

Are you a great photographer? See page 3!



VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

Vol. 13, No. 10 Published Every Other Wednesday Established 2007 February 12 - February 25, 2020



Painting project now underway at Ventura Harbor Village.

All businesses will remain open during the enhancement project

The Ventura Port District is pleased to announce the recent ReFresh Painting Project at Ventura Harbor Village that is now underway with a scheduled completion date between eight and ten months, dependent on winter and spring weather. All businesses will remain open during the enhancement project, according to Ventura Port District's General Manager Brian Pendleton of the Port District.

The new 2020 painting project will encompass all of Ventura Harbor Village's exterior buildings as well as two additional buildings which house Island Packers and the offices with the Channel Islands National Park. Contracted to complete the approximate \$1.2 million Ventura Harbor Village Refresh Painting Project is prime contractor Garland/DBS whose mission is to provide each client with personalized management for long-term project success. Ventura Board of Port Commissioners and the City of Ventura Design Review Board also approved

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A previous Coffee with a Cop brought out many police officers.

Enjoy Coffee with a Cop

The community is invited to come together with Ventura Police Officers in a friendly, informal environment to discuss community issues, build relationships and enjoy a good cup of coffee, or Italian sub, for Coffee with a Cop which will be held at Peirano's Market & Delicatessen located at 204 E. Main St. on February 26

from 12:30 pm to 2:00pm.

Engaging the community in public safety efforts is a top priority of the Ventura Police Department. Coffee with a Cop is a unique opportunity for residents to get to know the officers who serve their community. The majority of

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2020 Ventura River lawsuit information

by Council Member Christy Weir

Approximately 20% of Ventura's municipal water comes from the Ventura River. Over the past 20 years, Ventura has decreased the amount of water taken from the river.

In 2014, Santa Barbara Channelkeepers, an environmental non-profit, alleged that the city's use of the river water was unreasonable and harmful to the steelhead fish. The city agreed that the fishery was suffering, but proposed that the city alone could not solve the problem. Many other water users upstream impact the river, as well as the Matilija Dam, invasive plant species such as arundo that use lots of water and prevent fish passage, invasive fish species, and continuing drought.

The city is committed to working with other stakeholders in the watershed to address these impacts affecting steelhead, while aggressively implementing water conservation measures in Ventura. We are currently working with large water users to implement physical solutions such as arundo removal, new river gauges, and seasonal passage monitoring. Our partners are the Casitas Municipal Water District, Meiners Oaks Water District, Ventura River Water District and Rancho Matilija Mutual Water Company, as well as Taylor Ranch, Friends Ranches and Thacher School.

As part of the Channelkeepers lawsuit, the city was required by a judge to notify all of the users of river water, including residents of the Ojai valley, about the ongoing litigation, to provide them the opportunity to participate. Over 14,000 notices were sent to property owners who reside in the affected groundwater basins. Property owners who do not have a well are not required to participate in the lawsuit—they may ignore their notice. People who do have a well may choose to enter the case and collaborate to protect their rights by filing an answer to the

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In our last issue we had an article (and photos) regarding the bronze sculpture by Ventura artist Michael O'Kelly located in the courtyard of the Ventura College's Performing Arts Center.

The 12-foot high sculpture memorializes Miriam Schwab's love of music and her strong belief in the import role music plays in the community college system.

The photos did not show the sculpture in its beauty as this does.

Photo by Bernie Goldstein.

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Community Events

Ventura events

Free Adult Grief & Bereavement Support Groups

Every Wednesday, from 6:30 – 8:00pm. Free for anyone who has lost a loved one. Receive emotional and educational support

Free Joint Replacement Classes

2nd Monday of the Month (February 10), held from 4:00 – 5:00pm. Free informational class that teaches you what to expect pre and post-surgery. Living With Type 2 and Pre-Diabetes Classes 1st Tuesday of the Month (February 4), from 1:00 – 2:30pm. Free informational class that teaches you how to manage your life with diabetes. Held at Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice, 1996 Eastman Ave., Ste. 109. Call (805) 642-0239 for more information.

The Compassionate Friends of West Ventura County is a support group for those who have experienced the loss of a child. Parents, grandparents, and siblings (over age 14) are all welcome. The group meets the first and third Wednesday of each month at 7p.m. at the Pointsettia Pavilion, Canada Larga room, 3451 Foothill Road. For more information, contact Laura Lindsay at (805) 836-9100.

Ventura Pointsettia Dance Club meets first 2 Monday nights of the month 7:30 p.m. Pointsettia Pavilion 3451 Foothill. Swing, line dance, waltz, Latin and more. First dance lessons are free 6:40 p.m. Call Rick (805) 415-8842 and www.pointsettiadancers.org for more information.

There will be a regular Ventura

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

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

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

Cross Town Hikers join in on Wednesday nights for a moderate-paced hike that includes views of Ventura from the cross, a walk out to the end of the pier, and a stroll along the Promenade back to the Museum. Four miles with an 800-foot elevation gain. Meet at 7 p.m. sharp at the fountain across the street from the Mission. Join Facebook page for more information: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/800215670039426/>

The members of the Ventura Investment Group meet on Mondays for an informal discussion of recent economic events. Topics cover current events that affect stocks, funds, real estate, and interest-bearing investments. The meeting is from 10 - 11:30 a.m. at the Coffee Bean & Tea Leaf at Telephone Road and Main Street. Visitors and potential members are welcomed. There are no dues or requirements to participate, and all levels

of experience are welcomed.

Brain Injury Center of Ventura County. www.BrainInjuryCenter.org Support Groups for brain injury/stroke survivors and their family/caregivers. Learn more about brain injury/stroke and available services. Meet others who are facing or have faced similar challenges. Meet new friends and connections, give and receive support. Encounter Church 6950 Ralston St., Bldg. #300 (805) 482-1312 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month, 4-5:30 p.m.

Men are you retired and routine-tired? Ventura Retired Men suggest you visit a Social Lunch Meeting on the first or third Tuesday each month at the Pointsettia Pavilion. Stop in, say hello, have a sip at the bar if you like, they will buy you lunch, and you can sample the hospitality as they go through activities and hear the speaker of the day. Bob Likins can tell you more at 805-587-1233.

Are you a stamp collector? The Ventura County Philatelic Society meet on the first and third Mondays each month at 7:30 p.m. at the Church of the Foothills, 6279 Foothill Rd. Admission and parking are free. Come for a great evening. Contact: Bill Garner (805) 320-1601 or sockonthenose@gmail.com

The Channel Islands Bicycle Club (CIBike) is a non-profit recreational organization. The club's purpose is to promote bicycling for recreation, health, sport and transportation. The meetings are held on the second Wednesday of March, April, May, September, October and November. Museum of Ventura County, Doors open at 6:30 for a refreshment social and the presentation begins at 7:00, The March meeting will feature an informative heart health presentation by a professional from Community Memorial Hospital. For more information, please visit www.cibike.org or contact publicrelationscibike@gmail.com.

Feb. 16: The Ventura and Santa Barbara County chapter of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors (NAWCC) will meet Sunday, in the Campus Student Center of Ventura College, 4667 Telegraph Road. The regular meeting starts at noon and at 11:00 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 1:00 pm. The program this month will be a presentation Ken McWilliams on Seth Thomas Tower Clocks. More information about chapter 190 can be found at www.nawcc-ch190.com.

Feb. 20: Ventura Mayor Matt LaVere will explain the city's water litigation issue (City of San Buenaventura vs. Duncan Abbott et al) and other topics of interest at the meeting of the East Ventura Community Council. 7 p.m. at the Connect Church, 346 N. Kimball Rd. Jeff Hereford, Principal Transportation Engineer with the City of Ventura, will discuss transportation projects related to the east end as well as other citywide plans. Stephen Peck, President of U.S. VETS, part of the team developing Veterans' housing next to the State Veterans' Home on Telephone Road, will detail plans as part of the community outreach for this venture. And a representative of the Ventura Police Department will present neighborhood crime statistics. Other items may be added to the agenda, so check the website for updates. (www.eastventura.org) Books in good condition are always accepted on behalf of Friends of the Library. For more information, contact Marie Lakin, Chairperson: EastVenturacc@gmail.com

Feb. 26: The College Area Community Council will meet on Wednesday, at 7 p.m. Council meetings include speakers and discussion on topics of neighborhood and community interest, including public safety and economic development. The Council meets in the Wright Event Center at 57 Day Rd. Free parking is available adjacent to the Event Center. Call (805) 644-8695 for more information."

Feb. 29: Richard Senate Ghost Talk & Tour Saturday 7 to 9 pm Steampunk Ghost Hunting - A talk on Victorian ghost hunting and theory. Some early tools that were used. Then a tour to use these ideas at a haunted site. Fee: \$6/person Bank of Books 748 E. Main St (805) 643-3154

March 7: On the "First Saturday" of each month the Sespe Flyfishers of Ventura conduct an introductory class on Fly Fishing and Casting the Fly Rod. There is no charge and all are welcome. Whether you are an experienced

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Aum Vibe is a place steeped full of culture in Ventura's Historic Downtown District that has held their ribbon-cutting.

"We've been working hard to make Aum Vibe come alive and we're so happy to be here. We hope you'll join us as we move and grow and create and thrive. Join us for morning meditation and complimentary tea on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 8:45 - 9:15 am."

Aum Vibe 369 E. Main St. Contact at hello@aumvibe.com.

Photo by Michael Gordon.



Community Events

fly fisher or a complete novice learn and enjoy this great sport. If you don't have a fly rod, don't worry, just come and use one of theirs. Chumash Park, Petit and Waco, 9:00 to 11:00AM, in East Ventura, off Telephone Rd. For more information: Bob Smith (805) 647-3522 www.sespeflyfishers.org

March 7 & 8: The Ventura Gem Show: 58th Annual Gem, Mineral, Jewelry Arts & Fossil Show Sponsored by the Ventura Gem & Mineral Society. Sat.

(10 AM - 5 PM) & Sun., Mar. 8, 2020 (10 AM - 4 PM) Ventura County Fairgrounds. Admission: Free (please note, though, that the Fairgrounds charges parking fees) 50+ exhibits of gems, minerals, fossils & lapidary arts; on-going demos of lapidary arts, jewelry making & gold panning; raffle prizes & silent auctions; a white elephant "Country Treasure Store" & plant sale; 15+ dealers; children's activities & free resources for teachers. A SoCal tradition for 58 years! Proceeds from the show support a \$1,000 scholarship awarded to a local college student in the earth sciences and/or jewelry arts and also support free educational outreach efforts for local schools, teachers, home-schoolers, and youth groups. Contact Person: Richard Slyker, (805) 312-8467, info@vgms.org Website: www.vgms.org

March 11: The Ventura County Camera Club will hold a meeting on Wednesday, at 6:30 p.m. at the Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Rd. The first part of the meeting will be an instructional workshop. This will be followed by the showing of member images. A professional photographer will critique member's prints and digital images. Anyone with an interest in photography is welcome and admission is free. Only members may submit images for critique. For more information about the club and examples of member's work or call 908-5663. WWW.VenturaCountyCameraClub.com

March 14: Families and children are invited to visit the Hill Road Library at 12pm on Saturday, to celebrate Pi Day. Pi Day - for the love of math...and pie. The Greek letter "π" is the symbol for pi (the ratio of a circle's circumference to its diameter). Pi Day is an annual celebration of math and learning, and it also happens to be Einstein's birthday, so come celebrate with us. We will be making pi day bracelets, printing π symbol cookie cutters on our 3D printer, and other fun Pi Day activities. Children ages 6-16 can complete our Pi Day challenge to win a certificate for a Pizza Man Dan's personal pizza pie. The Hill Road Library, 1070 South Hill Road. Hours of service are 10am to 6pm Monday through Wednesday, 2pm to 6pm Thursday, and 10am to 2pm Friday through Sunday.

March 19: The regular monthly meeting of Assistance League of Ventura County Thursday, the Chapter House, 913 East Santa Clara St. The meeting begins at 10:00 am, men and women are welcome, and there is no age requirement. Assistance League is "Transforming Lives, Strengthening Community" 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 delays. The Bargain Box Thrift Shop helps fund these programs. Find more information on the Website: assistanceleagueventuracounty.org, like us on Facebook, Instagram, or email alvconline@hotmail.com. Telephone: 805-643-2458 (Monday – Thursday, 8 AM – 2 PM)

Ojai news and events

Attorney H. Frederick Seigenfeld of Seige Law will visit the Ojai Library at 6:30pm on Wednesday, February 26, 2020, to present a talk centered around protecting your loved ones, yourself, and your assets. The presentation will cover subjects such as advanced healthcare directives, wills and trusts, probate, and more.

This event is free and open to the public. For additional information, contact Ron Solórzano, Regional Librarian, at (805) 218-9146.

Hours of service are 10am to 8pm Monday through Thursday and 12pm to 5pm Friday through Sunday.

The Ojai Photography Community opens its 2020 season of monthly events with "The Bald Eagles of Lake Casitas," presented by wildlife photographers Sally Carless and Bob Massey on Tuesday, February 18, at 7 p.m. in Help of Ojai's Kent Hall, 111 Santa Ana Road. The event is free and the general public is invited to attend.

The bald eagle was chosen as the national symbol of the fledgling United States in 1782, representing strength and freedom. Carless was there on her birthday in 2013 to see the very first eagle chicks. They captivated her heart and from that time on she has observed, photographed and filmed the eagle family.

Massey connected with the Lake Casitas eagles through Carless's exhibit. Since childhood he had longed to observe bald eagles in the wild and in 2014 his dream became reality.

The Ojai Photography Community, which is devoted to inspiration, camaraderie and education, meets on the third Tuesday of each month, February – November. Monthly free presentations are part of the group's community service and education outreach. For more information, visit <http://www.ojaiphotographycommunity.com/index.html>.

Join Rev. Karen S. Wylie at The Ojai Retreat on Sunday, February 16, from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m., for her Mid-Month Devotional Retreat, this month devoted to an exploration of love.

"Love is the essence of who we are," Rev. Karen says. "How can we find true love within ourselves? Join her for a beautiful morning to explore the nature of love through meditation, shared insights, revelations, inspiration, sacred stillness, uplifting songs and quiet walks in nature. Randee Vasilakos, RScP, assists and anchors our gathering in a consciousness of prayer and healing.

People of all faiths and traditions, or no tradition, are welcome to attend.

