

Vol. 11, No. 11 Published Every Other Wednesday Established 2007 February 28 – March 13, 2018



Dr. Brugman is a leading pulmonologist in Ventura.

Valley Fever – more prevalent after Thomas Fires?

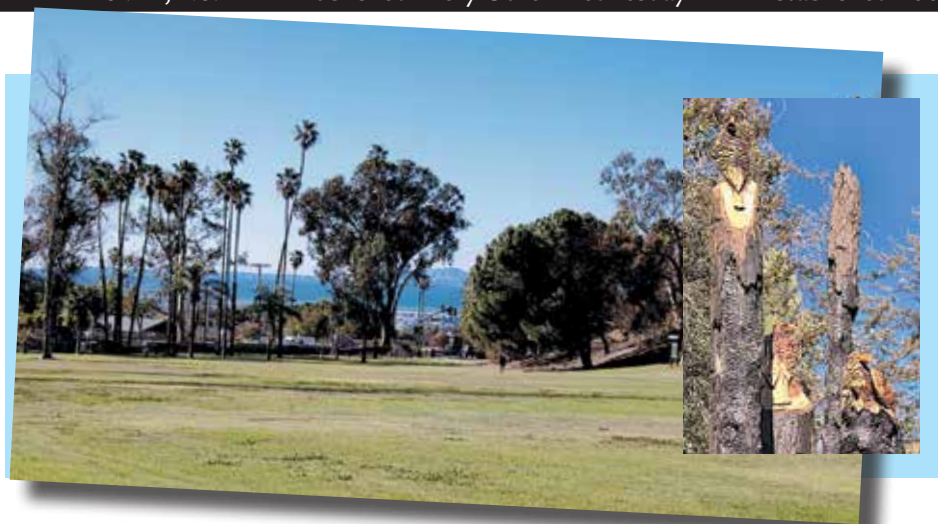
by Jennifer Tipton

Native to the San Joaquin Valley (hence the name “Valley Fever”) this airborne fungal infection dates back as far as 1892 and may also be referred to as Desert Fever or Desert Rheumatism.

Valley Fever is due to the coccidioides fungus which enters the body through the respiratory tract when inhaled. The fungus is found in soil and is endemic or limited to certain regions such as Bakersfield or other desert areas along with the San Joaquin Valley.

I asked Dr. Brugman, a leading pulmonologist in Ventura, how the Thomas Fires contributed to the recent outbreaks of Valley Fever and he emphasized that the Santa Ana winds really perpetuated the problem but, “the fires were helpful in aerosolizing the fungus because the chaparral that burned had kept the dust on the ground”. He added, “the low humidity and the winds kicking up the dust are what really get it going”. He’s seen 15 cases of Valley Fever in the last few months where he usually sees 2-3 in a year. “A lot of people are coming in with pneumonia after inhaling the spores from the soil”, he reported. Diagnostics may include a bronchoscopy where he can see the spores in the lungs and the

Continued on page 7



The peaceful green landscape of the park for all to enjoy. Eagles carved on redwood tree. Photos by Michael Gordon.

Arroyo Verde Park reopened

Community members visited Arroyo Verde Park on Friday, February 16 to celebrate its partial reopening.

The park, located at Foothill and Day Roads, was closed for approximately 10-weeks to ensure safe conditions for park users and repair damage due to the Thomas Fire and January rain event.

“It is important to us that our community has the opportunity to utilize Arroyo Verde Park again, as quickly and as safely as possible. The

reopening of the park is a significant milestone in the City’s recovery efforts and we look forward to restoring the remaining portions of the park over time,” said Tom Martin, Parks Manager. “As we reopen Arroyo Verde Park, please remember to adhere to the signage located throughout the park.”

City crews and contractors worked hard to restore and reopen this highly visited park for the community to enjoy.

Continued on page 7



On February 15 a ribbon cutting (in this case seaweed) was held at the Ventura Harbor Village in celebration of the Village’s revitalized spaces that includes new hardscape and landscaping. The event included appetizers, lattes and more provided by Village restaurants and live music. It was presented by the Ventura Port District and the Ventura Chamber of commerce. The very large crowd attending included local dignitaries, Harbor merchants and locals.



Volunteers that came from our community to help receive and sort donations for the fire victims. (That’s Silvia all the way on the right end.)

The Salvation Army focuses on long term recovery

Although fully contained the Thomas Fire will have an effect on Ventura County for years to come. In addition to burning more than 300,000 acres, the blaze destroyed over 1,000 structures, including many homes. The Salvation Army has been serving the greatest needs of Ventura County residents affected by the fire since the initial evacuation, and the long term recovery continues today with assessments and financial assistance.

After the emergency shelters scaled down, The Salvation Army began initial recovery support operations in December through a Local Assistance Center. The Salvation Army distributed financial assistance with a total value of \$128,490 to 513 households. Since January 8, The Salvation Army has shifted recovery efforts with an eye toward long-term support, including those in Santa Barbara County. As of February 13, eighty-four households have been given financial assistance valued at \$68,342. These funds are the result of an assessment provided by The Salvation Army Ventura Corps and Santa Barbara Corps stationed at the Los Angeles County Disaster Recovery Center, set up at the Lake View Terrace Recreation Center.

In addition to this, The Salvation Army has supported clean-up service

Continued on page 8

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Business



On Feb. 22 a Ribbon Cutting and Mixer was held at Kirby Kia of Ventura to celebrate the opening of their newly redesigned Kia dealership. Kirby Kia's new state-of-the-art facility features a beautiful indoor showroom, 20-bay service department, dual lane service drive up area, Kia loaner cars, complimentary car wash area and a premium customer hospitality center.

It was hosted by Ventura Chamber Young Professionals Group and Ventura Chamber of Commerce. Chamber members, City dignitaries and well-wishers attended the Ribbon Cutting.

Kirby Kia is located at 6424 Auto Center Drive, in the Ventura Auto Center. Photos by Bernie Goldstein.





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10:00 AM | Hyatt Centric SB
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Santa Barbara, CA 93103
- ▶ **Saturday, Mar. 3rd**
10:30 AM | The Crowne Plaza
450 E Harbor Blvd
Ventura, CA 93001
- ▶ **Saturday, Mar. 3rd**
2:30 PM | The Crowne Plaza
450 E Harbor Blvd
Ventura, CA 93001
- ▶ **Saturday, Mar. 3rd**
3:00 PM | Azu
457 E Ojai Ave
Ojai, CA 93023
- ▶ **Thursday, Mar. 8th**
6:00 PM | Poinsettia Pavilion
3451 Foothill Rd
Ventura, CA 93003
- ▶ **Monday, Mar. 12th**
6:00 PM | Ojai Vly Women’s Club
441 E Ojai Ave
Ojai, CA 93024
- ▶ **Tuesday, Mar. 13th**
6:00 PM | Poinsettia Pavilion
3451 Foothill Rd
Ventura, CA 93003
- ▶ **Wednesday, Mar. 14th**
6:00PM | Alcazar Theatre
4916 Carpinteria Ave
Carpinteria, CA 93013

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Your Hometown Paper

Member, Ventura Chamber of Commerce

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A mistake
repeated
more than
once is a
decision.

— Paulo
Coelho

Opinion/Editorial



Sheldon (Governor) Brown
Publisher-Editor

■ **Mayor Neal Andrews** is having some health issues and has missed some recent City Council meetings. I certainly hope that he feels better soon so that he

can get back to do what he loves - serving the residents of Ventura.

■ **Patagonia** is moving forward with plans to turn the former Brooks Institute 8-acre campus into expanded offices for its outdoor clothing-equipment business. As you know, Brooks unexpectedly shut down a few years.

The property, located is at 5301 N. Ventura Ave., is located outside of city limits so it is governed by the Ventura County. Patagonia bought the campus last spring, a few months after Brooks closed.

It's great that Patagonia will be occupying this facility and will be expanding its footprint in Ventura. They are a wonderful asset for the city and are considered one of the best companies to work for in America.

■ Funny what it takes to represent a country in the Olympics. The last names of the four people representing **Mexico** in the Winter Olympics are Franco, Schleper, Von Hohenlohe and Dickson. Wonder if any of them have even been to Mexico?

■ Rep. Claudia Tenney (R-N.Y.) claimed recently that people who commit mass shootings are often **Democrats**. The first-term Republican congresswoman made the comment at a discussion about the Florida school shooting. "It's interesting that so many of these people that commit the mass murders end up being Democrats. But the media doesn't talk about that either."

Even for a politician this has to be one of the dumbest things I have ever heard. I don't believe that mass murderers are asked their political affiliations, and I have never heard anyone accuse mass murderers of being **Republicans**.

■ According to findings presented by University of California neurologist Claudia Kawas at the 2018 American Association for the Advancement of Science conference in Texas, seniors drinking a moderate amount of alcohol each day (no more than 2-3 glasses

of wine or beer) lowered their risk of premature death by 18% compared to seniors who exercise daily. Daily exercise for 15 to 45 minutes was found to only reduce premature death by 11 percent.

Researchers added that two cups of coffee also helped maintain longevity, lowering the risk of death by 10 percent. The biggest key to a long life that Dr. Kawas' group found was having a **hobby**. Two hours of work a day on a hobby dropped the risk of death by 21 percent.

Now, they need to find seniors who exercise, drink alcohol and coffee each day and have a hobby to see what the impact is (maybe the right combo will take them well in to their 100's).

In either case, preemptively, I will now drink:

2 cups of coffee per day (up from the one that I started drinking 6 months ago)

2 glasses of wine (don't like beer) per day

I am too busy to have a hobby, but do play tennis and work way over two hours a day, so I will probably live to be at least 109.

■ From a May, 2012 Ventura Breeze issue:

"After an extensive three-year investigation by the Ventura Police Department, they have announced an arrest for the June 3, 2009 murder of **Wendy Di Rodio**. Ventura Police Department Major Crimes Investigators arrested Gina Drake, a 45-year-old Ventura resident, and the niece of victim Di Rodio without incident on May 25, at a business in Somis."

Now, after all of this time the Ventura County District Attorney's Office has announced that Gina Drake has pleaded guilty to voluntary manslaughter.

Gina Drake is expected to be sentenced to 11 years in state prison. Doesn't seem long enough to me for stabbing ones' aunt to death.

■ If an "Illegal" kills one person (terrible of course), **Trump** makes the case that it proves "they" are horribly violent people which is why we need to build the wall and send them all back to where they came from. If a good legal American kills 17 (or many more with mass killings), he says we need more mental health services because where would we send them back to and what

state would we build a wall around? Then he reduces funds for mental health.

■ There has been many instances of bullying at **Balboa Middle School**. Three separate incidents this year involving Balboa students resulted in the arrest of six students and the dismissal of the principal. A new principal has been selected.

Superintendent David Creswell, who is in his first year as superintendent at VUSD, said the district has placed more school resource officers at Balboa, removed the principal and increased police patrols. He is also making sure a process is in place by which children can report to an adult if they feel unsafe or threatened.

I know that each generations says this about their youth, so I am saying it also. Today's kids (as young as 5) are playing video games that actually give them points for killing more people in games. They are becoming desensitized to death, which might help explain the shootings at our high schools. To them, talking to grandma means texting her.

It is so important that parents carefully monitor the time and content that their kids watch on social media and the games they play. Going outside today means playing video games on the front porch.

■ Many homes destroyed in the **Thomas Fire** have been cleared of hazardous materials and debris, the first step in rebuilding. During a report on the fire, Ventura Interim City Manager Dan Paranic told the City Council that clearing the remaining homes should be completed by the middle of April.

This is just the very beginning of the arduous task of having design plans drawn, obtaining permits and bids, building a home and then landscaping and furnishing it. I see some "for sale" signs on several lots now and expect to see more.

Not being pessimistic, just realistic. As many of you are aware, I was an architect and General Contractor for more than 30 years, so I know of what I speak. Speaking of that, if you have preliminary or final drawings for your proposed home, I would be happy to look at them to see if I can offer any suggestions or comments at **no charge**.

Mailbox

Breeze

The streets, alleys and road markings in the city of Ventura leave something to be desired. It shouldn't be a, take your life in your own hands kind of experience, each time you get behind the wheel.

Where did all the money go after two recent tax increases on gasoline?

I feel like I'm driving in a third world country, bouncing over ruts that could swallow an old VW. That's why I drive a truck.

East Main Street between Ventura Avenue and Olive has so many ruts. It causes extreme shaking, rattling your brain and teeth, too.

Some oil companies made billions extracting oil in California only to file bankruptcy, leaving us, the tax-payers, to pick up the tab to clean their messes left behind. The man-made island and the oil wharf up on Highway 1 is one example. So now there's little money left to take care of our much needed infrastructure repairs.

We can complain about higher

gasoline prices in California, while Arizona has cheap gas, about a buck a gallon less. Want to move?

We have to rise up and demand that this sorry situation be remedied.

Begin to restripe the streets. That would be a start. Bicycles?—don't get me started. Please obey all traffic laws by riding on the right in single file and at night wear light clothing. Also, add a red blinking light at the rear and a white light up front— a bell helps warn unsuspecting walkers along the roar. The life you save will be your own.

James Francis Gray -Ventura

Hi Sheldon,

I just wanted to reach out and say thanks to you and your staff for running my event listings in the Breeze. I really appreciate that you get the details right and know how to make an events calendar look and sound appealing. As both a senior and an environmentalist I also appreciate the space you give to our concerns and I'm glad you gave David Goldstein's important column a home.

Best,
Lanny Kaufer HerbWalks.com
www.facebook.com/HerbWalk

Editor:

The fellows at Under the Bed (UTB) want to give a shout-out to Lynn Mikelatos of The Greek Mediterranean Steak & Seafood at the Ventura Harbor, thanking her for her role in collaborating with City Core to donate a piano to UTB, Ventura's new DL production space for contributing artists to create, share and expand their personal vision through collective action. UTB is affiliated with Art City as an extension of the city's cultural past, present, and future. Lynn's kind thoughts and generosity actions are most appreciated. Sophia Kidd-Ventura

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

City News

Event holders still frustrated with city insurance requirements

by Burris DeBenning

Pyrotechnics, the big kahuna of the Fourth of July Fair and Fireworks event at Ventura College, is a costly and risky affair. A few years ago, several people were injured when fireworks went awry at the July 4th Simi Valley show. Parades, food and beverage festivals and concerts pose degrees of risk.

Both the City and event planners agree to require insurance to cover potential injuries suffered by the public, volunteers and other participants. But just how much insurance is necessary and when are the rules overkill? This is a dilemma that has faced Ventura event planners for a while and does not appear resolved.

Last April, local clubs, businesses and civic groups urged City Council to rethink the levels of liability it requires for property damage and personal liability. According to several organization representatives, the cost of purchasing what the City demands is prohibitive. To Vincent Giammanco, the promoter of the California Beer Festival hosted by many cities, Ventura asks for the “impossible.” Ellyn Dembowski, Rotary Club president, told the Breeze that the City has an “extreme fear of terrorist dangers at every event that are a serious financial burden for non-profits.” She said, “last year the City was supposed to give us a report on its progress on fixing insurance but hasn’t yet,” and went on to say that the City could lose its beloved fireworks show at the college because of the expensive insurance.

The City begs to differ, however, claiming that its insurance require-

ments are fair and normal given the kinds of dangerous activities at certain events and the real risks to the public, ranging from fireworks snafus to slipping on a sidewalk curb. The Breeze reached out to Assistant City Manager Elizabeth Foushee who said “we have seen throughout the country that accidents do happen related to festivals, parades and street fairs.” Public agencies typically ask event providers to have an additional insured endorsement to the general liability policy to ensure that the agency has added liability protection should incidents occur. “It is important to understand that without a special events policy with the endorsement, the City takes on risks and any claims that may arise,” said Foushee. Miss Foushee also stressed that the City never wants non-profits to cancel their events, but mandates certain liability policies so these events, where crowds are unpredictable, and alcohol is served, are thoroughly safe.

Councilmember Jim Monahan, a longstanding member of the Elks Lodge that puts on the annual St. Patrick’s Day parade, told the Breeze that the Elks have no intention of cancelling or moving this huge Ventura tradition. “The insurance amounts may be a little excessive,” Monahan said, “but it is up to the Council to decide, and right now things are fine.” He said that City Risk Management follows the insurance ordinances passed several years ago, which are in line with the City Attorney’s directions as well.

Ask the Director

Article Tully Clifford, Public Works Director, City of Ventura

Q. What is the City of Ventura doing to prepare our community for heavy rain after the Thomas Fire?

A The City of Ventura Public Works Department, along with Police, Fire, Parks, and the County Watershed Protection District have taken emergency preparedness measures to prepare for potential fire debris flow in an effort to protect our community. Ventura Public Works crews have been, and continue to be, out in the community inspecting and cleaning catch basins to ensure debris basins and flood channels are clear in the event of a heavy rainfall.

Routine maintenance is critical to keeping our local waterways flowing properly. Inspection and cleaning of catch basins, storm drains, pipes and channels is performed continuously throughout the year. Large basins get an annual inspection to reduce flood risk for the downstream community. Debris, such as vegetation, sediment and boulders that could plug the outlets, is removed by hand crews or heavy equipment to ensure that functionality is maintained.

As an added measure of protection, Ventura Public Works is using innova-

tive modeling technology to generate maps that identify potential locations of debris flow in a given area. This tool is being used citywide and the City will continue to monitor the burn area as it can take 3-5 years for vegetation to significantly recover, and about ten years to fully recover.

Residents may have noticed that more than 1,200 feet of K-rail (temporary concrete barriers) was installed along Foothill Road and Cedar Street. These precautionary measures were put in place to keep light rain flow and small

Continued on page 21

For the Record



The bad news is that in our last issue we spelled her name wrong. It is Maria Castor, not Marcia Castor.

The good news is that her photo has now been in the Breeze two times.

