



Nuvi gave a short violin recital prior to speaking about this year's VMF.

The 2018 Music Festival is on its way

On Tuesday, January 23 Nuvi Mehta, the VMF Janet & Mark L. Goldenson Artistic Director, introduced the large audience gathered at the Museum of Ventura County to the artists appearing at the 2018 Ventura Music Festival. He was assisted by Executive Director Susan Scott. Refreshments and entertainment were provided at the free event.

The VMF reminds all that "The fires have left members of the Festival staff along with numerous friends and neighbors in need of basic resources like food, clothing and shelter. Many people and organizations are rallying to meet those needs and, in time, they will be met."

"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. Thus we look forward to presenting a special free "Concert for Ventura" to continue the healing through music, to thank first responders, to solace those who have lost so much and to celebrate the best in our community as we come together to listen and share the experience."

Each year, the Ventura Music Festival fills venues across the city with top-tier music for two weekends of multi-genre music, dance performances and world-class culture. This summer, the festival is returning with a lineup that promises to be bigger and better than ever. In the hands of renowned conductor Nuvi Mehta, the

Continued on page 5



Marchers came from all over the county.

Ventura Women's March one year anniversary

Article and photos by Richard Lieberman

Over 1,500 people gathered in downtown Ventura's Plaza Park to participate in Ventura County Rising, the second annual Women's March. A chilly Saturday morning in Ventura, marchers were bundled up in winter coats, scarves and hats. Marchers came from all over the county including seniors to toddlers. The Marchers gathered at Plaza Park before the event. Pink Hats worn by marchers

symbolizing solidarity and empathy with marchers from around the country were plentiful and dotted the crowd. Entertainment provided by Johnny and the Lovehandles rocked the crowd with old time rock and roll and reggae songs. Over 30 local organizations had tables set up providing information about their various causes. Environmental groups

Continued on page 5



Shortly after the Thomas Fire destroyed homes and power lines in Ventura, Southern California Edison was on the job restoring service as quickly as possible.



Don't have a soccer team, how about Texas Hold'em?

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Join thousands of employees representing more than 80 companies in this six-week business-to-business team sports competition featuring over 25 different events. Games will be held March 24 to May 5, 2018, throughout Ventura County. Register your company team online at www.venturacorporategames.org or call the Corporate Games hotline at 658-4738 before the February 9 deadline.

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Companies currently registered for the Corporate Games include AECOM, Aerotek, Amgen, Community Memorial Health System, County of Ventura, Jensen Design and Survey, LinkedIn, Mission Produce, Dow-Key Microwave, The Trade Desk, and Ventura College.

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February 1 • Youth Basketball League Registration Opens
Ages 3 – 14

February 3 & 10 Parent's Night Out
6:10 – 9:30pm

February 17 – 18 • Campout
FREE! Those who attend the Campout have the opportunity to register two weeks early for Sequoia Sleepaway 2018.

February 24 • Pinewood Derby Design Day
Design a car to race at Ventura Family YMCA's Pinewood Derby Race. \$5 for a car. 9am – 12pm

February 24 • Parent's Day Out: Carnival Games
Drop the kids off for the time of their lives and take an afternoon for yourself! 1 – 4pm

March 1 • Registration for Summer Camp and Sleepaway Camp Opens
Sign up and choose your own summer adventure.

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City News



Tours of the Tall Ships are a chance to meet the ship's crew.

A Seaside Delight – Tall Ships sail into Ventura Harbor

Tall Ships, Hawaiian Chieftain and Lady Washington, commence their annual voyage along the California coast and sail into Ventura Harbor on Tuesday, February 13, 2018 at noon until Monday, March 5, 2018. The historical vessels will dock in front of the Ventura Harbor Village Promenade.

Catch the mystical sight of the Tall Ships Grand Arrival in full parade-style entrance, as the crew “manning the yards” at noon on Tuesday, February 13, 2018. A photographer’s delight, the ships depart for Battle Sails throughout February and March, 2018 out of the Ventura Harbor.

The visiting Tall Ships are rich in history and seaside lure. Hawaiian Chieftain was built in Hawaii in 1988 and originally designed for cargo trade among the Hawaiian Islands. Launched in 1989, Lady Washington is a full-scale reproduction of the original Lady Washington, which was built in 1750s and was one of the first U.S. flagged ships to explore the west coast of North America.

Open to the public, the Dockside Tours (Vessel Tours) offer a living history experience. The tours focus on an authentic 18th Century sailor’s view of traveling by Tall Ship, as well as a

Continued on page 19

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MEETING DETAILS

DATE	TIME	LOCATION
Thursday, Feb. 1	6:00 PM	Poinsettia Pavilion: 3451 Foothill Rd, Ventura CA 93003
Monday, Feb. 5	6:00 PM	Ojai Valley Women's Club: 441 E Ojai Ave, Ojai CA 93024
Tuesday, Feb. 6	6:00 PM	Poinsettia Pavilion: 3451 Foothill Rd, Ventura CA 93003
Thursday, Feb. 8	6:00 PM	Alcazar Theatre: 4916 Carpinteria Ave, Carpinteria CA 93013
Monday, Feb. 12	6:00 PM	Azu: 457 E Ojai Ave, Ojai CA 93023
Tuesday, Feb. 13	6:00 PM	Poinsettia Pavilion: 3451 Foothill Rd, Ventura CA 93003



E. Elliot Adler

Dave Fox

Christopher Sieglock

Alan Seltzer, Special Counsel

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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.



805.222.6677

www.wildfirelegallgroup.com
info@wildfirelegallgroup.com



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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I can't
understand
why people are
frightened of
new ideas. I'm
frightened of
the old ones.
— John Cage

Opinion/Editorial



Sheldon (Governor) Brown
Publisher-Editor

■ I want to compliment the **City Council**, Community Service Director Jeff Lambert and Chief Building Official Yolanda Bundy for the wonderful job that they are doing to help those who lost their homes in the Thomas Fire. They have set up a separate department in order to expedite the plan checking period for homes to be re-built. Plan check will be completed within 14-days compared to the usual 5-6 weeks. In addition to using City employees, outside consultants have been hired to make this possible.

Also, homes that had non-conforming setbacks (a setback is the distance which a building or other structure is set back from property lines) can be built using the same layout as previously existed and an increase in lot coverage will be allowed. If the lots are sold, these conditions will go with the lot and can be used by the new owners.

Many fees have been eliminated, and the City Council is looking at eliminating or reducing the other remaining fees as suggested by some council members. This could be difficult because of the higher salaries that the consultants are costing the City. And the fire has already cost the city millions of dollars.

You can go to City Hall and obtain more information before proceeding with your drawings, etc.

People who might have the only remaining home on their block also have major decisions to make. It would be extremely difficult to live in a home when lots are being cleared and during the noise and dust from several years of construction. And, the big challenge is that their insurance won't pay for them to live somewhere else during this period.

■ The Breeze hopes to follow a few **fire victims** through the entire process until their new homes are built. Dealing with insurance, plans, etc. I know that this is a difficult period for most, but if you would like to share your experience with us please let me know by emailing publisher@venturabreeze.com. In addition, for other

readers, please feel free to include feel good stories, etc.

■ On page 14 of this issue, you will see an ad regarding the "let's just have fun" **party** that the Ventura Breeze and Secret Garden is having on Feb. 11. Would love for you to join us. Just bring some food, a chair and your tuba. Also on that day Fox Fine Jewelry is having a special Ventura Botanical Garden event from noon - 4 so you can attend both, see page 24.

■ A must see event is **Buyer & Cellar** now playing on the Rubicon stage, starring Brian McDonald in a one person rollicking comedy. Brian is the Rubicon's Associate Artistic Director / Director of Education and Outreach. He has been with the Rubicon for fifteen years and, in addition to all of his wonderful contributions, he teaches summer acting classes to our youth (including my grandkids). See the review on page 23.

■ Portside **Ventura Harbor**, the Ventura Harbor's new waterfront development, is expected to open their first phase with 56 residences for lease in the summer of 2018. More information on this, along with Harbor developments and events, can be found in the Harbor Views insert that will be included with our Feb. 14 issue (Valentine's Day for all you lovers).

■ The temporary ban on **leafblowers** (to continue) has been approved by a 5-2 vote by the City Council. Member's Monahan and Tracy voted against it. I agree with them. I don't think blowers cause anymore ash in the air than autos and wind. All the current moratorium does is make folks mad at the gardeners who keep using them. Many of these folks have lost several customers whose homes were destroyed, and this just makes their lives a little more difficult.

I know that some cities have outlawed the blowers entirely. Perhaps this can be considered by the City Council in the future.

■ Ventura has settled its lawsuit against **Brooks Institute**. The city had claimed the school breached its contract. Brooks has paid Ventura approximately \$72,000 to settle a breach-of-contract lawsuit. This amount doesn't even begin to cover Ventura's losses.

Brooks closed in 2016 without any

warning and left partially completed construction, including the building located behind City Hall and several buildings downtown. Massachusetts based GPHomestay bought Brooks in 2015 from the struggling Career Education Corp.

I think that the City must assume some responsibility for this calamity for not doing a sufficient job of vetting Brooks' financials prior to leasing them 20,000 square feet. There weren't any safeguards, such as sufficient up front money if they did go under.

■ Unbelievable! This is the President of the United States lowering himself to this level. Doesn't he have more important things to do running our country?

This is what **Trump** said. "The Fake News Awards, those going to the most corrupt & biased of the Mainstream Media, will be presented to the losers on Wednesday, January 17th, rather than this coming Monday. The interest in, and importance of, these awards is far greater than anyone could have anticipated!"

■ Finally, **Highway 101** has reopened after the massive Jan. 9 mudslide in Montecito closed the busy freeway. Caltrans had promised that it would re-open many times before it finally did.

Folks stuck north of there had to drive to Bakersfield to get here, which took 6-8 hours. Amtrak and Island Packers were the other ways to go back and forth to Santa Barbara.

■ The Ventura County District Attorney's Office is again warning victims of the fire to watch out for **scams**, including people posing as Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) inspectors.

Officials want people to know that FEMA inspectors will only arrive once an assistance application has been completed. Inspectors will not collect any personal identifying or bank information or ask for money.

Amazing how good some crooks are at what they do, even going so far as to wear apparel that makes them look official. So please be very diligent in dealing with people that want to be of help, including those asking for money to help fire victims and first responders.

Mailbox

City of Ventura
Citation Processing Center
P. O. Box 10479
Newport Beach, CA 92658-0479
RE: Citation No. V060012582

WOW! What a way to spoil a lovely Saturday evening in downtown Ventura by getting a parking ticket at the free parking structure. Yes, 4 Hour Parking is conspicuously posted everywhere, so "my bad".

But, my friend and I went to the movie and then to dinner. Arrived at 2:50 for a 3:10 movie, exited the movie at 5:30, sat down to dinner at 6:00 (had to wait for a table), then exited the restaurant at 8:10. So, after spending well over \$100 in downtown Ventura, we each got a \$40 parking ticket.

We had a choice to see the same movie at Riverpark Cinema where there are many restaurants, but we chose downtown. Perhaps next time we will go to Riverpark.

I have paid the parking citation. Sadly,

Sally Bodine-Ventura
Sally: What a shame perhaps 4-hour free parking is not enough and should possibly be 6-hours.

Hi Sheldon:

I want to personally thank your help at the City of Ventura Planning Office. I have been there on own several times over the years trying to make sense of some work previously done on my house. Thank you for helping me get some straightforward answers, and a little bit of clarity on how to move forward. Thank you also for the Ventura Breeze. It's wonderful having our own hometown newspaper to keep us informed on local events that concern us all.

Once again, many thanks!
Morrie Wills Westside Resident

In our last issue we had an article about lovely debutants. Headline said thirteen but there were only seven. Here are their names to salute all of them.

Miss Sophie Buffo, daughter of Mr.

and Mrs. Michael Buffo. She attends Newbury Park High School.

Miss Anna Casillas, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jeffrey Casillas. She attends Oak Park High School.

Miss Hannah George, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. James George. She attends Oaks Christian High School.

Miss Madeline Kelly, daughter of Ms. Suzanne Kelly. She attends La Reina High School.

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.

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



City News

Ventura Women’s March

Continued from page xxx
from the Sierra Club, the American Civil Liberties Union and many others displayed information on how to get involved with the various groups.

Opening remarks were made by Kathleen Shore one of the organizers of the Ventura March. Shore opened the march giving a mission statement to the gathered participants “Last year, the naysayers said, “What good is a march? Shore said. “Well this year we are showing you what good is a march, it bring us together, it energizes us and it reminds us of all the good that we have done this year.”

After Shore’s opening remarks the Reverend Madfdie Sifantus of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Santa Paula gave a benediction to the gathered marchers. The vice mayor of Ventura Matt LaVere spoke about the resilience of the marchers comparing and connecting them to the recent Thomas Fire that ravaged the county.

“Being here this morning and seeing this energy and the enthusiasm really makes me realize that no natural disaster is going to take away our spirit to stand up and fight and rally for those rights that mean so much to us,” LaVere said.

Assemblywoman Monique Limon, Democrat Santa Barbara getting to Ventura via train due to the closure of the 101 addressed the crowd. Limon stated, “Thank goodness for public transportation”. “As a community and as a state, we have stood up for the values protecting women, immigrants, our LGBT community, the environment and many more issues,” Li mon added. “California continues to push back on your behalf. We don’t do this alone, we do this together,” she added.

Atmospheric Scientist and author Peter Kalmus who authored the book “Being the Change: Live Well and Spark a Climate Revolution,” addressed the gathering about the impact of climate change on the local level and what can be done to stop it.

After the opening remarks the march began in earnest, with marchers traversing about a mile of downtown Ventura marching Westbound on Thompson Boulevard, then North on Oak, West on Santa Clara Street, then again North to Main Street. Passing cars honked horns favoring the march, and sometimes honked in protest of the march. Rampant chants echoed all along the march route. “No hate, no fear, everyone is welcome here.” Marchers shouted along the march route.

As one of the organizers of the march Kathleen Shore added, “Change happens

at the local level,” “to me, the power of this event is signing up for those organizations that have been on the ground, have been doing this hard work day to day, showing up to city council meetings, showing up to their own meetings.” “It’s a lot of work to create social change, and these organizations here are the ones who have been doing it,” she added.

2018 Music Festival on its way

Continued from page 1
2018 musical lineup consists of:
American Gypsy Jazz featuring star guitarist John Jorgenson at the historic Olivas Adobe

Latin Grammy-winner and “fire breathing guitar hero” vocalist and composer Diego Garcia (“El Twanguero”) alongside his trio at the Ventura College Performing Arts Center

“Rollicking, multi-lingual, around-the-world musical adventure” and festival headliner Pink Martini at the Oxnard PACC

Dynamic classic music ensemble Trio Céleste at the Ventura College Performing Arts Center

Celebrated and imaginative Akropolis Reed Quintet at the Ventura College Performing Arts Center

Stunning singer-songwriter Perla Batalla will present her “Frida Kahlo song cycle”, inspired by the works of Kahlo and Diego Rivera at the Ventura College Performing Arts Center

Pas de deux series depicting the ups, downs and sideways of relationships – Malashock Dance at the Ventura College Performing Arts Center

Additionally, the festival will host a “Tea & Trumpets” at the Ventura Pierpont Inn

As well as a free public concert with electrifying mariachi-meets-American classics ensemble Jarabe Mexicano at Mission Park.

