

For the unofficial name of the green pig go to page 2! **FREE**



# VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

Vol. 11, No. 16 Published Every Other Wednesday Established 2007 May 9 – May 22, 2018



## Families must feel safe in their neighborhoods

by City Council Member Christy Weir

The recent killing of Anthony Mele was a tragic event that has left many of us struggling to find ways to more effectively prevent acts of violence. We have heard ideas from residents by email, social media and at City Council meetings. Our community has expressed their sadness and anger through marches, radio and online, and shown support for the Mele family with fundraisers and heartfelt expressions of sympathy.

Ventura is a community that cares, and comes together to problem-solve. Our Police Department works hard every day to make our City safe and is committed to stepping up patrols and enforcement to diminish vagrancy-related crimes. Additional Police officers have been hired and more will soon be joining the force. Our downtown Ambassador program will be expanding to include other impacted areas. There are many contributing factors that we need to be examining—two methadone clinics, ineffective treatment for mental illness, inmates being released from jail in Ventura, state laws that have negatively impacted criminal sentencing, huge encampments in our river bottoms and panhandling.

The public can help us in several  
*Continued on page 22*



George and Debbie Fox presenting "big" check to Eric Harrison.

## Fox Fine Jewelry presents check to United Way

by Jennifer Tipton

Thursday May 3rd, George and Debbie Fox presented United Way of Ventura County a check for \$60,900.

When asked how this project came about, Debbie Fox explained,

"the Thomas Fires occurred on Monday and by Thursday we decided we had to do something!"

George and Debbie Fox, owners  
*Continued on page 22*



Ventura Police Commander Rick Murray reading to kids at the Take 5 event at police headquarters. Photo by Michael Gordon.

## Reaching future Ventura Breeze readers

Take 5 and Read to Kids! is an annual effort by First 5 Ventura County to raise awareness about the importance of early childhood literacy.

On Friday, May 4, more than 55 celebrity readers read to young children throughout Ventura County to kick off  
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Many people think they know the reasons for homelessness.

## Local teacher explores homelessness through poetry

by Jill Forman

Mental illness. Drugs. Laziness. High rents. Underemployment. Many people think they know the reasons for homelessness. And others know the solutions: treatment, jail, more jobs, subsidized housing, more services, fewer services.

But as local teacher Brian Galetto knows, it is "Not So Simple." A multifaceted situation with multiple root causes and no easy answers calls for careful thought and a big dose of empathy.

How to accomplish this? "Everybody loves a story," he says. Poetry is "...telling a story with rhythm." He was teaching poetry and liked its conciseness, "...a way to get people to listen."

*His sign screamed  
HUNGRY!  
I had pizza for later  
But later for me  
Was present for him.*

So he started writing "Not So Simple" in 2015, and it was published in February of this year. He has two themes: just trying to get by, and it's never simple. "I'm trying to show what it means to be a community."

Brian came to California with his degrees in English and a desire to make the world better as a teacher. Villanova was revamping their speech program and he had a chance to design a communications curriculum that teaches, along with grammar, writing and speaking skills, Brian's core values: empathy, compassion, gratitude.

*Continued on page 22*

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# Business



Recent Primrose Excursion trip took the group Los Olivos for a wine tour and painting.

## Primrose Excursions

by Rebecca Wicks

Bonnie Wiley has worn many hats throughout her years, but all have had one focus - to help people find happiness in their current life. Today she helps people find happiness through travel with her company, Primrose Excursions, which designs and sells trips ranging from day excursions to longer and even international destination tours. Wiley who is a recreation therapist by degree and has served in the field of behavioral therapy at rehabilitation clinics and state hospitals alike has always believed what you do in your free time is pinnacle to your overall health and happiness.

"I found when working with patients in recovery, what a person does in their leisure time often gives them overall value." said Wiley. "Those who occupied their free time with something fulfilling seemed to always do better."

Today, Wiley doesn't use charts or treatment plans, but the goal is the same, to get people out of the house.

Before starting Primrose Excursions, Wiley supervised the City of Ventura's two senior centers including its nutrition and travel programs. In her 12 years working for the City she grew the travel program from a very small program to a

very successful and almost autonomous program.

"When we started it was a 'hey, let's go to Santa Barbara for lunch' kind of venture," said Wiley. "From there it grew and grew into a robust program with extended tours."

In the end, the City terminated the extended tour part of the travel program, citing they were not in the business of travel. Wiley decided there was still a need and place for this type of programming in Ventura and started her company almost four years ago this month. She now organizes and sells 35-40 trips a year. She also acts as the tour director on all of these trips. In addition to these, she partners with three other companies that offer longer trips.

Wiley's travelers are generally over 40, with most in their 60s. She stresses people come from all different kinds of backgrounds but have a similar interest in having their travel taken care of for them.

"There is value in group travel," said Wiley. "You're not alone. You may not know where to eat, I take care of that."

*Continued on page 8*



Walking downtown it is easy to pass by Valdez Alley/Eastwood Park and to just keep walking but you are missing a wonderful experience by not entering it. It is right next to the Alinger Museum. Valdez is beautiful as you traverse its many stairs (difficult for some). Surprises await you as you take the walk to the top. So the next time don't just walk by it take the journey.



The final results of the Breeze VERY UNOFFICIAL naming of the green pig are in. The long list of funny names sent to us by readers were submitted to a panel of Breeze staffers for review and selection. Of the names submitted over 15 received at least one vote. The winning name is HAMLET, which was submitted by Monique Robles who received 3 tickets to the Ronal Reagan Library. Congratulations Monique - you are now famous. Other names that were right behind HAMLET were PIGASSO, HAM SOLO and ALBERT EINSWINE.

And who knows, at next year's St. Pats Parade the pig might still be named BACON. But let's get serious, the name of an inflatable green pig is really not very important, but we had fun.



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## Business



The Rusty Sailors have invented a Microfiber Filter.

### Help Cabrillo Middle School stay the best in engineering and music

FIRST LEGO® League has announced 20 semi-finalist teams that have advanced to the Eighth Annual FIRST® LEGO® League Global Innovation Award. The Rusty Sailors Robotics Team, from Ventura's Cabrillo Middle School was selected from entries from more than 20 countries and all 50 states for their outstanding project innovative solution that demonstrated originality while having the potential to add significant value in the world.

The Cabrillo Middle School Rusty Sailors have invented a Microfiber Filter for washing machines for the HYDRO-DYNAMICS season, which focused on

improving the water cycle and keeping microfibers out of the ocean's waters and sea life. They collaborated with local scientists as well as developers at Patagonia to ensure their product would be a viable and responsible invention. This is the first time that a Ventura or Los Angeles regional team has advanced this far. The team will travel to San Jose June 19-21 to present their innovation to expert judges at San Jose State University, which culminates in the awarding of the top prize of \$20,000 to continue work on their inventions; two runners-up will take home \$5,000 each.

The Rusty Sailors have also been invited to participate in the FIRST LEGO League Razorback Invitational, at the University of Arkansas on May 16-20. The team will compete with their robot against 71 other teams from around the globe.

Coached by JD Sessa, the team is currently fundraising and looking for additional sponsors to assist them with travel, hotel and project/robot costs related to both of these events. Individuals can donate on their GoFundMe page at <https://www.gofundme.com/rustysailors> and companies who wish to sponsor can reach out to fundraising committee member and team parent, Marieanne Quiroz at Marieanne.quiroz@yahoo.com.

FIRST LEGO League is an international program for 9 to 16-year-old children created in a partnership between FIRST and the LEGO Group in 1998 to get children excited about science and technology - and teach them valuable career and life skills. Children

*Continued on page 22*

## Memorial Day BBQ Headquarters!!

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- Week 1: June 18-June 22 - Tikkun Olam (Healing the World)
- 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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# 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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The Ventura Breeze is printed with soy based ink on paper with minimum 40% recycled content.

Anybody can sympathize with the sufferings of a friend, but it requires a very fine nature to sympathize with a friend's success.

– Oscar Wilde

## Opinion/Editorial



Sheldon (Governor) Brown  
Publisher-Editor

I want to comment on the people who organized the **rallies** due to the recent murder. I'm sure that they feel that they are doing the best for Ventura, but I feel that they are misguided and hurting the city.

My concern is the amount of **misinformation** being spread by them saying that they are helping the city by ridding us of the homeless-vagrants.

It has become like a mob mentality. I certainly understand why people are angry, but we need to use that energy to solve the problem, not exacerbate it.

Much false information is being disseminated that people are reacting to without confirming. For instance, the City is providing and funding **"wet houses."** A wet house allows individuals to drink alcohol inside the facility. There is no such city sponsored program in Ventura, this is not true.

Also, saying **Chief Corney** is making up his own laws, and they are too lenient. He does not make up laws - just tries to enforce the ones that we have.

I saw signs that said the homeless are murderers and killers (isn't that redundant?) If our homeless are indeed murderers and killers they must be going to other towns to commit these crimes and then coming back to live in Ventura because our weather is so nice. Ventura is a city of 110,000 people. In the first four months of this year we have had only one tragic **murder**. Hardly a high murder rate. Ventura is just slowly recovering from the fires and now we have this very adverse publicity.

I am really disturbed by having so many TV channels and KFI radio reporting on our "problem". Was it to make the protesters feel important and powerful? Instead of helping Ventura, involving major news outlets made us look like the murder capital of the West and can only hurt our property values and tourist trade. **Tourism** brings in lots of tax dollars that help to support the additional police that are being called for.

In response, police have stepped up patrols to 20 hours per day along the Promenade and added security cameras which has greatly decreased the amount of vagrant/homeless

people congregating there.

But the question is where did they go? I have friends that live on the east side that say they have very little homeless there. Now, if the homeless go to the east side, residents are going to call for more police involvement. Should we just tell them that's too bad because all the police are at the promenade? Where does it end?

The city has been taking steps to reduce the homeless, but this must be done considering existing laws and the lack of funds. They started an anti-panhandling campaign, created a patrol task force and utilizing the Park Safety Ambassadors more. A homeless workshop drew almost 250 people. The workshop helped lead to new zoning that allows for overnight stays and daytime services.

Other steps include a program run by the Salvation Army that allows people who have a driver's license and valid insurance to stay in two designated parking lots and River Haven, a transitional living facility off Harbor. The Ventura Police Department has worked to ensure every officer and dispatcher receives mental health training (many homeless have addictions or are mentally ill).

There is a much better way to solve most of the problems on the **Promenade**, and it is a win-win solution. The Promenade should be a destination place with many unique restaurants, street musicians, jugglers, artists, magicians, etc. A place full of folks enjoying our wonderful weather and beach. When there are many people present the homeless will leave or be more easily monitored.

Under state law, law enforcement officers and mental health professionals can commit someone against their will for up to 72 hours under very specific conditions. Even if they are "arrested", Ventura County has 30 psychiatric beds (at our Hillmont facility) available for such patients in a county of over 850,000 people. And, even if they do get admitted, 72 hours is not long enough to stabilize someone. It then takes a court order to hold them against their will. And, again, where would they be kept and who pays?

This problem is certainly not unique to Ventura. It is worldwide,

even the **Roman's** had to deal with the homeless. Blaming our City Council and Chief Of Police is absurd. Chief Corney and the Ventura Police Department do an excellent job with the funds that they receive. Our City Council understands the problem and have been trying to solve it as best they can for many years considering existing laws and available funding. Some people have tried to make this a political issue, but it is a social issue that needs to be solved.

Even if it is scary to many citizens, it is not a crime for the homeless to be walking down the street talking to themselves or **yelling at people**. The real crime is that there are not adequate detox facilities for those who want to get off drugs, hardly any mental health facilities or adequate housing for the homeless who need support to turn their lives around and to stay warm during our winters. If there is nowhere for a person to go, they stay in a public place.

We also have a more violent homeless group because of state laws that shifted the responsibility for incarcerating many low-risk inmates from the state to counties ("prison realignment"). This allowed parole consideration for **nonviolent felons**, changed policies on juvenile prosecution, and authorized sentence credits. Over a year ago, Chief Corney expressed concern that these early release programs might result in a more violent homeless population (vagrants they are called), and it has.

And we have a new group of homeless, those that lived in apartments, without **fire insurance**, who lost everything in the fires. Some are now homeless living in their cars and some of those that lost their cars are living on the streets.

Of course, the community must work together - we cannot be divided. I welcome, and encourage, your comments to me - both positive and negative. Send them to publisher@venturabreeze.com if you want to be heard.

If you do send a note, please follow these guidelines:

Limit comments to about 300 words.

Don't use profanity - I won't print it.

Don't just call me an idiot. It takes no intelligence to complain and criticize, so tell me why I am wrong and offer your solutions. Maybe I will agree with you and change my mind.

## Mailbox



Editor:

I'm not sure if people protesting the recent murder in the way they are helping Ventura or destroying it. Certainly not helping our image much but this is what our free speech country is all about so I do respect that.

Richard Carlson - Ventura

Thanks to Deena Gledhill for sending this photo to us.

Sheldon:

Your piece on the a Aloha homicide and associated issues is outstanding.

Thanks for your fair and thoughtful commentary.

City council member Mike Tracy  
Mike:

Thank you very much, you are the second city councilmember to complement me. It was the most difficult editorial I've written in 10 years. Written and re-written many times. I have written about it again in this issue.

Sheldon



Breeze:

Because of the police and ambassador presence on the promenade, the

vagrant population on the promenade has all but disappeared. Also, the vegetation on the promenade is being cut away from the ground so there is no place for a vagrant to hide. Additionally, video surveillance cameras are being placed on the condos and Aloha Steakhouse in addition to the surf cam. Commander Tom Higgins was out on the promenade working on the placement of the video surveillance cameras today. Also there was a VPD patrolmen walking the promenade as well as two ambassadors. The City appears to be making a real effort. I am told you can go to the VPD Facebook page to view where the existing video surveillance cameras a focused on.

Murray Robertson

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



# City News



The festival provided ample opportunities to highlight various cultural backgrounds.

## Diversity and promise at Ventura College

Ventura College held the 3rd Annual Diversity in Culture Festival on Wednesday and Thursday, April 11&12. The Diversity in Culture Festival is a free, two-day public event that has been designated by the Ventura College Executive Team as, "Alternative Education Days." The festival featured a variety of educational opportunities including guest speakers, panel discussions, visual and performing arts, student organizations, food, and a market place. This year's theme, "Breaking Silence".

The festival provides ample opportunities to highlight various cultural backgrounds, practices, and topics reflected in the campus and the local community.

Annual highlights of the event include a native Chumash ritual; local Danza Aztec groups; and a panel of community religious leaders.

Festival organizer Gigi Fiumerodo states, "Diversity is often defined in many ways. The goal of the festival is to provide opportunities for our students and community to experience all it can be and hopefully learn more about our world and each other. Usually the discovery lies in that we are all more similar than we are different. Additionally, we hope the festival provides an opportunity for gathering, connectivity, and healing for our community."

**"Welcome to Paradise."**  
*My Daily Greeting*  
 by **Helmet Hoenigsberg,**  
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## City News

### City of Ventura news

Applications are now being accepted for the City of Ventura 2018-19 Cultural Grant Funding Program. The grant program is awarded annually to support Ventura-based cultural non-profits. These funds are unrestricted and may be used for organizational support, programming, and services. The application and guidelines are available online at [www.cityofventura.ca.gov/grants](http://www.cityofventura.ca.gov/grants); applications must be received by Friday, June 29, 2018 at 5 pm.

Non-profit organizations are required to provide proof of their 501(c)(3) status or their Ventura County-based fiscal agent(s). Grants will range in size from \$1,000-\$20,000 and will be awarded on a competitive basis with a total of \$90,000 available. Organizations whose real annual budgets are less than \$10,000 are only eligible to request \$1,000; all other requests may not exceed 10% of the organization's real annual budget. Past recipients must have submitted a final report from the previous year to be eligible for future funding.

Developed in 1993, the City of Ventura Cultural Grant Funding Program supports economic development, increases tourism and enhances lifelong learning opportunities in the arts for all ages.

**Art Tales Winners to be Honored at Public Reception May 17**

The public is invited to attend a

special reception to honor the winners of the 10th Annual Art Tales Writing Contest on May 17, at 5:30pm in the Community Meeting Room at City Hall, 501 Poli Street. Attendees will hear the inspirational pieces read by the winners. This year's Art Tales writing contest received more than 125 works of short fiction and poems from youth, teen and adult writers, hailing from Ventura to Atlanta, Georgia.

