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A memorial has been set up on the Promenade for Anthony Mele.

## Tragedy strikes Ventura

by Sheli Ellsworth

On April 18th at 6:23pm, a 911 call reported that a homeless man was at the Ventura Promenade yelling and “being disruptive,” according to a statement issued by Ventura Police. Because all patrol cars were on other calls, the command center staff watched the pier’s security camera for twenty minutes and determined that a man matching the caller’s description was not threatening or disturbing.

At about 6:30pm, a homeless man, Jamal Jackson (49) entered the Aloha Steakhouse patio and stabbed patron Anthony Mele (35) in the neck. Mele was eating dinner with his family and had no connection to Jackson. Aloha employees quickly responded with first aid using towels to stop Mele’s bleeding. They took Mele’s family to a back room to comfort them. Mele’s wife appeared to be in shock. His daughter was given ice-cream. Mele was taken to the hospital and later died. The tragedy marks the city’s first homicide this year.

According to the police report, “Officers from the Special Enforcement Team, who were patrolling the area, quickly arrived on scene. The officers observed a group of people standing on the Ventura Promenade who had chased the subject (Jackson) from the crime scene and onto the beach.”

Jackson was arrested without incident. Reports of Jackson using a restaurant steak knife to commit the crime was in error. The knife belonged to Jackson. There is video footage of several people interact-

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Students from Ventura schools gathered on the lawn and steps at City Hall to call for gun reform. Photos by Michael Gordon.

## Student-driven demonstrations have been held all across the nation

Over 150 Ventura Unified School District students gathered at City Hall on April 20, to call for new gun legislation and an end to gun violence in our schools and country. The National

School Walkout on Friday was the 19th anniversary of the shooting at Columbine High School in Colorado.

Students from Foothill Technolo-

*Continued on page 22*



Left: Ventura Police Chief Ken Corney, Officer Allen and Santa Barbara Police Chief Lori Lubnew. Right: DA Investigator Baray, Officer Rolls and Chief Corney.

## Ventura welcomes new police officers

Five new Ventura Police Officers graduated from the Ventura County Criminal Justice Training Center’s Academy this month and are now in their next phase of field training!

Congratulations to Officer Rolls for being presented with the “Outstanding Personal Traits Award” and Officer Allen for being presented with the “Outstanding Academic Achievement & Scenario Performance Award”.



The 49 recruits, representing agencies throughout Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties completed 24 weeks of instruction provided through the combined efforts of local law enforcement agencies and other criminal justice entities. The intense training and education prepares these recruits for the responsibility of serving as police officers. We wish the entire class well as they begin their next phase of training!



Craig Jones Management Analyst and Susan Rungren Resource Manager for Ventura Water enjoying the films.

## 6th Annual Water Take 1 Film Festival

by Jennifer Tipton

Originally scheduled for March 22nd, Water Take 1 was postponed to April 12th due to the forecasted rain, an amusing paradox if you ask me, but Ventura Water thoughtfully stated it was “in consideration of our community’s safety”.

Free to the public with RSVP, the event took place at the Ventura Beach Club with about 150 in attendance. Preceding the presentation, attendees lined up for a complementary taco bar catered by “famous taco bar”, while live acoustic music was provided by Jason Ho. Attendance was limited to adults only, each was given a ticket for an (adult) beverage and everyone was sent home with a souvenir Ventura Water glass.

Opposed to last year’s event where over 50 short films were submitted from around the globe, this year Ventura Water chose to honor water heroes from our own community. Water Resource Manager for the City of Ventura, Susan Rungren told me, “it’s totally different this year, more local”.

Deputy Mayor Matt LaVere announced the screening of the three short films Ventura Water put together to honor the recipients of this year’s awards. Each award winner was later presented with a plaque and a \$500 gift card.

The first award went to Ventura’s

*Continued on page 7*

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## City News



*It was an immensely joyful and exuberant celebration for park that has something for all ages. Photos by Bernie Goldstein.*

## Grand Opening of Kellogg Park

by Amber Hansen

The City of Ventura and The Trust for Public Land held the long-awaited and highly anticipated Grand Opening of Kellogg Park on Saturday, April 14, from 10 am to noon. The event began with an official ribbon cutting and speeches by: Nancy O'Connor (Director of Parks, Recreation & Community Partnerships, City of Ventura), Matt LaVere (Deputy Mayor, City of Ventura), Mark Martinez (on behalf of Congresswoman Julia Brown), State Senator Hanna-Beth Jackson, Guillermo Rodriguez (California State Director of The Trust for Public Land), Sedrick Mitchell (Deputy Director of External Affairs, California State Parks), Mr. Yukio Shinozaki (Senior Vice President and General Manager, Mitsubishi Corporation), Michelle Newell (Public Affairs Specialist for Aera Energy), local donors David Hilty and Steven Peterson, and community member Jackie Pierce.

Nestled between rolling green hills, on the corner of Kellogg and Ventura Avenue, the park features state of the art amenities including: two playgrounds (for ages 2-5 and 5-12), nature play areas, permanent cornhole stations, chess and checker tables, outdoor fitness equipment stations, an amphitheater, and ¼ mile walking path.

Aside from the man-made amenities, Kellogg Park is built with 1.5 acres of native plants. The park is built with water efficiency in mind and the grass play areas are drought tolerant. 95 new trees have been planted on the property, which will provide shade and a splash of greenery on the Westside in the years to come.

The park also features a new community garden with 47 plots available for members of the public to rent. The garden focusses on organic

practices, free from the use of pesticides, and includes composting bins for community gardeners' use. Attendees of the Grand Opening were able to tour the new garden space and obtain information about renting a plot.

Nancy O'Connor, Director of the City of Ventura's Parks, Recreation & Community Partnerships Department, said "Kellogg Park is an exciting addition to the Ventura Community. The variety of play amenities, the walking path, and the amazing views reaffirm the City's commitment to our residents and their quality of life."

The opening was packed with excited families taking full advantage of the new play areas, workout stations, and other amenities. A live band provided entertainment for the public and free goodies were handed out- it was an immensely joyful and exuberant celebration.

Matt LaVere, the Deputy Mayor of the City of Ventura, stated "what makes Ventura such an incredible place to live is its amazing collection of parks, beaches and open space. Kellogg Park is absolutely beautiful and I know children, families, and seniors on the Westside are going to love this latest addition to their neighborhood."

For more information about Kellogg Park or to make a donation, visit [www.cityofventura.ca.gov/KelloggPark](http://www.cityofventura.ca.gov/KelloggPark).

The Trust for Public Land creates parks and protects land for people, ensuring healthy, livable communities for generations to come. Millions of people live near a Trust for Public Land park, garden, or natural area, and millions more visit these sites every year. To support The Trust for Public Land and share why nature matters to you, visit [www.tpl.org](http://www.tpl.org).

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# VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

Member, Ventura Chamber of Commerce

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

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## Opinion/Editorial



Sheldon (Governor) Brown  
Publisher-Editor

We are all feeling the pain over the death of **Anthony Mele** at Aloha Steakhouse. It is a tough, tough situation. And presents an even more challenging solution.

Is the answer **more police**, more housing for the homeless, more mental facilities? If Ventura had the answer, we



Marchers called for action regarding the city's handling of the homeless situation.

could sell it to the world. This problem is hardly unique to Ventura. Maybe we have more homeless than some cities our size, because of the great weather.

Even though this tragedy occurred on the Promenade, it could have happened anywhere in Ventura where this person, who I would assume is mentally ill, has been. Downtown, midtown, Pierpont, etc.

Folks say we need more police officers on the Promenade, or at our parks or in our river beds.

Sure we do. We want 12 police officers at each location. Maybe a police officer for each homeless person. The issue is who is going to pay for them?

Proposition O – our sales tax increase – is helping a bit (we have hired more police officers), but should all of that money be spent on law enforcement? I don't think so and folks who voted for it wouldn't think so either.

Many of the people who complain about us not having enough police officers also don't want \$10-\$20 million executive homes in Ventura that would bring in major employers and much needed tax dollars. Unfortunately, we can't have it both ways.

I frequently hear the question, why doesn't the police and City Council do something about this problem? But, I think **solutions** (whatever they are) are going to be a collaboration between the city and the community. Resources cost money.

What is important is that we don't let this tragedy stop us from doing the activities that we usually do and enjoy. If you frequent the Promenade, and also eat at the restaurants located there, please keep doing so. **We need to support Ventura.** This was, for now, a rare occurrence – don't change your lifestyle and enjoyment of our great town.

But, yes, we need solutions. What are other cities doing about it? LA County has over 60,000 homeless they would love to know how to get control of this issue. We need ideas?

This is from the LA Times. "California's state auditor sharply criticized the state's response to homelessness recommending more spending in the state. California should do more to address homelessness, the audit concluded.

Please understand that I'm not trying to minimize this horrible tragedy in any way. Perhaps the police should have done more but they are governed by state law regarding the arresting of the mentally ill. Perhaps looking to change existing laws regarding the mentally ill needs to be re-examined. And being homeless is not illegal, and if it was where would we incarcerate these people?

The mentally ill homeless presents its own problems and solutions. The LPS Act (see the article page 1 by Sheli Ellsworth, **Tragedy strikes Ventura**, for an explanation of the LPS Act) makes it difficult to arrest and help the mentally ill when they need assistance. It must be revised to make it easier for law enforcement to get mental health and medical treatment for this segment of the homeless.

We need to fix our broken mental health system and provide housing for the homeless which, of course, takes a



There was considerable media coverage at the City Council meeting.

large amount of money. More information about what is being done to change some the laws can be viewed at "Keep Cal Safe."

On April 23, dozens of people marched from the Promenade to City Hall to attend the City Council Meeting. The attendees demanded that the

Council does more on the issue of homelessness. The crowd chanted "enough is enough" as they made their way to city hall.

Even though this topic wasn't on the agenda the City Council gave the concerned citizens one hour speak. About 30 of them did so. Most gave emotional and personal stories of how their lives been negatively impacted by the homeless/vagrant population in Ventura. Some just vented their anger and just wanted the "bums" kicked out of Ventura. How they are sent packing and where they are sent to was not made clear. And who decides who the bums are?

I think that it was a shining hour for our **City Council**. They all sincerely thanked those that were there to express their feelings and each member told how this tragedy had personally affected them. They all agreed that this issue is out of



control. Mayor Neal Andrews was almost in tears telling how this tragedy has affected his Council members. Co-owner of Aloha, Charnell Smith, was also brought to tears sitting in the audience.

Interim City Manager **Dan Paranic** explained some of the actions that have been taken already, and many others that will be implemented in the future. This includes more police on the Promenade, expanding the Ambassador Program and other initiatives. He said he hoped all the sides could gather together to share ideas and listen to each other to ensure the "future safety and quality of life in our city."

Ventura Chief of Police **Ken Corney** stated that officers should have responded to the initial call differently and "put boots on the ground." He also stated that there is no evidence that the homeless are being sent here from other cities.

The City Council meeting was covered by many TV Stations and had a lead story in the April 24 edition of the LA Times. This negative publicity could



hurt our very important tourism trade, which brings in needed tax dollars. This then translates to even less money available to help solve this problem

To review the City Council meeting, go to [www.cityofventura.ca.gov](http://www.cityofventura.ca.gov) -videos -available archives- city council -April 23.

To help the Mele family go to <http://pierpontcouncil.org/page/Donate-Anthony-Mele.aspx>.

## Mailbox

### Opinions

What's up with Ventura Police Dept? Seems they have become the henchmen for the red county that simply does not want poor and homeless folks living here.

Case in point I had an appointment with a health practitioner in downtown Ventura. I parked on Santa Clara St. When I came back to my tiny home on wheels (a motorhome) there was a ticket in the windshield, for parking an oversize camper in the city limits. Okay, so #1 there are no signs displayed letting people know they cannot park RV's in downtown Ventura. And #2 I cannot afford the dang fine.

I called the police dept in Ventura to challenge the ticket and even after I explained that I am a senior on a fixed income with health issues, I'm visiting a doctor in Ventura and I cannot afford the \$72.00 fine, I was told well you should know the law and

the ticket would stand and had to be paid. After which I spoke with a dozen city and county agencies that offered no help in this regard.

Today the citation stands and I still cannot afford a \$72.00 fine. If it is illegal to park a small RV in the streets in Ventura—post it!

What's up with Ventura?

Jay North

Jay:

*Oversized motorhomes are not allowed to be parked on streets anywhere in Ventura, not just Downtown, so posting would need to be on every street. So police are just doing their job. If you call 339-4401 you can get permission to park in the street for a limited amount of days. Sorry that this happened to you.*

Dear Editor,

No one likes taxes, but we all have to pay them, even people who are working without documentation.

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



# Business

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Orientation locations are subject to change. For more information, dates and to register for an upcoming

orientation, visit WEV’s Web site at <http://www.wevonline.org/orientations>.

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


Since 1991, WEV has provided business training and consulting to over 14,000 women and men throughout Santa Barbara and Ventura counties, and made more than \$4 million in loans, assisting over 4,000 local businesses. WEV is a U.S. Small Business Administration’s Women’s Business Center, and a certified Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI).

To learn more, visit [www.wevonline.org](http://www.wevonline.org).

## Oops...



On March 15th a Ventura ribbon cutting was held for Ventura Cryo, conveniently located inside The Sauna Studio at 3439 Telegraph Road, 380-3737. In our last issue we had their address and phone number wrong. They Provide a holistic body cold immersion modality called Whole Body Cryotherapy which significantly reduces inflammation in the body, eases joint pain, improves sleep, and many more health benefits. Visit their website [venturacryo.com](http://venturacryo.com) to learn more about cryotherapy and its benefits.



### How are you, Irv?

## “Fabulous... pass it on!”

*My Daily Greeting by Irv Young*

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We have partnered with OUHSD Nutrition Services, Food Share, and Oxnard School District to bring free exercise classes, meals, and health education to families in our community. These 6-week sessions will be held at 3 locations in our county: Hueneme High School, Pacifica High School, and Oxnard High School.

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## American Red Cross raises funds

The American Red Cross of Ventura County, a leading humanitarian organization with nearly 600 volunteers, announces the kickoff of its third annual Operation: Ride for the Red cycling event. The ride will take place on Saturday, May 19, and all proceeds will support the organization, which helps members of the military, veterans, and their families prepare for, cope with and respond to the challenges of military service.

There will be three rides going through Ventura County, a century (100 miles) starting at 6:30 a.m., a metric century (about 62 miles) starting at 9:30 a.m. and a half

metric century (30 miles) starting at 10:00 a.m. Each registered rider will receive a rider bag with several free items. All active and retired veterans will ride for free.

In order to sustain the cyclists through the ride, there will be a free breakfast prior to the start of each ride as well as eight rest stops along the routes that will have water, energy drinks and bars, and first aid available. Lunch and live entertainment will also be provided from noon to 3 p.m.

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

"Each time we participate in Operation: Ride for the Red, I'm overjoyed by how the community comes together to support such a worthy cause," said Ken Bauer, ride event director for Operation: Ride for the Red. "It's such a fun way to bring the community

together to raise support for the military, veterans and their families. We owe a big thanks to our sponsors for allowing the Red Cross to host this ride year after year."

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

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

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

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The Ventura Breeze is holding an "un-official" Name The Green Pig Contest for the new pig that was in the St. Pats Parade to replace the one that died last year. Send your suggestions to [editor@venturabreeze.com](mailto:editor@venturabreeze.com). They will be submitted to the pig committee for their consideration. The Breeze will select our winner and the lucky person will win 3 tickets to the Ronald Reagan Library. Photo by Michael Gordon.





