

For the 2018 Breezy Awards, page 27!

FREE



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Volunteer Staci Brown and Kat Merrick proudly display one of the quilts available for those affected by recent tragedies.

To date 7 countries and 49 states responded by providing quilts

On December 4, 2017 the Thomas Fire and mudslides devastated Ventura and Montecito. Watching this devastation unfold the Ventura Modern Quilt Guild(MQG) and “superbuzzy” Fabrics & Craft Supplies Store decided to help by creating quilts for those affected. To date 7 countries and 49 states responded by helping in the quilting efforts and over 400 quilts were delivered to the Modern Quilting Guilds headquarters in Ventura.

Seeing the need for help in distributing the quilts to those affected they contacted Kat Merrick Founder of Totally Local VC’s Local Love Project for help.

On Thursday, March 8, the Modern Quilting Guild, Mission San Buena Ventura, The Jewish Federation of Ventura County and Totally Local VC’s Local Love Project hosted a Pop Up Shop to distribute quilts along with

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All that is left at the Fairgrounds of the dirt that was being cleaned from the Montecito mudslides is the equipment and gravel. The private firm American Integrated Services brought the dirt to the Fairgrounds where it was tested and separated to remove toxic elements. The Fairgrounds were being used for this purpose because it owned by the State.



Visit Ventura has been awarded gold and silver.

Visit Ventura honored

Visit Ventura is honored to receive gold and silver awards from Hospitality Sales & Marketing Association International (HSMIAI) in the 61st annual Adrian Awards, the largest and most prestigious global travel marketing competition.

Visit Ventura has been awarded

gold for their “Pit-Stop Serenades to Celebrate Awesome Moms” public relations campaign orchestrated in partnership with dude. be nice. The campaign celebrated three moms whose endless support illustrates the community spirit behind Ventura’s sunny disposition, starring a backdrop



Explore the park and all of its new amenities.

Kellogg Park Grand Opening & Ribbon-Cutting

Let’s play! The City of Ventura Parks, Recreation & Community Partnerships Department is proud to announce the official Grand Opening and Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony for Kellogg Park, located at the corner of Kellogg Street and Ventura Avenue, on Saturday, April 14 from 10 am-noon. Opening day festivities include live music, games of cornhole and chess, free snacks and giveaways (while supplies last). Explore the park and all of its new amenities including play and exercise equipment, a walking path, turf slide, public art, and an amphitheater.

Tours of the new Kellogg Park Community Garden will take place during the opening celebration from 10 am-noon. Garden plot rental fees will include raised planter boxes, water, and gardening equipment to grow healthy, organic fruits, vegetables, and flowers.

For more information about the park or grand opening, visit the Kellogg Park website.

of three iconic Ventura locations. Families led unknowing moms to pre-staged locations where busloads of well-wishers unloaded in flash mob style to sing moms their favorite songs. With the help of generous partners, moms also received Ventura staycations, reiterating the message that Ventura is the perfect holiday destination. Watch the video here.

Visit Ventura is also honored to

Continued on page 12

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Environment



Storm water runoff can transport physical hazards into the ocean. Photo by Richard Lieberman.

general, 0.2 inches (2 tenths of an inch) of rainfall may be enough to create significant runoff conditions.

There is a potential for storm water runoff to carry disease causing bacteria to the beaches and into the ocean water. In addition, storm water runoff can transport physical hazards such as partially submerged tree limbs and logs into the ocean that could result in serious physical injury. Contact with this runoff water will result in an increased risk to human health and should be avoided for at least 72 hours after all rainfall activity has ended.

As a result of the recent and predicted rainfall, the public is advised to avoid body contact with all storm water runoff and ocean water at all Ventura County beaches. Any items that may have come in contact with runoff or ocean water should also be avoided. If contact occurs, wash thoroughly with soap and water. Any shellfish on or from Ventura County beaches may have also been exposed to this contamination and should not be eaten.

This advisory will remain in effect for 72 hours (3 days) after all rainfall has ended.

Bacteriological sample results for specific beaches are also available on the Environmental Health Division hotline (recorded information), 805/662-6555, and on the Division's Web page at: <http://vcrma.org/envhealth/technical-services/ocean/index.html>

You can also view any current beach advisories and learn about the State ocean water quality standards on the VC Safe Beaches app, available for Android and Apple devices.

Ocean Water Quality Monitoring Report

As part of the Ventura County Ocean Water Quality Monitoring Program, the Environmental Health Division is providing the following precautionary information for the public. Rainfall that is significant enough to result in runoff can flow into storm drains, channels, creeks, and rivers that empty onto the beaches of Ventura County. In

Business

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Lynn's Consignments had an official Chamber of Commerce Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening on Thursday, March 1st. Owner, Lynn Dralle, friends, family, Chamber Members, and community supporters, joined her for this special occasion. Lynn's new show room is 4000 sq. feet and she features high-quality, very unique furniture and home decor and sells it all on consignment.

Lynn just moved to Ventura and got her love for fun home furnishings from her grandmother who had antique stores in Washington State, which was originally where she thought she would open as well. This special day of March 1, was chosen by Lynn to honor her father who would have turned 84 on that day. Everyone that attended her grand opening received a free copy of her first book "The 100 best things I've sold on eBay".

Store hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 10am-5pm .1975 E. Main St. 628-3289
Photo by Deena Gledhill



FREE LEGAL INFORMATION



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- **Monday, March 26**
6:00 PM
Ojai Valley Women's Club
441 E Ojai Ave
Ojai, CA 93024
- **Tuesday, March 27**
6:00 PM
Poinsettia Pavilion
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Ventura, CA 93003
- **Wednesday, March 28**
6:00 PM
Alcazar Theatre
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VENTURA BREEZE

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Member, Ventura Chamber of Commerce

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Opinion/Editorial



Sheldon (Governor) Brown
Publisher-Editor

■ It's nice that the **green pig** (see article) will be back in the St. Pat's Parade because people like the pig. I'm not sure what a green pig has to do with St.

Pat's day, but what does a red-nosed reindeer have to do with Xmas?

■ A Santa Barbara County Superior Court judge has ordered **SoCal Edison** to maintain any evidence related to the possible cause of the Thomas Fire.

The motion for a temporary restraining order against the utility was filed on behalf of people who lost their homes in the Montecito mudslides.

There will be many lawsuits filed against Edison (fire and mudslides) based upon witnesses that state they saw the fire start on Anlauf Canyon Road near Steckel Park from an Edison power line.

Edison must preserve power poles and any related equipment/items that were removed. An inspection of the removed equipment at Edison's warehouse was also ordered.

■ The newly opened **library** on Hill Road has implemented "express hours" that allows readers to use the library without staff present (like driverless cars). It becomes one of just a few in the nation to offer this service. The purpose is to provide 12 additional operating hours at low cost (just utilities).

Librarian Molly Krill will help train people to use a new card that allows them access the library from 8 to 10 a.m. every day except Thursday. Cameras will keep you honest, we hope.

Next we will have robots that open the door for you and say, "may I help you find a book or the Ventura Breeze?"

■ Iran's Supreme Leader **Ayatollah Ali Khamenei**, seeking to stop women removing their head scarves in public, defended the garments, saying wearing them protected against "a deviant lifestyle."

The comments were the first from Iran's most powerful figure since the spread of a movement in which women remove their head scarves, or hijabs, in the streets. Is this his way of saying that men are a bunch of dogs

that can't be trusted? Has he been following our politics?

■ Amazon founder **Jeff Bezos** and wife have donated \$33 million to fund 1,000 scholarships for "Dreamers" immigrants who were brought to the United States illegally as children. It's wonderful that people with huge amounts of money help causes that they believe in. I wonder what he thinks of community newspapers (hint hint)?

■ Researchers have reported smoking **e-cigarettes** deliver cancer-causing chemicals — and popular fruity flavors appear to be the worst. Those who vape have higher levels of the cancer-causing chemicals than nonsmokers, a team at the University of California, San Francisco, found.

They said teenagers who try vaping are poisoning themselves with many of the same chemicals that make traditional cigarettes so deadly. And it is no coincidence that e-cigarettes come in fruit flavors, chocolate, candy and



"Are you sure that we belong in here without a librarian?"

other flavors that appeal to young people.

Public health groups, the Surgeon General's office, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention worry about evidence that vaping can get teens addicted to nicotine, and will lead them to smoking cigarettes.

Apparently, the "flavor" of the e-cigarette matters. The levels of acrylonitrile were higher in those who preferred fruit flavors compared to candy, tobacco or menthol flavors.

This is significant because 67% of those who use e-cigs preferred fruit flavors.

■ In keeping with the decision to move to City Council district elections, the Ventura Unified School District (**VUSD**) board of trustees

voted unanimously to move to district-based elections in 2018. They selected a map to divide up Ventura into five trustee districts. They didn't agree on the map (the board voted 3-2 to adopt the particular map).

The district currently has an at-large system for electing board trustees, as do most school districts in Ventura County.

This is similar to the reason that the council went to district voting. The VUSD would be facing lawsuits that other districts have had to face to provide districts that reflect the racial make-up of the community.

I am opposed to district voting, so I am eager to see how it works. What if only one completely unqualified person runs in one of the districts? Or, if there are two highly qualified candidates living in the same district, only one can be elected. I know some of you think our politicians are unqualified now.

■ I think that the City is trying hard to make it as easy for **fire victims** to re-build. A recent Ventura City Council action directed city staff to return with a plan that allows anyone who is rebuilding to qualify for the streamlined process set aside for fire victims, even if the new house has a completely different footprint and design.

The city already hired outside help and set up an extra office to deal exclusively with people impacted by the fire.

Mayor **Neal Andrews** and Council Member **Mike Tracy** voted no because of the anticipated increase in staff time and finances.

"Everyone on this City Council would love to be able to write a check to all of you to help you complete your projects," Tracy said. "However, we have a responsibility to everyone else in the community legally and ethically to make sure that we don't give away the barn."

Andrews stated, "Every subsidy that we offer here comes out of something else that the city would do and therein lies the rub for me."

The council voted to allow recreational vehicles on properties during the rebuilding process and up to two units of on-site storage facilities per lot.

Mailbox

opinions

There are many a fellow drivers out and about nowadays, more than there are pedestrians at least... In my travels I have had many close calls, however a recent encounter has shook me down to the core. I was heading up Loma Vista in my 1980 piece of car. As soon as Walnut dr. Came into view, I signaled. As I started to enter the middle lane as usual, a car coming from Day rd. Down Loma Vista was also entering the middle lane. WHOA! We were practically kissing bumpers with our cars! If i had not been paying attention(i.e. texting, applying mascara, breast-feeding my twins), we would have collided head on. Thank you anonymous driver for being a good driver. My reason for writing is to bring this potentially hazardous intersection to light. I believe if the right set of eyes read this, there is a good chance the situation could be rectified before someone wrecks or dies.

Laurie Garcia

Open Letter to Mayor Andrews and

Ventura Council Members:

We can't believe the Staff Report recommending Alternative 2 to the Ventura City Council on Monday, February 26, to delay a decision to join Clean Power Alliance.

Staff is basically advising Council to force everyone to continue with the higher Edison bills instead of having a choice for lower bills from the Clean Power Alliance even though that decision forces all to pay extra for the dirtiest energy in the marketplace! It's incredible.

We recommend that Ventura join the Clean Power Alliance and develop a just and equitable plan that sets the default at 100% renewable energy (currently that rate is 7% higher than Edison's base tier). We want all rate-payers to know the value of buying 100% renewable energy and know too that they have the option to opt to a cheaper rate. This is particularly important for low-income residents who can also access programs to further reduce their bills.

Venturans want cleaner energy and many, including large commercial rate-payers, would support a small increase for clean energy. Having the default at a high level will result in extra franchise fees for the city to invest. We need funds for climate disaster preparedness, such as flood prevention and battery storage at community facilities to meet neighborhood needs during a blackout. Above all, we want Ventura to be guided by the principles of a Climate Action Plan that highlights a goal for 100% renewable energy.

– Ventura County Climate Hub/ Ventura 350

On Feb. 28, the Ventura City Council voted 4-2 to join the Clean Power Alliance of Southern California. City Council

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

Nobody realizes
that some
people expend
tremendous
energy merely
to be normal.

– Albert Camus



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City News

City of Ventura Barranca Vista Imagination Center classes

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

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Continued on page 22

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Business



On March 6 a Ventura Chamber Ribbon Cutting was held at J Wolf Catering and BBQ at 2271 N. Ventura Ave. They are committed to serving their guests as much farm to table, organic and non-GMO foods as possible and locally sourced meats and produce.. They are a certified green business.

Ernest Romero- chef/owner was on hand to greet all.

Hours are Tuesday through Friday 8 AM -5 PM, Saturday 8 AM - 2 PM (unless catering) and Sundays and Mondays closed. 628-9416

Ventura Strong



Chef Jose Andres at the Plaza Park benefit held for fire victims. Photo by Pam Baumgardner.

How did World Central Kitchen come to help Ventura during the Thomas Fires?

by Jennifer Tipton

The nonprofit organization, World Central Kitchen was launched by Chef Jose Andres (born Jose Andres Ramon Puerta), a Spanish American chef credited for bringing the small plates dining concept to America. The celebrity chef owns 27 restaurants that spread from Las Vegas to Miami and has been recognized by Time Magazine as one of the most influential people in the world. He received the James Beard Award for his humanitarian work here during the Thomas Fires (it was not his first).

Ventura’s very own Dr. Susanne Lamnot, a pediatrician known for her charitable involvement with the Boys and Girls Club had a connection with one of the relief directors at World Central Kitchen. Responding to a local disaster like the Thomas Fires, the organization likes to connect with a local chef and Susanne called our own Chef Jason Collis on December 6th, just two days after the Thomas Fires erupted and relief efforts began.

I spoke with Chef Jason, one-time owner of Ventura’s restaurant “Jonathan’s” and “J’s Tapas & Martini Bar”. Jason and his wife, Jocelyn have a son and daughter, they sold the businesses when he realized how many birthdays and holidays he had missed, “I didn’t want to be stuck behind the grill to realize one day that I’d missed seeing my kids grow up”.

Their new business, “Plated Events” does exclusive catering and venue management for Limoneira Ranch and The San Buenaventura Mission, doing weddings, corporate events and local fundraisers including being one of the co-producers for the benefit at Plaza Park. Jason said, “when I saw how big it was with World Central Kitchen, I called up Chef Tim Kilcoyne and we worked side by side throughout the entire relief effort along with other local chefs such as Kayla Hernandez, the instructor for the culinary program at Ventura High School”.

World Central Kitchen “tries to tap into local resources to stimulate the local economy” (buying from local farmers and businesses), but they were blown away with the generosity of Ventura”, said Jason. FOOD Share, local farmers and businesses all donated. Buena, Villanova and Thatcher schools provided food because “schools were closed, and they had all that food in the cafeteria!”. Ventura Party Rental was instrumental

in donating their time and resources by picking up and delivering everything in their trucks.

With 200 volunteers a day for 60 days straight, the World Central Kitchen delivered greater than 35,000 meals to first responders and victims of the Thomas Fires in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties, they were presented a portion of the proceeds from the Plaza Park benefit because the committee from the benefit “felt the City of Ventura was blown away with what they did, and we wanted to pay it forward to help the organization with Chef Jose Andres’ mission”, I was told.

Chef Jason contributed 16 hours a day of his own time December 7th to December 27th with World Central Kitchen. Catholic Charities gives an award to those that go “above and beyond”; the San Buenaventura Mission has nominated Chef Jason and wife Jocelyn for their help with World Central Kitchen and Thomas Fire relief efforts.



Dana is one of the staff who received \$1,000.00.

Ventura Family YMCA gives to employees who lost homes

At the YMCA Campaign Report Night on Feb. 23, four employees who lost their home from the Thomas Fire received \$1000 from the Ventura Family YMCA. The \$4000 was donated from San Francisco YMCA’s emergency relief fund.

Every year, the San Francisco Y donates to a fund to support YMCAs

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INVENTORY CHANGES DAILY



Community Events

Ventura events

by Ana Baker

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

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

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

The Ventura County Philatelic Society meets on the first and third Mondays 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.

Are you a stamp collector? The Ventura County Philatelic Society meet 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. They are a fun group. Contact Bill Garner 320-1601 or vcpsforyou@lycos.com.