The Ojai Retreat is at 160 Besant Road. The retreat is by donation; \$20 is suggested. For more information, contact Rev. Karen at 310-968-8928, or register online at www.karensywylie.com. Rev. Karen is the author of *Into Me See: A Book for Daily Inspiration*, available on Amazon and her website.

Join Ojai herbalist and forager Lanny Kaufer on Presidents' Day, Monday, February 17, for an Herb Walk and "Stone Soup" Picnic at Euterpe Farms in Ojai. He'll walk the borders of the farm adjacent to the Ventura River Preserve identifying edible and medicinal plants such as sagebrush, purple sage, white sage, and elderberry. Then he'll gather the



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The Ventura Breeze Presents A

Photo Contest

Send us your favorite photo of a Ventura scene (must be recognizable as being in Ventura). Winners will have their photos published in the Breeze and make their friends jealous.

Two categories open to all: Color and Black and White

Email up to 3 photos to editor@venturabreeze.com. Include name, phone and address.



No Delay in Trash & Recyclables or Green Waste Pick Up Due to the Presidents Day Holiday

Presidents Day will be celebrated on Monday, February 17. We will have regularly scheduled trash and recyclables or green waste collection the week of February 16-22 in the Cities of Ventura and Ojai.

Thank you and Happy Holiday
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group around an oak wood fire for wild food processing demos and a "stone soup" picnic based on the folk tale of the same name. The soup will be built around a California bay leaf (in place of the stone) and dried creek nettles.

The walk will begin at 9 a.m. At 11:30 a.m. the group will begin preparing for the picnic which will conclude around 1:30 or 2:00 p.m. The cost is \$45 including all materials other than vegetables and herbs contributed to the stone soup.

Please visit the event listing at HerbWalks.com to register or call 805-646-6281 for more information.

Enjoy Coffee with a Cop

Continued from page 1

contacts with law enforcement happen during emergency or emotional situations. Those situations are not always the most effective times for relationship building and some community members may feel that officers are unapproachable on the street. Coffee with a Cop seeks to break down barriers and allows for a relaxed, one-on-one interaction.

The Coffee with a Cop effort is a

national initiative supported by the United States Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. Similar events are being held across the country as police departments strive to make lasting connection with the communities they serve.

"At the heart of community policing is building positive relationships and problem-solving with the people we serve," said Assistant Chief Darin Schindler. "In a few hours at Coffee with a Cop, we are able to have meaningful, face to face conversations with residents about community concerns and mutual goals, it's extremely valuable time together."

The program aims to advance the practice of community policing through improving relationships between police officers and community members, one cup of coffee at a time. Coffee with a Cop provides an opportunity for community members to ask questions and learn more about the department's service. There is no formal agenda, just a casual opportunity to voice concerns and share ideas. This is a no host event.



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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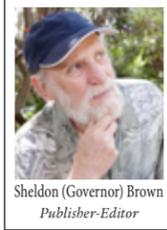
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I'd rather
risk an ugly
surprise than
rely on things
I know I
can do.
– Helen
Frankenthaler

Opinion/Editorial



Sheldon (Governor) Brown
Publisher-Editor

I am supporting Ventura Mayor **Matt LaVere** for the Ventura County Board of Supervisors in the March 3 elections. I would love to see him follow in the footsteps of Steve Bennett (who also started out as a Ventura city council member) prior to becoming a supervisor.

Matt is young (but not too young), intelligent, a Venturan and has 2 small children which will ensure that he continues to care for Ventura. Having 2 very locals on the Board can only help Ventura.

Also, speaking about **Steve Bennett**, he is running for Ventura County Supervisor in the March primary. He is seeking the seat that incumbent Monique Limón is vacating in the 37th District seat that Limón, D-Santa Barbara, is leaving to run for the state Senate, which is currently held by Hannah-Beth Jackson in the state Assembly - can you follow that?

There are no confirmed cases of the novel **coronavirus** in Ventura County (rumor has said differently). There have been reports of two possible cases in the County, but both have been negative. Samples were taken from both patients and sent to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

Stated Doctor Robert Levin, Ventura County Public Health Medical Director, "At this time the chances that someone will encounter a person infected with this new coronavirus in Ventura County are very small. Public Health monitoring is ongoing and thorough. We will inform the public if the situation changes."

Certainly, a major concern. We can only hope it doesn't show up here.

What's in a name? Apparently, a lot. I had an NFL championship football party, and no one showed up. A friend had a **Superbowl Party** and 50 people showed up. And I had better food.

Ventura's voters will decide in November if Ventura's City Council will consider allowing **marijuana** stores and other cannabis businesses by voting to allow the city to tax these type businesses when they do open.

The City Council voted unanimously to

put a measure on the November ballot that will establish city-based taxes on cannabis businesses. And, on a 5-2 vote, the council decided that if the tax measure passes, the city will issue permits for business that could include retail sales, distribution and testing, but not commercial growing in Ventura. Members Christy Weir and Cheryl Heitman were the two no votes.

If Ventura does decide to allow cannabis businesses, it would be the fifth city in Ventura County to allow them. Both Ojai and Port Hueneme have storefront dispensaries for recreational sales. Until now, the Ventura City Council has declined to allow any cannabis businesses to operate in the city.

The vote won't by itself permit any stores or other businesses but would tell the Council what Venturan's think about these businesses and guide their future thinking and approvals.

Cannabis taxes in other cities in Ventura County have easily passed. In Thousand Oaks with 76% of the vote, and one in Oxnard, with 80% of the vote.

Cities in the county with legal marijuana sales have put limits on how many stores they allow and where they can be located, with buffers required around schools and parks. They also require security on the premises, and no one under the age of 21 may enter the stores.

While the City Council was unanimous in its support for putting cannabis taxes on the ballot, there was still some debate about whether to permit cannabis businesses if the tax passes.

So, if we approve taxes but not allow the businesses, we tax nothing and get nothing! I don't think that legal marijuana stores in Ventura will be detrimental in any way and we are losing lots of tax money. Why should Venturan's need to leave the city in order to buy cannabis and just bring it back here to use?

Utah is now the 19th state to outlaw **conversion therapy** for minors after a new rule from its governor went into effect. The ban issued by Gov. Gary Herbert, a Republican, comes a year after an effort to end conversion therapy which is an attempt to forcibly change someone's sexual orientation or gender identity. It does not work and puts them at a greater risk of depression and suicide. Just let people be what they choose to be as long as it

doesn't harm others.

Newly installed walls on the US border wall recently fell over in high winds landing on trees on the **Mexican** side of the border. The sections that gave way had recently been set in a new concrete foundation in Calexico, California. The concrete had not yet cured so the wall panels were unable to withstand the windy conditions. They were obviously built poorly on purpose and meant to fall into Mexico so that Mexico would need to build them correctly. I would say very clever.

The LA Times had an article ("To be lonely no more") suggesting several ways for people to actually do things together **in person**.

Eventually it won't be necessary to leave our homes for anything or speak to anyone. Maybe that time has arrived.

These are a few of them:

HIT THE TRAILS (see events for Ventura hiking group)
HOST A POTLUCK OR DINNER PARTY (and invite me)
EVERYBODY DANCE NOW
VOLUNTEER
HOST A BACKYARD MOVIE NIGHT
TRIVIA AND GAME NIGHTS
GET INVOLVED IN THE 2020 ELECTION (no comment)

Reminds me of a grandson saying, "I just spoke with grandma."

"How did she sound, asked dad?" "I don't know I texted her."

A Public Policy Institute of California poll found that **homelessness** is one of Californian's biggest concerns with over 80% seeing it as a problem. Concerns include compassion for the homeless and revulsion that they are living on our sidewalks and parks (which they can legally do in most cases).

The solutions are so very complicated. Some major companies, Microsoft, for example, has pledged over \$800 million toward affordable housing in Seattle. Alphabet, Facebook and Apple have also pledged billions of dollars toward easing the situation in California.

Aren't you proud of me a whole article and I didn't mention **Trump**? Oops, I just did. You can make up what I would have said (and send it to me).

Mailbox

Breeze:

I took my puppies to the Jersey Mikes at the Von's shopping center at the corner of Telephone and Victoria today. We planned to share the sunny day using the outdoor table and chairs. I forgot that all of the tables and chairs there, including the ones under the newly installed pergolas have been removed. They have replaced with armed guards because our police are letting demented and drugged vagrants are using the parking lot as their private preserve.

A friend of mine was menaced there one night. A vagrant pounded on his car window looking for a hand out.

At the shop that I have had my hair cut for years, I was told that the workers there are afraid to park behind the shop if there are people hanging out. One told me her husband asks her to confirm her safe arrival if she has to go to work after dark.

One of the guards kindly gave a contact and phone number to call the landlord. They told me the guards are necessary because our police fail to respond to complaints.

Sheldon, this is serious and I'm happy to have a local paper like yours

on the job.

Thanks,
Steve Hurst

The Breeze sent this on to the Ventura Police Department that contacted Steve. We received this from Steve. This is what a local paper is all about.

Sheldon:

I did receive a phone call from a police officer named Arroyo. He was aware of the problem and assured me the police have responded to numerous complaints sent to them. It was a reassuring conversation that showed exemplary concern.

Thank you for contacting the authorities. What would you suggest we do next? Perhaps you could contact the landlord and suggest they replace the seating in the pergolas. Perhaps the tenants should express their concern to the landlord individually, thanking them for the extra security coverage that has been provided.

I would be happy if you publish my original letter, your response and my satisfaction with the police response. That way the public will know what has happened rather than keeping the affair behind closed doors.

Continued on page 12

The Ventura Breeze is looking for account executives to sell advertising space to businesses and professionals in Ventura. Part or full time. Contact editor@venturabreeze.com for more details.



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



News & Notes



John Preston, Mayor Matt LaVere and Shawn Hughes raising awareness of PTSD.

Firefighters walk to raise awareness for PTSD and suicide prevention

by Richard Lieberman

On a recent Friday, John Preston, a Palo Alto firefighter was in Ventura walking to raise awareness about PTSD and suicide among first responders and veterans. Preston was supported by Ventura firefighters that joined him for the Ventura part of his twenty-two miles a day trek.

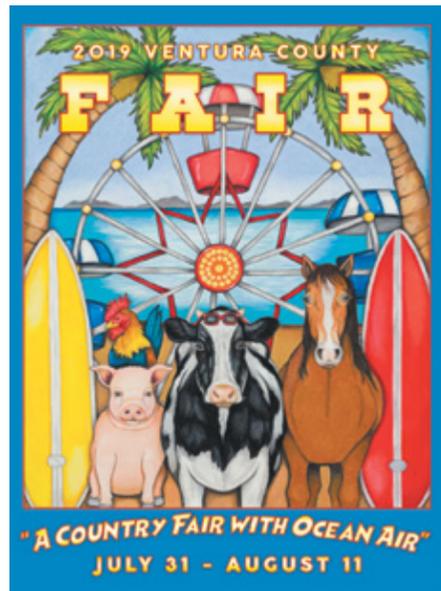
Shawn Hughes, president of Ventura City Firefighters helped lead Ventura firefighters on the walk through the city from Main Street to Johnson Drive where Oxnard firefighters took over and continued the walk to Point Magu. The march will cover over five hundred miles of California coasts.

“My intention is to stop suicide; I lost my brother to suicide in 2016” Said Preston. “He was a both a marine veteran and a police officer for 20 years” added Preston. “I saw the toll it took on my family, and I wanted to prevent this from happening to anyone else.” He said. The march will last for thirty days but has taken a physical toll on Preston. “My feet are shredded to pieces right now.” He said. “Post Traumatic Stress is a very real thing in our community it happens in our veteran community, it happens in the police, and it happens in the first responder community” Added Preston. “We want to be able to recognize that it is a problem and getting people to start asking for help.” He said. “My journey on this, I have carried a pack weighing 22 kilos for nineteen days and I physically broke. I was unable to stubbornly put down my pack and ask for help.” Said Preston. “This was a giant symbolism why my brother took his own life.” He added.

Mayor LaVere commented “I think it is amazing, and when I heard it was coming to town, I cancelled all my meetings to be here to support this guy.” Said LaVere. “I know the pressure our men and women in public safety face what they have to see, and I can only imagine that internal burden and a lot of time people just don’t see it. None of us know what they experience on a day to day basis.” He added. “When you hear about all these suicides of first responders and our

veterans it is a crisis and really glad he is bringing light to these issues.”

PTSD- Post-traumatic stress disorder is a mental health condition that’s triggered by a terrifying event – either experiencing it or witnessing it. Symptoms may include flashbacks, nightmares and severe anxiety, as well as uncontrollable thoughts about the event.



Local teen’s poster art lauded for excellence.

2019 Fair Poster receives accolades from Fair Industry Leaders

The Ventura County Fair has announced that the 2019 Fair poster, illustrated by 18 year old Dariana Vásquez of Santa Paula, has won first place in the Western Fairs Association (WFA) annual communications awards competition.

The award was among a number of honors presented to the Ventura County Fair at the WFA annual general assembly at which roughly 125 fairs from throughout the Western United States gather new ideas, attend seminars and participate in

Continued on page 15

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Community Memorial Health System
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News & Notes

Nonsurgical treatment for chronic pain explored at Seminar

Nevro HF10 spinal implant, now available at Community Memorial Hospital in Ventura, offers new hope to chronic pain sufferers. Chronic pain is a silent monster that haunts nearly one in five Americans and can stand in the way

of even the most basic daily activities. Effective chronic pain treatment is often elusive, but recently, many patients have been reclaiming their lives with HF10, a new spinal cord stimulation therapy that brings significant relief.

Join Community Memorial Health System at a free seminar to find out if this treatment is right for you. The seminar takes place at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 27, in Ventura. Titled “When Back Surgery is Not the Answer,” the seminar is hosted by Community Memorial Health System as part of its 2020 Speaker Series.

Dr. Michael Dorsi will discuss HF10, a nonsurgical treatment that has been shown to treat back, leg, neck and arm pain as well as peripheral neuropathy. Common candidates for the new implant

are those with chronic pain who previously had spinal surgery and didn't get relief, people with back or leg pain that lacks a surgical fix, or people who can't have back surgery due to other health conditions. HF10 also is an option for patients who had spinal stimulators in the past with older technology that produces uncomfortable tingling sensations or just didn't provide long-term relief.

Dr. Dorsi specializes in neurosurgery with subspecialty expertise in brain, spine and peripheral nerve surgery. He received his medical degree from the Johns

Hopkins School of Medicine, trained in neurosurgery at Johns Hopkins, and completed an advanced spinal care fellowship at UCLA. Dr. Dorsi, a pioneering neurosurgeon who is among the first to implant the HF10, is an active member of the Community Memorial Hospital medical staff.