# 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.

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

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

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

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

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

**First Wednesday, of each month, 6-10 p.m., Gold Coast Modular Railroad Club meets at the Murphy Auto Museum.** Now exhibiting Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, 10-4 p.m. Visitors and new members are welcome. 2230 Statham Blvd., Oxnard. [www.gemre.com](http://www.gemre.com) or 229-74294 for more information

**Cross Town Hikers, Join in on Wednesday nights for a moderate-paced hike that includes views of Ventura from the cross, a walk out to the end of the pier, and a stroll along the Promenade back to the Museum.** Four miles with an 800-foot elevation gain. Meet at 7 p.m. sharp at the fountain across the street from the Mission. Join Facebook page for more information: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/800215670039426/>  
**Apr. 25: The College Area Community Council will meet on Wednesday, at 7 p.m.** Ashley Bautista, from the Ventura Police Department, will address the issue of home burglary prevention. The CACC will

continue to discuss a potential boundary change. A representative from Ventura College will be there to discuss neighborhood issues. Wright Event Center at 57 Day Rd. Free parking is available adjacent to the Event Center. CACC represents citizens between Mills and Victoria bordered by Foothill and Hwy. 126. Call 644-8695 for more information.

**Apr. 26: The Ventura Soroptimist Club welcomes Ms. Rabiah Rahman, a lawyer specializing in employment practices and labor law.** She will discuss what constitutes harassment, what steps you can take to stop it and your legal recourse if it continues. Thursday, at 6:30 p.m. at St Paul's Episcopal Church, 3290 Loma Vista Road. Ninety percent of workplace harassment is never officially reported. More information about this event or about the Soroptimist Club please call Vega Sankur at 746-2358.

**Apr. 28: TLC Preschool Yard Sale and Pancake Breakfast 196 N. Ashwood Avenue. Saturday, 8 - 12p.m.** Free Entry. \$5 pancake breakfast. Yard Sale features, furnishings, household Items, children's items, clothing and outdoor Items. All proceeds are benefitting Trinity Lutheran Church Preschool.

**May 6: The Channel Islands Chamber Orchestra, Dr. KuanFen Liu, artistic director celebrates its 15th Season with Reconciliation, Choral Spectacular on Sunday, at 3 p.m. at First Methodist Church 1338 E. Santa Clara St.** The concerts will highlight the Channel Islands Choral Association and CSUCI Chorus with soloists Melanie Henley Heyn, Soprano and Michael Shasberger, Baritone and the Pleasant Valley School District Chorus. Donations of \$20 are appreciated. Youth 18 and under are free. For more information call 484-8000 or visit website [www.CHICOVC.org](http://www.CHICOVC.org).

**May 6: In addition to docent-led tours of the Dudley Historic House Museum, there will also be a Timeline Photo Display of Ventura's History beginning in 1866 and featuring over 100 period photographs.** Both events are from 1 - 4 p.m. and admission is free. The museum, built in 1891, is located at the corner of Loma Vista and Ashwood. For information please call 642-3345 or visit the website at [www.dudleyhouse.org](http://www.dudleyhouse.org).

**May 6: Old-Time Country Bluegrass Gospel Music Assoc. Meeting – Sun., 2:30-4:30 at new location. Knights Of Columbus Hall, 36 Figueroa, Ventura.** Free admission, stage music and jamming, free parking in the rear, Open to Public. For more information. 517-1131 or visit Facebook: OTCBGMA.

**May 7: Big Brothers Big Sisters of Ventura County (BBSVC) is excited to welcome Select Workforce Specialists as the returning Title Sponsor for its annual Golf Classic.** The organization's top-performing event, which will be held at the Satcoy Country Club. The tournament delivers the funds necessary to support 1,500 youth who are facing adversity in Ventura County. Big Brothers Big Sisters has been helping youth in Ventura County and neighboring communities realize their potential for over 45 years. To donate, become a mentor, or learn more about BBSVC, please call 484-2282 or visit [www.bbsvc.org](http://www.bbsvc.org)

**May 9: The Ventura County Camera Club meeting on Wednesday, at 6:30 p.m. at the Poinsettia Pavilion.** The first part of the meeting will be an instructional workshop followed by a showing of member images. A local professional photographer will critique member's images and discuss potential improvement opportunities.

Anyone with an interest in photography and desire to learn is welcome. [WWW.VenturaCountyCameraClub.com](http://WWW.VenturaCountyCameraClub.com)

**May 9: The Ventura Parkinson's disease Support Group to host, The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research from 1- 3 p.m. at the Lexington Assisted Living, 5440 Ralston Street.** For full details, see the article in Senior Living.

**May 9: Sharing the Streets and Roads for all Users 7p.m., at the Museum of Ventura County.** Derek Towers of Ventura's Public Works/Transportation division will discuss the ways in which road projects are prioritized, planned, and eventually built as well what cyclists can do to become more involved throughout the process. Derek has been instrumental in Ventura being awarded a "Bicycle Friendly Community" in 2017 by the League of American Bicyclists. His is responsible for planning and executing bike paths, bike routes, bike parking, and bike events for the city.

## Ojai news and events

**"Fire Walk With Us" will be a fire ecology workshop with Richard Halsey and Lanny Kaufer, on Saturday, May 5, in Ojai.** Identify and discuss chaparral plants and their responses to the recent fire. Tickets are \$55 for adults, \$45 for seniors 62-up, and \$35 for OVLC members, students 13-18, and fire survivors (those who lost property in the Thomas and Koenigstein Fires). Admission to the afternoon lecture only is \$25 for the general public or \$15 for OVLC members. Register at [HerbWalks.com](http://HerbWalks.com) or call 646-6281.

Join Ojai native plant guide Lanny Kaufer and special guest Professor James Adams of USC School of Pharmacy on Saturday, April 28, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. for a Spring Medicinal Plant Workshop based on his ground-breaking pharmacological studies on local native plants.

The plant identification session will take place on the pathways at the Ojai Valley Land Conservancy's Cluff Vista Park and the Ojai Valley Museum's Chumash Garden. An afternoon hands-on preparation session will be held at a community kitchen nearby.

The cost of the workshop is \$75 which includes all materials. For more information or to register, visit [HerbWalks.com](http://HerbWalks.com), email [register@herbwalks.com](mailto:register@herbwalks.com) or call 646-6281.

**The Beatrice Wood Center for the Arts in Ojai is pleased to present a performance by Stephen Inglis, featuring selections from his recent release "Cut the Dead Some Slack."** An accomplished guitarist, Stephen Inglis pushes the slack key guitar into delightful new territory crossing genres and redefining the genre. The event is on Friday, May 11th at 7 pm, and is being presented by Cord International Media Group,

**Chamber On The Mountain presents the Zorá String Quartet, an exquisite ensemble of young musicians, on Sunday, May 6, at 3:00 pm.** Performance will take place at Logan House in Upper Ojai. Audience members are invited to stay and meet the artists at a reception following the performance.

The Zorá String Quartet leapt to national attention in 2015, after capturing the Grand Prize and Gold Medal of the Fischhoff National Chamber Music Competition.

For more information visit [www.ChamberOnTheMountain.com](http://www.ChamberOnTheMountain.com).

**On Memorial Day, May 28, at 843 East Ojai Avenue, American Legion will host a Free Breakfast for Vets.** Tickets are \$4.00 for all others and the event will be from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m.

Libbey Bowl will also feature patriotic music by the British Brass at 11:30. There will be patriotic singers at 12:30 and speakers from 12:35 to 1:00 honoring the fallen.

**Join Rev. Karen S. Wylie on Saturday, April 28, for a morning retreat devoted to "Self-Mastery: Finding Your Own Inner Power."** The gathering will include inner reflection, quiet walks, wisdom talks, sharing and sacred songs, and take place at The Ojai Retreat, 160 Besant Road. People of all faiths and traditions, or no tradition, are welcome to attend. Randee Vasilakos, RScP, will assist in anchoring a consciousness of peace and love.

The retreat is by donation; \$20 is suggested. For more information, contact Rev. Karen at 310-968-8928, or register online at [www.karensywylie.com](http://www.karensywylie.com).

**New York jazz trio the Daniel Bennett Group will visit the Ojai Library at 12 p.m. on Thursday, May 3, 2to deliver a special noontime jazz concert. Saxophonist Daniel Bennett has been hailed as one of the most original and unpredictable musical voices of his generation.** This event is free and open to the public. For additional information, contact Ron Solórzano, Regional Librarian, at 218-9146.

### 6th Annual Water Take 1

*Continued from page 1*

Jim Ackerman, a retired firefighter who received the Community Member Award for his water conservation efforts. Jim uses Ventura Water's Residential Recycled Water Mobile Reuse Program and it is estimated he has saved over 10,000 gallons of water! He generously chose to give his \$500 to charity.

The second award went to the Wyland Foundation, receiving the National Foundation Award. The famous marine life artist, Wyland founded the nonprofit in 1993 and has done numerous paintings to honor ocean life including 100 murals that took 27 years to complete. The Wyland World Water Pledge was created in 2017 to inspire 7.5 billion people for sustainable use of global water resources.

The third award went to Ventura Land Trust receiving the Community Organization Award. Formerly known as Ventura Hillsides Conservancy, this community-based nonprofit was founded in 2003 with the goal of preserving and protecting the land, water, wildlife and scenic beauty of Ventura for us and future generations. This short film told us that volunteers for the Ventura Land Trust successfully replanted 1000 trees that were lost in the Thomas Fires - there was huge applause!

As Ventura Water's General Manager, Kevin Brown stated, "it's been an exciting six months since I've been on the job!"

And as Ventura Water had promised, at the end of the evening, City of Ventura Fire Chief David Endaya presented Vicki Raven (with United Way of Ventura County), a check from event sponsor contributions to support the Thomas Fire and Flood fund.

The sponsors for the 6th annual Water Take 1 were Corollo Engineers, Nossaman LLP, Hopkins Groundwater Consultants and Kennedy Jenks Consultants.

For more information: [www.venturawater.net](http://www.venturawater.net)





# City News

## Ventura College Foundation Promise

by Victoria Usher

The Ventura College Foundation is accepting applications for its Ventura College Promise Grant Program, which will give nearly 1,000 Ventura County high school graduates their entire first year of Ventura College free of charge. The Ventura College Promise Grant Program encourages students to further their education and reach their academic goals. For the 2016/2017 academic year, the Promise Program served 946 students, providing \$329,000 in financial assistance.

So far this year, the Foundation has received 744 applications for the Promise Program. “The Ventura College Promise Grant Program is unique. In addition to providing financial assistance, it removes many barriers to higher education and provides students with critical support, so that they can complete college,” said Ventura College Foundation’s Jaimee Hanna. “We connect students with health services, a food pantry, and academic counseling,” Hanna said. “In addition, the Foundation’s textbook lending program saves students hundreds of dollars.”

The Ventura College Promise Grant Program, launched during the 2005/2006 school year, and it was the first Promise Program offered in California. Students come from all over the county, the highest numbers coming from Oxnard, Santa Paula, and Ventura. Improving the college-going rate in the community is something that could be helpful in enhancing the quality of our local workforce.

The most popular areas of study for Promise students are nursing, business, psychology, and engineering. The Ventura College Foundation will be awarding a total of \$48,400 in Phoenix Scholarships to re-entry students—individuals who must learn new skills and

return to school to do so; or who have chosen to return to school after a break in education. Each recipient will receive a scholarship ranging from \$500 to \$5,000.

Phoenix Scholarship recipients are selected based on their academic goals and progress, along with their financial need. In its 19th year, the positive impact of the Phoenix Scholarship program is reflected in its results: 63 percent of recipients are first-generation college students, 33 percent are single parents and 63 percent are pursuing education and training in the growing health-related fields of nursing, paramedic and emergency medical technology (EMT). “Finding the money and the time to pay for and attend college when you’re already working a job and/or caring for a family requires commitment and sacrifice.

Often, re-entry students are part-time students and, therefore, do not qualify for most traditional scholarships or financial aid,” explained Anne King, Ventura College Foundation executive director. “The Phoenix Scholarship, by taking care of most of the student’s direct educational expenses, makes it possible for these students to continue their education, rather than abandoning their goals,” Ventura College Foundation Board Chair Rob van Nieuwburg said back in 1999. The Ventura College Foundation board members recognized there was an adult student population struggling to pay for college when they were already balancing school with working and caring for a family. “The board was inspired by these student’s tenacity to overcome personal challenges in order to attend school and upgrade their skills to make a better life for themselves and their families,” he said.

to bring people together for a great cause and great fun.

Since its humble beginning in 1924, Villanova has flourished , Villanova graduates enjoy 100% acceptance to selective colleges and universities in the US and around the world.

Villanova Preparatory School is a non-profit organization exempt from federal income tax as a 501(c)3. All donations are tax deductible.

## Ventura Libraries May events

**Avenue Library**  
**Children & Family Events**  
**Bilingual Early Literacy Class 5/7, 14, & 21 Mondays @ 6– 6:45 pm**

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

**Crafternoon 5/12 & 26 Saturdays @ 12:30– 1:30pm**

Get your craft on in the afternoon!

**Adult Literacy Classes**  
**Laubach Literacy English Classes 5/7, 14, & 21 Mondays @11am - 12pm**

**Pumarosa English Classes 5/2, 9, 16, 23, & 30 Wednesdays @ 9–10am & @ 6-7pm**

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

**Super Brain Yoga 5/12 Saturday @ 10am-12pm**

Attend this hands-on workshop to improve memory, achieve mental clarity, and gain emotional calmness.

**Foster Library**  
**Adult Programs & Special Events**  
**Sierra Club Educational Series 5/8 Tuesday @ 5:30-7pm**

Learn about great places to hike, camp, and scenic spots around Ventura County.

**Adult STEAM Workshop 5/19 Saturday @2-3pm, 3rd Saturday of the month**

Each month a different themed program will be presented.

**Ongoing Events**  
**Spanish Conversation Group 5/5, 12, 19, & 26 Saturdays @ 10:30am in the Rentfrow Room**

Join this informal group to chat and practice your Español! Bring your own coffee!

**Twisted Stitchers Fiber Arts Club 5/3 & 17 Thursday @ 10:30am**

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

**Children’s Events**  
**Early Literacy Class 5/1, 2, 8, 9, 15, 16, 22, 23, 29, & 30 Tuesdays & Wednesdays @ 10:30am**

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

**Paws for Reading 5/5, 12, 19, & 26 Saturdays @ 12-1pm**

Read aloud to a registered service dog. (sign-up required)

**Hill Road**  
**Children’s Events**  
**Discover Science 5/8 Tuesday @ 4pm**

Join Rachel Chang for this hands

on workshop as she demonstrates science principles of chemistry, physics, and biology.

**Early Literacy Class 5/2, 9, 16, 23, & 30 Wednesdays @ 10:30 am & 5/19 Saturday @ 10:30 am**

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

**Maker Lab 5/17 Thursday @ 4pm**

Join us each month as we learn how to use a 3D printer, build with Legos, connect squishy circuits, or create with VEX robotics. Aimed at 10 and up.

**Adult Events**  
**Financial Wellness Series: Living Wills and Estates 5/3 Thursday @ 6-7pm**

Join us for this informative presentation covering wills, living trusts, durable powers of attorney. Presented by Ventura County Credit Union

**Saticoy Library**  
**Children & Family Events**  
**Lego Play 5/7, 14, & 21Mondays @ 1- 5pm**

Bring your imagination and experiment with creative designs. Children of all ages welcome!

**Adult Classes & Events**  
**English Classes 5/2,7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 23, & 30**  
**Monday & Wednesday @ 3- 5pm**

ESL Conversation Groups hosted by Laubach Literacy of Ventura County

## City of Ventura to replace Downtown parking pay stations with new, improved model

The City of Ventura is replacing Downtown parking pay stations with a new, improved model that is compliant with the Payment Card Industry Data Security Standard (PCI DSS). The new technology offers enhanced screen displays and options for future software upgrades such as pay-by-cell. There are no changes to the current parking program rates and hours of operation.

Much like cell phones and computers, pay stations and pay station system technologies are rapidly evolving. The current base operating system on the original pay stations will no longer be in compliance with the PCI DSS therefore, the pay stations will be replaced. This recommendation is supported by the Downtown Parking Advisory Committee.

