



VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

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Jeannette Sanchez-Palacios and Lorrie Brown.

St. Patrick's Day Parade in years gone by

Happy St. Patrick's Day Ventura! This year everyone's favorite St. Patrick's Day Parade is sadly, yet understandably cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions. However the clever CAPS Crews and the Ventura Elks Elves have conjured up something special to fill the Saturday morning celebration. Ventura County St. Patrick's Day Parade Years Gone By is a fun-filled, festive trip down memory lane (in place of Main Street). The hour long program will feature great moments from past and recent St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Ventura County St. Patrick's Day Parade Years Gone By will premiere on Saturday, March 13 at 10AM on CAPS Channel 6 and repeat multiple times throughout the month. The program will also stream on the CAPS Media website - capsmedia.org. and air on CAPS Radio - KPPQ 104.1 FM. We hope everyone settles in with a bag of popcorn and a set of streamers to enjoy the show.

All of the CAPS Media board of directors, staff and members are excited to welcome Ventura's newest Councilmember, Jeannette Sanchez-Palacios as the District 4 representative. We look forward to working with Ms. Sanchez-Palacios on all the city projects and initiatives, and especially on those that are of greatest interest to her.

Speaking of City Council collaborations, recently CAPS had the pleasure of collaborating with City Councilmember Lorrie Brown on an historic initiative to have the Ventura City Council proclaim February as Black History Month in Ventura.

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The lighting project was envisioned five years ago.

Mission Basilica San Buenaventura installs new lighting and sound systems

by Fr. Tom Elewaut

With gratitude to our parishioners who continue to support our Called to Renew capital campaign, the Basilica lighting is now a reality! As Lent began, an extensive new lighting upgrade that highlights the sacred art and liturgical appointments for parishioners, pilgrims, and tourists is completed. The state-of-the-art lighting system replaces a 1980s era system with LED energy efficient theatrical enhancements that create a spirituality uplifting appreciation of the sacred paintings, statues, and tapestry, some of which predate the completion of the 1809 church. Each appointment is separately illuminated with sufficient congregational lighting.

A new sound system was installed as well. The new speakers offer clearer fidelity for both proclamation of the Word, and the liturgy of the Eucharist and the uplifting voices of the cantors and musicians. This project was gifted by Bill Simon, Jr. and parishioner donations to our building fund.

The lighting project was envisioned five years ago and is the second major project funded by the capital campaign by parishioners. The first campaign project remodeled restrooms in the garden utilized by parishioners and guests visiting the historic downtown

Mission. Additionally, the Archdiocese of Los Angeles funded the exterior painting of the rectory, the Gift Shop building, wood flooring refinished in the rectory and a new roof on the Gift Shop building.

In June 2020 Pope Francis elevated Mission San Buenaventura to a minor basilica in the Catholic church, becoming the seventh Minor Basilica in California. The new lighting is befitting a basilica and now highlights the oil paintings of the Via Crucis (Way of the Cross) painted in New Spain approximately forty years prior to the completion of the present church. Statues of patron San Buenaventura, St. Mary, and St. Joseph behind the main altar are strikingly visible as is the tabernacle, altar, and ambo (pulpit) among several other statues and a painting of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Many of the eighteenth-century statues have been restored in the past decade by the South Coast Fine Arts Conservancy funded by the California Missions Foundation and the Nicholas and Margaret Carrozzi Charitable Foundation and private donors.

The seven-week lighting installation project was engineered by John Maloney, P.E., designed by Mar-Vista Lighting and Chauvet Professional, and installed by Taft Electric.



The community has relied on the Marketplace for wonderful things to purchase.

Ventura College Foundation's Weekend Marketplace returns to East Parking Lot

Ventura College Foundation's Weekend Marketplace, which temporarily moved to the West Parking Lot on the Ventura College campus while solar panels were installed at its home on the East Parking Lot, has returned to its permanent location

The East Parking Lot is able to accommodate more vendors and guests than the smaller West Parking Lot location. Prior to the COVID pandemic, the Marketplace drew about 2,000 shoppers each weekend with 300 to 400 vendors. However, because of current COVID pandemic restrictions, the attendance is capped at 25% of capacity, and the number of Marketplace vendors has been limited.

"We want to thank all our vendors, patrons and neighbors to the Marketplace who have been supportive as we first closed, reopened, then moved and are now moving back," says Anne Paul King, the foundation's executive director. "It's been a rollercoaster."

For more than three decades, the community has relied on the Marketplace for affordable fresh produce and

Continued on page 15

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The Ventura Breeze is celebrating 14 years of publishing local news thanks to the support of the Ventura community and our advertisers. The time has come, however, for us to ask our dedicated readers to consider helping us continue publishing during this difficult time. Due to the lack of advertisers (which we understand) we really need your generous support to continue to bring local news to the community. In order to do this, we are starting the Ventura Breeze Honor Roll. The names of Honor Roll donors will be published in the paper unless donors don't want to be shown. As the publisher of this community's favorite newspaper, we appreciate the relationship we have with our readers and we pledge to keep bringing you all the local news and events.

There are a couple ways to contribute and be a 2021 Honor Roll Donor. You can go to our website (www.venturabreeze.com) where you will find a DONATE link at the top of the page and use the PayPal button to make a donation, which allows you to pay by credit card or with your PayPal account. If you would rather pay by check or have the Breeze staff process your donation, you can use the form below and mail in your check or credit card information. You may also contribute by going to www.gofundme.com/f/support-the-breeze.

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Scorpion offers a beautiful backdrop for picnics, hiking or camping.

Island Packers Cruises now offering trips to Scorpion Anchorage

Island Packer Cruises, established in 1968, has recently begun to operate daily scheduled trips for day visitors and campers from Ventura Harbor Village to Scorpion Anchorage in Channel Islands National Park - The Galapagos of North America.

The new pier at Scorpion Anchorage now allows Island Packers, the official park concessionaire, to offer safe and accessible access at Scorpion Anchorage.

Channel Islands National Park Scorpion Anchorage on Santa Cruz Island is located 18 miles off the coast of Ventura County. At 96 square miles, Santa Cruz Island is the largest of Southern California's eight Channel

Islands. Visitors can opt to arrange a kayak tour of Scorpion Anchorage from Santa Barbara Adventure Company.

At present, the upper Scorpion Canyon Campground is now open, but the lower Scorpion Canyon Campground remains closed until further notice.

Scorpion offers a beautiful backdrop for picnics, hiking or camping as well as a user-friendly beach area with access to one of the Marine Reserves. Snorkel with the diverse sea creatures of the kelp forest or take a kayak tour through the sea caves with Santa Barbara Adventure Company.

Island Packers will also continue to offer daily trips to Prisoners Harbor

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Answer In A Breeze

Question: Can you let us know what is happening the old location of the star free press location on Ralston St? As I was driving by today, the entire building has been demolished.

Marsha Moreland

Answer: This will be a 50,000-square-foot Veterans Affairs outpatient. It replaces a smaller VA clinic located in Oxnard.

The new one-story clinic, which will be run by the VA, is planned for the eight-acre site at 5250 Ralston St., which is the former home of the Ventura County Star that can be seen from the freeway. The VA will pay an annual fee of \$3.1 million and \$9.7 million to develop the new space.

It seems odd that it was cheaper to demolish this building and start from scratch instead of remodeling the existing building.



News & Notes

One year of self care in the wake of the pandemic

During the pandemic self care businesses (like other businesses) have been struggling to stay alive. By carefully following the guidelines to serve their clients these 3 Ventura Harbor self care businesses have managed to still serve their customers and stay open. Just another reason to visit the Harbor.

Silhouettes By The Beach

We are a full service salon, catering to men and women, located just steps from the beach in the beautiful Ventura Harbor Village. Whether you are local to our community or vacationing in Ventura, Silhouettes by the Beach is a convenient destination for everyone.

Our salon has been meticulously designed, with custom elements to help us provide exceptional service in a comfortable, relaxing environment. We invite you to indulge and treat yourself in this beautiful space. We offer an array of services, all in the unparalleled coastal beauty of Ventura. Our professional team is passionate and talented, with extensive training and up-to-the-minute styling. We love what we do and it shows!

Call ahead to make an appointment, and check out our Yelp! page to see what other satisfied customers are saying about Silhouettes.

1591 Spinnaker Dr. 117B 805-650-9014

Hair Extensions By Shirley

Welcome to Hair Extensions by Shirley and gift shop! Where you can get your perfect look!

Switching up your hair to a longer, fuller, more voluminous style is fun, and it's one of the best (most non-committal) ways to achieve a major hair makeover is experimenting with extensions. Your hairstyle options are practically endless when it comes to extensions—they give you even more freedom to rock unexpected cuts and colors. Trust, once you look in the mirror, you'll feel like a whole new woman. This is coming from a reformed extensions addict—I hid my natural hair underneath extensions for two years straight at one point in time.

Our salon specializes in hair extensions, and can help you determine the best method for your hair type, lifestyle and budget. With hair extensions, you can achieve any hair style you desire, whether extreme or subtle. Your extensions can be straight, wavy, or as curly as you want. Our stylists are trained in medical hair loss.

1559 Spinnaker Dr. 103 805-500-3402

Frenchies Modern Nail Care

Frenchies Modern Nail Care is a one-of-a-kind nail salon offering a full lineup of services for hands and feet. Services range from a classic manicure to a deluxe pedicure with a sugar scrub, massage and moisturizing mask.

The unique nail salon is currently adhering to state and city COVID protocols and offering their services outdoor in a lovely environment with comfort and shade

Frenchies is a modern, clean and friendly environment using natural and vegan products, porcelain pedicure bowls, dedicated hand washing station, hospital grade autoclave for sanitizing metal instruments and huge rainbow of colors that are free of the most harsh chemicals typically found in nail polish.

Our beautiful space at the Ventura

Harbor Village features ten manicure stations and nine pedicure benches to enjoy with friends and family. Frenchies also hosts parties for brides and birthdays! Frenchies was founded on the principles of cleanliness and healthy nail care.

