



Our hearts go out to Montecito. **FREE**

VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

Vol. 11, No. 8 Published Every Other Wednesday Established 2007 January 17 - January 30, 2018

We all mourn with the families who lost their homes

by City Council Member Christy Weir

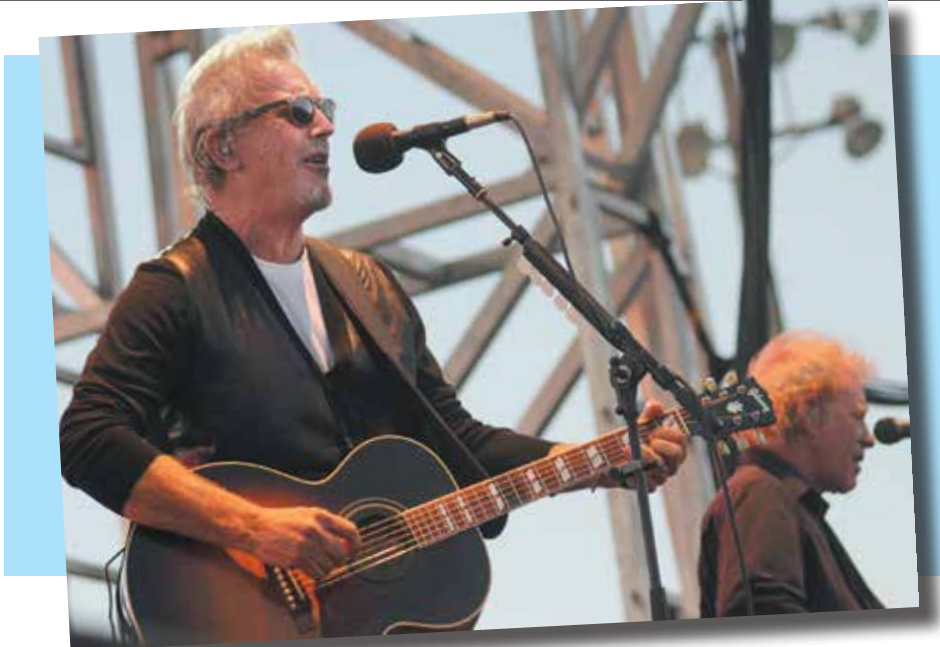
The sudden and fierce Thomas Fire has left a lasting impact on our community. We are proud of our residents and our fire and police departments for facilitating the evacuation of one-fourth of our city within two hectic hours, with no injuries. The fire destroyed over 500 homes in Ventura and we all mourn with the families who lost their possessions and homes. The quick and generous response of our community has been overwhelming, during and after the fire.

Through donations of time, money, household items, food and housing, Venturans have come together to inspire and support one another, moving forward to help those who were impacted. The City has partnered with CalRecycle to quickly clear debris from affected properties, and we are committed to helping each property owner through the permitting and construction process as they rebuild. Three well-loved parks also suffered heavy losses in the fire—Arroyo Verde, Ventura Botanical Gardens and Serra Cross Park. I look forward to collaborating with community volunteers to reconstruct and revitalize these parks as a lasting legacy to the resilience and strength of our beautiful city. We are VenturaStrong!

Sign up for no-cost CalRecycle fire debris removal program

The deadline is approaching for residents affected by the Thomas Fire to sign up by filing Right-of-Entry forms for no-cost debris removal services from CalRecycle for severely damaged or destroyed property. Through this

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Kevin's love, care and concern for this town soon became evident.

Kevin Costner to help support community at Thomas Fire Benefit Festival

Photo and article by Pam Baumgardner

I admit, I was nervous to be speaking with three-time Golden Globe and Academy Award winning actor, producer, director and musician, Kevin Costner. I've been a long-time fan of his work and have seen him twice in concert with his band Modern West. But within a few moments, I was at ease as I found

him as down-to-earth as the Iowan farmer, Ray, he portrayed in the movie Field of Dreams.

Kevin had hoped to be in town for one-on-one interviews to help promote the Thomas Fire Benefit Festival, but the tragic mudslides in Santa Barbara

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People still need to get to work, and appointments, in Santa Barbara. And Amtrak is one of the only ways to get there (also by Island Packer's boats). This large crowd all managed to fit in the Amtrak train with most of them needing to stand.



Even vehicles will need to be replaced.

A community coming together with Thomas Fire fundraisers

The Thomas Fire Fund is a coalition of the United Way, the Red Cross and the Sheriff's Department. 100% of the funds go directly to those affected by the Thomas Fire. For more information visit http://www.unitedwayla.org/ventura_county_thomas_fire

January is National Mentoring Month, and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Ventura County (BBSVC) is celebrating with some very special events and activities, with a message of volunteerism and thanking First Responders in Ventura County.

All month long, Bigs and Littles will be creating handmade thank-you cards for Ventura County's First Responders. Bigs and Littles will have the opportunity to present these cards to our local heroes at a special First Responders Lunch on Sunday, January 21st, at the Vagabond Coffee Shop on Thompson. And they will pull free raffle prizes for those First Responders in attendance, which include gifts like tickets to Disneyland!

Thomas Fire Benefit Concert at Discovery Ventura, Friday January 19. The Concert features The Delgado Brothers, Teresa James and The Rhythm Tramps, The Guy Martin Band and Ray Jaurique and The Uptown Brothers, hosted by Lillian Schwartz, and Ventura's own, Ashford Gordon and one of Southern California's favorite comedienne, Denise Carter.

100 % of the net box office funds raised will go to Ventura County FOOD Share food bank as well as the United

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I have lived in two other senior communities in Ventura with my wife over the years. When I moved to the Ventura Townehouse I found nothing can compare to the camaraderie here. No other communities that I have seen can compare. I give it an A+!
I feel like the Ventura Townehouse is home.
Ed Schultz,
Ventura Townehouse Resident

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For more info visit:
VenturaMusicTogether.com





City News

Fire/storm updates by City Council

by **Burris DeBenning**

While a strong, rainy cold front descended on Ventura, city staff provided updates at the Monday, January 8 City Council meeting on preparations underway for possible storm debris flows and the latest efforts with the Thomas Fire recovery. A very positive and articulate interim City Manager, Dan Paranick, conducted a presentation in conjunction with Public Works on Ventura's preparations for this and future rain events and how the recovery process is on-track.

Mr. Paranick emphasized that city staff took this storm and future winter fronts very seriously by opening the city emergency operations center, coordinating with the Red Cross on an overnight evacuation center at Ventura College and notifying Westside, Downtown and Midtown residents of a voluntary evacuation that would be followed up by mandatory notices via VCAAlert if necessary. Prescient news, especially since many people died in mudslides in Montecito.

"The watershed here is Priority 1A due to the potential rain impact," said Mr. Paranick. The city has five key goals to meet this challenge: evacuation, response, emergency protective measures, long-term mitigation and protective measures "Sandbags ran out, so we made sure these were immediately replenished before the rain arrived later Monday evening," he said. Residents in specific neighborhoods who may face

debris flows because of the Thomas Fire were contacted by the city.

Clifford Tully, Public Works Director, presented a comprehensive storm mitigation plan along with engineering models that consider several scenarios, such as a 100-year or 10-year storm. Mr. Tully conveyed to several council members who asked about the areas of concern in the model, such as Ondulando and Clear Point storm drains, that the city and county are working together on preventative and recovery actions and even have storm patrols out at city hot spots to warn residents and officials about clogs and flooding.

Thomas Fire recovery has completed important milestones, according to Mr. Paranick, the highlight being President Trump's declaration of the burn zones as a major disaster area, which opens the door to well-needed FEMA federal funding. The toxic substance removal phase is now 75% completed and the collection and dispensing of recyclable materials will begin on January 15." We'll also have town halls after the recycle assessment after the 18th of January," said Mr. Paranick.

In addition, the City Attorney Greg Diaz reminded council that a curfew is still in effect in hillside burn areas until dangers have been removed by official personnel. For rain emergency issues, log onto www.vcemergency.com and for recovery information, the website is www.venturacountyrecovers.org.

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Westside residents voiced their concerns with erosion and how to better prepare for yet another evacuation.

Water is life

by **Karen Leslie, writer with heart**

Hoping for just a sprinkle and not a down pour, was just one of the main topics open for discussion for the 100 plus Westsider's who attended the Ventura Westside Community Council Meeting held at Bell Arts Factory January 3rd.

The evening began with a lively atmosphere of friends meeting friends and neighbors greeting neighbors. President of WCC, Tomas Luna set the evening's tone and intention, one with the hope of finding answers, resolving and taking action to help prepare for yet another impending monstrous disaster, the possibility and probability of mudslides. With the hills barren and nothing to stop them from sliding and destroying everything in their path, homes and lives are at stake, not to mention the hills themselves.

With Westside residents still reeling from the bottlenecks, and challenging escape routes of the Dec. 4th fires, they voiced their concerns with erosion and how to better prepare for yet another evacuation.

This triggered a chain reaction which changed the climate of the evening to a Q&A session. WCC Treasurer, Tomás Rebecchi shares, "I think overall the meeting was successful. We learned the emergency alert systems and evacuation routes can be improved and made more accessible. This is just a starting point, many questions still remain unanswered and we will continue to organize and strongly support local agencies to improve and prepare for future emergencies and hoping for more answers at the next meeting Feb. 7th."

CFROG (Citizens for Responsible Oil and Gas), Kimberly Rivers says, "The Thomas Fires moved through many oil fields including Ventura oil fields which straddles the Westside Community, all the hillsides have the potential for movement and mudslides."

Assistant Ventura Police Chief Darin Schindler shares, "We are pleased with the attendance of so many residents and the department is already preparing to be proactive instead of reactive."

Ashley Bautista encouraged home residents to register with VC Alert, an emergency notification system that delivers alerts when there is a threat to the health and safety of residents.

Fire Marshal Joe Morelli states, "Residents should prepare for a rain and debris flow event by planning and staying informed on what to do during an emergency by visiting; www.readyventuracounty.org and www.venturacountyrecovers.org also checking local weather channels for updates. A moderate to heavy rainfall event is anticipated in the Thomas Fire areas next week."

These hard working conscientious people are part of a team effort to find

Continued on page 9

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

MEETING DETAILS

Date	Time	Location
Wednesday, Jan 17	6:00 PM	<i>Poinsettia Pavilion:</i> 3451 Foothill Rd, Ventura CA 93003
Monday, Jan 22	6:00 PM	<i>Ojai Valley Women’s Club:</i> 441 E Ojai Ave, Ojai CA 93024
Tuesday, Jan 23	6:00 PM	<i>Poinsettia Pavilion:</i> 3451 Foothill Rd, Ventura CA 93003
Wednesday, Jan 24	6:00 PM	<i>The Lion’s Park:</i> 6197 Casitas Pass Rd, Carpinteria CA 90313
Saturday, Jan 27	3:00 PM	<i>Poinsettia Pavilion:</i> 3451 Foothill Rd, Ventura CA 93003



E. Elliot Adler



Dave Fox



Christopher Sieglock



Alan Seltzer, Special Counsel

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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.



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VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

Member, Ventura Chamber of Commerce

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

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Opinion/Editorial



Sheldon (Governor) Brown
Publisher-Editor

■ The **Thomas Fire**, which began more than six weeks ago and became the largest wildfire in modern California history, is now fully extinguished. The blaze

consumed 281,893 acres in both Ventura and Santa Barbara counties, destroyed 1,063 structures, most of which were in Ventura.

Infrared and helicopter sightings did not locate any active flames or heat in the fire area after the rainstorm.

Even though the Thomas fire is now completely out it is really difficult to feel good because of what has happened to our neighbors and friends in Montecito, where about 25 people have died from mudslides.

We all feel very attached to **Montecito**, as many of us go there to have dinner or to walk around their wonderful downtown. After visiting the Santa Barbara Zoo, many people drive through Montecito to get on the freeway.

This is a town of only about 10,000 residents, so the financial and personal impact on the city is overwhelming.

Roy Rohter, who founded St. Augustine Academy in Ventura, died in the mudslide. Ironically, Rohter's daughter graduated from Thomas Aquinas College, from which the name Thomas Fire came from.

Sadly, many residents had received voluntary evacuation notices but decided to stay. I'm sure with future potential disasters, authorities will deliver many more mandatory evacuation notices. Some people, in mandatory evacuation areas, refuse to leave. The answer may be to always err on the side of caution and leave whether voluntary or mandatory.

We were all happy when 2017 ended and were looking forward to a new start in 2018, and then this tragedy happened. When people ask me how I am doing, I find it is difficult to say, "I'm doing well" even though these dual tragedies has no serious direct impact on me. But the loss of many friends' homes and the deaths in Montecito makes it difficult to feel very good these days.

■ There are many Venturan's complaining and wondering why there was not **adequate water** while fighting the Thomas fires. We must remember that this was the largest fire in the recorded history of California. It would be almost impossible or economically feasible to prepare for a fire of this magnitude. We are attempting to find out exactly why this occurred and what future solutions

might be.

This would be a similar event to experiencing 30 inches of rain in 24 hours. It would be impossible to prepare for that type of scenario also.

■ Reminding you that **Harrison** customers can get four free bulky item pickups each year.

■ Impossible to believe that even this **President** would use the term s---hole to describe other countries. 41% of immigrants from the s---hole country of Africa who are over 25 years old have bachelor's degrees compared to 32% of US born citizens. And, 16% have master's degrees or above compared to 11% of US born. Both percentages are higher than immigrants from Norway.

■ **Conspiracy 101:** First "they" caused and controlled the Thomas Fire and the winds that spread it. Then, "they" seeded the clouds by contrails and caused the heavy rains which resulted in many deaths. Who are "they"? We are not sure but the rumor is "they" are a group of 12 that control the entire world, including perhaps 2 Martians. What "they" gain from this is not clear.

■ We are all happy that the construction on the **freeway overpass** at the end of Ash is now complete. But the workmanship is deplorable. I mistakenly thought that this was a City of Ventura project and complained to the wrong people, but it is a Caltrans project. I am attempting to find out more from Caltrans about who the contractor was and if they have been paid. The concrete work is awful, and the handrail looks as if it was installed by someone who had been drinking too much.



