

Have a scary Halloween!

VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

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John Hankins stated: "My wife and best friend passed peacefully at 6:30 a.m. as the sun rose. Within the hour, a hummingbird hovered in her garden, a sign that her soul was at peace, which she predicted. For all her friends and family, we will be setting up a virtual legacy site in which you can post a picture of you with her and perhaps tell a favorite short story you had together."

"After years of fighting cancer and fighting for justice, equality for all, dignity for seniors, and so much more, she is now free of pain. Her message to all would "be the best you can be and the best will come back to you."

She was 73. In addition to her husband, Montgomery is survived by her two children, Lisa and Stephen, and several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Suz moved to Ventura in 1985 and immediately started to have her influence on Ventura. She was perhaps best known for her work with the senior community at government meetings and taught as an adult educator with the Ventura Unified School District.

Suz served as the chairperson for the Ventura County Area Agency on Aging's Advisory Council and the Ventura Council for Seniors and was a member of Select Committee on Aging for state Sen. Hannah-Beth Jackson. In 2017, Montgomery was recognized by Jackson as one of her Women of the Year for her work with senior citizens.

Memorials from just a very few of her friends and admirers who loved and respected her.

From the VCAAA: "It's difficult to express Suz's contributions to the VCAAA, and to the community as a whole, in a single post. She was dedicated to empowering the populations we serve and providing programs and services designed to help others live the best possible life. She never met a challenge she wasn't willing to take on. She tackled every topic of interest with all she had and was well known and respected for her unwillingness to back down until the job was done."

CAPS Media; Patrick Davidson, Donald McConnell, Evan Carpenter, Elizabeth Rodeno, Gary Roll, Jamie Cawelti, Manny Reynoso,



Suz informed and entertained with Schmooze With Suz on CAPSTV.

Suz Montgomery, 1948 - 2021

Phil Taggart, Alex Uvari and Jorge

Godinez: "There are certain people one meets along the way that are truly unforgettable. For everyone at CAPS Media, Suz Montgomery was one of these very remarkable individuals. Suz was not only instrumental in the formation of CAPS she was the embodiment of our mission: to create an engaged and informed community. Passionate about the city she loved, Suz was an unrelenting force to be reckoned with, never shy about letting everyone know where she stood on the issues of the day in Ventura - including, and especially, city leaders. Suz was an inspirational mentor to every member of her CAPS' crew. All of us celebrate her inextinguishable fire and unrelenting spirit. Suz will be greatly missed but never forgotten by everyone at CAPS: the Community Access Partners of Suz. With a smile, a tear and a heavy heart, we thank Suz Montgomery for enriching each of our lives."

Carol Michelle Leish: "The legacy of dear Suz Montgomery will continue to live on! You will be missed. Your memory and contributions to Ventura will continue to be a blessing to me and others."

Mary Milner Haffner: "Suz Montgomery cared about people and she

always worked to make things better for everyone. She never held back-I always admired that about her. We will miss her dearly and are better for having known her."

City Council Member Jim Friedman:

"I have known Suz for close to 25 years. We first met when I was a council member back in 1996. We actually hung out a fair amount together when I served as Mayor. When I think of Suz, the word "firecracker" is the first thing to come to mind. Extremely energetic, engaged, involved, passionate about her community and most of all, passionate about "her seniors" as she liked to call them. Whether she was "holding court" on the sidewalk outside of Palermo on Main Street, schmoozing with Suz on Ventura's cable access channel CAPS or just chatting with neighbors and friends, Suz just loved to talk and be with people. Her positive, "can do" attitude enable her to contribute so much to our community. She was truly "one of a kind" and will be dearly missed."

Former city council member Cheryl

Heitmann: "Suz was a rock star in community activism. Once she identified a problem or an unmet need, she developed a solution and was unrelenting in going forward, getting many to

advocate with her. Suz was passionate about good government, often saying it's all about the process, and services for Seniors and the mentally ill. She loved people and was happy to share her love of cooking and gardening with many. She loved her family, her friends and her community. She was a mentor to many, a counselor to some and a trusted friend who would listen and not be afraid to give her opinion. She touched many lives and made our city and county a better place. There will never be another Suz but she has given us all a model to strive for. To say she will be missed is truly an understatement."

Ivor Davis: "Suze was a force of nature--with a gigantic heart and a love of life.

I first met her when visiting some friends in a retirement community more than two decades ago--and there she was, this bubbling personality, providing spiritual sustenance to the residents and doing it with such energy and passion--which was her fabulous calling card. An indomitable lady She."

Marlyss Auster President & CEO

Visit Ventura: "When we asked Suz Montgomery to present the Men's Most Courageous jersey during the Stage 5 awards ceremony at the 2019 Amgen Tour of California here in Ventura her answer was 100 percent Suz Montgomery. "I'm pleased and honored to be asked to represent all of us who inspire and survive daily by giving back!" Her battles were never just about her. Suz Montgomery had a profound impact on my life. She was deeply committed to our community and to living her life out loud. She celebrated each person she met with such authenticity and encouragement. She was a change maker in our community and truly touched so many lives. She was an inspiration to me and I know that her spirit lives on through the lives she touched. I will strive to be bold and live life out loud in honor of Suz (making sure to do so with fine wine, good food and interesting people like Suz would do!). I'm grateful to have known her and will miss her tremendously. She was a beautiful soul and our community and world is better because of the difference she made. I hope that we all carry her spirit forward in making a positive

Continued on page 6

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PRESENTS ...



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OCT. 21
6 p.m.**

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Join our CMHS addiction medicine physician, Dr. Christopher Kerrigan, as he explains opioid use disorder, outlines treatment options and answers your questions about this forgotten epidemic.

This event features a LIVE Q&A.

PRESENTED BY



Dr. Christopher Kerrigan
Addiction Medicine Specialist

To RSVP for this free, informative online seminar, hosted by Community Memorial Health System, VISIT: cmhshealth.org/rsvp

WITH THE CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR ADVERTISERS, DONORS AND READERS, WE CONTINUE TO BRING LOCAL NEWS AND INFORMATION TO VENTURA (NOW IN OUR 14TH YEAR). THE COVID PANDEMIC HAS AFFECTED ALL SMALL BUSINESSES, AND LOCAL NEWSPAPERS HAVE BEEN DEEPLY IMPACTED AS WELL AS THEY ARE SOLELY DEPENDENT ON ADVERTISING REVENUE. WE CONTINUE TO ASK OUR LOYAL READERS TO HELP SUPPORT THE BREEZE. WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING OUR MISSION OF BRINGING YOU THE INFORMATION IMPACTING VENTURA.

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WE GREATLY APPRECIATE OUR LATEST (OR RETURNING) CONTRIBUTORS **DON RODRIGUES, TOM ARCHIBALD, TERESA ZDANOWICH, MARCIA WALKER, DONALD L. GREENBERG** AND THOSE WHO CHOOSE TO REMAIN ANONYMOUS.

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THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE VENTURA BREEZE!

News & Notes

The importance of caregiving through Community Memorial Health System

by Carol Leish, MA

“We believe that being a caregiver is one of the most important roles because the caregiver often acts as the advocate for the patient’s health, mental well-being and physical needs,” according to Maureen Hodge, LCSW, Program Manager of High-Risk Programs at Community Memorial Health System. “By including the caregiver in all aspects of their loved ones medical and health journey, our hope is that the patient can have a more stable outcome of services and support. Our Caregiver Navigator comes alongside the caregiver and provides a well-rounded service connecting them to programs and services that they might not otherwise have. It also provides regular check ins and confirms that their own needs are being met as they work with their love ones.”

As to expanding upon caregiver services provided by Community Memorial Health System, Hodge said, “Long term we would love a Caregiver Navigator to offer services be in our outpatient clinics and also be able to provide support for those families while a patient is in the hospital. Currently, we are operating the program with a grant from the Ventura County Community Foundation and only have one staff person. The Caregiver Navigator is a Licensed Clinical Marriage and Family Therapist. We would like to continue by

providing clinical staff who will continue to provide resources. Some resources include: caregiver support groups and respite care. Multiple community agencies including: Ventura County Area Agency on Aging; An Adult Day programs through the Caregiving Resource Centers at the Camarillo Healthcare District; and, many more. We want to be a support and conduit to connecting our caregivers to programs. We also want to aid them along the way with a Licensed Clinical staff in order to help them through this often-challenging time.”

Janice Aharon-Ezer, LMFT, Caregiver Navigator said, “The Caregiver Navigator Program provides support and resources for mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers, husbands, wives and friends caring for those they love. For the first time caregivers feel heard, supported and understood. They are more able to care for themselves while assisting those they love that have medical, psychological, substance abuse and developmental issues.”

“The main issue right now,” according to Hodge, “is that there are few programs to actually train caregivers and there is a shortage of paid caregivers through In-House Supported Services and other caregiver programs. No matter the demographics; ethnic background; or, financial situation one

Continued on page 12



Community Events

Ventura events

by Ana Baker

Oct. 21: The East Ventura Community Council virtual zoom meeting on Thursday, at 7p.m. participants will hear about the city's new Active Transportation Plan. Kevin Clerici, Executive Director of Downtown Ventura Partners, will speak about the Downtown Moves program. For more information, contact EVCC Chairperson, Deborah Meyer-Morris at eastventura-cc@gmail.com. Join Zoom Meeting Meeting ID: 899 1074 7358 Passcode: 646353 Dial in: 669 900 6833. You will first need to download the Zoom app on your computer or smart phone. You do not need an account. The meeting will be recorded and can be viewed at www.eastventura.org.

Oct. 23: Ventura County Philatelic Society is sponsoring the 31st Youth Stamp Fair Saturday, from 10 - 3 p.m. at the Dudley House Museum, 197 N. Ashwood Ave. Everyone is welcome, the young at heart, those who inherited a collection and those who ran across their own old collections. October is "Stamp Collecting Month." There will be a Youth Stamp Fair Station with a very special Post Office Cancellation "Honoring Frontline First Responders." For further information call Sheri at 667-8042 or visit the website venturacountyphilatelicsoc.org

Oct. 24: Olivas Victorian Halloween 11am-3 pm. Free. Join the Olivas Adobe Historical Interpreters as they take you on a tour of the rancho home. Each room reveals a bit of Victorian Halloween history and mystery. Face painting, music and outdoor gift shop for some Halloween treasures.

Don't forget your masks as the tours will be inside the historic home. For more information call 805-658-4728.

Oct. 27: 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. Mental health and homelessness issues will be discussed and a representative from the city will also explain the goals of the Ventura Active Transportation Plan. Visit the College Area Community Council website @ caccventura.com to learn more, to be added to the mailing list and to access a link to the Zoom meeting.

Nov. 6: The "Sespe Flyfishers of Ventura" will be conducting our "First Saturday" introductory class on Fly Fishing and Casting the fly Rod. There is no charge, and all are welcome. Whether you are an experienced fly fisher or a complete novice we want to help you learn and enjoy this great sport. If you don't yet have a fly rod, don't worry, just come, and use one of ours. Please join us at Chumash Park, Petit and Waco, 9 - 11a.m. in East Ventura, off Telephone Rd. For more information: Bob Smith 647-3522, www.sespeflyfishers.org

Nov. 6: The Ventura Friends of the Library will hold a Bag O' Books Sale at E.P. Foster Library from 10-3p.m. Located in front of the library on Main Street and held in the Topping Room. You can take home a bag (paper grocery sized bag) of books for \$4 or purchase 3 books for \$1. Friends of the Library members will receive a discount of \$1.00 per bag at check-out. All proceeds benefit Ventura's libraries.