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Ventura Libraries March events

AVENUE LIBRARY (VENTURA AVE.)
Children & Family Events
Bilingual Early Literacy Class
3/5, 12, 19, & 26 Mondays @ 6– 6:45 pm

Join us every week for stories, poems, music, movement, a simple craft & fun!

Adult Classes & Events
SuperBrain Yoga
3/17 Saturday @ 10am -12pm in the Community Room

SuperBrain Yoga: a simple exercise that balances your brain and results in better memory and mental clarity.

Adult Literacy Classes
Laubach Literacy English Classes
In the Meeting Room
3/5, 12, 19, & 26 Mondays @11am - 12pm

Pumarosa English Classes
In the Meeting Room
3/7, 14, 21, & 28 Wednesdays @ 9–10am & @ 6-7pm

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

E.P. FOSTER LIBRARY
Adult Programs & Special Events
Educational Nature Series: Geology Rocks

3/7 Wednesday @ 7-8pm
William Bilodeau, Ph.D. will highlight the area’s geology. He will comment on the recent post-Thomas Fire mud slides. Featuring research from California Lutheran University science faculty.

Opera Santa Barbara
3/16 Friday @ 12-1pm

Please join us for a free noontime concert presented by Opera Santa Barbara!

Vision Walk
3/24 Saturday @ 1pm in the Topping Room

History of the labyrinth, a walking meditation tool. Lecture given by Beverly Russell, Ph.D. Author, Educator. Labyrinth walk nearby following the lecture.

Children’s Events
Early Literacy Class
3/6, 7, 13, 14, 20, 21, 27, & 28 Tuesdays & Wednesdays @ 10:30am

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

Community Events

Teen Happenings
STEAM Monthly
3/14 Wednesday @ 4-6 pm
This month will have a game design focus.

HILL ROAD LIBRARY
CHILDREN’S EVENTS
Early Literacy Class
3/7, 14, 21, & 28 Wednesdays @ 10:30am
3/17 Saturday @ 10:30 am

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

Discover Science
3/6 Tuesday @ 4-6pm

Join us for a fun afternoon of chemistry experimenting as we make elephant paste on the patio.

Maker Lab
3/15 Thursday @ 4-5:30pm

Join us for an introduction to 3D printer workshop

Adult Events
Financial Literacy Program facilitated by the Ventura County Credit Union
3/22 Thursday @ 6pm

Financial experts from Ventura County Credit Union present this topic as part of an ongoing financial literacy series at Hill Road Library.

SATICOY LIBRARY
CHILDREN & FAMILY EVENTS
Early Literacy Class
3/1, 8, 15, & 22 Thursdays @ 9:30 - 10:30am & @ 11am - 12pm

Join us every week for stories, poems, music, movement, a simple craft & fun!

Paws for Reading
3/24 Saturday @ 12– 1pm

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

ADULT CLASSES & EVENTS
English Classes
2/5, 7, 12, 14, 19, 21, 26, & 28

Monday & Wednesday @ 3- 5pm
ESL Conversation Groups hosted by Laubach Literacy of Ventura County
Holidays in March
29th—Libraries open at 2pm due to staff meeting

Ventura events

by Ana Baker
AUDUBON FIELD TRIPS
March 4: 9 a.m. Work Day
Fillmore Fish Hatchery Leader: Sandy Hedrick (805) 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.

March 10: 8:30 a.m. Malibu Creek State Park Leader: Tevin Schmitt (661) 904-1563

There are trails through oak and sycamore woodlands on chaparral-covered slopes and birds.

Call Leader for directions.
March 14: 8:30 a.m. Camino Real Park Leader: Adele Fergusson (805) 415-4304

Camino Real is a grassy park surrounded by pines and eucalyptus and is an excellent Spring migrant hotspot.

March 17: 8:30 a.m. Ventura Settling Ponds Leader: Jim Howard jimsezhi@gmail.com

The settling ponds at the Ventura Harbor is a reliable place to find ducks, grebes, gulls and terns, as well as songbirds and raptors.

March 24: 8:30 a.m. Santa Clara River Estuary Leader: Tevin Schmitt (661) 904-1563

Shorebirds including Snowy Plovers, Ruddy and Black Turnstones and hopefully Surfbirds We begin at Surfers Knoll off Spinnaker Drive

April 1: 8:30 a.m. Ojai Meadows Preserve Leader Raeann



Congratulations Lynn on the March 1st Grand Opening of



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Tall Ships, Hawaiian Chieftain and Lady Washington will be in the Ventura Harbor until Monday, March 5. Photo of Hawaiian Chieftain by Michael Gordon.

Community Events

Koerner (805) 701-1919
This beautiful preserve is a birding hotspot and includes a restored wetland and native plantings.

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

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

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

Country Western Line Dancing every Tuesday 7 - 9 p.m. Instruction every night. Located at the Moose lodge, 10269 Telephone Road. More information at countrylovers.com.

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 at noon at Lemon Wood Mobile Homes, 850 Johnson Dr. Excellent speakers leading Cardiologists, Nutritionists, and Dietitians etc. from our area. Contact Richard Hatcher at 644-2733.

Feb. 28: The College Area Community Council will meet on Wednesday at 7 p.m. The meeting will include reports on various public works projects and representatives from the Ventura Police Department and Ventura College. Wright Event Center at 57 Day Rd. Free parking is available adjacent to the Event Center. 644-8695 for more information.

March 2: On First Friday, Art City Gallery will test out its newly donated AV equipment (a gracious donation from Lorenzo DeStafano and the Ventura Film Society) with two film screenings, from 7-7:30 p.m. and 9-9:30 p.m. Steve Aguilar will show recent short films. Titles of short films to be seen include Shyanne Happens , The Duck, Black Sheep and others. Art City’s resident DJ DownNgoing will spin at least one set afterwards, into the night.

March 4: Sophia Kidd will teach Introduction to Chinese calligraphy to students of all ages, Sunday, 10-11:30 a.m., in the Gallery. \$15 per student, room for five. Email: artcitygalleryandstudios@gmail.com or phone 836-1095 to RSVP or apply for a need-based scholarship. 197 Dubbers St. 648-1690. artcitygalleryandstudios.com

March 4: This month’s Free First Sunday, at the Museum of Ventura County explores the gentle art of rock stacking with self-taught artist Juan Manuel Cisneros. From noon–2 p.m., Manuel will be leading a workshop for youth and adults. His work may be viewed along E. Santa Clara Street and Junipero. If stacking rocks is not your thing, then you can learn the fine art of rock painting from our own local Rock Fairy. All supplies

provided. For information, visit ventura-museum.org or call 653-0323.

March 4th: In addition to docent-led tours of the Dudley Historic House Museum, there will also be an orchid sale on the grounds and an early Easter gift sale in the gift shop. From 1-4 p.m. The museum, built in 1891, is located at Loma Vista and Ashwood streets. For information please call 642-3345 or visit the website at www.dudleyhouse.org.

March 6: Employment Development Department invites you to attend an Employee or Independent Contractor Seminar 9 - 12:30 p.m. At the EDD Tax Office Training Room 4820 McGrath Street, Suite 200. To make reservations, visit the EDD website at www.edd.ca.gov/Payroll_Tax_Seminars/ or call 866-873-6083. Requests for services, aids, and/or alternate formats need to be made prior to the event by calling 866-873-6083 (voice) or TTY 888-547-9565.

March 6 & 20: Retired men will meet for lunch at the Elks lodge in Ventura at noon on Tuesdays. We will have a speaker on a topic of interest and various social activities. If this sounds like something you might enjoy, drop by, introduce yourself, and will foot the bill for your first lunch. Steve Carroll has the details for you at 642-1359.

March 7: California Lutheran University Science Faculty, William Bilodeau, PhD will visit the E.P. Foster Library Topping Assembly Room on Wednesday, at 7p.m. to deliver a lecture titled “Geology Rocks.” Dr. Bilodeau will highlight the Ventura County’s structural geology, the volcanic and sedimentary origins of the western Santa Monica Mountains, and the tectonics of Southern California. Dr. Bilodeau will also comment on the recent post-Thomas Fire mudslides and slope stability in the hills above Ventura. Irma Morales, Senior City Librarian, 648-2715.

March 9: The General George S. Patton, Jr. Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution March luncheon meeting will feature “Patton’s Finance Officer and his Warrior Ancestors”, presented by Mr. Douglas Millikin. At 11:30am in the Garden Room, Marie Callender’s Restaurant, 1295 S. Victoria Ave. All SAR & DAR Compatriots, friends, and visitors are welcome. If you choose to join lunch, cost is \$20. For additional information or for assistance in determining your possible Revolutionary War genealogical roots, call Bill Bays 650-3036 or Robert Taylor 216-7992. For information regarding SAR membership and chapter activities, <http://pattonpatriots.org>.

March 11: The Channel Islands Chamber Orchestra, KuanFen Liu Artistic Director will present its third annual “Night at the Light Opera” concerts Sunday at 3 p.m. at First United Methodist Church 1338 E Santa Clara St. The concerts will feature vocal artists singing favorite arias and ensembles from operettas. Donations of \$20 are appreciated. Youth 18 and under are free. For more information call 484-8000 or visit www.CHICOVC.org.

Ojai news and events

On Sunday April 8th, from noon-4pm, the Ojai Raptor Center (ORC) will open its doors to the public for their annual Spring Open House, a rare opportunity to meet the non-releasable “ambassador” raptors,

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and tour the Center that is otherwise closed to the public year-round.

The ORC Open House will have a \$5 entry fee per person with children under ten admitted for free. This is a dog-free event www.ojairaptorcenter.org for more info.

Dr. Arthur Vander will visit the Ojai Library at 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 3, to deliver a presentation titled “How Does the Brain Produce Consciousness?” Dr. Vander will explore the relationship between the physical brain and mental events, and will present this topic at a level appropriate for lay audiences with no formal background in science.

CI speaker Kiki Patsch will visit the Ojai Library at 1 p.m. on Saturday, March 10, to deliver a presentation titled “Beaches on the Edge.” Patsch comes from CSU Channel Islands (CI), and is the second speaker in this season’s CI Library Lecture Series. CSU Channel Islands hosts dozens of free public lectures at libraries throughout Ventura County. 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.

Due to the damage caused to Meditation Mount by the Thomas Fire, this month’s half-day retreat with Rev. Karen will be at The Ojai Retreat. The topic will be “Waking Up to Our True Identity.” The gathering is on Saturday, March 10, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The Ojai Retreat is at 160 Besant Road.

At her half-day retreat, participants will come together for a morning of inner reflection, quiet walks, wisdom talks, sharing and sacred songs. Randee Vasilakos, RScP, will assist in anchoring a consciousness of peace and love. People of all faiths and traditions, or no tradition, are welcome to attend.

The retreat is by donation; \$20 is suggested. For more information, contact Rev. Karen at 310-968-8928, or register online at www.karenswhy-lie.com. Rev. Karen is the author of Into Me See: A Book for Daily Inspiration, available on Amazon and her website.

The “Slow Cooking: Delicious & Nutritious” class on Sunday, March 18, 1:00 p.m. will be with author and private chef Randy Graham. Randy says, “Let’s start the new year off with a slow bang! A slow cooker bang, that is.” In this class you will learn how to creatively use your slow cooker. You will learn to make and to taste slow cooking recipes from his new book, Ojai Valley Slow Cooker Cookbook, and take home a signed, complimentary copy as part of the \$75 class fee. Participation is limited to 10 individuals. This class will fill quickly so don’t hesitate to call the Lavender Inn at 646-6635 for reservations.

Valley Fever
Continued from page 1
treatment is most commonly an anti-fungal medication, some needed for up to 6 months.

The good news, most of the population have been exposed and aren’t even aware of it, while many others may have mild symptoms that usually go away on their own in a week or two. The bad news, the symptoms can progress to pneumonia or worse, disseminated cocci.

According to the C.D.C (Center for Disease Control), Valley Fever causes 15% to nearly 30% of community acquired pneumonias and time from contact until symptoms start is usually 1 to 3 weeks.

Symptoms such as fatigue, fever, headache, muscle aches, chills, sore throat, cough, and even weight loss or chest pain may occur.

If a case of Valley Fever becomes as serious as disseminated cocci, Dr. Brugman refers his patients to the dynamic infectious disease specialist, Dr. Gail Simpson.

Dr. Simpson tells me the organism that causes Valley Fever “is a dimorphic fungus and the spores can live in the soil for years and years until something stirs up the dust and puts it in the air”. She remembers a huge outbreak after the Moorpark fires when “even young, healthy people were in the I.C.U. (Intensive Care Unit) because the smoke causes stuff to sit in the air longer”.

Dr. Simpson reports she has seen a lot of cases since the Northridge earthquake in January 1994, “cocci just wasn’t that common before the earthquake, what happened is a lot of dirt from the cocci belt got redistributed all over the place”.

Valley Fever is not contagious and there is no medication to prevent it. Dr. Brugman’s advice for prevention, “if it’s dusty out, wear a mask, but it can’t be the cheap painter’s mask, it needs to be an N95 to filter out the dirt and particulate”. Good advice for anyone digging through the dirt and ash left by the Thomas Fires!

Arroyo Verde Park reopened
Continued from page 1
The work included removing burned debris, tree removal, trail repair and installing mitigation measures for rain events.

Breeze photographer Michael Gordon stated “This is a group of eagles on redwood trees I had not seen before. The fire burned up the trunks, but stopped at the Eagles. This group was hidden by brush until Thomas cleared the brush away.”

Certain areas of the park will be limited as City staff continue cleanup efforts in the fenced off sections: Interpretive Center, pump house, playground, and the burned slopes on both sides of the park.

The park is open daily from daybreak to 5:30pm until further notice; off leash dog park hours are from 6-9 am daily.



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Resource Conservation Partners - Restoration

by Jessica West

Beginning in 2009, RCP has been working with community members and organizations such as conservancy groups, state parks and local public agencies to protect and conserve our natural resources. They have several active restoration projects in Ventura County. These benefit the public in numerous ways such as improving water quality, increasing water availability, and reducing wildfire hazards. By reaching out to the community through volunteer activities, participating in community events and conducting workshops, RCP strives to promote awareness about the importance of habitat restoration and conservation within our community.

Jessica West is a Biologist with Resource Conservation Partners and Wildscape Restoration in Ventura. Jessica is a graduate of Humboldt State University with a B.S. in Wildlife Biology as well as a graduate of the Exotic Animal Training and Management curriculum from Moorpark College's "EATM" program. During college she practiced falconry with a red-tailed hawk and spent a summer in Yosemite National Park as a Bear Management Intern.

Hear her speak about saving our natural resources at 7:30 pm, March 13 at the Poinsettia Pavilion.

Habitat for Humanity ReStore offers \$200 vouchers

Habitat for Humanity's ReStore in Oxnard is offering vouchers valued at \$200 to households that lost their home in recent wildfires. The ReStore is a discount home improvement store selling furniture, building supplies and appliances with all proceeds supporting Habitat's mission to build homes, communities and hope.

To claim your voucher, please visit the Habitat for Humanity of Ventura County office at 1850 Eastman Ave., Oxnard. Families must be registered at <http://venturacountyrecovers.org/> before they receive their voucher.

This support is made possible from a \$5,000 grant from the Ventura County Community Foundation thanks to the generosity of local philanthropists.

Habitat for Humanity of Ventura County is a locally-run and locally-funded affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International. Over the past 33 years, 65 new home builds have provided homeownership opportunities for families in

need and hundreds of homes have been repaired, providing a safe, decent living environment for low income homeowners.

The Preserve a Home program partners with low-income homeowners to improve their living conditions through home repairs. At Habitat for Humanity, we believe that everyone, everywhere deserves a decent place to live. For Habitat's new home program, low income families are selected based on their need for housing, ability to repay an affordable mortgage, and willingness to partner with Habitat for Humanity.

We offer a "hand up," empowering families who are willing to work hard to achieve their dream of homeownership. Each Habitat for Humanity homeowner invests hundreds of hours to help build their home, and then purchases it with an affordable mortgage. Habitat currently has enough donated properties to build 30 decent homes for families in Ventura County.

For more information about Habitat for Humanity of Ventura County, visit <http://www.habitatventura.org> or call 485-6065, x 101

Property tax relief is on the way for Thomas Fire victims

Ventura County Assessor Dan Goodwin, Auditor Controller Jeff Burgh, and Treasurer-Tax Collector Steven Hintz have announced that reduced property tax bills or refunds will begin being mailed to fire victims. Staff from all three departments have been attending post-fire community meetings to answer questions, and appraisers have already inspected more than 3,000 properties.

The reduced bills or refunds of taxes previously paid are for Ventura County taxpayers whose Calamity Claims for property tax relief for property losses resulting from the Thomas Fire have been approved. The first batch of revised bills is scheduled to be mailed on this week. The bills will be mailed to the address submitted on the Calamity Claim form. Refunds will be made to the person who actually made the original payment.

"This is another example of how County agencies are working collaboratively to assist city and county residents who were affected by the Thomas Fire," said County Executive Officer Mike Powers. "Dan, Jeff and Steven promised taxpayers relief from this disaster on December 7, just three days after the fire started. And now, that relief is already arriving. This is an extraordinary effort and a thoughtful demonstration of how local government can respond to the urgent needs of its constituents."

For more information, contact: Steven Hintz, Treasurer-Tax Collector, 654-3744 www.ventura.org/ttc Dan Goodwin, Assessor, 654-2181 assessor.countyofventura.org Jeff Burgh, Auditor-Controller, 654-3152 www.ventura.org/auditor-controller

Ventura Strong

First responders to serve as Grand Marshal of St. Patrick's Day Parade

Ventura County's 30th annual St. Patrick's Day Parade will honor the men and women who heroically battled the devastating Thomas Fire, and those who assisted the fire victims.

First responders will serve as grand marshal of the parade, which begins at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 17, in front of Mission San Buenaventura on East Main Street in Ventura. The theme is "Ventura Strong."