The 1st, 2nd and 3rd place winners of Art Tales are:

Youth Poetry: 1st Macy Li; 2nd Larsen Meckstroth; 3rd E.K. Baer  
Youth Fiction: 1st Shawn Coyner; 2nd Isabel Connell; 3rd Devin Varela  
Teen Poetry: 1st Penelope Duran; 2nd Sophie Stimer; 3rd Ethan Adler  
Teen Fiction: 1st Cole Dodos; 2nd Genevieve Werner; 3rd Aaron Meraz  
Adult Poetry: 1st Mary Adler; 2nd Gabrielle Oracio; 3rd Sheri Ward  
Adult Fiction: 1st Gerald Zwiers; 2nd Carolyn J. Foegen; 3rd Caitlin Trude

Four contest judges read "blind" entries to determine this year's winners.

The art work used to inspire this year's contestants were Tambor by William Hendricks, Clouds that Free the Spirit by Frances Johnson, and Freedom Wing by Teal Rowe.

The Ventura City Council established the Municipal Art Collection in 1999 to document the history of visual art in Ventura through the acquisition of artwork created by local artists. For more information regarding the Art Tales Writing Contest or the Municipal Art Collection, visit [www.cityofventura.ca.gov/arttales](http://www.cityofventura.ca.gov/arttales).



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# Community Events

## Ventura events

by Ana Baker

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

**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. Contact Bill Garner 320-1601 or [vcpsforyou@lycos.com](mailto:vcpsforyou@lycos.com).

**Letters for the Lost, an exhibit marking the 90th anniversary of the St. Francis Dam Disaster, commemorates the lives lost during one of America's worst civil engineering disasters of the 20th century.** At the historic Agriculture Museum in Santa Paula. The exhibit runs through July 16. 26 Railroad Avenue, Santa Paula, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Wednesday through Sunday. For more information, visit [venturamuseum.org](http://venturamuseum.org) or call 525-3100.

**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 moder-**

**ate-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/>

**May 11: The General George S. Patton, Jr. Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution May luncheon meeting will feature a special program "Technology and the Ironclad Ships During the American Civil War," presented by Mr. Steven Lund.** Garden Room, Marie Callender's Restaurant 1295 S. Victoria Ave. at 11:30 a.m. For additional information or for assistance in determining your possible Revolutionary War genealogical roots, please call Bill Bays 650-3036 or Robert Taylor 216-7992. For information regarding SAR membership and chapter activities, visit the chapter website at <http://pattonpatriots.org>.

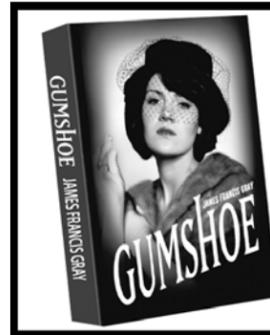
**May 17: Ventura Water's General Manager, Kevin Brown, will be the featured speaker at the meeting of the East Ventura Community Council.** Mr. Brown, who oversees the city's water and wastewater division will address the residents' concerns about water shortage in light of new construction on the east side o. The council will also hold a discussion about the issue of possible redrawing of council boundaries to more closely coincide with the new electoral districts. Ventura Police Department will report on crime and safety. 7p.m. at the First Assembly of God Church, 346 N. Kimball Road.

**May 17: The regular monthly meeting of Assistance League of Ventura County will be on Thursday, at the Chapter House, 913 East Santa Clara Street at 10 a.m., men and women are welcome.** Assistance League is creating "A Brighter Tomorrow for Today's Children" through several philanthropic programs: B.U.F.F.Y. Bear, Operation School Bell®, Girls Club/Teen Club, and Assistance League School for young children with learning disabilities. The Bargain Box Thrift Shop helps fund these programs. [assistanceleague-venturacounty.org](http://assistanceleague-venturacounty.org), like us on Facebook, or email [alvconline@hotmail.com](mailto:alvconline@hotmail.com). Monday - Thursday, 8 - 2 p.m. 643-2458

**May 20: The Ventura and Santa Barbara County chapter of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors (NAWCC) will meet Sunday, in the Campus Student Center of Ventura College.** The meeting starts at noon and at 11 a.m. there will be an informal workshop where a topic on clocks or watches will be demonstrated and discussed. There will be a mart where items will be for sale followed by lunch and an informational meeting and a program at 1 p.m. The program this month will be a presentation by David Walter on "Watchmaking". There is a \$3 admission charge. Lunch is available for \$5. Watches, clocks & tools will be on display and for sale. More information at [www.nawcc-ch190.com](http://www.nawcc-ch190.com).

**June 1, 2: Rummage sale at First United Methodist Church 1338 E. Santa Clara St.** Friday, June 1st, 9 - 3 p.m. and Saturday, June 2nd 9 - 12 p.m. Sat is 5 dollar a bag day.

**June 6: 16th Annual Mustang, Ford and Ford Powered Charity Car Show. Stampede in the Park, Sunday, 10 - 3 p.m. at the Oak Park Community**



**Gentlemen, I give you "Gumshoe."**

Written in the first person, you are John L. Peterman III, Esquire.

Detective/ladies-man extraordinaire

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Visit [www.jamesfgray.com](http://www.jamesfgray.com)

See reviews on [amazon.com](http://amazon.com)

<https://youtu.be/rqv5S8jghq4>

**Books make great gifts!**

**Park 5600 Hollytree Drive, Oak Park.** Fun for all, vendors, food trucks, music, raffles, kids play area and beautiful cars. Charity is Best Friends Animal Society in Mission Hills.

**June 13: The Ventura County Camera Club will hold a 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 the showing of member images. A professional photographer from the area will critique member's prints and digital images. Admission is free. Only members may submit images for critique. Call 908-5663 or [WWW.VenturaCountyCameraClub.com](http://WWW.VenturaCountyCameraClub.com) for more information.

## Ojai news and events

**The Ojai Photo Club will feature photographer Scott Miles as its presenter for May.** The free event, "The Scientific Photographer," will be held on Tuesday, May 15, at 7 p.m. in Help of Ojai's Kent Hall, 111 W. Santa Ana St.

The club, which is devoted to education, inspiration, and camaraderie, meets on the third Tuesday of each month, February - November. Only members may submit images for critique. More information is available at: [www.ojaiphotoclub.com/](http://www.ojaiphotoclub.com/)

**Jill Santos will visit the Ojai Library at 1 p.m. on Saturday, May 19, 2018, to deliver a presentation on local non-profit Food Forward.** Santos is an avid outdoor adventurer who moved to Southern California in 2007.

Food Forward rescues fresh, wholesome produce that would otherwise go to waste, connecting this abundance with people in need and inspiring others to do the same. Food Forward staff and volunteers rescue more than 300,000 pounds of surplus produce each week from backyard fruit trees, orchards, farmers markets, and wholesale warehouses. These fresh fruits and vegetables are donated to over 300 hunger relief agencies across eight counties in Southern California.

**On Sunday, May 20th, Ojai Jazz Concerts will feature Mitchell Forman on piano, Kevin Axt, on bass, and Steve Haas on drums.** The event will be from 7-9 and doors to the Ojai Art Center, at 113 South Montgomery Street, will open at 6:30. Tickets are available at [www.ojaijazzconcerts.com](http://www.ojaijazzconcerts.com).

Mitch is an award winning pianist who has recorded multiple albums with Chick Corea, Stan Getz and many others.

Kevin is a 2 time Grammy winning bassist with 19 Grammy Nominations. Steve is an award winning drummer who has recorded albums with Cher, Manhattan Transfer, Mavis Staples and many others.

**The Ojai Valley Library Friends and Foundation (OVLFF) invites**

**you to its Annual Memorial Day Weekend Book Sale on Saturday, May 26, Sunday May 27 and Monday 28, 2018 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.** The sale will be held on the patio and parking lot of the Ojai Library, 111 E. Ojai Avenue. A huge amount of high quality books will be sold at prices that range from 50 cents to \$2.00.

All profits from the book store go to providing the three Ojai Libraries, Oak View, Meiners Oaks and downtown Ojai, with revenue to support special programs for children and adults and for the purchase of additional materials and books.

For further information, visit <http://www.ovlff> or check out the OVLFF Facebook page.

**"Visions of Destruction and Rebirth" is a concurrent exhibition hosted at 7 Ojai venues.** Artists often respond to what they see happening around them by creating something. The work can be evocative of a monumental encounter with fate as in the case of the Thomas Fire. The biggest California wildfire of all time summoned an intense, almost spiritual shared experience, and planted a seed for this special exhibit.

## Cabrillo offers free financial counseling services

Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation's Homebuyer and Financial Services offers free financial education services to Ventura County residents.

"Clients benefit by receiving free guidance on financial and housing goals and end up with better control of spending and savings. They will receive a personalized action plan so that they may achieve their goals quicker. They also receive additional resources suitable to their situation," said Homebuyer and Financial Services Housing Counselor Heidi Reyes

Counseling sessions are private, one-on-one sessions with a housing counselor and include a free credit report.

Cabrillo counselors will work with clients to help them understand the importance of a positive credit report and to develop a spending and savings plan to provide the financial tools to establish, repair or maintain good credit to meet their personal goals.

"Financial counseling results in confidence in decision making for Ventura County families," Reyes said.

Topics covered include:  
Budget and Credit Counseling  
Help with purchasing a Home  
Budget review and goal setting  
To schedule an appointment today, call 659-6869 or email [HFS@cabrilloedc.org](mailto:HFS@cabrilloedc.org).



## This 'n' That

# Island Packers celebrates 50 years of connecting people to the Channel Islands

Island Packers, a Ventura institution and longtime concessioner to Channel Islands National Park, is currently celebrating its 50th year of providing transportation, education and research support for California's Channel Islands. Plans to mark the momentous occasion are currently underway.

Fifty years ago Bill Connally, founder of Island Packers, was inspired with a vision to share the wonders of the Channel Islands by providing excursions to these remote offshore islands. Early dreams of starting a pack station in the High Sierra evolved into the idea of "packing people" to the Channel Islands when he bought his first vessel, a World War II vintage converted navy launch Island Packer.

To realize his vision, the fondly remembered family patriarch enlisted the help of his wife Lil and their four children. The family christened the vessel Island Packer on Mother's Day in 1968.

Since its inception the business has always been a family tradition, currently operated by three generations. Today, Island Packers is managed by siblings Mark Connally as company president and Cheryl Connally as vice president and marketing director. Lil Connally is secretary and retired but consults the business, and Jason Wendel (Cheryl's son) is a boat captain. Longstanding employee-turned-partner Alex Brodie serves as fleet manager.

The experiences Island Packers offers provide opportunities for the public to learn about the islands and the local marine environment. Since 1969, they have been committed to educating school children and

youth groups through their "floating classroom" field trips.

During the month of May, their anniversary month, Island Packers will offer passengers traveling during the month into contention for the "Golden Ticket." This Grand Prize will be awarded to a lucky traveler, chosen randomly, who will win trips for 4 to all the Islands that Island Packers visits.

From May through the end of the year, Island Packers will operate a coordinated social media contest that rewards followers who post the best picture or island memory with island trips.

On select days in the fall season, Island Packers will celebrate 50 years with several \$ 50 fare promotions. Day trips to Santa Cruz, Anacapa and Santa Rosa Islands, as well as "2 for \$ 50" fare for Island Wildlife Cruises will be offered. Stay tuned and check our website updates for the specific dates.

For the month of November of this year, Island Packers will offer day trip discount per adult fare for Santa Rosa Island, observing 50 years with \$50 fares, up to four fares per customer. Not valid for group reservations or any other discount.

To wrap up this significant year, and in appreciation of our mutual collaboration, Island Packers will offer an evening Harbor Cruise for our local business partners on Wednesday Oct. 3rd.

Island Packers will also be hosting a charity Harbor Cruise on Saturday Oct. 12th, open to the public, and will donate all proceeds to a local charity.

Follow them on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter and visit [islandpackers.com](http://islandpackers.com) for up to date listing of all trips.

## Application process now open at Ventura County Leadership Academy

Applications are currently being accepted for the upcoming Ventura County Leadership Academy (VCLA). New and emerging leaders who either live or work in Ventura County are encouraged to apply.

The Ventura County Leadership Academy is a nonprofit organization that provides leadership training through an intensive program that delves into the critical issues facing Ventura County. Meeting for a full day once a month, over the course of nine months, participants will learn about topics such as agriculture, healthcare, education, economic development, water, the environment, and more, as part of a diverse cohort of leaders from a variety of sectors, backgrounds, and ages. Cohort members also travel as a group to Sacramento to meet with elected officials and others involved in the legislative process. Another key component of the program is leadership

training: encouraging, educating and inspiring the cohort members to gain insight and confidence into their own leadership potential.

Once cohort members graduate, they are then encouraged to take their new knowledge, skills, and relationships and join with the more than 500 other alumni of the program to help to make Ventura County an even better place to live through their work and volunteerism in the community. Many of the top leaders in the business, government, and nonprofit sectors in Ventura County are graduates of the program. They serve on many boards and volunteer with a wide variety of community-based organizations.

The program for Cohort XXIV will start in September 2018 and run through May 2019. Applications for Cohort XXIV are being accepted through May 18, 2018 and can be found at [www.vclleadership.org](http://www.vclleadership.org). The process is competitive with a limited number of cohort members chosen via an application and interview process. Interviews are conducted during the month of June, with notifications of acceptance arriving in early July.

Many employers will cover the cost of tuition for cohort members; however, VCLA does not turn qualified applicants away due to financial constraints; in addition to flexible payment arrangements, a limited number of partial

scholarships are available to applicants in need of assistance via TAP (Tuition Assistance Program).

VCLA seeks diversity in their organization and program participants, encouraging anyone interested to apply.

For more information about VCLA, please email [info@vclleadership.org](mailto:info@vclleadership.org), reference the website [www.vclleadership.org](http://www.vclleadership.org), or find the Ventura County Leadership Academy on Facebook@Ventura.County.Leadership.Academy or call 665-3504.

## The 21st Annual PAL Golf Tournament

The Ventura Police Community Foundation and Aera Energy, LLC proudly present the 21st Annual Police Activities League Golf Tournament June 1, at 8:00 am at Olivas Links Golf Course located at 3750 Olivas Park Dr. Proceeds raised at the tournament help to support after-school programs for local youth. The \$135 donation per player includes: green fees and cart, gift bag, awards ceremony and lunch by Scooter's BBQ.

PAL was founded back in 1997 with a primary goal to provide at-risk youth with meaningful recreation, educational, and cultural programs designed to keep youth away from the influence of gangs, drugs, violence and delinquent behaviors. Today, PAL now operating as the Ventura Police Community Foundation, plays an important role in Ventura's Program Enrichment for After-school Kids (PEAK) and After-School Enrichment and Safety (ASES) Programs. These programs are a partnership between PAL, Ventura's Parks, Recreation and Community Partnership Department and the Ventura Unified School District. The programs proudly serve over 630 youth each day in a safe and supportive environment.

"It is the support of the sponsors, contributors, golfers, and volunteers who help to make this tournament and the Ventura Police Community Foundation a success. While we have many long-time sponsors, I want to mention the long-standing support of our Title Sponsor - Aera Energy, LLC. Aera has been a major supporter of PAL and the annual golf tournament since 1997," said Police Chief Ken Corney.

Over the years, Aera's support has included the offset of startup costs for the program and much needed equipment. Aera donated funds to purchase a van to provide transportation to and from the program for area children and recently donated funds to build and equip a fitness area at the Westpark Community Center so that our local youth can be active in a safe environment.

The mission of the Ventura Police Community Foundation is to foster and support programs and initiatives that strengthen a safe community and enhance the quality of life in Ventura. The Foundation supports public safety improvements, community partnerships and youth programs. The goal is to strengthen partnerships between citizens of our community, including youth and schools, business members and police in the City of Ventura.

### Primrose Excursions

*Continued from page 2*

You don't have to depend on online reviews, I've already been there, I've already evaluated on your behalf."

Wiley's excursions regularly range from 30 to 56 people in size. Trips often have themes. For example, on a recent day trip the group visited a Japanese garden that was part of a water treatment plant in the San Fernando Valley, followed by lunch at a Japanese restaurant. The adventure ended with a tour of the Pacific Asian Museum in Pasadena. A Ben Franklin themed excursion took the group to Forest Lawn where they toured Revolutionary War era chapels, to a restaurant that was formerly a fire house - Franklin helped start the firehouse in Philadelphia - and later to the public library in downtown Los Angeles, because Franklin founded the first lending library in the United States.

Wiley even offers "surprise tours," where travelers don't know where they are heading to and are asked to pack in layers and bring comfortable walking shoes. A recent surprise trip took a group to Lake Arrowhead Resort. Upcoming excursions include a Dodgers baseball game, a night out to see the musical *Singing in the Rain*, and a trip to Hoover Dam and Las Vegas with extended tours through her partners going to Alaska, Washington D.C. and Thailand.

