



2018 - The Recovery Begins!

FREE

# VENTURA BREEZE

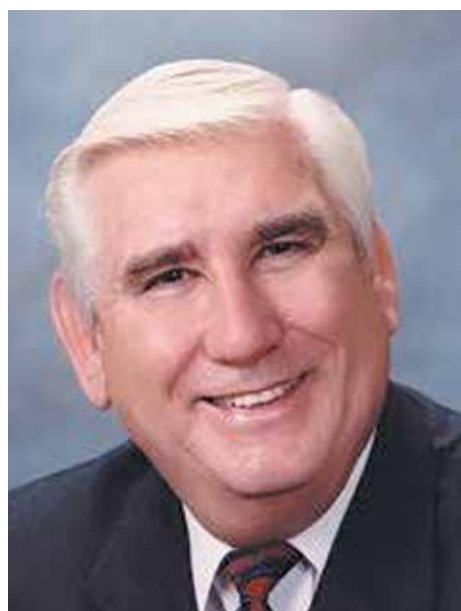
Your Hometown Paper

Vol. 11, No. 7

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January 3 – January 16, 2018



His City Council colleagues voted 7-0 for him to be mayor.

## Neal Andrews elected Ventura mayor

After more than 20 years as an active businessman and community volunteer in Ventura, Neal Andrews was encouraged by many citizens of Ventura to run for City Council. He was elected on his first attempt in 2001.

Now 16-years later he has been selected to be Ventura's mayor by the City Council.

Before founding Horizon Management Services, Neal worked in a variety of capacities with Blue Cross of California, managing their statewide system of contracting for health services and later heading Behavioral Health Access, the corporate division responsible for mental health services to Blue Cross members. He has also been a hospital administrator, chief executive of a regional joint powers agency, and a university professor.

His professional honors include being twice elected to the International Board of Directors of The Planning Forum, then the leading international professional organization in the discipline of strategic planning and management. In addition, Neal has served on the National Leadership Council for the Institute for Behavioral Health, as a Scholar-Diplomat under the spon-

*Continued on page 5*



Wonderful volunteers from Ventura County Environmental Health Division are Hannah Edmondson, PHN; Eva Reeder, PHN Manager for Public Health TB and CD departments;; Judith Ahara, LVN; Luisandra Salazar, MOA III; Sandra Gipson, Clerical Supervisor I and Beatriz Castillo, CHW. Photos by Michael Gordon.

## West Ventura Winter Warming Shelter now open

The 2017-2018 West Ventura Winter Warming Shelter opened on Thursday December 21 at the Ventura National Guard Armory located at 1270 Arundell

Ave. The Winter Warming Shelter provides a safe place to sleep, a hot meal, and shower facilities for homeless persons seeking refuge during the

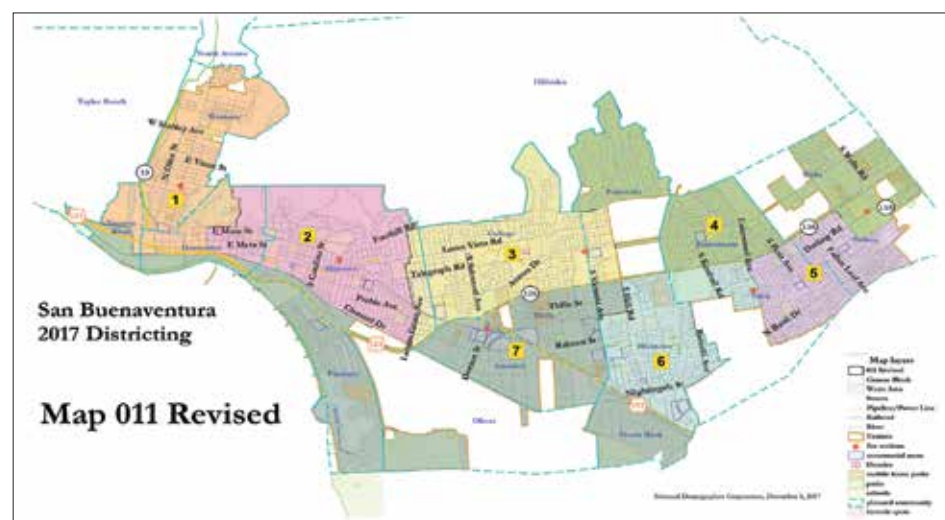
winter months. Homeless persons can enter the Armory at 6:00p.m. every evening and may remain in the Armory up until 6:00a.m.

Ventura County Environmental Health Division was at the shelter providing TB clearance, flu shots and Hep A vaccinations to the clients. They are required to have a TB clearance within 3 days of shelter opening in order to stay. They provided to them the first few days for their convenience. Many have a difficult time getting in to a medical clinic to be seen.

The Oxnard Housing Department and the City of Ventura Community Development Department, together with the office of the Ventura County CEO, are once again partnering with the non-profit Downtown Ventura Organization (DVO), which acts as the shelter's fiscal agent. The DVO has retained Advanced Tactical Training Institute to operate, manage, and provide security at the shelter.

The Ventura County Board of Supervisors voted to contribute \$120,000 to the shelter this year and the cities of

*Continued on page 19*



The 2018 election will be for Districts 1, 4, 5, and 6, and the 2020 election Districts 2, 3, and 7.

## Council chooses election district map

by Burris DeBenning

Unanimously, at the December 18 City Council meeting, council members voted 7-0 to adopt an electoral district map for the 2018 and 2020 election cycles, which brings the arduous work to change from an "at large" election

process to a district election process almost to a close. All that remains is adoption of the ordinance amending the City's election codes, which may be done by mid-January. The re-districting

*Continued on page 24*

## Top stories of 2017

by Rebecca Wicks

Looking back through 2017, the year was marked by news events common to others. There were new developments, openings, closings, fresh faces making their entrance onto our City's scene, and recognized faces bowing out. All were eclipsed by the biggest headline of the year – the Thomas Fire. Follows are some of the top stories from the pages of the Ventura Breeze in 2017:

**1. The Thomas Fire.** While occurring at the tail end of the year, the fire that raged through Ventura the night of Dec. 4th, has had undoubtedly the largest impact on Venturans in 2017. In addition to the more than 500 families that lost their homes, hundreds more remain displaced and unable to move back into their homes as they sit uninhabitable. Many of the homes that still stand are riddled with fire and smoke damage, and in need of repainting, extensive cleaning and removal and re

*Continued on page 19*

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I LOVE my apartment. I would buy it if they would let me! I love speaking with other folks here because they have all been through the same things I have and that is very important.  
I go to lunch and sometimes don't return to my apartment until three hours later from all the talks I have with my friends! And the staff here really show they care.

Mary Honore, Resident

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# Congratulations to the 41st Annual Ventura Harbor PARADE of LIGHTS Winners!

## Sweepstakes (Power) also voted People's Choice

### Renewal

## Sweepstakes (Sail)

### Heavenly

## Showstoppers (Power)

### Aloha O'hana

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## SHOP★DINE★CELEBRATE★seaside VENTURAHARBORVILLAGE.com

## Free Gourmet Dinner

Immediately following our free seminar on,  
**Stress, Hormones and Health**  
The true cause of Belly Fat  
(Yes, this is for you men too)

- Learn how Hormone Imbalances —man or woman— can distort your midsection into a large belly and prevent weight loss even with dieting and exercise.
- Learn how Hormone Imbalances can affect your sleep cycles, carbohydrate cravings, and fat burning.
- Learn why “Counting Calories” doesn’t work for belly fat.
- Learn the Biggest Mistake that people make with Exercise that prevents weight loss.
- LEARN WHAT REALLY WORKS for permanent loss of belly fat and bulges. Safely. Healthfully!

Thursday, January 4th at 6:00pm  
at Mimi's Cafe, 3375 E. Main St., Ventura

Wednesday, January 10th at 6:00pm  
at Red Lobster, 1740 Ventura Blvd., Oxnard

**CENTRAL COAST**  
CENTER FOR INTEGRATIVE HEALTH

Please RSVP to (805) 556-7200  
Limited Seating - Reservations Required. May bring 1 guest. Adults only.

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

## City News

### Kick off the new year with a fresh start

Dump your junk and shred your old files at the first Community Cleanup & Recycling Event of the year. Most material types are accepted, except for Household Hazardous Waste (this includes any fire debris material). Also accepting holiday trees but make sure to remove all ornaments, hooks, lights, tinsel, nails and stands. The event will be held at 765 S Seaward Ave. (lot at the corner of Alessandro Dr.) on Sat. Jan. 6 from 9am-12pm. For more information call 652-4525.

The City has already started to spray EarthGuard in the homes where hazardous material burned and on the hills behind City Hall.

The product will not impact sifting of personal materials and will not affect the ability to seed properties. EarthGuard is a non-hazardous, non-toxic product and will not cause any issues with the watershed or the replanting or re-growing of plants. The product is mixed with fiber and is green in color in order to show where it has been applied.





805.222.6677  
wildfirelegalgroup.com

JOIN US FOR INFORMATION ABOUT:

- Governmental Assistance • Insurance Coverage Issues • Legal Claims with SoCal Edison
- (Not A Class Action)

MEETING DETAILS

Date	Time	Location
Thursday, Jan 4	6:00 PM	<i>Poinsettia Pavilion:</i> 3451 Foothill Rd, Ventura CA 93003
Tuesday, Jan 9	6:00 PM	<i>Poinsettia Pavilion:</i> 3451 Foothill Rd, Ventura CA 93003
Wednesday, Jan 10	6:00 PM	<i>The Crown Plaza:</i> 450 E Harbor Blvd, Ventura CA 93001
Thursday, Jan 12	6:00 PM	<i>Poinsettia Pavilion:</i> 3451 Foothill Rd, Ventura CA 93003



E. Elliot Adler



Dave Fox



Christopher Sieglock



Alan Seltzer, Special Counsel

Experienced Wildfire Attorneys:

- Over \$150 million in wildfire settlements
  - 25+ wildfire cases nationwide
  - 20+ years of combined wildfire experience
  - If there is no recovery, you pay nothing
- (NO attorney fees & NO costs)

Our experienced California-based legal team is helping individuals and businesses recover losses from the fire that are not covered by insurance.

**Elliot Adler** has represented over 2000 individual fire victims against power utility companies and has recovered millions for his clients in wildfire and property damage cases. Elliot sat on the Plaintiffs Executive Committee for the Butte Fire litigation in Sacramento against PG&E. He was appointed co-lead counsel for the individual plaintiffs’ litigation in the 2011 Caughlin Ranch Fire litigation, against NV Energy and Sierra Pacific Power Co. Elliot has also resolved hundreds of cases on behalf of wildfire victims in the 2007 San Diego wildfires, against SDG&E.

**Dave Fox** is a former federal prosecutor for the United States Department of Justice that has dedicated his career and his firm to help victims of wildfires and serious personal injuries. He has recovered over \$50 million for his clients through remarkable trial and settlement results. Dave sat on the Plaintiffs’ Executive Committee for the Butte Fire Litigation in Sacramento against PG&E and played a key role in the Powerhouse Fire litigation in Los Angeles, which ultimately led to an approximate \$100 million recovery for the wildfire victims.

**Christopher Sieglock** has dedicated his entire career to wildfire litigation and has been actively involved in over 25 wildfire cases. He currently represents over 400 individuals, ranches, and national insurance companies in wildfire cases. Christopher litigated the Bastrop Complex Fire, the most destructive fire in Texas history. Christopher is currently taking a lead role in the Mountain Fire litigation in California and the Yale Fire in Washington.

**Alan Seltzer** joins Wildfire Legal Group to consult as Special Counsel. He is a dedicated public servant who spent two decades as an attorney for the County of Santa Barbara, including 10 years as Chief Assistant County Counsel. He also spent eight years as the Chief Deputy City Attorney for the City of Santa Monica. Alan brings over thirty years of experience working on some of the most complex matters across the region, including playing an instrumental role in obtaining a \$109 million settlement in favor of the City of Santa Monica against Boeing and Proctor and Gamble for environmental damages.



# VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

Member, Ventura Chamber of Commerce

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

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## Opinion/Editorial



Sheldon (Governor) Brown  
Publisher-Editor

■ Even though the **Thomas Fire** was the largest in California history, it was nowhere near the most devastating in the terms of structures or lives lost. The Cedar fire took 15 lives and destroyed 2,820 structures. The Thomas fire claimed a little over 1,000 structures (perhaps 600 in Ventura) and two lives - one of which was caused by a vehicle accident. Of course, if you lost your house that is little consolation.

Now comes the extremely difficult part for the hundreds of people who lost their homes. Recovery for families will be a long and arduous process. In some cases it will be very difficult to rebuild some of the lost homes in their previous forms. Many of the older homes had non-conforming yards, and perhaps heights that are not allowed any longer.

New structures will need to adhere to **existing zoning and building codes** which are much more restrictive than when many of these homes were built. Geology and soil reports will be required in many cases that could result in very expensive foundation modifications.

Hopefully the City will take every step possible to expedite the planning and building department approvals so that folks can get on with putting their lives back together. The City Council has voted to declare a local emergency and approved an ordinance that suspends deadlines associated with “routine” land use, subdivision and zoning applications. That allows planning staff to focus on projects related to the disaster.

I have seen a few destroyed homes with “lot for sale” signs up already. I would expect more of these as time goes on. The process of clearing the lot, dealing with insurance companies, having plans drawn-up, managing contractors and pulling permits could easily take two years or more and many people just won’t be prepared for this. Especially some of the older ones.

Hopefully, the outpouring of love and concern shown by Venturans will continue for a long time during these extremely difficult times. As you might know, I am a

retired architect and contractor so if I can be of any help (no charge), please let me know.

Driving through the burned areas, it is amazing how quickly the city had **Earth-Guard** sprayed on homes and hillsides. It actually looks a little spooky with all of them being green. The cost of this will be in the millions of dollars, which will certainly put a strain on our City budget. Not sure if Measure O money can be used for this.

I saw a lot of insurance company signs already posted on many lots. I’m not sure how I feel about this. Are they taking advantage of a bad situation to advertise their product or just showing that many people had fire insurance and will be taken care of?

It bothers me when the news media points out that very expensive homes (some even owned by **movie stars**) are in danger of burning as if this is a worse scenario than the less expensive properties. It is likely more of a hardship for the less affluent owners when compared to the Montecito properties, and many of those folks likely have second homes.

In addition, we now need to be concerned about rains coming. As much as we need the water, when they do come we hope that they will be light and spread out over longer periods of time.

■ At the December 18 City Council meeting, the Council adopted an emergency ordinance banning the use of gas, electric, and battery powered **leaf blowers** in the City of Ventura (it includes homeowners and gardeners).

Public health officials have cautioned against the use of leaf blowers to clean up ash as they cause fallen ash to become airborne. This increases the risk of the ash being inhaled by both residents and animals.

I’m afraid the ordinance is mostly symbolic. Any person convicted of violating the ordinance would be guilty of a misdemeanor. The police department will not be able to deal with this. Perhaps code enforcement would be able to, but they don’t have enough staff to respond in a timely manner.

Some people are taking it upon themselves to tell gardeners to stop but many of them are not from Ventura (and probably wouldn’t know about the ordinance even if they were).

■ The lack of **water pressure** at homes

and especially in fire-hydrants is of great concern to us all. We all saw firefighters just standing watching homes burn to the ground because of lack of water. The Breeze will have future articles dealing with this serious problem. With fire comes electrical outages, which means pumps can’t work so there needs to be a backup system to ensure water pressure is not lost.

■ I have mentioned this before, but it is very important. Fire victims may be targeted by **scammers** posing as contractors offering their services. If nothing else, never give money in advance to anyone offering services. The contractor’s law is very specific about this and only allows a small amount to be paid up front.

Crooked companies, officials warn, may use websites that appear legitimate with false endorsements from the Red Cross, Federal Emergency Management Agency and Cal Fire.

