

Observe Earth Day on April 22!



VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

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Michael Boyko, Funeral Director presents grant check to Peter McClintock of the Ventura Boys & Girls Club

Boyko and Reardon secures grant for Boys & Girls Club of Ventura

Michael Boyko, owner and funeral director of the Joseph P. Reardon Funeral Home & Cremation Service and Boyko & Reardon Telegraph Road Mortuary & Cremation, both of Ventura has secured a grant from the Matthews Children's Foundation for the Ventura Boys & Girls Club. This grant will go towards furthering several of the Boys & Girls Club's programs helping the youth of Ventura grow into healthy, responsible, productive members of our community.

"The Boys & Girls Club has so many positive engaging programs and I believe that following the Covid 19 epidemic the funds will go to certain good use as our community gets back on its feet with a particular emphasis in helping our young adults rebound from setbacks last year" Boyko said.

The Matthews Children's Foundation is a non-profit organization that partners with community funeral

Continued on page 3



Conor Barry works on his truck, in an out of the virtual classroom. Aryanna Miles has been on campus for cheer practices since November and is happy to return to the classroom. Bram Pagliano is comfortable with distance learning, but misses arc welding classes in person.

Returning to the Classroom

by Amy Brown

(Part Two)

Many students now have the opportunity to return to in-classroom learning, whether nearly full time or in a hybrid configuration. Across the county, hard-

working teachers are welcoming their students back, and as one can imagine, it is a huge adjustment—especially for some seniors, who have spent much of the last



Public safety dispatchers undergo a rigorous testing and background process before being hired.

Honoring Ventura Police Dispatchers

The Ventura Police Department honored the men and women who answer life-saving 911 calls in celebration of National Public Safety Telecommunications Week April 11-17, 2021.

In 2020, Public Safety Dispatchers at the Ventura Police Department answered more than 198,000 calls, including 53,121 emergency 911 calls, with phone calls continuing to increase annually.

"Our community depends on the

skill, expertise, and commitment of the men and women who work in public safety communications," said Ventura Police Chief Darin Schindler. "They remain calm during every emergency, have a unique ability to multi-task under very stressful conditions, and play a key role in response and safety. We are fortunate to have a talented team of dedicated professionals who care deeply

Continued on page 3

year working, planning for their futures, and becoming more self-sufficient and autonomous, both in school and out.

Conor Barry, a senior at Buena, would like to try to return to school fully in person, but isn't sure yet, since he has a job working up to five days a week. He plans to go to Ventura College and then become a diesel mechanic after graduation, and has been meeting remotely with his auto shop teacher, and works on his truck in the meantime. He shared that all of his teachers have really stepped up and bridged the gulf of distance learning. "Being in person for auto shop would be really cool," says Barry. "I already watch YouTube and figure stuff out on my own, but I want to be with other people with same interests. Barry said he really misses school dances and sports, and ran track as a junior, when Covid ended the season abruptly after just one meet. "I'm really sad that I didn't have a regular senior year, I was hyped for it," he said. "I'm going to try going five days a week, and hopefully I like it, but if it's not practical, I don't want to change everything I do, including work, just to go to school in person for two months. Of course part of me wants me to do it because it's my senior year." He shared that his uncertainty is not fear of getting Covid, but being forced to change his full time work and other commitments he's made in the past year.

Bram Pagliano is a senior at Vista Real, and as such even before the pandemic was accustomed to having some in-class and some autonomous schoolwork done at home. After graduation, he plans to attend Ventura College, and continue his passion for arc welding, a process in which electromagnetic currents are used to bind metal. He became interested in the demanding career in shop class in 11th grade. "It's satisfying, it's fun to do, and as a career, it pays really well," he said. "When I first started arc welding, it was hard—when the currents heats up to the point where it touches metal, the sparks can be blinding. It was cool when I did it the first time, but it was pretty scary." He spoke to his early shop teachers about his specific focus--his desire to learn how to get the best integrity in a weld and make it a career.

Some seniors can't wait to resume

Continued on page 3

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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.

We thank our latest donors **Barry Fisher, Susan Scott, Joanne Kaplan** and **Patricia M. Mihevic**.

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Community Events

Ventura events

by Ana Baker

April 20: The Museum of Ventura County just announced two upcoming online events that are not to be missed!

Local History Happy Hour, a bi-monthly series where local authors and historians will sit down with Barbara Barnard Smith Executive Director Elena Brokaw to discuss their unique perspectives on our region's history and take questions from the audience. Roz McGrath, author of *Memoir of a Feminist*, will join us for the first installment of Local History Happy Hour on Tuesday, from 5-6 p.m. Registration is free!

April 28: "The Ventura College Area Community Council will be holding a Zoom meeting on Wednesday, at 7p.m.

An invitation and link to the meeting will be sent to everyone on the CACC mailing list. Council meetings include speakers and discussion on topics of neighborhood and community interest, including public safety and economic development. At the April meeting, Heather Sumagaysay, PIO of the City of Ventura, will be providing an update on issues facing the city in 2021. CACC represents citizens in Council District 3, neighborhoods between Dunning/Lemon Grove and Hill Road, north of Hwy. 126. <collegeareacouncil.com/map> Visit the College Area Community Council website @ <http://collegeareacouncil.com/wp/> to be added to the mailing list and to access a link to the Zoom meeting."

April 30: Permanent Acting Interim Executive Director Louise Reilly Sacco will join the Ventura County Library at 6 p.m. on Friday, to talk about the collections at the Museum of Bad Art (MOBA).

This event will take place virtually via Zoom. The Museum of Bad Art collects, exhibits, and celebrates art that will be seen in no other venue. Since 1993, they have collected art from thrift stores, yard sales, sidewalk trash, and even the artists who create it. They analyze, compare to classic art, and share with thousands of fans around the world. Louise Reilly Sacco—the Permanent Acting Interim Executive Director of the Museum of Bad Art—was part of MOBA's founding team in 1993. This event is free and open to the public. To register visit bit.ly/VCLMOBA. For additional information, contact Ron Solórzano, Regional Librarian, at 805-218-9146 or ron.solorzano@ventura.org. Instructions for registering for this event on Zoom can also be found online calendar at www.ventcolibrary.org/calendar.

May 2: The 1892 Dudley Historic House Museum is resuming the first Sunday afternoon docent-led tours with covid protocols, from 1-4 p.m. Group size will be strictly limited. Admission is free. The museum is located at the corner of Loma Vista and Ashwood streets (197 N. Ashwood). For information please call 642-3345 or visit the website at dudleyhouse.webs.com.

May 8: Mother's Day weekend plant sale 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 746-4317.

May 15: Lora Howe will be book signing at the Bank of Books. Saturday from 1-3 p.m. 748 E. Main St. 643-3154. I love nomad life, but I think it is important to show all aspects of the lifestyle so you can decide if it is right for you. In 2011, I was diagnosed with breast cancer. In 2012, I hit the road full-time in a 5th wheel RV, because I realized how short life could be. Do what you love and go where you have

always wanted to go, now, before it is too late. Tomorrow is not guaranteed.

Honoring Ventura Police Dispatchers

Continued from page 1

about serving the community and our officers."

The Ventura Police Communications Center is staffed with two corporals, two senior dispatchers, 12 dispatchers, and two dispatcher trainees.

"This year, we recognize Dispatcher Kelly Wilson as our Dispatcher of the Year! Her positive attitude, professionalism and kindness on the phone, skill in dispatching officers, and service as a Communications Training Officer (CTO) exemplify the many skills and values worthy of this special award. She's truly an asset to our department."

Public safety dispatchers undergo a rigorous testing and background process before being hired. Once hired, dispatchers attend a Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training Dispatcher Course. Their training then includes 6 to 12 months of on-the-job training. Even then, approximately 50% of the dispatchers hired do not successfully complete the training program due to the unique demands and stressors of the job.

National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week was initially set up in 1981 by Patricia Anderson of the Contra Costa Sheriff's Office in California. Each year, the second full week of April is dedicated to the men and women who serve as public safety telecommunicators.

Returning to the Classroom

Continued from page 1

normal classes. Aryanna Miles is a senior and on the varsity cheer team at Buena, and after graduation will attend Lu Ross Academy cosmetology school. She's excited about following her passion and looks forward to her first job as a hair stylist, but for now is thrilled to be back in class in high school. "It was nice being back in class actually, but definitely different; there's not nearly as many people, and we have much smaller classes," she said. "But I was so ready, no question about it, to come back." It was her first year as a cheerleader, and her introduction to the sport was through Zoom practices at first, before the team started practicing in person in November. "During the past three years (pre-pandemic) I was in the stands watching them cheer, and the team was amazing, the girls looked so confident and close and it looked so fun. I remember thinking, 'I want that,' and now I'm there." She and her teammates did not expect to have any football games at which to cheer this year, and were exhilarated when they heard there would be. "I just thought we'd practice the whole time and not get games," said Miles. "And now all of sudden everything is starting up at once—I'm back in class, there's homework, practices and there's the huge Ventura game coming up. It's nerve wracking, but so exciting."

Boyko and Reardon secures grant

Continued from page 1

directors assisting with grants in support of children's organizations.

The check for \$1,000.00 was presented last week by Michael Boyko to Peter McClintock of the Boys & Girl's Club of Ventura at the Joseph P. Reardon Funeral Home & Cremation Service, 757 E. Main Street in downtown Ventura.

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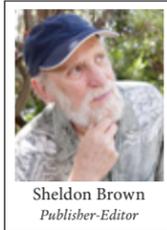
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The great secret
of success is to
go through life
as a man who
never gets used
to failing.
— Albert
Schweitzer

Opinion/Editorial



Sheldon Brown
Publisher-Editor

■ The closing of Main St. downtown, known as **Main Street Moves**, will continue to at least the beginning of next year (Jan.7, 2022), but there is talk about making

this closure permanent. The street was closed off to drivers beginning in June of last year.

Next week, the downtown business association - Downtown Ventura Partners - is scheduled to present this idea to the City Council.

If it is decided to make this permanent (it would take many other approvals as well), I would hope that money would be available to tear out the asphalt streets and install fountains, landscaping and pavers or some other type of ground cover to make it a really wonderful destination.

My only concern is how this closure has affected non-restaurant businesses.

■ The following are just recent mass murders.

A gunman **killed** eight people and wounded several others before apparently taking his own life in a late-night attack at a FedEx facility near the Indianapolis airport in the latest in a string of mass shootings in the United States.

The gunman who **killed** five people, including a prominent doctor in South Carolina was former NFL player Phillip Adams, who then killed himself.

Dr. Robert Lesslie, 70, and his wife, Barbara, 69, were pronounced dead at the scene along with grandchildren Adah, 9, and Noah, 5, the York County coroner's office said. A man who had been working at the home, James Lewis, 38, from Gaston, was found shot to death outside, and a sixth person was hospitalized with "serious gunshot wounds."

Police confirm one person was **killed** and five others were shot at Kent Moore Cabinets in Bryan. A Texas Department of Public Safety trooper was also shot in Grimes County in connection to the Bryan business shooting.

A police officer was wounded in a shooting at a high school in Knoxville, Tennessee, authorities said. Officials said the person who shot the officer, a student

at Austin-East Magnet High School, died at the scene when police returned fire.

An off-duty Pentagon police officer who shot and **killed** two people in Maryland morning has been charged with second-degree murder, police said. David Hall Dixon, of Takoma Park, told police he thought the victims were breaking into a car. However, attorneys for one victim's family said the car belonged to a friend who was with the two men at the time of the shooting.

Three people were **killed** and two people were seriously injured in a shooting at Somers House Tavern in Somers, Wisconsin, according to police.

Police said officers responded to the shooting just after 12:40 a.m. at 1548 Sheridan Road where three people were pronounced dead at the scene with two other gunshot victims being transported to local hospitals with serious injuries.