On Sunday, February 25th, 3:00 to 4:30 pm a feel good free Concert For Ventura will be presented.

The line-up includes jazz fusion all-stars Tom Scott & the LA Express, sublime singer-songwriter Perla Batalla, VMF’s Nuvi Mehta, and additional guest artists in process. Downtown venue to be confirmed.

Since 1994, the mission of the Ventura Music Festival has been to bring world-class music to the community, build audience-Festival and audience-artist relationships, and enhance the joy of music through diverse education offerings for all ages. For more information, please visit www.venturamusicfestival.org or call 648-3146. Tickets go on sale April 16.



Among the sadness of destruction and loss of property caused by from the Thomas Fire and the latest rains, we can see some positive changes if we look up to the East. The burn scar did not reach the top of the hills and there is a faint hint of green sprouting from the dried grass. Photo by Michael Gordon.

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SHIP SCHEDULE CAN CHANGE DUE TO WEATHER & UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES



Even the king of the jungle couldn't save this house from the flames.

Ventura Strong

City's ambitious rebuilding plan

by Burris DeBenning

Boldly proposed at the City Council meeting of January 22, the Community Development Department presented a plan to rebuild Ventura's burned communities and get residents back into new homes as quickly as possible. "The consensus here is that we want a fast, inexpensive and efficient means for people to rebuild," said Mayor Neal Andrews.

Community Development Director Jeffrey Lambert had his game on with a crisp explanation of the specific steps his staff intend to take to push plans through a faster approval process. Displaced homeowners can expect a 14-day plan check review, instead of the usual six to eight weeks wait, for rebuilt single-family homes. "Our staff has met with homeowners and we know the stresses they're under, so we want to help them as quickly and painlessly as possible," said Lambert.

City Hall Room 117, which currently has plan check and permit desks staffed during normal operations, will expand with the additional staff and consultants dedicated solely to displaced homeowners. The new Thomas Fire Rebuild Permit Office, according Chief Building Official Yolanda Bundy, will provide personalized attention and prompt customer service to bypass the standard procedures that can take months or even years.

Regenerating a sense of community was another theme addressed by staff. "Some homes lost were tracts from the 60s and 70s," Lambert told Council, "and we want to help people get back what they had but also conform to the latest building codes, build homes that represent the character of Ventura and include more sustainable materials." Still, staff urged flexibility with this. Homes with add-ons or features that may have been inconsistent with today's zoning ordinances will be approved as well. Of course, up to a point. Basically, homeowners can request the original footprint, plus an additional 10%. Beyond that, residents would have to go back to the regular, lengthier review gauntlet, unless, as Planning Manager Dave Ward stated, council sought to increase this percentage through a code change.

That was a sticking point with several council members who sought an expedited process for all displaced homeowners, regardless of the size of the new addition. Councilmember Cheryl Heitmann emphatically wanted the process equalized, and asked staff, "how will people even know they are being expedited?" She also said she's hearing that "people want to build bigger and better than what they had." Mr. Lambert and staff emphasized the 14-day review and said they'll prioritize all displaced homeowners but return to Council if lots of permit applications are for additions more than the 10%.

Deputy Mayor Matt LaVere asked: "What if there's no more homeowner's insurance left to cover the 10%, or other fees?" Mr. Lambert said that his staff could track these instances so that a solution can be found, and Interim City Manager Dan Paranick added that "the City's General Fund may have to be tapped to cover fees and such not paid by insurance." Staff returned to the subject of community, pointing out that neighbors must live with each other, and someone who wants to put a 15% addition on their property could infringe on the folks next door. Finally, yellow tagged homeowners with partial damage will not have their debris removed by CalRecycle, the State program sent to clean up the totally destroyed properties and must pay these expenses out of pocket. Stop by Room 117 in City Hall to have your questions answered.



Be on the lookout for fraud.

(Some) fundraisers raising eyebrows

by Jennifer Tipton

There has been an overwhelming response to raise funds for the Thomas Fire Victims. Organizations and individuals alike have come forward to help Ventura recover and although most have good intent, they are not the same. Much about these fundraisers is unclear... where do the proceeds go? and how are they distributed?

Here's what you need to know, for a fundraiser to offer a tax deduction for your tickets or that big fat check you wrote, they must be a legitimate nonprofit organization with a 501c3 letter from the IRS.

"You're not legally allowed to say you're a nonprofit unless you have the paperwork in hand and this takes at least a year," Kat Merrick tells me. Kat of course, has her very own "Totally Local VC," a nonprofit organization established before the Thomas Fires and although she lost her beloved Wicked Wire Ranch to the heartless flames, her heart remains focused on helping others with her now "Local Love Project." This is dedicated to those victims of the Thomas Fires that need the most help, they can email their information to totallylocalvc@gmail.com to be added to the list and from there, clothing and items requested are donated specifically for them and gift cards are given based on the size of the family; Kat and her volunteers do the distribution themselves.

Once a nonprofit has been established, the individual or organization can choose where the money will go from their event. Kat did a "Cheers for Charity" event on January 19th and she chose FOOD Share, The Totally Local VC Local Love Project and Catholic Charities to disburse the funds.

Here's what a lot of potential recipients don't seem to know – these charities don't know who you are, you need to sign up with each individual charity to be included!

There are also those that do not have a nonprofit in place but may partner with one to put together a fundraiser, and although they appear to have good intent, accountability for money brought in can be questionable.

Mark Hartley, along with Downtown Ventura, the California Beer Festival, Surf Rodeo (many pulled together for this one) have coordinated the Thomas Fire Benefit Festival to take place on February 3rd at Plaza Park. Mark tells me a group helping to plan this event spent a tremendous amount of time determining where the money would go and that 100% of the ticket revenue will be spread out to include, the Ventura Unified School District to replace student's textbooks and musical instruments that were lost in the fires and to help several low-income families that are still seeking permanent shelter. Money will also go to our neighboring Ojai and to the

Ventura Strong

World Central Kitchen.

Kevin Clerici, the executive director of Downtown Ventura Partners and a voluntary staff member for the Downtown Ventura Organization (DVO) a 501c3, tells me the DVO is the fiscal sponsor for this event and fire victims can REGISTER for a one-time monetary gift at thomasfirebenefit.com, registrations must occur online by February 17th. According to Kevin, Pacific Western Bank has generously agreed to waive the cost to produce cashier's checks for those who register, this means even more money will go directly to the victims.

If there are concerns with where your contributions are going, and you want to ensure they stay local, be sure to check out who you're giving to.

Resources available for Thomas Fire and flood victims

The Economic Development Collaborative-Ventura County's special services coordinator, Clare Briglio, has announced additional resources now available for businesses recovering from the impact of the Thomas Fire and subsequent floods and mudslides.

"New federal declarations have secured additional resources for those who have suffered personal and/or business injury as a result of the Thomas Fire and subsequent mudslides and floods," explained Briglio. For direct in-person assistance in filing with FEMA or the SBA, please visit a Disaster Recovery Center in your area. In addition, EDC-VC has compiled an online list of resources at <http://edc-vc.com/disaster-recovery-services/>.

To access available federal fire and flood relief resources, people should follow this three-step process:

Step 1: Registration with FEMA- Clients who have been impacted by the Thomas Fire and subsequent flood and are interested in government assistance should apply online at DisasterAssistance.gov or by phone at 1-800-621-3362. The toll-free numbers are open 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week.

Note: The filing deadline to return FEMA applications for property damage is March 16, 2018. The deadline to return economic injury applications is Oct. 15, 2018.

Step 2: Registration with the SBA for low-interest loans- Low-interest disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) are available for businesses of all sizes (including landlords), private non-profit organizations, homeowners and renters. Disaster loans cover losses not fully compensated by insurance or other recoveries. This includes Economic Injury Disaster loans for businesses that may or may not have sustained any damage, but have experienced a downturn in business because of the disaster. The SBA customer service center is also available to answer questions at 1-800-659-2955. Applicants may also come in to a Local Recovery Center (LRC) for person-to-person assistance in completing their applications. For further information, visit SBA's website at www.sba.gov/disaster.

Step 3: Registration with EDD for unemployment benefits- Federal Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) benefits are now available for workers, business owners and self-employed individuals who lost their jobs or had their work hours substantially reduced as a result of the wildfires and associated flooding, mudslides and debris flows in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. Those affected are encouraged to apply online at <https://eapply4ui.edd.ca.gov/>, by calling 1-800-300-5616 (English) 1-800-326-8937 (Spanish) or by visiting a Local Recovery Center.

Local Recovery Centers (LRC) - Two Disaster Recovery Centers are now open locally for personal and business assistance. Representatives from FEMA, SBA, OES and other agencies will be present to provide information and resources for economic and personal injury due to the Thomas Fire and subsequent floods. Locations are as follows:

Santa Barbara Calvary Chapel

1 N Calle Cesar Chavez #21
Monday-Friday 11-6:30
Saturday 10-2 pm

Ventura County Credit Union

6026 Telephone Rd
Monday-Wednesday 9-4pm
Thursday/Friday 9-5pm
Saturday 9-1 pm

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.



On Friday, Jan.19 the 21st Annual Poinsettia Awards Luncheon was held at the Ventura Beach Marriott. The Ventura Chamber of Commerce recognized outstanding achievements of businesses and individuals who make a difference in our community at the Poinsettia Awards Luncheon.

The flag salute was presented by Fire Chief David Endaya, Police Chief Ken Corney and Stephanie Caldwell. Welcoming those in attendance were 2017 board Chair and Citizen of the Year Nan Drake and representing the Title Sponsor Montecito Bank & Trust was Jeff Paul. Photo by Richard Lieberman.

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- Camarillo | 761 Daily Drive, Suite 100
- Thousand Oaks | 140 W. Hillcrest Drive, Suite 115
- Simi Valley—Tapo | 2643 Tapo Canyon Road
- Simi Valley—Town Center | 1717 Simi Town Center Way, Suite 9

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FLOOD/MUD Preparedness EVENT

County residents impacted by the Thomas Fire
are encouraged to attend this free event!





FEBRUARY 3rd
9am – 12noon
Poinsettia Pavilion,
3451 Foothill Rd in Ventura

The City of Ventura & County of Ventura invite you to learn valuable information to keep your home & property safe from potential mud and debris flows resulting from rain on Thomas Fire burn areas. City and County public works officials will discuss burn area analysis and erosion control measures that will assist you in protecting your family and property.

Plan. Prepare. Stay Informed.

- View maps with details and information about potential risks
- Browse vendor expo products and talk with flood and erosion protection experts.

For more information, visit
VenturaCountyRecovers.org





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Community Events

Ventura events

by Ana Baker

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

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. They have excellent speakers leading Cardiologists, Nutritionists, and Dietitians etc. from our area. Contact Richard Hatcher at 644-2733.

Audubon events:
February 3, 9 a.m. Work Day Fillmore Fish Hatchery. Sandy Hedrick 340-0478 This is a new venue for restoration planting for the balance of this work season. Planting native plants for a future interpretive center on 5 acres at the entrance to the Fish Hatchery. .
February 10, 8:30 a.m. Canada Larga. Linda Easter 519-2833.
Drive and walk this beautiful canyon road and one of the best birding hotspots. Target birds will include: Red-shouldered Hawk, Red-breasted Sapsucker, Nuttall's Woodpecker and White-breasted Nuthatch.

February 19, 8:30 a.m. Barranca Vista Park. Adele Fergusson 415-4304 Hope to see Townsend Warblers, Nut-hatches and Red Shouldered Hawks.
February 24, 8:30 a.m. Ormond Beach. Tevin Schmitt (661) 904-1563 Will look for a variety of waterfowl.

Feb. 3: The Channel Islands Chamber Orchestra, KuanFen Liu Artistic Director celebrates its 15th Season "Sounds of Generation Z" concerts Friday Saturday at 7 p.m. at First United Methodist Church 1338 E Santa Clara St. The concerts will highlight solo student musicians Peiming Yang, Petite Suite by Claude Debussy. Donations of \$20 are appreciated. Youth 18 and under are free. For more information call 484-8000 or visit website www.CHICOVC.org.

Feb. 4: Citizens for Peaceful Resolutions will be holding their Monthly

Meeting on Sunday from 3 - 5:30 p.m. The Age of Consequences film at E.P. Foster Library, Topping Room, 651 E. Main St. Through unflinching case-study analysis, distinguished admirals, generals and military veterans take us beyond the headlines of the conflict in Syria, the social unrest of the Arab Spring, the rise of radicalized groups like ISIS, and the European refugee crisis – and lay bare how climate change stressors interact with societal tensions, sparking conflict. Following the film will be a discussion about our local responses to this global crisis. theageofconsequences.com.

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

Feb. 8: The Ventura County Professional Women's Network (VCPWN), one of the county's long standing organizations supporting the interests of women business owners and professionals, is hosting their monthly dinner meeting at 5:30 PM at Wedgewood Banquet Center Courtyard by Marriott Oxnard, 600 E Esplanade Dr. VCPWN is excited to host author, speaker, and the founder of Zest Business Consulting and Miracle Manifestation Groups, Jennifer Martin. Jennifer will be presenting: "Leveraging Your Personal Brilliance: Bringing the Best of YOU to Work and to Life." For more information about the event log on to www.vcpwn.org. You can also get more information about joining this great group.

Feb. 10: The Ventura College Men's and Women's basketball teams, along with the Ventura Breakers Youth Basketball Club, will host the 19th annual barbecue fundraiser dinner and games on Saturday. Tickets are \$15. Barbecue dinner at the Ventura College Cafeteria will be served from 4-7 p.m. Ventura College will play Moorpark College, with the Men's game at 7p.m. and the Women playing at 5 p.m. Ticket prices include dinner and admission to both games. Proceeds benefit VC men's and women's basketball and the Ventura Breakers Basketball Club. Information and tickets: 289-6118, and www.vcweplayhard.com.

Feb. 13: 7:30 pm Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Road. We often hear how the Audubon Society began in response to the slaughter of millions of water birds. Join VAS chapter vice-president, Cynthia Hartley, for an overview of the origins of the Audubon Society 100 years ago. Then we'll move forward in time and look at modern day least tern and snowy plover conservation work at Ormond and Hollywood Beaches. Learn about life and death in the dunes, and the work done by current day activists to help protect our nesting shorebirds. She has a master's degree in geographic information science (GIS) from the University of Maryland and teaches GIS (computer mapping) at CSUCI. She is also a member of the Ormond Beach Scientific Advisory Committee that advises The Nature Conservancy, The City of Oxnard and the California Coastal Conservancy as they plan for the Ormond Beach Restoration project.

Community Events

Ojai news and events

CI professor Clare Steele will visit the Ojai Library at 1 p.m. on Saturday, February 10 to deliver a presentation titled “Ocean Litter and Microplastics: A New Wave of Research.” Dr. Steele comes from CSU Channel Islands (CI), and is the first speaker in this season’s CI Library Lecture Series.