All net revenue from the parking pay stations goes back into Downtown and funds a police officer who is dedicated to making downtown a safer and cleaner place to visit. Parking revenue was recently used to install security cameras, lighting upgrades, and other improvements. The pay stations help to create turnover and open parking spaces allowing customers to find parking close to merchants.



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## Villanova Preparatory presenting annual golf tournament

Villanova Preparatory School is celebrating their annual Wildcat Classic Golf Tournament and Dinner at Soule Park Golf Course in Ojai on Friday, May 4. Registration 10:00 a.m. Tee Time 12:00 p.m. Feast Time 5:00 p.m.

Come join over 100 players in the annual golf tournament with a foursome, support the event as a sponsor, or just

come enjoy the fiesta dinner and raffle. Families, friends, alumni, neighbors and public are all welcome! Call the school for information 646-1464 x126, or email thottinger@villanovaprep.org.

This year, the Wildcat Classic goal is to raise over \$20,000 to use towards athletics and scholarships. Like many educational establishments, they rely on the generosity of businesses and individuals from the community to assist in providing a quality education for the students.

As a donor to the event your name and/or business will be proudly listed on all event promotion materials for a large number of attendees to see.

Villanova is known for its sense of community and the involvement of its parents and supporters. The event promises to be an excellent opportunity





## Primary care now in Ventura

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## News & Notes



*Kate Faulkner, President 2018 Channel Islands Bicycle Club (CIBike) was a featured speaker at the Amgen presentation at the Museum.*

## Amgen Tour of California Bicycle Race to have a Stage Start in Ventura

For the first time, the City of Ventura will host a Stage Start for the Amgen Tour of California on Monday, May 14. This is the 13th edition of the "Tour". This bicycle race is the largest annual cycling race in the United States and the only U.S. race that is sanctioned by the Union Cycliste Internationale. The Tour attracts professional teams that race most of the year in the large, well-known European bike races such as the Tour de France and the Giro d'Italia.

The Tour begins on May 13 in Long Beach and ends on May 19 in Sacramento. Ventura is the second of seven stages in the Men's race. The Women's race is run on the last three days of the Tour.

The May 14 stage, Ventura to Santa Barbara, will start at the Ventura Pier at 11:15am. Spectators should arrive early in order to avoid road closures and traffic. Free bike valet parking will be on the Promenade at the base of California Street. Pre-race activities include lifestyle and sponsor booths along the Promenade. Pre-race is also an opportunity to see world-class cyclists close-up and maybe get some autographs.

The teams will ride a circuitous, 3-mile route through downtown Ventura at a much slower pace than race speed; creating excellent opportunities for seeing the racers. Harbor Boulevard, Main Street and San Jon will be particularly good viewing locations. Once the cyclists pass the official starting point for the race on Harbor Boulevard past San Jon, they will begin hammering the pedals and get up to their average race speed of close to 30 miles per hour.

The racers will travel through several Ventura County cities, including Oxnard, Camarillo, Santa Paula, and Ojai, on a very challenging route as they head to Santa Barbara County. The approximately 100-mile route has been modified slightly in Montecito due to the disastrous January mudslides. However, the stage finish is unchanged; the top of Gibraltar Road, the culmination of a relentless 8-mile climb. It is expected that the lead cyclists will reach the top shortly before 4pm.

A local recreational bicycle club, the Channel Islands Bicycle Club (CIBike), is part of the Local Organizing Committee which is led by the City of Ventura. CIBike has been recruiting the nearly 200 volunteers who will assist the Ventura Police Department in keeping closed city streets free of pedestrians and cars when the race comes through.

CIBike holds monthly public meetings on the second Wednesday of every month at the Museum of Ventura County in downtown Ventura.

The April meeting featured the Tour of California and brought out many of the race volunteers. The next meeting, May 9 at 6:30pm, will feature Derek Towers, the Bicycle Coordinator for the City of Ventura and a member of the Local Organizing Committee for the Tour.

The May 14 race stage will be an excellent opportunity to cheer for, up-close, some of the best cyclists in the world. CIBike provides ongoing opportunities for locals to bike in a social group, see Ventura County's towns and landscapes up close, and enjoy the many benefits of cycling. For more information, visit: [amgentourofcalifornia.com](http://amgentourofcalifornia.com) and [CIBike.org](http://CIBike.org).



*Victim Wendy Di Rodio and niece Suzanne Prescott.*

## Di Rodio killer sentenced to 11 years

by Sheli Ellsworth

Wendy Di Rodio was stabbed to death in her sleep by an intruder on June 3, 2009. The killer then went on to stab her dog, Mimi, in the throat. On March 29, 2018, the murderer, Gina Drake was sentenced to 11 years behind bars.

Di Rodio owned and taught at the Wendy Jo Silver Dance Studio on Main street for years in the mid '80s. She was an animal lover, author and therapist. Di Rodio wasn't a criminal, she wasn't a drug dealer, she wasn't having an illicit affair. So why did Drake kill her in cold blood and spawn enough interest to attract the likes of Dateline and every newspaper in Ventura County? And why was Drake only sentenced to 11 years?

To start with, the killer was Di Rodio's niece. And there are more twists and turns. Drake's ex, Aaron Drake, was a Ventura police officer who attempted suicide in the police department's locker room in August 2017. Drake's attorney, Mark Pachowicz, formerly with the district attorney's office, was able to delay Drake's fate for 8 years, 9 months and 26 days while Drake was out on bond. Drake's daughter, Hannah Drake pleaded with the sentencing judge for the maximum and to finally put her mother behind bars. How does something like this happen?

In a victim impact statement titled, "The Nurturing of a Murderer" from Drake's sister, Suzanne Prescott, she describes her sister like this: What you see before you is the creation and nurturing of a murderer. This is what happens when a child is never told no. When a child is never taught to work for what they want. When a child is always

*Continued on page 22*





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## News & Notes



Lakin was named Ventura's Citizen of the Year in 2011.

### Marie Lakin running for City Council

Marie Lakin, an active community volunteer and 32-year resident of east Ventura, is seeking a seat in Ventura's new District 5 this fall.

Lakin recently retired from the State Legislature where she worked for Assemblymember Pedro Nava and State Senators Fran Pavley and Henry Stern. She has been involved with important statewide public policy, as well as with cities in Ventura, Santa Barbara and Los Angeles counties on community issues. Previously, as a long-time associate in a Ventura public relations firm, Lakin worked with many local businesses. She has endorsements from more than 50

local leaders.

An 11-year member of the city's Cultural Affairs Commission and past chair and co-chair, Lakin has served on many local boards, including the Ventura Visitors and Convention Bureau, the Ventura Education Partnership, Serra Cross Conservancy, and San Buenaventura Heritage (Dudley House). She worked on city initiatives including ArtWalk, the city's 150th celebration, the library study committee and was one of the group who worked with Union Pacific Railroad to finally paint the graffiti-covered trestle over the 101 Downtown in 2012.

She by the Ventura Chamber of Commerce for her civic volunteerism and Outstanding Citizen in 2010 by the California Teachers Association for her volunteer work in the schools.

Since leaving the legislature, she founded a non-profit, ArtsVentura, which does private fundraising for local cultural projects, including ArtWalk. Her most recent project was putting together the final funding for muralist MB Hanrahan's vibrant SOHO Kites project on Ventura Avenue.

"I believe it is very important now that we have district elections that we have people who are not only vested in their own areas, but who also understand citywide issues," Lakin said. "I want to bring public service back into fashion. Too often politics at all levels has been about winning and not about serving the needs of the people who we are entrusted to represent."

East Ventura has not had a representative on the City Council in almost

*Continued on page 17*

## SUNDAYS AT THE DUDLEY HOUSE



In addition to our regular first Sunday guided tours from 1 to 4 p.m., we hope you will join us for these special events . . .

- May 6:** Timeline Photo Display of Ventura's history beginning in 1866, featuring over 100 period photographs originally assembled for the City's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2016.
- June 3, July 1, Aug. 5, Sept. 2, Oct. 7:** Orchid Sale
- July 1 & Oct. 7:** Freddie, the American Mini Horse, returns for photos and buggy rides from 1:30-3 p.m. A donation of \$5 per ride is asked to cover Freddie's expenses.
- August 5<sup>th</sup>:** Well-known music technology historian, Leif Engeswick, will entertain us with his mechanical organ.

**The Dudley House Museum**  
Corner of Ashwood & Loma Vista, 197 N. Ashwood, Ventura  
Docent led tours of the 1892 historic house 1-4 p.m.  
FREE  
[www.dudleyhouse.org](http://www.dudleyhouse.org)





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Juliana Danaus, will demonstrate how to make milkweed seed balls.

## Public invited to 3rd Annual pollinator planting party

On Sat., April 28, from 9 a.m. - 12 noon, the Ventura Land Trust (VLT) will host "Monarch Madness" - a family-friendly pollinator planting event at the Big Rock Nature Preserve along the Ventura River. This 3rd annual free, open-to-the-public event is made possible by funding from SoCalGas.

VLT will demonstrate how to plant milkweed and other pollinator plants and provide attendees with instruction, gardening gloves, shovels, native plants and mulch. Special guest and monarch butterfly expert, Juliana Danaus, will demonstrate how to make milkweed seed balls and Ventura Girl Scout Troop 61135 will lead a butterfly-themed craft project.

"Thanks to generous support from SoCalGas, Ventura Land Trust will continue to repair areas burned in the Thomas Fire and replant a beautiful oasis near the Ventura River that attracts butterflies, bees and human visitors alike," said Derek Poultnery, VLT executive director.

This event is appropriate for people of all ages but children must be accompanied by an adult. Attendees should wear sturdy closed-toe shoes, long pants, a hat, sunscreen and bring a water bottle.

The Big Rock Nature Preserve is located off Highway 33 along the Ojai-Ventura Bike

Trail, just south of Foster Park. To RSVP, go to [www.venturalandtrust.org/events](http://www.venturalandtrust.org/events).

For more information, visit [www.venturalandtrust.org](http://www.venturalandtrust.org) or call VLT at 643-8044.

The land trust manages 90 acres of land along the Ventura River and is negotiating the purchase of its first hillside property. For more information, visit [www.venturalandtrust.org](http://www.venturalandtrust.org).

## Assistance Applications available

United Way of Ventura County (UWVC) has approved \$281,172 for individual hardship assistance from the United Way Thomas Fire and Flood Fund. This is part of the \$1.5 million made available in the current round of assistance funding, with applications for those remaining funds open through April 30.

"Being able to get the funds in the hands of those who need it has been incredibly rewarding, and we're so grateful to be working with our responsive partners to make the process as simple as possible," said Eric Harrison, UWVC President & CEO. "We're looking forward to hearing from more residents to continue dispersing these funds."

Applications - offered in English and Spanish - and a list of partnering agencies where they can be submitted are available at [vcunitedway.org](http://vcunitedway.org).

Before submitting an application, victims should gather any documentation to substantiate needs, such as rental agreements, campground rental fees, costs replace trade tools (could be prices from online or physical stores) or insurance invoices in preparation of speaking with a case manager.

Eligible applicants are Ventura County residents, and household income limits are determined by family size of 120% AMI or less.

The United Way Thomas Fire and Flood Fund has grown to more than \$4 million. The next phase in disbursements will focus on long-term recovery. To contribute, visit [unitedwaythomasfirefund.org](http://unitedwaythomasfirefund.org).

For more information about United Way of Ventura County, visit [www.vcunitedway.org](http://www.vcunitedway.org).

## News & Notes



It is the result of a genetic limitation of the lymphatic system.

## Mossy Foot and the Ventura kinship with Ethiopia

by Karen Helen Szatkowski

Podoconiosis is the common medical name of Mossy Foot which is found in the highland areas of Eastern Africa, India and Latin America. It is debilitating to the individual and the community and sadly is one of the few diseases that could potentially be eliminated in one generation. It is caused by barefoot contact with the soil. Everyone who is in the soil without foot protection has the volcanic silica in their lymphatic systems. Only about one in thirteen develop an intolerance to it and contract podoconiosis which amounts to almost a million people in Ethiopia. Those living in Wolaita in Southern Ethiopia live largely by subsistence farming, barefoot, with little ability to buy shoes and socks and almost no information on hygiene.

This is where our hero, Dr. Nathan Barlow, a Christian Medical Missionary, set up the Mossy Foot Project in 1997 to treat the disease and the attendant miseries of the sufferers. Stigmatization of people with the disease is seriously detrimental to many aspects of their community life; being excluded from school, meetings, churches and barred from marriage with unaffected individuals. The disease, over time, forms a moss-like skin and keloids (bumpy growths) and later as it ascends the skin of the feet and legs grows either soft and fluid or hard and fibrotic. The appearance is grotesque and the feet have a foul odor, causing them to be treated like lepers.

The Mossy Foot Project has had many successes and has moved beyond the disease itself into shoe manufacturing for the patients; education

on repeated cleansing of the feet and lower extremities; assuring the community that the disease is not communicable; vocational training of the cured; providing education concerning podoconiosis at government health clinics, and, lastly, but most importantly, sending a message of hope. From a small clinic at the beginning the Project, Mossy Foot today has sixteen treatment clinics and has helped more than 90,000 patients over the years but much work remains.

Upon Dr. Barlow's death in 2004, the donors thought that because the doctor died the Mossy Foot Project was finished. Jim Daly, the husband of Dr. Barlow's youngest daughter Sharon, wrote to the donors informing them that the project would continue. Jim served as President until a few years ago when Sharon became President. The Dalys worked in the States raising awareness and funding for the work. They visited the Project several times a year, experiencing the victories and challenges such an endeavor is subject to. Sadly, Jim passed away in 2016.

Ventura, we are proud to say, is the headquarters of the foundation. Sharon Daly continues her work along with Dr. Barlow's grandson, Kevin, who is vice president. The Daly family has lived in Ventura since 1984 and other than travel for vacation and to Africa for work, Sharon and her son Kevin enjoy most days here safe and healthy, being personally acquainted with so many other people in the world that are not. If you would like to get more information about the Mossy Foot Project, please check the web site [www.mossyfoot.com](http://www.mossyfoot.com).

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- Week 2: June 25-June 29 - Kindermusik
- Week 3: July 2, 3, 5 & 6 - Lego Play-Well & Science
- Week 4: July 9-July 13 - Soccer
- Week 5: July 16-July 20 - Cooking
- Week 6: July 23-July 27 - Art



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For more information about Camp Haverim and how you can receive a 10% discount, please stop by the preschool office to pick up a brochure or call 805-647-3798.







# Senior Living

*Pull Out Section*



*Eating a variety of healthy foods is the best way to get the nutrients you need.*

## Dietary supplements

by the National Institute on Aging

Dietary supplements are substances you might use to add nutrients to your diet. They might contain vitamins, minerals, fiber, amino acids, herbs or other plants, or enzymes. Most of the time eating a variety of healthy foods is the best way to get the nutrients you need. However, some people don't get enough vitamins and minerals from their daily diet. Your doctor or health team can tell you if you need to take something extra that might be missing from your daily diet.

### If you are thinking about using dietary supplements:

Find out as much as you can about any dietary supplement you might take. Talk with your doctor, your pharmacist, or a registered dietitian. A supplement that seemed to help your neighbor might not work for you. If you are reading fact sheets or checking websites, be aware of the source of the information. Read more about choosing reliable health information websites.

Just because something is said to be "natural" doesn't mean it is safe or good for you. It could have side effects. It might make a medicine your doctor prescribed for you either weaker or stronger. It could also be harmful to you if you have certain medical conditions.

Your doctor needs to know if you decide to use a dietary supplement. Do not diagnose or treat any health condition without first checking with your doctor. Learn how medications can interact with dietary supplements. For more information, visit the National Center for Complementary and Integrative Health.

Choose brands that your doctor, dietitian, or pharmacist recommend.

Don't buy dietary supplements with ingredients you don't need. Don't assume that more is better. It is possible to waste money on unneeded supplements.