"People appreciate that I'm detail oriented and they know what they are getting," said Wiley. "One of the main draws is they don't have to drive, deal with traffic or parking - they can sleep, relax and know once they've arrived, they are taken care of."

### Reaching future Ventura Breeze readers

*Continued from page 1*

the Take 5 and Read to Kids campaign! This year the Ventura Police Department hosted the effort at Police/Fire Headquarters. Police Officers and Firefighters took time to read and share important safety tips with local families.

Take 5 encourages parents and caregivers to talk, read, and sing with young children ages 1-5 to support their early language and literacy development.

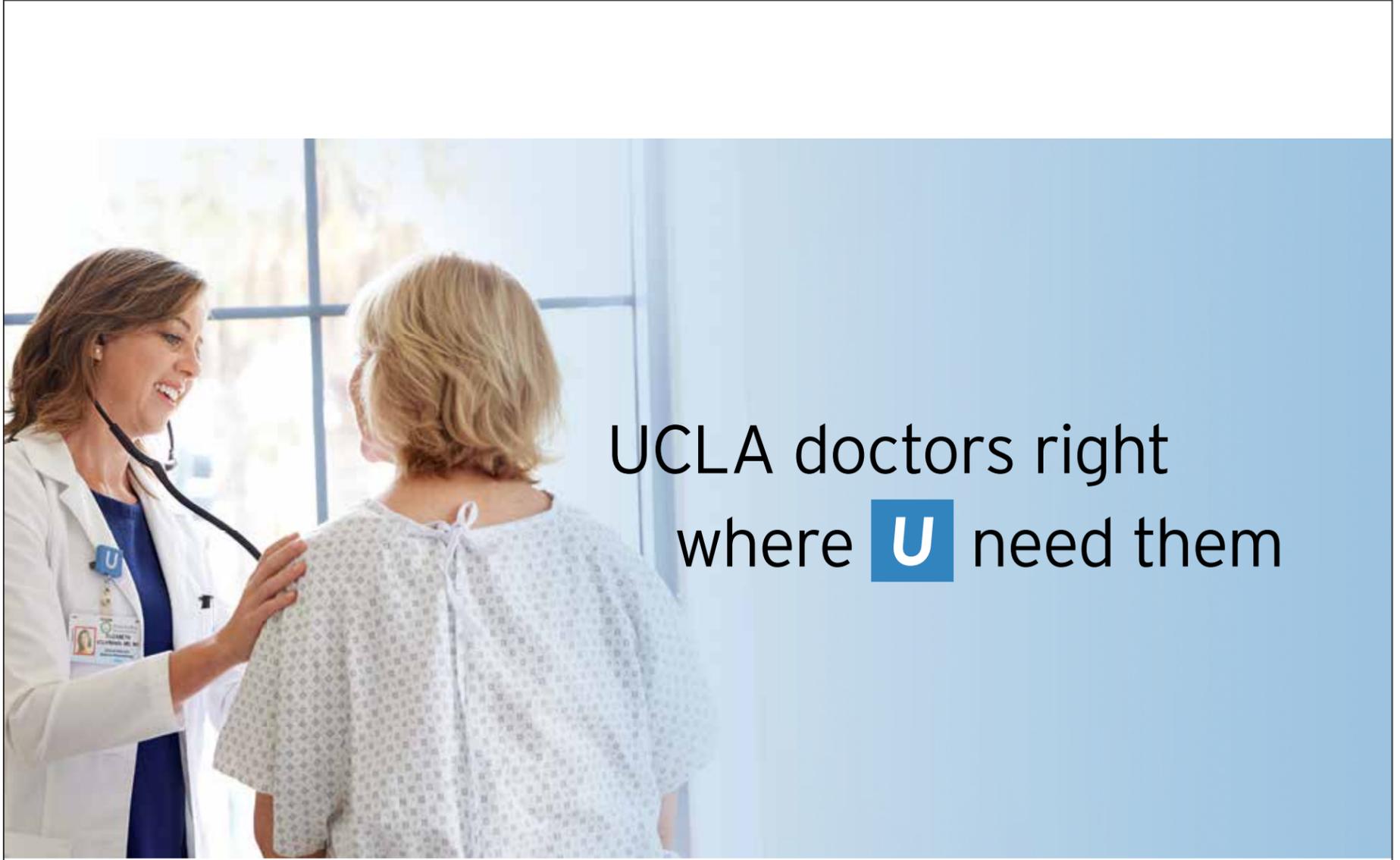
Reading aloud, telling stories, and even singing builds pathways in the brain that will later be used to learn letters, read, and to think critically.

Being introduced to books in the home and reading to a child before they enter school has been shown to be the strongest predictor of school success, especially for students at the greatest risk of falling behind.

That's what Take 5 is about - take 5 minutes today for a child's future.

A tour of the facility was also given. The impressive lineup of readers in Ventura County to promote the importance of reading early to young children included Congresswoman Julia Brownley, Assembly member Dante Acosta, Supervisor Kelly Long, County Executive Officer Mike Powers, Ventura County Fire Chief Mark Lorenzen, Sheriff Geoff Dean, Ventura County Superintendent of Schools Stan Mantooth, CSUCI President Erika Beck and many more.

"For young children, early exposure to books - including being read aloud to each day - is critical for long-term academic success," said First 5 Ventura County Executive Director Petra Puls. "And yet, in Ventura County, only 58% of children are read to daily."



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[uclahealth.org/getsocial](http://uclahealth.org/getsocial)

CV/VB



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## City News



Representing Taradyne Co of Ventura , "The Bucket Brigade" filled and hauled countless buckets of water from the shore while others shaped the sand. Photos by Bernie Goldstein.

## Corporate Games closing ceremonies and competition

Thousands of employees from 80 Ventura and Santa Barbara County companies have been battling it out for the last six-weeks in the 29th Annual City of Ventura Corporate Games! The end of this business-to-business team sports competition took place on Saturday, May 5 at the Corporate Games Closing Ceremonies held at Harbor Cove Beach in Ventura.

In the last two events local companies faced off in the "Ventura's Beauty" Sand Sculpturing Contest and Tug-O-War competition to end the competition and to win the overall and team unity trophies in their respective divisions in this final day of competition.

For more information on the Corporate Games, visit [www.venturacorporategames.org](http://www.venturacorporategames.org).



Program honors the shared losses of our community from the Thomas Fire.

## Museum of Ventura County events

The Rubicon Harmonix and the Museum of Ventura County together will present a unique program, May 11, that honors the shared losses of our community from the Thomas Fire, through spoken word and song. The event will begin with a pre-concert wine reception at 5:15 pm and the 75-minute program will start at 6:00 p.m.

Harmonix, a six-member vocal troupe widely known for its appearances at community and Downtown Ventura events, will perform a program of monologues and vocal selections that touch upon the myriad of experiences and emotions shared by so many in the wake of the Thomas Fire. The program will be produced and directed by Rubicon Theatre Artistic Director Brian McDonald, with musical direction provided by Miriam Arichea.

The stories - compiled by local writers Ivor Davis and Michael Sigman, as well as by McDonald and Arichea - are drawn from poetry, social media posts and blogs written immediately after the fire, as well as interviews with Ventura residents.

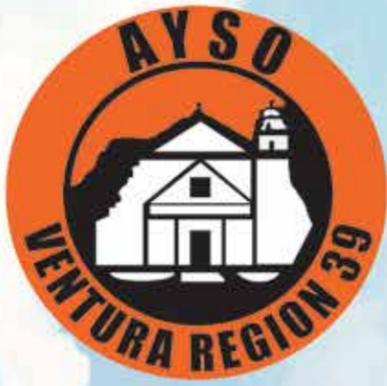
Out of the Ashes is a collaboration between Rubicon Theatre and the Museum of Ventura County, which is undertaking an extensive project to create a multidimensional, multimedia series of presentations that capture the remarkable stories of the most devastating natural tragedy in county history.

The wine reception will continue after the program, and attendees will have the opportunity to meet the persons whose stories were told. Information will also be available to individuals interested in contributing to the Museum's own compilation of oral histories.

*Continued on page 22*



The Rose Garden located at the Olivas Adobe is abloom with gorgeous multi-colored roses. Be sure to visit before they go away.



# DON'T MISS OUT!

REGISTER **APRIL 1, 2018 - JUNE 15, 2018**  
 REGISTER & PAY ONLINE **WWW.AYSO39.ORG**

THE FIRST 250 REGISTERED PLAYERS WILL RECEIVE A COMPLIMENTARY TICKET FOR THE VENTURA AYSO - LA GALAXY NIGHT ON AUGUST 11TH VS. MINNESOTA UNITED AND HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN AN LA GALAXY GAME DAY EXPERIENCE. ADDITIONAL TICKETS FOR FRIENDS AND FAMILIES WILL BE MADE AVAILABLE ON LAGALAXY.COM/VENTURAAYSO.



## News & Notes



Stephanie Caldwell, Joseph Richards Jr., Greg Gillespie, Ph.D., Kimberly Hoffmans, Ph.D., Erika D. Beck, Ph.D. and John Silva at the State of Education Luncheon. Photo by Angela Brinkhoff.

### Chamber presented educators at annual luncheon

by Ana Baker

On Thursday, April 26, the Ventura Chamber of commerce presented their Annual State of Education Luncheon "Safety Today Security Tomorrow: Adapting to Societal and Economic Change" at the Wright Event Center at Ventura College.

Opening remarks were made by Stephanie Caldwell, Ventura Chamber President & CEO and John Silva, Ventura Chamber Chair Board of Directors.

Reports were presented by four leaders from local education sectors (Ventura Unified School District, Ventura College and California State University Channel Islands) who explained how they are adapting to the

rapidly changing environment. The event included an excellent buffet lunch.

The presenters were:

**Erika D. Beck, Ph.D., President, California State University Channel Islands**

Erika Beck began her tenure as President of California State University Channel Islands in August 2016. Prior to her appointment, she served as Provost and Executive Vice President at Nevada State College. A native Californian, President Beck holds a B.A. in Psychology from the University of California, San Diego; M.A. in Psychology from San Diego State University; and a Ph.D. in

*Continued on page 21*

## Sunday, May 13, is Mothers Day!

Give mom the day OFF from cooking and clean-up and bring her to the Vagabond to enjoy any of these home-cooked meals:

- Grilled Halibut** with tarter sauce and cole slaw
  - Roast Turkey** with ALL the trimmings,
  - Roast Pork** with cornbread dressing and applesauce,
  - Golden Brown Fried Chicken half** with choice of potato
  - Roast Beef** with Au-Jus and choice of potato
- Each served with soup or salad, whipped or baked potato and choice of Vagabond's own special dinner dessert, made in our kitchen by Chef Christopher!!



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Flying trapeze artists thrill the audience at Circus Vargas.

## Preserving an American tradition like no other

The big one is back! Circus Vargas delivers the ultimate entertainment extravaganza for 2018! Debuting their latest, new and amazing production in Ventura, the much-anticipated tour runs May 24th through 28th at the Ventura County Fairgrounds, returning to the area next month in Santa Barbara June 21st through 25th.

Always fun for the entire family, Circus Vargas' incredible new production highlights an amazing cast of world renowned performers! Death-Defying Acrobats, Daredevils, Flying Trapeze

Artists, Jugglers, Contortionists, Comedians, Clowns, Motorcycles and much, much, more!

Get ready to unleash your imagination and discover a world of pure circus magic and wonderment under the Big Top, where memories are made and cherished for a lifetime!

Attend for a swashbuckling circus spectacular, with this year's theme "Dreaming of Pirates!" A fantastic voyage of nonstop action and adventure guaranteed to thrill and enchant children of all ages!

Arrive 45 minutes early for an entertaining, interactive pre-show celebration, where kids can create their own magic under the big top, learning circus skills such as juggling, balancing and more! Meet and mingle with the entire cast after each performance. Capture the fun by posing for pics or selfies with your favorite cast members.

Circus Vargas has accomplished a feat even more difficult than some might have believed possible. They have created an incredible animal-free circus production that still manages to deliver audiences the nostalgic, authentic, traditional circus feel that fans love, albeit without the animal factor. So why no animals?

"We receive many inquiries as to why Circus Vargas' current productions do not include animal acts," says Rolanda Kaiser,

## News & Notes



Black Panther, Wonder Woman and Captain America were at the Harbor on April 28 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.

They were joined by real life local heroes who save lives and keep the community safe. A fire truck was parked nearby during the event and families had the opportunity to meet local fire fighters.

PR Director. "The creative concept behind the reincarnation of Circus Vargas has simply been a natural progression in the long and stellar careers of owners Nelson and Katya Quiroga. Having performed as acrobats and aerialists with some of the most famous circuses in the world, Nelson has always gravitated toward the acrobatic aspect of circus. Katya, a former ballerina, leans toward the artistic, balletic aspect, the beauty of movement and the human form. For them, Circus Vargas is the culmination of their two passions. The current productions, born of their artistic collaboration, are based on the human aspect of their combined circus experiences and expertise."

Circus Vargas' new owners are former acrobats and are doing what they know best. Although some might not imagine a circus without animals, the circus is really so much more! It's a feeling, an experience. It's that giddy excitement that overcomes you the moment you've entered the big top in excited anticipation, wondering what spectacular things are awaiting to be seen! "Circus Vargas is absolutely circus at its best," says Rolanda, "and it just happens to be animal-free".

For Circus Vargas performance dates, times and to purchase tickets, visit [www.circusvargas.com](http://www.circusvargas.com), call 877-GOTFUN-1 (877-468-3861) or visit the box office at each location. Follow Circus Vargas on Facebook.

circusvargas.com, call 877-GOTFUN-1 (877-468-3861) or visit the box office at each location. Follow Circus Vargas on Facebook.

## Answer in a Breeze

Question: *Perhaps I missed it, but has the Breeze found out or reported anything about the work being done on the building behind Staples and behind bus depot? It's been vacant for probably 10 years. Not sure what it used to be, but probably a department store. Would love to know if there are plans in the works to do something with it.*

Thanks!

Daniel Burke

Answer: This is former Barker Brothers building that have been vacant well over 10 years. It is historic structure which did take years to resolve. It will be new 24 Hour Fitness Center and is moving into construction now.

Planning Manager Dave Ward

Do you have a question? Send it to [editor@venturabreeze.com](mailto:editor@venturabreeze.com) and we will try to get an answer.



On April 29, at 11:30am, Ventura City Fire units responded to an overturned pickup truck and trailer on SB 101 at Johnson Dr. The trailer was on fire, with people trapped inside the truck. First arriving unit reported all occupants out, two victims in need of medical care. Patients were assessed and treated. The fire was knocked-down within approx. 10 minutes of arrival.

One patient was transported to a local hospital with moderate injuries, the other patient refused treatment/transport.

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Scout Troop Leader Michelle Oberle and scouts Mia Earley, Carlyn Begalla, Kylie Nelson and Scarlett Oberle had a wonderful time as part of Girl Scout Troop 61135 who had the pleasure of assisting the Ventura Land Trust (VLT) and SoCal Gas in planting milkweed and other pollinator friendly plants in the Big Rock Preserve area. The girls in troop 61135 donated a portion of their cookie proceeds to VLT, to assist with purchasing plants, and they led a butterfly life cycle craft for children at the event. They loved planting butterfly friendly plants and helping with this event and look forward to the next one!

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# Senior Living

Pull Out Section



"I think that I should take the CMHS online StrokeAware Risk Assessment just to be sure."

## Community urged to be aware of stroke symptoms

In recognition of National Stroke Awareness Month in May, Community Memorial Health System encourages people to better understand the risk factors and symptoms of stroke, a leading cause of death and serious long-term disability in the United States.

National Stroke Awareness Month each May seeks to educate people about strokes and how to prevent them. According to the American Stroke Association, approximately 795,000 Americans have a stroke each year. Leading a healthy lifestyle and lowering risk factors can help reduce the risk of a stroke. Eighty percent of strokes are preventable. Recognizing symptoms is critical to treating strokes and possibly preventing or reducing disability, said Stephanie Lara-Jenkins, RN, Stroke Coordinator at CMHS.

"Time is crucial in the treatment of a stroke because the earlier a stroke is recognized and the patient receives medical attention, the greater the chance of recovery," she said. "We have the potential for reversing your stroke or mitigating your disability from a stroke if you get treatment right away."

Strokes occur when a blood vessel

carrying oxygen and vital nutrients to the brain is either blocked by a clot or ruptures. When this happens, part of the brain is deprived of blood and oxygen, destroying millions of valuable nerve cells within minutes.

Symptoms of stroke (sudden and sustained) are: numbness and/or weakness on one side of the body; numbness or weakness of an arm or leg; slurred speech, trouble speaking or the inability to speak; changes in vision including blurred vision, double vision or vision loss; dizziness and/or loss of coordination; and lightheadedness or feeling faint.