Ongoing, first Wednesday, of each month, 6-10 pm, Gold Coast Modular Railroad Club meets at the Murphy Auto Museum. Now exhibiting Saturdays and Sundays, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.; in April, exhibit on Fridays, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Visitors and new members are welcome. Member initiation fee \$10, monthly dues \$20, \$10 for Juniors. Murphy Auto Museum, 2230 Statham Blvd., Oxnard. www.gcmrc.com. For more information, call 229-7429

March 15: The East Ventura Community Council. A representative of the Ventura Police Department will give an update on crime and safety. Jeffrey Lambert, City of Ventura's Community Development Director, and Dave Ward, Planning Manager, will present "Eastside Community Development Report." Thursday at 7p.m. at the First Assembly of God Church, 346 N. Kimball Road. The public is encouraged to attend and participate. For more information, contact John McNally, Chairperson, EVCC 804-7558

March 15: The regular monthly meeting of Assistance League of Ventura County will be on Thursday, at the Chapter House, 913 E. Santa Clara St. The meeting

begins at 10 a.m. Assistance League is creating "A Brighter Tomorrow for Today's Children" through several philanthropic programs: B.U.F.F.Y. Bear, Operation School Bell®, Girls Club/Teen Club, and Assistance League School for young children with learning disabilities. The Bargain Box Thrift Shop helps fund these programs. More information assistanceleagueventuracounty.org. Telephone: Monday - Thursday 8-2 p.m. 643-2458

March 18: The Channel Islands Maritime Museum is hosting a free event from 12 - 4 p.m. "Celebrate the Whales" will offer an afternoon of fun, education and exploration of our largest mammal, the whale. Whale-related activities include craft-making, chalk drawing contest, jump house, artifact displays, live music, fun whale facts and education. Admission to the outdoor activities are free and admission inside the museum will be discounted for the day

March 18: The Ventura and Santa Barbara County chapter of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors (NAWCC) will meet Sunday, in the Campus Student Center of Ventura College, 4667 Telegraph Road. The meeting starts at noon and at 11 a.m. there will be an informal workshop. There will be a mart where items will be for sale followed by lunch and an informational meeting and a program at 1 p.m. The program this month will be a presentation by Ferdinand Geitner. There is a \$3 admission charge. Lunch is available for \$5 more. More information about chapter 190 can be found at www.nawcc-ch190.com.

March 19: Would your child like to enjoy the beach, learn ocean safety and learn how to outrigger paddle too? Hokuloa Outrigger Canoe Club is looking for keiki (youth) ages 10 -19 years old to participate in their program this year! First practice is Monday, 5:30 pm. Meet up at South Jetty Beach (across from the Channel Islands National Park Center at the end of Spinnaker Dr.) at 5:15pm. For more information www.hokuloaoutrigger.com or 407-5824.

March 22: The local chapter of the Portuguese Fraternal Society of America will hold its monthly meeting on Thursday, at 11:30 a.m. for a 12 p.m. no host luncheon/meeting. This meeting is open to any person of Portuguese descent, or, interested in the Portuguese culture. Main Street Restaurant and Steakhouse, 3159 East Main St. For more information and reservation call Cora Corella at 483-6285, or, Yvonne Westervelt at 483-4168.

March 23: Like to play acoustic music? Songmakers.org welcomes all lovers of acoustic music, instrumentalists, singers, and singer/songwriters of all levels, to join in a free song circle at the Bell Arts Factory Community Room, 432 N. Ventura Ave. Listeners welcome. Held the 4th Friday of each month, from 7-10 p.m. Mike Wittlin, 750-8281.

March 24: The Ventura Food Co-op with the support of Harvest Café is having a presentation-get together for assisting and encouraging people to build green, from 2 - 4 p.m. Harvest Cafe at the WAV-175 S. Ventura Ave. Featuring experts from the Green Building

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Council and contractors with local green building experience. What are the considerations for building, re-building and remodeling to meet the design features of Green Building? VenturaFoodCoop.com VenturaFoodCoop@gmail.com. This is a free event and open to the public.

March 24 & 25: Olivas Adobe Annual Book Sale, 11:00 am- 3pm. Hundreds of books- Novels, History, Romance, Cooking, Mystery, Etc. Tours will also be available. Olivas Adobe, 4200 Olivas Park Dr.

Ojai news and events

Opera Santa Barbara will return to the Ojai Library to present a Free Noontime Opera Concert on Thursday, March 15. The concert will begin at 12 p.m. in the main room of the library and will last approximately 45 minutes. The Opera Santa Barbara Studio Artists will perform a selection of popular opera arias and duets as well as some musical theatre pieces, accompanied by piano.

Between April 1 and April 30, the Ventura County Library System will be commemorating National Poetry Month by holding its annual county-wide Haiku Poetry Contest. Participants will be able to submit their own original haiku at any of our library locations or online at tiny.cc/vclhaiku.

A traditional Japanese haiku is a three-line poem with 17 syllables in a 5/7/5 count. Haiku emphasizes simplicity, intensity, and directness of expression. Winners will be selected from throughout our library system, with prizes including gift cards from local businesses. The contest is open to all ages and topics.

At 2 p.m. on Saturday, March 17, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) will visit the Ojai Library to host a screening of the documentary film Bowling for Columbine. After the screening there will be a discussion facilitated by members of WILPF.

In Bowling for Columbine, filmmaker Michael Moore looks at the 1999 Columbine High School massacre in the context of America's high homicide rate and the proliferation of guns in our country and culture. Moore engages with corporate entities involved in the sale of guns, explores gun violence in other countries, and looks at some specific individuals who are outspoken in their support of the National Rifle Association.

Events are free. 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.

Directed by Michael Addison, William Shakespeare's Macbeth will be produced by the Ojai Art

Center Theater and Ojai Performing Arts Theater. The play will run on weekends, March 16 through April 8, Friday and Saturday evenings at 7:30 pm. There will be a Sunday matinee at 2 pm. Tickets run from \$18 to \$20, and students under 25—\$10. Purchase tickets online at: OjaiACT.org or call 640-8797 to reserve seats.

Tour the one-of-a-kind herb garden, harvest medicinal herbs, and prepare home remedies during the Earth Island Medicinal Herb Garden with Carol Wade and Lanny Kaufer. The herb walk will take place on Saturday, March 24th, from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. The cost is \$60, including all materials. Register at HerbWalks.com or call 646-6281

Mark and Holly Jansen of Jansen Photo Expeditions have been leading photographic tours in Iceland for the past 5 years, and have seen evidence of changes in the area due to ice melt, receding glaciers and the impact of man on the environment. In their presentation, which will be on March 20th at 7 p.m., they will show an amazingly beautiful Iceland, but also some of the evidence that they have seen from being frequent travelers there and the changing climate they have witnessed.

Held at Help of Ojai's Kent Hall, 111 Santa Ana St. Monthly free presentations are part of the Ojai Photography Club's community service and education outreach. The general public is always welcome. Visit www.ojaiphotoclub.com/ for more information.

To date 7 countries and 49 states

Continued from page 1

other donated houseware items. The event took place in the Parish Hall at the Mission.

Besides the handmade quilts the Jewish Federation donated sheet sets, Totally Local VC's Local Love Project donated many items as did FOOD Share.

Scott Griffin, Ventura MQG VP and Kelly Stevens, Ventura MQG founding member and owner of superbuzzy, each began projects to bring comfort and loving warmth to the fire and slide victims. As the fire spread northwards, these efforts were coordinated to answer the quilt needs of victims in both Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties.

When founder Kat Merrick created Totally Local VC (TotallyLocalVC.com) over 9 years ago she and her team made a solid commitment to our community. When she lost her home in the Thomas Fire her commitment to helping others became even stronger.

She stated "Our goal is to activate members of our community in the aftermath of a traumatic event within Ventura County and the 805 to provide relief and support to those affected by disaster or in a time of need. We work to solve immediate needs for those impacted by either a disaster in our community or those in need as well as provide the necessary items to help our neighbors as they work to restore their lives."



News & Notes



"I can only do so much to make the world a better place."

The power of purpose

by Karen Leslie, writer with heart

Venturian, Jeri Bendot has found purpose in her life. She possesses an innate compassionate heart in making a difference for what she terms, the 'Houseless', giving people without homes a kind of dignity for those struggling in life to have a roof over their heads. She has become "Relational" in her efforts to find solutions to this surmountable ongoing community challenge.

Her story starts out with one that had many curve balls. In the mid 70's she was diagnosed with sudden-change, rapid-cycling Bipolar disorder. She battled numerous illnesses, had several surgeries, and survived two marriages. Jeri has four grown children and five grandchildren. In 1997 she began another relationship that changed her destiny.

Twenty years ago, Jeri met her husband Joe when he worked for the Navy as a rocket scientist. Then came the slippery slope of back problems for both, which lead to an addiction to pain killers for Joe. Joe spent one year in Ventura County jail, and so he would not need to do time for 7-11 years, he ended up residing in a recovery program.

One day Joe was riding his bike and took a different route than was usual. This turn led them to a new life, a life of meaning and purpose. Music caught his attention from a special Sunday service, in the Fellowship Hall of the Presbyterian Church. Run by college kids, the hall was full of people, food, coffee and a laid back atmosphere. Jeri shares "The Pastor would stop and let people discuss among themselves or pray".

Through her healing process and a developed tenacious attitude, they found a home like no other home they had ever known. Jeri shares, "The Presbyterian Church loved us when we didn't love ourselves."

Jeri started volunteering at the church one day a week, and after 3-4 months they offered her a part time job as a receptionist. Joe and Jeri got married in 2008 and now live on the church grounds in a lovely apartment as caretakers. Jeri shares, "God put me in the perfect position to help others facing hardships" and added "most people really have no idea who the homeless consist of, or what is worse how to really help."

Through Jeri's struggles and triumphs, her soul mission and quest is to educate and find roofs to house and preserve the less fortunate. She works diligently hand in hand with many Ventura organizations working to lower the staggering homeless statistics.

Jeri touchingly shares, "I can only

do so much to make the world a better place. While I want to help everyone, I may only have the chance to help one. As long as my heart is pure and my deeds are righteous, I have hopefully made a positive life changing impact on another human being, to be kind and help others who are struggling to live in this world."

Life can turn on a dime. Many fear they are only one paycheck away from living in the streets. One misstep, one choice, one wrong decision can lead to misfortune. As a people, we deserve the most basic of human needs such as food, clean water, shelter, a bed, companionship and a chance. We are living in abundant times where resources and education are just a click away.

If one step for mankind can send a man to the moon...one step for humankind can feed and house the world!

Were you affected by Thomas Fire or the flood?

The Ventura and Santa Barbara County Lions Clubs have a onetime offer for Thomas Fire and flood survivors.

They have grant money to assist in your loss. If you need a one-time grant for assistance with rent, clothing, and vehicle or food expenses they want to help you.

Please email mikeinojai@gmail.com and he will reply back with a grant request form.

All grant request forms must be received by April 1st, 2018. All our funds must be distributed by April 30th, 2018.

Donations funded by:

Camarillo/Somis PV Lions Club, Ventura Downtown Lions, Orcutt Lions Club, Camarillo High School Leos Lions Club, Santa Paula Lions Club, El Cajon Lions Club, Pismo Beach Lions Club, Nipomo Lions Club, Lincoln Lions Club, Saratoga Lions Club, Santa Maria Sunrisers Lions Club, Pismo Beach Lions Club, Templeton Lions Club, Lions of Multiple District C6 (Monterey, San Benito & Santa Cruz Counties) Carpinteria Lions Club and Goleta Lions Club.

Event to help raise funds for overcoming childhood cancer

KNOX 25/8 will be hosting its first motivational speaking event to help raise funds for overcoming childhood cancer. In this half day event, you'll learn certain teachings and techniques on how to overcome any obstacle in your daily life, realize your full potential, and find the power within.

There will be four incredible speakers who have various backgrounds that can't wait to take you on the roller coaster of a lifetime!

Five hours starting at 7:30am on March 31 at the Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill. Sign up at knox258@evenbrite.com.

com.

May be inappropriate for ages 14 and under. Be sure to bring pen/pencil and notepad.

Parking is free but get there early as spots are limited.

The featured speakers are:

Eric Lemarque - international bestselling author, former Olympic professional hockey player, and subject of the movie 6 Below: Miracle On The Mountain

New Asianism - life management coach and ancient Asian principle teachings

Tim Wallace - active military professional, life coach, and motivational speaker

Allyson Phelan - Eagan - inspirational cancer survivor and motivational speaker

KNOX 25/8 Group is a Non-Profit organization that is dedicated to assisting the efforts of finding a cure for childhood cancer. By building a network of sports coaches who are willing to raise money through volunteering their time and expertise in coaching our youth, KNOX 25/8 Group will help fund specific organizations that are working hard to find a cure for pediatric cancer.

Have you ever wanted to know more about police operations?

The Ventura Police Department's Community Academy is coming! Have you ever wanted to know more about police operations? Not the "TV" version, but the facts? Here's your chance! The Community Academy will take you on a ride-along with a patrol officer, show you what a SWAT team does, let you experience a simulated firearms training course, give you a look at issues officers face in our community and much more.

The Community Academy is scheduled to begin April 18 and will be held on 10 consecutive Wednesday nights from 6:00 to 9:00 pm. Each night features a new topic, with speakers, demonstrations, and discussions. Select nights include a visit to the Ventura County Criminal Justice Training Center, Ventura County Sheriff's Aviation Hangar and the Ventura County Jail. Will answer your questions and give you an in-depth behind the scenes look at police operations.

Community Academy participants are selected by the Ventura Police Department through the application process. Applications are available at the Ventura Police Department or online. Applications accepted until March 28, 2018.

Potential candidates must meet the following criteria: minimum age of 18 years, live or work in the City of Ventura, no felony convictions, no misdemeanor convictions within two years of application.

The Community Academy aims to educate residents on the capacity and operations of the Ventura Police Department so that police officers and community members can work together to make Ventura a better and safer place.

For more information, please contact Community Outreach Specialist Ashley Bautista 339-4317 or abautista@venturapd.org.

venturapd.org.

"We recently attended the Ventura Police Department's Community Academy Class, It was eight evenings consisting of different aspects police work, including the 911 command center, investigations/crime analysis, major crimes, the criminal justice system, crisis intervention, patrol operations, SWAT team, a tour of the Criminal Justice Training Center, a ride-along, K-9 demonstration and more. Chief Ken Corney, the officers and staff gave excellent presentations and demonstrations. We quickly learned a police officer has to be so much more than an officer who writes traffic tickets. He or she needs to be a person of integrity, professional, compassionate, fair, courteous, a quick decision-maker and a counselor. We here in Ventura are fortunate to have an outstanding VPD as protectors of our community. We highly recommend to other citizens that they apply to attend when the academy is offered again." Dan & Vicki Stowell

Tech Today with Ken May

Top Tips to Securely Using Social Media Overview

Social media sites, such as Snapchat, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and LinkedIn, are amazing resources, allowing you to meet, interact, and share with people around the world. However, with all this power comes risks--not just for you, but your family, friends, and employer. In this newsletter, we cover the key steps to making the most of social media securely and safely.

Posting

Be careful and think before posting. Anything you post will most likely become public at some point, impacting your reputation and future, including where you can go to school or the jobs you can get. If you don't want your family or boss to see it, you probably shouldn't post it. Also, be aware of what others are posting about you. You may have to ask others to remove what they share about you.

Privacy

Almost all social media sites have strong privacy options. Enable them when possible. For example, does the site really need to be able to track your location? In addition, privacy options can be confusing and change often. Make it a habit to check and confirm they are working as you expect them to.

Passphrase

Secure your social media account with a long, unique passphrase. A passphrase is a password made up of multiple words, making it easy for you to type and remember, but hard for cyber attackers to guess.

Lock Down Your Account

Even better, enable two-factor authentication on all of your accounts. This adds a one-time code with your password when you need to log in to your account. This is actually very simple and is one of the most powerful ways to secure your account.

Scams

News & Notes

Just like in email, bad guys will attempt to trick or fool you using social media messages. For example, they may try to trick you out of your password or credit card. Be careful what you click on: If a friend sends you what appears to be an odd message or one that does not sound like them, it could be a cyber-attacker pretending to be your friend.

Terms of Services

Know the site's terms of service. Anything you post or upload might become the property of the site.

Work

If you want to post anything about work, check with your supervisor first to make sure it is okay to publicly share.

Follow these tips to enjoy a much safer online experience. To learn more on how to use social media sites safely, or report unauthorized activity, check your social media site's security page.

Help patients rebound by giving blood

In March, while basketball teams are fighting for the chance to be crowned champions, patients battling cancer and other illnesses are fighting for their lives. The American Red Cross is

asking blood donors to help patients rebound by making a lifesaving donation this spring.

Donors of all blood types are needed to help ensure that the Red Cross can collect more than 13,000 blood and platelet donations needed every day for patients.

Giving blood takes less time than it takes to watch a single basketball game. Make an appointment to donate blood by downloading the free Red Cross Blood Donor App, visiting redcrossblood.org or calling 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

Upcoming blood donation opportunities in Ventura:


March 20: 11:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.,
Knights of Columbus,
36 S. Figueroa St.


March 20: 8 a.m. - 8 p.m., Ventura
College, 4667 Telegraph Road

Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit redcrossblood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

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55+  



There was live music, special recognition's, Team T-Shirts and a catered lunch by Main Street Meats and the unveiling of a commemorative piece of art from Latitudes Fine Art Gallery. See page 19 for the whole story.

Elk's Lodge # 1430 presents.

 *County Ventura* 



ST PATRICKS DAY
PARADE

 **Saturday, March 17, 2018, 10 AM** 
Main Street, Downtown Ventura

 **Ventura**
STRONG
Honoring Thomas Fire
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Grand Marshal: 
Thomas Fire
First Responders

Come join the Fun! Wear Something Green!

 **For Information call 643-4275** 
www.venturastpatricksdayparade.com

News & Notes



Share recordings of the Thomas Fire for the historic project.

CAPS and your 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.

We began our first recording schedule Sunday March 11th at the Ojai Valley Museum. The stories we have heard so far were powerful and inspiring and we look forward to hearing many more. We will continue with our pop-up recording booths in libraries and museums throughout the months of March and April. The next one is scheduled for March 25th at the Ojai Library from 12pm to 4pm. The following session will be held at the CAPS Media Center on Saturday March 31st at 11am. On April 2nd at 5pm we will be at EP Foster Library and at the Avenue Library Saturday April 14th from 10am-2pm. The final two sessions will be held at the Ventura County Agriculture Museum in Santa Paula Sunday April the 22nd with the final session on May 20th at the Museum of Ventura County from 11am-3pm. If you can't make one near you, feel free to stop by any location to share your story.

