

An early Merry Christmas!



# VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

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Ventura Police Chief Darin Schindler talks with residents at "Coffee with a Cop Day" at Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf in Ventura.

## Ventura Police hold Coffee with a Cop and Holiday Toy Drive

by Richard Lieberman

Recently community members were invited to attend "Coffee with a Cop" a chance for residents to engage with members of the Ventura Police Depart-

ment. "Coffee with a Cop" presents an opportunity for the community to engage with local police officers, ask

*Continued on page 8*



Streamlining the development review process has been a priority of the City Council for several years.

## Obtaining construction permits and developmental approvals made easier

The Ventura City Council made the process of obtaining construction permits and developmental approvals easier at the city council meeting held on

Dec. 6. The council voted 7-0 to approve a streamlining ordinance during the meeting.

The changes are expected to cut down to about a year for approvals instead of the several years it has been taking. In some cases over 10-years.

Changes included in the streamlining process include.

The community development director will be given the authority to route a project to a different decision maker than is ordinarily required. This is on a case-by-case project.

When a project requires multiple hearings in front of various committees, the community development director will "identify a single final action body," essentially determining which committee will make the final decision. An appeal can still be filed and heard by the city council.

In response to our request Peter Gilli, AICP Community Development Director told the Breeze.

"Streamlining the development review process has been a priority of the City Council for several years. A con

*Continued on page 2*



On Saturday, December 11, a Winter Wonderland & Holiday Marketplace was held in the Ventura Harbor Village. Visitors wandered through a festive village of Faux snowfall, live reindeer from the North Pole, visits with Santa & Mrs. Claus, kids scavenger hunts, entertainment by carolers, and music from a toy soldier band and the Studio C Band. Photos by Patricia Schallert.

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## City News

### VPD increases transparency and announces Community Academy

The Ventura Police Department is now accepting applications for the next Community Academy open to Ventura residents and business owners. The academy can accommodate 30 participants and the deadline to apply is Friday, December 31, 2021.

The 2022 Ventura Police Community Academy is part of the Department's ongoing efforts to strengthen community partnerships and increase transparency. This free program will take participants on a patrol ride-along, provide interactive trainings, showcase hands-on activities that provide an inside look at local policing, and much more. Each night features a new topic with different speakers, demonstrations, and discussions.

"The success of any police department depends largely upon the collaboration and support it receives from the residents it serves," said Police Chief Darin Schindler. "It's my hope that by opening our doors and demystifying police operations, we can work together to make Ventura a safer community."

The Community Academy, set to begin on February 23, 2022, will be held on 10 consecutive Wednesday nights from 6:00 p.m.-9:00 p.m. with a final class

and graduation on April 27, 2022. Nine classes will be held at the Ventura Police Department. The session on March 16, 2022, will be held at the Ventura County Criminal Justice Training Center in Camarillo.

To be eligible for the Ventura Police Community Academy applicants must:

- Be a minimum of 18 years old
- Live or own a business in the City of Ventura

Pass a criminal background check with no misdemeanor convictions in the past two years and no felony convictions

Participate in an in-person interview process

Commit to attending all sessions

Interviews are expected to occur in late January and those accepted will be notified in early February.

To learn more or apply for the 2022 Ventura Police Community Academy, visit [www.CityofVentura.ca.gov/CommunityAcademy](http://www.CityofVentura.ca.gov/CommunityAcademy).

#### Obtaining construction permits

*Continued from page 1*

sultant report (referred to as the Matrix Report), endorsed by the City Council in 2019, included recommendations calling for staff to propose ordinance amendments to simplify the hearing process, reconsider whether to retain DRC/HPC or reduce their scope, and to shift more application types to staff hearings or administrative actions."

"Council adopted a temporary Emergency Streamlining Ordinance (ESO) in May 2020. In February 2021, City Council set a goal to adopt streamlining by the end of 2021. In April 2021,

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# City News

Council extended ESO for another year to allow the “permanent” streamlining ordinance to be prepared. “

“The proposed ordinance places aspects of the temporary ESO into the Municipal Code. The Planning Commission reviewed the streamlining changes at hearings on 11/3 and 11/17, and recommended approval of the streamlining changes on a 5-2 vote with a short list of recommended changes. “

“It is unfortunate that some in the community make statements such as what you were sent. Here’s a high-level overview of the streamlining proposal:”

DRC and HPC are retained.

Any project over 5 units will continue to go to DRC, as they have in the past. Every housing project over 5 units will continue to have at least two public hearings, as they have in the past.

Any project that affects a historic resource will continue to go to HPC, as they have in the past.

Projects with Major Variances or Exceptions will continue to go to PC, as they have in the past (a housing project over 5 units with an Exception goes to DRC and then PC).

Before ESO, façade changes (changes to the exterior of a building that does not involve additional building area) were split between administrative action and DRC review, depending on location. Streamlining will make all façade changes administrative.

Before ESO, use permits were split between staff hearings and PC depending on the type of use permit. Streamlining will make all use permits go to staff hearings (these are still public hearings, with public notification, public comment and the ability to appeal)

“Staff finds that housing projects are what the community has the most input on. Streamlining will keep those projects going to multiple hearings as they would have in the past. By shifting the rest of use permits to staff hearings and the rest of the façade changes to administrative actions, we not only simplify the process (Matrix) but also fulfill shifting application types to staff hearings and administrative actions (Matrix).”

As is typical in many jurisdictions, there are generally two pathways that a project may take: discretionary or ministerial.

Ministerial projects are generally smaller in scope, and must meet certain criteria, but generally have less review than discretionary projects. Typical examples of ministerial projects include putting in a backyard gazebo, interior building improvements, room additions, fences or even obtaining a marriage license.

If a ministerial project meets the requirements of the municipal code and the required fees have been paid, the permit will be granted. Furthermore, the city has very little discretion on whether it can say yes or no; oversight is limited to the various requirements that are already laid out in the code.

The ministerial phase still involves building, encroachment and grading permits, but in this phase these do not require public notification and hearings. Ventura issues thousands of ministerial permits every year.

With discretionary projects, the city has discretion about whether or not to approve the project. The project, such as a residential home build or a multi-unit development, must still meet state and local code requirements, but various studies – traffic impact, environmental

review, etc. – are included in the review phase. Discretionary projects require public notifications and hearings and include an appeal process in which parties opposing decisions on the project can seek an alternative. “

According to a January 2021 report produced by Ventura City Manager Alex McIntyre and Gilli, about 100 discretionary projects are approved each year. Most are minor projects, but a few attract public interest.

Both ministerial and discretionary projects require a sign-off from various agencies including public works, fire and Ventura Water, and the city attorney’s office weighs in when legal support is needed.

“Most simply, the problem with this phase is the difficulty in getting through it. This is not to say that the process should be easy. But when describing past experiences with this phase, developers were pleading simply to be able to get through the process to a hearing, where a decision could be made,” stated the city’s 2021 staff report.

The report cited “internal” factors that are “completely within the city’s control” that lead to the reported struggle developers have with the process.

As previously reported by the Ventura County Reporter, Gilli said (“State law puts city into a corner,” Kimberly Rivers, Apr. 28, 2021) that the current process for reviewing development proposals includes a web of various committees, which are restricted in what they can review and act on. This means a developer must present a project to several committees, none of which have the final thumbs up or down on the entire project, but rather only commenting on and approving a piece of a project.

This can create an onerous appeal process, both for the project developer and for members of the public that object to the project. An appeal could be filed regarding one committee’s decision, only to have the project sail through another committee.

What developers are asking for, and what Gilli said the city is working to achieve, is a process that ensures plenty of public input opportunities, a thorough review of the project, but also a clear approval and/or appeal process, which, as is the goal, would shorten the time a project is in review.

The report continued, “Since the City’s future tax base relies on private investment in property, addressing these internal factors in the development review process has been a City Council priority.”

## Housing Trust Fund Ventura County announces investment

Housing Trust Fund Ventura County (Housing Trust Fund VC) announced a \$1 million investment by Bank of the Sierra into the nonprofit’s Everyone Deserves a Home Revolving Loan Fund. This community impact note will be pooled with funds from investors, both public and private, to provide flexible, below-market interest rate loans in support of building safe and equitable homes in diverse neighborhoods, that positively

*Continued on page 12*

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# VENTURA BREEZE

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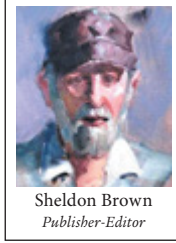


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A person without  
a sense of humor  
is like a wagon  
without springs,  
jolted by every  
pebble in the  
road.

—Henry Ward  
Beecher

## Opinion/Editorial



Sheldon Brown  
Publisher-Editor

■ On this issue's cover we have an article titled "Obtaining **construction permits** and developmental approvals made easier." I support this action; it still contains

provisions for all of the departments and approvals required to obtain building permits.

Some people felt that the process should be very difficult and cumbersome and time consuming to dissuade people from building. This is like putting speed bumps on streets every 5 feet to slow drivers down. This is not the way to regulate construction. That is the job of planning and zoning restrictions.

■ The City of Ventura's **City Hall** will be closed from Friday, December 24, 2021, through January 1, 2022. Normal business hours resume on Monday, January 3, 2022. Public safety services will continue regular 24/7 operations.

■ Ventura's **veterans'** affordable housing project has received \$74,100 on a unanimous City Council vote. This will help to get construction going early next year. The funds came from the city's Successor Housing Agency Fund. In May, \$545,000 was also approved from the fund.

The "Ventura Springs" project will be home to 122 units with two manager's units. The project will be located at 10866 Morning Glory Road adjacent to the existing Veterans Home of California and is being developed by Los Angeles nonprofit affordable housing developer, A Community of Friends.

It is wonderful that Ventura is expanding its facilities for our veteran's - especially for those that are homeless.

■ We seldom need to deal with officer related shootings in Ventura. The Ventura County District Attorney's Office has found a **Ventura police officer** was justified when fatally shooting a man after a pursuit ended on Harbor Boulevard last year. The DA's office routinely investigates officer involved shootings to determine whether the use of force was legally justified.

The shooting occurred on Nov. 5, 2020, involving Officer Joaquin Ortega, a 24-year veteran of the Ventura Police Department, and Javier Magaña, a 32-year-old Oxnard resident.

■ The chief justice of the United States, John Roberts, warned that the Supreme Court risks losing its own authority if it allows states to circumvent the courts as Texas did with its near-total **abortion ban**. In a strongly worded opinion joined by the high court's three liberal justices, Roberts wrote that the "clear purpose and actual effect" of the Texas law was "to nullify this Court's rulings." That, he said, undermines the Constitution and the fundamental role of the Supreme Court and the court system as a whole.

I think our Supreme Court system is greatly flawed, changing major laws based upon the president's political views and ability to replace justices when possible.

■ President **Joe Biden** is facing significant skepticism from the American public, with his job approval rating lagging across a range of major issues, including new lows for his handling of crime, gun violence and the economic recovery, a new ABC/Ipsos poll found. As the White House confronts rising and widespread concern about inflation, Americans are especially negative on how the Biden administration is managing this issue.

#### ■ Guns in The News

Four people have been killed and 8 other people are injured and a suspected shooter is in custody after a shooting at Oxford High School in Michigan. Reportedly the 15-year-old shooter's father bought the gun used in the shootings, a semi-automatic 9mm Sig Sauer, just 4-days prior to the shooting in spite of the fact that his son has had major disciplinary issues at the school. In fact, the teen posted a photo of the weapon with the caption, "Just got my new beauty today." Parents James and Jennifer Crumbley are each facing four counts of involuntary manslaughter. Perhaps they should have given him an iPad for his birthday like other kids receive.

## Mailbox

Breeze:

The Ventura City Council has an important vote on December 6th that will affect development in our coastal city for years to come. They are set to approve a Streamlining Ordinance which strips power away from our land use boards and turns that power over to one person, the Community Development Director (CDD). The CDD and the City Attorney spent 2021 rewriting the Municipal Code to benefit out of town developers and the City Council appears willing to rubber stamp their proposals.

Parking, traffic, density and water decisions, sign changes (like the Auto Center enlargement), Conditional Use Permits and building façade issues will be decided by the Development Director, who ironically doesn't even live here. Projects are not being looked at collectively and therefore infrastructure improvements are not being addressed. Hundreds of units are being added in the downtown area and the city has not prepared an Environmental Impact

Report. They closed one of the three main streets through the downtown area, eliminated parking spaces and are approving six story condo and apartment buildings? People still need cars to "live, work and play" in Ventura.