Nov. 6: Renowned Brazilian vocalist/guitarist Téka sings with a sensual

Continued on page 12

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VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

Member, Ventura Chamber of Commerce

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

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I once built
a ship in a
bottle. They
had to break
the bottle to
let me out.
– Steven
Wright

Opinion/Editorial



Sheldon Brown
Publisher-Editor

■ Two important Venturan's who helped make Ventura an even better place to live, have passed on. **Suz Montgomery** contributed more to the overall city of

Ventura, whereas the contribution of **Reverend McCurtis** was more specific to the west side, but still significant. I considered both to be friends' and will miss them. If you didn't have the opportunity to celebrate their lives in this issue, please send your thoughts to editor@venturabreeze.com for our next issue.

■ The 9th Annual Ventura Harbor Village HOWL-O-Ween **Dog Costume Contest** is back. It will take place on Saturday, October 30, from noon to 2pm. I will be one of the judges, so come on out and cheer for your favorite dog and say hello.

■ On Saturday, October 17, I attended the first live performance – in a very long time – of the New West Symphony, "Delights and Dances". It was held at the Performing Arts Center at Ventura college. I was disappointed at first when I saw it was "only" a string orchestra of about 20. I was certainly not disappointed as the concert continued; it was simply wonderful. Their musicianship and interpretation of the composers was excellent. The director, Michael Christie, involved the audience in a very personal manner.

The good news is that in December the entire orchestra will be performing again. The bad news it will not be in Ventura but in Thousand Oaks and Camarillo (still close enough to attend). Wouldn't it be nice if we had a real Performing Arts Center in Ventura?

■ Guns in The News:

Police say three men have been arrested in connection with an early morning shootout at a St. Paul bar that left one woman dead and 14 people injured.

Two U.S. Postal Service employees were killed and another, who was identified as the suspected shooter, died from a self-inflicted gunshot.

The shooting occurred at the Orange Mound post office.

A Florida man was arrested Tuesday in the shooting death of a woman who was on a Zoom call when her 2-year-old fired a gun, officials said. The toddler found the gun, which went off while the woman was on a Zoom call with co-workers. Veondre Avery, 22, the child's father, faces charges of manslaughter and failure to securely store a firearm in the killing.

A shooting on Sunday at a homecoming event on Grambling State University's campus has left one dead and dozens injured. Multiple shots were fired around 1:15 a.m. on the campus' quad area.

Newport News Police Chief Steve Drew said a boy was shot on the side of his face and a girl was shot in her lower leg at Heritage High School. They were taken to a hospital with non-life-threatening injuries.

Bobby Gayle is still recovering after being shot seven times this month in California's Central Valley. The incident took place on Oct. 8 while the 45-year-old man was on the job at a Stockton restaurant. Bobby saw a man driving at high speed through the parking lot and yelled for him to slow down. The man, identified as Michael Hayes, 31, stopped his truck, got out and started shooting and spouting racial slurs.

If manufactured guns aren't bad enough, homemade "ghost guns" in Los Angeles is believed to have accounted for 21 killings in Los Angeles since January and dozens of assaults in armed robberies. Police expect the problem to get even worse because of weapons typically are made of polymer parts created with 3D printing technology and can be assembled at home using gun kits. They are relatively inexpensive so even more people can own them.

The good news is that California has a new gun control bill that wasn't even opposed by the NRA or any Republicans. The measure adds ghost guns weapons that can be seized by police from someone who is red flagged by a judge for such crimes as

domestic violence. They were among the firearms that could not be seized by police before this bill. How incredibly absurd was that?

■ California just had his **driest water year** in a century and, sadly to say, experts fear the coming 12 months could even be worse. The total was half of what is considered average during a water year in California. A water year runs from October 1 to September 30.

■ One strange aspect of the new Texas **abortion law** is that it also gives private citizens the right to sue anyone who performs, aids or abets an abortion or intends to do so - for \$10,000. The polarization in this country is bad enough without financial incentives to divide us even further.

■ When the Pew Research Center surveyed people living in 17 countries, **Americans** were the most likely to feel that their country was the most split along partisan, racial and ethnic lines. Religious differences were also high on the list.

■ Even though I might agree with what the state wants to spend money on I'm often reluctant to vote for bonds because of the huge over runs after the projects are started. For example, the California bullet train is facing another proposed cost increase of a billion (yes a billion) dollars as contractor's costs just keep increasing. And the time that was projected to complete the project is many many years over the allotted time.

Apparently, a contract with the state means nothing. Why not just tell the builders to just spend as much as you need and take as much time and send us your invoice for payment?

■ There was so much news to report this issue that we didn't have room for your favorite **cartoons, crossword and sudoku**. But no fear they will return in the next issue.

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



Reverend McCurtis from Face of Ventura by Johanna Spinks.

Ventura legend passes on October 8 at 89

Born in Stonewall, Mississippi, in 1932, Reverend Luther McCurtis' was fascinated to grow up as a young boy in a state where Jim Crow laws forbade

blacks and whites to socialize, but each Christmas, the owners of the Stonewall Cotton Mill near his home, erected a huge Christmas tree bedecked with gifts of all kinds for all of its employees, regardless of race. This memory contributed greatly to the growth and development of Luther's passion for equality, his humanitarian nature, and his love for all people.

At the tender age of five, Luther's mother died. By age 15, he left Mississippi to live with his brother in Oklahoma. Shortly thereafter, in 1951, he dropped out of high school to join the United States Air Force (USAF), and earned his high school diploma during his tour of duty.

Luther's superior officers in Guam noticed his leadership potential and appointed him to serve as a referee over racial and personal disputes. Through this experience Luther sharpened his leadership skills.

He stated "In 1953, while guarding a B-52 bomber, God called me into the ministry. After a deep internal struggle, I surrendered his will to God and accepted The Call. From the onset, I never

planned to be just a "Sunday preacher" and challenged God to show him how to contribute to the spiritual, social, and economic well-being of "the least" in the community."

He married Oracia Lane, the youngest daughter of a poor, but prominent pastor and wife in Hobbs, New Mexico in 1954. By 1959, he became an ordained minister and moved through several states with four young children in tow, finally settling in Ventura.

In faith he built a church from the ground up where they could make a

Continued on page 5





News & Notes



A teacher-turned-author.

Buena High School teacher releases second novel

On October 22, 2021, Buena High School's Teacher Librarian, will release his second novel, *A Different Slant of Light*. After twenty years of guiding students through literature – first as an AP English teacher, then as a Teacher Librarian – Levin has flipped the script and offered up his own original writing for publication. *A Different Slant of Light*, the sequel to Levin's 2020 debut novel, *Incomplete*, will be released through Barnes & Noble, Amazon, Apple Books, Books-A-Million, and a variety of other retail platforms.

Levin's first novel, *Incomplete*, received glowing reviews:

"An engrossing rock-'n'-roll bildungsroman." – Kirkus Reviews

"A powerhouse work." – San Francisco Book Review (Five-Star Rating)

"Levin's relatable debut is a heartfelt coming-of-age story that channels the passions of adolescence into musical revelations." Booklife/Publishers Weekly (Grade: A)

Levin's two novels thread together the disparate worlds of public education and punk-rock music, telling the story of an almost-rock-star musician who trades

in his guitar for a podium and becomes a high school English teacher. The author knows these two realms very well: outside of the classroom, Levin is a veteran of the local music scene, best known as the singer-songwriter and guitarist for local indie rock band, *Far From Kansas*.

Ultimately, Levin's goal is to humanize educators: "It's far too easy to view teachers as two-dimensional caricatures, which is far from the truth. Every teacher has a life outside of school, replete with talents, hobbies, secrets, family, and friends. Many have accomplished remarkable things before ever setting foot into a classroom, much to the surprise of their students."

For this teacher-turned-author, publishing *A Different Slant of Light* is the culmination of seven years' worth of hard work. "I hope that my students, colleagues, and the broader Ventura community chase their muses in pursuit of creating art," Levin says. "If I can do it, so can they."

For more information, contact J.D. Levin at notsosilentlibrarian@gmail.com or visit <https://www.notsosilentlibrarian.com>.



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Ventura legend passes on

Continued from page 4

difference to the community. With less than 10 members in 1962, Luther and Oracia founded the Church of God in Christ of Ventura in a small storefront. The following year, with a miniscule \$100.00 down payment, the Reverend purchased the property, which stands at 660 N. Ventura Ave.

In 1982, Congressman Lagomarsino's recommendation resulted in Reverend McCurtis receiving one of the United States of America's highest honors—the prestigious Presidential Volunteer Action Award from President Ronald Reagan presented to him by First Lady Nancy Reagan,

Seeing so many in need in the community, he took another leap of faith to help assist the neediest members of society without using any government money. In 1968, he founded the Employment Aptitude and Placement Association (www.eapassn.org/).

Over the years he has worked and sacrificed to help thousands find jobs and get out of poverty. Me & My Pillow, McCurtis' upstart pillow company, is part of this strategy to found smaller side-businesses that will not only generate income but provide more local job opportunities. He has offered so much to so many, and never asked for any money in return.

Visit www.TotalLifeChristianCenter.com and read for yourself about the fruits of all this ministry has done over the years. Reverend McCurtis' dream will live on for many years to come, bearing fruit that will continue lifting people out of poverty and giving them lasting hope for the future!

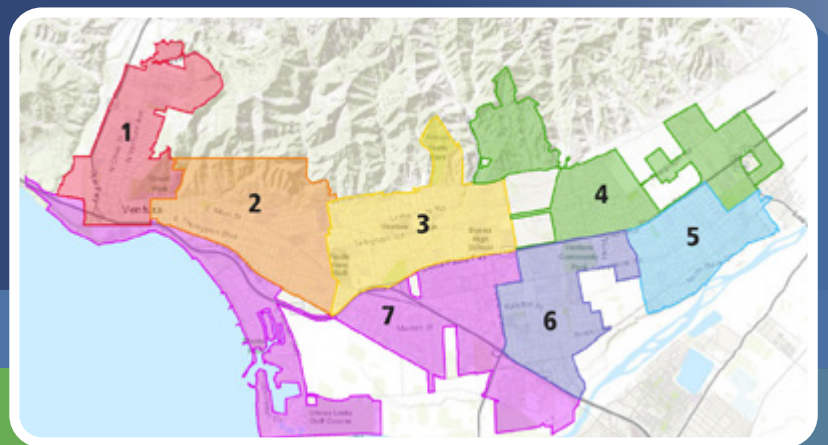
The family has requested in lieu of flowers, send donations to the following: Either In Memory of Luther McCurtis P.O. Box 262 Ventura, CA 93002 or to Total Life Christian Center 660 North Ventura Ave. Ventura, CA 93001.



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News & Notes

Everyone needs a home

The Ventura Social Service Task Force (VSSTF), Faith Subcommittee sponsored an event on the evening of Thursday 30 September 2021 at O'Brien Hall, Mission San Buenaventura Basilica. Speakers included: Peter Gilli, Ventura City Community Development Director, City Council Member Doug Halter who reminded us of Los Angeles and Ventura's history of exclusionary & discriminatory housing.

Council Member Lorrie Brown spoke of her life in Montalvo and gave a Call to Action to resolve the housing issues

for people with low and moderate incomes. Larry Haynes, Mercy House, kept the program going. Representatives from several low-income housing developers and providers of homeless and housing service.

When Irene Johnson, Jennifer Kelley and Liz Campos offered their personal stories you could feel everyone holding their breath at the different paths to and possibly out of housing.

Part of the evening featured the opportunity to meet many of the service providers who assist people in finding housing and provide services to help people move towards housing. The Faith Subcommittee created a pamphlet outlining provider's services.

Ventura County Supervisor Matt



Council member Lorrie Brown was a featured speaker at the Task Force.

LaVere stated "It was very encouraging to see so many people joining together to focus on the need for more affordable housing in our community. I look forward to working with our City and nonprofit partners to address the affordable housing crisis in Ventura County."

City Council Member Doug Halter added "We have to know history to understand how we got to where we are today". "Now we have to do all we can to create the balance of housing that left on its own would have naturally occurred. We have to insure we have housing for all economic strata and without bias of color, race, ethnicity or sexual identity in order to be a healthy and sustainable city."

