointment and during their term of office. Members may not be an elected official or employee of the City of Ventura, or a dependent of either an elected official or employee.

The terms of members first appointed to the committee shall be staggered. Four members will serve a 1-year term and three members will serve 3-year terms. Succeeding members shall be appointed for terms of 4 years. Committee members will be required to file a Statement of Economic Interests (Form 700) disclosing all reportable interests held at the time of appointment, and are required to attend ethics training every two years.

Ventura voters approved Measure O—a half-cent sales tax increase for
Continued on page 4



Guitarist Laurence Juber, Harmony Project young musicians and Jordan Laby at the sleek blue bus. Photo by Bernie Goldstein.

Inset: Gabe Smith (Lennon Bus), Brian Vincik (Securematics), Laurence Juber (Lead Guitarist for Paul McCartney's Wings).

In one day flat they produced a remarkable music video

The Lennon Bus has provided hundreds of thousands of students and educators with opportunities to tour the bus and get hands on experience with the equipment found on board. Tours give students an overview of what really goes on in a recording or video production facility and are led by the Lennon staff. Visitors learn about the history of the
Continued on page 2



Herbert Curtis was appointed to the Superior Court in 1998.

Retired Ventura County Superior Court judge kills girlfriend and himself

On Feb. 5, at 11PM, the Ventura Police Department Command Center received a call from a resident in the 5500 block of Dorsey St. reporting that her neighbors were involved in a very loud and contentious verbal domestic argument.

When officers arrived on the scene they attempted to make contact with the individuals inside the residence. When they heard multiple gunshots they moved to a safer location and set up a perimeter around the residence.

In the residence was former Ventura County Superior Court Judge Herbert Curtis III, 69, and Patricia Payne, 54. Herbert Curtis was the nephew of boxing promoter Don King and was Ventura County Superior Court's first black judge.

Hostage negotiators made contact by phone with Curtis, who indicated he was armed with a gun, but he refused to surrender. Payne's condition was not known at this time. Ventura SWAT officers were notified and arrived a short time later.

Negotiations continued for about two hours until the SWAT team deployed a listening device into the residence and
Continued on page 2



Suz Montgomery told the story of Rodie the Wonder Dog at the monthly "Breast Fest."

Rodie Award Breast Fest

by John Hankins

A local cancer survivors' group has literally gone to the dogs - and cats - in honoring the animals who give their 'owners' emotional support during the life-threatening disease.

It happened during Ribbons of Life's monthly "Breast Fest" gathering
Continued on page 4

at Mimi's Café in Ventura, and was inspired by a dog named Rodie, said Ribbons Founder Lisa Barreto, a three-time "survivor-thriver." Check out this advocacy and support foundation at: www.ribbonsventura.org
Continued on page 4

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In one day flat

Continued from page 1

Bus, and are introduced to the various production skills needed to produce projects on the bus.

Recently the bus was at Sheridan Way Elementary School and Cabrillo Middle School working with students who are part of the Harmony Group which was formed five years ago by Jordan Laby, and his late wife Sandra.

The Harmony Group, working with the New West Symphony—includes students who were provided with musical instruments and music tuition.

On the bus, Grammy winning guitarist Laurence Juber, from Los Angeles came to coach the youngsters. In one day flat they produced a remarkable music video featuring the young Harmony students who attend several Ventura schools. Their video

was premiered at Harmony Group's Feb. 12 fundraiser at the Marriott Ventura Beach.

Ivor Davis (writer of The Beatles And Me On Tour) told the Breeze "John Lennon has been dead for 36 years—but his irrepressible spirit lives on in Ventura County in the shape of a \$6 million bus—the best mobile recording studio in the world. The John Lennon Educational Bus—a living legacy to the late Beatles life—came to Ventura as part of its mission as Yoko Ono puts it, 'to give young people a chance to express themselves through music, video and broadcast productions.' The original purpose in getting the bus to come to Ventura, was to publicize the Laby's magnificent efforts in launching the Harmony Group here. But alas, Sandra didn't live long enough to see it herself."

Business



Carrillo has been paper crafting for over a decade.

Cut the craft

by Sheli Ellsworth



Crafting taken to new heights! How would you like to have your own crafting space? One of a Kind Design Studio invites crafters at all levels to come in and explore their creative side. Located at 4915 Verdugo Way in Camarillo, the studio offers workshops, classes, supplies and equipment for the inspired craftsperson.

Owner and 30-year Ventura County resident Lorraine Carrillo says, "I love it when people bring in an original idea and I can help them turn it into a finished product! Usually a customer finds a sample on Etsy or Pinterest and shows me photos. We come up with a design, the customer can cut and assemble, or I cut the materials and they take them home to assemble or I do all of it."

The studio has a state of the art Cricut Machine capable of die cutting custom invitations, announcements, scrapbooks, etc. "DIY crafters can walk in and rent a workstation equipped with a computer and Cricut machine which can cut vinyl, iron on, paper and poster board."

Carrillo has been paper crafting for over a decade. She managed an annual awards celebration for a fortune 500 corporation for over five years. "I knew these annual events were a success by the comments and appreciation that I received from the participants. They would come to me and say 'this is your calling.'"

Workshops in glass etching, paper projects, making wooden signs and home décor are also offered and the costs include materials. "Glass etching for special occasions can be done with customized templates to commemorate military service, anniversaries, retirements and other personalization." Carrillo says wooden signs are also popular right now. "They can be painted or custom vinyl with quotes, themes, etc. can be applied."

The studio welcomes walk-ins, but Carrillo has extended hours for consultations, parties and special events. "I offer craft parties for kids and adults. I come up with projects that can be assembled by them or with family and friends." With 12 brothers and sisters, two children of her own and four grandchildren, Carrillo has plenty of kids to mine for inspiration and ideas. "We hope to offer bridal workshops in the near future where the bridal party can come and create invitations, banners

and decorations."

Carrillo who is originally from Albuquerque, NM says, "I love living here. The weather is fabulous and I like the beach. I'm jealous of people walking their dogs. I've had three English bull dogs but right now I am too busy for a dog, but there is probably one in my future."

The next time inspiration strikes, call 586.3885 and ask for Lorraine or go to 1ofakinddesignstudio.com.

"Leading Tax Group" coming to Ventura

Leading Tax Group, which specializes in tax removal, IRS wage garnishment and IRS penalty removal, recently opened four new office locations in Southern California, bringing its grand total of offices to ten.

Their Ventura office is located at 1500 Palma Drive, 2nd Floor, (800) 900-4250.

Leading Tax Group is dedicated to offering the finest services in relation to IRS tax problems. It also offers guidance to clients looking for help directly from IRS Tax Lien Lawyers in regards to IRS representation. www.leadingtaxgroup.com.

Retired judge kills girlfriend and self

Continued from page 1

heard Payne indicating she had been shot. When additional gunshots were heard, SWAT team members immediately entered the residence to try to rescue Payne.

As they made entry, Curtis shot and killed himself. Payne was brought to a waiting ambulance and was transported to VCMC for treatment of multiple gunshot wounds where she later died.

Ventura Police Commander Sam Arroyo said police had been called to the residence several times previously and that Payne had been arrested for misdemeanor public intoxication and other infractions. She was scheduled to be arraigned on March 17.

At the time of his death, Curtis was a partner at the Oxnard law firm of Gutierrez, Curtis and Gutierrez.

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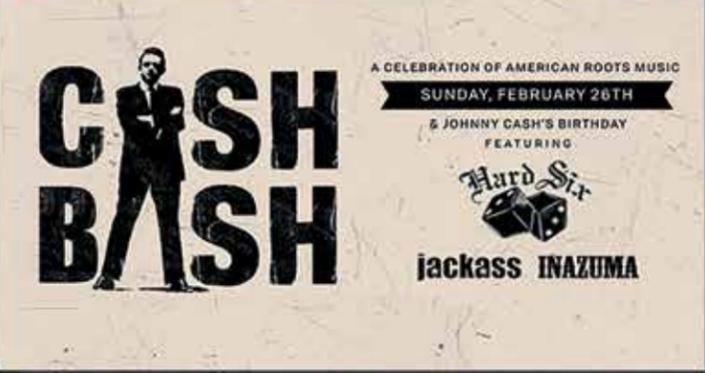
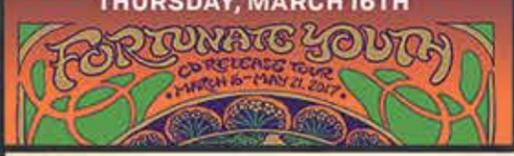




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UPCOMING EVENTS

 <p>Pacific DUB THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 16TH</p>	<p>Thu, Feb 16th - Pacific Dub Fri, Feb 17th - Sgt Pepper (Beatles Tribute Band) Sat, Feb 18th - Led Zepplica Wed Feb 22nd - Pins & Poses (Yoga + Bowling) Thu Feb 23rd - After the Smoke w/ Dirty Rice (Acoustic) Fri, Feb 24th - #Firestonefridays ft. Rock Cats Rock Sat, Feb 25th - Midget Wrestling Sun, Feb 28th - Cash Bash ft. Hard Six, Jackass, Inazuma</p>	<p>Thu, Mar 2nd - Synrgy w/Prime Livty Fri, Mar 3rd - Crooked Eye Tommy Thu, Mar 9th - Johnny Love Fri, Mar 10th - Downtown All Starz Wed, Mar 15th - Sammy J Thu, Mar 16th - Fortunate Youth Sat, Mar 18th - The Molly Ringwald Project Thu, Apr 13th - KATCHAFIRE Fri, Apr 14th - Rebel Souljahz w/Eli Mac</p>
 <p>PINS & POSES WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 22ND - 6:30PM One hour yoga session w/ Sarah Ingram Two free games of bowling DJ set by Nick Dean Healthy food Drink specials</p>	 <p>SGT PEPPER FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 17TH</p>	 <p>#FIRESTONEFRIDAYS FRIDAY, MARCH 3RD FEATURING CROOKED EYE TOMMY</p>
 <p>CASH BASH A CELEBRATION OF AMERICAN ROOTS MUSIC SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 26TH & JOHNNY CASH'S BIRTHDAY FEATURING Hard Six jackass INAZUMA</p>	 <p>LED-ZEPPLICA The Led Zeppelin Tribute Experience SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH</p>	 <p>Sammy J ON TOUR With Special Guest JORDAN</p>
 <p>AFTER THE SMOKE WINDUPPING SET BY DIRTY RICE</p>	 <p>FORTUNATE YOUTH ON RELEASE TOUR MARCH 16 - MARCH 21, 2017</p>	 <p>KATCHAFIRE W/SPECIAL GUESTS INNAVISION</p>

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City News

City classes

City of Ventura Barranca Vista Imagination Center classes. Check out hundreds more on our web-site

Call 658-4726 or 654-7553 to register, if you already have an ACTIVENET account online, visit www.cityofventura.net Classes and events held at the Barranca Vista Center, 7050 Ralston St. unless otherwise noted

Painting Flowers, Bugs, and Trees 7-12 years

2/21-3/21 W 4-5:30 pm
\$50+\$10 materials fee #7972

Paint landscapes with trees, mountains, waves, waterfalls and other details using many techniques. Join artist Jen Livia at 4601 Telephone Rd #112 each week to explore new subjects and paint them in a variety of styles to discover our own unique style. All supplies provided.

Morning Zumba®

18 years-adult \$40/\$65/\$80*

2/22-3/29 W 8:45-9:45 am #7880

2/24-3/31 F 7:45-8:45 am #7885

2/27-4/3 M 8:45-9:45 am #7879

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Yoga to Unwind

16 years-adult

2/23-3/30 Th 5:10-6:10 pm
\$65 #7664

Leave the work day behind to relax with simple yoga poses, stretching and breathing. Bring towel, mat and dress comfortably. Instructor Aurora Heinemann.

Friday Fitness Party!

16 years-adult

2/24-3/31 F 6:15-7:15 pm
\$40 or \$7/day #7682

Join us and dance, body condition and cool down to fabulous music. Bring mat and water. Walk in fee of \$7 is due at start of class. Certified Zumba® Instructor Dala Sondors.

Friday Night Tap

12 years-adult

2/24-3/17 F 6:30-7:30 pm \$40
#8016

Learn basic steps, combinations and routines to upbeat rhythms and music. Classes are progressive but designed for the beginner. Instructor Elli Busch. Classes held at Billy Clower Dance Studio, 75 MacMillian Ave. To register call 658-4726.

Ballroom Dancing

16 years-adult

2/28-4/4 Tu 7:30-8:30 pm
\$55 #8023

Enjoy the magic of smoothly moving across the floor with the waltz, fox trot, swing and rumba!

Swing and Nightclub Dancing

16 years-adult

2/28-4/4 Tu 8:30-9:30 pm
\$55 #8025

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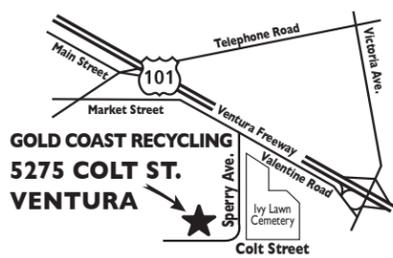


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City News



The panel was moderated by Megan Gately.

Antiquarians discuss history at VC Museum

by Randal Beeman

On Wednesday, February 1st the Ventura County Museum hosted the first installment of its "Speaking of Ventura County" series, an 8 week program featuring local scholars discussing matters related to the county's past. Among the future lectures are presentations on agricultural water use, travel writing, Ventura County's Mexican-American community in the 1920s, and a talk on the Ventura School for Girls.

The series commenced with a session entitled "The Real Thing: The Value of Primary Resource Material in Research Today," Charles Johnson, the Research Library Director at the Ventura County Museum, Michael Redmon, Director of Research at the Santa Barbara County Museum, and Frank Barajas, Chair of the History Department at CSU-Channel Islands, took turns addressing their own careers, the importance of primary source materials, and some of the challenges they have encountered in preserving history in Ventura County.

Johnson noted that without primary source research the public would rarely get new insights into the past as historians would simply repeat other authors instead of delving into new sources or new interpretations of historical events. Johnson and Redmon also lamented that aspiring scholars and even accomplished researchers have become accustomed to conducting all of their research on the internet. In fact, much of the historical record has yet to be digitized due to the immense cost of digitizing materials and the time involved in converting records into new formats.

Barajas spoke of how his passion for primary source research helped connect him to Alice McGrath, a communist civil rights activist who fought for the rights of Mexican-American youth during the infamous Sleepy Lagoon Trial during World War II. Redmon talked about a collection he acquired and processed from an early 20th century diabetes researcher who did some of the initial work using insulin to treat the disease. His clinic eventually evolved into the world renowned Samsung clinic.

All of the scholars agreed that capturing and maintaining digital documents and resources will be a challenge for future archivists, and the lack of space and resources are always problems in the public history business. The librarians continued with a discussion of some of the frustrations they encounter with individual researchers, with a common theme being that the public and scholars themselves are often unaware of the service librarians provide.

Members of the public can be indirect and vague when asking about what they are seeking in the collection. The panel, moderated by Ventura County Museum Education Director Megan Gately,

encouraged the audience to appreciate the value of primary source material in providing fresh interpretations of the past. Approximately 50 people attended the event.

Rodie Award Breast Fest

Continued from page 1

Rodie, a Bichon-Frise, "diagnosed my cancer and never left my side throughout every chemo and every radiation treatment," said Suz Montgomery, noting that his name came from Auguste Rodin as he liked to create "sculptures" in the backyard.

Rodie knew Suz had cancer by licking her arm where the lymph nodes were packed with cancer cells. "He showed me what love and support animals can be."

This first annual "Rodie Award" featured a dozen cancer survivors (out of the over 30 attending) who told the stories of their own animals during the Feb. 11 event. Each one received a special card with the pet's picture and the owners' comments, designed by graphic artist Karen Brown, a past president of Ribbons. They included:

~ "Rocky and Lulu (Cockapoo and Shih Tzu) work as a support team. The two would guard over Bob and me, alternating between bedrooms while I recovered from surgery and chemotherapy ... they share our journey."

~ "Oz, the good dog (Yellow Lab), lived to please. He was enormous therapy as he joined Bill and my journey."

~ "Zoey (Beagle mix) is youthful and wise and has a gentleness about her that makes me calm and content. She is my constant companion, my healer, my wonder pup and my best friend."

~ "Mr. R (Chocolate Lab) is a loyal and loving companion. He is always happy to see Dave and I, even happier when we are ready for a walk."