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 658.0500.

Members, producers, technicians, hosts, dee jays and performers are what makes CAPS Media Center click. Our mission is to create an engaged and informed community through partic-

ipation in electronic media. Find out more about how you can be part of this enthusiastic community by attending orientation on the first Thursday of every month. Member classes include HD videography/camera class held on the 2nd Thursday, Final Cut post-production 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. 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 editing suites to craft the story they want to tell. Go to capsmedia.org for information or call 658-0500.

Are you ready
to stand up
for a child
who needs
you?

Find out how at the next CASA-
(Court Appointed Special Advocates)
Informational Session: Monday, March
19 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm .

Today, there are nearly 1,000 children in the Ventura County Dependency Court System who are victims of abuse and neglect. With a string of people, often including their own parents, in and out of their lives, these children are in desperate need of a consistent adult. A CASA Volunteer becomes the one adult who stands up for a child and commits to advocating for the child until he/she is placed in a safe, permanent home.

CASA needs more volunteers! Please consider attending the next CASA Informational Session to learn how you can make a difference in the life of a child in our community.

For more information or to reserve your seat, contact Ken at 389-3120 or Ken@casaofventuracounty.org. Location will be furnished upon registration.

Festival of Talent

Ventura Education Partnership will present the 17th Annual Festival of Talent: "Walking on Sunshine" on Saturday March 24, at 7:00 p.m. The performance is open to the public and showcases the amazing talent of Ventura Unified School District students, staff and family members. Brian McDonald, Rubicon Theatre Company Associate Artistic Director, will direct the show.

Since its inception 17 years ago, the Festival of Talent has raised more than \$500,000 for the VEPGrant program, which awards grants to VUSD schools. These small grants have enabled over 500 teachers to provide extra enrichment activities, to acquire new technology, or to undertake innovative projects with their students. The VEPGrant program touches every student who graduates from Ventura Unified, supplementing and enhancing their education.

“We are grateful to live in a community that prioritizes youth and education, that community partners work tirelessly to showcase students’ talents and that sponsors care about strengthening student learning by funding innovative classroom grants. It’s a not to be missed experience!” stated Madhu Bajaj, President, Ventura Education Partnership

This year's production will feature

a variety of acts, including choirs, rock bands, vocalists, cheerleaders, dancers, and a comedian! Don Wood, the show's original and long-standing Master of Ceremonies, returns, as does Musical Director Miriam Arichea.

"Thanks to the talents of director, Brian McDonald, and musician, Miriam Arichea, Festival of Talent, while performed by amateurs associated with the Ventura Unified School District, is as close to a professional show as one can get. It is a "must see" for all Venturans," said Bart Bleuel, Kiwanis Member and Chair of Festival of Talent.

Festival of Talent will take place at the Ventura High School auditorium with preshow entertainment beginning at 6:30 p.m. and the show at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are available at all VUSD school sites and online at <https://festivaloftalent2018.brownpapertickets.com>. For more information, please visit www.VenturaEducationPartnership.org

Ventura Education Partnership continues to welcome new sponsors for the 17th Annual Festival of Talent: Walking on Sunshine. The audience interested in the event and attracted to its advertising will be in excess of 50,000 people. If you are considering becoming a sponsor email Kay Giles at kay@newandbeyond.com. To learn more on how you can help, please visit <http://www.venturaeducationpartnership.org/>.

A portrait of Melody O'Leary-Namikas, a woman with long blonde hair, wearing black-rimmed glasses and a dark top. She is smiling and pointing her right hand towards the text on the right. The background of the entire advertisement is a scenic view of a coastal city with a prominent tower, likely the San Francisco skyline, under a clear blue sky.

Local ~ Experienced ~ Friendly ~ Dedicated

Melody O'Leary-Namikas

805.218.5035

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CalBRE 01299611

The logo is a circular seal. The outer ring contains the text "REALTY" at the top and "CORPORATION" at the bottom. The inner circle features the letters "BH" in a large, bold font, with "HS" in a smaller font directly below it.

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News & Notes

“Pig with no name” to return for St. Patrick’s Day Parade

When the Ventura Elks Lodge’s 30th annual County Ventura St. Patrick’s Day Parade makes its march up Main St., it will feature a new green pig.

As Ventura history can report, Shamhock – the giant inflatable green pig who’d been a mainstay of the parade for 26 of its 29 years – collapsed last year along the parade route, right in front of the judges’ viewing stand.

To parade committee chairman Tim O’Neil, who’d “fathered” the pig back in the 1980s, it was a devastating loss. “He died right there in front of me,” said O’Neil, who announces the parade every year.

Now, the parade committee is thrilled to announce that, using the dead pig’s “DNA” (i.e. fabric) along with copious photos, they’ve been able to create a new exact identical pig, who will debut at this year’s parade!

The resilient pig plays right into the “Ventura Strong” theme of the milestone parade, which will begin at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 17, at the San Buenaventura Mission on Main St., and will proceed along Main to

Ash Street.

The true heroes of the “Ventura Strong” movement are the parade’s grand marshals: the incredible first responders who worked tirelessly to suppress the raging Thomas Fire and to help its victims.

To honor them, the parade committee encourages all spectators to bring homemade signs thanking the first responders for their remarkable efforts and courage. We really want them to feel the love.

Also joining the parade this year will be Irish Belles Cameryn Boggio-Shean of Ventura High and Jonyssa Carrillo of El Camino High. For the first time in the eight-year history of its Irish Belle program, the parade committee has selected two winners to share the honor. Both Cameryn and Jonyssa are seniors at their Ventura high schools.

Presented each year by the Elks Club’s Ventura Lodge No. 1430, the popular St. Patrick’s Day parade draws thousands of spectators, and dozens of entries.

The judges who will select winning entries this year are Nicole Ipach of California State University, Channel Islands; Ventura Unified School District Superintendent David Creswell; parade committee member James Lockwood, Sue Georgino of Georgino Development and the Elks Club’s Connie Stahl.

Dozens of sponsors support the annual parade, including many who have given generously every year for decades.



John West, Jerry English and Bjarne (Pete) Peterson were all smiles after “blowing up the pig.”

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at the Vagabond from 12 noon!

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Established 1966!

Vagabond

COFFEE SHOP and RESTAURANT

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(805)643-1390

Open Daily 6am to 9pm

Think about us for your Easter dinner too!

News & Notes



Jeffrey Allan "Jeff" Suggs

Jeffrey Alan Suggs, 53, of Ventura, passed away on Friday, March 2 after a long struggle with cancer. Jeff was born in Los Angeles, on March 24, 1964 to Russell L. Suggs and Barbara J. Suggs. He attended elementary and jr. high school in South Pasadena, CA and finished his education in Ventura, earning his GED.

He enjoyed surfing, fishing, motorcycling, and camping. He worked offshore and in local construction until disabled in a motorcycle accident. He is survived by his mother, Barbara Suggs, sister, Julie Powell and her husband Harold, nephew and niece Cooper and Lauren Powell, and many aunts, uncles and cousins. He was preceded in death by his father Russell Suggs and brother, Greg Suggs.

The family wishes to extend their appreciation to Assisted Home Health Care and Hospice in Ventura for their compassionate care, and to family and friends for their expressions of love. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, March 24 at 2:00 pm at The River Community Church, 889 E. Santa Clara St. In lieu of flowers, please donate to The City Center transitional living program in Ventura at www.thecitycenter.org.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Joseph P. Reardon Funeral Home & Cremation Service, Ventura.

A Country Fair with Springtime Flair

Ventura County Fairgrounds Spring Fair is coming to town March 30 – April 1.

The fun starts Friday night at the Carnival and keeps hopping until Easter Sunday.

Visit the Spring Fair Bunny House. Don't forget to bring your camera to take a selfie with the Easter Bunny. He is waiting for you and your family to hop in and say hello! On your mark, get set, hunt for Easter eggs in the great Easter Egg Hunt. A time honored tradition, egg hunting will bring you joy as you make new memories to remember joyful family times like this.

The Spring Fair Carnival has rides and games for all ages. From the traditional rides, like the Merry-Go-Round

and the Gondola Wheel to the exciting Drop Tower, Sea Dragon and Mega Loop, or the hilarious Fun House and Bumper Cars. You are guaranteed to have a great time!

The Petting Zoo offers your children the opportunity to meet adorable young animals up close and personal. The children will love to hug and feed the animals, and you will love collecting memorable photos.

The Spring Fair Entertainment Stage will showcase local talent. Rock music, dance, singing and more are on tap for your enjoyment and relaxation for your family.

And what Fair is complete without Adventures in Shopping? There will be an assortment of vendors and exhibitors for your perusal. Clothing, jewelry, dolls, toys, stained glass, candles and more will be on sale for your Easter shopping pleasure.

Visit Ag Ventureland for a myriad of fun for the kids. They will be amused and entertained for hours as they learn about agriculture in a fun setting. The kids' area with agricultural and educational activities includes: Milk a Cow, Steer Roping, Go Fishing, Pedal Tractors, Pooper Scooper, Station Saddle, Bridle, & Grooming Station, Ag-Music, Bean Box, Corn Box, Build a Scarecrow, Eggs to Market, Craft Station & Face Painting...& More

Spring Fair Hours: Friday, March 30, 5-9 PM; Saturday, March 31, 12 noon – 9 PM; Sunday, April 1, 12 noon – 6 PM.

\$6 Admission includes a \$5 "Springback" discount on a full price admission to the 2018 Ventura County Fair which runs from August 1-12.

Discounted Pre-sale Ride tickets are available at the Ventura County Fairgrounds until March 30 at noon

40 tickets for \$20. Each ride requires 3-6 tickets

On site ticket prices are 40 for \$30.

Visit www.venturacountyfair.org or call 648-3376 for more information.

Visit Ventura honored

Continued from page 1

receive a silver award for their "Destination Storytelling Through Music" marketing campaign orchestrated in partnership with Sound Off Films and singer/songwriter Haley Grigaitis. Upon finding the song 'Pierpont', Visit Ventura sought to partner with the singer/songwriter and a local production team to create a shareable music video featuring Ventura landmarks and cameos of well-known locals. The goal was to add a musical element to Ventura's brand identity that would resonate with new audiences and develop a stronger sense of identity for existing audiences. Watch the video here.

"Our team is honored to be among the top tourism industry organizations to receive Adrian Awards for travel marketing excellence and ever-grateful to have a board of directors and community partners that trust our vision to bring kooky ideas to life," said Visit Ventura President & CEO Marlyss Auster.

Out of over 1,100 entries submitted this year, Visit Ventura's work was judged to be exceptional by expert hospitality, travel, tourism, and media professionals. Judges were asked to evaluate each entry based on its own merit and success in achieving its objectives. At least three judges reviewed each entry.



Demolition of Hawaiian View Apts. completely destroyed by the Thomas Fire is completed and demolition of the portion of the Harbor View Apts. destroyed has begun. The air quality of these demolitions is being monitored by Tetra Tech. Tetra Tech can stop a project if they determine air quality does not meet certain standards. Demolition of both of these projects have met their standards as water is constantly being applied during the demolition.

Senior Living

Pull Out Section



Ventura High School students Daniela Aranda and Sierra Conboy were awarded “Senior to Senior Legacy Scholarship” in 2016.

Cypress Place accepting scholarship applications

When the owners of Cypress Place Senior Living decided to create a scholarship fund for local high school students wanting to pursue a college degree, the Cypress Place Senior Living “Senior to Senior Legacy Scholarship” was created.

By awarding two \$2500 scholarships to local high school seniors, residents at Cypress Place are attempting to pass on opportunities for young people in the community, according to Steve Spira, executive director at Cypress Place.

Applicants need to have a verified 3.2 or higher GPA and to have applied for fall 2018 admission to a college or university with the intention of obtaining a degree. Applicants are also asked to submit an essay about their reason for pursuing higher education along with a personal account of how a senior or seniors has affected their life, including specific examples of intergenerational experiences of the applicant.

Residents on the Resident Scholarship Committee at Cypress Place will read the essays, then hold oral interviews with the semi-finalists to determine the

two award winners.

The scholarships are open to senior students at Ventura High School, Buena High School, Foothill Technology High School, El Camino High School, and St. Bonaventure High School. The deadline for submitting a completed application packet is Friday, April 20, at 5:00pm. Qualified applicants will be invited to a mandatory oral interview on May 11. The presentation of the two scholarships will be held Thursday, May 31, at 5:30p.m. at Cypress Place Senior Living. The recipients must be available to attend the presentation event to receive an award.

For more information or to receive an application packet please contact Pam Staniland, Director of Sales and Marketing at Cypress Place Senior Living 656-9500 x 201, or via email at cypressildsm@isllc.com.

Cypress Place Senior Living is at 1200/1220 Cypress Point Lane. To learn more about Cypress Place Senior Living of Ventura, visit their web site at www.cypressplaceseniorliving.com.



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Disaster preparedness forum

by Carol Leish

This important forum, ‘A Call to Action,’ was presented on February 20, by the Ventura Council For Seniors. It was very timely after the Thomas Fire in Ventura and then the mudslides in Montecito.

Chief David Endaya, of the Ventura Fire Department, moderated the forum. He said that the evacuation of 27,000 people in Ventura within 90 minutes on the evening of December 4, 2017 saved lives.

Assistant Chief Andy Ortega, Ventura County Fire Department, Retired, gave a moving personal story of coping with the

loss of his home, and through that loss, becoming more resilient. He commended the fact that neighbors were helping other neighbors during this trying situation of the fire. He also commended the 600 city workers and first responders who helped tremendously. He focused on being able to rebuild together and to be able to come out on the other side of the disaster by appreciating what he and his family does have.

“It’s important to stay aware,” according to Assistant Chief Ortega. “Being prepared is vital, in order to be: ready to act; set to act; and, being able to go (taking the action).” He also stressed the vital importance of evacuating, in order to save lives, during both voluntary and mandatory evacuations. He said that, sadly, loss of life occurred during the mudslides in Montecito, and not during the fire in Ventura, because those who were given a ‘voluntary’ evacuation notice

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Senior Living

in Montecito didn't necessarily leave. The panel discussion, with Captain Steven Lazenby, Santa Paula Fire Department, Retired; CERT Trainer; Gracie Huerta, Co-Founder, LISTOS Disaster Preparedness; and, Laura Hernandez, Emergency Management Professional reemphasized the importance of being prepared, along with what Assistant Chief Ortega had already said.

These important tips included the importance of having a magnetic, 'File of Life,' on your refrigerator, that has medical information about the family. Realizing the importance of having a gallon of water a day for each person in the household for seven days. Having important documents (or copies of them) all in one folder. This includes: social security cards; Drivers Licenses; Passports; medical records; insurance information; bank records; and, rental and/or mortgage information. Also, remembering to have pet care items, such as: identification; immunization records; carrier or cage; muzzle and leash; and, pet food.

Other things to keep in mind before a disaster occurs, be it a fire or an earthquake, for example, are; having a phone number of a contact friend or family member outside of the (805) area code; packing up pictures and irreplaceable memorabilia; having personal computers with information on hard drive and disks; and, having plastic (credit cards, ATM cards) and cash.

A special thank you to, Suz Montgomery, who makes sure that, 'Seniors are working for the benefit of seniors,' which is a motto of the Ventura Council For Seniors, which she is the chair of. And, another special thank you to, the Downtown Ventura Rotary, for having a free barbeque lunch, after the forum.

Managing Parkinson's Disease

by Patty Jenkins

Research from Parkinson's Disease Studies show that increasing physical activity to at least 2.5 hours a week can slow decline in quality of life. (Parkinson's Foundation). Because people with Parkinson's Disease may have a number of different symptoms, the right exercise prescription may include some combination of endurance, strength and balance training (Davis Phinney Foundation). In addition to problems walking and exercising, speech problems are also common in patients with Parkinson's disease. These symptoms can make it hard to understand a person with Parkinson's and can directly affect their care and

quality of life. Come discover the amazing programs, "Big and Loud" presented by Two Trees Physical Therapy and Wellness at the Ventura Parkinson's Disease Support Group on Wednesday, March 14, from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm at The Lexington Assisted Living at 5440 Ralston St.

We are pleased to bring Marc Broberg, PT, MSPT, NCS and co-owner of Two Trees Physical Therapy & Wellness, to discuss the most current evidence-based guidelines for therapy and exercise for individuals with Parkinson's Disease. He will also give us information about a very special exercise class offered for people with Parkinson's Disease at Two Trees called "Neuro Boot Camp". Marc is a Board Certified Clinical Specialist in Neurological Physical Therapy.

We will also have two members of Marc's team, Christina Malone and Tamara Backer, who are certified in special therapies called LSVT BIG and LOUD for people with Parkinson's and other neural conditions.

Christina Malone PT, DPT, CSCS, is a Doctor of Physical Therapy and Certified Strength and Conditioning Specialist who graduated from Azusa Pacific University in 2015.

Tamara Backer, MS CCC-SLP, is a Speech Therapist and was certified in 2011 in LSVT LOUD, the first speech treatment with level 1 evidence and established efficacy for treating voice and speech disorders in individuals with Parkinson's Disease and other neurological disorders.