This talk will explore recent advances in the problem of microplastic pollution and discuss how changes in consumer choices, policy, and legislation can reduce the impact of microplastics on the Southern California coast.

California author Obi Kaufmann will visit the Ojai Library at 3:15 p.m. on Saturday, February 10 to present a book signing for his 2017 epic, The California Field Atlas. Kaufmann—a poet, painter, and naturalist—sees California as a magical network of living systems that connect in a grand, quilted array of ecology and beauty.

Shortly before the Thomas Fire changed life so dramatically for local residents, the Ojai Women’s Fund (OWF) held its year-end event to honor and award 11 Ojai nonprofits with \$64,000 in community grants. The funds raised during 2017 via OWF membership donations will help support Ojai programs serving five focus areas: arts, education, environment, health, and social services.

The OWF is a collective of hundreds of Ojai women who pool donations to create and gift grants to local nonprofits that serve Ojai through a wide variety of programs: from those that meet critical health and social service needs, to those that further education, provide environmental protection, or simply to enhance the human spirit through arts.

In its first two years as a local grant-funding philanthropy, OWF has raised and gifted \$124,000 via generous donations of nearly 400 members. All women who live in the Ojai Valley are welcome to join the Ojai Women’s Fund. Visit www.ojaiwomensfund.org for more information.

Aria Elan and Eden Edwards will visit the Ojai Library at 2 p.m. on Saturday, February 3, to deliver a concert entitled “An Afternoon of Jazz and Storytelling.” Singer/songwriter Elan has spoken and performed at women’s conferences, colleges and universities, libraries, and more. Edwards, a Grammy scholarship recipient, is a sophomore at Camarillo High School, an artist, and an environmentalist.

These events are 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.

Herb Walks with Lanny Kaufer has arranged with author Obi Kaufmann for an intimate event in Ojai on Saturday, February 10th, 10: 00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Ventura River Preserve and a downtown indoor location. Obi will join Lanny on a nature walk in the morning and then share the process of creating his 2017 book, The California Field Atlas, in an afternoon slideshow presentation. The indoor session will include an on-the-spot, live painting in the watercolor-and-calligraphy style of the book’s illustrations.

\$25 for adults; \$20 for seniors 62 and older; \$15 for students 13-18 Register at www.HerbWalks.com or call 805-646-6281.

The Beatrice Wood Center for the Arts in Ojai is pleased to present an exhibition featuring members of the Ventura County Handweavers Spinners Guild, March 3 – April 15. Every Saturday and Sunday, members will present free demonstrations of fiber processes in conjunction with the Center’s educational programming. Founded in 1970, the Ventura County Handweavers & Spinners Guild is an all-volunteer organization dedicated to the education and promotion of fiber arts, with a focus on weaving and spinning.

The public is invited to attend the Reception on Saturday, March 3rd, from 2 – 5 pm.

Six women’s epic swim around Santa Cruz Island

by Mira Reverente

Picture this. Six women swimmers. Fifty-four miles. Almost 40 hours in open water.

It happened. An epic swim around Santa Cruz Island took place back in late September. “As far as we know, it’s the first time it’s ever been done,” says team captain Claudia Rose, 53, of San Diego.

“Most of us swam six legs which took about an hour each average,” says

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Michelle McConica, 61, of Ventura.

Late start, fearless finish

What would inspire women with such diverse backgrounds to undertake a feat like this? An ongoing quest to meet bust obstacles, reach goals and just like mountaineers who say they climb because the mountain is there - for these women, the ocean is also right there.

McConica, who grew up in a copper mining zone in Arizona, only started swimming in college, for a physical education class. Most of her teammates got into swimming in late adulthood.

Rose grew up in New England and moved to California 30 years ago, competes in triathlons and likes to



Team captain Claudia Rose shows how it’s done.

analyze maps and charts, being the systems engineer that she is. “I taught open water swimming and kept hearing about Santa Cruz so that piqued my interest,” she says.

“In fact, you can see the island from Michelle’s house,” she says, explaining the appeal of their monumental undertaking. There have been various successful attempts in swimming from the mainland to the various islands and back, but never around Santa Cruz Island.

Louise Darlington, 57, from Elizabethtown, Pennsylvania, remembers

meeting Maryland native Diana Corbin at a lake swim. “I was drawn to Diana’s Channel Island tattoo so we started talking,” says the librarian who only started swimming at the age of 40, to distress from work.

The two became fast friends and connected on Facebook where there’s a fairly active open water swim community. In March of 2016, Corbin invited her to join the team. Jeannie Zappe of Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania, completed the all-women team.

Swim support

“We had a support dive boat called “The Peace” owned by fellow Venturan Eric Bowman,” says McConica. “His crew graciously kept us fed for 24/7.”

The team also had one to two escort kayakers with then all the time, for support. Says Rose, “You never want to



Carol-Lynn Swol finishes her leg and hands off to Michelle McConica .

do any of this alone. You need a support crew and observers.”

What thoughts were swimming around their minds during those grueling 40 hours? “We actually weren’t anxious about the sharks. We were more frightened about LA freeways,” says McConica with a chuckle.

Ocean obstacles

The team gets asked the obvious

Continued on page 24



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Person to Person

by Jennifer Tipton

I asked 6 Ventura business owners – “How did the Thomas Fires affect your business?”



Sharon Palmer owner of Main Street Meats Ventura 3049 East Main Street

“December is generally a month where families are planning their gatherings, people are coming into town, there are family dinners, company dinners, holiday parties. We start taking orders the first week in December, which is of course when the fires hit. The first 2 weeks of December, I basically manned the store by myself, there was no business. Ventura was like a ghost town, anybody who was here, wasn’t outside. And then you go into the loss, the devastating feeling of loss – there was no holiday spirit even into the first week of January. There is an overwhelming feeling of loss and displacement, it trickles down to a loss of economy. All the people who aren’t able to do their customary jobs – these are the customers. Our business had dropped about 50% in December and is continuing on that path. There are 50-75 regular customers that we haven’t seen and 30 Christmas orders that were canceled or not picked up.”

Writer’s note: Despite this, in addition to local donations, Sharon prepared a tri tip dinner to feed the Montecito Fire Crew.



Lynn Mikelatos owner of The Greek and Margarita Villa 1583 Spinnaker Drive / 1567 Spinnaker Drive

“On Tuesday (December 5th) we closed because so many of our employees had to evacuate and everybody needed to just take care of their families. The first weekend we were hit the hardest, and in the first 10 days to 2 weeks we had a lot of cancellations, although, some parties rescheduled for January. It really impacted people going out in general; it was a big deal emotionally for the entire city. The Parade of Lights was scheduled for the second weekend after the fire (December 15 & 16) and there was some talk as to whether it should be canceled, but it’s such a part of the culture of Ventura and to the economy of the harbor! It’s all been pretty quiet down here, we just don’t see the foot traffic and overall, it put a shadow over the business. I think it goes to the heart of every Venturan, Firefighters would come in and customers would buy their food! I’m proud to be a Venturan and we’re not going to let this get us down!”

Writer’s note: The Parade of Lights did go on and Lynn reports it was a successful event!



Simone Covault owner of Simones Coffee & Tea 7818 Telegraph Road

“We were evacuated so we came here and stayed a couple nights, the first night we didn’t sleep at all, then we slept on the floor. The power was out, and the Kimball center was filling up with people sleeping in their cars. When the power came on, people came in to use the restroom, seek reprieve and just to have a sense of community. We were bombarded! We never closed! There were no baked goods but as soon as the machines warmed up, I steamed coffee all day. On Tuesday, December 5th, I had people say I was the only coffee shop open and people began meeting here, we were super busy from the start. The first week, no merchandise sold, but after a couple weeks, people started purchasing some Christmas items. People were so grateful that we were open, one woman, a retired teacher came in with a child that she mentors to bring me a candle and say thank you for being a beacon of light during the fires!”

Writer’s note: Although Simone and her family remained evacuated and displaced for 2 ½ weeks, she never closed her doors. Their home did have some damage from the fires, but it wasn’t extensive.



John Reynolds owner of JLR Studio 20 North Fir Street Suite A

“We were closed for 3 days and at the top of our street, we lost two houses. The following week, people were just not out and about, there was so much ash in the air. I had 2 ½ to 3 inches of ash in the corners of the building. We did lose appointments and we couldn’t reopen because there was no electricity. I think the New Year has been on the up rise, one of my stations was recently rented by a tanning artist and that should help generate more business.”
(John has been at this location for 32 years!)



Ashley Pope owner of SpiceTopia 576 East Main Street

“We did okay in December, we got a lot of community support even though downtown took a hit. So many people came downtown determined to help local businesses, they wore masks and we’re so grateful for them. I worry about the longevity of the process, hopefully, we don’t see businesses close. If they’re still open a month out, that’s not an indication that they’re doing well; we won’t see the true impact on business until a little bit further. How’s it gonna look after year 1 or year 2? We stay strong going forward, I feel positive and have so much faith in Ventura to push through this! We want to continue to put the word out there that every dollar spent here locally, is a dollar put toward recovery! Where are the contractors and attorneys (etc....) coming from? We need to be conscientious of that!”



Michelle Rein owner of passion flowers 920 East Main Street

“December was cancelled, everything cancelled, there was no December business. We were without power on this section of Main for four days; for some businesses, food was lost, but we’re just flowers so we were ok. We re-opened December 8th, but there was no business, people just wanted to come in to share their stories, talk and hug. And then with the closing of the 101, some brides couldn’t get here, most of my business was people sending thankyou flowers. As I clean up the ash, I try to be respectful – this ash was somebody’s home.”

The future? “We’re still gonna be here, we’ll make it through, we’re Ventura Strong!”

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Senior Living

Pull Out Section



At 96 LaVonne Askay has returned to volunteering.

There is no age limit on being a volunteer

“I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something.” These words by Edward Everett Hale clearly reflect the attitude of LaVonne Askay as she returns to volunteer for Community Memorial Hospital’s Auxiliary.

Askay began working as a volunteer in 1978 after retiring from the Ventura Unified School District. She served for 40 years as a flyer, front desk receptionist, and was on the board of directors for two terms. It was not until her husband’s illness required her to spend more time at home that she had to move from active to sustaining/inactive status.

Now, several months after her husband’s passing, Askay, at 96 years young, has returned to active service in CMH’s Auxiliary. It is natural to ask the question, why? “I don’t want to waste my time, and I want to give back to my community,” was her quick response.

Askay’s favorite part about being a volunteer was meeting the wonderful people who came into the hospital and working with the other volunteers. It was the friendships with her fellow volunteers that helped sustain her during her husband’s illness. “You always get more than you give,” reflected Askay. “The Auxiliary is a wonderful group to work with and I am proud to be a volunteer,” said Askay.

LaVonne Askay is proof that there is no age limit on being a volunteer. CMH’s Auxiliary offers a variety of ways to serve our community and the hospital. As Elizabeth Andrew put it, “Volunteers don’t necessarily have the time, they just have the heart.” Do you have the heart? Come join our team of volunteers as they strive to provide comfort to patients and their families while furthering the

best interests of Community Memorial Hospital. Applications are available at CMH’s front desk.

Share your heart on Valentine’s Day

by Patty Jenkins

“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, ‘What are you doing for others?’”
Martin Luther King, Jr.

This Valentine’s Day, come and share what is in your heart and how you make it through your days living with Parkinson’s Disease; you just might end up helping someone more than you can imagine by sharing your own experiences battling this more-than-challenging disease! The Ventura Parkinson’s Disease Support Group is having one of our Round Table Discussion meetings on Wednesday, February 14th from 1-3pm at the Lexington Assisted Living (5440 Ralston Street, Ventura).

We meet every second Wednesday of the month to learn more about Parkinson’s Disease, the latest research for a cure and better treatments, and also to hopefully learn helpful ways to deal with PD, support each other and maybe even make some new friends! We alternate throughout the year with round table meetings where we get to know each other and share our common challenges and unique coping solutions, along with a variety of speakers and presenters with helpful topics of interest including Movement Disorder Specialists, medical professionals and other professionals who educate us in many aspects about the resources available to help us organize and improve the quality of our lives that are suddenly confronted and changed by Parkinson’s Disease. We welcome all of our members, their care-partners and new friends who find themselves in this battle with Parkinson’s Disease along with us.

Please come and join the Ventura Parkinson’s Disease Support Group for this special Valentine’s Day Round Table Discussion. We will have some really great presenters coming up in this new year, but on this Valentine’s Day meeting, you are the “presenters”!

There is a drop-off/loading and unloading driveway in the front of the. Extra parking is graciously available across the street from the Lexington in the Baptist Church parking lot. Please check in at the front desk for directions to the 3rd floor and sign-in at the meeting. For more information please call me at 766-6070 We are an independent and volunteer-organized group not affiliated with or a part of any other organization or group.

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Doctors need to know a lot about you

by National Institute of Health

Patients and health care providers share a very personal relationship. Doctors need to know a lot about you, your family, and your lifestyle to give you the best medical care. And you need to speak up and share your concerns and questions. Clear and honest communication between you and your physician can help you both make smart choices about your health.

Begin with some preparation. Before your health exam, make a list of any concerns and questions you have. Bring this list to your appointment, so you won't forget anything.

Do you have a new symptom? Have you noticed side effects from your medicines? Do you want to know the meaning of a certain word? Don't wait for the doctor to bring up a certain topic, because he or she may not know what's important to you. Speak up with your concerns.

"There's no such thing as a dumb question in the doctor's office," says Dr. Matthew Memoli, an infectious disease doctor at NIH. "I try very hard to make my patients feel comfortable asking questions, no matter how dumb they think the question is."

Even if the topic seems sensitive or embarrassing, it's best to be honest and upfront with your health care provider. You may feel uncomfortable talking about sexual problems, memory loss, or bowel issues, but these are all important to your health. It's better to be thorough and share a lot of information than to be quiet or shy about what you're thinking or feeling. Remember, your doctor is used to talking about all kinds of personal matters.

Consider taking along a family member or friend when you visit the doctor. Your companion can help if there are language or cultural differences between you and your doctor. If you feel unsure about a topic, the other person can help you describe your feelings or ask questions on your behalf. It also helps to have someone else's perspective. Your friend may think of questions or raise concerns that you hadn't considered.

Many people search online for health information. They use Web-based tools to research symptoms and learn about different illnesses. But you can't diagnose your own condition or someone else's based on a Web search.

"As a physician, I personally have no problem with people looking on the Web for information, but they should use that information not as a way to self-diagnose or make decisions, but as a way to plan their visit with the doctor," says Memoli. Ask your doctor to recommend

specific websites or resources, so you know you're getting your facts from a trusted source. Federal agencies are among the most reliable sources of online health information.

Many health care providers now use electronic health records. Ask your doctor how to access your records, so you can keep track of test results, diagnoses, treatment plans, and medicines. These records can also help you prepare for your next appointment.

After your appointment, if you're uncertain about any instructions or have other questions, call or email your health care provider. Don't wait until your next visit to make sure you understand your diagnosis, treatment plan, or anything else that might affect your health.

Your body is complicated and there's a lot to consider, so make sure you do everything you can to get the most out of your medical visits.



"Are you sure lifting glasses is exercising?"