We look forward to welcoming you, our amazing guests, to the cleanest nail studio in Ventura. If you have any questions, please message us on Facebook @FrenchiesVentura and or Instagram @FrenchiesNailsVentura! And remember, at Frenchies – We Love Clean!

1583 Spinnaker Dr. #105 (805) 200-3883

Annual “Spring Fling” gift-away event

Kids & Families Together (K&FT) is a nonprofit that has been serving foster/resource, adoptive, kinship, and birth families throughout Ventura County since 2000. K&FT works with children who have experienced trauma, abuse, neglect, loss, and multiple placements. K&FT also works with caregivers who need specialized education, support, and strategies to help raise safe, healthy, nurtured children that thrive.

Kids & Families Together and Heart 2 Heart, will be holding our Spring Fling Gift ~ Away event on Saturday, April 3rd for the Ventura County foster/resource, kinship, adopted and birth families we serve in our programs. This annual event has always been a kick-off to Spring, a season of growth and renewal. Due to the ongoing pandemic, Spring Fling 2021 will once again be a contactless, drive-thru event featuring the Easter Bunny and a panoramic view of the ocean from the foothills of Ventura. We are grateful to Poinsettia Pavilion in Ventura for being our host this year and providing us with this location and the spectacular backdrop direct from Mother-Nature herself. Our goal for this event is to serve 150 children!

Children and families will be provided such items as: gift cards, spring-time themed baskets, teen bags, toys, clothing and more! Despite the current situation, this will be a family event filled with music and fun! We encourage our families attending to wear their favorite springtime hats, perhaps even an “Eastern Bonnet”, or decorate their car with spring flowers.

We are grateful to our Spring Fling 2021 partners and event sponsors that come from all over Ventura County to support our families: The Gene Haas Foundation, James Storehouse, St. Jude's Catholic Church-Loaves & Fishes, Newbury Park High School-Wings to Grow and our host Poinsettia Pavilion.

Volunteer opportunities are available both prior to the event, to help sort, organize and prepare, along with time slots for the day of the event. To keep staff, families and volunteers safe, we are following current public health and safety regulations. All attendees will be required to wear a mask at all times. Please click on the link to volunteer and review our volunteer guidelines. There are also many ways to donate or even Adopt A Child for this event. Full information follows below!

All information regarding our donation drive and volunteering: <https://www.kidsandfamilies.org/gift-away-events/>

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As we approach our 90th year in Ventura County, as your local trash/recycle hauler, we have one thing to say to all our customers, employees and partners:

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Our commitments to community and the environment have been constant and will continue into the next generations. Together, we are making a difference. Together, WE are making our world a better and more sustainable place for our future generations.

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Your Hometown Paper

Member, Ventura Chamber of Commerce

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Whatever is
worth doing
at all is worth
doing well.

– Phillip
Stanhope

Opinion/Editorial



Sheldon Brown
Publisher-Editor

■ East Ventura will be getting a kindergarten through eighth grade school at Academy of Technology and Leadership at Satcoy known as **ATLAS Elementary**. The Ventura Unified School District board voted 4-1, dissenting was Trustee Matt Almaraz, who didn't want to add middle school grades to the elementary school.

This vote comes after the district's decision last year to add middle school grades to Lemon Grove School, formerly known as Blanche Reynolds Elementary, for the start of the 2021-22 school year. The decision was partly made due to parents' desire for a school from transitional kindergarten to eighth grade in midtown Ventura.

Prior to the change to Lemon Grove and ATLAS, Ventura had two public K-8 schools - Sunset School in Oak View and Homestead, the district's homeschool program.

■ On February 22, the City Council adopted ordinances to establish a commercial **cannabis** program. To effectively proceed with the cannabis program, a professional consultant with industry experience was needed to assist in evaluating cannabis business applications, conducting background checks, compliance checks, and auditing of cannabis businesses.

They approved and authorized the Mayor to execute a Professional Services Agreement with Hinderliter de Llamas & Associates to provide cannabis consulting services. The term of the contract is from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2026, for a total contract amount of \$842,000. They are counting on the fees being fully offset by the cannabis application fees.

The proposed fees target full cost recovery for permit processing, for processing appeals for the denial of a permit, and background checks. Commercial Cannabis Permit Application Fee:

New Permit Application Fee (Phases 1-3)
\$8,844

New Permit Application Fee (Phase 4)
\$1,482

LiveScan/Background Checks \$377

Appeal Fee \$3,178

This is a new program, so it is difficult to accurately anticipate the number of permits that will be requested each year. For purposes of estimation, the city has assumed 45 permit applications the first year. Based on this assumption, it is anticipated that between staff and the consultant, costs will be approximately \$465,000. This will be offset by the proposed application fee designed to target full cost recovery.

Hopefully by the end of this year we will have some dispensaries in Ventura so that our money doesn't go to other cities.

■ Have you seen photos of **Mars**? Who would want to live there? It makes Death Valley look hospitable.

■ Some people think that athletes (like **LeBron James**) should just "Shut up and play ball" and not comment on political affairs. Athletes have the same right to speak up that we all have. I've never heard anyone say, "Bill Gates should shut up and just make money."

■ As **Dr. Seuss** goes, goes the world. Six Dr. Seuss books will stop being published due to racist and insensitive imagery as instructed by the Dr. Seuss Enterprises that controls publication of his books. While books by Dr. Seuss (whose real name was Theodor Geisel) still remain very popular, they have received criticism over the years for the way in which people of color are portrayed.

FOX news, and some Republicans, have been saying "they are responsible for this" suggesting that this is just the Democrats ruining America. Some Republicans have been reading Dr. Seuss on TV (I think to prove that they can read). COVID deaths continue, a bad economy and other concerns and they are making an issue out of children's books hoping to blame liberals.

■ Some people are saying that there haven't been over **500,000** COVID-19 deaths because some deaths attributed to COVID have not been because of COVID (another conspiracy?). I agree, but there have been many deaths due to COVID because many people are not getting the medical care that they should be getting. Hospitals and doctors have been too busy to deal with

them. Or, because they are afraid to get medical care, they are dying. Therefore, the 500,000 amount makes sense to me.

■ **QAnon** (/ˌkjuːəˈnɒn/), or simply Q, is a disproven and discredited American far-right conspiracy theory alleging that a secret cabal of Satan-worshipping, cannibalistic pedophiles, is running a global child sex-trafficking ring and plotted against former U.S. president Donald Trump while he was in office. Scary to think that millions of Americans appear to believe this is possible.

■ States to avoid: **Texas** Gov. Greg Abbott and Mississippi Gov. Tate Reeves, both republicans, announced Tuesday they would allow businesses to reopen at 100% capacity and lift mask mandates.

The governor of South Carolina took a victory lap after his gubernatorial colleagues in Texas and Mississippi lifted their mask mandates, touting the fact that his state never had such a mandate.

President Joe Biden called the decisions a "big mistake." "The last thing we need is Neanderthal thinking, that, 'In the meantime, everything's fine. Take off your mask. Forget it.' It still matters," Biden said.

I think that Biden is insulting **Neanderthals** (I'm 1.5% Neanderthal. Don't laugh, we are all part Neanderthal) and owes us an apology.

If it's important enough for the Vatican it is important enough for the US. The Vatican has told employees that they may risk losing their jobs if they refuse to get a COVID-19 vaccination without legitimate health reasons. A decree by Cardinal Giuseppe Bertello, effectively the governor of Vatican City, said getting a vaccine was "the responsible choice" because of the risk of harming other people.

Vatican City has several thousand employees, most of whom live in Italy. Its vaccination program began last month and Pope Francis, 84, was among the first to get the shot.

Pope Francis stated, "It is an ethical choice because you are gambling with your health, with your life, but you are also gambling with the lives of others."

■ Need to give this guy credit for being so creative. A California driver who said he had used a mannequin as his passenger for at least a year and a half so he could access carpool lanes has been cited and faces a fine of at least \$400.

The mannequin, adorned with gray hair, wrinkles, glasses, a **Cleveland Indians** baseball cap and a face mask, sat in the passenger seat when he was pulled over. The officer knew it was fake because no one ever wears a Cleveland Indians baseball cap.

■ We need to love politicians. Trump's big complaint about Biden, at 78, was he was much too old to be president - now Trump says he will run in 2024 when he will be 78.

■ The DC National Guard commander said he was not allowed to send troops to the Capitol riots, in sharp contrast to the city's George Floyd protests last year, when troops were given immediate permission to deploy.

■ The California law banning the sale of **flavored tobacco** products has been placed on hold after state officials said that a referendum backed by the tobacco industry qualified for the November 2022 ballot. I didn't realize that a ballot measure can stop a law from taking place. This is unfortunate, as many more kids will become addicted because of this delay.

Mailbox



Breeze:

I live at the WAV. I park on the street, usually two blocks away. I am handicapped and if these constructions continue, there will be no where to park for us that live in the area. This Samet construction consists of 19 units. 17 will be two bedroom. They will have 17 parking spaces for the building while taking away 16 spaces that are existing. Please help us to bring awareness to the parking situation in this area.

Samet Apartments-19 units 4 stories that is replacing the car wash at the corner of Garden and Santa Clara Streets. The developer is asking the City to give away 16 angled parking spaces along Garden so they can build a larger project. Some residents of the WAV are now being charged to park at their own building and some are forced to park in unsafe areas nearby. As it is now, it is very challenging to find parking in the area for

the existing businesses and restaurants. Additionally there is a proposed remodel of an existing apartment complex nearby that is adding units and decreasing the number of parking spaces, clearly adding to the already frustrating and nerve-racking parking situation. Furthermore, developers are asking to exceed the 15% 4th floor density by 12%. Please send your concerns to devservices@cityofventura.ca.gov or DRC@cityofventura.ca.gov and specify Samet Apartments Project-11836.

Thanking you in advance,
Laurel Huggins

Laurel:

While I certainly sympathize with your concerns (which are warranted) this problem really started with the completely inadequate parking on site for the WAV residents when it was built. I was involved very early on with the WAV (part of the groups that interviewed the initial artist residents) and was concerned about many of the problems that I saw in the design including the parking. When I inquired about the inadequate parking provided I was told this was done on purpose to force residents to use public transportation and bicycles. This, of course never happened because we are a car culture, so the problem has existed since the WAV was constructed.