We welcome all of our members, their care-partners and new friends who find themselves in this battle with Parkinson's Disease along with us. There is a drop-off/loading and unloading driveway in the front of their building and extra parking graciously available across the street from the Lexington in the Baptist Church parking lot.

Thanks to the generosity of the Lexington Assisted Living, we are able to have our meetings every second Wednesday of the month. For more information call Patty at 766-6070. We are an independent and volunteer-organized group not affiliated with or a part of any other organization or group. Reservations are not required.

Confronting Alzheimer's

by Sue Carrington

It's a force to be reckoned with. Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRD) are debilitating conditions that impair memory, interfere with thought

Continued on page 16

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Senior Living Livingston helping the community

In recognition of mothers being the primary caregivers in our lives and the community, Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurse Association will honor Carolyn Daily Menne and remember Helen Kimball Pidduck at a Mother's Day Luncheon, Friday, April 27 at the Las Posas Country Club in Camarillo.

Proceeds from the event support Livingston's home healthcare programs and services throughout Ventura County.

For ticket and sponsorship information, please contact Stephanie Montenegro at 642-0239 x793, smontenegro@lmvna.org, or www.lmvna.org.

Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurse Association supports the total well-being of our community. As part of their services, they host free monthly education classes throughout the county which include the following:

Social Services/Bereavement Groups

Ojai Adult Bereavement Support Group: Tuesdays, March 27th 10:30 am-noon at Help of Ojai, West Campus 370 Baldwin Rd., Ojai. These groups are open to individuals who have experienced loss and are free of charge. Call 642-0239 for more information or email griefinfo@livingstonvna.org.

Oxnard Adult Bereavement Support Group: on Mondays, March 19 and 26, from 3:00-4:30 pm at First Presbyterian Church, 850 Ivywood Dr., Oxnard. These groups are open to individuals who have experienced loss and are free of charge. Call 642-0239 for more information or email griefinfo@livingstonvna.org. If you have any schedule questions, please check the website calendar (<http://lmvna.org/calendar/index.html>) or call us.

Ventura Adult Bereavement Support Group: Wednesdays, March 14, 21, and 28 from 6:30-8:00 pm at Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurse Association office, 1996 Eastman Ave., Suite 109. These groups are open to individuals who have experienced loss and are free of charge. Call 642-0239 for more information or email griefinfo@livingstonvna.org.

Cypress annual Health and Wealth Expo

What started as a simple idea to get area seniors involved in learning more about their health, has now become an annual staple across Ventura County. Cypress Place Senior Living is announcing its 10th annual Health and Wealth Expo. This year's event, titled "Laughter Is the Best Medicine," features 35 local vendors, as well as local comedian Randy Lubas as keynote speaker.

The Health and Wealth Expo is from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wed., April 11, at Cypress Place, located at 1200 Cypress Point Lane in Ventura. The event is free and open to the public.

Over the last 10 years, the expo has featured speakers with incredible stories that inspire seniors across the area. This year's event will be no different, as one of Ventura's most well-known comedians inspires attendees of all ages to let go and laugh. Lubas is the co-owner of Ventura Harbor Comedy Club, and has made appearances on several nationally televised and radio broadcasts, including Comedy Central, Showtime and Bob and Tom Radio.

In addition to enjoying the Lubas performance, attendees can get their blood pressure checked, receive a mini stroke evaluation, along with balance and hearing tests. Wealth management and veteran benefit consultants will also be on hand to answer any questions. A free healthy gourmet lunch will be provided.

Raffle prizes will be given away throughout the event, including one grand prize: a 50" HD flat screen TV. Free shuttle parking will also be available.

Corporate sponsors for the event are Ventura Post Acute, Coastal View Healthcare Center, Mission Home Health, Victoria Care Center, Meditech Health Services, and Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurse Association.

For more information or to RSVP, please call 416-8793 or visit the Cypress Place website at www.cypressplaceseniorliving.com/events.

Confronting Alzheimers

Continued from page 15

processes, and limit day-to-day functioning. As the disease continues to surge—affecting more than five million Americans and as many as 16 million by 2050—the nation is seeking new ways to care for people with AD/DR. One leading approach is focusing not on losses but on remaining potential. Empowerment: Taking a New Approach to Dementia

"Fear about getting Alzheimer's disease is pervasive," says Kim Warchol, an occupational therapist and president and founder of Dementia Care Specialists, a nationwide dementia training and consulting company. "Why is the disease so scary? Because of the belief we continue to hold that if you're diagnosed with dementia, you're on your way down a long road of suffering."

"Although this perspective is gradually changing, it's still there in part because of the way we've traditionally cared for people with the disease. As soon as a person experiences memory challenges, we confine them to a world of losses—what they can't do anymore. Over time, we begin to use labels like 'wanderer,' 'rummager,' or 'feeder.' Suffering is born out of this negativity."

For healthcare stakeholders—providers, payers, and patients and their families—the challenges of AD/DR are steep. Seniors with dementia are hospitalized three times more often than seniors without dementia and experience a greater reduction in quality of life. They may need intensive long-term services and support. Psychotropic medications are often overused to control behavior issues. Many caregivers eventually burnout and leave their profession.

AD/DR is also taking a huge financial toll. At an annual cost of more than \$200 billion, it is the most expensive illness in America today.

According to Warchol, the devastating effects of the disease are made even more so by mistaken perception. The result can be such problems as depression, physical weakness, negative behavior expressions, more hospitalizations, and eventually, failure to thrive.

"Yet if we come from an empowered, person-centered point of view, focusing not exclusively on the disease, but on the person first and his or her remaining potential, we can significantly change the future for this individual and the downward spiral of events."

A key theory that's helping to change the perception of AD/DR is retrogenesis, meaning "back to birth." Warchol explains this as the concept that the brain of a person with Alzheimer's disease deteriorates in the reverse order that the brain developed from birth. "Cognitive skills acquired last are the first to go, and the ones attained first are the last to leave."

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News & Notes



Chris Meissner

Carmen Ramirez

Peter Zierhut

EDC-VC welcomes Executive Board Leadership

Chris Meissner, president and CEO, Meissner Filtration Products was installed as 2018 chair of the Economic Development Collaborative-Ventura County's board of directors at the organization's 21st Annual Meeting. He is joined on the executive board by Oxnard Mayor Pro Tem Carmen Ramirez as vice chair and Peter Zierhut of Haas Automation, Inc., who is continuing as secretary/treasurer.

"As an executive leading a well-established local company, Chris brings first-hand experience and in-depth knowledge concerning the challenges and opportunities existing in our local business economy. He has served on our board for 20 years and has worked tirelessly to provide opportunities for business growth and workforce development," said Bruce Stenslie, EDC-VC's president and CEO.

An expert in his field, Meissner has received numerous awards, most recently, the Camarillo Chamber of Commerce's Man of the Year for 2018. Other honors include Camarillo Waste Watch's "Most Innovative Reuse/Recycling Program," Start magazine's 1997 and 2000 "Most Admired Manufacturers" and CSU Channel Islands Business and Technology Partnership selected Meissner as the 2015 recipient of the Community and Business Leader of the Year Award.

Ramírez was first elected to the Oxnard City Council in November 2010. She is currently serving her second term in office after being re-elected in November 2014. She was named Mayor Pro Tem in December 2012 and December 2016. Ramírez is a public interest lawyer who has served the Oxnard community since her graduation from the Loyola University School of Law in Los Angeles.

An EDC-VC board member since 2012, Zierhut is a senior-level manager at Haas Automation, Inc. His role is vice president of outside operations. Responsibilities include government and community relations as well as the Haas Technical Education Center (HTEC) network, comprising more than 2,000 educational institutions around the world that use Haas products for educational purposes.

EDC-VC is a private, nonprofit organization that serves as a business-to-government liaison to assist businesses in Ventura County by offering programs that enhance the economic vitality of the region. For more information about the Small Business Development Center and loan, manufacturing outreach and international trade programs, contact Bruce Stenslie at 805-384-1800 ext. 24, or bruce.stenslie@edc-vc.com. Or visit www.edc-vc.com.

Get your game on and power up with robotics!

Get your game on this spring at Ventura College for the FIRST(For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) Robotics Competition. Watch 41 high school teams "Power Up" as they form alliances and do battle in order to secure a place at the National Competition in Texas. In its fourth year, this regional competition has truly become an international event. Three teams from China, one from Turkey and one from Switzerland are on board to test their skills with some of the finest robotics teams Southern California has to offer. Bring the whole family to this free event on March 30th and 31st from 8:30 am to 5:00 pm. Parking is also free and the enthusiasm is contagious! Cheer on your favorite team, including six new teams from Oxnard Unified School District. Don't miss it!

For more information: Velma Lomax Vlomax@firstinspires.org or Anne Campbell anneocamp@gmail.com

To see this year's games so far <https://www.firstinspires.org/robotics/frc/game-and-season>.

To volunteer visit https://my.firstinspires.org/FIRSTPortal/Login/VIMS_Login.aspx.

Ventura-based environmental organization garners international awards

Local nonprofit organization Paso Pacifico is quickly making a name as a global leader in wildlife conservation. Paso Pacifico works with local communities, landowners, and partner organizations to restore and protect the habitats that form building blocks for wildlife corridors. Headquartered in Ventura, they also have a team in Nicaragua, where much of their conservation work takes place. One of their most noteworthy projects in recent years was the creation of a device called the

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InvestEGGator, which could help restore populations of endangered sea turtles.

The InvestEGGator decoy egg – an innovative solution for tracking international trade routes of turtle egg poachers in Central America with the help of GPS trackers – has been making headlines, but Paso Pacifico's impact extends far beyond fighting turtle poachers. Some of their other initiatives include helping Nicaraguan women learn the business, management, and technical skills needed to farm sustainable wild oysters, working with communities in Central America to protect the recently-endangered population of Yellow-naped Amazon parrots, studying and increasing the population of black-handed spider monkeys, and inspiring Nicaragua's youth to become the next generation of environmental stewards.

Since creating the groundbreaking InvestEGGator decoy sea turtle eggs, the team at Paso Pacifico has been hard at work perfecting this tool that could be a gamechanger in the fight to protect sea turtles. Their efforts are not going unnoticed.

Paso Pacifico was named a Prize Winner in USAID's Wildlife Crime Tech Challenge in January of 2016. After showing encouraging signs of progress developing and implementing the InvestEGGator decoy eggs, USAID then awarded the Ventura-based nonprofit organization an Acceleration Prize in September of last year to continue improving the production and distribution process for their wildlife crime solution.

It was also announced in December of 2017 that Paso Pacifico was one of 111 organizations across 34 countries selected to receive a grant from the National Geographic Society.

In addition to their recent accolades, Paso Pacifico has also been attracting major media attention from some internationally-recognized companies and personalities.

In January, wildlife conservationist and biologist Jeff Corwin joined the Paso Pacifico team as they monitored the activity of hawksbill turtles in Nicaragua. Corwin's crew filmed the excursion for a future episode of his nature show Ocean Treks.

"It is critical that we spread the word about our mission and our conservation programs, both internationally and here on the Central Coast," said Pacifico Founder and Executive Director, and Ashoka Fellow, Sarah Otterstrom. "Our goal is to build on this momentum to create a strong support network that will enable us to continue finding new and innovative ways to protect and restore our environment."

The NALA helps kids through Teddy Bear Cancer Foundation's Project Easter

The NALA, a boutique marketing agency headquartered in Ventura, is asking the community to participate in the Teddy Bear Cancer Foundation's Project Easter, which entails collecting Easter baskets for children with cancer and their siblings. The Teddy Bear Cancer Foundation (TBCF), the NALA's charity partner, is a nonprofit 501(C)(3) organization providing financial and emotional support to families of children with cancer living in Santa Barbara, Ventura and San Luis Obispo counties.

Teddy Bear Cancer Foundation provides emotional, educational and financial assistance to families living in the Tri-County Region that have a child with cancer. The vision of Teddy Bear Cancer Foundation is to be the lead agency to instill resilience in families experiencing pediatric cancer. It provides programs that allow parents to be supported and to know they are not alone. For more information, please call 962-7466, or visit <http://www.teddybearcancerfoundation.org>.

"We will put together the baskets with all of the goodies donated and TBCF will then deliver them to hospitals. The baskets are given to children with cancer, as well as their siblings," said Tiffani Tendell, the NALA's Press Manager and Charity Director.

Santa Barbara area residents can donate directly at the office of the Teddy Bear Cancer Foundation, 3892 State Street, Suite 220, until March 22nd. <https://www.teddybearcancerfoundation.org/project-easter>

TBCF helps defray costs that are often overlooked. These include monthly bills (rent/mortgage, utilities, etc.), automobile and related transportation costs, and other similar expenses, as a parent usually has to take time off work or quit their job to spend quality time caring for their child in the hospital during their treatment. To donate directly to TBCF, please visit <https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/WebLink.aspx?name=E105892&id=2>.



The Pet Page



Dedicated to Scamp

Des Moines police Cmdr. Doug Jenkins said the first 911 call came in at about 12:20 p.m. Police said the teen was home alone when the break-in happened. “He heard noises and voices, ran upstairs and hid in closet.”

The family’s 2-year-old German shepherd, Rex, ran downstairs to confront the intruders. The thieves beat the dog, leaving him badly injured.

Even after being bloodied and hurt, Rex still had enough strength left to get back to the teen -- his best friend -- and protect him as the thieves proceeded into the bedrooms, including the one where the boy was hiding.

Rex came out with the little strength he had left in him and threw himself at them.

The thieves opened fire, shooting Rex multiple times. He was struck in the neck, leg and knee, yet managed to survive. The suspects were no longer in the home when officers arrived.

■ Dog food and treat products are being recalled by manufacturers because of possible listeria or salmonella contamination. There has been a series of massive pet-food recalls over possible salmonella, listeria and pentobarbital contamination.

Northwest Naturals, of Portland, is recalling its 5-pound frozen Chicken and Salmon pet food chubs because it may be contaminated with listeria monocytogenes. Product is packaged in 5-pound frozen chubs labeled Chicken and Salmon Dog Food with a UPC code of 0 87316 38440 6. The company says the product was one isolated batch of 94 cases distributed in California, Washington, Texas, Michigan, Georgia, and Rhode Island and sold thru specialty pet-retail stores.

■ Carnivore Meat Company, of Green Bay, Wisconsin, is recalling 73 cases, of Vital Essentials Freeze-Dried Beef Nibbles Entrée for Dogs pet food,

one-pound bags, Lot #13753, because the products may be contaminated with salmonella.

TruPet, of Milford, Ohio, is recalling 2.5-ounce package, Lot # 20190514 13753, of TruDog Treat Me Crunchy Beef Delight Pet treats because they may be contaminated with salmonella.

Gravy Train, Kibbles ‘n Bits, Ol’ Roy and Skippy dog foods withdrawn from market over euthanasia drug.

Feds, state investigating Tukwila pet food over repeated salmonella contamination.

According to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, both salmonella and listeria can affect animals eating the products, and there is risk to humans from handling contaminated pet products, especially if they have not thoroughly washed their hands after having contact with the products or any surfaces exposed to these products.

■ Once again a Shih Tzu did not win best in show at Westminster (Scamp are you listening?). A dog almost as cute a Bichon Frises becomes America’s top dog 2018 when Best In Show was awarded to “GCHP CH Belle Creek’s All I Care About Is Love”.

■ By Cesar Millan

Being fostered is a wonderful opportunity for a dog to prepare for his forever home. He will have more one-on-one time with humans, and he can experience more of the world around him instead of being limited to the confines of a shelter. It can significantly increase his chances of fitting in with his next family.

And of course, his foster parents can make sure his new family is the right fit by helping them to understand his energy level, any issues that are being worked on, and any special needs the dog has.

Fostering isn’t just good for the dog – it can do wonders for the human as well! A dog needs daily exercise, and that helps us to get up, get out of the house, and experience simplicity. Dogs help you to appreciate the world around you. They smell the ground so intensely. They look at the trees as though they are seeing them for the first time. It helps us to remember the wonders that we take for granted. So if you’re stressed or anxious, it goes away for that moment

Scamp Club

(Scampclub pets are not for adoption.)



Hi: I’m Lillyette a 9-year old Lhasa Apso. I like to Sleep, play with K-9 toys and go fishing in a Koi Pond.



Hi: My name is Auggie Doggie. I’m a purebred dapple dachshund. One of my favorite things to do is to go camping and ride motorcycles with my dad! I think I’m better at riding than my sons, Buster Brown and Nugget, but I’m older and more experienced of course!

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.



Bichon Frises becomes America’s top dog

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Morris the cat was adopted by a Helpful Honda volunteer while at the Santa Paula Animal Rescue Center giving some “Random Acts of Helpfulness.”

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 Dougie (the doggie)an affectionate and outgoing 5-year-old Dachshund / Spaniel X who is in need of a new home because my owner moved and I couldn't go too. No cats please and I'm choosy with other dogs so if you already have a fur baby in the home, please bring him/her along so we can do a meet and greet. I enjoy walks and chew toys and a backyard to run around and explore in. I need an adult only home as I don't enjoy people in my face and I need to be introduced to new people gradually. Once I know you I'm cuddly and playful. I'd make a great companion for someone who stays at home or would take me along for errands. Stop by and meet me, I may be the one you've been looking for. Canine Adoption and Rescue League C.A.R.L.