~ Guigui (Blue Russian cat): With beauty, grace and a slight tease, a velvet coat and infinite gaze, I know your Majestic reign has only brought comfort and joy to our humble kingdom."

~ "Wubbies (Tuxedo cat) is a gentle giant and a cutie who likes to exercise her sandpaper tongue. She is there for me as I go through my journey. Thank you my special friend."

~ "Angie (Pomeranian) was Cindy and Steve's guardian angel before they met her in 1999. She gave them so much comfort ... they are together in Heaven now."

Citizens' Oversight Committee

Continued from page 1

25-years—in November 2016. This new local funding mechanism is estimated to generate \$10.8 million a year.

The new sales tax rate is effective beginning on April 1, 2017 (essential purchases like groceries and medicine are exempt). Voters approved the sales tax measure with strict accountability requirements—annual independent financial audits, a Citizens' Oversight Committee to ensure all funds are properly spent and public review of expenditures.

Applications are available online at www.cityofventura.net/involved/advisory or from the City Clerk's Office, Ventura City Hall, 501 Poli Street, Room 204. The application deadline is 5:00 p.m. on Friday, February 24, 2017, and may be submitted by e-mail to cityclerk@cityofventura.net, by fax to the City Clerk's Office at 641-1046, by mail to the City Clerk's Office P.O. Box 99, Ventura, CA 93002, or hand-delivered to the City Clerk's Office at City Hall.

For more information call the City Clerk's Office at 658-4787.



VENTURA BREEZE

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

Sheldon @ Ventura Breeze

In response to the guy who took offence with substitution of the word "Dog" for "God" he obviously doesn't know what dogs mean to people who love them like family!

I think the attached* expresses what God "for those who are religious" would have felt as well!

Sincerely one of your many readers

* Photo of God's finger touching the paw of a dog with caption "I've turned my own name around and have called you Dog, my friend."

Opinion/Editorial



Sheldon (Governor) Brown
Publisher-Editor

■ Behind City Hall is a property referred to as **505 Poli St.** It has housed a variety of uses since it was acquired by the City in 2006 from the County for \$3.64 million. The purchase included the significant adjacent parking and the 9.95 acres that is currently leased to the Ventura Botanical Gardens.

In 2009 the 3rd floor was converted into a business incubator for technology entrepreneurs with many successes. The 4th floor was used to subsidize office space to help non-profit organizations that had to move when Brooks Institute took over the two upper floors.

The City has never developed a long range plan for the building or the adjacent Crime Lab, though this is now being conceived. The need for a plan became even more apparent when Brooks Institute closed-up leaving the construction on the 4th and 5th floors un-completed and still empty.

A detailed financial analysis has not been completed yet which includes fire, seismic and basic commercial upgrades such as HVAC, elevator, plumbing and electrical systems. The City Council has asked staff to complete a plan for evaluation.

At a recent City Council meeting a number of possible options for the space were presented by staff.

Option 1: Sell the property (505 building and/or the Crime Lab).

The Council rejected this.

Option 2: Demolish the Crime Lab.

The Council rejected this.

Option 3: **Keep the property.**

This was approved by the Council. The Council will now need to determine what to do with the property.

I completely agree with the decision to retain the property and look forward to learning about the staff reports and further action by the Council. Hopefully, the final use will include space for non-profits, and an incubator for business start-ups.

I hope that if they have market value space to rent that they hire a **professional leasing company** to handle this so that we don't end up with another Brook's debacle.

Mailbox

Editor:

The Affordable Care Act, aka Obamacare, saved my life. I had health insurance. I needed brain surgery. My health insurance company kept delaying approvals for necessary MRI and CT scans to find out what was wrong. Because they refused to pay for the CT scan that was needed to confirm a diagnosis, I had to pay for one of them out of pocket. They assigned an RN to my case to reduce costs. But, because of public pressure, when the Affordable Care Act was being drafted, my surgery was eventually approved by the insurance company in 2009.

As Congress moves forward on a path towards repealing and replacing the Affordable Care Act, it is critical that our nation's communities retain access to high-quality hospital services we need and deserve. Our hospitals not only provide lifesaving care, but they are also key economic engines, providing jobs and security to the entire community.

I am greatly concerned that legislation repealing the Affordable Care Act

could leave in place devastating and historic cuts to my hospital. We need your help to protect access to care and our nation's local economies.

This means that if legislation is approved that repeals the Affordable Care Act, it is imperative that it either replaces the coverage losses simultaneously or repeals the Medicare and Medicaid hospital reductions embedded in the law, so we ensure our community hospitals have the resources they need to care for American families and communities.

Kathy Miller-Ventura



The Crime Lab, a two-story concrete structure located behind 505 Poli, is in need of abatement of hazardous materials before it can be occupied.

ordinance could withstand a legal challenge because of the appeals process put in place.

I agree that there are some serious problems at these locations and hope that it doesn't unfairly criminalize the homeless but only those who are breaking the law.

■ Here I go again: Researchers at UCLA reported that electronic cigarettes may increase the risk of heart disease.

They found that two risk factors for heart disease were elevated in 16 e-cigarette users compared with 18 nonsmokers.

"The pattern was spot-on" for what has been seen in heart attack patients and those with heart disease and diabetes, says cardiologist Holly

Middlekauff, a co-author of the study.

E-cigarette users in the study had heartbeat patterns that indicated high levels of adrenaline — also known as epinephrine — which is a sign of heart disease risk. Researchers also found signs of increased oxidative stress, an imbalance of certain protective molecules that can cause the hardening and narrowing of arteries.

"**Electronic cigarettes** aren't harmless," Middlekauff says. "They have real, measurable physiological effects and these physiological effects, at least the couple that we found, have been associated with heart disease."

■ The **VC Star** (that some of you old-timers still call the Star Free Press) keeps getting smaller (no more section B, etc.), and it has less local coverage. I really hate to see newspapers struggling so much. Hopefully, the Breeze's advertisers (and readers) will always be here to support us.

■ Recently, I went to listen to the **Ventura County Concert Band** play at Ventura High. They were wonderful — it's unfortunate that we don't have a performing arts center here in the city where they could have played.

■ The VPD is presenting is a public education program titled **Mental Health First Aid** that can help individuals across the community understand mental illnesses. Read more about it in this issue it is very important.

■ **Chang Liampetchakul**, the owner of Tipps Thai Cuisine located downtown, recently suffered a stroke. He was cooking up some ribs for Super Bowl, when some friends came to pick him up. When they arrived he crawled to the front door to unlock it. Doctors think he's going to make a good recovery, but it will take time. I certainly wish him well and a quick recovery. A GoFundMe account has been set-up for those wishing to help raise funds. <https://www.gofundme.com/chang-chang-chang>

■ Please see the ad on page 3 for the Ventura Breeze presenting the **Equinox Ensemble** at the Squashed Grapes and come join in on the fun. I will be there at 5:30.

head around any of the arguments for allowing STVRs to operate in residential districts.

I can't afford a gardener but believe I am entitled to lawn service whether I can afford it or not. Pygmy goats are the cutest things ever and would keep my weeds at bay, thus improving the aesthetics of the neighborhood. Pygmy goats are quieter and less annoying than the neighbors' barking dogs.

Pygmy goats need veterinarians, groomers, feed, bedding and whatever else they need to thrive and survive — all services and goods I would never purchase but for the pygmy goats. Thus, I'll create jobs and bring in revenue for businesses and the city.

Continued on page 19

Talk is cheap, except when Congress does it.

— Anonymous



WINTER CHILDREN'S BOOK SALE!

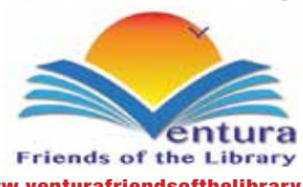
Storybooks, non-fiction, board books, classics, bi-lingual, chapter books, early readers, skill builders and young adult.

**SATURDAY
FEBRUARY 18, 2017
11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

E.P. Foster Library - Rear Children's Entrance, 651 E. Main St.

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Wednesday – Saturday 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

friends@venturafriendsofthelibrary.org www.venturafriendsofthelibrary.org

Some of Foster Library events

Opera Santa Barbara Noontime Concert

3/10 Friday @ 12pm

Spend your lunch hour listening to members of the Mosher Studio Artist Program, who will perform a selection of popular opera arias and duets as well as some musical theatre pieces.

Makerspace Open Workshop

3/1, 8, 15, 22, & 29 Wednesdays @ 5-6pm

Come by the library on Monday and Wednesday evenings to learn more about our 3D printer and laser cutter—or to use them yourself! Ask the library staff about what you need to bring to print or engrave an item of your own, or just drop in to see what we're up to in our library Makerspace, now upstairs!

Poetry Open Mic Night

3/2, 9, 16, 23, & 30 Thursdays @ 7:30-9pm

On these Thursday nights, come join this group of writers as they meet in the Topping Room to share their work.

Spontaneous Chess

3/4, 11, 18, & 25 Saturdays @ 1pm

Calling all chess players! Keep your skills sharp with this one-hour, drop-in session of free play. Boards will be set up

and ready to go. Bring your best moves!

CHILDREN'S EVENTS

Dr. Seuss Celebration!

3/2 Thursday @ 3:30-5pm

Celebrate Dr. Seuss! Crafts! Games! Stories! Fun!

Friday Films with Craft

3/3, 10, 17, 24, & 31 Fridays @ 2:00pm

Films: Minions (3rd), Finding Dory (10th), Charlotte's Web (17th), Cars (24th), & Star Wars: The Force Awakens (31st)

Join us each Friday for a film screening and a specially themed craft!

Spring Crafternoon!

3/16 Thursday @ 3:30pm

Join us to make a decorative Spring themed craft!

Early Literacy Class

3/1, 7, 8, 14, 15, 21, 22, 28, & 29

Tuesdays & Wednesdays @ 10:30am

3/2, 9, 16, 23, & 30 Thursdays @

5:30 pm

A great way to introduce your child to early literacy and the library. Join us every week for stories, poems, music, movement, a simple craft, and fun!

Family Coloring

3/4, 11, 18, & 25 Saturdays @

10:30am – 12pm

Saturday Family Coloring Fun!

Lego Play

3/7, 14, 21, & 28 Tuesdays @ 3pm

Green with Envy

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"THESE ARE THE BIDS FOR THE MEXICAN WALL. WHICH DO YOU THINK MEXICO WILL PAY FOR?"

Community Events

Build, Learn, and Play! Bring your imagination and experiment with creative designs. Children of all ages welcome!

STEAM Monthly

3/2 Thursday @ 10:30am-12pm

STEAM monthly will explore concepts related to science, technology, engineering, art, & math in fun and sometimes silly ways.

TAG: Teen Advisory Group

3/1 & 15 Wednesdays @ 5pm

If you want to share ideas, meet new people and have a great time shaping the library teen program join TAG! This is for 13+ and grades 8+ and counts toward community service requirements.

Information at [assistanceleagueventura.org](mailto:assistanceleagueventura@ventura.org) or Email alvconline@hotmail.com. Monday thru Thursday 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. 643-2458

Feb. 16: The East Ventura Community Council will hear an update on new regulations for granny flats, second units and carriage houses during its monthly meeting. Dave Ward, Planning Manager for the City of Ventura, will present the new regulations governing the use of these dwellings. City Councilperson Neal Andrews will speak about issues facing the city and will answer questions. David Krushell will share the latest information on plans for new housing tracts. In addition, other topics may be addressed as time permits. The meeting starts at 7 p.m. at the First Assembly of God Church, 346 N. Kimball Road. For more information call 804-7558 or check the group's Facebook page.

Feb. 18: Intimate chamber works by Handel, Schubert and Spohr Saturday at 5 p.m. Handel's exquisite duet *Ahi, nelle sorti umane* and Schubert's *Shepherd on the Rock*. Patricia Lathrop-McPherson, Deborah Wynne and Maureen DeMaio are featured singers along with David Singer on clarinet. Helen Farson, piano and director. Admission is free. 1 hour. Ventura Seventh-day Adventist Church 6300 Telephone Rd. 641-9646 if more information is desired.

Feb. 19: On Sunday members of the public are invited to come celebrate the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura's formal installation of its minister, the Reverend Dana Worsnop. The Rev. Bill Sinkford, past president of the Unitarian Universalist Association, will present the sermon. "I am thrilled to be the next minister of this engaged and passionate church community," said Rev. Dana Worsnop. Rev. Worsnop joined the congregation in August of last year. Location 5654 Ralston.

Feb. 20: CA Zeta Chi parliamentarians will meet at 7 p.m. and will feature a lesson by Pres. Bruce Rick entitled "Got No Class!" Main Street Restaurant and Steakhouse, 3159 E. Main St. Those wishing to eat should arrive at 6 p.m. Non-members are welcome. Membership is \$25 per year. For information, contact Sharon Hillbrant, 479-6738, or check out zetachi.webstarts.com.

Feb. 22: The College Area Community Council will meet on Wednesday, at 7 p.m. Council meetings include speakers and discussion on topics of neighborhood and community interest, including public safety and economic development. The Council, which represents citizens between Mills and Victoria bordered by Foothill and Hwy. 126, meets in the Wright Event Center at 57 Day Rd. on the Ventura College campus. Free parking is available adjacent to the Event Center. Call 644-8695 for more information.

Feb. 23: The local chapter of the Portuguese Fraternal Society of America will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday. This meeting is open to any person of Portuguese descent or interested in the Portuguese culture. The meeting will be held at Main Street Restaurant and Steakhouse, 3159 East Main St. 11:30pm. for a noon, no host luncheon / meeting. For more information and reservation, please call Cora Corella at 483-6285, or Yvonne Westervelt at 483-4168.

Feb. 24: Youth & Family Night Bible Study Friday from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Ventura events

by Ana Baker

The Ventura Retired Men's Group meets on the first and third Tuesdays at noon at the Ventura Elks Lodge on Knoll Drive. They have a healthy lunch(\$15), a speaker on a topic of interest and an enjoyable couple of hours together. Call Steve Carroll for details 642-1359.

Free admission stage show, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. First Sunday of every month. Old Time Country Bluegrass Gospel Music Assoc. Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Rd. For more Information call 517-1131.

Ventura Poinsettia Dance Club meets every Monday from 7:30 p.m. to 9:45 p.m. at the Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill. Ballroom, swing, Latin, mixers and line dancing. Members \$10, non-members \$12. Call Rick at 415-8842 for more information.

DBSA Ventura, the local chapter of the Depression & Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA) hosts two regular, confidential, peer-led, self-help support groups in the County. Tuesday from 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Bible Fellowship Church at 6950 Ralston Street in Room 301 of Building 300. Email DBSA_Ventura@yahoo.com, visit facebook.com/DBSA.Ventura or call 253-3289 for more information. 1p.m. to 3p.m. at the New Visions Center on the first and third Saturdays of the month. At 1065 E. Main. Email DBSA_Ventura@yahoo.com, visit facebook.com/DBSA.Ventura or 746-3106 for more information.

AUDUBON EVENTS

Feb. 18: 8:30 a.m., Carpinteria Salt Marsh. Rocky Luddes 208-9648. Carpinteria Salt Marsh Nature Park is an excellent birding location due to the estuary, wetlands, and upland habitats.

Feb. 19: 8:30 a.m., Santa Clara River Estuary. Kay Register 258-1025. Walk will be part of the Great Backyard Bird Count. Hope to see a variety of shorebirds. Meet in the Surfers Knoll parking lot.

Feb. 21: 9 a.m., Rancho Simi Community Park Adele Fergusson 415-4304. A 2-3 hour walk by large ponds with birds close up and personal; we will then walk down Arroyo Simi River, and afterwards have lunch together nearby.

Feb. 16: The Assistance League of Ventura County at the Chapter House, 913 East Santa Clara St. Meeting begins at 10 a.m., social beginning at 9:30 a.m. Guests and new members welcome. Assistance League is creating "A Brighter Tomorrow for Today's Children" through several philanthropic programs. The Bargain Box Thrift Shop helps fund these programs.



Ventura Education Partnership IN ASSOCIATION WITH KIWANIS CLUB OF VENTURA PRESENTS

THE 16TH ANNUAL

FESTIVAL OF TALENT

SATURDAY FEB. 25 AT 7:00 P.M.