The workmanship on the Ash overpass is deplorable.

And, it's hard to believe that painting of the overpass wasn't included in the Caltrans contract. I've been in contact with our City Council and hopefully, even though the bridge is not owned by Ventura, can have it painted as it certainly reflects on Ventura.

■ The Ventura County Board of Supervisors has stated their opposition to new **offshore oil** and gas leases in the Pacific Ocean. This is based on the announcement by Secretary of the Interior, Ryan Zinke, that the federal government plans to open up the Pacific coast to new oil and gas drilling for the first time in 30 years. The plan was made possible by President Trump's April 2017 executive order opening up the offshore plans already in place.

This is a bad idea for many reasons, one being the fact that we now have a glut of oil in this country and do not need further ocean drilling. No company has shown any interest in doing this.

■ As reported on some news outlets, "**Blaze Bernstein**, a 19-year-old Jewish student at the University of Pennsylvania who went missing from his parents' Southern California home, has been found dead." What the h--- does the fact that he is Jewish have to do with this tragedy? Would it have been reported that "Blaze Bernstein, a 19-year-old Presbyterian student" or "Blaze Bernstein, a 19-year-old Catholic student" was dead? Of course not.

The sad part is that his death is being investigated as a homicide and his friend that he was with has been arrested as a suspect in his death. The religion of his friend was not reported.

How I hate
those who
are dedicated
to producing
conformity.
– William S.
Burroughs

Mailbox

Sheldon:

Just a quick "thank you" to you and your staff for producing an issue that shows once again why the Breeze is our local "national treasure".

Heartwarming (and heart-tugging) stories of the fire, plus the always excellent community resources and articles put the Breeze in a class by itself and made this a very special issue.

Thank you,
Kurt Triffet
Triffet Design Group

Breeze:

I want to thank you again so very much for another year of "supporting the support group" - Thanks to the Ventura Breeze, The Venture Parkinson's Disease

Support Group has been able to help many folks in 2017 who would not have found us otherwise. I just got a call this week from a home-health care provider looking for a group for her client who has PD; that is how she found us, in one of your articles!

Yours very truly,
Patty Jenkins
Volunteer Coordinator Ventura
Parkinson's Disease Support Group

Editor:

I was just reading your newspaper and on the front page you have a story about the Winter Warming Shelter and the department providing TB clearance is from Public Health a Division of The Ventura County Health Care Agency and

the article says "Environmental Health Dept."

Johnny Gomez
Oooooopsy.

Opinion:

I loved the last Breeze. I kept one for myself and sent one to my mom in Thailand so she could read about the Thomas Fire and all the related community stories! Great job!

Siree Franks
Director, Ventura Music Together

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



Business



On Dec.16 the Mucho Gusto Barber Shop, located at 1623 Thompson held their Ventura Chamber of Commerce ribbon-cutting.

Kevin Costner to help

Continued from page 1

and Montecito had closed down the 101 keeping him homebound so we spoke over the phone and he gave me some background on how the benefit came about.

It was back in 2008 when Kevin reached out to his good friend Tim Hctor to help produce his concert at Main and California in support of his latest film, “Swing Vote.” It was a huge undertaking, not an easy feat, so it wasn’t something Kevin thought Tim would want to do again, but he made the phone call to Tim who then reached out to Mark Hartley, and the proverbial ball was soon rolling.

Kevin’s love, care and concern for this town soon became evident. He told me it was just days after the start of the Thomas Fire that he knew he had to do something to help. He realizes one can’t know the true devastation of losing one’s home to a wildfire unless you personally have lost your home, but you can be there for people. You can stand with them. And that’s exactly what he wants to do for those who are suffering.

During our conversation Kevin also told me how he had personally taken a drive with a friend to Santa Paula to survey the damage and on their way back he stopped at the home where he grew up at here in Ventura for the first time in forty years. This was his history. The room where his brother left for Vietnam. The same TV room where he saw Jack Ruby shoot Lee Harvey Oswald when Kevin was only four years old, and where little did he know he’d star in a film on the same subject almost thirty years later (JFK).

The Thomas Fire Benefit Festival will be held at Plaza Park on Saturday, February 3, and will kick off with a VIP Chef Experience followed with live music featuring Kevin Costner and Modern West; Olivia Newton John (on her own recovery tour after second bout with breast cancer); three-time platinum hip hop and rap artist from Ventura, Super

Duper Kyle; Grammy award winner, Colbie Caillat; Ventura’s own Big Bad Voodoo Daddy and as Mark Hartley teased, there may be a few more bands added. To keep up-to-date and purchase tickets, go to www.ThomasFireBenefit.com.

A community coming together

Continued from page 1

Way Thomas Fire Fund and the Red Cross Thomas Fire Fund who have partnered with the Ventura County Sheriff’s Office of Emergency Services. Doors will open at 6 PM with Ray Jaurique and The Uptown Brothers scheduled to open at 7 PM.

A free diamond necklace to anyone who lost their home due to the Thomas Fire. To claim they only need to show their ID at Fox Fine Jewelry. There are three necklaces to select from. All necklaces were designed by Fox Fine Jewelry. See ad in this issue for more information.

Ventura Harbor Comedy Club is offering Comic Relief in the form of free admission to victims of the Thomas fire, firefighters and their families and first responders. This offer will last until the end of March, and will be good for all show except for “Special Events. This offer will be on the honor system. Just mention the offer over the phone, or at the box office, and identify yourself as someone affected by the fire, or a firefighter, or first responder, or a family member of a firefighter or first responder, and you will be admitted with no cover charge no questions asked. Reservation line is 644-1500.

Long beloved for its sense of community and ‘give back’ spirit, Spencer Makenzie’s is planning an ongoing fundraiser for the family of firefighter Cory Iverson, 32, who tragically lost his life fighting the Thomas Fire. The San Diego resident is survived by his wife, Ashley, who is expecting a second child in the spring, as well as a two year old daughter.

Spencer Makenzie’s will donate fifty cents of every bottle sold of their most popular hot sauce, Sweet Chili Fire, into a fund that will be turned over to the family after December 31, 2018. Interested parties can find the hot sauce at Spencer Makenzie’s as well as online.

Thomas Fire Benefit Festival on Saturday, February 3 in Plaza Park with outstanding entertainers and more. See the ad and article in this issue for more information.

In a previous Mailbox we had a letter that stated in part, “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.” Jim has assured us that he did not ask Msgr. O’Brien this.

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The fireplace was all that remained.

Monster firestorm

by James Francis Gray

One tentacle of the Thomas fire started in the Koenstein Road neighborhood in upper Ojai with a blown transformer just after 6:30 p.m. Monday,

December 4th, 2017. Gusts of fifty mile-an-hour winds whipped the sparks across the landscape destroying many homes, outbuildings and cars. Only a few homes could be saved.

I witnessed the destruction at Beatrix (Trixi) Scantlin's property three weeks later. Trixi had shared the main house, built over forty years ago, with her son, Mark Scantlin and his wife, Debbie. Trixi's younger sister, Erika Lohrenz lived in a Mobile home on the property near their horse corral.

When they spotted the orange glow of the rapidly-approaching fire, they decided to take immediate action and evacuate. They moved their two horses to the top of the hill. In wind so strong it was a struggle to stay on their feet, they got the three cats and a dog to the relative safety of their vehicles. Using flashlights, loaded essentials into two cars, Mark and Debbie's truck and travel-trailer, then began the terrifying journey down the mountain, caravanning to Highway 150. At Summit School they stopped and watched the fire move closer. At 9:00 p.m. they drove to the Humane Society in Ojai, where they left the cats in safekeeping, then stayed the night in the parking lot.

In the morning the family found

Ventura Strong

themselves in heavy traffic for hours as they made their way to the Port Hueneme Naval Base RV Park where they took up residence in Mark and Debbie's travel-trailer and a rental travel-trailer.

Mark Scantlin is a fire captain for Federal Fire, stationed on San Nicholas Island.

Bad news arrived in the morning. Everything on the property had burned to the ground. Thankfully, the horses and George, aka Lonesome George, their emu, survived, but sadly, the chickens and peacock did not.

The next several days were chaos, but with strong determination the Scantlins and Erika began the arduous task of putting their lives back together.

They established a camping site named Camp Phoenix higher up on their property. Two travel-trailers, a large wooden table between the two, and a decorated Christmas tree now adorn their new living space. The next order of business was to get the utilities hooked up. After Mark got the power from a generator, he primed their well, over a quarter of a mile away down the steep hillside, and laid new piping up to the campsite.

Trixi said, "When we got back home, the first thing we did was have Mark replace our flag."



Michael White has been a long-term member of the Sheriff's Search and Rescue Team.

Going Forward

The need to continue to support each other

by Jennifer Tipton

Filling in as the acting Disaster Services Coordinator for Ventura County Behavioral Health for just several months, Michael White had already been a lead in Behavioral Health's Disaster Response Team for several years and a long-term member of the Sheriff's Search and Rescue Team.

In the event of a disaster, Michael and his staff respond to the individuals who have experienced a traumatic event, such as the recent Thomas Fires. Michael states, "the orientation that we take is psychological first aid (P.F.A.), it's not therapy or trauma counseling, it's a first aid response that entails listening, validation and normalizing their reaction to the event. We provide education and resources to help them establish a plan." The teams also

provide debriefing to the responders.

Michael is overcome with how rapidly his team acted, "the staff came together with administration even though some were directly affected by the fire themselves." Teams were mobilized immediately after their initial meeting at 7 a.m. on Tuesday, December 5th and over the course, a total of 478 staff have filled 121 assignments with over 3,000 hours response time collectively.

"From a mental health perspective, I've learned a lot about the sheer generosity and resilience of this community, many people had a strong support group already in place and the need for mental health services was minimal", Michael said.

Although the immediate crisis has subsided, Michael states the next phase will be slower, but his team will still be responding to community needs. "It's going to shift, people that have held it together during the initial crisis may struggle in the coming weeks", he said and he wants us all to be aware that just because someone appeared to be doing well initially, the overwhelming support we saw at first has now subsided and some individuals are left very much alone. He warns, in the next couple months, we'll see who needs additional support, so we still need to keep an eye out for our neighbors and added one last thought, "whenever there's tragedy, there's always an opportunity for hope and positive change."

If you or someone you know has a mental health emergency or seeking services, please don't hesitate to call the 24 hour crisis assessment referral line: (866) 998-2243.

Ventura County Grand Jury announces 2018/2019 Applications

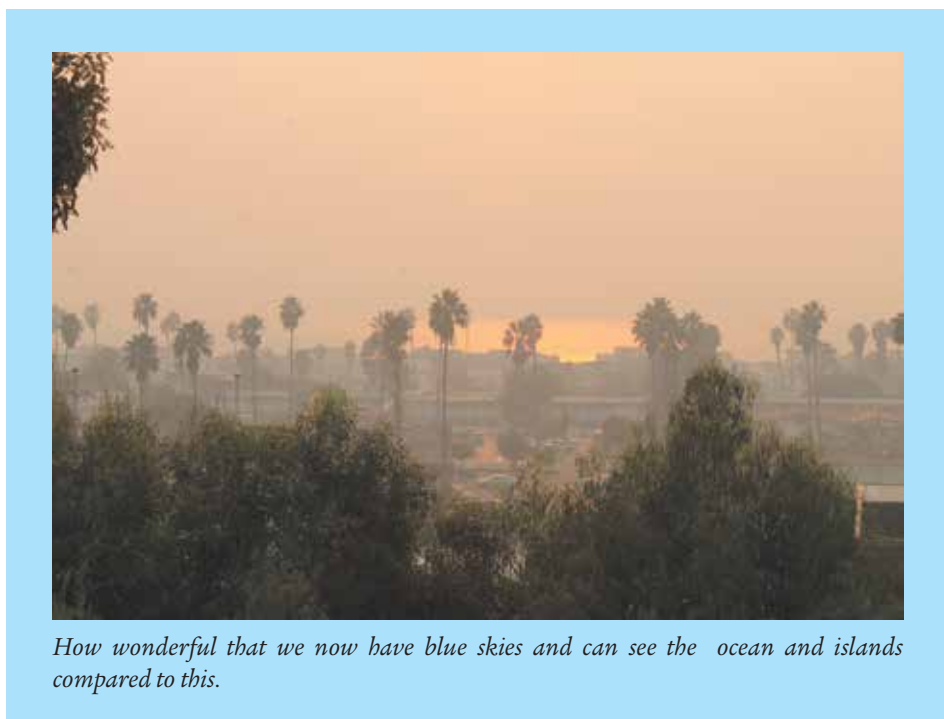
Ventura County residents have an opportunity to provide a valuable community service while learning about local government by serving on the Ventura County Grand Jury. Applications are now available for the 2018/2019 Grand Jury at: www.ventura.org/grand-jury.

The Grand Jury is a civil, investigative panel of 19 volunteers. The watchdog group investigates issues and citizen complaints and then makes recommendations to improve the operation of local government.

The Grand Jury may examine all aspects of Ventura County government, its 10 city governments as well as special districts and other agencies funded by tax dollars.

To become a Grand Juror, you must be 18 years or older, a U.S. citizen and a Ventura County resident for at least a year. A complete list of requirements and other information about Grand Jury service can be found at: <http://www.ventura.org/grand-jury/become-a-grand-juror>.

All eligible residents of Ventura County are encouraged to apply. Applications can be found and completed online at the Grand Jury website: www.ventura.org/grand-jury and then returned by mail. Applications may also be requested by telephone at (805) 477-1600. Applications will be accepted until April 6, 2018.



How wonderful that we now have blue skies and can see the ocean and islands compared to this.

Ventura Strong



“It’s a classic irony.”

McGrath State Beach to temporarily close due to flooding

McGrath State Beach temporarily closed on January 5, until further notice due to the recent increased flooding caused by the Santa Clara River Estuary. The beach will close for the security, safeguarding, and preservation of resources.