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Wendy Lorian

Adoption Advocate & Mrs. USA Universal 2021

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Suz Montgomery, 1948 - 2021

Continued from page 1

change in Ventura and beyond," said community member Ashley Bautista.

Jill Forman: "Suz showed us how to live and how to die: with grace, passion, and ultimately acceptance."

Heather Sumagaysay: "I first met Suz during VCLA's cohort 22. We called ourselves deuces wild, and of course, Suz helped champion for our group's theme. Our goal was to be inspiring leaders who would remain committed to making a positive difference throughout Ventura County," said City Public Information Officer Heather Sumagaysay. "In my current tenure with the City of Ventura, I've seen first-hand the impact Suz has had in the community. She dedicated her life to public service and advocated for many important community causes. She served as the Chair of our Ventura Council for Seniors, one of our City-appointed representatives to the VCAAA Advisory Council, played a key role in the development of the City's Senior Strategic Plan, and received a legacy award from the City Council in 2020."

Alicia Doyle: "I met Suz more than two decades ago while working as a journalist for the Ventura County Star. I wrote several stories about her efforts to fight for the rights of older adults. Suz fought for policy changes and equality, and understood the crucial role older adults play in our lives, our communities and our world. Even though Suz has passed away, she made a positive difference that will continue to last as her memory is kept alive."

Linda Parks Supervisor, District 2: "In 2017 the Ventura County Senior

Summit awarded Suz with the Hank Lacayo Senior Advocacy Award for her compassion and hands-on advocacy for older adults. Her energy and commitment made a positive difference to so many, we need to add a Suz Montgomery Advocacy Award to honor her selfless dedication. On a personal note, I loved her encouragement and her smile and extend my heartfelt condolences to her husband, family and friends."

Patricia Channer: "I've known Suz since 1985 when she laid down her roots here in Ventura. A true shero, warrior and fearless advocate who spoke her truth and accomplished much in her short time here on earth. Our community is a better place because of her passion and love of all things Ventura. There are few people who have impacted our community like Suz, she will be sorely missed."

May our hearts lift in gratitude for the richness Suz brought to our lives. May we all continue to speak out, stand up and get involved."



Suz at the 2017 VCLA graduation class.



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News & Notes



Joe Morelli is Ventura's Fire Marshal.

How does someone become a Fire Marshal?

As with everything, there are many different paths to becoming a Fire Marshal, however, the qualifications and experience needed are similar among differing agencies and cities. Fire Marshals typically start their career as either a Fire Inspector or Firefighter and promote through the ranks in either Fire Operations or Fire Prevention. It is the Fire Marshal's responsibility, as the Fire Prevention Division Manager, to oversee the community risk reduction programs of the division including the development fire plan review and inspection, hazardous materials enforcement, occupancy inspections, defensible space inspections, fire review for special events, and fire operations support programs. Essentially, any program that addresses fire prevention, the Fire Marshal has a hand in overseeing.

In the Ventura, the mission of the Fire Prevention Division is to protect life, property, and the environment through effective engineering, enforcement, and education.

Given the multiple programs and functions that the Fire Prevention Division is responsible for, a typical path to the Fire Marshal position includes an individual gaining some years of experience in performing inspections in support of the various division programs, followed by plan review experience, and then project management and superviso-

ry level experience.

Mandatory qualifications can vary among fire agencies within California, however, there are a few typical qualifying factors for Fire Marshal candidates. The typical qualification requirements include a Bachelor's degree in Fire Administration or a related field, and other certifications required by the California State Fire Marshal's Office.

Preferred qualifications can also include Fire Investigator certification and Emergency Medical Technician (EMT) certifications which allow flexibility in how the Fire Marshal functions within a department.

Ventura's Fire Marshal, Joe Morelli, holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Organizational Management and Associate of Science Degree in Fire Prevention, is a California State Certified Fire Marshal, Fire Plans Examiner, Fire Prevention Specialist, and Firefighter I and II. He holds International Code Council Certifications as a Fire Inspector I and II and Plans Examiner. He also serves on committees and boards within the fire service including the Executive Board of the California Fire Chief's Association Fire Prevention South Section, and the National Fire Protection Organization Fire Prevention Organization and Deployment Committee as the California Fire Chief's Association Representative.

Learn more about the Ventura Fire Prevention Division at www.VenturaCityFire.com.

The Bookmark

About Libraries and Friends

by Jill Forman

Meet the Staff of Hill Road Library

Your intrepid reporter is leaving town for a family event, so here is an opportunity to learn about some library staff members. Don't forget to check the library's web site, facebook page, and Friends newsletter for upcoming events.

Linda Cherry, Librarian

Why did you become a librarian?

Being a lover of books and libraries, I took a part-time job shelving books at my local library when I started college. I was inspired by the compassion, intelligence, and dedication of so many wonderful librarians I worked with. After I completed my undergraduate degree, I was promoted to a full-time position at the library providing customer service and training new staff. While working full-time I decided to get my master's degree in Library and Informa-



On October 4, Ventura was treated to some beautiful, amazing and exciting weather. Lightning, wonderful sunsets and amazing clouds. They were captured by Jacqueline Counter (for more of her photos visit counterimage.net)

tion Science. I am grateful for the relentless support of my colleagues.

What education do you have?

BA in Art History from UCSB. MLIS from San Jose State University.

Where were you raised? Were libraries important in your childhood?

I was raised in California's Central Valley. Libraries were and are special places to me. We did not have much money but that was not a problem when visiting the library.

What is your favorite part of your job?

The best part of my job is being able to serve the public and to be a part of a community that values literacy and learning at all stages of life. I love learning new things and to be able to be a part of providing that opportunity to others is a joy.

Andrew Tiradeau, Library Technician II

I am a Library Technician II here at Hill Road Library. I have an Associate degree in History from our local city college here in Ventura. I was born March 21, 1994 in Oxnard at St. Johns. I have lived a majority of my life in Ventura. I have always been

interested in artifacts and anything older than myself. Libraries especially Saticoy and Foster were essential in feeding my thirst for knowledge and adventure. From a young age I understood that the past and its stories fiction or non-fiction were tools and ideas that could be used to better understand the present and help create a brighter future.

What makes my position here at Hill Road Library so satisfying is the impact I make on my local community. Our libraries welcome everyone, no matter the background or current circumstances. Regulars and new Ventura county residents are excited to get that new book or their first library card. This includes the countless families who utilize our services to ignite curiosity and build a wealth of knowledge for the future generation. Now that I am here at Hill Road Library, I am able to contribute and give back the same rewarding services that inspired my own journey.

Linda and Andrew are the full-time staff at Hill Road. There are also pages and other personnel that you may see. All of them are and enthusiastic and fun to talk to as these two.



News & Notes



Ventura resident Ashley Bautista (shown with her mom, Ana), the Public Information Officer for the County of Ventura, has been recognized by the Greater Conejo Valley Chamber of Commerce with the 40 Under 40 Award for her work in Covid-19 Communication. She's been the voice behind www.vcrecovers.org and County Covid messaging. "I have spent the last 20 months in the COVID trenches with Ashley. She is dedicated, prepared, extremely intelligent, and passionate. Our county has been blessed by her involvement," said Public Health Officer Doctor Robert Levin. Ashley can be reached at Ashley.bautista@ventura.org or by calling 805-654-2640. She's happy to answer your COVID-19 questions any time.

Leading health systems unite to unveil Better Together Health public service

Five of Los Angeles County's largest nonprofit health systems with hospitals, clinics and facilities region wide announced the newest campaign for their bettertogether health coalition. With a mission to convince Angelenos to put health first and access care when needed, the public service educational campaign

features everyday patient heroes with the theme: "Get Back to Your Doctor. Your Health. Your Joy. Because We Love a Healthy L.A."

Dignity Health, UCLA Health, Providence, Keck Medicine of USC, and Cedars-Sinai pivoted from last year's campaign of empty beaches, freeways and landmarks to today painting an authentic, intimate mosaic of Angelenos who overcame health challenges as a result of timely access to preventive care. From athletes, entertainers and entrepreneurs to a mom of newborn triplets, an artist and priest, their moving stories are everyday symbols of strength, inspiration and hope. The campaign takes you inside the

lives of these courageous heroes who overcame challenges of serious disease and returned to what they love most.

Among issues driving the new campaign are ongoing concerns among health care professionals who see people not seeking timely, preventive and life-saving services, health screenings and medical assistance when critical to do so. Unfortunately, too often the results are late-stage cancers, advanced heart disease, debilitating strokes and other serious medical conditions.

The five health systems—with hundreds of health care locations throughout Los Angeles County—remain committed and available to serving the community's health care

needs, including emergency, primary, specialty and urgent care.

Rather than each health system individually addressing what medical professionals call a "silent sub-pandemic" of those requiring but instead avoiding timely medical services, they remain committed to tackle head-on what has increasingly become a new public health crisis resulting in serious and avoidable health consequences.

These leading health systems united for this purpose since March 2020 know it is their duty to reach out and let people know they are committed to saving lives and maintaining optimal health of the communities they serve.

COVID-19 Vaccines Save Lives

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 Find a vaccination site near you at www.vcrecovers.org
 No appointment needed at County Public Health clinics.



Senior Living



“It didn’t hurt at all!”

Which vaccines do older adults need?

by National Institute on Aging

As you get older, your doctor may recommend more vaccinations, also known as shots or immunizations, to help prevent certain illnesses.

Talk with your doctor about which of the following vaccines you need. Make sure to protect yourself as much as possible by keeping your vaccinations up to date.

Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a respiratory disease that causes symptoms such as fever, cough, and shortness of breath. It can lead to serious illness and death. Studies show that COVID-19 vaccines are effective at keeping people from getting COVID-19. Getting a COVID-19 vaccine will also help keep you from getting seriously ill even if you do get COVID-19.

Flu, short for influenza, is a virus that can cause fever, chills, sore throat, stuffy nose, headache, and muscle aches. Flu is very serious when it gets in your lungs. Older adults are at a higher risk for developing serious complications from the flu, such as pneumonia.

The flu is easy to pass from person to person. The virus also changes over time, which means you can get it again. To ensure flu vaccines remain effective, the vaccine is updated every year.

Everyone age 6 months and older should get an annual flu vaccine, but the protection from a flu vaccine can lessen with time, especially in older adults. Still, you are less likely to become seriously ill or hospitalized because of the flu if you get the vaccine. A flu vaccine is especially important if you have a chronic health condition such as heart disease or diabetes.

There are flu vaccines designed specifically for people age 65 and older. Medicare will pay for the vaccine, and so will private health insurance plans. You can get a flu vaccine at your doctor’s office or local health department, as

well as at some grocery and drug stores. The vaccine ingredients are the same wherever you receive it.

Pneumococcal disease is a serious infection that spreads from person to person by air. It often causes pneumonia in the lungs and it can affect other parts of the body.

Shingles vaccine for older adults. Shingles is caused by the same virus as chickenpox. If you had chickenpox, the virus is still in your body. The virus could become active again and cause shingles.

Shingles affects the nerves. Common symptoms include burning, shooting pain, tingling, and/or itching, as well as a rash with fluid-filled blisters. Even when the rash disappears, the pain can remain. This is called post-herpetic neuralgia, or PHN.

The shingles vaccine is safe and it may keep you from getting shingles and PHN. Healthy adults age 50 and older should get vaccinated with the shingles vaccine, which is given in two doses. (Zostavax, an earlier shingles vaccine, is no longer available in the United States.)

You can get the shingles vaccine at your doctor’s office and at some pharmacies. Medicare Part D and private health insurance plans may cover some or all of the cost. Check with Medicare or your health plan to find out if it is covered.

What are some side effects of getting a vaccine? Common side effects for all these vaccines are mild and may include pain, swelling, or redness where the vaccine was given. Before getting any vaccine, talk with your doctor about your health history, including past illnesses and treatments, as well as any allergies.

It’s a good idea to keep your own vaccination record, listing the types and dates of your shots, along with any side effects or problems.