Authorities urge fire victims to thoroughly vet contractors or other vendors they are considering to use in their attempts to rebuild. A contractor’s license status can be checked through the California Department of Consumer Affairs Contractors State License Board. More information can be found by visiting [www.cslb.ca.gov](http://www.cslb.ca.gov). Another way to ensure the legitimacy of a contractor or vendor is to check the official listing of certified companies at [www.venturacountyrecovers.org](http://www.venturacountyrecovers.org). And do remember that licensed companies can also be dishonest so get multiple quotes and verify references.

■ Ventura County Treasurer/Tax Collector **Steven Hintz** said his office will waive all penalties and fees related to late property tax bills for homeowners affected by the fire. Homeowners can also get their future property tax bills reassessed to reflect the current values of destroyed or badly damaged homes.

Hopefully he was not motivated by the fact that he lost his home in the fire (kidding – sorry to hear Steve). Get more information at [ventura.org/ttc/fire-disaster-2017](http://ventura.org/ttc/fire-disaster-2017).

■ The Breeze is looking for people who are willing (if not too painful) to **share their experiences** as they rebuild their homes and lives. If you are interested, please let me know at [publisher@venturabreeze.com](mailto:publisher@venturabreeze.com).

## Mailbox



### Opinions

In 1999 Councilman Monahan asked Msgr. Patrick O’Brien, pastor of the Old Mission, to be the Grand Marshal for the 1999 St. Patrick’s Day Parade. Msgr. kept refusing because it just wasn’t his “thing”. However, he finally gave in to the request on the one condition that the “pig” not be used any more. Msgr. explained that the pig is a negative symbol to the Irish. Mr. Monahan agreed. However, it is evident he went back on his word!!

The day of Msgr. O’Brien’s funeral, going to the cemetery, it just happened that I was assigned to the same car with the then mayor of Ventura. (Sorry, I don’t remember his name.) Somehow, the topic of the pig came up. I spoke up and told the others in the car about the promise

made to Msgr. O’Brien when he agreed to be the Grand Marshall. To my surprise, the mayor spoke up and said it was true. He was there when Mr. Monahan made this promise!!!

I’m celebrating the demise of that pig as I’m sure Msgr. O’Brien is doing from heaven!

Kath Wurts

Kath

*Don’t celebrate for too long, the pig shall return. (And, by the way these facts have not been verified.)*

Hi Sheldon,

Thank you for the Thomas Fire coverage about the Ventura Botanical Gardens. There was so much loss in our City. The stories you shared about VBG generated an outpouring of support. Right now, the Gardens are closed; we’re assessing the damage and developing our next steps plan. The trails and plantings look recoverable but hydro-seeding before the rains come, is our top priority. Erosion is a major concern. And, as our community learns of this critical need, many have turned to our website or Facebook to donate funds for assisting with that process. This support

is very encouraging. Together, we’ll make the Gardens grow.

Barbara Brown

Ventura Botanical Gardens, President

[www.venturabotanicalgardens.com](http://www.venturabotanicalgardens.com)

### Where was the water when we needed it most?

by Nick Bonge

Co-founder Neighbors for the Ventura Hillside

Amid many reports of fire hydrants running dry as hillside homes burned and much speculation about what happened, I had a conversation with Kevin Brown, Ventura Water General Manager. Those of you who know me know that I am not always completely supportive of City staff. However, to my surprise, I was very impressed with Mr. Brown’s technical background and his grasp of the problems with our Water

*Continued on page 23*

*We encourage you to send your opinions to [opinions@venturabreeze.com](mailto:opinions@venturabreeze.com). Please limit them to about 300 words*

Our lives begin  
to end the day  
we become  
silent about  
things that  
matter.

Martin Luther  
King Jr.  
(1929–68)



# Business

## WEV’s training programs

Are you ready to become an entrepreneur, or expand your existing small business? Afraid to “go it alone,” or unsure how to proceed? WEV’s training programs guide you in taking the next step. Attend a free 1-hour orientation, where you’ll meet a WEV representative that will help you determine if SET, EXPLORE, or another WEV program is right for you!

Cost: free, but registration is required.

In Ventura: January 4, 6-7 pm,

January 10, 12-1pm, January 16, 6-7 pm, January 24, 6-7 pm, January 30, 6-7 pm.

Orientation locations are subject to change. For more information, location and to register for an upcoming orientation, visit <http://www.wevonline.org/orientations>.

Women’s Economic Ventures is dedicated to creating an equitable and just society through the economic empowerment of women. WEV provides training, consulting and loans to help entrepreneurs start, grow and thrive in business. While WEV targets its services toward women, it serves men as well, and provides many services in English and Spanish.



Even though they have been open since May, Ventura Chamber President and CEO Stephanie Caldwell told the young lady to be careful with the scissors at Boho Chic’s official ribbon cutting held on Dec. 14. Located at 973 E. Front Street, owner Angie Brinkhoff, brings years of creative designing and the love of style and comfort to her boutique. Photo by Michael Gordon.

# City News

## Neal Andrews elected mayor

*Continued from page 1*

sorship of the U. S. State Department, as a Fellow of the National Security Education Seminar and the Inter-University Colloquium on Armed Forces and Society.

He is the author of Foreign Policy and the New American Military and many papers and articles on matters of public policy, business, and health care over the years. He is a popular speaker before regional and national conference audiences including such prestigious organizations as The Conference Board, the California Medical Association, and the National Managed Health Care Congress.

Over the years, Neal has also served as the Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties representative on the Board of Directors of the Southern California Health Care Executives Association, as a Member of the Board of Directors and the Executive Committee of the San Buenaventura Foundation for the Arts, and as an officer and board member of the Ventura Chamber of Commerce, among others. He is widely known as an active citizen advocate in water quality and water conservation public policy issues in Ventura.

He is a member of Rotary, Kiwanis, and the Benevolent and Protective Order of the Elks.

Neal received his baccalaureate degree from Duke University and his graduate degree from the University

of Pennsylvania. He later completed additional post-graduate work at the Michigan State University School of Public Administration and the University of Michigan School of Public Health.

He had been the longest-serving council member to never hold the post of mayor. His colleagues voted 7-0 for him to be mayor. In December 2015, Andrews was named deputy mayor when Erik Nasarenko became mayor. He succeeded Nasarenko at the conclusion of his two-year term.

Andrews stated when the council decides on a policy, “I will be the spokesperson for that policy, even if I didn’t agree with it.”

Andrews went on “I’ll be immediately focused on hiring a new city manager (Mark Watkins is retiring this month) and devoting my energy to redistricting.” The city is creating district boundaries for the upcoming election.

When elected little did he know that his first concern would be the devastating fires that have overwhelmed Ventura.

Council member Matt LaVere, who was elected in 2016, became deputy mayor on a 7-0 vote.

Erik Nasarenko’s parents and sister were in attendance at the city council meeting. He thanked the crowd and spoke of accomplishments of which he was particularly proud. Including getting a half-cent sales tax approved and moving the city to even year elections.

## Diana Sparagna

**Swearing in Ventura City Hall – Dec 28, 2017**  
**Housing Authority City of San Buenaventura**  
**Commission**  
**and**  
**Mobile Home Rent Review Board**



## Diana Sparagna

- For many years I have worked with Low Cost Housing for seniors, the disabled and with Multi-Family Housing policies.
- As a Court Appointed Mediator and attorney, I will take my role in the Mobile Home Rent Review Board seriously to help resolve conflicts.
- I will take a **connect--and work together** attitude as a new member of these committees to revitalize and rebuild Ventura.

Thank you, Ventura City Council Members, for your confidence in appointing me to the Housing Authority (HACSB) and Mobile Home Rent Review Board.

Diana Sparagna  
[dbsparagna@gmail.com](mailto:dbsparagna@gmail.com)





# TOGETHER WE ARE STRONGER

## Mark Your Calendar • VENTURA FAMILY YMCA

**January 6 • Parent’s Night Out**  
6:10 – 9:30pm

**January 8 • Winter Session Programs begin**

**January 8 • Fat Burn Bootcamp Begins**  
It’s time to make our resolutions a reality! 6 – week program. Mon/Wed and Tues/Thurs classes available.

**January 8 • Soccer Registration ends**

**January 9 • Culinary Kids**  
Get your children involved with cooking and healthy food preparation! Second Tuesday of every month.  
3:30 – 4:30pm

**January 13 • Mobility Workshop**  
Get the skills you need to reach your goals on your own!  
9 – 12pm

**January 27 • Parent’s Day Out**  
1 – 4pm

**WINTER SESSION**  
**January 8 – February 17**  
**6 weeks of classes**  
\$35 Facility Members  
\$70 Program Members

Help your child find their passion: swimming, sports, gymnastics, martial arts, dance and more!

Get more information and register for all programs at the Welcome Center or [ciymca.org/ventura](http://ciymca.org/ventura). Take advantage of lower rates and access more programs by becoming a member.

### Child Care for School Breaks

The Y is hosting child care services to provide a positive and productive environment even when they are away from school. **Register at the Welcome Center.**

**Upcoming Weeks:** January 2 – 5 • \$120/week  
**Upcoming Days:** January 15, 29 & February 16, 19 • \$30/day

VENTURA FAMILY YMCA • 3760 Telegraph Road, Ventura, CA 93003 • 805.642.2131 • [ciymca.org/ventura](http://ciymca.org/ventura)

**JOIN IN JANUARY**  
and your first month dues are only \$20.18!

**No contracts. No joining fees. No hassles.**

**OPEN HOUSE**  
**10am – 1pm, January 6**  
Join during the **Community Open House January 6** and the entire month is on us!

## Ventura Strong We Are Ventura part 2

by Jennifer Tipton

It came without warning, on Monday, December 4th, late into the evening, sudden panic shattered our sleepy little seaside town, we’ve seen many tragedies across the country, but never here...not in our hometown!

That’s not entirely true, on March 12, 1928 the man-made St. Francis Dam in Northern Los Angeles County burst and sent a night long torrent of water, mud and debris racing down the Santa Clara River to the ocean destroying homes in Piru, Bardsdale, Fillmore, Santa Paula and Satcoy, killing more than 450 people. Victims of this disaster were swept away with the debris; some bodies were never recovered.

In Ventura, we live with the threat of tsunamis, earthquakes and the in-

convenience of those pesky Santa Ana winds all the time, but on the night of December 4th, those “pesky” winds turned savage and fueled the worst fire our city has ever seen.

And now, the worst wildfire on record in California, as of December 28th 281,893 acres had burned (that’s an area larger than New York City) and surpasses the Cedar Fire in 2003 that consumed 273,000 acres. The official list dates back to 1932, prior records are less reliable, but some say the 1889 Santiago Canyon Fire scorched 300,000 acres!

Originating in the hills in Santa Paula fueled by ferocious winds, the Thomas Fire has consumed much of our hillsides and many of our homes. As of December 28th, there is 91% containment and crews are expected to continue working 24/7 into January.

But ... we will recover, and we will rebuild because We Are Ventura!



Prior to leaving Ventura to return home or to another fire, all fire trucks were required to pass a demobilization (DEMOB) inspection that included replacing tires if necessary. After obtaining approval, they gassed up and were on their way.



Friends and business owners, Camilo Stinson, Sky Sunner and Jon Ochoa wanted to volunteer at the Fairgrounds, but their assistance wasn’t needed, so they put together their own distribution center at the corner of Victoria and Telegraph Road in East Ventura. Music was playing, donations piled high and these generous guys were barbecuing around the clock. “Not everyone wants to go to the fairgrounds, some feel safer sleeping in their cars,” Camilo said. By Jennifer Tipton.





# Ventura Strong

## Agencies granted funds to help VC residents and animals affected by the fire

While the devastating impacts of the Thomas Fire are beginning to be realized, the Ventura County Community Foundation awarded more than \$1 million to Ventura County nonprofits in response to emergency needs as a result of the fire. As the foundation is responding to emergency needs, it will continue to focus on fundraising for mid- to long-term support.

Within the first 24 hours of the Thomas Fire, VCCF committed \$477,000 to support relief efforts, making grants to the American Red Cross Central Coast Region for \$264,440, the Salvation Army for \$160,388 and the Ventura County Community Disaster Relief Fund in the amount of \$52,172. Later that same week, the VCCF Board of Directors committed another \$200,000 toward overall relief efforts with an emphasis on mid- to long-term support. VCCF funders, the Martin V. and Martha K. Smith Foundation, approved a \$100,000 grant to the American Red Cross Central Coast Region.

As fundraising efforts continue, the VCCF board has approved another \$305,473 to help address some of the immediate needs of local nonprofit

organizations. Grants made include support for the efforts of Help of Ojai for basic needs and family assistance, MICOP for radio antenna replacement and health outreach for farmworkers, Habitat for Humanity for housing assistance for those affected by the fires, FOODShare for transportation and food sorting for shelters, Thomas-firehelp.com which has helped 51,000 individuals connect together and facilitate needs caused by the disaster.

Funds were also awarded to Ventura College Foundation for support of low-income single parents who are students who lost income due to the fire, Rubicon Theatre for mandatory cleaning in response to the Thomas Fire, Boys & Girls Club of Greater Oxnard and Port Hueneme to cover increased costs of childcare due to school closures, Center for Nonprofit Leadership to cover the costs of convening nonprofit organizations to enhance collaboration during the recovery period, Humane Society of Ventura County to cover vet bills and staff supplies as a result of the Thomas Fire, and the National Disaster Search Dog Foundation to cover dog boarding expenses and clean-up efforts from the Thomas Fire.

“Our local nonprofits are on the front lines of relief and recover efforts. Their resources are strained and staff stressed as they provide an increased level of critical services across the county,” said Vanessa Bechtel, CEO of the VCCF.

All donations to the VCCF Sudden

*Continued on page 15*

# 805 Gift Emporium

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*A few days after the house of Ron & Barbara D’Incau had burnt down, Ron went to Goodwill and bought two chairs and an umbrella so that they could sit and enjoy the beautiful Ventura sunset. He said, “That is one of the main reasons that we bought the house.” You will learn more about them in an upcoming issue.*





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Alexander and Olivia and Valentino and Teddy will return to Ventura.

## “As long as my family is together, we’re going to be good!”

by Jennifer Tipton

That’s what 10 ½ year old Alexander said. He and his twin sister Olivia were baking holiday cookies with their mom on the evening of December 4th at their home in Ondulando when “we heard the fire was coming”, said Alexander.

Alexander and Olivia are 5th graders at Poinsettia Elementary School where Alexander is the president of the student council and Olivia was just presented with the key to the City of Ventura after being recognized as the student demonstrating the greatest empathy.

The twins’ parents didn’t wait for the mandatory evacuation once the ash became thick and they saw the hammock in the pool swaying from the violent winds. “It was pretty scary seeing the smoke behind our house, it looked really far away but for safety and health issues, my dad said we should go to a hotel,” Olivia said. “I asked if we could bring our Christmas presents, but my dad said no because we’d just be gone a couple days,” she added. “We really didn’t think anything of it,” said their mom.

They did grab a few clothes, their

3-year-old Maltese poodle and 1-year-old Bichon poodle leaving all else behind including mom’s car in the driveway. When they did receive notice of the mandatory evacuation, “we didn’t want to turn back,” the kids reported. A neighbor later sent the family a picture via text message, “it looked completely different, our home was gone.”

Celebrating Christmas in Chicago with family and friends, as is tradition, the twins return with their parents January 3rd. Mom said, “we are definitely returning to Ventura, it is our home, we are part of the community and we love Ventura!” The family has found a place to rent in Oxnard for now so the kids can return to their own school. “It’s pretty sad about the things I left behind in my room, but I want to go back to school and see my friends,” Olivia told me. She added they have “like thirteen friends” that also lost their homes...

The family had just purchased their home on Via Ondulando last February and moved in April, 2017.

## Ventura Strong

### CAPS Media documenting Thomas Fire stories

Everyone in our community celebrates the extraordinarily courageous efforts of thousands of fire fighters, law enforcement personnel and other first responders who have tirelessly battled the devastating Thomas Fire for weeks. At CAPS Media we are planning to document this once-in-a-lifetime tragedy by working with Ventura City Fire and Police departments, County Fire and Sheriff departments and other first responders to develop a multi-media documentary project that captures the remarkable stories of heroism, sacrifice, tragedy and healing surrounding the Thomas Fire.