Harry is a beautiful brown tabby with gorgeous golden eyes. He is only a year old so don't wait. He is one of the lucky kitties in foster care. Please contact our foster coordinator to meet him. vcar.foster@ventura.org. Ventura County Animal Services – Camarillo location – 600 Aviation Drive

Harry Pawter A645235



While in Scottsdale, AZ at the auto auction Mary Thompson took a quick break to read the Breeze. Her bid of \$1,500,000 for a vintage car was not enough.

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

Family Caregiver Resource Center Catholic Charities OASIS SafeTalk

by Connie Perez

Those who are thinking about suicide will often invite help whether it is directly or indirectly. SafeTalk is “Suicide alertness for everyone” which brings awareness in recognizing someone with such thoughts to be open, direct and have an honest talk about suicide.

Training is offered for those 15 years of age and older to become more aware of a situation in which a person may be thinking about suicide such as moving beyond common tendencies and recognizing people who may be thinking about suicide. If you are interested in finding out more or attending a workshop about SafeTalk you can go their link www.livingworks.net.

A buggy story

by Kevin O'Connor

Once upon a time, a college student from a good family packed her suitcase one weekend in her apartment in Isla Vista and went home to her parents for a holiday.

Little did she know that a small

uninvited guest had crept into her suitcase from her apartment and emerged later at her mom and dad's house miles away, where this small bed bug created mayhem as it laid eggs and spread in the student's bedroom, in the immaculately clean home where she had been raised.

When the young lady got back to campus and returned to her apartment, her housemates told her they indeed did have bed bugs. That weekend they noticed them for the first time. One of the girls had even been bitten. The girls tried to handle this situation themselves, but the bugs seemed to be spreading in spite of sprays and other protective measures that came too late in the game. Try as they might, the students could not control the infestation.

The girls called O'Connor Pest Control, and we went out there to Isla Vista and worked through the entire process with these students, giving them our professional and technical expertise, working to rid the apartment of every bed bug.

Bed bugs are small, brownish insects that feed solely on the blood of animals. The common bed bug, Cimex lectularius, is the species most adapted to living with humans.

Bed bugs are resilient. Their flattened bodies enable them to fit into tiny crevices—especially those associated with mattresses, box springs, bed frames and headboards. Nymphs and adults can persist months without feeding. Bed bugs don't have “nests” like ants or bees, but do tend to congregate in habitual hiding places. Bed bugs usually bite people at night while they are sleeping.

Bed bugs are challenging to eradicate. Repellents like those used to deter ticks and mosquitoes do not appear to be as effective against bed bugs and applying them at bedtime is not recommended. Never try to handle bed bugs on your own. Technical help is vital. It is prudent to enlist the services of a professional. Experienced pest control firms, like O'Connor Pest Control, know where to look for bed bugs and have an assortment of management tools at their disposal.

We have the technicians with the expertise and experience—as well as the tried and scientific equipment—to deal with the entire range of bed bug infestations. O'Connor Pest Control 1-800-284-7985 www.oconnorpest.com.

The River Community Church hosted a launch day

A big question for many today is, “How relevant is the church?” and what are they doing to serve the community. On Sunday, March 4, after a year of strategic planning The River Community Church hosted a launch day for its 2018 Strategic Initiative. They have partnered with the Downtown Ventura Partners as a support team for them. They will be volunteering at

Continued on page 22

Ventura Veterinary Hospital

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Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation receives grant

Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation has received a \$10,000 Edison International grant to help fund the 2018 Rodney Fernandez Leadership Fund STEM Scholarship Program.

The Rodney Fernandez Leadership Fund STEM Scholarship Program, created in 2011, honors the legacy of Rodney Fernandez, Cabrillo's founder and Executive Director for 30 years

(1981-2011). The Scholarship continues Fernandez's legacy of community building by cultivating the leadership of residents to attain their goals, empower themselves and to take action and improve the quality of life in their communities.

"Cabrillo will provide STEM scholarships for underrepresented groups to help reduce financial barriers for those with academic and leadership potential and the desire to pursue STEM careers. We recognize that to increase diversity in the technology workforce, we must increase diversity in undergraduates," said Cabrillo CEO Margarita H. de Escontrias.

In addition to high quality, safe and secure affordable housing, Cabrillo creates a ladder of opportunity for its low-income residents through comprehensive housing services and education-

This 'n' That

al programs, which include the Rodney Fernandez STEM Scholarship program.

The program provides scholarships for students who wish to pursue education and careers in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM). To be eligible, students must be enrolled in and/or continuing college education, in the process of applying to an accredited institution, or enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program, and household income must be less than or equal to 80 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI) for Ventura County. High school applicants must have a minimum GPA of 3.0 to apply.

Cabrillo is currently scheduling applicant information sessions. Dates for these sessions, applications, and additional details will be available on the Cabrillo website (cabrilloedc.org) in April. Please contact the Resident and Community Services Department at RCS@cabrilloedc.org with any questions.

Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation's mission is to provide comprehensive housing services and community economic development activities through a community-building approach that facilitates self-sufficiency for individuals and families who are most lacking in opportunity in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties, and adjacent areas of Los Angeles County.



Maria has been the "Top 50 Women in Business"

Maria Ventura Named BGCGV Board President

SoCalGas Public Affairs Manager Maria Ventura has been selected by her peers on the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Ventura (BGCGV) Board of Directors to

serve as its Board President. Ventura has been a member of the BGCGV Board of Directors since Fall 2014, she will serve a two-year term as the board president ending December 2019.

In her role, as the local Southern California Gas Company representative throughout Ventura County, she serves on several community boards, BGCGV, El Concilio, American Red Cross of Central California, United Way of Ventura County and the Ventura County Economic Development Association (VCEDA).

She has received prestigious recognitions for her professional accomplishments and commitment to the community including Pacific Coast Business Times' 2017 "Top 50 Women in Business" and Hispanic Lifestyle (an independently produced television program and event producer that promotes positive images of the Latino community) recognized her as a 2017 Latina of Influence.

"With over 15 years' experience in communications, community and governmental affairs; she is a trailblazer, role model and true advocate for children and families," said Patti Birmingham, CEO Boys & Girls Club of Greater Ventura.

"I am excited to assume the board leadership role, after the devastating Thomas Fire, there is a profound determination to rebuild Ventura and grow stronger, this vision must embrace all our citizens including children and their families," said Maria Ventura.

For 80 years, the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Ventura has provided a positive place for all youth, especially those who need us most, and quality programs to help them become healthy, responsible, confident and productive members of our community. According to an independent study by Dr. Jamshid Damooei of Cal Lutheran, 97% of club members are on track to graduate from high school, 92% have improved self-confidence, 83% have improved family relations.

Cabaret coming to Ventura

The next major event of the Ventura Music Festival's 2018 season will take place on Thursday, April 19th with the 3rd annual VMF Cabaret. A celebration of music and culture, the Cabaret will take place at the Wyndham Garden Ventura Pierpont Inn, honoring Spencer & Nancy Garrett and the Pierpont

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This 'n' That

Racquet Club for their outstanding contributions to the Ventura community and culture.

The Cabaret will feature a performance from guitar virtuoso and Latin Grammy-winning singer Twanguero, as well as a live auction to benefit the VMF Young Artists Fund. Tickets for the Cabaret are \$150 and will be on sale mid-March on the Ventura Music Festival website. Cabaret Table and Tribute sponsorships are also available.

Since 1994, the mission of the Ventura Music Festival has been to bring world-class music to the community, build audience-artist relationships, and enhance the joy of music through diverse offerings for all ages. For more information, please visit www.venturamusicfestival.org.

VCCCD partners with NAVFAC to train Ventura County STEM Students

The Ventura County Community College District (VCCCD) and the Naval Base of Ventura County, Naval Facilities Engineering and Expeditionary Warfare Center (NAVFAC EXWC), are collaborating to strengthen skills training and local employment outcomes in the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields.

The agreement, signed February 27, focuses on four key pillars designed to ensure that students across Oxnard, Ventura and Moorpark colleges have access to a competitive STEM education and the ability to connect with the county's largest employer. Objectives include increasing internship opportunities, facilities sharing, mentor programs, and career pathways.

VCCCD Chancellor Dr. Greg Gillespie joined NAVFAC EXWC Captain John Adametz in signing the memorandum. VCCCD Board of Trustees Mr. Stephen P. Blum, Esq. and Mr. Bernardo M. Perez, along with Oxnard College President Dr. Cynthia E. Azari and students, faculty and staff, were also present.

"The efforts of the Hispanic-Serving Institutions STEM grant program at Oxnard College have shown a commitment to STEM excellence through this partnership with the Naval Base Ventura County," Gillespie said during his remarks at the signing. "This agreement offers students an amazing opportunity to connect with local STEM professionals, as Naval Base Ventura County is the largest employer in our county. All three of the colleges in the district will directly benefit."

"I'm pleased that we are able to provide yet another pathway for our students to pursue high-quality STEM careers," added President Azari.

NAVFAC EXWC offers cutting-edge career opportunities in nearly every STEM discipline. In Ventura County alone, approximately 1,100 scientists and engineers provide research and technology solutions to the Navy, Marine Corps, federal agencies, and other Department of Defense commands. Most positions are located in Port Hueneme.

"In an effort to serve as mentors for underrepresented populations, we recognize the importance of incorporating mentoring in the work that we do," said Capt. Adametz. "This mentoring cultivates dynamic relationships that span the breadth and depth of a given profession. These relationships are mutually beneficial to individuals and collectively empower the profession and community."

For more information on the VCCCD partnership agreement and the opportunities it provides, please contact Oxnard College STEM/Project Acabado Director Dr. Marcella Klein Williams (mklein-williams@vcccd.edu) or NAVFAC EXWC contact: Cheryl Monzon, MBA, CDFM-A, STEM coordinator (cheryl.monzon@navy.mil), Palmer Pinckney II, NAVFAC EXWC Public Affairs Officer (palmer.pinckney1@navy.mil) 982-1069.

Applications available for Rodney Fernandez Leadership Scholarship

The Rodney Fernandez Leadership Scholarship Program, created in 2011, honors the legacy of Rodney Fernandez, Cabrillo's founder and Executive Director for 30 years (1981-2011). The Scholarship continues Fernandez's legacy of community building by cultivating the leadership of residents to attain their goals, empower themselves and to take action and improve the quality of life in their communities.

The Scholarship will award a total of \$12,500 to its recipients with \$10,000, provided by an Edison International grant to be divided among STEM recipients and \$2,500 among recipients of all majors. The amount of each scholarship will be determined based on participation and qualifications.

Eligibility Requirements:

Applicants must be a resident of Ventura County

Household income must be less than or equal to 80% AMI (Area Median Income, See application for more detail)

Applicants must be enrolled in their senior year in high school and/or continuing their college education, in the process of applying to an accredited institution, or enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program.

Applications must be completed, signed, and submitted with all the required attachments on or before 5 p.m. on Friday, June 1, 2018.

The first priority for awards shall be granted to existing residents of Cabrillo properties.

Applications are available on at <https://www.cabrilloedc.org/resident-services>. For more information, contact Cabrillo's Resident and Community Services department at info@cabrilloedc.org with the subject RFL Scholarship, or call 652-2588 or 659-3791 ext. 141

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Ventura County is breaking the chain of human trafficking

Community leaders, advocates and concerned citizens attended the sold out viewing of the groundbreaking film Break the Chain recently at the Museum of Ventura County. The film gave a detailed look at how sex and labor trafficking goes unnoticed and is happening in our backyard. In attendance was producer and co-director, Laura E. Swanson; Interface Children & Family Services' Human Trafficking Program Manager, Christan Perez; VC Coalition Against Human Trafficking, April De Pretis; Ventura County DA Investigator II, Michael Munn; The Acorn Project Founder, Junemarie Justus; and Ventura City Councilmember, Cheryl Heitmann.

When asked their perception of the prevalence of human trafficking in Ventura County, Mike Munn responded "Human trafficking is definitely here. We've identified it. If we don't combat it, it's going to just fester; it's going to be like a cancer because the pimps are going to know that they can operate in the county that's not going to enforce those human trafficking laws."

Since the start of the human trafficking program last year, Interface Children & Family Services has served 36 human trafficking survivors in Ventura County. Situated between major trafficking hubs of Los Angeles and San Francisco, the U.S. 101 freeway through Ventura County serves as a corridor for human trafficking activities along the central coast. Interface's human trafficking program provides a trauma-informed and confidential shelter for adult survivors of trafficking. Survivors are provided a safe and supportive residential setting to begin healing from their trauma and work towards reclaiming their independence. Immediate, in-person response is available when requested by law enforcement or medical providers, to emotionally support adult survivors of sex and/or labor trafficking (both U.S. born and foreign nationals). The advocates assess for basic and immediate needs, provide referrals and linkage to supportive services, inform survivors of their rights and discuss options for safely exiting their trafficking situation.

Assembly Member Jacqui Irwin will be hosting a second Break the Chain screening at California Lutheran University, titled Combating Human Trafficking: Local Efforts on a Global Issue on March 28.

For community members who would like to further support human trafficking efforts in Ventura County, Interface Children & Family Services will be hosting the 5th annual Love is Brewing at the Kentucky Derby Champagne Luncheon & Tea on May 12, 2018. Proceeds from this inspiring and educational event will be used to directly support domestic violence, child abuse and human trafficking prevention, intervention and awareness programs. Tickets are on sale for \$100 per ticket/\$1,000 per table and sponsorships are still available. For reservations or for more information, visit icfs.org or contact Laura Everest at 485-6114, Ext. 628 or leverest@icfs.org.

Ventura Family YMCA gives

Continued from page 6

that have experienced disasters or have other dire needs. "When the Director of Human Resources heard about the fires in the Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties, he gathered the team together and they determined, right away, that they wanted to support the work that Ventura YMCA was doing to help those impacted by the fire," said Margo Byrne, Chief Operations Officer of the Channel Islands YMCA.

The Ventura Y has elected to keep the names of the four employees anonymous. At the report night, one of the employees shared her story about how the YMCA helped her during the Thomas Fire. The Y staff member explained that they didn't take anything when they initially evacuated with her four children. "We were up to the left of Ventura High School so we weren't that concerned."

When her neighbors started evacuating, she and her family left to her father's house. When they arrived, she asked her father to take her back to the house to pick up a few items. They returned to find her whole street on fire, and they left with nothing.

The morning after her house had burned down, Amy Bailey Jurewicz, Executive Director for the Ventura Family YMCA, was the first to check on her. The employee stated, "I can tell you without a shadow of a doubt if the Y had not offered the childcare that they did, I would not have made it through this."

At the end of the night, Amber Stevens, Associate Executive Director at the Ventura Family YMCA, stated, "We have amazing staff here. It's nice to be able to say we can help when we hear our staff is in trouble." The Y also paid all of their employees for hours while the facility was closed during the fires.

Information about the Ventura Family YMCA, visit <http://www.ciymca.org/Ventura> or call 642.2131.



This 'n' That

We look forward to your participation in the 2018 Corporate Games

by Eric Burton
Recreation Supervisor Adult Sports

The field is set for the 2018 Corporate Games with 80 businesses from Ventura, and Santa Barbara Counties registered to participate in the upcoming competition. There will be over 27 different events that will be held over the five weeks of competition. Here is the break-down of competition by division:

- Division AA (251- 500+ Employees)
9 Businesses
- Division B – (150-250 Employees)
13 Businesses
- Division C – (51-150 Employees)
35 Businesses
- Division D – (10-50 Employees)
23 Businesses

Companies participating in the Corporate Games and the general public are invited to attend Opening Ceremonies on Saturday, March 24 from 10am to 2pm at the Ventura Community Park, in Ventura. Enjoy the Business & Fitness Fair, live demonstrations on the mobile stage, food trucks and Family Splash Time at the Aquatic Center. Get your company team and family together for Corporate Games Opening Ceremonies and Torch Lighting! For additional information download our Corporate Games Opening Ceremonies Flyer and visit the City of Ventura’s Corporate Games website where you will find a wealth of information.

Amgen Tour auction benefitting American Red Cross Disaster Relief

Amgen Tour of California fans around the world look forward to the race in part to see California’s natural landscapes and breathtaking vistas in person or via the worldwide race broadcast. Over the past year, parts of beautiful California suffered massive devastation due to the wildfires that engulfed parts of Northern and Southern California, and mudslides in response to heavy rain in some areas shortly after.

An Amgen Tour of California online auction benefitting American Red Cross Disaster Relief is launching to help with continued disaster relief efforts, and will be open indefinitely with new items being added periodically. Bidding for the current list of products below will end on March 30. Race fans – and California fans – can bid on exclusive items from merchandise signed by pro cyclist all-stars to behind-the-scenes race experiences to help people affected by disasters. 100 % of the proceeds from the Amgen Tour of California auction organized by Staples Center Foundation support American Red Cross Disaster Relief. More details at www.Amgentoc.gesture.com or at www.AmgenTourofCalifornia.com

Items will be added up to race time in May, and initially include these and much more:

Signed Marcel Kittel Team Katusha Jersey , Cavendish Dimension Data Jersey, TAG Heuer Best Young Rider Jersey, Amgen Leader Jersey (by last year’s race champ George Bennett), 2017 LTD Ed. Jersey (by George Bennett, Peter Sagan & Rob Britton), Visit California Sprint Jersey (by 7-time winner Peter Sagan), Lexus KOM Signed Jersey (by 2017 classification winner Daniel Jaramillo) and Amgen Leader Jersey.

A few days left to register for disaster assistance

Southern California residents recovering from the December wildfires and January mudslides and flooding have until March 16 to register for federal disaster assistance .