You are never too old to exercise

by National Institute of Health

We've all heard that exercise is good for you. Did you know that it's as true for older people as it is for any age group? You're never too old to get moving, get stronger, and improve your health.

Fitting exercise and physical activity into your day can enhance your life in so many ways. Regular physical activity can improve your balance and boost or maintain your strength and fitness. It may also improve your mood and help you manage or lessen the impact of conditions like diabetes, heart disease, osteoporosis, and depression.

Despite these proven benefits, exercise and physical activity rates among older people are surprisingly low. Only about 30% of people ages 45 to 64 say they engage in regular leisure-time physical activity. This falls to 15% of those between the ages of 65 and 74 and 5% of people age 85 and older.

Experts recommend four types of exercise for older adults: endurance, balance, strength, and flexibility. Brisk walking, dancing, and other endurance exercises improve the health of your heart, lungs, and circulatory system. These exercises can make it easier for you to mow the lawn, climb stairs, and do other daily activities. Strength exercises include lifting weights or using resistance bands. They can increase muscle strength to help with activities such as carrying groceries or lifting grandchildren. Balance exercises can help prevent falls—a major health risk for older adults. Stretching, or flexibility exercises, can give you more freedom of movement for bending to tie your shoes or looking over your shoulder as you back out of the driveway.

"Even if you haven't been active previously, it's important to get started and stay active," says Dr. Richard J. Hodes, director of NIH's National Institute on Aging. "We know that people want to live independently for as long as they



Senior Living

possibly can. By exercising regularly and including more physical activity in their daily routine, older people can preserve their physical function, which is key to doing the everyday things they want to do.”

To help you get started and keep moving, NIH brought together some of the nation’s leading experts on aging, exercise, and motivation. They developed a guide to exercise for older adults. The guide serves as the basis for a national exercise and physical activity campaign for people ages 50 and older. It’s called Go4Life.

“Older adults can exercise safely, even those who have physical limitations,” Hodes says. “Go4Life is based on studies showing the benefits of exercise and physical activity for older people, including those with chronic health conditions.”

Go4Life exercises are designed to be done safely at home without special equipment or clothing. The free book Exercise & Physical Activity: Your Everyday Guide from the National Institute on Aging is the core resource for the campaign. Other free materials, such as tip sheets, are also available. Workout to Go, a mini exercise guide, shows you how you can be active anytime, anywhere.

To learn more, visit the Go4Life website at go4life.nia.nih.gov. You’ll find exercises, success stories, and tips to help you stay motivated. Or call 1-800-222-2225, or e-mail niaic@nia.nih.gov (link sends e-mail).



“After reading the 1,700 pages of the new tax code we may still need to call Trump.”

Free income tax assistance from AARP Tax Aide

AARP Tax Aide, in conjunction with the IRS, will provide free income tax preparation assistance and e-filing for seniors and low-to-moderate income adults of any age from February 5 through April 12, 2018. AARP member-

ship is not required. Assistance will be available at the following Ventura and Ojai locations:

In Ventura, the service is at the Ventura Avenue Adult Center, 550 North Ventura Ave, on Tuesdays and Fridays from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and at the Area Agency on Aging, 646 County Square Drive, on Mondays and Wednesdays from noon to 3 p.m. Appointments are not required at either site.

In Ojai, tax assistance is available starting February 1 by appointment only at Little House of Ojai, 111 West Santa Ana Street, on Thursdays from noon to 3:15 p.m. Call (805) 646-5122.

Taxpayers must bring Social Security cards for themselves, spouses and any dependents, picture ID, copy of 2016 tax return, and 2017 documents showing income from all sources, including wages, Social Security, interest, dividends, investments, self-employment, and pensions. If the taxpayer itemizes deductions, they should bring total figures for each category of deduction, including medical, charitable contributions, property tax, mortgage interest, etc. Please also bring ACA (Obamacare) year-end statements as well.

Elders and companionship

by Connie De La Rosa

After spending time speaking with many seniors at senior centers, assisted living places and elder events, many find themselves quite content in being part of a community that can relate to their present situation such as illnesses, losses, changes and challenges. Not only do they feel accepted and understood, they feel their day is fulfilled by being with their friends and acquaintances.

Many family caregivers may feel protective over their loved one and worry if they are able to attend functions or not ready to accept the fact that their loved one is interested in meeting someone their age to spend time with. Most elders really only want to be able to spend time with someone in having a cup of coffee or having a nice dinner and sharing some of their experiences good or bad. After listening to a few elders making statements such as “I don’t want to worry my kids so I talk to my neighbors, my friend, etc.” or “My kids don’t understand or respect my wishes.”

Elders have a need, like most of us, to speak to someone who can understand their situation. As long as their doctor



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approves and your loved one would like to join a senior center or attend a function, let them do so. This will only enhance their life to their fullest.

For more information on the nearest senior center or senior events, please call 420-9608 for free information and resources. Family Caregiver Resource Center Catholic Charities- OASIS.

Free community education classes and events

Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurse Association supports the total well-being of our community. They host free

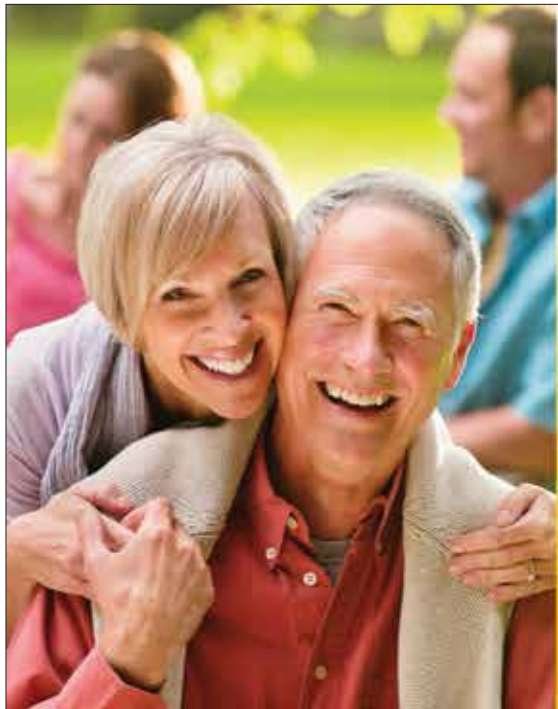
monthly education classes throughout the county which include the following:

Social Services/Bereavement Groups

Ojai Caregiver Support Group: Monday, February 5th and Tuesday, February 13th (1st & 3rd Mondays, unless it falls on a holiday) from 10:00 am – 11:30 am at Continuous Care Center, Fireside Room, 1306 Maricopa Hwy, Ojai (behind Ojai Valley Community Hospital). Find encouragement and hope during your time as a caregiver. Share, listen and explore thoughts and feelings about the struggles, losses and successes of caring for your loved one. For more information call (805) 633-9056.

Ojai Adult Bereavement Support Group: Tuesdays, February 13th and 27th (2nd & 4th Tuesdays) 10:30 am-noon at Help of Ojai, West Campus 370 Baldwin Rd., Ojai. These groups are open to individ-

Continued on page 14



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Free community education classes

Continued from page 13

uals who have experienced loss and are free of charge. Call 642-0239 for more information or email griefinfo@livingstonvna.org. Oxnard Adult Bereavement Support Group: on Mondays, February 5, 12, and 26th, and Tuesday, February 20th, from 3:00-4:30 pm at First Presbyterian Church, 850 Ivywood Dr., Oxnard. These groups are open to individuals who have experienced loss and are free of charge. Call 642-0239 for more information or email griefinfo@livingstonvna.org. If you have any schedule questions, please check the website calendar (<http://lmvna.org/calendar/index.html>) or call us. Ventura Adult Bereavement Support Group: Wednesdays, February 7, 14, 21, 28 from 6:30-8:00 pm at Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurse Association office, 1996 Eastman Ave., Suite 109. These groups are open to individuals who have experienced

loss and are free of charge. Call 642-0239 for more information or email griefinfo@livingstonvna.org.

Newly Bereaved Support Group in Ventura: Thursday, February 8th from 6-7:30 pm at Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurse Association office, 1996 Eastman Ave., Suite 109. This monthly group is designed for adults who have recently experienced the loss of a loved one and is free. Call 642-0239 for more information or email griefinfo@livingstonvna.org. These groups meet every 2nd Thursday of each month.

Diabetes Classes

Ventura: Tuesday, February 6th from 1-2:30pm at Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurse Association, 1996 Eastman Ave, Suite 109. These meetings are held on the 1st Tuesday of each month. General information is provided about Type 2 Diabetes including prediabetes, with emphasis on meal planning, medication, exercise, blood sugar monitor-

Senior Living

ing, and new developments in diabetes. Call 642-0239 for more information.

Joint Replacement Classes

Ventura: Monday, February 12th for both English and Spanish speaking. English 4:00-5:00 pm and Spanish 5:30-6:30 pm at Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurse Association offices, in the Community Room at 1996 Eastman Avenue, Suite 109 in Ventura. You will learn what to expect before, during and after knee or hip replacement surgery and how to be an active participant in your care. For information or to RSVP call Dinah Davis at (805) 642-0239 ext. 739.



John was a talented blues/jazz musician and gospel singer.

John Lunsford “Buck Fifty” 1954 – 2018

John Lunsford “Buck Fifty”, an iconic local musician, passed away this month. John was the owner of Reali-

zations Recording Studio and Rising Force Sound as well as a talented blues/jazz musician and gospel singer. Playing flute and harmonica while wailing the blues with local musicians was his passion. His studio was open to all and all were received with love, compassion, the occasional spiritual scripture reading, and even fed from the “homeless grill” in the parking lot.

He led the Battle of the Bands Ventura in the 90s; was a sound and lighting engineer at many local hot spots; and built stages for Ventura Theater, Oxnard College, and local production companies. His presence was felt in this great town and his spirit will live on in the music he was a part of.

Local broadcasters promoting peace

Kelli McKay, Lyn Fairly, Kim Pagano and nationally syndicated George Nouri and Jim Bohannon each have been named winners of the 2017 Richman Peace Foundation Peace Awards for media. They can be heard locally on KVTM AM radio 1590.

The Richman Peace Foundation is a Ventura County philanthropy dedicated to promoting peace and creating peace-related policy.

Ventura Strong



The Thomas Fire is a once-in-a-lifetime tragedy.

Share your Thomas Fire story at CAPS Media

CAPS Media is launching the Thomas Fire Stories Project on Thursday, February 15 with an initial set of interviews recorded at the CAPS Media Center. Everyone in the community impacted by the fire is invited to share their story and contribute to the archive of our common experience. The individual interviews will be conducted by CAPS Media producers in our studio and expected to last 15-20 minutes for each. Members of the public, first responders, officials and others are invited to record their story, first person, in their own words, with assistance and expertise from the CAPS Media staff.

The Thomas Fire is a once-in-a-lifetime tragedy. CAPS Media is collaborating with the Ventura City

Fire and Police, Ventura County Fire and Sheriff, the Museum of Ventura County, other community agencies on the Thomas Fire Stories Project. The project will feature personal stories of individuals and families whose lives were dramatically changed the night of December 4th and include extraordinary accounts of heroism, sacrifice, tragedy and healing.

Thursday, February 15th is the first date in a series of video and audio recording sessions to be scheduled at the CAPS Media Studio for the Thomas Fire Stories Project. To schedule a time to record your story please contact CAPS Media 658.0500.

CAPS Media has also set up an easy process for the public to share stories, photos and video for the historic project. Go to the CAPS Media website homepage- capsmedia.org, on 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 thomas-firestories@capsmedia.org or call the CAPS Media Center at 658.0500.

The Ventura Police Department is working with CAPS Media every week producing community updates. Hosted by Ashley Bautista, VPD Civic Engagement Specialist, and VPD officers, the series includes public awareness tips, weekly crime statistics, and other information vital to the community. The reports are posted on Ventura City and Police websites and social media,

**The Ventura Breeze and Secret
Garden Florist Café are having a
happy happening at Secret
Garden on Sunday, February 11
from 2pm until we run out of fun.
Forget all of the bad things and
just have fun. Bring a potluck and
an instrument if you play one
(and even if you don't). And your
good spirits and bad jokes.
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Bring a good cheer and a
good chair**

**The following can't be discussed:
The fire
The mud slides
Politics**



Ventura Strong

and are broadcast and stream on CAPS Channel 6 & 15, capsmedia.org, and on CAPS Radio KPPQ 104.5 FM.

CAPS Media’s mission is to create an engaged and informed community through participation in electronic media. Join our community of enthusiastic engaged member/producers. To find out more come to orientation on the first Thursday of every month and learn how to become a 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.

Livingston patients continued to receive in-home care during the fire

by Lori Harasta

Despite blazes, blackouts, and evacuations due to the Thomas fire, Livingston’s nurses, social workers, therapists and caregivers continued to keep patients safe and as comfortable as possible as they performed their clinical and custodial duties. They helped some patients evacuate, packing up precious mementos and personal items, and even drove one client to a safe haven in Carpinteria, the long way around, since Highway 33 was closed.

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

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

Jeannette Cunningham, RN, BSN, PHN, Livingston’s Safety Officer, observed that it was teamwork that

made things go so smoothly. “It was not at all chaotic. Everyone kept calm and got the job done. At the command post, all you had to do was state a patient’s need and it was taken care of.”

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

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

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

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



The fire did not take away their view.

In an on-going effort to help victims of the recent Thomas Fire navigate the road to rebuilding and recovery, the Ventura Breeze will be conducting a series of in depth interviews with victims of the fires. This series of articles will cover topics such as: Insurance, where victims are currently living, how they are feeling about their losses, out of pocket expenses, time frame for re-building, and we will delve into any health-related issues affecting those who have lost home and belongings. We conducted our first interview with Ron and Barbara Dincau. Do you have a story that you would like to share? Let us know at editor@venturabreeze.com

From the Jan. 3, 2018 Ventura Breeze: *A few days after the house of Ron & Barbara Dincau had burnt down, Ron went to Goodwill and bought two chairs and an umbrella so that they could sit and enjoy the beautiful Ventura sunset. He said, “That is one of the main reasons that we bought the house.” You will learn more about them in an upcoming issue.*

As promised here is their story.

The journey back begins - Part one

by Richard Lieberman

Ron and Barbara Dincau, Ventura residents and home owners for thirty-five years, suffered a complete loss

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of their home to the Thomas fire. The couple, 65 and 75 years old, evacuated in the middle of the night. “We were not prepared in any way” Barbara Dincau said. Their home was located near High Point and Clear Point Drives in Ventura where they raised their daughter. Ron was a high school principal in Oxnard, now retired, and Barbara, still works as a psychologist. On the night of the fire, in the middle of the night, the couple woke to flames covering the hillside. Even as they drove away, they were sure they would be back by morning. “After all, “said Ron, “Firefighters were already there battling the fire, we thought It would be knocked down quickly”, We thought we would be home by morning. “I didn’t think our house would burn down.” The next morning their house was gone. They left with nothing just the clothes they had on. Barbara evacuated

wearing just her pajamas. The couple watched as an ABC Channel 7 reporter, panned the camera and they watched as their house burned down.