If you look at the donors and contributors to the election campaigns of our City Council members you can see who is benefitting from all this construction. These new million-dollar condos going up all over town are not going to help current residents. I urge your readers to contact the City Council to stop this over-development and vote "no" on Streamlining.

Eileen Shaw

Editor: See article on front cover. We received many similar emails.

Sheldon:

Sticks+stones

Maybe we could tag team to raise funds. Take on any haters over 68.

Don't always agree with you but keep

Continued on page 12

Two people were killed in Elmore in a shooting that officials believe is a result of domestic violence, Vermont State Police said. Troopers responded to a reported domestic altercation at a home on King Road around 7 a.m.

An Ohio man has been convicted in the fatal shooting of two teens he found smoking marijuana inside a vehicle in his garage. Victor Santana, 65, of Dayton will be sentenced later this month after being convicted of murder and felonious assault. Santana shot the two 17-year-olds when he found them inside his detached garage late at night. He wanted to use the state's new "stand your ground" defense.

Germaucus David, 29, has been arrested in the fatal shooting of his four young children and their grandmother after they were found inside a Lancaster home.

■ This is **too funny** not to share. In July of 2020 a Michigan woman came across a website, "Rent-A-Hitman", that promised to "handle your delicate situation" privately and in a timely manner.

She wanted her husband killed, and now she is in jail.

The site boasted having almost 18,000 field operatives who can do a job anywhere in the United States. It features testimonials from satisfied clients, including a man who wrote that Rent-A-Hitman "handled my disgruntled employee issue promptly while I was out of town on vacation." So, she filled out a form on the site, seeking consultation for her issue.

I'm starting a site called "Send us \$1,000 with a self-addressed envelope and we will send you \$5,000 in return."

■ **Anti-Asian** hate crimes increased by 76% in Los Angeles County last year. This is a trend in many other areas in America as physical and verbal attacks against Asian Americans rose. Human Relations Commission President Guadalupe Montana stated, "It did not help that the former president repeatedly referred to COVID-19 as China virus and kung flu."

■ One Texas school district advised teachers to present opposing views of the **Holocaust**.

Perhaps this is what teachers will say to their students?

"Students, you must remember that in Germany some Jewish kids were riding their bikes on the sidewalk nearly hitting some people and this really upset some Germans."

■ Amazing how quickly times have changed. The California State Fair is returning in 2022 with a new competitive category **cannabis**. The fair is going to honor the best marijuana in the state. I understand they have had 23,000 people apply to be judges.

■ San Diego County is set to dispatch **mental health** professionals to respond to people in crisis instead of sending police officers and sheriff's deputies. Officials hope it will improve the constant struggle that most city's have in the handling of people struggling with mental illnesses. In a future issue we will have an article on how Ventura Police handle such calls and conditions.

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



# News & Notes



Sierra Ruiz, Renee Morales, Siobhan Westfall, Destynie Hogue-Villanueva, and Marimar Ilias sing “Hanukkah,” “Breath of Winter,” and “Underneath the Tree.”

## Buena High School releases first album since the pandemic

On December 9th, students at Buena High School released Volume 5 of their annual Not-So-Silent Night CD album, after having to go on hiatus last year due to the pandemic. Utilizing their on-campus recording studio, the Buena High School Choir has selected various winter-themed songs (secular and holiday-oriented) to record and release for digital download. Over the past 6 years, their previous albums (Volumes 1-4) have been heard in dozens of countries across the world, from Iceland to Indonesia.

Choir director Kevin Downey states, “Students were devastated that they were not able to sing together in real-time during the pandemic. Since we have been back at school, you can really see students’ spirits being lifted as we sing together in harmony and record beautiful music again.”

Because streaming music only provides limited/miniscule compensation for artists, the album is being released as a physical CD and download exclusively, with streaming planned for a later release; therefore, everyone who buys this album is helping to keep the arts alive in our public schools, and to provide meaningful and authentic experiences for our students. Thanks to the charitable support of Yhr Ventura Education Partnership and Big Bad Voodoo Daddy, the BHS Choir has been able to create and sustain Buena’s recording studio and Not-So-Silent Night albums.

Junior choir student Sierra Ruiz, who also helped design some of the album artwork says, “At first, recording for an actual album was nerve-racking, but we learned to have fun in the studio. It all brought us together and made us a lot closer.”

While it is difficult for most young artists to get started making music on their own, Buena students are using this special opportunity to create quality work. According to professional audio engineer Devon Hammond, “I’m really loving the album myself because it both has unique versions of classics, as well as plenty of songs I was unfamiliar with. It ends up feeling like listening to the radio during the holidays, but the DJ is playing a bunch of deep cuts. I’ve definitely got a few new holiday faves

from working on this.”

Don’t miss out on a great opportunity to support the arts in our local, public schools, and fill your holidays with joy by downloading the Not-So-Silent Night, Volume 5 album. Just search “The Buena High School Choir” on iTunes or Amazon Music. The physical CD is available for sale in the school’s ASB store and library.

## Caregiver Navigation Program in Ventura County

by Carol Leish, MA

Caring for one’s older parent, neighbor, or child is not an easy job. According to data from the 2020 California Health Interview Survey (CHIS), a sizeable proportion of family and friend caregivers in California are struggling financially, experiencing physical or mental health problems, and are receiving little, if any, financial support for their caregiving responsibilities. Also, more than 20% have reported that caring for a family member or a friend was “Somewhat or extremely financially stressful” for African American (28%), Asian (23.4%), and Latino adult caregivers (21.9%) compared to white adult caregivers (17.7%), who have reported their experiences.

In Ventura County three hospitals are responding to this Caregiver burden/need. The Ventura County Community Foundation (VCCF), has funded Caregiver Navigators at three local hospitals: Community Memorial Health Systems (CMHS) in Ventura; St. John’s Hospital in Oxnard; and, Adventist Health, Simi Valley. Channel Islands State University has been providing data collection. Each hospital has its own unique program. At CMHS, a Caregiver Navigator is working specifically with families who are patients for the Centers for Family Health. Maureen Hodge, Program Manager of High-Risk Programs at Community Memorial Health Systems said, “Families are often overwhelmed or have no idea where resources are to help their loved one. Patients can be in any stage of life. We have a mom who

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## Light up our landmark trees

On Friday, December 10, the annual Light Up Our Landmark Trees on Main Street, an 80-year tradition lit up the sky. This year the Mission Trees were veiled in a new lighting concept.

The festivities began at 6pm with ballet and the community choirs singing your favorite Christmas songs in front of Mission Basilica San Buenaventura. At 7pm, Ventura Mayor Sofia Rubalcava, and Pastor Tom Elewaut of the Mission Basilica welcomed Santa Claus. When

Santa lit the trees, the magic began with snow and festive music.

The twin trees are national landmarks and designated as Millennium Trees by the State of California and the Federal Government in 2000. Planted circa 1880 there are two stories about the origin of the trees. Regardless of their origin, these trees are a tradition to downtown.

CAN-Trees lined Figueroa Plaza in support of Food Share.

is a caregiver to her 18-year-old bipolar, schizophrenic son; a grandma who is caregiver to her grandchild with a disability, and even an 85-year-old wife who is a caregiver to her 93-year-old husband.”

In the U.S. there are about 40 million unpaid family caregivers, which includes: older parents, spouses, aunts, uncles, and other adults who help loved ones to live independently at home. About 6.5 million family caregivers assist both adults and children as they deal with chronic illnesses, hospitalizations, and more. In Ventura County the highest diseases for our aging population are: Alzheimer’s/Dementia, heart disease, cancer, strokes, and diabetes. With these illnesses, or others, patients often also experience depression, anxiety, and/or substance use, too, which compounds their already challenging situation.

“When patients are sent home from the hospital with their spouse or a loved one,” according to Hodge, “this person doesn’t even consider themselves to be a caregiver. They are often in the dark about how to navigate patients’ chronic illnesses, find resources, or to stay in touch with the doctor. For Ventura County, these issues resonate, and the need to support family caregivers has been identified as a ‘critical health need’ in our county.”

By starting this Caregiving Navigation Program, the overall goals include: 1) Reducing hospital readmission and depression among care recipients; 2) Reducing caregiver burden of caregivers; and, 3) Integrating family caregivers into the care team in collaboration with primary care physicians. Kristine Supple, Director of Population Health at CMHS said, “CMHS’s partnership with the Ventura County Community Foundation (VCCF), has allowed us to explore the role of supporting the caregivers as they guide their loved ones through illness and disability. It’s a unique perspective to focus on the well-being of the caregiver as a way of improving the quality of life and outcome for the patient. We are grateful to VCCF for the opportunity to be one of the grant-funded hospitals in the Caregiver Navigator Initiative, collaborating to meet the needs of the caregiver.” The Caregiver Navigation is grant funded and the early results show that with the support of Clinical professionals to support and aid the caregiver has reduced depression and has increased their resilience. For more information, please reach out to Maureen Hodge, at CMHS at (805)948-2816; or Rosie Hernandez at St. John’s Hospital in Oxnard at (805) 988-2500 ext. 1684.



## News & Notes



Francisco Canas



Bergan Lashlee

### Coverly announces hiring of Graphic Designer and Digital Communications Strategist

Coverly Professional Services (CoverlyPro) welcomes two additions to the growing full-service marketing and project management firm – Graphic Designer Francisco Canas and Digital Communications Strategist Bergan Lashlee. Canas and Lashlee join CoverlyPro as the company closes out an exponentially successful year doubling revenue growth.

Francisco Canas stepped into his role at CoverlyPro quickly, successfully delivering a major trade booth design project for a national client within weeks of being hired. He's currently designing multiple logo and brand identities for CoverlyPro clients and events. CoverlyPro's clients are benefiting from Canas' 6+ years of industry experience where he has implemented on branding initiatives logos designs, digital and print ads, among many other marketing outreach materials. He is also an experienced virtual developer.

Bergan Lashlee joins CoverlyPro with an educational background in Journalism, and an expertise in digital media platforms, where her creative perspective, design skills, and ability to analyze social media trends and engagement metrics garner continuously improving results for clients. Lashlee works directly with CoverlyPro's Account Strategists developing social media strategies that

include content creation and bringing company brands and visions to life within multiple platforms.

"Francisco and Bergan both bring unique skills within their areas of expertise," said Lynnette Coverly, CEO of Coverly Professional Services. "I appreciate Francisco's design leadership and grace under tight deadlines and Bergan's creativity and strength in writing." CoverlyPro offers full-service turnkey marketing project management services, from social media management to press relations, virtual and in-person event production, graphic design, media placement, and more. Clients include Housing Trust Fund Ventura County, Gold Coast Transit District, Seasons Catering, Museum of Ventura County, House Farm Workers!, Visionality, and more.

Ventura-based CoverlyPro continues to grow and push forward as marketing leaders in the regional area. As a small-business owner, CEO Lynnette Coverly emphasizes the importance of valuing her employees, and prioritizing their work/life balance and needs, especially as her team grows. "As a business owner, I am so thankful for the work my team has put into CoverlyPro, especially in the last two challenging Pandemic years. As a group, we exude passion for what we do, and I know

this passion impacts our client's marketing success directly." Coverly continued, "Recognizing how hard our team works, I am thrilled to be in position this year where I can offer my employees the opportunity to spend the holidays with their loved ones, relax, refresh and reset ready to take on 2022!" Coverly refers to a recent company announcement that it will be closed Friday, December 24, 2021, and re-open on Monday, January 3, 2021, surprising employees with paid time off during this time.

Founded in 2010 by Lynnette Coverly, Coverly Professional Services (CoverlyPro) is a fullservice marketing and public relations project management firm based in Ventura, California. With a varied portfolio of clients, CoverlyPro's focus is creating and implementing branding and marketing strategies for the "service" industry from veterinary practices to in-home service companies, professional services, non-profits, and more. Leveraging its Three-Tiered Approach, the firm's turnkey services include brand and marketing development, social media strategic management, media/public relations, SEO copywriting, development of all client-facing communications, print layout and design, vendor negotiations and management, website content management and user experience (UX) direction, and media placement. [www.CoverlyPro.com](http://www.CoverlyPro.com), 805-642-1301.

#### The Bookmark

### About Libraries and Friends

by Jill Forman

#### Librarians can save the world!

Your intrepid columnist has family matters coming up, so will not be writing about current library events this issue. I read a fascinating article in Smithsonian magazine about the revisioning of libraries, and have decided to write about that since it affects the future of library systems and their communities.

"Libraries are no longer hushed repositories of books," the article says. It focuses on the revolution that took place in Memphis, Tennessee, one of the poorest cities in America. "Public libraries have been increasingly described as obsolete, and many cities have slashed budgets and closed branches." Bucking this

trend, Memphis decided to open new branches and substantially increase the library budget. Attendance at library programs has quadrupled.