Make sure any claim about a dietary supplement is based on scientific proof. The company making the dietary supplement should be able to send you information on the safety and/or effectiveness of the ingredients in a product, which you can then discuss with your doctor. Remember, if something sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

## Keep your Social Security address up-to-date with my Social Security

by Essie L. Landry

*Social Security Public Affairs Specialist in West Los Angeles*

Keeping your address up to date with a my Social Security account helps us mail your important documents to the correct place. If you receive benefits, you can use my Social Security to update your address. If you've moved recently, updating your information sooner rather than later will help us deliver important documents to you, including:

Your Social Security Benefit Statement (SSA-1099);

Important notices; and

Your Medicare card when you first enroll or if you need a replacement.

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Even if you get your benefits by direct deposit, Social Security must have your correct address so we can send letters and other important information to you.

Another important reason to make sure your address is up to date is because new Medicare cards are coming. Medicare is mailing new cards starting April 2018. Your new card will have a new Medicare Number that's unique to you, instead of your Social Security number. This will help protect your identity. For more information about the new Medicare card, visit [go.medicare.gov/newcard](http://go.medicare.gov/newcard).

If you don't have a my Social Security account already, you can open one at [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount). This is the easiest way for you to keep your information up to date. Within minutes you'll have

access to your personal information as well as control over important documents like your Benefit Statement (SSA-1099), which can be replaced if you lose it.

While you're there, you can also check to see if your earnings record is correct. Social Security keeps a record of how much you've made so that you get the benefits you deserve. We can only pay you your correct benefit if your records are correct.

Putting you in control of your future is a key part of securing today and tomorrow, and having your correct mailing address helps us get important documents and payments to you. With my Social Security, we help you receive the information you need, when you need it. Open or access your safe and secure account today at [www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount](http://www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount).





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# Senior Living



“You’re paying, correct?”

## Older Americans Month 2018

Every May, the Administration on Aging, part of the Administration for Community Living, leads our nation’s observance of Older American’s Month. The 2018 theme, Engage at Every Age, emphasizes that you are never too old (or young) to take part in activities that can enrich your physical, mental, and emotional well-being. It also celebrates the many ways in which older adults make a difference in our communities.

Participating in activities that promote mental and physical wellness, offering your wisdom and experience to the next generation, seeking the mentorship of someone with more life experience than you—those are just a few examples of what being engaged can mean. No matter where you are in your life, there is no better time than now to start. We hope you will join in and Engage at Every Age!

Help celebrate by taking an older American (like Breeze Publisher Brown) to lunch!

## Forum highlights life-saving techniques

The Ventura County Elderly Fall Prevention Coalition will be hosting a bilingual Fall Prevention Forum that will focus on life-saving strategies and offer a variety of other services, including health assessments, pneumonia and flu vaccinations. The event will be held at Oxnard Family Circle on Saturday, April 28th, from 8 a.m.- 2 p.m. This event is free and open to the public.

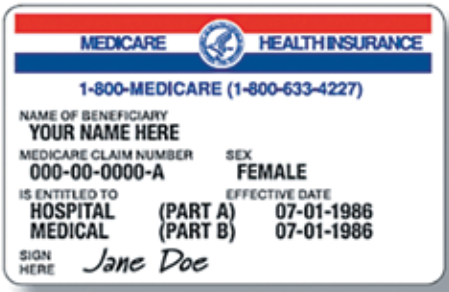
With the tagline, “Stronger Together,” the bilingual forum will provide a variety of methods and informational sessions in both English and

Spanish that are designed to arm adults and caregivers with the tools necessary to prevent falls and increase mobility. Nationally recognized research shows that one in four adults over the age of 65, and half of the population over the age of 75, fall each year. Of those individuals, half will die within a year from complications and injuries sustained from the fall.

The forum will feature health assessments, free pneumonia and flu vaccinations, as well as glucose, blood pressure, and vision screenings. Individuals will also have the opportunity to take part in exercise demonstrations for Zumba, Tai Chi: Moving for Better Balance, Stepping On, and A Matter of Balance. Lunch and refreshments will be provided to those in attendance.

Speakers will include Vladimir Serrano, MD, Family Physician with Magnolia West Clinic, and Dr. Thomas Duncan DO, Trauma Medical Director, Ventura County Medical Center and Santa Paula Hospital.

Oxnard Family Circle is located at 2100 Outlet Center Drive in Oxnard. To register for the event, or for more information, please contact the Ventura County Area Agency on Aging’s Fall Prevention Program at 477-7343.



Start using your new Medicare card once you receive it.

## New Medicare cards arriving

by The My Medicare Matters Team

Beginning in April the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services will be sending new Medicare cards to beneficiaries. The new cards are being sent to decrease Medicare beneficiaries’ vulnerability to identity theft by removing the Social Security-based number from their Medicare identification cards and replacing it with a new unique Medicare Number.

Here’s what you need to know before they arrive.

Medicare cards will be sent between April 2018 and April 2019. Make sure your

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## Senior Living

address is up to date because Medicare will be sending it to the location associated with your Social Security account. To update your address information contact Social Security at 1-800-772-1213 or go online.

Start using your new Medicare card once you receive it. Destroy the old one immediately, since it contains your Social Security number. If you happen to lose or misplace your card you can get a replacement, but you can also access your new Medicare number on a Medicare Summary Notice or through Medicare.

Keep your Medicare Advantage, Part D prescription, and/or Medigap. Continue using your health or drug plan's card when you get health care or fill a prescription, but know you will also get the new Original Medicare card.

These are just a few quick tips to keep in mind as new Medicare cards are issued. You can find additional information on the release of Medicare's new card on Medicare.gov.

## Community education classes and events

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

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

**Joint Replacement Classes**-Monday, May 14th for both English and Spanish speaking. English 4:00-5:00 pm and Spanish 5:30-6:30 pm. You will learn what to expect before, during and after knee or hip replacement surgery and how to be an active participant in your care.

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

Ventura Adult Bereavement Support Group: Wednesdays, May 2, 9, 16, 23,

and 30 from 6:30-8:00 pm. These groups are open to individuals who have experienced loss and are free of charge. Call 642-0239 for more information or email [griefinfo@livingstonvna.org](mailto:griefinfo@livingstonvna.org).

**Newly Bereaved Support Group** in Ventura: Thursday, May 10th from 6-7:30 pm. This monthly group is designed for adults who have recently experienced the loss of a loved one and is free. Call 642-0239 for more information or email [griefinfo@livingstonvna.org](mailto:griefinfo@livingstonvna.org). These groups meet every 2nd Thursday of each month.

All at Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurse Association, 1996 Eastman Ave, Suite 109.



*If you can't read to your grandkids this class is for you.*

## New READ tutoring site for adults

The Ventura County Library Adult Literacy READ tutoring site at the Hill Road Library is now open and accepting new students!

The READ program provides free help with reading and writing for English speaking adults. Tutors are available for free one-to-one tutoring, and new students are always welcome.

The READ program is also looking for adult volunteers who would like to help other adults improve their reading and writing skills. No teaching experience is required and the training is free. At the conclusion of training, tutors will meet one-to-one with an English speaking adult learner for a few hours each week.

This Hill Road Library READ tutoring site had been relocated from its former location at Buena High School. The Hill Road Library is located at 1070 S. Hill Rd. For additional information, contact Nancy Schram, Ventura County Library Director at 256-8535, or Carol Chapman, READ Program Manager, 677-7160.



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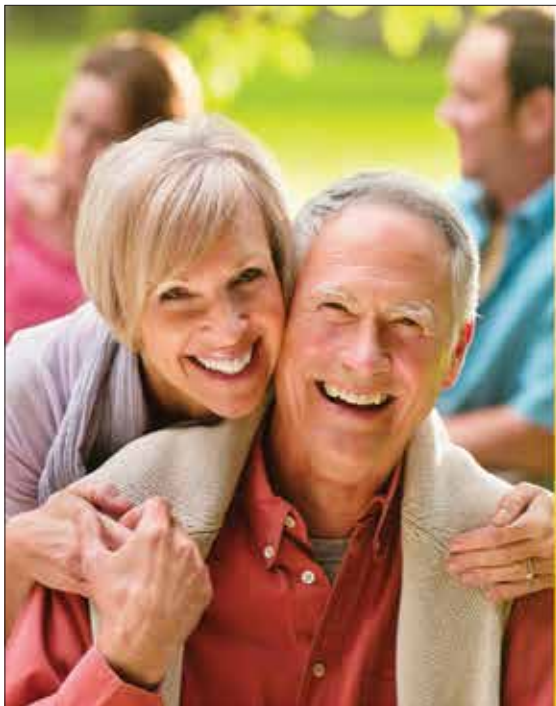
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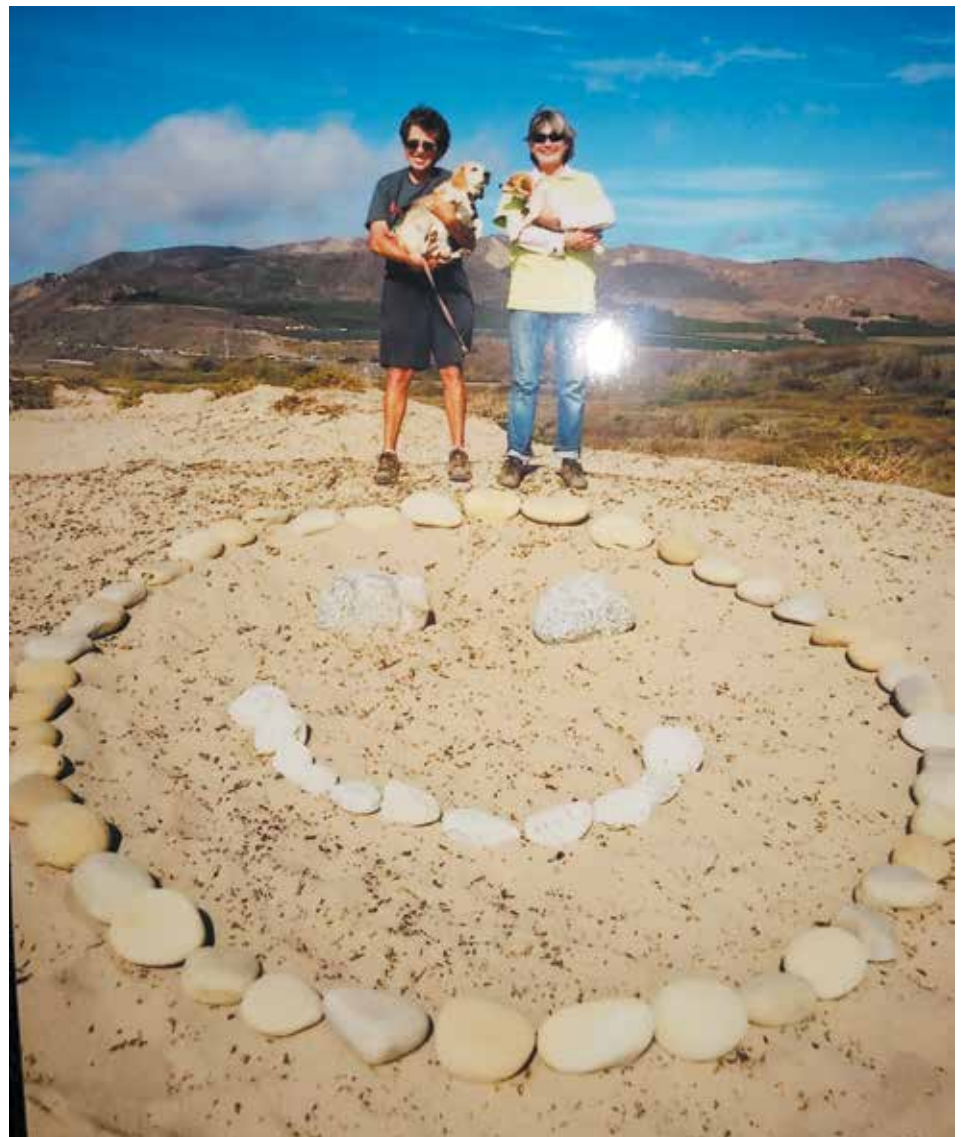
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## News & Notes



*"It all started as a way to protect the dunes."*

### The Rockstars of the Emma Wood Beach Pathway

by Jill Forman

"Look at this wonderful rock pathway!" A group of us were at Emma Wood State Beach, walking towards the river mouth. We found ourselves on a cleared path with rock borders. Also rock piles, happy faces, and groupings of reddish rocks; an easy route through the dune area while staying off the dunes themselves. A group of plant lovers, we were impressed.

"Who," we all wondered, "could have done this?"

A little later, we ran into two women with dogs and buckets and tools. They had heard us talking, and were delighted to announce, "It was us! We built the whole thing. Took us five years of coming down every day."

Dorene and Janet, a retired teacher and nurse, live in Ventura. They loved walking along the beach to the river mouth, and hanging out there as the tide came in. They found that it was more difficult to get back to the parking area at high tide without tramping over the dunes, so they made a path. "It all started as a way to protect the dunes."

In the summer of 2012, they put down a single line of rocks to mark the route, then they cleared the path and moved the rocks to each side. After that, they made the ocean side higher for high tides. About 3-4 years ago there was a storm surge with flooding, and they had to relocate parts of it and move it about 20 feet back. "It feels like we've moved a million rocks."

Once they had the path established, they still need to come down daily for maintenance. They remove invasive ice plant, take out garbage bags full of trash. They call the beach "our gym," also "our gem;" they have lost weight, developed muscles, and even lowered their cholesterol. Their energy goes into helping

themselves "and doing something for the earth every day." They tell me you can see the path on Google Earth.

The garbage they pick up has been "... everything you can think of." Especially clothing items: their most bizarre finds have been a plastic breast and a set of upper dentures. After the Montecito flood, they found many shoes on the beach "...expensive shoes, single shoes, little kids' shoes. Made us cry."

Piles of rocks on the sensitive dune habitats have been demolished; "...the biggest one took us 11 days." They have gone through 14 pairs of heavy leather gloves, and uncounted garbage bags, all of which they bought with their own money.

"People ask us: what organization are you with, who is helping you. Nobody; we have done it all ourselves." They meet people from all over the world. "People feel safe because it is clean and open." They took Dorene's 94 year old mother to the beach and she was able to walk the whole path.

They have a joke that they are DJ's: "DJ's play rock and roll, Dorene and Janet rock and roll." They can't lift most of the rocks, so they roll them.

They also joke about their Art in the Park. Remembering a smiley face in the Simi hills, they added some humor with rock smiley faces, a granite monument, and funny faces and decorations on the piles of rocks at the ends of the trail.

Talking to them, what comes across most is the joy they feel at the beach, working on their path and helping their community and environment. "It doesn't feel like work to go down there... quiet, peaceful, like meditation...we feel rejuvenated...look forward to it every day...we plan on continuing as long as we can walk."

"It's been a wonderful experience."



Breeze staffer John Murchison, Front of House Engineer. The front of house engineer focuses on mixing audio.

## A Grateful Dead Music Oriented Festival

by John Murchison

The Skull and Roses Festival Produced by Deluxe with DJE Sound and Lighting, at the Ventura Raceway was attended by thousands who were able to camp and enjoy the music as they did when the Grateful Dead used to play here years ago in the 1980's.

The Main Stage included a backdrop of legendary sorts, a recreation of the Grateful Dead's "Wall of Sound" a legendary Sound system created by Owsley Stanley the Dead's first sound engineer. Steve Parish part of the original Grateful Dead crew was present to give

the replica versions of the Wall of Sound Speakers their correct placement. As well as telling many stories about touring with the iconic band. The arena offered 2 stages of music continuously with a rotating stage schedule, when one band was done the other stage would start.

I had the pleasure of seeing my first Grateful Dead show in 1974 at Roosevelt Stadium in New Jersey with that very system. The second stage was a dedication to Ron McKernan the former leader, keyboardist, and singer in the 60's when

*Continued on page 22*





## News & Notes



Community support is an important component for student success. Photos by Michael Gordon.