Three people have died in an "active attack" in northwest Austin.

Austin-Travis County EMS said just before noon April 18 that medics, Austin Fire Department and Austin Police Department crews were responding to the "active attack/shooter incident" in the 9600 block of Great Hills Trail near the Arboretum.

The incident marks at least the 47th (I've changed this amount 3-times since I started writing this) mass shooting in the United States since the Atlanta-area spa shootings on March 16. A mass shooting is usually defined as four or more people, excluding the gunman, are wounded or killed by gunfire.

A Republican said that we just need to keep guns out of the hands of bad guys. What a great idea, why didn't anyone think of that before?

Therefore, I think gun applications should have the following two questions.

Are you a bad guy? Yes or no.

If you buy a gun, will you kill an innocent person? Yes or no.

Are you a dangerous criminal? Yes or no.

If the answer to either is yes, the applicant can't buy a gun.

A 2019 study published in the British Medical Journal looked at gun control laws in U.S. states and compared them to gun-related deaths. The authors found: "States with more

permissive gun laws and greater gun ownership had higher rates of mass shootings. The study showed a "10% increase in gun ownership was associated with an approximately 35% higher rate of mass shootings."

The Gallup polling firm found "The data show strong public support for proposed legislative changes that would do such things as require background checks for all gun purchases, ban high-capacity ammunition magazines, require all privately owned guns to be registered with the police, and require a 30-day waiting period for all gun sales."

The former employee who shot and killed eight people at a FedEx facility was interviewed by FBI agents last year, after his mother called police to say that her son might commit "suicide by cop."

It's easier to buy a gun than it is to get the help that mentally ill people need.

Nationally this year, as of April 6, the Gun Violence Archive reports there have been 11,430 gun-related deaths, including nearly 6,500 suicides. In 2020, nearly 20,000 Americans died from gunshots, the most in two decades.

According to the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington, the United States had 3.9 violent gun deaths per 100,000 people in 2019. That's about 100 times higher than the rate in the United Kingdom. It's nearly 200 times higher than the rates in China, Japan and South Korea.

Sen. Ted Cruz tweeted: "The right to keep and bear arms is fundamental for preserving our liberty. The answer is not to restrict the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens, the answer is to go after violent criminals and come down on them like a ton of bricks." Almost all mass killers are law-abiding citizens, until they ain't.

President **Joe Biden** stated, "Gun violence in this country is an epidemic, and it's an international embarrassment. Too many Americans are dying every single day from gun violence. It stains our character and pierces the very soul of our nation." Later, he tweeted, "We can, and must, do more to reduce gun violence and save lives."

As Biden was announcing his executive actions and encouraging Congress to do something about gun violence, Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee was signing a bill, opposed by many law enforcement groups, that allows most adults 21 and older to carry handguns without a background check or training.

■ More than three million people globally have died of **Covid-19** since the start of the pandemic, Johns Hopkins University said. With 566,224 deaths, the US has the highest number of fatalities, followed by Brazil with 368,749 and Mexico with 211,693. Tell the families of all of the people who are gone that this is a fake pandemic.

Trump appointees in the Department of Health and Human Services last year privately spoke of their efforts to block or alter scientists' reports on the coronavirus to more closely align with then President Donald Trump's more optimistic messages about the outbreak. Even as career government scientists worked to combat the virus, Trump appointees was attempting to change the scientists' messages and edit their findings.

They pushed the CDC to alter reports on how bad COVID was, they muzzled Dr. Fauci, they pushed wild herd immunity theories, and they tapped pro-Trump celebs to appear in a public campaign about COVID. How many thousands of lives were lost because of these lies?

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

Mailbox

Sheldon:

I just wanted to thank you for your kind words and a very appreciated book review. It was very therapeutic to write this book and I am so humbled by you and other people I respect being so supportive. We have a lot of talented people in our community and a lot of very interesting stories. I'm thankful that you are part of my life journey Sheldon.

Thank you
Doug Halter

Sheldon

I must take issue with one of your comments about Asian Hate in New York.

"Ignorant people say, "They should go back to where they came from." We all came from somewhere else except Native Americans. So, using this approach, all of us, except Native Americans, would need to go back to where our ancestors came from. Mine from Russia and Romania."

Ignorant people say... Not only are they ignorant, they are historically clueless. Many thousands of ethnic Asian folks were born, raised, and dies right here in America, since the 1840s. Those decedents are natural American citizens. They can't 'go back to where they came from. They are here!

So, using this approach, all of us, except Native Americans...

Even our "Native Americans" came from somewhere else. There is very strong genetic evidence that the original Native Americans migrated from Mongolia, up to Siberia, across the Bearing Sea Ice Bridge, into Alaska, down into America, South to Mexico, and perhaps into South America.

Your ancestors came from Russia and Romania; mine came from Scotland, Germany, and Native American (New York). North America was a grand grazing land for the Dinosaurs.

Just my few cents worth,
Michael Gordon

Michael:

So it sounds as if no one should live here.

Editor,

I think that Governor Newsom has done a great job dealing with the pandemic and with the expansion of voting rights, among other things, but his latest call to re-open the state seems suspect at best. I am hoping that he is doing this in response to the advice of scientists, though I have read nothing to indicate this.

Instead, I read about the circus the
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News & Notes

You're invited to the city's first general plan virtual workshop

Wondering how to get involved in the City of Ventura's General Plan? Here is a guide for how to participate in the process and help shape the future of Ventura.

Q: What is a General Plan?

A: The General Plan is often referred to as the "blueprint" for shaping a community's quality of life for the next 20 to 30 years. It describes a shared vision and identifies long-term strategies to guide decision making. In 2020, the City of Ventura launched the first of many public engagement activities to update the General Plan themed "Our Vision. Our Future."

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 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 is 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, also available in Spanish, for the latest updates on community meetings, workshops, online surveys, and to join the project email list. The public is also invited to attend upcoming workshops or join the General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) Meetings. For additional questions, send an email at PlanVentura@cityofventura.ca.gov

Q: When are General Plan Advisory Committee (GPAC) Meetings?

A: The GPAC is a City Council-appointed advisory body composed of residents, business owners, educators, students, and other members of the community to guide the development of the

City of Ventura announces new sidewalk repair reimbursement program

The City of Ventura is pleased to announce the Safe Sidewalks Program, a reimbursement program funded by Measure O that aims to help expedite sidewalk repair needs throughout the City by covering a portion of the repair costs for individual improvements made by residents.

The Safe Sidewalks Program reimburses 50% of the repair costs, up to \$2,500 per resident property frontage. Income-qualified residents (per California Alternate Rates for Energy Income Qualifications) may receive a match of 75% of repair costs, up to \$3,750 per property frontage.

"Since 2016, we have improved over 40,000 square feet of sidewalks throughout the City, yet due to limited resources, there are still areas that need repair," said Public Works Director Phil Nelson. "Along with the City Council, who approved this program in January 2020, our goal is to provide a pathway for residents to fast track their sidewalk repairs to improve accessibility and safety for everyone."

Now accepting applications, residents must apply by March 31, 2022, and need approval before starting repair work with their selected contractor. Selected contractors must meet the following criteria: Possess a current City-issued business license; Possess a valid A, C-8, C-12, or C-61:D:06 contractor's license; and Registered with the State of California's

Department of Industrial Relations.

All project applications must have work completed by June 30, 2022, and approved by the City before receiving reimbursement. Pending budget approval, beginning July 1, 2021, the program allocates \$350,000 in total funding with an anticipated annual distribution of \$50,000 to each of the seven City Council districts. The Public Works Department may use any unused funds to repair sidewalks throughout the City or return them to the Measure O Fund.

To apply for the Safe Sidewalks Program or for more information and resources, visit www.cityofventura.ca.gov/SafeSidewalks.

CAREGIVERS Faith in Action® Vision for Ventura County

by Carol Leish

According to, Tammy Glenn MBA, Executive Director of CAREGIVERS: "In 1984, from the Robert Wood Johnson's Faith in Action®, is what is at the heart of the Volunteer Caregiving Movement. This helped to fuel the early volunteer force behind our communities, which has evolved. Now volunteers are recruited from faith communities, which continue to play an important role. When a community has gaps in services, agencies, organizations and faith communities form a coalition that is committed to ensuring that individuals' needs for in-home care will be met."

"Faith in Action® originated through the interfaith collaboration," according to, Teri Helton, RN, Community En

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Help shape Ventura's future!

Join the City of Ventura for its first General Plan Community Workshop!

- Learn about the General Plan and how it guides future growth and policy development in the city
- Hear about key topics and themes that are driving change in Ventura
- Share your vision, values, and goals for the next 20-30 years

What
General Plan Virtual Workshop (Hosted in English and Spanish)

When
April 29, 2021
6:00 pm

Where
Online (Zoom)
Registration is required.
Link coming soon!

Veá este anuncio en español. ¡Acompañe a la Ciudad de Ventura en el primer taller comunitario sobre la actualización del Plan General! Taller Virtual del Plan General el 29 de abril, 2021 a las 6:00 pm. Visite el sitio web para información sobre cómo registrarse a este evento.

For more information:
PlanVentura@cityofventura.ca.gov

www.PlanVentura.com



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St. John's Regional Medical Center

St. John's Pleasant Valley Hospital

News & Notes

Assistance League of Ventura County Bargain Box announces grand re-opening May 1

by Pam Eichele

Assistance League Public Relations Chairman

Assistance League of Ventura County is excited to announce the Grand Re-opening of the Bargain Box, located at 3351 Telegraph Road in Ventura, on Saturday, May 1, from 10 am to 4 pm! Members have been busy refurbishing, refreshing and restocking the store. Please stop by and join in the fun! Spin the wheel for a discount or gift! First 100 shoppers get a thank you gift!

Established in 1956, the Bargain Box is an upscale resale shop, operated entirely by volunteer members of Assistance League of Ventura County. For 71 years, Assistance League of Ventura County, a non-profit 501 (c) (3) corporation, has been dedicated to the enrichment of the lives of children in Ventura County and the betterment of their future. Proceeds from sales at the Bargain Box support the many philanthropic programs maintained by Assistance League of Ventura County. Philanthropies include:

Our flagship program, Operation School Bell, provided hygiene kits, school supplies, books, magazines, and Target gift cards this year to fill the needs of 1,344 children in the community.

Assistance League School in Oxnard is a state-certified special education preschool providing educational and assistance to young children who need help with communication skills. During COVID-19, our awesome administrator and teachers never missed a beat, re-vamping their curriculum to meet the needs of their students with monthly lesson packets and on-line learning. Our Properties Committee used the down-time to make much-needed repairs to the school building and playground, which

will welcome the children upon their return.

B.U.F.F.Y. Bear is a cuddly bear provided By Assistance League of Ventura County to First Responders and other community partners who need to offer comfort and reassurance to children in a time of crisis. During the pandemic, our Bear supply was exhausted. Never fear! We just received our next shipment of Bears and will be distributing them very soon.

During the pandemic, two additional philanthropies were approved by the Board of Directors:

Working in partnership with Ventura County Children and Family Services, the Care Closet was established. Supplied with donations from Assistance League of Ventura County and other partners, Care Closet provides gently used clothing and household items to Foster families and young adults who have aged out of the Foster program.

The ALVC Scholarship Program provides scholarships to students who excel in the areas of science and engineering.

Are you looking for a way to make a difference in the community? We always welcome new members!

For more information, please visit our website at www.assistanceleagueventura-county.org

Assistance League of Ventura County is affiliated with the Assistance League, a national organization which consists of 120 chapters throughout the United States, all of whom support their local communities through philanthropy and volunteerism.