"We are proud to have as our grand marshal those brave men and women who were the first responders," said Jim Monahan, co-chair of the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee. "We hope the whole county will come out on St. Patrick's Day to say thanks by lining Main Street with thank-you signs."

"This was a truly devastating event, to our entire community and beyond," said Monahan. "In addition to the two deaths, so many residents of Ventura and Santa Barbara counties lost everything they own. In Ventura alone, more than 500 structures were destroyed. And yet we know, it could have been much worse. We can't give enough thanks to those who fought back this crushing fire."

The parade will honor the multi-agency response from, among others, the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE), the Ventura County Fire Department, the Ventura County Sheriff's Office, the City of Ventura Fire Department and the Ventura Police Department.

Last year's parade drew over 90 entries, including floats sponsored by civic groups, nonprofits and local businesses and restaurants; marching bands; car clubs; horses; and clowns.

The Ventura County St. Patrick's Day Parade, which ends at Ash Street, is presented by the Ventura Elks Lodge No. 1430. The event's committee is accepting entries for this year's parade. For entry forms or more information, visit www.venturastpatricksdaysparade.com, contact Jim Monahan at jim.monahan@att.net or 643-4275, or email Nan Drake at nanodrake@aol.com.

Lawsuit filed against Socal Edison

Southern California based Wildfire Legal Group filed a lawsuit against SoCal Edison on behalf of 287 victims of the Thomas Fire. The lawsuit alleges that Edison is liable for negligently starting the fire, due to poor maintenance of electrical infrastructure and the surrounding vegetation. It further seeks to hold Edison responsible for the resulting mudslides that occurred in the wake of the Thomas Fire. The plaintiffs include homeowners, renters, business owners, ranchers, as well as avocado and citrus farms.

The lawsuit, which is not a class action, seeks to recover losses that are not covered by insurance (e.g., cherished family heirlooms), or that are under-insured (e.g., limited coverage for construction rebuild). The suit also seeks to recover damages for emotional harm, and personal injuries suffered in the Thomas Fire, and subsequent mudslides. Wildfire Legal Group is comprised of three Southern California wildfire litigation firms.

The lawsuit was filed in the Los Angeles Superior Court.

For more information about the filing or the case in general, call attorney Elliot Adler at 265-0076, or email elliott@wildfirelegalgroup.com.

VVCB launches new partnership with Utrip

The Ventura Visitors & Convention Bureau (VVCB) is excited to announce the launch of a new partnership with Utrip, the travel planning platform that combines the best of artificial intelligence and human experience. Utrip's state-of-the-art technology will enable Ventura visitors to create highly personalized itineraries for their trips to the region.

By combining advanced artificial intelligence with local expertise, the Utrip platform optimizes travel itineraries around a user's preferences, budget, and many other relevant factors. It can instantly sort through millions of combinations and present visitors with customized travel experiences based on their personal interests.

"We aim to ensure that visitors make the most of their time in Ventura and leave here wanting more," said VVCB President and CEO, Marlyss Auster. "Whether you're interested in art, music, food or our storied history, Ventura offers unforgettable experiences, and with Utrip's platform, we can provide travelers with the ability to personalize those experiences and discover what's best for them."

"It's our mission at Utrip to provide travelers with memorable, highly personalized travel experiences," said Gilad Berenstein, CEO and Founder of Utrip. "This latest partnership will enable Ventura visitors to be inspired by all of the area's incredible offerings and will allow VVCB to learn more about their visitors in order to build lasting relationships."

The experience can be found at trip.visitventuraca.com.

The Salvation Army focuses

Continued from page 1

projects in Montecito, with more than 100 lunches served on February 10 and 11.

Salvation Army Lieutenant Silvia Simoes stated "It was a blessing to see the support from our community during such a difficult time. I had the opportunity to share love and care with so many people in so many ways and we continue to be able to provide help to individuals each day."

The Salvation Army is asking the public for financial donations, which can be used to meet immediate challenges and specific needs. To donate, go to socal.salvationarmy.org or call 1-800-SAL-ARMY and donate to fire relief today.

Ventura Strong



Do you have a story to share?

Thomas Fire stories

CAPS Media is recording Thomas Fire Stories with the public, fire fighters, first responders and others who want to share their story. The extensive documentary project is a collaboration with Ventura City Fire and Police, Ventura County Fire, Sheriff, Office of Emergency Response and the Museum of Ventura County. The year-long, comprehensive project includes an ongoing series of television and radio archival interviews and recordings with first responders, individuals and families whose lives were dramatically changed the night of December 4th.

Recordings of Thomas Fire Stories are being scheduled at locations throughout the county including the Museum of Ventura County, EP Foster Library, the Ojai Museum, the Agriculture Museum in Santa Paula and CAPS Media Center in Ventura. The public is invited and encouraged to share their story. Each recording will be conducted by CAPS Media producers and is expected to last 15-20 minutes. Selected stories will air on CAPS Television and CAPS Radio KPPQ 104.1 FM, and will stream on capsmedia.org. Visit capsmedia.org to find a convenient day and time to record your story and add it to the museum's historic archive.

If you have photos or video to contribute to the legacy, CAPS Media has set up a simple process for the public to share recordings of the Thomas Fire for the historic project. Go to the CAPS Media website homepage (capsmedia.org) and click on the Read More arrow on the lower right corner of the Thomas Fires Stories image. 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 share, send an email to thomasfirestories@capsmedia.org or call the CAPS Media Center at 805.658.0500.

Season 3 of Mayor for a Moment is in full swing. The program is a collaboration with the City of Ventura, the Ventura Unified School District and CAPS Media. Each month an outstanding 5th grader is selected by the individual elementary schools. The "young mayor" is invited to gavel the start of a City Council meeting and present an essay on a leadership topic to the council and community. CAPS Media produces a profile on each young mayor that is shown at the council meeting and at the VUSD board meeting. Honorees thus far this school year are Braydon Rocco (Portola), Olivia Blomquist (Poinset-

tia), Allison Cabeza (Citrus Glen) and Isabella Coleman (Sunset). Congratulations to all the young mayors.

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 this month on the 5th week. In every training session Member/Producers receive hands-on instruction in videography, video editing, radio production and more. All classes begin at 6pm at the CAPS Media Center, 65 Day Road. Once trained, member/producers may check out CAPS Media's video cameras, tripods, audio gear and other production equipment to record their story and then book postproduction editing suites to craft the story they want to tell. Go to capsmedia.org for information or call 658-0500. [wc 565]



John Masterson (1935-2018)

John spent 18 years as a Trustee of the Community Memorial Hospital. He was Chairman of the Community Memorial Hospital Benefactors and an Executive Board member Community Memorial Health Care Foundation. John joined the staff of Community Memorial Hospital in 1992 as Vice President Community Relations. He remained for 25 years retiring at the age of 81.

Continued on page 12

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News & Notes



Scenes from the Art Festival.

Art festival supported fire-flood victims

The Ventura Unified School District Office was the site of the Thomas Arts Festival, an art auction and benefit featuring music and performing arts created to assist those rebuilding their lives as a result of the Thomas fires and flood. The event took place on Saturday, February 17.

The event showcased the creative work of local and surrounding artists that raised funds. Featured was a family art space for parents, care givers and children to come together and create art. Live performances by musicians and other performing artists occurred throughout the afternoon.

Moorpark's Greg Gillis-Smith is a construction project manager, a former space mechanism engineer for NASA, and an unsung hero of the Thomas Fire. Greg started a Facebook group called Thomas Fire Info. The Facebook group grew to nearly 22,000 members.

Dozens of artists, musicians, photographers and performers lost their homes, their studios or both to the fires and floods. Other artists wanted to help, and Gillis-Smith was inspired to create the Thomas Arts Festival as a way to bring communities together in support of the arts.

He said "Our community is filled with artists expressing many art forms, yet hundreds of neighbors suffered tremendous loss due to the recent fires

and flood. Many of these people do not fit in the constructs of society because they focus on creativity and helping others and therefore may not qualify for traditional assistance. I wanted to share my most heart-felt appreciation for all those who helped produce the Thomas Arts Festival, those who donated art and money, and all those who attended. This event could not have happened without everyone's support. The greatest impact, though, may be the relationships and community we are creating through the production of the event."

Ariel Palmieri, a Ventura County resident, real estate agent, wife and mother of school-aged kids was instrumental in organizing and publicizing the event. She has a background in PR and wanted to use that experience to raise awareness about the event.

She stated "During the fire and its aftermath, I wanted to help my friends, neighbors and others who suffered losses of their homes. I used my presence on social media and connections with business owners to create an in-home free boutique with clothing and other items so people could immediately restock their wardrobes. When Greg decided to create an arts festival, I wanted to use that same energy that was inspired by helping make life a little easier for those who suffered losses to produce and promote the Festival."



Genevieve Basso, award recipient and Gary Wilde, CEO at "Volunteers Make the World a Brighter Place." Photo by Pierre Silva.

Auxiliary Awards Luncheon

by Marilyn Beal
Auxiliary Publication's Chair

On February 2, Community Memorial Hospital's Auxiliary held their annual awards luncheon at the Four Points Sheraton Ventura Harbor Resort. The theme of the luncheon was "Volunteers Make the World a Brighter Place." Linda McNutt and her committee selected a perfect theme which was evident as volunteers received their hours and service awards.

Fifty four volunteers received "Hours Awards" ranging from 100 hours to 12,000 hours. Judy Miller's years of commitment were evident in the 22,000 hours award she received. Six volunteers received 20 year "Service Awards." Judith Eldeb has served 30 years, Pat Utter 45 years, and Genevieve Basso received an award for her 50 years of service. The world is indeed a brighter place because of the dedication shown by these volunteers.

CMH's Auxiliary not only gives of its time and talents, it also gives a yearly monetary donation to the hospital. At this year's luncheon, president Edie Marshall and treasurer Norma Nick Taylor presented a check for \$90,000 to CMH's CEO, Gary Wilde to be used to help with the completion of the new hospital.

Auxiliary president, Edie Marshall stated, "I am very proud of all of our Auxiliary members. They serve the hospital in many ways and in many areas, and do so because they love helping others who need care while in the hospital. We would welcome any others who would like to join us in serving CMH as an Auxiliary member."



Both sides of the 101 Freeway were initially shut down.

Suspected rapist dies of self-inflicted poisoning

On February 21, at approximately 7:30 a.m., CHP was notified by the Los Angeles Police

Department of a possible rape suspect in the Oxnard area. The incident began when a check of a vehicle in Oxnard came back with information that the car belonged to the rape suspect, believed to be a 35-year-old man from Camarillo.

At 7:35 a.m., CHP units located the suspected vehicle, a black Nissan Versa going northbound on US 101 at Vineyard Ave. CHP units initiated an enforcement stop on this vehicle at Oxnard Blvd. The Nissan failed to yield and continued northbound on US 101.

While still driving northbound CHP Officers observed the vehicle begin to yield to the right shoulder on the US 101 and then began drifting to the left, across all lanes of traffic and came to a stop in the center median, north of Seaward Ave.

At some point during the pursuit, officers believe the suspect began to drink some sort of liquid which turned

Continued on page 21



On Feb. 11 Fox Fine Jewelry presented a special Ventura Botanical Garden event celebrating the Ventura Botanical Gardens. Joe Cabill, Executive Director of VBG and Debbie Fox proudly displayed the Ventura Botanical Gardens' new Welcome Center design that uses containers in a series of elevated pavilions. The design is not only green, it is a beautiful use of space, creating inviting outdoor learning and event areas between the buildings.



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News & Notes



Eric Harrison, President & CEO of United Way of Ventura County was a recent guest on the radio show Face of Ventura on FM station KPPQLP hosted by Publisher Brown.

United Way Thomas Fire and Flood Fund grows to more than \$3.7 million

Disaster victims can apply for the next phase of relief funding through the United Way Thomas Fire and Flood Fund, which has grown to more than \$3.7 million. Through April 30, United Way of Ventura County (UWVC) will be releasing as much as \$1.5 million from the fund for individual hardship assistance. Until March 15, application forms for victims will be available at vcunitedway.org or 211ventura.org. Applicants can also call 2-1-1 or text “ThomasFire” to 898-211 to find out more. Local partnering agencies will assess each applicant’s needs and eligibility. “The outpouring of support has been incredible, and we’re so proud to be able to get these funds out to help residents who have lost so much,” said Eric Harrison, President & CEO of United Way of Ventura County. “We have a long way to go to rebuild our community, but nobody is in it alone. Whether you lost a home, income, or have been impacted in another way, I encourage you to give 2-1-1 a call and learn more about the resources that are being extended.”

Eligible applicants for individual hardship assistance must be Ventura County residents.. Eligibility will be based on household income limits, determined by family size of 120% AMI or less. Funds will support residents in expenses related to housing, livelihood/income and habitability of their homes. The United Way Thomas Fire and Flood Fund recently grew thanks to a \$100,000 gift from AT&T and \$150,000 from Bank of America. To provide immediate assistance in December from the fund, \$500 prepaid credit cards went out to up to 1,000 residents whose homes were destroyed by the Thomas Fire. United Way of Ventura County and United Way of Santa Barbara County formed a strategic partnership vital in helping the community recover from the Thomas Fire. The fund was later expanded to also assist flood victims and \$500,000 was given for assistance in Santa Barbara County. Further information and to donate: Online at www.unitedwaythomas-



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By phone or mail: call 485-6288 or checks may be sent to the United Way office at 702 County Square Drive, Suite 100, Ventura, CA 93003. Please write “Thomas Fire Fund” in the memo.



Each class culminates with a final presentation of the students’ work.

Classes provide opportunities for participants to think creatively

Enrollment is now open for spring acting classes at Rubicon Theatre Company for adults and children ages 5 and older. Classes will be taught by Rubicon Associate Artistic Director Brian McDonald, an award-winning professional actor and director and graduate of Boston Conservatory, whose credits

include national tours and work with prestigious regional theatre companies. McDonald heads Rubicon’s Education and Outreach programs and is has directed numerous summer and main stage productions. Brian McDonald recently starred in the acclaimed one-man show Buyer & Cellar at the Rubicon Theatre. These process-oriented programs consist of vocal, physical and mental exercises; character analysis and development; scene study; theatre games, improvisation and audition technique. Classes provide opportunities for participants to think creatively and open themselves to new ideas and modes of expression. Each class culminates with a final presentation of the students’ work for family and friends. Says McDonald, “We limit our class size in order to provide individual attention a nurturing environment where participants are able to participate and grow at their own pace.” Costs range from \$180-\$240. And are divided into:
Acting (Ages 5-7): March 10 – April 14, Tuition: \$180.
Acting (Ages 8-12): March 10 – April 14, Tuition: \$200
Acting (Ages 13-18): March 5 – April 9, Tuition: \$220
Acting (Ages 19+): March 5 – April 9, Tuition: \$240
To learn more about the classes and to register please visit the Education and Outreach section at www.rubicontheatre.org. Or call 667-2912 ext. 234 for assistance.

THOMAS FIRE OUR STORY

Help us remember and document our common Experience

The Museum of Ventura County and CAPS Media invite you to share photos, videos, artifacts and personal stories that capture the most devastating natural tragedy in county history.

Visit capsmedia.org to upload video content.
Email your stories or digital images to: thomasfire@venturamuseum.org





Photos: Broc Ellinger

Over the next few weeks CAPS Media and the Museum of Ventura County are recording personal Thomas Fire Stories shared by first responders, officials and the public impacted by the fire. The recording sessions will take place in locations throughout the county including Santa Paula, Ventura’s Northside, Ventura’s Westside and Ojai. Visit venturamuseum.org or capsmedia.org for schedules. Find a convenient day and time to record your story and add it to the museum’s historic archive. Selected stories will air on CAPS Television and Radio, and stream on capsmedia.org.

Photo: Nicole Noren

News & Notes



Dr. Greg Gillespie Chancellor Ventura County Community College District congratulating Maiya Rodriguez.

Ventura College making news

The Board of Trustees granted tenure to 25 faculty members across the three community college campuses - Moorpark, Oxnard, and Ventura Colleges during the February 20 Board of Trustees Meeting. Faculty members receiving tenure represented various academic disciplines including Automotive Technology, Earth Science, Music, Anthropology and Fire Technology. By receiving tenure the faculty are now permanent employees.

From Ventura College they are Chloe Branciforte, Earth Science; Jennifer Garner, Biological Sciences; John Guelcher, English; Eric Irwin, Automotive Technology; Maria L. Reyes-Sanchez, Counseling; and

Lauren Wintermeyer, Counseling.

“Congratulations to newly tenured faculty. Our faculty change students’ lives through their dedication to education and personal growth and we are proud to recognize this milestone in a professor’s career,” offered Board Chair Art Hernandez.

The Ventura County Community College District Board of Trustees acknowledged and congratulated four 2018 Classified Employee of the Year nominees. These individuals achieved the respect and commendation of their peers and represent the best of the Classified Service throughout the District in service to students and the community.

Maiya Rodriguez from Ventura College. For more than 26 years, Maiya Rodriguez, has served Ventura College students as a bilingual Student Services Assistant. She inspires and guides students, families, and community members, assisting a legion of students over the years to matriculate to college. Maiya’s expertise and knowledge of the community and Ventura College has created a lasting impact with numerous students who return to her years later with gratitude, bringing their children, the next generation, to enroll at Ventura College. A Santa Paula native and VC alum, Maiya’s dedication to Ventura College East Campus goes above and beyond in serving the students, faculty, and community members in the Santa Clara River Valley. Maiya exemplifies commitment and service in implementing the philosophy and mission of Ventura College.



Joshua Rance was a previous \$5,000 scholarship recipient.

Dee Dowell Memorial Scholarship Award

The Ventura Police Officers Association (VPOA) is accepting applications for the 15th annual Dee Dowell Memorial Scholarship. The scholarships will be presented in May, 2018 to honor Sergeant Darlon “Dee” Dowell, who was shot and killed on August 7, 1978. Sergeant Dowell is the only officer in Ventura’s history to die in the line of duty.