## City of Ventura After-School Program students visited Ventura College Campus for Field Day

More than 500 students from the City of Ventura after school programs got a unique college experience on April 11, when they visited the Ventura College (VC) campus for the inaugural Field Day event. Hosted by the VC Department of Intercollegiate Athletics, this event gave students the opportunity to interact with athletes, ask questions about college life, and spend the afternoon on campus.

In addition to fun-activities and games, Field Day allowed coaches and college student-athletes to share their collegiate sports and real-life experiences with the next generation. "Ventura College is excited to share the energy and excitement of this event with over 500 future Pirates," stated Will Cowen, Ventura College Director of Intercollegiate Athletics.

Over the past three years, VC Intercollegiate Athletics has partnered with the City's Program Enrichment for After-School Kids (PEAK) and After-School Enrichment & Safety (ASES) programs in a variety of ways.

The Ventura College student-athletes and coaches made more than 24 visits to the after-school programs each Fall.

"Community support is an important component for student success. The City of Ventura is thankful to all of our partners for investing in the future of Ventura students," stated Mario Robinson, City of Ventura Youth Programs Supervisor.

The City of Ventura Parks, Recreation and Community Partnerships Department partners with the

Ventura Unified School District and the Ventura Police Activities League to provide safe and supervised after-school education through its PEAK and ASES programs.



Attendees at the survivor dinner held at the Pierpont Inn shared their experiences.

## There will be the Relay For Life of Ventura and Ojai

On March 15th the American Cancer Society held a survivor dinner at the Wyndham Garden Pierpont Inn. On this night they honored cancer survivors and caregivers for the American Cancer Society and Relay for Life. The survivor dinner was a fun night that consisted of music, speakers, raffles, and a tasty meal.

American Cancer Society is second to the US government for funding cancer research and has funded 47 Nobel Prize winners through their grants. They have programs and services such as Look Good Feel Better, Road to Recovery,

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cancer.org with 24/7 live chat, and their 1-800-227-2345 number where you can speak to a cancer specialist 24/7, 365 days a year.

There will be the Relay For Life of Ventura and Ojai happening May 5th at Buena High School. This will be a 24-hour event starting at 10:00 am Saturday and ending at 10:00 am Sunday. During this event, we will celebrate those battling or who have beat cancer, remember those lost, and fight back to find a cure. Please join in at any time during those 24 hours to come and walk the track, listen to entertainment, or enjoy the activities. For more information please call 644-4237 or visit RelayForLife.org/VenturaCa.

at 800-838-3006.

For nearly a decade, a diverse group of women from around Ventura County have been gathering at Community Memorial Hospital in Ventura to comfort and support patients in a unique and memorable way.

Once a month, the hospital's eighth floor auditorium is transformed from a meeting space into a whirl of activity as the "Quilting Angels" arrive and unpack their sewing machines, fabric, rulers, scissors and pin cushions. Brightly colored quilts at various stages of completion fill the room, as does a contagious and uplifting laughter.

The Quilting Angels have taken on the task of creating a special "Moving Day" quilt for every patient who makes the move from the existing hospital into the new building. A distinct patch commemorating the occasion will be sewn into the corner of each of these special quilts.

Each patient faces unique challenges during a hospital stay, and it's often the little things such as visits from friends and family, cards and flowers, or familiar items from home that make the biggest difference in the recovery process.

"When a patient receives a quilt, it's indescribable," said Reverend Curtis Hotchkiss, Director of Spiritual Services at Community Memorial Health System. Reverend Curtis and the Spiritual Care Services team are the stewards of the completed quilts, handing them out to patients whenever a little extra reassurance or support is needed.

Since forming, the Quilting Angels have completed nearly 1,400 unique quilts – all with donated fabric and supplies the members share. They also share tips, tricks, and new techniques and the more seasoned quilters enjoy teaching newer members along the way.



Since forming, the Quilting Angels have completed nearly 1,400 unique quilts.

## Happenings at CMH

Evaluating and managing recurrent urinary tract infections in women will be the focus of a free seminar being held on Wednesday, May 9, in Ventura.

Anyone at any age can have a urinary tract infection, but they are most commonly diagnosed in women. It's estimated that half of all women will have a UTI in their lifetime and one in five women will experience recurrent UTIs. The causes for a UTI vary, but if left untreated, recurrent UTIs can lead to kidney damage and sepsis, a life-threatening illness caused by the body's response to an infection.

At this free seminar, Dr. Michelle Takase-Sanchez will discuss medication, natural remedies and lifestyle changes as ways to treat recurrent UTIs. Dr. Takase-Sanchez specializes in urogynecology. She completed an OB/GYN residency at Santa Clara Valley Medical Center and fellowship training in female pelvic medicine and reconstructive surgery at Indiana University.

The seminar begins at 6 p.m. in the eighth-floor Nichols Auditorium at Community Memorial Hospital. Registration is free but reservations are required. For reservations, visit Community Memorial Health System or call Brown Paper Tickets

### Marie Lakin running for City Council

*Continued from page 11*

20 years. "District elections have facilitated the opportunity for new voices to be heard," Lakin said. "It is time to have an advocate for the east end."

Lakin has built a comprehensive website with city news and a blog with commentary on local issues, [www.marielakin.org](http://www.marielakin.org). "If elected, I plan to put up another site for District 5 and frequently update it with news. Government needs to be transparent and information easy to find," she said.

Lakin is married and the mother of two children.





# The Pet Page



**Dedicated to Scamp**

## A message of hope for the families of Thomas Fire cats

Surfcat Rescue and Adoptions urges residents to keep looking for their missing cats

The story is heart-breakingly common.

During the harrowing first hours of the Thomas Fire, with just minutes to evacuate, many residents were unable to locate and/or catch their cats. They were forced to leave them behind in order to escape the flames that quickly engulfed the hillsides and hundreds of homes. In the days that followed, devastated families searched the charred remains of their neighborhoods and scoured the web pages of local animal rescues in the desperate hope that their cat had somehow survived. When these efforts failed, they grieved, believing their beloved pets had perished in the flames.

But Leslie Weiss, founder of Surfcat Rescue and Adoptions, is reaching out with a message of hope to anyone whose cat is still missing. “We’ve learned valuable lessons from fire cat rescue teams up in Northern California,” explains Weiss. “Even months after the Tubbs Fire, cats that had long since been presumed dead were being trapped and returned to their families! The old cliché that cats have nine lives really isn’t very far from the truth. Given the opportunity, cats will survive. They’ll escape, they’ll hide, and they’ll hunker down and shelter in place until it’s safe to come out. We’re not giving up, and neither should you.”

In the immediate aftermath of the fire, learning from the successes of other rescues faced with similar challenges, Surfcat purchased motion sensor/infrared wildlife cameras, secured donations of plastic storage boxes, food and water bowls, and went to work. Putting the word out on social media, Surfcat made connections with people who were looking for their lost kitties in both the burn areas and in evacuation areas. Setting up “critter cam/feeding stations” and employing expert trappers, Surfcat began identifying, rescuing, and reuniting kitties with their families. These rescues felt like miracles and the reunions gave people who had lost everything new hope for the future.

Surfcat is still in rescue-recover-reunite mode, and has compiled a comprehensive database of cats still missing due to the Thomas Fire. If you lost a cat in the burns areas or in evacuation areas you can register them with Surfcat Rescues and Adoption. Go to [www.surfcatcafe.org](http://www.surfcatcafe.org).

[org/thomas-fire/](http://org/thomas-fire/) to register your missing cat or call 500-7125.

The night of December 4, 2017, will forever be remembered at the National Disaster Search Dog Foundation as the night that they narrowly escaped disaster at the National Training Center (NTC), when the Thomas Fire raged through the canyon. Though they evacuated all dogs and staff in plenty of time and the main buildings were spared, they did sustain over \$2.5 million in damages to Search City, the Train Wreck prop, the historic Boone’s Cabin, and landscape and maintenance equipment throughout the campus. It will take a great deal of time and effort to restore the NTC to its original state.

Just a month after the fire, 18 SDF-trained Search Teams responded to the devastating Montecito mudslides to help search for survivors amidst the debris. The grueling week-long deployment tested the resilience of search and rescue community and proved that inter-agency teamwork and focused determination is a critical part of a strong and reliable emergency response network when the unthinkable occurs.

They are dedicated like never before to rebuilding the NTC and continuing to provide these amazing Search Teams with the essential skills necessary to maintain top deployment readiness. Disasters will happen, and it’s our job to be ready when they do.

To learn more, and to donate to the Foundation visit <https://searchdogfoundation.org/>.

Canine Adoption and Rescue League (C.A.R.L.) seeks participants, visitors, and of course, dog lovers of all ages for its much-anticipated 21st Annual Pooch Parade! This unique event will be held from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, May 5 at Ventura Beach Promenade Park.

In addition to the parade, there will be races, pet-related vendors and displays, food, live music, beer and wine, demos, a silent auction and fun contests and 5k and 10k races.

Registration forms, and fees are available online at [poochparade.org](http://poochparade.org). T-shirts will be given to the first 250 entrants.

A Silent Auction featuring hundreds of special items will be held on-site. Proceeds will help pay for supplies and medical care for dogs and puppies in C.A.R.L.’s Second Chance Program.

C.A.R.L. is a non-profit, Ventura County-based organization almost entirely run by volunteers. For more information, email [info@carldogs.org](mailto:info@carldogs.org) or visit [poochparade.org](http://poochparade.org) or [carldogs.org](http://carldogs.org).

## Scamp Club

(Scampclub pets are not for adoption.)



Hi: My name is Cora. I tip the scale at 137 pounds. I’m a rescue dog and a Thomas Fire Survivor. I love short walks and long naps. Nice to meet you!

## Join Scamp Club

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



Search Team member Cynthia Sato, musician Jack Johnson, dog Roxy, SDF Staff members Serenity Nichols and Denise Sanders at the Jack Johnson and Friend community benefit concert at the Santa Barbara Bowl held on March 18th.



Little Roni was rescued by Surfcat weeks after the fire; she was treated for serious burns before being adopted by a new family.

### Ventura Veterinary Hospital

**LOVING AN ANIMAL ... AWAKENS THE SOUL.**

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- Need a 2nd opinion - flexible surgical/treatment options?
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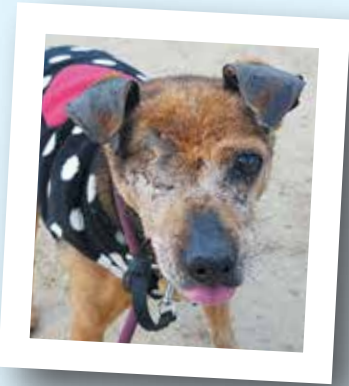


# The Pet Page

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

Ahoy, me hearty, Jackson the 8-year-old one-eyed pirate Chihuahua X here, hopin’ you’ll be givin’ me my forever home. I was rescued from Animal Services and I’m grateful to be given a second chance at findin’ my forever home. I’ve been in playgroups at the kennel with dogs my size and I growled and nipped at them if they got too close to me. I’d probably do best in an adult only home or a home with older children who know how to respect my wishes. I’m in a foster home with cats and we all get along. I’m good with other dogs, house and crate trained and know how to use a doggie door. I’m a good walker, love attention and treats. I can’t wait to start a new chapter in my life making wonderful memories in a loving home. Canine Adoption and Rescue League C.A.R.L.



happy dog she deserves to be. Can you be the one to give her the chance at a new life? Bertha A682393

Bertha was left behind at a hotel and her previous owners never came back for her ( I hope they at least paid for her room). She was scared and confused but never lost her sweet disposition. All she wants is to be loved and feel safe. She spent time in a foster home and her foster family can’t stop gushing over her. She is coming out of her shell a little more every day, and with a patient, loving new owner, we know she will blossom and be the



Canine Adoption and Rescue League seeks participants, visitors, and of course, dog lovers of all ages.



Beloved pet and companion of Raul Acosta. “Trouble” was 13-years-old and a proud member of the Buddy Nation family. “Trouble” loved his walks on the beach and he is at rest there now. He is sorely missed by Raul, Cappi, Patti, Gill, Danny, Betty, Debi, Regina, Janet, Stephanie, Copper, Orange, Charlie, Jack, Alice and his Harbor Boulevard friends.

**Thank you Ventura, for your continued support!**  
Meet Kaitlin – my daughter, who I am thrilled to be welcoming to my team.

**Melody O’Leary-Namikas, Realtor®**  
805.218.5035  
melody4realestate@gmail.com  
CalBRE #01299611

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We are passionate about . . .  
**SUPPORTING RESCUES**

Thomas Fire survivors now in their forever home after weeks of recovery

Since 2015, **Surfcat Rescue & Adoptions** has rescued 135 cats, providing compassionate care, food, shelter and medical services while working to place each cat into their forever home. Your gift supports these efforts and Surfcat’s vision of opening a cat lounge, adoption and education center – the “purrfect” place to play with and snuggle adoptable cats. Learn more at [www.surfcatcafe.org](http://www.surfcatcafe.org).

 **EDUCATING PEOPLE**

 **SUPPORTING RESCUES**

 **ECOFRIENDLY PRACTICES**

**[www.ohanapethospital.com](http://www.ohanapethospital.com) • 805.658.7387**  
Proud veterinary healthcare provider for Surfcat Rescue & Adoptions



*The Speers family in Maine with the Breeze. Enjoying the foliage.*

POST CARD

**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**

**SPAN Thrift Store**  
**SPAY/NEUTER ANIMAL NETWORK**  
We are an all volunteer, nonprofit organization  
More Spays - Less Strays  
Volunteers Needed!  
Donations Always Appreciated!  
Spay and Neuter for Low & No Income Families in Ventura County  
**805.641.1170 110 A & B N. Olive St., Ventura CA 93001 [www.spanonline.org](http://www.spanonline.org)**



**\$10 Low/No Income Spay & Neuter Friday, May 11th in SPAN parking lot. Must call for appointment (805) 584-3823**





# Urgent Care Lice Removal

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One hour treatment time based on shoulder length hair and light infestation

## Applications available for high school and college scholarships

The Museum of Ventura County has announced the opening of the application process for its visual arts scholarships. These scholarships are available to any high school senior preparing to enter college in the fall of 2018 or any continuing college level student of the visual arts who is also a Ventura County resident.

The total amount to be awarded

will be \$5,000. In past years, individual awards have been \$500 or more, depending on need and number of scholarships given. Applicants will be selected by a committee consisting of museum personnel and members of the art and academic community. Awards will be based on artistic merit and commitment as demonstrated by the application, letter of recommendation, essay, and examples of the applicant's prior work/projects.

Applications are due post-marked by May 1 or delivered in person to the Museum by May 1 at 5 p.m. Applications are available at school's scholarship offices, online at [www.venturamuseum.org](http://www.venturamuseum.org), at the Museum, 100 E. Main Street, , or at the Agriculture Museum, 926 Railroad Ave, Santa Paula.

## Youth



Learning batting techniques was part of Healthy Kids Day at the Y. Photo by Michael Gordon.

## One in three U.S. children is obese

Importance of keeping kids' bodies and minds active when out of school was presented by the YMCA on Saturday, April 21. One in three U.S. children is obese, and when summertime hits, kids will be more idle. Research shows that without access to out-of-school physical and learning activities, kids fall behind academically and gain weight twice as fast during summer than the school year. Healthy Kids Day was an opportunity for the community to focus on what kids need to grow and achieve all summer long.

Healthy Kids Day is the Y's national initiative to improve families' health and well-being. The event featured ac-

tivities to motivate and teach families how to develop and maintain healthy routines at home throughout the summer months.

This year's Healthy Kids Day was had a pirate-theme and included a treasure hunt, a drawing for prizes, arts & crafts, and games. This year's activities included football, Pitch Hit & Run® competition, rock wall, baseball and Jolly Jumps.

Kids also had a chance to see and thank the Police Department, the Fire Department, and the EMT for their work helping the community during the Thomas Fire.