Libraries in Memphis have recording studios, art centers, video workspaces, music lessons, ukulele groups, photography classes, cooking lessons, computer skills labs, and more activities than I can list here. Oh yes, you can also check out a book.

Previously, "Most people really valued their libraries," researchers found, "but viewed them as stable and staid, a repository for the past." There is a large range of services, but they discovered, "Most people didn't know about them. We had to get people to view libraries in a different light, as an activated space for learning in every form."

Memphis re-branded their libraries, "Portraying them as vibrant community centers...the real power of libraries is they can transform people's lives...but can also be fun." "A child can do homework (my note: or an adult!) People come together to attend programs, where literacy also means digital and financial literacy... some libraries are doing a lot with health and fitness...others give access to expensive technologies like 3D printers, or to seeds and gardens."

The core mission of public libraries hasn't changed: "We exist for the betterment of communities. We support literacy and learning. We want all our resources to be free and everyone to feel welcome."

And that mission doesn't stop at the library's walls. "We have to get outside our buildings and bring our programming into the community." Memphis citizens often don't have cars and public transportation is inadequate. Library staff goes to "senior centers, schools, block parties." They offer pop-up story times at laundromats and health clinics.

If this interests you, pick up the magazine and read the whole article. It has the heroes of this radical transformation and a lot more information about how it happened. It's a truly inspiring story.

So, what about this world-saving bit? "If librarians can't save the world, no one can. They have no ego, they're not looking for glory, they just want to change lives and transform communities, and we have an army of them working in Memphis every day."

Go hug a librarian. And happy celebrations to all!

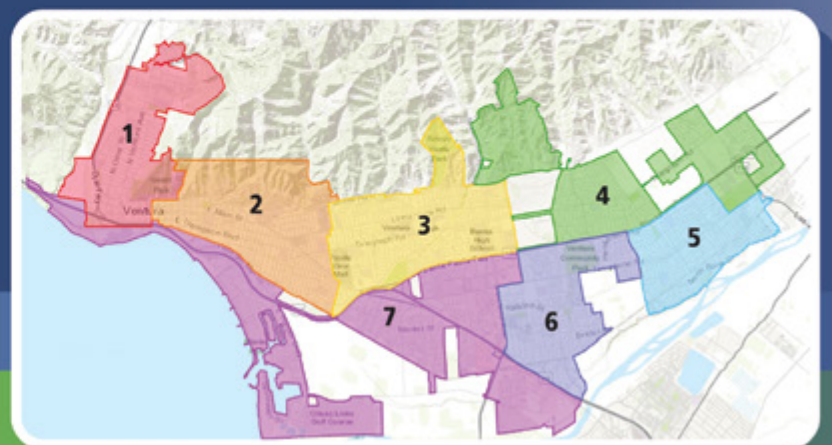
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# News & Notes



Ten members of Harrison were in attendance at Chamber breakfast.

## Harrison turns 90 with an eye on the future

Founded in 1932, the local trash and recycling hauler and processor will take recycling to the next level in 2022, when it introduces weekly residential food waste collection and recycling as well as a program to ramp up the commercial recycling of food and other organic waste.

Harrison officially kicked off its 90th anniversary on Friday, at the Ventura Chamber of Commerce's monthly Connection Breakfast, which Harrison hosted at Four Points Sheraton at Ventura Harbor. With 10 members of the Harrison team in attendance, the company used the opportunity to share news and literature about the big changes ahead.

"Food waste recycling is coming, and soon," said Harrison's Nan Drake, who addressed the more than 100 local businesspeople at the event. "It's great news for the Earth, and it's a great time for us all to become better recyclers."

Harrison was well received at the event, with many attendees lavishing praise on the company that's been a solid fixture in the community. "I can't believe Harrison is turning 90," said Ashley Pope, membership development manager for the Ventura Chamber. "I grew up in Ventura, so I've never known a time without those green trucks – and those awesome, incredible drivers. I have literally never seen an unsafe truck or an unreliable driver. ... Here's to another 90 years!"

Harrison unveiled a new two-minute video at the event; created to honor its milestone anniversary, the video noted Harrison's deep roots and longtime philanthropy in the community but also looked ahead, to a consequential year that will affect all of its 90,000 customers in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties, as residential customers are asked to start bagging their food waste and placing it in their yard waste carts for weekly curbside pickup.

The food waste recycling program complies with California Senate Bill 1383. A highly ambitious measure, SB 1383 aims to reduce harmful greenhouse gas emissions by greatly decreasing the landfilled organic waste that generates it. According to the bill, organic waste in 2025 must be cut to 75% of 2014 levels.

To accommodate the new law,

Harrison has spent years working with its community partners Gold Coast Recycling and Agromin to build world-class facilities in Ventura County to process and reuse the food and other organic waste. "As we've always been, for 90 years now, we're ready for what's next," Drake said at the Chamber event.

The Harrison team wrapped up the event with anniversary cake and a special gift to everyone in attendance: bags of organic potting soil from Agromin, delivered by company CEO Bill Camarillo.

Visit Harrison, Gold Coast and Agromin for more information on their services.

## Ventura City Attorney Greg Diaz announces retirement

After more than seven years as Ventura's City Attorney, Gregory Diaz has announced his retirement, effective February 14, 2022. Diaz's last day will be December 23, 2021.

"City Attorney Greg Diaz has had a significant impact in our organization and led the City's legal services team with the utmost professionalism and integrity," said Mayor Sofia Rubalcava. "On behalf of the City Council, I thank him for his exemplary legal contributions that have greatly benefited our community. We wish him all the best in his retirement."

Since joining the City in 2014, Diaz has led the City Attorney's Office in achieving many notable accomplishments, including providing homeless shelter agreements that allowed the City to open its first permanent, City-sponsored homeless shelter in the County; and leading the Citizens Charter Review Committee in updating the Ventura's Charter Amendment, which transitioned the City's at-large election system to geographic district elections for Councilmembers in 2017. This substantial change to the Charter Amendment proactively avoided an expensive and time-consuming California Voting Rights Act lawsuit.

"It has been my honor to serve the City Council and the City of Ventura



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through many complex initiatives," said City Attorney Greg Diaz. "One of the accomplishments I'm most proud of is the work our City Attorney's Office did during the tragic time of the 2017 Thomas Fire."

Under Diaz's leadership, the City Attorney's Office recovered \$8 million from Southern California Edison for Thomas Fire damages. Diaz also supported the Council-sponsored initiative, Measure O. The half-cent sales tax increase has provided vital funding to essential public safety services and increased maintenance of City facilities, roads, and sidewalks.

Diaz has had the opportunity to speak and write on various municipal

law during his career, focusing the last few years on legal issues associated with emergencies and disasters. He had the honor to prepare a "Disaster Playbook" on managing legal issues during an emergency that was presented for use by both County Counsels and City Attorneys in California. For the last two years, he has served as the Chair of the City Attorneys Department of the League of California Cities Ad Hoc Emergency Response Committee.

Upon retirement, City Attorney Diaz plans to relocate and join his wife, Angela, in their new home in Tampa, Florida. He looks forward to a few months of rest and relaxation and then finding new challenges.



On Dec. 10, millions (it seemed like) food cans looking like holiday trees filled Figueroa Plaza in downtown. The trees are part of Food Share's 10th annual CAN-tree Drive in order to feed hungry people need this winter. Volunteers from schools, community groups and local businesses were there stacking cans into tree shapes, some as high as 15 feet.

You can still help canned goods can be dropped off at Food Share's warehouse in Oxnard at 4156 Southbank Road. For information on donating or volunteering, go to [foodshare.com](http://foodshare.com) or call 805-983-7100



## News & Notes



The Channel Islands National Park Headquarters is a great facility and resource.

### Friends of Ventura Harbor to provide the opportunity for Ventura children to get to the Harbor

Friends of Ventura Harbor, Inc. was incorporated with the California Secretary of State in January, 2020, by Dr. Vikki Brock, an international business consultant who lives at the harbor, and Jean Getchell; and it obtained 501 (c) (3) charitable status six months later.

This corporation is a California nonprofit public benefit corporation and is not organized for the private gain of any person. It is organized under the California Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law for public benefit purposes. The exclusive public benefit purpose of the corporation is to operate a nonprofit organization to raise,

provide, and maintain financial support for education, scientific research and development, and recreational activities at Ventura Harbor and other harbors in California for the benefit of the public; and to perform associated activities for program development and management.

The catalyst that finally nudged them into creating Friends was someone in Monterey County who used a bequest from an estate to take every eighth-grade student in the county to see “Hamilton” in San Francisco. (Yes, every eighth grader from King City to Elkhorn Slough!)

So, Jean wondered, why not do whatever we could to ensure that every

## Community Events

### Ventura events

**The Ventura Investment Group has reconvened and is meeting in the rear room of Denny’s Restaurant at the corner of Telegraph and Ashwood each Monday at 10:30 a.m.** All people interested in investment are welcome.

**Looking for some outdoor fun? Try Lawn Bowling! It is great fun and terrific low impact exercise.** You get to play on a beautiful green with free club equipment and free lessons. Also included are friendly people and social activities! 350 N. C St. Oxnard 93030. Nine to noon, M-W-F-S-S. Join us. All are welcome!

**Dec. 18: Robert Hanley Author Signing “Do You See What I See? Discovering the Obvious”.** Robert Hanley has an insightful way of looking at the world—finding deeper meaning in everyday events that seem to float past the observations of most people. His unique perception has helped make his life better, bringing him greater understanding, joy, fulfillment, and peace. He reveals his commonsense process through wise, humorous, and heart-

warming real-life tales taken from his own personal experiences. They may well make you laugh, cry, think, and help you to see the common threads of what he calls “discovering the obvious.” Bank of Books, 748 E. Main St. (805) 643-3154

**Dec. 18: CCJC (Channel Cities Jazz Club) will participate in the Parade Of Lights Christmas Celebration at the Ventura Harbor.** Larry Cossid’s Studio C eight-piece band will be entertaining in the Courtyard across from the Hat Store from 2-4 PM for your dancing and listening pleasure.

**Dec. 19: At the House of Dance, 3007 Bunsen Ave., Suite E, Ventura from 1-4.** The fantastic Groovin’ Easy Big Band is performing with all the great sounds you have come to expect.

**Dec. 20: The Poinsettia Pavilion proudly presents a musical evening of dancing to the Ralph Mathis band (brother of the late Johnny Mathis) from 7pm - 9:30pm.** \$10 at the door and refreshments will be served. The Poinsettia Pavilion is located at 3451 Foothill Rd. in Ventura. For more information call 805-648-1143 or visit [www.poinsettiapavilion.org](http://www.poinsettiapavilion.org).

Edge Restaurant patio. Also serving with Jean on the Friends Board are Rebecca Bogner and Alana Meiners. Friends may be reached at [friendsofventuraharborca@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofventuraharborca@gmail.com) Life is better on the water

So, getting children to the Harbor will be Friends’ first major undertaking. It plans to collaborate with groups that already serve children, organizations that already educate others about indigenous culture, science educators, and others.”

“We hope to work with existing entities to provide opportunities for hands-on experiences — learning to make pottery, learning about what various harbor business do, and learning about the work that is being done by the National Park Service on the islands.”

With the exception of the years she lived in Carmel (2000 – 2013), Jean has been living in Ventura since 1964. Only after she became an adult, however, did she become familiar with what the Harbor and the ocean had to offer. Visiting Santa Cruz Island with friends in the 1960s, sailing around the islands in the 1980s, scuba diving and kayaking were such wonderful experiences. “With these opportunities so close at hand, it only makes sense to try to do what’s needed for children to experience them. After all, they are the future stewards of this area.” This gives a sense of Friends’ values and what it hopes to do in the next few years. As it establishes relationships and creates cooperative work projects, there will be more to offer.”

One of their first events to reach Ventura children will be collaboration with the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Ventura to provide a great opportunity to bring its members to the Harbor for recreational and educational activities. The Channel Islands National Park Headquarters is such a great facility and resource, as is Island Packers. In addition, the harbor businesses have indicated an interest in making young people aware of their work at the harbor.

The Parade of Lights will be a great introduction between the Club Members and Friends, and a great time to enjoy the festivities of the season. Friends has chartered a bus to bring them to the Harbor and will be hosting a dinner for them at the Water’s

Edge Restaurant patio.

Also serving with Jean on the Friends Board are Rebecca Bogner and Alana Meiners.