St. John's Regional Medical Center earns clean facility certificate

St. John's Regional Medical Center (SJRCM), a member of Dignity Health, is proud to announce it has earned the Clean Facility Certificate from the Association for the Health Care Environment (AHE), the recognized authority in health care environmental services, and professional membership group of the American Hospital Association. AHE released the Pathways to Clean Certificate Program as a resource for members and the environmental services community at large in response to COVID-19.

"We are proud of our Environmental Services team's commitment to maintaining a clean and safe environment for our staff and patients," said Darren W. Lee, President and CEO of St. John's Regional Medical Center and St. John's Pleasant Valley Hospital. "This certification acknowledges our exceptional practices to maintain a sanitary environment, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic."

To receive the Clean Facility Certificate, SJRCM completed the Pathways to Clean Program, including training and education

related to COVID-19, infection prevention strategies, cleaning, disinfection, sanitation, emerging pathogens, and preparedness for biological events. SJRCM affirmed its commitment to hospital-grade cleanliness and assuring patients, staff, and guests that their facility is clean and safe.

The Environmental Services team at St. John's Regional Medical Center works tirelessly to ensure a safe, comfortable, and clean hospital environment. Their efforts have been integral to the safety of staff and patients throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

St. John's Regional Medical Center is a 265-bed acute care, award-winning facility. Serving Ventura County for more than one hundred years, St. John's is the first and only Certified Thrombectomy-Capable Stroke Center in Ventura County and a recipient of the American Heart Association's, Get with the Guidelines-Stroke Gold Plus Quality Achievement Award. Designated as a STEMI Receiving Center, St. John's is highly recognized in the community for excellence in cardiac care. Our Cancer Center is accredited by the American College of Surgeons Commission on Cancer, and our Integrated Breast Center is accredited by the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers. SJRCM houses a comprehensive Level III Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, providing specialized care to the tiniest patients as well as a Beacon Award-Winning Intensive Care Unit. St. John's is supported by an active philanthropic Foundation to help meet the growing health care needs of our communities. Learn more at dignityhealth.org/stjohnsregional.



News & Notes



The owners are looking to reopen in a nearby location.

Player’s Casino files for bankruptcy

by Richard Lieberman

Player’s Casino in Ventura has filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy on April 6th. Player’s Poker Club Inc. announced the firm has debts amounting to 3.5 million dollars, but cash on-hand and investments only total 3 million dollars according to U.S. Bankruptcy Court in Santa Barbara.

The “Players Casino” sign at the front of the building has been removed. The casino was located at 6580 Auto Center Drive. The parking lot now stands empty. The casino was opened on this site and has remained on the site for the past 11 years.

Michael Kogan, attorney for the gambling center said “the owners are looking to reopen in a nearby location. Casino owners commented that they are optimistic they can re-open safely

and make money once the state lifts all Covid-19 restrictions,” Kogan added.

Since the pandemic restrictions went into effect in March, 2020, the casino’s business took a major hit in revenues. The company grossed \$16.4 million in revenue in 2019, before the pandemic, compared with \$3.9 million last year.

Property owners of the casino site and the casino owners are locked in a stalemate over the rent before the casino filed for bankruptcy and vacated the property, leaving it in disarray reported Michael Case an attorney for the property owners. He also said, “the casino had renewed the lease last fall for another five years and he doesn’t understand why the case is in bankruptcy court. The casino has plenty of money to pay its debts as they become due,” he added.

California Connections Academy accepting applications for the 2021-2022 school year

Equipped with expertise in full-time online learning, TK-12 families across California now welcome to apply for enrollment in trusted online public school.

California Connections Academy, a network of tuition-free, online public schools serving students in grades TK-12 across 32 counties, is now accepting applications for new students for the upcoming 2021-22 school year. First established in 2004, the schools were specifically designed for a full-time virtual environment and currently serve more than 6,800 students statewide across six regionally established schools – California Connections Academy Central Valley, California Connections Academy Central Coast, California Connections Academy Monterey Bay, California Connections Academy North Bay, California Connections Academy Ripon and California Connections Academy Southern California.

As an accredited, online public school with 17 years of expertise, California Con-

nections Academy provides students with the continuous support of highly-skilled, state-credentialed teachers and curriculum that focuses on both academics and social-emotional learning. The school’s teachers are specially trained to bring their skills and personality to the virtual classroom and emphasize the importance of fostering meaningful connections with students and their families. A student’s daily learning activities are flexible to meet their needs and families can decide in which order to complete the assigned work.

California Connections Academy students represent a diversity of backgrounds and education histories, ranging from those who are academically ahead or struggling in a traditional school setting to those who experience health challenges or bullying. At California Connections Academy, students have access to advanced courses, extracurricular activities and flexible scheduling that helps them to take ownership of their own educational journey. Students who choose to enroll in the school join a collaborative community of their fellow students and educators that provides a welcoming, distraction-free learning environment.

According to the results of the school’s 2020 Parent Satisfaction survey, 95 percent of parents agree their children are satisfied with the program. Furthermore, 96 percent of parents agree that the school’s technology tools improve their child’s learning experience, and 95 percent agree that the curriculum is high quality.

In addition to the best-in-class curriculum at California Connections Academy,

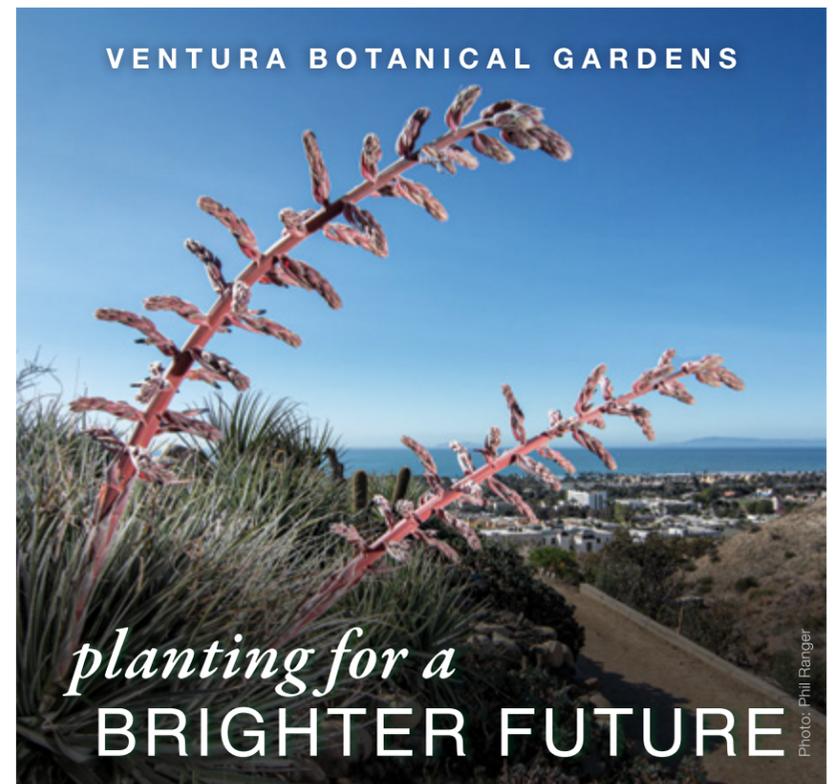
Get Involved!



Learn more and share your input about proposed water and wastewater rate adjustments at an upcoming Virtual Community Open House.

Virtual Community Open House
Wednesday, April 28 at 6 pm

Register at www.VenturaWaterRates.net



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the network of virtual schools offers diverse and modern courses including foreign languages, STEM electives and game design.

Families who are interested in the school can learn more and begin the process for enrolling in the 2021-22 school year by visiting www.CaliforniaConnectionsAcademy.com or calling 800-221-2720.

California Connections Academy is a

network of six tuition-free, online public schools, serving students in grades TK-12 throughout 32 counties. Accredited by the Accrediting Commission for For more information, call 1-800-221-2720 or visit the school’s website.

Editor: The Breeze is not endorsing the California Connections Academy but printing this for you to determine if you might have interest in this program.



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Kids & Families Together is a respected partner with the county child welfare agency and an appreciated resource for some of our county's most vulnerable children and families. For Kids & Families Together the often used motto, "it takes a village to raise a child" takes on real meaning. Thank you for being part of our village.

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Seasons Catering launches a new subscription meal delivery service from their Good2Go line

Seasons Catering owner and chef Gabrielle Moes this week announced the launch of her new subscription meal delivery service. After pivoting through the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic with the launch of Good2Go heat & serve meals in March 2020, Seasons Catering is now expanding its farm-fresh, chef-crafted meals into a stress-free, home delivery subscription service. "As we celebrate the first anniversary of our popular Good2Go heat & serve meals, it was a natural step to offer Good2Go as a weekly subscription service," said Moes.

Good2Go's subscription service offers three meal packages, with customers choosing once or twice a week delivery for two to four people. Ordering is easy. Customers select the subscription package that best fits their needs, add extra chef-curated selections like breakfast or lunch items, then simply await their food delivery directly to their door. All meal packages include salad or soup, an entrée and side dish. The package for four includes a dessert.

Ideal for busy people and families on-the-go, customers praise the fresh quality and generous portions provided by Good2Go meals. "As a family we love the items, especially the chicken piccata and pot pies," commented one customer. Other customer favorites include herb crusted salmon, wild mushroom raviolis, and the kid-friendly rigatoni sausage bake. Ready2Eat lunch items are also very popular including the beef bulgogi bowl, Italian chopped salad, and various delicious wraps. Breakfast items were added to the menu in March.

"The pandemic has forced me, like so many other business owners, to be innovative yet mindful of the shifts it has brought to our family lives. Work-life balance has become much more blended, and so it's important to make moments, like sharing a meal with our loved ones, extra special." Gabrielle emphasizes that dinner can be stress-free and delicious, "With Good2Go, my vision was to create meals people can enjoy in their home that are crafted with care using the freshest local ingredients, and I think we're doing that."

Seasons Catering celebrated its 20th year in business in 2020 and shows no signs of slowing down. To learn more about their new meal subscription service and to view all of their Good2Go meals, please visit www.TheGood2Go.com.

News & Notes



"Our classified employees often work behind the scenes."

Ventura College custodian selected

With his trademark "Ask Me" button showcasing his helpful attitude, Ventura College's Alwin Sauers Jr. has been named the 2021 Ventura County Community College District Classified Employee of the Year. The VCCCD bestows this honor in accordance with the California Community Colleges (CCC) Board of Governors, who will now consider Sauers for the CCC statewide award. The award recognizes classified professionals who positively influence countless lives by showing the utmost commitment to our community colleges, by upholding professional ethics and standards and by serving the community with purpose and passion. They embody the best of California's community colleges.

Fellow VCCCD Classified Employee of the Year nominees included Thomas "Tommy" Arellano of Moorpark College, and Gabriela Rodriguez of Oxnard College.

"Our classified employees often work behind the scenes, yet they play a critical role in helping VCCCD students achieve their academic and professional goals," said Board Chair Joshua Chancer. "All three candidates are outstanding employees who reflect the District's focus on serving students, and we are thrilled to have Alwin represent the District at the state level."

Arellano is the athletic equipment manager at Moorpark College. He is known for his unlimited skills and contributions to the athletic department during his 39 years with the District.

Rodriguez is the student activities specialist for Oxnard College. For the past five years, she has served students and staff with a passion that is imperative to maintaining OC's high-quality enrichment and academic offerings.

"Gaby focuses on students with every breath she takes. In all her interactions at the college, Gaby is conscientious, strives for success and is fired up to participate. ... She does all of this with her characteristic boundless energy and drive to make OC a special place to study and work for everyone," noted Dr. Oscar Cobain, vice president of student development, in the nomination.

Sauers is a custodian at Ventura College and Ventura College East Campus, where his focus for over seven years has been on serving students. Sauers is an ever-present fixture on the campuses, making him a VC and VCEC ambassador available to help students. With his "Ask Me" button and gentle demeanor, every student feels comfortable asking him for assis-

tance. As an essential worker, Sauers takes special care in guaranteeing the cleanliness of the campuses during the pandemic and always.