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Community Events

at **Servants of the Father of Mercy Warehouse Chapel, 1544 Morse Ave.** Free homemade bread and soup dinner at 6 p.m. The last Friday of the month during Lent, February, March and April. Please bring a Bible, pen, an open-mind and note pad. Families, children and teens welcome to this launch of Lent and Easter Season Bible Study. RSVP Contact@ServantsoftheFather.org.

Feb. 23: Enjoy the photography of Garrett Parkinson a friend of the Bird Club for many years with a presentation of "The Birds of Balboa Wildlife Refuge".

Garrett Parkinson was born and raised in the San Fernando Valley. He attended Humboldt State University in the mid to late 1970's and graduated with bachelor degrees in Zoology and Wildlife Management. The Presentation will start at 7 p.m. at the Ventura Moose Lodge #1394, 10267 Telephone Rd. Attendance is free and all are welcome. For further information call 488-6244

Feb. 26: Public invited to free 3rd annual concert by The Pelican Chamber Music Series which brings you world class local talent. The Singer Chamber Players, led by David Singer, clarinet, Virginia Kron, cello, and Daniel Newman Lessler, piano. Music of romantic-progressive classicism, and folk-based tunes will be so inspiring you will want to dance in the aisles. About the Singer Chamber Players www.singerchamberplayers.com. Sunday at 4 p.m. St. Paul's Episcopal, 3290 Loma Vista Road, 643-5033. www.saint-paulsventura.org. Reception following in Kahler Hall.

Ojai news and events

The **Ojai Photo Club** presents renowned celebrity photographer, **Guy Webster**. Webster will present the images and fill in the backstories behind the portraits in his recent retrospective book, "Big Shots: Rock Legends and Hollywood Icons." The event will be on Tuesday, February 21, at 7:00 p.m., in Help of Ojai's Kent Hall, 111 Santa Ana St. For additional information please visit: www.ojaiphotoclub.com/.

The **Ojai Foundation** will present **Yoga and the Whole of Our Lives, The Ojai Foundation's Land Sanctuary on Mon., Feb. 20 - Friday, March 10, as part of James Boag's three-week residency.**

The program includes talks, storytelling, movement practices, and

singing. Participants can choose to purchase one session, a full week, or the whole course. The philosophical discussions are Monday - Friday from 6:30-9pm. The movement classes are on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 3-5pm. Donation-based kirtan and satsang is every Sunday from 3-5pm. Pricing information, registration, and overnight accommodations are available at ojaifoundation.org/events or by calling 646-8343, ext. 123.

Find pure, unconditional love as near as your next breath, as Rev. Karen leads a morning devoted to "Meditation: The Path to Love" at Meditation Mount, on Saturday, February 18, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The retreat is by donation; \$10 is suggested. Meditation Mount is located at 10340 Reeves Road. For more information, contact Rev. Karen at 310-968-8928, or register online at www.karensywylie.com.

Ojai's native plant educator Lanny Kaufer is kicking off his 41st year of leading interpretive walks and hikes on Monday, February 20, with a nature hike and foraging expedition on West Sulphur Mountain Trail in the Casitas Springs area. Beginning at 10 a.m. and ending at 3 p.m., this will be a slow-paced hike of less than two miles each way on a wide dirt road that steadily gains elevation with corresponding views and changing plant communities. The group will take a half-hour lunch break on the trail.

The cost is \$25 for adults and \$20 for seniors 62-and-older and full-time students 13-18. Kids 5-12 can go free, one per adult, by prior arrangement.

On Sunday April 9th, from noon-4pm the Ojai Raptor Center will open its doors to the public for their annual Spring Open House; a rare opportunity to meet the non-releasable "ambassador" raptors, and tour the Center that is otherwise closed to the public year-round due to the sensitive nature of wildlife in rehabilitation.

Guests will meet a variety of hawks, falcons, and owls. There will be back-to-back stage presentations and a number of fun activities for children and adults related to this Spring's Open House theme: "Baby Shower."

Best-selling author D.J. Adamson will visit the Ojai Library at 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 4 to lead a panel discussion on creating, producing, and promoting books.

This workshop offers methods to open up one's creative self and to put that self on paper, whether tackling

a fiction or non-fiction project. All three authors will advise which option may be best.

This event is free and open to the public. For additional information, contact Ron Solórzano, Regional Librarian, at 218-9146.

A new cookbook, Ojai Valley Gluten-Free Cookbook, by Ojai chef and author Randy Graham is now available for purchase for \$16.95 including tax. All of the 87 recipes in this book are gluten-free and vegetarian. He will be signing books at the Ojai Coffee Roasting Company in Ojai on Monday, March 6th from 9:30am until noon. Come by to say hi, get a good cup of Joe, and buy a book (or two).

Tech Today with Ken May

Cybersecurity while traveling

While your network at home or at work may be secure, you should assume that any network you connect to when traveling cannot be trusted. You never know who else is on it and what they may be doing. Here are some simple steps that go a long way to protecting you and your data before you travel:

- The safest information is information you don't have. Identify what data you need and only bring that information. This can significantly reduce the impact if your devices are lost, stolen, or impounded by customs or border security.
- Lock your mobile devices with a strong passcode. If it's stolen or lost, people cannot access your information on it. Also, enable full disk encryption. For most mobile devices, this is automatically enabled when you use a screen lock.
- Install or enable remote tracking software. Some kinds can even remotely wipe the device.
- Update all your devices' applications, and anti-virus software before leaving. Many attacks focus on systems with outdated software.
- Do a complete backup of all your devices. This way, if something does

happen to them while traveling, you still have all of your original data in a secured location.

Once you begin your travel, ensure the physical safety of your devices. For example, never leave your devices in your car where people can easily see them, as criminals may simply smash your car's window and grab anything of value they can see. While crime is definitely a risk, according to a recent Verizon study, people are 100 times more likely to lose a device than have it stolen. This means always double-check that you still have your devices when you travel, such as when you clear security at the airport, leave a taxi or restaurant, check out of a hotel room, or before you disembark from your airplane. Remember to check that seat back pocket.

Accessing the Internet while traveling often means using public Wi-Fi access points, such as ones you find at a hotel, a local coffee shop, or the airport. There are two problems with public Wi-Fi: you are never sure who set them up and you never know who is connected to them. As such, they should be considered untrusted. In fact, this is why you took all the steps to secure your devices before you left.

In addition, Wi-Fi uses radio waves, which means anyone physically near you can potentially intercept and monitor those communications. For these reasons, you need to ensure all of your online activity is encrypted. For example, when connecting online using your browser, make sure that the websites you are visiting are encrypted. You can confirm this by looking for 'HTTPS://' and/or an image of a closed padlock in your address or URL bar. In addition, you may have what is called a VPN (Virtual Private Network), which can encrypt all of your online activity when enabled. This may be issued to you by work, or you can purchase VPN capabilities for your own personal use. If you are concerned that there is no Wi-Fi you can trust, consider tethering to your smartphone. Warning: this can be expensive when traveling internationally. Check with your service provider first.

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Classes provide participants the opportunity to study with "teaching artists."

Time to get yourself and/or your kids signed up for a fun, exciting learning experience

Rubicon offers process-oriented acting classes for kids (beginning at age five) and adults. These programs focus on developing skills and technique, basic theatre terminology, building confidence and stage presence, learning proper voice techniques and developing an awareness of body language through character work, and other fundamental techniques through improvisation, scene study and theatre games. Participants are encouraged to increase their comfort zone and participate at their own pace.

Classes provide participants the opportunity to study with "teaching artists." Teaching artists are working theatre professionals who hold a high level degree or experience in voice and speech, acting, playwriting, Shakespeare, movement or audition techniques. With an average class size of 16, these courses offer close interaction and individual attention and culminate with a final presentation of the student's work for

family and friends.

Acting (Ages 5-7): A perfect introduction to the world of theatre! Students play imagination games and learn the elements of storytelling.

Acting (Ages 8-12): This is an introductory class that exposes students to scripted scenes and monologues. Students will learn memorization techniques, stage presence, listening and working together with a scene partner as they work on contemporary scripted material.

Acting (Ages 13-18): These fast-paced classes are challenging and great fun. In a nurturing environment, students learn self-assurance while acquiring intermediate acting skills

Acting (Ages 19+): This very popular class looks to further student's skills or try acting for the first time. Students focus on script analysis, character development, memorization techniques and stage presence while learning how to free the voice and

News & Notes

body for individual expression.

Brian McDonald (Education and Outreach Director) is the instructor for the classes. He has directed many of Rubicon Theatre's (and other theatre's). As an actor Brian was honored to receive a Mayor's Arts Award as "Emerging Artist" from the City of San Buenaventura.

Brian has been on staff at Rubicon since 2002 and served as Production Manager and Associate Producer before becoming the Company's first Education and Outreach Director. Brian is a B.F.A. graduate of the Boston Conservatory of Music, Dance and Theatre.

Individual attention is given to each student and each class culminates in a final presentation for parents, family and friends.

Prices of classes range from \$180-\$240. To read more about specific class information, such as dates, pricing and class descriptions, and to register for classes please visit the Education and Outreach section at www.rubicontheatre.org or call 667-2912 ext. 234. Classes start on March 4.



Osborne was the first woman to ride China's Qiantang River tidal bore.

Ventura surfing champion Mary Osborne to serve as Grand Marshal of St. Patrick's Day Parade

Champion long boarder and professional surfer Mary Osborne will serve as Grand Marshal when the annual Ventura County St. Patrick's Day Parade marches up Street for the 29th time in downtown Ventura on Saturday, March 11.

The theme of this year's parade, which begins in front of Mission San Buenaventura at 10 a.m., is "The Sporting Life: The Games We Play."

While best known for her athletic endeavors - in 2010 the Ventura resident became the first woman to ride China's Qiantang River tidal bore, the largest and fastest bore in the world - Osborne also is a women's sports advocate, environmentalist, writer, model, TV personality and businesswoman. She has been ambassador to the United Nations Environmental Safe Campaign, the 5 Gyres Institute, Project Save Our Surf, a Patagonia ambassador, and in 2015 was guest of honor at the Women's Sports Foundation's annual event.

The whole county will be turning out in green on Main Street. Last year's parade drew over 90 entries, including

floats sponsored by civic groups, non-profits and local businesses and restaurants; marching bands; car clubs; horses; clowns and the Biggest Green Pig in the World. There also will be high school pep bands, youth groups and fun-loving adult groups entered in the parade.

In the spirit of this year's parade theme, the organizing committee also encourages Ventura County teams from all sports and from every age group to join in the parade. That includes school teams, Little League and adult league baseball teams, football, softball, soccer and basketball teams. Individual sports enthusiasts such as skateboarders, golfers, bowlers and swimmers also are invited.

The Ventura County St. Patrick's Day Parade, which ends at Laurel Street, is presented by the Ventura Elks Lodge #1430. The event's committee is accepting entries for the parade. For entry forms or more information about the parade, visit www.venturastpatrickspdayparade.com, email Jim Monahan at jim.monaha@att.net or call him at 643-4275 or email Nan Drake at nanodrake@aol.com.



Vince Gerwe, Jill Forman and Martin Fletcher, representatives from Friends of the California Condor Wild and Free, educated a captivated audience at the lecture.

"The Comeback of the California Condor" proves popular with public

On the evening of Thursday, Jan. 26, more than 40 people joined the Ventura Hillside Conservancy (VHC) for free community lecture entitled "The Comeback of the California Condor." Experts from Friends of the California Condor Wild and Free discussed how in the early 1980's this majestic bird was almost wiped off the face of the earth. Thanks to coordinated human intervention efforts, today there are 450 California Condors, 240 of which are flying wild and free over the mountains of California, Arizona, Utah, and Baja California.

The free community lecture is a part of VHC's ongoing Environmental Speaker Series. The next installment in the series will take place on Thursday, March 23 at 7 p.m. at the Poinsettia Pavilion. Angela Rockett Kirwin, Adjunct Professor of Anthropology, will present "The Ethnobiology of Local Native Plants," a discussion of how California's indigenous people used many of the native plants found in Ventura's hillsides for food, cultural practices and environmental stewardship. To RSVP, go to: www.venturahillside.org/events.



News & Notes



A recent meeting was held at school district headquarters to discuss racism concerns.

Racism Riles Residents: One OPINION

by Sheli Ellsworth

Since the January 13 tweet by two Buena High School students containing altered images of themselves holding nooses around two black men, the community has erupted in protest. The school district is fielding phone calls, the students are facing discipline, and a group of local organizations have called for the district to take steps against racism and discrimination.

The group demands the district adopt three resolutions: safe haven status for all students; ethnic studies classes; adopting a program called restorative justice, in which people involved in a dispute talk about it. The group spoke at a meeting of the Ventura Unified School District board.

“Sending an apology letter isn’t enough anymore,” Ocil Herrejon, a youth organizer for CAUSE, the Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy. “In the current political climate, we need to address these issues, make a safe haven for students of color on campus.”

Yes, school should be a safe place for all students. But is it possible that one incident isn’t a fair representation of Buena students or district policies?

In the seventh grade, my best friend, Dawn, and I were bored. It was the seventies, a decade—without cell phones, internet or satellite TV. But hey, we were capable of entertaining ourselves. We weren’t spoiled rich kids. We could sew, cook, and be creative—and stupid.

One winter day, we were discussing rumors that our single male history teacher was dating our single female PE teacher. Tame stuff by today’s standards, but I was a Perry Mason fan who understood extortion, my friend—a gifted writer. Together we were middle school morons who regaled ourselves by writing a blackmail letter. We exorcised our boredom by imagining our teachers’ faces when they found out that someone was on to their little tête-à-têtes. Would they be embarrassed? Would they pay for our silence? It was all in the wording: careful, adult-type wording.

Did we send the letter? Nope. And thank goodness there was no Twitter or Instagram.

Did we ever plan to extort money from our teachers? Nope. But Dawn and I became steeped in scandal. My mother found the letter. The torn, discarded pages were discovered by my mom who was certain that I was

a budding sociopath—a criminal in the making—a peccant, penitentiary-worthy juvenile delinquent! She was prepared to call the police, the school and the district attorney.

How did I get off death row? A levelheaded, loving adult spoke up on my behalf. My grandmother talked my estrogen-challenged mother off the ledge. Grandma was a wise woman who knew that kids did stupid things—like writing blackmail letters and pretending to be white supremacist racists. (Isn’t it Dr. Phil who says, “never expect children to deal with adult issues?”) We now know that our brain is not mature until our mid-twenties, but my grandmother had figured it out long before neuroscience did.

I didn’t grow up to be an extortionist or even a criminal. My friend Dawn now owns an insurance agency, so I guess you could say that she is “still in the extortion biz.” Neither of us have ever been jailed or have ever made money illegally unless you count the money we found in change slots. Maybe doing stupid things is just a part of being a kid . . . maybe taking it down a notch is another way to approach the problem.

Sheli Ellsworth, a former school guidance counselor, has a master’s degree in psychology. Her latest book, Ex Parte: Episodes of existential fiction from BeachHouse Books has recently received a five-star review from Book Junkie Reviews.

Temple Beth Torah

Temple Beth Torah presents “The Magic of Purim Carnival.” The theme for this year’s carnival is magic; those who attend are encouraged to dress in costume for the theme but by no means is dressing up a requirement. The location for the carnival is at Temple Beth Torah - 7620 Foothill Rd. The date of the carnival is Sunday March 12th, from 10:00 am – 12:30 pm. Admission is \$12 per child and \$10 for siblings. Activities at the event will include a Magic Show, Rockwall/Bungee Jump, Jolly Jump, Games & Prizes, Glow Room, Face Painting, and much more! Pizza, salad, snacks, and homemade baked goods will be available for purchase as well.

For more information contact 647-3798.

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Fair was honored at Convention & Trade Show. Photo by Bernie Goldstein.

Ventura County Fair wins top awards

The Ventura County Fair was honored at the Western Fairs Association’s Convention & Trade Show, in which roughly 125 fairs from throughout the Western United States attend to gather new ideas, attend seminars and participate in the annual Achievement Awards.

The Achievement Awards recognize the very best efforts that a fair puts forth for its community. This year, Ventura County Fair received 10 Achievement Awards recognizing everything from the Fair’s advertising to its Social Media Campaign.

“I am proud of our staff’s representa-

tion of our Fair and our community at the Western Fairs Association Achievement Awards.” said Barbara Quaid, CEO, Ventura County Fair. “Our awards speak to the quality of our overall marketing efforts and programs.”

At the WFA Achievement awards ceremony, Ventura County Fair collected a total of five 1st place, four 2nd place and one 3rd place awards.