The flooding is caused when the waters backs up behind the naturally occurring sand bar blocking the mouth of the estuary until the estuary breaches with regular rainfall. Seasonally, McGrath State Beach enjoys cool summers and mild, wet winters.

Ventura Sector Superintendent, Tyson Butzke, said, “The park will remain closed until the floodwaters recede and cleanup and repairs to the entry road and campsites have been made.”

“It’s a classic irony,” said Tyson he’s used to the strange looks he gets when he tells people the worst flooding typically comes during the driest years. That happens because a sandbar builds up between the ocean and the mouth of the Santa Clara River, trapping water in the estuary.

The city of Ventura has a permit to discharge treated wastewater into the estuary and has done so for decades. As the water rises, it spills into the campground.

Most years, winter rain forces enough water down the river to break through the sandy berm, letting the water drain into the ocean. The campground then reopens in the spring.

But with little rainfall during dry years(up until a few weeks ago), the berm and flooding stuck around longer. Before opening this past Labor Day weekend, McGrath was closed for nearly three years.

The berm had breached that winter, and staff and volunteer groups repaired flood damage and cleared away dead trees and brush. In all, Butzke said they were able to open 47 of the 170 campsites.

According to Danette Delgado -Marketing and Public Relations Specialist for the Channel Coast District, California State Parks “Our mission is to provide for the health, inspiration and education of the people of California by helping to preserve the state’s extraordinary biological diversity, protecting its most valued natural and cultural resources, and creating opportunities for high-quality outdoor recreation. With over 340 miles of coastline, 970 miles of lake and river frontage, 15,000 campsites and 4,500 miles of trails, the State Park System provides wonderful recreational, educational, and inspirational opportunities for over 67 million visitors a year.”

“McGrath State Beach is one of the best bird-watching areas in California, with the

lush riverbanks of the Santa Clara River and sand dunes along the shore. This is why we always try to re-open McGrath, for the pleasure it brings to those camping there.”

For the current conditions and status of McGrath please call 968-1033 or 5851850.

Sign up for no cost debris removal

Continued from page 1

program, all the work is undertaken by CalRecycle contractors and there is no direct cost to the property owner; however, where applicable, insurance proceeds for debris removal shall be dedicated to offset costs.

“This is an extraordinary benefit for property owners who have suffered devastating losses,” said Mike Powers, County Executive Officer. The program is funded through a combination of federal, state, city and county funds.

The CalRecycle program includes the removal of all burnt debris, foundations, dangerous trees, and contaminated soil. The program also includes soil testing before and after the debris removal to ensure the site is clean and safe for building. In addition, air samples are taken during the debris removal process to protect neighboring properties from hazardous dust and air contaminants.

Fire victims are strongly encouraged to complete and submit a Right-of-Entry form before the January 22, 2018 deadline. Forms are available at venturacountyrecovers.org, the County Government Center, Ventura City Hall, and the Debris Removal Operations Center (DROC). The DROC is located at 290 Maple Court, Suite 120. The County Government Center is located at 800 South Victoria Avenue.

The County Environmental Health Division has a special counter at the County Government Center to assist property owners and accept completed Right-of-Entry forms. Property owners unable to go to the Government Center can submit their Right-of-Entry forms and other paperwork by email at EHDThomasfire@ventura.org. Email submittals may take longer to process.

Todd Thalhamer, CalRecycle senior solid waste engineer said, “Our goal is to assist the county in its efforts to clean up the damaged properties and return their communities back to their residents as soon as possible. The sooner residents enroll in the program, the sooner I can bring in additional crews to accomplish that.”

Both the County Government Center and the DROC are open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The DROC is also open on Saturday from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. if residents have questions.



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Ventura events

by Ana Baker

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

There is a regular Ventura Discussion Group meeting at Main Street Restaurant 3159 Main St., on Wednesdays 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.

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.

The Ventura County Philatelic Society meets on the first and third Mondays each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Church of the Foothills, 6279 Foothill Rd. Admission and parking are free. Come for a great evening. Contact Bill Garner 320-1601 or vcpsforyou@lycos.com.

Mended Hearts of Ventura. Come share if you have had heart surgery or stent implant. Group meets the first Tuesday each month on the 8th floor at Community Memorial Hospital. Excellent speakers leading Cardiologists, Nutritionists, and Dietitians etc. from our area. Contact Richard Hatcher at 644-2733.

Audubon events

Jan. 21: 8:30 a.m. Ventura Settling Ponds Leader: David Torfeh 647-3325. The settling ponds at the Ventura Harbor are a reliable place to find ducks, grebes, gulls and terns, as well as songbirds and raptors.

Jan. 28: 8:30 a.m. Camino Real Leader: Raeann Koerner 701-1919. Camino Real is a grassy park surrounded by pines and eucalyptus and is an

excellent place to see birds. Meet outside the park.

Jan. 18: East Ventura Community Council meeting will be held on Thursday at 7 p.m. A representative of the Ventura Police Department will give an update on crime and safety. The council represents those who live east of Victoria Avenue. Books in good condition are always accepted on behalf of Ventura Friends of the Library. First Assembly of God Church, 346 N. Kimball Road. For more information, contact John McNally, Chairperson, EVCC 804-7558.

Jan. 18: The regular monthly meeting of Assistance League of Ventura County will be at the Chapter House, 913 East Santa Clara St. Meeting begins on Thursday at 10 a.m., social beginning at 9:30 a.m. Guests and new members are welcome. Assistance League is creating "A Brighter Tomorrow for Today's Children" through several philanthropic programs. For more information assistanceleagueventuracounty.org or email alvconline@hotmail.com. Telephone: Monday - Thursday 8-2 p.m. 643-2458

Jan. 20: Ventura Friends of the Library will hold a Bag o' Books Sale at Hill Road Library on the patio. 1050 S. Hill Road from 10 - 3 p.m. Members of Ventura Friends of the Library can take home a bag of books for \$1. For non-members, the price is \$3 a bag.

Jan. 20: Ventura County Rising is a community gathering event to be held at Plaza Park at 10 a.m. 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.

Jan. 21: The Ventura and Santa Barbara County chapter of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors (NAWCC) will meet Sunday, in the Campus Student Center of Ventura College. The regular meeting starts at noon and at 11 a.m. Also a mart where items will be for sale followed by lunch and an informational meeting and a program at 1 p.m. More information about chapter 190 can be found at www.nawcc-ch190.com.

Jan. 24: The College Area Community Council will meet on Wednesday, at 7 p.m. A representative from the Ventura Fire Department will discuss the response to the Thomas Fire, lessons learned, recovery efforts and plans for the future. The meeting will include an update on the transition to city council election by districts and, as always, an officer from the VPD will be there. The Council meets in the Wright Event Center at 57 Day. CACC represents

Community Events

citizens between Mills and Victoria bordered by Foothill and Hwy. 126. Call 644-8695 for more information.

Jan. 25: The local chapter of the Portuguese Fraternal Society of America (Council #128) will hold its monthly meeting. This meeting is open to any person of Portuguese descent or interested in the Portuguese culture. Main Street Restaurant and Steakhouse, 3159 East Main Street at 11:30 a.m. for a 12p.m. no host luncheon/meeting. For more information and reservation, please call Cora Corella at 483-6285.

Jan. 25: The Friendship Connection, a group of retired women will be having lunch at Wicked's Brew, 4561 Market St. at 11:30 am. Suz-Anne Shoblom, Director at Damsel in Distress, will speak about safety for women. Prospective members are welcome to join. Call 659-3460 for more information.

Ojai news and events

The Ojai Valley Museum is planning a week-long trip to Toledo and Chicago to attend the 200th anniversary of Libbey Glass. The trip will leave from LAX on Thursday, May 3 and return on Thursday, May 10. Space has been reserved for 24 persons on a first-come first-served basis. The cost including transportation, accommodations, admissions, and estimated meals is \$2,100 per person roundtrip.

A preliminary meeting for those who might be interest will be held at the Ojai Valley Museum on Wednesday, January 24 at 5:30p.m. For further information please contact Tony Thacher at tthacher@aol.com.

Chamber On The Mountain is pleased to present their first performance of the new year with the internationally renowned ensemble, Trio Valtorna, on Sunday, January 28, at 3:00 pm. Performance will take place at Logan House in Upper Ojai. Trio Valtorna brings exceptional chamber music to appreciative audiences, with a repertoire that includes both classic and contemporary works.

Shirley Waxman will visit the Ojai Library at 1 p.m. on Saturday, January 20, to deliver a talk entitled "POP Art and the American Dream." Ms. Waxman comes from the Santa Barbara Museum of Art's Community Speakers Program.

In the years following World War II, the United States enjoyed an unprecedented period of economic and political growth which led to an explosive change in our culture.

This talk explores the works of the most celebrated American Pop artists, including Andy Warhol, James Rosenquist, Roy Lichtenstein, Jasper Johns, and Wayne Thiebaud, who all boldly experimented with new media and the American Dream.

Local author Fred Whitman will visit the Ojai Library at 1 p.m. on Saturday, January 27, to read from his new book The Ghost of Saddle Mountain. This is Whitman's debut novel, inspired by the eleven years he lived in San Francisco and enjoyed the live music scene that still thrives there.

Whitman's youth spent exploring and building tree forts in the canyon behind his home instilled in him an appreciation for nature and the miracles

of life. Those interested in his work as a sculptor can see more at www.fredsrock-art.com.

Bonnie Landau will visit the Ojai Library at 2 p.m. on Sunday, January 28, to deliver a talk entitled "Calming the Hyper Child: Practical Tools for School and Home." Mrs. Landau is an Ojai resident, author, and consultant for parents whose kids struggle to learn in traditional settings.

There are many reasons kids find it hard to be calm. Bonnie will provide information on why children are hyper or over-stimulated, and she will discuss practical examples of calming techniques.

This event is 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 Alliance has raised the bar

by John Hankins

Nobody does theater like Ventura County, thanks to the six theaters which are part of the Four-Star Theater Alliance, including Ojai ACT ... and the thousands of patrons who benefit from a wide diversity of live and lively theater every year.

The Alliance has raised the bar in quality, variety, camaraderie and cooperation since it started during the 2008 season, culminating in a uniquely judged award ceremony complete with scenes and a photo montage. This year's event honoring the 2017 season was on Jan. 14 at the High Street Theater in Moorpark.

For starters, the Most Outstanding Productions of each of the six theaters are: "Dogfight" (Camarillo Skyway Playhouse), "Young Frankenstein" (Conejo Players Theatre), "Steel Magnolias" (Elite Theatre Company), "My Fair Lady" (High Street Arts Center), "Peter and the Starcatcher" (Ojai Art Center Theater) and "Becky's New Car" (Santa Paula Theater Center).

"The 2017 winners represent a totally unique, truly memorable array of work produced throughout the area over the last 12 months," said Courtney Potter, the Alliance's social media coordinator.

The theaters promote support and respect and share resources, like props, costumes, tech people and actors. They also brainstorm problems and publish a county-wide brochure of all their productions - 31 main stage productions in 2017 alone, ranging from "Agnes of God" to "When We Were Young and Afraid."

As for the 2018 season, Umali says, "theater has always had many roles to fill in a community: to entertain, to challenge, to educate, to bring audiences together in the sharing of stories." The upcoming season will do all that and more.

"Shows from the newest, most thought-provoking works of modern playwrights and composers will go up alongside many familiar and beloved favorites. It's an opportunity to participate in a selection of exceptional theatre as wide and diverse as the community itself," Umali said.



News & Notes



Ventura Police Officer Judson Welfringer shares the latest crime statistics on VPDTV.

CAPS Media, Ventura Police and the community

The Ventura Police Department is partnering with CAPS Media to produce the Ventura Police Department's weekly crime and safety update. Tune in every week to TV Channels 6 & 15, on CAPS Radio at 104.1fm and on social media to get some helpful hints on how to stay safe and keep abreast of the latest property crime statistics.

After the holidays, the Pacific High School students returned to the CAPS Media Center for more production and storytelling. They are extremely enthusiastic and talented students. Along with the El Camino High School producers, the Pacific High students and a band of very talented Girl Scouts, the CAPS studio has been brewing with young talent.

CAPS Media broadcast several of the meetings held by the city of Ventura regarding post fire clean-up with strong attendance. Our coverage of these meetings and city council meetings help the public navigate the policies and regulations through this difficult time. There is also time to honor and support the community with announcements of the various city events to raise money for the victims of the Thomas Fire. The Ventura Unified School district is back in session with coverage board meetings, welcoming the district's new superintendent, David Creswell, and addressing the intellectual, safety and wellbeing of the students in Ventura. Welcome back students.

Our Thomas Fire Stories project is moving forward in 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 at the CAPS Media Center utilizing our professional expertise, equipment, studio facilities with distribution on television, radio and the internet. Learn to share your own story by joining the Thomas Fire Story Project. There are hundreds of individual and extraordinary Thomas Fire Stories to share, remember and celebrate. 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 Thomas Fire Stories and media for the historic project. Simply go to the CAPS Media website homepage at 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 or call the CAPS Media Center at 805.658.0500.

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



Volunteers spent the day sprucing up The City Center right before the fires arrived.

Formerly a dilapidated motel

The City Center is now a successful transitional living community in Ventura. First opened in 2010, The City Center gives homeless men, women and children a safe place to

Yeah! *FREE Coffee Day!

Happening on Sat, Jan 20th!

*On any purchase of \$25 or more plus, plus get 10% off your whole purchase as well. Free Coffee, up to \$5 value. No cash value and no change when coffee order is less than \$5. On sales day, you must order from partner location.

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live while getting their lives stabilized.

During the Holiday Home Improvement day in December, several local businesses, organizations and volunteers spent the day painting, cleaning, repairing, planting and decorating The City Center, which currently has 65 people living there, including 37 children.

The City Center, a nonprofit, provides housing, counseling, and support services to homeless community members with a goal of transitioning towards self-sufficiency within one year. Jim Duran, Executive Director of The City Center, says, "Like many coastal communities throughout California, Ventura struggles with homelessness and vagrancy issues. Here in town we have a successful program that's gaining momentum thanks to support from local businesses, churches, organizations and community members." In 2016, nine formerly homeless families graduated from The City Center moving into independence and full employment.