Sheldon

Continued on page 12

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



News & Notes

Help Shape the Future of Ventura General Plan

In 2020, the City of Ventura launched the first of many public engagement activities to update the General Plan. The theme of the update “Our Vision. Our Future,” reflects the importance of encouraging community members to be involved in shaping Ventura’s quality of life for the next 20 to 30 years.

Wondering how to can get involved? Here are a few frequently asked questions to help guide ways to participate in the process.

Q: What is a General Plan?

A: The General Plan is often referred to as the “blueprint” for the future of a community.

It describes a shared vision and identifies long-term strategies to guide decision making.

Q: Why is it important to update the General Plan now?

A: Cities are not static. They are constantly changing and evolving to meet community needs.

The General Plan seeks to build a framework for maintaining Ventura’s unique charm and character, while creating opportunities to enhance the community’s quality of life. In the State of California, every city and county is required to have an updated “General Plan” to guide growth and changes in

land use.

Q: What topics are included in the General Plan?

A: The General Plan is a long-range policy document that defines everything that makes our community special. It covers arts, parks, affordable housing, transportation, economic development, climate change and environmental sustainability, public safety, and more.

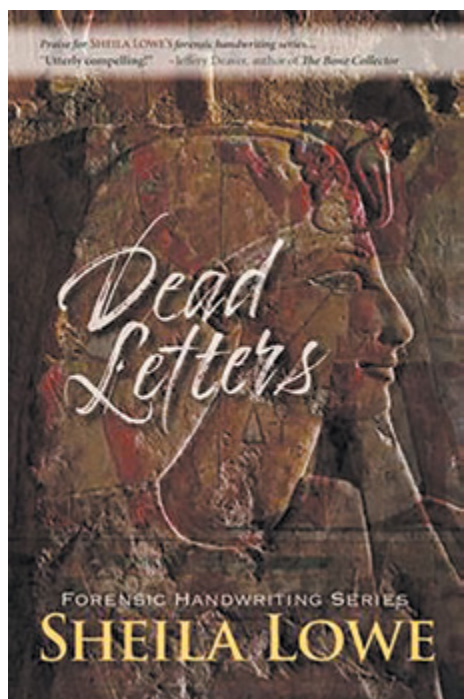
Q: Who should get involved and how long does it take to update the General Plan?

A: In short, everyone! The General Plan applies to anyone who lives, works, shops, or spends time in our city. It’s important to gather a diverse range of input. Because community feedback is significant in the update process, preparing an updated General Plan can take up to three years to complete from start to finish.

Q: How do I find out more information?

A: Visit www.planventura.com for the latest updates on community meetings, workshops, online surveys, and to join the project email list. The public is also invited to attend or participate in the General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) Meetings, which occur on the third Tuesday of every month.

Get involved today and be part of building Ventura’s future!



Forensic handwriting expert establishes publishing imprint

Sheila Lowe announces the formation of Write Choice Ink, a publishing imprint, to produce and distribute the complete catalog of her non-fiction and fiction work. Lowe will re-issue her backlist, totaling 14 of her titles over the next few months, starting with Poison Pen on February 23, 2021, and leading up to Dead Letters, a new Claudia Rose novel that will release on August 3, 2021. The fiction titles will be available across the three primary formats for books – print, digital. Audio versions continue to be available throughout. The nonfiction titles are available in print and digital format.

Sheila Lowe (like her character, Claudia Rose), is one of the world’s leading forensic handwriting experts. She is frequently engaged by attorneys and government agencies to verify handwriting and signature authenticity on official documents.

“After 16 titles, over 200,000 copies sold, and more than 20 years in traditional publishing, I felt the need to secure the rights to my currently published work and have greater control over my publishing career,” says Lowe.

Ms. Lowe has secured the publishing rights to all of her current works, including four of her six books on handwriting analysis and ten novels of suspense—eight featuring Claudia Rose, a professional handwriting consultant, and the two titles in the new “Beyond the Veil” paranormal series. Lowe also developed two versions of a handwriting analysis software program and an Independent Study Program in Gestalt Graphology, both of which are used around the world.

Note: Write Choice Ink solely publishes titles by Sheila Lowe and does not accept submissions.

The Bookmark

About Libraries and Friends

by Jill Forman

Happy almost-Spring! Hope is springing up all over: those horrible illness numbers are going down, vaccine supplies are going up. The libraries will eventually implement their reopening strategies when it is safe. The Friends will be able to resume having book sales.

Meanwhile, both organizations are continuing with their virtual and take-home activities. Here’s a sampling of what is happening:

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Help Shape the Future of Ventura

Join the virtual conversation on the General Plan Update from the safety of your home!

March 16	General Plan Advisory Committee Meeting
April 12	City Council Meeting
April 20	General Plan Advisory Committee Meeting
May 18	General Plan Advisory Committee Meeting

For more information or to join our email list, visit

www.PlanVentura.com

Online book store news

We have a huge supply of audiobooks, in addition to new adults and kids’ books that changes weekly. Remember, you order online and pick up your books at Hill Road Library. www.vfol.org.

Do It Yourself (DIY) Home Energy Savings Kits

Simple DIY home improvements can help increase the energy efficiency of your home to make it more comfortable, affordable, resilient and better for the planet.

Created by 3C-REN, these free DIY Home Energy Savings Toolkits give you the knowledge, tools and equipment to improve your home with easy upgrades. Check out a toolkit and get empowered to fix up your home, yourself!

Use the free tools and supplies in the kit to complete your DIY projects. When you’re finished, return your kit to

your local library and enjoy your new and improved home!

Bad Art!

Near Boston is The Museum of Bad Art. Of course it is closed now, and it’s a long way away, BUT we can interact with it through a program set up by Librarian Mary Birch of the Avenue Library. This program is scheduled for March 30. While we’re waiting, check out the website at <http://museumofbadart.org/>

Pi Day!

Pi is the ratio of a circle’s circumference to its diameter. Pi is 3.14159265 and on to infinity, commonly written as 3.14. So of course we celebrate Pi Day on March 14. The Library can’t be left out of this one. You can pick up Pi Day packages, with books about Pi and math with games and puzzles to make it understandable and enjoyable, at the Hill

Continued on page 6



St. John's Regional Medical Center Named One of America's 250 Best Hospitals™

I am pleased to announce that St. John's Regional Medical Center has been named one of America's 250 Best Hospitals by Healthgrades, the leading resource that connects consumers, physicians, and health systems. This ranks our medical center among the top five percent of hospitals in the country for clinical outcomes.



Our entire health care team shares in this achievement, which demonstrates our ongoing commitment to delivering quality health care and achieving exceptional outcomes for our patients during the COVID-19 pandemic and beyond.

I am incredibly proud to work alongside the dedicated team at St. John's Regional Medical Center who have the privilege of caring for our community.

Thank you all for your unwavering support.

Darren W. Lee
President and CEO
St. John's Regional Medical Center



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News & Notes



VMF leading off with Anderson & Roe Piano Duo.

VMF announces four new virtually yours concerts

Ventura Music Festival announces four new virtually yours concerts, leading off with Anderson & Roe Piano Duo on March 21st. Each is hosted by Artistic Director Nuvi Mehta and presented free-of-charge. Reservations are required.

The line-up is as follows:

Sunday, March 21st 3 pm, Anderson & Roe Piano Duo. Festival favorites Greg Anderson and Elizabeth Joy Roe begin the concert with Stravinsky, pause in the middle to remind us "It's a wonderful world," and conclude with tangos and an exuberant tribute to West Side Story. The setting: Live from the Tippet Rise Arts Center in Montana.

Sunday, April 18th 3 pm, Michael Feinstein's Irving Berlin. Stories, fabulous guest artists and more from pianist-singer Feinstein, the charming and hugely talented "keeper" of the Great American Songbook. The setting: Live

from Carnegie Hall.

Sunday, May 16th 3 pm, "Go for Baroque" with Nuvi Mehta and Johann Sebastian Bach. The period 1600-1750 was extraordinary for its soaring cathedrals, art and music, with Baroque composers accounting for 80% of the traditional Western classical music performed today. As the father of Western classical music, Johann Sebastian Bach is the star of this program.

Sunday, June 13th 3 pm, "All that Jazz". Leaving the deep dive to Ken Burns and his amazing 10-episode "Jazz" series on PBS, VMF plans a sweet, short dive into "America's music." Details soon.

Each program debuts on a Sunday at 3 pm and is available for 'anytime viewing' thereafter. No charge thanks to sponsors; reservations are required VenturaMusicFestival.org.



Eric Moseley, Erica Moseley and George Alger on Our Ventura TV.

The Homeless Coronavirus Outreach

Homelessness has been a problem in Ventura County for many years before the pandemic. But the coronavirus has exacerbated the matter. One of the challenges for those attempting to aid the homeless -- or even for those who are trying to better understand it -- is the fact that not all homeless are trying to get back into society and others are hidden from view, since they may be couch surfing with friends and family or accommodating hosts and/or living out of their vehicles.

Father and daughter team, Eric and Erica Moseley, are advocates for the homeless. They each have experienced homelessness themselves.

To provide greater insight into the issue, they produced a documentary, titled: The Homeless Coronavirus Outreach.

Recently they spoke with Our Ventura TV host and producer, George Alger, about their documentary and they also discussed three classes of homelessness, which can aid an individual attempting

to understand or communicate with the homeless.

Our Ventura TV is an award-winning weekly talk show television series broadcast on Ventura cable channel 6 TV and also published on OurVentura.com as well as on social media networks.

To view the 9-minute discussion, visit the following link: <http://ourventura.com/the-homeless-coronavirus-outreach/> For more go to www.ourventura.com

About Libraries and Friends

Continued from page 5

Road Library during the week leading up to March 14. Even more fun, Ms. Charry is hosting an "Irrationally fun story time, all about Pi." And what time? Why, 3:14 of course. The Storytime can be seen on the Ventura County Library Services Association Facebook page; the live video will start.