In selecting scholarship recipients, the VPOA will consider academic achievement, school and community service, and financial needs. Applications must contain all required information and be returned no later than April 13. Incomplete applications will not be considered.

Scholarship Awards:
1st Place \$5,000.00
2nd Place \$3,500.00
3rd Place \$2,000.00
Honorable Mention(s) \$500.00

Applicants must:
Be entering his/her freshman through senior year in college;
Plan a course of study related to the field of public service;
Ventura resident or have graduated from a high school in Ventura within the past three years, or a Ventura Police Department employee or employee’s child.
Have a grade point average of 3.0 or better (based on a 4.0 system);

Maintain a grade point average of 3.0 or better if selected as a recipient;
Submit a resume of school and community activities, including a copy of transcripts through the most recent semester;
Submit a typed essay of 1000 words or less on “Leadership, what it means to me”;
Submit a letter of recommendation from a public servant.

For additional information please contact Ofc. Mike Hibdon at 339-4443 or mhibdon@venturapd.org. Applications are available at the front desk of the Ventura Police Department (located at 1425 Dowell Dr. named after Officer Dowell).

John Masterson (1935 - 2018)

Continued from page 9

His accomplishments were very many. These are just a very few of them.

He was President and Founding Member of the El Cien Dance Club and served on the Ventura Grand Jury in 1969. He was a founding member of the Ventura College foundation and was deeply involved with local school sports serving as President of the Ventura College Booster Club, Chairman of the Ventura County Stanford Buck club and founding member of the St Bonaventure Booster Club. He was a great supporter of the Ventura Boys and Girls club and he was a member of the Ventura Boy Scouts council.

John was also a published writer. He wrote a column for the Star Free Press “Wheels” section for 10 years winning “Best Business Column” from The L.A. Press Club in 1993. He was a member of the Greater Los Angeles Press Club and the Motor Press Guild and contributed pieces to various automotive publications. In addition, he wrote an occasional piece for the Santa Paula Times on the theater called “Masterson on Stage”. He was a Board member of the Santa Paula Theater Center.

John pursued his love of the theater, appearing on stage in over 25 productions in Ventura, Santa Paula and Camarillo. He was versatile - taking parts in musicals, drama and comedies. It didn’t matter if he was the lead or in the supporting cast.

John produced the weekly Western Automotive Consultant (WAC) report. He was Executive Director of the Ventura Auto Mall Dealers Association and spent 5 years on KVTa radio hosting “Auto-Talk” with Ross Olney as his partner.

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Pull Out Section



Joyce Sos of Oxnard works on one of the 1,000 quilts that Ventura Modern Quilt Guild will be donating to the Thomas Fire and mudslide victims.

Quilts from the ashes

by Lori Harasta

When the Thomas Fire demolished more than 750 homes in Ventura and surrounding cities, it did not take long for the Ventura Modern Quilt Guild (VMQG) to dream up a plan to help bring comfort and solace to families who had lost so much. On December 11, they determined to make quilts for all of them. When the Montecito mudslides destroyed more homes, the goal grew from 750 quilts to 1,000.

To accomplish this, their one-weekend-a-month “Sew-ins” at Grace Lutheran Church in Ventura needed to quadruple. They looked for a place where they could hold consecutive weekend quilting sessions. Quilter Barbara Lewis reached out to her employer, Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurse Association. Space was found, and a temporary solution was achieved.

“It takes 40-50 hours to complete a quilt,” stated Tisha Maeda, President of VQMG. While the Guild is 54 members strong, they understood it would take more hands to complete the goal of 1,000 quilts in a timely manner. They appealed through their network and received fabric, blocks, tops, and finished quilts from quilters from 49 states and from countries as far away as New Zealand. As of this writing, more than 350 quilts have been completed and distributed.

Scott Griffin, Vice President of Ventura Modern Quilt Guild said they were not prepared for the tremendous outpouring

of love and support. “The response is both gratifying and humbling. We always knew quilters were generous people and here is proof....If only everyone in the world were quilters, it would be a much better place...”

The Quilt Guild’s first imperative was to give quilts to foster children who were displaced by the fire. A thank you note, dated February 6, was from one of those children: “Dear Quilters, Thank you for the three quilts. My brother slept with his last night. We love them. They keep us warm in our trailer. My sister loves the birdcage on the back.”

A gentleman who had received a quilt came one weekend to Livingston to thank the Guild. “I feel as if many warm hands are surrounding me. Thank you!”

If you would like more information on the work of the Ventura Modern Quilt Guild, check out their website: venturamodern-quiltguild.com

Senior News Line

Stuck indoors? Try photography

by Matilda Charles

The most fun I’ve had this winter is studying digital photography as I stay

Continued on page 16



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Presented by
Norma Featherston, R.N., M.S.
Geriatric Care Consultant

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Senior News Line

Scammers at the door

by Matilda Charles

The guy who showed up today came to the wrong door: mine. I pegged him for a scammer before he even said a word. And I was right. The only thing I didn't know was what kind of scam it was.

Turned out it was utilities. The guy claimed he was at the door at the request of my electric company to update my records. Then he said he only needed to scan my previous utility bill.

Wrong. I'd read about these guys.

First, I knew that my electric company didn't send him. Second, if I'd showed him my bill, he would have

had my name and account number and would know what rate I pay.

The scam works like this: With all that information, they would offer me a ridiculously low rate. If I signed up, before I knew it, my electric bill would have gone up 400 percent. I'd be locked into a contract and would have to pay a lot of money to get out of it. If I didn't pay, they would send the bill to a collection agency, and it would show up on my credit report. So I shut the door in his face.

This particular scammer has a long history in other states, and there are class-action suits and investigations. They've targeted seniors, saying the local utility company had changed names and new information is needed, falsified signatures to sign up, come to the door again and again, misrepresented who they worked for, lied about rates and

Senior Living

much, much more.

If someone shows up at your door with a clipboard and a photo ID hanging from their neck, it's probably a scammer. If they ask for any information, it's probably a scammer. Just shut the door.



"Grandma I hope that you have planned early and wisely."

Women's history and social security

by Essie Landry
Social Security Public Affairs Specialist in Sierra West Area

March is Women's History Month. This is a time to focus not just on women's achievements, but on the challenges women continue to face. In the 21st century, more women work, pay Social Security taxes, and earn credit toward monthly retirement income than at any other time in our nation's history. Knowing this, you can take control of your own rich and independent history, with knowledge you can get from Social Security.

Social Security has served a vital role in the lives of women for over 80 years. With longer life expectancies than men, women tend to live more years in retirement and have a greater chance of exhausting other sources of income. With the national average life expectancy for women in the United States rising, many women may have decades to enjoy retirement. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, a female born today can expect to live more than 80 years. As a result, experts generally agree that if women want to ensure that their retirement years are comfortable, they need to plan early and wisely.

A great place to start is with Social Security's Retirement Estimator. It gives you a personalized estimate of your retirement benefits. Plug in different retirement ages and projected earnings to get an idea of how such things might

change your future benefit amounts. You can use this valuable tool at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/estimator>.

You should also visit Social Security's financial planning website at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/planners>. It provides detailed information about how marriage, widowhood, divorce, self-employment, government service, and other life or career events can affect your Social Security.

Your benefits are based on your earnings, so you should create your personal my Social Security account to verify that your earnings were reported correctly. Your account also can provide estimates of your future retirement, disability, and survivors benefits. You can access my Social Security at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

If you want more information about how Social Security supports women through life's journey, Social Security has a booklet that you may find useful. It's called Social Security: What Every Woman Should Know. You can find it online at <http://www.socialsecurity.gov/pubs/10127.html>.



"Wonderful that we get discounts!"

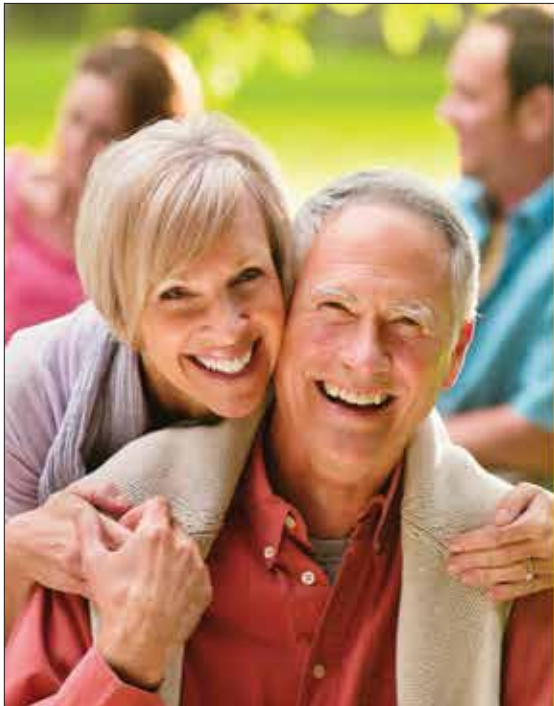
Senior discounts for the asking

by Jennifer Tipton

When I first started to research this, I came across one source that listed a senior as anyone over 50 and I thought – what??? Be aware that different sources will have different age specifications when it comes to what qualifies you for a senior discount and many don't offer it, you must ask.

Here are some discounts seniors can get in 2018, but only if they know to ask for them.

Cruise Deals - Cruise lines offer a variety of discounts for those over age 55, many are all inclusive with food, drink and entertainment included in the price.





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Destinations range from the Caribbean to Alaska and there are also “mini” cruises but check with the specific cruise company as not all have the discounts.

Dining Out - Many restaurants offer senior discounts, but again, you’ll need to ask because most won’t tell you. The list is quite long from burgers to steaks and some of these deals are for “early bird” dining - who decided that just because you’re getting older, you like to eat at 4:00?

Groceries - As a matter of fact, there are even discounts available when dining IN. From what I can see, these deals are limited to just a few markets, but it never hurts to ask!

Prescriptions - As we age, many need to take some type of medication and the cost of prescriptions can really add up! There are discounts at the pharmacy section of many retail stores and in addition, some pharmaceutical companies will send a discount card to those that ask.

Shopping - I was surprised to learn how many clothing stores offer senior discounts! One place (that sounds like something you might slice on top of your cereal) offers anyone over 50 a 10% discount any day of the week, just for the asking and another offers those over 60 a 15% discount on Wednesdays, there are also online shopping discounts.

Hotels - This one also had quite a list of participating businesses and discounts varied from 10% off to 50% off starting as low as age 56.

Movie Theaters - There’s nothing like a movie on the big screen and some theaters offer up to a 30% discount for those over 60 and others offer discounts at the snack bar because let’s face it, sometimes the popcorn costs more than the movie...

Amusement Parks - Although the rollercoaster may not be on your list for adventure these days, there is much to see and do at amusement parks and many offer discounts on one day tickets as well as season passes.

National Parks - Seniors can use their age advantage to score a serious discount at America’s National Parks, some offer an annual pass for \$20 or a lifetime pass for \$80 giving you access to about 2,000 recreation sites including National Forests and grasslands.

In addition, there are discounts for Airfare and Dental Care. But you must remember to say, “Do you offer a senior discount?”

On the flip side of all this, I recently turned 60 and as I questioned the price of an item at a fast food joint (I don’t eat fast food often - honest!), the guy offered me a senior discount, I didn’t even have to ask for it! I’m still not sure how I feel about that

their function, researchers hope to identify biomarkers of disease progression, well before it advances to late-stage disease and causes vision loss. AMD is the leading cause of vision impairment and blindness among people age 50 and older in the United States.

People with early AMD typically do not have daylight vision loss. As it progresses, AMD causes cells to die in the retina, the light-sensitive tissue at the back of the eye. Much of the damage occurs in the macula, an area of the retina responsible for sharp, central vision.

Only about 10 to 20 percent of people with early AMD progress to late-stage disease within five years. It is difficult to predict who will progress because AMD is a complex, multifactorial disease influenced by a combination of age, family history, genetic and health behavioral factors. A diet rich in green leafy vegetables and fish, for example, may reduce the risk, while smoking cigarettes increases it.

The AMD Ryan Initiative Study (ARIS) will track the eye health of 200 people who have bilateral early AMD, defined by the presence of medium-size drusen, yellowish deposits that accumulate under the retina. In addition, ARIS will include 200 people with early, reticular pseudodrusen, a type of lesion that causes the retina to have a giraffe-like macular pattern.

All participants will undergo routine spectral domain optical coherence tomography (SD-OCT), a type of imaging that shows high-resolution, cross-sectional views of the retina. SD-OCT is sensitive enough to detect even small changes in the volume of drusen over time.

Researchers at each of the 20 ARIS study sites will track drusen volume changes as well as other findings on SD-OCT to see if they correspond to functional changes in visual acuity and dark adaptation.

Ideally, the investigators would like to complement their studies by analyzing the participants’ DNA to look for correlations between genes and AMD progression. In total, scientists have so far identified 52 independent genetic variants associated with AMD. Further research is needed to determine if and how these variants influence the development and progression of the disease.

The study is named after the late Stephen J. Ryan, M.D., a widely recognized expert in retinal disease and president of the Doheny Eye Institute, an independent non-profit institution supporting ophthalmic research, training and clinical care. The Stephen J. Ryan Initiative for Macular Research is an interdisciplinary program at the Doheny Eye Institute that supports the ARIS investigation.

For more information or to enroll in ARIS, visit clinicaltrials.gov and search for NCT03092492.

New attitude towards aging

by Robert Stewart
Facilitator

The words “Anti-Aging” are falling out of favor and being replaced with celebrating and embracing “Growing Older”.

Continued on page 16



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NIH launches international study of AMD progression

A new clinical study led by the National Eye Institute (NEI), part of the National Institutes of Health, will follow 500 people over five years to learn more about the natural history of early age-related macular degeneration (AMD). By using the latest technologies to visualize structures within the eye and measure

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Senior Living



Norma Featherston, R.N., M.S. Gerontology, will be the guest speaker for the Dementia 101 seminar at Cypress. Photo by Michael Gordon.

Dementia 101 Seminar: what you need to know

by Mike Macke

Senior Director of Sales & Marketing,
Cypress Place Senior Living

According to the Alzheimer's Association website, more than 5 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's, and by 2050 this number could reach as high as 16 million. These numbers are staggering, but according to one local expert, these numbers don't tell the whole story.

Alzheimer's affects one person at a time. But the consequences ripple out and affect family members, members of the surrounding community, and ultimately our society as a whole according to Norma

Featherston, R.N., M.S., Gerontology. Featherston is a geriatric care consultant, and guest speaker for the seminar titled, Dementia 101 – "What You Need To Know".

"My husband was diagnosed at age twenty eight with primary progressive Multiple Sclerosis, in which the end result is dementia," said Featherston. "The problem was this was not documented until much later, so I received little help from doctors at the time," she said.

She finally acknowledged her husband's signs of dementia – personality changes, poor driving habits, lack of judgment, opting for unsafe offers to make money, spending money and running up credit cards – when she discovered he had not paid income taxes for several years.

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

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

The free Dementia 101 seminar takes place from 10a.m. to 11:30a.m. on Saturday March 10, at Cypress Place Senior Living in Ventura and is open to the public. A variety of important topics regarding dementia will be covered including: what is it, what to expect, practical tips and strategies for everyday use, and information on exciting breakthrough research and what it means for you.

Join us for this important presentation by a specialist and learn vital information for loved ones and those you care for. Light refreshments will be served. Seating is limited so please call to reserve a seat. To

RSVP, please call 650-8000.

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

Stuck indoors?

Continued from page 13

home avoiding the cold weather, and the flu and crowds. Setting up indoor studios, experimenting with lighting on vintage glassware and corralling the pets for a photo shoot -- it's been a great way to develop a new hobby.

Why photography? It can strengthen our memory as we need to remember settings and pay attention to composition. It can give us pleasure and raise self-esteem as we (and others) appreciate our results. Photography is art, and it awakens our creativity. Best of all, for now, it can be done indoors.

If you want to step up from snapping pics with a cellphone, try taking a free online photography course to get ideas about what kind of camera you might want. Explore one of the free online classes through Harvard Extension School, or check YouTube. Focus on those that produce pictures that are most attractive to you. Call your local camera store and ask for recommendations about classes and cameras.

Go online and look for "Digital Photography for Seniors for Dummies," by Mark Justice Hinton, or other photography books for seniors. You'll learn how to select photo equipment in your price range, set up shots, handle light and more.

If you need to buy a camera, do you want a big camera or a small one? You can find excellent compact point-and-shoot cameras that will fit in your pocket for a few hundred dollars. If you

want a bigger Digital Single-Lens Reflex (DSLR) camera, learn what different lens can do.

Explore stock photography websites to get ideas for indoor photography you can do now. By the time warm weather returns, you'll be ready to go outdoors with your new skills.

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New attitude toward aging

Continued from page 15

A pro-aging movement is taking hold in Ventura. In 2014 a small group of men gathered together to share with each other, in a confidential environment, what they are experiencing as we age. Women are good at gathering and sharing their life's experiences. Men on the other hand are more willing to get together for common interest such as sports, work related projects, or just BS-ing. Now that we are ageing, we are slowing down and spending time evaluating our life experiences. There seems to be more interest in discovering who we really are as we travel down this narrowing road of life. As we grow older there is more emphasis on "what is the meaning of life?"

Through the years the men's group has grown to 17 members, age ranges from 65 to 89 and continues to attract new members. In 2017 we adopted a name for our group: YOG which means "Young Old Guys". We meet two times a month over lunch and discuss various topics such as relationship changes, loneliness, regrets, health issues, how to create more happiness and joy in our life.

As Winston Churchill said "Life can either be accepted or changed, if it is not accepted, it must be changed, if it cannot be changed, then it must be accepted".

For more information 644 5598 or email rmstewart1934@gmail.com.