The 2017 County of Ventura Homeless Count identified 1,152 homeless persons countywide, of those, 301 persons are in the city of Ventura -- notably fewer than the 701 individuals counted in 2012.

Community members are encouraged to help support the individuals and families at The City Center by donating online at www.thecitycenter.org.

Ventura Police K9s will be featured

The Ventura Police Department is partnering with the Midtown Community Council and Pacific View Mall for Food Truck Friday on January 19 from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Pacific View Mall parking lot nearest to Trader Joes. The event features nearly 20 food, dessert and coffee trucks. Live music, face painting, a patrol car and Ventura Police K9s will be featured at this family friendly event.

Community members are invited to stop by the Ventura Police booth to visit with Ventura Police Officers and K9s. Important safety information will be available and fingerprint kits for local youth will be offered while supplies last.

A portion of the proceeds from the event will go to the Ventura County

United Way Thomas Fire Victims Fund. First responders will also be recognized.

Food Truck Friday has helped support the Adopt-A-School Program which has provided beautification projects through event profits and community partnerships since the Food Truck event began in October 2012.

Residents are encouraged to learn more about their neighborhood Community Council. Ventura has seven neighborhood councils and any resident; business owner or property owner can join their area group. They offer an opportunity to connect with neighbors, learn what's happening in the area, get updates and information from city staff and participate in projects that make a difference in the community. Ventura Police crime and safety updates are provided at each of the monthly community council meetings offering an opportunity for residents to get to know their local patrol officers. For more information please call 339-4317.

Water is life

Continued from page 2

answers to many of the concerns in the minds and hearts of this Westside community. New resident, Andrea Beenham shares, "I am impressed with the camaraderie and openness of the community."

Wildfires alter the natural landscape by removing vegetation and exposing soil to wind and rain. These changes substantially increase the risk of flash floods and debris flow. Normally, grasses, shrubs and trees slow rainfall and improve soil absorption. Leaf litter further protects the soil from erosive rainfall.

So what's the next step? Preparation before it rains helps to minimize and prevent potential danger. Nature's back-to-back disasters can cause distress and uncertainty, that's where knowledge is power and when new knowledge is applied, combined with action, our choices and decisions can re-direct the flow and deflect future disasters. Holding a positive mindset while trusting the process and each other we become victors instead of victims.

Let's begin 2018 by watering new ideas with anticipation and appreciation. Drenching ourselves with possibilities in the rich soil of our lives will set the stage to help harness our direction. Planting seeds of hope for the landscape of our future insures deep roots of safety and security for all and generations to come.



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Every day Debra holds the hands of patients who have just been diagnosed with cancer.

Nurse Debra Lawry Daisy Award winner

Community Memorial Health System is proud to announce that Registered Nurse Debra Lawry is the health system's most recent DAISY Award winner.

Created in 1999, the DAISY Award is a special recognition that honors extraordinary nurses internationally who demonstrate clinical expertise, provide skillful, compassionate care,

and go above and beyond for patients and family members. The DAISY Foundation was established by the family of J. Patrick Barnes, who died at the age of 33 from complications of an autoimmune disease. During his eight-week hospitalization, Barnes' family was awestruck by the care and compassion his nurses provided to Barnes and his family. The family created a foundation in Barnes' memory to recognize extraordinary nurses everywhere who make a difference. Today, over 2,700 healthcare facilities in all 50 states and 18 countries give DAISY awards.

Every day, Debra Lawry holds the hands (literally and figuratively) of patients who have just been diagnosed with cancer. In her role as Cancer Patient Nurse Navigator at the Community Memorial Health System Cancer Resource Center, she guides patients through the diagnosis, treatment and cancer recovery processes, serving as a vital source of education, support and friendship along the way. Lawry goes above and beyond for her patients, often attending appointments with them and spending extra time ensuring they feel truly supported on their cancer treatment journey.

Many patients have called Lawry their "angel," and have said they aren't sure how they would have gotten through treatment without her. Lawry

This 'n' That

is always willing to provide her co-workers with education or moral support as well, and she works hard to broaden her knowledge so she can provide the latest and most accurate information to patients and coworkers.

To nominate an extraordinary nurse from Community Memorial Health System for a DAISY Award, go to <http://www.cmhshealth.org/daisy/>. Learn more at www.DAISYfoundation.org.

Re-designing our Urban Landscape

Opinion by Bob Chianese

Monster hurricanes, floods, rising sea levels, and frozen cities and our own drought-fueled mega-fires and debris flows tell us things are out of balance on planet Earth. Our human-made shroud of carbon dioxide warms the atmosphere to the point of disturbing global weather patterns, wind circulation, temperatures, and of course rainfall.

In Southern California, our once lovely environment has turned on us. Our seeming paradise has become a tender trap, lulling us into complacency and the expectation of endless sun-kissed balmy days. Since our rapacious fires have become more common, we may have to agree with our Governor that they may be our "New Normal."

What can we do to curb and adapt to some of this extravagant weather?

Obviously as a society we need to switch from fossil fuel burning to solar energy, drive hybrids and EV's, conserve water, reduce if not restrict new development, have fewer babies, use native, water-stingy plants for landscaping, and cut back on consumption in general. Tall orders I know, but some of us are trying to follow them.

Locally we might consider fire prevention measures to guard our own and our neighbors' property. We can remove brush, dead trees, and tall vegetation under power lines. We can transform our yards into native plant and xeriscape gardens.

And then there are the palms and eucalyptus.

These non-native invaders were brought here mainly for their looks: the spindly towering palm signals the

tropics, and the massive eucalyptus evokes warm stately days in the sun. But palms are dirty, throw off serrated fronds and shelter rats. Eucalyptus were lousy as sources of lumber and grow to gigantic size, with a deep pile of combustible debris at their base. They both ought to go.

The Thomas fire revealed what fire-spreading torches they are: palms spit off burning embers from their heights and eucs can explode as oil-saturated bombs. Our urban forest needs a makeover that makes us more secure and more "natural." Taking personal initiative to remove these two kinds of trees from our property would enable us to be less panicked when the sirens blare again.

The city will have to decide that to do with the thousands of others.

And removing palms would greatly improve my view so off with their heads.
Sheldon

Call for nominations

The Ventura County Leadership Academy is accepting nominations for the 2018 Journey To Leadership Awards.

The award categories and nomination criteria are as follows:

Alumni of the Year- must be a graduate of VCLA and be recognized as a leader or emerging leader in the Ventura County community Business of the Year- models a culture of community support through economic development and charitable work utilizing creativity and innovation as a business leader

Non-Profit Leader of the Year- recognizes outstanding and sustained accomplishments that advances its public benefit mission, engages the community and has a reputation of excellence

Educational Leader of the Year- guides and prepares talents and energies through educational leadership that demonstrates and promotes equality, diversity and academic excellence

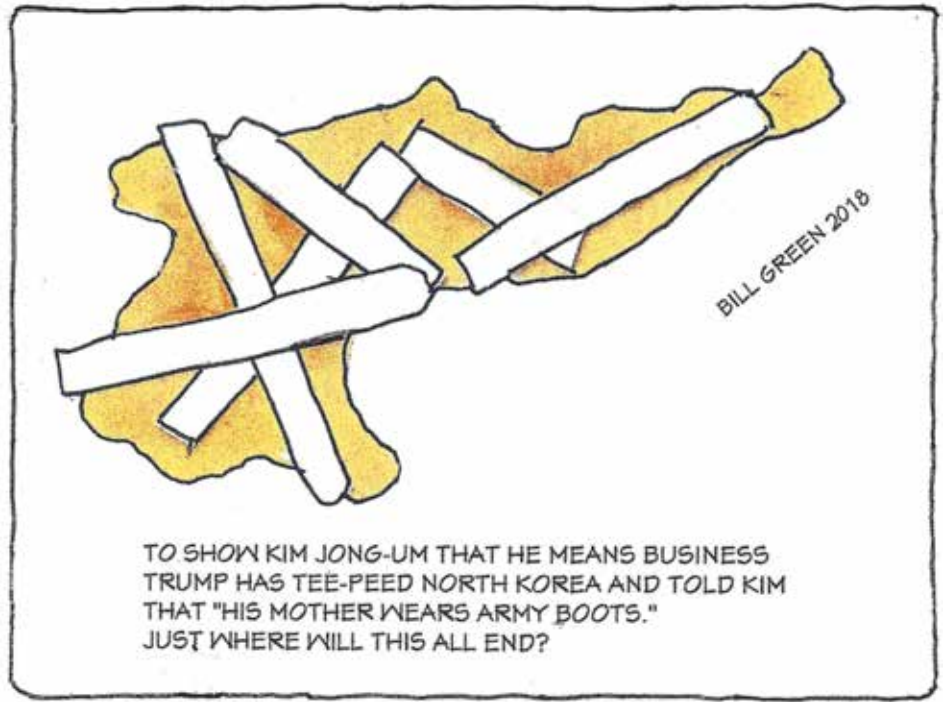
Public Sector Leader of the Year- recognized for their outstanding accomplishments and reputation of excellence in providing services to communities regardless of their income, physical ability or mental acuity

Those interested in submitting a nomination may submit a letter of nomination to VCLA by mail P.O. Box 537, Ventura, CA 93002 or email info@vcleadership.org.



Just before Sam, on Jan.11 in the midtown of Ventura, a series of fires were started in vehicles and trash areas, spanning several blocks. The first fire was reported in an alley in the 1900 block of East Main St. consuming a trash receptacle, a motorcycle, and a vehicle. Concurrently, a second fire was reported in the alley of 1400 Poli St. that had a vehicle fully engulfed in fire, which was complicated by a ruptured fuel line. Two additional fires were reported in the 1900 block of Main St. A vehicle in the 20 Block of Live Oak Ave and a second vehicle in the drive way of a house off Main St. A Ventura Fire Investigator is working on exact fire cause determination.

Green with Envy



Senior Living

Pull Out Section



Featherston is a geriatric care consultant with New Hope Senior Services.

Cypress Place to host alzheimer’s and dementia caregivers support group

In collaboration with New Hope Senior Services, please join Cypress Place Senior Living for an Alzheimer’s & Dementia Caregivers Support Group. Facilitator for the support group will be Norma Featherston, R.N., M.S., Gerontology. Featherston is a geriatric care consultant with New Hope Senior Services.

Join them for these informative meetings and gain support from others in a caring and understanding environment. Ask questions and get straight answers from people who have been there. Learn creative and caring problem solving techniques and caregiving ideas, and discover that you are not all alone in the way you feel.

“My husband was diagnosed at age twenty eight with primary progressive Multiple Sclerosis, in which the end result is dementia,” said

Featherston. “The problem was this was not documented until much later, so I received little help from doctors at the time,” she said.

It was a long and difficult journey, in which Featherston became depressed, worn out, and desperate for doing something to help. She finally hired a caregiver and went back to school in 2006, and graduated in 2009 with a Master’s Degree in Gerontology.

“I worked at the Alzheimer’s Association for eight years where I counseled caregivers, taught classes, spoke to civic and other groups, and ran several support groups,” said Featherston. “I was able to give my knowledge of caregiving to those who were caregiving for someone with dementia related diseases.”

Support group meetings led by Featherston are held from 9:30a.m.



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to 11a.m. the first and third Wednesday of every month at Cypress Place Senior Living in Ventura. The support group is free and open to the public. Seating is limited so please call to reserve a seat. To RSVP, please call 650-8000.

Cypress Place Senior Living is a premiere senior community in Ventura County. The beautiful senior living campus features an Active Senior Living community and adjacent Assisted Living and Alzheimer’s/Dementia Care community connected by a lushly landscaped courtyard.

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

Our hearts go out to each and every one of you

by Livingston Memorial staff

As we all begin to find our footing again after the impact of the Thomas fires, we at Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurse Association would like you to know that our hearts go out to each and every one of you. We are here to acknowledge, hold and honor all of the emotions we are all experiencing as a result of these fires.

We are here to provide grief support services to individuals and families within our community. Our openhearted counselors are here to offer presence

Continued on page 14

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Senior Living



"I try not to use the computer before I go to bed."

Some medicines can keep you awake

by the National Institute on Aging

Older adults need about the same amount of sleep as all adults—7 to 9 hours each night. But, older people tend to go to sleep earlier and get up earlier than they did when they were younger.

There are many reasons why older people may not get enough sleep at night. Feeling sick or being in pain can make it hard to sleep. Some medicines can keep you awake. No matter the reason, if you don't get a good night's sleep, the next day you may:

- Be irritable
- Have memory problems or be forgetful
- Feel depressed
- Have more falls or accidents
- Get a Good Night's Sleep

Being older doesn't mean you have to be tired all the time. You can do many things to help you get a good night's sleep. Here are some ideas:

Follow a regular sleep schedule. Go to sleep and get up at the same time each day, even on weekends or when you are traveling.

Avoid napping in the late afternoon or evening, if you can. Naps may keep you awake at night.

Develop a bedtime routine. Take time to relax before bedtime each night. Some people read a book, listen to soothing music, or soak in a warm bath.

Try not to watch television or use your computer, cell phone, or tablet in the bedroom. The light from these devices may make it difficult for you to fall asleep. And alarming or unsettling shows or movies, like horror movies, may keep you awake.

Keep your bedroom at a comfortable temperature, not too hot or too cold, and as quiet as possible.

Use low lighting in the evenings and as you prepare for bed.

Exercise at regular times each day but not within 3 hours of your bedtime.

Avoid eating large meals close to bedtime—they can keep you awake.

Stay away from caffeine late in the day. Caffeine (found in coffee, tea, soda, and chocolate) can keep you awake.

Remember—alcohol won't help you sleep. Even small amounts make it harder to stay asleep.

Some older adults who have trouble sleeping may use over-the-counter sleep aids. Others may use prescription medicines to help them sleep. These

medicines may help when used for a short time. But remember, medicines aren't a cure for insomnia.