- The First-Place Awards:
- Newspaper Ad
 - Sponsorship collaboration
 - Interim Events
 - Guest Services
 - Television Advertisement Series



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Evan Carpenter with Cathy Peterson and Brad Bauer on KPPQ.

It's here at CAPS Media

by Elizabeth Rodeno

Lots of things are springing anew at CAPS Media this month! Out with the old and in with the shiny new HD cameras! At CAPS Media we're saying goodbye to the old SD cameras that have long served CAPS members in our studio and bringing in HD cameras and upgraded equipment. Although the studio will be shut down for upgrades for the month of February, we're still lending cameras and equipment. Come back in March to check out the new studio!

Also coming up in March are our regularly scheduled classes. Become a member this month, when you take the March Orientation Class,

happening Thursday, March 2, 2017 at 6:00 PM. We will also be offering HD Camera Class on Thursday, March 9, 2017 at 6:00 PM and Final Cut X Edit Class on Thursday, March 16, 2017 at 6:00 PM. Once the studio is up and running we will schedule studio classes - a 2 session course on Saturdays. More information can be found at <http://www.capsmedia.org/events>. Registration begins March 1st.

As we do every year, we'll be covering the St. Patrick's Day parade live from Main Street on March 11 at 10am with our hosts, Tim O'Neil and Jerry Breiner. If you can't make it to the parade, tune in and enjoy the

News & Notes

festivities from home or your mobile device!

CAPS Media has 6 video programs that are finalists in the the Alliance of Community Media West's 2017 Western Access Video Excellence (WAVE) Awards and winners will be announced in March. ACMW's Mission is to promote civic engagement through community media and CAPS Media could not be happier to have these programs nominated. We'll keep you posted on the results.

And the very most exciting news of all- Ventura's newest radio station has launched! Thanks to all the staff, in particular Evan Carpenter, with the support of the board, members and the city and local contractor, Eagle Pride Construction Inc., our long preparation and an exciting Friday installing the radio antenna, the "ON AIR" sign is lit up! Have you ever wanted to host your own radio show? Do you think that vinyl sounds better and your old collection hasn't seen enough use lately? We invite you to share your stories and voice on KPPQ-LP 104.1 FM. Or just tune in! What could be better for your commute than local radio programming, created by and for your community?

As always, you can watch channel 6 to hear what the public has to say and watch channel 15 to experience the city's vision to provide the best and clearest information for all. All programs are also available to the public via streaming service on our website. Go to www.capsmedia.org to see what our members are creating for you and sign up to be part of the story. A full year's membership is just \$25. Radio memberships are now available! For more information, contact us at radio@capsmedia.org.

Food Co-Op

Tell us about yourself.

I work for a non-profit called Food Forward which rescues produce that would otherwise go to waste and donating 100% to people in need. I grew up in Santa Paula but have lived in the city of Ventura for 4 1/2 years.

Whose idea was it to start the co-op?

Two of my climber friends, Erin McQuilkin, Nicole Cornell, and I were discussing the idea of having a co-op grocery store back in 2013/14.

We were unhappy with the current places to shop. We wanted bulk options, local, organic produce, and transparency.

When did you actually start to put it together?

We began watching webinars in January 2014 to learn more about what it entails to create a cooperative grocery store. After 6 months, we pulled together an advisory/steering committee and started having regular meetings. Much of the work up to now has been learning, building the internal structure of the organization, working on legal documents, and doing outreach.

What is the progress so far?

We are currently in the organizing stage. We hosted our first public meeting in March of 2015 and our first large fundraiser in April of 2016, a partnership with Slow Food Ventura County. In October of 2016, we launched our membership drive.

How many members do you have?

We currently have 49 member-owners.

Who else is on your board?

Melissa Rubin, Ron Whitehurst, Elizabeth Mitchell, and Crawford Coates

What are the next steps? What is your vision?

Next step is to raise funds, to do feasibility and market studies to determine the best location.

We envision having a brick and mortar grocery store that is owned by the people who shop there. We also hope to provide a community space for people to gather, learn, share, and organize. Some ideas expressed by co-op supporters, members, and Ventura residents are to host gardening and cooking workshops, to have local non-profit meetings, to open the space for anyone to come and hang out, relax, eat, socialize, etc.

How do you propose to raise the funds? Do you have a timetable?

We will raise the funds through a combination of membership dues, preferred shares, donations, grants, fundraisers, and loans. We will open the doors when we have enough community investment. The timeline is dependent on community participation.

Why should someone join if the actual store is a long ways away?

When people become member-owners, they are getting behind the larger movement of promoting local, organic food production (& consumption) in Ventura County. By supporting a project like the Ventura Food Co-op, we are investing in our health, our environment, and our community.

How does someone join?

To learn more and become a member-owner, visit venturafoodcoop.com. With questions, email venturafoodcoop@gmail.com.



Food co-op is currently in the organizing stage.

A dream for a Ventura food co-op and grocery store

by Jill Forman

An interview with Ally Gialketsis, co-founder and Board Chair, Ventura



Senior Living

Pull Out Section



"This and social security might pay our bills."

Social Security has been a cornerstone of financial security

by **Essie L. Landry**

Public Affairs Specialist Social Security Administration Sierra West Area

Social Security is constantly evolving to make our beneficiaries lives easier. If a person is currently receiving benefits from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and are reapplying for benefits, or are assisting someone with their application, a trip to the Social Security office is probably not necessary even if verification of Social Security benefits is needed.

When is a Good Time to Start Receiving Social Security Benefits? - Enjoying a comfortable retirement is everyone's dream. For over 80 years, Social Security has been helping people realize those dreams, assisting people through life's journey with a variety of benefits. It's up to each individual when he or she can start retirement benefits. A person could start them a little earlier or wait until his or her "full retirement age." There are benefits to either decision, pun intended.

Planning Will Help You See Green in Retirement - Social Security has been a cornerstone of financial security for over 80 years. As you might already know, a lifetime of measured discipline can ensure a comfortable retirement. Social Security can help individuals plan, save, and see plenty of green in their golden years.

You, Women's History, and their Power of Social Security - March is Women's History Month - a time to focus not just on the past, but on the challenges women continue to face. Nearly 60 percent of the people receiving Social Security benefits are women, and in the 21st century, more women work, pay Social Security taxes, and earn credit toward monthly retirement income than at any other time in our nation's history. Knowing this, a woman can be the author of her own rich and independent

Continued on page 13

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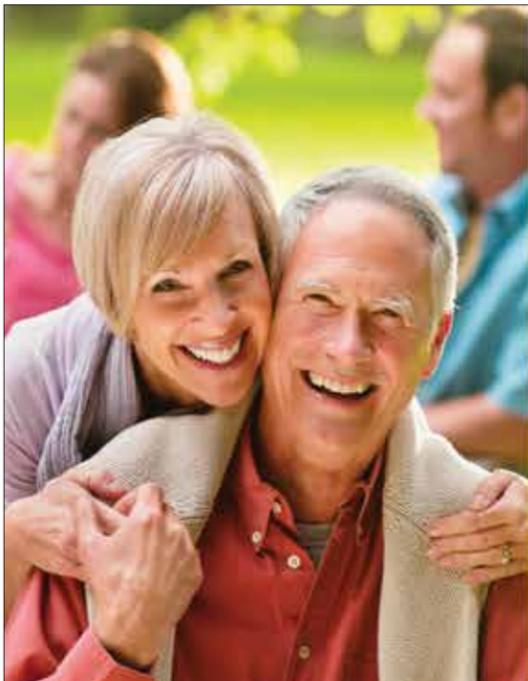
Please join us for a special St. Patrick's Day celebration! Enjoy live Irish entertainment, along with mocktails and delicious Irish cuisines prepared by our talented in-house chef. While you're here, meet our wonderful residents and staff when you tour our beautiful community and experience the joy of gracious living!

For more information and to RSVP to this exciting event, please call

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Senior Living



Troupe members of the "Stop Senior Scams (SM) Acting Program" ham it up to help others learn how to protect themselves. Courtesy photo.

Senior troupe to put on show about avoiding senior scams

In collaboration with the Ventura County Adult Abuse Prevention Council (VCAAPC), please join Cypress Place Senior Living for a fun, free and educational program on avoiding senior scams.

The Stop Senior Scams (SM) Acting Program uses theater to dramatize senior scams. Members of the troupe, ages 60 - 97, write and perform skits based on their own personal experiences. It is a memorable way to equip those who are vulnerable with the knowledge they need to protect themselves.

Using popular songs like the Rolling Stones "You Can't Always Get What You Want", "Getting to Know You", from the Rogers and Hammerstein musical "The King and I", Abba's "Money, Money, Money", and the Supremes "Stop in the Name of Love", the troupe brings theatricality, laughter and excitement to a commonly frightening and frustrating topic.

The program was founded in 1997 by director Adrienne Omansky who was

a teacher of older adults and adults with disabilities. The Stop Senior Scams (SM) Acting Program has been recognized by the U.S. House of Representatives and the California State Assembly, according to Nancy Cole, an eldercare manager and board member of VCAAPC.

This not-to-be-missed program takes place on February 23 from 1:30p.m. to 3:30p.m. at Cypress Place Senior Living in Ventura. Seating is limited so please call to reserve a seat. To RSVP, please call 765-1066.

Cypress Place Senior Living is located at 1200 Cypress Point Lane in Ventura. To learn more about Cypress Place Senior Living of Ventura, visit their web site at www.cypressplaceseniorliving.com.

The Ventura County Adult Abuse Prevention Council is a not-for-profit prevention organization dedicated to the prevention of elder and dependent adult abuse. To learn more about VCAAPC please visit their web site at <http://vcaapc.org/>.



Suz and John perform at packed houses.

residents to enjoy, despite the inevitable tears at the end.

Performed to packed houses for the last seven years by married couple Suz Montgomery and John Hankins, this year's events were at Coastal View Healthcare Center and Aegis of Ventura. Montgomery also teaches at both facilities.

The play, by A.R. Gurney, is a favorite of famous actors and couples since it was written in 1988, partly because they don't have to memorize anything, just act as they read. The letters occur over a 50-year time span from childhood to old age.

"We love to perform this for the seniors," Montgomery said, "because a lot of them aren't able to go out and see plays, but more important, the play strikes a chord and brings out memories of a time when love and affection was often conveyed in letters."

"An email or tweet just doesn't have the same impact," Hankins added, quoting his character, Andy Ladd, who wrote: "This letter ... is a present of myself to you ... and you can tear me up and throw me out, or keep me, and read me today, tomorrow, any time you want until you die."

The characters' letters discuss
Continued on page 14

Love Letters 2017

In what has become an annual event celebrating Valentine's Day, a performance of "Love Letters" comes to Ventura senior nursing facilities for the

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Senior Living



“My bladder feels better all ready.”

Can pelvic floor exercises make your bladder stronger?

Pelvic floor muscle exercises can help both men and women who leak urine by making the muscles that hold urine in the bladder stronger.

How To Do Pelvic Floor Muscle (Kegel) Exercises.

Tighten the pelvic muscles that you use to prevent gas from escaping. Continue tightening the muscles going to the front of the pelvic area.

Hold for 5 to 10 seconds before releasing. (If 5 seconds is too long, hold for as long as you can. Over time, try to hold longer until you reach 5 seconds.)

Repeat 5 to 10 times. (If you can't do 5 sets, start with 1 or 2. Over time, try to increase to 5.)

Also practice contracting and relaxing the pelvic floor muscles quickly for 10 seconds. (If 10 seconds is too long, start with less time.) Do this 5 to 10 times. (If you can't make it to 5 sets, start with fewer sets.)

Try to do the exercises three times a day: in the morning, in the afternoon, and at night. If you can't fit in the exercises three times each day, do as much as you can. Any amount of pelvic floor muscle exercises is better than none.

You can check to see if you are doing the pelvic floor muscle exercise correctly. When you are on the toilet, see if you can tighten the pelvic floor muscles to stop the flow of urine.

For people who have trouble doing pelvic floor muscle exercises, biofeedback may help. Biofeedback uses sensors to take information about something going on in your body and share it with you in a way you can see, hear, or understand. For example, biofeedback can tell you when you flex your pelvic floor muscles. Since you cannot see your pelvic floor muscles, many people

find that biofeedback helps them learn how to do pelvic floor muscle exercises.

Aging. As you get older, the bladder changes. The elastic bladder tissue may toughen and become less stretchy. A less stretchy bladder cannot hold as much urine as before and might make you go to the bathroom more often. The bladder wall and pelvic floor muscles may weaken. Weak bladder wall muscles may make it hard to empty the bladder fully. Weak pelvic floor muscles may make it hard to hold urine in the bladder, which may cause urine to leak.

Some medicines may make it more likely for your bladder to leak urine. For example, medicines that calm your nerves so you can sleep or relax may dull the nerves in the bladder. If the nerves are dulled, they may not be able to tell the brain when the bladder is full and you may not feel the urge to go to the bathroom. Without this urge, you may not empty the bladder when needed and the bladder may overflow.

Caffeine can bother the bladder and change how your bladder tells you when you need to urinate. Some people with bladder problems find that some foods and drinks make the problem worse. People who have bladder problems may feel better when they don't eat these foods and drinks. It may be helpful for people with bladder problems to try cutting out the following foods and drinks for a little while, to see if it makes the problem better.

- sodas
- artificial sweeteners
- spicy foods
- citrus fruits and juices, such as oranges and grapefruits
- tomato-based foods

Are you crafty?

The Senior Craft Shoppe of Ventura is now accepting new Crafters age 50 and up! If you make crafts, knit, crochet, paint, quilt, make jewelry or any other items and would like more exposure to sell your items, This is the place! The Senior Craft Shoppe, located at 429 E. Main St, has been in operation for nearly 40 years and is a non-profit organiza-

tion. All items are made by members. For more information call 643-3059 or come into the store and talk with them.

They have beautiful handmade gifts for any occasion! Quilts, beautiful baby blankets and other items for the new bundle of joy! New items come in every day and special orders are always welcome.

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Family Caregiver Resource Center-Catholic Charities/Oasis Program

by Connie De La Rosa

The Family Caregiver Resource Center not only provides free services to family caregivers such as respite care, grab bars for showers, assistive devices, caregiver workshops and support groups but is also part of the many other services under Catholic Charities of Ventura County located at 303 N. Ventura Ave.

It also provides those in need with a food pantry on Tuesday's and Thursday's 9 a.m. – noon and 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. Legal assistance for the homeless population is available on Friday's at

9 a.m. – 1 p.m. on a first come, first serve basis.

Family caregivers and their elders are invited to attend the self-care training every second Tuesday of each month from noon – 1 p.m. free of charge at the Santa Paula Senior Center located at 530 W. Main St.

For more information on how we can help your loved one living in Ventura County, please call 420-9608.

Social Security

Continued from page 11

history, with a little preparation.

Your Contributions Make Our Nation Stronger - At first, an individual seeing taxes taken out of his or her paycheck can be a little disappointing. However, the individual can take pride in knowing he or she is making an important impact each week when he or she contribute to Social Security. Understanding how important his or her contribution is takes some of the sting away because his or her taxes are helping millions of Americans – and protecting the individual and his or her family for life – as well as wounded warriors, the chronically ill, and disabled.

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Senior Living



"So that's where my glasses are."

Causes and risk factors for falling

Falls don't "just happen," and people don't fall because they get older. Often, more than one underlying cause or risk factor is involved in a fall. A risk factor is something that increases a person's risk or susceptibility to a medical problem or disease.

As the number of risk factors rises, so does the risk of falling. Many falls are linked to a person's physical condition or a medical problem, such as a chronic disease. Other causes could be safety hazards in the person's home or community environment.

Scientists have linked a number

of personal risk factors to falling.

Muscle weakness, especially in the legs, is one of the most important risk factors. Older people with weak muscles are more likely to fall than are those who maintain their muscle strength, as well as their flexibility and endurance.

Your balance and your gait -- how you walk -- are other key factors. Older adults who have poor balance or difficulty walking are more likely than others to fall. These problems may be linked to a lack of exercise or to a neurological cause, arthritis, or other medical conditions and their treatments.

Blood pressure that drops too much when you get up from lying down or sitting can increase your chance of falling. This condition -- called postural hypotension -- might result from dehydration, or certain medications.

Some people with postural hypotension feel dizzy when their blood pressure drops. Other people don't feel dizzy, even if their blood pressure drops a lot when they get up.