The Feb. 27 seminar begins at 6 p.m. at the Museum of Ventura County, 100 E. Main St. Registration is free but reservations are required. For reservations, visit www.cmhshealth.org/rsvp or call Brown Paper Tickets at 800-838-3006.

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Volunteers built a new hiking trail at Harmon Canyon. Photo by Matthew Reese.

Harmon Canyon is currently closed to the public

Ventura Land Trust welcomed 100 volunteers to Harmon Canyon on January 20, 2020 for a work day to help build a new hiking trail and remove invasive plant species.

The event marked the 25th anniversary of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day of Service that celebrates King's legacy and encourages volunteerism to improve communities.

Ventura Land Trust is in the process of purchasing Harmon Canyon, a 2,100-acre Ventura property, to establish a nature preserve.

“This day of service is an opportunity for people to help us clear brush, restore native habitat, and build trails for the public to enjoy once the preserve is open,” says Ventura Land Trust Stewardship Manager Dan Hulst. “It's a sneak peak, because Harmon Canyon is not yet open to the public.”

“The amount of work that volunteers accomplished in three hours would have taken staff a couple of weeks to complete,” says Hulst.

Ventura Land Trust permanently protects land, water, wildlife, and scenic beauty in the Ventura region, including nearly 100 acres along the Ventura River and coastal estuary. Ventura Land Trust preserves are open to the public daily from dawn to dusk, with no cost for admission.

Earlier that morning, Ventura Land Trust partnered with Runners for Public Lands to host a run/walk through Harmon Canyon. Runners for Public Lands builds relationships between runners and land conservation organizations to deepen runners' connections to, and encourage stewardship of, the open spaces through which they run.

Harmon Canyon is currently closed to the public except for

volunteer restoration events. Visit www.venturalandtrust.org to learn more and register for upcoming events.

Court seeking civil grand jury applications

Ventura Superior Court is now accepting applications through April 17, 2020, from citizens interested in serving as civil grand jurors for the July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021 session.

Those interested must have the following qualifications: citizen of the United States; 18 years of age or older; resident of Ventura County for at least one year prior to July 1, 2020; be of sound judgment and fair character; possess sufficient knowledge of the English language; and be able to attend hearings and meetings four to five days a week.

Principal functions of the Grand Jury include review of public complaints, investigation of County government agencies, inquiry into management of public prisons within the County, investigation of special districts of the county and city government, involvement in fiscal or management audits, and preparation of reports on investigated matters. A per diem fee plus mileage is paid.

Applications can be located on the Ventura County Grand Jury website at www.ventura.org/grand-jury or may be obtained from Jury Services by e-mail jury-services@ventura.courts.ca.gov or calling (805) 289-8661 for information.

Applications may be submitted to: Ventura Superior Court, Jury Services, Room 113, 800 S. Victoria Ave., Ventura, CA 93009, and must be postmarked no later than Friday, April 17, 2020.

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News & Notes



Lance Korthals, Toni Jannotta, Patrick Davidson and Susanne Lamnot celebrate at CAPS.

CAPS Media open house, Oscar party & KPPQ celebration

Thanks to everyone who joined us at the CAPS Media Center on Sunday evening for the 2020 Open House, Oscar Party and 3-year Birthday Bash for KPPQ 104.1 FM. Dozens of folks were on hand to meet new friends, re-connect with existing friends, take tours of the center, and share in the recognition of CAPS Media's continued service to the Ventura community. At a time when civic engagement, public communication and public voices are vital to our community, CAPS provides an extremely valuable resource to everyone in Ventura.

Part of the celebration was the recognition of a new contract for CAPS Media awarded by the City of Ventura. The CAPS Staff, Board of Directors and especially the CAPS Member/Producers thank everyone who sent letters, videos, and emails, and made calls to City staff and City Council Members, and to those who showed up at the City Council meeting expressing support for CAPS Media. The personal appeals and overwhelming expressions of appreciation were instrumental in demonstrating CAPS' value to the community at large and to the City, and encouraged the City Council to approve the contract for CAPS Media. Everyone at CAPS thanks the City staff and City Council Members for recognizing CAPS value and awarding the long-range agreement which provides stability needed for CAPS Media to continue serving the community.

In addition to recording, broadcasting and streaming meetings at City Hall and other City events, another example of CAPS Media's facilitating community communication is the ongoing coverage of community council meetings throughout the city. CAPS works with the community council coordinators to record key meetings of the College Area, East Ventura, MidTown and Westside Community Councils. CAPS records the meetings and broadcasts and streams them the following week, allowing community members, who are unable to attend the meetings, the opportunity to view the monthly meetings on CAPS channel 6 and online on the Thursday following the meeting at 8pm. Many of the community council groups post the meetings on social media as well. Local Community Council meetings are a great way for Ventura citizens to interact with and receive first-hand reports on City services and plans from City Councilmembers and Ventura Police Department officers as well as other

officials and leaders in the community. In addition to getting the overall city perspective on important issues and events, the community meetings focus on neighborhood issues and information of interest and importance to the specific districts in Ventura.

This is a great time to join CAPS Media. CAPS is Ventura's only public access television and radio center that fulfills a fundamental right guaranteed by the First Amendment. As a free society, the public has the right to have personal opinions published in the newspaper and on the airwaves. CAPS Media provides Member/Producers the opportunity to express themselves on local television, radio and online. Some people refer to CAPS Media as Ventura's electronic soapbox.

The highly professional and extremely friendly CAPS Media staff train members how to master the use of cameras, editing equipment and radio studio to produce their own story. Video production services are provided for an annual membership fee of only \$40. CAPS Radio requires an additional annual fee of \$50 for DJs. Go to capsmedia.org/events to learn how to register for upcoming classes and become a Member/Producer.

Free overflow parking next door at the Wright Event Center, 57 Day Road and next door at Day Road Center, 71 Day Road.

Humorous Speech Contest

Toastmasters X-L invites you to their Annual Humorous Speech Contest. It will be held at their regular meeting on Tuesday, February 18, at Ventura City Hall, 12 to 1 pm in the Santa Cruz Room. Take a break from work and join us for laughs and fun at our Humorous Speech Contest. Who will be the winner?

Toastmasters offers many opportunities to practice your public speaking and leadership skills. Many people are scared of public speaking. Build your self-confidence in a supportive and positive environment. Toastmasters X-L is your downtown community Toastmaster Club. Guests are welcome any Tuesday at Ventura City Hall. If you have any questions, contact csnowlin@sbcglobal.net or 805-890-0541.

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"St. John's Saved My Life!"

Trust your heart to our experts.

Robert Brown knows a thing or two about catching fish. As a lifelong outdoors enthusiast, he has spent countless hours refining his skill in fishing. So it's no surprise that Robert chose the expertly skilled Transcatheter Aortic Valve Replacement (TAVR) team at St. John's for his heart care.

Robert was diagnosed with aortic stenosis, a narrowing of the heart's aortic valve. Previously his treatment would have been open heart surgery. However, now—the St. John's team of cardiac experts perform the much less invasive TAVR technique.

In August 2018, Robert underwent TAVR, a minimally invasive technique to replace his diseased aortic valve without the need for open-heart surgery. Robert went home two days later quickly resuming his normal activities... and was not so easy on the fish.

"It was certainly better than the old way they did it. This is much easier on you and on the doctor and everybody else," said Robert Brown, one of the first TAVR patients at St. John's.

Wonder if TAVR is right for you? Talk to your doctor to discuss your eligibility for TAVR. For more information about our TAVR program, visit DignityHealth.org/TAVR or call 805.216.0502.

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Ventura BREEZE



News & Notes



The competition's finalists are selected from dozens of high school musicians.

2020 Student Jazz Competition results are in!

Serving as competition judges, renowned musicians Bevan Manson, Eddie Arkin, Tom Buckner and Tom Scott selected the winners of the Ventura Music Festival 2020 Student Jazz Competition. Each year the winners receive \$500, \$250 and \$100 cash prizes for first, second and third place, respectively. The students also receive multiple opportunities from VMF to perform for the public throughout the year, including the annual Rising Stars concert in May and other events to be announced.

First place went to Andre Burton, a

junior at Adolpho Camarillo High School, on the drums. Second place went to Benny Conn, a senior at Agoura Hills High School, on trombone. Third place was a tie between Mak Yorihiro, a senior at Century Academy High School, on tenor sax, and Finn Dunham, a junior at Thousand Oaks High School, on alto sax. And, honorable mention was given to Cole Petridis, a junior at Agoura Hills High School, on trombone.

The annual competition's finalists are selected from dozens of high school musician entries. For the live competition, each musician plays a piece they've

chosen, spotlighting their improvised solos of original or classic jazz or blues tunes. They're backed up by professionals: this year, Bevan Manson on piano, Tom Etchart on bass and Sinclair Lott on drums.

The 2020 Competition performance took place on January 26 at the Pierpont Inn, in Ventura. Mistress of Ceremonies was Ventura Music Festival Executive Director, Susan Scott and Master of Ceremonies was drummer, Charles Levin.

erate to strenuous, with multiple trip options.

The course welcomes families and all ages from 18 to seniors. Teenagers 13-17 may take the course if they enroll with their parent or guardian and go on the outings together.

For questions, call (805) 766-9920 or email, and check out Facebook: lospadreswbc@gmail.com www.Facebook.com/lospadreswbc

Volunteers help those with low-moderate incomes file for available tax credits

Ventura County residents are encouraged to take advantage of ways to put more money back in their pocket with the help of United Way of Ventura County's (UWVC) Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA).

Throughout February to May, volunteers at free VITA tax preparation sites will help working families and individuals file their state and federal tax return and access the tax credits to which they are eligible. Households earning up to \$56,000 in 2019 are eligible to use the free services of a VITA site.

The Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) is a tax credit for low- to moderate-income working families and individuals. The EITC can help you reduce your tax liability and, in many cases, save you money. To qualify for the EITC, you must have worked at least part of 2019 and meet certain income requirements.

In addition to the federal Earned Income Tax Credit, the state Earned Income Tax Credit (CalEITC) is also available to families and individuals in California. Most recently in 2019, California's EITC is available for households with adjusted gross incomes of less than \$30,000 regardless of qualifying children. California EITC requires earned income reported on a W-2 form, such as wages, salaries, and tips, and self-employment income (such as 1099 and cash-earnings).

This year, the state of California is introducing the new Young Child Tax Credit which can also give families a tax benefit. If you meet the CalEITC requirement and have a child under the age of 6 by the end of the tax year, you may also qualify to receive \$1,000 per family.

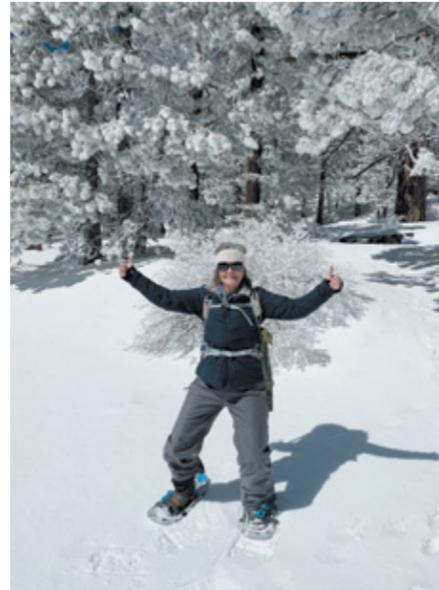
Together, these state credits can put hundreds or even thousands of dollars back into the pockets of individuals and families. Appointments are available by calling 2-1-1. The VITA is through May 2, 2020.

City of Ventura Housing Authority, 375 E. Thompson Blvd, Ventura

Ventura Community Service Center, 4651 Telephone Road, #200, Ventura

For more, visit <https://vcunitedway.org/volunteer-income-tax-assistance-vita/> or call 2-1-1.

Since 1945, United Way of Ventura County has advanced the common good by creating opportunities for a better life for all. Our focus is on education, income and health, because these are the building blocks for a good quality of life. We support local services and programs that are more than just 'stop gap' measures, but rather solutions that help create lasting change. We invite everyone to be part of the change by giving, advocating and volunteering. When we work together in common purpose, we LIVE UNITED. For more information about United Way of Ventura County, visit www.vcunitedway.org.



Patricia Peinado is having a great time on Mt. Pinos thanks to the Wilderness Basics Course. Photo by Anna Chung.

Wilderness Basics Course

by John Hankins

The local Sierra Club's Wilderness Basics Course begins Feb. 19, the popular and premiere hands-on course that will make you savvy and safe in the backcountry on an overnight or day hike, sponsored by experts of the Los Padres Chapter and friends.

Those friends include people from the Ojai Search and Rescue crews, first aid trainers, navigation mavens, fitness coaches, weather watchers and experts on clothing and gear from local stores which also give discounts to the students.

Gabe Valdez is a graduate of WBC who never backpacked overnight yet completed two solo trips to the Sespe and Mineral King, writing, "I want to thank you all because everything I learned in the WBC made my trip safe and exciting. I never felt unprepared for any obstacle ... I couldn't have had this life experience without it."

Patty Peinado is another grad who said, "I definitely felt fully prepared to go out into the wilderness with friends and backpack after the 8-week course. The staff offers opportunities for day hikes as well as two backpacking trips. Every topic one could possibly imagine is covered..."

The WBC, which covers Santa Barbara and Ventura counties, does sell out each year, so don't delay; to sign up or learn more at <https://tinyurl.com/2020WBCsignup>

Eight classes will be held on Wednesday evenings from 7-9:30pm Feb.19 through April 8, at the Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Rd, Ventura.

The class lectures are comprehensive with demonstrations and small break-out groups, so everyone gets individual attention on all levels of experience. While there is plenty of practical information, there are also topics on wilderness ethics, wildlife and Leave No Trace practices.

Students will gain experience by participating in several outings including day hikes, a car camp, and backpacking trips in our local mountains, all of which offer students a choice of difficulties ranging from low-mod-

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Senior Living

Pull Out Section



Suz Montgomery speaks about dementia and Alzheimer's. Photo by Bernie Goldstein.

Managing the maze of dementia and Alzheimer's disease

by Carol Leish

On January 21, 2020, at The Ventura Avenue Adult Center, the Ventura Council on Senior's chair, Suz Montgomery, said that, "The importance of doing this talk about dementia and Alzheimer's within our community is essential, since we need to find ways to improve things for those, who are affected, in order for them to be able to live better lives. The issues of caregiving and transportation are also important topics for us to discuss."