Some people find that relaxing their bodies puts them to sleep. One way to do this is to imagine your toes are completely relaxed, then your feet, and then your ankles are completely relaxed. Work your way up the rest of your body, section by section. You may drift off to sleep before getting to the top of your head.

For More Information About Better Sleep

American Sleep Apnea Association

1-888-293-3650 (toll-free)

asaa@sleepapnea.org

www.sleepapnea.org

National Sleep Foundation

1-703-243-1697

nsf@sleepfoundation.org

www.sleepfoundation.org

Restless Legs Syndrome Foundation

1-512-366-9109

info@rls.org

www.rls.org



Alison Oatman will be teaching Zumba Gold.

Zumba classes offered at several locations

The City of Ventura Parks and Recreation is offering Zumba classes. Zumba Gold and a new Chair Zumba Gold. Both classes are being offered at the Ventura Avenue Adult Center beginning January 22nd.

Zumba Gold is perfect for all active adults, 50+, looking for a Zumba class at a lower-intensity level. This easy to follow class focuses on heart rate, balance, range of motion, and coordination. All centered on Latin inspired dance moves.

Chair Zumba uses the same tech

Continued on page 14

Senior Living



Bundled up in front of a fire will keep you warm.

Ask family or friends to check on you during cold weather

Living in a cold house, apartment, or other building can cause hypothermia. In fact, hypothermia can happen to someone in a nursing home or group facility if the rooms are not kept warm enough. If someone you know is in a group facility, pay attention to the inside temperature and to whether that person is dressed warmly enough.

People who are sick may have special problems keeping warm. Do not let it get too cold inside and dress warmly. Even if you keep your temperature between 60 and 65 degrees, your home or apartment may not be warm enough to keep you safe. This is a special problem if you live alone because there is no one else to feel the chilliness of the house or notice if you are having symptoms of hypothermia.

Here are some tips for keeping warm while you're inside:

Set your heat at 68°F or higher. To save on heating bills, close off rooms you are not using. Close the vents and shut the doors in these rooms. Place a rolled towel in front of all doors to keep out drafts.

Make sure your house isn't losing heat through windows. Keep your blinds and curtains closed. If you have gaps around the windows, try using weather stripping or caulk to keep the cold air out.

Dress warmly on cold days even if you are staying in the house. Throw a blanket over your legs. Wear socks and slippers.

When you go to sleep, wear long underwear under your pajamas, and use extra covers. Wear a cap or hat.

Make sure you eat enough food to

keep up your weight. If you don't eat well, you might have less fat under your skin. Body fat helps you to stay warm.

Drink alcohol moderately, if at all. Alcoholic drinks can make you lose body heat.

Ask family or friends to check on you during cold weather. If a power outage leaves you without heat, try to stay with a relative or friend.



"I love my veggies and they are healthy."

Eating healthy for seniors

by Jennifer Tipton (RN Jenn)

Eating healthy is something we all struggle with; however, seniors are often faced with extra challenges. Sometimes

You're invited to our...

TEA PARTY



Wednesday, January 24th • 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm

You're cordially invited to join us for our tea party at The Palms at Bonaventure Assisted Living! Enjoy a variety of fresh teas, delicious tea sandwiches and delectable finger foods. Don't forget to wear your favorite or silliest bonnet and come for a pinky raising good time. We look forward to seeing you here!

For more information and to RSVP, please call
805-647-0616

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Assisted Living & Memory Care
111 North Wells Road, Ventura, CA 93004

food just doesn't taste the same, there may be a loss of appetite, difficulty chewing, or the inability to go food shopping, and there's also the consideration of certain dietary restrictions.

Here are some tips to help you along:

Choose fruits and vegetables that are brightly colored and perk them up with lemon, herbs or spices.

Make at least half of your grains whole grains. Read the ingredients list, it should say "whole" grain and contain at least 3g of fiber. Fiber can help lower cholesterol, blood sugar and prevent intestinal problems.

Keep meat and poultry portions small and lean and vary your protein choices to include plant based sources like beans and peanut butter.

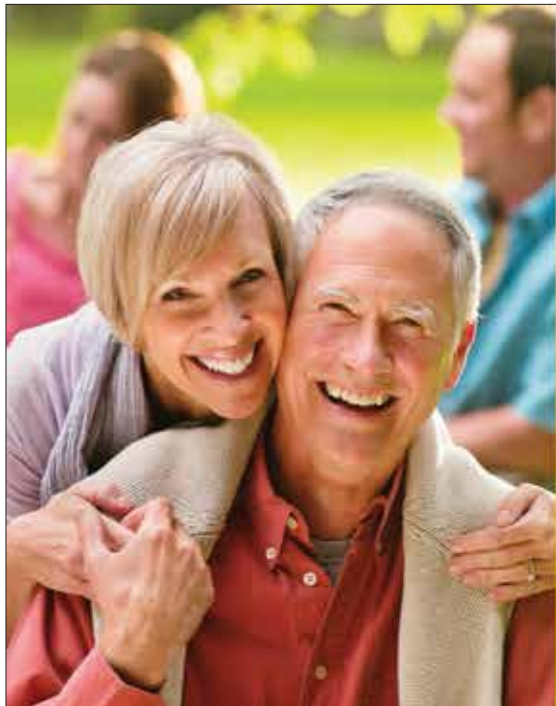
Drink plenty of fluids as they play an important role in digestion, nutrient absorption and regularity. With age, you

may lose your sense of thirst, so don't wait until you're thirsty, try sipping throughout the day.

Cut back on foods high in fat and salt. Choose plant based oils and margarines instead of products high in saturated fat. Instead of reaching for the salt shaker, perk things up as in tip #1, too much sodium can raise blood pressure or put you at risk for heart disease, stroke or kidney disease.

If you suffer from a lack of appetite, small frequent meals are a wise choice, rather than to feel overwhelmed staring at a large plate of food. Meals can also be supplemented with nutritional shakes; there are a variety of them, some specific to certain underlying health issues, so check with your physician to see what might be recommended to meet your individual needs.

Continued on page 14





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Senior Living

Social Security

by **Essie L. Landry**

Public Affairs Specialist Social Security
Administration Sierra West Area

With the arrival of the New Year, many people take the opportunity to make life-changing decisions. No matter where you are in life's journey Social Security is there. One of our priorities is sharing information to help you save time and put you in control. Our February columns and questions and answers segment is a testament of that commitment.

Easily Access Your Social Security Benefit Statement For 2017 - Social Security puts you in control of your finances and future. We have made requesting or replacing your annual Benefit Statement even easier. The Benefit Statement is also known as the SSA-1099 or the SSA-1042S. Now you have the ability to download it anytime and anywhere you want using our online services. There's no need to visit a field office.

Social Security Collaborates with America Saves Week - A secure retirement is created from a lifetime of planning and saving. Each year, American Savings Education Council and America Saves coordinate America Saves Week. The week is an opportunity for organizations to promote good savings behavior and a chance for individuals to assess their own saving status.

To find out your full retirement age, visit www.socialsecurity.gov/planners/retire/ageincrease.html.

To see your next payment date, create or log on to your my Social Security online account at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount and go to the "Benefits & Payments" section.

is important for us all to move forward with care and compassion. Remember to honor yourself and your experience. Remember to listen to others. And most importantly, return to your breath as you take life one moment at a time.

You can help by joining Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurse Association's remarkable core of volunteers and community heroes that give special gifts of time and compassion to patients and their families at the end of life.

They will provide you with training that gives you the confidence to enter the homes and lives of others to support them as a part of the Livingston Hospice Team. Training begins Wednesday, January 31st from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm and continues for eight consecutive weeks.

What you receive back is as priceless as what you give.

For more information, contact Maddy Hazard at 642-0239 x775 or mhazard@lmvna.org.

Zumba classes offered

Continued from page 12

niques and music but it is accessible for seniors, beginners of others needing modification in the exercise routine, especially for those participants were standing is an issue.

Come ready to sweat, leave feeling empowered, strong. Regain flexibility and strength while having fun learning a dance step or two! Having two left feet is no problem.

Participants should wear workout shoes, comfortable clothing and bring water to keep hydrated.

For more information call (818) 515-8590. Sign up at 658-4726 and request Zumba Gold #10147 or Chair Zumba Gold #10625.

Alison Oatman will be teaching Zumba Gold at the Barranca Vista Center. The classes will meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10:30 to 11:30 am. The cost for the month (8 classes) is \$50.

The first month will begin on 1/23 and end on 2/15.

Please call to register at 658-4726. Or sign up online at www.cityofventura.ca.gov/register.

Eating healthy for seniors

Continued from page 13

If chewing is a problem, a visit to your dentist might remedy the situation but until then, eat softer foods that are easier to chew, and if you have been advised of any dietary restrictions, a consultation with a dietician may be of great help.

If you are over 65 and want to stay at the same weight you are now, Dietary Guidelines suggest these calorie levels:

Women

Not physically active -
1,600 calories/day
Moderately active -
1,800 calories/day
Active lifestyle -
2,000 calories/day

Men

Not physically active -
2,000 to 2,200 calories/day
Moderately active -
2,200 to 2,400 calories/day
Active lifestyle -
2,400 to 2,600 calories/day

Brisk walking, golf, or dancing are examples of moderate activity whereas swimming, jogging, or tennis are examples of an active lifestyle.

Only be as physically active as your ability and condition allow.

Area Agency on Aging offers home delivered meals and resources for assistance with shopping (805) 477-7300

Our hearts go out to each of you

Continued from page 11

and compassionate support throughout this trying time. Whether you have lost a home, lost pets or farm animals, were suddenly evacuated, are a first responder or if you are closely connected with those who have experienced a loss, we are here for you.

Here are a few gentle offerings for you to consider as you take care of yourself, your family and your loved ones...

- Take life slowly as you begin to resume your daily schedule. Be patient and be good to yourself.
- Be mindful of what you put into your body. Drink more water than you normally would and eat healthy, nourishing food.
- Get lots of rest and take naps if you feel more fatigued. One of the physical symptoms of grief is exhaustion; rest is restorative for your body.
- Allow yourself to feel the multitude of emotions that arise, such as confusion, sadness, anger and guilt. Know that you are not alone nor are you the only one feeling this way.
- Connect with your loved ones in person or by phone. Share your own experience and listen to others. Connection offers us great healing in times of pain.
- Know that sometimes we are at a loss of what to say to someone. Sometimes saying just that, in a loving way, is the best thing to do! Your compassion and presence will be felt by the other.
- Explore what feels soothing and healing to you. Listening to music, going for walks, drawing on religion or spirituality...We all have our own unique grieving process as well as our own ways of healing.

As the threat of imminent danger is behind us and we begin healing our community, we all must remember that everyone's grief is valid and quite unique. It

Ventura Strong



Returning to her ranch was a disconsolate moment.

Kat Merrick local Leader on the Thomas Fire

by Randal Beeman

Growing up in hurricane country in South Florida, Kat Merrick learned from her parents that the best response to a natural disaster is to immediately get to work helping others. Naturally, when the Thomas Fire broke out in Santa Paula Merrick was on the phone offering assistance to her extensive network of friends in the Ventura County farming and ranching community. Within minutes her attention focused closer to home as she noticed a glowing red hue through the skylight. In short time the fast racing fire engulfed her ranch property in the hills above Ventura. Merrick lost her house, the three rental units on her property, her crops, and the teaching garden that she planned to use as part of the popular local agricultural education program, totallylocalvc.com.

Typical of Merrick’s community values, she immediately went to work helping her tenants find housing, organizing food relief programs, the Local Love/805Strong project, and persuading corporate sponsors to provide assistance to both fire victims and those impacted by the mudslide in Montecito. Ironically, Merrick had a water tank on the property, which soon melted and spilled its contents down the wrong side of the hill. Realizing she and her boyfriend were helpless to fight the blaze, they alerted their tenants and gathered their dogs as other neighbors fought to save their homes and livestock. Soon they found themselves in a line of traffic on Ventura Avenue, witnessing disturbing scenes of “screaming chaos” in the city.

Returning to her ranch was a disconsolate moment, as even deeply rooted oak trees on her property were torched by the conflagration. Like so many families in Ventura, Merrick looked at what had been her “little sanctuary” and asked herself “where do we start?” One of her tenants had only been on the property for two days. She and her boyfriend have found a small place to rent while they endeavor to rebuild their rentals first, then the one story home that had been the site on numerous gatherings and happy hours with friends and neighbors.

As so many locals report, the process of starting over is going to take years. Scraping the lot of toxic ash was an early priority, as will be restoring ground cover

on the denuded, vulnerable hillsides. Merrick found, as have others, that the insurance company was helpful at the onset of the crisis but whether that cooperation will continue is a tenuous proposition. An example: the housing crisis in Ventura County is being exacerbated by the Thomas Fire, and there appears to be some push back from insurers in regards to the cost of renting while properties are being rebuilt. Merrick was quick to praise the County of Ventura for fast tracking the permit process.

Merrick noted that the impact of the fire on the local agricultural community - lost crops, dead or injured stock, and a lack of grazing land - will impact this essential industry for years. Her voice teamed with energy as she spoke of the tenacity of local farmers, ranchers, and farm workers, Merrick embodies the time honored saying: “lead, follow, or get the hell out of the way.” Though her cherished home on the range was taken by the Thomas Fire, Merrick is well on the way to doing what she loves best, ensuring that “future chefs will get their hands in the dirt” as Ventura County rebuilds its agricultural base.

Continue the healing through music

At a time when the fires have left so many in need, we are reminded that music is also an important healing tool after a disaster because of its ability to help people process emotions and because in many ways music is a community activity.

In an effort to continue the healing through music, to thank first responders, to give solace those who have lost so much and to celebrate the best in our community, the Ventura Music Festival will present a special free preview concert on Tuesday, January 23 from 5:00 to 6:30 p.m. in the Museum of Ventura County Pavilion.