Friends may be reached at [friendsofventuraharborca@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofventuraharborca@gmail.com)

Life is better on the water

### Ventura Police hold Coffee with a Cop

*Continued from page 1*

questions and get to know the people who protect the community and patrol Ventura neighborhoods. The event was also a toy drive and residents were asked to donate new unwrapped toys which will support the 12th annual Castro Family Toy Drive. All toys are donated to the Children’s Center for Cancer and Blood diseases at the Ventura County Medical Center.

“We typically do this once every other month this is the first time for a year and a half and we are excited to be out here,” said Police Chief Darin Schindler. “We are also doing the Castro Toy Drive which goes to kids receiving cancer treatments at VCMC,” he added. “This is about Community Policing, its about seeing an officer just having a conversation about issues they are having in their neighborhood, could related to crime could be related to homelessness, which is a big one these days, quality of life issues, traffic safety what ever the issue is we will listen and talk and do whatever we can. If it is something that is out of our prevue we will contact the necessary department,” he continued.

Most of the contacts Ventura Police Officers have with the public are during stressful emotion riddled emergencies. Coffee with a Cop gives residents an opportunity to have conversations in a relaxed person to person atmosphere.

“It really brings officers together with residents in a relaxed environment to ask questions and just an easy way to get to know one another,” said Emily Graves, Community Outreach Specialist for the city. Additional events are planned for the holiday season including a toy drive at Walmart. This year, twenty-two local children in need will be partnered with a Ventura Police Officer to shop for gifts for their families this holiday season. On top of shopping together, officers will help wrap gifts and enjoy hot chocolate with the kiddos for fun and festive event.



Remembering the Thomas fire that began Dec. 4, 2017, as Santa Ana winds blew through the area. Over the next several weeks, as the gusts continued, flames scorched 281,893 acres and destroyed 1,063 structures — many of them homes in Ventura.





# Senior Living



*“Now if I can only remember why this is on my finger!”*

## Frequently asked questions about Alzheimer’s Disease

### What is the difference between Alzheimer’s disease and dementia?

Alzheimer’s disease is a type of dementia. Dementia is a loss of thinking, remembering, and reasoning skills that interferes with a person’s daily life and activities. Alzheimer’s disease is the most common cause of dementia among older people. Other types of dementia include frontotemporal disorders, Lewy body dementia, and vascular dementia.

### What are the early signs of Alzheimer’s disease?

Memory problems are typically one of the first signs of Alzheimer’s disease, though different people may have different initial symptoms. A decline in other aspects of thinking, such as finding the right words, vision/spatial issues, and impaired reasoning or judgment, may also signal the very early stages of Alzheimer’s disease.

Mild cognitive impairment, or MCI, is a condition that can also be an early sign of Alzheimer’s disease – but not everyone with MCI will develop Alzheimer’s. In addition to memory problems, movement difficulties and problems with the sense of smell have been linked to MCI. If you have MCI, it’s important to see a doctor or specialist regularly to monitor any changes in memory or thinking.

### What are the stages of Alzheimer’s disease?

Alzheimer’s disease progresses in several stages: preclinical, early (also called mild), middle (moderate), and late (severe). During the preclinical stage of Alzheimer’s disease, people seem to be symptom-free, but toxic changes are taking place in the brain. A person in the early stage of Alzheimer’s may exhibit the signs listed above.

As Alzheimer’s disease progresses to the middle stage, memory loss and confusion grow worse, and people may have problems recognizing family and friends. As Alzheimer’s disease

becomes more severe, people lose the ability to communicate. They may sleep more, lose weight, and have trouble swallowing. Eventually, they need total care.

### What are the causes of Alzheimer’s disease?

Scientists do not yet fully understand what causes Alzheimer’s disease in most people. In early-onset Alzheimer’s, which occurs between a person’s 30s and mid-60s, there may be a genetic component. Late-onset Alzheimer’s, which usually develops in a person’s mid-60s, arises from a complex series of age-related brain changes that occur over decades. The causes probably include a mix of these changes, along with genetic, environmental, and lifestyle factors. These factors affect each person differently.

### Is there a cure for Alzheimer’s disease?

Currently, there is no cure for Alzheimer’s disease. Some sources claim that products such as coconut oil or dietary supplements can cure or delay Alzheimer’s. However, there is no scientific evidence to support these claims.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved several drugs to treat people with Alzheimer’s disease, and certain medicines and interventions may help control behavioral symptoms.

Scientists are developing and testing possible new treatments for Alzheimer’s. Learn more about taking part in clinical trials that help scientists learn about the brain in healthy aging and what happens in Alzheimer’s and other dementias. Results of these trials are used to improve diagnosis, treatment, and prevention methods.

Currently, there is no definitive evidence about what can prevent Alzheimer’s disease or age-related cognitive decline. What we do know is that a healthy lifestyle – one that includes a healthy diet, physical



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activity, appropriate weight, and control of high blood pressure – can lower the risk of certain chronic diseases and boost overall health and well-being. Scientists are very interested in the possibility that a healthy lifestyle might delay, slow down, or even prevent Alzheimer’s. They are also studying the role of social activity and intellectual stimulation in Alzheimer’s disease risk.

For more information about Alzheimer’s NIA Alzheimer’s and related Dementias Education and Referral (ADEAR) Center  
800-438-4380 (toll-free)  
adear@nia.nih.gov  
www.nia.nih.gov/alzheimers

## Finding dementia care and local services

A person with dementia will need more care as symptoms worsen over time. Problems with memory, thinking, and behavior often present challenges for those with dementia as well as for their family members. Whether the disease is in early or late stages, there are support systems, resources, and services that can help.

While it can be difficult for some to admit they need assistance with care or caregiving, it is okay to ask for help. In fact, when it comes to caregiving, taking care of yourself is one of the most important things

you can do.

There are many different types of care available depending on the level of help or care you need.

Day-to-day support can be found through adult day centers and respite services. These options provide short-term care for a person with dementia and allow the caregiver to take a break. Day-to-day support may include supervision, meals delivered to the home, and/or transportation.

Long-term care in the home may be provided by unpaid family members and friends or by paid service providers and can involve general care or medical care. Home care services often focus on everyday activities such as bathing, dressing, eating, and ensuring the person with dementia is safe. Home health care services involve licensed medical professionals and require a doctor’s order.

Residential care may become necessary as a person with dementia requires more care and supervision than can be provided at home. Assisted living facilities may be able to provide enough support in the early stages of dementia, whereas nursing homes may be more appropriate for people who are no longer able to live safely at home. Continuing care retirement communities are multi-level care facilities that provide living accommodations and health services. A resident can move between multiple levels of care as needed.

Hospice services provide end-of-life care and comfort for people with dementia and their families. These services can be received in the home or at a residential care facility, hospital, or hospice facility.



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## Senior Living



"Are we there yet?"

### Safe driving

Have you been worried about your driving? Have your family or friends expressed concern? Changes in your health may affect your driving skills over time. Don't risk hurting yourself or others. Talk with your doctor about any concerns you have about your health and driving.

As you age, your joints may get stiff, and your muscles may weaken. Arthritis, which is common among older adults, might affect your ability to drive. These changes can make it harder to turn your head to look back, turn the steering wheel quickly, or brake safely.

See your doctor if pain, stiffness, or arthritis seem to get in the way of your driving.

If possible, drive a car with automatic transmission, power steering, power brakes, and large mirrors.

Be physically active or exercise to keep and even improve your strength and flexibility.

Think about getting hand controls for both the gas and brake pedals if you have leg problems.

Your eyesight can change as you get older. It might be harder to see people, things, and movement outside your direct line of sight. It may take longer to read street or traffic signs or even recognize familiar places. At night, you may have trouble seeing things clearly. Glare from oncoming headlights or streetlights can be a problem. Depending on the time of the day, the sun might be blinding.

Eye diseases, such as glaucoma, cataracts, and macular degeneration, as well as some medicines, can also cause vision problems.

If you are 65 or older, see your eye doctor every year. Ask if there are ways to improve your eyesight.

If you need glasses or contact lenses to see far away while driving, make sure your prescription is up-to-date and correct. Always wear them when you are driving.

Cut back on or stop driving at night if you have trouble seeing in the dark. Try to avoid driving during sunrise and sunset, when the sun can be directly in your line of vision.

#### Trouble Hearing

As you get older, your hearing can change, making it harder to notice horns, sirens, or even noises coming from your own car. Hearing loss can be a problem because these sounds warn you when you may need to pull over or get out of the way.

Have your hearing checked at least every 3 years after age 50.

Discuss concerns you have about hearing with your doctor. There may be things that can help.

Try to keep the inside of the car as quiet as possible while driving.

#### Dementia and Driving

In the very early stages of Alzheimer's disease or other types of dementia, some people are able to keep driving. But, as memory and decision-making skills get worse, they need to stop.

People with dementia often do not know they are having driving problems. Family and friends need to monitor the person's driving ability and take action as soon as they observe a potential problem, such as forgetting how to find familiar places like the grocery store or even their home. Work with the doctor to let the person know it's no longer safe to keep driving.

## Supporting emerging global leaders in aging and dementia science

by **Damali Martin**

*Damali Martin, Program Director, Division of Neuroscience (DN).*

*Maria Carranza, Training Officer, Office of Small Business Research (OSBR).*

Advances in health care and economic development have led to increased numbers of older adults in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). In fact, it is expected that 75% of the world's population over age 60 will reside in LMICs within the next five years.

While in many ways this trend is encouraging, one downside is that it is now estimated that by 2050, 70% of people living with Alzheimer's or a related dementia will reside in LMICs. As is the case in higher-income countries including the United States, supporting the needs of a growing population living with dementia requires significant support and training for the scientific workforce. Now is the time to develop a critical mass of well-trained scientists from multiple disciplines who can address changing biomedical, behavioral, and clinical



## Senior Living



Older adults who learned quilting or digital photography had improved memory.

### Myths about aging

Many people make assumptions about aging, what it is like to grow “old”, and how older age will affect them. But as we are getting older, it is important to understand the positive aspects of aging. Research has shown that you can help preserve your health and mobility as you age by adopting or continuing healthy habits and lifestyle choices.

**Depression and loneliness are normal in older adults.**

As people age, some may find themselves feeling isolated and alone. This can lead to feelings of depression, anxiety, and sadness. However, these feelings are not a normal part of aging as growing older can have many emotional benefits, such as long-lasting relationships with friends and family and a lifetime of memories to share with loved ones. In fact, studies show that older adults are less likely to experience depression than young adults. So, when should you be concerned? It’s important to remember that older adults with depression may have less obvious symptoms or be less likely to discuss their feelings. Depression is a common and potentially serious mood disorder, but there are treatments that are effective for most people.

**The older I get, the less sleep I need.**

As people age, they may find themselves having a harder time falling and staying asleep. A common misconception

is that a person’s sleep needs decline with age. Older adults need the same amount of sleep as all adults – 7 to 9 hours each night. Getting enough sleep keeps you healthy and alert. Adequate sleep can also help reduce your risk of falls, improve your overall mental well-being, and have many other benefits.

**Older adults can’t learn new things.**

Not true! Older adults still have the ability to learn new things, create new memories, and improve their performance in a variety of skills. While aging does often come with changes in thinking, many cognitive changes are positive, such as having more knowledge and insight from a lifetime of experiences. Trying and learning new skills may even improve cognitive abilities. For example, one study found that older adults who learned quilting or digital photography had improved memory. Seeking out new social connections with others and engaging in social activities, such as a dance class or book club, can keep your brain active and may also boost your cognitive health.

**Dementia is not a normal part of aging.**

Although the risk of dementia grows as people get older, it is not inevitable, and many people live into their 90s and beyond without the significant declines in thinking and behavior that charac-

terize dementia. Occasionally forgetting an appointment or losing your keys are typical signs of mild forgetfulness, which is very common in normal aging. Nevertheless, you should talk with a doctor if you have serious concerns about your memory and thinking, or notice changes in your behavior and personality. These problems can have a range of different causes, some of which are treatable or reversible. Finding the cause is important for determining best next steps.

**Older adults should take it easy and avoid exercise so they don’t get injured.**

As you age, you may think exercise could do more harm than good, especially if you have a chronic condition. However, studies show that you have a lot more to gain by being active – and a lot to lose by sitting too much. Often, inactivity is more to blame than age when older people lose the ability to do things on their own. Almost anyone, at any age and with most health conditions, can participate in some type of physical activity. In fact, physical activity may help manage some chronic conditions. Exercise and physical activity are not only great for your mental and physical health, but can help keep you independent as you age. Tai Chi and similar mind and body movement practices have been shown to improve balance and stability in older adults and this can help maintain independence and prevent future falls.

research needs in their respective home countries.