"Alwin Sauers Jr. is special. He is a mensch, a good man, who does his job and then some with a true commitment to all the students that we serve. When his name comes up in a discussion or meeting, the response from everyone is always the same: we smile and sing his praises. Alwin is truly deserving of this honor," wrote Susan Royer, college services supervisor, in Sauers' nomination.

Up to six recipients will be honored as California Community Colleges Classified Employee of the Year at the May 2021 Board of Governors meeting, where they will receive a \$750 cash award and a plaque.



SEEAG teaches kids how to grow vegetables while learning healthy eating habits.

SEEAG kicks off second "Let's Grow A Garden" program

For the second year, Students for Eco-Education and Agriculture (SEEAG) is hosting its "Let's Grow A Garden"--an at-home garden program for students in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties that teaches kids how to grow vegetables while learning healthy eating habits and proper nutrition.

"A garden gives kids a sense of accomplishment as they care for their plants and then harvest their crops. They also come to appreciate the role of our local farmers and the importance of eating healthy," says Mary Maranville, SEEAG's founder and CEO.

To help start their gardens, Agromin, an Oxnard-based manufacturer of earth-friendly soil products, composts and mulches made from recycled organic materials, is giving away 4-quart bags of potting soil to Let's Grow A Garden participants. The bags (one per child) are available at Agromin (201 Kinetic Drive, Oxnard) April 19 through April 23, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in the Agromin parking lot.

Plantel Nurseries will be giving away vegetable seedlings on Earth Day (April 22) at Agromin as well. When picking up soil and seeds, follow all social distancing and other rules posted on site.

Nutrition and agriculture program lessons are on SEEAG's website with new lessons posted every Monday beginning May 3. Also on the site is Information about local agriculture and links to where families can order seeds and gardening materials online.

A Let's Grow A Garden e-newsletter with product giveaway details and more "ag-tivities" is sent out weekly through

Continued on page 19



Senior Living



The study found that people with dementia were twice as likely to get COVID-19.

Chronic Conditions Clinical Research COVID and dementia

People with dementia have a higher risk of getting COVID-19, are more likely to require hospitalization, and are more likely to have severe or fatal cases of this disease compared with people without dementia. This risk is even higher in Black patients with dementia, according to a new study funded in part by NIA and published in *Alzheimer's & Dementia*.

A person's age and preexisting health conditions such as asthma, diabetes, heart disease, and obesity are significant risk factors for serious illness from COVID-19. Interestingly, these factors are also linked to dementia. However, scientists and doctors have little information about how COVID-19 affects people who have dementia. The new study, led by researchers at Case Western Reserve University, used information from the electronic health records of about 61.9 million U.S. adults from all 50 states to explore the link between dementia and COVID-19. The data was collected as part of the IBM Watson Health Explorers database. In this dataset, more than 1 million patients had dementia, 15,770 had COVID-19, and 810 had both.

The study found that people with dementia were twice as likely to get COVID-19 compared with people without dementia, even after adjusting for age, sex, living in a nursing home, and having similar preexisting conditions. The researchers suggest that the memory problems associated with dementia might make it difficult for patients to stick to safety measures such as wearing masks, washing hands frequently, and social distancing.

Results showed that 73% of Black patients with dementia and 54% of White patients with dementia were hospitalized within 6 months of their COVID-19 diagnosis, compared with 25% of patients without dementia. Only 20% of Black patients with dementia but not COVID-19 and 12% of White patients with dementia but not COVID-19 were

hospitalized within the same time frame. Patients of either race with dementia were almost four times more likely to die from COVID-19 than patients without dementia. The researchers also found that vascular dementia, which is caused by damage to the vessels that supply blood to the brain, led to the highest risk of COVID-19, suggesting that damaged blood vessels might make it easier for disease-causing bacteria and viruses to get from a person's blood into the brain.

Although their findings need to be replicated using other databases and registries, the researchers note that the study lays the foundation for future research into the interactions between COVID-19 and brain diseases, including whether COVID-19's effects on the brain increase the risk of or worsen dementia. The study demonstrates the need for innovative and effective measures to protect older adults with dementia from COVID-19 as part of controlling the pandemic and highlights the pressing need to address health disparities.

This research was supported in part by NIA grants AG057557 and AG062272.

Reference: Wang Q, et al. COVID-19 and dementia: Analyses of risk, disparity, and outcomes from electronic health records in the US. *Alzheimer's & Dementia*. 2021, Feb 9. doi: 10.1002/alz.12296. E-published ahead of print.

Senior News Line

Vaccinated? COVID Advice Clear as Mud

by Matilda Charles

If you're confused about COVID vaccine and when our lives are going to change for the better, you're not alone.

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We're considered to be fully vaccinated once two weeks have passed after the second dose of Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, or two weeks after the one-dose Johnson & Johnson.

What's new is this, per the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention: If fully vaccinated, you can be indoors with other fully vaccinated people without wearing a mask. You can meet indoors with unvaccinated people in one household unless one of those people has a health risk. If you've been around someone who has COVID, you don't have to stay away from people or get tested unless you have symptoms ... or live in a group setting. In that case, stay away from others for 14 days and get tested, even if you don't have symptoms.

Clear as mud, right?

It gets worse. According to the CDC, as fabulous as this new vaccine is, even if fully vaccinated, we still need to wear masks in public. We still need to social distance. We still need to avoid medium and large crowds. We still need to stay out of poorly ventilated spaces. We should delay travel.

So what's the holdup? Why are we still under restrictions after getting the vaccine? The best I can figure out is that the answer lies with the COVID

variants, the different versions created as the virus mutates. It appears that not all of the vaccines work equally well on all of the variants. Frankly, some of the vaccines work rather poorly, depending on which variant it encounters.

Until scientists figure this out, we still need to be cautious: wear masks, stay away from people, stay out of crowds. Except for getting the vaccine, not much has changed.

A Box of Greeting Cards

A few months ago, I got the idea to send greeting cards to some residents of a local nursing home who were locked down and not allowed to have visitors. It started small: a box of greeting cards and the first names of some of the residents, courtesy of the facility director. The idea has, to put it mildly, expanded.

First there was the call from the facility director wanting to know if I could enlarge my list because the residents were talking among themselves about who got cards and who didn't.

"Certainly," I said, and bought more cards.

A further expansion came when a woman called me saying that her mother was in that facility, but her

Continued on page 11

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Senior Living



"These funds allow for a caregiver to come in to walk with my sister."

Respite care scholarships available to California Central Coast residents

The Alzheimer's Association California Central Coast Chapter announces the availability of a respite care grant as a form of financial assistance to Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo and Ventura County residents.

This is a reimbursement grant for in-home or adult day services, to be used by family caregivers in need of respite care for their low-income loved ones with Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia.

"COVID-19 has made life challeng-

ing for everyone, especially persons with dementia and their caregivers," said Kathryn Cherkas, director of programs at the Alzheimer's Association California Central Coast Chapter. "As we're seeing more COVID-19 vaccines being administered and restrictions lifting a little more, these scholarships can provide a much-needed break for local families impacted by dementia, who may be feeling stressed, overwhelmed and isolated."

Some local residents have taken

advantage of the respite care scholarships and are grateful to receive some much-needed relief.

"These funds allow for a caregiver to come in to walk with my sister," says a grant recipient who is a primary caregiver for his sister with dementia. "This gives me time for running errands like grocery shopping which requires going on the city bus. It makes life easier for all of us."

Short-term respite care is used by many caregivers to complete chores or household tasks that are difficult to accomplish otherwise when caring for a loved one with Alzheimer's or dementia. For others, it is used as time to take a break from the full-time duties and stressors of being a caregiver, allowing them to focus on self-care.

"My mom and I care for my grandmother 24 hours a day," one caregiver said. "Receiving the respite care grant from the Alzheimer's Association made a huge difference for our family. Our memories and down time were so renewing!"

Caregivers must meet certain criteria in order to be eligible for the grant. They must be able to pay initial services and will invoice the association for reimbursement; they must have proof of dementia diagnosis; the caregiver and the person with dementia must be U.S. citizens or legal residents of the U.S.; either the caregiver or the person with dementia must have lived in chapter territory (San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties) for 10+ years; and they must provide proof of extreme financial need.

"This is a unique funding opportunity for our chapter, and we are excited about the opportunity to support as

many caregivers as we can," said Cherkas.

The Alzheimer's Association is available for additional information, support and advice. To learn more or apply for a scholarship, please contact the Alzheimer's Association 24/7 Helpline at 800.272.3900.

Dementia is an umbrella term

Dementia is an umbrella term used to describe conditions affecting the brain that get worse over time. Researchers have connected changes in the brain that damage nerve cells to certain forms of dementia. The five most common forms of dementia are listed below.

Alzheimer's disease is typically associated with abnormal buildups of proteins in the brain along with a loss of connection among nerve cells.

Vascular dementia is caused by vascular changes in the brain, such as a stroke or injury to small vessels carrying blood to the brain.

Lewy body dementia is typically associated with abnormal deposits of a protein (Lewy bodies) in the brain.

Frontotemporal dementia is often linked to abnormal amounts or forms of proteins and the loss of nerve cells in the frontal and temporal lobes.

Mixed dementia refers to when someone has a combination of brain changes associated with different forms of dementia, such as both Alzheimer's disease and vascular dementia.

Find more information on the causes of dementia on Alzheimers.gov.

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Alzheimer's Symptoms

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- DIFFICULTY COMPLETING FAMILIAR TASKS
- DIFFICULTY SOLVING PROBLEMS (1+1=?)
- POOR JUDGEMENT
- TROUBLE WITH IMAGES AND SPACES
- MISPLACING ITEMS (WHERE IS IT?)
- MEMORY LOSS
- UNFOUNDED EMOTIONS
- DIFFICULTY WITH WORDS

Explore the new Alzheimers.gov website today

NIA is pleased to announce Alzheimers.gov, a new website designed to educate and support people whose lives are touched by Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. The website serves as the federal government portal for dementia information and resources. To develop Alzheimers.gov, we collaborated with people living with dementia, caregivers, advocates, researchers, and others to ensure an informative, easy-to-use, and empowering website. We are delighted to share it with you.

Whether you are living with dementia, a family member or friend, health care professional, researcher, or

advocate, Alzheimers.gov is designed for you. Explore the website to find: Information about Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, including causes, symptoms, diagnosis, and treatment Tips and resources for caregivers and people living with dementia Updates on what the federal government is doing to address Alzheimer's and related dementias Clinical trials and studies you can join to help advance ways to treat and prevent dementia Resources for health care providers, community and public health workers, and researchers.

Stimulus payments

by Matilda Charles

A third round of stimulus payments are on their way. But has your second one shown up yet? Next question: Did you file last year's 2019 taxes on paper instead of e-filing? If so, that might well be the reason you don't have your money yet.

The IRS got behind on processing the paper tax forms we sent a year ago. If all had gone well, those who were eligible should have received a \$600 stimulus check (the second one) by Jan. 29, 2021.

The IRS has a specific page for you to check the status of your stimulus payment, but it's only good for the third stimulus check. All information for your first and second stimulus money has been removed from their website.

Start with www.irs.gov/coronavirus/get-my-payment and scroll to Get My Payment. Click on it and fill out the information. You'll go to a page that tells you the status of the payment you're to receive now, the third payment. If it says that payment information is Not Available, it means you're not going to receive a payment the easy way (and might be why your second payment is still missing). On the Get My Payment page, click on Frequently Asked Questions to see what applies to you.

Even if you don't normally file, you'll need to file for 2020 (preferably e-file) if

you want that stimulus money quickly. Look for Line 30 on the Form 1040 or 1040-SR. It's called the Recovery Rebate Credit. If you received Notice 1444 or 1444B in the mail from the IRS, it will tell you what figures to use.