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After the war Beringer earned an MS in geology and took a job as a petroleum geologist.

Robert O. Beringer at 100

On Oct 6th, long-time Ventura resident Ret. Air Force Colonel Robert O. Beringer celebrated his 100th birthday with friends and family in attendance. Beringer lives at the Ventura Townhouse.

Born in Wisconsin as one of 8 siblings Mr. Beringer is looking back on a long, fulfilled life of military duty, including a World War II mission as a navigator with

“Ken’s Men”, sobriquet for the 43rd Bomb Group, stationed on the small island of Owi off northwest mainland New Guinea. He received the Air Medal and three oak leaf clusters for combat and in 1947, transferred to the active Reserve.

After the war Beringer earned an MS in geology and took a job as a petroleum geologist with Conoco. A company field trip to the Grand Canyon, Monument Valley and Zuni assured him that this is the part of the US where he belonged and he became a lifelong collector of Native American bolo ties and belt buckles and western art.

His work took him through the oil patch of Mississippi, Louisiana, offshore Gulf of Mexico, Texas Colorado, Utah, Arizona and finally to California, onshore and offshore. Conoco created a consortium of oil companies to join in acquiring data for evaluating the hydrocarbon potential of the Santa Barbara Channel. Critical to achieving this goal was a coring program initiated and operated by Conoco. Beringer jumped at the opportunity to supervise coring operations and moved to Ventura in 1966.

After Conoco transferred Beringer to California, he joined the 9378th Air Reserve Squadron, training monthly at the Santa Barbara armory. In 1969, he was appointed Commander and promoted to Colonel in 1970. The Air Force, phasing out ARD units, merged the 9378th ARS with the 0339th ARS in Los Angeles. Beringer was appointed Commander of the 9339th ARS and in 1975 retired after 33 years of active and reserve duty, retiring from Conoco in 1985. His retirement goal was to acquire a better understanding of world history and geology. Pursuing the objective, he visited over 26 counties, the Galapagos Islands, Machu Picchu, Stonehedge, Pompeii, Egypt, Serengeti, the Silk Road and Switzerland and many states of the US.

Continued on page 12



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Senior Living

Draft of Ventura County Master Plan on Aging released for public comment

A draft of the Ventura County Master Plan for Aging is now available for the public to review and the Ventura County Area Agency on Aging (VCAAA) is seeking feedback from the community. The draft of the Plan can be found at www.vcaaa.org.

Older adults now make up more than 23 percent of Ventura County's population, with the number projected to increase to 30 percent over the next decade. In 2019, Governor Newsom issued an Executive Order (N-14-19) calling for the creation of a Master Plan for Aging, which is a blueprint for state government, local government, the private sector, and philanthropy to prepare the State for the coming demographic changes.

The County of Ventura convened a panel of stakeholders in October 2019 to start the process of talking about the reality and the challenges of growing older in Ventura County and what is needed to make the county more livable. The State issued their Master Plan for Aging in January 2021, and the County of Ventura has drafted a more localized Plan.

"The County of Ventura is committed to evolving to navigate the unique needs of older adults and people with disabili-

ties in our community," the Plan states. "While the focus is on aging, there is an equal focus on optimally aging across the lifespan because a Master Plan for Aging is for everyone in the community. Moreover, we also know that older adults and people with disabilities have common issues, though other challenges are unique."

The Plan continues, "As the Master Plan for Aging was developed, there was also special focus on areas of import to Ventura County. Those focus areas are diversity, equity, and inclusion. The County has always been cognizant of the diversity in our County, racially, ethnically, culturally, and linguistically and has made continual refinements in how we provide services and connections to resources to ensure we operate through a lens of diversity, equity and inclusion."

In doing so, the VCAAA is seeking feedback from the community and welcomes comments, feedback, and corrections during the month of October 2021.

"Responses from the community are critical to developing a successful Master Plan for Aging," said Victoria Jump, Director of the VCAAA. "We want to hear directly from our County's older adults, people living with disabilities, caregivers, and all those navigating services to optimize aging for themselves and for loved ones. We want this Plan to be reflective of the real-life experiences of those we are serving, and we want the community to have an active role in the final product."

All public comments may be sent to pio.vcaaa@ventura.org. For additional information please visit www.vcaaa.org.



Locals win senior titles in table tennis.

Table tennis anyone?

Several local senior table tennis players recently traveled to Henderson, Nevada (Nevada Senior Games) and St. George, Utah (Huntsman World Senior Games) to compete in table tennis tournaments. The Huntsman World Senior Games is the largest multi-sport senior athletic competition in the world. Over 10,000 senior athletes compete in over 30 sports.

At the Nevada Senior Games, Alan Hammerand (Ventura) and Gary Whiddon (Thousand Oaks) won a silver medal in men's doubles and several at the Huntsman World Senior Games.

Results from the Huntsman World Senior Games:

- Men's Age Singles: David Pessoa - Gold
- Women's Age Singles: Faye Gebert - Bronze
- Men's Doubles: Gary Gebert/David Pessoa (Agoura)- Gold
- Women's Doubles: Amy Akashi/Faye Gebert - Bronze
- Men's Random Draw Doubles: Alan Hammerand/David Pessoa - Gold
- Mixed Doubles: Faye Gebert (Canoga Park) Gary Gebert - Bronze
- Rated Singles (1000-1199): Faye Gebert - Silver
- Super Tiered Round Robin Doubles: Amy Akashi (Camarillo) Alan Hammerand - Bronze

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Senior Living



Alzheimer's was named after Dr. Alois Alzheimer.

Alzheimer's is a brain disorder that slowly destroys memory

by National Institute on Aging

Alzheimer's disease is named after Dr. Alois Alzheimer. In 1906, Dr. Alzheimer noticed changes in the brain tissue of a woman who had died of an unusual mental illness. Her symptoms included memory loss, language problems, and unpredictable behavior. After she died, he examined her brain and found many abnormal clumps (now called amyloid plaques) and tangled bundles of fibers (now called neurofibrillary, or tau, tangles).

These plaques and tangles in the brain are still considered some of the main

features of Alzheimer's disease. Another feature is the loss of connections between neurons in the brain. Neurons transmit messages between different parts of the brain, and from the brain to muscles and organs in the body.

To diagnose Alzheimer's, doctors may: Conduct tests of memory, problem solving, attention, counting, and language.

Carry out standard medical tests, such as blood and urine tests, to identify other possible causes of the problem.

Perform brain scans, such as computed tomography (CT), magnetic resonance imaging (MRI), or positron emission tomography (PET), to support an Alzheimer's diagnosis or to rule out other possible causes for symptoms.

These tests may be repeated to give doctors information about how the person's memory and other cognitive functions are changing over time.

Robert O. Beringer at 100

Continued from page 9

As a token to the immensely positive influence Robert Beringer had on others during his long life, in addition to his family and local friends, a group of former colleagues, many of them he had taken under his wings when they were just starting out in their careers, flew out to California from all over the US to celebrate this special milestone with him, stating that it had been 30/40 years since they saw him last but they never forgot the kindness, encouragement and wisdom he represented!

During his birthday celebration Ret. Colonel Robert O. Beringer was represented with a certificate declaring him an honorary member of the United States Space Force!



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This 'n' That

Reinvesting in Life after Loss Support Group

Livingston's Grief & Bereavement Program is offering a new support group, Reinvesting In Life After Loss. This new group will be focusing on restorative activities, seeking meaning and purpose, identifying changes to self, and receiving support in making life good again. The new support groups starts on November 9th and it will be held via Zoom the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month from 6-7:30 pm. For more information or to register, please call 805-389-6870.

Additional Support Groups conducted through Zoom at this time: General Bereavement Support Group Mondays 3:00 to 4:30 pm and Tuesdays 10:30am to 12:00 pm. Good Grief Club 1st and 3rd Tuesdays 5:30 to 6:30 pm. Young Teen Grief Support Group 2nd and 4th Tuesdays 5:30 to 6:30 pm. Young Widow and Widowers Support Group Tuesdays 5:30 to 7:00 pm. Widower and Widower's Support Group Wednesdays 1:00 to 2:30 pm. General Bereavement Support Group Wednesdays 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Survivors of a Suicide Loss 1st and 3rd Wednesdays 6:30 to 8:00 pm. Bereaved Mom's Support Group: 2nd Thursday of every month 6-7:30 pm. Adult Loss of Parent Support Group: 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month 6:00 to 7:30 pm. General Bereavement Support Group Thursdays 6:00 to 7:30 pm. For more information on the Grief and Bereavement Program, visit LMVNA.org.

Ventura events

Continued from page 3

lyricism and a rich and velvety tone will appear at Namba in downtown.

Her guitar playing is equally enchanting as she offers swinging grooves from her extensive repertoire. Joining Téka will be saxophonist/flutist/percussionist Robert Kyle. Robert has played with a long list of the biggest names in Jazz and contemporary music and has a lifelong love affair with the music of Brazil. Rounding out the trio is the skillful and talented jazz pianist Alyse Korn." **Nov. 7: Open house tours of the 1892 Dudley Historic House Museum with "COVID protocols" will take place on Sunday, from 1 - 4 p.m. Tour group size will be limited.** Admission is free. The museum is located at 197 N. Ashwood the corner of Loma Vista and Ashwood Street. For information, please call 642-3345 or visit the website at dudleyhouse.org.

Nov. 12: Richard Senate's Ghost Talk & Tour 7-9 p.m. held at the Bank of Books 748 E. Main St. Talks of the Haunted Saloons and Eateries of Downtown Ventura. Some of the downtown buildings date back to the 19th Century and have some eerie ghost stories. Some date back to gangster times when Ventura was a hub of smuggled, illegal alcohol. Relive the days of Bootleg Booze and jazz music in old Ventura. Fee: \$10 per person. Limited to 30 people. Make your reservation now. 643-3154

Ojai news and events

The Ojai Storytelling Festival will present a musical evening featuring the Dreamland Band's A Celebration

of Joni Mitchell with Kimberly Ford and the Reverend Robert B. Jones critically acclaimed piece, "Three Chords, Five Notes" on Thursday, Oct. 28 at the Ojai Art Center Patio @ 7:30 pm. Tickets are \$37 for adults and \$35 for seniors(65+). All ticket holders must either show a vaccine record card or a negative Covid test three days prior to the event.

A Celebration of Joni Mitchell featuring Kimberly Ford is a rocking tribute to the most iconic singer-songwriter of the Woodstock generation. Mitchell touched millions with her nearly 40-year career that spanned genres from contemporary folk to jazz to full-throated pop-rock. This incredible seven-piece band, modeled on Joni's tenure with Tom Scott & the L.A. Express, plays all your favorite tunes, like Help Me, Both Sides Now, Conversation, Blue, River, All I Want, Free Man in Paris, Carey and, of course, Woodstock. The piece also features stories about Joni Mitchell.

Halloween at the Ojai Storytelling Festival

At this year's festival, there are two events with Halloween content. On Saturday, Oct. 30 at 6 pm at Libbey Bowl, the Ojai Storytelling Festival presents "Tales of Mystery and Suspense" with all the storytellers. The event begins with music by the Sheriffs of Schroedingham starting at 5 and at 6 the storytellers take the stage to offer an evening of spooky tales geared for adults and kids, ages 13 and above.

On Sunday, Oct. 31st from 1 pm to 3 pm at the Libbey Park Fountain there will be a free event for kids with a Halloween theme. Kids are encouraged to wear costumes, and there will be crafts, games and treats.

Tickets are available at www.ojaistoryfest.org.

The Ojai Holiday Marketplace kicks off the holiday season on Saturday, November 13 and Sunday, November 14, 10am to 4pm both days, at Libbey

Park. Presented by the Ojai Festival Women's Committee, this treasured tradition will feature a collection of curated lifestyle and fashion items from more than 50 booths. In addition to shopping, attendees will enjoy musical performances, carolers wandering the marketplace, and Santa handing out candy canes.