And if you prefer your "pi" to have a crust and be baked, the library has books put aside for you to learn about that delectable treat.

STEAM Activity Kits

Phillip Yocham at Foster says that these kits will now be available monthly.

Hill Road Book Club

The Vanishing Half by Bennet, March 30 at 5 p.m.

Donations

We love donations! But please don't bring truckloads to Hill Road; we only have our personal vehicles and sometimes are overwhelmed. If you could limit them to two boxes or two bags it would help us out. For large numbers of books, the warehouse is open for donations Monday and Friday mornings 9-11. Map on the Friends website. Any questions, or to make an appointment, bookstore@venturafriendsofthelibrary.org.



Senior Living



"I hardly even felt this!"

Medicare covers FDA-approved COVID-19 vaccines

You pay nothing for the COVID-19 vaccine. You won't pay a deductible or copayment, and your provider can't charge you an administration fee to give you the shot.

A COVID-19 vaccine helps reduce the risk of illness from COVID-19 by working with the body's natural defenses to safely develop protection (immunity) to the virus.

Be sure to bring your red, white, and blue Medicare card so your health care provider or pharmacy can bill Medicare. You'll need your Medicare card even if you're enrolled in a Medicare Advantage Plan.

If you fill out a form to get the vaccine, you may be asked for your insurer's group number. If you have Part B, leave this field blank or write "N/A." If you have trouble with the form, talk with your vaccine provider.

Medicare also covers COVID-19 tests, COVID-19 antibody tests, and COVID-19 monoclonal antibody treatments.

Pharmaceutical manufacturers are distributing the vaccine to federally and state-approved locations to start the vaccination of priority groups. Each state has its own plan for deciding who they'll vaccinate first and how residents can get vaccines. Contact your local health department for more information on COVID-19 vaccines in your area. Learn more about COVID-19 vaccine progress.

Be alert for scammers trying to steal your Medicare Number. Medicare covers the vaccine at no cost to you, so if anyone asks you for your Medicare Number to get early access to the vaccine, you can bet it's a scam.

Here's what to know:

You can't pay to put your name on a list to get the vaccine.

You can't pay to get early access to a vaccine.

Don't share your personal or financial information if someone calls, texts, or emails you promising access to the vaccine for a fee.

face, how do you advocate for them when they are in the hospital?

One Point of Contact. Within your family, designate one point of contact to communicate with the hospital. Request that your contact name and phone number are written on the whiteboard in the patient's room and/or at the nurse's station.

Provide Documentation. Write down key points to help the care team get to know your loved one quickly. Provide documentation that includes their likes and dislikes, typical daily routine, and life history. Don't forget to include your concerns. Do they have difficulty chewing or swallowing? Can they feed themselves, or do they need help? Are they nonverbal? Your insight is invaluable for their care

In the Hospital with Dementia: 8 Steps to Advocate for Your Loved One

by **Dwayne Clark**
Founder and CEO of Aegis Living

Having your elderly loved one or parent admitted to the hospital is stressful under normal conditions. During a pandemic, this situation can be even more tense for families—especially if your loved one has dementia. So when you cannot see your loved one face-to-

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team to provide the best care to your loved one.

Communicate Their Baseline. Help the hospital staff understand your loved one's "baseline. Communicating their functionality will help the care team differentiate between dementia, acute confusion, delirium, or something more serious.

Making the Rounds. Ask to take part in doctor's visits virtually or by phone, so you stay informed. Take notes during the visit to help you remember what the doctor said and to share with other family members.

The Essentials. Make sure your loved one has necessities like their hearing aid. With care staff wearing both a mask and face shield, it can sometimes be harder for the patient to hear. Also, don't forget their eyeglasses, reading glasses, or dentures, so they feel comfortable.

Familiar Items. In a new or unfamiliar situation, personal items may help them feel more at home. A favorite pillow, blanket, or comfy robe may help them be more relaxed.

Smartphone or Tablet for Patient. Drop off a smartphone loaded with family phone numbers or a tablet for your loved one. Include an extra-long power cord and place the device in a brightly colored case to avoid having it forgotten on a dinner tray or lost. If you do not have an extra device, inquire if there are electronics for your loved one to borrow and if they can have assistance to make a call or connect virtually.

Clear Masks. During the pandemic, the use of both masks and face shields means that someone living with dementia cannot clearly see their nurse or doctor speak or smile. Many hospitals are now using transparent masks, where the mouth is visible behind clear plastic.

Ask if your loved one's hospital has these available.

A loved one in the hospital can be stressful, but don't forget to take care of yourself. Remember that they are surrounded by professionals who have trained for years and have dedicated their lives to caring for the sick. And they have you, their informed patient care advocate.

Women in the workforce experienced slower rates of memory decline

Working in the paid labor workforce may have cognitive benefits later in life for U.S. women. For a study supported in part by NIA, researchers looked at the influence of social, employment, and gender-related factors on memory decline with implications for dementia risk. Their findings, recently published in *Neurology*, show that women in the workforce during early adulthood and midlife experienced slower rates of memory decline than those who had not worked for pay.

A team of University of California (UC), Los Angeles; UC San Francisco; Harvard; and Boston College researchers analyzed the employment patterns, family structure, and demographic characteristics of U.S. women. More than 6,000 women at least age 55 in the Health and Retirement Study reported their past work-family statuses of employment, marriage, and parenthood between ages 16 and 50. They also participated in

Continued on page 9





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Senior Living



The community now has more than 90% of residents vaccinated.

Aegis Living Ventura celebrates COVID-19 vaccine arrival superhero style

A long-awaited day finally came for Aegis Living Ventura, local assisted living and memory care community. On February 23, the community hosted its second vaccine clinic and now has more than 90% of residents vaccinated.

To celebrate the occasion, the community came alive with a superhero-themed event. After receiving

vaccines, residents tossed on superhero capes and gave their best pose in a photo booth before enjoying refreshing root beer floats and other treats, along with music and entertainment by the community's Life Enrichment team.

I couldn't be prouder to have more than 90% of our residents now vaccinated," said general manager Sam EL-Rabaa. "This is a critical step in protecting our community and creating one of the safest places on the planet for our residents, team and families."

Residents expressed the same joy as they received the vaccine and looked ahead to what is to come.

"While I was hesitant at first, the clinic went well, and I had no real side effects" said resident Shirley Rutherford. "Now I will be more protected for my upcoming surgery."

Leading up to the vaccine clinics, Aegis prepared both residents and staff with several educational opportunities, including a virtual town hall with medical experts from Aegis Living's Coronavirus Advisory Council. Aegis also prepared several educational videos and tools for residents and staff to research more on their own. The goal was to create a supportive environment and help everyone in the community better understand the science behind the vaccine and its benefits.

With the first two vaccine clinics complete, residents are finding other moments of joy with small group activities such as group exercise, courtyard walks, art classes, happy hour and more.

One couple, two sets of needs.



One of the biggest challenges with aging is facing the need for some assistance with the tasks of daily living. To make the transition easier, consider a move to The Palms At Bonaventure. With the burden of housekeeping and cooking lifted, couples are free to spend more time together, enjoying a rich history and meaningful future. And if one needs care while the other is more independent, they can each have their needs met in a warm, caring community.

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Senior Living



Medicare Advantage

March 31st will mark the end of Medicare Advantage open enrollment period, and those who still are choosing between plans should take a few things into consideration. One Medicare expert gave us answers to little-known problems and questions regarding Medicare Advantage:

“The biggest problem I see with people regarding Medicare is that they see television commercials that promise to give them their part B premium of \$144 back. The only time people qualify for this as if they qualify for Medicaid as well as Medicare. That means that they have to have an income of less than \$1200 a month and less than \$7300 in cash assets available to them. While some people do qualify, I would say that about 98% of my clients do not.

The other issue, although it is not a scam, is that a lot of people do not realize they are signing up with an HMO which means that they can only get care from in network providers. They see commercials for free dental, optical and gym memberships... But they don't realize that with an HMO they are limited to a

very small group of providers.” - Roseann Birch, Medicare Consultant and expert at MedicareAdvantagePlans.org.

Livingston's Camarillo Hospice offers individual, couple, and family grief counseling

The pandemic has upended our lives for a year now. We have adjusted to wearing masks, social distancing, restricting our activities, and more. As much as we struggle with these restrictions, it is nothing compared to the struggle of those grieving the death of a loved one during this time. Whether your loved one's death was due to COVID-19 or another cause, grief is not meant to be done alone. Livingston Memorial's Camarillo Hospice is committed to providing free bereavement services to the community. Our highly skilled grief counselors and volunteer support group facilitators are providing tele-therapy to those grieving the death of a loved one.

Virtual grief support groups include: General Bereavement Support Group on Mondays 3:00 to 4:30 pm and Tuesdays 10:30 to 12:00 pm. Spanish General Bereavement Support Group 2nd and



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4th Tuesday of every month from 6:00 to 7:30 pm. Good Grief Club 1st and 3rd Tuesdays 5:30 to 6:30 pm. Young Widow and Widowers Support Group Tuesdays 5:30 to 7:00 pm. Widow and Widower's Support Group Wednesdays 1:00 to 2:30 pm. General Bereavement Support Group Wednesdays 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Survivors of a Suicide Loss 1st and 3rd Wednesdays 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Bereaved Mom's Support Group: 2nd Thursday of every month 6-7:30 pm. Adult Loss of Parent Support Group: 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month 6:00 to 7:30 pm. General Bereavement Support Group Thursdays 6:00 to 7:30 pm. Teen Grief Support Group (15-18 yrs.) Mondays 4:00 to 5:00 pm. Young Teen Grief Support Group (12-15 yrs.) Wednesdays 3:30 to 4:30 pm.

Livingston's Camarillo Hospice offers individual, couple, and family grief counseling in English and Spanish. To register for a support group or meet with a grief counselor, please contact Stacia Sickie, LCSW, at 805-389-6870 x452 or ssickle@lmvna.org. For more information visit LMVNA.org.