The comprehensive Thomas Fire Stories project is a collaboration with the Museum of Ventura County, the San Buenaventura Conservancy, ECTV, other agencies and most importantly the public. Everyone in the community is encouraged to join us by sharing their personal stories. CAPS Media is dedicating extensive resources to the undertaking including staff professional expertise, equipment, studio facilities with distribution on television, radio and the internet. There are hundreds of individual and extraordinary Thomas Fire Stories to share, remember and celebrate.

Throughout next few months CAPS Media will record interviews with Thomas Fire first responders, officials, and the public impacted by the tragedy for inclusion in the documentary project and for broadcast on CAPS Television and Radio. We invite everyone to help us remember and document our common experience.

CAPS Media has set up an easy process for the public to share stories and media for the historic project. Simply go to the CAPS Media website

homepage at [www.capsmedia.org](http://www.capsmedia.org). Find the Thomas Fires Stories image, click on the Read More arrow in the lower right corner. The page presents more details on the project and step-by-step instructions on how to contribute photos, video and other media.

If you have a story to tell or a tribute or thank you to share, send an email to [thomasfiremedia@capsmedia.org](mailto:thomasfiremedia@capsmedia.org) or call the CAPS Media Center at 805.658.0500.

CAPS Media produced the first in an ongoing series of community updates from the Ventura Police Department. Hosted by Ashley Bautista, VPD Civic Engagement Specialist, the series includes weekly crime statistics, public awareness tips and other information vital to the community. The reports are posted on Ventura City and Police websites and social media, and air and stream on CAPS Channel 6 & 15 throughout the day and on CAPS Radio KPPQ 104.5 FM.

2017 has been a remarkable year. CAPS Radio KPPQ 104.1FM took off in February and has rapidly become a wildly popular platform and voice for the public. The El Camino High School ECTV program continued to produce outstanding and award winning programming and develop highly skilled and talented media crews and storytellers. CAPS Media membership (both individual and agency) continued to increase and with it use of the extensive CAPS Media equipment, expertise and studios. Recently CAPS Media recorded, broadcast and streamed the Thomas Fire community meetings live on CAPS Channel 6 & 15 and on CAPS Radio – KPPQ 104.1. Throughout the year we recorded, broadcast and streamed live dozens of City Council, Community and VUSD Board meetings for the public.

Here’s to a 2018 that looks even more interesting and engaging with coverage of ongoing City and school meetings, City districting and resulting council member elections, ever-increasing member/producer training and productions for television and radio, local, state and national voter information programs in the summer and fall, and the Thomas Fire Story documentary project.



Alan Neuman (from [www.gamesmedic.com](http://www.gamesmedic.com)) grew up in this house on Via Ondulando. His mom still owns it. In the 1970’s, his father passed away in the home’s kitchen. He was not there to look for mementos, but just to remember the wonderful times spent in the home.





# News & Notes



16 year old son Corey, 14 year old daughter Page and dad Danny Castro at toy drive. Insert: Maria and Sergio Pulido hold their children closely. Photos by Bernie Goldstein.

## Voices of children

by Karen Leslie, writer with heart

In unison, the voices of children were lifted up in a giddy melody sweet and true on December 20th at the 8th annual Castro Family and Ventura Police Community Foundation Toy Drive. In an atmosphere of togetherness, heartstrings were plucked during this holiday time celebration of spirit and giving held by the Castro's.

From the moment this magical evening began, Dad Danny, son Corey and daughter Paige, knitted a warm blanket of love for friends and families of children in treatment for cancer. With the heartwarming common thread of family, they shared how the fabric of their lives changed in this inspiring story of how the foundation began.

At a young age Corey was diagnosed with a rare bone disease. As a patient in the hospital, he saw the toy box of presents at Christmas time was fairly empty. Corey and his sister Paige had the idea for a Christmas party for patients and their families. Corey asked to fill the toy box at the treatment center 9 years ago when he was 7. Even though everyday is a battle with pain and continued treatments, he pursues his personal passion with endurance and determination to see that the toy box in the Children's Center for Cancer and Blood Disease at VCMC (Ventura County Medical Center) is filled to overflowing. Corey's legacy and dream of providing wrapped gifts so the patients are able to take a toy after their treatments, chemo, blood transfu-

sions, IV meds, scans and birthdays still rings true today.

Corey shares, "We make dreams come true as a family", Paige also shared, "It's all about providing toys for the brothers and sisters of patients, also, after the fires, the toy box was empty and one week later it was filled."

With the support of Corey's devoted dad and sister, working side by side with many of the grace givers and community outreachers...like Ventura Police Department Civic Engagement specialist and beacon of light Ashley Bautista – energetic and heart-centered social worker Robyn Howard Anderson of the pediatric oncology clinic along with many individuals and families, gifts and stuffed animals were piled up to the rafters!

The happiness factor bubbled up as young elves piled up presents in the wide eyed little arms of each and every child while live music with Luis Villegas and trio filled everyone with Christmas cheer.

Sitting by the beautifully lit tree, listening to the wishes and dreams of children in their loving laps, dedicated 7 year volunteers, Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus watched each child's eyes dance in delight and glow in wonder and awe. They share, "A most rewarding experience."

Contributor for eight years police officer Alyse Quiroz said, "These children are in the battle of their lives

and are happy to play a small role. They look forward to this every year."

Leticia Nevares, mother of five, three of her children with Von Willebrand's disease, "Appreciates the spirit of giving."

Hector Garcia, father of Angel Garcia going on 10 years in treatment says, "He is happy being a part of something bigger than himself."

Maria and Sergio Pulido, mother and father of two holds their children close with their son Ivan, age two, recently diagnosed with Leukemia. Sergio and Maria touchingly stated, "Even though our life is on a roller coaster ride, we pray for the best and hope that families with healthy kids enjoy them every moment."

There were no tears tonight, only a hush of hope and gratitude that touched the child inside us all...the ultimate gift of love!

in Downtown Ventura. "Ventura County Rising" will bring us back together once the smoke has cleared and the ashes have settled. It will be a celebration of the first responders and community activists who have kept us safe and fed. It will be a time of healing. And it will be a political rally that addresses the environmental factors that allowed such a vicious fire to uproot our community.

The event aims to bring community members both awareness and inspired action items that can help heal the people of the county, can strengthen the stability of the state and especially the nation and earth. The gathering is about community action ~ building and rebuilding community – offering resources and tangible 'calls to action'.

On a local level, the Thomas fire has affected everyone and we recognize that the conditions for this fire are connected to environmental practices that need to be addressed on a national and global level. The interconnectedness of the factors that caused the fire to reach in to the economic sphere, the political/rights sphere and the cultural sphere.

Last year we focused on assuring Ventura County that we were going to stand together against any political winds that might reverse decades of social progress. Justice For All has worked tirelessly on these fronts in the last year. Join us in continuing to make Ventura County the best place to live.

## Another dynamic community event at Plaza Park

by Kathleen Shore

D.O. Co-Founder of Justice for All VC

On Jan. 20, at 10am Justice For All VC is hosting another dynamic community event at Plaza Park



The owner of Busy Bee restaurant, Raymundo Sanchez, proudly displays his tree at the Candy Cane Forest at Holidays at Plaza Park. Fresh cut trees were sponsored and decorated by local businesses, nonprofits, and families around Ventura for the holidays.

# BOD&B

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Oscar C. González - 29 years experience - *Se habla español*  
Randall W. Andell, 22 years experience

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*With barely enough time to snatch up valuables many cars were left behind.*

## City responds to fire crisis

by **Burris DeBenning**

“Evacuate immediately!” With barely any time to snatch up valuables, several thousand Venturans heard this mandatory evacuation order on the evening of December 4 blaring from police and fire megaphones, because of the horror that was rapidly approaching Ventura’s hillside communities and had already consumed thousands of acres in Santa Paula. Santa Paula is almost a good 20 miles from many of these communities, so why the rush? In just under an hour, right in the middle of a city council meeting, Santa Ana wind gusts of 50 miles and greater pushed the fire from its origins at Thomas Aquinas College in Santa Paula all the way to Ventura’s downtown area. Across the hills from the Avenue to Kimball Road, burning cinders from the main fire showered down on trees, roofs, yards and gardens, engulfing and destroying the large

Hawaiian Village apartment complex in the hills above downtown Ventura in a matter of minutes, and spreading from home to home. Before the conflagration passed west of the city and threatened Ojai in the north and Solimar-Faria along the 101, over 500 residences, where families had been raised and memories sown, were reduced to rubble and ashes.

City public safety personnel, staff and all of Ventura County rallied to the City’s aid. Because the City has thorough and updated emergency plans, an Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was established at Police/Fire Headquarters and a unified agency command center managed by the County Office of Emergency Services set up at the Ventura County Fairgrounds.

At the December 11 city council meeting held at the County of Ventura Board of Supervisors meeting room, Supervisor

## Ventura Strong

Steve Bennett called Ventura personnel role models for how to cope with an emergency of this nature. The timing and scope of the evacuation was tremendous, and according to Chief David Endaya of the Ventura Fire Department, an estimated 27,000 people in the hills had to be mobilized in under an hour, a feat that normally takes hurricane prone states days to accomplish. In a few hours, about 6,000 first responders were on hand, striving to save homes and businesses. Thanks to valiant efforts from all personnel working the fire, Ventura did not have a single fatality. Community damage was extensive, involving neighborhoods from Clearpoint in the City’s east to the Avenue, and in between, homes were completely lost or damaged above Ventura College, Ondulando, Skyline and Hobson Heights, the latter established in 1923.

As the City enters the recovery phase of fire operations, resident concerns, questions and needs are being answered and assessed and priorities ranked. At the December 11 council meeting, leadership personnel from various agencies provided status reports, and the City Manager introduced in Special Presentations the team, headed by the Assistant City Manager, Dan Paranick, that would be responsible for the totality of the clean-up and recovery

stages of the fire. Before residents can come onto their properties, County and State agencies, such as the State Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC), County Public Health and the State Office of Emergency Services (OES), need to first make certain that hazardous waste, such as melted paint cans and broken propane tanks, are removed, and unstable debris, like crumbling chimneys, are cleared away.

Before residents can come onto their properties, County and State agencies, such as the State Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC), County Public Health and the State Office of Emergency Services (OES), need to first make certain that hazardous waste, such as melted paint cans and broken propane tanks, are removed, and unstable debris, like crumbling chimneys, are cleared away.

Councilmember Chery Heitmann asked Chief Corney for a timetable on when people can get back to their homes to collect valuable and mementos, and the chief estimated about two weeks, due to the extensive utility work being performed by the Southern California Gas Company and Southern California Edison. In fact, SCE has erected staging areas for line and pole repair at both Arroyo Verde Park the Ventura Community Park.

## This 'n' That

Tech Today with **Ken May**

### What is Cryptocurrency? Part 1: Blockchain

There’s so much talk about Bitcoin, Ethereum, Litecoin and other cryptocurrency in the news right now, it might seem overwhelming. Everyone is proclaiming it’s the future and we should all be invested in it, but what the heck even is a Bitcoin? To understand Bitcoin, and Cryptocurrency as a whole, first we need to discuss the underlying technology concept: blockchain.

From a cruising altitude, a blockchain might not look that different from things you’re familiar with, say Wikipedia.

With a blockchain, many people can write entries into a record of information, and a community of users can control how the record of information is amended and updated. Likewise, Wikipedia entries are not the product of a single publisher.

However, while both run on the internet, Wikipedia is built using a client-server network model. A user with permissions associated with its account can change Wikipedia entries stored on a centralized server.

Whenever a user accesses the Wikipedia page, they will get the latest ‘master copy’ of the Wikipedia entry. Control of the database remains with Wikipedia administrators.

Wikipedia’s digital backbone is like the highly protected and centralized databases that governments or banks or insurance companies keep today. Control of centralized databases rests with their owners, including the management of updates, access and protecting against cyber-threats.

The distributed database created by blockchain technology has a fundamentally different digital backbone. This is also the most distinct and important feature of blockchain technology.

Wikipedia’s ‘master copy’ is edited on a server and all users see the new version. In the case of a blockchain, every node in the

network is coming to the same conclusion, each updating the record independently, with the most popular record becoming the de-facto official record in lieu of there being a master copy.

Transactions are broadcast, and every node is creating their own updated version of events.

It is this difference that makes blockchain technology so useful – It represents an innovation in information registration and distribution that eliminates the need for a trusted party to facilitate digital relationships.

#### Defining digital trust

Trust is a risk judgement between different parties, and in the digital world, determining trust often boils down to proving identity (authentication) and proving permissions (authorization).

Put more simply, we want to know, ‘Are you who you say you are?’ and ‘Should you be able to do what you are trying to do?’

Authentication is not enough. Authorization – having enough money, broadcasting the correct transaction type, etc. – needs a distributed, peer-to-peer network as a starting point. A distributed network reduces the risk of centralized corruption or failure.

This distributed network must also be committed to the transaction network’s recordkeeping and security. Authorizing transactions is a result of the entire network applying the rules upon which it was designed (the blockchain’s protocol).

Authentication and authorization supplied in this way allow for interactions in the digital world without relying on (expensive) trust.

In fact, the idea that cryptographic keys and shared ledgers can incentivize users to secure and formalize digital relationships has imaginations running wild. Everyone from governments to IT firms to banks is seeking to build this transaction layer.

Authentication and authorization, vital to digital transactions, are established as a result of the configuration of blockchain technology.

h/t <https://www.coindesk.com/information/what-is-blockchain-technology/>





# Senior Living

*Pull Out Section*



Homeowners interested in participating must have one or more vacant bedrooms or a full home available to rent.

## VCAAA helping the community

The Ventura County Area Agency on Aging’s award-winning Fall Prevention Program will welcome the New Year by offering several classes that focus on increased mobility and balance. All classes are free and open to the public.

Classes offered include Tai Chi: Moving for Better Balance, Walk with Ease, Stepping On, and A Matter of Balance. Each class emphasizes practical strategies to manage and prevent falls. Participants will learn methods to enhance and increase activity levels and mobility, making the changes necessary to reduce fall risks.

Individuals concerned about falls or those who have recently experienced a fall, as well as those who are interested in improving balance, flexibility, and strength, are encouraged to participate.

To learn more about the Fall Prevention Program or classes offered, or to sign-up for a class, please contact the VCAAA Fall Prevention Coordinator, Dina Ontiveras, at 477-7343 or visit [www.vcaaa.org](http://www.vcaaa.org).

The Ventura County Area Agency on Aging’s Homeshare program is continuing efforts to match local homeowners who are interested in assisting families with individuals displaced by the Thomas Fire. Homeowners in the Ventura County area who have vacant bedrooms or homes to rent under short-term agreements are encouraged to apply, as are individuals or families still looking for temporary or permanent housing. Individuals of all ages qualify. The VCAAA and Homeshare are an entity of the County of Ventura.

Many of the families affected by the fire are seeking short-term housing options as they work through the process of rebuilding or finding

permanent housing.

Homeshare, which traditionally works to match homeowners wishing to rent rooms with home-seekers looking for affordable housing, has temporarily shifted its focus to assist those displaced by the Thomas Fire, and is asking for special consideration for full families who may also have pets.

Homeowners and those seeking residence will be asked to comply with program requirements, which include an application process and background check, however the process will be fast-tracked in an effort to secure short-term housing options for those most affected by the fires.

Homeowners interested in participating in the program must have one or more vacant bedrooms available to rent, or a full home available to rent. For more information, or to apply please call 477-7324. Applications are also available online at [www.vcaaa.org](http://www.vcaaa.org). Please also follow the VCAAA on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram for regular updates related to Homeshare and other VCAAA programs.

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

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# Senior Living



Painting has always been one of my goals.