The YMCA is located at 3760 Telegraph Road.

# Lilac Festival

36th Annual Event  
May 19 - 20, 2018  
Pine Mountain Club, Ca

From 9am - 5pm Saturday & Sunday - Free Admission & Parking

Over 100 Art & Craft Booths  
Live Music & Shows  
Unique Shops Great Food  
Kiddie Amusements



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For Information or to get Booth & Parade Applications  
[www.pmlilacfestival.com](http://www.pmlilacfestival.com) - [info@pmlilacfestival.com](mailto:info@pmlilacfestival.com)  
Presented by the Pine Mountain Club Commercial Property Owner's Association, Inc.



YMCA Youth and Government Delegates Julie O'Brien, Youth Programs Director and Wessel Esber, high school senior, stand in front of the Sacramento Capital Building while attending the Model Legislature & Court in Sacramento. The trip marked the end of the 2018 Youth and Government Season.

"California YMCA Youth and Government is the most enriching high school experience that I have ever been a part of," said Wessel Esber.



# This 'n' That

## DACA: Then and Now

by Manuel Reynoso

With nearly 800,000 undocumented immigrants receiving DACA since its inception in 2012, many of which live right here in Ventura and Ventura County, there still exists a lot of misinformation and confusion as to what DACA is. With the current political climate, it's important to understand it's history, what it has accomplished, and where DACA stands as of now.

Announced by President Barack Obama on June 15, 2012, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals was created due to congress' inability to pass the DREAM Act, which would have created a pathway to citizenship for those brought to the U.S. illegally as a child. To qualify for DACA one had to be:

At least 15 years old when applying but under the age of 31 as of June 15, 2012.

Under the age 16 when entering the United States.

Living in the U.S. continuously since June 15, 2007.

Present in the U.S. on June 15, 2012, and at the time of applying.

Not convicted of a felony, a significant misdemeanor or three or more other misdemeanors.

In school or have graduated or completed high school, or have been honorably discharged from the military.

Once granted DACA, recipients would not find themselves faced with the threat of deportation, so long as they did not receive a felony or significant misdemeanor.

While DACA did not provide a path

for citizenship, many recipients found themselves much more capable at participating in society. As immigration attorney Vanessa Frank stressed, "It just allowed people to be comfortable in their own skin. They could ask the questions needed to be real participants in the community." Recipients would now be able to lawfully work, pay their taxes, and actively pursue higher education. Simply put, it allowed recipients to engage and excel in this country.

So where are we now? With President Trump rescinding of DACA, recipients would be unable to renew their DACA status past March 5, 2018. However, On behalf of DACA recipients, the University of Southern California issued a lawsuit challenging Presidents Trump's action to terminate DACA, and on January 9th a federal judge in San Francisco temporarily blocked the repeal of DACA until a decision is made in court. Currently, while it's certain to reach the Supreme Court, there is little evidence to suggest one outcome over another. Till a decision is made, current recipients of DACA can continue to renew their deferred status for the time being.

DACA has been nothing but a boon for recipients living here in Ventura. DACA recipients have been able to participate in society and give back to the communities they have grown up in. It has safe-guarded many people from being deported to a country they simply don't know. I would like a special thanks to Immigration Attorney Vanessa Frank for educating me on DACA and its effects.

## Double trouble: a warning

by Kevin O'Connor

Remember Anacapa! To rid Anacapa of *Rattus rattus* (rats), officials had a helicopter shower one-square-mile of the island with poisonous green pellets. A 25-ppm brodifacoum bait was aerially applied to East Anacapa in December 2001, and to Middle and West Anacapa Island in November 2002. No rats have been detected anywhere on Anacapa since the application.

Remember, rats almost destroyed all the native species, but rodenticides saved the indigenous species and the endangered island's red fox. Lest we forget our history, if not kept in check by pest control professionals, rats would eventually cause another Black Plague.

Nutria rodent (*Myocastor coypus*) is a large, fur-bearing, aquatic rodent, light to dark brown. Though common in freshwater, nutria also inhabit brackish coastal water areas.

Nutria are distinguished from beavers and muskrats by their long, white whiskers and rounded tails; beavers and muskrats have black whiskers and flattened tails. Nutria breed year-round, producing up to 3 litters per year, with 2-13 young per litter. This destructive aquatic rodent has invaded California.

They can consume up to 25% of their body weight in above- and below-ground vegetation each day, but they waste and destroy up to 10 times as much, causing extensive damage to the native plant community and soil

structure, as well as significant losses to nearby agricultural crops.

Nutria also serve as hosts for tuberculosis and septicemia, which are threats to humans, livestock, and pets. Additionally, nutria carry tapeworms, a nematode that causes a rash known as "nutria itch", and blood and liver flukes, which can contaminate swimming areas and drinking water supplies.

Double trouble lurks everywhere when rodents are on the roam. If you suspect nutria invasion or are having trouble with rats and other rodents, call the professionals. Do not attempt to handle disease-bearing rodents on your own. O'Connor Pest Control 1-800-284-7985, [www.oconnorpest.com](http://www.oconnorpest.com).

## Want to become a scout?

On Friday May 4th, 6pm-9pm at the First United Methodist Church of Ventura 1338 E. Santa Clara St. join scouting registration night.

**Cub Scouts- ages 5-10, grades k-5th.** Now accepting girls and boys learn to do your best in: camping, outdoor activities, being physically fit, making new friends, and team work! parents start a new family adventure in scouts!

**Boy Scouts- boys ages 11-17, grades 6-12th.** Learn to be prepared for: outdoor activities, life skills, to be a leader of men and women! parents be prepared to assist your child in a new adventure!

**Venture Scouts - Co-ed young adults - Ages 14-20.** Lead the adventure

and experience everything from high adventure outdoorsmen ship to conservation and community service.

Come see what scouting is all about. Demonstrations, activities for the kids, the opportunity to talk to parents and scouting volunteers and find a unit close to you that meets your needs. Drop by and learn what scouting can do for your family!

Have a Question? Call Cory or Gloria Friend 643-1626 Sespe Membership District Chair of Ventura County Council.

## Superheroes Seaside

A family-friendly event, on Saturday, April 28th from 1- 3pm in celebration of the National Superhero Day. Superheroes come in all shapes and forms, but the one thing they all have in common is their commitment to saving lives and improving the way we live.

Snap a photo and a Meet & Greet with fictional look-a-likes such as Captain America and Wonder Woman, and meet real life local heroes who save lives and keep the community safe. The real-life Superheroes may not always have super powers or wear capes, but are great role models

Adults, kids, teens and families, and participants - are encouraged to dress up as their favorite Superheroes and post photos in their super hero outfit on social media using #NationalSuperheroDay and #VenturaHarbor.

Ventura Harbor Village is inviting lifeguards in uniform to bring their lifeguard truck and to talk about ocean safety and take photos with children. A fire truck will be parked nearby during the event and families will have the opportunity to meet local fire fighters.

### Tragedy strikes Ventura

*Continued from page 1*  
ing with Jackson

"The Ventura Police Department would like to speak with those people and anyone else who had contact with Jackson. The video is available for public view at <https://vimeo.com/265835662/f77c6945d9>. If you have information contact Sgt. Matt Cain 339-4488.

Deputy Mayor Matt LaVere says, "As a father of young children, I am truly heartbroken and send my deepest condolences to Mr. Mele's wife and daughter. My council colleagues and I want to assure the public that the City Council will commit whatever resources are necessary to make sure a senseless crime like this does not happen again . . ."

Homelessness is a diverse problem. According to the 2015 US Department of Housing and Urban Development report, at least 25% of our nation's homeless population suffers from severe mental illness and 45% were identified as having some form of mental illness. According to the Ventura County 2017 Homeless Count, the city of Ventura has about 300 homeless people. An extrapolation would indicate that at least 75 of the city's homeless population is severely mentally ill. However, historically, homeless research has reported that the homeless are no more likely to commit crimes than the general

population. To make matters worse, according to the American Journal of Community Psychology (Vol.42, No.3) recent research has found that shuffling homeless people from one shelter to the next actually increases the chance of them committing violent crimes such as robbery and assault.

Is it possible to asses someone's mental state in a short period of time? The 911 caller felt uncomfortable enough to report the behavior. However, on video tape, the man did not appear aggressive. But the short answer is "no." Mental illness can be transient or pervasive which is why a 72-hour 5150 (involuntary psychiatric hold) is used for people who might be a danger to themselves, a danger to others or severely impaired (disabled). A 5250 (involuntary confinement for up to 14 days) may follow for certain mental disorders. However, a bi-partisan bill was passed (1967) in California to reform mental health protocol. The Lanterman-Petris-Short Act signed into law by Gov. Reagan was designed to end involuntary indefinite commitment for the mentally ill. It also provided for prompt evaluation (surely more than 20 minutes of video feed?); the safeguarding of individual rights; to provide treatment and placement; to use public funds to accomplish these objectives; to prevent the mentally ill and the disabled from becoming victims of crimes.

Is Jamal Jackson mentally ill? Could this tragedy have been prevented? Perhaps. But do taxpayers want to pay for the evaluation, treatment and temporary placement of what could possibly be up to 75 people in Ventura alone? Can we afford not to? There are also legal fees. The mentally ill and disabled have the right to refuse treatment and dispute their mental diagnoses. Do taxpayers also foot the bill for any legal help they might require? How do you provide treatment for someone who doesn't want help? And how does an over-burdened police department have the time to evaluate every person who might appear impaired? Important questions to be answered!

As our entire city mourns for the Mele family, maybe we should also mourn our loss of innocence.

### Grand Opening of Kellogg Park

*Continued from page 2*  
Kellogg Park Timeline:  
2012 Kellogg St. parcel listed for sale  
2013 Ventura City Council approves purchase of the site. Trust for Public Land (TPL) and City receive \$1 million grant from the State of California  
2014 TPL and City receive \$584,000 grant state of California  
2015 Pacific Coast Landscape and Design hired to design park. Ventura Community Partners Foundation begins major fundraising campaign  
2016 TPL and City receives a second \$230,800 grant from the State of California and \$1.5 million grant from the Land and Water Conservation Fund through the US Department of the Interior  
2017 Construction begins on Park. Kellogg Park receives additional funds of \$240,000  
April 14, 2018 Kellogg Park opens to the public





# This 'n' That



Happy recipients of the Project of the Year Award.

## Ventura Water and MERITO Foundation Partnership Program

Ventura Water and MERITO Foundation Education Outreach Partnership has been selected as the First place recipient of the Community Engagement and Outreach Project of the Year Award (small budget) by California Water Environment Association (CWEA). The program brings hundreds of students from Ventura Unified School District per year to the Ventura Water Reclamation Facility for a day of hands-on science based learning that include activities the students conduct. The students also interact with professionals from a variety of STEM fields. Ventura Water staff will receive the honor award at CWEA's Annual Conference being held at the Sacramento Convention Center, April 17-20.

These students contributed to ongoing scientific research by collecting valuable observations and data on sea bird populations, water quality of creeks, estuaries and other waterways, marine debris at our beaches, and health of our sand beach and rocky intertidal habitats.

The Sixth International Marine Debris Conference (6IMDC) took place March 12-16 in San Diego, sponsored by NOAA Marine Debris Program and United Nations Environmental Programme. In one week, over 700 individuals from more than 50 different countries gathered for the first time in seven years as a global marine debris community.

The MERITO Foundation took part in this very important gathering to learn, network and share lessons learned. Rocío Lozano-Knowlton, Executive Director of the MERITO Foundation shared data collected by students over past 3 years and strategies on how to build to empower youth to reduce marine debris at its source, and how to monitor it on our beaches.

The MERITO Foundation received \$75,000 from Arcturus Manufacturing Corporation as settlement agreement filed in federal court by Wishtoyo Foundation.

The resolution of the lawsuit filed in March 2017 by Wishtoyo Foundation for the discharge of pollutants into the waterways resulted in Arcturus implementing pollution prevention and control measures at its 10-acre Oxnard metal components and products manufacturing facility and providing \$75,000 as a Supplemental Environmental Project ("SEP") for CAUSE Inc. and to MERITO Foundation.

The MERITO Foundation is implementing needed experiential science education and conservation programs and community outreach for economically unprivileged and STEM underrepresented youth who live near the affected area. MERITO Foundation's programs and projects analyze, reduce, prevent, and

mitigate the ecological effects of stormwater discharges and utilize the SEP funds to serve over 1200 students between March 2018 and February 2019 at Ormond Beach Wetlands, Mugu Lagoon, and the Santa Barbara Channel.

For more information regarding this education program for Ventura youth, contact Rocío.Lozano@meritofoundation.org

## Next City Council Member?

As you may know, Ventura is moving to district-based elections. This means that residents in each district will elect a City Council Member to represent their district. Districts 1, 4, 5 and 6 are up for election in November of this year. The Ventura Chamber Political Action Committee is actively seeking candidates who support the free enterprise system, fiscally responsible government, and whose views represent the interests of both the private and public sectors of the economy. If this sounds like you or someone you know, they want to hear from you! Please contact the Chamber if interested at 643-7222 or email stephanie@ventura-chamber.org

## Thomas Fire to be coordinated in Los Angeles County Superior Court

A Ventura County judge has recommended to the Judicial Council that Los Angeles County Superior Court serve as the venue for pretrial coordination proceedings in cases pertaining to the Thomas Fire and Montecito mudslide/debris flow disasters against Southern California Edison. The order was issued on Monday, April 16 by Vincent J. O'Neill Jr., Coordination Motion Judge of the Ventura County Superior Court, and designates the Court of Appeal, Second District as the reviewing court.

The Ventura County court determined Thomas Fire and Montecito debris flow cases are complex due to the sheer number of existing complaints filed as well as the amount of witnesses and discovery evidence included with each action. As noted by Judge O'Neill in his recommendation, "exceptional judicial management will be necessary to handle the included actions to avoid placing unnecessary burden on the court, to reduce litigation costs, and to expedite the cases." Coordination of the cases in a single courthouse before a single judge promotes efficient use of judicial resources, streamlined litigation procedures, and, importantly, eliminates the opportunity for inconsistent rulings and orders on the same legal issues.

The court weighed eight factors when ruling in favor of Los Angeles County as the site for pretrial coordination including the convenience of the location to the parties, witnesses and counsel, the parties principal place of business, the ease of travel and availability of accommodations, and the efficient use of court facilities and judicial resources. The court also noted that while attorneys for the parties have offices in Santa Barbara, Ventura and Los Angeles

counties, as well as other counties in California, it was not a factor that weighed in favor of or against a particular venue.

## Bank of Books to give 10,000 books away

Bank of Books and Abednego Book Shoppe made a commitment after the damaging fires that destroyed so many homes in Ventura and neighboring communities during California largest fire to give over 10,000 books away free to those who lost their homes.

The Community Book Support was developed at both bookstores to help with the distribution of the free books. News of our plan hit the bookstore industry and box loads of books came from Canada and Florida. Individuals also dropped off donated books.

"It has been rewarding seeing the joy in ones picking out free books, from the little kids, teenagers to adults, so many lost so much" says Clarey Rudd the bookstore owner.

The Community Book Support has been expanded to benefit others now. A major commitment has been made to benefit all teachers in Southern California.

The hope at Bank of Books and at Abednego Book Shoppe is to give away over 100,000 books the next 12 months, to show support to the community.

Free books have also been offered to all the staff at Ventura Community Hospital to say thanks for the job they are doing.

Bank of Books ,748 E. Main.

### Student-driven demonstrations

Continued from page 1

gy High School, Buena High School, Ventura High School and other schools gathered on the lawn and steps at City Hall to express their thoughts and listened to speakers which included Ventura City Council Members Cheryl Heitmann and Erik Nasarenko and State Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson.

Ventura Deputy Mayor Nasarenko told the gathered crowd "At that time, we thought it was an outlier. How would this ever happen again? How could 13 individuals lose their lives? We just thought it was an aberration. Since then, churches, night clubs, schools, college campuses, Aurora, Newtown, Parkland, Virginia Tech, Pulse Nightclub. We can stop this. Together, we can enact and pass commonsense, reasonable gun control legislation that will save lives."