News & Notes

American Red Cross of Ventura County

During Red Cross Month in March, the American Red Cross encourages eligible donors to join in its lifesaving mission by giving blood.

Since 1943, every U.S. president has designated March as Red Cross Month to recognize how the Red Cross helps people across the country and around the world. Red Cross Month is a celebration of supporters, who are the face of the Red Cross in their communities and bring hope to people facing emergencies.

The Red Cross depends on blood donor heroes across the nation to collect enough blood to meet the needs of patients at approximately 2,600 hospitals nationwide. Donors of all blood types, especially type O, are needed to help those rely on blood products.

Make an appointment to become a hero to patients in need by downloading the free Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting redcrossblood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Blood donation in Ventura March 3 8:15 a.m. - 2:15 p.m., Ventura High School, 2 North Catalina.

Another way to support the

lifesaving mission of the American Red Cross is to become a volunteer transportation specialist and deliver lifesaving blood products to local area hospitals. Volunteer transportation specialists play a very important role in ensuring an ample blood supply for patients in need by transporting blood and blood products. For more information and to apply for a volunteer transportation specialist position, visit rdcrss.org/driver.

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit redcross.org or cruzrojaamericana.org, or visit us on Twitter at @RedCross.

The American Red Cross of Ventura County announces the kickoff of its third annual Operation: Ride for the Red cycling event. The ride will take place on Saturday, May 19, and all proceeds will support the organization, which helps members of the military, veterans, and their families prepare for, cope with and respond to

the challenges of military service.

There will be three rides going through Ventura County. Each registered rider will receive a rider bag with several free items. All active and retired veterans will ride for free.

Event participants are also encouraged to reach out to friends, family and supporters to help raise additional funds for the Red Cross Service to the Armed Forces (SAF) program.

The Red Cross is able to help local military families thanks to the generosity of donors who support the SAF program. This year's Operation: Ride for Red sponsors include California Resources Corporation (CRC), Wells Fargo, Premier America Credit Union, and Capital Insurance Group (CIG), in addition to many generous in-kind donors.

Operation: Ride for the Red was created by passionate, local volunteers eager to share the story and history of the Red Cross SAF program. Since 9/11, the Red Cross has served more than one million military families, and it is the only military service organization that supports military families from the day they enlist through their time as a veteran.

Register to ride, make a donation, or learn more about sponsorship opportunities at <http://www.redcross.org/local/california/central-california/ride-for-the-red>.

Ventura County Grand Jury announces open house

On Thursday, March 15, the Grand Jury will host an open house for prospective jurors and interested members of the Ventura County community. Please join the current Grand Jury along with public officials from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. in the Grand Jury Chambers at 646 County Square Dr.

An all-volunteer group, the Grand Jury investigates selected complaints that have been initiated by the public. After investigating these complaints, the Grand Jury issues written reports which include facts, conclusions, and recommendations.

Basic requirements to qualify for service are: you must be a citizen of the United States, 18 years of age, a resident of Ventura County for at least one year prior to being seated, and have sufficient knowledge of English to conduct jury business. Basic computer skills are desirable.

All eligible residents of the Ventura County community are encouraged to apply.

Applications are available online at the Grand Jury website www.ventura.org/grand-jury, or by calling 477-1600. Applications will be accepted until April 15/2018.

News & Notes

Person to Person

by Jennifer Tipton

What have the Thomas Fires taught us? Do you have an evacuation plan and what would be the top 3 items you'd grab?



Barbara Bean, age 88, retired teacher
“Oh yes, I have an evacuation plan and a little bag packed because I was evacuated at 2:30 that night and was I prepared at the time? ... no!”
What would be the top 3 items you'd grab?
“I would grab shoes, a change of clothes and my purse, because a woman has everything in her purse!”



Gayane Sarkissyan, age 41, personal banker
“For me honestly, what it taught us is not to complain about the little things in life, knowing that so many people lost everything. Do I have an evacuation plan? I do not, I should though!
I would grab my purse and my daughter, but my boyfriend's a big guy so he's just too much to carry ... that's really it, everything else is replaceable.”



Marc Thompson, age 51, systems administrator
“Most definitely, I think far too many people were unprepared for it. Do we have an evacuation plan? We do! Because of the fires we were under voluntary evacuation and we grabbed the kid, the dogs, a suitcase each and some pictures. You can always go to a bank outside of town and find shelter somewhere else, but without your family, you're pretty much lost!”



Greg Jordan age, 40, school counselor with daughter Tohpia age 4 (turns 5 in March – Happy Birthday Tohpia!)
“It's definitely showed us the necessity to be prepared. In school, we actually did a presentation discussing preparedness a couple of months before the fires and then lo and behold! Our family did evacuate but were we prepared? ... no! I grabbed some legal stuff, the computer and Tohpia grabbed her little treasure box filled with family heirlooms, there's a locket with her great grandma's picture in it.” “And my vitamins!” Tohpia added.



Al Villegas, age 81, retired from Vons with his wife, Anita, age 76
“I've heard so many stories, I heard when the fire broke out there wasn't enough water on the hill, a plumber friend told me if the neighborhood was old, the city didn't want to cause any problems by putting in a higher-pressure system, so it really isn't the city's fault.”
Do you have an evacuation plan?
“No, not really, but we did think about it.”
Anita adds, “we do have a lot of stuff in the garage, like water etc., but in an emergency, how are you going to get in the garage?”
What are the top 3 items you'd grab? They thought together... “our cell phones so we can call our kids, maybe some important papers and each other.”



Angie Henry, age 41, teacher
“I want to say yes, I'm hoping people will start doing more for themselves and their families as far as emergency preparedness. We had earthquake supply kits in place before the fires and I think that would've helped us, now our family does have an evacuation plan and we've discussed a meeting place with our kids. The top 3 things I'd grab? ... photos, cats and clothes.”

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Home Upgrade Program rebates are once again available

Utility rebates that have assisted many homeowners in replacing old, inefficient heaters, install proper insulation and other overlooked, home energy efficiency projects are once again available for 2018.

Ventura County's emPower program is partnering with local utility companies to offer the Home Upgrade Program rebates, along with access to qualified local contractors, free home energy consultations and low-interest, unsecured financing that starts at 3.9%.

“The utilities have been an amazing partner in helping put many great projects within the grasp of homeowners,” said Leigh Lain Walker, emPower Program Specialist. “While they are limited, reserving a rebate is pretty simple and it's among the first steps on the road to creating a more comfortable home that wastes fewer resources.”

Pacific Gas and Electric, Southern California Gas Company and Southern California Edison exhausted their Home Upgrade Program rebates earlier than expected in 2017 but are now offering a limited amount of rebates for 2018. The rebates are designed to reduce the cost of home energy efficiency projects and help local homeowner's complete energy-efficiency projects that include heating,

cooling, windows, water or insulation.

emPower financing is available to homeowners that access the utility rebates and is typically less expensive than other types of financing. emPower loans can be spread out over 15 years. By combining rebates and low-interest financing, homeowners can not only reduce upfront costs but also keep monthly loan payments low. The result from these types of projects are more energy efficient, healthy and comfortable homes.

Homeowners can find out more about available rebates of up to \$5,500 and how to reserve them by contacting emPower Central Coast (<https://www.empowersbc.org/contact-us-get-started>) and scheduling a free home energy consultation with an emPower Energy Coach. A home consultation is also an opportunity to learn about a home's energy efficiency needs, get access to qualified local contractors to complete projects and hear about available low-interest unsecured financing.

The emPower program offers voluntary incentives, financing and other services to help single-family homeowners in Santa Barbara, Ventura and San Luis Obispo Counties make home energy upgrades easier and more affordable. emPower was established by the County of Santa Barbara to help the community preserve the environment by helping to lower energy consumption and stimulate the economy by creating jobs through innovative, voluntary solutions to support a sustainable building performance market.

MEASURE O

SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS Oak Street



BEFORE

DURING

AFTER

Measure O funding is helping to maintain the aging infrastructure, and other essential services in our 150 year old city. Public Works crews recently completed sidewalk repairs on Chestnut and Oaks Streets, and Ottawa Street and Mohawk Avenue with Measure O funding.



The Pet Page



Dedicated to Scamp

After the massive mudslide decimated Montecito two veteran Canine Disaster Search Teams trained by the Search Dog Foundation(SDF) were staged in the area prior to the slide and went to work immediately, searching for survivors.

When the magnitude of the disaster became clear, additional teams from throughout California deployed to assist in rescue efforts.

Humans and canines worked side-by-side during the grueling week-long mission to find anyone who survived and was trapped in the wreckage. In total, 18 SDF Search Teams responded, searching day and night for survivors in the mud. It marked the largest number of SDF teams deployed to a single disaster since Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

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

In the SPAN Thrift Store parking lot 110 N. Olive St. (behind Vons on Main) Friday, March 2nd.

Please call to schedule an appointment 584-3823.

By Victoria Usher

In 2011, a Maryland dog owner named Mali Vujanic uploaded a video to YouTube titled “Guilty!” He’d come home to find his two retrievers near an empty bag of cat treats. The first dog, a golden retriever, lounged calmly, her conscience seemingly clean. But the second dog, a yellow Labrador named Denver, sat quaking in a corner, her eyes downcast, making what Vujanic called “her signature ‘I done it’ face.”

The video quickly garnered a flood of comments. “Dog shaming” has become popular on social media, as owners around the world post shots of their trembling pets beside notes in which the dogs seem to cop to bad behavior. One group of researchers wrote in a 2012 paper, the guilty look is likely a submissive response that has proved advantageous because it reduces conflict between dog and human. It’s easy to see harsh words and corny tweets as benign responses to bad behavior.

But some experts worry that our assumptions of canine guilt may be self-fulfilling. Julie Hecht, a doctoral student who studies animal behavior at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, cites research showing that the more dogs are punished, the more they tend to act in ways that drive

their owners mad. Scolding, Hecht believes, may confuse dogs, resulting in “an anxious cycle of destruction and appeasement” that could ultimately “harm the dog and human bond.” Making sure to put the lid on the trash can, keep your shoes in the closet, and hide the kitty snacks are better ways to avoid this.

Nothing compares to the joy of coming home to a loyal companion. The unconditional love of a pet can do more than just keep you company. Pets may also decrease stress, improve heart health, and even help children with their emotional and social skills. Scientists are looking at what the potential physical and mental health benefits are for different animals—from fish to guinea pigs to dogs and cats.

Research on human-animal interactions is still relatively new. Some studies have shown positive health effects, but the results have been mixed. Interacting with animals has been shown to decrease levels of cortisol (a stress-related hormone) and lower blood pressure. Other studies have found that animals can reduce loneliness, increase feelings of social support, and boost your mood.

NIH Human Animal-Interaction Research Program is funding large-scale surveys to find out the range of pet’s people live with and how their relationships with their pets relate to health. One study found that children with autism spectrum disorder were calmer while playing with guinea pigs in the classroom. The children also had better social interactions and were more engaged with their peers. The researchers suggest that the animals offered unconditional acceptance, making them a calm comfort to the children. It is important to remember that owning pets brings new responsibilities such as knowing how to care for and feed them.

J.M. Smucker is recalling certain lots of Gravy Train, Kibbles ‘N Bits, Ol’ Roy and Skippy canned food for dogs after low levels of pentobarbital were found in some cans of Gravy Train. The FDA said the levels of the drug found in the samples the agency tested were unlikely to harm pets, but any detectable amount of pentobarbital in pet food violates the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act.

With temperatures dipping below zero in some locations and fierce wind chills making outside conditions feel even colder people are bundling up and staying inside. But what about the animals?

The Humane Society recommends never keeping a household pet outside when temperatures go below the freezing

Scamp Club

(Scampclub pets are not for adoption.)

Hi: My name is Buddy! My family found me in a dumpster when I was very young – I thought I was going to die but they saved me! I am an all American Dachshund/Chihuahua mix. I have a wonderful family, a sister dog, turtle friend and I couldn’t be happier. If you see me walking around approach me slowly, it takes me time to trust others. As you can understand.



Hi: I’m Rascal, a 4-year,old domestic short hair cat. I like to play with string and cuddle up with Tegan, my human companion.

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.

point (32F).

Some state law describes terms of animal cruelty and says that no owner should allow or cause any conditions that could be defined as cruel.

Ohio Code: 959.131 prohibitions concerning companion animals states that animal owners cannot “deprive the companion animal of necessary sustenance or confine the companion animal without supplying it during the confinement with sufficient quantities of good, wholesome food and water if it can reasonably be expected that the companion animal would become sick

or suffer in any other way as a result of or due to the deprivation or confinement.”

If the pet is kept outside, the elements have to be taken into account, according to the law.

It states owners cannot “impound or confine the companion animal without affording it, during the impoundment or confinement, with access to shelter from heat, cold, wind, rain, snow or excessive direct sunlight if it can reasonably be expected that the companion animal would become sick or suffer in any other way as a result of or due to the lack of adequate shelter.”

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SDF Search Teams answer the call after deadly Montecito mudslides



The Pet Page

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

Forever homes wanted

Hi: I'm Rascal, a sweet 10-year-old Chow/Shar Pei mix, who was rescued from Animal Services. I'm a big teddy bear who loves to sleep, cuddle, lay on your lap, get my ears rubbed and eat treats. I get along with some dogs. So if you have a canine companion in the home, please bring him/her so we can do a meet and greet. I would do best in an adult only home. I got to go into a foster home for a week or so and proved I am the perfect house boy. My manners are excellent and I go to the door to let you know I need to go out. Canine Adoption and Rescue League C.A.R.L.



McDonald was found as a stray at Lake Casitas which is a notorious hunting ground for coyotes. Little guy is lucky to be alive and his people never came looking for him. It's no wonder he is a little shy. We have found that he does well in play group and pack walks with other dogs. He also has his own fan club of volunteers who are giving him attention. We think he is adorable. You can find him in kennel #404. Ventura County Animal Services – Camarillo Location – 600 Aviation Drive McDonald A680893



THIS SPACE FOR WRITING MESSAGE

Partying in Vancouver, Washington (a long time ago) with friends from grade and high school are Deana Livesay, Sherry Skiles, Becky Rogoway, Dorothy LaDouceur, Kay Rich (holding the Breeze), and Susan Jolissaint.

GOING ON VACATION? BE SURE TO TAKE THE VENTURA BREEZE WITH YOU AND SEND US A PHOTO WITH A LITTLE INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR TRIP AND EMAIL TO EDITOR@VENTURABREEZE.COM

News & Notes

Ventura College named one of the nation's top community colleges

The Aspen Institute College Excellence Program named Ventura College one of the nation's top 150 community colleges eligible to compete for the 2019 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence. The prize includes \$1 million in prize funds, as well as Siemens Technical Scholars Program student scholarships, highlighting the critical importance of improving student success in America's community colleges.

The Prize, awarded every two years, is the nation's signature recognition of high achievement and performance among America's community colleges. The Aspen Prize recognizes institutions for exceptional student outcomes in four areas: student learning, certificate and degree completion, employment and earnings, and access and success for minority and low-income students. Ventura was also awarded the nomination honor for the 2017 award.

The Aspen Institute will select ten finalists, from the 150 eligible nominations, to be named in fall 2018. The Aspen Institute will then conduct site visits to each of the finalists and collect additional quantitative data. A distinguished Prize Jury will select a grand prize winner and a few finalists with

distinction in early 2019.

The Aspen Prize is funded by the Joyce Foundation, the Siemens Foundation, and the Kresge Foundation. The Aspen College Excellence Program aims to advance higher education practices, policies, and leadership that significantly improve student outcomes. Through the Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence, the New College Leadership Project, and other initiatives, the College Excellence Program works to improve colleges' understanding and capacity to teach and graduate students. For more information, visit www.aspeninstitute.org/college-excellence and www.aspeninstitute.org.

Water-themed short films

The 6th Annual Water: Take 1 Film Festival presents water-themed short films that showcase critical water issues as well as community efforts in water conservation, resource management, and sustainability. Through the medium of film, Water: Take 1 brings together a community of difference makers to put a focus on educating and activating sustainable water solutions!

In 2018, Water: Take 1 aims to highlight the outstanding efforts and innovation of local residents, businesses, and non-profits. This year instead of asking for film submissions, Water: Take 1 will feature short films

that tell the story of innovative leaders that inspire collaboration and bring awareness to the essential life source of water! Please partner with Ventura Water and become an event sponsor!

On Thursday, March 22 at 6:00 pm, at the Ventura Beach Club, 281 E. Main St.

there will be food, cocktails, and films! The event is free and open to the public with an RSVP.

6:00 pm appetizers and cocktails, 7:00 pm screening of films.

Visit WaterTake1.com for more information and to RSVP.

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Resource Conservation Partners announces new Director and Board Members

Resource Conservation Partners (RCP), a non-profit organization formed in 2009 to focus on habitat restoration and enhancement of open spaces throughout Ventura County, has hired Jessica Morrison as the agency's new Executive Director. RCP projects improve water quality and reduce wildfire hazards through the removal of invasive, non-native plants in collab-

oration with organizations such as conservancy groups, state parks and local public agencies as well as community members. Information is available at www.resourceconservationpartners.org.

Morrison brings a broad range of diverse industry experience as well as a passion for restoring and protecting our environment combined with a genuine ability to bring together nature enthusiasts, sustainability stewards and partner organizations throughout Ventura County. Morrison received her BA in English from Cal State Northridge and earned her Executive Master's degree for Sustainability Leadership from Arizona State University's School of Sustainability.

RCP Board Member Dr. Sean Anderson says, "We're grateful to have Jessica bring her experience and leadership to Resource Conservation Partners

This 'n' That

to nurture our brand, develop new projects, and create a coalition of passionate stakeholders."

Community members are invited to volunteer at the upcoming RCP habitat restoration and conservation project February 17, 9am to noon, at the Ventura Wildlife Ponds removing non-native ice plant (sign up required Ventura Wildlife Ponds registration.)