Vaccinated?

Continued from page 9 mother-in-law was in another local place, and would I send cards to a few people there as well?

"Certainly," I said, and bought more cards.

You see where this is going? It wasn't long before I knew I needed some help. It wasn't only signing and addressing the cards, it was writing an individual letter to go in each envelope.

I called the guidance counselor at the high school and the ideas just flew. The service club is writing letters; they roped in the art club, which is producing individual drawings and paintings for each nursing home resident. The chorus stepped up and is planning an outdoor concert in the front of each facility when the weather warms up. (At this point they practice their music on Zoom calls.) And two students have initiated a project wherein they're collecting craft supplies for the therapist at the nursing home to use with the residents.

Does this sound like something you can start in your own area? You can start small. All it takes is a box of greeting cards -- and a few ideas.

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This 'n' That

Community support urgently needed for additional shelter homes and resource families in Ventura County

Homes with Heart VC encourages experienced families to come forward as resource families and emergency shelter homes for children and youth in care.

While Ventura County is helping families stay together whenever possible, a child or children may still need to be temporarily placed in out of home care at any time, day or night, to ensure their overall safety. Homes with Heart VC, a program of Ventura County Children and Family Services, is encouraging families to step up as resource families or to provide a safe Emergency Shelter Home (ESH) for children and youth who are temporarily placed in out of home care and may experience trauma and need an immediate place to go. Currently, there is a limited number of Emergency Shelter families who help make that transition as smooth as possible for the children. The county is in immediate need of these special resource families and Shelter Homes.

Homes with Heart VC, provides children, youth, and families with a foundation of respect and support, including resource family services from special people who can support children and youth with trauma and provide Shelter Homes.

“All you have to do honestly, is have your baskets full of fruit and vegetables, the fridge with ham, bread...just have more food,” said Natalie Torres, ESH parent. She added that “if there is anyone out there that has extra time, I would just love to see those parents that have already raised children and were great at it be parents for these kids that really need them, I think that would just be amazing.”

The initiative is in need of highly qualified families to serve as resource Shelter Homes for children and youth who need immediate, short term care ranging anywhere from 1-60 days. The unique demands require a special set of skills and circumstances that include patience and consistency.

Important qualifications for becoming an Emergency Shelter Home

Complete the Resource Family training program learning about children and youth in trauma.

Be empathetic and supportive to both birth parents and the extended family of a child.

Have flexible schedules and have time available to be with a child.

Be available 24/7 for placement referrals.

Be organized, calm and understanding.

Have experience parenting children.

Have a stable, nurturing home.

Own reliable transportation.

Have good verbal and written communication skills, bilingual is so helpful.

Be a member of the professional team of support available to you.

Must reside within Ventura County.

“Emergency Shelter Homes provide a safe environment for our children at such a critical time in their lives and this is a very meaningful way to step up and help our community, help our families, and help our children and youth,” said Jaci Johnson, Program Coordinator III in Recruitment at Ventura County Children and Family Services.

Learn more at shelterhomes.homeswithheartvc.org

Recognized as a best practice leader statewide in the family recruitment and support component of child welfare, Ventura County Children and Family Services' Homes with Heart VC, previously known as Foster VC Kids, was developed to increase the amount of loving resource families who are ready to take in children in need in Ventura County. This initiative provides resource families with ongoing support services, trauma-informed training, and mentorship to enhance the safety, permanency and well-being of Ventura County's youth and families. Learn how Ventura County Children and Family Services' Homes with Heart VC is making a difference throughout Ventura County, www.homeswithheartvc.org

Food Share distributes most food in its 43-year old history

Since the onset of COVID-19 one year ago, Food Share, Ventura County's largest hunger-relief organization, has distributed more than 26 million pounds of food, providing more than 21.6 million meals to people in Ventura County. That's the most amount of food ever distributed in the organization's 43-year history, and nearly double the previous high of 13.5 million pounds in 2019.

“The numbers really show the impact that the COVID-19 pandemic has had on the health and economics of our community,” noted Monica White, Food

Share's President and CEO. “To put some context around it, that's the equivalent of feeding a sold-out Dodger Stadium three meals a day for the entire baseball season, plus the playoffs and the World Series.”

To ramp up operations to the level needed to meet the increased need, Food Share has relied heavily on the support of the CA Air National Guard, plus thousands of individual volunteers who, collectively, have given more than 76,000 volunteer hours to support Food Share's mission over the past twelve months.

“We truly cannot thank our community enough for their support, whether it's been through food drives, or monetary donations or volunteer hours,” commented White. “While we celebrate the news of decreased COVID cases and increased vaccinations, we can't stress enough that the vaccine doesn't cure hunger.” White added, “Food Share continues to see the negative economic impact on the members of our community due to COVID-19. We anticipate needing to provide additional food support for many more months and years to come.”



Dr. Castro brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the VUSD.

VUSD Board of Education hires Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services

After a months-long competitive search, the Ventura Unified School District (VUSD) Board of Education, has voted to hire Dr. Antonio Castro as the new Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services. Dr. Castro will begin his new role on April 8, 2021. In this new role, Dr. Castro will oversee departments such as; Curriculum and Instruction, Early Childhood Programs, Multilingual & Multicultural Education, Special Education, Student Support Services, and Health Services and Prevention Programs.

Dr. Castro brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise that will serve him well at VUSD. Since 2016, Dr. Castro has served as the Associate Superintendent of Educational Services at the Ventura County Office of Education. He has been highly effective in this role with oversight in the areas of Comprehensive Health and Prevention Programs, Curriculum & Instruction, Early Childhood Programs, Hearing Conservation, Leadership Support Services, Research & Evaluation, Accountability & Continuous Improvement, Administrator and Teacher Induction Programs, Expanded Learning Program and the Local Control & Accountability Plan.

Dr. Castro also served as the Director of Student Support Services, the Director of Special Education, and the Principal of Los Cerritos Middle School while working for the Conejo Valley Unified School District from 2006-2016. He began his career in the Simi Valley Unified School District as a Special Education Teacher.

“I believe that Dr. Castro's background in facilitating school improvement, his reputation for building positive relationships with District personnel and community agencies, his ability to innovate with the use of technology and online learning platforms, his familiarity with implementing districtwide initiatives, and his history of improving outcomes for high needs students will serve our community well. In addition, Dr. Castro has worked with our teams here in VUSD for some time and is very familiar with our Local Control Accountability Plan (LCAP), and will be ready to hit the ground running as we continue to address the immediate and long-term impacts of COVID-19,” stated Dr. Roger Rice, Superintendent.

“It is such an honor to join the Ventura Unified School District as the Assistant Superintendent of Educational Services. VUSD has an established history of elevating voices, aspirations, and pathways

to possibility within the community. I look forward to forming rich connections with our students and their families and contributing to the district's tradition of celebrating diversity,” stated Dr. Castro.

The Ventura Unified School District (VUSD) is located in Southern California, in the coastal city of Ventura, approximately 70 miles north of Los Angeles. The District is made up of an early childhood education program, 26 elementary, middle, and high schools, with more than 16,000 school-age students, an adult education center, 2,000 staff, and a wealth of parents and community members who all strive to help our children find their passion—academically and personally. For more information, visit www.venturausd.org or call 805-641-5000.

From an earlier issue of the Ventura Breeze regarding the book *Fighting Chance* by Alicia Doyle.

“Boxing is more than just an escape from the chaos of the streets or the baggage of what's behind to those who find their way into the gym, and ultimately, the ring. Boxing can be the road – and has been for many over the generations in hard scrabble America – to the way in life.”

“That's the story shared by Ventura resident Alicia Doyle in her nonfiction memoir *Fighting Chance*, chronicling the young journalist's unlikely emancipation from her life's hardships through immersion into the “sweet science” of boxing.”

We are happy to report that Alicia Doyle has won the Best of Los Angeles Award - “Best Autobiographical Book - 2021”, according to Aurora DeRose, award coordinator for the Best of Los Angeles Award community.

The “Best of Los Angeles Award” community was formed five years ago and consists of over 7,400 professional members living and working in Southern California. It celebrates the best people, places, and things in Los Angeles with the slogan “No Ads. No B.S. Only the Best.”

“The mission of the community is to celebrate the best of Los Angeles, and allow its community members to connect with other members who share the highest standards of quality and integrity,” expresses DeRose. “We're honored to include Alicia Doyle into our BoLAA family.”

In the 1990s, Alicia Doyle went on an assignment at a boxing gym for at-risk youth known as Kid Gloves. It was during that assignment that she discovered boxing at age twenty-eight. She simultaneously worked as a newspaper reporter while training and competing as a boxer for two whole years. She became one of a few hundred women who infiltrated a male-dominated sport in America.

Alicia Doyle ended up winning two Golden Gloves championship titles. In 2000, she had her pro debut, which was named The California Female Fight of the Year. Her book, “*Fighting Chance*”, offers insight into her journey, and a peek into one of the toughest sports out there.

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.

DUI Drugs, Possession of Controlled Substances, Commercial Burglary, Grand Theft, Identity Theft

On April 14, at approximately 1am, the VPD Command Center received a call from a security guard in the Downtown area that a glass door to a shop in the 500 block of Main St had been shattered. Patrol officers arrived and discovered the store had been burglarized. CSI processed the scene, discovering around \$3,000 worth of merchandise had been stolen.

At about 7am, the VPD Command Center received a call from a victim in the 6000 block of Promontory Lane, their unlocked vehicle had been entered, and about \$2500 worth of property was taken from it.

At about 9:30am, Patrol officers were dispatched to the 1900 block of Tanager St reference a subject slumped over in a vehicle with the motor running. Officers searched the area and were able to locate the car parked in the 7/11 parking lot on Bristol St. Officers contacted 29 year old Ventura County resident Whitney Byrd, who appeared under the influence, and they began a DUI investigation. During the investigation, officers located a large amount of stolen property and contacted Street Crimes detectives.

Detectives were able to link Whitney to the earlier burglary and theft from an unlocked vehicle. Detectives also located evidence of Identity Theft. Whitney was arrested for Driving Under the Influence of a Drug, Possession of Controlled Substances (methamphetamine and fentanyl), Commercial Burglary, Grand Theft, and Identity Theft.

A search of the Ventura County Superior Court shows Whitney has prior arrests for being Under the Influence of a Controlled Substance, Possession of a Controlled Substance, Petty Theft, Possession of a Stolen Vehicle, and Burglary.

Narcotics Arrest

On April 7, at 11:00 am, Ventura Police patrol officers contacted 39 year old Ventura resident Elizabeth Haberstich in the 100 block of Santa Clara St. During the detention, officers conducted a probation search. Officers located narcotics on Haberstich's person, members of the SCU Narcotics unit responded and assisted with the investigation.

During the subsequent investigation, detectives recovered fentanyl, methamphetamines, cocaine, and evidence of narcotics sales on Haberstich's person, vehicle, and hotel room. As a result of the investigation, Elizabeth Haberstich was arrested for possession for sale of controlled substances.

A search of the Ventura County Superior Court shows that Elizabeth Haberstich has prior arrests for numerous narcotics violations, including several previous arrests for possession for sales of controlled substances.

Harbor Patrol Blotter

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

4/07 12:24pm, received a report of a transient locked in a restroom screaming in Harbor Village. Officers responded and removed the individual peacefully.

4/08 6:15am, observed Small Craft Advisory issued by NWS. SCA Pennant raised.

4:15pm, dispatched to child endangerment in a vehicle at Harbor Cove. Officers responded, found a child crying in a baby seat and an adult unconscious in the front seat. Eventually the adult was awakened, and the child attended to and calmed. VPD arrived on scene and the incident is under investigation.