Stroke risk factors are: high blood pressure (see your doctor to control your blood pressure if it's higher than 130 over 80); atrial fibrillation (an irregular heart rhythm); high cholesterol; heart disease; diabetes; smoking; heavy alcohol use; physical inactivity; obesity; a family history of stroke; and depression.

CMHS offers a free, confidential online StrokeAware Risk Assessment for those seeking to determine their risk. This free online tool takes about seven minutes to complete. The

*Continued on page 14*

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## Senior Living



Michael J. Fox has done much to support Parkinson's disease research.

### Parkinson's Disease Support Group to host Michael J. Fox Foundation

The Ventura Parkinson's Disease Support Group invites their members and care-partners, visitors and new friends who find themselves navigating Parkinson's disease to join them on Wednesday, May 9 from 1-3pm for a special presentation to be held at Lexington Assisted Living, 5440 Ralston St.

Advancement Officer Mary McQuillen of The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research (MJFF) will present an overview of MJFF's mission; an update on promising Parkinson's disease research; the latest legislation that impacts the lives of people with Parkinson's; priority areas for Parkinson's policy work; and information on how to get involved with clinical research through Fox Trial Finder and Fox Insight.

The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research is dedicated to finding a cure for Parkinson's disease through an aggressively funded research agenda and to ensuring the development of improved therapies for those living with Parkinson's today. Since inception in 2000, 89 cents of every dollar spent by MJFF has gone straight to grants and initiatives to speed a cure for Parkinson's. To date, the Foundation has funded more than \$800 million in research to bring an end to Parkinson's disease. For more information, visit [www.michaeljfox.org](http://www.michaeljfox.org).

For those interested in attending the event, there is a drop-off/loading

and unloading driveway in the front of the Lexington building. Extra parking is graciously available across the street in the Baptist Church parking lot. Reservations are not required. Attendees are invited to check in at the front desk for directions to the 3rd floor and sign-in at the meeting so we can keep in touch with you. For more information, call Patty at 766-6070.

The Ventura Parkinson's Disease Support Group is an independent and volunteer-organized group, not affiliated with or a part of any other organization or group. Thanks to the generosity of the Lexington Assisted Living, they host their meetings every second Wednesday of the month.

### What Californians need to know about new Medicare Cards

by Rick Beavin  
California Medicare President for Humana

**What is happening**

To combat identity theft, CMS will be changing the format of all Medicare numbers, which means that every existing Medicare beneficiary will get an updated Medicare Card that lists their new Medicare number.

**What is changing**

Instead of being based on a beneficiary's Social Security number, each Medicare number will be an individually generated combination of letters and numbers.

The new card is paper, which is easier for providers to use and copy.

**Why is this happening**

Removing the SSN from Medicare cards will help fight identity theft for people with Medicare. In doing so, CMS aims to better protect:

Private health care and financial information

Federal health care benefit and service payments

**When is this happening**

All Medicare cards will be replaced between April 2018 and April 2019. California residents will be among the first to receive theirs between April and June this year.

This will be a long process because CMS will be issuing approximately 60 million new ID cards.

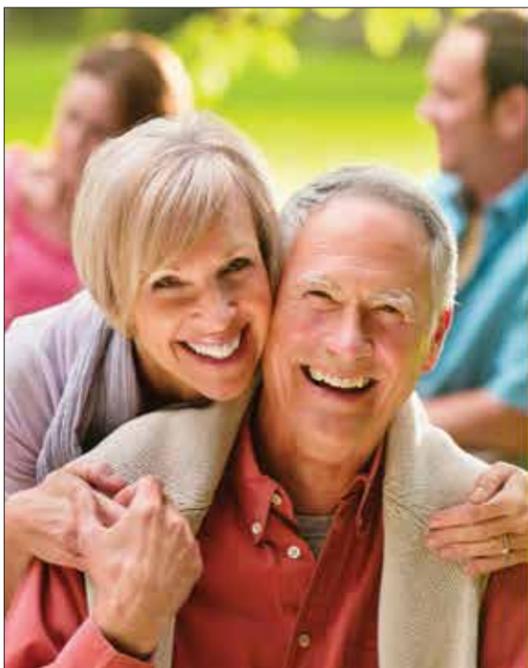


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# Senior Living

Until the new card is received, continue using your current ID card. Once the new card is received, begin using it immediately. Beginning January 1, 2020, only the new card will be usable.

**Who will be impacted**

New cards will be generated for all active existing and new Medicare beneficiaries. Each beneficiary will have a unique number (e.g., husband and wife will have their own).

**What does this mean for people with Medicare**

The new cards won't change Medicare benefits. People with Medicare may start using their new Medicare ID cards as soon as they get them. Until they receive the new Medicare ID card members are to continue using their current Medicare ID card.

For Medicare beneficiaries with a Medicare Advantage plan, the change applies only to their Medicare card and not to their health insurance carrier's medical card, such as their Humana Medicare Advantage card.

If you're in a Medicare Advantage plan (with Humana or any company), your Medicare Advantage plan ID card should be kept and used when going to the doctor, hospital, lab, etc.

**How do I protect myself from scams**

Medicare will never call you uninvited to ask you to get your new Medicare number or get personal or private information.

Scam artists may try to get personal information and/or your current Medicare Number by contacting you about your new card. If someone asks you for your information, for money, or threatens to cancel your health benefits

if you don't share your personal information, hang up and call the Medicare government office at 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227).

**Additional Sources**

[www.cms.gov/Medicare/New-Medicare-Card/NMC-Mailing-Strategy.pdf](http://www.cms.gov/Medicare/New-Medicare-Card/NMC-Mailing-Strategy.pdf)  
[www.medicare.gov/forms-help-and-resources/your-medicare-card.html](http://www.medicare.gov/forms-help-and-resources/your-medicare-card.html)  
[www.medicare.gov/forms-help-and-resources/your-medicare-card.html](http://www.medicare.gov/forms-help-and-resources/your-medicare-card.html)



"Painting as therapy keeps our brains sharp."

## Complexities, combinations of age-related brain conditions are a challenge

by National Institute on Aging

The decline of cognitive functioning—thinking, remembering, learning and reasoning—involves a complicated mix of different disease processes in the

*Continued on page 14*



Local comedian Randy Lubas entertains the crowd at Cypress Place Senior Living on Wednesday April 11. He was the keynote speaker for the annual Health & Wealth Expo held at the senior community. The theme for the expo this year, it's tenth, was "Laughter Is The Best Medicine."

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## Senior Living

### Brain related conditions

*Continued from page 13*

brain. A study by NIA-funded researchers has shown that common brain diseases often overlap but impact cognitive impairment differently for different people. The findings, published online Dec. 15, 2017 in the journal *Annals of Neurology*, the authors say, point to the importance of developing therapies that seek to treat the broader complexity of cognitive decline.

A research team from the NIA-funded Rush Alzheimer's Disease Center, Chicago, looked at cases of more than 1,000 older people who took detailed cognitive tests annually for many years and whose brains were donated and examined after death. The researchers measured nine disease characteristics in the brain, called neuropathologies, known to relate to cognitive decline and dementia. The neuropathologies included plaques and tangles associated with Alzheimer's disease and indicators of Lewy body dementia, a disease associated with abnormal deposits in the brain of a protein called alpha-synuclein.

The researchers found that over 94 percent of the participants had at least one known neuropathology. Dr. Patricia Boyle, Professor at the Rush Alzheimer's Disease Center, who led the study, explained that of those participants who had at least one neuropathology, 78 percent had two or more, 58 percent had three or more, and 35 percent had four or more. The researchers were surprised to find nearly 250 unique combinations of neuropathologies. "And there's not a particularly common pattern," Boyle noted.

The study also evaluated the nine neuropathologies for their relative impact on cognition. For example, the study found that neuropathologies associated with Alzheimer's disease were both the most frequent (65 percent) and the most often associated with cognitive decline (about 50 percent on average). But, the degree to which Alzheimer's

disease neuropathologies contributed to cognitive changes varied greatly from person to person—with anywhere from 20 to 100 percent of the cognitive change accounted for by Alzheimer's disease neuropathologies, depending on the others that were present. In other words, the impact of any given neuropathology differed dramatically depending on the other neuropathologies present.

While the sample in this study differs slightly from the general population, Boyle explained that the results build on earlier studies. "Most people who live to be in their 80s will have some combination of neuropathologies in the brain," she said. "We need to understand how these neuropathologies work together to impair cognition in order to develop effective interventions to prevent cognitive decline in old age. We looked at the nine neuropathologies that we currently quantify in the brain, but there are others that we are just beginning to study and some we probably haven't identified yet," she added.

In addition to helping advance understanding of the complex brain changes that can happen in aging, this study demonstrates the importance of volunteers both participating in research over many years and donating their brains. This research used the infrastructure available across the country at the Alzheimer's Disease Centers to generate knowledge that is a necessary step to eventually developing treatments.

### Community urged to be aware

*Continued from page 11*

StrokeAware assessment will provide participants with a personalized risk assessment report written by a CMH nurse practitioner that will help them learn about their risk and identify any medical or lifestyle factors that may cause a stroke. The StrokeAware Risk Assessment can be taken by visiting <https://ha.healthawareservices.com/ra/survey/766>.



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# News & Notes



Librarian Molly Krill introduced Maryann Ridini Spencer, James Francis Gray, Sheila Lowe and Mike Kennedy at the seminar.

## Do you want to write a book?

On Sat., April 28, four local authors presented a seminar about book writing at the new Hill St. Library. The enthusiastic crowd learned about writing techniques, editing, self-publishing and other secrets to writing and merchandising books. They also discussed their books that were on sale at the event.

The featured authors were:

### Maryann Ridini Spencer

Award-Winning Screenwriter, Author, TV/Film Producer, Lifestyle Journalist, & PR/Marketing Consultant. [maryannridinispencer.com](http://maryannridinispencer.com).

### James Francis Gray

A contributing writer for the Ventura Breeze he is a published writer with four books to date. [www.jamesfgray.com](http://www.jamesfgray.com).

### Sheila Lowe

Like her fictional character, Claudia Rose, Sheila Lowe is a real-life forensic handwriting examiner who testifies in court cases. Visit [Sheilalowe.com](http://Sheilalowe.com) and [Claudiaroseseries.com](http://Claudiaroseseries.com).

### Mike Kennedy

His inspiration for the Mark Springfield series comes from many years of working with different technologies.



Patti Birmingham "Top 50 Women in Business."

## CEO of the Boys & Girls Club receives recognition

On April 19, the Pacific Coast Business Times presented Boys & Girls Club Chief Executive Officer (CEO) Patti Birmingham with a "Top 50 Women in Business" award before a full house at its awards ceremony in the Decker's Outdoor Corporation Goleta location. Patti was selected for her unwavering commitment to providing local youth with resources to help them reach their full potential in a nurturing club environment.

Patti Birmingham, in her role as CEO of the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Ventura manages the daily operation, fiscal management and long-term planning of the club. There are four club sites with a team of 44 staff--that provide services to 2,000 youth each year. In her capacity as the organization's leader, she has expanded the resource development team to include a Director of Development and a Grant

Writer; started the last 3 years with a financial reserve; restructured the Board for current non-profit governing trends; set up 8 years of committed future Board Presidents and increased services to youth.

"Patti's dedication to the youth of Ventura is second to none, said Ventura County Supervisor Steve Bennett.

Patti has always had a great love for kids and thought the Club would be a great place to work while she attended college in pursuit of a degree in Mechanical Engineering. In 1989 she was hired as the Administrative Assistant to the Executive Director. Her career path became fixed as her love for the organization deepened. Her roles have included Fundraising Assistant, Director of Operations and CEO. Twenty-nine years later, her passion for what she does is stronger than ever.

"The opportunity to provide positive impact on the lives of thousands of youth is what has inspired me throughout the years, and on a daily basis," said Patti Birmingham, Boys & Girls Club of Greater Ventura CEO.

For 80 years, the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Ventura has provided a positive place for all youth, especially those who need us most, and quality programs to help them become healthy, responsible, confident and productive members of our community.

## Any former Ventura Writers Club alumnus in Ventura?

The Ventura County Writers Club is looking for former members. The club, established in 1933, will be celebrating its 85th anniversary in September

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Kevin O'Connor  
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On April 30, spanning from 9:43am to 4:57pm fire and police units responded to multiple vegetation and rubbish fires, intentionally set in rapid succession within small geographic areas. Fires occurred at various locations between Harbor/Olivas & Telephone/Portola. No structures or property were significantly damaged, and no injuries were reported. An investigation is ongoing, anyone with pertinent information is encouraged to contact the Ventura Police Dept.

2018. VCWC Vice President Judith Mathison says, "This is a big celebration for our organization. We want to include people who have been a part of the club's long and varied history." The VCWC has provided resources for thousands of local authors over the years. Many of whom have gone on to become best-selling authors.

The club welcomes writers at all levels of proficiency and provides speakers, workshops and critique groups, as well as help with marketing, editing and publishing. Membership in the club includes

speaking and writing opportunities along with editing and publishing ones. The VCWC is a great place for new writers to get experience and for published authors to network and showcase their work. We love writers of all genres: from poets to playwrights.

Former members and prospective members interested in the anniversary or general club information may contact Ms. Mathison at [mathison2j@gmail.com](mailto:mathison2j@gmail.com) or call Breeze contributing writer Sheli Ellsworth at 300.1365.



Kellogg Park photo courtesy of Visit Ventura.



# The Pet Page



### Dedicated to Scamp

On Saturday, May 5, CARL's (Canine Adoption and Rescue League) 21st annual Pooch Parade was held at the Ventura Beach Promenade Park on a beautiful (but slightly windy) Ventura day.

The new Bluefang Dogathon 5K & 10k races were not just another race, they were all about the dogs with over 200 dogs participating in the largest dog running event in Southern California.

Each dog participant scampered away with their own bandana, medal and a chance to try out the new activity tracking collar by Bluefang. The money raised from the event help pay for the wonderful services that CARL provides for dogs. Their thrift store will be re-locating to a very convenient location in mid-town in the near future.

The races were for both the human and the dogs and had age group awards for the 5K, 10K and special top dog awards so there were many winners.

There was dog competition for agility, best kisser, cutest, best dressed and the always exciting Ventura K9 demonstrations and a silent auction. Outstanding music was presented by The Seaside Band and several food trucks provided an array of food choices.

The Pooch Parade is Ventura's biggest dog-themed event of the year. For over two decades, Ventura County has come

out with their best friends to walk with them, shop with them, have a beer at the beach with them. It was a great day for the dogs and the humans who enjoyed seeing, and petting the many shapes, sizes and colors of dogs that were there.

The huge amount of tennis balls provided by the Ventura Breeze for the dogs were gone even before the event was over.

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

In the SPAN Thrift Store parking lot 110 N. Olive St. (behind Vons on Main) Friday, May 11th.

Please call to schedule an appointment 584-3823.

By Victoria Usher

Animal researchers have long focused on behavioral differences within the same species. James Serpell, the Marie A. Moore Professor of Ethics and Animal Welfare at Penn's School of Veterinary Medicine, suggests that these differences are influenced by pet owner's personalities. His study collected data from 1,564 Cocker Spaniel owners and found a strong correlation between owner traits and pet traits.

According to his study, harsh methods of training dogs, such as beating or using shock collars, led to aggressive habits, such as persistent barking and separation anxiety. In addition, emotionally stable pet

## Scamp Club

(Scampclub pets are not for adoption.)



Hi: My name is Teddy and I'm a very lucky 13-year-old terrier because I was adopted from CARL about 6 months ago. I like to run a lot and am very loving and sweet, and I look just like Benji.

## 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.

owners reported less instances of their dogs urinating in the house when left alone. Research from biologists at the University of Vienna and Oxford showed consistent findings—the dogs in their experiment mimicked the actions of their owners.

Two groups of dogs were taught to open a box with their heads and their paws, whereas their owners would only open boxes with their hands. Dogs that

mimicked their owners by opening with their paws learned the skill, on average, three times as fast as the dogs that did not mimic their owners.

Since the data was drawn from self-reported surveys, the study's conclusions may not be completely accurate. Still, James Serpell has said that his research warrants further exploration and could help pet owners train their pets more effectively.



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**Friday, May 11th**  
**in SPAN parking lot.**  
Must call for appointment (805) 584-3823

The doggies were the real stars of the Pooch Parade held at Promenade Park. Especially the cute one wearing sunglasses. Photos by Richard Lieberman and Bill Green.



# The Pet Page

Lost pet? Go to [LostCatVenturaCounty.com](http://LostCatVenturaCounty.com) or [LostDogVenturaCounty.com](http://LostDogVenturaCounty.com) - free websites for finding and posting when you've lost or found a cat or dog.