New board members:

Sean Anderson, PhD is a broadly trained ecologist and conservation biologist who works on a variety of coastal zone management issues across California, Louisiana, the South Pacific, and Middle East. Anderson received his Bachelor's

vision to each genre he shoots and is especially interested in preservation of native coast lines while maintaining public access.

RCP collaborates with organizations such as conservancy groups, state parks and local public agencies as well as community members. Projects are funded directly through state programs and grants; operational expenses are sought to be covered by private sponsorships and donations. Visit at www.resourceconservationpartners.org.



Jessica Morrison is the agency's new Executive Director.

degree from UCSB, Ph.D. from UCLA, and was a postdoctoral and then research fellow at Stanford University before moving to Ventura County to help launch CSU Channel Islands, where he chairs the Environmental Science and Resource Management Program.

Todd Kaufman, Realtor and Marketing Specialist is a licensed Realtor, providing great insight in both marketing and real estate for Resource Conservation Partners' growth.

Eileen Guettler, is a Habitat Restoration and Environmental Educator with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Environmental Studies with an emphasis in Restoration and Conservation from Sonoma State University. She volunteers as the Garden Coordinator for Pierpont Elementary School in Ventura where she teaches organic gardening and healthy eating.

Damian Bourguet is a licensed Realtor and outdoor enthusiast with a deep appreciation for maintaining open spaces in Ventura County for all generations.

Erik Eiser is a Ventura County native with experience in regulatory oversight, environmental surveillance and designing Hollywood sound stages. As an accomplished photographer, he brings a different

Mark Lunn named VP of County Recorders' Association of California

County Clerk-Recorder, Registrar of Voters Mark Lunn took office as the 2018-2019 vice president of the County Recorders' Association of California. Lunn received the oath of office at the association's New Law Conference held in Sacramento in December, 2017.

"I am honored to be elected to serve in such a respected organization by my peers," Lunn stated. Lunn has been an active member of the association since first being elected in 2010. He has served on and chaired various association committees and was previously the organization's secretary and treasurer.

The members of the Recorders' Association of California are committed to providing excellent public service, protect the integrity of records and strive for uniformity when performing mandated duties. The purpose of the association is to promote common interests of the membership and respective counties; to maintain professional standards and, through the exchange of information and ideas, stimulate a supportive and cooperative working environment.

The association produces a Document Reference Indexing Manual annually for industry professionals to use as a reference book of laws, legal opinions, and rules governing recording procedures in the State of California.

County Recorders are responsible for filing and maintaining public documents associated with land transactions, vital statistics, and maintaining a cumulative record of all official documents for the county.

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This 'n' That

The Age of Consequences

Following the devastation of the Thomas Fires and the Montecito mud slides, many locals seek to educate themselves further about the present day status of climate change from trust-worthy sources. This effort presents such an opportunity.

On Sunday, March 4th at 3:00 - 5:30pm, The Age of Consequences written and directed by Jared P. Scott will be shown, free of charge, to the public. This film brings together a collection of footage from around the world along with the explanatory discussion of distinguished admirals, generals, military veterans, and other experts. Rear Admiral David W. Titley, United States Navy (Retired), a member of the Center for Climate and Security's Advisory Board and nationally known expert in the field of climate, the Arctic, and national security is one of several knowledgeable authorities featured in the film.

This film makes clear that, despite the President's denial, climate change is not some distant problems but one of urgency and possibly of cascading disasters in a world that is deeply interconnected. The up-side of this information is that, by increasing our awareness of the problem, we can better prepare. What better time to understand all of this than now as we face the opportunities of rebuilding our homes and lives following the devastation of the Thomas Fires?

This event is also sponsored by Citizens for Peaceful Resolutions (CPR), Veterans for Peace, Chapter 112, and the Climate Hub V.C.350.org. It will be held at the Unitarian Universalist Church located at 5654 Ralston St. There is handicapped access. Discussions including solution oriented local efforts will follow the film.

March against human trafficking and sexual slavery

Join on Thursday, March 8, for a Community Walk and Speakers Forum to further the fight against human trafficking and sexual slavery.

Did you know that every 30 seconds another person becomes a victim of human trafficking?

Help put an end to suffering through education, advocacy and involvement by joining the event at the Museum Of Ventura County. Registration begins at 5:00 pm with the Community Walk starting at 5:30.

Stay for the Speaker Forum at 6:30 featuring:

Dawn Schiller, Survivor/Advocate
Michael Munn, Ventura County DA Investigator II

Dr. Allison Santi-Richard, Emergency Medicine physician, Los Robles Hospital

Christan Perez, Client Services Program Manager, HEART Program (Helping to Educate, Address, and Respond to Trafficking), Interface Children & Family Services

This event is being put on by Soropti-

mist International, a global volunteer organization working to improve the lives of women and girls in our community and throughout the world who work to achieve this through programs leading to social and economic empowerment.

Soroptimist International was founded in Oakland, California in 1921. Since then it has grown in more than 120 countries and territories worldwide with 95,000 members. The Ventura Chapter was chartered on March 15, 1930. The name, Soroptimist, means "best for women" and that's what the organization strives to achieve.

Answer In A Breeze

Q. Could you tell me what is going on at the Community Park, if anything? Since the Edison vehicles left after the fire, there has been a fence erected and mulch spread out on the land and curbs installed on Telephone Road at Ramilli. Is the city planning on installing a much needed new parking lot and new entrance to the park? Marsha Moreland A. This is answer from the City "While it is the goal to eventually open the Telephone Road/Ramelli Avenue entrance and build a new parking lot at the Community Park, for now, the City is utilizing the space within the fenced area for sand bags and waddles (to be used during rain events). The entrance at Telephone Road/Ramelli Avenue and new parking lot at the Community Park are part of the proposed CIP cycle for 2018-2014 and will be discussed by the Ventura City Council during budget workshops. The budget workshops begin this month."

Now we need to find out what a waddle is? Have a question, send it to editor@venturabreeze.com and we will try to get you an answer?

Suspected rapist dies

Continued from page 10

out to be poison. The Officers located the male, inside his vehicle, deceased from an apparent self-inflicted poisoning. The substance that the suspect ingested was tested by the Ventura Fire Department's Hazmat team and was determined to be a mixture of sodium chloride and potassium cyanide.

Authorities initially said shots were fired, but CHP officials now say no shots were fired.

The suspect was seen motionless outside of the vehicle before the coroner removed the body from the scene. The passenger-side glass was shattered by officers who removed the suspect from the car.

Both sides of the 101 Freeway were initially shut down from Sanjon Road to Seaward Avenue. One northbound lane and all southbound lanes were reopened a short time later. The Ventura Police Department aided in the incident.

Ask the Director

Continued from page 5

amounts of mud off the streets until the soil is stabilized and vegetation is reestablished.

Properties near a burn area remain at increased risk for flooding, erosion, and debris flows for 1-3 years following a wildfire. To protect your private property, seek the advice

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of a professional who can advise you of the best ways to prevent or reduce risk. The City also encourages you to talk to your neighbors who may not be aware of potential hazards.

You can also protect your property with sandbags, plastic sheeting, jute netting, and wattles. The City provides sand and bags to residents at the Ventura Public Works Maintenance Yard, 336 Sanjon Yard. Community members are asked to bring their own shovels and take only what they need. Residents can visit www.vcemergency.com to view an interactive map and better understand the hazards they face.

The City of Ventura has also established evacuation maps to assist residents subject to debris flow to evacuate quickly and safely in the event of an emergency. The maps can be viewed on the City's website at www.city-ofventura.ca.gov.

We encourage the public to stay informed through official sources:

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

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

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

A roadmap to recovery

A local group of building professionals; architects, engineers and contractors have come together and are working closely with the city in developing a roadmap to recovery. They have now organized that information and are sharing it with the affected homeowners through neighborhood workshops. These workshops have a representative from the city and many experienced professionals available to answer questions. The meeting focuses on the rebuilding process and is structured as an interactive forum so as they share information, they also can hear your concerns and experiences helping them become a better resource. They are all volunteers dedicated to providing answers to those in need and demystifying the process of rebuilding.

The information will be beneficial you rebuild or not. You can find upcoming workshops and additional information about the rebuilding effort on Thomas-FireHelp.org/rebuild.



A CONTEST

What was this building used for (hint it was the first one in Ventura County)?

The first correct answer wins 2 tickets to the Ronald Reagan Library. Answer to editor@venturabreeze.com.



PUBLIC NOTICE

Date: February 28, 2018
To: Interested Parties
Subject: Announcement of Availability of the Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report
Project: State Water Interconnection Project
Review Period: February 28, 2018 through March 30, 2018

The City of San Buenaventura (City of Ventura/City) has prepared a Notice of Preparation (NOP) to notify the public, responsible and trustee agencies that, as the Lead Agency, the City will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for implementation of the State Water Interconnection Project. The NOP is available for review at the City Hall Planning Counter, located at 501 Poli Street, Room 117, Ventura, CA 93001 online at <https://www.cityofventura.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/11725> or visit www.venturawater.net click Library of Reports and scroll to Public Notice.

The proposed project would enable delivery of State Water Project (SWP) water by wheeling water through the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and Calleguas Municipal Water District (Calleguas) water systems to the City of Ventura. The project would also facilitate delivery of SWP water to United Water Conservation District and Casitas Municipal Water District, and would allow the City to deliver water to Calleguas during an outage of its imported water supplies. The interconnection would be a pipeline used to transport water between Calleguas’ and the City’s distribution systems.

The City of Ventura is soliciting the views of responsible and trustee agencies, as well as members of the public, including interested persons, organizations, and agencies, as to the scope and contents of the environmental information to be evaluated in the EIR. The complete NOP contains more information on the project including figures showing the general location of the proposed pipeline. The EIR will be used by the City Council when considering approval of the project and any related discretionary approvals. The EIR will also be used by other local, state, and federal agencies in considering participation in the project, as well as permits and approvals needed for project implementation.

All comments on the NOP are due no later than March 30, 2018. Please send your comments to the mailing address or email address shown below. Include a return address or email address and a contact name with your comments. City of Ventura Betsy Cooper 501 Poli Street, Room 120 Ventura, CA 93002-0099 bcooper@cityofventura.ca.gov

A **scoping meeting** will be held to receive comments regarding the scope and content of the EIR. The scoping meeting will include a brief presentation providing an overview of the proposed State Water Interconnection Project and the CEQA process. After the presentation, oral comments will be accepted. Written comment forms will be supplied for those who wish to submit comments in writing at the scoping meeting. Written comments may also be submitted at any time prior to the NOP comment due date. The scoping meeting will be held as follows:

Date: March 15, 2018
Time: 6:00 P.M.
Location: Ventura City Hall, Council Chambers, 501 Poli Street, Ventura, CA 93001



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Project Management

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bloominggardenslandscape.com
Ask About Burn Area Discounts



Program connects foster youth and caregivers with local businesses

Foster VC Kids “Businesses With Heart” program offers discounts to help children and their fostering families; increases business and builds goodwill in the community.

At a time when the aftereffects of the Thomas Fire are likely to prolong the region’s economic recovery, a new program from Foster VC Kids offers multiple benefits to the community. Businesses With Heart was developed to offer discounts on extracurricular activities, restaurants, haircuts, automotive repairs, family photography, goods and other services for foster youth and their caregivers, and to build deeper connections within the community.

With nearly 35 local businesses already participating, Businesses With Heart partners are benefitting from their alignment with Foster VC Kids; corporate partner Chipotle Mexican Grill has hosted three job fairs and hired more than 10 foster youth in restaurants, Rest for Less donated 16 new beds to foster families, some of whom were affected by the Thomas Fire, and other businesses have seen increased foot traffic, cross-promotions on social media and community recognition for their support of foster children, youth and families. Businesses With Heart information is available at www.fostervckids.org/bwh.

In Ventura County there are nearly 900 children and teens in need of a safe, stable and loving home environment – especially in the cities of Oxnard and Ventura. These children are waiting for a foster home with resource

parents who will make either a short-term or long-term commitment, providing guidance and hope to help them thrive while separated from their families of origin.

Foster VC Kids provides extensive training and support to ensure caregivers have the resources to nurture, protect and care for local youth in need. According to a recent study by UC Davis, 52% of respondents cited financial concerns as a barrier to becoming a caregiver. Businesses With Heart seeks to reduce some of the perceived financial barriers by enhancing the network of support. The program also connects our community with foster youth and helps build a deeper understanding/awareness of what it means to be a child in care.

Angelina McCormick-Soll, Program Coordinator for Foster VC Kids says, “Businesses with Heart is a great opportunity for caring businesses to show local foster youth that we all want to help them thrive at home, in school, at work and in our community.”

Recognized as a best practices leader statewide in the family recruitment and support component of child welfare, Foster VC Kids provides resource families with ongoing support services, trauma-informed training, and mentorship to enhance the safety, permanency and well-being of Ventura County’s youth and families. Learn how Foster VC Kids is making a difference throughout Ventura County, www.fostervckids.org.

Virtual kidnapping
by the Ventura Police Department

The Ventura Police Department has seen an increase in “virtual kidnapping” extortion calls in the City of Ventura. There have been multiple reported incidents targeting Spanish speakers. These extortion schemes are particularly alarming in nature because a scammer contacts the victim via telephone and demands payment for the return of a “kidnapped” family member or loved one. While no actual kidnapping has taken place, the callers often use co-conspirators to convince their victims of the legitimacy of the threat. For example, a caller might attempt to convince a victim that his daughter was kidnapped by having a young female scream for help in the background during the call.

Scammers sometimes represent themselves as members of a drug cartel from Mexico targeting victims with family in Mexico. They will typically provide the victim with specific instructions to ensure the safe “return” of the alleged kidnapped individual. These instructions usually involve demands of a ransom payment and instructions usually require the ransom payment to be made immediately and most often by wire transfer or prepaid cards. These schemes involve varying amounts of ransom demands. In one case an amount was paid by the victim and the scammer later called again demanding a higher payment.

Most schemes use various techniques

to instill a sense of fear, panic and urgency in an effort to rush the victim into making a very haste decision. The criminal’s success depends on this general urgency and fear. They know they only have a short time to exact a ransom payment before the victim and their families determine it is a scam or authorities become involved.

Criminals often use social media to gather information and track their potential victims. The Ventura Police Department would like to remind the community to be cautious of the amount of personal information posted on social media.

To avoid becoming a victim, look for these possible scam indicators:

Callers go to great lengths to keep you on the phone, insisting you remain on the line. Calls do not come from the victim’s phone.

Callers try to prevent you from contacting the “kidnapped” victim. Multiple excessive phone calls.

Incoming calls made from an outside area code.

Demands for ransom money to be paid via wire transfer, not in person.

Due to an increased frequency of phone scams, if you receive a phone call from someone demanding a ransom for an alleged kidnap victim and you suspect it is a scam, the following course of action should be considered:

Hang up the phone.

Immediately contact family members.

Notify the Ventura Police Department.

Report to the FBI Los Angeles Office at 310-477-6565 or submit an anonymous tip at online.

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.

Criminal Threats, Assault with a Firearm

On January 24, at approximately 2pm, the victim was at 10 W. Harbor Bl. (Ventura Fairgrounds) selling items as a vendor at the swap meet. The suspect, later identified as 29 year old Ventura resident Salvador Gutierrez, was also a swap meet vendor, asked the victim to meet out in the parking lot of the Fairgrounds. The victim agreed and met up with Gutierrez, the victim and Gutierrez got into an argument. Gutierrez pulled a handgun from his waistband and demanded money from the victim. He did not have any money to give Gutierrez, so Gutierrez told him he would collect the money later. Out of fear, the victim did not immediately report the incident to the police.

On January 31, the victim called the Ventura Police Department and reported the incident. VPD Detectives began investigating and identified Salvador Gutierrez as the suspect. On February 14, Gutierrez was arrested near his residence in the 200 Block of E. Warner St. During his arrest, Gutierrez was in possession of about one half ounce of suspected methamphetamine. Gutierrez was later booked at the Ventura County Jail for the above listed charges.

Structure Fire with Brush Involvement

On February 21, at approximately 2:45am, Ventura City Fire and Police Departments responded to a reported fire in the Santa Clara River area. Upon arrival of the Police Department, 3 tent homes in River Haven were found to be on fire with the fire spreading to the surrounding brush. There were reports of occupants that were unaccounted for.

Firefighters performed fire attack on the tent structures and initiated a search. Following extinguishment, a fatality was identified in one of the tent structures.

Three tents were destroyed and a fourth sustained damage from the fire.

Commercial Burglary

On February 21, at 7:30pm, the Ventura Police Command Center received a 911 call of a window smash to Cal Coast Motorsports where an unknown race male subject wearing a hooded sweatshirt broke through the window and made off with two dirt bike style motorcycles. The witness last saw the suspect fleeing north along a bike path pushing one of the dirt bikes.

Officers arrived on scene and began searching for the suspect and the missing property. They were able to locate a stolen dirt bike in the area of Cypress Point Lane and Telephone Rd, but were unable to locate the suspect or the additional stolen dirt bike.

The additional dirt bike style motorcycle that has not been located is a yellow 2018 child-size Suzuki DRZ 70.

Threats to “BHS” High School

On February 22 at 7:15pm, the Ventura Police Command Center received numerous calls reference a possible threat to “BHS” students via Snapchat. The Snapchat stated that the writer was going to bring an AR-15 to campus and threatened, “all BHS students prepare to see my wrath tomorrow”. While conducting the in-

vestigation it was discovered that the original threat came from Belen New Mexico just outside of Albuquerque.

Ventura Police spoke with Belen City Police who confirmed that on February 21, they investigated the Snapchat threat that was directed towards Belen High School “BHS”. Based on the threat they wrote a search warrant for the Snapchat account and were able to identify the IP address where the threat originated from. Their investigation revealed that a 16 year old student, who attended Belen High School, sent the Snapchat. Before the start of school Belen Police Officers contacted the 16 year old and took him into custody for the threats. During an interview with the juvenile, he admitted to making the threats via Snapchat. According to the Belen Police, Ventura is the 3rd California Agency to contact them today reference this incident.