8:46pm, dispatched to a person trapped in an elevator. Officers responded and assisted VFD with removing the victim from the elevator. No injuries occurred.

4/09 1:45pm, received report of persons harassing sealions near NPS docks. Officers responded in Rescue B17, found the subjects in a peddle boat and educated on federal laws protecting marina mammals and consequences of violating laws.

5:07pm, received report of injured seabird at the launch ramp. Officers responded, captured bird for rescue volunteers to treat and rehabilitate.

4/10 4:12am, dispatched to a seizure at local hotel. Officers responded and assisted VFD to assess patient. Patient was intoxicated, refused help and signed release.

6:27am, dispatched to a seizure at local hotel, same patient as earlier. Officers responded with VFD/AMR and convinced the patient to go to hospital.

5:49pm, received report of a missing 14 y/o surfer on a rainbow-colored wave storm surfboard. Officers responded with State Parks and located the individual.

4/11 11:30am, received a complaint of a loud noise that sounds like an animal dying near Marina Park restrooms. Officers responded and were able to ascertain the noise is a bird deterrent at the Marina Park restrooms.

12:45pm, received report of a vessel on the rocks near Dave's Fuel dock. Officers responded with TowBoat US, assisted removing the vessel off the rocks

8:07pm, received report of an overdue Hobie Cat. Officers investigated and were able to observe the vessel near the Ventura Pier, becalmed. Responded in Fireboat 1, located the 19ft sailboat w/o lights with the aid of radar. Comms were established, the experienced sailor refused assistance, and later notified patrol via VHF 16 when he safely returned to the harbor.

4/12 8:10pm, dispatched to an ill subject near 1591 Spinnaker. Officers responded with VFD and found an intoxicated person. Arranged ride home for subject.

1:13pm, officers towed a disabled 35ft Chriscraft to the L/R for repairs. The vessel lost an engine and safe harbor was offered due to Small Craft Advisory.

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Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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



The Pet Page



Dedicated to Scamp

■ SPAN Thrift Store is now open to the public and looking for donations of adult clothing, household items and tools if you've got items you no longer use.

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

Two upcoming clinics are: Tuesday, April 27th at SPAN Thrift Store parking lot 110 N. Olive St. (behind Vons on Main), and a second at Albert H. Soliz Library - El Rio, 2820 Jourdan St., Oxnard, 93036 on Tuesday, May 11th.

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

■ As cat owners, probably one of the most dreaded parts is knowing how to trim cat nails without causing a full of cat meltdown. It can be a very stressful process for both you and your cat. Here at IndyVet, we wanted to help alleviate the stress of trimming your cat's nails by showing you a few tips and tricks.

One of the first things that you will want to have is a pair of small feline nail trimmers. Human nail trimmers can cause small cuts on your cat's pads and can cause irritation and discomfort.

One of the first things that you will want to do is find a comfortable place to sit down. Then, have your cat in your lap in a sitting position. Put some pressure on the top and bottom side of the paw so that the nail comes out of its sheath. Clip only the top (white) part of the nail. Make sure that you aren't trimming the pink (quick) part of the nail. This can cause pain and bleeding.

If your cat is stressed, a tip is to swaddle your cat in a large towel. This ensures that your cat can't scratch you as you trim their nails. If your cat is still showing signs of distress, you can use treats or cat food to distract them.

If your cat is scratching or trying to bite you, you do have the option of calling your vet and having them trim your cat's nails for you. Veterinarians have access to medications that can decrease your cat's anxiety. They also have more handling techniques and staff members who can help assist in the process.

■ HealthDay News -- Cats have a long history of boosting people's moods and brightening their days. And that's probably true for kids on the autism spectrum as well, new research shows.

The small study suggests that adopting a shelter cat may help reduce separation anxiety and improve empathy in kids with an autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

"Cats, and companion animals in general, offer unconditional acceptance and someone to talk to that listens, and caring for an animal can help with learning responsibility," said study author Gretchen Carlisle. She's a research scientist at the Research Center for Human-Animal Interaction at the

University of Missouri, in Columbia.

ASD is a brain disorder that affects social skills, communication and impulse control. In the United States, it affects one child in 54, according to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The new study included 11 families that had children with autism between the ages of 6 and 14. The families were followed for 18 weeks after adopting a shelter cat. The researchers used standardized social skills and anxiety scales to pick children who were likely to respond well to a pet. The cats were also screened for temperament.

Overall, parents reported an instant bond between child and cat, and the bond remained strong over time even with the added responsibility of caring for the pet.

The researchers found that the kids' separation anxiety, bullying and over-activity declined over the study period and they showed more empathy after adopting the cat. Most families kept the cat after the study ended. The new findings were published online recently in the Journal of Pediatric Nursing.

Carlisle said it's not that cats are a better choice than dogs, but feline companions may be particularly well suited for some children with autism and their families.

"Many children with autism have sensory issues and when a dog is barking in your face, it can be really overwhelming, whereas cats just sit beside you and are less overwhelming from a sensory standpoint," she explained.

Cats can also be much easier to care for, especially by parents of kids with autism who might already be overwhelmed and stressed.

"We specifically selected cats aged 10 months to 4 years because there is prior work that younger cats are more social with kids with autism, and adult temperament tends to be set at 10 months with cats, so these are younger cats with an adult temperament," Carlisle said.

Several autism experts agreed that adopting a pet can have benefits for kids with autism and their families, as long as they know what they are getting into.

"Though small and preliminary, these are promising findings that mirror what I see in practice," said Dr. Melissa Nishawala, director of the Autism Spectrum Disorder Research and Clinical Program at Hassenfeld Children's Hospital at NYU Langone Health in New York City. "This is a study of pets or companion animals as opposed to service or therapy animals, so it is something that any family could pursue and gives a roadmap of how to do it well for families who are interested."

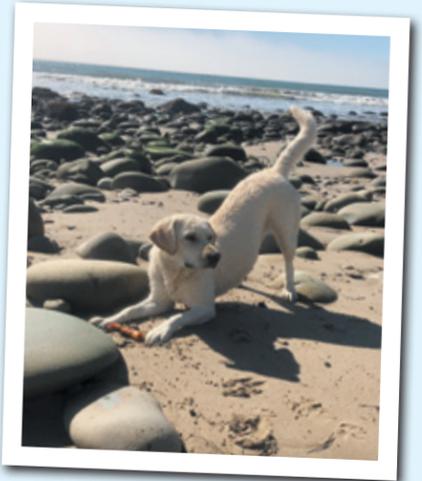
James McPartland, director of the Yale Developmental Disabilities Clinic in New Haven, Conn., agreed that animals can be soothing and help teach kids with autism responsibility.

"Getting a pet is a big responsibility and there are many people who may

Scamp Club

(Scampclub pets are not for adoption.)

Ali is a thuggish dog from Georgia. I (Matt) got him for free out of some fortunate circumstances and some really nice people. He is a year and a half old and loves everything from shadows and reflections to random people and other dogs. He is the sweetest dog I've ever had and ever known but I still call him a thug ironically. I love Ali and happy to have him in my life and the lives of my friends and family.



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.

find it's more responsibility than they wanted," he added. "So it's important to think through what is realistic for your family before adopting a pet."

■ Larger dogs such as the Rottweiler, great Dane and Rhodesian ridgeback have greater risk of osteosarcoma than smaller breeds, new research has shown.

Although the painful and aggressive bone tumor was known to be more common in certain breeds than others, a study has now looked at the epidemiology surrounding the dog breeds that get osteosarcoma and the impact on canine welfare.

The study - led by the University of Bristol Veterinary School in conjunction with Cardiff University and the RVC, and using data from VetCompass Veterinary Pathology Group histology - has also shown breeds with shorter skulls and legs have lower osteosarcoma risk.

The study included 1,756 laboratory-confirmed osteosarcoma cases in dogs compared with 905,211 dogs under veterinary care in the VetCompass database.

A total of 27 breeds - mainly larger breeds - had an increased risk of osteosarcoma compared to cross-breeds, with 30, mainly smaller, breeds - including the Jack Russell terrier, border terrier, bichon frise, French bulldog and cavalier King Charles spaniel - had reduced risk versus cross-breeds.

The study also compared body mass

and leg length, and confirmed previous findings that heavier dogs with longer legs and longer skull shapes are at greatest risk of bone tumors.

It is hoped the results could inform breed health reforms - especially in predisposed breeds such as the Rottweiler, great Dane, Rhodesian ridgeback, mastiff and German pointer.

Previous studies have identified high-risk breeds for bone tumors, but the paper is novel in identifying those at lowest risk because of the population size included in it.

With a dog's genetics likely to play a role in tumor development, owners of high-risk breeds should be alerted to look for signs of the disease - which include lameness and painful, bony swelling - and contact a vet if concerned.

Grace Edmunds, clinical veterinary research fellow and lead author at the University of Bristol Veterinary School, said: "As osteosarcoma also affects adolescents, it is hugely exciting that by understanding the biology of bone tumors, and working with my collaborators in human cancer research, we may make a difference to both canine and human cancer patients."

The team is now developing a project that will sequence certain genes in at-risk and protected breeds to identify genetic pathways that cause tumors to develop in normal bone.

The paper is published in Canine Medicine and Genetics.

Mother Goose and Grimm



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The Pet Page

Forever homes wanted

Leche is still looking for a medical foster while he's on the mend from his leg surgery. He doesn't require much, just a leashed walk for potty breaks and back to resting. Leche is on strict activity restrictions to allow his leg to heal properly. He doesn't seem to be bothered by other dogs, so if you have another pup in the home they will need to not play and run around. If you are interested in giving this guy the r&r he needs to get healthier fill out an application on our website. Canine Adoption and Rescue League C.A.R.L.



Dallas recently spent time as an office dog. She was happy to greet everyone who came in and out and take treats from them, but she really just wanted to snuggle. She's been on a hound on the town to the beach and the park. She walks pretty well on a leash. If you have no other pets, and are looking for a new best friend, schedule an appoint to meet Dallas at www.vcas.us/scheduling. She will be



waiting for you. Ventura County Animal Services - Camarillo location - 600 Aviation Drive. Dallas A750914

This 'n' That

Mailbox

Continued from page 4

GOP is putting together in a doomed effort to recall him.

I hope he knows that the clowns running this circus will never succeed and I hope that his call to re-open the state is not a knee jerk reaction to it. I know everyone is hurting because of the pandemic but I think it is still too early to get back to normal simply because there is no "normal" anymore and we may never be able to get back to our lives as they were. A world-wide, killer, pandemic will do that. Especially now that we are grasping the fact that it can change and mutate into deadlier forms making our current efforts a moot point.

The old adage, "Money is the root of all evil" comes to mind when I read about states opening up while the pandemic rages on.

When politicians go ahead with re-openings anyway, another adage comes to mind, one that I hope everyone understands and appreciates before it is too late.

That adage is, "You can't take it with you!"

Regards,
John Darling

Breeze:

Just read your article on the flu(covid shots) you need to check your facts first, the covid shot has not been approved by the FDA, because it was considered a state of emergency that the shot needed to get out as soon as possible, You as a news paper needs to check your facts as you spread the news. Michele Bruns

Note: This was not an article or the opinion of the Breeze. An opinion from a reader.

Dear Sheldon:

Is it possible to get severe withdrawal symptoms from not getting to read The

Breeze for a really long time? Well, you can.

I stopped driving several years ago, so I was incapable of picking up The Ventura Breeze. What a deadly experience. I discovered that I loved reading The Breeze, and without the car, I couldn't pick up The Breeze at the local market. I couldn't pick up lots of things, but the thing I miss most was your paper. The Breeze was a great fit for me for years. It was the right size, published material that I liked reading about. Was published by a man who loved dogs. The Breeze had all kinds of things I enjoyed looking at and reading about, and best of all, The Breeze was generous to me, publishing some of my articles. I enjoyed the paper for it's contents and for the variety of information about Ventura and all the neat places that surround me.