Admission to the Marketplace is free. Portion of the proceeds from the sales during the weekend will be donated to the Ojai Music Festival and its BRAVO education programs in the schools and community. For more information visit at OjaiFestival.org.

The importance of caregiving

Continued from page 2

comes from, the cost of finding someone to provide caregiving as well as finding a qualified caregiver can be challenging."

"The state of CA has made a concerted effort to begin addressing caregiving services through the Master Plan on Aging," according to Hodge. "But we have a lot of work to still be doing. One of the planned ideas from my team at Community Memorial Health System is to host small focus groups with agencies and people that are providing some type of caregiving service and then later host a Caregiver Symposium. We are at the front end of dreaming about something like this. The numbers of caregivers needed will only continue to grow as the population ages, and our county can be a leader in this effort to help our caregivers. My hope is we can be a leader in this area as we work with thousands of families every day."

Kristine Supple, Director of Population Health said, "We are committed to bringing high value, innovative programs to our patients in line with our mission to heal, comfort and promote health for the communities that we serve."

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SCAN ME

TREE TOWN



Three oak trees were recently planted behind the Museum of Ventura County, in downtown Ventura, as part of the "Echoes of a Recent Past" public art project. The new oak trees celebrate their life-giving role in Chumash culture, and will bring shade, habitat and beauty to the area. Sponsored by Paul Lindhard (Art City), Marie Lakin and the Ventura Tree Alliance.



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.

Vehicle Burglary Arrest

On October 5, at approximately 2:45 pm, the Ventura Police Command Center received a 911 call regarding a female suspect using a rock to try and break the window of a parked car at Barranca Vista Park. As the caller was on the phone with Ventura Police Dispatchers, she watched the suspect successfully break the window on the victim's vehicle, and then remove property from inside. Patrol units were on-scene in less than 5 minutes, but prior to their arrival, the suspect fled on foot.

With the assistance of detectives who were in the immediate area, the suspect (identified as 41 yrs old vagrant Jessica Hayes) was detained without incident in the 7000 block of Wren Ct. Hayes was positively identified by the witness caller and was in possession of items belonging to the owner of the parked vehicle. The stolen items were returned to the victim, and Hayes was arrested for felony Burglary.

Student with Gun on Campus Arrest

On October 11, at approximately 9:00 am, Pacific High School administrators received a call just after the start of school from a concerned community member regarding a student who had been posting on social media about possessing a gun. Pacific High School administrators immediately contacted the School Resource Officer assigned to that campus and within minutes the SRO met with administrators. As soon as the student arrived at school, the student (a 16-year-old male juvenile) was detained by the school administration and the school resource officer. The student was found to be in possession of a handgun.

He was subsequently arrested for possession of a firearm on school grounds and was booked into Ventura County Juvenile Hall.

Prowling, Vandalism Arrest

On October 12, at 8:30 pm, Ventura Police patrol officers responded to a report of a suspicious subject on the roof of a residence in the 200 block of South Santa Cruz St. While officers were responding, a citizen reported to the communications center that the suspect was shooting a firearm while running down the street. Officers arrived on the scene, established a perimeter around the area, and began searching for the suspect.

During the search, 23-year-old Ventura resident Isaac Alcocer was located on the roof of a small back house to the rear of a residence on Anacapa Street, and he fled from officers. Officers pursued him and he was apprehended on Santa Cruz Street. There were no injuries to the involved officers or Alcocer as a result of the incident. No weapons were located and there was no evidence found indicating any firearms had been fired. Instead, it appeared the suspect was breaking glass bottles. Alcocer was arrested for prowling and vandalism and was booked at the Ventura County Jail.

Narcotics Arrest

On October 13, at approximately 4:45 pm, members of the Ventura Police Department SCU unit, in conjunction with PTF, conducted a two-location search warrant at the above addresses due to an investigation into narcotics sales. As a result, detectives using investigative tools

were able to identify a primary suspect as 47-year-old Ventura resident David Tannenbaum.

During the subsequent investigation, detectives recovered a large quantity of methamphetamines, heroin, and some fentanyl. Also found was a large amount of U.S. currency and evidence of narcotics sales in Tannenbaum's home and storage.

As a result of the investigation, David Tannenbaum was arrested for possession for sale of controlled substances.

A search of the Ventura County Superior Court shows that David Tannenbaum has prior arrests for numerous narcotics violations, including several arrests for sales of narcotics, DUI, and hit & run.

Harbor Patrol Blotter

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

9/28 7:05am, received a request for traffic control from Tow Boat US towing a 50ft sailboat to the Port District longdock until it can be hauled out at the boatyard.

9/29 7:00pm, received report of two individuals dropping off a mountain bike at the launch ramp behind some lobster traps. Officers responded and found the bike, no one around to claim so it was put into found property.

10/01 1:55pm, received a report from a tenant at VIM who believes someone is feeding sealions so that they hang out around his slip. Advised we would investigate and that it would be helpful to have more evidence than a hunch.

3-6pm, while manning the operations center, receiving a high call volume regarding rules and regulations tomorrow's lobster season opening.

10/02 11:38am, received report of a sailboat in danger of going aground near the Santa Clara Rivermouth. Officers responded in Rescue B17, but the sailboat was already aground. The salvage operation was turned over to Tow Boat US.

10/03 11:30am, received a complaint about kayakers fishing near vessels in VWM. Officers responded but were unable to locate the kayakers.

7:03pm, observed a group starting a bon fire at Harbor Cove. Officers contacted the group, educated on state laws prohibiting beach fires. Fire was extinguished.

10/04 6-10pm, observing an incredible dry lightning storm arrive and pass through the harbor and surrounding areas. NWS reports 1k lightning strikes struck ground.

7:23pm, received mayday call on VHF 16 from vessel hoop netting in the storm. Boating/navigating in any storm, especially lightning, strongly not advised!!!

10/6 2:15pm, received a report from a concerned person of a dog in a locked vehicle near 1583 Spinnaker drive. Officers responded but unable to locate the vehicle. 6:25pm, received reports of a red and white speed boat operating recklessly close to shore near Carpinteria. Officers advised they would investigate if a vessel matching the description entered the Harbor, relayed US coast guard #.

10/9 10:11am, received report of vendors working without permits in VIM. Officers responded, found vendor as described, educated on the ordinance and they left.

12:53pm, dispatched to a laceration at 1691 Spinnaker Dr. Officers responded with VFD/AMR to the call. The patient

"FOR THE FIRST TIME IN OVER 10 YEARS, I FEEL SAFE."

Jan, resident
Willett Ranch Senior Housing, Ventura

"My life has come full circle. I once worked with nonprofits helping people who couldn't afford housing and other basic needs. I'm now a beneficiary of safe and affordable housing."

When we all have a safe place to call home, our entire community thrives as a more inclusive, healthier, and prosperous environment. That's why we are dedicated to improving rental market affordability by lending to developments that result in equitable homes built in neighborhoods that foster harmonious communities and cultivate diversity.

We are all worthy of safe and affordable housing.

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self-transported to the hospital.

3:03pm, dispatched to a fall in the Ventura Marina Community. Officers responded and assisted patient, VFD medics took over. Patient refused transport

10/10 2:25am, received report of female transient trespassing/camping on a balcony in the village. Officers responded, the subject asked what Harbor Patrol does and they educated the individual of the violations of harbor ordinances, removed her. 5:33am, observed a Small Craft issued this afternoon, Gale warning for Monday.

6:05am, officers assisting the owner of a car broken into last night at 1567 Spinnaker. The window was smashed, an undisclosed amount of cash taken.

10:05am, received report of a stolen bicycle at the Holiday Inn Express.

1:09pm, dispatched to unconscious person at The Greek. Officers responded with VFD/AMR and assisted the patient in the restaurant.

Water is an essential resource for survival

In honor of National Preparedness Month, all residents are encouraged to take action by developing an emergency response plan. Water is an essential resource for survival and a necessary part of every emergency supply kit.

Following a disaster, clean drinking water may not be available. Prepare yourself by building a supply of water that will meet your family's needs during an emergency. Make sure to stock enough tap or bottled water to last three to seven days. Anticipate each family member will need one to two gallons of water per day. Additionally, customers should be prepared to disinfect available water by boiling

water or using regular unscented chlorine bleach products that are suitable for disinfection and sanitation as indicated on the label. To learn more about how to safely disinfect drinking water during an emergency please visit the Emergency Preparedness page.

Remember, water disaster preparedness involves four easy steps:

1. Store water
2. Build an emergency kit
3. Make a plan
4. Stay informed

Residents and businesses are encouraged to register online at VC Alert to receive emergency updates and critical messages like evacuation notices. Be sure to visit Ready Ventura County or VC Emergency for more information about how to prepare for the unexpected.

Looking for ways to save? Ventura Water is here to help! Customer Care at (805) 667-6500.

Water Wise Landscape:

Receive a cash rebate for converting your lawn to a low water-use landscape.

Upgrade your irrigation System: Apply for a free smart irrigation controller, drip irrigation, and high-efficiency sprinkler nozzles.

Low-Water Appliances: Install a high-efficiency toilet and washing machine.

Use Recycled Water: Check out Ventura Water's Recycled Water Mobile Reuse Program

As a reminder, the City will continue to enforce water waste prohibitions, offer water efficiency programs/ incentives, and pursue multi-benefit water supply projects, such as the State Water Interconnection Project and the VenturaWaterPure Program.

For more information about Ventura's current water supply situation, visit Ventura Water's Water Shortage Update webpage.



The Pet Page



Dedicated to Scamp

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

Three upcoming clinics are: Tuesday, November 2nd at Shiells Park, in the parking lot, located at 649 C St., Fillmore, a second clinic on Tuesday, November 9th at SPAN Thrift Store parking lot 110 N. Olive St. (behind Vons on Main), and a third clinic at the Albert H. Soliz Library - El Rio, 2820 Jourdan St., Oxnard on Tuesday, November 16th.

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

Are cats or dogs smarter? Both are domesticated, but is one smarter?
by Paula Schaap

Dog and cat owners make a lot of assumptions about their four-footed companions' intelligence. Of course, we all like to imagine our Fido or Felix is the smartest animal ever to fetch — or pounce on — a ball. So, can we settle the age-old debate? Which species is smarter: dogs or cats?

Turns out, the answer isn't as straightforward as pet lovers might like.

"Dog-cognition researchers do not study 'intelligence' per se; we look at different aspects of cognition," Alexandra Horowitz, a senior research fellow who specializes in dog cognition at Barnard College in New York and the author of "Inside of a Dog: What Dogs See, Smell, and Know" told Live Science.

In fact, Horowitz questions the human habit of comparing intelligence across species.

"At its simplest form, cats are smart at the things cats need to do, and dogs at dog things," she said. "I don't think it makes any sense at all to talk about relative 'smarts' of species."

Brian Hare, a professor of evolutionary anthropology at Duke University, agreed with that assessment. "Asking whether a dog is smarter than a cat is like asking whether a hammer is a better tool than a screwdriver — it depends on what it was designed for," he told Live Science.

This is not to say that animal behavior researchers haven't tried to measure dog and cat intelligence — or, more precisely, cognitive abilities beyond those needed to sustain life.

Kristyn Vitale, an assistant professor of animal health and behavior at Unity College in Maine, said animal intelligence is typically divided into three broad areas: problem-solving ability, concept formation (the ability to form general concepts from specific concrete experiences) and social intelligence.

Vitale primarily studies cats, and her current focus on the inner life of cats revolves around social intelligence. Often stereotyped as aloof and disinterested in

humans, cats actually show a high degree of social intelligence, "often at the same level as dogs," she told Live Science.

For example, studies show that cats can distinguish between their names and similar-sounding words, and they have been found to prefer human interactions to food, toys and scents. Human attention makes a difference to cats: A 2019 study published in the journal Behavioural Processes found that when a person paid attention to a cat, the cat responded by spending more time with that person.