Teresa Valko, who is a Board Chair, at the Alzheimer's Association, CA Central Coast Chapter, first mentioned that the difference between dementia and Alzheimer's is, "Dementia is the

umbrella diagnosis of memory loss/ cognitive impairments that affect daily life in which 60-70% of the time is caused by Alzheimer's."

"By getting an assessment and diagnosis in the early stages," according to, Valko, "People affected will be able to do some planning and to have a voice according to what their wishes/desires are." She said that, "14,000 people in Ventura are living with Alzheimer's, which is the 3rd leading cause of death in California, with no cure." That's why she mentioned that, "Funding for research is important, especially with no cure yet, since we are all paying taxes." She said

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that many bills at the federal level seek to support caregivers." Continued funding has put more money in research from top scientists through the world. "All researchers, from all over the world, are sharing their data, since everyone wants to see a change, and a cure."

Teri Helton, MSN, Community Engagement Coordinator for Ventura County Caregivers: Volunteers Assisting the Elderly, focused on ways of managing

common behaviors in dementia sufferers. She stressed that, "It is important to be understanding, and to offer support to those who are suffering." She said that this includes, "Helping others by simplifying and organizing their daily routines and limiting distractions. Also, by empathizing and saying, 'I see you're frustrated. How can I help?'"

"Late stage challenges within people
Continued on page 11

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Senior Living



“Next we will go pick up copies of the Ventura Breeze to read.”

New READ tutoring site for adults in West Ventura

Ventura County Library READ Adult Literacy Program announces the opening of its new tutoring site in West Ventura and is now recruiting adult volunteer tutors who would like to help other adults improve their reading and writing skills. No teaching experience is required and the training is free. The next five-week tutor training series will be starting the first week in February in Ventura.

The READ program trains adult volunteers to provide free one-to-one reading instruction for English speaking adults in need of basic literacy skills. Instruction in basic literacy

includes the development of phonetic reading skills combined with communication skills. Ventura County Library is encouraging residents to take this opportunity to volunteer as a tutor or encourage someone you know to take advantage of the free program.

After completion of the five-week training, tutors will meet with their adult learners at the West Ventura tutoring site. Tutoring is scheduled by the availability of the tutors and the learners.

Illiteracy is an issue that can be debilitating in so many ways for adults who never received the proper instruc-

tion. Adults who are unable to read have a much more difficult time with many daily activities that others may take for granted, along with a clear disadvantage in today's competitive job market.

For more information about how you can support literacy and make a difference in someone's life, call (805) 677-7160.

City of Ventura Senior Strategic Plan

by Carol Leish

Phase 4 of the Senior Strategic Plan's community meeting occurred on January 27-28, 2020, and focused on the findings and visioning meetings that were held in December, 2019, which was Phase 3.

Phase 2 included a senior needs assessment survey, which was completed after Phase 1, which entailed community engagement meetings. GreenPlay, LLC's consultant, Dr. Theresa Pambroke, “Was hired by money provided by the Ventura City Council, that was allocated from Measure O funding,” according to Ventura City Council Member, Cheryl Heitmann. “We wanted to find ways to improve the community. In fact, yesterday we just opened a 55-bed homeless shelter. We need to focus on homeless seniors, especially on a way to house them in inclement weather conditions.”

During the Phase 4 meetings several goals were focused on in order to deal with the key challenges, which included not enough staff for seniors; the need for more money to run senior programming and important issues of housing and transportation for seniors in the City of Ventura.

The first goal focused on working with partners in order to improve housing in order for senior to be able to age in place. The development of affordable housing is important, especially with the high cost of living within the city.

The second goal focused on the need to improve transportation, in which more money needs to be allocated to deal with. This is a big priority at the city level.

Goal 3 focused on the need for overall staffing in order to provide for people of all ages.

Goal 4 focused on utilizing partners, who are already within the community, in order to expand their reach. This includes a leadership task force to meet on a regular basis.

Goal 5 focused on the need for staffing needs to be increased for all, especially adding one more senior position at the Ventura Avenue Senior Center.

Goal 6 focuses on the importance of regularly updating the website: www.cityofventura.ca.gov/seniors.

Goal 7 focused on the additional needs for programs for senior: Increasing physical fitness and sports; Making sure programs are offered also on the east side of Ventura; Expanding the senior nutrition program; and addressing the need/demand for medical help.

Goal 8 focuses on the need for improved facilities and amenities for seniors, and making sure places are ADA (Americans with Disabilities, 1990) compliant.

Goal 9 focuses on the utilization of more space at the Ventura Ave. Senior Center; or, co-use within a multi-generational space in order to serve people between the ages of 8-year-old to 80-year-old.

Goal 10 focuses on the need for funding for additional staff; and, looking into funding through grants.

Emily Fox, Community Partnerships Manager, City of Ventura, said: “I'm excited about us coming together, and meeting together. The next phase will occur in March, 2020. If you have a community neighbors/groups that want to reach out, let me know. I appreciate the groups that are providing feedback.” For more information, visit: www.cityofventura.ca.gov/seniors. Contact: efox@cityofventura.ca.gov; (805) 658-4793.



“I should have a fair chance to get work.”

House passes bill helping older workers facing discrimination

On January 15, by a bipartisan vote of 251-155, the House passed H.R. 1230, the Protecting Older Workers Against Discrimination Act. NCOA supports the bill, which restores fairness and well-established pre-2009 legal standards of proof on workplace discrimination undermined by certain court decisions. According to a 2018 AARP survey, 61% of older workers said they had either faced or seen age bias in the workplace. Advocates are urging the Senate to pass a companion bill, S. 485, sponsored by Sen. Bob Casey (D-PA), who is the Ranking Member of the Senate Special Committee on Aging.

VCAAA starts a community conversation on aging with Santa Paula residents

The Ventura County Area Agency on Aging is partnering with the City of Santa Paula to host A Community Conversation on Aging on February 29 at 9 a.m. at the Santa Paula Community Center. This event is free and open to the public.

A Community Conversation on Aging is a platform to address gaps in services and any concerns related to resources for older adults and individuals with disabilities. As part of a county-wide series of community conversations, this event will help shape Ventura



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Senior Living



END
ROBOCALLS
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Senior receiving robocalls

If you own a phone, chances are you've been subject to some type of robocall. You might receive one or even multiple robocalls daily. These pesky and unwanted phone calls are not only a nuisance, but they've also led to innocent victims being scammed out of their own money.

Unfortunately, seniors are among the hardest hit when it comes to scam phone calls. In fact, people 60 and older lost a total of \$298 million to scams and fraud in 2019, according to the Federal Trade Commission. The median loss for 60-69-year olds was \$615 and for 70-79 year olds the loss was slightly higher at \$802. But those 80 and older reported the largest amount.

Colorado was the hardest-hit state in terms of receiving the most robocalls. According to the FTC, residents in the Rocky Mountain state filed 130,640

robocall complaints, or 2,403 robocalls per capita. Neighboring Arizona was No. 2 with 158,549 robocall complaints, or 2,328 per capita.

However, if you're looking for a little solace from robocalls, your best bet might be to move to Alaska. In 2019, the state was home to the fewest robocall complaints with just 4,287, or 580 per capita.

Regardless of where you live, robocalls have only gone up in the last five years. Nationwide, robocalls have seen an average annual increase of 14% since 2015.

While tougher fines and restrictions are being put in place to deter robocalls and scams, it's still important to be educated and vigilant on these unwanted phone calls, especially to avoid becoming a victim to a potential scam (make sure that is your grand child on the phone).

County's Master Plan on Aging.

Currently there are 196,000 individuals 60 and older living in Ventura County. That number is expected to climb to 270,000 by 2040. One in four people are living with a disability, and more than 5.8 million are living with a dementia-related disease. The needs of these populations are growing, and the time to address those needs is now.

All Santa Paula (and others) residents are encouraged to participate in this vital conversation on aging and accessibility in Santa Paula and all of Ventura County. Translation services will be available for individuals who speak Spanish. The Santa Paula Community Center is located at 530 W. Main Street. For more information, call (805) 933-4226 ext. 356.

The Ventura County Area Agency on Aging, an agency of the County of Ventura, is the principal agency in Ventura County charged with the responsibility to promote the development and implementation of a comprehensive coordinated system of care that enables older individuals, people with disabilities, and their caregivers to live in a community-based setting and to advocate for the needs of those 60 years of age and older in the county, providing leadership and promoting citizen involvement in the planning process as well as in the delivery of services.

Managing the maze of dementia

Continued from page 9

with dementia," according to, Helton, "include, the ability to communicate, and possible trouble with sleeping." She said that, "It's essential to give slow and direct/compassionate statements, since emotions remain intact." She said that by maintaining a regular routine, and by

asking only one question at a time, others feel more comfortable with their particular situation.

Phil Chandler, MBA, Owner/President of Right at Home of Ventura County, is a Senior Advisor, focused on the importance of self-love for caregivers. He said, "It's important to keep our loved ones safe, happy, and to keep them engaged." He said that there are many support groups within Ventura County to help out caregivers of those with dementia. "Also, seeing a therapist or counselor might be helpful to those who are caregivers."

Chandler also emphasized that, "It is very important to set up a legal Power of Attorney and do Estate Planning, if you're over the age of 18, in order to be able to have a voice of how you want to be treated if you can't voice it for yourself." According to Suz Montgomery, "It's important to understand how to manage the maze of dementia and Alzheimer's Disease, since it is a current crisis that we need to make a priority by finding treatments and cures in order to improve situations."



This building, which is still standing, appears elsewhere in the Breeze. Can you find the article and photos?

Presented by:

Ventura County
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 PREVENTION
 COUNCIL

STOP SENIOR SCAMS ACTING PROGRAM

A FREE, fun and educational program that dramatizes local senior scams and how to avoid them.

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This 'n' That

Ventura budget

by VREG

The 2020-2021 budget presents a challenge to the City Council. Today's Council is still operating on the 2019-2020 budget that shows everything is fine. In six months, we will be in a new budget cycle. The "most likely" budget scenario shows a shortfall of \$4.1M and will lose \$45.03 million over the next 10 years.

The Council needs to focus on a multi-year budget. Now is the time for the Council to cut back services and personnel. If they don't, the specter of insolvency is very possible.

The city staff looked at revenue and expense for the Council to consider. Potential Revenue Enhancements included an increase to the TOT, also known as the bed tax. This impacts tourists visiting the city. Each 1% rise in the tax generates about \$600,000 in revenue. This can also make Ventura less desirable for tourists to visit. Cannabis sales might generate \$500,000 or more. But Police Chief Ken Corney believed Ventura should exercise caution because even with cannabis sales, the projected revenue would barely dent the \$4.1 million deficit.

Other items in the staff report suggested a reduction of overtime for city employees. Overtime is largest single expense in the city. This could save as much as \$5.6 million. Staff also proposed reducing "extra help" expenses. Such a reduction would generate \$2.3 million in expenses. There was also a possibility lowering pay increases. Every 1% decrease in pay raises saves approximately \$800,000 a year.

Staff also submitted a review all discretionary spending. The money Ventura pays to support the Ventura County Museum. This option will save \$250,000 per year. Also a review of money spent on Ventura's Libraries. Savings could be as much as \$250,000 per year. There could also be a reevaluation of Community Granting Programs. This category includes programs like Community Access Partners (CAPS). Another was to reassess contributing to Ventura's Visitors Bureau. The savings could be as high as \$968,000.

Finally city staff also suggested using Unassigned Fund Balances of \$3 million in 2021, \$2 million in 2022 and \$1 million in 2023. If a recession strikes there is also the Catastrophic Reserve of \$15 million and Measure O revenue.

Use of Unassigned Funds or reserves is the most troubling items presented by the city staff. Using the city's various fund balances are a last resort the City Council should consider using them only in dire circumstances.

The City Council should consider all alternatives. It should not be a time to operate "Business As Usual."

What was not on the table to discuss was the spending of up to a BILLION dollars on a water project. The Water Agency and the council continue to put forward the need to spend \$1 billion for drinking water, thus the need to use recycled wastewater by building VenturaWaterPure to satisfy supply needs. However, the State of California won't have an approved test for water safety until 2024, at the earliest.

The Council understands the need to move the Santa Clara River discharge somewhere else. Yet, they choose not to consider the most cost-efficient option. It would be to ship that water to Oxnard's Advanced Water Treatment Facility. That changes \$1 billion cost to only \$70 million.

Other options should include asking city employees to contribute a higher percentage of their pay towards their retirement. There also needs to consider the city merging Ventura Fire with Ventura County fire.

Ventura hasn't projected a budget deficit this large since the 2008-2009 Recession. With the stakes this high, there is little room for error. Poor decisions could lead to the city's insolvency.

Tuqan Man: The return to San Miguel Island

On Thursday, February 13 at 7:00 pm. Nakia Zavalla with the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians will share the Santa Ynez Band's experience on the discovery and return of Tuqan Man, a Native American man who died 10,000 years ago on San Miguel Island.

Tuqan Man's remains were discovered during an archaeological survey in 2005 eroding into a coastal gully. The National Park Service consulted with the Santa Ynez Chumash Band and together they decided to excavate the unprotected burial of Tuqan Man to prevent it from being lost to the sea.

In 2018, the Chumash tribe returned Tuqan Man to a burial site on the island following federal law and procedures outlined in the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA). In her presentation Zavalla will present a short

film that tells the Santa Inez Band's experience, including perspectives of elders and other cultural specialists.

Nakia Zavalla is a tribal descendant and the Cultural and Language Director of the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. Zavalla has a teaching credential in American Indian Languages, and a master's degree in Cultural Sustainability from Goucher College in Baltimore, Maryland. Zavalla has served for the past eight years on the planning committee for the California Conference on American Indian Education and serves on the California Living Language Circle Conference planning committee.

The lecture will be held at the Channel Islands National Park Robert J. Lagomarsino Visitor Center, 1901 Spinnaker Drive in Ventura Harbor. The program is free and open to the public. This talk, part of the From Shore to Sea lecture series is sponsored by Channel Islands National Park to further the understanding of the Channel Islands and surrounding waters.

This lecture can also be viewed live online at: Shore to Sea lecture series.

Mailbox

Continued from page 4

Thank you again for working on this. This is how journalism is supposed to work.