## Helping aging loved ones with goal setting

by **Connie Perez**

As we enter a new year, we also start planning and preparing ourselves on how we can achieve our goals. Whether it's a buddy system such as going to the gym or finding other ways that help us in trying to achieve before the next year approaches. Here are some tips on achieving those goals:

**Develop a plan** – Discuss mobility, assistive devices, if needed, especially if an elder would like to take walks daily. Talk about the time of day they may feel at their best to help them reach their goal.

**Create smaller goals** – It can become frustrating to start running instead of walking first. Set goals that are manageable then build from that

**Willingness to change** – Discuss the possibility of having to modify their goals if it becomes too difficult due to set backs under circumstances we cannot control. If your loved one is in need of an assistive device, home modification or other resources, please give the Family Caregiver Resource Center a call at 420-9608.

benefits, you may be eligible to receive benefits based on his or her record. To be eligible, you must have been married to your ex-spouse for 10 years or more. If you have since remarried, you can't collect benefits on your former spouse's record unless your later marriage ended by annulment, divorce, or death. Also, if you're entitled to benefits on your own record, your benefit amount must be less than you would receive based on your ex-spouse's work. In other words, we'll pay the higher of the two benefits for which you're eligible, but not both.

**Rosie the Riveter: Working Women Icon** - "Rosie the Riveter" is an American icon representing women working in factories during World War II. These women learned new jobs and filled in for the men who were away at war. They produced much of the armaments and ammunition to supply the war effort. They also paid FICA on their wages, contributing to the Social Security program. These "Rosies" embodied the "can-do" spirit immortalized in a poster by J. Howard Miller. Both the image and the spirit live on today.

**Four Questions to Ask Yourself As You Plan for Retirement** - Deciding when to start receiving your retirement benefits from Social Security is a decision that only you can make, and you should make that decision with as much information as possible. There are a lot of important questions to answer.

**Questions and Answer Segment:** Provide responses to questions ranging from when a current spouse can get benefits on his or her spouse's record to when a divorced spouse can get benefits on a former spouse's record.

## America is a super team of diverse members

by **Essie L. Landry**  
Public Affairs Specialist Social Security Administration Sierra West Area

**Celebrating Our Nations Diversity** - Diversity of skills, knowledge, and perspective is what you want when putting together a strong team. In a way, America is a super team of diverse members, all of whom dream of prosperity and success. Many people honor Martin Luther King, Jr. for dedicating his life to showing us that diversity is a strength. Social Security's "People Like Me" website has custom information for preparing for your future. Our diverse country is made up of countless backgrounds, ethnicities, and nationalities, yet we all want the same thing – a secure future. You can see the many diverse people we serve at [www.socialsecurity.gov/people](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/people).

**Check Out These New My Social Security Features in the New Year - 2018** is here! It's the New Year. There's no better time to tell you about the new features we have in my Social Security. They not only save you time, but also put you in control of your retirement future.

**Ex-Spouse Benefits and How They Affect You** - If you are age 62, unmarried, and divorced from someone entitled to Social Security retirement or disability



"Having Parkinson's has not stopped me from enjoying my daily run."

## A Happy New Year is possible – even with Parkinson's Disease!

by **Patty Jenkins**

**Start the New Year with hope** for better treatments, a cure for PD and the knowledge that you are not alone! Join the Ventura Parkinson's Disease Support Group as we kick off the New Year by again hosting Wayne Pickerell, Vice President and Clinical Research Manager of Neurosearch, Inc. at our meeting on Wednesday, January 10, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm at The Lexington Assisted Living at 5440 Ralston St, Ventura.

Wayne has been involved in Parkinson's Disease for over 17 years and managed Clinical Research for Neuro-



# Senior Living

search well over a decade. Thanks to participating clinic’s like Neurosearch and experts like Wayne, and also in large part to the leadership role of the Michael J. Fox Foundation, research continues to advance rapidly and there is more promising work being done to improve treatments for Parkinson’s Disease. Wayne will give us an overview of Parkinson’s Disease and the typical treatments that we currently have, update us in new treatments that are being studied and he will also discuss progress in the search for a cure to Parkinson’s disease.

We welcome all of our members, their care-partners and new friends who find themselves in this battle with Parkinson’s Disease along with us. Please come join the Ventura Parkinson’s Disease Support Group.

Thanks to the generosity of the Lexington Assisted, we are able to have our meetings every second Wednesday of the month there. There is a drop-off/loading and unloading driveway in the front of the building. Extra parking is also graciously available across the street from the Lexington in the Baptist Church parking lot. Please check in at the front desk for directions to the 3rd floor and sign-in at the meeting so we can keep in touch with you via email. For more information feel free to call me at 766-6070 We are an independent and volunteer-organized group not affiliated with or a part of any other organization or group.. Reservations are not required.

## Livingston patients continue to receive in-home care during the Thomas Fire disaster

Despite blazes, blackouts, and evacuations due to the Thomas fire, Livingston’s nurses, social workers, therapists and caregivers continued to keep patients safe and as comfortable as possible as they performed their clinical and custodial duties. They helped some patients evacuate, packing up precious mementos and personal items, and even drove one

client to a safe haven in Carpinteria, the long way around, since Highway 33 was closed.

Forty three patients were relocated as a result of the fire. For those moved out of the county, Livingston partnered with other agencies to care for them. Locally, be it in a church, a high school gymnasium, or other evacuation center, clinicians continued to deliver support and services. Medications for pain, nausea, and shortness of breath were administered without interruption. For those on oxygen, which is primarily reliant on electricity, Livingston was able to solicit help from a medical equipment company to provide portable oxygen tanks during power outages.

One client shared, “I’m so impressed with (Livingston Care-Giver’s CNA) Manuela. During all the chaos caused by the fire, she has been a constant during an inconsistent time. With road closures and other obstacles, she has arrived on time and without distraction. We are so grateful to her and your organization. I’ve been able to get much needed rest while Manuela has been here.”

Jeannette Cunningham, RN, BSN, PHN, Livingston’s Safety Officer, observed that it was teamwork that made things go so smoothly. “It was not at all chaotic. Everyone kept calm and got the job done. At the command post, all you had to do was state a patient’s need and it was taken care of.”

According to Teresa Pavan, BSHS, RN, Vice-President/CEO of Livingston, “It really ran like a well-oiled machine. We continued to see patients no matter where they were moved. It was all about getting to the right place at the right time to deliver the right care.”

Being a safety net for the community doesn’t stop with patients and clients. Several Livingston staffers, including Pavan, distributed blankets and N95 masks to the homeless that camp in the City of Ventura.

The Thomas fire is now the largest fire In California history. Even in an immense disaster such as this, Ventura County residents can be assured Livingston will be there in their home or shelter to help them.

For information on grief support services for fire victims, call 642-0239 ext. 705.



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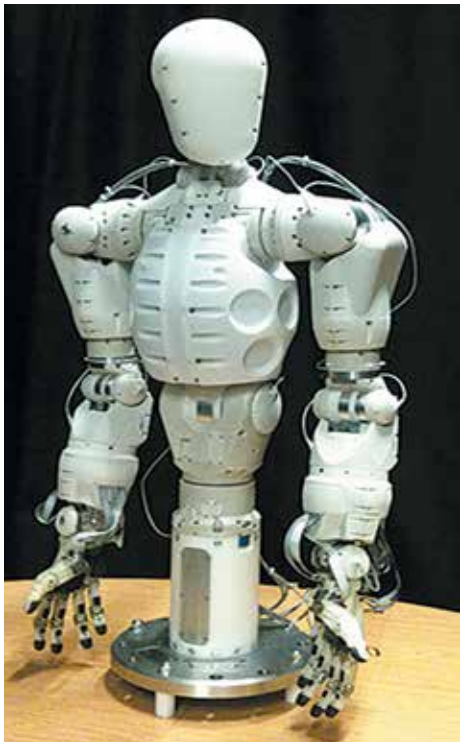
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# Senior Living



*"I think my joints just need oiling."*

## Free community education classes and events

Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurse Association supports the total well-being of our community. As part

of their services, they host free monthly education classes throughout the county which include the following:

**Social Services/Bereavement Groups**  
Adult Bereavement Support Group Wednesdays, January 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31 from 6:30-8:00 pm These groups are open to individuals who have experienced loss and are free of charge. Call 642-0239 for more information or email [griefinfo@livingstonvna.org](mailto:griefinfo@livingstonvna.org).

Newly Bereaved Support Group Thursday, January 11th from 6-7:30. This monthly group is designed for adults who have recently experienced the loss of a loved one and is free. Call 642-0239 for more information or email [griefinfo@livingstonvna.org](mailto:griefinfo@livingstonvna.org). These groups meet every 2nd Thursday of each month.

**Diabetes Classes**  
Tuesday, January 2nd from 1-2:30pm. These meetings are held on the 1st Tuesday of each month. General information is provided about Type 2 Diabetes including prediabetes, with emphasis on meal planning, medication, exercise, blood sugar monitoring, and new developments in diabetes. Call 642-0239 for more information.

**Joint Replacement Classes**  
Thursday, January 4th from 1:00-2:00pm. You will learn what to expect before, during and after knee or hip replacement surgery and how to be an active participant in your care. These

meetings are 1st Thursday of each month. For information or to RSVP call Dinah Davis at 642-0239 ext. 739.

Monday, January 8th for both English and Spanish speaking. English 4:00-5:00 pm and Spanish 5:30-6:30 pm. You will learn what to expect before, during and after knee or hip replacement surgery and how to be an active participant in your care.

For information or to RSVP call Dinah Davis at 642-0239 ext. 739.

## Assistance Center closed its doors but help is still available

After serving for two weeks as a one-stop center for fire recovery information and assistance, the Local Assistance Center that was jointly run by the County and the City of Ventura closed its doors on Saturday, Dec. 23. Residents still seeking services may obtain services at existing local County and City offices.

The County of Ventura and the City of Ventura opened the Center on Dec. 13 at the Poinsettia Pavilion i to assist residents from all areas affected by the Thomas Fire. It has been staffed by a wide array of County, City, State and

Federal agencies, as well as a number of non-profit organizations.

Residents have used the Assistance Center to start their recovery from the fire. Information was available on debris removal, permits, housing, rental assistance, vital records, property assessments, public assistance, crisis intervention and stress management, and even services such as replacing driver's licenses. Health care resources were also available on site to provide assistance, education, and connections to other health services in the community.

"The assistance center provided a very useful service as the County and the City and our partners responded to the substantial needs of our community and those most directly affected. Those that still need help can contact us at City Hall or come to City Hall where we have a fire related service counter established", said Dan Paranick, Assistant Ventura City Manager.

To further aid fire victims, Ventura County Recovers ([venturacountyrecovers.org](http://venturacountyrecovers.org)) continues to offer a registration feature that allows residents to register their contact information to receive information on specific topics. They can also register the address of their damaged or destroyed property so that officials can proactively provide them with information and official notices related to the rebuilding process.

## Person to Person

by Jennifer Tipton

### What are your New Year's Resolutions?



**Cole Roop, age 19, works the front desk at Maverick's.**  
"I want to start flossing more...no really, do more cardio, get in heart healthy shape and shed a few pounds." (writer's note - Cole did not appear to have any pounds to shed.)



**Sara Omanovic, age 25, Owner of Ema's Herbs**  
"Usually I try to focus on specific traits, 2017 was courage so I think 2018 should be resilience, resilience to overcome difficulties."



**Alton Gebhart, age 61, Crew Member at Trader Joes**  
"I made a resolution to do more photography gigs this year; we lost our studio in the fire, but that's ok cause nobody rebounds like me, I'm a Cajun!"



**Cathy Burke, age 45, Cafeteria Manager**  
"I haven't made any resolutions and I never have because I don't like breaking them. It's like when I say I'm gonna start dieting every other Friday!"



**Barbara Harvey, age 67, History Teacher at Buena High School**  
"My personal New Year's resolution is to not get so stressed out, so how that translates to my own kids and my students, I'm not sure." I asked Barbara, "are you good at keeping your resolutions?" and she replied, "I am! I'm pretty focused - that's how I get so stressed out!"



**Josh Grava, age 44, Vice President for a hydrographic survey equipment company**  
"I haven't made any resolutions yet, we're displaced from the fire. We didn't lose our home, but we can't go back yet. It's been a challenging month and holiday season. It makes you realize the importance of family and friends to get through conflict. I guess a good resolution would be - to be more patient with my family, cause right now we're all being tested with respect to tolerance and adaptation."





# Ventura Strong

## Let's Rebuild Regeneratively

by Ron Whitehurst

The author is co-owner of Rincon-Vitova Insectaries and Chair of the Board of Ventura Food Coop

Fire is a natural primal element, but the devastation was man made. Our First Peoples burned brush every couple of years to manage nutrients, soil microbes, and improve the ecology for deer and acorns. How do we learn to use fire as a tool, and build homes and landscapes that resist fires? Here are some observations of permaculture designers, Connor Jones and Leif Skogberg.

Re-establish small water cycles – slow, spread and sink water where it falls, to grow food-producing perennial plants, ideally in mixed culture – many different kinds of plants together, or polyculture. These practices will restore water in the landscape that moderates temperature extremes and reduces drought. See Michal Kravcik's New Water Paradigm videos on YouTube.

Learn to build with earth, cob, and adobe materials that are literally dirt cheap and readily available. An adobe-plastered straw bale house at Ojai Foundation came through the fire intact, where conventional structures burned. Cover exposed timbers and flammable roof materials so they won't burn. Also cover eaves and vents to stop fire entering the house. Earth sheltered homes – partially buried – offer protection from fire and extremes of hot and cold, and, coupled with passive solar, reduce heating and cooling bills.

Tops of ridges are hard to protect from fires that race up slopes, doubling

in speed with every 10 degrees of slope. Buildings in valleys are safer, but hot dry gusty winds will spread fire rapidly in any terrain.

Oaks (and even eucalyptus) and irrigated orchards of avocado, citrus, olive serve as a fire break. Trees spaced 30 to 100 feet apart don't burn as long as there is no brush (ladder fuel) between them. Cacti, succulents and agave are great water thrifty landscape plants that do not burn. But, palms and arundo send burning fibers on the wind.

Ponds, pools, dams and tanks slow the fire and if you have a pump that can be powered when the electricity is off, you can use the water for fire protection.

Neighbors who we know from working on projects together are our best assets in emergencies. Join NextDoor.com, it's like Facebook for neighborhoods, and connect for cleaning up a path or creek, planting a garden, or sharing garden fruits and vegies.

Let's work to create healthy and just communities embracing a low carbon future. Support Community Choice Energy that focuses on building micro-grids and other net zero community energy from sun, wind, and wave. Locally produced power is not affected when power poles burn. With rooftop solar and power walls charging EVs we are freed from gas stations and polluted air. A price on carbon can speed the transition to a clean energy future. See CitizensClimateLobby.org.

## Dr. Sean Anderson to discuss impacts of Thomas Fire on wilderness and wildlife

On the evening of Thurs., Jan. 18, Ventura Land Trust (VLT) will host a community lecture entitled "No Doubting Thomas: The Impacts, Management, and World after the Thomas Fire" at the Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Rd. Beginning at 7 p.m., this first in VLT's 2018 Environmental Speaker Series, will be led by Dr. Sean Anderson, Departmental Chair of the Environmental Science and Resource Management Program at the University of California State University Channel Islands.

Dr. Anderson, a highly-esteemed and broadly trained ecologist and conservation biologist with dual BAs from UCSB, a PhD from UCLA and Postdoctoral and Research Fellowships from Stanford University, will discuss how wilderness areas react to wildfires, the impacts of the Thomas Fire on local ecosystems and wildlife and what the public can do now to help restore the land, prevent erosion and flood damage, and encourage the return of native plants and animals.