In one of the rare studies directly comparing cats and dogs, researchers found no significant difference between the species' ability to find hidden food using cues from a human's pointing. However, the researchers noted that "cats lacked some components of attention-getting behavior compared with dogs." (Pet owners who've watched a dog beg at its feeding bowl while a cat walked away know exactly what the researchers observed.)

Cats and dogs are intelligent in different ways.

Then, there's brain size. A commonly held notion is that brain size dictates relative intelligence, and if that were always true, dogs would appear to prevail.

Hare said he and University of Arizona anthropologist Evan MacLean recruited more than 50 researchers around the world to apply a test they developed across 550 animal species, including "birds, apes, monkeys, dogs, lemurs and elephants," he said.

The idea was to test one cognitive trait, self-control, or what researchers call "inhibitory control," across species. Their test, reported in a 2014 paper published in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, was the animal version of the famous 1972 Stanford University study in which children ages 3 to 5 were tested on their ability to delay eating a marshmallow.

The cross-species study showed that "the bigger the brain an animal had, the more self-control they showed in our animal marshmallow test," Hare said. The ability to exercise self-control is one of the indications of higher cognitive function.

But there is one catch: Cats weren't included in the test, so while we can speculate how they might have performed based on their brain size, we don't actually know.

Another thing to keep in mind when doing this kind of intelligence assessment is that we may treat dogs and cats differently, Vitale said.

So, ultimately, who wins? The takeaway may be to appreciate your pet's particular kind of intelligence, especially the social intelligence that makes them delightful companions.

A new study conducted by Mars Petcare and published in The Veterinary Journal has shown that smaller breeds of dogs, such as Dachshunds and Toy Poodles, are generally more predisposed to periodontal disease than larger breeds, such as German Shepherds and Boxers.

Scamp Club

(Scampclub pets are not for adoption.)



Ruby is a Border Collie mix. She is almost 18-months-old. Rescued from Colorado. She loves retrieving balls. She is very well behaved and very friendly. She enjoys taking walks.

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.

For the study, researchers reviewed more than three million medical records from Banfield Pet Hospital across 60 breeds of dogs in the United States, finding that periodontal disease (both gingivitis and periodontitis) occurred in 18.2% of dogs overall (517,113 cases).

The authors say that while the true prevalence of periodontal disease (44-100% of cases) is only realized through in-depth clinical investigation, the figure reported in this study was consistent with other research based on conscious oral examinations.

When the authors reviewed the data by dog size, they found that extra-small breeds (<6.5 kg/14.3 lbs) were up to five times more likely to be diagnosed with periodontal disease than giant breeds. Additional risk factors for periodontal disease seen in the study included a dog's age, being overweight and time since last

scale and polish.

The five breeds with the highest prevalence of periodontal disease found in the study were the large Greyhound (38.7%), the medium-small Shetland Sheepdog (30.6%), and the extra-small Papillon (29.7%), Toy Poodle (28.9%), and Miniature Poodle (28.2%). Giant breed dogs (such as the Great Dane and Saint Bernard) were among the lowest breed prevalence estimates.

The authors say there are several potential reasons why smaller dogs are more likely to develop dental issues than larger dogs. For example, smaller dogs may have proportionally larger teeth, which can lead to tooth overcrowding and increased build-up of plaque leading to inflammation of gums. Smaller dogs also have less alveolar bone (the bone that contains tooth sockets) compared to their relatively large teeth.

Carpe Diem



SPAN Thrift Store
SPAY/NEUTER ANIMAL NETWORK

\$10 Low/No Income Spay & Neuter
Tuesday, November 2nd
Shiells Park parking lot.
649 C Street, Fillmore, CA 93015
Must call for appointment
(805) 584-3823

\$10 Low/No Income Spay & Neuter
Tuesday, November 9th
in SPAN parking lot.
Must call for appointment (805) 584-3823

\$10 Low/No Income Spay & Neuter
Tuesday, November 16th
Albert H. Soliz Library - El Rio
2820 Jourdan St., Oxnard, CA 93036
Must call for appointment
(805) 584-3823

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The Pet Page

Forever homes wanted

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Autumn is an adorable, loving, people-friendly 2 years, 2 months old feline. She arrived pregnant, delivered her kittens who all have found homes, and is now ready to get a loving home of her own! VCAS Animal Shelter - 600 Aviation Drive, Camarillo Kennel: 335 Animal ID: A778973

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Please visit www.vcaa.org to complete the HICAP Part D/MA Comparison Form or call us at (805) 477-7300 ext. 5 for more information or 800-434-0222. For additional information or to make an appointment, e-mail HICAP@Ventura.org.

This project was supported, in part by grant number 90SAPG0094-02*, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living (ACL), Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201. Grantees undertaking projects under government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their findings and conclusions. Points of view or opinions do not, therefore, necessarily represent official ACL policy.



COUNTY of VENTURA
Area Agency on Aging





by Pam Baumgardner
VenturaRocks.com

Work has begun on the new music venue scheduled to open during the first quarter of 2022 replacing Discovery on Thompson Blvd. A few local residents have teamed up with Ineffable Music Group to launch Ventura Music Hall and if it has anything to do with music you know they'll have our support. According to their press release, Ineffable specializes in bringing famous bands of all genres to smaller venues for special once-in-a-lifetime experiences, alongside supporting local bands just making a name for themselves and everything in between. Dinner and a show in a non-pretentious, comfortable place... you had me at "new music venue." The website is a bit of tease, I'm sure more information will be available the close we get to their grand opening, but go ahead and bookmark them at VenturaMusicHall.com.

And speaking of new venues, The Grape has quietly opened their doors and jazz is flowing once again, but make no mistake about it, there will be a grand opening celebration to be had, so stay tuned. Meanwhile I'm happy to report the Doug Webb Group featuring Danny Carey from Tool will play on March 23. Tickets are through Eventbrite starting at \$25. You can find out more on their Facebook page.

Most Halloween parties I've seen are scheduled for Saturday, October 30, but a handful fall on the actual date, on Sunday. You'll want to do some additional research to figure out whether the venue of your choice has a cover charge or not, and whether the entertainment is still on. Things change, it's a fluid environment. Gigi's on Grand Ave. in Ventura has a hard rock thrasher line up with Tung, Persekutor, Deth Crux and Get Bent; on the opposite end of the spectrum The Grape will host the Barrelhouse Wailers and their brand of hot jazz, both venues have a \$10 cover. See listings for a lot more options.

Quick Notes: Martha Davis & the Motels play the Oxnard Performing Arts Center on Saturday, October 30; RAW, Crazy D & the Nutz along with Crawdads play the Sewer on Friday, October 22; and Kelly's Lot host their annual fundraiser for CARL this year at Seaward Brewing on Saturday, October 23.

Many thanks to my good friend Christine Law who will be hosting the Pam Baumgardner Music Hour for me. Her show debuts on Tuesday, October 19, at 5 pm, but it repeats on Friday at 5, and Sunday at noon, then again, the following week. So you get six chances to tune into KPPQ-LP at 104.1 FM here in Ventura, or use the MyTuner radio app on your smart device, or listen online at CapsMedia.org/radio.

And finally, do check out the VenturaRockSpot where we interview artists in and around the 805. We talk about their past, the music scene, writing music, anything and everything having to do with their musical journey. We currently have 34 episodes to peruse with a number hosts including Jeff Donovan from the Guitar and Whiskey Club, Christine Law from Star Goes Nova, and myself, owner/operator of VenturaRocks.com Just a few artists to check out: The Mini Bar Project, Will Breman, semi-finalist from NBC's the Voice, Spinz, Guy Martin, Bone Maggot, Medicine Hat, Kelly's Lot, and a whole lot more. It's an eclectic mix for sure! Just go to VenturaRocksSpot.com and start watching!

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

Music Calendar

For more up-to-the-date listings go to
VenturaRocks.com

Azars

2215 Michael Dr., Newbury Park

Tuesdays: Rockstar Karaoke

Sat 10/23: SideTracs

Sat 10/30: Old School

Boatyard Pub

Ventura Harbor

Thursdays: Jim Friery; then Bluegrass Jam

Bombay Bar & Grill

143 S. California St., Ventura

DJs Friday – Sunday

Café Fiore

66 S. California St., Ventura

Wed 10/20: Donna Butler

Fri 10/22: Fabulous Hangovers

Wed 10/27: Bernie Meisinger

Fri 10/29: Urban Dread

Cantara Cellars

126 N. Wood Rd., Camarillo

Sat 10/30: Whiskey Business

The Cave

4435 McGrath St., Ventura

Music 5:30 – 8:30

Thursdays: Bobby Apostol

Fridays & Saturdays: Warren Takahashi

Copa Cubana

Ventura Harbor Village

Tuesdays: McWorter, Berghoff &

Jones (7 pm)

Fridays: Kenny Devoe (1-4)

Saturdays: Kenny Devoe 1 & 4 pm

Sundays: Kenny Devoe 10 am – 1 pm

Downtown Ventura

California & Main Stage

Wednesdays: Warren Takahashi (5:30

pm)

Sat 10/23: Tribal Me (11 am – 2 pm)

Four Brix

2290 Eastman, Ventura

Music 6-8 pm on Fridays, Sat & Sun

1 – 3:30 pm

Sat 10/23: Johnny and the Love

Handles

Sun 10/24: Natalie Wattle

Fri 10/29: Inna Rude Mood

Sun 10/31: Brittney & Ben

The Garage

1091 Scandia Ave., Ventura

Wednesdays: Blue Wednesday Blues

Jam

Gigi's Cocktails

2493 Grand Avenue, Ventura

Fri 10/22: No Consent, Headnoise,

Social Conflict, the Afraid, Enemy

Proof

Fri 10/29: Teresa Russell

Sat 10/30: Tung, Persekutor, Deth

Crux, Get Bent

The Grape

2733 E. Main Street, Ventura

Sat 10/23: Doug Webb Group feat.

Danny Carey (TOOL)

Sat 10/30: Barrelhouse Wailers

Sun 10/31: Tony Ybarra

Grapes and Hops with a Twist

454 E Main St., Ventura

Music 8 pm unless other noted

Thursdays: LA Jazz Experience (7 pm)

Fri 10/22: Heart and Soul

Sat 10/23: Dive Bar Steve (2 pm);

Mojo Monkeys (8 pm)

Sun 10/24: Colette Love Joy (2 pm)

Fri 10/29: Johnny and the Love

Handles

Sat 10/30: Amanda Marie (2 pm) Guy

Martin (8 pm)

Sun 10/31: Dave Parsonage (2 pm)

Keynote Lounge

10245 E Telephone Rd, Ventura

Fri 10/22: DJ Sherman

Sat 10/23: Magnificent Bastards

Fri 10/29: Breaking Bored

Sat 10/30: DJ-AVG

Leashless Brewing

585 E. Thompson Blvd, Ventura

Music 6:30 pm except Sundays at 3

pm

Sat 10/23: Jacob Marquez & the Good

Vibes

Sun 10/24: Katie Leigh

Fri 10/29: Evan Effres

Sat 10/30: Stoneflys

Sun 10/31: RyMi Groove Session

Lookout & Grill

2800 S. Harbor Blvd., Oxnard

Wednesdays: Tommy Foytek's Variety

Show

Lucas Sellers Wine

330 Zachary Street, Moorpark

Sat 10/23: Karen Eden w/ Bill

Macpherson

Sat 10/30: Tour Support

Made West Brewing

1744 Donlon Street, Ventura

Thurs 10/21: RJ Bloke (6 pm)

Sat 10/23: the Brandywine Buskers

(4 pm)

Sun 10/24: Milo Sledge (3 pm)

Sun 10/31: RJ Mischo

Margarita Villa

Ventura Harbor Village

Music Mon -Thurs 6-9, Fri & Sat

7-10; Sundays 5-8

Fri 10/22: Operation 90s

Sat 10/23: Freedom of Expression

Sun 10/24: Cinnamon Whiskey

Fri 10/29: The Tossers

Sat 10/30: Cross Cut

Mrs. Olson's

2800 Harbor Blvd., Channel

Islands Harbor

Sun 10/24: Teresa Russell & Stephen

Geyer (Noon)

Sat 10/30: Free Love Project (8 pm)

Namba

47 S. Oak St., Ventura

Fri 10/22: Fred Kaplan & Robert Kyle

Ojai Underground Exchange

616 Pearl St., Ojai

Fri 10/22: Dan Zimmerman

Oxnard Performing Arts Center

Canyon at Oxnard PACC

Sundays: The House Arrest Band (1-4

pm)

Sat 10/30: Marth Davis & the Motels

Poseidon Brewing Co.