Individuals and families who were living in Los Angeles, San Diego, Santa Barbara and Ventura counties and suffered damage or losses from the fires and mudslides are encouraged to register for assistance.

After applying for disaster assistance with FEMA, they may also be referred to the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). Survivors are encouraged to submit their application for a low-interest disaster loan, if contacted by the SBA to do so.

Homeowners may borrow up to \$200,000 from SBA to repair or replace their primary residence. Homeowners and renters may borrow up to \$40,000 to repair or replace personal property. Businesses and private non-profit organizations may borrow up to \$2 million for any combination of property damage or economic injury.

So far, 629 individuals and households have been deemed eligible for FEMA individual assistance and more than \$3.7 million has been approved in grants. The SBA has approved 287 disaster loans for businesses, homeowners and renters for more than \$30 million.

Survivors are encouraged to register even if they have insurance. By law, FEMA cannot duplicate insurance or other benefits but may be able to help with uninsured or underinsured losses.

Survivors can apply for disaster assistance by going online at DisasterAssistance.gov, by using the FEMA app on a smart phone or by calling 800-621-3362 or (TTY) 800-462-7585. Applicants who use 711 or Video Relay Service can call 800-621-3362. The toll-free numbers are open 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., local time, seven days a week.

Mailbox

Continued from page 4

Member Christy Weir was enthusiastic about the idea and said “Renewables are the future. This is our chance. Why would we pass it up?”

Breeze:

I had just picked up the paper at AAA while waiting to do a registration. I knew that one (contest photo).

I really enjoy your paper and sometimes mail a copy to a friend who moved away. I refer to it as the best paper in town for news around town. Thank you for all you do on that. Its hard work. People don’t realize that.

Sincerely,
Karen Spoentgen

Sheldon:

Concerning one of the 859 new laws in California: Schools in low-income communities must provide tampons and other sanitary products to students in grades 6 to 12.

The collection of property taxes determines where low-income people live. The State of California collects those property taxes and now, much to my satisfaction, distributes those school taxes equally to all school districts.

Before, as with most of the 50 states, the communities received back school funds based on their collection. That left low-income communities receiving back the funds based on their collection, which causes a non-equal and inadequate education. Thus, an unequal preparation for those children to give back to society instead of taking from society.

Currently low-income school districts are repairing/building class rooms, hiring more teachers to reduce the number in each class, and purchasing the equipment needed for students to prepare for our digital world.

Oh, and supplying health supplies to all; be they bandages or tampons.

Instead of causing confusion, and possible complaints, to your readers with the above question it might behoove you to answer the question.

There are so many non-readers. Most information people learn is from television or on-line media, or even from the uneducated. Several years ago CA passed the law that if you had to turn on your windshield wipers then you must turn on your lights. It is a difficult issue to ‘ticket’; but not a difficult use of ‘common sense’.

We’ve all forgotten to Read! I enjoy your paper and your personal column. Diane, Ventura

Diane

Thanks you have answered my question quite well.
Sheldon

Hi Breezy:

Thank you so much for all you did to help us surprise Lynn with the ad(Lynn’s Consignments 1975 E. Main St). And thank you especially for taking the time to go out and deliver copies to her. She -- and we -- were so grateful. Lynn did tell me that the Grand Opening was wonderful and that she had a steady stream of customers coming in that day and that most of those customers came in with a copy of the Breeze ad in their hands.

Many thanks for all your help, dedication and caring.
Dawn

The River Community Church

Continued from page 19

events, providing lunches for the staff, taking surveys, manning booths, etc.

There was live music, special recognitions, Team T-Shirts and a catered lunch by Main Street Meats and the unveiling of a commemorative piece of art from Latitudes Fine Art Gallery .

Attendees heard from Kevin Clerici and Meredith Hart from the Downtown Ventura Partners, Ventura Deputy Mayor Matt LaVere and CEO and President of The Ventura Chamber of Commerce, Stephanie Caldwell.

Matt LaVere in part stated “I could not be more excited about the this new partnership between DVP and the River Community Church. I have a world of respect for both Pastor Jim Duran and Kevin Clerici, and I know that these two teams working together will produce incredible results for Downtown Ventura.”

Stephanie Caldwell President and CEO, Ventura Chamber of Commerce welcomed all “Good morning, it is my pleasure to be with you for this incredible event today. The River Community Church has long been an active member and supporter of our Chamber. Pastor Jim Duran serves on the Chamber Board, is a former Board Chair and former Chair of our Political Action Committee. “

“I applaud your efforts and thank you for the leadership role that you are taking to serve our community. The Chamber remains committed to working with you to support your efforts as we all want to make this the best place to live, work, worship, raise a family and do business. Thank you.”

Lead Pastor Jim Duran, who was instrumental in making this happen said “The River Community Church is very excited to serve the Downtown Ventura Partners. The DVP does many great things in our community and we are committed to this partnership in order to better serve our city. Our congregation understands the importance of living outside the four walls of the church building and our goal is to make a difference in our community. We feel extremely blessed to be able to serve at such a time as this.”

The River Community Foursquare Church, 859 E. Santa Clara St. 648-7955, www.TheRiverCommunity.org

City of Ventura classes

Continued from page 5

and sing along to famous Broadway songs while building confidence in and exploring their talents. Dancers should wear a t-shirt with leggings/shorts and will go barefoot during class.

Billy Clower Cirque Du Ballet 3-5 years 3/16-5/11 F 10:30-11:15 am \$80 #10555

Step right up for this 8-week Circus themed Ballet Class. Students will learn ballet vocabulary, positions and dance while having fun walking on a tight rope, performing with hula hoops, and being graceful with scarves. They will also gain flexibility with beginning acrobatics and partner stretching. Dancers should wear a leotard or t-shirt with leggings/shorts and will go barefoot and use our classroom set of ballet shoes during class.

Spice Blending Workshop 3/18 Su 2-4pm \$40+\$20 supply fee due to instructor at start of class

In this workshop, students will get to smell and taste all sorts of spice blends from around the world. Make and blend your own dip mixes, rubs or Dukkahs and spice blends. Students receive a notebook of spice blends and directions on what to do with them. To register call 658-4726.

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.

Crime Spree: Residential Burglary, Attempt Residential Burglary, Prowling and Theft

On March 2, at approximately 6:30pm, the Command Center received a 911 call from a resident in the 300 Block of Myrtle Ave reporting that they confronted a female suspect in their home and were currently chasing her down the street. Officers arrived on scene and took the suspect, 33 year old Ventura resident Jeanette Jason, into custody.

During the investigation, including using multiple home security cameras in the area, it was discovered that Jason had been in the neighborhood since around 1700 hours. She was captured on a video walking up to front door of a home on Beechnut St and opening the door to enter the home. She did not make entry into that home, possibly because people were there. She then walked across the street and went into a neighbor’s back yard, possibly looking for a way to enter that home. From there, she stole a child’s bicycle from the side yard of an additional neighbor’s home before entering the home on Myrtle Ave.

It was discovered after she was taken into custody that Jason was in the home on Myrtle Ave for almost an hour and had ransacked a child’s room and had hidden the child’s clothing on her person. The clothing was discovered after Jason was arrested.

Jason was transported and booked into the Ventura County Jail for First Degree Residential Burglary, Attempt First Degree Residential Burglary, Prowling and Petty Theft.

Anyone with information or any additional victims or witnesses to these crimes is asked to contact the Ventura Police Department at 339-4325.

Commercial Burglary

On March 2, at approximately 4:30pm, a loss prevention officer for a store located in the Pacific View Mall called the Ven Command Center to report he was following three suspects who had just committed a theft from the store. During the incident the loss prevention officers watched as the three suspects worked together to steal over \$2900.00 worth of merchandise.

As the suspects left the store the loss prevention officer followed the suspects from a safe distance and stayed on the phone with the Command Center. The loss prevention officer watched as the three suspects entered a vehicle. The description of the vehicle was given to responding units and an officer responding to the call saw the vehicle drive past him in the opposite direction. The officer quickly coordinated with other officers in the area and a stop of the vehicle was made at the Mobil gas station at Mills and Main.

During the investigation all of the property taken from the store was recovered. The suspects (21 year old Marco Villarroel, 24 year old Jose Lopez and 23 year old Jose Jara – all from the Republic of Chile) were all arrested for Felony charges of Commercial Burglary and Conspiracy.

Robbery, Kidnapping, Assault w/a Deadly Weapon, Felony Evading, Resisting a Peace Officer Arrests

On March 5, at approximately

8:15pm, the Command Center received a call reference an armed robbery in progress at McDonalds on Main St. Responding units observed a vehicle fleeing the area at a high rate of speed without its headlights on. Officers initiated a traffic stop and the vehicle failed to yield and subsequently began running red lights and not stopping for stop signs. The vehicle reached speeds of approximately 70mph before coming to a stop in the 4800 block of Colt St. Both suspects ran from the vehicle as officers established a perimeter. With the assistance of the police K9, the suspects were located hiding inside a dumpster enclosure. 19 year old Oxnard resident Freddy Tavares complied with the officer’s orders to surrender, however 19 year old Oxnard resident Augustin Martinez did not and the police K9 was deployed. Both suspects were eventually taken into custody.

Tavares and Martinez were identified by several witnesses as suspects from the McDonalds robbery. There were also (5) patrons inside McDonalds that were robbed at gun point. During the incident, Martinez physically moved an employee around the business in an attempt to find more cash. VPD Major Crimes Detectives and VPD CSI responded to assist with the investigation. After Martinez was medically cleared for a minor injury, he was booked for robbery, kidnapping, conspiracy, assault with a deadly weapon, felony evading and resisting arrest. Tavares was booked for robbery, conspiracy and resisting arrest.

Elder Abuse and Trespassing Arrest

On March 8, at 6:15am,, the Department Command Center received a 911 call from a resident in the 100 block of N. Dos Caminos Ave. reporting that her husband was struggling with a subject that came into their residence. The subject, later identified as 56 year old vagrant Rickey Badger, the 77-year-old husband was trying to get him out. Prior to officers arriving on scene, Badger fled from the residence on foot and was last seen westbound on Martha Dr. Officers arrived and detained Badger in the area.

During the investigation officers learned that Badger entered the residence through an open front door. Badger struck the victim several times, before fleeing on foot.

The victim received minor injuries as a result of the altercation and was treated on scene by Ventura Fire personnel.

Pursuit

On March 9, at approximately 11:15pm, the Ventura Police Traffic Division was conducting a DUI Checkpoint at the intersection of Harbor Blvd. and Schooner Dr when the suspect, 26 year old Ventura resident Reuben Torres, entered the tapered lanes to the checkpoint, and then began to back out, passing on-coming traffic. Motor Officers staged at the intersection witnessed Torres traveling the wrong way and attempted to conduct an enforcement stop.

Torres failed to yield to the Motor Officers, entered the 101 southbound on-ramp, and accelerated to 100 mph on the freeway. After a brief pursuit, Torres exited the freeway at Telephone Rd. and surrendered to the pursuing officers.

Torres was found to be under the influence of alcohol and on parole for 212.5(c) PC – Robbery. Torres was booked at the Ventura County Jail for Felony Evading and Driving Under the Influence of Alcohol.

Assault w/a Deadly Weapon, Criminal Threats Arrest



VENTURA
Ventura Pier*

OXNARD
Embassy Suites
Mandalay Beach Resort*

VENTURA
Ventura Marriott, Crowne Plaza
Four Points by Sheraton

OXNARD
Residence Inn
Oxnard River Ridge

PORT HUENEME
Holiday Inn Express

***SPRING BREAK HOURS**
March 26 - April 1,
7 Days a Week, 9am to Sunset:
Products & hours vary by location.

RENT SOME FUN!

SURREYS, CRUISERS, TANDEMS, KIDS BIKES & MORE.



(805) 650-7770 • wheelfunrentals.com

On March 10, at 2:20 am, the Command Center received a call reference a male suspect, 21 year old Ventura resident Conner Steven, who had pointed a handgun at an Uber driver and threatened him. According to the Uber driver, after pointing the gun at him Stevens went into a house in the 900 block of Sharon Ln.

Responding units contacted numerous subjects in the street and eventually were able to talk Steven out of the house. During the investigation it was discovered Steven and the Uber driver had gotten into an argument when Steven armed himself, pointed the gun at the driver and threatened to kill him.

Steven was arrested and booked for Assault with a Deadly Weapon as well as Criminal Threats.

Harbor Patrol Blotter

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

2-20 8:20am, while conducting launch ramp enforcement, officers observed an inflatable without registration being retrieved from the water. A safety inspection was conducted and an educational enforcement contact was completed on registering and safety equipment requirements for the state.

2-21 6:32pm, received a dispatch to a near drowning victim at Harbor Cove Beach. Officers responded and found a female who fell overboard from her inflatable and was washed ashore. She was suffering from hypothermia and the passenger was released at the scene. The small vessel was pulled up the beach. The patient was transported to local hospital for low core body temperature.

2-23 10:35am, received a request from seabird rescue to assist volunteer with capturing oily grebe’s at the launch ramp. Officers attempted to catch five of the sick

birds, but were only able to get two. The birds were transported to Santa Barbara wildlife for cleaning and care.

2-25 6:58am, received a dispatch for a fire near Harbor and Olivas. Officers responded and assisted VFD with the investigation. The area known as Riverhaven was searched but no fire was found.

2-26 8:47pm, received a dispatch to an ill subject at VWM C-dock. Officers responded and found a male on his vessel suffering from multiple ailments. The patient was transported to local hospital by AMR for further evaluation.

5:10pm, while on patrol officers observed a large passenger vessel having difficulty returning to the harbor. Officers responded in the fireboat and monitored the vessel while it was being assisted into its slip by a tender.

3-03 4:44pm, observed that the National Weather Service posted a Small Craft Advisory until 3am Sunday. Officers raised SCA warning flags and illuminated warning lights.

3-04 11:10am, received a request from State Parks supervisor to assist with removing and towing an aground PWC near the pier. Officers responded and with assistance from a State Parks Lifeguard towed the vessel off the beach and to the launch ramp in Ventura Harbor.

3-05 2:22pm, received a dispatch to a medical in the Ventura Marina Community. Officers responded and assisted Ventura Fire/AMR with the call.

5:15pm, received a report of a head injury at 1500 Spinnaker Drive. Officers responded and assisted a 40 year old female who suffered a head injury, an object fell and hit her in the head. First aid was rendered and an assessment was conducted for what turned out to be a minor injury.

3-06 3:30pm, received a dispatch to an unknown medical at Harbor / Olivas Park intersection. Officers responded and assisted VFD/AMR with an older female transient who was lying on the ground near the road. She was convinced to leave the area after it was determined that no medical existed.



by Pam Baumgardner

VenturaRocks.com

You won't want to miss the return of the Preachers Blues Band when they reunite for Thomas Fire relief show at the Hong Kong Inn on Saturday, March 17. It's been almost five years and it may not happen again for who knows how long! I'm hearing many musicians who have sat in with the band in the past are on board to perform too including Rick Reeves, Guy Martin, Ashford Gordon, Ray Jaurique, Preston Smith, Kelly Zirbes, Perry Robertson, Glade Rassmussen, John Fincham, Jerry Briener, Ian McFadyan, Jodi Farrell and more!

A popular event every year as a precursor to the Ventura Music Festival is the Student Jazz competition. Judges will award cash prizes to three of Southern California's best high school jazz musicians and they'll be invited to perform during the Festival's run. The competition this year will be held at Squashed Grapes on Sunday, March 18, at 2 pm. While this one is free, donations for the Young Artists Fund will be gratefully appreciated.

Beware the bagpipers throughout the day at different venues on Saturday, March 17, but as St. Patrick's Day actually falls on a Saturday, there will also be plenty of music during the St. Patrick's Day parade on Main Street downtown Ventura. Get the entire family there early so you can get a good seat to cheer on the participating entrees. It's always a hoot!

Quick notes: Opera Santa Barbara is offering a free performance on Friday, March 16 during the lunch hour at EP Foster Library; Donavon Frankenreiter plays Discovery on Friday, March 16; The Galactic Polecats play Sans Souci on Saturday, March 17; Cranberry Sauce debuts at Grapes and Hops on Sunday, March 18, offering music by The Beatles; The Majestic Ventura Theater has Flogging Molly on Monday, March 19, and Ministry on Friday, March 23; The Phantom Poms CD release party at the Hong Kong Inn is on Saturday, March 24; Tickets for Frost and Fire IV have gone on sale for three nights at the Ventura Theater October 4, 5 and 6th with Cirith Ungol, Gygax, Night Demon, Screamer and more on the bill; the Ventura County Concert band holds one of their annual free shows at the Ventura High School Auditorium on Sunday afternoon, March 18, at 3 pm, this one is called "Simply...the Masters"; and ARC of Ventura is holding their annual "Let's Go Out" event at Bombay's on Sunday, March 24, with Fish Fry, the Vonettes and Seth Pettersen and Friends.

And finally, VenturaRocks.com is celebrating their 9th anniversary serving the community. There are a number of changes coming soon including the listing of only live music along with the inclusion of venues from neighboring cities.