The interview turned to the aftermath of the fire and to some practical issues like insurance. “It is our first experience with any major claim,” Ron Dincau said. He added “From the very get go we were impressed with the adjuster.” Within ten days the Dincau’s received a check from the insurance company to cover immediate expenses. The couple consider themselves lucky. They began searching for rental housing in Ventura but were quickly thwarted by the high cost and availability of rental housing in the city. “I felt like we were on the Titanic, and had fallen off the boat,” said Barbara Dincau.” Then all of a sudden the lifeboats came.” She added.

Continued on page 24

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The Pet Page



Dedicated to Scamp

After the deadly mudslides devastated Montecito 18 Canine Disaster Search Teams trained by the local Search Dog foundation returned home, exhausted but confident they completed their mission.

These incredible Search Dogs and Handlers searched tirelessly despite immense challenges with debris, rock and mud

Brent Brainard, Handler of Search Dog Decker stated “This is what we train for. This is what we are meant to do. It’s never easy when you’re dealing with a disaster of this magnitude, but Decker and I are in this together. We work as a team to be sure we give it our all. I couldn’t ask for a better partner - I’m pretty sure I needed him during this deployment more than he needed me.”

By Monica White

For some miraculous reason, our home in Skyline was spared during the Thomas Fire. As we evacuated, we were able to load up our two XL dogs and one of our cats. Azul, the outdoor cat was nowhere to be found. The next day and every day thereafter, my husband would drive back up to the house to put out food and water in hopes of finding our 11-year-old Ragdoll kitty. On the 4th day after the fire, the affected neighborhoods had been closed off with no access allowed. Officer Matt Thompson of Ventura PD was kind enough to escort us up to look one more time as we piled in the back of his police car. Words can’t explain how thrilled we were to find Azul waiting for us in the backyard! With singed whiskers and blistered paws we immediately took him to Dr. Marianne at Ventura Veterinary Hospital. After two weeks of being loving tended and spoiled, Azul is now home, but not in the least bit interested in going outside. Thank you to Officer Thompson, Dr. Marianne and all the staff at Ventura Veterinary Hospital for making our family complete. You are our version of #VenturaStrong.

By Victoria Usher

You have probably seen this classic of dog behavior: they tilt their head to one side while you’re talking to them. It’s such a universal behavior in dogs that you’d think science would have figured out the main cause for it a long time ago. Unfortunately, they still haven’t, there are quite a few possible causes for dogs tilting their head. In a study carried out by Stanley Coren, who has a doctorate in psychology from Stanford University, it is explained that dog’s muzzles block part of their vision and they tilt their heads to one side, so they

can see our whole face. Another possible cause is that dogs tilt their heads when we’re talking in order to reposition their ears, this not only allows them to hear us better but to more precisely locate where the sound is coming from. Two-way communication is another possible cause for the head tilt, in his “Handbook of Applied Dog Behavior and Training,” dog behavior consultant and trainer Steven R. Lindsay calls it the social head tilt and describes it as something that occurs “in situations involving anticipatory excitement and intensified interest in the significance of the owner’s vocalizations.” A final possible cause for the head tilt is that we may have inadvertently trained them to tilt their heads by responding positively to it while they were young puppies. After all, while the dog’s head tilt is a natural reaction, so is the human tendency to give affection to cute things and there’s nothing cuter than a dog looking at you with a tilted head.

New Mexico legislators are proposing a special tax on pet food to raise money for spay and neutering fees for dogs and cats, a measure aimed at reducing the population of unwanted animals in the state. This specific bill, which is sponsored by Reps. Carl Trujillo, D-Santa Fe, and Debbie Rodella, D-Espanola, would impose an increase on commercial pet food registration fees from \$2 per label to \$100 per label of pet food each year.

“This is either going to increase the price of dog and cat food or manufacturers are going to want to stop supplying these foods to New Mexico,” said Laura Moore, owner of The Critters and Me pet store. Robert Likins, Vice President of Government Affairs for the Virginia-based nonprofit Pet Industry Joint Advisory Council, said that the bill “is a tax that may be in search of a justification” and will “disproportionately punish smaller businesses and less wealthy pet owners that are less able to absorb the cost.” If the new bill becomes law, the state’s Animal Sheltering Subcommittee would oversee the program and create guidelines for nonprofit groups, animal shelters, veterinarians, and euthanasia agencies to help needy New Mexicans who cannot afford the cost of spaying and neutering their pets. Murad Kirdar, spokesman for the Santa Fe Animal Shelter & Humane Society, said the shelter supports “all avenues to help the community get the proper access and care for pets, especially when it comes to spay and neutering services.” The new bill has a five-year sunset clause designed to give state leaders time to see if the bill is successful. Several other states, including Maine and Maryland, have passed similar legislation to raise funds for spay and neutering services.

Scamp Club

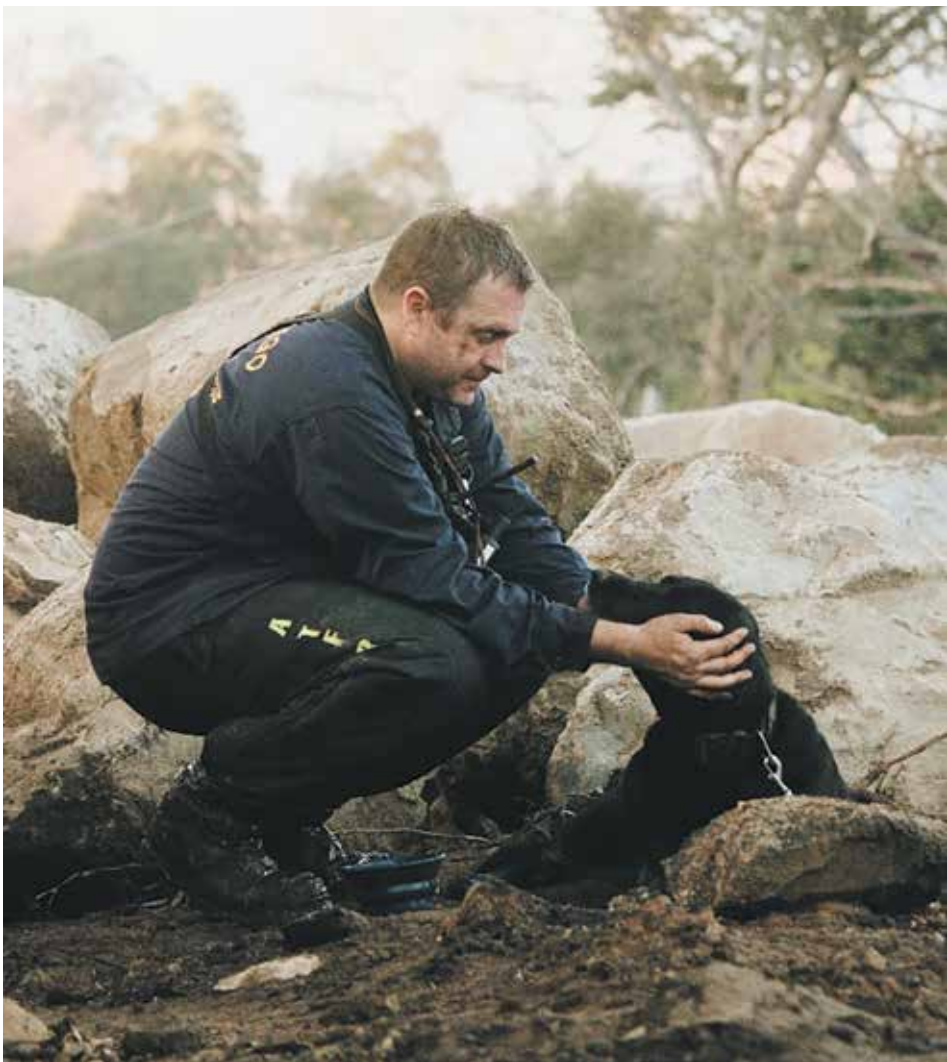
(Scampclub pets are not for adoption.)



Hi: My name is Tommie. I belong to Lourdes Wileman in Fillmore but we visit Ventura a lot. I am a girl Chihuahua, I’m not sure of my age.

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.



Canine Disaster Search Teams Handler Matt Kirk and Search Dog Stella share a quiet moment during their deployment to Montecito. Photo by Camila Lemere.



Azul is a very lucky kitty kat.

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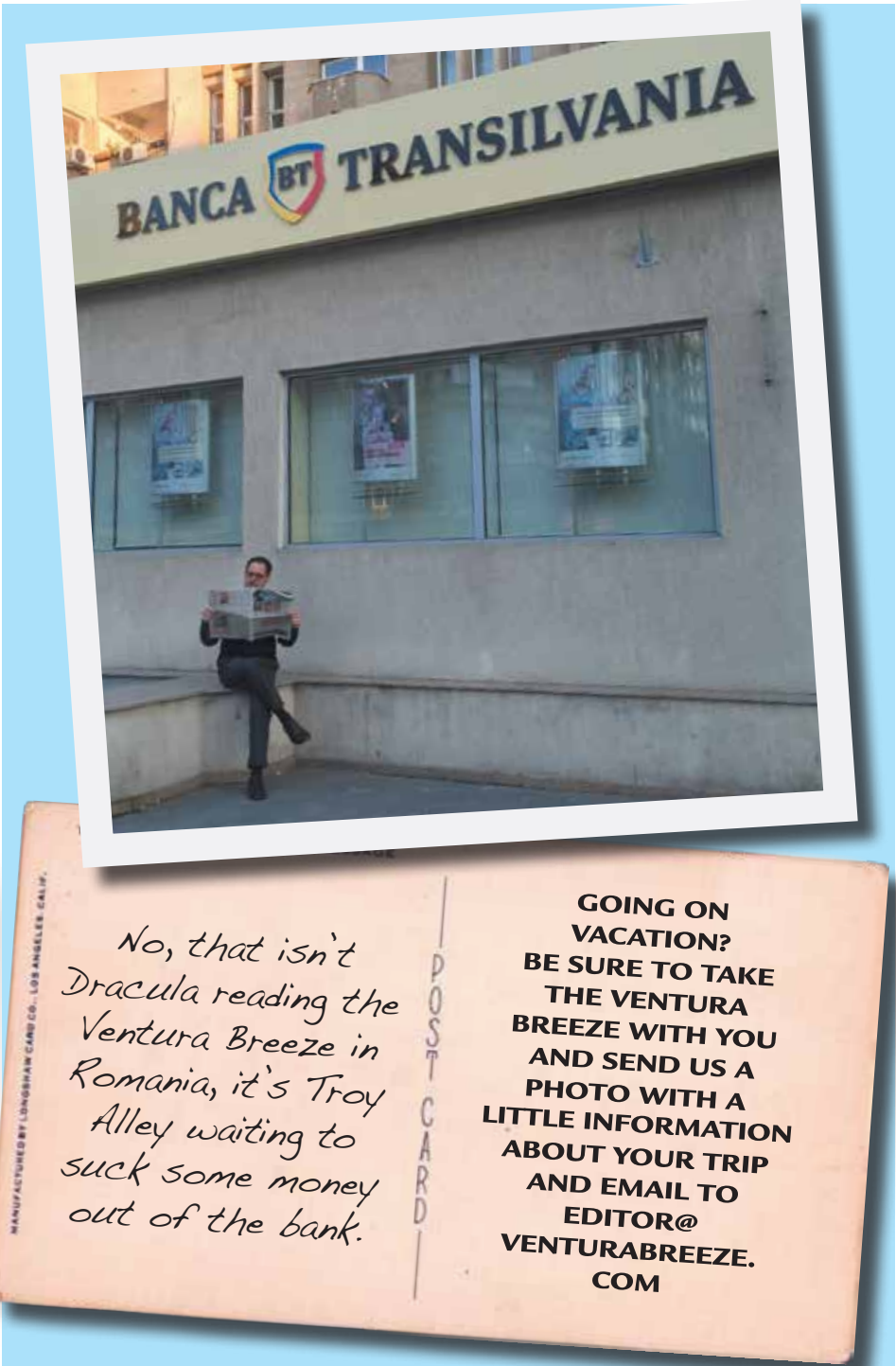
LostCatVentura.com and LostDogVentura.com are free resources for finding lost pets in Ventura County, and where you can post a notice to find your lost pet.

Forever homes wanted



Hi: I'm Anakin, a 6-year-old Labrador mix, who is in need of a new home as I started not getting along with my litter mates. I have a great personality - active, affectionate playful and outgoing. I know basic commands and I'm good on leash. I'm house and crate trained, know how to use a doggie door and will let you know if I have to go outside. I'm good with older children, but have never been around younger ones. I just want to loved. Canine Adoption and Rescue League C.A.R.L.

Sofia is a 54 pound, gray shadow who loves being close to people. She is calm, leash-trained and totally shameless for treats. Will sit for food. Sofia was recently in a short term foster. Here is what foster mom had to say about her: "Sofia was such a joy to have. Very mellow and laid-back, very affectionate we took her on a walk everyday which she enjoyed, loved being around people and was great with kids." Ventura County Animal Services - Camarillo location - 600 Aviation DriveSofia A570065



News & Notes



Stephanie Caldwell, Chamber President & CEO, Kiernan Rickard, Nan Drake, Citizen of the Year and David Creswell, VUSD Superintendent celebrating Kiernan's award. Photo by Richard Lieberman.

Male student of the year

by Amber Hansen

The 20th Annual Poinsettia Awards Luncheon, presented by the Ventura Chamber of Commerce, was held on January 19th of this year at the Ventura Beach Marriott. Kiernan Rickard was this year's recipient of

the Ventura Unified School District's Male Student of the Year award. Kiernan is a senior at Ventura High School with a history of academic dedication and an impressive repertoire of achievements. His packed

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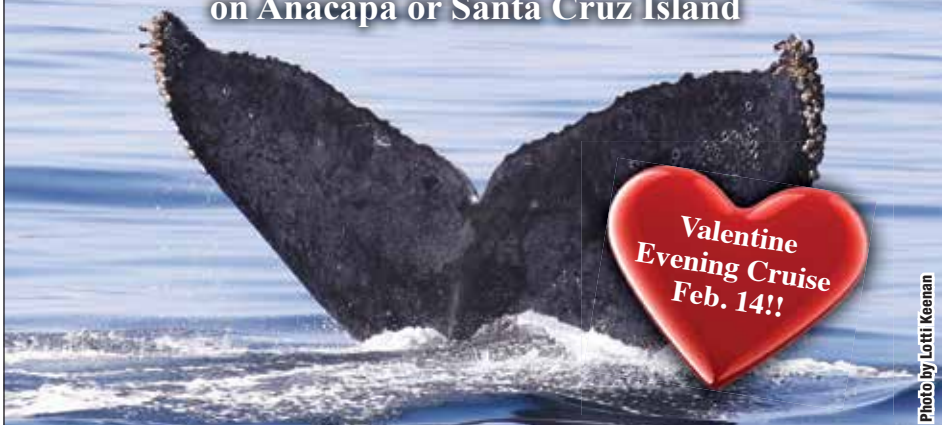
M/Tu/Th/Fr 8a-6p & Wed 8a-5p & Sat 9a-12p
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schedule includes running for Ventura High's cross-country team and acting as a senior officer in the music department. Having discovered an aptitude for computer programming at a young age, Kiernan is a leader on the Ventura High robotics team- an accomplishment that earned his nomination for the first Robotics Dean's List. He plans on pursuing a career in computer programming and hopes to enroll in Carnegie Mellon's School of Computer Science. When asked how he felt about receiving the award, Kiernan said he was surprised because he's surrounded by intelligent peers. He expressed immense gratitude and acknowledged that he could not have done it without the support he's had from family and teachers.