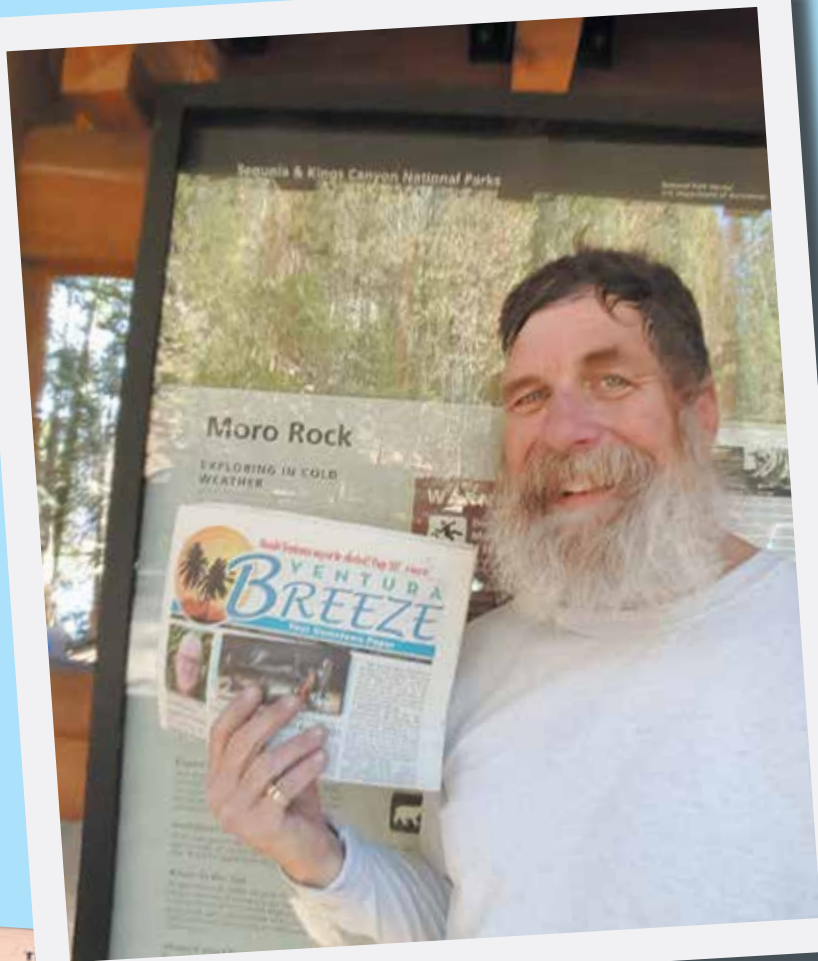
This free event is open to the public and will provide an artist’s preview, entertainment and refreshments. For more information visit <http://www.venturamusicfestival.org/>.



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AND SEND US A
PHOTO WITH A
LITTLE INFORMATION
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AND EMAIL TO
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VENTURABREEZE.
COM



On Sat., Jan. 6, cars lined up for the first Community Cleanup & Recycling Event of the year at 765 S. Seaward Ave. Most material types were accepted, except for Household Hazardous Waste. City of Ventura residents and small businesses (CESQG’s) are encouraged to visit these monthly free Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Collection Events and take advantage of the opportunity to dispose of HHW items properly - and avoid the risks associated with stockpiling hazardous waste . For more information call 652-4525.

If you live elsewhere in the County check the County of Ventura website to find the information on an event in your community.



The Pet Page



Dedicated to Scamp

SPAN Thrift Store is providing \$10 spays and neuters for low income cat and dog friends.

In the SPAN Thrift Store parking lot 110 N. Olive St. (behind Vons on

Main) Friday, February 2nd.

Please call to schedule an appointment 584-3823.

Spirits Car Club of Ventura recently held the Splinter Nationals event with proceeds going to Canine Adoption and Rescue League (CARL) and Ventura County Animal Services (VCAS). On Sat., Dec. 30th a few of the members presented Mary Saputo, CARL's president with a check from the event. Also present was Sharon Clark, Executive Director, staff, a few volunteers and 2 CARL mascots, Ava the Chow and Bruno, the American Staffordshire/Terrier mix.

Please visit the CARL website for more loveable, adoptable dogs at carldogs.com

In our last issue we inserted some wrong information in this article so here it is corrected.

By Jim Reilly President National Police Dog Foundation

Another exciting and challenging year is almost over, and with your help, we are already planning and working on projects for next year.

2017 has been a wonderful growth year for us, but with growth comes challenges. Our efforts to expand and become a meaningful national foundation for police K-9s has become a reality. Some new 2017 sponsors include national corporations such as Purina, McDonalds, and Petplan.

Thanks to our new marketing efforts and sponsors, our services are now reaching into even the smallest police departments across the country. While this is good news, and our fundraising efforts have grown, unfortunately so have the requests for financial assistance from these departments.

We need your help. We still have a shortfall in 2017 of \$28,000, and desperately need to raise funds by year-end to fulfill

emergency K-9 medical requests.

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.

And so we turn to you, our friends, to help these amazing K-9 heroes. We need your help in this time of need to ensure the safety of our communities. In addition, please keep NPDF in mind when creating your estate planning. If you need help with this, please contact us.

Most of the Police K-9's deeds of valor go unreported, much less remembered. Often times, we are their only voice. Please look into your heart to see how you can help. Your generous, tax-deductible donation is greatly appreciated and will go directly to support Police K-9s.

Thank you for allowing me to share our needs with you. To donate please go to nationalpolicedogfoundation.org, as every dollar helps. The National Police Dog Foundation is an all-volunteer foundation ensuring your donation is applied entirely to the benefit of Police K-9s.

Just over 48 hours after a wall of mud and debris slammed into homes in Montecito there were 16 SDF(Search Dog Foundation) trained Canine Disaster

Scamp Club

(Scampclub pets are not for adoption.)

Hi: I'm Gigi, a 13-year-old Chihuahua. I live in Pierpont. I love riding in my cruiser bike basket, then walking next to the bike. I love walking on the beach and all the naps and treats possible!



Join Scamp Club

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

Search Teams in action around-the-clock searching for survivors. The Search Teams, along with their Task Force teammates from throughout California, continue to comb the debris and slog through the mud to ensure that no one is left behind.

Monday afternoon, prior to the mudslide, Search Dog Foundation-trained Search Teams Eric Gray & Riley and Wade Haller & Rex staged for deployment as heavy rains were expected to soak the recent Thomas Fire burn areas in southern Santa Barbara County. After the mudslides destroyed several homes and pushed debris across Highway 101, all the way to the ocean, the teams went to work searching for survivors.

Mojo needs immediate surgery to repair his badly injured right hind knee hurt during the Thomas Fire evacuation. Two years ago Mojo's buddy Shalisa suffered a debilitating equine accident. During eight challenging years taken for her recovery, Mojo kept Shalisa going with unconditional love and constant companionship. Because of unrelenting financial demands during her recovery, Shalisa now lacks funds for Mojo's surgery for his right leg and to stabilize his left leg. Dr. Holsworth, at Vet Surg in Ventura, evaluates Mojo as being in

the prime of his life and most capable of making full recovery. Buddy Nation, a Ventura non-profit is helping Shalisa raise funds. Those who know and love Mojo will be forever grateful for whatever donation you can make. <https://www.gofundme.com/surgery-fund-to-save-mojo>.



Mojo needs immediate surgery.

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Search Dog Riley searches the wreckage of a home in Montecito. Photo by Mike Eliason/Santa Barbara County Fire.

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 Desi, a gorgeous 8-year-old Catahoula / American Staffordshire Terrier mix who loves to play and be around people. I was one of many dogs rescued from a raid in El Rio several years ago. Those days are long behind me and I'm waiting for someone to come and take me home.

I'm energetic and cuddly and I love the water. I would make a great jogging partner as I run along beside you. I'm house trained, good with respectful children and good with dogs with proper introductions.

I'm grateful to be given a chance to know the true meaning of being a cherished member of a loving family. We've been through a lot and I hope we all find our forever homes really soon. Canine Adoption and Rescue League C.A.R.L.

Luna is a gorgeous white Siberian Husky with the prettiest blue eyes you will ever see. Her previous owner states that she got along well with the other dog in the house as well as the three-year-old child. She walks well on leash



Free Diamond Necklace

Lost your home in the Thomas Fire?
We want you to have this free diamond necklace



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Purchase them and Fox Fine Jewelry will donate 50% to the Thomas Fire Fund. Over \$25,000 raised the first month.
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The proceeds from The Spirits Car Club of Ventura event went to CARL and VCAS.



Answer in a Breeze

Question: What is this excavation? Is it part of the Botanical Gardens?
Chuck Goodman

Answer: This is a City project to excavate the debris basin within Grant Park to increase capacity in anticipation of rain and debris flow from the Thomas Fire which it recently did. The City's contractor is Shaw Contracting.

Do you have a question? Send it to editor@venturabreeze.com.



This 'n' That



Julie Harvey

Gerardo Pantoja

Ventura College Foundation announces two new staff members

The Ventura College Foundation recently announced it has expanded its team with two new staff members. Gerardo Pantoja has joined as director of major and planned giving, and Julie Harvey has joined as development manager. Together, Pantoja and Harvey will help the Foundation manage its fundraising program, expand its donor base to support student scholarships, academic program enhancements and equipment, and continue to cultivate and steward donors of major and planned gifts in support of the Foundation’s mission.

“Gerardo and Julie each has extensive experience helping non-profits reach the goals fundamental to their stability and longevity by engaging donors on a deeper level,” said Anne King, executive director of the Foundation.

A Southern California native, Pantoja earned his associate’s degree from Antelope Valley College before transferring to Pepperdine University where he earned his bachelor’s degree in business administration. Immediately after graduating, Pantoja moved to Washington, D.C. where he spent eight years successfully fundraising for the Hudson Institute and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. In 2016, he relocated back to Los Angeles to fundraise for the University of Southern California’s School of Architecture before making the move to the Ventura College Foundation. He currently lives in Camarillo.

A nonprofit specialist, Harvey has more than 22 years of diverse experience working as a youth director/specialist in various churches and the nonprofit sector, along with extensive administrative and organizational experience. In 2008 she was awarded Woman of the Year Congressional Recognition, with twelve Southern California women, by U.S. Congresswoman Grace Napolitano for her pro bono work with the Southern California non-profit Braswell Reha-

bilitation Institute for Development of Growth and Educational Services, Inc. (B.R.I.D.G.E.S., Inc.), in Pomona. She holds a bachelor’s degree from National University and a master’s degree in Christian education from Dallas Theological Seminary in Dallas, Texas.

The Foundation’s flagship programs include Textbook Lending, where students can borrow up to three textbooks to use for the entire semester; Ventura Promise Grant program that allows students to attend their first two semesters at Ventura College tuition-free; and the Phoenix Scholarship program for re-entry students.

Established in 1983, the Ventura College Foundation provides financial support to the students and the programs of Ventura College to facilitate student success and grow the impact and legacy of Ventura College as a vital community asset. The Foundation also hosts the Ventura College Foundation Marketplace, an outdoor shopping experience held every weekend on the Ventura College campus east parking lot. For more information, contact Anne King at 289-6160 or aking@vcccd.edu. Or visit www.venturacollege.edu/foundation.

Do you want to cuddle?

St. Vincent de Paul in Santa Paula have been donating cuddle blankets and pillow cases that are made by volunteers. It is geared for infants up to 18 years of age and they can also do adult blankets. These are for people who have lost their homes due to the Thomas Fire. They have covered Santa Paula and now would like to help Ventura.

If you would like a blanket or pillow call the Catholic Charities Family Caregiver Center Mon - Thurs 420-9608 and leave your name and number and Kathy will return your call .



Seabird species settles on the Channel Islands. Photo by Andrew Yamagiwa.

Brown Boobies are generally considered a tropical or subtropical bird

Recently seabird biologists discovered Brown Boobies actively nesting on Santa Barbara Island, within Channel Islands National Park. This first record of Brown Boobies nesting in the park signifies a significant northward expansion of their breeding range.

During a survey on November 3, 2017, biologists observed four nests and 102 individual birds on Sutil Island off the southwest end of Santa Barbara Island, the smallest island in the park. The adult birds appeared to be incubating eggs or possibly tending to small young on the four nests.

“This discovery, once again, demonstrates the importance of the Channel Islands as critical seabird habitat,”

said Channel Islands National Park Superintendent Russell Galipeau.

Brown Boobies, generally considered a tropical or subtropical bird, appear to have been extending their range northward since the 1990s when they first migrated to the Coronado Islands of Baja California from the Gulf of California and Pacific coast of Mexico.

An impressive seabird species they are known for making spectacular plunge dives from heights of up to 50 feet to feed on surface fish. They nest on islands, laying their eggs on the bare ground, and making nests with sticks, rocks, bones, and vegetation to protect them. They winter far out to sea.

CMHS center’s earn special recognition

Eleven of Community Memorial Health System’s Centers for Family Health have earned special “Patient-Centered Medical Home Recognition” status from a national non-profit health care organization for using evidence-based, patient-centered processes that focus on highly coordinated care and long term relationships between clinicians and patients.

The National Committee for Quality Assurance (NCQA) announced the new recognition in late December 2017 for the 11 Centers for Family Health. The Centers for Family Health provide a wide range of health care services, from Urgent Care to Women’s Health and many more services.

“The CMHS Centers for Family Health are proud to have received the Patient Centered Medical Home recognition again in 2017,” said Dr. Anthony Russell, Chief Administrative Officer of Ambulatory Medicine for CMHS.

The NCQA is a private, non-profit organization dedicated to improving health care quality and accredits and certifies a wide range of health care organizations. The NCQA’s Patient-Centered Medical Home is a model of primary care that combines teamwork

and information technology to improve care, improve patients’ experience of care, and reduce costs.

To earn the recognition, which is valid for three years, these Centers for Family Health and Midtown Medical Group Ojai demonstrated the ability to meet the program’s key elements, embodying characteristics of the medical home. NCQA standards aligned with the joint principles of the Patient-Centered Medical Home established with the American College of Physicians, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Academy of Pediatrics and the American Osteopathic Association.