Women in the workforce

Continued from page 7
 word recall memory assessments every two years over an average of 12 years.

The study team then evaluated rates of later-life memory decline, which is a measure associated with dementia.

The average rate of memory decline after age 60 was slower for women who had worked, regardless of marriage and parenthood status. Taking time off from work when their children were young did not seem to decrease the cognitive benefit in married working mothers. Among nonworking mothers, rates of memory decline were similar for single and married women. Demographic characteristics, such as race, childhood socioeconomic status, and level of education, did not explain the relationship between work-family status and memory decline.

This study adds to evidence that participation in the workforce may be a protective factor for cognitive health later in life. The researchers did not look at volunteer work, the types of paid labor among women, or possible differences among genders. Future research on effects of participating in the workforce, such as cognitive stimulation and social engagement, may help explain how employment can decrease the rate of memory loss.

This research was supported in part by NIA grants R00AG053410 and R01AG040248.

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The Pet Page



Dedicated to Scamp

On March 1, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) announced that pet food manufacturer Vitakraft Sun Seed, Inc. had recalled one of its pet foods due to potential Salmonella contamination. The pet food you have in your cabinet could be putting your furry friend's health—or yours—in harm's way.

The affected products can make your pets seriously ill. The recall affects a single lot of Vitakraft Vita Smart Hedgehog Food, which may have been contaminated with Salmonella. The affected products are marked with lot number 343422 and UPC number 0-51233-34792-9.

The FDA reports that the recalled lot of Vitakraft Hedgehog Food could cause pets to develop fever, vomiting, diarrhea, blood in their stool, and general lethargy. Anyone whose pets develop these symptoms after eating the affected food is advised to contact a veterinarian.

Bravo Packing of Carneys Point, New Jersey is recalling all Ground Beef and Performance Dog, which is a frozen raw pet food, because it may be contaminated with the pathogens Salmonella and Listeria monocytogenes. Both pathogens can cause serious illness in animals eating the products and in humans who handle contaminated pet products. No human or animal illnesses have been reported to the company to date in connection with this issue.

Samples of Performance Dog and a sample of Ground Beef pet food were collected during an FDA inspection and tested positive for Salmonella and Listeria monocytogenes bacteria. Performance Dog usually works with a distributor who is located in Brooklyn, New York, that fills orders to brick-and-mortar retail stores or to consumers directly nationwide. You can see pictures of product labels at the FDA web site.

Ground Beef and Performance Dog raw frozen pet foods come frozen in 2 pound and 5 pound plastic sleeves. If you have these products in your home, throw them away in a sealed container, or take them back to the store where you bought them for a full refund. Then clean dog dishes and anything that may have come into contact with the food with a mild bleach solution to kill pathogens. Rinse them thoroughly and dry before using again. Wash your hands well with soap and water after cleaning and after handling these products.

Pets who are infected with these pathogens can be lethargic and have diarrhea or bloody diarrhea, fever, and vomiting. Some pets will have decreased appetite, fever, and abdominal pain. Others may be infected but show no signs. All pets can pass these infections to the humans they live with through feces and saliva.

People with Salmonella infections have symptoms of nausea, vomiting, a fever, diarrhea, and abdominal cramps. People infected with listeriosis can suffer from high fever, severe headache, stiff neck, nausea, abdominal pain, and diarrhea. Pregnant women can suffer miscarriage and stillbirth with this infection even though they are only mildly ill. Anyone who is feeling sick after having contact with this food or with a pet who has been fed the food should contact their doctor.

Veterinarians warn of marijuana poisoning in dogs now that it's legal

in Arizona
By Steve Nielsen
Published Pets and Animals
FOX 10 Phoenix

An inquisitive 90-pound Labordoodle accidentally ate marijuana while on a walk and vets say an incident like this could have turned nearly fatal. The good news is that most dogs recover from marijuana poisoning. However, it can still be serious.

Dr. Marcella Granfone at emergency hospital Arizona Veterinary Emergency & Critical Care Center said they have several cases of this a week. "We have seen more severe effects from edible products where pets can come in looking comatose and actually will need a machine to breathe for them for a period of time."

Dr. Karen Choptain is a veterinarian at the hospital, and she says the problem of dog overdoses has become especially pronounced over the last month. These exposures can lead to a number of different symptoms, including trouble walking, leaking urine and nausea", she said, but it depends on the size of the dog.

"We're very concerned that if there's more access to them than you know, dogs can get into a lot of things. So definitely warning owners to be more cautious of the edible products. They're just a lot stronger," she said.

Studies show that skinny dogs live longer. Purina did a landmark study in 2002 using the American chunky dog, the Labrador Retriever. They divided 48 sets of twins up, told half the group to let them be typical beefy labs and told the other half to limit food and calories so that they were skinny. "So skinny that your neighbors tell you to feed your dog, skinny."

The results were shocking. The skinny group outlived the normal group by almost 20% (11.3 years versus 13 years). Also, of great interest was that those in the skinny group died a more natural death and almost 90% of those in the normal group were euthanized due to medical problems.

Since this original study numerous groups have repeated it and achieved almost identical results. What they have also found is that being skinny delays the onset of many age-related degenerative diseases like cancer, diabetes, organ failure and arthritis.

So how skinny is skinny enough? Historically, veterinarians have used what is called the Body Condition Score or BCS. This rates a dog on a numerical scale based on subjective criteria

You want to be able to feel your dogs ribs with a little fat only between skin and ribs. Your dog should have a waistline, meaning the chest should be wider than the abdomen and there should be nothing hanging beneath. Of course, what is normal for a greyhound is not normal for a bulldog, so breed variation plays a role.

HealthDay News -- It is an image as heartwarming as any: Young children giggling as the family dog climbs all over them and licks their faces. But new research suggests the bond may be more than playful.

"The great news is that this study suggests dogs are paying a lot of attention to the kids that they live with," said study author Monique Udell, an animal behaviorist and associate professor at Oregon State University. "They are responsive to them and, in many cases, behaving in synchrony with them, indicators of positive affiliation and a foundation for building strong bonds."

The children were asked to walk with

Scamp Club

(Scampclub pets are not for adoption.)



Hi: I'm Snugz, an 8-year-old Shih Tzu (like Scamp). I like to take bike rides with my best friend Trudy because she does all of the work and I get the wind in my face. I'm a repeat member, I was in the Breeze in 2016.

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.

their off-leash dogs in a standardized way among color-coded taped lines in a large empty room. Researchers videotaped the experiments, analyzing how much time each child and their dog were moving or stationary at the same time (what they called activity synchrony), how often they were within 3 feet of each other (proximity), and going in the same direction (orientation).

"Sometimes we don't give children and dogs enough credit. Our research suggests that with some guidance we can provide important and positive learning experiences for our kids and our dogs starting at a much earlier age, something that can make a world of difference to the lives of both," she said.

Still, the percentages were all lower than found in previous research with

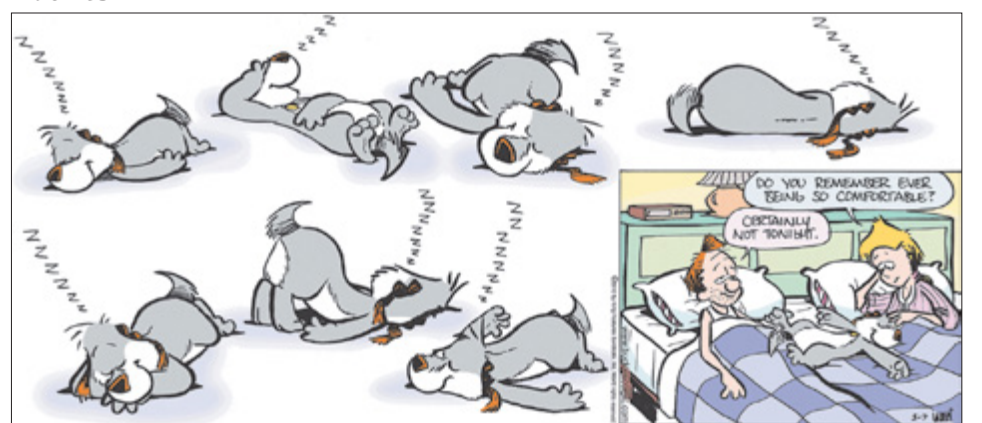
adults -- who had nearly 82% active synchrony and almost 73% proximity with their dogs.

"One interesting thing we have observed is that dogs are matching their child's behavior less frequently than what we have seen between dogs and adult caretakers, which suggests that while they may view children as social companions, there are also some differences that we need to understand better," Udell said.

The researchers are now studying more about synchrony and bond quality between dogs and the kids and adults in their families. This includes participation in animal-assisted interventions and increasing the child's responsibility for the dog's care.

The findings were published in the journal *Animal Cognition*.

Buckles



Rhymes With Orange





The Pet Page

Forever homes wanted

Hi, I'm Chula, beautiful 5-year-old American Staffordshire Terrier X in need of a loving home. I was rescued from Animal Services where I was surrendered due to my owner moving and I couldn't go too. Chula does have some fears and insecurities, especially meeting new people and having her shoulder and legs touched. In one of her homes, she was attacked by the resident dog that resulted in significant injury to her shoulder. Although her shoulder has healed well, this may be a contributing factor to her sensitivities and behavior with other dogs. If you have experience with insecure dogs, a quiet home and are looking for a partner to grow with, learn with, play with, train and love, please fill out an online application to meet her. Canine Adoption and Rescue League C.A.R.L.



Adoptable Tahoe is a silly and playful bunny who loves to explore. He's an active house rabbit who is friendly and curious, especially as he begins to feel more at home. To learn more about Tahoe and inquire about adoption, please email the Ventura County Animal Services Bunny Brigade at vcas-bunnybrigade@gmail.com and ask for ID #A709619

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Photo: Bill Layman

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This 'n' That



Sandy Smith sat on the City Council for eight years.