You know what happens with withdrawal? Of course, you do.

I have been suffering from Breeze withdrawal. Fortunately, I was able to pick up an edition of the Breeze recently, and discovered how much and how deep was my withdrawal. One look at The Breeze and one affectionate run through, and I realized how much trouble I was in.

Without the Breeze, I was on the verge of a serious series of bad withdrawal. I have pulled through this almost deadly experience. I know I need some heavy doses of Breeze deliveries and reading the paper good and thorough. I need The Breeze reorientation and relaxation recovery cure. The current edition has me close to being cured. The rest of the treatment is now up to me to be sure I don't suffer another major withdrawal experience. Believe me. This will not happen again.

Thanks Sheldon. Best regards and Best wishes for all of us.
Es Cole and Manny

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*Event for City of Ventura Residents Only

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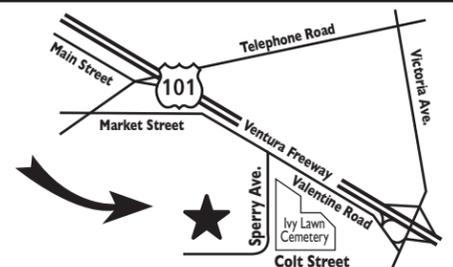
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- Fluorescent Light Tubes & CFL's
- Gasoline
- Household Cleaners
- Paint, Polishes & Varnishes
- Pesticides

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by Pam Baumgardner
VenturaRocks.com

As we get back up to speed and navigate social protocols in place to protect us and others, you know, so we don't slip back into another lockdown, please do your best to abide by the rules. I appreciated the fact that Winchesters had Will Breman read the rules before he started his set last week; he looked a bit worried when a woman got up to dance, but a waitress politely reminded the patron about the "no dancing rule." She looked a bit put out, but sat back down. Jeez, really? Do what the rest of us do and dance in your seat! It's a small price to pay as we get this pandemic under control.

Meanwhile, I'm happy to report that Grapes and Hops will reopen on Thursday, April 22, with a new menu and a couple of modifications to the establishment (including full bar coming June 1). Live music is back on the weekends with Dave Parsonage on Friday, April 23, The Swillys 2-5 and "Dive Bar" Steve Kramer 7-10, then on Sunday afternoon 2-5, it's Shawn Jones.

Quick Notes: Jill Martini & the Shrunken Heads are back to playing Friday evenings 4-6 at the Harbor Cove Café in the Harbor; Pedals & Pints Brewing Company is looking for artists to perform at their establishment, if you're interested send them an email drink@pedalsandpintsbrewing.com; Concerts in Your Car recently added War to their lineup for Saturday, May 29; and Cafrodite at 1987 E. Main Street has been hosting live music Saturday mornings 9 am – noon.

In this issue of the Breeze, I catch up with Bill Rotella. Bill has sent me music over the past couple of years to share on my radio show and he never ceases to amaze me with his songwriting ability, quality of sound and over all fun vibe. On his latest project, Smoke & the Earthtones delivers the vintage sound of California rock.

Pam: First off, get us up to speed on your musical journey.

Bill Rotella: I guess you could say my musical journey began at eight when my parents got me piano and drum lessons. And, there was a lot of music in my house growing up. My dad, Johnny Rotella, was a top session player in L.A and recorded with some of the great '60s and '70s artists (Zappa, Turtles, Nillson, The Wrecking Crew, etc.); he took me to sessions and concerts. So, I

saw it early. He also wrote songs for Sinatra, Dean Martin, Tony Bennett, etc., which exposed me to the song writing process. My mom, Anna Graziano, was also very musical. Her brother, my Uncle, was Jerry Gray the famous big band arranger for Glenn Miller (String of Pearls, etc.) and she was always singing or playing piano. Hearing music all the time was the first step on that journey.

Then, in college I was playing guitar and started a Southern Rock band, Baywood. We had a large following from playing the CSUN PUB and The Palomino Club in North Hollywood. We were signed by Greenlight productions (Night Ranger) and recorded an album for

did a lot of gigs at Café Fiore and Bombay's as well. In outer Ventura County I play at The Strawberry Festival, DeLiese Cellars, Café Firenze, The Collection Concert Series, Copper Blues and others.

How, when and why did you land in Ventura?

Bill: My agent at the time booked me in Ventura. I was booked a lot in L.A. and I wanted to put some miles between gigs. Not only to avoid saturation, but because I wanted fresh ears for my original music. Now, I live in Ventura County and I have family in Ventura. *Has music been a side labor of love... or your main income over the course of your life?*

Bill: When the club scene was healthy, music was my only source of income for many years. However, now it requires many nets. Live performances, song royalties, merchandise sales, song placements, etc. Now I have other sources of income because I've chosen to gig a bit less; I recently discovered I'm not 25 years old anymore. *How has the pandemic influenced your life?*

Bill: Interestingly, that lemon of a year did become lemonade. (sorry) At first it was a real drag due to

all. So, at the beginning of quarantine I did a series of 11 weekly Facebook concerts – "LIVE @ 5" – which were SO much like doing a bar gig. They could comment back and forth with each other as if they were sitting at a bar. It was cool for them, and me, to stay connected. I also did monthly zoom concerts for a spiritual community.

Tell me more about your most recent project.

Bill: I wrote the song "Smoke & The Earthtones" about a fictitious band that came to the rescue during quarantine, that song led me to actually create the band. The new album features the "California sound" of the '70s and it's available on vinyl which also is relevant to the lyrics of the song.

What are your short-term and long-term plans now that we're hopefully (knock on wood) seeing the light at the end of the tunnel?

Bill: I'm looking forward to that great energy exchange that happens from live shows. Some of my shows here, New York and elsewhere are still not re-booked but we gotta do it right. So, I'm cool with being patient.

Anything else you'd like to share?

Bill: I count my blessings. I'm grateful I had parents who shared their gift of music. So, I'm trying to do the same. My daughter Brianna played flute, autoharp and sang on a few tracks and my young granddaughter Viola appears in a few music videos, turns knobs in the studio and is already showing signs there will be more music coming from the next generation in Ventura.

If you would like to find about more about Bill Rotella and his newest project Smoke & the Earthtones, go to his official website BillRotellaMusic.com. You can view videos, read more about all his past projects as well as finding all the links for his music including Spotify, iTunes, Pandora, and more.

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 I'll be spinning the new Smoke & the Earthtones. 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.

And finally, the latest installment of the VenturaRockSpot has been released featuring Christine Law of Star Goes Nova. Christine is just an amazing artist having worked with so many artists in the past (Suzanne paris, Martha Davis, Charles Law & Jagged, John Baffa) and now she's ventured into the EDM spectrum of music. Catch this episode and all the previous 27 at VenturaRockSpot.com.

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.



In this issue of the Breeze, I catch up with Bill Rotella.

them and another two albums for an indie label, Bison Records. Baywood was my '80's band. When the '90s arrived I formed a new band, Dakota. We were signed to Budweiser and other sponsors for 10 years. We did over 100 shows a year, here and in Europe, ...for 20 years. I wrote and recorded three albums for Dakota. Then I went solo for a bit recording three albums before I started a Folk 'n' Soul duo, Amber & Smoke in 2016. We performed more than 500 shows and recorded four albums in four years. Now, I perform and record solo and with my album band, Smoke & The Earthtones.

Where have you played in the area?

Bill: My first Ventura County gigs were at The Holiday Inn. I was there monthly in the '90s with Dakota. Those were great gigs. That downstairs bar would get packed and the ocean air coming through the patio doors was great...especially at 1:00 a.m. I remember meeting George Martin (Beatles, America producer) sitting at the bar. That was cool. I

cancelled shows. Then all that quarantine time led to a batch of new songs which led to a cool reunion with former bandmates who were all in town from cancelled tours. I wanted to record an album like we used to, in the round, before home studios and bouncing tracks back and forth via the internet. So, I called three of my favorite ex-band members, local guitarist Doug Pettibone (John Mayer, Keifer Sutherland, etc.), Ryan Brown, (drummer with ZPZ band/ Dweezil Zappa) and Trent Stroh (Zeppelin USA). We went into the studio, together, and Smoke & The Earthtones was born. The quarantine experience became the quarantine band and the title track of the new album -Smoke & The Earthtones. *Were there live stream performances, or collaborations with other artists via Zoom or other platforms?*

Bill: I heard fans and friends expressing their need for live music. They weren't alone. All that distancing was taking a toll on us



Ventura Art Scene



Ventura artist **Carrie Vogt** is one of the artists on display.

An International Mail Art Exhibition hosted by Joe Cardella's ARTLIFE Foundation opened April 15, and runs through May 14, in downtown Ventura.

Entitled the "Post" Pandemic Mail Art Exhibit, it called for artists throughout the world, professional, amateur, or beginners, to mail in 6" x 9" postcard size works of art for an exhibition. The show honors artist Joe Cardella, whose ARTLIFE magazine collected mail art over twenty-five years, totaling over 10,000 pages, and reflects dependence on the "post" for sharing art then, now and after the pandemic.

Artists from 22 countries submitted over 237 pieces of art, from the USA, Greece, Japan, Romania, Russia, France, Italy, Germany, Austria, the Netherlands, Poland, Brazil, Uruguay, Hungary, the



Check out the new mural by Ventura based artist, **Andrew Rodriguez** on the corner of Loma Vista and St. Paul's Drive. Andrew has combined his love for the ocean, people, and design to bring about a unique style filled with light and positivity in his numerous murals painted locally and around the state of California. Andrew is currently working on a series of children's books with the help of his wife and kiddos.

If you have questions about the City of Ventura's Public Art Mural program contact Community Partnerships Supervisor, Kathryn Dipping Lawson at kdipping@cityofventura.ca.gov

UK, Denmark, Macedonia, Spain, Turkey, Serbia, Norway, Belgium, Sicily (Italy).

The live actual exhibit will be on display at two downtown Ventura locations, walkers can view the postcard art in the windows at 47 S. Oak St and around the corner at 365 E. Main St. near Oak St.

All works in the actual exhibit are posted virtually on line at the Foundation website: <https://artlifefoundation.org>.

The Foundation dedicates itself to position Ventura as one of the world's major Mail Art centers and strives to develop the recognition of art as an essential human need and to expand communication among artists in our area and throughout the world.

The artists of Ventura Pottery Gallery in Ventura Harbor invite you to stop by May 8th or 9th from 11-6 to pick up a special token of appreciation for your favorite mother. To show our appreciation we will provide fresh flowers for the first ten purchases (each of the two days) of a hand-made vase from the gallery. While the traditional flower for Mother's Day is a carnation, all sorts of flowers will be available. The gallery is teaming up with florist **Suzan Matsukawa** to fill your hand-made vase.

Gallery artist have been busy making one-of-a-kind vases for that one-of-a-kind mother. There will be a special outdoor exhibit of vases or step inside the gallery to explore other ceramic creations.

In addition, there will be demonstrations by potters **Rebecca Catterall** (Sat 11-2), **John Grisafe** (Sat 2:30 - 4) and **Suzanne Cline** (Sun 12-2). Watch the magic as the clay transforms from a lump to an elegant vase!

Register inside the gallery by the end of the day Friday, May 7 to win a hand-made vase by ceramic artist **Ellen Wohlstatadter** with a faux floral arrangement created by floral designer and artisan, Suzan Matsukawa. Winner does not need to be present to win.

The Ventura Pottery Gallery is located at 1567 Spinnaker Drive, Suite 105 in Ventura Harbor. 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.



Potter **Suzanne Cline** will be demonstrating at the Gallery.