## Forever homes wanted

Hi: I'm Max an outgoing 3-year-old Cattle Dog mix in need of a new home. My parents need to take care of an elderly family member who needs daily care. I wish I could stay and they do too, but unfortunately I cannot.

I'm good with other dogs. I've never been around younger children. I love being around my people and want to be a part of what is going on. I'm active and will need daily exercise. That should be easy to do as I enjoy bike rides, walking and playing ball. I've had a couple of training sessions and learned to sit, lay down and I'm working on heal. I'm used to having someone home periodically during the day. I just want to be loved and to give love. Please stop by and meet me, I'll be waiting. Canine Adoption and Rescue League C.A.R.L.



Toby is our training rock star. He has graduated from VCAS Mutt Manners and Dog Genie's Clicker Training class. He knows sit, down, touch, wait, stay, shake. If you love dog training, you will have tons of fun with Toby. Toby also would be equally happy to have a home that includes long walks or hikes and a soft spot close to his people. Toby is fun and an all-around great dog. Ventura County Animal Services - Camarillo location - 600 Aviation Drive Toby A481327



A large gathering enjoyed the food and friendship at the CAPS Media Open House.

## Open House at CAPS Media Center

Thanks to everyone who joined in the CAPS Media Open House on May 3rd. at the CAPS Media Center. Member/Producers, students, board members and the public joined in to tour the facility, recognize award-winning producers, sit-in as DJ of the Day in the KPPQ radio control room, screen previews of Thomas Fire Stories, and learn what it takes to master the tools and techniques needed to produce television and radio programming. The engaging event was exceptionally well attended by the community with many guests surprised to learn how easy it is to become a member of CAPS Media. Anyone who lives, works or attends school in Ventura can take advantage of CAPS Media's exceptional training and extensive resources for \$25 per year. Likewise, any County non-profit org can join and include four organizational members for \$75 per year.

CAPS Media's Digital Storytelling Summer Camp is accepting reservations for a limited number of three-day

sessions. Every week crew members receive hands-on instruction in the use of video cameras, audio, lighting, studio production and postproduction editing. The fast paced, activity packed camps are directed by CAPS Media professional staff aided by energetic high school interns from El Camino's award winning ECTV media program. Digital Storytelling Summer Sessions include the teamwork and skills needed to produce comedy shows, commercials, documentaries, news reporting and more - all from the POV of the Digital Storytelling crew members. To learn more or sign up call the CAPS Media Center, 805.658.0500 or go to [capsmedia.org](http://capsmedia.org).

The Thomas Fire Stories Project continues to discover and record fascinating and engaging first-person stories throughout the community. In the first few months CAPS Media crews have recorded dozens of captivating stories and personal accounts by fire fighters, first responders, and members of the public impacted by the fire. Everyone with a story to tell is encouraged to share their experience. Selected stories will air and stream on CAPS Television, CAPS radio (KPPQ 104.1 FM) and may be included in a comprehensive Thomas Fire documentary. All of the recordings will be added to the historic archival project at the Museum of Ventura County.

Graduation time is nearly upon us and CAPS Media will continue the tradition of recording, broadcasting and streaming graduation ceremonies for Ventura College (May 18), El Camino High School (June 8) and Foothill Technical High School (June 14).

CAPS Media's mission is to create an engaged and informed community

*Continued on page 19*

## Ventura Veterinary Hospital

LOVING AN ANIMAL ... AWAKENS THE SOUL.

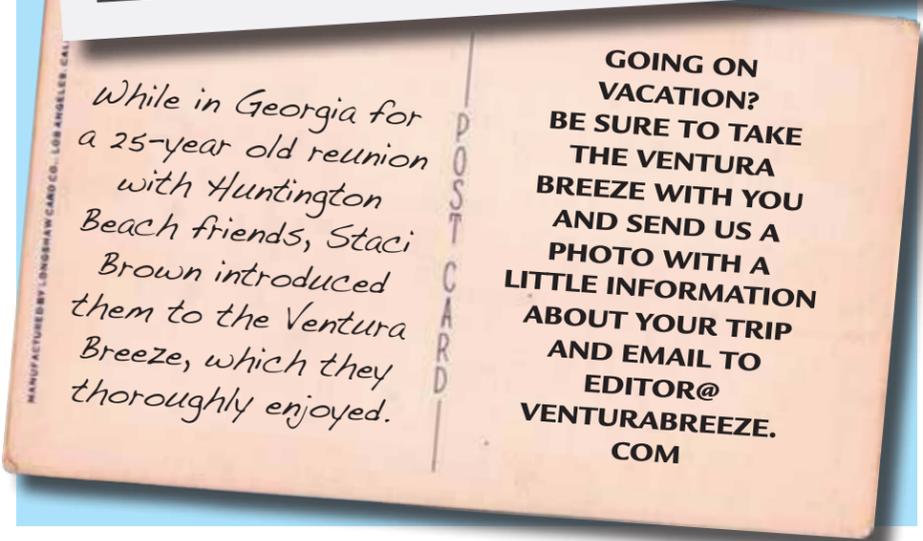
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## Lilac Festival in Pine Mountain Club

by **Mark Bailey**  
President, PMCCPOA

One of the best kept secrets in California remains the quaint “Aspen like” village of Pine Mountain Club (PMC). Located in the Los Padres National Forest at a little over one mile above sea level and nestled between Mt. Pinos and San Emigdio Mountain, Pine Mountain Club is remarkably easy to get to. Just a comfortable and scenic 90-minute drive from Ventura, about 50 minutes north of Magic Mountain. Those in the know often refer to PMC as “the nearby faraway place”.

The Villagers of PMC are already busy preparing for their 36th annual Lilac Festival set for the weekend of May 19th and 20th. It has been estimated that around five thousand visitors join the approximately three thousand locals for a weekend of arts, music, food, fun and family play. About 100 artisan vendors will begin displaying their unique works of art, fashion, jewelry and other creations both days starting at 10am. This is followed on Saturday, by acrobatic skydiving daredevils due to land at 11:00 am. This kicks off our yearly parade through the village center after the singing of our National Anthem by Larry Craig, a live theatre artist with a powerful voice.

Throughout the weekend there will be entertainment for all ages including live music, pony rides, kiddie shows, a small petting zoo, golf, a horseshoe

**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**  
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Like Us

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.

## Youth

tournament, great food, and a large children's play area with state of the art slides, inflatable bouncy houses, wall climbing etc. Most restaurants will be featuring live music on their outdoor patios.

Climatology wise, as with any place, the weather in PMC can vary. Typically, in late spring, we can expect blue sunny skies during the day with temperatures in the mid 70's and crisp clear star filled nights with temperatures in the 40's.

To get to PMC, take the 126 East to Interstate 5 north and exit at Frazier Park. Go west 18 miles following the signs to the Pine Mountain Club Village. For further information, including vendor applications, please go to our website at [www.pmlilacfestival.com](http://www.pmlilacfestival.com).

For fine wine enthusiasts considering visiting PMC, please visit our wine website [www.wineinthepines.com](http://www.wineinthepines.com) for details on our world class wine tasting event taking place this June 9th.



A very special student enjoying a previous prom night.

## A prom for students with special needs

Mission Church is set to sponsor the seventh annual A Night to Remember, a free prom for students with special needs, to be held at the Ventura County Fairgrounds Friday, May 18th beginning at 6:30 p.m.

“There is nothing quite like this night and experience for both our guests and volunteers. It's like a picture of heaven on earth,” explained Mike Hickerson, Lead Pastor at Mission Church. “When everyone is out on the dance floor together, we all recognize that we're not that much different from each other, and it just feels like something is right in the world.”

The night includes dresses and tuxedos, hairstyling, makeup and corsages or boutonnieres, limo rides and a walk down a red carpet cheered on by paparazzi. Each guest is accompanied by a student host from the community, given a formal photo, special desserts and treats and a night of dancing with a professional DJ.

“This event is not just a special night, but a night that has impacts our

community all year long; we have watched our guests make friends with other students in their high schools and continue those friendships for years to come,” said Jen Oakes, NTR's Event Director.

Over 400 guests and 2,000 volunteers are expected to celebrate together on this special night that will truly be A Night to Remember.

Mission Church, 2875 Elba St. [www.missionventura.com](http://www.missionventura.com) | [www.facebook.com/missionventura](http://www.facebook.com/missionventura)

For more information [info@missionventura.com](mailto:info@missionventura.com) or 626.8850.

## Lifeguard and water safety classes at the YMCA

Looking for a summer job? Check out the Lifeguard and Swim Instructor Certification Courses at the Ventura Family YMCA. Each course will equip you with the tools you need to get a job in Aquatics. Must Register by May 19. Both courses require Pre-requisites. Lifeguarding course includes CPR, First Aid & Oxygen training. Swim instructor Course requires CPR, First Aid, and Oxygen Training.

Dates and times for Lifeguard Course:

June 8, 4 - 8pm  
June 9, 9am - 6pm  
June 10, 9am - 6pm  
June 15, 9am - 12pm

Dates and times for Swim Instructor Course:

June 15, 2 - 6pm  
June 16, 9am - 6pm  
June 18, 1 - 5pm

Cost: \$160 per course

Water Safety Workshop. Learn about swim and aquatic safety

Come and learn about water safety with Vanessa Tooch, Ventura Family YMCA's Program Director. With an extensive background in swim and aquatic safety, she will provide helpful information regarding water safety, benefits of swim lessons, building blocks of swim lessons, and learning expectations/appropriate age progression rates. Please register for the workshop at the Ventura Family YMCA or call. Walk-ins are welcome.

May 15, 6 - 7pm. Free  
Ventura Family YMCA, 3760  
Telegraph Road

Contact Vanessa Tooch, 642.2131 x1 or [Vanessa.Tooch@ciymca.org](mailto:Vanessa.Tooch@ciymca.org).



For the first time ever, Casitas Rowing attended the US Rowing West Coast Scholastic Championship, a race that focuses its events by school and highlights the participating students. The team entered into 5 events and medaled in every event!

Schools medaling were Foothill Technology High School, Ventura High School and Cabrillo Middle School.

Visit the [www.CasitasRowing.org](http://www.CasitasRowing.org) for more information.



## Ventura Strong

### USDA announces additional wildfire recovery details

U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Sonny Perdue has announced new details on eligibility for a new U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) disaster program, 2017 Wildfires and Hurricanes Indemnity Program (2017 WHIP). In total, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) will deploy up to \$2.36 billion that Congress appropriated through the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018 to help producers with recovery of their agricultural operations in at least nine states with hurricane damage and states impacted by wildfire.

"While USDA has a suite of disaster programs as well as crop insurance available to help producers manage their risk, Congress felt it was important to provide extra assistance to our nation's farms and ranches that were the hardest hit last year," Secretary Perdue said.

**Wildfire Recovery:** Any crop, tree, bush or vine, damaged by a 2017 wildfire is eligible.

Eligibility will be determined on an individual basis, using the level of insurance coverage purchased for 2017 for the total crop acres on the area for which the WHIP application is made. Eligible producers who certify to an average adjusted gross income (AGI) of at least 75 % derived from farming or ranching, including other agriculture and forestry-based businesses during the tax years 2013, 2014 and 2015, will be eligible for a \$900,000

payment limitation with verification. All other eligible producers requesting 2017 WHIP benefits will be subject to a \$125,000 payment limitation.

**Crop Insurance Requirement:** Both insured and uninsured producers are eligible to apply for WHIP. However, all producers opting to receive 2017 WHIP payments will be required to purchase crop insurance at the 60% coverage level, or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program (NAP) at the 60% buy up coverage level if crop insurance is not available. Coverage must be in place for the next two applicable crop years to meet program requirements.

The WHIP factor ranges from 65 % to 95 %. Producers who did not insure their crops in 2017 will receive a 65 % WHIP Factor. Insured producers, or producers who had NAP, will receive between 70 percent and 95 percent WHIP Factors; those purchasing higher levels of coverage will receive higher WHIP Factors.

Drought, wildfires and other disasters continue to impact farmers and ranchers, and 2017 WHIP is just one of many programs available through USDA to help with recovery.

FSA will hold a sign-up for 2017 WHIP no later than July 16. Additional information on WHIP is available on FSA's 2017 WHIP webpage.

In trauma situations, when there's no time to check a patient's blood type, emergency personnel reach for type O negative red blood cells and type AB plasma because they can be transfused to any patient, regardless of blood type. Less than 7 percent of the population has type O negative blood, and only about 4 percent of the population has type AB blood.

Platelets may also be needed to help with clotting in cases of massive bleeding. Because platelets must be transfused within five days of donation, there is a constant – often critical – need to keep up with hospital demand.

Donors of all blood types are urged to roll up a sleeve this May to help meet the needs of trauma patients and others with serious medical conditions. Upcoming blood donation in Ventura:

May 15: 11:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.,  
Knights of Columbus, 36 S. Figueroa St.

May 24: 8:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.,  
Buena High School, 5670 Telegraph Road

May 25: 8:15 a.m. - 2:15 p.m.,  
Ventura High School, 2 North Catalina  
Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) to make an appointment or for more information.

Blood and platelet donors can save time at their next donation by using RapidPass® to complete their pre-donation reading and health history questionnaire online, on the day of their donation, before arriving at the blood drive. To get started, follow the instructions at RedCrossBlood.org/RapidPass or use the Blood Donor App.

## Help the Red Cross meet the needs of patients in emergency situations

This May, the American Red Cross is calling for donors to give blood and platelets regularly to be prepared to meet the needs of patients in emergency situations.

According to the National Trauma Institute, trauma accounts for approximately 41 million emergency department visits and 2 million hospital admissions each year.

In March 2015, Kevin Frame suffered life-threatening injuries in a head-on collision during spring break. He received blood products to treat internal injuries immediately after the accident and during multiple surgeries while recovering.

"Without the blood and plasma products made available from donations, I would not be alive today to continue my rehabilitation journey," said Frame, who had to relearn to swallow, speak and walk after the accident.

Regular blood, platelet and plasma donations help ensure that blood is available at a moment's notice. In fact, it is the blood on the shelves that is used to help save lives at the time of an accident or sudden illness.

## Incentives make rebuilding with more energy-saving systems more affordable

Southern California Gas Co. (SoCalGas) announced that, for customers who lost homes in the Thomas Fire or January 9th debris flow, the company will substantially increase financial incentives for those who wish to rebuild using sustainable designs and ultra-efficient appliances. The incentives will be offered through the California Advanced Homes Program (CAHP), which helps offset costs of creating environmentally-friendly energy-efficient homes and communities.

"SoCalGas understands that those who need to rebuild their homes are faced with many challenges, and we hope this additional incentive encourages those who want to build to the highest energy-saving standards can do so more a bit more affordably," said Lisa Alexander, SoCalGas vice president of customer solutions and communications. "The improved energy savings will allow customers to also save money through reduced energy bills."

For Thomas Fire and January 9th debris flow victims, SoCalGas will increase CAHP incentive dollars by 50 percent, and will work with planning officials from Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties as well as the Ventura County Regional Energy Alliance (VCREA) to identify those who are eligible. By rebuilding with more efficient appliances, homeowners stand to save on monthly energy costs. The more efficient appliances will also help to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

"Ventura County is working diligently to assist residents who lost their homes in the Thomas Fire, and we would welcome and support these efforts to make their new homes more sustainable and energy efficient," said Chris Stephens, director of the Ventura County Resource Management Agency.

To further reduce greenhouse gas emissions, SoCalGas is working to increase the amount of renewable natural gas – sourced from agriculture and waste – it delivers to customers. A recently-released analysis found that California could achieve the same greenhouse gas reductions as electrifying homes and buildings—but at a much lower cost—by replacing just a fraction of the natural gas that is delivered through our pipelines with this renewable natural gas.

Customers who want to rebuild using CAHP incentives work with their building contractor and a HERS (Home Energy Rating System) Rater to have their home features tested and rated using certain California Energy Commission standards. More information is available at socialgas.com.

### Chamber presented educators

*Continued from page 11*

Experimental Psychology from the University of California, San Diego where she also served as a faculty fellow.

"CSU Channel Islands expects a record number of graduates this May and received a record number of applications for the 2019 fall semester, according to CSUCI's Chief of

Staff, Genevieve Evans Taylor, Ed.D. The university provides a top-quality, affordable education to a student population largely from the local region and the first in their family to attend college. CSUCI offers immersive, hands-on learning experiences that allow its graduates to thrive in the 21st century workforce. Many of the university's degree offerings, such as nursing, teaching and computer science, were developed in partnership with, and to meet the needs of, local employers" said Beck.