Now in its third year, the Ventura Land Trust's Environmental Speaker Series is one of many ways VLT works to educate the public about important en-

vironmental topics. The non-profit land trust's Big Rock Preserve, where they lead free outdoor environmental field trips for local students and community groups, suffered significant damage in the Thomas Fire. In the coming months, they will host a series of volunteer habitat restoration and erosion control work days on the property with the first taking place on January 15, the Martin Luther King Holiday. Visit the VLT Events Page for more information: [www.venturalandtrust.org/events](http://www.venturalandtrust.org/events).

A suggested donation of \$10 per person will be collected at the door to go toward restoration work at the Ventura Land Trust's Big Rock Preserve. Space is limited and reservations are highly encouraged. RSVP at: [http://www.venturalandtrust.org/lecture\\_thomas\\_fire](http://www.venturalandtrust.org/lecture_thomas_fire).

For more information about VLT's Thomas Fire Restoration efforts, visit: [www.venturalandtrust.org/thomas\\_fire\\_recovery](http://www.venturalandtrust.org/thomas_fire_recovery) or call the VLT office 643-8044.

The Ventura Land Trust (formerly the Ventura Hillside Conservancy) is dedicated to permanently preserving and protecting the land, water, wildlife and scenic beauty of the Ventura region for current and future generations. Founded in 2003, the 501(C)(3) non-profit organization is supported by over 600 members, local businesses and government partners. The land trust manages 90 acres of land along the Ventura River and is negotiating the purchase of its first hillside property. The Ventura Land Trust's offices are located in the Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Rd, Ventura, CA 93003. For more information, visit [www.venturalandtrust.org](http://www.venturalandtrust.org).

## Efforts ongoing to protect Ventura County communities from flood hazards

Acres of land and vegetation now compromised by the Thomas Fires will have a recovery team consisting of Federal, State, Ventura County and City departments. The team is on high alert as these regions are extremely susceptible to debris flows and flooding.

From early modeling already done by the Ventura County Public Works Agency (VCPWA) Watershed Protection District hydrologists, there are grave issues to highlight - mud, water and debris are projected to double in all flood channels, creeks and major waterways during this year's winter rainfall. In addition, the County of Ventura Geologist is also working directly with state and federal assessment teams during their site reconnaissance to discuss geologic conditions and provide Ventura County geologic overview and landslide hazard assessment.

"Now that the foundation of the affected land has been compromised, nearby communities will have an elevated risk of flash flooding and debris flows when the rains come," explains Jeff Pratt, VCPWA Director. "We strongly advise homeowners near these burn areas to seek information on flood insurance options as soon as possible. Typical coverage takes 30 days to engage. Public Works will continue to monitor the burned areas at all times."

Once the Thomas Fire has passed and the burned areas are deemed safe, County of Ventura Departments including the Sheriff's Office of Emergency Services (OES), Health Care Agency (HCA), Public Works Agency (VCPWA) Watershed Protection District (WPD) hydrologists, and the County Geologist from PWA Engineering Services Department (ESD), will perform site reconnaissance to gain information about the potential next disaster with upcoming rain events, such as flooding, high erosion, landslides and debris flows. Together, they will collaborate to develop models that will assess the status of the burned hillsides, map the area's most prone to flooding and determine areas prone to mudflows and sliding.

For more information about County of Ventura recovery efforts and what you can do to protect yourself, click the "Rain Ready" button at <http://ventura-countyrecovers.org/>.

## Prevent erosion from stressed landscapes

by David Goldstein  
VCPWA, IWMD

The ongoing drought and other recent events have stressed local landscapes, and recent warm and dry weather may make rains seem distant, but as House Stark says in Game of Thrones, "Winter is coming."

When rains hit weakened landscapes, the result is often erosion. If topsoil washes off your property and into storm drains, not only do you lose nutrients needed for gardening, but you also risk polluting natural habitat. Sediment-laden water flowing from storm drains into waterways can bind to fish gills, impairing fish's ability to breathe. Murky water also blocks sunlight and inhibits the growth of plants necessary to sustain natural habitat. Runoff can also carry harmful metals, pesticides and fertilizers.

If you have recently lost established plants holding the soil of your landscape, or if you have only weakened or damaged plants, you may consider several options to prevent your topsoil from washing down storm drains and polluting waterways.

Straw wattles are one of the simplest and least expensive immediate measures to prevent erosion. Wattles are long tubes full of straw, mulch chips or coir, which is coconut mixed with straw. Wattles are placed across a slope, so they slow runoff, allowing water to flow through while holding back sediment.

Jason Stetler, a landscape architect with Scarlett's Landscape, recommends aligning wattles at 15 foot intervals, like contour lines, depending on the angle and distance of a slope. Between rows, he often adds plants suitable for a Mediterranean climate.

Secure wattles into trenches a few inches deep, and use stakes on both sides to prevent them from washing away and clogging nearby storm drains. Jute and fiber blankets can provide similar protection on flatter areas, and sandbags can direct water away from erosion prone areas.

For longer term plans, consider native vegetation such as woody shrubs and natural grasses to stabilize soil and filter pollutants. Permeable hardscape is also useful to slow, spread, and sink water, rather than channeling rain into soil robbing torrents.

If you are considering working with a professional landscape company to plan or plant your garden, the sooner you start, the more likely you are to be prepared for the first major rain of the season. Lupe Pardue, Operations Manager of Halter Encinas Enterprises, reports she has received calls from 50 of the company's 250 regular residential garden maintenance customers in the past two weeks, and these customers, as well as others, are eager to plan new landscapes.

### Agencies granted funds

*Continued from page 7*

and Urgent Needs Fund are directly applied 100 percent to supporting nonprofits who are providing direct services to those impacted by the fires. Donations to the fund can be made at [www.vccf.org](http://www.vccf.org). In addition, the VCCF is accepting applications for the SUN Fund (Sudden and Urgent Needs), with roughly \$50,000 left to award. Applications can be downloaded directly from their website, [www.vccf.org](http://www.vccf.org).

The foundation was established in 1987 and endeavors to build philanthropy in the region and to give generously for the well-being of all in Ventura County. VCCF invests in the future through scholarships, grant making and collaborative partnerships. For more information or to donate, visit [www.vccf.org](http://www.vccf.org).





# The Pet Page



Dedicated to Scamp

■ By Jim Reilly  
President National Police Dog Foundation

When we evacuated from our National Training Center (NTC) campus on the night of December 4, we weren't sure if we would have a home to come back to after the devastating Thomas Fire swept through our canyon.

We are so grateful to everyone who has supported us during this difficult time and we know that many of you have wanted to help in some way. Our goal is to stay the course and move ahead into 2018, focused on recruiting more rescued dogs, forming more new Search Teams and welcoming more veteran Teams to train onsite than ever before.

All the while, we will be cleaning up and rebuilding the parts of the NTC that were lost to the Thomas Fire, including Search City, parts of Industrial Park and our campus in general.

We still have a job to do and will continue to put all donations to good use. All gifts will help strengthen our operations as we move forward, including our recovery and rebuilding efforts.

Thanks to our new marketing efforts and sponsors, our services are now reaching into even the smallest police departments across the country.

In planning for the 2018 needs of our nationwide police departments, we anticipate having to fund the following requests for assistance:

- Purchasing: 10 grant requests for new police K-9s
- Training: 20 grant requests for police K-9s and handlers
- Medical: 20 grant requests for medical assistance and emergency veterinary care
- Retired Medical: 10 grant requests for retired medical care
- Health Insurance: In 2018, we hope to grant at least 10 annual Police K-9 health insurance plans
- Heat Alarm: In 2018, we hope to save even more K-9 lives and give out 10 police vehicle heat alarms grants

While it is gratifying that agencies have increasingly come to rely on the National Police Dog Foundation to help provide for their needs, it is daunting to come up with the necessary funds to respond to the ever-increasing requests of these agencies. If our forecast holds true, we will need to raise over \$270,000 in 2018 to meet expected needs.

The National Police Dog Foundation is an all-volunteer foundation ensuring your donation is applied entirely to the benefit of Police K-9s. To donate go to [nationalpolicedogfoundation.org](http://nationalpolicedogfoundation.org) or mail check to National Police Dog Foundation 2390-C Las Posas Rd. Suite #477 Camarillo, CA 93010.

■ Mandy Grier has a special bond with her yellow Labrador retriever – the dog is trained to alert Grier, an insulin-dependent diabetic, that her blood sugar is beginning to dip.

"She's been a godsend," said Grier of her canine companion of nearly three years. "She has definitely made it easier on me." Mylow is trained to alert Grier when her blood sugar drops to 80.

"The first time she did it at home it was pretty amazing," said Grier. Through her keen sense of smell, Mylow is able to detect that Grier's glucose level is dropping.

The dog raises her tail, locks up like a statue and stares directly at Grier until she tests her blood sugar.

The downside is that a dog like this can cost as much as \$25,000.

■ Did you ever wonder if anything is going on while dog is sleeping and dreaming? According to a new study they may be learning, Researchers in Hungary trained 15 pet dogs to sit and lie down using English phrases instead of their Hungarian.

Afterward, the scientists attached small electrodes to the dogs' heads to record their brain activity while they slept. Electroencephalograms (EEGs) showed that during 3-hour naps, the dogs' brains experienced brief, repeated moments of "slow-wave" brain activity lasting several minutes. Nested within these slower oscillations, were "sleep

## Scamp Club

(Scampclub pets are not for adoption.)



Hi: I'm Pismo and I must admit that I have been a Scampclub member before and here I am again. This time I am with another dog, I don't know the breed, but he is very strange looking with no hair on his paws so I convinced the Breeze editor to put me in again.

## Join Scamp Club

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

spindles," bursts of activity lasting 0.5 to 5 seconds that look like a train of fast, rhythmic waves on EEG recordings—and are known to support memory, learning, general intelligence, and healthy aging in humans and rats.

■ But this is the first time they've been studied in detail in dogs. The scientists discovered that the number of spindle sessions per minute correlated with how well the dogs learned their new, foreign vocabulary.

■ A recent study found dogs to be "smarter" than cats. But one of the scientists who conducted the research says it's not quite that simple.

"We did not study their behavior, so we make any claims about how intelligent they are," researcher Suzanaerculano-Houzel, an associate professor at Vanderbilt University, stated.

Although they didn't observe behavior, Herculano-Houzel and her colleagues did observe the number of neurons in the brains of different animals, including two dogs and a cat. "We count cells by dissolving the brains, literally turning them into soup, then counting floating neuronal nuclei under

the microscope," she said.

She noted that the dogs and cat used in the study had died of natural causes and their bodies were donated to science. The researchers found that dogs have "about twice as many neurons in the cerebral cortex as cats do."

She acknowledged that the researchers' sample size was small. But in this case that doesn't really make a difference. Since neurons are the brain's "information-processing units. Whatever species has the most neurons in the cerebral cortex is therefore expected to be capable of more complex and flexible behavior."

The study suggests that dogs have the "biological capability" for more complex and flexible behavior than cats. But researchers still can't be sure whether dogs are using that capability to its full potential.

But raccoons were the huge surprise," Herculano-Houzel said. "They have cat-sized brains, but with dog-like numbers of neurons, which places them on par with primates, who as a whole have lots of neurons crammed in small brains."

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in SPAN parking lot.  
Must call for appointment  
(805) 584-3823

National Training Center dogs had a home to return to after the Thomas Fire swept through their facility. They evacuated the Center and were happy that some of it remained to start the re-building.





# The Pet Page

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

## Forever homes wanted



Hi: I'm Bentley, an affectionate 8-year-old American Staffordshire Terrier / Labrador mix. I'm in need of a new home because my owner travels too much and doesn't have time for me. I enjoy hiking on cool days or just lying in your lap. I'm friendly with people, but choosy with other dogs.  
My C.A.R.L. pal Marion takes me for overnight stays at her house sometimes. She said I'm an easy dog, just provide me with a soft bed, a couple of meals a day, a nice walk and some play time and I'll give you lots of love and enjoyment in return. Come see me at C.A.R.L. today!

Jasmine was originally adopted from VCAS in 2010 but has come back to us as a stray. Previous notes on her indicate that she is a sweetheart of a lap dog that wiggles and gives kisses. She previously lived with other dogs and kids. We don't know how she ended up abandoned, but this girl is in dire need of a foster or adopter to provide her comfort for the time she has left. Jasmine has cancer and deserves to spend her golden time in a soft loving home. Contact our foster coordinator if you are interested in providing hospice care for her! [vcar.foster@ventura.org](mailto:vcar.foster@ventura.org) Ventura County Animal Services – Camarillo location – 600 Aviation DriveJasmine A488290



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# Ventura Strong



Thank you-thank you-thank you.



# Community Events

## Ventura Libraries events

**AVENUE LIBRARY**  
**Children & Family Events**  
**Poetry Contest Reading**  
**1/4 Thursday 7:30 pm**

Join us for a reception and reading by the winners of our Poetry Contest.  
**E.P. Foster Library, Topping Room**  
**Paul’s Prehistoric Storytime**  
**1/20 Saturday @ 12pm**

Meet Kevin the T-Rex & Paul from paulsprehistoricpark.com  
**Bilingual Early Literacy Class**  
**1/8, 22, 29 Mondays 6-6:45 pm**

Join us every week for stories, poems, music, movement, a simple craft & fun!  
**Paws for Reading**  
**1/20 Saturdays 12:00pm – 1:00pm**

Paws for Reading is a reading program designed to help improve a child’s reading skills through reading aloud to therapy dogs.

**Adult Classes & Events**  
**SuperBrain Yoga**  
**1/20 Saturday 10:00am — 12:00 pm**

Facilitated by Ellen E. Morano. Attend this hands-on workshop to improve memory, achieve mental clarity, and gain emotional calmness.

**Laubach Literacy English Classes**  
**In the Meeting Room**  
**1/8, 22, 29 Mondays 11am - 12pm**  
**Pumarosa English Classes**  
**In the Meeting Room**  
**1/3, 8, 10, 17, 22, 24, 29, 31 Mondays & Wednesdays 9-10:30 am & 6-7pm**

Learn English in a fun environment that combines conversation, singing, and technology.

**E.P. FOSTER LIBRARY**  
**Adult Programs & Special Events**  
**Twisted Stitchers Fiber Arts Club**  
**1/11 & 25 Thursday @ 10:30am**

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

**Ongoing Events**  
**Chess Around the Corner**  
**1/6, 13, 20, & 27 Saturdays @ 11am-4pm**

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

**Children’s Events**  
**Early Literacy Class**  
**1/2, 3, 9, 10, 16, 17, 23, 24, 30, & 31 Tuesdays & Wednesdays @ 10:30am**

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!

**Teen Happenings**  
**TAG Teen Advisory Group**  
**1/2 & 16 Tuesdays @ 5-6pm**

Now is the time to join TAG, if you want to share ideas, meet new people and have a great time shaping the library teen program.

**HILL ROAD LIBRARY**  
**Children’s Events**  
**Early Literacy Class**  
**1/3, 10, 17, 24, & 31 Wed. @10:30am**

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!

**SATICOY LIBRARY**  
**Children & Family Events**  
**Early Literacy Class**  
**1/11, 18, 25 Thursdays**  
**9:30-10:30 am & 11 am- 12 pm**

Join us every week for stories, poems, music, movement, a simple craft & fun!  
**Maker Mentors**  
**1/16, 23, 30 Tuesday 4-5:30 pm**

Join us for this design and 3D printer workshop.

**Adult Classes & Events**  
**SuperBrain Yoga**  
**1/22 Monday 5:30-7:30 pm**

Facilitated by Ellen E. Morano. Attend this hands-on workshop to improve memory, achieve mental clarity, and gain emotional calmness.

**English Classes**  
**1/3, 8, 10, 17, 22, 24, 29, 31 Monday & Wednesday 3:00 pm - 5:00 pm**

ESL Conversation Groups hosted by Laubach Literacy of Ventura County

## Ventura events

by Ana Baker

**Ventura Poinsettia Dance Club**  
**Monday nights 7:30 - 9:45pm. Poinsettia Pavilion.** Ballroom, swing, Latin and line dancing. \$10 members, \$12 non-members. Dance lessons 6:45 - 7:15 \$5 for couple \$3 for single. Call Rick 415-8842 for more information.