5777 Olivas Park Dr., Ventura

Sat 10/23: Vinyl Gypsies (6:30 pm)

Prime Restaurant

2209 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

Tuesdays: Danny D

The Raven Tavern

1651 S. Victoria Ave., Oxnard

Music at 8 – 11 pm

Fri 10/22: Breaking Bored

Sat 10/23: Troy Edwards

Fri 10/29: Jayden Secor

Sat 10/30: Vinyl Gypsies

Relm

2390 Las Posas Rd., Camarillo

Music at 5:30 pm

Fri 10/22: George Krikes

Sat 10/23: Nate Latta

Fri 10/29: Scott Rausch

Sat 10/30: Jesse Davis

Ric's Restaurant

2500 Las Posas Road, Camarillo

Tuesdays: Tour Support with Kurt

Griffey & Bob DeLellis

Sans Souci

21 S. Chestnut Street, Ventura

Fri 10/22: RAW, Crazy D & the Nutz

Seaward Brewing

1920 Goodyear Ave., Ventura

Sat 10/23: Kelly's Lot (Noon)

The Shores

1031 Harbor Blvd., Oxnard

Sun 10/31: Free Love Project (9 pm)

The Six Chow House

419 E. Main St., Ventura

Fri 10/22: The Bomb

Tony's Pizzeria

186 E. Thompson Blvd, Ventura

Sun 10/24: Dork

Vaquero y Mar

435 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

Thursdays: Delta by the Beach (5 pm)

Sundays: 805AllStarz (1 pm)

The Vine

308 E. Ojai Ave., Ojai

Sundays: Fire on the Mountain (2

pm)

Saturdays: Smitty and Julija and

Friends (7 pm)

Fri 10/22: The Garden Group (7 pm)

Waterside

3500 S. Channel Island Blvd.,

Oxnard

Fri 10/22: Teresa Russell (6 pm)

Sun 10/24: The CocoKnots (11:30

am)

Winchesters

632 E. Main St., Ventura

Music Thurs 5:30; Fri 7 pm; Sun 3 pm

Thurs 10/21: Sean Wiggins

Fri 10/22: National Cat

Sun 10/24: Jacob Marquez & the

Good Vibes

1901 Speakeasy

740 South B Street, Oxnard

Music 6:30 – 9:30 pm

Sat 10/23: RJ Mischo

Sat 10/30: The Garden Group

ventura Music Scene



You're a person first. A cancer patient second.

When dealing with a cancer diagnosis, we know how difficult it can be to coordinate the various aspects of your care. At Dignity Health – St. John's Regional Cancer Center, our accredited comprehensive cancer program features a full range of services—from treatment through supportive care and recovery—so you get the plan that best fits your needs. And guiding you every step of the way is our oncology-certified nurse navigator, who is here to coach you throughout your cancer journey. Because when advanced, personalized, and safe care is close by, you can focus on healing. And living.

Don't delay the important care you need. For more information, please call our Cancer Center at **805.988.2641**. Learn more at **DignityHealth.org/StJohnsRegional**.



Galina Richardson's art is featured at Fox art show.

Fox Fine Jewelry presents *Purely Portraits*, an art show with **Galina Richardson** and **Sandy Treadwell** until January 2022.

Galina Richardson was born in Russia, where she worked as a translator. Once Richardson moved to the US, she worked in graphic design and then for the FBI. After eleven years, she left to focus on her art. Now, she creates breathtaking portraits in oil, pastel, watercolor, and charcoal.

Raised in New York, Sandy Treadwell

moved to Ojai to be closer to family and enjoy the more rural environment. He discovered he had a real talent and affinity for art. He continues to explore his love of "living landscapes" through his work in charcoal. Treadwell often works life-size and is an Ojai Studio Artist.

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Paintings by **Bonny Butler** will comprise a solo exhibition Nov. 5-Dec. 24 in Buenaventura Art Association's Ventura gallery home, Studio 99 at Bell Arts Factory, 432 N. Ventura Ave.

Butler's "The Language of Color" will have about 50 pieces, from 4 inches square to 25 by 35 inches. The Oxnard artist has worked in watercolor, Chinese brush, mixed media, collage, alcohol inks, acrylics and encaustic wax on canvas, papers and other substrates.

In the studio's lobby area. "Sunrise to Night Skies: Artwork by Mariah Bentley" is the title for her show of watercolor and ink paintings on archival paper.

Receptions for both artists' shows will be 5-8 p.m. Nov. 5 and Dec. 3, in conjunction with Ventura's monthly First Friday gallery crawls.

Regular operating hours at BAA's Studio 99 are noon-4 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays.



The Focus on the Masters Arts Archive & Library Present "See you in the studio!" featuring **Karen Kitchel**.

Karen will share a tour of her studio and insight into her distinctive studio practice. Using both conventional and unconventional materials such as oil and acrylic paint, asphalt emulsion, tar, burlap and powdered pigments.

The Zoom event is free to all and is sponsored, in part, by our members of Focus on the Masters. To register and receive your link, visit www.FocusOnTheMasters.com.

Focus on the Masters (FOTM) is a non-profit, 501(c)(3), art appreciation program that documents, preserves, and presents the works and lives of accomplished contemporary artists.

To learn more about Karen Kitchel visit: www.KarenKitchel.com Tuesday, October 26, 2021 6:30 to 7:30 pm free Via Zoom



Ventura Art Scene



This 'n' That

Ventura Harbor Village to celebrate a spook-tacular line-up

Halloween festivities return to Ventura Harbor Village, and this year's line-up of events will definitely not disappoint. The spook-tacular seaside destination invites visitors from near and far to stop in for a spell as it hosts free community events for costumed kids, pets and parents.

Festively decorated with vibrant pumpkins, bales of hay, cornstalks and a myriad of photo ops and scenic marina backdrops, Ventura Harbor is pulling out all the stops for Halloween weekend, made possible by community partner, Underwood Family Farms.

Over a dozen skeletons have escaped and are on the loose at Ventura Harbor. Visitors are invited to roam the waterfront Village and locate them all at Seaside Skelton Hunt on October 30 and 31! Take photos of all the skeletons you find and post to social media for a chance to win a Harbor Halloween prize.

Get your furry four-legged friends and their creative costumes ready! The 9th Annual Ventura Harbor Village HOWL-O-Ween Dog Costume Contest is back. The Instagram-worthy pet costume event, set for Saturday, October 30 from Noon to 2PM, is a crowd favorite. Breeze publisher Sheldon Brown will be a judge. Rumors that he can be bribed have not been verified.

A fashionable line up dogs dressed in thematic costumes have a chance to win prizes for the best attire. Owners and their furry com-pet-itors are encouraged to arrive at noon on October 30th to check-in at Ventura Harbor Village before the judging

begins. The contest is open to canines only, and a maximum of 75 dogs can enter. There is no entry fee and online pre-registration is encouraged to secure your spot: venturaharborvillage.com/howl2021/

Owners are encouraged to get dressed up in theme too. This year, participants will vie for the top dog spot in costume categories that include: Best in Show, Spookiest, Cutest/Prettiest, Most Creative, and Most Sea-worthy.

Winners will receive a blue ribbon, a \$30 gift certificate to a Ventura Harbor Village restaurant, a pumpkin courtesy of Underwood Family farms, and a complimentary pup cone from Coastal Cone.

The fang-tastic series of seaside events continue for a Kids Trick or Treat on October 31, from noon to 2pm. Families decked to the 9's navigate through the Village with over 20 treat stops at participating Harbor boutiques and restaurants. Trick or treaters are encouraged to bring their own treat bags. Treats are available while supplies last.

Kids get creative at a complimentary craft station where each child can decorate mini pumpkins using colorful stickers and sparkles (300 pumpkins and décor donated by the kind folks at Underwood Family Farms). Bring the entire family for a spooky photo op with the Halloween hearse in Ventura Harbor's courtyard.

Be spooked, bedazzled and bewildered at Ventura Harbor Village as fab-boo-lously dressed witches and warlocks take to the sea at the 3rd Annual Witches Paddle, a community-organized event on October 29 from 3 to 4:30 PM at Ventura Harbor's Dock C.

Throughout Halloween weekend on October 30-31, kids and adults can meander throughout Ventura Harbor Village and catch a glimpse of professional pumpkin carving each day from Noon – 2pm. Local artist Dawn Reilly, will be on the seaside Promenade Stage carving a massive pumpkin! Also visit Harbor Village Gallery & Gifts where Riley is a contributing artist. Find the full lineup of fall fun: venturaharborvillage.com/events/



On October 15, 7:05pm, at Victoria Ave. and Moon Dr. emergency units responded to a vehicle roll over with trapped victim. Fire and EMS units were able to assist the driver from the vehicle without the use of rescue extrication tools. The 77-year-old woman suffered minor injuries to her right arm and was transported to Ventura County Medical Center for further treatment.

Lighter Breeze



You're on your way now.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A difficult experience begins to ease. That's the good news. The not-so-good news is a possible complication that could prolong the problem awhile longer.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Your self-confidence gets a much-needed big boost as you start to unsnarl that knotty financial problem. Expect some help from a surprising source.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Congratulations. Any lingering negative aftereffects from that not-so-pleasant workplace situation are all but gone. It's time now to focus on the positive.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Your self-confidence grows stronger as you continue to take more control of your life. Arrange for some well-earned fun and relaxation with someone special.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) As usual, you've been concerned more about the needs of others than your own. You need to take time for yourself so that you can replenish all that spent energy.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Stronger planetary influences indicate a growing presence of people eager to help you navigate through the rough seas that might mark your career course.

BORN THIS WEEK: You can balance emotion and logic, which gives you the ability to make choices that are more likely than not to prove successful.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You're moving from a relatively stable situation to one that appears to be laced with perplexity. Be patient. You'll eventually get answers to help clear up the confusion around you.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) A vexing situation tempts you to rush to set it all straight. But it's best to let things sort themselves out so that you can get a better picture of the challenge you're facing.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Financial matters could create some confusion, especially with a torrent of advice pouring in from several sources. Resist acting on emotion and wait for the facts to emerge.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) That goal you've set is still in sight and is still in reach. Stay with the course that you're on. Making too many shifts in direction now could create another set of problems.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) It might be time to confront a trouble-making associate and demand some answers. But be prepared for some surprises that could lead you to make a change in some long-standing plans.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Congratulations. You're making great progress in sorting out all that confusion that kept you from making those important decisions.

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Scaring people at the Ventura Chamber Fall Business Expo "Haunting at the Harbor" was Ana Baker, Sheldon Brown and Jaime Baker. The Expo returned after pausing because of COVID. It was held on October 7, at the Four Points by Sheraton Ventura Harbor. The large crowd enjoyed lots of food and vendors.



Showtime

A View from House Seats

October offers advice and thrills

by Shirley Lorraine

Ojai Art Center Theatre has opened *Tiny Beautiful Things*, based on the book by American author Cheryl Strayed (perhaps best known for her memoir *Wild*) and adapted for stage by Nia Vardalos (*My Big Fat Greek Wedding*). The play chronicles a true and fascinating period in Strayed's life – one in which she ventures into the unknown with no small amount of trepidation.

Strayed apparently was a fan of an online literary magazine called *The Rumpus* and followed the advice column called *Dear Sugar*. At some point Sugar decided to retire and offered the position to Strayed. Despite knowing nothing about writing an advice column, Strayed agreed and became the new *Dear Sugar*.