### Greg Gillespie, Ph.D., Chancellor, Ventura County Community College District

Dr. Greg Gillespie serves as the Chancellor for the Ventura County Community College District. The District includes Moorpark, Oxnard and Ventura Colleges that serve over 33,000 students each year. Dr. Gillespie served as the President of Ventura College for four years before moving into the Chancellor position in July 2017. Dr. Gillespie is focused on supporting the colleges in providing student-centered access to quality and relevant educational programs and support services. He works with employer, education, and governmental partners to address shared educational and community priorities.

Greg Gillespie stated "The three Ventura County Community College District colleges, Moorpark, Oxnard, and Ventura, serve approximately 33,000 student each year. The colleges provide classes and programs to prepare students for the workforce and transfer to baccalaureate degree program. Career education is an important priority across the VCCCD and successful program implementation requires communication and collaboration between employers and the colleges. These partnerships have resulted in programs training our community college students for high demand jobs in our county. These efforts help to meet workforce needs and support economic development. The VCCCD also actively conducts training and education opportunities to help students and employees respond appropriately to emergency situations. Response decisions at Ventura College and across the VCCCD to the recent Thomas fire incident were prioritized to address health and safety needs and to minimize the impact of college closures on student progress and achievement."

### Kimberly Hoffmans, Ph.D., Vice President, Ventura County Community College District

Dr. Kim Hoffmans has served in the Ventura County Community College District for the last 24 years as a nursing faculty member, coordinator, dean, and the Vice President of Academic Affairs at Ventura College. Through her past experiences as a nurse and an educator, Dr. Hoffmans has had the opportunity to work with colleagues and students with diverse academic, social, economic, physical, cultural, and ethnic backgrounds and finds the diverse climate of community colleges rewarding, challenging, and full of opportunities.

### Joseph Richards Jr., Deputy Superintendent, Ventura Unified School District

Mr. Joseph Richards Jr., Deputy Superintendent, Business Services for the Ventura Unified School District. Mr. Richards has worked in the field of business for approximately 43 years, eight years in financial institutions and over 35 years in school business. Mr. Richards is a firm believer in giving back to the community he lives and works in, thus has served in various organizations in the Ventura County community for many years.



## This 'n' That

### It's time to take a peek at summer!

The City of Ventura Parks and Recreation will be hosting a free Open House at Barranca Vista Park on Saturday, May 12 from 1-5 pm. This event will be your opportunity to interact with staff and preview the summer camps being offered this year. Stage entertainment featuring Elaine's Polynesian Dancers, Cassie's Pop Dancers, Line Dancing with Jackie, Rock & Roll High Camp alumni band "The Antidote," and JAB, as well as, cheer and gymnastics demos will be performing during the event.

With more than 20 hands-on activity booths there will be something for everyone! Join City of Ventura Summer Day Camp & Aquatics Center staff for special crafts, try your balance on the Ohana surfboard, paint a colorful bookmark with RED Brick Art Camps, play the money game with Money Munchkids, make slime with Mad Science, build with Play-Well Lego, learn to play guitar with Rock & Roll High or sing and drum with Music Therapy by JAB. The Li'l Circus that Could will bring circus arts & interactive fun to kids of all ages. You don't have to run away to join the circus; the circus is coming to Barranca Vista Park!

Stay for the first Fairy Tales in the Park performance of the season. The Peter Pan 4: Hook's Uproar performance will begin at 4 pm and will last one hour. We encourage you to bring a blanket, picnic and low lawn chairs.

While you are at the event, view the newly installed public art project "Bee Cause. This permanent art installation, led by local artist M.B. Hanrahan, beautifies the space and also pays homage to the plight of the North American Bumble Bee.

#### Cabrillo Middle School

*Continued from page 3*

work alongside adult Mentors to design, build, and program autonomous robots using LEGO MINDSTORMS® and create an innovative solution to a real-world problem as part of their research project.

Accomplished inventor Dean Kamen founded FIRST® (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) in 1989 to inspire an appreciation of science and technology in young people. To learn more about FIRST, go to [www.firstinspires.org](http://www.firstinspires.org).

Jazz is alive and well at Cabrillo Middle School. Help support music at Cabrillo Middle School by attending the annual Jazz Benefit Concert on May 19, from 5:30-7:30 at Boccali's Restaurant in Ojai. Tickets are \$29 and include all you can buffet dinner and non-alcoholic beverages while sitting outside under the oaks listening to live jazz music from Cabrillo Middle School Students and a special performance by Lito Hernandez Fotet.

There is also a wine raffle and silent auction for many interesting items. All proceeds benefit the music program which pays for instrument repair, music tutors, sheet music, field trips, and more. Purchase tickets now at [squareup.com/store/Cabrillo-middle-school-music-boosters](http://squareup.com/store/Cabrillo-middle-school-music-boosters) or at the door.

#### Museum of Ventura County events

*Continued from page 10*

Tickets are \$20 for adults, \$10 for students, and proceeds will go toward the Museum's Thomas Fire project. Tickets can be purchased at <https://harmonixoutoftheashes.eventbrite.com>.

The Museum of Ventura County presents Pedal Pushers! Bicycling in Ventura County, a new exhibit that showcases the bicycle as an object of design as well as personal expression. Everyone is encouraged to ride their bikes to the opening reception at 6 p.m. on May 11 at 100 East Main St.

Shown in conjunction with the Amgen Tour of California, the exhibit will have photos and a racing bike from the Museum's collection, other bikes and photos on loan from the public. From the convenient and useful city bike to the newest lightweight BMX racer and the tricked-out Lowrider tricycle, this exhibit has something for everyone.

The Pedal Pushers exhibit will be open May 11 through June 17. Admission is included in the Museum's general admission.

The Museum of Ventura County is open Tuesday - Sunday 11:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. For more information, visit [venturamuseum.org](http://venturamuseum.org) or call 805-653-0323.

#### Fox Fine Jewelry presents check

*Continued from page 1*

of Fox Fine Jewelry located at 560 East Main did just that. At first, when they decided to give necklaces to the fire victims, they thought it would be about 150 and "that's not so many", George said. But that number quickly jumped to 400 and to date they have given away 601 necklaces! Following the original "Ventura" design, they added an "805" design and then another for Ojai, but when disaster hit Montecito it seemed somehow "inappropriate", because of the loss of life however, "people asked for them" and they were created too.

According to Debbie, "it was never meant as a fundraiser, but then people wanted to BUY them, and we really weren't prepared for that!". She described how difficult the first week was and emphasized that ALL the staff at Fox were part of the project, each working hard on the necklace production and distribution but most of all Debbie said, "we were like grief counselors", hearing so many heartbreaking stories from those whose lives were changed forever by the fires and floods.

250 necklaces had to be wrapped and ready before Christmas resulting in an assembly line for the Fox family and staff. All three of George and Debbie's daughters: Niki, Charlotte and Karen joined in and somehow, in all the rush one of the girls confessed she thought she may have wrapped an empty box, the same brave gal offered to stay and unwrap the sea of packages until she found the empty one! It took two full nights to complete, but the operation was a success and many more necklaces followed.

Along with the very generous "gift of compassion", as Debbie calls the diamond necklaces, the check for \$60,900 was received by Eric Harrison, C.E.O. and President for the United Way of Ventura County along with Vicki Raven, the Vice

President for Resource Development and Marketing.

The check presentation took place at Fox Fine Jewelry and Eric from United Way stated, "today's a celebration". CAPS Media filmed the event and the Fox's provided large trays of sandwiches from Jimmy's Slice along with cookies for their guests.

Coincidentally, May 4th was the 26th wedding anniversary for George and Debbie Fox!

#### Local teachers explores homelessness

*Continued from page 1*

Living in downtown Ventura, he sees the homeless daily; "...I was curious..." and started to talk to them and find out about their lives. For a while he was giving out food and "care packages" in the parks, until the city put a stop to that. At Villanova he initiated their version of "Socktober," collecting clothes and toiletries; he works with HELP of Ojai, local churches, and Project Understanding.

To increase his community involvement, and get other perspectives on the problems, he goes to community council meetings. He even went to the rally at City Hall even though "I was scared...it felt like a mob mentality...I understand why people are angry, but we need to channel that energy into solutions."

His students learn about the subject starting with conversation, then seeing videos and learning stories. "It breaks down preconceived notions that they didn't even know they had." They go on to do service-based projects, not only on homelessness but others that expand the concepts they have learned in his class.

"Not So Simple" has been well-received so far. He has had four public readings, at libraries and bookstores in addition to his book release party at a local restaurant. It has sold 500 copies, more than he expected; he goes back to his refrain of "...at the end of the day, we all love stories." With these stories, he hopes to "...change how others think about some things."

*The streets can do that to a man*

*The mentality it must take to survive,*

*Convince your body not to give in*

*To hunger*

*To demons*

*To death*

*How would you keep your soul alive*

*outside?*

All proceeds from sales of the book go to Project Understanding. They are available at Bookends Bookstore, Palermo Coffee Shop, and Bank of Books. Brian's email is [galetto.brian@gmail.com](mailto:galetto.brian@gmail.com).

#### Families must feel safe

*Continued from page 1*

ways: volunteer for clean-up and other community improvement projects, report suspicious or threatening behavior and do not give money to panhandlers. A leader of a local non-profit once told us that each dollar given to a panhandler is like another nail in their coffin. That sounds dramatic, but he explained that when people are receiving cash to feed their harmful habits, they are less motivated to accept help for their addictions. That cash can also be a contributor to drug-related crimes. Please donate to service agencies that can provide lasting care that saves lives.

Families must feel safe in their neighborhoods and in our parks and beachfront areas. Crime and threatening behavior in our public spaces cannot be tolerated. I look forward to partnering with our residents, businesses, service

organizations and City and County government to ensure a safe and clean Ventura.

## National Bicycle Safety Month

May is National Bicycle Safety Month. The Ventura Police Department and the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) will be focusing on bicycle safety enforcement operations throughout the month. Special patrols will be deployed to look for drivers and bicyclists who violate traffic laws meant to protect all roadway users.

With about 80 million bike riders sharing the road with millions of vehicles, the importance of safety precautions in traffic cannot be overstated.

**Autos:** California law now mandates at least three feet of clearance when passing a cyclist.

Look for cyclists before opening a car door or pulling out from a parking space.

Yield to cyclists at intersections and as directed by signs and signals.

Be especially watchful for riders when making turns.

It is unlawful to drive in a bike lane except for 200 feet prior to make a right or left turn.

**Bikes:** Wear properly fitted bicycle helmets every time you ride. Cyclists who wear a helmet reduce their risk of head injury by an estimated 60%, and brain injury by 58%.

A helmet is the single most effective way to prevent head injury resulting from a bicycle crash.

Riders are considered vehicle operators; they are required to obey the same rules of the road as other vehicle operators, including obeying traffic signs, signals, and lane markings.

When cycling in the street, cyclists must ride in the same direction as traffic.

Bicyclists should increase their visibility to drivers by wearing fluorescent or brightly colored clothing during the day, and at dawn and dusk.

To be noticed when riding at night, the law requires a front light and a red reflector to the rear.

For additional safety, use a flashing rear light, and use retro-reflective tape or markings on equipment or clothing.

## State Beach Bike Path to close intermittently for repairs

California State Parks is closing the bicycle path located at San Buenaventura State Beach, that runs from San Pedro Street to the south side of the Ventura Pier from May 21 - June 8, as the entire bike path is receiving an upgrade and will be repaved.

There is an alternative dirt path adjacent to the paved bicycle path from San Pedro Street to the San Buenaventura State Beach Lifeguard Headquarters.

Past the lifeguard headquarters there is no alternative path. Pedestrians can cross the same area by accessing the beach. Dogs are not allowed on the beach at San Buenaventura State Beach.

Crews will be working Monday-Friday from 7:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

For more information regarding the closure of the bike please contact Tyson Butzke at 331-8014, or visit [ca.parks.gov](http://ca.parks.gov).

# 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.

## Possession of Drugs while Armed with a Loaded Firearm

On April 27 at 9:30pm, the Ventura Police Department Command Center received a 911call of a suspicious person in the area. Officers arrived on scene and 26 year old Santa Paula resident Mark Lugo fled behind the bushes and discarded a loaded handgun. Lugo was detained and during the course of the investigation officers found a usable quantity of narcotics on Lugo's person. Lugo was arrested for possession of drugs while armed with a loaded firearm, a felony, and booked at the Ventura County Jail.

## Brandishing a Knife and Threats Arrest

On April 30, at approximately 12:45pm, the Ventura Police Command Center received a call of a resident brandishing a knife and making death threats at River Haven. The suspect, 55 year old Simi Valley resident Brian Fayard who is a Post Release Offender, had been involved in an argument with another resident. During the argument he brandished a knife and made death threats. Prior to the officers' arrival, the altercation ended; however when the officers arrived, they were able to locate the suspect at River Haven. The investigation confirmed the suspect had brandished a knife during the argument and threatened to kill the victim.

At the conclusion of the investigation, the suspect was booked into Ventura County Jail on the misdemeanor charge of brandishing a knife and the felony charge of making criminal threats.

## Attempt Warrant Service

On May 5, at approximately 1:30pm, the Ventura Police Department was asked to assist the Marshalls Service in apprehending a wanted subject 25 year old Ventura resident Miguel Burciaga. As Ventura Police units arrived on scene it was discovered that in an attempt to evade capture, Burciaga climb to the top of a three story apartment building refusing to surrender.

As a precaution for public safety a portion of Wells Rd has been closed between Telegraph Rd. and Loma Vista Rd.

At this time negotiators from the Ventura Police Department are attempting to have Burciaga surrender. No one has been hurt or injured during the incident.

After several hours of negotiating with Burciaga, he finally surrendered to officers on scene. He was taken into custody without incident and booked at Ventura County Jail for multiple warrants and Delaying and Obstructing a Peace Officer.

# Harbor Patrol Blotter

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

**4-17** 8:10pm, received a dispatch to a medical at the 4 points Sheraton. Officers responded and assisted VFD/AMR with the patient, 56

year old male who was transported to local hospital for further evaluation.

**4-20** 11:40am, received a report of a disabled commercial fishing vessel near the entrance buoy. Officers responded and safely towed the 50ft vessel to its slip.

**4-21** 6:33pm, received a dispatch to a water rescue, kite surfer in distress near the Ventura Pier. Officers responded with VFD, State Parks and AMR to the rescue. The kite surfer was assisted to shore, but officers were unable to locate his equipment: kite and the board.

**4-23** 5:55pm, received a report of an oil spill at VHV G-dock on a fishing vessel. Officers responded, distributed absorbent boom and pads to the owner of the vessel who applied them to the spill and contained it. Coast Guard / Fish and Wildlife wardens were notified and investigated the incident.

**4-25** 3:50pm, received dispatch to a fall victim at 1603 Anchors Way. Officers responded and found the patient near the Port District building. Patrol assisted VFD/AMR in treating and then AMR transported the patient to local hospital.

**4-28** 1:05am, while on patrol in the fireboat, officers observed a fishing seiner tender operating without navigation lights in the main channel. After a brief investigation the tender's voyage was terminated and they returned to their slip

**4-29** 6:30am, Ventura Port District Harbor Patrol hosting the Oxnard College lifeguard academy with water drills and classes in the District conference room

6:10pm, while on patrol officers received a report of a lost dog, a Shetland sheepdog that jumped off a vessel and swam to shore. A search of patrols response area was conducted, but unfortunately the dog was not located.

**4-30** 11:15am, received a report of a male in his 30's lighting several fires around the Harbor. Officers responded with VPD/VFD to investigate the reports. After an investigation, all units were unable to locate the subject or new fires.

9:25pm, received a report of a wounded sea bird near the entrance to VWM A-dock. Officers responded with nets and a cage and were able to catch the bird.

## Open House at CAPS Media Center

*Continued from page 17*  
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, videography classes are on the 2nd Thursday, video editing classes are on the 3rd Thursday and radio classes are typically on Wednesday and Thursday of the 4th week of the month. All classes begin at 6pm. For more information, go to capsmedia.org or call 658-0500.