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Katherine Rehbein, Susan Ito and sisters Bianca and Brianna Barrera celebrating our first responders.

Mentoring matters

by Karen Leslie, writer with heart

Celebrating National Mentoring Month brought Big Brothers Big Sisters of Ventura County, a nonprofit with big hearts to the Vagabond Coffee Shop on Sunday January 21st. “Bigs” and “Littles” along with their mentors gathered to share a meal and with glee presented handmade cards and thank you notes to our First Responders.

The organization chose the Vagabond Coffee Shop to give back for all the free meals that were served to the First Responders during the crisis of the Thomas Fires.

Retired SB firefighter and Red Cross participant Bob Engler shares, “The generosity of the people at this event and how they went out of their way to say thank you was humbling and appreciated.”

Owner Jolene McBee says, “What better way to teach kids to give back and the firemen have never been thanked like Ventura has every day.”

Big Brothers Big Sisters has been in existence for more than 100 years nationally and more than 45 years locally and have been making meaningful monitored

matches between adult volunteers (Bigs) and children (Littles) ages 6-18 across the county. They develop positive relationships that have a direct and lasting effect and impact on the lives of young people. Consistency and commitment are the cornerstones of this program and their mission is to provide all children free from adversity with supported one-on-one mentoring relationships that change their lives for the better.

In her 30th year and a big sister for 26 years, CEO Lynne West shares, “I find this to be a gratifying career. Big Brother Big Sisters was first in the US to have a dedicated foster program. Ventura County attends to 1,500 children a year and as a big sister myself, I have seen the impact consistency has made on my little. I have the privilege of watching many littles grow up and become the first in their family to ever graduate from high school and go on for a college degree. Bigs can open up the world for these littles by exposing them to new activities and experiences.”

BBSVC’s vision is for all children to achieve success in school, work and life. Fifteen year old little, Silvia Chable enthusiastically shares, “I like helping out the community and people in need and hope to become a deputy”

Big sister Kathy Lazier shares, “My motto is keep moving forward! My little now 16 has been a match made in heaven. It’s really cool to mentor and have an effect on someone’s life and direction which brings much joy to my life.”

This nonprofit is committed to bringing its program to every child who needs and wants it. Big brother Aaron Kirby says, “This is an amazing opportunity to give back to the community. It feels good to see the excitement on the face of my little while at a race or baseball

Ventura Strong

game and taking him places to experience something for the first time is personally rewarding. Once Elijah graduates from the program, I anticipate we will continue to have a lifelong bond.”

Little, Elijah Rhoads says, “He is a father figure, someone I can count on and trust.” VP of Marketing and Recruiter Danica Selvaggio warmly shares, “National Mentoring Month is a way to start the year remembering that we all have role models who guides us. It is also a way to encourage our bigs and littles to start off strong, set goals for themselves and keep the momentum going all year long. With help from the community we hope 2018 will be the most successful year ever!”

Wisdom and friendship is at the heart of BBSVC and BBSVC believes that inherent in every child is the ability to succeed and thrive.

The forgotten ones

by Jennifer Tipton

The victims of the Thomas Fires are not limited to those that lost their homes, as was pointed out to me by a dear friend who described it as “the trickle-down effect”. (If you read through today’s issue of the Breeze, you will see who this very perceptive Venturan is...)

Honestly, it had not occurred to me, but along with all the homes that were lost went the housekeepers, the landscapers, the pool guy, the dog walkers, the babysitters and countless others whose livelihood depended on employment in the neighborhoods that burned.

I learned of one woman that has cleaned homes in Ondulando for the same clients for many years and suddenly found herself unemployed. She is not alone.

We as Venturans must be vigilant to help these forgotten victims by making recommendations to our neighbors who may be able to use their services. Word of mouth is the best way to promote a business and sharing is caring.

A quick look at post-disaster relief

by Mira Reverente

Ventura, Santa Barbara and other neighboring areas took a beating with the wildfires, mudflows, flooding and debris flows. With this recent spate of natural disasters, one wonders where, when and what type of assistance programs may be available to those who suffered damages or losses.

Federal assistance

After an amendment to the presidential disaster declaration of January 2nd, federal assistance is now available to eligible individuals and business owners in Santa Barbara, Ventura, Los Angeles and San Diego counties.

To register for federal assistance with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), one should have the following information available:
Social security number
Address of the primary damaged residence
Description of the damage
Information about insurance coverage
A contact telephone number
An address to receive mail
Bank account and routing numbers for direct deposit of funds

Disaster assistance for homeowners and renters may include grants to cover:

- Rental assistance
- Essential home repairs
- Uninsured and underinsured personal property losses
- Other serious disaster-related needs not covered by insurance

Low-interest disaster loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) are also available for businesses of all sizes (including landlords), private non-profit organizations, homeowners and renters.

FEMA grants do not have to be repaid. They are non-taxable and do not affect eligibility for Social Security, Medicaid or other federal benefits.

One-stop shops

In addition, a Disaster Recovery Center (DRC) has opened in Ventura County. A one-stop shop for disaster assistance jointly operated by FEMA and the Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES), the DRC is open almost daily except Sundays.

Check feta.gov/drc for current hours and disasterassistance.gov to apply online before proceeding to the DRC, located at the Ventura County Credit Union on 6026 Telephone Road, Ventura

In Santa Barbara, a local assistance center (LAC) is also now open at Calvary Chapel, 1 North Calle Cesar Chavez. Staffed by FEMA, SBA and other federal, state and local agencies, the LAC is open daily except Sundays as well.

Online registration with FEMA is encouraged for both the DRC and LAC, but it’s not mandatory.

Preparation is key

This month, a tsunami watch ensued after an intense earthquake in the Gulf of Alaska. One of the most powerful and destructive natural forces, tsunamis can cause dangerous coastal flooding and powerful currents that can last several hours or days.

To prepare for future natural disasters like tsunamis, FEMA highlights these safety tips especially for those who live near coastal communities like Ventura:

- Create and practice an evacuation plan with your family. Have an escape route at night and during inclement weather.
- Create a family communications plan to reconnect in case you get separated.
- Establish a meeting place that’s familiar and easy to find.
- Build an emergency kit that will last at least 72 hours.

For more information on California recovery, visit www.fema.gov/disaster4353, disasterassistance.gov and wildfirerecovery.org. Or download the FEMA app on your smartphone.

Through rain or snow or sleet or MUD...

by Jennifer Tipton

It’s astounding how many Venturans work in Santa Barbara or the surrounding areas and with the closing of Highway 101 were unable to get to work. The alternate route to take Interstate 5 over the Grapevine took hours and became treacherous! Some chose to do this and stay in Santa Barbara until the 101 reopened but the availability of rooms was quickly diminishing.

My wonderful husband (I must add “wonderful” because he is and well, he better be reading this) was one of those that could not get to work the first week of the highway closing. The following week however, Island Packers and Amtrak

Continued on page xx



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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.

Felony Hit & Run with Arrest

On January 14, at approximately 5:30pm, the Ventura Police Command Center received several 911 calls reporting a traffic collision on Valentine Rd. in front of Tommy’s Hamburgers. Moments later, callers reported a vehicle involved was leaving the scene. Arriving officers, along with Ventura City Fire and medical personnel, attended to the three occupants of the victim vehicle.

Officers located the suspect, 38 year old Ventura resident Tanisha Washington and her vehicle at her residence. A witness to the collision reported Washington was driving reckless at the time of the collision and had a small child in the vehicle. Officers confirmed there was a 3 year old child in Washington’s vehicle at the time of the collision and the child was found to be uninjured from the collision.

Officers suspected Washington was under the influence of alcohol and drugs and she was placed under arrest. Washington was arrested for felony hit and run causing injury, felony driving under the combined influence of alcohol and drugs, and child endangerment.

Residential Burglary with Arrest

On January 15, at approximately 5:30pm, the victim saw the suspect break into her residence through the window. The victim confronted the suspect, and the suspect fled. The responding officers searched the area and located the suspect, 19 year old vagrant from Ventura Christian Garcia, in the area of Montauk and Pierpont. The investigation confirmed the suspect had entered the residence and fled when confronted by the victim.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the suspect was arrested and booked into Ventura County Jail on the charge of residential burglary. No one was injured during this incident.

Trespassing, Felony Resisting Arrest

On January 15, at approximately 11pm, Ventura Police officers were dispatched to the Travelers Beach Inn to investigate a report of illegal lodging. Upon arrival, officers met with the property manager who informed them they had observed two subjects enter a room without paying, or obtaining a room key.

Investigating officers knocked on the hotel room in question and made contact with the suspect, 38 year old Ventura vagrant Brian Higbie. Officers informed Higbie he was trespassing in the room and requested he step outside. As officers were attempting to determine how Higbie gained access to the room, they were informed Higbie was on probation for violently resisting arrest. Officers attempted to check Higbie for weapons and he began to violently resist their efforts. A Ventura Police K9 was deployed and Higbie was eventually taken into custody after a lengthy struggle.

Arson and Vandalism Arrest

On January 20, at approximately 6am, the Ventura Police Department Command Center received a call of a subject setting fire to a bench on the Ventura Pier. Ventura City Fire personnel arrived and extinguished the fire quickly before it spread. Officers arrived and contacted 38 year old vagrant Elisabeth Vera, who was still on the Pier. Investigation revealed that Vera broke a portion

of a sign on the pier and then set fire to a bench. She was also found to be in possession of drug paraphernalia. Vera was arrested and booked at the Ventura County Jail for arson, vandalism, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Recovered Stolen Vehicle Arrest

On January 23, at approximately 6:30am, the Ventura Police Department Command Center received a call from an employee of California Well Services, 1536 Eastman Ave., reporting that one of the company’s work trucks had been stolen during the night. Shortly after the initial call, the employee called back to advise he had located the vehicle with a tracking device and that another employee was following the vehicle on Johnson Dr. While officers were enroute it was reported the vehicle had stopped at Lark Ave. and Falcon St., and the employee following it had detained one of the occupants, later identified as 25 year old vagrant Aaron Pezzuto. Pezzuto was being uncooperative and attempting to flee from the employee. Officers arrived on scene and took custody of Pezzuto.

A second occupant of the vehicle, later identified as 24 year old vagrant Chance Daugherty, had fled on foot prior to officers arriving on scene. Officers began checking the area and located Daugherty several blocks away.

Stolen Vehicle and Warrant Arrests

On January 23 at 3:30pm, Street Crimes Unit detectives saw a suspicious vehicle driving in the 9900 block of Las Cruces. The passenger in the vehicle, 50 year old Ventura resident Michael Holladay, had an outstanding felony warrant for violating his Post Release Offender Status. By the time the officers caught up to the vehicle, it had parked and Holladay had entered a nearby residence. Additional officers were called to assist and officers attempted to serve the arrest warrant at the house.

Holladay did not cooperate with officers and hid inside of the house. A Ventura Police K9 was used to assist with the warrant service, and prior to the K9 entering the house, Holladay surrendered to officers. The second person from the vehicle, 29 year old Ventura resident Charlotte Bauer, also came out of the house. She had an outstanding warrant for her arrest as well. Further investigation revealed the suspicious vehicle they had been initially seen in was reported stolen.

Assault with a Deadly Weapon

On January 24, at approximately 5:30pm, the Ventura Police Command Center received a call of a disturbance inside the Red Barn Liquor store. Officers arrived on scene and discovered that the suspect, 37 year old Ventura resident Elisabeth Vera, was in the store causing a disturbance. When a store employee approached her, Vera struck the employee on the head with a glass vodka bottle. As the employee moved away, Vera threw the bottle at the employee. A customer entering the store saw the incident and detained Vera until police arrived.

The store employee received minor injuries and refused medical attention. Vera was arrested and booked at Ventura County Jail for Assault with a Deadly Weapon.

Stolen Stuff for Sale on our Facebook

On January 25, at 7:30pm, Ventura Police Department Street Crimes Unit Detectives located two suspects who burglarized a Ventura residence on Christmas day. The detectives had been investigating



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this crime for several weeks and were able to identify some of the victim’s property being offered for sale online. Detectives also located stolen items that had been recently pawned by the suspects.

Detectives kept the two suspects under surveillance until their identities were confirmed at which time uniformed officers moved in and took the two suspects, identified as Torrey Stokes and Karyn Peterson (both of Ventura), into custody without incident.

Detectives searched Stokes’ truck and located additional stolen property from the Christmas day burglary. A search warrant was later executed at Peterson’s grandmother’s residence in the 1000 block of Portola Rd where she and Stokes had been storing some property.

Stokes, who has prior arrests for burglary, identity theft, and narcotic crimes, and Peterson, who has prior arrests for theft and is currently on probation for narcotic related offenses, were interrogated by detectives and later booked into the Ventura County Main Jail. Stokes was booked for felony residential burglary and Peterson was booked for felony possession of stolen property.

Mobile Trailer Fire in East Ventura

Ventura County, Ventura City, and Oxnard City Fire were dispatched to the area of North Bank Drive and Johnson Drive at 10:21 Wednesday night for a reported trailer on fire.

Although there was a large amount of smoke in the surrounding area, there was nothing visibly burning and fire-fighters searched businesses and parking lots to find the source. Approximately 7 minutes after fire crews were on scene, a 25’ travel trailer was located and had light smoke coming from the inside of the trailer.

Firefighters forced entry into the trailer and found light fire and dense smoke inside. They performed a search while mitigating the remaining fire, and found a male in his late 50’s unconscious and unresponsive. It was apparent that a ‘flash-over’ fire ignited and consumed many items and part of the structure of the trailer, but then became oxygen controlled based on the limited air available and smoldered until fire crews arrived.

Crews immediately pulled the man from the vehicle and fire paramedics initiated advanced cardiac life support. Fire crews and AMR personnel performed life-saving efforts for approximately 30 minutes with ultimately no success. The victim was pronounced dead at the scene.

A Seaside Delight

Continued from page 2

chance to meet the ship’s crew and learn what it took to adventure to new lands.

Looking for more adventure? Three-Hour Battle Sails or Two-Hour Adventure Sails, complete with firing cannons and hoisting of the main sails are just the ticket! Battle Sails are available every weekend day from 2 p.m. -5 p.m. and feature a recreation of a naval skirmish with close quarter maneuvers.

For Battle and Adventure Sail ticket reservations call 800-200-5239 or visit www.historicalseaport.org. Tickets are on sale now.

In addition, live entertainment and roaming pirates can be enjoyed throughout Ventura Harbor Village on select days, and visitors can also send a Tall Ships postcard for free, join in a Tall Ship Scavenger Hunt.