City Council Member Heitmann told the students about a resolution that was recently passed by the City Council that included calling on Congress to raise the gun purchasing age to 21 and to enact stricter gun control laws. She stated "These high school students both locally and across the nation are bringing the discussion about gun control to a whole new level. Their commitment, passion and advocacy is vital in getting our federal government to do everything possible to enact stricter gun control as well as allocate additional funds to the CDC to study gun violence. I admire what they are doing and know that their voices are being heard and will continue to be heard as they continue to advocate."

Breeze contributing photographer said "Welcometo recording history. The students pictures in the attached photographs will be tomorrow government leaders. History because these young adults, not yet out of High School, have taken it upon themselves to exercise the First Amendment of the

Constitution of The United States."

The students disbanded around 1:30 p.m. from City Hall. Because the walkouts were not sanctioned by the school district students who left campus are subject to regular attendance rules, they will be considered truant.

### A Grateful Dead Music oriented festival

Continued from page 16

the band first started.

The Festival was a Grateful Dead Music Oriented Festival with 20 different Grateful Dead Music Tribute Bands including multiple genres of the same music. for example "The Grateful Bluegrass Boy's", played bluegrass inspired versions of Grateful Dead Classics, "Punk is Dead", another band played that genre of Grateful Dead Music, Ventura's Own 9 Mile Skid, name inspired by a lyric from the song He's Gone.

LA's Grateful Dead Tribute Headlined Friday night playing two sets of Grateful Dead Music, which I had the pleasure of mixing. The Festival was met with many a sing along and proved that the Grateful Dead still have a solid following and continue to live on in the live music scene.

### Mailbox

Continued from page 4

economy is driven by hard work of people like Jesus, who deserve life-saving access to health care services, no matter where they were born.

Juana Zaragoza-Oxnard

Editor:

Pre-president Trump "We should stay the hell out of Syria. The president must get congressional approval before attacking Syria - big mistake if he does not!"

The first time that I have agreed with him.

Bill Green-Ventura

### Di Rodio killer sentenced

Continued from page 10

saved from feeling any pain in the world. Prescott had hoped to read her statement to the judge but was denied. Prescott describes her sister as having, "violent mood swings and irrational, reckless outbursts and was an obvious danger to herself and others."

Prescott says her sister's over-eight years of freedom was funded by their mother and grandmother. "Saving Gina from any problems or inconveniences was how my family dealt with her behavior." Prescott thinks that her sister was enraged by their Aunt Wendy's pending home purchase. "She could never stand for anyone to have more than she did and she was concerned that our grandmother was helping Wendy buy a house."

But why only 11 years? Drake was initially charged with murder. She confessed to bringing the knife she used along with clean pajamas to change into. The murder, punishable by 25 years to life according to the California Penal code, occurred the night before Di Rodio was supposed to close escrow on the home she was purchasing. However, wrangling by the district attorney's office and Pachowicz reduced the charges to voluntary manslaughter, usually reserved for crimes committed in the heat of passion.

What can be learned from this tragedy and gross miscarriage of justice? Prescott says, "Please discipline your child. Let them fail. Let them suffer. Let them make mistakes and then please, I implore you... let them suffer the consequences."



# 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.

## Stolen Vehicle, Possession of Stolen Property

On April 5 at 7:30am, a Ventura Police Patrol Officer conducted a traffic stop on a suspicious vehicle with no license plate displayed in the area of Crescent St. and Sherwin Ave. A records check of the vehicle showed it was a reported stolen vehicle from the City of Ventura. The driver, 26 year old Ventura resident Gustavo Gonzales, was placed under arrest for driving the stolen vehicle.

During a search of the vehicle, officers located potential stolen property. Street Crimes Unit Detectives conducted further investigation and located two victims whose property had been stolen earlier that morning from their vehicle in the 100 block of Eugenia St. in Ventura. Detectives additionally found medical supplies belonging to a victim of a residential burglary in the 1700 block of Potomac St. in Ventura that occurred on February 27.

Gustavo Gonzales was booked at the Ventura County Jail for driving a stolen vehicle and additionally charged for 496(a) PC- felony possession of stolen property.

## Arrest for: Attempt Theft from unlocked vehicle, Resisting Arrest, Active Warrants

On April 6 at approximately 1am, a resident in the 3000 block of Foothill Rd. observed two subjects on Foothill Rd outside of his parked vehicle. Concerned about theft, the resident watched from inside his home. While observing the two, one of the subjects, later identified as the suspect 48 year old Ventura vagrant Richard Hunt, entered the victim's unlocked vehicle and began rummaging around in it. The other subject was described as a white male in his 20's stood outside of the vehicle. The resident shouted at the subjects and the unknown white male entered into a gray 2000 Volvo parked nearby and fled the area. Hunt, left behind by his accomplice, fled on foot. The victim followed Hunt while calling the Ventura Police Department Command Center 911 emergency line.

With the description given by the caller, officers arrived on scene and saw Hunt running south on Dos Caminos Ave. When Hunt saw officers, he began to flee through yards and crossed over onto Estrella St as officers gave chase. Hunt attempted to hide in several backyards and continued to flee from officers, but was ultimately detained as he attempted to flee through an alleyway off of Dos Caminos Ave.

Hunt was positively identified as the subject who had entered the victim's unlocked vehicle. Hunt also had 4 outstanding warrants. Hunt was transported to the Ventura County Jail and booked for an attempt theft, resisting arrest, and his warrants.

## Suicidal Subject

On April 9, at approximately 8am, officers were dispatched to a call of a theft of services that just occurred at the Crowne Plaza in the 400 block of Harbor Blvd. An officer responding to the call saw the suspect, later identified to be a 28-year-old male, walking on the California St. overcrossing at Highway

101 and attempted to contact him. As the officer was approaching him, the subject climbed over the security fencing of the overpass and stood on the outside railing. He began making suicidal statements and threatening that he was going to jump. The officer, who is trained in crisis intervention, began attempts to negotiate with the subject, although he almost immediately jumped from the railing and landed on the shoulder of the freeway which was approximately 20 feet below. The subject was not hit by any passing vehicles. Upon landing, the subject sustained a severe lower leg injury and rendered immobile.

Officers immediately stopped the southbound lanes of the highway to allow Ventura City Fire personnel to respond and start rendering medical aid. The subject was treated at the scene and ultimately transported to VCMC for treatment of his injury. He will undergo a mental health evaluation when released.

## Recovered Stolen Vehicle Arrest

On April 9, at approximately 12:30am, an alert citizen called the Ventura Police Department to report a suspicious occupied vehicle in the area. Officers arrived at the location and one of the officers recognized the vehicle as the same vehicle that was reported stolen and recovered at the same location on April 4, and detained two males in the vehicle.

While officers were conducting the investigation they learned that the vehicle had been taken from the owner's residence without their permission. The suspect, 22 year old Ventura resident Jesus Alvarez, was found to be in possession of the vehicles keys and other evidence belonging to the victim and was arrested.

Alvarez was arrested and later booked into the Ventura County Jail for possession of a stolen vehicle and possession of drug paraphernalia. The vehicle was returned to the owner.


## Maintaining a Place for the Purpose of Selling a Controlled Substance, Illegal Sales of Marijuana, and Possession of Marijuana for Sales

On April 12 at 11am, Ventura PD Detectives and members of the Ventura PD Traffic Unit served search and arrest warrants at an illegal marijuana dispensary business called "Canna Nuts" located at 5755 Valentine Rd in Ventura.

With the passage of Proposition 64, titled "The Adult Use of Marijuana Act", possession and use of recreational marijuana became legal in California for people over 21-years-old beginning January of 2018. However, the commercial sale of recreational marijuana now requires both a state license through the Bureau of Cannabis Control and a city business license. The commercial sale of marijuana remains illegal within the Ventura city limits in accordance to our municipal laws.

The Ventura Police Department began the 4-month long investigation after receiving numerous citizen complaints regarding illegal sales of marijuana from the "Canna Nuts" business. Detectives learned that the sole proprietor of the business was the suspect, 54 year old Ventura resident Janice Stabile, who blatantly advertised the sale of marijuana despite not having a state or city business license. Further investigation revealed that Stabile was actively and routinely selling marijuana.

Detectives detained Stabile at her business and placed her under arrest. Search warrants were then served at



**"The bathroom is all yours."**  
*My Daily Greeting  
by The Bittle's - Residents*

## VENTURA TOWNEHOUSE

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4900 Telegraph Rd., Ventura, CA 93003

CA Lic# 565801810

Stabile's business and residence in Ventura. Detectives seized over four pounds of marijuana, two firearms, and approximately \$128,000 in cash. Stabile was booked at the Ventura County Jail for Maintaining a Place for Selling a Controlled Substance, Possession of Marijuana for Sale, and Illegal Sale of Marijuana.

# Harbor Patrol Blotter

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

**4-4** 4:04pm, received report of an individual walking three dogs that are harassing an elephant seal near South Jetty. Officers responded with CI marine mammal wildlife institute and found the seal but the perpetrator was gone. The seal was cordoned off with wood stakes and caution tape, to keep the public away.

**4-5** 12:29pm, received report of a 5.4 earthquake just off Santa Rosa Island. Minutes later the pacific tsunami center called and advised there was no tsunami threat. Officers fielded phone calls throughout the day for the incident.

**4-6** 5:34pm, received a report of a sailboard with a torn sail just outside the harbor having difficulty returning. Officers responded found the distressed person and took the sailboard and the sailor onboard the patrol boat. The sailor and board were transported and safely released at the Launch Ramp.

**4-7** 10:57pm, received a dispatch to a wellness check on a male in the Ventura Marina Community. Officers responded with VPD, VFD and AMR to the call. Unfortunately

the patient was found deceased at the scene.

**4-8** 2:10pm, received a report of an injured sea bird in the barranca. Officers responded with CI wildlife to rescue the bird. Officers utilized a ladder to gain access to the bird in the barranca. Rescue took the bird for rehabilitation.

**4-10** 1:40pm, received a dispatch to a stabbing victim at the Holiday Inn. Officers responded and staged until PD deemed the scene was safe.

**4-13** 9:20am, while towing a small skiff that was adrift in the Harbor, officers observed a sea otter frolicking in the South Basin of the Harbor. Officers took videos of the otter and sent the information to Fish and Wildlife officers in charge of tracking sea otters for the State.

**4-14** 7:00am, received a dispatch to a medical alarm at Ventura Marina Community. Officers responded, gained entrance and found the patient on the floor. A lift assist was performed and the patient was released at the scene.

8:20am, received a report of a disabled vessel in the South Basin of the harbor. Officers responded, took the sail vessel en tow and safely released it at VIM.

**4-15** 2:03pm, received a dispatch to an investigation at Harbor/Schooner. Officers responded and assisted VFD with a strong odor in the area. After an investigation, nothing was found out-of-the ordinary.

**4-16** 6:53pm, received multiple reports of a sailboat having difficulty navigating near Faria beach in 40 knots of wind. After a few hours of monitoring the sailboats progress, darkness hindered patrols observations of the sailing vessel. Somehow without a motor and destroyed sails, the vessel arrived at our dock.

### Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

### King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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









Have you ever been moved by a painting and wonder who is this artist and what moves them? On May 3rd Ventura Fox Fine Jewelry is providing the opportunity to hear from two such artists at their Art Talk. The speakers will be **Andrea Vargas**, the

Santa Fe artist locally known in Ventura for her courageous renditions of life, and **Florencia Ramirez**, author of *Eat Less Water*, who as a researcher and Oxnard mother discovered that the solution to worldwide water shortages is in our kitchens.

Fox Fine Art Jewelry, 560 E. Main Street, on Thursday night, May 3, 6-7PM. Arrive early to enjoy the Andrea Vargas and Christine Leong exhibit. Stay a little longer to have your book signed or to acquire some art or jewelry. Fox Fine Jewelry 652-1800.



Buenaventura Gallery member **Wendy Winet** won First Place for Mixed Media at the 2018 Santa Paula Art Society Show. This historic show had its 81st annual exhibit recently. Entries from all over So. California are hung in categories of Oil/Acrylic, Watercolor, Photography, Mixed Media and Pastels. Congratulations to Wendy.



Local, award winning fiber artist **Karen Payton** has taken her fabric portraits to the windows of the Coastal Communities Cancer Center at 2900 Loma Vista (and Joanne).

Karen Payton has a background rooted in the apparel industry but currently splits her time between creating art and working in digital marketing. She has been collecting fabric and old clothing for years and searches for harmonious colors and patterns to complete her work. Many of her images include hand embroidery using thousands of colored stitches to render beautiful, soulful portraits.

After two close friends began treatment for cancer, Karen was drawn to the opportunity to display her work at the hospital. "If I can bring even a moment of joy to patients and their families, it would mean so much." Karen's art will be on display in the windows until June 8.



Biodiversity by **Landen**, 5th grade, Sheridan Way Elementary, inspired by Hiroko Yoshimoto.



Magical Surrealism by **Lexi**, 6th grade, Meiners Oaks Elementary, inspired by Christine Brennan.

Focus on the Masters (FOTM) Learning To See Outreach Art Showcase  
Three library exhibitions throughout Ventura County

Focus on the Masters Learning To See (LTS) Outreach has expanded its reach and offerings to more schools across the west county. Each lesson of this innovative in-school, hands-on art program is inspired by an extraordinary artist from our community. Their new Up Close & Personal Residency includes that artist as a guest in the classroom.

Three new LTS exhibits feature artwork created by students at Harrington Elementary School in Oxnard, Elmhurst, Montalvo & Sheridan way Elementary Schools in Ventura, and Meiners Oaks, Mira Monte and Topa Topa Elementary Schools in Ojai.

Exhibit sites and dates:

Oxnard Library from May 1 – 31, 251 South 'A' St., Oxnard

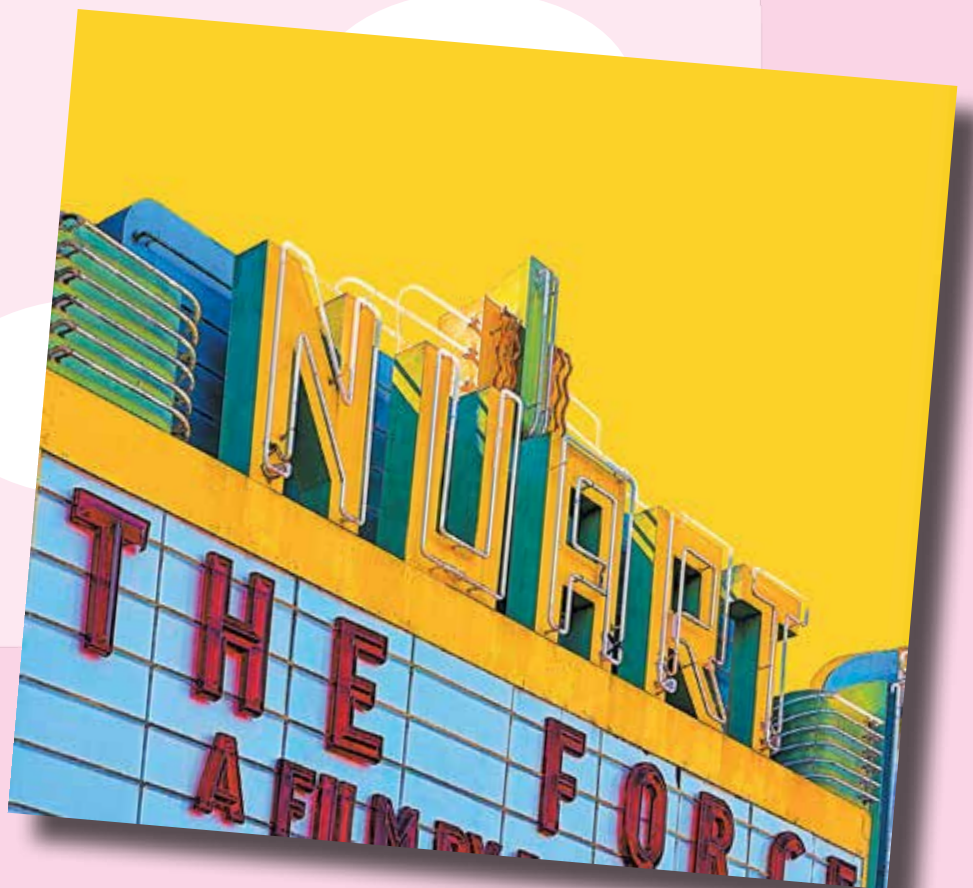
Hill Road Library from May 3 – June 1, 1070 S. Hill Road, Ventura

Meiners Oaks Library from May 14 – June 31, 114 N. Padre Juan Ave., Ojai

FOTM's award-winning in-school art program, Learning To See Outreach, inspires our youth using the lives and works of our extraordinary FOTM documented artists from our community. [www.FocusOnTheMasters.com](http://www.FocusOnTheMasters.com). For more information about Learning To See, contact [Aimee@FocusOnTheMasters.com](mailto:Aimee@FocusOnTheMasters.com) or 653.2501.