**There will be a regular Ventura Discussion Group meeting at Main Street Restaurant 3159 Main St., Wednesday from 4 - 5:45 p.m.** Several people usually stay for a drink and a bite to eat afterward. Bring an interesting topic to discuss if you can.

**Ventura’s ACBL Duplicate Bridge Club offers games for all levels of play.** Learn the game, play with your peers, and earn master points while you are having fun. There is a game every day of the week. Check out their website at [www.vcbridge.org](http://www.vcbridge.org) Life is Better with Bridge.

**The Ventura Retired Men’s Group welcomes interested men to their semi-monthly Tuesday lunch (\$15) meetings at the Ventura Elks lodge.** This regular congenial social event, besides a healthy, satisfying meal, supplies a welcome atmosphere to talk and joke, hear a speaker on a variety of relevant topics. Hear more from Steve at 642-1359

**Country Western Line Dancing every Tuesday 7 - 9 p.m. Instruction every night. Located at the Moose lodge, 10269 Telephone Road.** More information at [countrylovers.com](http://countrylovers.com).

**Ventura County Philatelic Society meets the first and third Mondays each month.** Do you collect stamps? Come spend the evening with us. We are a fun group. 7:30 p.m. at the Church of the Foothills, 6279 Foothill Rd. Admission

and parking free. Contact Bill Garner 320-1601

**AUDUBON EVENTS**  
**Jan. 7: 9 a.m. Work Day Fillmore Fish Hatchery Leader: Sandy Hedrick 340-0478**

This is a new venue for restoration planting for the balance of this work season. Planting native plants. Meet at the Fish Hatchery which is located to the right off Highway 126 just 1.2 miles East of Fillmore and 26 miles from Ventura.

Jan. 13: 8:30 a.m. Santa Clara River Estuary/Surfers Knoll Leader: Kay Register 258-1025

**Jan. 15: 8:30 a.m. Walter B. Miranda Park, part of Bubbling Springs, and J Street Canal to the Port Hueneme Beach. Leader: Adele Fergusson 415-4304.**

Bubbling Springs is a fantastic place to view many gulls and ducks up close such as Mallards and Widgeons etc.

**Jan. 6: Sarah Sheena will be appearing at Bank of Books in downtown Ventura from 1- 3p.m.** After the meet and greet, there will be a reading and signing of the 5 Star novel, Western Witches and Warlocks, A Journey Into Eternity. A Journey into Eternity is a well-told story that clearly demonstrates the very real struggle of young people weighing their spiritual options and choosing their path.

**Jan. 7: The 1892 Dudley Historic House Museum will be open for docent-led tours from 1- 4 p.m. accompanied by period music in the parlor and upstairs library landing.** The museum is located at the corner of Loma Vista and Ashwood streets. For information please call 642-3345 or visit [www.dudleyhouse.org](http://www.dudleyhouse.org).

**Jan. 9: Bald Eagle Recovery on the Channel Islands by Annie Little. Poinsettia Pavilion, at 7:30 p.m.** The program will focus on the 37-year effort to restore bald eagles back to the Channel Islands after their disappearance by the 1960s due to impacts from the chemical DDT. Annie Little has worked as a Wildlife Biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the past 21 years. She graduated from the University of California, San Diego with a B.S. in Biology: Ecology, Behavior, and Evolution.

**Jan. 10: The Ventura County Camera Club will hold a meeting on Wednesday, 6:30 p.m. at the Poinsettia Pavilion.** The first part of the meeting will be an instructional workshop. This will be followed by the showing of member images. A professional photographer from the area will critique member’s prints and digital images. See the club’s web site for more information about the club and examples of member’s work WWW.VenturaCountyCameraClub.com or call 908-5663.

**Jan. 10: Start the New Year with hope for better treatments, a cure for PD and the knowledge that you are not alone.** Join the Ventura Parkinson’s Disease Support Group as they host Wayne Pickerell, Vice President and Clinical Research Manager of Neurosearch, Inc. Wednesday, 1- 3 p.m. at The Lexington Assisted Living. For more details see full article in the Senior Section of this edition of the Ventura Breeze.

**Jan. 12: The General George S. Patton, Jr. Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution meeting will feature “How the American Revolution Really Started” presented by**

**historian Robert Dempster.** Friday, at 11:30 a.m., in the Garden Room, Marie Callender’s Restaurant 1295 S. Victoria Ave. If you choose to join for lunch, cost is \$20 per person. Bill Bays 650-3036 or Robert Taylor 216-7992. For information regarding SAR membership and chapter activities, <http://pattonpatriots.org>.

**Jan. 13: Day of Mindfulness with the Venerable Kusala, 10 - 4 p.m.** Sponsored by the Friendship Sangha of the Heart. Kusala, an American born Buddhist Monk ordained in the Zen tradition of Vietnam, for a Day of Mindfulness at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura. Get more information and register at [www.FriendshipSangha.org/dom](http://www.FriendshipSangha.org/dom).

**Jan 14: 5—9 pm. Kanga Live Performance & Artists Talk in the Art City Gallery.** \$5 Suggested donation. Kanga (8—9 pm) is an electronic musician from Los Angeles. Described as “heavy and haunting” by Electronic Beats Magazine, Kanga’s style incorporates hyper-sur-realistic pop with viscerally intense instrumentals. Art City Gallery holds its Grand Opening Exhibition Artists Talk (5-7 pm), presenting current exhibition painter Mike Tiné along with sculptors JoAnne Duby, Greg Kailian, and Chris Provenzano. Moderated by Dr. Sophia Kidd, along with panel experts.

## Ojai news and events

**The American Red Cross will be on hand at the Ojai Library on Saturday and Sunday, January 6 & 7, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. to help families affected by the Thomas Fire with recovery plans.**

Red Cross caseworkers will connect one-on-one with people to create individualized recovery plans, navigate paperwork, and locate help from other agencies. In some situations, the Red Cross may provide direct financial support. The assistance can be used for such needs as an apartment deposit, to buy clothes or food, or to cover immediate transportation expenses. Red Cross clean up kits (sifters, cleaning supplies, shovels, etc.) will also be provided.

Please bring proof of address; photo identification is preferred. For additional information, contact a Red Cross representative at (512) 745-2920 or 987-1514.

**The Ojai Art Center Theater and director Michael Addison announce auditions for Shakespeare’s Macbeth, the second production of the 2018 theater season.**

Auditions will be held in the Sonshine Room of the Ojai Presbyterian Church, 304 N. Foothill Road Friday, January 19 at 6:30pm; Saturday, 1:00pm to 4:00pm with callbacks also at the Church on Monday, January 22 at 6:30pm.

The 4 Star Alliance Awards for 2017 were announced over the weekend and the Ojai Art Center Theater garnered 12 awards, including outstanding lead performances by Sean Mason as “Groucho Marx” in Animal Crackers A Musical and Sara Mitchell as “Molly Aster”, Peter and the Starcatcher.

The Gala to celebrate the 2017 Season awards will be held at the High Street Arts Center In Moorpark on January 14 at 7 PM.

The 2018 season kicks off with On

No Delay in Trash & Recyclables or Green Waste Pick Up  
Due to the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Holiday

Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday will be celebrated on Monday, January 15. We will have regularly scheduled trash and recyclables or green waste collection the week of January 14-20 in the Cities of Ventura and Ojai.

Thank you and Happy Holiday  
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# This 'n' That

Golden Pond January 26.

**The Ojai Valley Green Coalition will host an E-waste Collection & Recycling Event on Saturday, January 20.**

9 a.m. to 1 p.m., rain or shine bring accepted items to the Nordhoff High School parking lot, located at 1401 Maricopa Highway. The event is open to all Ojai Valley residents and businesses. For details on accepted items please visit [ojaivalleygreencoalition.org](http://ojaivalleygreencoalition.org) or call 669-8445.

Performances To Grow On is proud to present a new series in Ojai called “Imagination Celebration”. The series begins with Hobey Ford’s newest production, “Sea Song” on Saturday, Jan. 27 at 3 pm at the Ojai Art Center. Sea Song is the story of a boy discovering nature for the first time through a fascination with the life cycle of the sea turtle.

Tickets in advance are available online at [www.ptgo.org](http://www.ptgo.org)(click on the Family tab) \$10 for children, \$15 for adults, at the door tickets are \$3 more. In addition to the performance, Hobey Ford will be offering a workshop on making shadow puppets on Sat. Jan. 27 at 11 am at the Ojai Art Center. The 90 minute workshop is suitable for both adults and children and the cost is \$15. Tickets for the workshop are also available online.

**Patricia Hartmann will visit the Ojai Library at 1 p.m. on Saturday, January 13, to read from her new book Lonesome Mountain.** Hartmann is a teacher, writer, and artist who lives with her husband in Ojai. When her great-aunt Daffodil dies, Lonesome Mountain protagonist Lizzy unexpectedly inherits “Sweet Apple Farm”—the spot where she spent an idyllic summer as a child. She hires Gabe to repair the farmhouse and bonds with his timid daughter, Chloe.

Hartmann will show a video trailer for Lonesome Mountain, followed by a short reading. A Q&A session and book signing will follow; copies of Hartmann’s other books will also be available.

Free and open to the public. For additional information, contact Ron Solórzano, Regional Librarian, at 218-9146.

The Ojai Library is located at 111 East Ojai Ave. Hours of service are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday and 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. Friday through Sunday.

**The Winter Wellness Workshop with Jess Starwood and Lanny Kaufer will be held on Saturday, February 3: 10 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** Learn the art and science of preparing home remedies and preventative potions.

The cost of the workshop including all materials is \$60. To register, please visit [www.HerbWalks.com](http://www.HerbWalks.com) or call 646-6281. Please email questions to [register@herbwalks.com](mailto:register@herbwalks.com). Registrants will receive a confirmation email with all necessary info prior to the event.

**Top stories of 2017**  
*Continued from page 1*  
placement of insulation.

The lasting effects of the fire will inevitably stretch into 2018 and beyond as the City works to rebuild. Even those who have experienced no physical loss will be affected as there will continue to be public time and money spent on how the City recovers physically and economically. Questions loom around everything from rebuilding ordinances to protecting against mudslides this winter.

**2. Faces Exit and Enter.** In March, the Ventura Unified School District voted to fire Superintendent Michael Babb who held the job for only 20 months. Babb was previously superintendent of the Mesa Union School District and was principal of E.P. Foster Elementary School for five years. In July, the Board announced the hiring of David C. Creswell, as the new school superintendent with a salary of \$222,000 per year. Creswell previously served as associate superintendent of the Fontana Unified School District and assistant superintendent of the Cucamonga School District.

Also in July, City Manager Mark Watkins announced his retirement effective December 28, 2017. Dan Paranick was named interim city manager. The year’s City Council election featured 10 candidates for three seats, which included incumbents Christy Weir and Cheryl Heitmann. Council member Carl Morehouse did not seek re-election. Both incumbents held their seats and a new face to the council, Matt LeVere was added to the group.

**3. The Museum of Ventura County.** In January, the Museum re-opened its doors after having been closed for four months for renovations. The celebration was not long-lived as the Museum continued to struggle financially. In July, the City Council voted to give the museum \$125,000 dependent on the Ventura County Board of Supervisors approving additional funding and set other conditions. The Council specified funding could last up to five years, assuming the museum meets specific benchmarks and the City has the money. The Museum was charged with showing how it will one day support itself, start assessing a collection of 181,000 documents and artifacts, begin the process of developing an \$8 million endowment and look at ways to turn its programs and offerings to be more appealing to all age groups who will visit often.

**4. Pot Regulations and the City of Ventura.** On January 1, 2018 marijuana became legal to consume and cultivate for Californians over age 21. Like other cities, Ventura is working to determine how it will regulate everything from marijuana store fronts and delivery services to cultivation, taxes, zoning and other related issues. The City held a series of community meetings to offer Venturans input on how it should approach the pending legalization. Since then, the City approved some medical marijuana deliveries from other cities. Currently, a moratorium still stands prohibiting all commercial activity related to marijuana in order to have more time to decide how, or if to regulate it.

**5. New Tree Planted at Two Trees.** In April, and in honor of Earth Day, a new sapling was planted to replace the eastern-most tree of the duo known locally as “Two Trees.” The previous eastern-most tree had died. The remaining tree is thought to be one of 13 original trees, which resided on the hillside. A number of stories abound as to how the iconic Two Trees came to be just the pair. The tree is a Blue Gum tree, which in their native Australia can live 400-500 years, but here in California are expected to live only 100-200 years. The new tree was donated by Baron Bros. Nursery, and planted by the Rancho San Buenaventura Conservation Trust, which protects the hillsides along with Richard Atmore

who has worked the land owned by Lloyd Properties since 1979.

**6. Ventura Prioritizes Auto Center Area for Development.** In July the City Council approved a General Plan Amendment, Specific Plan amendment, and Sign Agreement within the Auto Center Specific Plan that made the surrounding area significantly more conducive to economic investment. The amendments pave the way to increased economic vitality by improving accessibility, visibility, and circulation in the Ventura Auto Center. Called Focus Area One, the auto center currently employs more than 1,000 workers and is the City’s top revenue generator.

**7. Kaiser Opens Its Doors.** With a quiet launch Kaiser opened its 57,000-square-foot outpatient complex alongside Highway 101. Marked by unique design, the burgundy building’s façade incorporates a number diagonal stripes of white light. The organization’s website states the building features both an innovative design and patient-centric approach. The site offers optometry, orthopedics, obstetrics-gynecology, cancer infusion, gastroenterology, podiatry, laboratory services and other care.

And, then there is ...

**8. The Good.** The Ventura Harbor Continues to Improve. The Harbor Village beautification project entered its third phase in 2017 with new seating, new planter areas with palm trees, and artwork, including a map of the Channel Islands inlaid as decorative paving. Additional improvements are planned. In addition, two new hotels were approved for development in the area including The Harbor Cove Inn and the Adventure Lodge.

**March for Justice a Success.** Thousands gathered in downtown Ventura in January for the March for Justice, a protest organized to coincide with the Women’s March on Washington and hundreds of similar marches around the world.

**Kellogg Park Construction.** Starting as a community driven project to increase park area on the Westside of Ventura, the City and its partners were able to secure \$3.5 of the \$4.5 of the funds needed to construct the park through grants and donations. The first phase of the 2.41 acre park features community gathering spaces, an amphitheater, playground area, and outdoor exercise equipment.

**9. The Bad.** Retired Judge Kills Girlfriend and Himself. Former Ventura County Superior Court Judge Herbert Curtis III, 69 shot and killed his girlfriend Patricia Payne, 54 in a domestic dispute. He subsequently killed himself after officials arrived at his home.

**Scamp Passes.** Publisher Sheldon Brown’s beloved pet Scamp passed this April(just shy of 15). Dubbed Professor Scamp, Ph.D. (pretty happy dog), he was the inspiration for the Breeze’s Pet Pages and Scamp Club, which are focused on celebrating pets in our City as well as finding homes for animals in need.

**10. The Bizarre.** Celebrating the Life of an Irish Pig. In March, the locally-famous inflatable pig met his end fittingly, on the street in the 2017 County of Ventura St. Patrick’s Day Parade. Known as Pig o’ My Heart and Shamhock, the giant green pig appeared in the parade for 26 years, and was remembered in November in a mass community wake complete with public mourners, pall bearers, bagpipes and of course, libations. A new pig is on its way.

**West Ventura Winter Warming Shelter**  
*Continued from page 1*  
Ventura and Oxnard \$100,000 each.

Monetary donations to assist the shelter can be made on the DVO website ([downtownventura.org](http://downtownventura.org)) or by calling 641-1090.

The shelter was originally scheduled to open December 15, 2017. Due to the Thomas Fire, the opening was delayed when the armory facility became a staging center for military personnel days after the fire began.