**International collaboration to meet the challenge**

To this end, NIA (National Institute on Aging) is excited to share two new funding opportunities, both led by our colleagues at the NIH Fogarty International Center. Both the Emerging Global Leader Award and the Chronic, Noncommunicable Diseases and Disorders Across the Lifespan: Fogarty International Research Training Award (NCD-LIFESPAN) opportunities underscore NIA’s and the broader NIH’s commitment to training the next generation of early- and mid-career scientists around the globe. It is hoped that this new support will help create and expand the next cadre of mentors and ensure the pipeline of scientists in future generations.

The Emerging Global Leader Award will provide recipient early-

to mid-career scientists in LMICs with three to five years of support for mentored research and career development, enabling them to gain the precious gift of protected time to conduct their research. Successful applicants will also receive joint mentorship from both a U.S. investigator with experience working in an LMIC and an experienced LMIC investigator. Only trainees from LMIC institutions are eligible to apply and research activities must take place primarily in the LMIC.

### How is she doing nurse?

A sweet grandmother telephoned St. Joseph’s Hospital. She timidly asked, “Is it possible to speak to someone who can tell me how a patient is doing?” The operator said, “I’ll be



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glad to help, dear. What’s the name and room number of the patient?”

The grandmother in her weak, tremulous voice said, Norma Findlay, Room 302.” The operator replied, “Let me put you on hold while I check with the nurse’s station for that room.”

After a few minutes, the operator returned to the phone and said, “I have good news. Her nurse just told me that Norma is doing well. Her blood pressure is fine; her blood

work just came back normal and her Physician, Dr. Cohen, has scheduled her to be discharged tomorrow.”

The grandmother said, “Thank you. That’s wonderful. I was so worried. God bless you for the good News.”

The operator replied, “You’re more than welcome. Is Norma your daughter?”

The grandmother said, “No, I’m Norma Findlay in Room 302. And no one tells me s\_ \_ \_.”



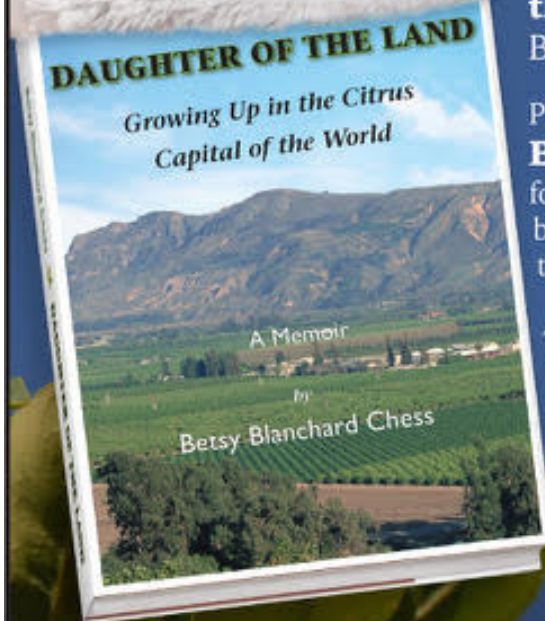
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**The Museum of Ventura County, Ventura and Santa Paula**

*"...It may read like fiction, but it's all true."*

*- Ivor Davis, Author and Lecturer*

### Mailbox

*Continued from page 4*

up the good work. Beats the Star for me. Thanks

Chris Reinhart

*Chris: Sometimes I don't even agree with me but we are having fun aren't we?*

Breeze:

I hear so many people call Camino Real Park El Camino Real Park. Even though we have a high school named El Camino there is no El in the park name. So get the el out.  
 Charles Goble

Children on a Beach

Oceans build their shores with stones,  
 And fortify its walls with children at play,

Control nature's borders with a swift undertow.

A coastal defense hemmed in by the tide.  
 When uncertain waters crash onshore,

The storms will produce a sure foundation,

For we consider the night's arduous horizon.

To reflect on the hope of peaceful seas.

As waters sift through our rocky shores,  
 They polish the surface to smooth their edges,

Returns in search of precious treasure.

For there made by the hands of little children.

By Jeff Russell



*Birds of all species can be seen at the Ventura Harbor Wetlands Ecological Reserve (The Ponds). Although this area is manmade for water treatment by the Ventura Water Treatment Plant, it is very important to both resident and migratory birds. Photo by Patricia Schallert.*

## This 'n' That



*Using the traveling couch has definitely changed Shaun's mindset.*

## Traveling in style

by Carol Leish, MA

What is the best way to travel around the city if you have problems with mobility?

Shaun Wahl, who is nine years old, is able to travel in style on both a powered lawn chair at the beach, and on a motorized couch around Ventura, and other places, thanks to his parents' ingenuity.

"After a stranger recently posted on NextDoor, 'I have just seen a brown couch traveling down the street here in Ventura,'" according to Shaun's mom, Jennifer, "we realized the impact that Shaun's motorized couch has had on people. It's been exciting to see peoples' comments and expressions concerning our family traveling around Ventura on the couch. By traveling around on the couch, people don't see Shaun as a little kid in a wheelchair who has cerebral palsy. Instead, they see him as a cool kid."

"This has also been a good outreach to others," according to Shaun's dad, Frank. "Others are able to sit in a powered wheelchair, or on the motorized couch in order to realize the challenges that others have with issues related to mobility challenges. This makes others more empathetic toward people with challenges."

"We built the first power wheelchair in early 2019," according to Frank. "In May of 2020, we built the power couch. We thought that we would get a few good laughs about it. Neither my wife or I thought that we'd be taking it around Ventura, or other places. During the week of Christmas in 2020, we took the power couch along Main St. in Ventura, and along the pier. We also took it along the pier in Port Hueneme. We wanted to take it places with a wide sidewalk."

"It's been amusing to see peoples' reactions, since they probably don't know what to think about what they've seen. They also honk at us, or they say, 'That's cool.'"

Frank said, "We started building mobility devices with old wheelchair parts, since getting a new electric wheelchair would have been too expensive. When a neighbor put a couch out in the front yard to give away, we realized that we could make a power couch that we could all enjoy traveling on at the same time."

Both Wendy and Frank say that using the traveling couch has definitely changed Shaun's mindset. They said, "Now he sees what he can do instead of what he can't do, which is very encouraging! He doesn't feel angry about his situation. He realizes what fun things he can do with his buddies. This has definitely taken the barrier (mobility issues), away from how others might view him if he was just using a wheelchair."

"We've made 13 powered recliners, along with making powered lawn chairs for use at the beach," according to Frank. He also said, "If you know of someone who may need a helping hand in modifying/making something to ease mobility issues for someone they know, please contact either Jennifer or me at: Jennifer.wahl@yahoo.com. 'Follow Shaun on Facebook at: 'Determin-Shaun."

### Housing Trust Fund announces

*Continued from page 3*

impact people's lives in Ventura County. Additionally, investors earn a modest financial return on their investment.

Housing Trust Fund VC also welcomed a \$250,000 investment from CBC Federal Credit Union. "We are honored investors like Bank of the Sierra and CBC Federal Credit Union see the value in helping to support more affordable apartments and housing in our community," commented Linda Braunschweiger, CEO of Housing Trust Fund Ventura County. "Having funded over \$18 million in loans in the past 10 years, it's truly a fulfilling moment to reflect on the significant impact we and our community partners have made and continue to make throughout our county by providing lending capital for the early development costs of affordable housing units, from land acquisition to early construction."

Join Housing Trust Fund VC at its Annual Meeting to learn more about its "Community Promise" – a commitment to positively impact people's lives through the ongoing funding of safe and equitable homes. Local housing experts Ray Pearl, Executive Director of California Housing Consortium, and Troy Brown, Moorpark City Manager will join Housing Trust Fund VC CEO Linda Braunschweiger on January 26th from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. via Zoom.

Launched as a 501c3 nonprofit corporation in 2011, Housing Trust Fund VC is the local trusted leader in helping to increase affordable housing options throughout Ventura County by leveraging public-private partnerships to provide low-cost, flexible loans early in the housing development cycle. As of January 2021, Housing Trust Fund VC has invested over \$18 million through its revolving loan fund, creating 847 affordable apartments and homes for very-low, low- and middle-income employees, transitional age foster youth, veterans, farm workers, and the homeless.

# 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.

## Carjacking with Arrest

On December 2, at approximately 11:30 pm, the Ventura Police Department Command Center received a 9-1-1 call from a witness regarding a possible carjacking that had just occurred in the 300 block of S. Borchart Dr. The victim was reportedly laying on the ground after having been beaten by the suspects, who stole her car.

Upon arrival, officers located the victim, a 46-year-old female, who had major injuries. The victim reported that she had been parked on Borchart Drive and got out of her vehicle, preparing to make a charity donation at a nearby collection facility when another vehicle stopped near her, and several subjects got out. She was approached by 3 to 4 females who demanded money and property.

When she said she had no money, the female suspects began to beat her until she fell to the ground. At that point, a male suspect got into the victim's vehicle, which still had the keys in the ignition, and shouted to the female suspects that they should take the vehicle. The victim got up and reached into the driver's window of her car to attempt to grab the keys and prevent the theft. The male suspect struck her forcefully, possibly with a blunt object, knocking her down and causing a major facial injury. The suspects drove off, some in the victim's vehicle and others in the original vehicle they arrived in.

Patrol officers searched the area and located the stolen vehicle as the suspects were driving it nearby. Officers attempted an enforcement stop, but the driver fled in the vehicle. The driver, a 17-year-old male, crashed the vehicle several blocks away. The suspect driver was seriously injured and was transported to a nearby hospital for medical treatment. At the time of this writing, he remains in the hospital in serious condition. There was one passenger in the vehicle, a 15-year-old female. The female was identified as one of the perpetrators in the crime. She had minor injuries, was treated at the hospital, and has since been booked at the Ventura County Juvenile Justice Center for Carjacking, Attempted Robbery, and Conspiracy.

The outstanding suspect vehicle was described as a black sedan or hatchback. There are at least two suspects outstanding. They are described as appearing "young," possibly in their late teens or early twenties. The juvenile suspects who were apprehended were residents of the city of Oxnard. The victim was transported to the hospital for medical treatment and is expected to fully recover. Anyone with information about this incident or the identities of the outstanding suspects is asked to call the Ventura Police at (805) 650-8010.

## Attempted Murder Arrest

On November 18, at approximately 1:00 am, the Ventura Police Command Center received a 911 call of a subject screaming for help at California St and Thompson Bl.

Officers arrived on scene and located a male victim suffering from a single stab wound to the throat. Ventura City Fire and AMR Ambulance were summoned to the scene and the victim was transported to the Ventura County Medical Center where he underwent emergency surgery for a life-threatening injury. Ventura Police Detectives began to investigate the stabbing and took countless hours attempting to locate potential witnesses or video evidence of the crime. Based on physical evidence, witness, and victim statements investigators identified 31 year old Ventura resident Armando Garcia as the suspect.

The ensuing investigation revealed that

the victim and suspect were involved in an altercation at Santa Clara parking structure when the suspect got upset and stabbed the victim one time in the neck. The suspect fled from the location as the victim ran for help.

On December 6, at approximately Ventura Police Department detectives located Armando Garcia and arrested him for an arrest warrant related to this case.

Garcia was booked into Ventura County Jail for attempted murder. The victim has since recovered from his injury.

Garcia has prior arrests for assault with a deadly weapon with gang enhancements, felon in possession of a deadly weapon, an additional arrest for assault with a deadly weapon, and possession of a stolen vehicle.

## Attempted Residential Armed Robberies with Arrests

On December 6, at approximately 12:00 am, the Ventura Police Command Center received a 911 call to the 100 block of Reata Ave regarding an attempted armed robbery. Officers arrived in scene and contacted the victims who said they were unloading groceries from their vehicle when they were confronted by two suspects armed with handguns. The suspects demanded money from the victims and attempted to enter the victim's residence. The victims did not comply with the suspects, and they fled in a vehicle parked nearby.

On December 7, at approximately 5:30 am, the Ventura Police Command Center received a 911 call in the 5000 block of Shenandoah St. regarding suspicious circumstances. Two suspects were at the victim's residence knocking on the door stating they were security officers from the complex and they needed them to come outside. The victim called the police as the suspects remained at the front door.