“NCQA Patient-Centered Medical Home Recognition raises the bar in defining high-quality care by emphasizing access, health information technology and coordinated care focused on patients. Recognition shows that the Centers for Family Health have the tools, systems and resources to provide their patients with the right care, at the right time,” said NCQA President Margaret E. O’Kane.

Community Memorial Health System is a not-for-profit health system, which is comprised of Community Memorial Hospital, Ojai Valley Community Hospital, along with the Centers for Family Health serving various communities within and located in Ventura County, California.

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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.

Robbery & Assault with Deadly Weapon Arrest

On December 31 at 1:30pm, the Ventura Police Command Center received a 911 call of a possible stabbing that had just occurred at the Family Discount Store, at 107 W. Main Street. Officers, along with Ventura City Fire and AMR personnel responded to the scene and located two stabbing victims. The first victim, a female employee of the store, had sustained a small laceration to her face and hand. The second victim, a male passerby, was found to be suffering from non-life threatening stab wounds to the neck and upper torso.

During the investigation, officers learned the suspect, later identified as 29 year old Ventura resident Gilbert Ortiz, had entered the store and began to select merchandise from behind the front counter. The female clerk confronted Ortiz and asked him to leave the store. Ortiz produced a knife and lunged over the counter at the clerk, cutting her on the face and hand. A male passerby witnessed this act and confronted Ortiz who proceeded to stab him in the neck and torso.

A security guard, assigned to the surrounding shopping center, witnessed this crime and followed Ortiz as he fled out of the store on foot. Ortiz turned on the security guard, brandished the knife and threatened to harm the guard. Fearing for his safety, the security guard discontinued his pursuit.

Officers were able to obtain security footage of the crime and recognized Ortiz as the suspect. Officers located Ortiz in front of a residence in the 300 Block of Olive Street a short time later and took him into custody without incident.

Identity Theft and Grand Theft Arrest

On December 21, 2017 the victim was at the Ventura City Hall to conduct some business. When he left he inadvertently forgot his backpack which contained a laptop computer, personal documents, and credit cards on a counter. When the victim realized this, he returned to city hall but found that his backpack had been taken.

Ventura Street Crimes Detectives reviewed video surveillance from city hall as well as a gas station where the suspect used the victim's credit cards.

Detectives recognized the suspect as 49 year old Ventura resident Susan Plechner who is currently on probation for narcotic related offenses.

On January 3 at 2:30pm, Street Crimes Unit detectives located Plechner at a residence in Santa Paula. She then led the detectives to the whereabouts of the stolen backpack she had hidden in her garage on North Bank Dr.

Bicycle Theft Sting Operation Arrest

On January 5 at 3pm, Detectives from the Ventura Police Departments Street Crimes Unit conducted a bike theft sting at the Von's Shopping Center at 2764 E. Thompson, due to the fact several bike thefts have occurred in the area.

After a bait bike was left in the area, a known narcotics and property crimes offender, 41 year old Ventura resident Jason "Hornz" Garner, rode up to the area on his bike, which was later believed to be stolen as well. Garner waited until customers in the area had passed, then stole the bike and attempted to flee through the parking lot, but was apprehended after a short pursuit. Garner was then taken into custody without further incident and booked into the Ventura County Jail.

Due to an increase in bicycle thefts, the Ventura Police Department is asking the public to register their bicycles after purchase. For more information, visit <http://cityofventura.ca.gov> or our Facebook page.

Shooting

On December 29, at approximately 7pm, the Ventura Police Department Command Center received a call of shooting victim in the parking of the Northbank Plaza in the 2800 block of Johnson Dr. Patrol officers, along with Ventura City Fire and AMR personnel, responded to the call and found a 25-year-old male victim suffering from a life threatening gunshot wound to his torso. He was treated at the scene by Ventura City Fire personnel, and immediately transported to VCMC. The suspect was last seen by witnesses fleeing the scene westbound on foot.

During the investigation, detectives spoke to witnesses who described a verbal altercation between the victim and suspect just before the shooting. Based on witness statements and security camera video obtained by Ventura PD Detectives, the suspect was identified as 21 year old Santa Paula resident Josue Rizo.

On January 3rd, 2018, an arrest warrant was issued for Rizo for attempted murder. On January 4th, 2018, LAPD patrol officers located Rizo inside a vehicle in the 9100 block of Sharp Avenue in Arleta, California, and took him into custody. A firearm believed to be used in the crime was recovered during the arrest.

Harbor Patrol Blotter

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

12-28 10:57am, received a dispatch to a water rescue near 1600 Anchors Way Drive. Officers were on patrol and responded from near the breakwall. After a brief search, officers discovered a Standup paddler swimming his board towards the Marina Park dock. The paddler refused assistance.

10:48pm, received a dispatch to a fall victim at the Ventura Marina Community. Officers responded and assisted Ventura Fire/AMR with an 88 year old male who was transported to local hospital for moderate injuries.

12-29 4:00pm, received a dispatch to a person bleeding at Harbor Cove beach. Officers responded and found a 37 year old male who hit his head on the steering column. He sustained large lacerations on his forehead, was treated and transported to the lot where AMR transported him to local hospital.

11:00pm, while on patrol, officers issued warnings for several violations to a fisherman hoop netting for lobster in



BMSCAT is a national disaster recovery company. Their disaster response team from Oxnard was assisting with our air quality by setting up cleaning and filtration systems where needed, including Patagonia.

the harbor entrance.

12-30 7:45pm, while on patrol officers discovered an inflatable with 3 POB's. Their voyage was terminated for no PFD's and no navigation lights.

12-31 11:50am, received a dispatch to a traffic accident, vehicle into a hydrant. Officers responded and assisted Oxnard fire/AMR with the patient who was transported to local hospital for further evaluation. The water had to be turned off by Ventura city and the vehicle was towed.

11:55pm, received a dispatch to an unconscious person at the Comedy Club in the village. Officers responded and found an intoxicated/upset female. The female's boyfriend was contacted and he arranged to have her picked up.

1-2 10:20am, received a report of a hazard to navigation approximately 1 mile offshore from a NOAA vessel. Officers responded and retrieved a metal 55 gallon trash can from the water.

1-3 11:23am, observed a commercial fishing vessel entering the Harbor at an excessive amount of speed. Officers responded and issued a warning for the violation to the captain of the vessel Prince Victorio.

Help an adult to improve their reading and writing skills

Ventura County Library's READ Adult Literacy Program is looking for adult volunteers who would like

to help other adults improve their reading and writing skills. Tutoring sites are located throughout Ventura County. No teaching experience is required and the training is free.

The READ program trains adult volunteers to provide free one-to-one tutoring for English speaking adults in need of basic literacy skills. Ventura County Library is encouraging residents to take this opportunity to volunteer as a tutor or encourage someone you know to take advantage of the free program.

The tutor training is a six week program that culminates with literacy training certification. Once certified, the tutors will visit their adult learners at locations in or near their neighborhoods.

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

Tutors will receive free professional development services throughout this program. Successful tutors are also eligible for letters of support or recommendation for jobs, scholarships, educational opportunities, and more. The next tutor training series will be starting soon.

For more information about how you can support literacy and make a difference in someone's life, visit the library's website: www.vencolibrary.org/read or call the READ office at 677-7160.

Weekly SUDOKU Answer

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

King Crossword Answers

Solution time: 27 mins.

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



Downtown Ventura's Arts & Eats January 20, 6 – 8pm and Fox Fine Jewelry Art Reception featuring the art of **Hiroko Yoshimoto**. Arts & Eats will be held in downtown Ventura with fifteen galleries, restaurants and shops open for art receptions and complimentary tastes. The event is free to the public.

Hiroko Yoshimoto was born in Japan and became a US citizen in 1976. She has a BA and MA in art from UCLA and continued her studies in Florence, Italy at the Art Center College. Since her studies, Yoshimoto has exhibited her art internationally, with active exhibits in California, Colorado, Tokyo, Austria, and New York.



Artists gathered at the Museum of Ventura County for a twice-monthly figure-drawing session put on by the museum's resident artist **Ryan Carr**.

These free sessions allow artists to practice their craft by drawing live, clothed models using charcoal, pencils, pens, pastels — any medium that isn't paint or any other liquid.

Sessions are held at the Museum's Smith Pavilion or in a local brewery. Participants must be 21 or older. For information on the next event, check ventura.museum.org.

Photo by **Deya Terrafranca**.



"Tranquility" by Preston Fine Arts will be shown at an Art Reception at Very Ventura Gift Shop & Gallery – 540 E. Main Street, on Sat Jan 20 6pm-8pm. The exhibit features the vibrant paintings of **William Burton** and **Joan (JJ) Prescott**. Burton, a retired draftsman, works in acrylics, while Prescott paints in oils. They have combined their diverse talents to create Preston Fine Arts. Opening night is in conjunction with Arts & Eats, Downtown Ventura. Exhibit runs through March 4. 628-3540.

Focus on the Masters (FOTM) is pleased to announce that ten artists have been selected for FOTM formal documentation by a distinguished jury for the 2018 season. An artist will be featured monthly beginning with **Carol Shaw-Sutton** on Sunday, January 28 from 3 to 4:30 p.m. as part of FOTM's popular Artist Spotlight interview series, now in its twenty-third year. Each artist's interview will be filmed before a studio audience at Levity Live, 591 Collection Blvd., located at the Collection in Oxnard.



Admission to the Artist Spotlight interviews is free for FOTM members; general admission is \$15, seniors and students with valid ID \$10. For membership information, visit www.FocusOnTheMasters.com.

Members of the community are invited to host an AfterGLOW and help to raise much needed funds to maintain the FOTM Archive. These popular salon style gatherings offer art enthusiasts the opportunity to visit with the featured artist while enjoying a light supper in the company of dedicated arts supporters. If you would like to host an AfterGLOW in your home, call FOTM at 653.2501 or email Donna@FocusOnTheMasters.com.

The ten artists have been selected for formal documentation by a highly respected jury consisting of **Karen Kitchel**, **Margaret Nielsen** and **Colin Fraser Gray**. Each artist was selected based on the artists' mastery of their craft and diversity of expression, the respect from their peers and their historic role in the life of our artistic heritage.

Mea culpa

In our last issue we goofed. We mixed up two photo captions and credited art to the wrong artist.



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



And this is Sunset by **Wendy Winet** in current CMH show.

In the immortal words of Maxwell Smart, "Sorry about that."

Lighter Breeze

Mother Goose and Grimm



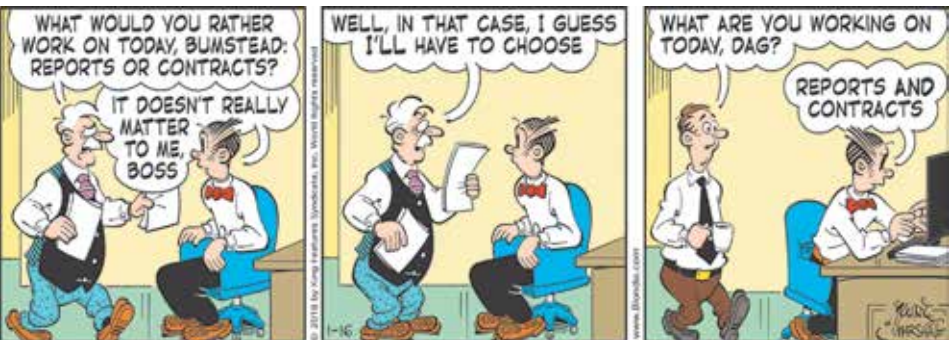
Baby Blues



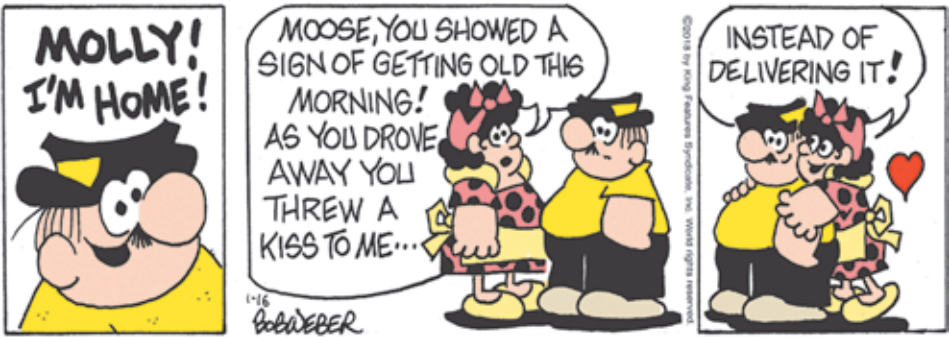
Tiger



Blondie



Moose and Molly



Sam and Silo



Solutions on page 19

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

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

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging ♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Solutions on page 19

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Gymnast's surface
- 4 Expert
- 7 Pops
- 12 Brewery out-put
- 13 Sleep phen-om
- 14 Unmoving
- 15 Rotating part
- 16 Reason to call 911
- 18 Pump up the volume
- 19 Heathen
- 20 Lumber
- 22 Run-down horse
- 23 Blue hue
- 27 Toss in
- 29 Political refu-gee
- 31 Groan-inducing, maybe
- 34 Take as one's own
- 35 Overacted
- 37 Lingerie item
- 38 Church sec-tion
- 39 — Khan
- 41 Traditional tales
- 45 Pilfered
- 47 Chum
- 48 Too thin
- 52 Storm center

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14				
15				16			17					
18				19								
20			21		22				23	24	25	26
			27	28			29	30				
31	32	33					34					
35					36		37					
38					39	40			41	42	43	44
				45				46		47		
48	49	50	51							52		
53						54				55		
56						57				58		

- 53 Automaton
- 54 A Kennedy
- 55 Sinbad's bird
- 56 Lessen
- 57 One or more
- 58 Pismire
- Line" song
- 9 Lair
- 10 Joan of —
- 11 Pigs' digs
- 17 Anger
- 21 "Inferno" writ-er
- 23 Type of wave
- 24 Swelled head
- 25 Dada artist
- 26 Say it's OK
- 28 Easter buy
- 30 Scratch
- 31 Shell game item
- 32 Diamond arbi-ter
- 33 Phone bk. info
- 36 Facts
- 37 Whalebone
- 40 Must, jocular-ly
- 42 Met perfor-mance
- 43 Silk alterna-tive
- 44 Vote for
- 45 Locale
- 46 Vortex
- 48 Mound stat
- 49 Unruly bunch
- 50 Lawyers' org.
- 51 Barracks bed

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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Guess what, Lamb? You're about to experience a new perspective on a situation you long regarded quite differently. What you learn could open more opportunities later.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) The Bold Bovine is tempted to charge into a new venture. But it might be best to take things one step at a time, so that you know just where you are at any given point.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) It's a good time to go on that fun getaway you've been planning. You'll return refreshed, ready and, yes, even eager to tackle the new challenge that awaits you.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) The Moon Child loves to fantasize about magical happenings in the early part of the week. But the sensible Crab gets down to serious business by week's end.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) What goes around comes around for those lucky Leos and Leonas whose acts of generosity could be repaid with opportunities to expand into new and exciting areas of interest.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Your concern about your job responsibilities is commendable. But you need to take some quiet time to share with someone who

has really missed being with you.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Aspects favor getting out and meeting new people. And as a bonus, you might find that some of your newly made friends could offer important business contacts.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) You might take pride in wanting to do everything yourself. But now's a good time to ask family members to help with a demanding personal situation.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Pay more attention to the possibilities in that workplace change. It could show the way to make that long-sought turn on your career path.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Your need to succeed might overwhelm obligations to your loved ones. Ease up on that workload and into some well-deserved time with family and friends.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Love rules for amorous Aquarians who can make good use of their ability to communicate feelings. Don't be surprised if they're reciprocated in kind.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Fishing for compliments? No doubt, you probably earned them. But it's best to let others believe they were the ones who uncovered the treasure you really are.