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

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

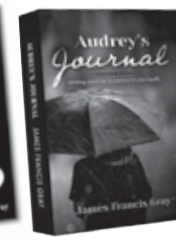

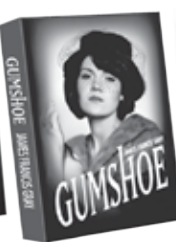

In 1964, he became the youngest person to receive the Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to end segregation and racial discrimination through civil disobedience and other non-violent means.

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


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

A national hero and a civil-rights figure King summoned together a number of black leaders in 1957 and laid the groundwork for the organization now known as the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). King was elected its president, and he soon began helping other communities organize their own protests against discrimination.

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Ventura BREEZE





by Pam Baumgardner  
VenturaRocks.com

I'm happy to report that our community continues to rally to help raise funds for Thomas Fire relief. I can't tell you how much I'm looking forward to Ventura becoming stronger and more vibrant this year, and music has a lot to do with that.

The next big benefit comes from the former owners of Zoey's, Steve and Polly Hoganson entitled 805 Love Notes which is being billed as a thank you to the first responders and a Thomas Fire relief benefit concert at the Ventura Theater on Sunday, January 14. The show starts at 4 in the afternoon with so many Zoey's alumni on the bill including Chris Pierce, Glen Phillips (Toad the Wet Sprocket), Jesse Siebenberg (Lukas Nelson), Lee Koch, Leslie Stevens, the Pendleton Sisters, Shawn Jones, Bryan Titus, Seth Pettersen, Trevor Beld, Shades of Day, Shane Alexander, Tim Curran, Todd Hannigan and more! It promises to be a lovely evening filled with so much love for all our heroes.

Another benefit (which was scheduled before the fire) is Nardcore Punk Rock to Walk Me Home which supports sheltered and fostered dogs find new homes. This one falls on Saturday, January 6, at the Ventura Theater with TSOL headlining along with Nardcore bands on the bill such as Ill Repute, Stalag 13, Boxheads, The Big Problem and Civil Conflict.

Quick notes: Dwight Yoakam's rescheduled show at the Ventura Theater is Thursday, January 4; Yachtley Crew begins a Thursday night residency at Bombay's this month; Hi Hat Entertainment has Kelly's Lot on Friday, January 5, and Rob Rio on Friday January 12; The Golden China is hosting a Thomas Fire fundraiser featuring Darkside Cosplay on Saturday, January 13.

Oh! Just so you know, I heard an advance rough cut of a new song written by Tommy Marsh featuring some of my favorite players here in town, Tommy Marsh, Guy Martin and Shawn Jones. The tune is called "Rise from the Ashes" and according to Tommy he hopes to raise money for ongoing Thomas Fire relief funds. The next stage is to add more players and a vocal choir. Additional artists expected to contribute their time to this project include Johnny Main (The 44's), Robert Ramirez and Michelle Voltrian (Medicine Hat), Jodi Farrell and students, Evangeline Noelle (Sisterook), Kelly Z and Perry Robertson (Kelly's Lot), and more! I cannot wait to hear the final product and you know I'll be spinning it on my radio show.

And speaking of which, the Pam Baumgardner Music Hour continues to air weekly (Tuesdays and Fridays at 5 and Sundays at noon) on KPPQ-LP 104.1 FM here in Ventura, but the station is also worldwide now on the internet, so no excuses! Invite your family and friends to tune in for so many great artists out of the 805, just tell them to adjust for their specific time zone. They can find the station at [www.CapsMedia.org/Radio](http://www.CapsMedia.org/Radio).

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](mailto:Pam@VenturaRocks.com), and for updated music listings daily, go to [www.VenturaRocks.com](http://www.VenturaRocks.com).

## Music Calendar

For more events go to [VenturaRocks.com](http://VenturaRocks.com)

**Boatyard Pub**  
**Ventura Harbor Village**  
Tuesdays: Jason Ho  
Wednesdays: Mark McGinis  
Thursdays: Blue Grass Jam  
Fri 1/5: Frank Barajas  
Sat 1/6: Eden Eden & Cary Park  
Fri 1/12: Teresa Russell  
Sat 1/13: Jason Ho

**Bombay Bar & Grill**  
**143 S. California Street**  
Thursdays: Yachtley Crew  
Friday and Saturdays: DJs

**Casa Bella**  
**391 E. Main Street**  
**(805) 340-1119**  
Music starts 7 pm  
Fridays: Encore  
Saturday: Ricky Williams

**The Cave**  
**4435 McGrath Street**  
5:30 – 8:30 pm  
Weds & Saturdays: Varon Thomas  
Thurs & Fridays: Warren Takahashi

**Copa Cubana**  
**Ventura Harbor Village**  
Week nights 6 pm; Weekends 7 pm; Sundays 3 pm  
Tuesdays: The Jerry McWorter Trio  
Saturdays: Havana 5

**Dargan's Irish Pub**  
**593 E. Main Street**  
Sun 1/7: 4 pm Sunday Drivers

**Discovery**  
**1888 Thompson Blvd**  
Thurs 1/4: Layovr  
Fri 1/5: Twisted Gypsy  
Sat 1/6: Tribal Theory, Ritual Movement  
Thurs 1/11: Rising Son  
Fri 1/12: High Voltage  
Sat 1/13: Waddy Wachtel

**Four Brix**  
**2290 Eastman Avenue**  
Fri 1/12: Karen Eden & Bill Macpherson

**Garage**  
**1091 Scandia**  
Sat 1/6: Sharks of Dance, Cruel Reflections

**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  
Sat 1/13: Darkside Cosplay

**The Greek Restaurant**  
**Ventura Harbor**  
Sun 12/31: NYE Party with Awesome Sauce

**Hong Kong Inn**  
**435 E. Thompson Blvd**  
Mondays: Karaoke  
Thursdays: Gypsy Blues Band  
Fri 1/5: Hi Hat Entertainment presents Kelly's Lot  
Fri 1/12: Hi Hat Entertainment presents Rob Rio

**Keynote Lounge**  
**10245 E. Telephone Road**  
Tues & Wed: Karaoke  
Thursdays: Open mic night  
Fri 1/5: Pull the Trigger  
Sat 1/6: Wax Off  
Fri 1/12 Sean Wiggins  
Sat 1/13: Coz Broz

**Leashless Brewing**  
**585 E. Thompson Blvd.**  
Thursdays: Live Jazz Jam Sessions

**Made West Brewing**  
**1744 Donlon Street**  
Thurs 1/4: Matt Sayles & Guest  
Sat 1/6: Will Breman  
Sun 1/7: Corey Leiter & RJ Bacchitta  
Thurs 1/11: Conner Cherland  
Sat 1/13: Anchor and Bear  
Sun 1/14: RJ Mischo & His Red Hot Blues Band

**Majestic Ventura Theater**  
**26 S. Chestnut Street**  
Sat 1/6: TSOL, Ill Repute, The Grim, Stalag 13, The Boxheads, more...  
Sun 1/14: 805 Love Notes with Glen Phillips, Chris Pierce, Lee Koch, Shane Alexander, Tim Curran, Todd Hannigan and more...

**O'Leary's**  
**6555 Telephone Road**  
Wednesdays: Karaoke

**Paddy's**  
**2 W. Main Street**  
Wednesdays: Karaoke  
Fri & Sat: DJs

**Patio at Players Casino**  
**Auto Center Drive**  
Thurs 1/4: Andres Herrera Trio  
Fri 1/5: Vanise Terry Band  
Sat 1/6: Brandon Ragan  
Fri 1/12: InStone  
Sat 1/13: Pull the Trigger

**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

**Rookees Sports Bar & Grill**  
**419 E. Main Street**  
**(805) 648-6862**  
Fri and Sat: Rotating DJs

**Rubicon Theater**  
**1006 E. Main Street**  
Sat 1/6: Jason Graae & Faith Prince (8 pm)  
Sun 1/7: Jason Graae & Faith Prince (2 & 7 pm)

**Sandbox Coffeehouse**  
**204 E. Thompson Blvd**  
**805-641-1025**  
Thurs 6 pm, Weekends noon  
Thursdays Open Mic  
Sat 1/6: Dan McNay  
Sun 1/14: EJ Mathews

**Sans Souci**  
**21 S. Chestnut**  
Sundays: DJ Darko  
Mondays: Karaoke  
Tuesdays: DJ Nick Dean  
Wednesdays: Open mic  
Thursdays: DJ Spinobi  
Fri 1/5: DJ Pistolero  
Sat 1/6: Bombafiya  
Fri 1/12: Las Grimmas, Worth Taking, Build them to Break

**Star Lounge**  
**343 E. Main Street**  
Tues: Karaoke  
Thurs: DJ Trovlbe  
Fri 1/5: The Automatics  
Sat 1/6: Dive Bar Messiahs  
Fri 1/12: CRV  
Sat 1/13: The Flailingtons

**The Tavern**  
**211 E. Santa Clara Street**  
**(805) 643-3264**  
Sundays: DJ Steezy Steve  
Tuesdays: Karaoke  
Metal Wednesdays  
Get it Right Thursday DJs  
Fri 1/5: DJ Ayce  
Sat 1/6: Red Muffs  
Fri 1/12: Soul Infusion  
Sat 1/13: Rich Sheldon

**Topa Mountain Winery**  
**821 W. Ojai Avenue**  
Music Saturdays: 3-5 pm; Sundays 2-4 pm  
Sat 1/6: Dan Grimm  
Sun 1/7: Cindy Kalmenson & the Lucky Ducks  
Sat 1/13: Danny McGaw  
Sun 1/14: Karen Eden

**Vintura at the Wine Rack**  
**14 S. California Street**  
**(805) 653-9463**  
Sundays music at 2 pm  
Fri 1/5: Paul Mars Black  
Sat 1/6: Rebel Rose  
Sun 1/7: Paul McCallum  
Fri 1/12: Karyn 805  
Sat 1/13: Rich Sheldon & Carl Osterlof  
Sun 1/14: Encanto das Aguas

**The 805 Bar**  
**Ventura Harbor**  
Music at noon Sat & Sun with Kenny Devoe





**Cassandra Tondro** is a local Ventura artist who has offered to replace any of her art that burned in the Thomas fire for free.

Tondro received a comment on her Instagram feed from a couple who lost one of her paintings when their home burned earlier this month. Realizing that there were probably others who had lost her art, she saw that this was something she could do to help fire victims.

According to Tondro, "People who have lost their homes have bigger things to worry about right now than replacing lost art. Please contact me when you are resettled, even if it's several years from now, and we will find something lovely to replace the paintings that burned."

Tondro's contact information can be found on her website [www.tondro.com](http://www.tondro.com).



Performing and visual artist **David Oliver** at *Under the Bed*.

## Art City expands

by Susan Torne

Art City Gallery and Studios, established in 1983, is a think-tank for experimental sculpture, installation, multi-media, assemblage, painting, film, performance, poetry, and theater. Founded by Paul Lindhard, artist, sculptor, studio builder, producer and patron of the arts for 50 years; Art City spans 31 years of art history in Ventura.

There are four components to Art City's new expanded creative cluster. The first two components are Art City Gallery and Art City Studios (Art City's oldest and most continuous component). Art City Gallery hosts curated exhibits and events. A community resource for culture and education, the gallery reflects Art City's reason for being: Art 24/7; supporting collaboration, empowerment and no-holds barred exploration and implementation of ideas; from traditional gallery exhibits, to poetry

readings, performances, lectures, talks, and cinema. Additionally it will be home to the San Buenaventura Artists' Union for 4 exhibitions in 2018.

Over thirty years in the making, Art City Studios has evolved into a dynamic environment allowing artists to create in a supportive atmosphere. Throughout 22 studio spaces, stone sculptors represent the bulk of Art City Studio artists, existing side by side with film makers, playwrights, poets, performance artists, painters, wood-carvers, photographers.

A third component of Art City is Avant Garden. Referred to for the first years of its development as Art City Stone Garden, this sculpture park was given the name Avant Garden in 2017, casting light upon generations of Ventura's avant-garde collaborating with Art City since the mid-1980's. Paul Lindhard waited two years to get the bigger of the garden's two main stones, intended as part of public art installation Dos Metates. The lead piece is a piece of imperial blue granite he obtained from San Marcos, California. The other, slightly smaller stone, is a beautiful sample of academy black granite from north of Fresno, California. Dos Metates is intended for the Mission Lawn between China Alley and Museum of Ventura County.

Lastly, Art City's most recent fourth component is Under the Bed (UTB), a production space for contributing artists to create, share and expand their personal vision through music, film, digital media production, theater and performing arts. UTB is affiliated with Art City as an extension of the city's cultural past, present, and future.

"Let's come together, our doors are open" is the theme of the opening reception for the new exhibition, **In High Style: The Photography of Neal Barr**, 5-7 p.m., Jan. 13, at the Museum of Ventura County. Sponsored by Union Bank, the reception admission is free and will feature plentiful refreshments from local downtown businesses. A no-host bar will also be available.

"We encourage everyone to join us for an evening celebrating the resilience of our residents, businesses and government agencies, while enjoying the art of renowned fashion photographer and Ventura native, Neal Barr," said Elena Brokaw, Museum of Ventura County executive director. "We will not be charging admission to the opening in the hopes of encouraging folks to come downtown and gather in support of the community. Throughout the galleries we will have donation opportunities and 100 percent of the proceeds will go directly to fire relief efforts."

Neal Barr will be attending the reception and will offer opening remarks along with several other community officials. Barr, whose extraordinary career has spanned 50 years, started in Ventura before moving to New York City in 1958.

*In High Style: The Photography of Neal Barr* will be on display from Jan. 13 through April 8.



1st Place, 31st Annual Open Competition  
by **Carson Pritchard**

Call for Entries: Buenaventura Art Association's  
32nd Annual Open Competition  
Deadline: Midnight, Saturday, January 6.

Cash Awards and Membership Benefits  
First Place \$400  
Second Place \$300  
Third Place \$200  
Four Honorable Mentions at \$75 ea.

1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners also receive a free one-year membership to BAA and their art in the Ventura Breeze. Honorable Mention winners receive a 6-month membership.



Juror: Carol Shaw-Sutton. Find out more about Carol at [www.carolshawsutton.com](http://www.carolshawsutton.com).  
For entry details go to Online Entry at [BuenaventuraGallery.org](http://BuenaventuraGallery.org)

Sunset by **Wendy Winet**  
in current CMH show, "H2O"  
Call for Entries at  
Community Memorial Hospital  
exhibit "Precious"

Deadline: Midnight,  
Saturday, January 6.

With the recent fires,  
Mother Nature has reminded  
us once again that we are not  
necessarily in charge here!

For many who had to flee,  
last-minute decisions had to be made to take only those things that were most precious. For many, of course, it was their pets. For others, it was mementos of times past. Show us what is precious in your life. It could be pets, things, family, favorite activities or places that you find yourself returning to again and again. What, for you, is precious?  
The love in the air is thicker than the smoke!

Juror: CMH and BAA panel

For entry details go to Online Entry at [BuenaventuraGallery.org](http://BuenaventuraGallery.org)



Twelve-year-old  
**Evin Brown**  
reflected on  
the Thomas  
Fire with his  
wonderful  
painting. It is  
not for sale by  
his  
grandparents  
because it is in  
their private  
collection.