Officers arrived on scene and immediately detained one suspect wearing a security jacket. The second suspect was stopped in a vehicle attempting to flee the area. The ensuing investigation revealed that the suspects were the same from both incidents. The suspect that was detained in from of the residence on Shenandoah St was in possession of two loaded handguns. The suspects were identified as: 30 year old Oxnard resident Joseph Felix Damion and was arrested for two counts of attempted armed robbery and two counts of conspiracy to commit robbery. 27 year old Los Angeles resident Kang Sooyoung and was arrested for two counts of attempted armed robbery, two counts of conspiracy to commit robbery, felon in possession of a loaded handgun, and a violation of parole. No victims were injured during the commission of these crimes

## Child Luring Arrest

The Ventura Police Department, in conjunction with the Ventura Unified School District, has been investigating several cases of an individual who had been on the Ventura High Campus without authorization. The subject, identified as 28 year old Ventura resident Dylan Thoele, was first contacted on November 16 by school staff and was advised he was on campus illegally and not to return while school was in session.

On November 23, Thoele returned to campus and was contacted by School staff and fled prior to being contacted by the police. Thoele returned to the campus later in the day and was arrested by School Resource Officers for misdemeanor trespassing while he was engaging school children in conversation.

On December 8, Thoele returned to campus and was seen by school staff having inappropriate conversations with students on campus. Ventura Police Department arrived on campus, but Thoele had left prior to officers arriving. The Ventura Police Department conducted an investigation with the Special Victim's Unit that culminated in the arrest of Thoele later that day at approximately 4:30 pm. Thoele was booked into the Ventura

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County Jail for felony child luring with the intent to commit sexual acts. The Ventura Police Department and the Ventura Unified School District maintain a strong collaborative relationship focused on the safety and security of students and staff on campus.

## Stabbing with Arrest

On December 8 at approximately 7:00 pm, the Ventura Police Command Center received a 9-1-1 call of a disturbance inside a residence in the 3700 block of Dean Drive. Upon arrival officers located a female victim in her 20's suffering from multiple stab wounds. Officers provided first aid to the victim and, based on the severity of her injuries, immediately transported her to a local hospital in a patrol car. After a brief standoff at the residence, the suspect was arrested, 24 year old Ventura resident Tommy Kelley. The investigation revealed the victim and the suspect are relatives. They got into an argument, which resulted in the suspect stabbing the victim several times. Family members then called 9-1-1. The victim is currently in stable condition at the hospital. The suspect was booked at Ventura County Jail for resisting arrest (misdemeanor) and assault with a deadly weapon (felony).

Residential Burglary, Possession of Stolen

Property, Prohibited Person in Possession of a Firearm and Ammunition, Possession of Narcotics and Firearm, Carrying a **Loaded Firearm in a Vehicle Arrest**

On November 28, at approximately 11:30am, it was reported to the Ventura Police Department that property had been stolen from a garage in the 1700 block of Daffodil Ave. The Ventura Police Street Crimes Unit was able to identify 31 year old Ventura resident Victor Michael Flores as the suspect of the burglary. On December 9, at approximately 10:00 am, detectives located Flores in the 9000 block of Telephone Rd. Flores was detained and found to be in possession of stolen property, illegal narcotics, and a loaded firearm.

Flores was arrested and booked at the Ventura County Jail for residential burglary, possession of stolen property, a prohibited person in possession of a firearm and ammunition, possession of a firearm and narcotics, and carrying a loaded firearm in a vehicle. A review of the Ventura County Superior Court website shows that Flores has prior convictions for stealing a vehicle, DUI, carrying a loaded handgun, and has been arrested for felony evading, felon in possession of a firearm, possession of controlled substance, and elder abuse.

Weekly SUDOKU  
Answer

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

King Crossword  
Answers  
Solution time: 23 mins.

G	R	A	D	B	E	E	H	O	L	E		
L	I	L	I	O	K	S	E	V	I	L		
A	D	A	M	W	E	S	T	B	A	N	K	
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B	R	I	D	E	M	A	E	W	E	S	T	
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S	E	E	N	O	S	E	X	M	E	N		



## The Pet Page



**Dedicated to Scamp**

■ Mixed-breed dogs “are significantly less likely” to have insurance claims for cancer than purebred dogs, according to an analysis done by Nationwide, a company that sells veterinary health insurance for dogs, cats, birds and exotic pets.

Some breeds are more cancer-prone than others, according to Nationwide insurance claims filed for 1.5 million dogs over a six-year period. Mixed-breed dogs were 48% less likely to have submitted claims for cancer than the average purebred dog, according to the news release.

When looking at the 100 most popular breeds of dogs, English cocker spaniels had a cancer prevalence 246% higher than other dogs. The shiba inu is 62% less likely to have a cancer claim.

Limiting the analysis to the 10 most popular breeds of Nationwide-insured pets, boxers were 161% more likely to file cancer claims, while the Chihuahua was 47% less likely.

“Nationwide members submitted claims for more than \$49 million in 2020 for the diagnosis and treatment of cancer,” said Dr. Jules Benson, chief veterinary officer of Nationwide.

“Early detection, better treatment options and the knowledge needed to make critical care decisions can make a difference,” the news release reports.

“The signs of cancer in pets can be vague” and can be the same symptoms caused by other diseases, Dr. Benson said. “But having more information about cancer prevalence rates and what types of cancer are likely to occur can be key to an early diagnosis, and that can mean access to more treatment options and better outcomes.”

Some early warning signs could be weight loss, drastic changes in appetite or thirst, or changes in energy levels, he said.

■ **By Linda Wilson Fuoco Pittsburgh Post-Gazette**

■ Making sure animals find a home is a year-round mission for Lake Humane Society, whether the process takes place during the holiday season or not.

While the agency doesn’t necessarily see a marked increase in adoptions during Hanukkah, Thanksgiving and Christmas, officials implore people to realize there’s more to it than simply buying a fuzzy friend, poking holes in a gift-wrapped box, securing a lid and handing the moving present to eager tykes.

In fact, with all the spirited festivities of the holidays, giving a pet as a gift, is, simply put, not recommended on a commercial scale, as all members of a family should be “on board” with adopting a new household member due to the many responsibilities of ownership.

Lori Caszatt, LHS’s interim executive director, noted new owners should think about the amount of time they have to dedicate to a new pet, in addition to the ancillary expenses of food, veterinary visits and possible medications it may need before adopting.

She said. “We never want someone to feel they have to surrender their

pet because they have fallen on hard times and cannot afford to feed them. And we don’t ever want to see a pet returned because someone felt a pet would make a good holiday gift and then realized they don’t have the time or desire to care for it.

“It’s not fair to the pet so we always make sure that adoption is a family decision,” Caszatt added. “Our pets deserve a second chance and a family to love and care for them for the rest of their lives. By adopting a shelter pet, you are saving a life.”

■ **By Chad Felton The News-Herald**

The United States government has eased up on a rule that had banned the importation of dogs from 113 countries because of concerns over fraudulent rabies vaccination certificates. The change comes less than six weeks after the ruling, which pet owners had complained was overly restrictive, went into full effect.

As of Oct. 14, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention had blocked the import of dogs, both foreign and those re-entering the country after traveling abroad, from 113 countries where the risk of rabies transmission for dogs was considered high. The ban was spurred, said the federal agency, by an increase in falsified health documents from international pet importers over the past 18 months.

Now, travelers flying with dogs who received their inoculations from a U.S.-licensed veterinarian may return to the U.S. from the previously banned countries, providing the animal is healthy, microchipped and at least six months old, and its owner can provide a valid U.S.-issued rabies vaccination certificate.

In 2020 alone, as pet adoptions surged across the United States, the C.D.C. said it intervened in more than 450 cases where dogs were being imported with false or incomplete rabies vaccination certificates. In June 2021, one rabid dog was imported from Azerbaijan, prompting a public health response involving agencies in nine states. For the C.D.C., that one incident was enough.

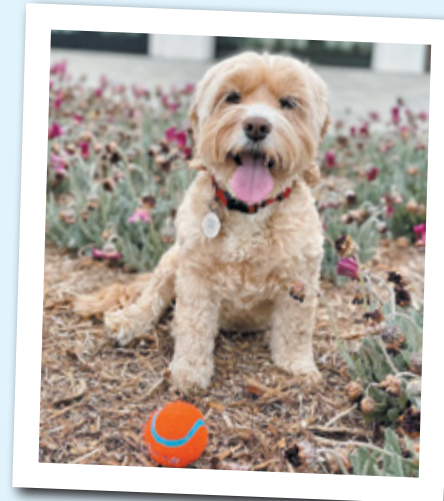
The dog’s importation “highlights the timeliness of C.D.C.’s temporary suspension and the risk associated with rescue dogs imported from countries at high-risk for dog rabies,” said Emily Pieracci, a veterinary medical officer with the C.D.C., in an email. “Dog rabies has been eliminated from the United States since 2007 and dog importations from countries at high risk for rabies represents a significant public health risk.”

Dog owners heading out of the country with their animals should make sure their paperwork is up to date, and check their arrival and departure cities: The C.D.C. will not accept expired rabies vaccination certificates, and effective Dec. 1, all dogs that have transited through a country deemed high-risk for rabies by the C.D.C. must re-enter the United States at one of 18 approved ports of entry, including Chicago O’Hare, John F. Kennedy International and San Francisco International Airports. The C.D.C. had also initially planned to reduce those 18 approved ports to only three in early

## Scamp Club

(Scampclub pets are not for adoption.)

This is Bonnie, a 10-year-old rescue cocker spaniel/ terrier mix. She is a Certified Service Dog with AKC Trick Dog certifications. Her owner fostered her after she was hit by a car, fell in love with her and adopted her in 2014. She loves playing ball, running on the beach and of course she loves to meet people.



## Join Scamp Club

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

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

2022, but has now rolled back those plans.

The C.D.C.’s change of policy does not offer relief to people, including aid workers and U.S. service members, who want to bring dogs to the United States for the first time. Many of them are struggling to reunite with animals they adopted during tours of duty abroad, and they have complained that the rule was too restrictive. Animals adopted abroad, without U.S. vaccination papers, are still unable to enter the U.S. without special permission.

■ **By Debra Kamin**

■ **Deciphering your dog’s barks.**

Do you ever wonder why your pup barks when other dogs pass by your house, when you’re on a walk and he sees another dog, when another dog barks at him, or whenever he meets another dog at the dog park?

Dr. Ireifej says that the characteristics of the bark can clue you into the reason behind it. “However, because this is subjective and therefore prone to misinterpretation and error, it is important to combine this interpretation with the dog’s body language and the context by which the barking is occurring.” Look to your dog’s facial expressions and body language: Ears pinned back, piloerection (hair on end), barred teeth = aggression, anxiety, stress

Bowing, pawing, nudging, tail wagging = playful, jovial, welcoming  
The context in which your dog barks at another dog also matters.

Owner present or dog in his house or yard = territorial, welcoming, alerting

Approaching another dog or a pack of dogs = aggression, anxiety, or submission

Dogs running, playing = asking to play

■ **By Jennifer Nelson**

*Isn’t my dog just being territorial when she barks at other dogs at home?*

If your dog simply barks at every

dog she sees, is she just being territorial? Not necessarily. Dr. Ireifej says, you still must use the same interpretation criteria—the type of bark and the context of the situation. “Most people view barking at other dogs as they pass by the house as a negative action or a sign of bad behavior because we find it disruptive, startling, or uneasy. But this off-the-cuff interpretation may not be accurate if the entire situation is not taken into account,” he says.

*What if my dog only barks at select dogs?*

If your dog only barks at one or two neighbor dogs, does that mean he doesn’t like them? It depends. When dogs bark at other dogs it’s usually because of either a historic reason or a current reason, explains Dr. Ireifej. Your pup’s history plays a role—if he had a pleasant or negative interaction in the past, or even something about that dog in the moment can cause him to bark.

Your dog barks at another dog because of things like the other dog’s body language, its facial features, its scent, its pack status, its level of excitement, as well as your dog’s previous memories, traumas, or interactions.

Maybe your dog had a bad experience with a small white dog and now barks at all small white dogs, or maybe your dog senses the other dog’s level of excitement or protection of its owner and is responding in kind.

Therefore, deciphering why your dog barks at other dogs can be tricky. Watch his body language, read the cues of the situation, then try to figure out his motives. If you’re concerned about your dog’s barking, especially if it’s aggressive or reactionary, talk to your veterinarian about it, and seek out a certified veterinary behaviorist or trainer.

As always, consult your vet about your dog’s behavior.



# The Pet Page

## Forever homes wanted

Hi: I'm Dixie, a Shepherd X in need of a new home. I was rescued from an LA shelter with my mom and siblings. My siblings have found their forever homes, but I'm still waiting for mine. Since I'm just a puppy, children in the home must be at least 6 years of age. I know I'm cute and everyone will want me, but please be sure you're ready to take on a puppy as it's similar to having a newborn (2-legged kind) in the home. It's a lifetime commitment, not a temporary one where the love and attention wears off after I'm grown. If you're ready and able to give me a lifetime of love and wonderful memories, please fill out an application to meet me. Canine Adoption and Rescue League C.A.R.L.