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

Blue Agave Restaurant 185 E. Santa Clara Street

Music at 3 pm
Sun 3/18: Misunderstood
Boatyard Pub
Ventura Harbor Village
Mondays: Milo Sledge
Tuesdays: Jason Ho
Wednesdays: Mark McGinis
Thursdays: Blue Grass Jam
Fri 3/16: Teresa Russell
Sat 3/17: Kenny Devoe
Sun 3/18: Jason Ho
Fri 3/23: Tom & Milo
Sat 3/24: Karen Eden & Bill Macpherson
Sun 3/25: Unkle Monkey
Bombay Bar & Grill
143 S. California Street
Friday and Saturdays: DJs
Sat 3/24: ARC's Let's go Out with Fish Fry, The Vonettes, Seth Pettersen & Friends

Café Fiore
66 S. California Street
(805) 653-1266
Wed 3/14: Big Adventure
Thurs 3/15: Coso Live
Fri 3/16: Self Righteous Bros.
Sat 3/17: Holgers Heroes
Tues 3/20: Jeanne Tatum
Wed 3/21: Donna Butler
Thurs 3/22: Self Righteous Bros.
Fri 3/23: Instone
Sat 3/24: Self Righteous Bros.
Tues 3/27: Mari Nobre

Cask Alehouse
5952 Telegraph Road
Music at 7 pm
Sat 3/17: Milo Sledge
The Cave
4435 McGrath Street
5:30 - 8:30 pm
Weds & Saturdays: Varon Thomas
Thurs & Fridays: Warren Takahashi

Copa Cubana
Ventura Harbor Village
Week nights 6 pm; Weekends 7 pm; Sundays 3 pm
Tuesdays: The Jerry McWorter Trio
Wednesdays: Creative Open Mic Jazz Jam
Sat 3/17: Havana Cinco
Sun 3/18: Brandon Ragan Project
Fri 3/23: Lorenzo Martinez
Sat 3/24: Havana Cinco
Sun 3/25: Karen Eden
Cork
1930 E. Main Street
Music at 6 pm
Fri 3/23: Medicine Hat
Dargan's Irish Pub
593 E. Main Street
Sat 3/17: Bagpipe players throughout the day
Sun 3/18: 4 pm Sunday Drivers

Discovery
1888 Thompson Blvd
Wed 3/14: Fortunate Youth, Ballyhoo, Tatank
Thurs 3/15: Earthkry w/ The Question
Fri 3/16: Donavon Frankenreiter, Matt Grundy
Sat 3/17: The Upbeat
Sun 3/18: 4 pm Groove Session
Thurs 3/22: Mike Pinto
Fri 3/23: Karla
Sun 3/25: 7 pm Chainksa Brassika
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 3/16: Fido
Fri 3/23: JJ Frank duo
Garage
1091 Scandia
Thurs 3/15: Eye of Solitude, Marche Funebre, Stratma
Fri 3/16: The Birth Defects, Easy Death, Divola, Infiltrator, Malice Thoughts
Sat 3/17: Sweet Reaper, Ottotfix, Hayley & the Crushers
Gigi's Cocktails
2493 Grand Avenue
(805) 642-2411
Thurs, Fri & Sat: Karaoke
Sat 3/17: Deaf Pilots
Grapes and Hops
454 E. Main Street
Wed 6 pm; Thurs 7 pm; Fri & Sat 8 pm, Sun 3 pm
Thurs 3/15: Curt Bisquera & Tariqh Akoni
Fri 3/16: Dan Grimm
Sat 3/17: Brandon Ragan Project
Sun 3/18: Cranberry Sauce
Fri 3/23: Mario Calire Quartet
Sat 3/24: Diane Miller Band
Sun 3/25: Mandy & Johnny
Hong Kong Inn
435 E. Thompson Blvd
Mondays: Karaoke
Wednesdays: Open mic night w/ Beer Brothers
Thursdays: Gypsy Blues Band
Fri 3/16: Hi Hat Entertainment presents Shari Puerto w/ Barry Goldberg
Sat 3/17: Preachers Blues Band
Fri 3/23: Hi Hat Entertainment presents Debbie Davies w/ Teresa James
Sat 3/24: Phantom Poms CD release party
Keynote Lounge
10245 E. Telephone Road
Tues & Wed: Karaoke
Thursdays: Open mic night
Fri 3/16: Coz Broz
Sat 3/17: Pull the Trigger
Fri 3/23: Cross Cut
Sat 3/24: What the Funk
Leashless Brewing
585 E. Thompson Blvd.
Tuesdays: Galactic Jazz
Sat 3/17: Jason Ho
Thurs 3/22: Sam Kulchin
Fri 3/23: Jade Hendrix
Sat 3/24: Matt Sayles
Made West Brewing
1744 Donlon Street
Thurs 6 pm; Sat 4 pm; Sun 3 pm
Thurs 3/15: Anna Vera
Sat 3/17: Jeremy Ferrara
Sun 3/18: Shaky Feelin'
Thurs 3/22: Cap Quirk
Sun 3/25: Sea at Last
Majestic Ventura Theater
26 S. Chestnut Street
Mon 3/19: Flogging Molly
Fri 3/23: Ministry
Margarita Villa
Ventura Harbor
Fri and Sat 6 pm; Sun 3 pm
Sat 3/17: Cross Cut
Sun 3/18: Blown Over
Fri 3/23: James Broz
Sat 3/24: Dive Bar Messiahs
Sun 3/25: Mark Masson & Friends
Patio at Players Casino
Auto Center Drive
Thursdays: Hermano's Herrera Trio
Fri 3/16: CRV
Sat 3/17: Crooked Eye Tommy
Prime
2209 E. Thompson Blvd
Tuesdays: Danny D
Fridays: Mike Moody
Saturdays: Jessica Ash
Red Cove

1809 E. Main Street
Thursdays: Music Club Open Jam Night
Sat 3/17: All-a-Blur, The Kane Gang, SRA, The Navanax, Rugburn, The Hell Toupees
Sandbox Coffeehouse
204 E. Thompson Blvd
805-641-1025
Thurs 6 pm, Weekends noon
Thursdays Open Mic
Sat 3/17: Ruby Skye
Sat 3/24: Dan McNay
Sans Souci
21 S. Chestnut
Sundays: DJ Darko
Mondays: Karaoke
Tuesdays: DJ Nick Dean
Wednesdays: Open mic
Thursdays: DJ Spinobi
Fri 3/16: DJ Pistolero
Sat 3/17: Galactic Polecats
Fri 3/23: If it Kills You
Sat 3/24: Corpse I Stole
Squashed Grapes
2351 E. Main Street
Wed 3/14: Meridian Trio
Thurs 3/15: Nee Sackey
Fri 3/16: Bruce Lett
Sat 3/17: Parade Band
Sun 3/18: 2 pm, Ventura Music Festival
Student Jazz Competition
Tues 3/20: Jazz Jam
Thurs 3/22: Mezcál Martini
Fri 3/23: Brad Rubuchin
Sat 3/24: RJ Root
Star Lounge
343 E. Main Street
Tues: Karaoke
Thurs: DJ Trolbhe
Fri 3/16: Brandon Ragan Project
Sat 3/17: Shawn Jones Trio
Fri 3/23: The Bomb
Fri 3/24: Power Syndicate
The Tavern
211 E. Santa Clara Street
(805) 643-3264
Sundays: DJ Steezy Steve
Tuesdays: Karaoke
Metal Wednesdays
Get it Right Thursday DJs
Fri 3/16: Seaside Band
Sat 3/17: DJ
Fri 3/23: Old Soul
Sat 3/24: Black Stripes
Topa Mountain Winery
821 W. Ojai Avenue, Ojai
(805) 640-1190
Music 3-5 pm
Sat 3/17: The Diane Miller Band
Sun 3/18: Omar Velasco
Sat 3/24: Shawn Jones
Sun 3/25: Patricia Avis Trio
Ventura High School
2 N. Catalina Street
Sun 3/18: 3 pm Ventura County Concert Band
Vintura at the Wine Rack
14 S. California Street
(805) 653-9463
Sundays music at 2 pm
Thurs 3/15: Dogfish
Fri 3/16: Vanise Terry Band
Sat 3/17: 805 Rhythm
Sun 3/18: Marx & Milo
Thurs 3/22: Doc Ventura & Earth Immigrant
Fri 3/23: Rich Sheldon
Sat 3/24: Déjà vu Too
Sun 3/25: Nick Justiniano
Winchester's
632 E. Main Street
(805) 653-7446
Music at 8:30 pm
Fri 3/16: Preston Smith
Sat 3/17: Aaron Pax Taylor
Fri 3/23: Madeline Deveroux
Sat 3/24: The Swillys
The 805 Bar
Ventura Harbor
Music at noon Sat & Sun with Kenny Devoe
Fridays 5-7: Sing-a-long with Kenny Devoe
Fri 3/23: Karen Eden



Lemon Shark Sunset, photo, Christopher Borel

Buenaventura Art Association will honor the three winners of the 2017 Collegiate Student Art Competition with a reception 5-8 p.m. March 17.

A body of their work will be on display in the Student Winners exhibition March 14-April 14. **Christopher Borel** was first-place winner, **Omar Soto** took second place, and **Jasmine O'Campo** was third.

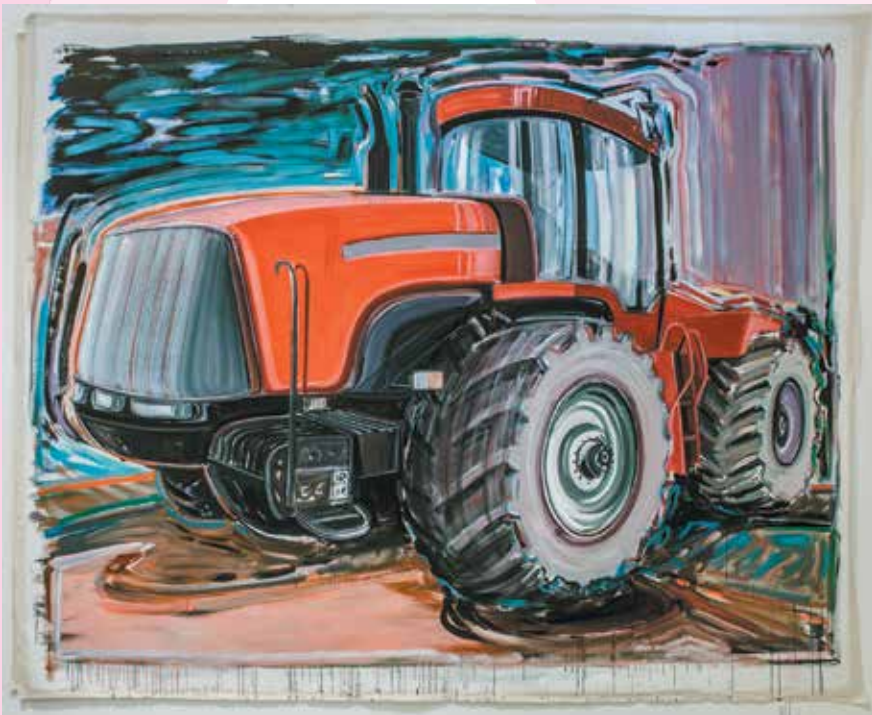
Photographer Borel, a Ventura College student, won for a piece entitled "Lemon Shark Sunset." Soto, also attending Ventura College, won his prize with a pencil drawing called "Lost in Thought." Moorpark College student O'Campo took third with marker and crayon drawn, anatomical overlays entitled "Anatomy of Her."

First place came with an \$800 scholarship; second place, \$600; and third, \$350. The winners also received a free one-year BAA membership with free entry fees.

Also showing is an open competition called "Stories." Artists who submitted artwork to this show also had to submit a written paragraph describing what inspired the piece.

A duo show by BAA members Helle Scharling-Todd and Mary Westheimer will also be on exhibit.

Buenaventura Gallery is open 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday. For more information about the Collegiate Competition, these exhibitions or the nonprofit Buenaventura Art Association, call 648-1235 or visit www.buenaventuragallery.org.



Big Red by Karen Carson

A Conversation with Karen Carson
Sunday, March 25 - 3 to 4:30 p.m.
Oxnard's Levity Live at The Collection
591 Collection Blvd.

To learn about Karen Carson visit www.KarenCarsonArtist.com

Karen Carson, a major figure in the Los Angeles feminist art movement, has employed varied techniques and materials to reflect and comment on the turbulence of everyday life. She is concerned with both what can be a dangerous natural world and an equally disturbing world of politics and world events. Donna Granata's conversation with Karen Carson will trace the development of an artist whose oeuvre takes us from abstract zippered canvases, tableaux with feminist themes, the muscular tractor series, and to her current

exploration of form and color on bas relief wood.

The Artist Spotlight and panel discussion is open to students attending as a class assignment free of charge. FOTM is happy to assist with tracking attendance and sign-in sheets. Reservations required. To RSVP visit www.FocusOnTheMasters.com or call 653.2501.

Join us for a celebratory dinner at the Vita Art Center hosted by Ginny Furmanski and The Old Broads Catering Company immediately following the Artist Spotlight Interview. Paid reservations are essential and required prior to March 20. We expect this AfterGLOW to sell out.

\$30 FOTM members, \$40 Non-members. Maps will be given to paid guests at the interview.

The wonderful art of Mrs. Winchester's 7th class at Balboa Middle School is on display at Foster Library. It is dedicated to the heroes of the Thomas Fire.



Christine Leong, Mountains in Blue

Arts & Eats will be held in downtown Ventura on Saturday, March 17 from 6 - 8pm. Fifteen galleries, restaurants and shops open their doors for art receptions and complimentary tastes. The event is free to the public.



Christine Leong and **Andrea Vargas** will display their art at Fox Fine Jewelry from March 15 - May 13, with an Art Reception on March 17 from 6 - 8:00pm. Musician Corinn Conant will sing and play guitar during the reception.

"A Line in the Sand" is a collaboration between Christine Leong and Andrea Vargas. Their friendship is unique in that they work on pieces of art together, combining different mediums and techniques. Usually, one will work on the background before giving the piece to the other to complete the artwork. In "A Line in the Sand," they again co-create, showing us just what makes Ventura home.

Christine Leong, from Hong Kong, has a special talent for painting Koi fish and florals on rice paper. She has been using rice paper for 30 years, and recently has explored and started painting wearable art on raw silk.

See the website for gallery shows info:

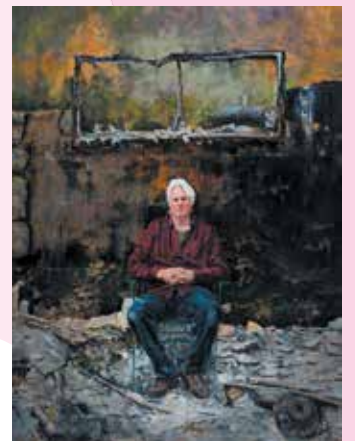
<http://www.foxfinejewelry.com/event/article/arts-eats/>

Ojai Studio Artists respond to the Thomas Fire "Scorched Souls" is the upcoming exhibition of the Ojai Studio Artists at the Ojai Valley Museum. The exhibit documents the OSA artists' reactions to the Thomas Fire, the largest fire in California state history.

The exhibit will run until June 17. A portion of sales from the show will be donated to a local fire relief fund.

Another highlight of the show will be the "Town Talk" at the show's closing reception on Sunday June 17. OSA artists and OSA art collectors who lost work in the fire will discuss how they're moving forward after the fire. Artists will also be on hand for a book signing of the "Scorched Souls" catalogue documenting this exhibit.

The Ojai Valley Museum is located at 130 West Ojai Ave. Hours are Tuesday-Saturday, 10 a.m. - Sunday, 12-4 p.m. For more information, please call 640-1390.



Print Exchange Anthology Exhibition, Saturday, March 24, 6-10 pm, curated by **Trent Stevens** and **Sophia Kidd**, is an Art City Gallery pop-up exhibition. Print Exchange is an idea that your art has worth. It has exchanges monthly since 2015 and the idea has spread from Ventura to Colorado, Nicaragua and Sri Lanka. We thought it was time to feature 22 of Print Exchange's most visionary disrupters. From photography and letterpress to zines and one-off prints, all print-makers are welcome to come and show, swap, sell or buy artworks on the open-source wall. Art City Gallery, 197 Dubbers St. 648-1690.

www.artcitygalleryandstudios.com.



Pastel Class on Saturday, March 24th from 1:30pm to 4:30 pm. Teacher **Tasia Erickson**.

This month's topic is a very colorful Macaw! Fully guided, fun and you end up with a self-made work of art for your wall!

The VC Arts Collective at Pacific View Mall, 2nd floor next to Sears.

Cost is \$57.00 including Materials.

Paid reservation is desirable.

Email vcartscollective@gmail.com

Phone 676-1540



Lighter Breeze

Mother Goose and Grimm



Mutts



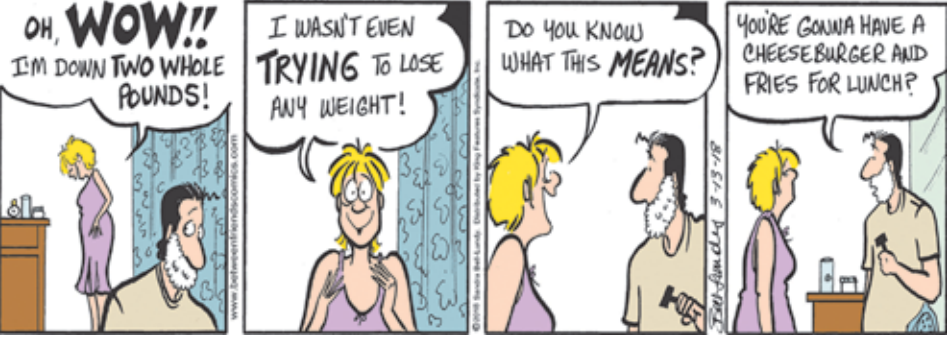
Baby Blues



Barney Google and Snuffy Smith



Between Friends



Crock



Solutions on page 23

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

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

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!