Based on the investigation the Ventura Police Department has determined there is no credible threat to Buena High School students. Ventura Police and Ventura Unified School District officials are continuing to work together to ensure the safety of all students and faculty throughout the district. In an effort to remain vigilant the Ventura Police Department will have extra SRO’s at Buena High School.

Harbor Patrol Blotter

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

2-7 1:45pm, received a request from Ventura PD to assist in searching for a lost person. A husband and wife were looking for sea glass and the wife disappeared. The husband waited for an hour before contacting PD. After a search, the wife was found around McGrath lake and they were reunited.

2-8 12:57pm, received a report of an injured pelican on Spinnaker Drive. Officers assisted CI wildlife institute with the search and capture of the sea bird.

2-8 12:57pm, received a dispatch to a traffic accident, vehicle vs a fire hydrant at 1500 Spinnaker Drive. Officers responded and assisted Ventura Fire & PD with the call. The driver of the vehicle fled the scene but was located nearby. The driver was under investigation for driving under the influence.

2-10 2:45pm, observed a sailboat aground near Clingers Point from the operations center. Officers responded and assisted the vessel off the sand bar.

2-11 5:01pm, received a report of a few individuals refusing to leave the spoil outflow from the H.R. Morris dredge at Surfers Knoll. Officers responded and made contact with the group. After a debate over local laws, federal laws, and ignorance to law ideas, officers convinced the group to move to a safer area.

2-12 2:22pm, observed a hang glider land at Surfers Knoll. Officers made contact and found out that the individual had flown from Santa Barbara due to the beneficial winds that helped him navigate the hills along PCH.

2-13 8:15am, while on patrol, officers observed a large group of ducklings attempting to cross Southbound lane



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of Harbor Boulevard. Officers blocked traffic and guided the birds across the street into the bushes safely.

5:31pm, received a dispatch to a traffic collision at intersection of Harbor and Spinnaker. Officers responded and assisted VC fire, VPD and VFD/AMR with the call. Two people were seriously injured and the at-fault driver was under investigation for driving under the influence. The two injured were transported to local hospitals for further evaluation by AMR.

2-17 12:10pm, received a report of a whale carcass approximately 1 mile South of Hueneme Harbor. Officers notified Ventura County Harbor

Patrol of the report

2-18 7:45am, officers responded to help escort and conduct traffic control for the H.R. Morris dredge. Several kayakers, out riggers and boaters were contacted to keep the path clear for the large vessel that is extremely limited in their ability to maneuver and stop.

2-19 13:52pm, received a dispatch to a water rescue, kite surfer in distress near the Ventura Pier. Officers responded in the fireboat and pulled a 39 year old male from the water with his kite and board. He was transported to the beach and released to State Parks, VFD and AMR for evaluation.

30TH ANNIVERSARY SEASON
2017-2018

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and Ventura College Chorus
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Join Gold Coast Concert Chorus in celebrating the music of the gifted Dan Forrest. Forrest's magnificent Jubilate Deo brings to life the global aspect of the traditional Psalm 100 text, "O be joyful in the Lord, all ye lands," by setting it in seven different languages and drawing from a wide spectrum of musical influences. GCCC will be joined by the Ventura College Chorus and a professional chamber ensemble to perform this glorious music.

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

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



by Pam Baumgardner
VenturaRocks.com

Our community’s heartfelt thanks go out to the Ventura Music Festival for the exceptional talent they brought for the Concert for Ventura on Sunday, February 25 at Mission Park. The free family-friendly concert featured Tom Scott and the LA Express, John Ferguson and friends as well as the VC Singers and VMF Artistic Director, Nuvi Mehta. Both Scott and Ferguson call Ventura home so it was extra special having them perform. The special event was designed to help give thanks to first responders, to solace those who have lost and to celebrate our community through the healing power of music.

JD has announced the dates for this year’s Surf Rodeo and tickets are on sale now at www.SurfRodeo.org. The music line-up is yet to be announced, but know this, the earlier you purchase your tickets, the more you save. The music and surf festival will fall over the weekend of July 14th and 15th at Pierpont Beach at the end of Seaward. Sponsorships, and vendors are lining up as we speak, if you’re interested just go to their website.

I’m sorry to report that we have lost local icon, John Robert Mosby, who passed away on February 19th. Johnny, along with his wife, Jonie, performed as Mr. and Mrs. Country Music recording over a dozen albums, charting seventeen times on the country charts and won two Academy of Country Music awards in the sixties. He was also a life time member of this Academy and served a president for two years in the early 80’s. Though the two loved to tour they decided to buy a club to play in while at home which luckily for Ventura was the Ban-Dar which would continue to be our local Honky-Tonk where the likes of Willie Nelson, Merle Haggard or Johnny Cash would drop in for a spell. Johnny owned and operated the Ban-Dar for over 42 years. There will be a special celebration of his life at the Ventura Beach Club on March 11 with a jam for any musicians who would like to pay tribute.

Quick notes: Dylan Garcia has signed a management deal with Romulo Canizales and he’s gearing up to work with Grammy, Oscar nominated, multi-platinum, Diamond Certified Record Producer Ronnie King for his next single; Wrecking Crew member, Don Randi returns to Squashed Grapes for a CD release party on Saturday, March 3 and then he’ll be performing with Shari Puerto for a Hi Hat Entertainment show at the Hong Kong Inn on Friday, March 16; Tickets are on sale for shows at the Ventura Theater for Flogging Molly on March 19, Ministry on March 23 and the Descendants for May 3; Tickets are on sale for shows at Discovery for Donavon Frankenreiter on March 16 and Ozomatli on March 31; and finally, Winchesters Grill will start offering live music on the weekends starting March 2nd with Dan Grimm.

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
Mondays: Milo Sledge
Tuesdays: Jason Ho
Wednesdays: Mark McGinis
Thursdays: Blue Grass Jam
Fri 3/2: Karen Eden & Cory
Sat 3/3: Teresa Russell & Tom
Sun 3/4: Jason Ho
Fri 3/9: Billy & Smoky
Sat 3/10: Beach City Sound Club
Sun 3/11: Cadillac Angels
- Bombay Bar & Grill**
143 S. California Street
Friday and Saturdays: DJs
Wed 3/7: Lucky Devil Showcase
- Café Fiore**
66 S. California Street
(805) 653-1266
Wed 2/28: Big Adventure
Thurs 3/1: Rick Whitfield
Fri 3/2: The Collective
Sat 3/3: Otis Hayes
Tues 3/6: Donna Greene
Wed 3/7: Bryan McCann
Thurs 3/8: Fabulous Hangovers
Fri 3/9: Red Muffs
Sat 3/10: Soul Infusion
Tues 3/13: Fabulous Hangovers
- Cask Alehouse**
5952 Telegraph Road
Music at 7 pm
Sat 3/3: Sarah Lightman
- 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
Fri 3/2: Brandon Ragan Project
Sat 3/3: Havana Cinco
Sun 3/4: Jazz Express
Fri 3/9: Lorenzo Martinez, Martinez Brothers
Sat 3/10: Havana Cinco
Sun 3/11: Kenny’s House Troubadours
- Dargan’s Irish Pub**
593 E. Main Street
Sun 3/4: 4 pm Sunday Drivers
- Discovery**
1888 Thompson Blvd
Thurs 3/1: Ritual Movement
Fri 3/2: After the Smoke; Rising Son
Sun 3/4: Spawnbreezie w/ Inna Vision
Thurs 3/8: Tomorrow’s Bad Seeds ft. Kyle Smith
Fri 3/9: The Crystal Method w/ Nick Dean
Sat 3/10: Led Zepplica
- El Rey Cantina**
294 E. Main Street
Fridays: Xoco Moraza & Friends
Saturdays: DJ Erock
- Four Brix**
2290 Eastman Avenue
Music 5:30 – 7:30 pm
Fri 3/2: Inna Rude Mood
Fri 3/9: Dan Grimm Band
- Garage**
1091 Scandia
Fri 3/2: Good Riddance, A Vulture Walk, The Last Gang, Fireburn
Sat 3/3: Stranger Things 80’s dance pary
- Golden China**

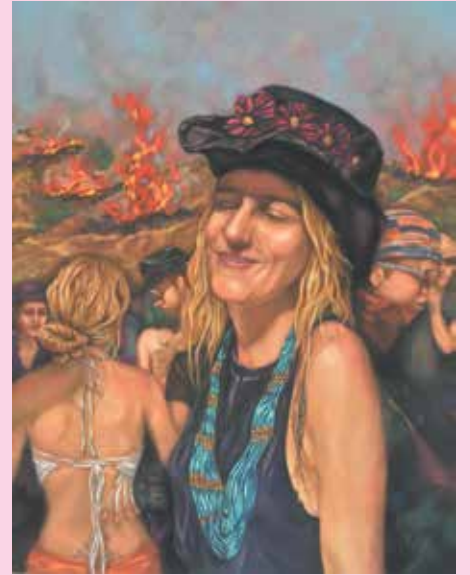
- 760 S. Seaward**
(805) 652-0688
Karaoke seven nights a week 9 pm
Tuesdays 7 pm: Open Mic
- Grapes and Hops**
454 E. Main Street
Wed 2/28: Right Amount of Wrong
Thurs 3/1: The Groove Lounge, Curt Bisquera & Tariqh Akoni
Fri 3/2: Mojo Monkeys
Sat 3/3: TD Lind
Sun 3/4: The Tossers
Fri 3/9: Shane Alexander
Sat 3/10: Shawn Jones Trio
Sun 3/11: Mario Calire Hammond B3 Duo
- Hong Kong Inn**
435 E. Thompson Blvd
Mondays: Karaoke
Wednesdays: Open mic night w/ Beer Brothers
Fri 3/2: Hi Hat Entertainment presents Laurie Morvan Blues Band
Fri 3/9: Hi Hat Entertainment presents Hot Roux
Sat 3/10: Malice Thoughts, The Faint Endless, Fallen Saints, Corpse I Stole, Voodoo Dawn
Sun 3/11: Del Franklin
- Keynote Lounge**
10245 E. Telephone Road
Tues & Wed: Karaoke
Thursdays: Open mic night
Fri 3/2: Heathers on Fire
Sat 3/3: Los Locos
Fri 3/9: Black Canyon Band
Sat 3/10: Action Down
- Knights of Columbus**
36 Figueroa
Sun 3/4: Old Country Grass Band
- Leashless Brewing**
585 E. Thompson Blvd.
Tuesdays: Galactic Jazz
Wed 2/28: Kirby Ai
Thurs 3/1: Davey Miller LA Jazz Connection
Fri 3/2: Tom & Milo
Wed 3/7: Robert Quindaro
Sat 3/10: Captain Quirk
- Limon y Sal**
598 E. Main Street
(805) 628-3868
Thurs 3/8: Jinx
- Made West Brewing**
1744 Donlon Street
Thurs 3/1: Matt Sayles
Sat 3/3: Cap Quirk
Sun 3/4: The Inside Break
Thurs 3/8: Big Tweed
Sat 3/10: Anchor & Bear
Sun 3/11: 50 Sticks of Dynamite
- Margarita Villa**
Ventura Harbor
Sun 3/11: RicJames Band
- Museum of Ventura County**
100 E. Main Street
Sun 3/11: Penderecki, Saariaho, Satoh & Bruce
- O’Leary’s**
6555 Telephone Road
Wed 2/28: DJ Erok & DJ Cam
- Paddy’s**
2 W. Main Street
Wednesdays: Karaoke
Fri & Sat: DJs
- Patio at Players Casino**
Auto Center Drive
Thursdays: Hermano’s Herrera Trio
Fri 3/2: InStone
- Prime**
2209 E. Thompson Blvd
Tuesdays: Danny D
Fridays: Mike Moody
Saturdays: Jessica Ash
- Red Cove**
1809 E. Main Street
Thursdays: Music Club Open Jam Night
- Rookees Sports Bar & Grill**
419 E. Main Street

- (805) 648-6862**
Fri and Sat: Rotating DJs
- Saloon BBQ**
456 E. Main Street
Fri 3/2: Anchor & Bear
Fri 3/9: The Shorelines
- Sandbox Coffeehouse**
204 E. Thompson Blvd
805-641-1025
Thurs 6 pm, Weekends noon
Thursdays Open Mic
Sat 3/3: Peasant Boy
Sun 3/4: Bruce Mancuso
Sat 3/10: Jordan Kirk
- Sans Souci**
21 S. Chestnut
Sundays: DJ Darko
Mondays: Karaoke
Tuesdays: DJ Nick Dean
Wednesdays: Open mic
Thursdays: DJ Spinobi
Sat 3/10: The Hubcap Stealers
- Squashed Grapes**
2351 E. Main Street
Wed 2/28: Native Vibe
Thurs 3/1: Lito Hernandez
Fri 3/2: New World Jazz Ensemble
Sat 3/3: Don Randi CD release party
Tues 3/6: Jazz Jam
Wed 3/7: Victor & Friends
Thurs 3/8: Tom Barnett
Fri 3/9: LJ & The Boyz
Sat 3/10: Bruce Forman
- Star Lounge**
343 E. Main Street
Tues: Karaoke
Thurs: DJ Trolvbe
Fri 3/2: Charles Law Band
Sat 3/3: Dive Bar Messiahs
Fri 3/9: CRV
Sat 3/10: The Flailingtons
- The Tavern**
211 E. Santa Clara Street
(805) 643-3264
Sundays: DJ Steezy Steve
Tuesdays: Karaoke
Metal Wednesdays
Get it Right Thursday DJs
Sat 3/10: Danielle Stacy
- Topa Mountain Winery**
821 W. Ojai Avenue, Ojai
(805) 640-1190
Music 3-5 pm
Sat 3/3: Shane Alexander
Sun 3/4: Cindy Kalemone & the Lucky Ducks
Sat 3/10: Brandon Ragan
Sun 3/11: Jeff Uzzel
- Topa Topa Brewing co.**
104 E. Thompson Blvd
(805) 628-9255
Thurs 3/8: Matt Sayles
- Vintura at the Wine Rack**
14 S. California Street
(805) 653-9463
Sundays music at 2 pm
Thurs 3/1: Karyn 805
Fri 3/2: Jamie Daniels
Sat 3/3: Rebel Rose
Sun 3/4: Tommy Quayle
Thurs 3/8: Blue Motel Room
Fri 3/9: Jason Ho
Sat 3/10: Frank Barajas & the Corsican Bros.
Sun 3/11: Epitome of Dreams
- Winchester’s**
632 E. Main Street
(805) 653-7446
Music at 8:30 pm
Fri 3/2: Brains & Dreads
Sat 3/3: James Broz
Fri 3/9: The Corsican Bros.
Sat 3/10: Brandi Loves Danny
- The 805 Bar**
Ventura Harbor
Music at noon Sat & Sun with Kenny Devoe
Fridays 5-7: Sing-a-long with Kenny Devoe



1st Place, 32nd Annual Open Competition, 2018 *While the World Burns* by **Veronica Lambert**

A mini open competition at the Buenaventura Gallery. Deadline midnight Saturday, March 3. On Exhibit March 14 - April 14. Reception Saturday, March 17, 5-7pm. Many paintings have a unique story behind them. A particular event, person, location, or incident that sticks in the artist's memory and has to come out via paint or other medium. Stories lets you explore your subject visually and in writing. Submit your artwork of any medium and write a few sentences telling the 'story' of the artwork. Your story will be printed beside your piece, to only be revealed at the viewer's discretion. Entries will be judged by artwork only and not the story. You must submit the story of your piece to be considered for acceptance. Juror Rex Kochel: <http://kochelart.com/> For entry details go to Online Entry at website BuenaventuraGallery.org.



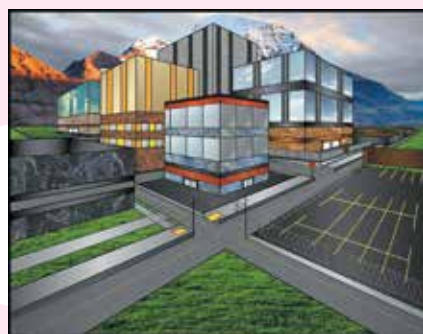
Dab Art is pleased to present *Seeking Light*, a solo exhibition by **Glenn Carter** at H Gallery in Midtown Ventura. 1793 E. Main.

Glenn Carter has developed various approaches to construct and design as both a process and vehicle for content. Carter's approach is based on an untiring duality: a pragmatic methodology to the materials and creating of art coupled with a fascination for psychologically charged relations engrained in objects and environments. *Seeking Light* is an intimate and interactive solo exhibition of 37 works of astounding caliber and composition. Curated by Yessica Torres.



On March 11th, Art City Gallery will host its 3rd artist talk, welcoming a panel of regional experts and artists to speak with **John White** about his recent paintings and mixed-media works; and with **Paul Lindhard** about his 'Topographies in Stone'; both bodies of artwork on display at *Rugged Tableau* exhibition through March 18. The first 20 guests to arrive for the artists talk will be automatically entered into a door prize contest. There will be a silent auction featuring one work each by the two masters. 197 Dubbers St. 648-1690. artcitygalleryandstudios.com

In our last issue we had a fascinating story about "homeless by choice" **Stuart W. Smeltzer**, known as "Bear." Stuart is an excellent artist and graphic designer. He can be reached at stuartwaynesmeltzer@gmail.com.



Ventura muralist **MB Hanrahan** has completed a striking mural on the SOHO Apartments at 1150 N. Ventura Avenue.

SOHO Apartments is a workforce housing project built by the Housing Authority of the City of San Buenaventura.

The kite idea came to Hanrahan "out of the blue," she said. "The intention was to create a space of whimsy and high-flying hopes for anyone driving and otherwise moving down the Avenue."