Raven is a sassy bunny who loves to be the center of attention. She is in search of a rabbit-savvy adopter in a safe and loving home with no children or other pets (including other rabbits). Raven loves to be pet and melts under the loving touch of a human. She's high maintenance but also high reward when it comes to being a loyal companion pet. To learn more about Raven, please email [vcasbunnybrigade@gmail.com](mailto:vcasbunnybrigade@gmail.com) and ask for ID #A769327. For information on rabbit behavior and enrichment, visit <https://www.facebook.com/VCASBunnyBrigade>. Camarillo Animal Shelter



## This 'n' That Christmas at the Olivas Adobe

by Richard Senate

What was Christmas like at the old Olivas Adobe long ago? It was very different from today. There was no Santa Claus, he is a northern European tradition that wouldn't come to Mexico until the French occupation in the 1860s when they introduced "Papa Noel". There were no Christmas Trees, that was a German Protestant tradition promoted by Martin Luther and made a worldwide sensation by Queen Victoria and Prince Albert. No, these present symbols of today's Christmas Season were not a part of old California. But, do not be mistaken--it was still an important part of the year at the Missions, Ranchos and Pueblos. In fact the Christmas holiday was celebrated for nearly a month! The season started with the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe on December 12th and continued until The Feast of the Epiphany on January 6th. Nine days before Christmas Posadas were held reenacting the journey of Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem. Part procession, part musical they moved from house to house with the Holy Couple being turned away until the end.

More popular was a play performed at the Missions and private residences called Las Pastorelas (the Shepard's). It was loosely based on a 15th Century Spanish mystery play. Many versions exist of the play and each one has the Shepard's trying to visit the Christ Child. It features a clown named "Ermitano"

and a vagabond named "Bartolo" as well as "El Diablo" and Saint Grabrail. The richest man in town was always selected to play the Devil. It is very possible Don Raymundo once played this part. The Devil was always booed and hissed at like a Victorian Melodrama villain. The play had songs, poems and action and no two were alike. Many were filled with jokes at the expense of the government and those in power. This was one place such comments were permitted. In the end kids dressed as Devils and Angels battled with wooden swords to determine if good or evil would win the day. The play had two endings depending on who won the conflict. After this a piñata was brought out for blindfolded children who struck the piñata (shaped in many cases like Satan). It was made of a decorated clay pot and filled with sweets, cactus candy and small toys. It was to teach them that fighting Satan would result in gifts from heaven.

The most important night of the celebration was "Nochabuena" (Good Night) with lavish parties, alcohol and dancing. At midnight all would go to the church for Midnight Mass-- "La Misa del Gallo" (The Mass of the Rooster) The Rooster's crowed at the birth of Christ, the first animal to announce his arrival. At the end of the Mass everyone greeted each other with the words "Feliz Nocha Buena" and "Felicia Pascuas." Christmas Day was rather anti-climatic with most sleeping in and resting. It was called by some "The day of leftovers." But what of gifts you ask? That would come on another day.

The feast of the Epiphany on January 6th was the time they were given and not

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Are you an amateur cartoonist? Send your cartoon to [editor@venturabreeze.com](mailto:editor@venturabreeze.com).



Christmas 2021 at the Olivas. Photos by Patricia Schallert.

by a jolly St. Nicolas. They were brought by the Three Kings, the wise men who brought gifts to the Christ Child. This was an old Italian tradition introduced by Spanish Missionaries long ago to tell the story of Christmas. Children would leave their shoes out with grass or straw for the

horses of the Magi. In California these figures were always depicted mounted on beautiful Arabian Horses and not camels. (A king, so they figured, would never ride a smelly camel. After all, they spit!). The next morning the straw would be gone and gifts and toys left in their place.



by Pam Baumgardner  
VenturaRocks.com

The Breeze officially has one more issue before the end of 2021, but I know you need to make those plans now on how you want to usher in the New Year, so I have a few suggestions for you. Be sure to call places like the Crowne Plaza, Twist on Main, the Greek, the Manhattan and Café Fiore to see if advance tickets are necessary and to reserve your place.

It's Dance Invasion at the Crowne Plaza, Free Love Project at Café Fiore, Magnificent Bastards at Gigi's Cocktails, CRV at the Greek in the Harbor, Breaking Bored play the Keynote Lounge, the Mighty Cash Cats and the Linda Ronstadt Experience at the Moose Lodge in Ventura, Peirano's has a silent DJ, it's the House Arrest Band at the Twist on Main, Jayden Secor at Winchesters, plus your rockin' DJs at Bombay's, the Tavern, the Garage, Six Chow House and all the other bars around town. Nearby, it's Jeanne Tatum at the Manhattan in Camarillo, Vinyl Gypsies at the Raven Tavern in Oxnard, Steph's Rockin' Road Show at the Shores in Oxnard, Toxic Sushi at the Twisted Oak Tavern & Brewery in Camarillo, plus you know it's going to be a party when the legendary funk/rock/soul band War ("Why Can't We be Friends?," "Low Rider," "Spill the Wine," "The Cisco Kid" and more) plays the Oxnard Performing Arts Center.

And for those who can't last until midnight, you can still have fun via "East Coast Style NYE parties" meaning they celebrate at 9 pm (Midnight East Coast time) with Jacob Marquez & the Good Vibes at Leashless Brewing and Double Trouble at Poseidon Brewing Co.

Though the Ventura Music Hall is still under construction, bands are being lined up and advance tickets are on sale for dates in late March and April including G. Love & the Juice on March 22, Collie Buddz on March 27, Gary Numan plus I speak Machine on April 5, and Hot Chip with LA Priest on April 15. Tickets are averaging just under \$30. Keep up via their website VenturaMusicHall.com.

Quick Notes: Grapes and Hops with a Twist is changing their name again, this time to the Twist on Main; Cadillac Zack presents Eugene Hideaway Bridges at Cantara Cellars on Friday, December 17; Danny Carey of Tool returns to town with a jazz gig at the Grape on Friday, December 17, when he plays drums for the Doug Webb Group; it's Punk Rock Tuesday at Rock & Roll Pizza in Camarillo on the 21st with the Robot Uprising, FUSE, and the Afraid; and Teresa Russell & Stephen Geyer host their traditional Christmas day gig at the Lookout Bar & Grill, it's a potluck with the kitchen closed, but bar opened.

And finally, just a quick editorial comment from the peanut gallery (me): We are still in the middle of a pandemic

and we still have a mask mandate in place; the Ventura County Public Health issued a health order requiring all individuals, regardless of vaccination status, to wear face coverings when indoors in public settings, with limited exceptions. With that being said, if a venue decides to not adhere, or they don't require their wait staff to wear masks, then I would highly recommend posting a notice before charging patrons to enter said venue; if they don't, in my opinion, that's just bad manners.

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](http://www.VenturaRocks.com).

## Music Calendar

For more up-to-the-date listings go to [VenturaRocks.com](http://VenturaRocks.com)

### Angry Ferret Brewing Company 11990 Hertz Street, Moorpark

Sat 12/18: The Balance

### Boatyard Pub

#### Ventura Harbor

Wednesdays: Frank Barajas  
Thursdays: Jim Friery; then Bluegrass Jam

Fri 12/17: Teresa Russell & Stephen Geyer

Sat 12/18: Déjà vu Too

### Bombay Bar & Grill

143 S. California St., Ventura

DJs Friday – Sunday

### Cantara Cellars

126 N. Wood Rd., Camarillo

Fri 12/17: Cadillac Zack presents

Eugene Hideaway Bridges

Sat 12/18: What the Funk

### The Cave

4435 McGrath St., Ventura

Music 5:30 – 8:30 (closed Christmas)

Wednesdays & Thursdays: Bobby Apostol

Fridays & Saturdays: Warren Takahashi

### Deer Lodge

2261 Maricopa Hwy, Ojai

Sun 12/26: Teresa Russell (1 pm)

### Downtown Ventura

California & Main Street Stage

Music at 5 unless otherwise listed

Wednesdays: Warren Takahashi

Fri 12/17: Brandon Ragan

Sat 12/18: Los Amigos

Sun 12/19: Dr. T & the Blues Criminals (11 am); The Yules

### El Rey Cantina

2302 Ventura Blvd., Camarillo

Sat 12/18: Toni Jannotta Jazz Trio (Noon)

### Four Brix

2290 Eastman, Ventura

Music 6-8 pm on Fridays, Sat & Sun 1 – 3:30 pm

Fri 12/17: Inna Rude Mood

Sun 12/19: Erinn Selkis

### The Garage

1091 Scandia Ave., Ventura

Wednesdays: Blues Wednesday

Sat 12/18: Bombafiya

### Gigi's Cocktails

2493 Grand Ave., Ventura

Fri 12/17: Pull the Trigger

Sat 12/18: Shiva

### The Grape Jazz House

2833 E. Main Street, Ventura

Music 7-10 pm

Tuesdays: Jazz Jam

Wed 12/15: Ruben Estrada & Friends

Thurs 12/16: The Molly Miller Trio

Fri 12/17: Doug Webb Group feat.

Danny Carey (TOOL)

Sat 12/18: Fausto Cuevas & Cinquillo

(2 pm); Equinox

Wed 12/22: Bevan Manson Quartet

feat. Tierney Sutton

Thurs 12/23: Barrelhouse Wailers

### Keynote Lounge

10245 E Telephone Rd, Ventura

Thursdays: KJ Carlos

Fri 12/17: Heathers on Fire

Sat 12/18: DJ Joe

### Lookout & Grill

2800 S. Harbor Blvd., Oxnard

Wednesdays: Tommy Foytek's Variety Show

Thursdays: Acoustic Open Mic

Sat 12/25: Teresa Russell, Stephen

Geyer & Mama Pat (Noon)

### Lucas Sellers Wine

330 Zachary Street, Moorpark

Music 6-9 pm

Sat 12/18: the Appletons

Sun 12/19: Bill Rotella

### Made West Brewing

1744 Donlon Street, Ventura

Sun 12/19: Milo Sledge (3 pm)

Thurs 12/23: The Yules

Sun 12/26: The Devil's Box String

Band Duo

### Manhattan Restaurant

5800 Santa Rosa Road, Camarillo

Music 6:30 – 9:30 pm

Thurs 12/16: Cary Park

Fri 12/17: Tour Support Band

Sat 12/18: Pam and Hollywood

Thurs 12/23: Mary White Duo w/

Guy Thomas

### Mrs. Olson's

2800 Harbor Blvd., Channel

Islands Harbor

Music at Noon

Sun 12/19: Teresa Russell w/ Stephen

Geyer

### Namba

47 S. Oak St., Ventura

Thurs 12/16: The Listening Room

Redux

Fri 12/17: CHOMSKYJazz

### Oxnard Performing Arts Center

Canyon at Oxnard PACC

Sundays: The House Arrest Band (1-4

pm)

Fri 12/17: The Midnitters, Lighter

Shade of Brown, Mellow Man Ace

Sun 12/19: Jose Feliciano

### Poseidon Brewing Co.

5777 Olivas Park Drive, Ventura

Fri 12/17: Double Trouble (6:30 pm)

Sat 12/18: Katie Shorey (2 pm)

### The Raven Tavern

1651 S. Victoria Ave., Oxnard

Music at 8 – 11 pm

Fri 12/17: Jayden Secor

Sat 12/18: Masters of the Past

### Relm

2390 Las Posas Rd., Camarillo

Music at 5:30 pm

Fri 12/17: Gianna Bella

Sat 12/18: Sam Stacy

### Ric's Restaurant

2500 Las Posas Road, Camarillo

Tuesdays: Tour Support with Kurt

Griffey & Bob DeLellis

Wed 12/15: Adam & Sam

### Rock & Roll Pizza

305 Arneil Road, Camarillo

Tues 12/21: The Robot Uprising,

FUSE, the Afraid

### Seaward Brewing

1920 Goodyear Ave., Ventura

Sat 12/18: Whiskey Glass Eye (1 pm)