Best Wishes,
Steve Hurst

Editor,

I have heard a lot about Ventura suing Ojai Valley residents regarding their use of water in the Ventura River Watershed. I have heard a lot about the over \$4 million dollars of tax money they have spent, so far, to do this. I have heard a lot of pleas from the city asking me to restrict my water usage since we are running low.

What I have heard nothing about is why the city keeps issuing building permits so monstrosities like the one being built on the bluffs overlooking Highway 101 can be erected. How much water is being used to build it? How much water will the residents use in the future if anyone can afford the rent there?

These conflicting messages are coming from a muddled City Hall and Council headed by Mayor Matt LaVere who now wants to be a County Supervisor? Why? So he can do the same kind "planning" on a countywide basis?

We can do better as a city by replacing all of the current City Council and voting for a write-in candidate named Trevor Quirk.

Respectfully,
John Darling

John:

Be honest, what do you think of our City Council? What are Trevor's qualifications?

Friends of CAPS

Last evening (few weeks ago) the Ventura City Council unanimously approved an agreement that will allow CAPS Media to continue to serve the Ventura community for five years.

All of us at CAPS are extremely appreciative to everyone who expressed their support in letters, emails, videos and personal appeals to the City. The overwhelming expressions of appreciation were instrumental in demonstrating CAPS' value to the community and securing the contract.

Thank you all for your tremendous support.

Patrick – echoing the sentiments of the Staff, Members and Board of

Directors

Patrick Davidson

Executive Director CAPS Media

Dear Sheldon,

Thank you for allowing me to write for the Ventura Breeze.

Its been a pleasure writing articles for over seven years. I'm also happy/pleased that you focus on articles that are positive along with highlighting community events and organizations. May the paper continue to be a beacon of hope within Ventura.

Thank you!,
Carol Leish

All businesses will remain open

Continued from page 1

the paint pallet as prepared by Coastal Architects. The firm was commissioned by the Port District to integrate colors that reflect the sea-inspired hues that are predominant of the seaside enclave and is consistent with the new Portside Ventura Harbor development.

"The Ventura Port District is committed to continuous improvement with multi-phases of enhancement set for 2020 that will make Ventura Harbor an even more attractive, pedestrian-friendly destination for boating, and leisure recreation that encompasses dining, shopping and coastal attractions," states Pendleton.

In addition to the first and second quarter Ventura Harbor Village Refresh Painting Project, Ventura Port District welcomes the opening of the newly constructed \$200 million Portside Ventura Harbor, Southern California's premier mixed-use development and Ventura's newest oceanfront community.

In keeping with Ventura Port District's goal of continuous improvement of Ventura Harbor, in 2019, Ventura Harbor completed a \$4.5 million Ventura Harbor Village Marina Dock Improvement Project aimed at greatly bolstering the Harbor's commercial fishing industry as one of the largest commercial marinas on the West Coast. On the heels of this project, Ventura Harbor invested \$61,000 in reopening the Harbor's Dry Boat Storage that was resurfaced with 88 dry storage spaces accommodating 14 to 43-foot size boats year-round.

"The Ventura Port District revitalization projects now provide a greater sense of place to stimulate future economic growth for the benefit of our tenants, visitors, fishermen, residents, and the local community," says Pendleton.

In addition, Ventura Harbor Village's revitalization and beautification project completed in 2018 has further established the Ventura Port District's visitor-appeal. The beautification project now highlights a Channel Islands Plaza, a Kelp Corridor, a waterfront Promenade Stage area, and a seaside fire pit as the 'front door' of the bustling Harbor Village that saw more than 1.5 million pedestrian visitors in 2019.

Rich in details, the project included award-winning decorative concrete finishes with more than 68 feet of giant sea kelp. The project features color-changing LED lights, a 70-foot inlay of the Channel Islands National Park's five islands, 6 kelp sculptures, new landscape and palm trees, and sea-themed decorative elements along the meandering pathways which adorn the entrances to the many Harbor Village boutiques and galleries.

Future projects identified in the master plan include areas for public art, improved outdoor patios, informational signage, family elements, and a series of upgrades to paseos throughout the five-acre Harbor Village. Live music on the seaside Harbor Village Promenade stage entertains guests on weekends throughout the year.

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Police Reports

by Cindy Summers

Police reports are provided to us by the Ventura Police Department and are not the opinions of the Ventura Breeze. All suspects mentioned are assumed to be innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Hit and Run, Wanted Person Arrest

On January 28, at approximately 7:30am, a Ventura Police Patrol Officer saw the suspect commit a traffic violation in the area of Montgomery and Newtown. When the officer attempted to stop the vehicle, the suspect failed to yield and fled. Due to the heavy traffic conditions, the officer did not pursue after the suspect and the suspect was last seen entering a nearby neighborhood.

Additional officers arrived in the area to assist. As they searched the area, they found the suspect's vehicle had collided with a parked car, and the suspect fled on foot into the neighborhood. A police K9 and the VCSO Air Unit were used to assist with the search. After approximately an hour, the suspect, 35 year old Ventura resident Brandon Bartek, was found and arrested for misdemeanor hit and run and misdemeanor failure to yield to officers.

A records check revealed he also had an outstanding felony warrant from Los Angeles County. No one was injured during this incident.

Commercial Burglary Arrest

On February 4, at 2:00am, officers responded to an alarm activation at the business. Officers arrived on scene within four minutes of receiving the call and discovered the suspect, 32 year old Carlos Flores, was still inside actively burglarizing the business.

After several minutes, the suspect tried to escape but officers caught him. At the conclusion of the investigation, the suspect was arrested for the felony charge of Commercial Burglary. No one was injured during this incident.

Narcotics Arrests

On February 6, at 5:00am, members of the Ventura Police Department SCU Narcotics unit conducted a search warrant at the above address as a result of a month-long investigation into narcotics sales. Detectives using investigative tools were able to identify a primary suspect as Natasha Suarez.

During the execution of the search warrant, SCU detectives found and detained 40 year old Ventura resident Natasha Suarez, 55 year old Ventura resident William Kemp, and 38 year old Ventura resident Stephen Williams inside the apartment. During the subsequent investigation, it was discovered that Kemp and Williams had active felony warrants for which they were arrested. A large quantity of narcotics and narcotics paraphernalia was also found inside the apartment.

As a result of the investigation, Natasha Suarez was arrested for possession of narcotics for sales. William Kemp was arrested for an outstanding warrant for possession of narcotics.

Stephen Williams was arrested for a PROs warrant.

A search of the Ventura County Superior Court shows that Natasha Suarez and William Kemp have prior arrests for narcotics-related crimes including sales of narcotics. Stephen Williams has numerous prior arrests and convictions for drug-related crimes. All subjects have prior arrests for property crimes.

Assault with a Deadly Weapon Arrest

On February 7, at approximately 10:30pm, officers were patrolling the area of the 100 block of N. Olive St., when they heard a female calling for help. The officers located the 50 year old female who reported that her boyfriend, later identified as the suspect 56 year old vagrant James Willet, was disturbing and armed with a knife. Officers located Willet nearby and detained him. The officers also contacted two other individuals, including a 42 year old male victim.

During the investigation, officers learned that Willet and the female were staying in a parked motorhome and got into verbal argument. The female left the motorhome and contacted the male victim who was just a passerby, and asked him for help. Willet exited the motorhome and threatened to harm the male. He then went back into the motorhome and armed himself with a knife. Willet exited from the motorhome and began swinging the knife at the male. The female began yelling, and got the attention of the officers. Willet discarded the knife when he saw the officers approaching.

At the conclusion of the investigation, Willet was arrested for assault with a deadly weapon. No one was injured as a result of this incident.

Harbor Patrol Blotter

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

1-22 10:05am, received a report of a traffic accident near 1500 Spinnaker Drive. Officers responded and assisted VFD, VPD with the call. The vehicle sustained major damage, but the driver suffered minor injuries. The vehicle was towed.

1-23 12:08am, dispatched to an assault victim at RiverHaven. Officers responded and assisted VFD, VPD with the call. Patient transported to hospital.

1-25 11:45am, responding to check on two surfers near the Greenock lane jetty due to large surf. Officers were able to contact the group with assistance from State Parks lifeguards operating a RescueWaterCraft in the area. All were ok.

10:20pm, contacting a 20ft vessel operating recklessly near the outside of the breakwall in hazardous conditions. Vessel was escorted back to the launch ramp

1-26 7:00pm, received report of a fire near Spinnaker Drive and Harbor Bl. Officers responded and assisted Ventura Fire Department with locating the fire. No fire was found, but the Natural Gas burnoff on the South side of the Santa Clara Bridge was the likely source of the report. The burnoff is commonly misidentified as a brush fire.

1-27 7:03am, received a report of a transient trespassing at Ventura West Marina C-dock. Officers responded and found the individual incoherently speaking. She left the area talking.

6:00pm, received a request to assist good Samaritans remove shopping carts that were deposited in the barranca. They were towed to the launch ramp.

1-30 8:35pm, patrolling in Rescue Boat 17, officers contacted a small vessel engaged in hoopnetting in the Harbor

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CHOWDER GIVE-AWAYS
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VENTURA HARBOR VILLAGE

entrance. After a safety inspection was conducted, no lifejackets were aboard the vessel. The vessels voyage was terminated, and the fishermen returned to the launch ramp.

1-31 10:35am, while manning the office, received a request to use the districts emergency long dock for overnight berthing. The requestor was advised of the limited use of the dock, mainly for emergencies and was provided options.

3:25pm, while on patrol in the fireboat, officers observed a sail-foilboarder beset by calm conditions. The sailor was transported to his residence in the keys.

2-1 8:40am, received request to escort the Manson crane barge "Freya" into the harbor. Officers responded in Rescue Boat 19 to assist.

3:03pm, received a report of a male transient loitering with all his belongings spread out in the VIM parking lot. Officers responded and contacted the individual. He was granted time to organize his stuff and then move on.

11:23pm, officers contacting a fisherman on a small unseaworthy vessel at the

breakwall and warning him of the Gale warning going into effect.

2-2 11:30am, received a report of two juveniles operating an inflatable without any lifejackets. Officers responded, found the vessel reported. One 13-year-old had on a lifejacket and the operator was 15, so he was not required to "don" a PFD.

3:05pm, while on patrol, observed a large Northwest swell, 9ft as measured by sonar on Rescue Boat 17.

10:00pm, weather observations to National Weather Service, 20kt wind increase

2-3 10:00am, received a report of an errant buoy near 5th street in Oxnard Shores. Officers responded in the Fireboat to investigate. After a thorough search, no buoy or any other flotsam was discovered in the area. Large waves most likely washed whatever was observed to shore before officers arrived.

8:08pm, dispatched to a fall victim at the Ventura Marina Community. Officers responded and assisted VFD/AMR with the patient. Patient sustained no injuries

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

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



The Pet Page



Dedicated to Scamp

SPAN Thrift Store is providing \$10 spays and neuters for low income households with cats and dogs.

Two upcoming clinics are: Wednesday, February 19th at SPAN Thrift Store parking lot 110 N. Olive St. (behind Vons on Main), and a second at Albert H. Soliz Library - El Rio, 2820 Jourdan St., Oxnard, 93036 on Wednesday, March 4th.

Please call to schedule an appointment (805) 584-3823.

An appeal from Buddy Nation

We provided pet food and supplies for more than 350 people and their pets and paid veterinary bills. We find housing for people and their pets. We take calls 7 days a week, and if we couldn't help, we referred to someone who could. We cried with people whose pets died and arranged for private cremations. We rejoiced when people got jobs or housing. We encouraged people to get into drug or alcohol programs. Sometimes we just listened and commiserated. In other words, we were good neighbors.

One of the bills which we are still paying was a \$5,139 emergency bill to save the life of a tiny Maltese Terrier we have been fostering for a woman who escaped domestic violence. Without warning, little Princess started hemorrhaging. By the time we got her to Horizon ER, her eyes had rolled back in her head. They brought her back to life. She crashed again a few hours later and they saved her. She was there for 5 days, and finally she was able to eat and we knew she would survive. We put her on the phone to her Mom (who has also recovered from her trauma). In May, she will be driven across country to reunite with her person.

We are asking the community to help Buddy Nation help others. One donation can make a difference in a person's and pet's lives. People ask how they, as individuals, can make a difference ... that is how.

Please send checks made out to Buddy Nation to 159 West Prospect Street, Ventura 93001 or to PayPal Credit/Debit Cards: buddynationangels@gmail.com. Tax ID 81-3432620

By Eric Lagatta, The Columbus Dispatch

No dogs will be harmed in The Dog Aging Project as 40 scientists from across the country study 75,000 canines. Researchers are looking for ways to help people and dogs live

longer, healthier lives.

They're also looking for more dogs – all ages, breeds and mixed breeds – to participate in the study. In fact, they're trying to find the oldest dog in America, said veterinarian Audrey Ruple.

The dogs will be studied for 10 years as they live out their lives at home, said Dr. Ruple, an epidemiologist and assistant professor at Purdue University and one of the 40 researchers working on The Dog Aging Project (dogagingproject.org). It costs nothing to participate.

This is "a citizen science project" that will collect data "to advance our understanding of how genes, lifestyle and environment influence aging." It includes looking at how chemical exposures and noise pollution impact health and longevity. On the website, click on "nominate your dog" if you wish to participate.

Researchers want to know if the dog is neutered or spayed, frequency of veterinarian visits, and where it sleeps at night.

Going forward, owners will be asked to periodically complete online surveys. Dogs go to their own veterinarians once a year for exams. Some people will be sent kits for their vets to collect blood, urine and other samples. Veterinary records in some cases will need to be uploaded to the researchers.

"Dogs are good models for humans," Dr. Ruple said. "They have similar genetics, share our environment, and have similar diseases and health issues. We will be asking 'How do dogs age healthfully?' in order to better understand how we can age healthfully, too."

Most of the funding for The Dog Aging Project comes from the National Institute of Aging, which is part of the National Institutes of Health. Total funding so far is \$22.8 million, which includes private donations. Donations are solicited on project's website.

Co-directors of the study are Daniel Promislow and Matt Kaeberlein of the University of Washington. Chief veterinary officer is Kate E. Creevy of Texas A&M University.

Kerry Kay saw the dog as he was pulling out of the Dollar General in Hilliard.

Wandering among four lanes of traffic on Hilliard-Rome Road, the pooch seemed unaware of the dangerous circumstances.

"No fear on that road," Kay, 56, recalled of the Dec. 3 incident. "People were swerving and missing him."

Fortunately, Kay and a few other passers-by were able to help the dog to safety.

And when the dog's owners came rushing from a nearby home, he found out why the canine seemed confused about the situation: dementia.