Support for proposed water and wastewater rate changes

by **Sandy Smith**
Former mayor, City of Ventura

Residents and rate payers in the City of Ventura should support Ventura Water's proposed water and wastewater rate changes, scheduled for City Council review and approval in March 2021. These rate adjustments fund critical investments needed to provide safe and reliable water and wastewater services for the City of Ventura's customers now and into the future.

During the eight years I sat on the City Council, I served as the City and Council's representative on the Association of Water Agencies of Ventura County, and for many years, as that Agency's Vice President. Over those years, I recall how smug I often felt in the

knowledge that water from Lake Casitas, the Ventura River, and our ground water wells allowed our City to avoid many of the challenges other communities faced accessing and distributing water to their residents. That independence also allowed residents to benefit from lower water and sewer rates than faced by other communities.

Those days are behind us. Due to a variety of factors, water from Lake Casitas, the Ventura River, and our ground water wells can no longer be looked at as a long-term solution to our water needs. More frequent and prolonged droughts have put Ventura's 100% local water sources at risk. Add to that the results of ongoing litigation that will likely limit or reduce the amount of water the City can withdraw from the Ventura River, which currently accounts for roughly 20 percent of Ventura's water supply.

Further limits on Ventura's water supply will materialize as the City is required to comply with a series of environmental regulations and legal mandates, including reducing wastewater discharge into the Santa Clara River Estuary. Ultimately, ratepayers will inherit costly fines if these requirements are not met. Additionally, water supplied by regional groundwater basins is high in total dissolved solids and sulfates, making Ventura's drinking water hard and minerally.

Innovative solutions are needed to secure a future sustainable water supply. VenturaWaterPure, the long-anticipated potable reuse project, will divert water that is currently discharged to the Santa Clara River Estuary to a new advanced purification facility where it will be purified to drinking water standards and injected

Continued on page 15

Get Involved!



Join Ventura Water at an upcoming public meeting for information on proposed water and wastewater rate adjustments.

- March 18** East Ventura Community Council
- March 22** City Council Meeting
- April 19** Virtual Community Open House
- April 28** Virtual Community Open House

For more information, visit www.VenturaWaterRates.net



by Pam Baumgardner

VenturaRocks.com

Little by little Ventura is coming alive and a handful of venues are already offering live music outdoors including Caffrodite, Copa Cubana, Leashless, the Cave and the Shores. Check VenturaRocks.com for updates and the daily music listings, along with the latest VenturaRockSpot featuring Jayden Secor (coming soon, Christine Law and her project Star Goes Nova, and Guy Martin).

After a “winter break,” Concerts in Your Car is slowing rolling out their line-up, with an April 10 date with Opera Santa Barbara presenting Don Pasquale, and the following week April 17 (two shows) with Ziggy Marley and a live tribute to his father. Down in Oxnard at the Performing Arts Center parking lot, the carpool jams pick up on April 2 with a Foreigner tribute by 4NR, a tribute to Led Zeppelin’s Robert Plant by Robert Plantation on the 3rd and the following week on April 10th, it’s Erotic City and their tribute to Prince.

Meanwhile, this music scene column highlights local artist Jason Brock. His Facebook page states he is a... “self-described grunge rock hippy guitarist and songwriter whose passion for music rivals his passion for compost. Slightly geeky, slightly goofy, and slightly stoopid. Blessed to be surrounded by beautiful people.”

Jason is a career independent musician whose bands, solo albums, record labels, and nonprofits have all the aim of empowering artists to create regardless of their position in the hierarchy of the business world and he serves on the board for the Ventura Artists’ Union.

Pam: How and when did you get involved with the Ventura Artists’ Union?

Jason Brock: I started working with the Ventura Artists’ Union when the Art City Gallery was being designed. At that time, the organization was dormant because they didn’t have a gallery to show in. I didn’t know Ventura had a non-profit that was dedicated to supporting local artists. That’s how I found out. Since I had previous experience in organizing,

running labels and nonprofits I felt like I could contribute to launching the VAU’s next chapter. My personal goal is to foster the musical side of the nonprofit’s programming by promoting musicians and supporting local music.

Are you one for hanging out in the music scene here in town?

Jason Brock: I guess so, though that’s a hard question to answer. I’d say I like to create scenes where musicians want to gather. That’s why



Music scene column highlights local artist Jason Brock.

I helped run Under the Bed for two years. It was like an underground Green Art People. Right now, there is a scene starting to happen at Caffrodite Community Coffee House in midtown. Cory Highberg is bringing musicians together there. I think we need another venue in town that provides that kind of open canvas for music. If you know anyone that has a space like that let me know!

I know you’re working on an album where you release a track a month; explain what the process looks like.

Jason Brock: I just released [the song] “One of A Kind,” and I’m trying to record a track a month, but in reality it’s a mark I’m using to create deadlines for myself. I work well if I have a mark to hit, otherwise I just

write and write and never release. I have a lot of songs I’d like to record, and if I think on that level, I get overwhelmed. I also have to balance the creative process with the promotion and business side. As an independent artist you have to wear many hats. Good news is it’s possible. So, one single at a time is a good way to go for me. I’m working on my next one right now, called “Common Thread,” which should drop at the beginning of April if all goes well. It’s a rocker!

As far as the recording process goes, I record everything at home, mix and master, except for my most recent single “One of a Kind” which features David Uosikkinen on drums and Kenny Aaronson on Bass. They recorded their parts at their home studios in Philly. We had this one professionally mixed and mastered by Dave Downham at Gradwell House Studios. I think we did a great job of sounding live, even though we’re in different time zones.

num artist with tons of experience. He brought Kenny Aaronson in to record bass, and Kenny is a monster. He’s played with some heavy hitters such as Bob Dylan, Joan Jett, Brian Setzer, etc. I’m just enjoying the creative flow, wherever that leads.

Do you already have the tracks in mind? Or writing material as you go along?

Jason Brock: I have an idea of what I want, but things change along the way. For example, I produced a live stream concert to help launch “Ashes To Dust” and the songs took on this unexpected feel because of the musicians I was playing with, so I went with it. I’m a big supporter of accentuating the artists in the room. With that said, I have a direction, songs that rock live, have meaning and sound great in headphones. Some of them are already written, some are in various stages of completion.

Sum up what Spinningmerkaba is all about.

Jason Brock: Spinningmerkaba is my remix pseudonym at ccMixer.org, a creative commons remixing site where musicians and producers from all over the globe come to share and create music. Anyone with a creative itch can go there and remix my songs, or get remixed by me or other top-notch producers. It’s a free-for-all, which makes it fun and weird and spontaneous.

Anything else you’d like to add?

Jason Brock: I’d like to say thanks to you and my family and friends who support me and my art. We’re all connected and we all rely on each other. I’d also like to say to anyone out there reading this, that you can do it too. The tools are all out on the table. Get creative and make some art. You’ll find parts of yourself along the way that you’d never find if you didn’t put it out there. Have fun! It’s only rock and roll....

Amen!

For more information on Jason, go to JasonBrockMusic.blogspot.com or follow him on Facebook.com/jason.brock.927,

Don’t forget to tune into the Pam Baumgardner Music Hour on KPPQ-LP out of CAPS Media at 104.1 FM here in Ventura where you can hear from local artists like Jason Brock. My show airs Tuesdays at 5 pm with repeats on Fridays at 5 pm and Sundays at noon. You can also listen via the MyTuner app on your smart device or online at CapsMedia.org/radio.

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

Mailbox

Continued from page 4
Sheldon.

I just got a quick read of today’s edition and thought I would give some thought to your section.

Cannabis dispensaries in Ventura.

It seems a shame the City Council cannot see the flow of taxable dollars going to Monterey County for growing Pot among the Redwood trees, when it could be generating millions in the fertile soil of Ventura. On the other hand if the County got behind the movement they could change the nickname of Oxnard from Bean town

to Weed town.

An interesting observation on the penalty for school foot traffic. What days of the week will that be measured? Who will measure? What time? If on a Wednesday morning 10 kids (ages ???) walk down the street on the sidewalk on the opposite side of the cannabis, does that count?

I have a feeling the City is crusin’ for a brusin’ when this goes to Court.

Presidential Power It can be a problem, especially when we have a Congress like we have had over several years that cannot agree on anything together. When we have a 50-50 split, or near 50-50, and no one can

give an inch, we need a leader in the presidency who can take the reigns of authority and steer the ship of government. Right or wrong something has to be done. And if the leader makes a misstep the next president can correct the error.

In case you are wondering about some of the spelling in my replies, I spent 10+ years in NE Texas and acquired some of the local attitudes and phrasings.

Michael Gordon

Dear Publisher Brown

Believe it or not, we had 125 people registered for our meeting last month,

in which candidates for the City Council seat for District 4 took part in a panel!!

I thought you would like to know this, because your calendar listings in the Breeze have helped increase our attendance, which has grown exponentially.

Thank you again for supporting our Community Council, and citizen participation at the grass roots level.

We hope this finds you and all the Breeze staff staying well.

Best Regards,

Norene Charnofsky

East Ventura Community Council



Ventura Art Scene



If it is March, it must be Mermaid Month at Ventura Harbor. Mythological creatures come alive and the Ventura Potters' Gallery is jumping into the water for this fun event. Mermaids (and Mermen) and the sea creatures they befriend will appear adorning all forms of ceramic surfaces. Being at the beach has its benefits!

Throughout March the Gallery will have a special exhibit featuring Treasures from the Sea. You will find mugs, bowls, pitchers, platters, coasters, wall hangings, sponge holders, jewelry holders, jewelry and more featuring sea creatures. Don't miss out on a chance to get a glimpse of, or take home, a real ceramic mermaid.

The Ventura Potters' Gallery is in the Ventura Harbor Village. We love being by the sea and after a visit to the gallery we encourage you to stroll around the harbor for other mermaid viewings. The Ventura Pottery Gallery is located at 1567 Spinnaker Drive, Suite 105. The Gallery is open seven days a week from 11-6. We also have an online store for those who can't make it to the harbor. For more information visit www.venturapotteryguild.org.

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.