Your reflexes may also be slower than when you were younger. The increased amount of time it takes you to react may make it harder to catch your balance if you start to fall.

Sensory problems can cause falls, too. If your senses don't work well, you might be less aware of your environment. For instance, having numbness in your feet may mean you don't sense where you are stepping.

Not seeing well can also result in falls. One reason is that it may take a while for your eyes to adjust to see clearly when you move between darkness and light.

Confusion, even for a short while, can sometimes lead to falls. For example, if you wake up in an unfamiliar environment, you might feel unsure of where you are. If you feel confused, wait for your mind to clear or until someone comes to help you before trying to get up and walk around.

Some medications can increase a person's risk of falling because they cause side effects like dizziness or

confusion. The health problems for which the person takes the medications may also contribute to the risk of falls.

The more medications you take the more likely you are to fall. You should check with your doctor if you think your medications are causing dizziness or unsteadiness. Your doctor can tell you which drugs, including over-the-counter medicines, might cause problems. Do not change your medications on your own.

Be sure to talk with your doctor if you fall, as well. A fall could be a sign of a new medical problem that needs attention, such as an infection or a cardiovascular disorder. It could also suggest that a treatment for a chronic ailment, such as Parkinson's disease or dementia, needs to be changed.

Love Letters 2017

Continued from page 12

their hopes, dreams, disappointments, victories and defeats that they experience throughout their separate lives. Even when they are married to others, they stay pen pals for life.

When the reading finished at both facilities, there were tears by both men and women for its poignant and heartfelt ending, but also smiles at sharing a long life with all its wonder. It also started to rain, inspiring one attendee to quip, "you made the sky cry!"

News & Notes



On Jan. 31, at 1:45am Ventura City firefighters responded to a report of a boat fire in the Ventura Harbor. Upon arrival responding crews found a 50 foot commercial fishing boat 6 feet off the ground in dry-dock fully involved in. Fire suppression efforts initially concentrated on protecting an adjacent building and boat from the flames. The boat was a complete loss.

Three additional small fires were discovered in the same boat yard at varying intervals throughout the firefighting operations: A fire involving a propane tank of a fork lift, a debris fire in a workshop area and a smoldering rag on the stern of another boat in dry-dock. An additional fire involving a vehicle occurred in the 1300 block of Spinnaker Dr. just prior to the aforementioned fires. All the fires are suspicious in nature and are suspected to be connected.

The cause of the fires remains under investigation by both Ventura Police and Fire Arson investigators.



THIS SPACE FOR WRITING MESSAGE

While vacationing in Australia Jim and Antje Minas enjoyed the Australian Open while sharing the Ventura Breeze with Rod Laver.

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News & Notes



Kirby is excited about seeing older neighborhoods re-bloom with developments like the Cannery.

The Cannery: Downtown Ventura's evolution continues

by Randal Beeman

Is it occupied? Are they condos? Can I rent there? For residents of the Cannery condo development in downtown Ventura these questions accompany the acknowledgement that you indeed live in the 78- unit collection of studio to three bedroom condos.

Conceived several years ago and a survivor of economic downturns and other challenges, the Cannery has now reached 75% occupancy, which triggers a turnover of managing the complex from the developer to the tenant owned housing association, an event set for some time in late-Spring.

The Breeze recently sat for an interview with Kirby Ram, the Sales Manager, to discuss the significance of high density infill projects like the Cannery, which got its name from the former lima bean cannery that existed on the site before developers began to clear the area several years back.

When asked if she had taken any criticism for “gentrifying” the area at the edge of downtown on Ventura Avenue, Ram suggested that while some people are uncomfortable with change, the revival of Downtown Ventura in recent years is partially contingent on the influx of new residents to the area.

Ram, a UCLA graduate in her early 30s, has worked on several real estate projects in Southern California and she is excited about seeing older neighborhoods re-bloom with developments like the Cannery. “Look at Venice 10 or 15 years ago” Ram stated, “very few people could see that it would become an upscale enclave of galleries and eateries...we believe Downtown Ventura is undergoing a similar upsurge.” While the condos were initially conceived as a remedy for Ventura's limited housing inventory, Ram has been surprised that many of the buyers come from the inland regions of Southern California.

Several of the units still left unsold were set aside as part of the city's “inclusionary housing” program for those residents who meet the guidelines for subsidized housing. Some of the market rate units have been purchased by retirees and young professionals, while others have been bought by investors as rental units or for summer or weekend second homes. Additionally, dedicated retail space was also part of the city's re-

quirements for the developer, though no companies have yet to sign a lease for the retail units available on Ventura Avenue.

The Cannery is the third condo development in the downtown area in recent years, with several more either slated for construction or in the planning process. With some of the lowest prices in the coastal region in a tight real estate market, Ram expects the remainder of the Cannery's units to sell in the near future. Downtown Ventura continues to change and grow, and the addition of new residents will bolster the increasingly cosmopolitan nature of Downtown Ventura.

Guest column

by Debra Reeves

I am a volunteer with Buddy Nation, a registered non-profit organization in Ventura whose mission is to work with the county's homeless people and their pets. Our goal is to give practical help to those who need it – both 2 and 4 footed. We provide pet food and bedding, spaying/neutering, vaccinations and licenses, microchipping, veterinary services – both routine and emergency and specialized.

To accomplish this we collaborate with S.P.A.N. (Spay/Neuter Animal Network), the Ventura County Animal Services, C.A.R.L. (Canine Animal Rescue League), The Humane Society, S.P.A.R.C. (Santa Paula Animal Rescue Center), Ventura Avenue Luxury Boarding and our local veterinarians.

We work with churches and hospitals and hospice to help get people back on their feet and back into regular lives. We have had wonderful success stories: a young woman was hospitalized for 9 days with a serious illness. While she was in the hospital, the kennel kept her Pit Bull safe and loved - at no expense. The woman and her beloved dog are now re-united in another state with her family and doing well. All she needed was someone to help her back on her feet. We did that, with the help of our aforementioned friends.

Our experience from being on the streets, at the river bottom, at cars, vans, trucks is that most of the homeless people are folks who are down on their

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Cappi Patterson lead the discussion on helping the homeless and their pets.

Buddy Nation was formed in Ventura

On Monday, Jan. 30 a group of more than twenty concerned citizens held a luncheon at the Spaghetti Factory on Loma Vista to discuss how to best serve the homeless and their pets. It was organized by Cappi Patterson and Debi Reeves on behalf of Buddy Nation.

Buddy Nation was formed by Debi Reeves to address the large population of homeless people and their beloved pets in Ventura. The homeless and their pets live in river bottoms, bushes, cars and trucks or wherever they can find shelter for the night. The economy has forced more and more people to lose their homes, and some end up on the streets. Many are there because they won't give up their pets in order to find housing.

Attending the event were Buddy Nation volunteers and representatives from Supervisor Steve Bennett's office, Ventura County Animal Services, Project Understanding, Mission Church, Humane Society, and several other organizations and individuals.

Those attending learned that there are many services available for the homeless and their pets that they were not familiar with. Breeze publisher Sheldon Brown volunteered to gather information (including their emails) from the various groups so that it and available to all of the various organizations dealing with the homeless population and their specific needs.

luck and trying to get back on their feet. They are middle class, middle aged, are not crazy, drunks or junkies. They have lost jobs, fallen behind on house payments, had catastrophic medical bills that have wiped them out. They don't want to be living on the streets, in their cars or vans but ended up there.

Sure, there are the people who drink or use drugs. Sure, there are the wild and crazy ones ... but that is not the face of homelessness here. The people we work with want to get back to normal lives – they want housing, food on the table, safety and security. They want to be warm at night, and they want their beloved pets with them.

We have had people die and we do

what we can to help make this final transition easier – even if it means pulling someone out of the river bottom and booking him into a high-end motel until his hospice bed became available. The person I'm referring to did pass away, but he knew that people cared for him at the end, and that his little dog is in a loving home (mine).

Buddy Nation does what we do to give dignity back to people who have been reduced to none.

We all must remember that any of us could become homeless, given the right circumstances. Think about this the next time you see a homeless person – and smile and say hello – and be , it's not you.

No Delay in Trash & Recyclables or Green Waste Pick Up Due to the Presidents' Day Holiday

Presidents' Day will be celebrated on Monday, February 20. We will have regularly scheduled trash and recyclables or green waste collection the week of February 20-24 in the Cities of Ventura and Ojai.

Thank you and Happy Holiday
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Professor Scamp, Ph.D (Pretty Happy Dog)



I wish to thank all of my new and on-going sponsors please support them. Now I get 2 pages. Maybe I should get a raise.

From my friends at C.A.R.L.: Canine Adoption and Rescue League (C.A.R.L.) wishes a very happy birthday to longtime volunteer Betty Siegfried. Betty recently turned 80, and has been a fixture at the dog rescue since July 2006. Betty began her volunteer career as a dog walker. Lately, she spends her volunteer time sitting in one of C.A.R.L.'s several enclosed grassy areas. There, dogs can run free, play fetch, and enjoy Betty's company.

As Betty is fond of saying, "it's never too late to start volunteering. Even a simple visit to the dogs brightens their day and lets them feel loved while at the rescue."

Betty's favorite dog at C.A.R.L. is Shady, a senior German Shepherd girl. Shady is very close with Betty, and the two are often seen sitting together.

Canine Adoption and Rescue League (C.A.R.L.) is Ventura County's largest all-breed, no-kill, non-profit dog rescue

and sanctuary. To learn how to adopt, volunteer, or donate, visit carldogs.org or call 644-PETS (7387).

Us (or is it we?) dogs are even more wonderful than I thought. Brian Hare, a Duke University professor of cognitive neuroscience, is helping pioneer what he calls "dognition" to explore the mutually benefi-

cial relationship between humans and dogs (I don't think it takes much research).

He said the abilities dogs have developed over time enables them to understand human instruction so closely (that's how we know when you are taking us for a car ride before you even tell us). These abilities seem closely tied to

human interaction, and corresponding social cues.

Hare explained that in some ways, canines have the ability to process human behavior better than do chimpanzees, the closest living evolutionary relative to humans. Domestic dogs have the ability to understand so-called cooperative-communicative social cues that allow them to quickly and accurately complete social tasks with only simple guidance from an instructor.

Are certain breeds better at a given task than others? For example, do German shepherds and Labrador retrievers make better forensic investigators than bulldogs? (I could help find hidden food in prisons)

Each breed, and perhaps individual, has its own strengths and weaknesses when solving problems. Because there is so much variation between different dogs, this means that every dog can contribute to improving our understanding of dog psychology.

An exciting new accomplishment in animal rescue, the Lange Foundation's Safety Net Program in Lancaster will be celebrating its first anniversary this summer. Since its launch in August



Betty began her volunteer career as a dog walker.

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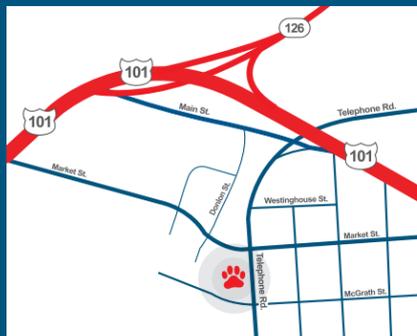


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Saturdays
2:00 pm to midnight

Sundays
6:00 am to midnight



LostCatVentura.com and LostDogVentura.com are free resources for finding lost pets in Ventura County, and where you can post a notice to find your lost pet.

Forever homes wanted

Hi: I'm Nala, a gorgeous 11-year-old Chow/Labrador X. I was rescued from Animal Services as part of C.A.R.L.'s Golden Oldies senior program. Learn more about that at <http://carldogs.org/how-to-help/c-a-r-l-s-golden-oldies/>! I greet people politely, take treats gently, and I'm not interested in toys. I just want to relax and be by your side. I'd make a great family dog as I'm good with children and other dogs too. Please stop by and meet me. You're sure to fall in love and want to take me home. C.A.R.L. Canine Adoption and Rescue League C.A.R.L. Please call CARL adoption center at 644-7387.

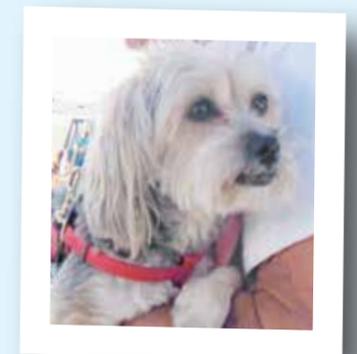


Mr. Peanut (A657526) is a darling light tan Chihuahua. He came as a stray on January 11. We can't imagine what the street must felt like to this little guy, but he is safe now. He is a little shy and needs someone to help him feel safe and loved. Ventura County Animal Services – Simi location – 670 W. Los Angeles Ave.

Scamp Club

(Scampclub pets are not for adoption.)

Hi: I'm Sushi a 5-year-old girl maltese-yorkey rescue dog. I like to sleep, take walks and eat. "I won't bite anything unless I can eat it."



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.

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Professor Scamp

2015, the Safety Net Program has helped approximately 700 families keep their beloved pets during times of need, rather than surrendering their pets to the already overcrowded shelter. To celebrate its one-year anniversary, the Safety Net Program is partnering with the Lancaster Animal Shelter to offer discounts on pet adoptions on Saturday, August 20.

The Safety Net Program's one year anniversary event will be held all day at the Lancaster Animal Shelter and is focused on finding permanent homes for as many animals as possible. The event features discounted cat and dog adoptions for \$35 or less plus a free gift for newly adopted pets. In addition, \$50 spay and neuter certificates will be handed out to pet owners who already have animals at home.

The Lange Foundation's Safety Net Program is a unique relief system that offers resources to pet owners who need assistance with care for their pets. As with many communities, the pet owners living in California's Antelope Valley can find themselves struggling with practical realities and financial burdens of pet ownership - realities that can often lead owners to surrender pets to public animal shelters.

The Safety Net Program provides solutions and alternatives that help keep pets with their families through these hardships. Assistance comes in many forms including help with landlord issues, spaying and neutering, vaccinations, pet food and supplies, veterinary care, temporary boarding as well as assistance to those who cannot afford the redemption fees to reclaim their impounded pets.

The Lange Foundation's Safety Net Program is maintained by donations.

The Lange Foundation rescues hundreds of dogs, cats and horses each year by placing them into permanent and loving new homes.

You, like most, consider pets to be more like family members than furniture. But courts do not. In the eyes of the law, animals are property. So although pet custody battles are often passionate and sometimes truly wacky, courts think of them more prosaically: as part of the "property distribution" in a divorce.

That's why an amendment to Alaska's divorce statutes, which recently took effect, is making news in the world of animal law. It makes Alaska the first state in the country to require courts to take "into consideration the well-being of the animal" and to explicitly empower judges to assign joint custody of pets. In a blog post, the Animal Legal Defense Fund called the well-being provision "groundbreaking and unique."

The Alaska bill also allows courts to include pets in domestic violence protective orders and requires the guardians of pets seized in cruelty or neglect cases to cover the cost of their shelter.



"I love reading the Breeze especially Professor Scamp."



Arrest, Possession of Narcotics

On January 29, at approximately 3:30am, the Ventura Police Department Command Center received a 911 call from the alarm company that covers Paradise Chevrolet. Security video surveillance showed a subject on the property cutting open boxes. Officers arrived on scene and began searching the property. The suspect, 31 year old vagrant Cesar Herrera, saw the officers and fled, jumping over a wall to try to get away. After a short foot pursuit, Herrera was taken into custody.

During the investigation it was discovered Herrera had entered the garage areas of the dealership and had stolen keys for the vehicles. Herrera also had methamphetamine on his person as well as burglary tools. Herrera was booked at the Ventura County Jail without incident for the above charges.

Possession of Stolen Vehicle Arrest

On February 3, at approximately 1:30am, a Ventura Police patrol officer observed a suspicious vehicle in the parking lot of Motel 6 located at 3075 Johnson Drive. The vehicle in question was occupied by the sole driver later identified as 26 year old Long Beach resident Salvador Morales. As the vehicle exited the parking lot of the motel and began driving northbound Johnson. The officer conducted a registration check on the vehicle and learned it had recently been stolen from the city of Long Beach.

The officer began broadcasting the vehicles location and requested additional officers to assist. A traffic enforcement stop was conducted in the area of Bristol Road and Mandrill Avenue. The driver of the vehicle complied with orders and was taken into custody without incident.

A search of the vehicle revealed an altered key was used to start the vehicle. A search of Morales revealed he was in possession of several altered/shaved keys. Morales was transported and booked at Ventura County Jail.