The work was completed high in the air from a lift donated by Greg Rents. The kites were engineered by Eric Howes. Artist Steve Knauff helped with the installation.

"The Housing Authority believes public art is an important contribution to the community," said Denise Wise, Housing Authority Chief Executive Officer.



Patti Brandenburg's "Heading In" embodies the spirit behind the Thomas Arts Festival held at the Ventura Unified School District Office (see the article on page 10). Patti painted this as a tribute to the single firefighter who lost his life, and there is a reflection of a firefighter in the side mirror in the closest truck. 20" x 30" Acrylic painting on canvas.

In celebration of Women's History Month, March 2018, the Vita Art Center in collaboration with Focus on the Masters will exhibit the artwork of 4 women artist that will be interviewed and documented by **Donna Granata** in 2018. FOTM has done an incredible job documenting the work and lives of extraordinary artists that have dedicated much of their lives to their craft and Vita Art Center is honored to showcase the work of some of these women. This is the second annual all Women's art exhibit co-curated by Vita Art Center and Focus on the Masters.

Opening Reception Friday, March 2 from 6-9 p.m. Exhibit Dates March 2 thru 31. Vita Art Center, 432 North Ventura Ave. Studio 30

Gallery hours M-F 10-4 pm and Sat. & Sun. by appointment. www.vitaartcenter.com



Lighter Breeze

Mother Goose and Grimm



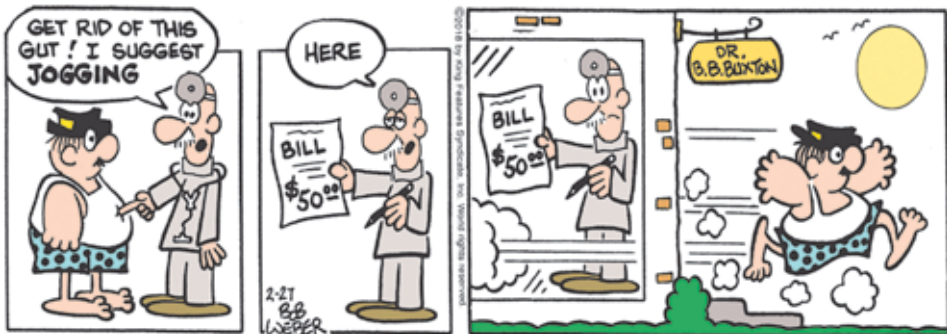
Beetle Bailey



Blondie



Moose and Molly



Buckles



Crock



Solutions on page 23

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

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

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 23

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 See 12-Across
5 Scoundrel
8 Mine entrance
12 With 1-Across, have trouble
13 Bullring cheer
14 Pianist Peter
15 Fermi's bit
16 Time on Earth
18 Summer-house
20 Deviating off course
21 Albacore, e.g.
23 — Aviv
24 Help on "... Millionaire"
28 Pealed
31 Commotion
32 Nuptial announcement
34 Dead heat
35 Legal wrong
37 Shipwreck aid
39 Bill and —
41 Sea eagle
42 Cover the cost up front
45 Adjective modifier
49 Organism
51 Concept
52 Finished
53 Regret
54 Whirlpool

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			

- 55 Marries
56 Conclude
57 Back talk
10 Persia, now
11 Chinatown gang
17 Dine
19 Closed-up tulip
22 Sandy's mistress
24 Long. crosser
25 "What can — for you?"
26 Made to consume
27 Put in a border, as a photo
29 Zero
30 Obtain
33 Remit
36 Drunkards
38 Groups of quail
40 LummoX
42 Winter truck attachment
43 Split
44 Bygone times
46 Icelandic epic
47 Cincinnati team
48 Chesapeake et al.
50 Scoot

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22) A new sense of enthusiasm helps get you out of on-the-job doldrums and back into a productive phase. Family matters also benefit from your more positive attitude.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) A bit of nostalgia is fine. But don't stay back in the past too long or you might miss seeing the signpost up ahead pointing the way to a new opportunity.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) If you feel you need to take more time to study a situation before making a decision, do so. Don't let anyone push you into acting until you're ready.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) As the Great Advice Giver, the Goat really shines this week as family and friends seek your wisdom. Someone especially close to you might make a surprising request.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Spiritual concerns dominate part of the week before more worldly matters demand your attention. An old promise resurfaces with some surprises attached.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) You're in a highly productive period and are eager to finish all the projects you've taken on. But don't let yourself get swamped. Take a breather now and again.

BORN THIS WEEK: You have a gift for learning new things quickly and applying your knowledge to best advantage where needed.

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Show Time

Black Panther



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

by Manuel Reynoso

Black Panther is a 2018 American superhero film. The film is directed by Ryan Coogler, who co-wrote the screenplay with Joe Robert Cole, and stars Chadwick Boseman, Michael B. Jordan, Lupita Nyong'o, Danai Gurira, and Martin Freeman.

As King T'Challa inherits reign of the nation of Wakanda, he finds his nation's desire for isolationism at odds with the changing world around him, and with the appearance of Killmonger, T'Challa must protect his nation this new threat.

Black Panther has been at the center of a lot of talk, both good and bad, for what seems like months now. For every bit of talk about how important of a film this is for people of color, there's about as much talk trying to discredit this point. Even putting these points aside, I found *Black Panther* to just be a great movie itself. It had a far more impactful story than most other Marvel films, great cinematography, and a stellar cast.

In most Marvel films, there doesn't tend to be any strong themes carrying the film's plot. *Black Panther* really brought something new and impactful to the Marvel series. Themes of helping the underprivileged and oppression leading to violence gave this film the emotional weight I have been longing for in superhero movies. These themes also helped create a villain that wasn't just evil for evil's sake, but the natural product of the world he was born in.

Ryan Coogler directing was really what made *Black Panther* great. His directing gave *Black Panther* its own unique feel among the Marvel films, much like how Taika Waititi accomplished that with *Thor: Ragnarok*. This new direction the MCU has been taking will hopefully lead to more individually unique films in the series, while still following the same timeline. While I've always complained about the fight choreography of the Marvel films, as they tend to be a bit of a shaky cam mess, I found the fight choreography was more fluid and well thought out. Most of the cinematography itself was just all around better than in most Marvel movies. The use of more complex, long-form shots was refreshing and made for a better shot film. My main complaint with *Black Panther* was its terrible use of CGI (computer generated imagery). Some of the set pieces and even some of the renders of the *Black Panther*'s costume looked pretty horrendous. It's really quite perplexing how bad some of the CGI is when the film budget is mind boggling huge.

Now I really do believe *Black Panther* is more than just a superhero movie right now. As I brought up in the beginning, I absolutely believe *Black Panther* was very important in terms of black representation in Hollywood. The amount of weight and notoriety that the Marvel film series has in popular culture brings the topic of black representation to the mainstream. I think this can have the potential to further

bolster POC's (people of color) representation in Hollywood. Asian and Latino representation in popular culture is currently abysmal, so *Black Panther* shows the need for POC representation is there, and I hope helps advance all peoples to receive further representation. Rated PG-13 2h15m

A View from House Seats

Serendipity of Randomness Onstage at SPTC

by Shirley Lorraine

Santa Paula Theatre Center thrives on making their audiences think. The current production of "This Random World" by Steven Dietz offers a fine challenge for the mind. Dietz' newest work follows SPTC's success of last season's "Becky's New Car" with deeper areas to ponder.

Is everything in the world truly random, or does the serendipity of the concept of six degrees of separation provide opportunities for connection that are easily overlooked or simply missed? How much completeness of life are we missing by not fully exploring where we are and who we are with?

Director Taylor Kasch has assembled a fine team of actors to present glimpses into lives that could have intertwined had circumstances expanded in the moment. The playwright takes the audience on a journey of discovery with minimalistic style. The people are the focus in this piece, not the surroundings. Scenes are delineated with projections identifying which two characters we will meet next.

Cynthia Killion and David Parmenter highlight their differences as Beth and Tim Ward, siblings with opposite views of life. While Tim spends most of his time on his laptop computer, Beth writes her own obituary and plans her funeral service. They are both concerned about their mother, Scottie (Susan Muhrer) whom they feel is not getting much out of life. However, in reality, Scottie enjoys a travel-filled existence of which the siblings are not aware.

Scottie's attendant/companion is Bernadette (Sierra Hall), who gamely goes along for the ride most of the time. She offers her sister Rhonda (Shelby Sandefur), a receptionist in a funeral home, the opportunity to accompany Scottie on one last trip. Rhonda seems more in tune with Scottie's views and bonds with her as they complete a ritual of great meaning to Scottie.

Aileen-Marie Scott plays Tim's ex-girlfriend, Claire, who has obsessions which are driving her current boyfriend, Gary (Scott Blanchard) away. While Claire is clearly a little unhinged, she and Tim (and Gary) still have emotional connections.

All the actors plunge into their characterizations with depth. They deliver humor, pathos and sentimentality while taking the audience on a delightful journey of mental discovery. Ventura County is so blessed with talent, it is a pleasure to see them work their craft.

A particularly excellent addition to the piece is original compositions by a local musician who is uncredited in the program. The background music

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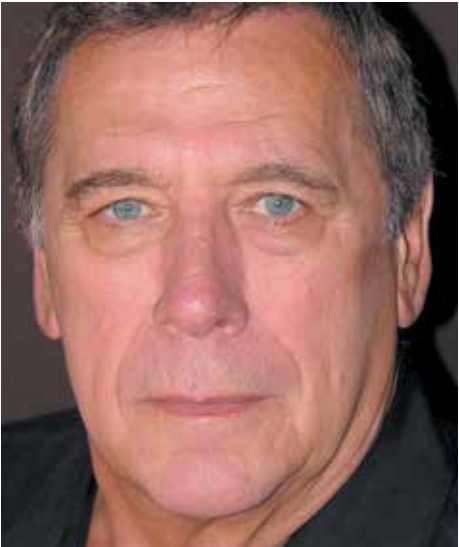
The door to your dreams hinges on me!

is apropos to the mood of each scene. I found it to be soothing, calming and thoroughly enjoyable.

I was fascinated by the author's theme of the circles we all travel in and how they can intersect in myriad unforeseen ways. It reminded me a great deal of Gertrude Stein's *In Circles* which explores the same theme with different viewpoints. Ah, the true mysteries of life. The What if...? continues to confound.

The play runs about 90 minutes without an intermission which is just right. More would be easily mentally overwhelming, less would leave many questions. This *Random World* is an evening well spent.

www.santapaulatheatercenter.org
805-525-4625
Friday & Saturday eves 8 PM, Sundays 2:30 PM through March 11
Adults \$24, Students and Seniors \$22



George Ball leads cast of twenty in story of a narcissistic ruler.

Perhaps Shakespeare's greatest masterpiece

Rubicon Theatre Company presents *King Lear*, the centerpiece of the company's 20th Anniversary Season. Timely and trenchant, *Lear* is the story of a narcissistic ruler who craves adulation, casts out those who doubt his decisions, and neglects those on the fringes of society. Considered by many to be Shakespeare's greatest masterpiece, *King Lear* is a haunting and epic saga of love, greed, family strife, and civil war. Directed by Co-Founder James O'Neil, the production features a twenty member cast led by acclaimed actor and company member George Ball, who has starred in previous Rubicon productions of *All My Sons*, *Man of La Mancha*, and *Jacques Brel...* (appearing in New York, L.A., and international companies of the latter).

Set in ancient Britain, the plot of *King Lear* follows an aging sovereign who announces that he will divide his kingdom among his three daughters in proportion to their professed affection for him. When his youngest daughter



3/1: RITUAL MOVEMENT
3/3: UFC222: CYBORG VS. KUNITSKAYA
3/4: SPAWN BREEZIE
3/8: TOMORROWS BAD SEEDS
3/9: THE CRYSTAL METHOD
3/10: LED ZEPPLICA
3/14: FORTUNATE YOUTH W/BALLYHOOI & TATANKA
3/15: EARTHKRY
3/16: DONAVON FRANKENREITER
3/17: ST. PATRICKS DAY W/THE UPBEAT
3/18: GROOVE SESSION



FRIDAY, MARCH 9TH
THE CRYSTAL METHOD



DONAVON FRANKENREITER
FRIDAY, MARCH 16TH



WATSYAND JIM-E
LEILANI WOLFGRAM
DISCOVERY PRESENTS
BACKYARD Bash
- APRIL 07, 2018 -
JUST ANNOUNCED



TRIBE FESTIVAL
SUNDAY, APRIL 8TH
LED ZEPPLICA HIGH VOLTAGE
HOLLYWOOD LOUNGE JEL MOPAR
SHORE TO BE REMEMBERED
JULIAN NATION

FULL CALENDAR & INFO
DISCOVERYVENTURA.COM
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Cordelia refuses to falsely flatter her father, Lear becomes irrational and enraged, exiling his beloved child and his battle-tested longtime friend the Earl of Kent. The kingdom is thrown into a state of confusion, and more family drama develops when the Earl of Gloucester is deceived by his illegitimate son Edmund, who convinces his father that his half-brother Edgar intends to murder Gloucester. Lear's elder daughters Goneril and Regan reveal their true natures and turn on their father; and Lear, his Fool and companions are turned out into a raging, bitter storm. They try to make their way to safety and peace. As the monarchy collapses, Lear is faced with the folly of his actions and descends into madness.

Dates: March 14-April 1
Opening Night Saturday, March 17
Rubicon Theatre Company
1006 E. Main St. Ventura, CA 93001
Ticket Range: \$40 - \$65 (\$150 for opening night including post-show party)
Discounts for Seniors 65 and over, Students, Teachers and active Military available
Box Office (for single and group tickets) 667.2900



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This 'n' That California Supreme Court rules in favor of United Water vs. City of Ventura

In a precedent-setting decision last December, the California Supreme Court upheld a 2015 Court of Appeal ruling, declaring United Water Conservation District's groundwater pumping charges are not subject to Proposition 218 as was asserted by the City of Ventura.

On Feb. 25, the California Supreme Court again voiced its support of United Water in this case, denying the City of Ventura request for a rehearing of the December decision and ratifying that United Water's pumping charges must only be fair or reasonable in light of the burdens imposed or benefits received by the City of Ventura from its groundwater pumping.

"United Water Conservation District is gratified by this latest opinion of California's highest court. Their decision will guide the Court of Appeal in determining whether the District's pumping charges were fair or reasonable, and confirms that our basic operating principles are correct," commented Robert Eranio, Board President, United Water Conservation District.

In 2013, a trial court ruled in favor of the City of Ventura on the matter, saying that United Water's process for charging pumpers did not satisfy Proposition 218 and was therefore incorrect.

United Water appealed that trial court decision to the Court of Appeal in late 2013 and won, thus overturning the trial court. The City of Ventura appealed that ruling to the California Supreme Court in 2015, losing round one in the highest court last December, and now also round two.

"We are looking forward to working with the City of Ventura on important water resource issues including returning to the Court of Appeal to resolve one lingering question regarding charges. The collaboration of our two agencies on regional water projects is vital to Ventura County. We are ready to open up that dialogue and achieve these goals," commented Mauricio Guardado, General Manager, United Water Conservation District.

Spirit of Entrepreneurship Foundation is looking for some great women entrepreneurs

Nominations are open for the eighth annual Spirit of Entrepreneurship Awards, the most prestigious awards for women entrepreneurs in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. This year's winners will be announced at the annual Spirit of Entrepreneurship Awards dinner on Friday, May 4, at

the newly renovated Hilton Santa Barbara Seaside Resort. Outstanding women entrepreneurs will be recognized for their success and contributions to the economy and our community:

Nominations in 11 categories now being accepted:
Agriculture & Wineries
Emerging Business (1-5 years)
Green & Social Entrepreneurs
Health & Wellness
Hospitality & Tourism
Media & Communication
Nonprofit
Professional Services
Retail
Science & Technology
Wholesale, Manufacturing, & Global Trade

Descriptions of each category are listed at <http://soefoundation.org/award-descriptions/>

The nominations are open to any woman entrepreneur in Santa Barbara or Ventura County. "We are so pleased that we expanded our nominations to Ventura County last year," said Cathy Feldman, Board Chair/CEO of the Spirit of Entrepreneurship Foundation (SOEF). "By encouraging these nominations, SOEF will bring well-deserved attention to the valuable contributions made by the many women who are influencing the economics of our region and other communities."

Nominate a woman entrepreneur (or

self-nominated) via the quick and easy online form at <http://soefoundation.org/nominate/>. The deadline for nominations is Monday, March 5.

The selection of award winners will be done by successful business women from outside the area who are not affiliated with the Foundation to insure fairness and integrity in the decision-making process. Three Finalists in each category will be announced at the end of March. While all the Finalists will be recognized before the Awards Dinner on Friday, May 4, the winners will be announced for the first time at the Awards Dinner, just like the Oscars.

Proceeds from the Spirit of Entrepreneurship Awards benefit the student winners of the SBCC Scheinfeld Center's New Venture Challenge, a business pitch competition for area high school and college students that promotes youth entrepreneurship. The student winners will be the Foundation's guests at the Spirit of Entrepreneurship Awards dinner where they are recognized and receive their prizes in the form of seed money. The student finalists from the New Venture Challenge participate in a Student Startup Showcase on May 4th at the SOE Awards Dinner.

For more information about the Spirit of Entrepreneurship Foundation or the Spirit of Entrepreneurship Awards go to www.soefoundation.org, email info@soefoundation.org, or call 682-8380.



In order to assure that vessel traffic can safely access the Harbor the annual Harbor dredging is taking place. The Ventura Port District works to secure adequate funds for dredging to make sure it is safe for commercial and recreational uses. Photo by Murray Robertson.



Volunteers from Ventura Boy Scout Troop 111 and the Ventura Land Trust took action to preserve Arroyo Verde Park after the fire by removing rocks, sticks, and trash from the trails to make them accessible for the public.

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Saturday through Saturday, March 10 - 17

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- **Green Beer • Mint Shakes •**

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