**VENTURA TOWNEHOUSE**  
CALIFORNIA'S CROWN JEWEL IN RETIREMENT LIVING  
venturatownehouse.com 805.642.3263  
4900 Telegraph Rd., Ventura, CA 93003  
CA Lic# 565801810

Part I Offenses	Jan to Dec 2017	Jan to Dec 2016	%change	# Diff	Crime per 1,000 pop	Clearance by Arrest	% Cleared
HOMICIDE	2	8	-75.00%	-6	0.02	2	100.00%
RAPE	63	53	18.87%	10	0.58	17	26.98%
ROBBERY	111	109	1.83%	2	1.02	49	44.14%
AGGRAVATED ASSAULT	284	198	43.43%	86	2.60	193	67.96%
<b>TOTAL VIOLENT CRIMES</b>	<b>460</b>	<b>368</b>	<b>25.00%</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>4.21</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>56.74%</b>
<b>BURGLARY - TOTAL</b>	<b>585</b>	<b>628</b>	<b>-6.85%</b>	<b>-43</b>	<b>5.35</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>13.33%</b>
BURGLARY - Residential	289	257	12.45%	32	2.64		
BURGLARY - Non Residential	296	371	-20.22%	-75	2.71		
LARCENY-THEFT	2717	2838	-4.26%	121	24.86	564	20.76%
VEHICLE THEFT (10851)	336	284	18.31%	52	3.07	50	14.88%
ARSON	17	12	41.67%	5	0.16	8	47.06%
<b>TOTAL PROPERTY CRIMES</b>	<b>3655</b>	<b>3762</b>	<b>-2.84%</b>	<b>107</b>	<b>33.45</b>	<b>700</b>	<b>19.15%</b>
<b>TOTAL PART I CRIMES</b>	<b>4,115</b>	<b>4,130</b>	<b>-0.36%</b>	<b>-15</b>	<b>37.7</b>	<b>961</b>	<b>23.35%</b>
DOF Population E-1 Table*		109,275					

# City of Ventura 2017 Uniform Crime Reporting

The City of Ventura's Part 1 Per Capita Crime dipped slightly in 2017 to 37.7 per thousand residents, compared to 38 percent in 2016.

Despite the slight drop in overall crime, serious and violent crime increased significantly. Violent crime increased 25 percent with 460 reported violent crimes. This is the highest number of violent crimes in Ventura in over 25 years, and an increase of 92 Violent Crimes compared to 2016.

Aggravated (Felony) Assaults had the most significant increase of 43% with 86 more felony assaults than in 2016. Gang Involvement was known or suspected in 22% of the cases and felony domestic violence accounted for 25%. 68% of the reported aggravated felony assaults were cleared by arrest or arrest warrant, significantly above the national average of 53 percent.

Reported sexual assaults for 2017 rose by 20 percent, including an increase of 8 child molestations and 7 additional reported rapes of an incapacitated or drugged victim.

Overall violent crime clearance rates (crime solved by arrest or arrest warrant) was 56.7 percent - more than 10 points above the national average (46.6 percent).

Reported property crimes in Ventura decreased by 2.8 percent in 2017 with a total of 3,655, compared to 3,762 in 2016. (107 less reported crimes).

These numbers reflect a reduction of 75 fewer commercial burglaries, but residential burglaries rose with 32 more incidents (289 vs 257).

**Weekly SUDOKU**  
Answer

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

**King Crossword**  
Answers  
Solution time: 27 mins.

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



by Pam Baumgardner  
VenturaRocks.com

I'm loving the effort to liven up downtown with businesses staying open later during May and holding special events like a Mom's night out or a pub crawl. Kudos to the merchants! But of course, you know nothing livens up a place like live music, and you know who has been doing right? Just take a look at the venues in the Ventura Harbor! The Boatyard Pub is officially providing live music seven days a week so between the Boatyard, 805 Wine Bar, the Copa Cubana, Margarita Villa (also seven days a week), and even the Ventura Comedy Club where Tom Scott and LA Express plays time to time, the place is about as lively as you can get!

Nothing goes with warmer weather like a cold brewski, so you won't want to miss Surf n' Suds, the beer festival with a surf twist, on Saturday, May 19, at San Buenaventura State Beach. The daylong event not only has over 50 craft breweries, ciders and wine, but they'll have entertainment from Crosscut 805, DJ Hecktik and After the Smoke.

It's always a treat when Hi Hat Entertainment brings Billy Vera and the Beaters to town so you'll want to get your tickets in advance at HiHatEntertainment.com for Friday, May 11, at the Hong Kong Inn. They'll perform their #1 hit tune, "At this Moment" along with "Millie make some Chili" and other favorites.

It's awesome that the Museum of Ventura County is offering more live music. On Friday, May 11, it's "Out of the Ashes: Healing in Story and Song"; the chamber music ensemble, Camerata Pacifica, performs on Sunday, May 13; the weekly Munch series continues Thursdays afternoons where local artists perform at lunch time; and two-time Grammy winner Laurence Juber (lead guitarist for Paul McCartney's Wings) headlines a fundraiser for the Ventura County Library Foundation on May 19. For more information and tickets, visit VenturaMuseum.org.

Quick Notes: cool shows at The Garage include the New Candys from Venice, Italy, on Thursday, May 10, and Jason Steady and the Soft Ponies from Omaha, NE, on Friday, May 11; Topa Mountain Winery in Ojai is hosting a Rose Soiree Event with music from The Salty Suites and The Dales on Saturday, May 12; Grapes and Hops hosts an earlier show on Mother's day, Sunday, May 13 at 11 am with Stephen Inglis who will perform, "Cut the Dead some Slack" then it's Dive Bar Steve and Friends at 3 pm; Caught Red Handed plays Plan B Wine Cellars on Sunday, May 13; Oxnard's Strawberry Festival is over the weekend of May 19-20, and on the Main stage will be Hollywood U2, Highway Starr, Professional Americans, 40oz to Freedom and more; and finally, the Outlaws will be at Discovery on Sunday, May 20 with Crooked Eye Tommy opening.

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

## Music Calendar

For more events go to [VenturaRocks.com](http://VenturaRocks.com)

### Boatyard Pub

#### Ventura Harbor Village

Mondays: Milo  
Tuesdays: Jason Ho  
Wednesday: Mark David McKinnis  
Thursdays: Bluegrass Jam  
Fri 5/11: Teresa Russell & Stephen  
Sat 5/12: CRV Trio  
Sun 5/13: 805 Allstars  
Fri 5/18: Corsican Brothers  
Sat 5/19: RJ Mischo & Paris Slim  
Sun 5/20: Ken Devoe

### Café Fiore

#### 66 S. California Street (805) 653-1266

Wed 5/8: Big Adventure  
Thurs 5/10: SelfRighteous Bros.  
Fri 5/11: Action Down  
Sat 5/12: InStone  
Tues 5/15: Jazz Expressions  
Wed 5/16: Donna Butler  
Thurs 5/17: Coso Live  
Fri 5/18: Soul Infusion  
Sat 5/19: David Prince Band  
Tues 5/22: Donna Butler

### Cask Alehouse

#### 5952 Telegraph Road

Sat 5/12: Doc Ventura  
Sun 5/13: Milo Sledge  
Sat 5/19: Mason Summit  
Sun 5/20: Erick Knierim

### The Cave

#### 4435 McGrath Street

5:30 - 8:30 pm  
Weds & Saturdays: Varon Thomas  
Thurs & Fridays: Warren Takahashi

### Copa Cubana

#### Ventura Harbor Village

Week nights 6 pm; Weekends 7 pm;  
Sundays 3 pm  
Tuesdays: The Jerry McWorter Trio  
Wednesdays: Creative Open Mic Jazz Jam  
Fri 5/11: Havana 5  
Sun 5/13: Kenny's House Troubadours  
Fri 5/18: Brandon Ragan's Project  
Sat 5/19: Havana 5  
Sun 5/20: Brandon Ragan

### Discovery

#### 1888 Thompson Blvd

Thurs 5/10: Fire Stick w/ Kavika G & the Cosmic Geckos  
Fri 5/11: High Voltage  
Wed 5/16: Mike Love with Cas Haley  
Thurs 5/17: Kyle Smith band w/ Special Blend  
Fri 5/18: Heavy Petty  
Sun 5/20: The Outlaws, Crooked Eye Tommy

### El Rey Cantina

#### 294 E. Main Street

Fridays: Xoco Moraza & Friends (5-7 pm)

### Garage

#### 1091 Scandia Avenue

Mondays: Karaoke  
Thurs 5/10: New Candys  
Fri 5/11: Jason Steady & the Soft Ponies, Pety Sympathy, GRRLS...  
Fri 5/18: Niantic, Actionesse, Gatto di Morte  
Sat 5/19: Parker Edison & Evolve One, Soul Providers, more

### Grapes and Hops

#### 454 E. Main Street

Wed 6 pm; Thurs 7 pm; Fri & Sat 8 pm,  
Sun 3 pm

Wed 5/9: Bluegrass  
Thurs 5/10: The Groove Lounge  
Fri 5/11: Johnny Douglas  
Sat 5/12: RJ Mischo Blues Band  
Sun 5/13: Stephen Inglis (11 am); Dive Bar Steve and Friends (3 pm)  
Fri 5/18: Vonettes  
Sat 5/19: Otis Hayes  
Sun 5/20: Bob Bishop

### Hong Kong Inn

#### 435 E. Thompson Blvd

Mondays: Karaoke  
Wednesdays: Open Mic w/ the Beers Brothers  
Thursdays: Gypsy Blues Band  
Fri 5/11: Hi Hat Entertainment presents Billy Vera & the Beaters  
Sat 5/12: MisUnderstood  
Fri 5/18: Hi Hat Entertainment presents Dany Franchi

### Keynote Lounge

#### 10245 E. Telephone Road

Tues, Wed and Sun: Karaoke  
Thursdays: Open mic night  
Fri 5/11: Pull the Trigger  
Sat 5/12: Wax Off  
Fri 5/18: Sean Wiggins  
Sat 5/19: DJ Aaron Van Gundy

### Leashless Brewing

#### 585 E. Thompson Blvd.

Tuesdays: Galactic Jazz  
Thurs 5/10: Robert Quindaro  
Sat 5/12: Boom Duo

### Made West Brewing

#### 1744 Donlon Street

Thurs 6 pm; Sat 4 pm; Sun 3 pm  
Thurs 5/10: Big Tweed  
Sat 5/12: Tom Buenger  
Sun 5/13: Sam Kulchin  
Thurs 5/17: Tom & Milo  
Sat 5/19: Ventucky String Band  
Sun 5/20: Will Breman

### Majestic Ventura Theater

#### 26 S. Chestnut Street

Sun 5/13: X Ambassadors

### Margarita Villa

#### Ventura Harbor

Fri and Sat 6 pm; Sun 4 pm  
Wed 5/9: Karen Eden  
Fri 5/11: Operation 90s  
Sat 5/12: Cross Cut 805  
Sun 5/13: Karen Eden  
Mon 5/14: Bobby Campbel  
Tues 5/15: Dave Rea  
Wed 5/16: Karen Eden  
Fri 5/18: Blown Over  
Sat 5/19: Dave Bar Messiahs  
Sun 5/20: Colette Lovejoy Band  
**Museum of Ventura County**  
100 E. Main Street  
Thurs 5/10: Munch w/ Pablo DeReyes (11:30 - 1:30)  
Fri 5/11: Out of the Ashes  
Sun 5/13: Camerata Pacifica  
Thurs 5/17: Munch w/ Rachel Sedacca  
Sat 5/19: Laurence Juber

### O'Leary's

#### 6555 Telephone Road

Wed: Karaoke  
Fri 5/11: Live Band Karaoke

### Pacific View Mall

#### 3301 E. Main Street

Fri 5/18: Food Truck Fridays w/ The Ramblers (6 pm)

### Plan B Wine Cellars

#### 3520 Arundell Circle #107

Sun 5/13: Caught Red Handed

### Poinsettia Pavilion

#### 3451 Foothill Road

Mon 5/14: Dick Parent Band

### Prime

#### 2209 E. Thompson Blvd

Tuesdays: Danny D  
Fridays: Mike Moody  
Saturdays: Jessica Ash

### Red Cove

#### 1809 E. Main Street

Thursdays: Music Club Open Jam Night  
**Sandbox Coffeehouse**

### 204 E. Thompson Blvd 805-641-1025

Thurs 6 pm, Weekends noon  
Thursdays Open Mic  
Sat 5/12: Dan McNay  
Sun 5/13: Dennis and Laura  
Sat 5/19: Jacob Vossler  
Sun 5/20: Bruce Mancuso

### Sans Souci

#### 21 S. Chestnut

Sundays: DJ Darko  
Mondays: Karaoke  
Tuesdays: DJ Nick Dean  
Wednesdays: Open mic  
Thursdays: DJ Spinobi  
Fri 5/11: Sick Boy  
Fri 5/18: Johnny Hellhole  
Sat 5/19: Brutalist, Joe Normal & the Anytowners

### Star Lounge

#### 343 E. Main Street

Sunday music 3-6 pm  
Tues: Karaoke  
Thurs: DJ Trovlbe  
Fri 5/11: Shawn Jones  
Sat 5/12: Jan Michael & the Vincents  
Fri 5/18: Whiskey Stone  
Sat 5/19: Automatics

### Surf n' Suds

#### San Buenaventura State Beach

Sat 5/19: Crosscut 805, DJ Hecktik, After the Smoke

### The Tavern

#### 211 E. Santa Clara Street

#### (805) 643-3264

Sundays: DJ Steezy Steve  
Tuesdays: Karaoke  
Metal Wednesdays  
Get it Right Thursday DJs  
Sat 5/12: The Shoreline  
Fri 5/18: Steezy Steve  
Sat 5/19: Tmii DJ

### Topa Mountain Winery

#### 821 W. Ojai Avenue, Ojai

#### (805) 640-1190

Music 4-6 unless otherwise noted  
Sat 5/12: The Salty Suites (1-3); The Dales  
Sun 5/13: Nathan McEuen  
Sat 5/19: Jamie Drake  
Sun 5/20: Patricia Avis Trio  
**Ventura County Fairgrounds**  
Sun 5/20; SMO - Rancho Humilde, Legado, Los Hijos de Garcia...

### Ventura Comedy Club

#### Ventura Harbor Village

Fri 5/18: Dry Creek Strangers  
Sun 5/19: Tom Scott and LA Express

### Vintura at the Wine Rack

#### 14 S. California Street

#### (805) 653-9463

Sundays music at 2 pm  
Thurs 5/10: Stone Cold Soul  
Fri 5/11: Jodi Farrell & Jim Rankin  
Sat 5/12: Frank Barajas & the Corsican Bros.  
Thurs 5/17: Karyn 805  
Fri 5/18: James Bros.  
Sat 5/19: Kevin Langdon & Friends  
Sun 5/20; Toni Jannotta

### Wicked's Brew

#### 4561 Market Street

Wed 5/9: Steve Ormond  
Sat 5/12: Ashun  
Wed 5/16: The Ragtime Brothers  
Sat 5/19: The Swillys  
Sun 5/20: The Ragtime Brothers

### Winchester's

#### 632 E. Main Street

#### (805) 653-7446

Music at 8:30 pm  
Fri 5/11: The James Bros.  
Sat 5/12: Aaron Pax Taylor  
Fri 5/18: Two's Company  
Sat 5/19: Jodi Farrell & Jim Rankin  
Sun 5/20: Karen Eden (2:30-5:30)

### The 805 Bar

#### Ventura Harbor

Music at noon Sat & Sun with Kenny Devoe  
Fridays 5-7: Sing-a-long with Kenny Devoe



"Black Skirt" by **Syndi Santiago**



"The Ocean" by **Aryanna Martinez**

The 4th Annual Student Art Exhibition and Reception (at Santa Paula campus) featuring a range of media taught in Studio Arts including drawing, painting, photography and wood prints. Artworks are from both Ventura College and Santa Paula High School students. Until Wednesday, May 30.

To encourage residents of the surrounding communities to engage with and visit the campus. To recognize student creativity of expression and provide exhibit space for students at both Ventura College and Santa Paula High School.

Ventura College East Campus, 957 Faulkner Road, 106 Santa Paula 525-7136.

The Museum of Ventura County will be opening a new exhibit, *Natural State*, May 18, featuring the work of the Museum's first artist-in-residence **Ryan Carr**. Using large scale paintings and drawings, the focus of Carr's work is the invasive species of plants along the Ventura River, the Channel Islands and other areas of Ventura County. Carr will also be incorporating letter press printing techniques he learned while interning with Norman Clayton, who is considered one of the finest living printers on the West Coast. Unique wallpaper created by the artist, following the transition of Charles Burchfield, will be installed, as well as a floral installation that speaks to Carr's work and adds depth to the exhibit.

*Natural State* will be on display at the Museum from May 18 to August 12. For more information visit [venturamuseum.org](http://venturamuseum.org) or call 653-0323.



## On the move for the arts

by Board of Directors of BAA

The Board of Directors of BAA (Buenaventura Art Association) would like you to know about our upcoming changes and where we are in this process. We are very excited about all the new opportunities ahead!

We are starting negotiations for the soon to be vacated Vita Arts Center located in the Bell Arts Factory (Vita will be moving to 28 West Main St.), located on Ventura Avenue. The board and staff have worked very hard to investigate all of our options, including looking at several locations. We are also looking at new programs and exciting new art gallery ideas to help with our mission of supporting art and artists in our community. Ultimately, the decision-making responsibility lies with the board, and we are taking that very seriously!