Possession of Narcotics for Sales Arrest

On February 10, at 7:30pm, a Ventura Police Department K9 Officer saw an illegal transaction occur between the driver of a vehicle and a pedestrian in the area of Main St and Mills Rd. The K9 Officer followed the vehicle and initiated a traffic stop. Due to the nature of the transaction observed, the K9 was deployed and conducted a narcotics "sniff" and alerted to the presence of narcotics inside the vehicle. During a search of the vehicle the K9 located a

large amount of methamphetamines and cash.

The Ventura Police Department Street Crimes Unit responded and assisted in the investigation. Edward Lopez, 60 years, Ventura resident was ultimately arrested and booked at the Ventura County Jail for transportation and possession of methamphetamines for sales, possession of heroin, and possession of narcotic paraphernalia.

Harbor Patrol Blotter

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

1-19 1:43pm, received a report of a sick sea lion near Surfers Knoll. Officers assisted CIMWI with capturing the sea lion. It was transported to mammal research center in Santa Monica for further evaluation.

11:50pm, observed a sailboat attempting to leave the harbor. Due to the hazardous conditions and a gale warning in effect, officers contacted the captain of the sailboat and convinced him to terminate his voyage.

1-20 9:47pm, received a report of a strong diesel smell around the Harbor Village. Officers responded and were unable to find a spill or smell. They believed the odor may be associated with the torrent/polluted flowing Santa Clara River.

1-21 1:42pm, observed large amounts of erosion at the Ventura Rivermouth. Officers were moving spectators from the area because large amounts of the berm were collapsing into the rushing Santa Clara river.

4:20pm, officers made contact with the captain of a small ski boat attempting to navigate through the entrance. They convinced the captain to terminate his voyage due to the extremely large surf and dangerous conditions.

1-22 7:20am, received a report that a large crew boat was inbound. Officers advised of the hazardous conditions and monitored the 104ft vessel safely enter the harbor.

1-24 7:20am, officers surveying massive erosion to the Santa Clara Rivermouth berm.

9:00am, received a report of a vessel broke loose at time share docks. Officers responded and assisted employees re-secure the vessel to its berth.

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.

Indecent Exposure

On January 25, at approximately 5pm, a victim called the Ventura Police Department Command Center and stated that a male subject had exposed his genitals towards her while she was near the bus depot. Ventura Police Department patrol officers responded to the area and learned the following. The suspect approached the victim on a bike, as he approached the victim, he pulled open his pants, exposed his genitals, and made obscene gestures toward her. The suspect then rode away from the area.

Ventura Police Officers responded to the area spoke to the victim, and found the suspect nearby. The officers were able to detain the suspect and the victim was able to positively identify the suspect, later identified as 37 year old Oakview resident Joseph Whyson, as the suspect. During the investigation a second victim contacted the officers and also identified Whyson, as the subject. Whyson was ultimately placed under arrest for indecent exposure and transported to the Ventura County Jail without incident.

Sexual Predator Sting Operation with 3 Felony Arrests

January is recognized as Human Trafficking Awareness Month. As part

of a statewide operation hosted by the Los Angeles Regional Human Trafficking Task Force, "Operation Reclaim & Rebuild" was conducted during the weekend of January 27, 28 and 29. In support of this effort, members of the Ventura Police Department teamed up with the Ventura County Sheriff's Department, Ventura County District Attorney's Office, and the Ventura County Human Trafficking Enforcement Team to conduct a "Sexual Predator Sting" on Friday, January 27 in the city of Ventura.

During the operation, detectives entered various internet chat rooms primarily designed for teens, and posed as 14 and 15 year old girls. As the investigation unfolded, adult male sexual predators got onto the same chat room and contacted the undercover officer, thinking they were a young teenage girl. During chat room conversation, each of the suspects engaged the undercover officer in sexually explicit conversation, the suspect agreed to meet and pick up the teenage girl at or near what they believed to be the girl's residence.

When each sexual predator arrived at the agreed-upon-location, they were taken into custody without incident. As a result of this operation, the following sexual predators were arrested and booked into Ventura County Jail:

- Suspect: Christopher Allen Bourchard
- Suspect: Reynal Reginio Guillen
- Suspect: Jose Juan Ramualdo Posadas

Commercial Burglary, Resisting

Weekly SUDOKU Answer

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

King Crossword Answers

Solution time: 27 mins.

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



This 'n' That



Can Cheryl Heitmann now give bus passes to Sheldon?

Changes in leadership at Gold Coast Transit District

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

The City of Port Hueneme has appointed Councilmember Jim Hensley and the City of Ventura has appointed Councilmember Cheryl Heitmann to the Gold Coast Transit District Board of Directors.

Cheryl Heitmann replaces Ventura Councilmember Carl Morehouse who did not run for reelection last year after serving 18 years on the Ventura City Council and 5 years on the GCTD Board of Directors.

Cheryl told the Breeze "I am excited to join the Board of Directors of the Gold Coast Transit District. Public transit is an important resource for Ventura and I

look forward to working with the Board and staff to continue to look for even better ways to serve the public transit needs of our community."

"We are thankful for the input and perspective our outgoing Directors have given us over the

years. With several major projects on the horizon, including construction of our new facility, we look forward to engaging and working closely with our entire Board to address the opportunities GCTD will face this year," commented Steve Brown, Gold Coast Transit District's General Manager.

The five-member Board of Directors represent nearly 4 million annual passengers who utilize GCTD's fixed route and paratransit services in the cities of Ojai, Oxnard, Port Hueneme, Ventura and the County of Ventura.

Mental health first aid classes

Mental Health First Aid is a public education program that can help individuals across the community understand mental illnesses, support timely intervention and save lives. The two part 8-hour course, hosted by the Ventura Police Department and Ventura County Behavioral Health, will be held March 7 & 8 from 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. at the Ventura Police Department located at 1425 Dowell Drive in Ventura.

Participants will learn about common mental health and substance use disorders, warning signs and symptoms of mental health problems, potential risk factors, local resources and support. The course also introduces participants to risk factors and warning

signs of mental health concerns, builds understanding of their impact, and overviews common treatments. The course uses role-playing and simulations to demonstrate how to assess a mental health crisis, select interventions and provide initial help. It also provides information on how to connect persons to professional, peer and social supports as well as self-help resources.

Mental Health First Aid allows for early detection and intervention by teaching participants about the signs and symptoms of specific illnesses like anxiety, depression, schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, and addiction. The program offers concrete tools and answers key questions like "What can I do?" and "Where can someone find help?" Participants are introduced to local mental health resources, national organizations, support groups, and

online tools for mental health and addictions treatment and support.

There is no cost for the course. Funding comes through Ventura County Behavioral Health. To register please email Mary Ellen Collins, Certified Trainer: mecollins@voice4families.com or call 657-4408. To learn more about Mental Health First Aid visit: www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org.

Tickets on sale now for the Ventura Hillsides Conservancy's Film Festival

Tickets are on sale now for the Ventura Hillsides Conservancy's (VHC) 8th annual Wild and Scenic Film Festival (WSFF). Held high on the hill at Ventura's Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Rd., on Friday and Saturday, March 3 and 4, the WSFF offers audiences the chance to enjoy a series of award-winning short films that celebrate the beauty and bounty of our natural world.

This very popular annual event brings a national tour of award-winning independent short films to Ventura for two nights only. Highlights of this year's film lineup, which differs each night, include: river rafting with President Jimmy Carter, swimming upstream with a wild salmon, scaling the Seven Summits with a female Bangladeshi adventurer and the hiking 60 miles in Utah's back country with Genghis Khan, an articulate "desert dawg" and his owner.

In addition to viewing films, attendees also enjoy live music, special guests, popcorn, home baked cookies, food, beer, wine and the chance to win high-end raffle items that include original artwork, outdoor gear, dining-out certificates and more.

"The Wild and Scenic Film Festival helps connect the Conservancy's work to the greater global environmental movement," said Derek Poultney, VHC Executive Director. "The films are beautiful, educational, inspirational and just plain fun."

Ticket prices are \$20 for General Admission or \$35 for "Silver Circle" seats. "Silver Circle" tickets include reserved seating plus one drink ticket for a glass of beer or wine. The festival also serves as a membership drive for VHC. For \$50, purchasers receive a one-year VHC membership plus two General Admission tickets or for \$100, they receive a one-year VHC membership plus two "Silver Circle" tickets.

The WSFF is supported by donations from several local businesses and community organizations. To purchase tickets, visit www.venturahillsides.org/events. For more information or to become an event sponsor, call VHC at 643-8044.

Mammoth skull to be studied

Scientists have begun their research and preservation of the mammoth skull that was excavated in September on

Santa Rosa Island.

The public is invited to attend, and will also have opportunities to observe researchers who will be working on the mammoth skull every Saturday and Monday afternoon, from 1:00 to 5:00 pm, throughout the month of February, at the at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History.

"The museum is excited to share this intriguing discovery. This mammoth find is of high scientific importance as it appears to have been on the Channel Islands at nearly the same time as humans," stated Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History President and CEO Luke Swetland.

U.S. Geological Survey geologists have dated charcoal samples adjacent to the specimen to approximately 13,000 years. The dating is significant, since it coincides with the age of Arlington Man, the oldest human skeletal remains in North America. Similar soil samples will also be analyzed to give researchers more information.

The National Park Service, The Mammoth Site, and the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History are working in close partnership to protect and preserve the mammoth specimen and conduct a multidisciplinary research process, which is expected to occur over the next few years.

Channel Islands National Park Superintendent Russell Galipeau said, "The National Park Service is very grateful to be working in partnership with the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History and the Mammoth Site to conduct research on this rare mammoth skull, in an effort to uncover some mysteries associated with mammoth migration, the downsizing to a pygmy form, and the eventual disappearance of mammoths from the Channel Islands."

Mammoths roamed the continent of North America beginning approximately two million years ago, with Columbian mammoths appearing a million years later. It is believed that the Columbian mammoths migrated to the Channel Islands during the past two ice ages when sea levels were lower and the island land mass was closer to the mainland coast.

Ventura Shellfish Enterprise announces public workshop

The Ventura Shellfish Enterprise (VSE), a collaborative group seeking to grow sustainably-cultivated mussels in the Santa Barbara Channel will hold the first of a series of public information workshops at 7 p.m. on February 16. The workshop, in coordination with the Ventura Port District, will provide an introduction to the benefits of shellfish aquaculture; how this crop is grown worldwide; and the specifics of this exciting new project proposed for Ventura.

The workshop is free and open to the public. No RSVP is required. It will

Continued on page 19

Tales Told...

'IN SEARCH OF THE BABES- SEE PAGE 143

Author's Note: I said to my wife while penning this ditty, "I have to put myself into the mindset of a boy, 15." And she said, "You are a boy, 15."

AN ANTHOLOGY BY

JAMES FRANCIS GRAY

AUTHOR OF

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Youth



Matt Stevens, volunteer; Jim Duran, volunteer; Amy Bailey, Ventura Family YMCA Executive Director and Danielle Brinkman, Board of Managers Chair attended Breakfast with Santa.

The YMCA helping the community in many ways

Volunteers and supporters with the Ventura Family YMCA support local people in need through a variety of charitable drives. About 600 people attended Breakfast with Santa in December, which collected hundreds of toy donations for local low-income families through the ACTION Foundation of Ventura.

The YMCA Adventure Guides, a program designed to strengthen the relationship between a parent and a child, held a food drive and created 10 baskets for families in need and donated the rest of the food to the Food Pantry. The YMCA also held a coat drive in partnership with the Rotary Club of Ventura, which brought in more than 150 coats for children and families in need.

The YMCA is introducing a new swim curriculum that accurately develops children's swimming skills by placing them in corresponding stages that best match their age and ability.

This new curriculum will detail what stage each child should begin at and give information on what they will learn as well as the pathways they can lead into as they progress.

The Ventura Family YMCA is proud to offer instruction in a skill that is not only fun, but also saves lives," said Brie Young, Aquatics Director.

In the "Swim Starters" classes, accompanied by a parent, infants and toddlers will learn to be comfortable in the water and develop swim readiness skills through fun and confidence building experiences.

As a leading nonprofit committed to youth development, the Y has been a leader in providing swim lessons and water safety instruction for more than 100 years. The Ventura Family YMCA offers a variety of programs to help youth and adults experience the joy and benefits of swimming, while feeling healthy, confident and secure in the water.

Registration for the swim classes is open. Cost to join is \$30 for YMCA members and \$60 for non-members. Financial scholarships are available. For more information, contact Brie Young, Aquatics Director at 642-2131

or Brie.Young@ciymca.org.

Beyond instruction, the Y also provides recreational, competitive and specialty aquatics programs for all ages and abilities, including parent-child classes, water exercise and therapy, water safety and rescue and water sports.

The YMCA is committed to strengthening communities through youth development, healthy living, and social responsibility. To learn how to get involved with the Ventura Family YMCA, visit <http://www.ciymca.org/ventura/> or call 642.2131.

AIDS Walk Ventura will provide a full morning of events

AIDS Walk Ventura will take place in Plaza Park Ventura on Saturday, March 4, at 8:30 AM. The goal of AIDS Walk Ventura is to raise awareness about HIV and AIDS and to fund future efforts for education, outreach, and prevention within Ventura County. The event has a long history in Ventura County and has been hosted by a number of organizations throughout the years. Diversity Collective Ventura County (VCDC) is proud to have brought back this event to Ventura County, in partnership with Ventura County Department of Public Health, and with the help of numerous volunteers and sponsors for our third annual AIDS Walk. Collectively, DCVC aims to reduce and stop the spread of HIV and AIDS in Ventura County with an education and prevention program.

There will be a full morning of events. Walkers can fundraise online or register the day of the event. At 9:45 will be the official welcome by emcee Ruby Diamond. Walkers have a 5k walk starting at Fir Street then heading over to the Ventura Beach Boardwalk and back into the park to hear final announcements, the top three teams and

individuals and live music!

If you would like to be a register online, sponsor, volunteer, or for general information, please visit aidswalkventura.diversitycollective.org. Booths will be free of charge, and a limited number of tables and tents are available, upon request. In kind donations and monetary sponsorships are tax-deductible. Contact Joseph Summers at joseph@diversitycollective.org or 648-5428 for further questions.

Ventura Police Department, 1425 Dowell Dr. Ventura, CA 93003.

*May 24 class held at the Criminal Justice Training Center in Camarillo

Wednesdays, April 19-June 14, 2017:
Class dates: April 19, April 26, May 3, May 10, May 17, May 24, May 31, June 7 and June 14.

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

Festival of Talent

Ventura Education Partnership invites members of the community to the 16th annual Festival of Talent to be held on Saturday, Feb. 25 at 7pm at the Ventura High School auditorium. The theme for the annual All-VUSD talent showcase will be "Rock the World". "This year's theme will celebrate our community's incredible diversity, as well as our strength and unity," stated Festival Director Brian McDonald, of the Rubicon Theatre.

Ventura Education Partnership produces the event in conjunction with Ventura Unified School District and the Ventura Kiwanis Club. Festival of Talent raises funds for VEPGrants, a grant program for VUSD teachers that has a big impact on learning.

In addition to the show, tickets are available for a pre-concert pasta dinner from 5:00 to 6:30pm hosted by the Ventura Unified Leadership Council.

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 actual 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 19 and will be held on 9 consecutive Wednesday nights from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. with a final class and graduation on June 14. Each night features a new topic, with speakers, demonstrations, and discussions. 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 from the Department or through the online web application found at <http://www.cityofventura.net/pd/community-academy>.

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.

Mailbox

Continued from page 5

To help defray costs, make ends meet, and to keep them from sitting idly by when I can't use them, from time-to-time I'll rent the pygmy goats to the neighbors. The children, many of whom would never have an opportunity to interact with pygmy goats, will be thrilled, enlightened and enriched by the experience. My pygmy goats could also provide love, affection and comfort for some of the elderly and lonely among us (which is way more than any STVR could do.)

The only people who would complain are whiny, petty and jealous neighbors who either can't or didn't think to buy their own pygmy goats.

I don't know why it's taken me so long to fully appreciate that our city can choose which laws to enforce and which to ignore. I also never dreamed that I could actually keep pygmy goats in my small backyard here at the beach. Fortunately, I guess all I need to do is ask the city to not enforce the zoning codes and issue me a pygmy goat permit. It's a win-win all around!

Did I mention that I'm a huge proponent of private property rights and that pygmy goats are the cutest things.