BORN THIS WEEK: Your good works flow from an open, generous heart. Nothing makes you happier than to see others happy as well.

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Show Time

The Shape of Water



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

by Manuel Reynoso

The Shape of Water was one of those movies that I knew I had to see. Everything from the trailer, to the movie poster, egged me on to come see it. I try really hard not go into a film with high expectations. The hype around this film, plus the weight of Del Toro being attached as writer/director, made it impossible for me to go in without some amount of excitement. Walking out of the theater, I really wished I had seen it sooner.

The excellence of Del Toro’s directing style is seen in every inch of this film. Almost every frame of *The Shape of Water* have angles that really bring out strong diagonal relationships between the camera and the subject. This was something Del Toro has always been fond of, but I really see how well it can play with body language and emotion. Most of the cast’s performances were already remarkable, so watching the camera play off of their movement and expression added a great deal to their acting.

The world in which *The Shape of Water* takes place was also very intimate. The movie comprised of only a handful of locations, but Del Toro placed a great amount of care in each scene. The observant viewer will really be rewarded watching *The Shape of Water*. The little details within the scenes fleshes out the characters and world making subsequent viewings so much more satisfying.

At its core, *The Shape of Water* is a romance, and a simple one. While the plot may lack complexity, it more than makes up for it with the depth of the characters making up that story. Each of their motivations, relationships, and mannerisms are unique and paint a vivid picture of who each one is. So much of this characterization is done in natural, non-expositional ways. It really was a triumph in terms of how they handles character development throughout the course of the movie.

The Shape of Water really felt like Del Toro’s labor of love. I’m still astonished how beautiful some of the scenes were when the film itself was made on a small 18 million dollar budget. I can’t say whether this was my favorite film of 2017, but I can confidently say that Del Toro was my favorite director of the year. There’s a lot to learn about directing from this film for aspiring movie makers, and a lot to enjoy for everyone else. Do yourself a favor and see *The Shape of Water*. Rated R 2h3m

A View from House Seats

New Year – New Works at Elite

by Shirley Lorraine

Many theaters begin their new seasons late in January or early February. The Elite fills in the early January gap with their one-act festival before the season officially

starts. Now in its 9th year, the festival is an audience favorite.

The sequence of pieces was carefully chosen to lead the audience first into exploring several deep and personal subjects, then lightening up with humor from unexpected circumstances and ending with a generous helping of character-driven hilarity.

The first, *Victimology*, written by Rachel Linton and directed by Katrina Rabusin, takes place in a courtroom hallway. Steven Silvers and Hayley Silvers star as siblings whose differing viewpoints on a pending courtroom outcome have them diving into dark emotional waters. The action is hesitant as the two reconnect after a long period of disengagement.

The Waiting Room covered some familiar ground for anyone who has spent time in a hospital waiting room where time moves slowly and the coffee is bitter. An elderly man (Steve Grumette) waits for his wife of 52 years to come out of surgery. He passes the time by bantering with others who are also waiting. The action is authentic and heart-felt. Grumette’s character is spot-on as he chats with Flynn Bradley, Stephanie Rise, John Comstock and Colin Fluxman. The piece was written by Steven Doloff and directed by Howard Leader.

Author Terry Riley and director Angela DeCicco had fun with *Obits* featuring Sandra Demongenes and Helene Benjamin Cohen. The two women are having a nibble at Starbucks while discussing the obituaries in the newspaper. Tailored with local references with permission from the author, this delightful vignette was filled with truths, points to ponder, and humor. Hayley Silvers cameoed as the bemused barista.

Tony Stetson and John Comstock portray brothers who live distinctly dissimilar lives in *Five Days in Calcutta*, authored by Fred Perry. Director Larry Swartz guided the two through a potentially serious situation highlighting the humor in the delivery. The two actors work well together, producing laughter and pathos at the same time.

Rounding out the evening’s entertainment is *Sisters, Tramps & Thieves* penned by Lily Rusek. Director John Comstock allowed each of the characters a wide berth to have fun. Three sisters, played to the fullest by Dorrie Bran, Sharon Reinhold and Nancy Hullihan, are different in every possible way. Hullihan plays it up wearing a tiara and cape. Her mental health matches her sparkly shoes. Reinhold is the flaky dyed-in-the-batik hippie chick and Braun fills the bill as the prim and proper one. They are gathered to greet an insurance man (Larry Swartz) regarding a claim for a missing brooch. The evening concludes with a healthy dose of hilarity.

The One-Act Festival runs through February 4. Friday & Saturday eves 8 PM, Sunday matinees 2 p.m. General admission \$17. Reservations are encouraged. 483-5118
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www.elitetheatre.org

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Local security company donates safety solution to neighborhood theatre

Boyd & Associates (a.k.a. “Draganchuk” or “Boyd”), a Ventura-based security services company, recently donated an extensive alarm system and other security solutions to the Rubicon Theatre Company.

Recently, Rubicon has had increased issues with vagrants and vandalism . Rubicon Board President Diane Goldenring turned to Dan Boyd, President of Boyd & Associates who immediately presented the needed electronic solutions.

“Our neighbors at Rubicon Theatre Company were experiencing some security challenges and we knew we had a solution that could help solve the problem,” said Boyd. “Our company policy is to give back to the community we serve, particularly as we approach the New Year.”

The donated burglar alarm system will help prevent unwanted entries to the main entrance of the theatre and in the administrative area and downstairs conservatory.

“We are grateful to Boyd & Associates for helping our theatre,” said Karyl Lynn Burns, Co-Founder and Producing Artistic Director. She added, “The protection of our employees, staff, patrons and students is our highest priority. We feel a sense of relief and know that Boyd’s generosity will bolster confidence and create a great experience for our customers.”

Do you want to write a book?

On Sat., Feb. 10 four local authors will be speaking about writing and will be presenting their new works. From 2:00 pm to 3:30 pm at the E.P. Foster Public Library in Downtown Ventura.

Featured Authors:

James Francis Gray

A contributing writer for the Ventura Breeze he is a published writer with four books to date, *Kali is Your Code Name*, *Gumshoe*, *Tales Told* and his latest, *Audrey’s Journal*. Check out his web site www.jamesfgray.com for more complete information about his books and to view book video trailers.

Sheila Lowe

Like her fictional character, Claudia Rose, Sheila Lowe is a real-life

forensic handwriting examiner who testifies in court cases. The mother of a tattoo artist and a former rock star, she lives in Ventura with Lexie the Very Bad Cat. She also writes nonfiction about handwriting analysis. Visit: Sheilalowe.com and Claudiaroseseries.com

Mike Kennedy

His inspiration for the Mark Springfield series comes from many years of working with different technologies. His ability to weave real life events with fictional characters will leave you wondering if his stories are more non-fiction than fiction.

Maryann Ridini Spencer

Award-Winning Screenwriter, Author, TV/Film Producer, Lifestyle Journalist, & PR/Marketing Consultant, will be discussing her new novel *Lady in the Window* (SelectBooks, 2017), as well as upcoming works. In *Lady in the Window*.

Wilderness Basics Course at Poinsettia Pavilion

The local Sierra Club’s annual Wilderness Basics Course promises adventure, friendships, confidence, beauty, weather, inspiration, knowledge, tasty food and hardy health.

It’s all about the Club’s ethic of showing people the forests, open spaces, mountains and rivers in a safe and comfortable manner, and you don’t have to be a member.

Now in its 9th year, the program runs from Feb. 7 to March 28 with conditioning hikes, car camp and backpacks in prime locations in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties.

The course is geared to a wide variety of experiences, ranging from novice to knowledgeable, out-of-shape to out-of-sight. It’s for everybody, from teens to seniors, singles, couples and family members.

Classes are Wednesday nights at the Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Rd. Outings are during weekends.

Early bird prices are available until Jan. 24 and the funds are used to cover expenses. Last year some extra funds were donated to the nine Search and Rescue teams in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties.

All the detail you need or to sign up is at: <http://www.lospadreswbc.org>
lospadresWBC@gmail.com
www.Facebook.com/lospadresWBC
805 524-7170

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Briglio has served as an SBDC consultant for EDC-VC since 2016.

Economic Development Collaborative adds staff dedicated to fire relief

The Economic Development Collaborative –Ventura County (EDC-VC) has announced the addition of Clare Briglio as a full-time staff member dedicated to outreach and coordination of the fire relief efforts being delivered by EDC-VC's Small Business Development Center (SBDC). Briglio and a team of about 30 other consultants provide a variety of services to local businesses including no-cost business advising, access to capital for short- and long-term loans for disaster relief and assistance regarding insurance, unemployment, loans and tax relief. Bruce Stenslie, EDC-VC CEO stated "We are excited to have Clare join our team as a dedicated point person to help these businesses get immediate support and assistance."

Briglio has served as an SBDC

consultant for EDC-VC since 2016, advising clients in the areas of startup strategies, new product development and sourcing, organizational development, process improvement and strategic planning.

As the owner and founder of Kings & Priests, a wholesale jewelry design and consulting company, Briglio is experienced in understanding corporate structure and developing key strategies that enable small businesses to reach their full potential. Her skill set includes creating branding strategies that increase exposure and product strength.

She has over 10 years' experience working in art and design, as well as human resources, corporate branding and fund development. Briglio has a bachelor's degree in political science from Sonoma State University.

The SBDC is funded by the SBA and provides professional business assistance at no cost to businesses. Participating businesses are required to follow a well-defined scope of work and report their economic successes. These SBA milestones are defined as job creation, increase in sales, capital investment, jobs retained and business started.

For businesses in need of EDC-VC support services for disaster recovery, details of business disaster services can be found online at <http://edc-vc.com/disaster-recoveryservices/> or on the "Business Recovery" link on the home page of <http://venturacountyrecovers.org/>.

EDC-VC is a private, nonprofit organization that serves as a business-to-government liaison to assist businesses in Ventura County by offering programs that enhance the economic vitality of the region. For more information about the Small Business Development Center, loan programs, manufacturing outreach and international trade program, or other services available to small businesses through EDC-VC, contact Bruce Stenslie at 384-1800 ext. 24 or bruce.stenslie@edc-vc.com. Or visit www.edc-vc.com.

This 'n' That



All of the young women are high school seniors.

Thirteen young women are introduced as 2018 Debutantes!

Seven local young women were introduced at the 61st Annual Las Patronas Tea. The Tea was held at the home of Mrs. Stephen Resnik in Camarillo. The girls were presented to the members of Las Patronas, an auxiliary of Assistance League of Ventura County and their guests.

The Tea is a first in a series of events that will culminate in the Las Patronas Debutante Ball on March 10, 2018 at the Ventura Beach Marriott.

Proceeds from the Ball are used to benefit Assistance League philanthropies, including Assistance League School, Girls Club/Teen Club, B.U.F.F.Y. Bear Program and Operation School Bell®.

All of the young women are high school seniors, the debutantes represent seven high schools in Ventura County. In their high school careers, they have distinguished themselves in academics, athletics, leadership, the arts, and philanthropic service.

The following are the Ventura 2018 Debutantes:

Miss Jacqueline King, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph King. She attends Buena High School.

Miss Sadie McCormick, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jack McCormick. She attends St. Bonaventure High School.

Miss Lauren Powell, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Powell. She attends Ventura High School.

Christopher Beck joins Ventura Family YMCA Board of Directors

The Ventura Family YMCA is proud to announce that Christopher Beck has joined the Board of Directors.

Chris is a community leader who concurrently serves as General Counsel for the Housing Authority of the City of San Buenaventura and as Counsel for

the Housing Authority of the County of Santa Barbara. Public agency attorney versed in administrative law and process; nonprofit law; litigation; Brown Act; Government Claims Act; unlawful detainers; contracts; real estate transactions – financing, purchases, and sales; municipal and planning law; grand juries; public art contracts; Fair Housing Act claims and enforcement; Americans with Disabilities Act; and, other general legal counsel.

For more information at the Ventura Family YMCA, visit <http://www.ciyymca.org/ventura/> or call 642-2131.



In order to open the 101, and other routes, the private firm American Integrated Services is bringing dirt to the Fairgrounds where it is tested and separated to remove toxic elements. Per an executive order from Governor Brown, the Fairgrounds are being used for this purpose because it owned by the State.

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