Lighter Breeze

Mother Goose and Grimm



Baby Blues



Crock



Zits



Pros and Cons



The Brilliant Mind of Edison Lee



Solutions on page 24

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

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

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 24

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Possess

4 Hourglass fill

8 Frizzy hair-style

12 Witness

13 Bassoon's cousin

14 Applaud

15 Meadow

16 Supreme

18 Longtime talk-show legend

20 Supporting

21 Isinglass

24 Apprehensive feeling

28 Sunshades

32 Unmatched

33 Historic time

34 Sum

36 Tavern

37 Teen's facial woe

39 Archetype

41 Top

43 Take the bus

44 Knightly address

46 Interior design

50 Skydiver's need

55 Hearty brew

56 Oodles

57 Eastern potentate

58 Lemon meringue —

59 "Puttin' on

10 Operated

11 Make up your mind

17 Extinct bird

19 Doctors' org.

22 Hen pen

23 Sacrifice site

25 Asian desert

26 Metal refuse

27 Expression

28 Carrots' partners, often

29 St. Louis landmark

30 Hindu royal ...

31 ... and what

35 They counter-act chutes

38 Inferior substitute

40 Fourth letter

42 Twitch

45 Actress

47 Uppercase, for short

48 Hodgepodge

49 Need for 13-Across

50 Standard

51 "The Greatest"

52 Decay

53 Ref

54 Cravat

DOWN

1 Scandinavian city

2 Cry

3 Approach

4 One whose reasoning is faulty

5 "The — Daba Honeymoon"

6 Neither mate

7 Unhearing

8 Oak nuts

9 Winter ailment

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**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) Your good intentions could backfire if you're not careful with other people's feelings. Try using persuasion, not pressure, to get others to see your side of the situation.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) Your dedication to finishing the task at hand is laudable. But be careful not to overdo the midnight oil bit. Take time for relaxation with someone very special.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) Although your intuition will help you make some tough choices in the first half of the month, you'll need more facts to back up your actions later on.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) All that hard work and research in the workplace finally pays off as you hoped it would. Ignore comments from jealous types who are out to get the Goat riled up.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) An unfair decision creates unnecessary problems. But avoid anger and move carefully as you work this out. Expect to get support from an unlikely source.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) A fuzzy financial vista persists until midmonth, when things begin to clear up. You'll also gain a better perspective on how to handle those pesky personal problems.

**BORN THIS WEEK:** You have a wonderful way of being there for those who need your help in difficult times.

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# Show Time

## Star Wars: The Last Jedi



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

by Manuel Reynoso

*Star Wars: The Last Jedi* is a 2017 Space fantasy film written and directed by Rian Johnson. It stars Mark Hamill, Carrie Fisher, Adam Driver, Daisy Ridley, and John Boyega.

As Rey receives Jedi training from Luke Skywalker, the last remnants of the resistance finds itself on the brink of defeat.

Writing a review for *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* feels dangerous. While it was pretty universally well received, fan reception was, divisive, to say the least. So, full disclosure: I am not a huge Star Wars fan. To date, I have only seen the first film in each of the 3 trilogies; sacrilege, as far as my more hardcore friends are concerned. I say this not because I dislike the franchise, but because I understand that my review is coming from somewhere different. I am treating *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* like it exists in a vacuum. My understanding of the franchise is limited, and thus I will limit my commentary to whether the film succeeds in telling a good story on its own. With that, I am a little torn.

The story did not come off as poorly written at the time, it was competent and had some spectacular moments. The visual effects, both practical and computer generated, are some of the best in the business, but it took me a lot of time to figure out what worked and what didn't. I walked away entertained, but I couldn't help but feel like something wasn't right for me with the film.

Let me start with something that *Star Wars: The Last Jedi* did right. It was an absolutely beautiful film from start to finish. Everything from shot composition, costumes, and special effects had a painstaking attention to detail. It's the type of care that creates a world, as opposed to just another setting. For me, this is a really big deal. I love getting lost in the imagery and dynamics of the world I see on screen and is clearly one of the reasons why I probably should watch the Star Wars movies.

Unfortunately, as the film went on, I couldn't shake the feeling that something off. I was having a fun time watching it, and that stayed with me from start to finish. After mulling over it, I think the film failed for me thematically. The Last Jedi throws a lot of different themes at you during the course of the film. Themes ranging from learning to fail, the cost of sacrifice, moving on, and so on; none of them felt properly built up. There were so many separate threads in this film that it felt unfocused. While most were wrapped up, I asked myself, "how necessary was this story beat?" This also created some clashing tones throughout the film. My moral take-away from one story thread seemed almost at odds with another. To be blunt, the more I mull over the details of *The Last Jedi*; the less I like it.

I've written before how important theming is to in films and unfortunately, these issues bring down the over experience for me pretty significantly.

However, I am but one voice in a sea of contention over this film. Your mileage may, and probably will, vary. I can at least guarantee the movie is a fun watch. Rated PG13 2h35m

### Mailbox

Continued from page 4

Department. He was hired about 4 months ago and, based on this conversation, I believe we have the right person in the job.

Mr. Brown acknowledged that large parts of the City's pumping system, that replenishes hillside tanks, went down due to the power outage, seriously impeding our firefighters' ability to save homes. He said that the City has 23 pumping stations, only a few of which have back-up generators.

When I asked if he believed that we should install back-up generators at all stations, he stated that even after the City got portable generators to the pumps, they could not replenish the tanks adequately, in part because the fire took out numerous home irrigation systems causing a major hemorrhage of water.

Teams of technicians were deployed to manually shut off more than 100 valves before any real progress could be made in refilling our tanks. That took 2 days. In short, he stated that we have an old water system that has grown in a piecemeal fashion with City development. The system has become non-centralized with overly complicated interconnections. Fixing it will require a monumental effort which must be based on a well thought out plan which could be modeled on one of many possible approaches. For that, Mr. Brown had several fascinating ideas and was open to additional ideas and input from the public.

I came away with the opinion that this was not really a matter of someone being asleep at the switch but, that the City has never seriously considered this kind of disaster scenario and was totally unprepared at all levels. Avoiding this kind of situation in the future will take real leadership and a tremendous amount of commitment, ingenuity, time and cash.

Sheldon,

Let me try to enlighten you on how designated districts would help the under represented in this city.

First you have to admit there are under represented areas. At least looking at the possibility, would be a start. That's usually referred to as having an open mind.

For years I've noticed the Ventura Avenue area as a run down area, with a largely hispanic community living there. Most people that reside in Ventura would agree that for years, this was the poor part of town, and looked it. It was an overlooked area with not a lot of voice.

Though promised a pool years ago, the west side still does not have one. The east end does. Starting to get the picture? Getting a new very limited west side park doesn't make up for some of these forgotten real issues.

Concerns of affordable housing that fits the need, and more useful and contemporary facilities, are just a couple of west side area concerns.

Having a resident from that district might help matters with that areas personal needs. (living midtown with an oceanview should not qualify as an Avenue area representative). Each area is very unique and should be treated as such.

## Teryn Bonime

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The door to your dreams hinges on me!

The fact that you personally have not noticed any bias does not mean it doesn't exist.

How can a person living in an area that doesn't concern them, not be bias? Missing or not giving importance to local district issues is not a rarity.

Being disconnected is a very prominent condition under our current leadership.

It's time to take those rose colored

glasses off.

Mike Art

Mike: Researching the pool item but most of Ventura doesn't have a pool. Jim Monahan has always been concerned about the "Avenue" so we can only wait and see how districting works. See the approved district map in this issue. Voting for District1 (the Avenue) will be this year. And, by the way if my mind was more open a bird could fly threw it (I'm such a good straight man).

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Due to the fire, there were fewer boats participating in this year's Annual Ventura Harbor Parade of Lights. However, it still produced a host of wonderfully decorated boats. and winners for their spectacular, decorated boats.

At the subsequent Boaters Award Brunch held on Sunday, December 17, awardees offered a portion of their winnings to the victims of the Thomas Fire. We consider them to all be winners for participating. Many of the boaters' friends who lost their homes are now sleeping in their boats. Photos by Michael Gordon.



# 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.

## Child Endangerment; Assault with a Deadly Weapon; Felony Evading Arrest

On December 16, a Ventura Police Officer was on patrol when he observed two vehicles appearing to be involved in a road rage incident. One of the cars pulled over and flagged the officer down. The officer quickly learned the incident was part of a domestic dispute between both drivers.

The officer attempted to initiate a traffic stop on the second vehicle. When he did so, the vehicle accelerated away at a high rate of speed. The officer pursued the vehicle through a residential neighborhood, where the vehicle ran through several stop signs .

The vehicle eventually pulled into a driveway of a residence and the suspect fled on foot into the house. Officers made contact with subjects inside the residence and were able to convince the suspect to come outside.

Through their investigation officers learned the victim was attempting to comply with a court order and was dropping off her three young children, ages 2, 3, and 5, at their father’s house. When she arrived, 25 year old Ventura resident Raphael Hernandez came out of his residence armed with a crow bar and began hitting the side of the victim’s car while the children were still inside.

Hernandez was taken into custody and booked into Ventura County Jail for Child Endangerment, Assault with a Deadly Weapon, Violation of Domestic Violence Restraining Order, and Felony Evading.

## Assault with a deadly weapon

On December 18, at approximately 10:15pm, the Ventura Police Department Command Center received a report of two subjects fighting with knives in an apartment complex.

Officers responded and made contact with 21 year old Ventura resident Erik Torres and his brother Arturo. Arturo was bleeding from lacerations to his face. During their investigation, Officers learned the two brothers were arguing and began to fight. Erik Torres armed himself with a knife and cut Arturo in the face. Erik then armed himself with a skateboard and hit Arturo alongside of the head causing additional injuries.

Erik Torres was booked at the Ventura county jail for Assault with a deadly weapon.

## Traffic collision and DUI arrest

On December 19, at approximately 12:15am, the Ventura Police Department Command Center received a report a vehicle rollover into the driveway of 1123 Peninsula Street.

Officers responded located the driver, 19 year old Ventura resident Jordan Spear, outside of his vehicle. It was found that Jordan lost control of his 2014 Ford Mustang causing it to roll over into the driveway colliding with two parked vehicles.

Officers noticed he was displaying signs of being intoxicated. Officers conducted a Field Sobriety Evaluation, and Spear was found to be driving while under the influence of alcohol. Spear was arrested and booked at the Ventura County Jail .

## Theft from vehicle

On December 19, at approximately 3:15am, the Ventura Police Department Command Center received a report of a person casing vehicles and trying door handles in the area.

Officers arrived on scene and located 33 year old Ventura resident Shiloh Chenoweth inside of a vehicle. Chenoweth ran from officers when they attempted to contact him. Officers lost Chenoweth in the area of Aliso Street and Buena Vista Ave. Officers quickly set up a perimeter around Chenoweth’s last location. A few minutes later, one of the perimeter Officers located Chenoweth attempting to hide in a yard at the corner of Buena Vista and Aliso. Chenoweth was taken into custody without incident.

Chenoweth was booked at the Ventura County Jail for Vehicle Tampering, Resisting Arrest, Burglary tools, and Drug charges.

## Commercial Burglary Arrest

On December 22, at approximately 10:30pm, the Ventura Police Department Command Center received a call from CVS Alarms, reporting a possible commercial burglary in progress at the CVS store at 2260 E. Thompson Blvd. The alarm company had live video surveillance of inside the closed store and reported seeing a male subject inside removing items from the shelves.

Officers arrived on scene and immediately set up a perimeter around the store. The front door of the business was found open. As officers were preparing to enter the store, the suspect later identified as 29 year old Ventura resident Tyler Clark, was seen just inside the entrance. Clark saw the officers and fled towards the back of the store.

Officers, along with a Ventura Police K-9, entered the store and during a search found Clark hiding inside. Clark was taken into custody without incident.

## Stabbing Homicide

On December 24, at approximately 10pm, the Ventura Police Command Center received a call in reference to a stabbing that occurred at the city parking structure located at 500 East Harbor Blvd. Ventura PD patrol officers responded to the call and upon arrival, located the victim who sustained numerous stab wounds to his body. The victim was transported to Ventura County Medical Center where he later died from his injuries. Ventura Police Detectives were notified and took over the investigation.

During the investigation, Ventura Police Detectives learned that the victim was approached by three suspects on the second floor of the parking structure. Three suspects attacked the victim and began battering and stabbing him. Video surveillance in the area captured the attack. Ventura Police Detectives were able to identify the suspects, who are known members of a local gang. It appears that the victim was targeted by the suspects and this was not a random crime.

On December 27, at approximately 5:30pm, with the assistance of Ventura Police SWAT, investigators served a search warrant at the residence of 20 year old Ventura resident Chris Gallegos in the 200 block of W. Simpson St. Gallegos was located at the residence and was taken into custody. He was booked into Ventura County Jail for Murder, Street Terrorism, and Conspiracy.

On December 28, at approximately

10:30am, the 17 year old juvenile suspect was seen in the 200 block of W. Ramona Street. Ventura Police officers surrounded the area and a team of SWAT officers conducted a search for the suspect. He was located hiding inside a residence and taken into custody without incident.

The 16-year-old juvenile is currently in custody at Ventura County Juvenile Hall for an unrelated case and will be booked for Murder, Street Terrorism, and Conspiracy.

## Council chooses election district map

Continued from page 1

project spans nearly four years, begun in 2014, and involved dozens of council meetings, public notices, thousands of hours of community involvement, staff dedication and input from a professional election consultant. From 33 maps initially submitted by individual and community organizers, 19 maps were legally compliant, followed by a further narrowing of the field to four maps that council chose from: 11,16,22,23. These maps can be viewed at: [www.cityofventura.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/10830](http://www.cityofventura.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/10830).

With no debate, council picked Map #11, based on the common council perspective that this map keeps communities of interest and geography together. Member Christy Weir, who raised her family in Montalvo, said that Map #11 does not divide Montalvo like some of the other maps. “We always thought of Montalvo as Victoria Avenue to Ramelli Avenue, not divided by Johnson Drive, which is what happens with Map #22,” Weir commented. Member Mike Tracy, who introduced the motion to adopt Map #11, stated that it was important for Montalvo and Pierpont to be in the same district, given their shared socioeconomic and community needs. “We need a map that reminds people that, even though council members will represent their own districts, they still come together to support the whole city,” said member Cheryl Heitmann. Heitmann also said that some neighborhoods like Pierpont are thought to have only wealthy homeowners, but in fact have a lot of renters like the Montalvo area. Member Matt LaVere endorsed Map #11 because it provides a strong Westside, Saticoy and Montalvo. “Map #11 achieves bringing the far ends of the City into council chambers,” said member and former mayor Erik Nasarenko.

Despite the vote, many members

of the public spoke to oppose Map #11 and support Maps #22 and #23 that, in their view, represented the City’s Latino vote and community diversity best. Most opponents spoke in the name of CAUSE (Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy), which focuses on immigrant rights, wage reform and environmental improvement. A teacher with the Ventura Unified School District called Ventura a “wonky L-shaped city” that requires boundaries recognizing demographic similarities. Others spoke of the need to empower disenfranchised blocks of voters, keep the hillsides separate from the working classes and maintain the unique ethnic characteristics of certain neighborhoods. It was argued that Map #11 neglects the predominantly low income, immigrant and renter populations in Montalvo and Saticoy.

In the final evaluation, valid maps had to meet key requirements of the Federal Voting Rights Act (FVRA) and California Voting Rights Act (CVRA). Mayor Neil Andrews thanked the public and staff for exemplary work on this project. The final reading of the new district ordinance is scheduled for the January 8, 2018 council session.

# THE GRAY

by Todd Block

FOR EVERYONE AND EVERYPLACE  
AFFECTED BY THE FIRE  
THE GRAY THAT YOU SEE,  
BLANKETING OUR SKY, IS NOT OUR  
MORNING SEA FOG, IT’S NOT WET  
IT’S DRY.  
ANIMALS FLEE THE FOREST, AND  
BIRDS FORCED TO FLY, GRAYS  
SOURCE NOT DISCRIMINATE,  
SOME MAY LIVE, SOME MAY DIE.  
IT SEEPS IN YOUR SKIN, BURNS  
YOUR THROAT, WATERS YOUR EYE,  
BENEATH THE GRAY BLANKET,  
NORMALCY AWRY.  
AS THE FIRE LEAVES, WE SMILE,  
HUG, WAVE IT GOODBYE. STILL  
AS STRONG AS EVER (VENTURA),  
EVEN WHEN WE CRY.  
OUT OF THE ASHES, A NEW FOREST  
AND HOMES WILL ARISE, OUR NEW  
FOUND STRENGTH AND UNITY, IS  
REALLY OUR NEW PRIZE.  
*Breeze: We goofed and had this poem in our last issue with the wrong title and the wrong author. Can we blame it on the fire distracting us?*

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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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