Sharon L. Rishel
Pierpont Resident

Ventura Shellfish Enterprise

Continued from page 18

be held at the Channel Islands National Park Visitors Center, 1901 Spinnaker Drive, in the Ventura Harbor. Attendees may sign up at venturashellfishenterprise.com (click on the "Get Involved" link) or email info@venturashellfish.org to be added to the mailing list or register for a workshop.

Supported by a \$300,000 grant to the Ventura Port District from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) through the National Sea Grant College Program, it is anticipated that the Ventura Port District, as a member of VSE, will obtain all the permits and entitlements needed to cultivate mussels on leases that will be farmed by commercial fisherman and landed at existing fish off-loading facilities in the Ventura Harbor.

The project has generated considerable interest in the harbor community. "The aquaculture effort will bolster commercial fishing activity in the harbor and stimulate the local economy," said Ventura Port District General Manager Oscar Peña.



Ventura Music Scene

One Degree of Separation

by Pam Baumgardner
VenturaRocks.com

If you follow Ventura's music scene, then you most likely know Brent Harding who can be heard playing bass in bands like the Whiskey Chimps, the Gypsy Blues Band, Hot Roux and others, but did you know he's been Mike Ness's bass man for Social Distortion since 2004? Brent will be back on the road with Social D the next few months and you can see him when they play at the Ventura Theater on March 7. That's all awesome, but I just found out that during one of the many private parties during this year's NAMM (National Association Music Merchants) event, Brent got a call to play at a Gretsch Guitars event with Jeff Beck. Yeah, THE Jeff Beck. I had to talk to Brent about it, because you know, that's HUGE! Plus, that's only one degree of separation for me! Anyways, Brent was so funny when he told me there were moments where he couldn't look at him because he'd freak out and he had to concentrate; but he said Jeff Beck was a wonderful guy, really sweet and kind. Now that's what you want to hear about guitar gods, no?

Grapes and Hops will once again host a special evening with Shawn Jones, Jeff Silbar and Suzie Candell. Of course, we all know and love Shawn who recently competed and made it to the semi-finals of the International Blues Challenge in Memphis this month, but Suzie is returning to Ventura from Switzerland; Shawn produced her first CD the last time she was out here called, California Streets. The two will reunite with the one and only Jeff Silbar (Grammy award winning songwriter, "Wind Beneath My Wings") for an evening of swapping stories and tunes on Thursday, February 16.

Here's a couple of one-liner notes of interest: Ruben Estrada returns to the Copa Cubana Monday evenings 6-9 pm through April 10; The Ventura Breeze is sponsoring the Equinox jazz band at Squashed Grapes February 24; The Johnny Cash, Cash Bash will be held on Sunday, February 19, 4-7:30 pm at Bombay's featuring the Mighty Cash Cats and Jade Hendrix; another Cash Bash will be held on Sunday February 26 at Discovery with Hard Six, Jackass and Inazuma; Rey Fresco will be at Now Ventura on Saturday, February 25; and along with their normal Friday concerts, Hi Hat Entertainment has a special show on Sunday, February 26 at the Hong Kong Inn featuring the 2016 Muddy Award Winners, "Performance of the Year," Karen Lovely with Lisa Mann and Ben Rice (downbeat at 7).

And finally, the all new CAPS Media radio station, KPPQ-LP has officially launched and is live on air 24 hours a day at 104.1 FM. It's a low-powered signal so it only reaches most of Ventura, but they'll

soon be available on the internet as well; the staff is working out the programing as you read this. Keep in mind, this is local area access and along with covering our City Council meetings and other events (parades and such), the programming is open up to CAPS members like myself. I hope you'll tune in when I'll be hosting a one-hour mostly local music show, tentatively on Tuesdays 5-6 pm.

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

Amigos Cafe & Cantina

546 E. Main St.
805-874-2232

Mondays: 6 pm Karen Eden & Bill Macpherson; 9 pm Musician's Night Out

Tuesdays: Open Mic
Sundays: 9 pm Karaoke
Sat 2/18: Dive Bar Messiahs

Boatyard Café

Ventura Harbor Village
Wednesdays 6-9 pm: Catfish Fry

Bombay Bar & Grill

143 S. California Street
Fridays: DJs - College Night
Saturdays: DJs
Sun 2/19: (4 pm) The Mighty Cash Cats, Jade Hendrix
Sat 2/25: Herbal Rootz

Café Fiore

66 S. California Street
(805) 653-1266
Wed 2/15: Donna Butler
Thurs 2/16: Fabulous Hangovers
Fri 2/17: Drunken Monkeys
Sat 2/18: Soul Infusion
Tues 2/21: Jazz Express
Wed 2/22: Rick Jarrett
Thurs 2/23: Amber & Smoke
Fri 2/24: Pure Joy
Sat 2/25: Instone

The Cave

4435 McGrath Street
Weds & Saturdays: 5:30 - 8:30 pm
Varon Thomas
Thurs & Fridays: 5:30 - 8:30 pm Warren Takahashi

Copa Cubana

Ventura Harbor Village
Week nights 7 pm; Sundays 3 pm
Mondays: (6-9) The Estrada Band
Tuesdays: The Down Home Trio
Fri 2/17: Ian Peters
Sat 2/18: Toni Jannotta
Fri 2/24: Brandon Ragan Project
Sat 2/25: Hot Roux
Sun 2/26: Karen Eden

Discovery

1888 Thompson Blvd
Late Fridays 10 pm: Flashback Fridays
Late Saturdays 10 pm: Disco Bowl
Thurs 2/16: Pacific Dub
Fri 2/17: Sgt. Pepper
Sat 2/18: Led Zepplia
Thurs 2/23: After the Smoke
Fri 2/24: Rock Cats Rock

Sat 2/25: Disco Bowl
Sun 2/26: (1:30 pm) Hard Six, Jackass, Inazuma

El Rey Cantina

294 E. Main Street
Fridays: 4 pm Xoco Moraza and Friends; 9:30 DJ/Karaoke by DJ Gold Dust
Sat 1/21: DJ Aycer
Sat 1/28: DJ Erock

Garage

1091 Scandia Ave
Wed 2/15: Final Blood Spit, Sin Kontrol, Species Unknown, The Rays, Until We Die

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
Wednesdays: The Swillys
Thurs 2/16: Shawn Jones, Jeff Silbar, Suzie Candell
Fri 2/17: Tex Pistols
Sat 2/18: Shawn Jones Trio
Fri 2/24: Shawn Jones Trio
Sat 2/25: The Salty Suites

The Greek Mediterranean

Fri & Sats 7:30 pm
Belly Dancing, Greek music and show

Hong Kong Inn

435 E. Thompson Blvd
Mondays: Karaoke
Thursdays: Gypsy Blues Band
Fri 2/17: Hi Hat Entertainment presents Carl Sonny Leyland
Sat 2/18: The Bomb
Fri 2/24: Hi Hat Entertainment presents Alastair Greene & Deanna Bogart
Sat 2/25: Big Adventure
Sun 2/26: Hi Hat Entertainment presents Karen Lovely with Lisa Mann & Ben Rice

Keynote Lounge

10245 Telephone Road
Tuesday and Wednesday: Karaoke
Thursday: Open Mic
Sunday: Karaoke
Fri 2/17: Brandon Ragan Project
Sat 2/18: Pull the Trigger
Fri 2/24: Sean Wiggins
Sat 2/25: Heathers on Fire

Majestic Ventura Theater

26 S. Chestnut Street
Thurs 2/16: Jake Shimabukuro
Fri 2/17: Stevie B, Cover Girls...
Sun 2/19: Uli Jon Roth
Thurs 2/23: Dark Star Orchestra

Now Ventura

185 E. Santa Clara Ave
Sat 2/25: Rey Fresco, DJ Aycer

O'Leary's

6555 Telephone Road
Tuesdays: Free Jukebox
Wednesdays: Karaoke
Fri 2/17: Karen Eden
Fri 2/24: Live Band Karaoke
Sat 2/25: Karen Eden

Paddy's

2 W. Main Street
Wednesdays: Karaoke
Fri & Sat: DJs
Poinsettia Pavilion
3451 Foothill Road
(805) 648-1143
Mon 2/20: Dick Parent
Mon 2/27: Dapper Dennis

Prime

2209 E. Thompson Blvd
Tuesdays: Danny D
Fridays: Mike Moody
Saturdays: Jessica Ash
Red Cove

1809 E. Main Street

Thursdays: Music Club Open Jam Night

Rookees Sports Bar & Grill

419 E. Main Street
(805) 648-6862

Fri and Sat: Rotating DJs

Saloon BBQ Co

456 E. Main Street

Weekend music at 10 pm

Fri 2/17: Rich Sheldon

Sat 2/18: The Black Hips

Fri 2/24: Captions, Alonzo Delano

Sat 2/25: Whelshi

Sandbox Coffeehouse

204 E. Thompson Blvd
805-641-1025

Thurs 6 pm, Weekends noon

Thursdays Open Mic

Sat 2/18: Angel Garza

Sun 2/19: David Bucci

Sat 2/25: Patrick Hillham

Sun 2/26: Yolonda Cunningham

Sans Souci

21 S. Chestnut

Sundays: DJ Darko

Mondays: Karaoke

Tuesdays: Transform Tuesdays w/ DJ

Wednesdays: Open mic

Thursdays: DJ Spinobi

Sat 2/18: Wooden Nomad

Fri 2/24: Bloody Reunion

Sat 2/25: Hubcap Stealers

Squashed Grapes

2351 E. Main St.

805-643-7300

Live jazz music 7-10 pm

Wed 2/15: Coda

Thurs 2/16: Skip Spiro's Little Big Band

Fri 2/17: McClendon, Ottsen & Soloman

Sat 2/18: Bruce Forman's Junkyard Duo

Tues 2/21: Jazz Jam

Wed 2/22: Meridian Trio

Thurs 2/23: Patrick Stokes Piano Trio

Fri 2/24: Equinox

Sat 2/25: Tizer

Star Lounge

343 E. Main Street

Tues & Thurs: Karaoke

Fri 2/17: The Sheiks

Sat 2/18: The Flailingtons

Fri 2/24: Big Adventure

Sat 2/25: Bad Habit

Surf Brewery

4561 Market Street

Music Saturdays 6-8 pm

Sat 2/18: The Swillys

Sat 2/25: Ashun

The Tavern

211 E. Santa Clara Street

(805) 643-3264

Sundays: DJ Steezy Steve

Metal Wednesdays

Get it Right Thursday DJs

Fri 2/17: Maclovina, Strange Weather

Sat 2/18: Rich Sheldon

Wed 2/22: Valor Vengeance, The Rebellion

Fri 2/24: Old Soul

Sat 2/25: The Black Hips

Topa Topa Brewing Co.

104 E. Thompson Blvd

(805) 628-9255

Tuesdays: 6-9 pm Jeff Uzzel

The Wine Rack

14 S. California Street

(805) 653-9463

Tuesdays: Keith Cain

Wed 2/15: Danielle Stacey

Thurs 2/16: Jon Gindick

Fri 2/17: Keith Cain

Sat 2/18: B&V Acoutics

Fri 2/24: Rich Sheldon

Sat 2/25: Paul McCallum

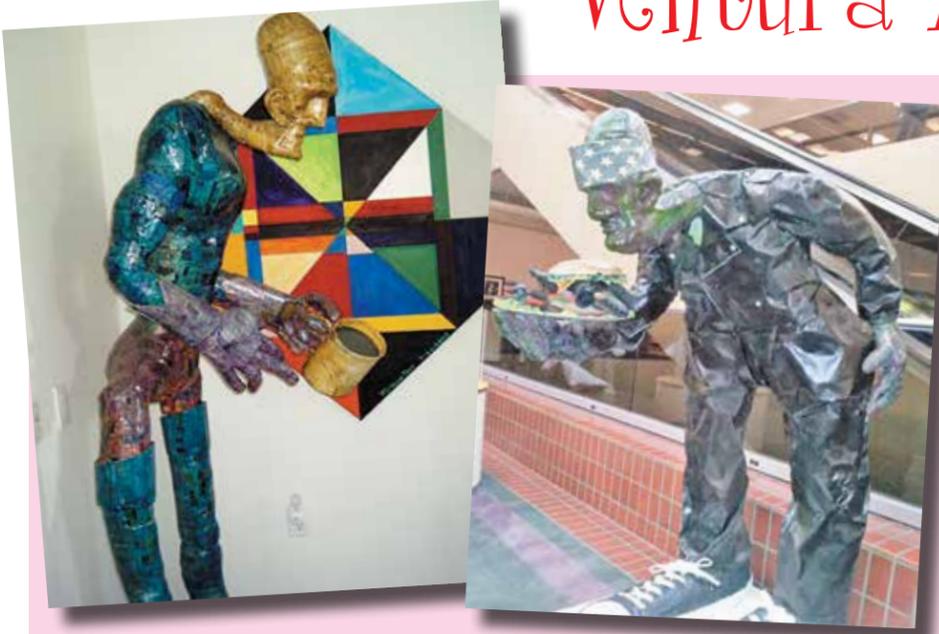
The 805 Bar

Ventura Harbor

Sat & Sun: Noon Kenny DeVoe

Fridays: 4 pm Kenny DeVoe

Sat 2/25: 8 pm Jason Ho



Local artist **Josif Constantinos Palmoutsos** was born in Lima, Peru in 1947. His Father, Constantinos Josif Palmoutsos was a Greek Merchant Marine Officer, his Mother Graciela Silva Jara was a Peruvian Flamenco Dancer. When Josif was a little over a year old, he and his parents left Peru. The next 4 years were spent on Merchant Ships while living all over the world.

At 5 years old they sailed to Ellis Island, and docked in N.Y. and eventually ended up in Ventura.

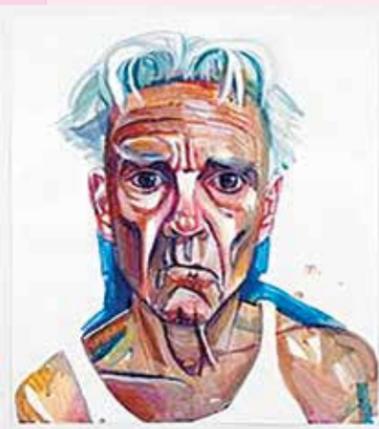
He attended High School of Art & Design, NY, Los Angeles City College and UCLA. In speaking about his work he says "My artwork is mostly 3 dimensional it is mixed media, almost entirely using recycled/upcycled material. These days it is being called 'Green Art'. The Artwork is on the large scale such as my 15' Praying Mantis at the Government Center. A lot of the subjects are not of this world. My art tends to be whimsical rather than serious."

His studio is located at 110 N. Olive St., Unit F, in Ventura.

The Ventura County Potters' Guild welcomes **Kevin Wallace**, Director of the Beatrice Wood Center for the Arts in Ojai. Wallace will offer a presentation on developing a career as a ceramic artist - including creating an artistic identity, working with galleries, photography, pricing, and promotion. He will demystify the art world by sharing his experience in managing galleries, working with museums and running an art center. He is the author of numerous books, including *Transforming Vision: The Wood Sculpture of William Hunter*; *River of Destiny*. Many aspects of this talk will be applicable to all artists.



The Ventura Avenue Adult Center 550 N. Ventura Ave. Monday, February 27. Doors open at 7 pm. Program begins at 7:45 pm.



Don Bachardy will be a featured FOTM artist.

Focus on the Masters (FOTM) is pleased to announce that ten artists have been selected for FOTM formal documentation by a distinguished jury for the 2017 season. An artist will be featured monthly beginning with **Jane Mulfinger**, on Sunday, February 19 from 4 to 5:30 p.m. as part of FOTM's popular Artist Spotlight interview series, now in its twenty-second year. Each artist's interview will be filmed before a studio audience at Levity Live, 591 Collection Blvd., located at the Collection in Oxnard.

"The Levity Live venue is perfect! We could not have asked for a better location!" exclaimed founder and executive director Donna Granata. "Not only is it a state-of-the-art nightclub that meets all our technical needs, the location will offer our

patrons a comfortable place to experience our programming while enjoying delicious food and beverages."

The nine artists have been selected for formal documentation owing to the artists' mastery of their craft, respect from their peers and their historic role in the life of our artistic heritage.

The series will kick off the season with *A Conversation with Jane Mulfinger* on Sunday, February 19 at 4:00 p.m. Mulfinger uses site-specific installations, performance and sculpture to examine and comment on the human condition.