Theft of Catalytic Converters, Felony Evading Arrest

On March 2, 2021, at about 4:00am, the Ventura Police Department Command Center received a call from a resident in the 1100 block of Buena Vista St. The reporting party (RP) heard a vehicle pull up in front of the residence. The RP noticed two cars, a sedan, and an SUV, double-parked near their neighbor's Prius. The RP heard a "saw" and called 911. Both vehicles fled the area.

Patrol officers dispatched to the area located the sedan and attempted to pull it over. The vehicle fled, and officers pursued. The vehicle fled onto the 101 Freeway, where CHP took over the pursuit. The car fled south to the area of Camarillo Springs, where CHP disabled the vehicle and took three suspects into custody.

Officers located several stolen Toyota Prius catalytic converters inside the vehicle. All three suspects(Saul Ramos, 31yo, Los Angeles resident, Gustavo Diaz Rodriguez, 21yo, Los Angeles resident and Anthony Castillo, 21yo, Los Angeles resident) were arrested for Grand Theft and Conspiracy to Commit Grand Theft. The driver (Castillo) was also arrested for Felony Evading. The suspects were transported and booked at the Ventura County Jail.

SCU Detectives have located two victims. If you own a Toyota Prius and

were a victim of a catalytic converter theft from 3/2/21, please contact Ventura Police Street Crimes Unit. This is an ongoing investigation. Anyone with information is asked to contact the Ventura Police Department.

Harbor Patrol Blotter

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

2/20 9:50am, received request for traffic control of the main channel of the harbor from H.R. Morris dredge so they can drop the submarine pipe across the harbor entrance to dredge the sandtrap. Officers responded in the Fireboat and RB19.

12:15pm, received Mayday call of a sailboat in distress near Surfers Knoll in the surfline. The skipper was alerted to drop anchor and don lifejacket. Officers responded by land (Harb1) and sea (RB-19) to assist the distressed 16ft sailboat. Incredibly, the vessels anchor held in the surfline with large waves and officers were able to pass a line and towed the vessel back to the harbor, safely.

2/21 12:55pm, received report of a personal watercraft operating in excess of 5mph from the launch ramp to the South Basin of the harbor. Officers responded, contacted the individual and issued warnings for no PFD and speeding.

2/22 6:45pm, received a request for navigation assistance from an inbound sailboat confused with the dredging

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equipment in the main channel. Officers were able to assist the vessel to safely navigate through the main channel.

2/23 6:29am, officers raising the flags to half mast to honor 500k Covid-19 victims

2/24 9:40am, received report of an individual harassing wildlife from rescue volunteer. Officers responded and issued a written warning to the offender.

2/27 6:40am, officers observed NWS issued a Small Craft Advisory for NE winds.

11:02am, received report of suspicious

transient walking through the Harbor Townpoint timeshare. Officers responded, found the perpetrator, and removed.

2:10pm, observed and contacted two individuals attempting to launch SUP's from the district longdock. After a long debate, the pair were convinced to leave

2/28 6:00am, observed NWS issued SCA for NE winds, raised SCA pennant. 3:47pm, while on patrol in the vehicle, officers observed a transient who dropped all of their belongings in the intersection of Navigator and Anchors way. They assisted the individual gather his belongings and put back on trailer.

Weekly SUDOKU Answer

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

King Crossword Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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



Community Events

Ventura events

by Ana Baker

March 18: Speakers from both Ventura Water and from the Clean Power Alliance will present updated information to the East Ventura Community Council, at the next virtual meeting, on Thursday, at 7 p.m.

Ventura Water will talk about projected rate increases. The Clean Power Alliance speaker will explain clean power sourcing, billing, and answer questions.

Area crime statistics will be shared by Commander Weeks of the Ventura Police Department.

Other topics may be added to the agenda, so be sure to check the group's Facebook page for updates.

The Council represents those who live east of Victoria Avenue, and the public is encouraged to attend and participate.

The meeting will be held online via the Zoom application: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86723830213?pwd=Sn15bldYSk9yY0picmxJTzBEbnlCdz09>

You will first need to download the Zoom app on your computer or smart phone. You do not need an account. If you miss the meeting, you can always view it on the website, www.eastventura.org.

For more information, contact EVCC Chairperson, Deborah Meyer-Morris at eastventuracc@gmail.com.

March 20 & 27: Spring Plant Boutique at the Dudley House Museum 8 - 2 p.m.

Bromeliads, orchids, succulents, tillandsias, rhipsalis, garden art and cultural instructions. Vendors welcome (plants only), please call Charlie at 805-746-4317. The museum is located at the corner of Loma Vista and Ashwood streets (197 N. Ashwood). COVID-19 protocols observed.

April 9: United Way of Ventura County is excited to announce its United to End Homelessness Virtual Symposium on Friday, at 9 a.m. PST. The symposium will feature Matthew Desmond, author of Pulitzer Prize winning bestseller "Evicted: Poverty and Profit in the American City," as its keynote speaker. There will be an opportunity for a Q&A session with the author. Also, a panel discussion with local experts, moderated by Henry Dubroff, editor of the Pacific Coast Business Times, on addressing homelessness.

The two-hour, virtual, one-time live event is one of many efforts United Way of Ventura County will be launching to continue bringing awareness to its United to End Homelessness initiative, honor its mission "to mobilize and inspire the caring power and resources of our community," and address the

shelter crisis in Ventura County.

For symposium sponsorship opportunities, please contact Mitchel Sloan, vice president of resource development and marketing, at 805-485-6288, ext. 229 or mitchel.sloan@vcunitedwy.org. To learn more about the event and United Way of Ventura County, please visit www.vcunitedway.org/homelessness-symposium-2021.

March 11: The Midtown Ventura Community Council (MVCC) will hold their annual election at their general meeting at 7 p.m. Election is for Executive Officers including Chair, Vice-Chair, Secretary, Corresponding Secretary and Treasurer along with Board members at large.

The nominating committee has picked a slate of officers and nominations will also be taken at the meeting. Kathy Bremer, Secretary with the College Community Council will be officiating the election. To be eligible to vote you must have attended at least one meeting, including virtually, in the last year, and completed a membership form. Visit the MVCC website at midtownventura.org for more information.

Before the election there will be a special presentation from the Ventura Police Department focusing on one of their specific working groups in the Department. There will also be a short presentation, "Spotlight on Volunteers/Non-Profits" featuring Heidi Coffey, with the National Charity League Juniors is a charity organization of local women

The main speaker of the evening will be Ventura County Supervisor Matt LaVere. Supervisor LaVere will be addressing the latest information on vaccinations and will also talk about his transition from being Mayor of the City of Ventura to being elected as our Supervisor.

You must register ahead of time for the meeting to be able to participate by going to website at midtownventura.org and the link will be sent out ahead of the meeting.

For further information or questions please call Dan Long at 805 653-6573 or send an email on their website.

Island Packers Cruises now offering

Continued from page 2

on Santa Cruz Island, regular service to Anacapa Island, weekend trips to Santa Rosa Island, and special day trips to lesser-known island destinations. There will also be multi-island day trips and inter-island camper shuttles to expose visitors to the great diversity of the Channel Islands.

Along with their regularly scheduled Winter whale watching cruises, Island Packers plans to also offer extended Wildlife Cruises, most of which will include a brief cruise along the shoreline of one of the iconic islands.

Solutions on page 13

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Peruke
- 4 Touse
- 8 Labyrinth
- 12 Altar constellation
- 13 Isaac's eldest
- 14 Modern taxi alternative
- 15 World of organized crime
- 17 Dross
- 18 Earth (Pref.)
- 19 Poetic feet
- 21 Ohio city
- 24 Actress Long
- 25 Mentalist Geller
- 26 Candied veggie
- 28 Knight wear
- 32 Stagger
- 34 Gaiety
- 36 Flintstones' pet
- 37 Seoul setting
- 39 Fawn's mom
- 41 Dol. fractions
- 42 Bearded beast
- 44 Salsa scoopers
- 46 "La Mer" composer
- 50 4. on a phone
- 51 Pre-diploma hurdle
- 52 Ruffian
- 56 Church area
- 57 Rochester's

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

- love
- 8 Hot dog condiment
- 31 Colonial seamstress
- 58 Citrus drink
- 9 With skill
- 33 Lentils, for example
- 59 Privation
- 10 Gusto
- 60 Source
- 11 Work units
- 35 Dijon denial
- 61 At once
- 16 "Gosh!"
- 38 Reply (Abbr.)
- DOWN
- 1 Witty one
- 20 "Homeland" org.
- 40 Aerie newborn
- 2 A Gershwin brother
- 21 Ankara resident
- 43 Leading man?
- 3 More like a string bean
- 22 Crunchy cookie
- 45 Greek X
- 4 Tune
- 23 Klutz
- 46 Transaction
- 5 "Born in the --"
- 27 Wet dirt
- 47 Big fair, for short
- 6 Grit
- 29 State made of two peninsulas
- 48 Striped fish
- 7 Egypt's neighbor
- 30 Aware of
- 49 Vacillate
- 53 Spanish gold
- 54 Hubbub
- 55 Just out

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Solutions on page 13

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

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

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!



ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You might feel more encouraged about changes in your personal and/or professional life. However, it might be best not to rush things but rather work with them as they evolve.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) The Bovine's business sense is especially keen this week. But remember that it's always best to investigate before investing. Make sure there are no hidden factors that can rise up later on.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Working on a family project could create tension between and among those concerned. Your good sense and your patience can help reduce bad attitudes and raise positive feelings.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You should be seeing more progress in the development of your plans and more supporters joining in. News from the past could help change someone's long-held position.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) With personal aspects strong this week, Leos and Leonas might want to spend more time with family and others who are especially close to them. Also expect news of a possible career change.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Taking a strong stand can be helpful this week. But be careful you don't cross the line into obstinacy. Best to take a position on facts as they are,

not as you want them to be.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) You have a strong sense of the needs of others. This week, turn some of that sensitivity into an honest self-appraisal, and let it find places where you can help yourself.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Creating an emotional comfort zone to handle a personal problem helps at first. But by midweek, you'll realize you need to deal with it directly or it could linger for too long.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Turning the page on a mistake to start fresh might not be the thing to do. Better to go over each step that led up to the decision you made and see which one misled you.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Goats enjoy a varied diet, but eating crow isn't on the menu -- at least not this week. An embarrassing situation might have gone wrong before you got into it. Check it out.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Your sense of honesty might impel you to speak up about a situation you disapprove of. That's fine. But do so without sounding accusatory. You might not know all the facts behind it.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Being asked to create a reassuring attitude in the middle of chaos isn't easy, but you can do it. Support for your efforts comes slowly, but it does come. Enjoy an arts-filled weekend.