Scamp Club

(Scampclub pets are not for adoption.)



My name is Joey, and I am the guardian of this adorable little girl named Louvelle, that's why she's in this photo with me. I love to play, take walks and chase rabbits (I never catch them)!

Join Scamp Club

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

Lost pet? Go to LostCatVenturaCounty.com or LostDogVenturaCounty.com - free websites for finding and posting when you've lost or found a cat or dog.

Dementia in aging dogs isn't uncommon, said Meghan Herron, associate professor in veterinary behavior at Ohio State University's College of Veterinary Medicine.

"Some people may not realize," Herron said. "They may think 'Oh, he's just old,' but it's actually a disease. Dogs are living longer, so we're seeing it more," she said.

Known clinically as cognitive dysfunction syndrome, the disease is partly attributable to improved diets and medicine, which allow pets' bodies to outlive their brains.

28% of dogs ages 11 to 12 and 68% of dogs ages 15 to 16 showed one or more signs of cognitive impairment, according to a 2001 study by the school of veterinary medicine at the University of California, Davis. Cats, too, are prone to the disease.

"If you suspect your pet is exhibiting signs of CDS, it's important to go to your veterinarian to determine the best course of action to take," Morrison said.

Ohio State veterinarians will diagnosis CDS if a dog meets at least one of the so-called DISHA criteria:

Disorientation: Pets often lose their ability to navigate their home as they once did.

Interactions: Changes can include a loss of interest in greeting owners or in being petted.

Sleep changes: Among the alterations can be restlessness at night or prolonged sleep during the day.

House soiling: This becomes more prevalent as pets become incontinent or forget to signal their need to go outside.

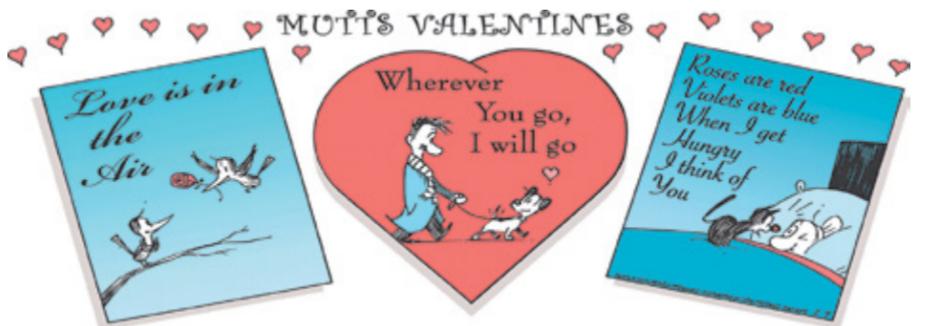
Activity changes: They can be accompanied by decreased appetite, increased anxiety and a lessened response to stimuli.

CDS has no known cure, but treatment options are available to maintain a semblance of quality of life and slow the disease's progression. Included, Herron said, are dietary changes, supplements, medication and environmental enrichment in the form of exercise, new toys and mental stimulation.

Mother Goose and Grimm



Mutts



SPAN Thrift Store
SPAY/NEUTER ANIMAL NETWORK
 We are an all volunteer, nonprofit organization
Volunteers Needed!
 More Spays - Less Strays
 Donations Always Appreciated!
 Spay and Neuter for Low & No Income Families in Ventura County

\$10 Low/No Income Spay & Neuter Wed., February 19th in SPAN parking lot. Must call for appointment (805) 584-3823

\$10 Low/No Income Spay & Neuter Wed., March 4th Albert H. Soliz Library - El Rio 2820 Jourdan St., Oxnard, CA 93036 Must call for appointment (805) 584-3823

805.641.1170 110 A & B N. Olive St., Ventura CA 93001 www.spanonline.org

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The Pet Page

Forever homes wanted

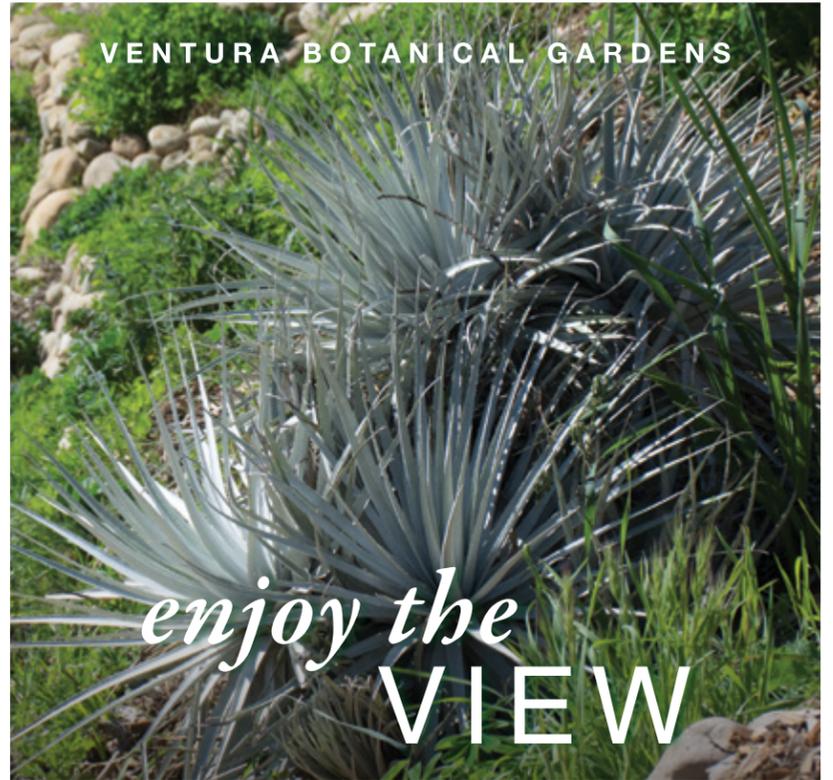
Hi: I'm Buddie, a 12-year-old Brussels Griffon who was rescued from Animal Services. I'm grateful to C.A.R.L. for giving me a chance to find my forever home.

My eyesight isn't that great, and I have arthritis in my back but that doesn't stop me from getting excited to go out for walks. I hop like a bunny when on walks and I go for a nap once back from a walk. I'm good with other dogs. I'm a picky eater too, my preference being cheese, hot dogs and chicken. I don't like having things put over my head so a step-in harness would be best.

I'd do best in a quiet adult only home with someone who wants a low energy dog and can respect my boundaries. Canine Adoption and Rescue League C.A.R.L.



Adoptable Elton is spreading the word that Ventura County Animals Services is offering an adoption special for the month of February. Any shelter bunny that is available for adoption and already spayed or neutered can be adopted for \$14. He and so many shelter rabbits would thrive in a safe and loving indoor home. To meet Elton and learn more about this month's adoption special, please visit VCAS at 600 Aviation Drive in Camarillo and ask for ID #A710924.



Free Admission on Presidents' Day

Bring your family and friends to enjoy the Gardens, dogs are welcome.

To learn more about the Gardens, docents will be available to answer questions.

JOIN US
Monday,
February 17th

HOURS
9am-5pm

SUPPORT THE VENTURA BOTANICAL GARDENS, BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

567 S. Poli St. | 232.3113 | VenturaBotanicalGardens.com

This 'n' That VC Children and Family Services' is changing their name

Ventura County Children and Family Services' is changing their name to Homes with Heart VC. The change is due to the outpouring of support from the community, who graciously open their homes to youth and children in care and speaks more genuinely to the mission behind recruitment, to find loving homes with heart to mentor and support our children, youth and their families.

Historically, Foster VC Kids recruitment program has garnered a significant increase in resource family inquiries since it first started in 2014. Now the brand seeks to innovate by re-educating everyone on why they are changing their name to Homes with Heart VC.

The initiative was developed six years ago to increase the amount of loving families to take in and support youth in care in Ventura. Learn how Ventura County Children and Family Services' Homes with Heart VC is making a difference throughout Ventura County, www.homeswithheartvc.org.

2019 Fair Poster receives accolades

Continued from page 5

the annual Achievement Awards.

"I am proud of our staff's representation of our Fair and of our community at the WFA Achievement Awards," said Barbara Quaid, CEO, Ventura County Fair. "Our awards speak to the quality of our overall marketing efforts and programs."

The Achievement Awards recognize the

very best efforts that a fair puts forth for its community. This year, Ventura County Fair received 8 Achievement Awards recognizing everything from the Fair's advertising to its contributions from the community.

The 2020 Ventura County Fair will open on Wednesday, August 5 and run through Sunday, August 16. For Fair information visit www.venturacountyfair.org or call (805) 648-3376.

The Ventura County Fairgrounds is owned by the State of California and administered by the 31st District Agricultural Association under the direction of the Division of Fairs and Expositions, Department of Food and Agriculture. A nine-member Board of Directors, appointed by the Governor, oversees the Association. The 31st DAA is a self-supporting entity, receiving no tax dollars.

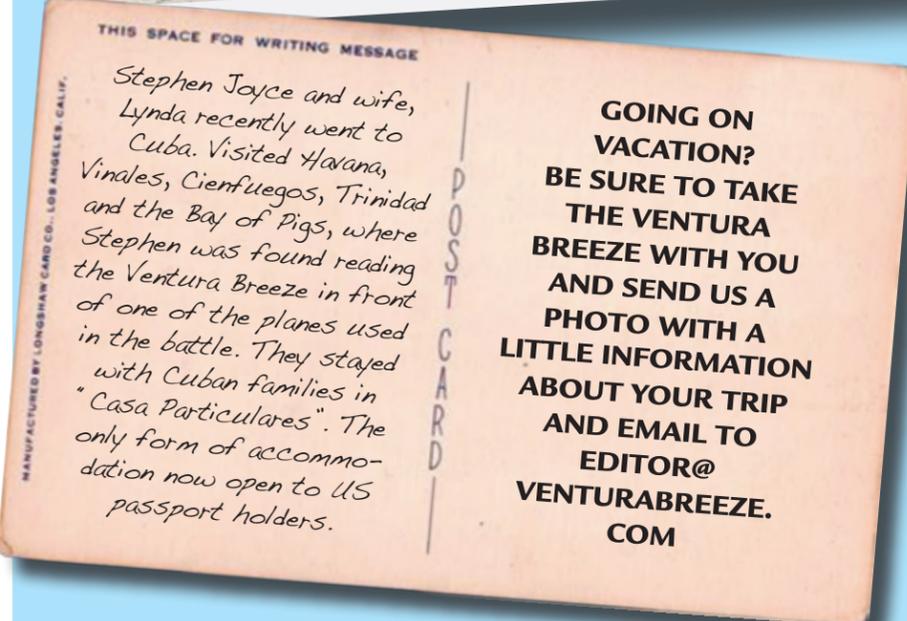
Founded in 1922, Western Fairs Association (WFA) is a nonprofit trade association serving the fair industry throughout the western United States and Canada. The association's primary purpose is to assist in maintaining the highest professional standards within the fair industry through a voluntary network of individuals and organizations. The primary objective of Western Fairs Association is to promote the prosperity of fairs through educational activities, training programs and legislative advocacy.

2020 Ventura River lawsuit

Continued from page 1

notice, sometime in the next 6 months.

The goal of the City of Ventura is to work with other affected parties to protect all of our water rights, while taking steps to preserve the health and sustainability of the river and the fish.





by Pam Baumgardner
VenturaRocks.com

Let's acknowledge the elephant in the room, and then move on. Yes, another venue has closed its doors. What's worse, it's a Main Street venue, this time Oak and Main. Was it due to mismanagement? Bad service? Poor advertising? It's easy to be a Monday morning quarterback, but instead, let's all just vow to support your favorite venues making up Ventura's music scene. Rent is incredibly high, and the bands deserve to be paid well, so understand that us music lovers are the ones who truly give it the blood to keep it going.

Here now, your Valentine's musical choices for February 14: there will be a Punk Rock Prom party (all ages) at Bike Ventura on the Avenue with Rafa Rose, Martini Drive and Without Words; Colette Lovejoy plays Café Fiore; serious dancing will be going on at Copa Cubana with House Arrest; there's a 20's theme party at Four Brix Winery with Ginger & the Hoosier Daddies; Benjamin Buttner plays jazz & blues at La Cosecha Modern Concina in the Crown Plaza Hotel; Limon y Sal offers up Mariachi Aguilas de Oxnard dinner shows; there's a "Rock into my Heart" party at the Sewer with Spacedragon and the Mystos; in Ojai, a special evening of live music with Jade Hendrix at Topa Mountain Winery; in Oxnard, jazz with Toni Jannotta at 1901 Speakeasy in Oxnard; and finally, not only can you celebrate Valentine's Day with Shawn Jones at Grapes and Hops, but it's a Marti Gras birthday celebration for owner Tammy White as well.

Get your cowboy boots out because Saturday, February 15 will be the 4th annual Country Music Crawl in downtown Ventura featuring six bands and six venues where at the start you pick the color cup to represent whether your single (blue) or in a committed relationship (red). I'm thinking we should always have that option in all bars don't you think? In any case, here's the line up starting at Blue Agave at 4 pm with Lacie Mae; Ted Z & the Wranglers at Star Lounge at 5; then over to Grapes and Hops for Blind Innocense at 6; up to Limon y Sal for Paige Peel at 7; Mike Scully plays Winchesters at 8 pm; then wrapping up the crawl at the Sewer for Rob Leines at 9 pm by which time I'm sure it will be an actual crawl. Get your tickets at CountryBarCrawl.com.

Pulse Drumming will hold a special drum clinic at the Winery Ventura Sunday afternoon, February 23, with Fausto Cuevas (toured with Stevie Wonder, Queen Latifah, Santana, and now with Jennifer Lopez). Following the clinic will be a live performance starting at 2:30.

And finally, there will be a fundraiser on Saturday, February 22, for an all-inclusive playground in Arroyo Verde Park at the Garage with over ten bands supporting this effort including the Robot Uprising, Fuse, Day Drunk, One Minute Run, Malice Thoughts and Plot.

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. For updated music listings daily, go to www.VenturaRocks.com.

Music Calendar

For more events go to VenturaRocks.com
All Venues Ventura, unless otherwise noted.