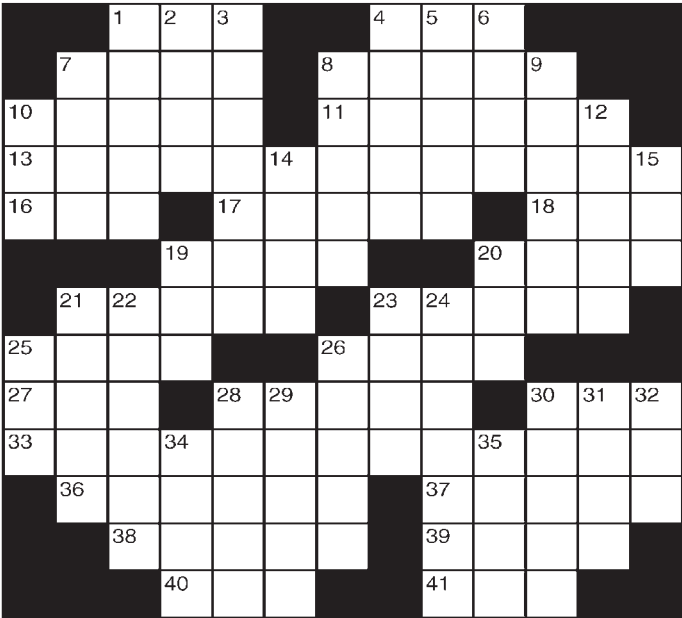
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Solutions on page 23

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Chaps
4 Insane
7 Location
8 Skeptical sort
10 Original "Trivial Pursuit" edition
11 Traitor Benedict
13 Monopoly avenue neighboring "Go"
16 Winehouse or Poehler
17 Wooden strips
18 I love (Lat.)
19 Big party
20 Always
21 Fischer's game
23 Cloys
25 "Hey, sailor!"
26 Legend
27 — de Janeiro
28 Occurrence
30 Hot tub
33 1970s TV hospital drama
36 Ending that may be grand
37 Point-and-click device
38 Follow
39 Bridge, in Brest



- 40 That woman
41 Powerful stick

- 8 — blanche head
9 Stick firmly
10 "Today Show" rival, for short
12 Knighted women
14 Chows down
15 Neither mate
19 "30 Rock" star
20 Biblical verb ending
21 Main
22 Sweatshirt that can cover your
23 Harmonization
24 Try
25 Upper limb
26 Brawl
28 PayPal currency
29 Worth
30 "Beat the Clock" challenge
31 Nuisance
32 Exist
34 Quaint stop-overs
35 Middyay

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there's still room for compromise. **LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) An opportunity you'd been hoping for finally opens up. But read the fine print before you make a commitment, especially where a time factor might be involved.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) With your practical side dominant this week, it's a good time to reassess your finances to see what expenses you can cut. Aspects also favor mending fraying relationships.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Your Bovine-inspired determination to follow matters through from beginning to end pays off in a big way. Enjoy a well-earned weekend of fun with a special someone.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Aspects favor re-establishing business relationships you might have neglected. A family member's request needs to be given more thought before you make a decision.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) While you might appreciate the avalanche of advice coming from others, keep in mind that the intuitive Moon Child is best served by listening to her or his own inner voice.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) The Lion's social life whirls at centrifugal speed this week as you go from function to function. Things slow by week's end, giving you a chance to catch up on your chores.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Don't let your stand on an issue cause a rift with a colleague. Insist on both of you taking time to reassess your positions while

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Your need to know what's going on behind the scenes leads you to make some bold moves. Be prepared with a full explanation of your actions if necessary.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A lot of details need tending to during the early part of the week. The pressure eases midweek, allowing you to get back to your major undertaking.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) A friend asks you to act on their behalf in a dispute. Be careful. You might not have all the facts you need in order to make a fair assessment of the situation.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) A new development might require you to cancel some of your plans. But you adapt easily, and by week's end, you could receive welcome "cheering-up" news.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Your recent workplace accomplishments boost your self-confidence just as you're about to consider a potentially rewarding, although possibly risky, career move.

BORN THIS WEEK: Your love of the arts is equaled only by your strong sense of justice. People can depend on you to always try to do what's right.

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Show Time

The 2018 Breezy Awards

by Manuel Reynoso

Award season is in the air and it’s my honor to present to you, the only movie awards that truly matter: The 2017 Breezy Awards! The format is simple, I have a variety of Breezy awards to give out, plus an honorable mention for some of the categories, followed by an explanation for the awards. With that, here are my picks for the 2017 Breezy awards.

Best Cinematography: Roger Deacon, Blade Runner 2049

All around fantastic framing and camera work, Blade Runner 2049 has some of the best camera work I’ve seen. It gave the already visually striking film much more impact.

Best Film Editing, Lee Smith, Dunkirk

While editing may not be my forte, it’s easy to recognize excellence when I see it. With a narrative presented as complex as this, Lee Smith’s mastery of editing made the complexity of Dunkirk work so elegantly.

Best Animated Film: Coco

Coco’s importance to me can’t be overstated. It was a beautiful work of art while also being a celebration of the Mexican people and their culture. I was engrossed by the sights and sounds of my people finally have strong representation on the big screen. Call it biased, but Coco was a fantastic animated adventure, that makes me tear up every time.

Honorable Mention: The Breadwinner

A gripping and emotional tale of a Young Afghan girl assuming the identity of a boy to provide for her family, it’s a film that might have flown under most people’s radar but deserves to be seen regardless.

Best Screenplay: Lady Bird by Greta Gerwig

The brilliance of Lady Bird’s writing wasn’t revolutionary in the way the story was written. Instead, I found it’s brilliance in the way its characters are written and presented. It was a simple story that found its complexity in the relationships between the characters. For me personally, that’s why I find it deserving of Best Screenplay.

Honorable Mention: Get Out by Jordan Peele

I do believe Get Out is equally as deserving of this reward as Lady Bird. Get Out of ingenious in the way it presented social inequality and was very clever with its use of double entendre. It presents a difficult topic in a way both easily consumable and subverts many of our expectations of horror.

Best Director: Guillermo del Toro, Shape of Water

Guillermo del Toro continues to completely floor me in how much style and substance can be added to a film by having a strong direction. The art direction, cinematography, acting, and so on work together so beautifully under his direction.

Honorable Mention: Christopher Nolan, Dunkirk

For me, Christopher Nolan is the master of big-budget movie making and Dunkirk was just another success in a long line of them. It’s a fantastic film, and no one makes them have impact quite like Nolan.

Many of the films listed above deserve an honorable mention for

picture of the year, but only one can win the coveted 2017 Breezy Award for Best Picture.

Best Picture of the Year: Baby Driver

While it may seem unexpected, Baby Driver was the single most enjoyable film I’ve seen in 2017. Strong theming is the easiest way to my heart, and Baby Driver going all in on the theme of rhythm and music was beautiful. It was edited on beat, the dialog flowed like music, and the film marched along at the beat of its own drum. A surprising, but easy pick for Picture of the Year.

A View from House Seats

Brothers Collide in True West at Elite

by Shirley Lorraine

A thought-provoking piece by prolific American author Sam Shepard, True West is considered to be Shepard’s “signature” works. The gritty characters are somewhat autobiographical and speak to his preoccupation with the myth of a vanishing West. Elite’s Artistic Director Tom Eubanks directs the 1983 Pulitzer Prize-winning offering.

Austin, a screenwriter, is house-sitting for his mother who is away on vacation to Alaska. Interrupting the flow of his work enters Austin’s estranged older brother, Lee, a bombastic grifter and opportunist. His main occupation is drinking, however, at which he excels. Much to Austin’s dismay, Lee settles in and makes himself at home.

Austin is desperately trying to finish his current script before meeting with his agent, Saul Kimmer, due in the next day. Lee makes an unscheduled appearance and immediately bullies Saul into meeting with him over golf so he can pitch his own story, a Western.

Conflicts arise when Saul agrees to can Austin’s work in favor of Lee’s new story. Both brothers are badly in need of this redemptive contract and tension builds as they struggle to get the completed story on paper. Ultimately, the roles become reversed as they both realize they must see this through to survive. Austin drinks to cope with the situation and Lee begins to see light over the horizon, at least financially.

Mom eventually returns from her trip, dismissing the brother’s tussle and differences. It appears that both sons have been enabling their alcoholic father over the years, which contributes to the emotional conflict. Mom chooses to ignore the reality of the situation completely.

The brothers are played by Aaron Gardner as Austin and Sean Mason as Lee. Both capture the essence of their characters to the core. Gardner comes across as a fairly meek man struggling to provide for his family, while Mason pulls out all the stops as the disheveled drunkard drifter.

Saul Kimmer is given a superb characterization by Buddy Wilds with just the right amount of stereotypical oily persona. His Hawaiian shirts alone exude the essence of the laid-back go-with-the-flow man who can easily be persuaded to change his mind by losing a bet on the golf course. Marilyn Lazik embodies the briefer role of the slightly confused and deluded Mom. Mom’s appearance doesn’t stop the arguing brothers but does add dimension to the

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The door to your dreams hinges on me!

overall dysfunctional picture.

The piece highlights the duality of each brother secretly wishing to be in the others’ shoes. Austin wishes he had the freedom on which brother Lee thrives, while Lee expresses his deep-down desire for the stability that Austin enjoys.

True West is billed as a comedy and although there are some laughs throughout, the action and dialogue between the belligerent bully and the home-in-the-suburbs family man takes on a pervasive dark tone accented by dim lighting. A detailed interior setting by Henry House becomes its own character in the play, providing context and a background canvas of stability and warmth that contrasts with the brothers’ situation and actions.

True West runs through March 25. Friday & Saturday eves 8 PM, Sunday matinees 2 p.m. General admission \$20. Seniors and students \$17. Season subscriptions are also available. Reservations are encouraged. 483-5118 Elite Theatre Company, 2731 Victoria Avenue, Fisherman’s Wharf, Channel Islands Harbor www.elitetheatre.org

Hollywood

by Tony Rizzo

Don’t mess with Meryl Streep! When Harvey Weinstein’s attorneys, trying to get him off of racketeering charges, quoted her as saying, “He has always been respectful to me,” she shot back, “Harvey Weinstein’s attorneys’ use of my statement -- that he was not sexually aggressive or physically abusive in our business relationship -- as evidence he was not abusive with many other women is pathetic and explosive!” She added, “The criminal actions he is accused of conducting on the bodies of these women are his responsibility, and if there is any justice left in the systems, he will pay for them.”

Netflix is resurrecting more old shows. It will launch a reboot of the classic sci-fi series “Lost in Space” (1965-1968) on April 13. A screener has already sent it to the International Space Station for the astronauts to watch. The series takes place 30 years into the future, when colonization in space is a reality. Starring as John Robinson (played by Guy Williams in the 1960s) will be Toby Stephens, Pierce Brosnan’s 007 villain in “Die Another Day” (2002) and also Starz “Black Sails” series. His wife, Maureen, will be played by Molly Parker (of “House of Cards”) and Will Robinson (Billy Mumy) now will be played by 12-year-old Chicago-born Max Jenkins. Dr. Zackary Smith (Jonathan Harris) has undergone a gender change and will be played by Parker Posey, best known for the Woody Allen films “Irrational Man” (2015) and “Cafe Society” (2016).

Not content to be “spaced out,” Netflix also is reviving “Sabrina the Teenage Witch,” with Kiernan Shipka (Sally Draper in “Mad Men”) as Sabrina (played by Melissa Joan Hart from 1996-2003). Her aunts will be Miranda Otto (Eowyn in the second and third “Lord of the Rings” films), taking over for Beth Broderick as Zelda Spellman, and Lucy Davis (Etta Candy in “Wonder Woman,”) handling Caroline Rhea’s role of Hilda Spellman.



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
3/22: MIKE PINTO
3/23: KARLA PEREZ AS SELENA
3/24: THE SUNSHINE EXPERIENCE
3/25: CHAINKSA BRASSIKA
3/30: SHAKY FEELIN
3/31: OZOMATLI & OZOKIDZ



SATURDAY, MARCH 31ST



DONAVON FRANKENREITER
FRIDAY, MARCH 16TH



BACKYARD Bash
- APRIL 07, 2018 -



TRIO FESTIVAL
SUNDAY, APRIL 8TH

FULL CALENDAR & INFO
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as Sabrina (played by Melissa Joan Hart from 1996-2003). Her aunts will be Miranda Otto (Eowyn in the second and third “Lord of the Rings” films), taking over for Beth Broderick as Zelda Spellman, and Lucy Davis (Etta Candy in “Wonder Woman,”) handling Caroline Rhea’s role of Hilda Spellman.

Even though CBS has Tom Selleck in the hit series “Blue Bloods,” the network is intent in revisiting his days as Thomas Magnum in “Magnum, P.I. (1980-88). For the pilot to sell the series, it has cast Jay Hernandez in Selleck’s star-making role. Hernandez starred in “Hostel” (2005) and the 2007 sequel, and most recently was in “Suicide Squad” (as Chato Santana/El Diablo) and “Bad Mom’s Christmas,” with Mila Kunis, Kristen Bell and Susan Sarandon.

Finally, billionaire Bill Gates has filmed an appearance in “The Big Bang Theory” that will air later this month. In the show, Penny hosts Gates at her work, and the guys do everything they can to meet him. Gates’ last sitcom appearance was in “Fraser” in 2001. How can anyone survive with only two sitcom appearances in 17 years? 2018 King Features Synd., Inc.



OCEAN VIEW VACATION GET-AWAY



One bedroom plus living room plus one bath guest wing in vintage Tudor home.

In this private hideaway at the top of the hill you can watch spectacular sunsets melt into the ocean and sparkling city lights at night from inside this cozy charmer or out on your private patio balcony.

Within one mile of Pierpont Beach and close proximity to the Harbor Marina and Historic Downtown San Buenaventura.

Bedroom with luxurious queen bed, cable TV, sitting area and ocean views.



Kitchenette with refrigerator, stove-oven, microwave and fully stocked with all cooking utensils. Full bathroom with whirlpool tub and shower. All linens provided.



Living room with fireplace, dining area, cable TV and ocean views.

Patio deck with gas bar-b-que and panoramic ocean views.



Wireless internet access. Free laundry facility on premises.



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Did we mention ocean views?

Contact (805) 641-1824 for more information and to make a reservation.

This 'n' That



Three-year-old Cayden asked grandma City Council Member Cheryl Heitmann for a new car at Kirby Kia but mean grandma said he was too young so she bought him on ice cream instead.

Fire survivor’s Benefit Festival checks

Thank you for your incredible patience as we work on the distribution of the one-time Thomas Fire Benefit Festival checks. Each person/household will receive \$750! We can confirm that the checks will be ready Friday, March 16.

There are three distribution centers:
Ventura Residents: Please come to the Downtown Ventura Partners offices at 420 East Santa Clara St. Come only on Friday, March 16 between 1pm-6pm. And on Wed., March 21 through Friday, March 23 from 1pm-6pm. If you cannot make these times, email kevin@downtownventura.org to discuss other arrangements.

Ojai Area Residents: Please go to Help of Ojai’s Community Assistance Program at 108 Fox Street, Ojai between 9am-3pm on Friday, March 16. And again 9am-3pm on Monday, March 19 through Wednesday, March 21. Help of Ojai is graciously volunteering to be a pick-up location. Please do not call their office or go to their main offices. If you cannot make these times, please email kevin@downtownventura.org to discuss other arrangements.

Santa Paula/Fillmore Residents: We are finalizing a pick-up location. We have your email addresses and we will be communicating directly with you to provide the location and times.

To collect your check, you must present a form of ID and FEMA paperwork, or (if you don’t have FEMA papers) a utility bill or documents that describe your loss and a valid ID linking

yourself to the affected property. Please do not email these documents. Just bring them when you pick up your check.

We appreciate your patience throughout this process! We truly hope this money will help soften the incredible blow you have endured. These funds are to address any unmet needs beyond any insurance payouts or disaster assistance you have received. #VenturaCountyStrong! The Thomas Fire Benefit Team

Zumba Gold is perfect for all active adults

The City of Ventura Parks and Recreation is offering a Zumba Gold series at the Ventura Avenue Adult Center

from 12:00-1:00pm every Monday and Wednesday beginning March 26, and a Friday class beginning March 30.

Zumba Gold is perfect for all active adults, 50+, looking for a Zumba class at a lower-intensity level. This easy to follow class focuses on heart rate, balance, range of motion, and coordination. Come ready to sweat, leave feeling empowered, strong. Regain flexibility and strength while having fun learning a dance step or two! Having two left feet is no problem.

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

For more information call (818) 515-8590. Sign up by phone 658-4726 requesting Zumba Gold-10148 Monday and Wednesdays or Zumba Gold-10688 Fridays.

Join us
Thursday, March 22, 2018
6:00 pm for Drinks & Appetizers

Ventura Beach Club
281 East Main St., Ventura, CA 93001

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.



Presented by VENTURA WATER.

Thank you to our Sponsors:



A generous portion of our Sponsor contributions will go to support those impacted by the Thomas Fire.

Space is limited. RSVP at www.watertake1.com