These wonderful graduation drawings are by Jaime Baker. Reach him at tygertailzz2@aol.com and Way Outta Line on Facebook and Instagram.



al Fresco Art Exhibit

May 9 ~ 11am to 3pm
Olivas Adobe, 4200 Olivas Park Drive

Join us on Mother's Day for a special al Fresco art exhibit featuring local artists Marguerite Hardeman and Laura Jean Jespersen. Wander the Olivas Adobe grounds, learn about the site, and stop to smell the roses in our historic rose garden, now in full bloom!

FREE



www.cityofventura.ca.gov/OlivasAdobe

Visitors must follow all posted COVID-safety guidelines, including wearing a mask.



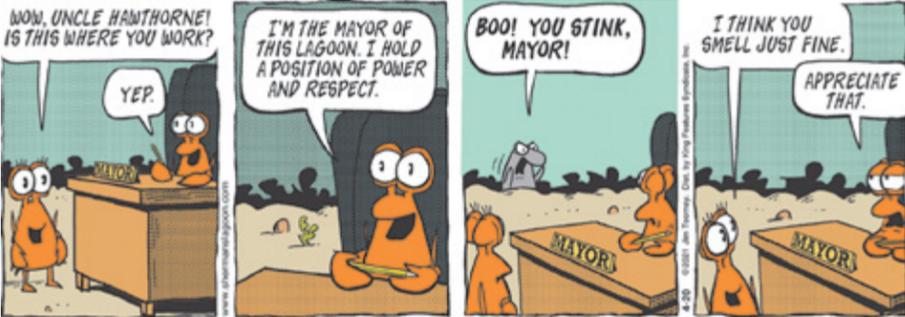


Lighter Breeze

Tiger



Sherman's Lagoon



Hagar the Horrible



Crock



Moose and Molly



Curtis



Solutions on page 13

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

		3		1	8			
	8			4				9
7			3					2 6
	9		8			4		
3		7		1				5
		1			5			9
5			6		4			8
	6		7					3
		2		9		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 small 9-box square contains a 1 of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦
♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO ROY!

Solutions on page 13

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Repast
- 5 "Ben- --"
- 8 Lawman Wyatt
- 12 "Frozen" snow queen
- 13 "Right you --!"
- 14 Computer brand
- 15 Slightly
- 16 Actress Long
- 17 Hindu royal
- 18 Tidy up
- 20 Ioto, to Dorothy
- 22 Peyton's brother
- 23 Commonest English word
- 24 Easter entrees
- 27 Vinegar variety
- 32 X-ray's cousin
- 33 Chopper
- 34 Hostel
- 35 "Becoming" author Obama
- 38 Read quickly
- 39 Knock
- 40 Wildebeest
- 42 "Yippee!"
- 45 Held up
- 49 "Mamma Mia" group
- 50 Gardner of Hollywood
- 52 Actress Kate

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		

- 53 Fibs
- 54 Diarist Anais
- 55 Footnote abbr.
- 56 Minus
- 57 Young fox
- 58 Till bills
- 6 Swiss canton
- 7 Harvest
- 8 Sultry singer Kitt
- 9 Campus figure
- 10 Gambling mecca
- 11 Bluenose
- 19 Chicago transport
- 21 UFO crew
- 24 "Let me think ..."
- 25 "Exodus" hero
- 26 Germs
- 28 Rocker Rose
- 29 "Shampoo" Oscar winner
- 30 -- pickle
- 31 Blitzer's channel
- 36 Badger
- 37 Clean-air org.
- 38 Hand in
- 41 "Forget it!"
- 42 Corridor
- 43 Theater award
- 44 Tug
- 46 Innocent one
- 47 Ms.
- 48 Brockovich
- 48 June honorees
- 51 Half of XIV

DOWN

- 1 Intend
- 2 North Sea feeder
- 3 Largest continent
- 4 Coffee bar orders
- 5 Carthaginian general

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LIBRA (September 23 to October 22)
A brand-new approach to a problem could have a good chance of succeeding if it's based on a solid foundation of fact to strengthen its potential for standing up to scrutiny.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21)
A favorable report should give your optimism an important boost as you confront another phase of a challenge. Don't be timid about accepting advice from someone you trust.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21)
You might want to target another goal if your current aim is continually being deflected. But stay with it until you find that first sign of an opening, and then follow through.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19)
Although offers of advice might not always please the usually sure-footed Goat, good counsel is always worth considering, especially from those whose experience can be invaluable.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18)
Don't rush to make up for lost time. Your productivity can be measured not only by what you do, but how you do it. Move carefully until the job is done the way you like it.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20)
Emerging facts about someone you know might cause you to rethink your relationship. But remember to make judgments in context of a full situation, not just on scraps of data.

BORN THIS WEEK: You are known both for your love of acquiring beautiful things as well as for your generosity to others.

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Showtime

Streaming Spotlight by Cindy Summers

Finding Ohana

- Netflix Originals



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

In "Finding Ohana", a young Hawaiian girl named Pili (Kea Peahu), who was a geocaching champion, becomes a real life treasure hunter after finding the journal of a fabled sailor while visiting her grandpa in Hawaii. The journal showed where the treasure was hidden from a ship named the Peruvian that was sunk off the Hawaiian coast over 200 years ago. With the help of her older brother Ioane (Alex Aiono), and new friends Casper (Owen Vaccaro) and Hana (Lindsay Watson), Pili uses her treasure hunting skills to lead them all on a great adventure exploring the beauty of Hawaii as well as learning about its sacred culture and traditions.

Pili's mother Leilani (Kelly Hu) left Hawaii and moved to New York when Pili was a baby and her brother Ioane was very young due to their father passing away while serving in the military. It had been over 10 years since Leilani saw her father, who lived on the Hawaiian land their family had for generations in the house he built himself. Due to her dad having a heart attack, Leilani returned to Hawaii with Pili and Ioane to help with his recovery.

Pili and Ioane were both unhappy to be away from the big city life in New York, with all its conveniences like WiFi, which was not working at Papa's house that was well out of cell reception range as well. This left them with a lot of frustration and time on their hands, but that was quickly solved with Pili

when she found the journal in her grandpa's old bus of a sailor named Monks that led to a long lost treasure.

Pili's Papa (Branscombe Richmond) had a young friend named Casper, who was a bit quirky (like taking his cat everywhere a wagon) that quickly became fast friends with Pili and was able to share some other details he knew about Monks' journal and the hidden treasure from a sunken ship called the Peruvian.

When Papa discovered Pili had taken the journal, he decided to take her on a boat trip to the island that was shown in one of Monks' drawings, and then also showed her that the very gold coin he wore on a necklace was part of the map to the treasure of the Peruvian. Unfortunately he fell and was injured, leaving Ioane to take care of Pili while their mom was at the hospital with their grandpa.

Pili snuck out and set off with Casper to find the treasure, while Ioane went looking for them with their other new friend Hana, who he had a crush on. Together they all overcame unforeseen challenges and their own fears to find the treasure, only to discover it was in a sacred tomb guarded by the Night Watchers, which were the ghosts of Hawaiian warriors that marched at night and protected the island. After all they experienced, they chose to follow tradition and leave the treasure, just as they discovered their Papa had done years ago.

"Finding Ohana" is filled with thrills, adventure, history, majestic scenery and heartwarming family moments. It's also amusing the way the historical reenactments are done using proper sets and costuming, but using the dialog and lip syncing of the person telling the story in the present moment, similar to the "Drunk History" series.

Rated: PG-13

Runtime: 2h 3m

Submitted by Richard Senate

You might find this of interest

1860--all nine eligible voters cast their votes for Abraham Lincoln at the Valdez Adobe. (One had to own land to vote--that would have included Raymundo Olivas). San Buenaventura liked Old Abe. No votes for Bell or Douglas.

In The 1860 township of San Buenaventura were the following:

Total Population 377

Men 208

Women 169

California Born 309

Yankee Americans 3 (New York born)

Europeans 13 Spain, Italy, France & Prussia

Mexicans 17

South Americans 2 (Chile)

Indians 12 (Number could be off, perhaps greater)

Professions

Merchants 7

Stock raisers 13

Laborers 13 (Cowboys?)

Farmers 6

Saloon Keepers 2

Servants ? 9

Painters 1

Midwives 1

Cigar Maker 1

Hotel Keeper 1

Justice (Lawyer?) 1

Unlisted is a Priest, (the Mission had one assigned), and a stable keeper (Peter Constancia) and a blacksmith (Figuroa). Most likely two saloons, one hotel, seven

stores selling a number of things, one tobacconist with One Lawyer.

People had to vote.

SEEAG kicks off second program

Continued from page 8

August. E-newsletter article topics include how to plant vegetables from seed, container gardening for small spaces, and selecting the right plants and soil. Register to receive the newsletter by going to www.seeag.org/signup.

The program will also feature a weekly garden photo contest where students submit photos (#letsgrowagarden2021) of their gardens with the chance to win garden-themed prizes.

No registration is required. Let's Grow a Garden is for elementary school teachers, students and their families. For more, go to www.seeag.org/letsgrowagarden2021. To learn about SEEAG, go to www.SEEAG.org.

Founded in 2008, Students for Eco-Education and Agriculture (SEEAG) is a nonprofit organization that aims to help young students understand the origins of their food by bridging the gap between agriculture and consumption through its agricultural education programming. SEEAG's "The Farm Lab" program based in Ventura County teaches schoolchildren about the origins of their food and the importance of local farmland by providing schools with classroom agricultural education and free field trips to farms. Its Child Wellness Initiative in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties educates, inspires and empowers children to eat healthy by adding locally grown fruits and vegetables to their diet to help ward off childhood obesity that could lead to diabetes.

**Moving In?
Moving Up?
Moving Out?**

I can help you with that!

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KEEPING YOU SAFE ON THE GO

We're Protecting Each Other.

We're doing our part & you're doing yours!

Limiting Capacity.

Maintaining Distance.

GOLD COAST TRANSIT DISTRICT

For more information: gctd.org/covid19

Through these and other SEEAG programs, over 60,000 elementary school students in Central and Southern California have increased their understanding of the food journey. For more information, visit www.seeag.org or email Mary Maranville at mary@seeag.org.

CAREGIVERS Faith in Action®

Continued from page 5

agement Coordinator at CAREGIVERS. "And, I am hopeful that it will embrace that model. To that end, all faith communities are welcome to participate, including churches, temples, mosques and gurdwara's."

Helton said, "Each congregational collaboration with CAREGIVER's Faith in Action® program will be based on what the congregation wants and needs. For example, youth in a congregation may partake in the CAREGIVER's Building Bridges program to lend a helping hand to older adults in the congregation with their yard work or light house-keeping or maybe cleaning out a garage."

"Volunteers can become involved and realize the importance of having a Health Ministry or Care Team that can benefit their congregation in order to: 1) Sponsor health-related programs to build healthy communities; 2) Nurture core spiritual values through support groups; 3) Enhance the meaning of life through providing service and volunteering; and, 4) Strengthen congre-

gational and community ties and support through education."

"The goals of the Faith in Action®," according to Helton, "would include: helping the congregations to support their leadership and the individuals in the congregation by linking volunteer services to the older adults and to those with disabilities, while at the same time providing a link for those who would find meaning through volunteering. Health education would also be included, which would provide support through building and/or supporting a health ministry or care team."

"The Whole person inclusive of the body-mind-spirit of each individual is a prime focus of the Faith in Action® model," according to Helton. "We would do this by offering education that promotes whole person health, providing volunteer service and supports to help individuals be all they can be in their own homes; and, encouraging individuals to become volunteers in order to bring meaning to their lives."

Thus, in summary, according to Glenn: "The impact of Interfaith Volunteer Caregiving is that it is a successful movement that has the potential to continue to change American culture and attitudes towards aging and towards people with disabilities. Thus, we have an opportunity to adopt and celebrate the common threads that unite us and to demonstrate the renewed and powerful resolve that come from Faith in Action®."



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Back
as of
April 28th!**