Bell Arts is already an arts destination in Ventura County. Possibilities there include curating the community room, maintaining open hours for the whole space, helping to coordinate activities, having space for both solo and group shows, the artisan store, more community workshops, talks and demos. We also hope to include a large, flat screen TV with AV

hookups to screen art-related videos for informal gatherings and discussion, and to present slide shows of previous exhibits.

This is our chance to reinvent our business model, and who we want to be as a cohesive and sustainable group! We are also looking at collaborating with the Museum of Ventura County, as well as having future goals of online art sales, and our very own Ventura Studio Artists Tour.

The sale of our building (which turned out to be a great investment, thank you Clophine Dooley!), will allow us to build out the new space for what we need. We will also be able to improve our website.

On Saturday, May 19, 5-8 pm (this will coincide with Arts and Eats which usually draws a large crowd) please come raise a glass to all the wonderful years so far, share your stories, and join in the good wishes for our future going forward.

The Avenue area is steadily regenerating and is a cornerstone of the arts in Ventura now. With most of the major art organizations and galleries over on the west side, up and down Ventura Ave. or just off the Avenue we feel like we would be joining a wider group where we can better participate in First Fridays and ArtWalks.

Please join us in the celebration and participation of our future together. 700 E. Santa Clara.

"Bad Exhibition: Value in Art," opening May 19th 6-10 pm. 4 Sichuan artists and 14 California artists will showcase artworks culminating decades of avant-garde creative practice in China and the USA. While we may expect Chinese and US artists to agree on some shared values, we discover disagreement on values grounded in different aesthetic ideals. These contrasting views, once discussed in detail, reveal how Chinese artists relate to art very differently than their US counterparts. Trans-local art markets 'inspire' artists to brand expression, 'scolding' them for lack of commitment to singular artistic media or visual language. Exhibition runs through June 23rd. Art City Gallery 197 Dubbers st. 648-1690. [www.artcitygallery-andstudios.com](http://www.artcitygallery-andstudios.com).



Pastel class on May 26th from 1:30 to 4:30 taught by **Tasia Erickson**.

Draw a lovely sea life painting. Sea plants, a beautiful turtle and fish with gorgeous colors! It is so much fun. Cost is \$64.00 including materials. Can pay by paypal, credit card, cash or check.

Email [vcartscollective@gmail.com](mailto:vcartscollective@gmail.com) Or call to reserve a spot at 676-1540. Only 8 spots are available.

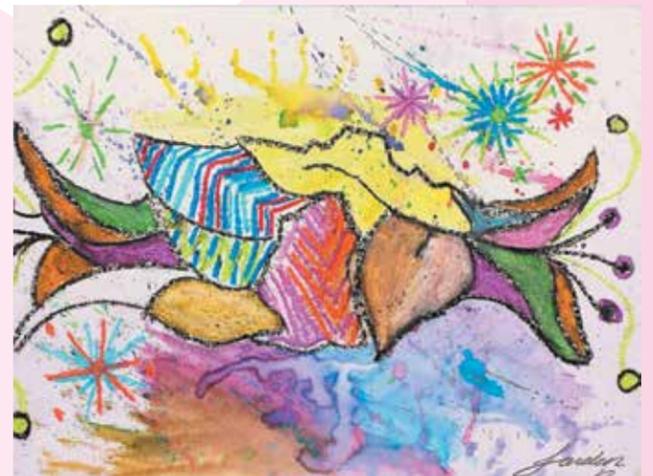
The VC Arts Collective Studio in Pacific View Mall – 2nd floor just outside Sears.



Featuring artwork by students who experienced Learning To See Outreach in their classrooms!

Biodiversity by **Landen**, 5th grade, Sheridan Way Elementary, inspired by FOTM Documented Artist Hiroko Yoshimoto. Hill Road Library until June 1.

Featuring students from Blanche Reynolds, Elmhurst, Montalvo and Sheridan Way Elementary Schools



Exhibition of paintings by famed Cuban Artist **Pedro González Pulido**. Opening Night – Friday, June 8. Museum of Ventura County The Martin V. and Martha K. Smith Pavilion.

Pedro González Pulido is a prominent Cuban artist and educator. In 1997 he was Artist-in-Residence at Art City Studios. He returned to Ventura in 2015 as a Featured Artist at the 2015 Art Walk. A longtime friend of Ventura filmmaker **Lorenzo DeStefano**, Pedro became aware of Lorenzo's work on "Hearing is Believing", the feature documentary film about Rachel Flowers. After seeing a Spanish-subtitled version ("Oir es Creer"), Pedro was inspired, as have been many people, by Rachel's story and her music.

Hearing is Believing Productions and the Museum of Ventura County are proud to bring the film and Pedro's amazing work back to Ventura.

Painting exhibition runs through June 24.

"Hearing Is Believing" Screening Fri. June 8.

6-7 pm Art Opening & Reception w/ music by Rachel Flowers

7:15 pm Screening of "Hearing Is Believing", a film by Lorenzo DeStefano

Post-screening Q+A w/ Lorenzo DeStefano, Rachel Flowers, Jeanie Flowers and Patti Channer.

Advance tickets (\$20) available through EVENTBRITE - <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/hearing-is-believing-film-screening-tickets-45126292957>

Limited tickets available at the door. 641-3845 or [info@hearingisbelievingfilm.com](mailto:info@hearingisbelievingfilm.com).





# Lighter Breeze

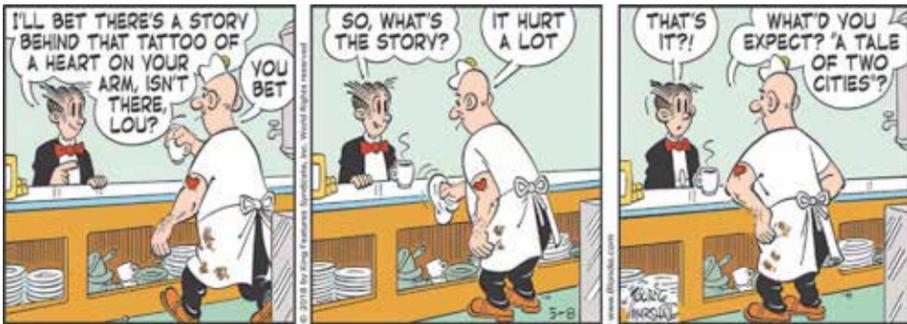
## Shoe



## Baby Blues



## Blondie



## Hagar the Horrible



## Barney Google and Snuffy Smith



## Crock



Solutions on page 23

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

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

## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆ Challenging  
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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Solutions on page 23

## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Chances, for short
- 4 TV watchdog org.
- 7 Obliterate
- 12 Shell game need
- 13 Under the weather
- 14 Started eating
- 15 Take a whack at
- 16 Scrabble or Parcheesi
- 18 "Monty Python" opener
- 19 Wander off
- 20 Hack
- 22 Pilgrimage to Mecca
- 23 Prayer ending
- 27 Rhyming tribute
- 29 Burning
- 31 Magician's cry
- 34 Cow catcher
- 35 Triangular home
- 37 Total
- 38 Constellation component
- 39 Eccentric
- 41 Unctuous
- 45 Twine fiber
- 47 Payable
- 48 Indiana university
- 52 Literary collection
- 53 "Drops of

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		

- Jupiter" band
- "Golly!"
- Owns
- Villain in a Christmas tale
- Halves of 25-Down
- Scrap
- card (cell-phone chip)
- Away from WSW
- Hindu royal
- On top of the world?
- Memorable mission
- More, to Manuel
- Type squares
- Ultramodernist
- Weir
- Swine or bird
- Anatomical duct
- Frequently
- Glass of NPR
- Oklahoma city
- Pistol counter-part
- Grammarian's concern
- Coeur d'Alene's home
- Moon-related
- You'll get a rise out of it
- Fax
- Dregs
- To the — degree
- Raw rock
- Pitch
- "Flying Down to —"

### DOWN

- 1 Vision-related
- 2 Australian city
- 3 Permission
- 4 Wee whoppers
- 5 Dress
- 6 Barton or Bow
- 7 Vortex
- 8 Carpet
- 9 Khan title

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yourself overdone: i.e., burned out. **LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) Your decision to be upfront with colleagues on a touchy matter causes some consternation at first. But in the end, your honesty wins their trust and admiration.

**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) Taking advice isn't always easy for self-assured Rams and Ewes who think they know what's best. But it wouldn't hurt to listen to what close colleagues have to say.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) You know how to balance life's practical aspects with the poetic. This gives you a special edge this week in both your professional endeavors and your personal life.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) Focus on keeping a balance between your home-related activities and your workplace responsibilities. Be mindful of both without obsessing over one or the other.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) A change in plans is likely as you discover more facts about a possible commitment. Continue to ask questions and, if you're not sure about the answers, demand proof.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) Be careful not to let that Leonine pride keep you from seeking wise, experienced counsel before making an important decision. A family member once again seeks your help.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) That surge of Virgo energy drives you to take on more work assignments. Be careful you don't overdo it, or you might find

As in the past, someone again wants to share a secret with you, knowing it will be safe. But do you really want to be this person's confidante? Think about it.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) As one of nature's straight shooters, you seek to correct misconceptions about a project. Do so, of course, but without giving away too much too soon.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) Creative pursuits continue to be strong in the gifted Goat's aspect. New friendships can come from sharing these experiences with like-minded art aficionados.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) Resolve lingering grumblings over your way of doing things by keeping your mind open to suggestions while continuing to show how your plans will work.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) The perceptive Piscean might find that changing course in midstream isn't as workable as it would seem. Explore this option carefully before making a decision.

**BORN THIS WEEK:** Your willingness to share your love of life's good things brings joy to many, including, of course, yourself.

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# Show Time

## Avengers: Infinity War



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

by Manuel Reynoso

*Avengers: Infinity War* is a 2018 American superhero film based on the Marvel Comics team the Avengers. Produced by Marvel Studios and distributed by Walt Disney Studios Motion Pictures, *Avengers: Infinity War* stars an ensemble cast of the previous Marvel films.

With Thanos finally making his move to gather the infinity stones, It's up to the heroes of Earth and beyond to stop him before he unleashes the terrible might of the 6 infinity stones.

Even as someone who has always been in the periphery of the Marvel movie hype, I still can't help but feel *Infinity War* had this monumental feel to it. It's been ten years since audiences have been introduced to the movie magic that is the Marvel Cinematic Universe, and for it to coalesce into a single ensemble cast film really is a feat. I went in expecting a film about earth's mightiest heroes banding together to take down the big baddie; but what I got was a film about loss, dire consequences, and the misguided journey of a single being.

With a cast this large, there was a few issues with pacing throughout the film, particularly within the first hour. As each character was introduced, it was jarring being pulled from one situation to another in just a single cut, especially with each situation being so tonally different. These issues with pacing does not do the film any favors, as the already extremely long run time feels much longer as a result. Thankfully, the problem mostly goes away as soon as the big baddie of the film, Thanos, takes center stage. It's from here where *Infinity War* really hits its stride.

I don't think it's misleading to say this isn't so much a story about the Avengers as it is about Thanos. I feel like it's this change in direction that made this film so much more interesting than the previous Marvel films. The journey of this story is not about a hero this time around, but about its villain. It's his growth that we see, his motivation, and ultimately his story playing on the screen. Thanos steals the show, and hopefully we start to see more intricate villains such as himself and Killmonger.

*Infinity War* also played with much heavier themes than the previous films. Loss will be the main recurring theme of this film, and it is something the film does a surprisingly good job at portraying. Every action in this film has consequences, and the emotional weight these themes carry really emphasis that. But, being a Marvel film, it wasn't all doom and gloom the whole time. So for better or worse, there were still plenty one liners and silly quips throughout the film. While some nail it, particular Chris Pratt and Tom Holland, many others fall flat.

Fans of the previous films have

been waiting a decade for *Infinity War*, and it accomplished being one of the best films of the series. As a stand-alone film, it has its problems. The length, pacing, and the usual cliché writing of Marvel films may dissuade some movie goers. However for me, the sheer scale of this film made it a wild and fun ride from beginning to end, and for the first time I find myself eagerly awaiting the next film in the Avengers line up. PG-13 2h29m



The award-winning professional cast is outstanding at the Rubicon.

A View from House Seats

## Rubicon Delivers in The Baby Dance: Mixed

by Shirley Lorraine

Affordable Broadway is in our own back yard. Continuing their 20th anniversary season with yet another World Premiere production, The Rubicon Theatre Company offers *The Baby Dance: Mixed* by acclaimed Emmy award-winning author Jane Anderson.

Anderson and frequent Rubicon director Jenny Sullivan have been collaborators since the plays' conception and infancy. This staging is an updated version of *The Baby Dance*, brainstormed and brought to the Pasadena Playhouse stage in 1990 directed by Sullivan. Since then the play has been staged in several other countries and a translated version is currently running in France.

Once again, Anderson works with Sullivan who expertly directs this adaptation to include relevant current issues including a mixed-race couple of affluence seeking to adopt an African-American child. Their attorney has engineered an adoption agreement with a less well-off couple who already have four children and may be unable to care for another. The childless couple, an African-American woman and a Jewish Caucasian man, are desperate to adopt the baby when she is born.

The play simmers with highly charged emotion and conflicts from the beginning. The universal message of hope and anguish highlights sensitive situations that are humorous across ethnic and socio-economic lines. Both couples have myriad challenges to overcome and a desire for a "perfect" outcome despite their many differences. However, life has other ideas, as it often does.

The award-winning professional cast delivers warm, strong, engaging and complex characters across the board.

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The door to your dreams hinges on me!

The mixed-race couple is played by Tracey A. Leigh as Regina, the adoptive mother. Her husband, Richard is played by Brian Robert Burns. They become acquainted with Wanda (Krystle Simmons) and Al (Gabriel Lawrence), who have decided that adoption would be the best option for their family's current circumstances. They are joined by Carl Palmer who plays Ron, the adoption attorney who proves his ability to adapt quickly to any situation.

The across-the-board powerful performances are framed by settings designed by Rubicon technical veteran Thomas Buderwitz. Set dressing is exquisitely detailed by T. Theresa Scarano. The interior of the trailer where Wanda and Al and family live highlights their financial status and make-do creativity.

Stick around during intermission when the entire picture is transformed into a well-appointed hospital room – by itself a production worth watching. Sound is expertly filtered into scenes by Randall Robert Tico to complete the realistic and intricate settings.

The cast was invited by the author as well as the director to offer input into this new version of the play as they rehearsed and traversed the mine field that is involved in subjects of race, status and conscience. Talk-backs with the cast after the next two Wednesday evening performances will undoubtedly be extraordinarily insightful.

The Rubicon Theatre Company consistently provides high quality theatrical experiences. Their 20th anniversary season is proving to be another winner. *The Baby Dance: Mixed* plays Wednesdays to Sundays through May 20 at the Rubicon Theatre Company, 1006 E. Main St. (corner of Main and Laurel Streets) in downtown Ventura. Matinees: 2 p.m. Wednesdays, Saturdays and Sundays. Evening performances are at 8 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, 7 p.m. on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Wednesday May 9 and 16 performances will be followed by a talk-back session with the cast. Tickets: \$30-\$55. There is 24-hour ticketing and seat selection online at [www.rubicontheatre.org](http://www.rubicontheatre.org). (805) 667-2900.

## Karyl Lynn Burns and Jane Anderson discussed her career and new play

by Jennifer Tipton

Writer Jane Anderson sat down for a Q & A with Karyl Lynn Burns (Rubicon's Co-Founder / Producing Artistic Director) on Monday, April 30th before a group of Rubicon supporters, contributors and fans to discuss her career and *The Baby Dance: Mixed* now playing at



5/10: FIRESTICK W/ KAVIKA G  
 5/11: HIGH VOLTAGE TRIBUTE TO AC/DC  
 5/12: UFC 224: BELFORT VS. MACHIDA  
 5/13: MOTHER'S DAY BRUNCH  
 5/16: MIKE LOVE  
 5/17: KYLE SMITH BAND  
 5/20: THE OUTLAWS FT. CROOKED EYE TOMMY  
 5/24: SAMMY J  
 5/26: CUBENSIS  
 5/31: JORDAN T



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"The more you have to bring in humor."

the Rubicon. Jane said she dropped out of college in the 1970's to become an actor and became aware of "what good dialog was". Writing for theater and television, she has 2 Emmys, received Golden Globe nominations along with other awards. Karyl described Jane as "brave - because she writes not just comedy or tragedy" and Jane explained, "the deeper, more powerful the subject, the more you have to bring in humor!"

The World Premiere of *The Baby Dance: Mixed* runs at the Rubicon until May 20th. A drama delicately laced with comic overtones, *The Baby Dance: Mixed* is a compelling and urgent play about race, class, and wanting the perfect child. Read the full review on this page.



# VENTURA

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