BORN THIS WEEK: Your honesty about people and issues is expressed in a positive, not painful, way.

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Showtime

Streaming Spotlight by Cindy Summers

I Care a Lot.

-Netflix Originals



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

Marla Grayson (Rosamund Pike) was a well-respected professional guardian that was regularly appointed by the courts to look after seniors who were thought to not be able to look after themselves. Unfortunately, Marla was actually a scam artist who preyed on the elderly, using doctors to get seniors committed to facilities and to then liquidate their assets to pay for her services and for the care facilities she was working with to imprison vulnerable seniors.

The doctor Marla was working with provided her with a “cherry” client named Jennifer Peterson (Dianne Wiest). With a court order in hand, Marla showed up at Jennifer Peterson’s home saying she had no choice but to go to the facility and take it up later with the judge. The facility gave Jennifer a warm welcome, but took her phone to prevent her from contacting anyone.

Jennifer Peterson was actually the mother of Russian mobster Roman Lunyov (Peter Dinklage) living under an assumed name to keep her safe from her son’s enemies. Roman sent an attorney to get his mother released, but that didn’t work. Next he sent some men undercover on a tour to break out his mother, which also failed. Feeling desperate, Jennifer attacked Marla, giving Marla the ability to move her to a mental facility even further away from her son’s reach.

Roman captured Marla instructing his men to kill her and make it look like an accident. They drugged her, put her

back in her car as if she was drinking and driving, and drove the car into the quarry. Instead of drowning, Marla miraculously escaped and went back to the house to find her girlfriend Fran severely beaten, both barely escaped the house before it blew up.

They couldn’t go on the run without resources, however Marla had the bag of diamonds she stole from Jennifer’s safe deposit box and had a plan. Fran helped Marla track Roman to his office, where she tased his security guard and drugged Roman. They took Roman to a park, drugged him to stay asleep and left him naked on a trail to be found by strangers. Due to state that Roman was found, he was taken to the hospital and seeming unstable and without any ID was considered a John Doe, which left legally him in the care of a court appointed guardian, Marla.

Marla told Roman the only way he would get his life, his mother and diamonds back was to pay her the 10 million she wanted. In a strange twist, Roman said that even though he hated her, that he wanted Marla to go into business with him financing a country-wide guardianship corporation with his wealth and business structure and both would make billions.

Marla took the deal and they immediately began exploiting seniors across the country with the model Marla used to victimize Roman’s mother. Marla got national attention and she and Fran began living the indulgent life of wealth that Marla had always wanted, but it seemed karma would provide a last twist of fate.

“I Care a Lot” constantly leaves viewers feeling powerless with the expressed collaborative exploitation of elder care, and Rosamund Pike is superb in her role as Marla Grayson, garnering her the “Best Actress” award at this year’s Golden Globes.

Rated: R
Runtime: 1h 58m

Support for proposed water

Continued from page 11

into local groundwater basins, creating a locally owned drought-resistant water supply for the City of Ventura.

The City has long paid for a 10,000 acre-foot of water per year allocation from the California State Water Project without the benefit of receiving water, and to date, the City has not constructed the improvements necessary to receive direct delivery of its allocation. Ventura’s State Water Interconnection Project will enable delivery of state water by wheeling through Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and Calleguas Municipal Water District to the City. The connection will also provide the added benefit of direct or in-lieu delivery of state water to the Casitas Municipal Water District.

At the same time, much of Ventura’s water and wastewater infrastructure is over 60 years old. Deteriorating pipelines, pump stations, and facilities need replacement, and deferring the costs of those needed improvements and upgrades to a later date comes at a higher price.

While I am aware that an annual increase of 7% for water service and 6% for wastewater service is significant, deferring project costs and

upgrades only delays necessary improvements. Ultimately, I believe the recommended rate adjustments to be responsible, fair and equitable. Even with the proposed rates, the City of Ventura compares favorably with the rate structures of other cities.

Simply stated there is no alternative. Water is life – not only for us as human beings, but for our economy. For me, it’s a simple decision: Ventura’s residents should support, and Ventura’s Council should approve, a fair level of water rates that can finance the projects needed to ensure our water supply and infrastructure allow our community to evolve without impediment, and as we choose.

St. Patrick’s Day Parade in years gone by

Continued from page 1

Working in coordination with Ms. Brown and city staff, CAPS produced a special video in support of the city proclamation. The video premiered at a recent City Council meeting and has been featured on the city website and in social media and has been shown on all CAPS Media platforms including Channel 6, Channel 15, KPPQ 104.1 FM, and streaming online and on social media.

March/April is the time of year for annual staff recognitions and CAPS Media is working with numerous gov-

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ernmental agencies to pay tribute to their dedicated employees. CAPS is producing video profiles for the Ventura County Fire Department’s annual awards program honoring inspiring firefighters and support staff as well as outstanding citizen volunteers. CAPS is also working with the City of Ventura directors to create a series of profiles recognizing the city’s outstanding Employees and Supervisors of the Year. And since March 30th is National Doctor’s Day, CAPS is collaborating with the creative folks at VCMC to produce a special Thank You, shout-out to the compassionate and passionate doctors.

Due to the COVID-19 emergency the CAPS Media Center remains closed to Members and the public until further notice. CAPS Member/Producers can submit programming via the online portal at capsmedia.org for broadcast and streaming on CAPS public access television Channel 6 and on CAPS Radio KPPQ 104.1FM.

Every week CAPS Crews record and broadcast the County COVID updates at the County government center and locations throughout the community. These reports provide the public with the latest, accurate information on the crisis and the relentless efforts by government and health officials to keep us safe and

help all of us through the pandemic. All of us at CAPS Media hope everyone stays Safe, Strong, Distant and Healthy during these very challenging times.

Ventura College Foundation

Continued from page 1

other items. Vendors’ families have been supported by weekend sales. Our foundation has relied on the vendor rental revenue to support Ventura College students. “When the Marketplace temporarily closed because of COVID, many people in Ventura County lost an important resource,” says King. “That’s why, despite all the ups and downs, it was important that we did all we could to keep the Marketplace open.”

COVID Marketplace hours are 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Saturday and Sunday. COVID safety and spacing protocol remains in place for both vendors and visitors. All vendors and visitors must wear face coverings and practice proper social distancing.

Admission is free. For vendor information, contact Esmeralda Juarez, marketplace supervisor at 805-289-6062 or email, ej Suarez@vcccd.edu. For general Marketplace information, go to www.venturacollegefoundation.org/weekend-marketplace.

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This 'n' That



On March 9 at 12am, the Ventura County Fire Communication Center received multiple reports of a vegetation fire in the area of River Haven. A fire response was dispatched to the area and the first fire resource on scene reported a 100'x100' spot fire in heavy vegetation approximately 600' east of Harbor Blvd. It was determined to be a warming fire that extended into the heavy vegetation surrounding a homeless encampment.



Derrick Wilson's background includes working in public services for the County of Santa Barbara and the County of Ventura.

Ventura Botanical Gardens appoints leadership

Ventura Botanical Gardens (VBG), a nonprofit organization dedicated to building a world-class botanical garden and cultural landmark, announces the appointment of Derrick Wilson as the 2021 Board President.

Derrick Wilson's background includes working in public services for the County of Santa Barbara and the County of Ventura respectively for nearly three decades. In his current role as a VC Public Works Agency manager, he oversees strategic planning and process improvement initiatives. Over the years, he has also

worked as a caseworker, staff development trainer, and project manager. His background in administrative services, coupled with leading teams and projects, benefits the Ventura Botanical Gardens as the organization moves into Phase II planning. He joined the VBG board of directors in 2016 and most recently held the role of Vice President. He is the organization's first black president.

"I am enthusiastic about the great potential the Gardens have attracting a broad range of visitors from all over the world. During the pandemic, VBG has provided a place for visitors to come that is both safe and beautiful. I am also proud to be a part of what this gem provides for the City of Ventura, for those who live and work here. It is a wonderful place to enjoy the outdoors and learn about nature," states Derrick Wilson.

In addition to Mr. Wilson's appointment, Isabel Callaway is continuing her role as VBG Vice President for 2021. She is a real estate agent for Berkshire Hathaway and has served on the board since 2015. Other board members include Laurence Nicklin, Kevin Clerici, Terry Sommer, Tracy Long, Barbara Brown, Phil White, Kathy McGee, Sabrena Rodriguez, Joe Cahill, Lane Lopez, and Mary Kay Doubek.

Located at Grant Park in the City of Ventura, the Ventura Botanical Gardens' goals include encouraging visitors to strengthen their connection to nature. Open Tuesday through Sunday from 9am to 5pm – closed on Mondays. Admission is \$7—members are free, children 18 and under are free, and EBT cardholders

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are free. Fridays are also free. Leashed dogs are welcome on Wednesdays and Fridays. COVID protocols are in play. Masks are required for entrance and must be worn within 6 feet of others. During the pandemic, restrooms are closed.

For more information, visit www.VenturaBotanicalGardens.com. To stay up-to-date with what's going on in the Gardens, join us on Facebook.

The Ventura Botanical Gardens is located at 567 S. Poli St. The

nonprofit organization is dedicated to creating a botanical garden for the twenty-first century celebrating the Mediterranean climate regions. The setting is a world-class site with spectacular 360-degree views of the California coast, the Channel Islands and Ojai's Topa Topa mountain range. VBG will continue to create new outdoor opportunities including training, research, and educational programs ranging from horticulture and botany to sustainability.