Bike Ventura

490 N. Ventura Avenue
Fri 2/14: Rafa Rose, Martini Drive, Without Words

Blue Agave

185 E. Santa Clara
Fridays: Mariachi Band; DJ
Saturdays: DJ
Sat 2/15: Lacie Mae (4 pm)

Boatyard Pub

Ventura Harbor Village
Tuesday-Thursday 6 pm, Friday & Saturday 7 pm

Mondays: Milo Sledge
Thursdays: Jim Friery, Bluegrass Jam

Wed 2/12: Karen Eden
Fri 2/14: Teresa Russell & Stephen Geyer

Sat 2/15: Pop Covers

Sun 2/16: Déjà vu 2

Tues 2/18: Frank Barajas

Wed 2/19: Finnhead Dave

Fri 2/21: Frank Barajas

Tues 2/25: Shorebreak

Bombay Bar & Grill

143 S. California Street
Thursdays, Friday & Saturdays: DJs
Sat 2/22: Mighty Cash Cats, Silver Threads (6 pm)

Café Fiore

66 S. California Street
Wed 2/12: Big Adventure

Fri 2/14: Colette Lovejoy & Band

Tues 2/18: Fabulous Hangovers

Wed 2/19: Donna Butler

Tues 2/25: The Six

Camarillo Barrelworks

126 Wood Road, Suite 104
Camarillo, CA
Music 7-10 pm

Sat 2/15: Johnny & the Love Handles

Cantina 31 Limon y Sal

598 E. Main Street

Saturdays: DJ

Sundays 1-4: Instone

Sat 2/15: Paige Peel (7 pm)

Sat 2/22: Vinyl Gypsies (2 pm)

The Cave

4435 McGrath Street

5:30 - 8:30 pm

Wed & Saturdays: Varon Thomas

Thurs & Fridays: Warren Takahashi

Concrete Jungle Brewing

4561 Market Street

Sat 2/15: Juleen, Joey Macmahan, Martini Drive

Copa Cubana

Ventura Harbor Village

Music 7 pm; Sat 11 am; Sundays 3 - 6 pm

Tuesdays: The Jerry McWorter Trio

Thursdays: The Gypsy Blues Band

Fri 2/14: House Arrest

Sat 2/15: House Arrest

Sun 2/16: House Arrest

Sun 2/23: Karen & the Bad Apples

Dargan's Irish Pub

593 E. Main Street

Music: 4pm

Sun 2/16: The Sunday Drivers

Discovery

1888 Thompson Blvd

Sat 2/15: Strange Days

Fri 2/21: The Question, After the Smoke

Sat 2/22: Led Zeplica

El Rey Cantina

294 E. Main Street

Fridays & Saturdays: DJ

Four Brix Winery

2290 Eastman Avenue

Fridays 6 pm; Sundays 1 pm

Fri 2/14: Ginger & the Hoosier Daddies

Fri 2/21: Vinyl Gypsies

The Garage

1091 Scandia Avenue

Thursdays: Open Mic w/ Spencer

Sat 2/15: The Guillotines, Screech of

Death, Psychotic Barnyard

Fri 2/21: Curl Up and Die, Pressure Cracks

Sat 2/22: The Robot Uprising, The

Cursed Bastards, Cruda, Voodoo Dawn,

Grapes and Hops

454 E. Main Street

Wed 6-9, Fri & Sat 8 pm, Sun 4 pm

Tuesdays: Tango Tuesdays

Wed 2/12: Bluegrass Jam

Fri 2/14: Shawn Jones Trio

Sat 2/15: Blind Innocense (6 pm); Dive

Bar Messiahs (8 pm)

Sun 2/16: Salty Suites

Wed 2/19: Gypsy Jam

Fri 2/21: Johnny & the Love Handles

Sat 2/22: Blue Motel Room

Sun 2/23: Shawn Jones acoustic

The Hong Kong Inn

435 E. Thompson Blvd

Tuesdays: Open mic (6-10 pm)

Fri 2/21: Dead Heat, ROC, Omega

Poiknt, TR, more...

Sat 2/22: Blackstar, Wired

Keynote Lounge

10245 E. Telephone Road

Tues, Wed and Sun: Karaoke

Thursdays: Open mic night

Fri 2/14: DJ AVG

Sat 2/15: Old School

Fri 2/21: Zep Heads

Sat 2/22: DJ AVG

Leashless Brewing

585 E. Thompson Blvd.

Tues: Open Mic, The Listening Room

Fri 2/14: Joe Henry III

Sat 2/15: Kevin Tate

Thurs 2/20: Bobby & Friends

Fri 2/21: The Salty Suites

Sat 2/22: Boom Duo

Sun 2/23: Singer/Songwriter showcase

Made West Brewing

1744 Donlon Street

Thurs 6 pm; Sat 11 am - 9 pm; Sun 1 - 7

Sun 2/16: Milo Sledge

Thurs 2/20: Mark Masson

Sat 2/22: Peter Blackwelder

Sun 2/23: Kirby Ai

Majestic Ventura Theater

26 S. Chestnut Street

Thurs 2/20: Dark Star Orchestra

Sat 2/22: Skillet

Margarita Villa

1567 Spinnaker Drive

Sun 2/16: Mark Masson (2 pm)

Mon 2/17: Karen Eden & Bill Macpherson (2 pm)

Sat 2/22: Crosscut 805

Sun 2/23: Road Brothers

Namba Performing Arts

47 S. Oak Street

Sat 2/15: Licity's Love Fest

Sun 2/16: Dan Rosenboom

O'Leary's

6555 Telephone Road

Wed: Karaoke

Fri 2/14: Live Band Karaoke

Orozco's de Ventura

839 E. Front Street

Fri & Sat 5 pm: Victor and Artis

Paddy's

2 W. Main Street

Wednesdays: Karaoke

Fri & Sat: DJs

Peirano's Delicatessen

204 E. Main Street

Music: 6-8, Sundays Noon - 2

Sundays: The Swillys

Sat 2/15: Kelly's Lot Trio

Sat 2/22: 805 Allstarz

Plan B Winery

3520 Arundell Circle

Sun 2/16: Theresa Russell

Sun 2/23: Ray Jaurique & the Bluz Trio

Sandbox Coffeehouse

204 E. Thompson Blvd

805-641-1025

Thurs 6 pm, Weekends noon

Thursdays Open Mic

Sat 2/15: Ray Ray

Sun 2/16: Bruce Mancuso

Sat 2/22: Jeremy But

Sans Souci

21 S. Chestnut

Sundays: DJ Darko

Mondays: Karaoke w/ Brian Parra

Tuesdays: DJ Nick Dean

Wednesdays: Open mic

Thursdays: DJ Spinobi

Fri 2/14: Spacedragon, The Mystos

Sat 2/15: Rob Leines, Blackstar

Sat 2/22: Ripkatz

The Shores Restaurant

1031 Harbor Blvd, Oxnard

Thursdays: Karaoke

Fri 2/14: Ray Ray and the Posse

Sat 2/15: Pull the Trigger

Sun 2/16: Masters of the Past (12:30 pm)

Fri 2/21: Brandon Ragan

Sun 2/23: Brandon Ragan Project

The Star Lounge

343 E. Main Street

Thursdays: DJ Terry

Fri 2/14: Renegades 805

Sat 2/15: Ted Z & the Wranglers, Greg & the Gallows

Fri 2/21: CRV

Sat 2/22: Mini Driver Band

The Tavern

211 E. Santa Clara Street

Sundays: DJ Thursdays: Get Right DJ

Sat 2/22: The Black Stripes

Topa Mountain Winery

821 W. Ojai Avenue, Ojai

Music: 3-5 pm, unless otherwise noted

Fri 2/14: Jade Hendrix (5-7 pm)

Sat 2/15: Shawn Jones

Sun 2/16: Bad Leaf

Sat 2/22: National Cat

Sun 2/23: Sam Kulchin

Ventura College Performing Arts Center

4700 Loma Vista Road

Sat 2/15: Chamber Music Concert

Ventura Harbor Comedy Club

1559 Spinnaker Drive

Sun 2/23: Tina Sings Sinatra to Simone (3 pm)

Ventura Harbor Village

1583 Spinnaker Drive

Fri 1 pm; Sat & Sun noon

Fri 2/14: Kenny Devoe

Sat 2/15: Surfer Joe Band

Sun 2/16: Karen Eden

Winchester's

632 E. Main Street

(805) 653-7446

Music at 7:00 pm; Sundays at 5 pm

Fri 2/14: Denny Feltwell

Sat 2/15: Mike Scully

Sun 2/16: Karen and the Bad Apples

Fri 2/21: Karyn 805

Sat 2/22: Anchor & Bear

Sun 2/23: Theresa Russell & Jerry Breiner

The Winery Ventura

4756 Market Street

Thurs - Sat 7-10; Sundays 5-8

Thurs 2/13: RJ Mischo

Fri 2/21: Kirk Fletcher

Sat 2/22: The Art Farmers (1 pm)

Sun 2/23: Pausto Cuevas (2:30 pm)

1901 Speakeasy

740 South B Street, Oxnard

Tues - Thurs 6 pm; Fri & Sat 7:30 pm

Tuesdays and Thursdays: Mark McKinney

Wednesdays:



Paintings features the lives of Tortilla Flats residents.

Attend the dedication of the new Tortilla Flats Legacy Mural on Sunday, March 1, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Museum of Ventura County. 100 E. Main St.

This exciting new public art project by MB Hanrahan and Moses Mora features the lives of Tortilla Flats residents displaced when the 101 Freeway was built through the west end of Ventura. It was financed entirely by private donors, both large and small, and was painted on the historic 1903 Building on the corner of W. Main St. and Ventura Ave.

11 a.m. Mixer with light refreshments
 12 p.m. Speeches and formal dedication
 Interpretive tours of the mural with artist MB Hanrahan and Moses Mora.



(Left) *Tango Dancer*, Oil on linen, 1st Place, Duane Eells
 (Right) *Brand New Day*, Watercolor, 2nd Place, Lois Bloom

Buenaventura Art Association is exhibiting award winners and other select works of fine art during its 34th annual Open Competition, running until Feb. 22 in The Martin V. and Martha K. Smith Pavilion of the Museum of Ventura County. Noted Oxnard artist and instructor Aaron Westerberg served as juror.

The competition was open to all professional and amateur artists in all media. Awards were announced at a gala reception on Jan. 25. First Place was

awarded to Ojai artist, **Duane Eells**. Second Place went to **Lois Bloom**, **Galina Richardson** won Third Place and Honorable Mentions were given to artists **Ricardo Morales**, **Barbara Brown**, **Diane Hanley** and **Don Fay**.

The Museum of Ventura County is open Tuesdays through Sundays, 11am to 5pm, however the Smith Pavilion meeting room, where the exhibit is displayed, is frequently closed to the public when it is rented out for other events. Please call ahead to make sure the Pavilion is open to the public when you plan to visit. Entrance fees apply. Call the museum at 805-653-0323.

Cruisin' Love Bug by **Izzi**, 5th grade student at Sierra Linda Elementary, inspired by Frank Romero.

The public is invited to join Focus on the Masters Archive & Library (FOTM) for a celebration of youthful expression featuring artwork created with Learning To See Outreach (LTS). Sierra Linda Elementary students learned about color through the ancient art Shibori tie-dye.



FOTM documents the lives and works of extraordinary artists from our community, providing art programming for all ages. Each lesson of the innovative LTS in-school, hands-on art program is inspired by one of these artists, beginning with a PowerPoint presentation and demonstration.

Oxnard Library
 251 South A St., Oxnard
 Monday - Thursday, 9:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.,

Focus on the Masters (FOTM) kicks off its 25th Season of their award winning Artist Spotlight interview series beginning February 23, 2020 at the Museum of Ventura County. **Kim Schoenstadt's** international site-specific installations are inspired by the intersections of architecture, sculpture, color, line, history, culture and concepts based around overlapping points in time. The artist states, "My work has always had two interlocking avenues of inquiry."

Free to FOTM members, \$15 for public; \$10 for seniors.

The Artist Spotlight is open to students with valid ID free of charge. FOTM is happy to assist with tracking attendance and sign-in sheets. Reservations required. To RSVP visit www.FocusOnTheMasters.com or call 805.653.2501.

AfterGlow Fundraising Event: The public is welcome to join the artist for a celebratory fundraising dinner at the Ventura seaside home of Martin and Virginia Furmanski. Paid reservations are required prior to February, 18. We expect this AfterGlow to sell out. Maps will be given to paid guests at the interview.

\$30 FOTM members, \$40 Non-members.
 To learn more about Kim, visit www.KimSchoenstadt.com.