Added to the Ventura Harbor visit, a special Valentine’s Day Tall Ship Sail on Wednesday, February 14 from 4 to 6 p.m. This special sail is reserved for adults only, and will highlight festive sea shanties and desserts for ticketed guests. Tickets are \$55 per person, but couples can save \$10 by purchasing tickets in pairs for a flat \$100! Tickets are available by calling 800-200-5239 or visit www.venturaharborvillage.com for more details.

The Hawaiian Chieftain and Lady Washington travel down the West Coast stopping in ports and harbors for historical and educational visits. These ships host over 8,000 school children a year. Educators should contact the Historical Seaport education office, 1-800-200-5239 to arrange dockside, or on-the-water programming while here in Ventura Harbor February 13- March 5, 2018.

Tall Ship schedule can change due to weather and unforeseen circumstances, please check VenturaHarborVillage.com for the most up to date information.

Share your Tall Ships photos @VenturaHarbor on Instagram! For more Tall Ship information visit www.venturaharborvillage.com or Facebook Ventura Harbor. Admission and parking free daily at Ventura Harbor Village. For a complete schedule: www.historicalseaport.org or call 800-200-5239.

For the Harbor Blotter
and library February
events go to
www.venturabreeze.com.

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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



by Pam Baumgardner
VenturaRocks.com

It should come as no surprise that the Thomas Fire Benefit Festival sold out one week before the concert having only been announced less than two and half weeks previously. For those of us who have tickets, the event takes place at Plaza Park at the corner of Chestnut and Santa Clara downtown Ventura on Saturday, February 3. Gates open at 2 pm for VIPs with general admission at 4 pm; blankets and chairs welcomed as there will be no priority seating so get there early for a good seat to catch Kevin Costner and Modern West, Olivia Newton-John, Big Bad Voodoo Daddy and the rest of the acts on the bill.

Just a quick follow up on two past events, first the Delgado Brothers headlining the fund-raiser at Discovery on January 19, raised \$3705 for Ventura FOOD Share and the Ventura United Way Thomas Fire Fund; and the 805 Love Notes on Sunday, January 14, raised \$8,000, and those funds go directly to the families and individuals in Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties through 805Arise, Help California and Santa Barbara Music Foundation.

Back to the business at hand, Chopper Fest falls on Sunday, February 4th at the Ventura County Fairgrounds, it had to be rescheduled due to the Thomas Fire in December. Along with all the hot rides to check out, you can enjoy music from Gethen Jenkins, Kelly's Lot and The Bob Carrillo Blues Band.

Paulie Cerra returns to Ventura for a show at the Hong Kong Inn on Saturday, February 10th. While he may be best known as Joe Bonamassa and John Scofield's touring tenor sax player, this show will focus on his songwriting, singing and keyboard work. Ray Jaurique & The Uptown Brothers will open the show at 7pm with new songs to be featured on their upcoming CD being recorded at Ventura's Castaway7 studios.

A couple more artists back in the studio include Tommy Marsh who has been working overtime producing a new album for Crooked Eye Tommy at Brotheryn Studios, where I was invited to hang out and watch the recording process recently, and let me tell you, it was too cool for school! And Stephanie Gladhart and Jerry Careaga of The Blue Music are tracking their next LP down at Capital Records early February. Their debut EP has already started getting radio play around the country and in Europe.

Quick notes: The Tossers first Sunday residency has landed at Grapes and Hops starting at 3 pm; Leashless Brewery is offering up jazz twice a week, Tuesdays with John Bardi and Thursdays with Davey

Miller; Emergenz has regrouped as Dry Creek Strangers, you can catch them at noon on Sunday, February 4 at the Sandbox Coffeehouse; and The Blasters return to town for a gig at Discovery on Saturday, February 10.

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

Music Calendar

For more events go to VenturaRocks.com

Boatyard Pub
Ventura Harbor Village
Tuesdays: Jason Ho
Wednesdays: Mark McGinis
Thursdays: Blue Grass Jam
Fri 2/2: Karen Eden & Cary Park
Sat 2/3: Kenny Devoe
Fri 2/9: Stephen Huntley
Sat 2/10: Tom & Milo
Sun 2/11: Déjà vu Too
Bombay Bar & Grill
143 S. California Street
Thursdays: Yachtley Crew
Friday and Saturdays: DJs
Thurs 2/8: The Spires, Twin Ponies, Dent
Sun 2/11: The Barn Burners, Serena Band
Café Fiore
66 S. California Street
(805) 653-1266
Fri 2/2: Rick Whitfield
Sat 2/3: Young Demsey
Tues 2/6: Donna Greene
Wed 2/7: Bryan McCann
Thurs 2/8: Fabulous Hanovers
Fri 2/9: Soul Infusion
Sat 2/10: Otis Hayes
Tues 2/13: Fabulous Hangovers
Casa Bella
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Music starts 7 pm
Fridays: Encore
Saturday: Ricky Williams
Cask Alehouse
5952 Telegraph Road
Music at 7 pm
Sat 2/3: Sarah Lightman
Sat 2/10: Will Brehm
The Cave
4435 McGrath Street
5:30 – 8:30 pm
Weds & Saturdays: Varon Thomas
Thurs & Fridays: Warren Takahashi
Copa Cubana
Ventura Harbor Village
Week nights 6 pm; Weekends 7 pm; Sundays 3 pm
Tuesdays: The Jerry McWorter Trio
Wednesdays: Creative Open Mic Jazz Jam
Saturdays: Havana 5
Fri 2/2: Brandon Ragan
Fri 2/9: Martinez Brothers
Sun 2/11: Kenny Devoe
Cork

1930 E. Main Street
Music 6-8 pm
Wed 2/31: The Swillys
Dargan's Irish Pub
593 E. Main Street
Sun 2/4: 4 pm Sunday Drivers
Discovery
1888 Thompson Blvd
Thurs 2/1: Cydeways w/ Irie Essence
Fri 2/2: Danielle Stacy w/ Channel
Sat 2/3: Which One's Pink
Thurs 2/8: Fishbone w/ Legalizer
Sat 2/10: The Blasters
Four Brix
2290 Eastman Avenue
Music 5:30 – 7:30 pm
Fri 2/2: JJ Frank Duo
Garage
1091 Scandia
Thurs 2/1: Final Drive, Void Vator
Fri 2/2: Public Trash, Armed Voices, TSR, Auxilio
Sat 2/3: The Sleeping Sea King, Throw the Goat
Sat 2/10: Valor & Vengeance, Claustrofobia, Taipan, Sangre
Gigi's Cocktails
2493 Grand Avenue
(805) 642-2411
Thurs, Fri & Sat: Karaoke
Golden China
760 S. Seaward
(805) 652-0688
Karaoke seven nights a week 9 pm
Tuesdays 7 pm: Open Mic
Grapes and Hops
454 E. Main Street
Sun 2/4: The Tossers at 3 pm
Hong Kong Inn
435 E. Thompson Blvd
Mondays: Karaoke
Wednesdays: Open mic night w/ Beer Brothers
Thursdays: Gypsy Blues Band
Fri 2/2: Hi Hat Entertainment presents: Teresa James & the Rhythm Tramps
Fri 2/9: Hi Hat Entertainment presents: James Armstrong Band
Keynote Lounge
10245 E. Telephone Road
Tues & Wed: Karaoke
Thursdays: Open mic night
Fri 2/2: What the Funk
Sat 2/3: Heathers on Kire
Fri 2/9: Red Rhythm
Sat 2/10: DJ Aaron VanGundy
Leashless Brewing
585 E. Thompson Blvd.
Tuesdays: Galactic Jazz
Thursdays: Live Jazz Jam Sessions
Fri 2/2: Tom and Milo
Sat 2/10: Mark Masson and Phriends
Limon y Sal
598 E. Main Street
(805) 628-3868
Thursdays: DJ J Scratch
Made West Brewing
1744 Donlon Street
Thurs 2/1: Sayles & Cairns
Majestic Ventura Theater
26 S. Chestnut Street
Fri 2/9: J Boog
Museum of Ventura County
100 E. Main Street
Thursdays 11:30 am: Warren Takahaski
O'Leary's
6555 Telephone Road
Wednesdays: Karaoke
Paddy's
2 W. Main Street
Wednesdays: Karaoke
Fri & Sat: DJs
Patio at Players Casino
Auto Center Drive
Sat 2/3: The Mighty Cash Cats

Plaza Park
Chestnut and Santa Clara
Sat 2/3: Thomas Fire Benefit Festival with Kevin Costner & Modern West, Olivia Newton-John, Colbie Caillat, Super Duper Kyle, Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, Zon Candela
Poinsettia Pavilion
3451 Foothill Road
Mon 2/5: Wyatt Haupt
Prime
2209 E. Thompson Blvd
Tuesdays: Danny D
Fridays: Mike Moody
Saturdays: Jessica Ash
Red Cove
1809 E. Main Street
Thursdays: Music Club Open Jam Night
Sat 2/3: Raised on Vinyl
Rookees Sports Bar & Grill
419 E. Main Street
(805) 648-6862
Fri and Sat: Rotating DJs
Sandbox Coffeehouse
204 E. Thompson Blvd
805-641-1025
Thurs 6 pm, Weekends noon
Thursdays Open Mic
Sat 2/3: Ashton York
Sun 2/4: Dry Creek Strangers
Sans Souci
21 S. Chestnut
Sundays: DJ Darko
Mondays: Karaoke
Tuesdays: DJ Nick Dean
Wednesdays: Open mic
Thursdays: DJ Spinobi
Fri 2/9: Power Syndicate
Sat 2/10: The Glimmer Stars
Star Lounge
343 E. Main Street
Tues: Karaoke
Thurs: DJ Trovlbe
Fri 2/2: Charles Law Band
Sat 2/3: Dive Bar Messiahs
Fri 2/9: CRV
Sat 2/10: Time Bomb
The Tavern
211 E. Santa Clara Street
(805) 643-3264
Sundays: DJ Steezy Steve
Tuesdays: Karaoke
Metal Wednesdays
Get it Right Thursday DJs
Sat 2/3: Chopper Fest pre-party with Gethen Jenkins, The Hubcap Stealers
Topa Mountain Winery
821 W. Ojai Avenue, Ojai
(805) 640-1190
Music 3-5 pm
Sun 2/4: Sophie Holt
Sat 2/10: Fox Trax
Sun 2/11: Conner Cherland
Ventura Fairgrounds
10 W. Harbor Blvd
Sun 2/4: Chopper Fest featuring Gethen Jenkins, Kelly's Lot, The bob Carrillo Blues Band
Vintura at the Wine Rack
14 S. California Street
(805) 653-9463
Sundays music at 2 pm
Thurs 2/1: Nick Justiniano
Sat 2/3: Frank Barajas & the Corsican Brothers
Wicked's Brew
4561 Market Street, Suite C
(805) 275-2334
Sat 2/3: The Swillys at 5:30 pm
The 805 Bar
Ventura Harbor
Music at noon Sat & Sun with Kenny Devoe
Fridays 5-7: Kenny Devoe
Sat 2/3: Teresa Russell 7 pm
Sat 2/10: Karen Eden 7 pm



John White Mixed-Media

Rugged Tableau: Recent paintings and mixed-media works by **John White**; **Topographies in stone** by **Paul Lindhard** (Feb 11–Mar 18) Opening Reception: (Feb 11, 3 pm–6 pm) at the Art City Gallery.

John M. White is a painter, sculptor and performance artist. Some years ago, while living in Solimar Beach, White began looking at the detritus washed up on the sand: seaweed, driftwood, shells, etc. The resultant paintings were poetic and suggestive rather than descriptive. They established the foundation for the three series he has recently produced.

Considered one of the seminal California performance artists, White has staged hundreds of public performances since 1967, and is included in numerous public museum collections.

Ventura-based Paul Lindhard has been an artist, sculptor, studio builder, producer and patron of the arts for over 50 years. He has dozens of monumental scale permanent public and private installations throughout Western United States, with a majority of works in Ventura City and County. The artist is always questioning nature within stone, sourcing and collecting stone with an awareness of shapes stone moves through.

In the past two decades Paul Lindhard has made stone tables that invoke the landscape of their stone material origins. These tables are not flat or overly useful as tables. Their surfaces, edges and pedestals are shaped instead to optimize the beauty of each element. The artist has collected these pieces from remote, wild and rugged places. A second series has evolved from this practice. Lindhard has evolved miniature topographies presented on pedestals, preserving exotic weathering and texture on their uppermost surface while sides are carved and polished to expose rare and beautiful inner stone. These sculptures make a salient counterpart to larger dada-table pieces.

Art City Gallery, 197 Dubbers St., 648-1690. www.artcitygallery-andstudios.com.



Ain't it beautiful?
By **Deena Gledhill**

Over 350 people attended the opening reception of the new **Neal Barr** exhibit, *In High Style: The Photography of Neal Barr*, hosted by Union Bank at the Museum of Ventura County. Breeze publisher Sheldon joined Neal at the wonderful celebration.

Attendees enjoyed an evening of high-fashion fun and art on a beautiful Ventura evening. Featuring the music of Studio 54 and fabulous food and refreshments from downtown Ventura merchants. More than \$1,500 was raised in support of the United Way Ventura County's Thomas Fire and Flood Fund.



Award winning artist, **Frances Spencer** presented a solo exhibit of her art at the WAV (Working Artists Ventura) theater gallery from January 5-26. Funding was made possible by a Puffin Foundation grant.

The centerpiece of the exhibit, "War and Peace: Diptych," illustrated the theme, *Peace and Love Will Save the World*. WAV Theater Gallery 175 S. Ventura Ave.

Bee a part of public art

The City of Ventura's Public Art Program, in collaboration with artist MB Hanrahan, is excited to provide the community an opportunity to participate in an upcoming permanent public art installation, "Bee Cause" at the Barranca Vista Center, 7050 East Ralston St.

Through a series of workshops, the community will assist in transforming hubcaps into beautiful flowers on metal mesh with bee sculptures among flower patches that creates awareness around the plight of the North American Bumble Bee. This project is funded in part by the California Arts Council Artists Activating Communities and the City of Ventura. The California (CA) Arts Council's Artists Activating Communities program was designed to demonstrate that the arts are a central component of civic life and that artists are vital in shaping society. Artists work closely with organizational

partners and community members to produce creative projects that are tailored to the community. The CA Arts Council recognizes that arts are a societal cornerstone that brings people together, builds community, and fosters social progress. The public is invited to attend the following workshops and "bee" a part of this unique opportunity: Vita Art Center-432 N. Ventura Ave.

Workshop will be held during the Friday Night Teen Program (12 and up) Friday, February 2, 6-9pm. No fee.

Barranca Vista Imagination Center (12 and up) Wednesday, January 31, 2018, 4-7pm. \$15 fee
Museum of Ventura County (12 and up) Saturday, March 3, 2018, 12-3pm, in the Plaza. \$15 fee

To RSVP or for more information, please contact the City of Ventura Public Art Project Manager at 658-4759 or troach@cityofventura.ca.gov. All proceeds and donation will go towards the Bee Cause project. All supplies will be provided at the workshops.