Chine Colle Bird by **Christian**, 4th grade, Harrington Elementary, inspired by Linda Taylor.



Dab Art is pleased to present PROTO\_POP.

As a younger generation of contemporary artists begins to emerge, they seemingly follow a less poetic and more pragmatic approach to their work. PROTO\_POP is an exhibition that embraces spontaneity and directness in equal measure to the processes of reflection, capitulation, and disguise. The presence of a subject, no matter how enclosed, indirect, or fragmentary, exist in in the heart of each piece exhibited.

Photography, Kinetic sculpture, colorful screen prints, geometric landscapes, light installation, and complex collages embrace the pop art esthetic.

PROTO\_POP will be held at H Gallery + Studios 1793 East Main St. The show runs until May 27th. The show is curated by Dab Art. Gallery hours are 1-5pm.



# Lighter Breeze

Shoe



Baby Blues



Pros and Cons



Hagar the Horrible



Moose and Molly



Crock



Solutions on page 23

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

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

## 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 Bandleader  
Kyser  
4 Equitable  
8 Frizzy hairdo  
12 Hockey surface  
13 Andy's pal  
14 Circulate  
15 Historic time  
16 Twist  
18 "Aida" composer  
20 Expert  
21 Food  
24 Poolroom supply  
28 Bring together  
32 Hammer or sickle  
33 Inseparable  
34 Casino machines  
36 "Kitchy- —!"  
37 Young female  
39 Remorseful  
41 Milkmaid's place  
43 Analgesic target  
44 — long way  
46 Fortunetellers' reading matter?  
50 Recite a verb's forms  
55 Verily  
56 Notion  
57 "— Brockovich"  
58 Uncooked  
59 Consider

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15				16				17				
18			19				20					
			21		22	23		24		25	26	27
28	29	30					31		32			
33				34				35		36		
37			38		39				40			
41				42		43						
			44		45			46		47	48	49
50	51	52				53	54			55		
56					57					58		
59					60					61		

- 60 Transmit  
61 Type measures  
10 Deteriorate  
11 Have bills  
17 Sphere  
19 Dict. info  
22 Body powder  
23 Urban hang-out  
25 Mischievous Norse god  
26 Swag  
27 — gin fizz  
28 Gear teeth  
29 Not procrastinating  
30 Pianist Peter  
31 Sicilian  
35 Grad student's income  
38 Blockage of a sort  
40 Genetic letters  
42 "Skip to My —"  
45 Quite some time  
47 Muse's instrument  
48 Intend  
49 Cutting implements  
50 "El —"  
51 Praise in verse  
52 Born  
53 Exist  
54 Can matter

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**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) Although your supporters help you squash an unfair claim against you, don't let this go unchallenged. You need to learn more about the motives of those behind it.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) There still are some tasks to clear up by midweek. Then you can welcome the new month on a high note. A friend brings surprising but very welcome news.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) You might want to change your plans before they're set in cement. Consider advice from colleagues. But remember that, ultimately, it's your choice.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) A difficult situation is working itself out. Lingering problems should be resolved by week's end, allowing the Goat to enjoy a calmer, less stressful period.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) Be careful not to move so quickly that you miss possible warning signs that could upset your plans. Slow down. Your supporters will continue to stand by you.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) Your generosity in sharing your time and wisdom with others leads to an intriguing development that could have you considering some interesting choices.

**BORN THIS WEEK:** You have a way of influencing people to be and do their best. You would make an excellent teacher.

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# Show Time

## A Quiet Place



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

by Manuel Reynoso

A *Quiet Place* is a 2018 horror film directed by John Krasinski, written by Krasinski, Bryan Woods, and Scott Beck, based on a story by Woods and Beck. Starring John Krasinski, Emily Blunt, Millicent Simmons, and Noah Jupe.

With the sudden appearance of blind alien predators, A family must live life in complete silence, or else risk being hunted down by these creatures.

First with *Get Out* and now *A Quiet Place*, these horror movies really won me over by taking horror genre elements and effectively incorporating strong themes to compliment the horror film. *A Quiet Place* is as much of a horror film as it is a film about family. Every scare and every threatening moment is compounded by the theme of family. John Krasinski's choice to highlight this and show actual developing relationships is why *A Quiet Place* succeeds. While some aspects of the film may feel rehashed or illogical, overall it was a fantastic horror with genuine scares and emotional payoffs.

John Krasinski's directorial debut was definitely a success but at times a bit safe. *A Quiet Place* had a strong gimmick revolving around silence, but it felt like little more than a plot device than anything more impactful. The choice to include a traditional musical score was an understandable decision to make, but it left me feeling that it sort of downplayed the importance of silence in the film. While I wouldn't say it was the wrong decision to make, it left me wanting more. However, Krasinski more than made up for it with his strong emphasis on the family and their relationship. Interactions between every character was distinct and created a believable family unit. It wasn't just a film about surviving, but about protection and love.

Having a strong family unit would not have been possible without the talents of the cast. There was such great emphasis on everyone's relationship to each other and the cast had the prowess to make it believable. The care taken in accurately representing ASL in this film wasn't just an important step in making this family believable, but was also a tremendous step for disability representation in cinema. Millicent Simmon's inclusion in the film was key to bringing this family to life, she brought an understanding of deafness that would have been impossible to bring to the film without her.

*A Quiet Place* succeeds in being a horror film by creating a world that just feels dangerous. The rules are simple, and consequences for breaking these rules are made painfully clear early in the movie. It takes this kind of set up to give the audience a strong enough suspension of disbelief. It's when the film has small moments of internal inconsistency that it may take you out of the film. It really boils down to having a "try not to think about it too hard" mentality for some parts of the film. While admittedly not optimal, I do believe that it's pretty minor and overall plot and premise of the film is put together well enough to enjoy.

Not being the kind of person to really enjoy horror films, I really believe a film like *A Quiet Place* highlights what other films have been missing. It's not enough for me to

feel scared because of what scary monster lurks in the dark, but it takes strong theming to make me feel scared for the person trapped there with it. That is what makes *A Quiet Place* the better horror movie. Theming is what makes even a pin drop enough of a scare to put me on the edge of my seat. Rated R 1h35m

A view from House Seats

## Hijinks on the High Seas at High Street

by Shirley Lorraine

Batten down the hatches, the Navy has sailed into Moorpark. Based on the 1955 film starring Henry Fonda, James Cagney and Jack Lemmon, among other greats, the play *Mister Roberts* by Joshua Logan and Thomas Heggen brings a touch of nostalgia, chagrin, humor and poignancy to the High Street Arts Center stage.

The story centers around Lieutenant Douglas Roberts, a junior grade combat officer in charge of a fleet of bored sailors working a United States Navy cargo ship, the U.S.S. Reluctant, in the last few months of World War II. After months of providing supplies to other ships in remote areas of the Pacific Ocean with no relief, the crew has advanced cabin fever, entreating Roberts to secure some shore leave for them to let off steam.

Roberts tangles with his cantankerous Lieutenant Commander, Captain Morton, in efforts to grant the leave. Roberts is aided in his efforts by roommate Ensign Pulver and his good friend Doc, the ship's medical officer. Through a series of shenanigans, leave is finally approved which results in total chaos for the entire crew. Throughout all this, Roberts tries repeatedly to gain transfer to see some actual battle.

The crucial role of Lt. Roberts is in the capable hands of R. Shane Bingham, who gives just the right combination of competent leadership and empathy for the crew's plight. Captain Morton is played beautifully by Dale Alpert who displays a style quite reminiscent of James Cagney in the original role. The up and coming Ensign Frank Pulver is embodied by Patrick Rogers with a range of boyish enthusiasm. Phil Nemy settles into the role of Doc with confidence and control.

Olivia Heulitt carries herself well in the only female role – that of Lt. Ann Girard, who makes a brief appearance. The cast is filled out by a cadre of fit, youthful sailors eager to get off the ship to meet members of the opposite sex. Everyone in the cast is so lively and enthused, I fully expected them to break out into songs from the musical *South Pacific* any moment.

The well appointed U.S.S. Reluctant collaborated by set designer Scott Armstrong and director John Tedrick adds to the illusion. Sara Glauser pulled together the Navy uniforms to complete the picture.

Although clearly a "period" piece in language and attitude, it was easy to settle in with the primarily older crowd to relive some of the actions of the highly popular film and TV shows. One does have to keep in mind that this was a different time and unique situation which is presented in a light-hearted way. Many sighs of recognition were

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*The door to your dreams hinges on me!*

heard throughout, especially when it was announced that the war was over.

The High Street venue is always comfortable and welcoming. In addition to a full stage season, films are often presented as well as concerts and other special events. There is always something going on at the Arts Center. Settle in with some fresh popcorn and enjoy the show.

*Mister Roberts* continues through May 6 at the High Street Arts Center 45 E. High Street, Moorpark. 805-529-8700 or www.HighStreetArtsCenter.com Fridays and Saturdays, 8 p.m., Saturday and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. \$22, seniors, students and military \$20. Reservations highly recommended.



Kathleen Good and Jacqui Irwin recording "In The Women's Room" on KPPQ-LP.

## Engaging the Community

We have captured some fascinating Thomas Fire interviews from our sessions in Ojai and in Ventura as well as in some powerful in-studio sessions. We are planning several more events as the stories are plentiful, important and fascinating. The next audio recordings will take place on May 8 from 11am-3pm at the CAPS Media Center, and on May 20th from 11am-3pm at the Museum of Ventura County. Let us know if you would like to share and we can make accommodations because your story is important to us and community.

The Face of Ventura, one of KPPQ's outstanding local radio shows featured interviews with several of the victims as did the hosts of Ojai Dream who were affected by the Thomas fire as it began in Santa Paula and Upper Ojai. We have received many photos and videos from county residents and we thank you. Keep checking our website and social media for updates.

Our video and radio producers are bringing great programming to our airwaves. Currently we are broadcasting and streaming art, travel, comedy, public affairs, talk and youth programs. These programs are all produced by our members, individuals and groups who are active and engaged in our community. We are so proud of our ECTV students and their award-winning programs. Tune in and log in and catch some great shows.

Summer is fast approaching. Graduation season begins in less than a month which means the CAPS production truck and volunteers will be out in the community. Our Summer youth programs

4/28: WHEELAND BROTHERS  
4/27: RIGHTEOUS & WICKED: RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS TRIBUTE  
4/29: COSO LIVE MUSICIANS BREW  
5/4: TURN THE PAGE: BOB SEGER TRIBUTE  
5/5: CANELO VS. GOLOVKIN II  
5/11: HIGH VOLTAGE TRIBUTE TO AC/DC  
5/13: MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH  
5/16: MIKE LOVE  
5/17: THE EXPANDERS

TRIBUTE TO RED HOT CHILI PEPPERS  
RIGHTEOUS & THE WICKED  
FRIDAY, APRIL 27TH

MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH  
SUNDAY, MAY 13TH  
10AM - 2:30PM

MIKE LOVE  
WEDNESDAY, MAY 16TH

THE EXPANDERS  
THURSDAY, MAY 17TH

FULL CALENDAR & INFO  
DISCOVERYVENTURA.COM  
1888 E. THOMPSON BLVD. VENTURA

begin in June, this year with a new twist. Members are stopping by to begin new projects and fine tune their skills. Let your family, friends and co-workers know about the great opportunities to create and share stories. Our radio station, KPPQ-LP is another venue where you can create and share your passion.

Don't forget CAPS Media is hosting an Open House on Thursday, May 3 from 5-7pm. You will get a preview Thomas Fire Story and meet and greet the staff and members.

CAPS Media's mission is to create an engaged and informed community through participation in electronic media. CAPS Media manages two television channels (6 & 15) and an FM Radio channel (KPPQ 104.1FM). Membership fees are \$25 per year for television and \$50 per year for radio. Membership includes training and access to video and audio production and postproduction equipment. General orientation sessions are on the first Thursday of every month, cameraclash is the 2nd Thursday, editing classes are on the 3rd Thursday and radio classes are held Wednesday and Thursday of the 4th week of the month.





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On Saturday, March 21, Ventura celebrated Earth Day at the 11th annual Eco Fest held in Plaza Park. The event is presented by the Ventura Charter School of Arts and Global Education (located off of Ventura Ave.) in cooperation with the city of Ventura. The celebration included entertainment, food trucks, over one-hundred exhibitors, the Ventura Breeze booth attended by Jaime Baker, James Francis Gray and Ana Baker and much more.

# This 'n' That



Estelle brings a strong background in strategic marketing and effective collaboration.

## City of Ventura names new Economic Development Manager

Ventura Community Development Director Jeff Lambert has announced that Estelle (Diaz) Bussa has been named as the City’s Economic Development Manager and will start in her new position on May 7. This selection fills a key management position in the City and supports the City Council’s priority of Creating and Maintaining Economic Development and Vitality.

Estelle is a fourth generation Ventura native and has a strong background in strategic marketing and effective collaboration. In her new role, she will focus on updating and implementing the City Council’s 5Year Economic Development Strategy, including retention, expansion and attraction of businesses in Ventura. Estelle will work closely with the City Council Economic Development Committee, the Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Ventura Partners, Visit

Ventura, the Ventura Port District and other business partners. As a member of the Community Development Management Team, Estelle will work closely with the Planning and Building and Safety Divisions to support the City’s efforts to encourage private sector investment in Ventura.

Mayor Neal Andrews said, “Economic growth is vital to a healthy and vibrant business community and allows us to maintain city services and a high quality of life for our residents. We are pleased and looking forward to working with Estelle and our other community partners to further the City’s adopted strategy and to build upon the economic strength of our great city.”

Estelle previously worked four years at Patagonia where she served as International Planning Manager, Ecommerce Forecast Planner and Senior Supply Chain Analyst. She also has experience working for Adidas Group as a Senior Project Manager in Brand Harmonization. Jeffrey Lambert, Community Development Director, said, “Estelle is a unique and exciting choice for this position; her deep knowledge and commitment to Ventura and its prosperous future and her personal experience at Patagonia and beyond will support the City’s economic development goals.”

Estelle received her Master of Business Administration with a concentration in Operations Management, from the University of Portland and a BA in Social Sciences from San Diego State University. She is proud alumni of Ventura High School and Ventura College, where she was a back-to-back State Champion in Woman’s Basketball.

“Ventura is a great place to live, work, and do business. I am excited for this tremendous opportunity to join the team and build upon what has been accomplished and to further the economic development related goals of the City,” said Bussa.



Logan Dawson is celebrating his first birthday in a couple days!! (April 29th – the same day as Sheldon’s grandson’s 13th).

He loves to play with his toys with a smile on his face, as he dances to music while watching his favorite show. He’s also single and ready to mingle (watch out ladies)!