Lighter Breeze

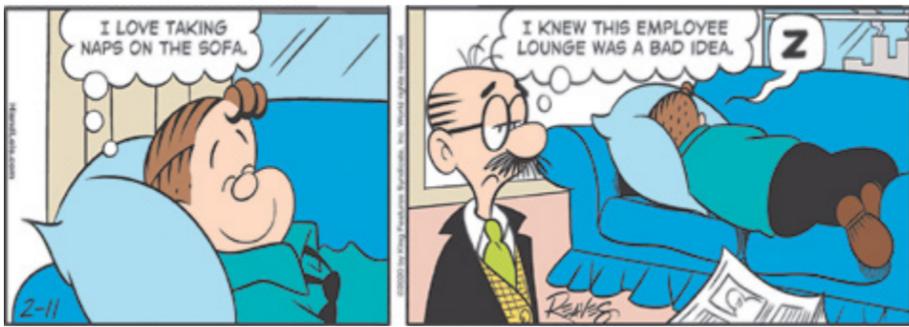
Daddy Daze



Baby Blues



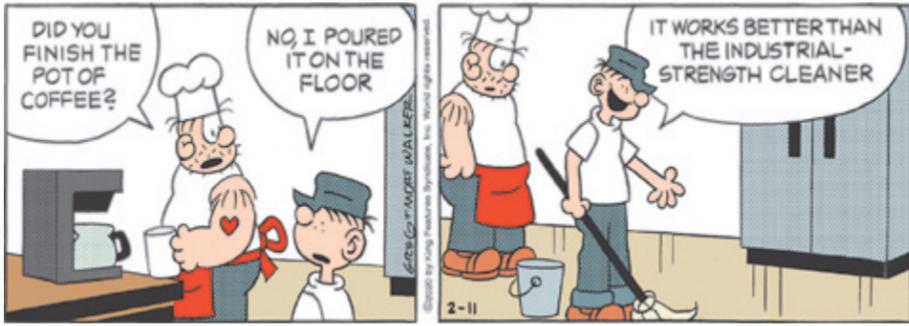
Hi and Lois



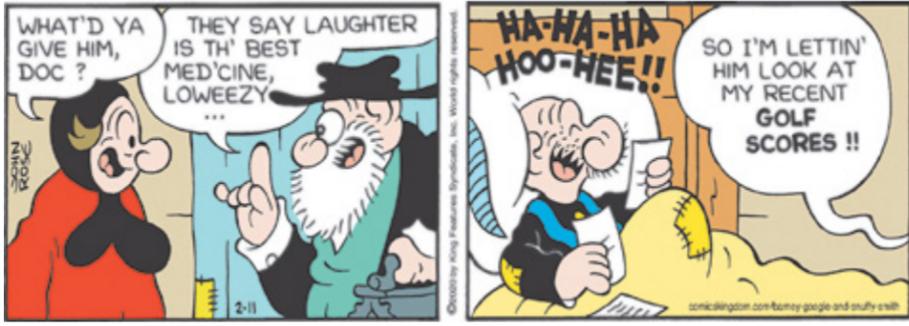
Dustin



Beetle Bailey



Barney Google and Snuffy Smith



Solutions on page 13

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

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

Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row, each column, each 3x3 box, and each small 1x1 box square contains a 1 of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

Solutions on page 13

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Move like molasses
- 5 High card
- 8 Judicial garment
- 12 Place for sports reporters
- 14 Vivacity
- 15 Aware
- 16 Flex
- 17 Do sums
- 18 Kindle downloads
- 20 Sew loosely
- 23 Liveliness, in music
- 24 Wheelbase terminus
- 25 Obama's old title
- 28 - de Janeiro
- 29 Hawaiian dances
- 30 Deity
- 32 Dakar's country
- 34 Salver
- 35 Bacchanalian blast
- 36 Yonder
- 37 Hallux, more commonly
- 40 That girl
- 41 "Superfood" berry
- 42 Mexican miss
- 47 Showroom

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			

- 8 Start the PC up again
- 9 Bread spread
- 10 Savings institution
- 11 Make - meet
- 13 Faction
- 19 Prejudice
- 20 Tavern
- 21 Line of symmetry
- 22 - gin fizz
- 23 Stop, at sea
- 25 Hints at
- 26 Shrek is one
- 27 Bellow
- 29 Medal earner
- 31 Coloring agent
- 33 Idea
- 34 Gas bill units
- 36 Commandment starter
- 37 Commanded
- 38 On the rocks
- 39 Chess or checkers
- 40 Use scissors
- 43 Historic time
- 44 Wall climber
- 45 Can metal
- 46 Joan of -

DOWN

- 1 Wife of Saturn
- 2 Raw rock
- 3 Buddhist sect
- 4 Mansion and its surroundings
- 5 Sleeping
- 6 Opposed
- 7 Outer

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praise from impressed colleagues. **LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) Whether it's for business purposes or just for leisure, a trip might be just what you need right now. You would benefit both from a change of scenery and from meeting new people.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Your natural Arian leadership qualities make you the person others will follow in tackling that important project. But don't get so involved in the work that you neglect your personal life.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) While things generally go well this week, a romantic situation seems to have stalled. But you can restart it if you want to. Then again, maybe this is a chance to reassess the situation.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Aspects favor sorting through your possessions, both at work and at home, to start giving away what you don't use, don't need or don't like. Relax later with someone special.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A meeting that was promised quite a while back could finally happen. So be sure you're prepared with everything you'll need to make your case sound convincing and doable.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) The issues are not quite as clear as they should be. That's why you need to avoid getting involved in disputes between colleagues at work or between relatives or personal friends.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) A workplace blunder could create a problem down the line unless you deal with it right now to see how and why it happened. Don't be surprised at what you might learn.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You'll get lots of support from others if you own up to your mistake quickly and include a full and honest explanation. Learn from this experience so that you don't repeat it.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) This is a good time to re-sort your priorities and see if adjustments are called for. Be honest with yourself as you decide what to keep, what to discard and what to change.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) There might be some early confusion over a major move, whether it's at work or at home. But once you get a full breakdown of what it entails, it should be easier to deal with. Good luck.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Letting yourself be bathed in the outpouring of love and support from those who care for you will help you get through a difficult period sooner rather than later. Good luck.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Creating order out of chaos, even in the most untidy spaces, should be no problem for organized Virgos. So go ahead and do it, and then accept

BORN THIS WEEK: You have an uncanny gift for reaching out to all people and creating bridges of understanding among them.

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Showtime

A View from House Seats

Rubicon digs deeply into family dynamics

by Shirley Lorraine

The 2019-2020 theatrical season at the Rubicon Theatre in downtown Ventura promises “stories about taking responsibility, finding freedom, daring to hope, living in harmony – and charting a new and certain course in an uncertain world”. The season also features plays by female playwrights. It is off to an auspicious beginning.

The current production, *Never, Not Once*, by Carey Crim was awarded the Jane Chambers’ Playwriting Award in 2017. This is the second production by Crim mounted at the Rubicon. It is a complex emotional study with many humorous moments.

Eleanor, a young college student raised by two mothers, desires to learn more about her genetic background. She hires a private investigator to assist in finding her father, whom she has never known. This disturbing action raises anxieties for her birth mother, Allison, as she has kept information about him secret for 20 years.

As Eleanor’s search continues, the family is forced to confront painful hidden secrets. Doug, the true father, appears back on the scene and reveals his struggles through life. Now he is face to face with a daughter he didn’t know existed and must try and repair the past with her mother, who vehemently resists.

Her long-time partner, Nadine, is supportive and at the same time wants to see Allison come to grips with the truth and move forward. Old misunderstandings come up as the two express differing viewpoints on the subject at hand.

Eleanor is aided in her search by her boyfriend Rob who becomes another spoke in the wheel of the family’s dysfunction, trying his best to be helpful and supportive.

Each member of the cast is simply superb. Each character undergoes many layers of emotional discovery as the story

unfolds. The play is recommended for mature audiences due to the adult subject matter and language. The play runs without an intermission, about 90 minutes.

Melanie Cruz portrays the central character of Allison. She is at once stoic, frightened, anxious and resolute as she navigates areas she had hoped never to open. Her partner, Nadine, played by Diahnna Nicole Baxter, provides a sensible counterpoint as the second mother figure to Eleanor.

Sydney Berk is the enthusiastic Eleanor. Isaac Cruz is Rob, her college friend who becomes her boyfriend as the search progresses. Both bring the eagerness and determination of youth to the family picture as well as a needed measure of acceptance.

The reluctant father, Doug, played by Michael Polak, works through a gamut of emotions as he struggles with not only the past between he and Allison, but also his own difficult past. He confronts his own denial and devils, and in the course of doing so, discovers what he needs to do moving forward.

The play explores the effects secrets can have in the long run, insecurities that run deep, the challenges reality can present, and how lives can be changed with truth. The many layers can be dizzying but satisfying as they resolve.

Never, Not Once runs through February 23. Performances are Wednesdays at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. (talkbacks follow the 7 p.m. show), Thursdays at 7 p.m. (Feb. 20 is College Mixer Night with special price and package for college students), Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Ticket prices range. Discounts for students, seniors, military and more are available. www.rubicontheatre.org or 805-667-2900.

Movie Review by Cindy Summers

Birds of Prey



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

In “*Birds of Prey (And the Fantabulous Emancipation of One Harley Quinn)*” Harley Quinn is targeted by sadistic nightclub owner Roman Sionis and teams up with the Huntress, Black Canary and Det. Renee Montoya to protect young pickpocket Cass and take down Sionis. Released by Warner Bros. Pictures, Directed Cathy Yan, Written by Christina Hodson and Starring Margot Robbie as Harley Quinn.

Having just broken up with the Joker, Harley Quinn (Margot Robbie) finds her independence but also finds herself targeted by everyone who she wronged, sadistic nightclub owner Roman Sionis/Black Mask (Ewan McGregor) being at the top of the list. Sionis eventually captures Harley, who negotiates her release by promising to find a stolen diamond young pickpocket Cassandra “Cass” Cain (Ella Jay Basco) took from Zsasz, Sionis’ face-carving right-handman. Unfortunately, Cass had just been picked up by police and was in jail, so Harley grabbed a sling full of glitter and color filled bean bags for her shotgun, and broke Cass

out of jail using her ninja-like fighting skills.

Cass decided the safest place to keep the diamond was to swallow it, which created quite a predicament for Harley, who decided the best option was to get some laxative and duct tape Cass to a toilet. To make things more challenging, Sionis put a \$500,000 bounty out on Cass, which had Harley fighting every bad guy in the city to protect Cass, though she eventually reverted back to her bad self and made a deal with Sionis to hand over Cass.

Dinah Lance/Black Canary (Jurnee Smollett-Bell), who originally worked in Sionis’ club as a singer but was basically forced to become his driver, warned Detective Renee Montoya (Rose Perez) that Harley planned to turn Cass over to Sionis at an abandon amusement park. Montoya headed to the park to rescue Cass, joined by the Huntress looking to recover her family’s diamond. Sionis hired an army of thugs who gathered at the park and seemed the odds were against them, but together Harley, the Huntress, Black Canary and Det. Montoya battled the bad guys, little Cass being the one to kill Sionis with a surprise grenade.

Following all that excitement, Montoya decided to leave the police force and join the Huntress and Black Canary as vigilantes known as the “*Birds of Prey*” while Harley pursued her own private eye business with Cass as her sidekick.

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Harley’s charm and wit keeps viewers rooting for her every step of the way, displaying incredible fighting skills with stunts that seem almost superhuman while using very creative and often explosive methods to overcome endless obstacles in this fast paced, action packed film. Margot Robbie, who was a also producer, colorfully embodies the spirit of Harley Quinn while also having a deliberate focus on a message of freeing women from male oppression, whether it be Harley living the Joker’s life, Det. Renee Montoya constantly being undermined by male coworkers taking credit for her work, the Black Canary being dominated by her sadistic employer Sionis, or the Huntress’ family being senselessly murdered by a ruthless mob boss, all had a back story involving evolving in the movie to a “no more” mentality.
R(for strong violence and language throughout, and some sexual and drug material)
109 minutes

Industry leaders laud local woman’s lifetime contributions

The Ventura County Fair has announced the induction of Fair CEO Barbara Quaid into the Western Fairs Association (WFA) Hall of Fame during the awards celebration at the WFA Convention and Trade Show held January 20-24 in Reno, Nevada. The prestigious award is presented annually to individuals whose dedicated efforts have enriched

the tradition of fairs and encouraged the professionalism of the industry. WFA is a non-profit trade association serving the Fair industry in the Western United States and Canada.

“I am honored and humbled to be placed in the Hall of Fame because I know that we are resilient and strong together,” says Quaid, “I am a small piece of what is a business that brings families together and creates smiles and memories, joys and rewards.”

Quaid began her career as a volunteer in the Youth Department at the Ventura County Fair and has worked in administration, concessions and as deputy manager of the VC Fair until she was



Ventura County Fair CEO inducted into Western Fairs Hall of Fame.

promoted to CEO in 2005. She is responsible for implementing an independent Carnival midway to ensure that only the best selection of rides is brought to the Ventura County Fair.

Playing an active role in the WFA, Quaid has served as treasurer, vice chair and President of the WFA. Locally she is active in the Ventura Chamber of Commerce and the Ventura Visitors and Convention Bureau.



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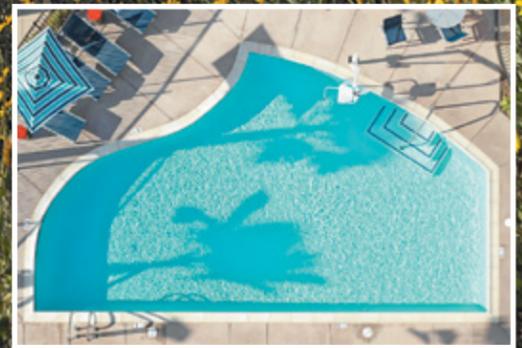
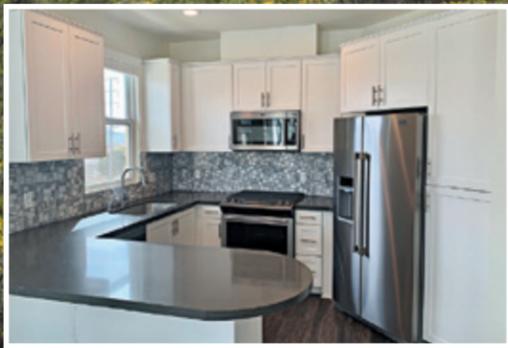
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This 'n' That



Barbara Meister and Jordan Laby.

Barbara Meister and Jordan Laby honored

The Board of the Ventura Music Festival is pleased to announce its 2020 Honorees for Outstanding Contributions to the Arts and Community.

Speaking for the Board, its president Richard Reisman said: "These two prominent individuals - Barbara Meister and Jordan Laby, together with their late spouses - have made culture- and community-changing contributions that literally created the arts landscape in Ventura and beyond, to say nothing of their important contributions to health (CMH) and education (VUSD)."

The Laby and Meister cultural legacies include founding and ongoing support for the New West Symphony, Ventura Music Festival, Rubicon Theatre, Focus on the Masters, Laby Harmony Project, Ventura County Ballet and more. Each of these institutions is now celebrating a 20th or 25th anniversary which means the number of people impacted, including the

youngest members of the community, is in the hundreds of thousands.

"I'm always struck by their humility," said "Festival Executive Director Susan Scott. "Each has accomplished so much, both professionally and philanthropically, yet neither seeks the limelight and talks instead about 'giving back' and the importance of arts and music education for children and recognition of local artists as cultural assets."

The 2020 VMF Honorees will be honored with a video, dinner and live music performance at the annual VMF Honoree Awards and Cabaret Fund-raiser on Thursday, April 30th, at the Ventura Beach Marriott hotel.

Past honorees include Betsy Blanchard Chess, Doug Halter, Nancy and Spencer Garrett, Justice Steven Z. Perren, Micheline Sakharoff, Freddie Contarino, the Limoneira Company and E. J. Harrison.

The Ventura Music Festival celebrated its 25th anniversary in 2019, with a record of 300,000 festival-goers attending over 200 performances, and 40,000 children in its Music in the Schools program. The VMF mission: to bring world-class music to the community, foster audience-artist relationships and enhance the joy of music through offerings for all ages.

VMF seeks to create an inclusive, welcoming environment in which people both see and hear themselves reflected in the music. Its 26th season is set for July 23-26 and July 30-Aug.2. The public is warmly invited to a free preview of the season on Sunday, February 16th, 3pm at the Museum of Ventura County on