Admission to the Artist Spotlight interviews is free for FOTM members; general admission is \$10, seniors and students with valid ID \$5. Guests with military ID attend free of charge. For membership information, visit www.FocusOnTheMasters.com.

To support the costs associated with the documentation of each artist, FOTM enlists the help of generous donors who wish to sponsor or co-sponsor a Spotlight Interview. Full sponsorship is \$1,200; co-sponsorship is \$600. AfterGLOW Special Events will be planned after each interview. February's AfterGLOW will take place at Copper Blues, Levity Live's on-site specialty restaurant. If you would like to sponsor an artist or host an AfterGLOW in your home, call Mary Galbraith at 653.2501 or contact FOTM by email at Mary.Galbraith@FocusOnTheMasters.com.



Working Artists Ventura will present *Balm*, taking place at WAV Theater Gallery, featuring the art of **Rima Muna**. WAV, is designed for artists and creative businesses. The Artist's Reception for *Balm* will be held on Thursday March 30th, 6 to 8pm. The official Artist's Reception "opens" the show and celebrates the artist's accomplishments. With over 12 pieces of art to see, there is a lot of art to capture your interests! Show runs until through April 30th. The WAV Theater Gallery is located at 175 S. Ventura Ave.

"Balm means healing and soothing. Let your spirits be soothed and healed by art." - Rima Muna

Nature and Pattern by **Nicole Hense**.

Ventura gallery focuses on young area artists.

Works by young local artists will fill Buena Ventura Art Association's downtown Ventura gallery for the next few weeks, thanks to three concurrent shows to run until March 11. Entries in the 11th annual Collegiate Student Art Competition will be presented in the main gallery, three student winners of the last year's BAA contest will have the Red Wall section, and a special Focus on the Masters exhibition of art by area students will be in the Clophine Dooley Gallery.



BAA's yearly Emerging Artist Cup competition for students at a Ventura County college or university awards \$3,000 in prizes: \$800 for first place, \$600 for second, and \$350 for third in the form of scholarships to their schools; plus five honorable mentions that include \$250 gift cards for art supplies. The prizes are sponsored by the Scripps Howard Foundation, Jessica and Stanley Prescott Trust, and others.

Top prize winners also get a free, one-year membership in BAA and no competition entry fees for a year.

The juror for this show is **Bob Privitt**, a Thousand Oaks artist and professor emeritus at Pepperdine University, where he taught art for 25 years. The awards will be announced at a gallery reception 3-5 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 18.

The Focus on the Masters show will feature art by local elementary and middle school students from its 2016 in-school Learning to See outreach program. These classes are taught by Aimee French.

Buena Ventura Gallery, 700 E. Santa Clara St., is open 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesdays through Sundays. For more about the artists' cooperative group and its programs, visit the Buena Ventura Art Association website, www.buenaventuragallery.org, or call 648-1235 during gallery hours.



Try Something New this Year and Explore YOUR Creative Side

Weekday Classes

Weekend Classes

Paint Parties

Paint & Sip Events

Private Parties

Kids Classes & More!

No Experience Necessary!

4601 Telephone Rd #112
Ventura, 93003
FREE PARKING
805-643-6400 - RedBrickArt.com





Lighter Breeze

Mother Goose and Grimm



Baby Blues



Blondie



Crock



Pros and Cons



Hagar the Horrible



Solutions on page 17

(For a beginners guide to playing Sudoku go to [venturabreeze.com](http://www.venturabreeze.com))

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

Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ★

★ Moderate ★★ Challenging
★★★ HOO BOY!

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Solutions on page 17

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Paid player
- 4 Taxi
- 7 Expert
- 12 Potential syrup
- 13 Lennon's lady
- 14 Similar
- 15 Citric beverage
- 16 Underwent reduction
- 18 Jeremy of basketball
- 19 Tijuana toodle-oo
- 20 Rolling stone's lack
- 22 Poetic night-fall
- 23 Antitoxins
- 27 -- de deux
- 29 Maintenance
- 31 Quibblers split these
- 34 Senorita's wiggle?
- 35 "Rabbit, Run" author
- 37 Feedbag morsel
- 38 Piratic quaff
- 39 Paving goop
- 41 "-- is life!"
- 45 Con game
- 47 Pair
- 48 Absolutely
- 52 Use a towel
- 53 Photoshop company
- 54 Reading matter, for short

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			58		

DOWN

- 1 Any of 150 in the Bible
- 2 DeeJay's domain
- 3 Starts
- 4 Last few notes
- 5 Battery terminals
- 6 Jim at the Alamo
- 7 Church service
- 8 "The Greatest"
- 9 Kin of "i.e."
- 10 -- out a living
- 11 Homer's neighbor
- 17 Bourgeois, to Brits
- 21 Parsley serving
- 23 Revue segments
- 24 Conger or moray
- 25 Roulette bet
- 26 Mimic
- 28 Request
- 30 Sch. org.
- 31 Embrace
- 32 Spring mo.
- 33 Bachelor's
- 36 Needle case
- 37 Corsage bloom
- 40 Point of view
- 42 Milk dispenser
- 43 Moe's brother
- 44 Rulebook compiler
- 45 A "Desperate Housewife"
- 46 Director
- 48 Doo follower
- 49 Praise in verse
- 50 Took the prize
- 51 Peacock network

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Go to www.venturabreeze.com for your daily horoscope

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Your ideas are finally reaching those who can appreciate them. But don't expect any immediate reactions. That will come later. Meanwhile, a personal matter needs your attention.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Your energy levels are rising, and you're feeling restless and eager to get into some activity, whether it's for profit or just for fun. In either case, the aspects are highly favorable, so go for it.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) A relationship seems to be winding down from passionate to passive. It's up to you to decide what the next step will be. But don't wait too long to take the initiative. Delay could create more problems.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) A decision looms. But be very sure that this is what you really want before you sign or say anything. Once you act, there'll be little or no wiggle room for any adjustments.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Money matters improve, but you still need to be cautious with your spending. Also, set aside that Leonine pride for a bit and apologize for contributing to that misunderstanding.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A tempting financial situation could make the usually unflappable Virgo

rush in before checking things out. Be alert to possible hidden problems. Get the facts before you act.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) It's nice to know that you're finally getting due credit for your efforts. You also should know that new opportunities will follow. A family member brings important news.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Any uncertainty that begins to cloud an impending decision could signal a need to re-examine your reasons for wanting to take on this commitment.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) You benefit from taking time out of your currently hectic schedule to do more contemplation or meditation. This will help re-energize you, both in body and soul.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Nursing hurt feelings can zap the energies of even the usually self-confident Sea Goat. Best advice: Move forward. Success is the best balm for a painful ego.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) A display of temperament surprises you, as well as those around you. It could be all that pressure you're under. Consider letting someone help you see it through.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Some things don't seem to be working out as you'd hoped. Don't fret. Instead, take some time out to reassess your plans and see where changes could be made.

BORN THIS WEEK: You enjoy traveling and meeting people. You are especially good with children and would make an excellent teacher.

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Show Time

Split



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

by Manuel Reynoso

Written and Directed by M. Night Shyamalan, Starring James McAvoy, Anya Taylor-Joy and Betty Buckley.

Three teenage girls are abducted by Kevin (James McAvoy), an abused sufferer of Dissociative Identity Disorder, and are being held in cellar against their will. Claire (Haley Lu Richardson), Marcia (Jessica Sula) and Casey (Anya Taylor-Joy) have to work with and against Kevin's various personalities if they want to make it out alive.

M. Night Shyamalan has struck out repeatedly over the years. While his success was largely built off of the momentum of *Sixth Sense*, his original works have yet to recapture the world's imagination since. It's truly a shame to see Shyamalan take to writing what amounts to nothing more than an exploitation film. However, it's not a cultural trend or niche genre being exploited, but our nation's most vulnerable citizens.

We face a mental health crisis here in the United States. Limited resources to combating this problem is only exacerbated by the stigma mental health illnesses carry. So to create a film whose entire theme revolves around the demonization of mental illness is simply abhorrent. Repeatedly the film equates the mentally ill and abused as broken or violent, and as such should be labeled as outcasts. Combined with mediocre writing, questionable cinematography, and lackluster acting, we are left with another failure for M. Night Shyamalan to ruminate over what went wrong.

The poor theme would have been enough for me to disregard this film as terrible alone, but I repeatedly came into question of this film cinematography. Far too often do we see the same shots being recycled in this film. I am far too intimately aware of each actor's facial features, as we get so many close ups of the actors teary eyed faces. It became clear that this became a crutch to help the director easily convey the tension and desperation each character was feeling. What was even more bizarre was the sporadic use of extremely wide angle shots for some of the conversations. There wasn't enough to create any sort of theme with their use but enough to make it far too noticeable.

However, the one saving grace has to be the acting talents of James McAvoy. In a film brought down by the mediocre acting of the rest of the cast, James McAvoy was far too talented for such a low brow script. His ability to assume the many different personalities of Kevin really was a remarkable thing to watch, and was likely the only thing I found interesting in this movie. He had great range, and I hope to see him shine in a movie more deserving of his talents.

It's difficult for me to look past the fact this film is taking us in the wrong direction in regards to mental health awareness and understanding. However, even if I was to look past this, I would still only see a half decent thriller with bad cinematography and mediocre acting. McAvoy's acting may stand out as the one solid part of this movie, it does not make up for much. M. Night

Shyamalan continues to be nothing more than a has-been director to me. The truly sad part of all this is he's made even worse movies, so really this was pretty par for the course all things considered. PG-13 1H57M.

A View from House Seats

Camarillo Playhouse makes *Much of Much Ado About Nothing*

by Shirley Lorraine

The wisdom, humor and wit of The Bard merrily graces the Camarillo Skyway Playhouse stage in *Much Ado About Nothing*, considered to be one of Shakespeare's best comedies. Penned toward the middle of his career, *Much Ado* glides forward with charm to warm the hearts of all Bard fans, and those new to the works as well.

The plot involves classic mistaken identities, prank-playing, mischievous behavior and, of course, unrequited love and wronged lovers for whom all is well in the end. The quick pace is set early on through rapid-fire repartee and action. The entire cast is fully immersed in the jocular style which has delighted audiences for hundreds of years.

For her directorial debut, accomplished Ventura County actor Vivien Latham has assembled a stellar cast, all of whom deliver delightful performances. No novice to Shakespeare's works herself, Latham set the action in the Jane Austen era which worked beautifully with the timeless material. The cast maintains such a lively pace, one almost expects the cast to burst into Gilbert and Sullivan type song at any moment.

The enchanting female leads Beatrice (Genevieve Levin) and Hero (Dawn Notagiacomo) are well matched by R. Shane Bingham as Benedick and David White as Claudio. The four play off of each other extremely well. They are well met by a highly capable supporting cast including Brandy Jones as the maid Margaret, Mark Heulitt as Leonato and Scott Blanchard as Don Pedro.

Adding superb comedic touches are Robert Reeves as Dogberry and his band of watchmen. Reeves' verbal timing is especially spot-on throughout. The running gags alone are priceless.

In every work there must be a character of villainous nature and this role is well filled by Brian Kolb as Don John, Don Pedro's illegitimate brother, who employs several unsuspecting scapegoats to stage the scene falsely accusing the fair Hero of being less than pure the night before her wedding.

Costuming is credited to Erin Heulitt, who has assembled a visually pleasing and colorful array of costumes that not only look terrific, but accent and compliment the actors' movements as well. The garden setting by Dean Johnson also contributes to the overall visual beauty. Multiple settings were able to be visualized without a change of scenery. Masterful.

Much Ado... is simply a delightful production. It would be an excellent introduction to Shakespeare for anyone

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unfamiliar with, or frightened of, the works. A number of the actors profess to be new to performing Shakespeare although no hesitancy was detected as all rose to the task admirably. No doubt this experience will encourage them to tackle even more challenges on local stages.

Much Ado About Nothing runs Fridays and Saturdays, 8 p.m., Sundays, 2 p.m. through March 5.

Camarillo Skyway Playhouse
330 Skyway Drive, Camarillo
Camarillo Airport
388-5716 or
boxoffice@skywayplayhouse.org
Adults \$20, Students, seniors and military, \$15, Under 12, \$10



Bessie Smith would go on to inspire Billie Holiday, Aretha Franklin and Janis Joplin.

Rubicon Theatre Company celebrates Black History Month

The Devil's Music: The Life And Blues Of Bessie Smith, starring singer and actress Miche Braden of the original

Off-Broadway production (named one of the 10 Best Off-Broadway productions of the year by the N.Y. Daily Times).

The Devil's Music: The Life And Blues Of Bessie Smith is conceived and directed by Joe Brancato of Penguin Rep, and written by Angelo Parra. Set in 1937 in Memphis, Bessie and her musicians have been turned away from performing at a "Whites-Only" theatre, then finding a hospitable gin joint where Bessie recounts her incredible journey from an impoverished childhood in Chattanooga, to her fortuitous rise as a show-stopping singer. Laughter, pathos and music all come together to deliver an electric, entertaining and surprisingly touching evening.

Bessie Smith would go on to inspire Billie Holiday, Aretha Franklin and Janis Joplin. Tragically, Bessie's career was cut short in a car crash when she was only 43. Her funeral was held in Philadelphia a week later, with over 7,000 mourners paying their respects. In this play the singer recounts her highs and lows in music and love with raucous humor and mirthful regret tinged with an unshakable foreboding.

Braden is joined by musicians Gerard Gibbs on Piano, Anthony Nelson Jr. on Sax and James Hankins on Bass. Gibbs also plays Pickle, who serves as narrator and guide at times, while coaxing Bessie to tell her story.

Bessie Smith opens in Ventura on Saturday, Feb. 25 at 7:00 p.m., followed by a post-show party with cast, crew and local VIPs at NOW Ventura. Low-priced previews are February 22-24. The show runs Wednesdays through Sundays through March 12. For tickets, go to www.rubicontheatre.org or call 667-2900.



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Do you still have your old football shoes?

The 805 Bears prepare to gear up for spring season

Super bowl 51 marks the end of the NFL season, but for the newest semi-pro football team in Ventura County, the 805 Bears, a new season is underway. On Feb. 25 when they will be hosting Yuca Valley's Hi

Desert Vipers.

The 805 Bears are the only spring season semi-pro football team in the area. They are comprised of 45 men and the coaching staff. Player's ages ranging from 18 to 40+, the majority in their 20s and early 30s. The new team was created out of the Ventura's Police Activities League team - the Ventura Hogs. When the Hogs' final season ended in 2014, players missing the action started a team of their own.

"We've have a great mix of members this season. We're excited to get out there and represent Ventura County," says Michael Reardon, team owner and player. "We invite those interested to join an organization that's fun, challenging and gives back to our community."

Leading the team on and off the field will be Dr. Ron Atanay, who at 63 years old is the team's head coach and running back. He is considered Pac-West Football League's oldest active player. Dr. Atanay, a reputable dentist

in the community, lost his brother a few years back and vowed to get healthy in his memory, choosing football as the sport of preference. Dr. Atanay has been heavily involved in the sports community with over 40 years of youth, high school and semi-pro football coaching.

"We are looking to partner with youth football programs in the area," Reardon added, "After our season, we're going to host our first 7v7 competition, where the money raised will go to a local youth team."

The 805 Bears' goal is to grow sponsorships to cover costs. They are accepting new players, 18 years of age and over, until March 4th. The games will be played at Pacific High at 501 College Dr., Ventura. For more information, visit 805bearsfootball.com.

"Roll with Me"

After over-coming drug addiction and a near death accident that left him a par-

aplegic, Gabriel Cordell, a Palestinian, became the first person to travel across the United States using a manual wheelchair. "Roll with Me", a new documentary film, recounts Gabriel's 99-day journey across America. The public is invited to attend a special screening and meet Gabriel on February 16 at the first of Congregation Am HaYam's 2017 lecture series, "Empowering, Provocative, Thoughtful."

The series also includes a lecture on March 22nd by Rebecca D. Costa, socio-biologist, recipient of the E.O Wilson Biodiversity Technology Award and author of "The Watchman's Rattle". On April 30, Ronni Sanlo, LGBTQ activist, educator and author of "The Soldier, The Avatar and the Holocaust" will speak about her new young adult book based on her parents' correspondence during the liberation of Dachau.

Tickets are available at www.amhayam.com/events for \$15-18 each or \$36 for all three lectures, and on www.eventbrite.com. 4839 Market Street Unit C.