Lighter Breeze

Mother Goose and Grimm



Between Friends



Tiger



Blondie



Shoe



Crock



Solutions on page 19

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

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

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

- "Mamma Mia!" group
- Apprehend
- Colorful fish
- Clay-rich soil
- Blunder
- Portrayal
- Democrat or Republican
- Radiate
- Faucet
- Arouse
- Fireworks reaction
- Delany or Carvey
- Venomous viper
- Zodiac cat
- Passenger
- Prosperous time
- Knock
- Pepsi competitor
- Soothe
- Tatter
- Actor Danson
- A long time
- Bugging device
- Tranquil
- Pencil end
- Impulse carrier
- Multiple marriage
- Expectorate

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			59		

- Ailing
- Curved path
- Wide
- Occurring naturally
- Bikini pattern?
- Lotion additive
- Chopped
- Implement for two
- Card game
- Lawyers' org.
- Scale member
- Edwin Land's company
- Rowing need
- out a living
- Primary color
- Purplish
- 30-Down
- Kneecap
- Longing
- Indiana city
- Brownish tone
- Heathen
- Back talk
- World's fair
- Wise one
- Ostriches' kin
- Deli loaves
- On in years

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LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) It should be easier to assess the facts you'll need to make an important decision. But don't commit if you still have doubts. There could be more you need to know.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Your excitement level remains high as you continue working on that new project. Expect some setbacks. But on the whole, all will move pretty much on schedule.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) It might be wise to be more prudent with expenses right now. But your financial situation should soon clear up, and you could be back shopping, happily as ever.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) You might prefer sticking with your current schedule. But some newly emerging information could persuade you to consider a change. Keep an open mind.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) You might want to reject a suggested change. But it could be wise to go with the flow, at least for a while. You can always return to your first plan if you like.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) You're bolstered by both the practical and poetic sides of your nature as you maneuver through some unsettled emotional situations. Things ease up by week's end.

BORN THIS WEEK: People reach out to your generosity and wisdom, and consider you a treasured and trusted friend.

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Show Time

Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle



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

by Manuel Reynoso

Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle is a 2017 American action adventure comedy film directed by Jake Kasdan and written by Chris McKenna, Erik Sommers, Scott Rosenberg, and Jeff Pinkner, from a story by McKenna. Starring Dwayne “The Rock” Johnson, Jack Black, Kevin Hart, and Karen Gillan.

When four teenagers stumble upon the video game, *Jumanji*, they find themselves transported into a video game world. Where their only chance of survival is to complete the game before they run out of lives.

Jumanji (1995) was a film I forgot I loved. It was the kind of family fun adventure movie that you saw in your youth, that just sticks with you as good wholesome fun. So when the trailer for *Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle* hit, the internet was pretty up in arms against its release. Admittedly I even found myself questioning the idea of a sequel to *Jumanji*. While a little late to the party, I was genuinely surprised how not awful the film actually was.

Funny enough, re-watching the original *Jumanji* really dates it hard in the 90s, while *Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle* is such a product of millennial/generation z pop culture. So as a sequel, *Jumanji: Welcome to the Jungle* is really the same campy fun that we grew up with. It’s a fun, action-filled romp that does the source material justice. Personally, that’s all I really needed the film to be in order to enjoy it.

All the big action set pieces of the film were a fun watch, and did use some surprisingly effective practical effects. While some of the cgi (computer generated imagery) could be better, it felt fitting with the whole trapped in a game type theme. The whole film was just well shot and generally very beautiful to look at in regards to the scenery, but the one thing that really stood out as exceptional was the acting of the cast. Jack Black and Kevin Hart absolutely carry the film the entire time. Jack Black playing as a teenage girl in a middle aged man’s body killed me. Without the performance by those two, I don’t think the movie would be nearly as well received. The Rock and Karen Gillan were fine, but absolutely overshadowed by the rest of the cast.

It’s not all praise, plenty of jokes fall flat throughout the film. Not enough to make it unbearable, but there are some real bad stinkers being thrown out there. One gripe that I have difficulty contextualizing is the randomness of some of the story beats. At times, entire plot points felt so forced and out of left field that I found it difficult to care what was going on. It’s difficult to explain, but seeing no build up for certain important events make any emotional investment for me nonexistent. I didn’t think this would be a problem, but seeing this occur again and again really left a sour taste in my mouth. To me it just didn’t come off well written.

Gripes aside, I really feel like I had more fun with this than I ever would have

thought possible. I want to say this can be a great family film but there are some raunchy jokes that may skirt the lines of being acceptable for some families with younger children, especially due to the use of profanity. Everyone else that grew up with *Jumanji* still fondly in their memories can really get a kick out of this. It’s funny, action packed, and just an all-around good time. Rated PG-13 1h59m



Brian McDonald stars in the Rubicon Theatre Company’s production of *Buyer & Cellar* now playing. Photo by Sandy Aichner.

A View from House Seats

Facts meet fiction for fun at Rubicon

by Shirley Lorraine

And now for something completely different.... *Buyer & Cellar* now playing on the Rubicon stage mixes it up with a few facts, a lot of fiction and an evening of laughter. A solid hit from New York to Los Angeles, the Rubicon embraces the unusual concept with open arms to spread the joy to Ventura audiences.

The play centers around the true fact of a celebrity, Barbra Streisand, well known for her eccentricities, who has created a shopping mall in the cellar of her Malibu home to showcase her many collectibles. Shops include an antique clothing store, a doll shop, a sweets shoppe (the second e is required), and more. Author Jonathan Tolins was so taken with Streisand’s 2010 coffee table book titled *My Passion for Design* which features the mall, that his imagination soared with creativity around the subject.

Tolins then expanded the idea to include a huge what if. What if a frequently unemployed actor was hired to be the lone employee at the mall? His only “customer” would be Babs herself. The occasional interplay between the two then builds into an unlikely and quite humorous relationship. The resulting one-man show is a tour-de-force performance skillfully and effervescently executed by Brian McDonald.

Directed by Stephanie A. Coltrin, McDonald takes off in a frenetic, fantastic performance as Alex More, the actor, who delivers non-stop action and energy for close to two hours without an intermission. McDonald as More tells the audience right up front that he doesn’t do impressions. However, he does give rich dimension to a plethora of characters critical to the story, as well

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as La Streisand herself.

McDonald never misses a beat as he describes and demonstrates his “job” in the mall at a steadily quick pace. Imagine a meld of Robin Williams and Sean Hayes mixed with much McDonald. Adding to the fun are numerous show business and performance references. See how many you can catch. It is easy for the audience to get caught up in his excitement as he relates the events that could be occurring in the mostly solitary environment.

Woven into the story are lessons to be learned about the things we all accumulate as we go along and what is truly important in the big picture that is life. Especially now, in the wake of the Thomas Fire, the Montecito mudslides and other local carnage, laughter is a necessary form of healing for us all. This production and performance provides a welcome relief.

A picture-perfect and exquisitely appointed set designed by Mike Billings completes the illusion.

This reviewer’s recommendation - settle into Ms. Streisand’s lovely environment and enjoy the humor, the whimsy, the reflections and a superb performance.

Buyer & Cellar plays Wednesdays to Sundays through February 11 at the Rubicon Theatre Company, 1006 E. Main St. (corner of Main and Laurel Streets) in downtown Ventura. Matinees: 2 p.m. Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays. Evening performances are at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 7 p.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Wednesday January 31 and February 7 performances will be followed by a talk-back session with the cast. Tickets: \$30-\$55. The box office is open 7 days a week. There is 24-hour ticketing and seat selection online at www.rubicontheatre.org. (805) 667-2900.



2/1: CYDEWAYS W/RIE ESSENCE

2/2: DANIELLE STACEY EP RELEASE

2/3: WHICH ONE'S PINK? PINK FLOYD TRIBUTE

2/8: FISHBONE FT. LAW & LEGALIZER

2/9: BOB MARLEY DAY

2/10: UFC 221 - ROMERO VS. ROCKHOLD

2/10: THE BLASTERS

2/18: JOSH HEINRICH

2/21: YOUNG DUBLINERS

2/22: THE AGGROLITES W/SLIGHTLY STOOPID HORNS

2/24: THE MOLLY RINGWALD PROJECT

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH

THE BLASTERS

OF WETS ORIGINALS

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH

CELEBRATING BOB MARLEY

WHICH ONE'S PINK?

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3RD

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH

JOSH HEINRICH

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EP Foster School student Ethan Gaona, "almost 9", piano student with Notes For Notes local program director Fernando Franco.

Phil Gilley imagined a room full of musical instruments

Notes For Notes was the brainchild of Santa Barbara resident Phil Gilley about 11 years ago when, being involved in a Big Brother, Big Sister program he imagined a room full of musical instruments where kids could come in and play them, many for the first time. He had a kid who asked about how he could get to play an instrument. So, Gilley and others decided to create a program that would not only bring kids together with instruments, but also create an environment for teaching and letting the kids just play. The initial operation in Santa Barbara was piggybacked onto The Boys and Girls Club. Ventura, because of its fortunate placement between Santa Barbara and LA, became an early recipient of the programs expansion plans.

Since launching eleven years ago Notes

For Notes is now operating these programs in over 20 locations around the country, including Ventura. Alex Kies is area director for Southern California and says "While they are not exclusive to Boys & Girls Clubs, 18 of the 20 are located within them. Like an embassy inside their space." Ventura is the smallest market to be fortunate to have this program. Partially due to proximity to Santa Barbara but also because there was funding from local backers like attorney Jim Cole and later Squashed Grapes and others who formed a local "Soundboard" to fund financial support and generate activities like field trips to local music stores.

The latest extension of the program has been to create small recording studios within the club locations. The Ventura Club has such a studio located in the Boys & Girls Club at 1440 North Olive Street and managed by Fernando Franco, who is eager to welcome youngsters to their program. Everything is free, and tailored to the needs of the individual child. All you have to do to involve your child is to go there and sign up. Ventura's program is aimed at kids 6-12. In other markets like LA, most of the participating kids are older.

Much of the financial support for Notes For Notes studio projects comes from Hot Topic, which donated an initial \$25,000 for studios and the CMA Foundation has funded them east of the Mississippi. Included in recent developments are four new studios in the New York area and others in Chicago, Nashville, and San Francisco among others. Ventura is fortunate to be on this short list.

When a child comes to the facility on N. Olive Street, they determine their own plan for what they want to accomplish. If it is banging on drums, a very popular one, or writing a song, or recording one, they can get individual help and encouragement from Franco and the staff. "Kids here want

This 'n' That

to be loud, so there's lots of drums and banging around", says Franco. There is no rigid curriculum so freewheeling experimentation is just fine.

Looking to the future Franco and Kies hope to see a youth band evolve that could perform in the area comprised of kids under 18. Making a recording free is another enticing option for a kids group.

Sponsorships also play a role with major companies like Gibson, Fender, Zildjian and Sony all making donations. The primary instruments used in the program are "combo" type instruments. Guitars, bass, keyboards, drums and vocals are the focus. It was decided early on to leave band instruments like clarinets, tubas, horns and the like to school programs.

So how can Venturans give their support to this worthy program? This community has been good so far in embracing Notes For Notes but more can be done. There is great potential for our youth here. Parents can bring their children to this location at The Boys and Girls Club and get familiar with the program. It is hoped to bring more teens into the program who could also play live. Locals can donate directly to the program through notesfornotes.org/donate. They can also donate instruments but they don't have room for pianos. Quality microphones are needed. Think limited storage space when you consider donations.

An open house is planned soon but the studio facility is open for parents to bring their kids, take a tour of the studio, check out some instruments and sign up if desired any day, Monday through Friday from 2-6pm. It's all inside the Robert Addison Boys & Girls Club, 1440 N. Olive Street in Ventura. Get loud!

Work started to restore the Ventura Botanical Gardens

On Jan. 11&12, a crew of eight Corpsmembers from the CCC center in Camarillo wielded picks, shovels, wheelbarrows and a backhoe to a small section of Ventura Botanical Gardens where they moved dump trucks of dirt and rock. They were hard at work creating a soothing space that was hit hard by fire and flood. The soil is now prepped to install an Ocean Friendly Demonstration Garden in memory of Paul Herzog, a local icon when it came to establishing gardens with low impact on our oceans. When complete, visitors can perch on the hilltop garden and look out over the Ventura Pier, the Pacific Ocean and on to the Channel Islands.

Through rain or snow or sleet

Continued from page 18

stepped up to save the day! The earliest train did not leave the station at the Ventura Fairgrounds until 9:30am, so to get a full day in at their job, many took the Island Packers' first boat that required being in the harbor, ready to depart at a crisp 6:15am. The boat ride was crowded, chilly and bumpy (pharmacies probably made a fortune selling Dramamine).

Once again, to get a full day in, my husband took the 7pm train home. This train was delayed (several times); I eventually

picked him up at 9pm. The fairgrounds were packed as many were picking up friends and family, but it was an organized effort directing the traffic amidst the masses.

He then discovered the 4:40 train departing Santa Barbara appeared to run on time, but the commutes were so crowded there was no way they could check tickets. He reports one passenger as big as a house, shoving his way through the crowd to be the first to board, but that's okay since he did say "excuse me". He also watched a gal coughing, sneezing and blowing her nose slide her hand along the handrail with countless other passengers sliding their hands along the same handrail behind her...did somebody say flu season?

Although the commute was long and uncomfortable, we are so grateful to the Island Packers and Amtrak. I had phoned them both to make reservations and in the face of all the craziness, both were so kind and helpful. Now that Highway 101 has reopened, that wonderful husband of mine says he's never been so happy to drive to work!

Six women's epic swim

Continued from page 9

questions all the time. Given that no wetsuits were allowed for sanctioned events, was the water cold? "You get used to it clad only in your swim cap, goggles and bathing suit." Were there sharks? "No." Was it tough to stay awake? "Yes, but you try to sleep whenever it's not your turn to swim." Was it hard to figure out where you were exactly in the ocean? "Sometimes, because unlike pools, there are no lanes."

The fog can be a challenge. "You just try to stay as close to the kayak and dive boat as much as possible," says Darlington.

They may not have trained together, given their geographic challenges. Four are from the East Coast while two are in SoCal. However, all of them trained individually in adverse, nasty conditions to prepare for strong ocean currents and other challenges like the presence of sea lions, dolphins and an illegal fishing boat.

A few days before the epic swim, the team practiced some night swims in San Diego.

Rose also broke her elbow in April and Corbin had wrist surgery around the same time. Teammate Carol-Lynn Swol's mom also passed away the day before their swim.

Open water swimming has its own special appeal. McConica explains, "We have a great deal of respect for the ocean. Swimming at night was just sheer magic."

The ladies' epic swim undertaking has been recorded and can be found on: <https://santabarbarachannelswim.org>.

The journey back begins - -part one

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A friend and ex co-worker contacted the couple (they had not spoken for the past ten years) and offered them a large house in Camarillo she had for rent. They drove to Camarillo and signed a rental agreement that day. Not certain their insurance company would foot the bill for the rental they called the claims adjuster and were assured the company would pay for the rental for a year. "We got a check right away for the cost of the rental for one year" she said. The Dincau's are now living in Camarillo while exploring the steps to re-build their home.

The couple is still in disbelief that everything is gone. A call from their daughter, living in Santa Barbara, on the morning after the fire asked, "Were you able to save my baby pictures?" both were brought to tears, there was nothing left.