Instead of offering direct advice, Strayed related applicable experiences from her own life to show the letter writers how she had coped with or overcome a situation. A compilation of these actual letters and her responses are what make up the book and the play.

Lynn Van Emmerik carries the bulk of the piece, portraying *Dear Sugar* in all her circular glory, from confusion to confidence. She is aided by a Greek chorus of three women, all dressed in black, who become the embodiment of the various letter writers. Elektra Cohen, Ashley Osler, and Isobel Roth all take on myriad personas to challenge the columnist. The result is a panoply of introspections, revelations, and realizations all around.

The letters are real, as are the situations. Due to strong language and addressing sensitive subjects head-on such as sexual assault, child abuse, death/suicide and infidelity, discretion in attendance is highly advised. As Director Bob Blough states in the program, "It is not a play for the faint-hearted. Stay with it and it will lead you to wonder, forgiveness and joy. But first it deals with the awful realities of life."

There is also a good measure of light-heartedness, even humor, in how every situation is addressed. Presented in one 90-minute act, the audience becomes drawn into the plights and challenges, rooting for both the letter writers and the columnist, who is graphically relaying her own struggles with life. The ensemble works cohesively, each bringing both serious and playful elements to their roles.

Two-story home interior setting provides a warm, familiar, settling background to the cacophony of issues that assault her. As she sits at her kitchen table with her laptop, the consistent ping of incoming mail alternately gives her focus and a feeling of overwhelming responsibility to the letter writers. Emmerik conveys that internal pressure to the audience unapologetically.

The Art Center Theatre is busy planning their next season. The multi-talented Tracey Williams Sutton has recently taken on the role of Artistic Director for the theater so stay tuned for what promises to be a season of renewal.

Tiny Beautiful Things is playing through October 24, 2021, on Fridays and Saturdays at 7:30 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m. (805)640-9897 or www.ojaiact.org for pricing and tickets.

Masks and proof of vaccination are required. Safety protocols are in place.

October Spirits Abound

Santa Paula Theatre Center's annual Ghostwalk has arisen once again. Closed last year due to the pandemic (even ghosts can get Covid), the popular October event is back on this year. Held in a different location

each season, this year's event starts and ends at the SPTC location itself, 125 S. 7th Street, Santa Paula, with much of the tour traversing nearby Ebell Park.

Tours led by enthusiastic ghost-hosts depart every 15 minutes from the main entrance. Along the way, patrons make six stops, meeting up with spirits who are speaking from the other side of the grave, telling the tales of their demise. Among the tales are sprinkled bits of Santa Paula history and familiar areas.

The tales are all family friendly, spooky, and fascinating. All ages will delight with this walk into the dark October night. Primarily the walkers stand throughout the performances, although a few chairs are provided at each stop. This year's tour is not wheelchair accessible and takes about an hour and a bit, concluding once again at the theater building.

Ghostwalk tours are by reservation – www.ghostwalk.com or (805) 525-3073. Choose your tour time online. Masks are required and warm clothing is encouraged as evening falls swiftly. Performances are Friday and Saturday and Sunday evenings through October 30, with one Thursday, the 28th.

Halloween Radio Dramedy

The award-winning *Every Now and Then* Theatre's 33rd year brings a Halloween mystery to the radio on NewsTalk 1590 KVTA on October 30 and October 31.

An original mystery "Shorty Cut Across" will be presented, hosted by former San Diego Charger running back Chuck Muncie. The commercial-free airing features numerous local talents well known to loyal audiences.

Always a well-crafted story and outstanding production, *Every Now and Then* Theatre this year will attempt to solve the energy crisis. Interspersed with the story will be snippets of "history on filling stations and surprising research on a future fuel possibility that could send OPEC packing."

Tune in on Saturday October 30 at 2 p.m. or 9 p.m., or Sunday, October 31 at 9 a.m., 1 p.m., 4 p.m. or 7 p.m. The nationwide broadcast will be accessible via the KVTA website by clicking on "Listen Live."

Streaming Spotlight by Cindy Summers

Dopesick

– Hulu Original



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

Dopesick is based on true events that happened surrounding the origins of the opioid crisis and how it created spikes in crimes and overdose deaths across the country.

Purdue Pharmaceuticals was the manufacturer of MS Contin, a strong pain reliever used in the 80's used to treat severe pain. During this time, the medical industry was not focused on any type of pharmaceutical innovations for those experiencing moderate long term pain, generally prescribing Tylenol and Motrin for these conditions. Richard Sackler (Michael Stuhlbarg) was the head of family-owned Purdue Pharma and decided to

Continued on page 20

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

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The Ojai Film Festival promises to draw a large crowd for eventful evenings at the Ojai Art Center Theater.

Chloe Zhao - movie screening + Q&A at the 22nd Ojai Film Festival

Chloe Zhao will be screening her movie *The Rider* and doing a Q&A at the 22nd annual Ojai Film Festival. *The Rider* is a 2017 American contemporary western drama film written, produced and directed by Chloé Zhao and was shot in the Badlands of South Dakota.

It won the Art Cinema Award at the Cannes Film Festival. Rotten Tomatoes

gave it a rating of 97% and wrote: "The Rider's hard-hitting drama is only made more effective through writer-director Chloé Zhao's use of untrained actors to tell the movie's fact-based tale."

Chloe is a resident of Ojai and so is coming to support the Ojai Film Festival which is celebrating its 22nd year of honoring the best of local, environmental and spiritual themed films from around the world. This exclusive screening will take place at 7pm on Saturday, November 13th, 2021 at the Ojai Art Center Theater. Limited seating - order tickets online at <https://ojai-filmfestival.com/2021-tickets/>

Ivor Davis is a British transplant who has lived and worked in Southern California since the 1960s and now lives in Ventura. In addition to his journalism career, he is the author of four books, including the first book ever written on the Manson Murders, "Five to Die," and "Manson Exposed-A Reporter's 50 Year Journey into Madness and Murder."

"I Was There - A Reporter's Story" is a short, very personal, and intimate documentary about his charmed life from acclaimed Ventura County director and filmmaker John Zilles. Following the screening Sunday, November 7 at 7 pm on the Ojai Art Center patio, the audience is invited to join in for an up-close personal conversation with director Zilles and Davis.



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Composite decks made from recycled plastic and bottles is an emerging trend.

Ocean View Decks: Building Decks for Life

by Mira Reverente

So much for the best laid-plans, engineer and entrepreneur Jerry Huffman chanced upon another thrilling business venture just as he was gearing up for retirement.

This father of two and grandfather of five from the Inland Empire thought his entrepreneur days were truly behind him until he took a trip to Oxnard to explore some investment opportunities and fell in love with the area. "It's like waking up in paradise everyday," he says of his new home and his latest business.

The owner of Beyond Decks was retiring after 20 years in the business and Huffman took an interest. Beyond Decks has been a household name in the area, having built most decks in the Channel

Islands, Ventura Marina and other neighboring areas. It also sells outdoor furniture and fencing.

"There were some similarities with the construction company we sold in Riverside. It wasn't that simple but it wasn't a hard transition either - from machinery to decks," says Huffman.

Now named Ocean View Decks, the pandemic took its toll on this new venture, just like it did on the rest of the economy. Merging old and new crews, backlogs, long wait times, a warehouse bursting at the seams and skyrocketing prices were just some of the challenges that the new business faced. Almost all of it has been resolved but the impact still has a lingering trickle effect, according to Huffman.

This 'n' That

Where's the fire?

If you have seen the Ventura Fire Department equipment at Harbor and Schooner and on Alessandro, you might be wondering what they are doing there. We asked Matt Brock Fire Battalion Chief for the answer.

"Regarding our recent training activities near Harbor Blvd and Schooner Dr. and also at our Alessandro and Seaward training grounds our department is conducting a Fire Engineer's Academy where we are instructing the next group of fire engine driver/ operators on driving skills and equipment operations. There are many skills to be proficient at and our group of firefighters are very talented. Nine firefighters are participating in the academy training process and the academy is part of a promotional test. The skills acquired in the academy will help the firefighters safely drive and operate the apparatus and associated tools they carry as well as operate the onboard water pump to quickly proved safe and effective service to the community when needed."



Dopesick

Continued from page 19

commit the entire company's fortune on developing a moderate pain reliever that could be sold long term.

The company was successful in creating an opiate that was time released, claiming that would diminish the euphoric effects and a claimed 1% addiction rate, so garnered special labeling by the FDA as being non-addictive. By the mid 90's, Purdue had developed and began distributing OxyContin with an aggressive marketing campaign targeted mainly in rural communities where things like mining injuries were common. Dr. Samuel Finnix (Michael Keaton) worked in a small coal mining town called Finch Creek where many of his patients had received work injuries in the mines that often resulted in long term moderate pain, so was the perfect target for Billy Cutler (Will Poulter) who was a member of the huge sales force hired by Purdue.

Purdue salesmen were trained to focus on OxyCotin's special labeling by the FDA, being the only Schedule 2 narcotic to claim to not be a non-addictive opiate. They bought flowers and offered manicures to receptionists to gain access to doctors who they gave free samples and offered free getaway weekends in Arizona to listen to pain relief experts about industry innovations, specifically the redirect to focus on pharmaceutical solutions of long term moderate pain under the guise of thinking it was not OK to let people live with pain.

Dr. Finnix seemed to care greatly for his

patients, some of whom he even brought into the world, and as a small town doctor often made house calls and responded whenever needed. He agreed to try OxyContin with some of his patients, and all had significant pain relief and results. One was a young woman named Betsy Mallum (Kaitlyn Dever) who recently injured her back on a mine car, the other a man who had shoulder issues for more than six years. Unknown to Dr. Finnix, Betsy was experiencing withdrawal symptoms even though the drug was said to be non-addictive.

Bridget Meyer (Rosario Dawson) was working for the DEA, and began to notice increases in burglaries, thefts, prostitution and child abandonment, and was able to correlate the facts and timeline to being directly caused by OxyContin. Around the same time two federal investigators, Rick Mountcastle (Peter Sarsgaard) and Randy Ramseyer (John Hoogenakker) were looking into Purdue's special authorization from the FDA and some verifiable statistics that a large number of people were overdosing on OxyContin, as well as seeing it's effects on increasing crimes across the board in areas where it was heavily distributed.

The first three episodes premiered on the same night, giving viewers a basic sense of the overall situation as it progressed from the mid 1980's to mid 2000's. Airs Tuesday nights 9pm on Hulu.

Rated: TV-MA for Some Violence, Drug Misuse, and Language Throughout.

Runtime: 8 - 1hr Episodes

"We are beyond busy working on three to four different projects a day, at various stages of installation with a full crew," he says. According to him, there is a months-long wait for most projects, now that the lockdown is over people are starting to enjoy the outdoors again, and putting money into their homes.

So much has evolved in terms of the craftsmanship used in decks, the past few years compared to 20 or 30 years ago. Composite decks with brands like Trex and TimberTech made from recycled plastic and bottles is an emerging trend. These decks come with a 50-year to lifetime warranty and don't fall prey to termites, mold or deterioration, and are easier to maintain. Stainless steel is also another popular material used in decks these days.

There has also been an increase in demand for motorized pergolas, those weatherproof structures for people to sit or walk under, where plants can also

grow over. "There's a long wait for those. You can control the lighting for pergolas from your smartphone now like a fancy toy," says Huffman.

If you're still on the fence about having a deck installed, the company offers 3D drawings or virtual walk-throughs, where you can virtually walk through your deck before it's even built including hand rails, the grill placement, among other things, before you even start spending money. Huffman is proud of this sophisticated software that they offer. Another service that Ocean View Deck offers is free certified deck inspections, anywhere from Malibu to Santa Barbara.

Customer satisfaction and longevity are the company's topmost goals. "We aim to build decks for life," he says. "We build decks that many generations can enjoy."

For more info: visit oceanviewdecks.com.