### The Six Chow House

419 E Main Street, Ventura

Thurs 12/16: DJ Honey

Fri 12/17: DJ Cue

Sat 12/18: Shawn Jones Trio

Wed 12/22: Duncan & the Dragon-

slayers

Thurs 12/23: DJ Young Josh Marley

Sun 12/26: DJ CUe

### Star Lounge

343 E. Main Street, Ventura

Tuesdays: Karaoke

Sat 12/18: CRV

### Strey Cellars

951 N. Rice Ave., Oxnard

Fri 12/17: the Barrelhouse Wailers

Sun 12/19: The Renegades

### The Twist on Main

454 E. Main Street, Ventura

Thursdays: LA Jazz Connection

Fri 12/17: Frank Barajas & the

Corsican Brothers

Sat 12/18: Ashun (2 pm); Dive Bar

Messiahs

Sun 12/19: Dave Parsonage (2 pm)

Fri 12/24: Karen Eden (2 pm)

Sun 12/26: Bella Lucareli (2 pm)

### Vaquero y Mar

435 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

Tuesdays: The Sea Hunters (5 pm);

Karaoke (8 pm)

Thursdays: Delta by the Beach (5 pm)

Sundays: Mariachi Gallos de Oro (11

am – 2 pm)

### Ventura Harbor Comedy Club

Ventura Harbor Village

Wed 12/15: The late Knights

### The Vine

308 E. Ojai Ave., Ojai

Music 7 pm otherwise noted

Sundays: Fire on the Mountain (2

pm)

Saturdays: Smitty and Julija and

Friends

Fri 12/17: Tom Collins

Sun 12/19 Steve and Sally Williams

(7 pm)

### Waterside Restaurant & Wine Bar

3500 S. Harbor Blvd., Oxnard

Sun 12/19: Free Love Project (5 pm)

### Winchesters

632 E. Main St., Ventura

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

Thurs 12/16: Saint Pierre

Fri 12/17: Doc Ventura

Sun 12/19: Meg & Alex

Thurs 12/23: Big Adventure Rockin'

Trio

Sun 12/26: Freddy Castro & Friends

### 1901 Speakeasy

740 South B Street, Oxnard

Music 6:30 – 9:30 pm

Sat 12/18: Teresa Russell w/ Stephen

Geyer

Ventura Music Scene





# Just some of the artists at the Bell Arts Factory



**Bonny Butler**



**Mariah Bentley**



**Christy Weir**



**Jane Peterson**

Established in 2006 in part by a gift from the Addison Family, Bell Arts Factory is a non-profit, community-based organization that utilizes the arts as a means to deliver messages and encourage acts of greater good within our community.

432 N. Ventura Ave., Ventura  
805-836-2787

Showing at the Buena Ventura Art Association are **Bonny Butler** and **Mariah Bentley**.

“A 66-year-old, non-profit institution devoted to connecting the community with artists, artists with each other, and learning and growing as artists ourselves.” Buena Ventura Art Association will feature photographs by **Stella Kuyumjian** in a solo exhibition Jan. 7-March 12, 2022, in Studio 99. “Knowing Your Identity” is the theme of these fine art prints by the Thousand Oaks resident.

In her studio retired city council member **Christy Weir** (who was on the Ventura City Council from 2003-2020) is enjoying the time she has to devote to her first love painting.

In their shared studio **Jane Peterson, Lauren M. Peters** and **Nova Clite** are displaying their art from their challenge to each other to paint 100 pieces in 100 days.

## Ventura Art Scene

### This 'n' That



Shoppers came out in droves for Small Business Saturday, held November 27 on Oak Street in Downtown Ventura. Local artisans and business owners displayed their varied offerings.

Photo by Jill Forman.



Tuba Christmas was held on Sunday, Dec.5 at noon at the Pacific View Mall. Players ages ranged from 13 to 82 from all over Southern California including local high schoolers.

Dr. Julie Judd was the conductor.

Photo by Jill Forman.



### The Ventura Pottery Gallery

Ventura Harbor Village

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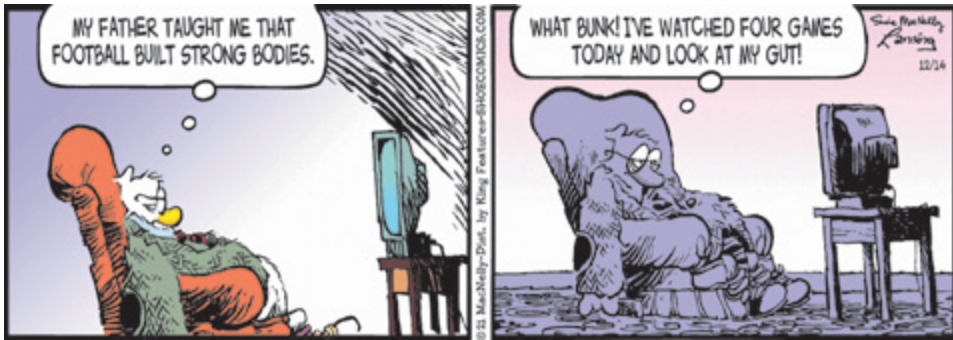
VenturaPotteryOnline.com  
VenturaPottersGuild.org





# Lighter Breeze

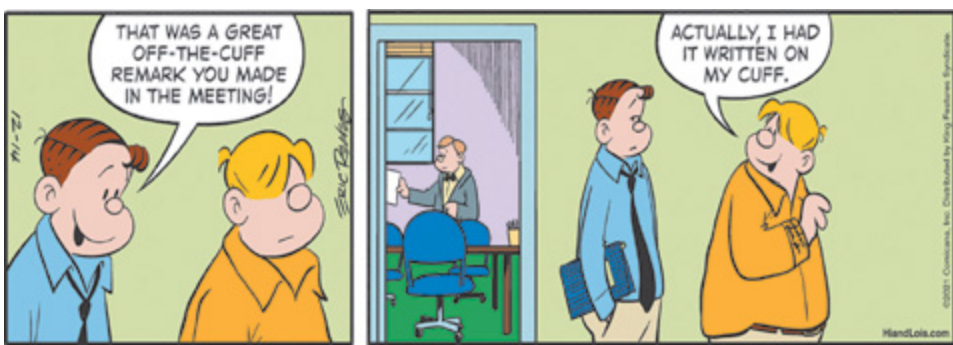
## Shoe



## Blondie



## Hi and Lois



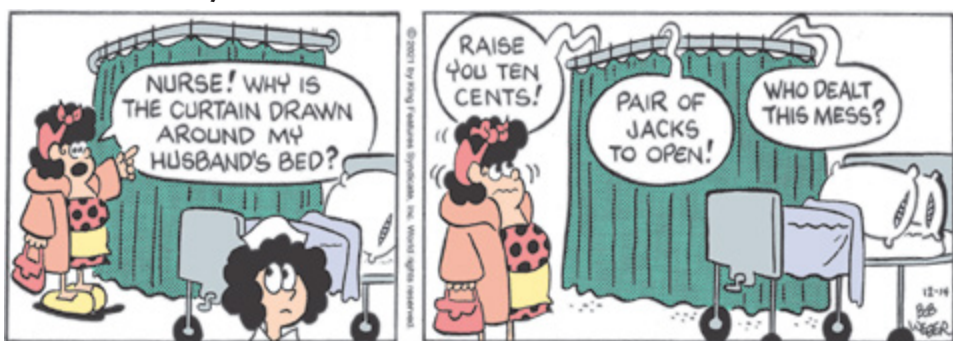
## Mallard Fillmore



## Crock



## Moose and Molly



Solutions on page 13

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

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

## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

Solutions on page 13

# King Crossword

## ACROSS

- 1 Alum
- 5 Spell-off
- 8 Pit
- 12 Taylor of "Mystic Pizza"
- 13 Approves
- 14 Satan's forte
- 15 Leading man?
- 16 Landlocked Mideast territory
- 18 Disney's Ariel, for one
- 20 Van Gogh venue
- 21 CBS logo
- 22 Mimic
- 23 Wedding VIP
- 26 "I'm No Angel" actress
- 30 '60s chic
- 31 Green shade
- 32 Cattle call
- 33 "The Great Gatsby" setting
- 36 Self-reproach
- 38 Stop - dime
- 39 " - voyage!"
- 40 Skater Ohno
- 43 Within earshot
- 47 Oater setting
- 49 Author Bellow
- 50 Within (Pref.)
- 51 "Shoo!"
- 52 Exile isle
- 53 Beheld
- 54 Sugary suffix

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

- 35 Sufficient, old-style
- 36 Deity
- 37 Gender-neutral
- 39 Montana city
- 40 Dazzles
- 41 Freshener scent
- 42 Shoppe description
- 43 Unrepaired
- 44 Lip soother
- 45 Garage job
- 46 Panache
- 48 Conceit

## DOWN

- 1 Glitz partner
- 2 Carousel, for one
- 3 Winged
- 4 Darkened
- 5 "Let's Dance" singer
- 6 Scratched (out)
- 7 Curved letter
- 8 Semitic language
- 9 Cameo shape

- 10 Queue
- 11 BPOE members
- 17 Carton sealer
- 19 Nay undoer
- 22 Motorist's org.
- 23 Upscale auto
- 24 Shad product
- 25 Egos' counterparts
- 26 Jo's sister
- 27 Brit. record label
- 28 Fa follower
- 29 Youngster
- 31 Links org.
- 34 Ralled out

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**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) Holiday plans get back on track after some confusion about the direction you expected to take. A potentially troublesome money matter needs your immediate attention.

**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) Make your holiday preparations one step at a time in order to avoid being overwhelmed and leaving things undone. That confusing family situation continues to work itself out.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) Your holiday preparations are on track. But you need to confront a personal situation while you can still keep it from overwhelming everything else.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) Ease this year's holiday money pressures by letting your thrifty side guide you as you look for those perfect gifts that typically reflect your good taste and love of beauty.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) Tight financial matters ease a bit during this holiday season. But the sagacious Sagittarian is well-advised to keep a tight hold on the reins while shopping for gifts.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) You'll have a good handle on potential holiday problems if you delegate tasks to family members, friends or co-workers -- most of whom will be more than happy to help out.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) Don't put off making decisions about this year's holiday celebrations, despite the negative comments you've been getting from several quarters. Do it NOW!

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) Right now you are especially vulnerable to holiday scams that seek to take advantage of your generosity. Best advice: Check them out before you send out your checks.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) The holidays will bring new friends and new opportunities. Meanwhile, be careful to use your energy wisely as you go about making holiday preparations.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) The upcoming holiday season gives the Big Cat much to purr about. Relationships grow stronger, and new opportunities loom on the horizon, just waiting to be pounced on.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) There's good news coming from a most unlikely source. And it could turn out to be one of the best holiday gifts you have had in years. Remember to stay positive.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) A changing situation brings conflicting advice about how to go forward with your holiday plans. Your best bet: Make the decision you feel most comfortable with.

**BORN THIS WEEK:** You are respected for your honesty and loyalty. You make friends slowly -- but with rare exceptions, they're in your life forever.

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# Showtime

A View from House Seats

## Elite Stages Non-traditional Holiday Offering

by Shirley Lorraine

To usher out 2021, the Elite Theater in Oxnard brings an adaptation of William Shakespeare's Titus Andronicus to the stage. Not your average light-weight holiday fare full of cheery songs and well wishes. Instead, it is a feast of blood and bitter tongue.

This version, adapted and directed by Bill Walthall, offers a panoply of variations on the Bard's theme of rivalry, revenge, and retribution. The cast is all-female, save for one. The title character is renamed Tita, played by Sindy McKay-Swerdlove. She embodies her role completely, complete with haircut and tattoos. Well done. She is flanked by an army of Goths, followers and soldiers waiting to do as she bids.

Most of the character names from the original were not changed, simply made to fit within this premise. Warrior women works well, and one quickly dismisses any necessary gender mentions. The character of Aaron the Moor is managed capably by Stan McConnell, the sole male in the cast, who maintains a critical role in the story.

The production utilizes multiple levels of the theater to good advantage, adding depth to the action. Props are used sparingly, allowing the actors freedom to bring the Bard's words into focus. Costuming has a Mad Max feel to it, giving the staging an almost futuristic and timeless ambiance which has been proven to work well for Shakespeare's writings.

The acting acumen of the cast is uneven, keeping in mind that this is community theater, and everyone must start somewhere. Shakespeare is not the easiest of trials for any actor, seasoned or not, and I was impressed

with the line delivery throughout regardless of recitation style. Every line deserves to be heard. The main characters are all experienced and solid. Backing up Tita is Theresa Secor as Marcus Andronicus, Tita's sister. She and Swerdlove deliver exceptionally passionate performances. Also of note are Alyssa Carmen as Tamora, Queen of the Goths, and Ashley Maimes as Lavinia, Tita's daughter.

To minimize the bloodshed (this is touted as the Bard's bloodiest play), a murder coach (Prof. John Comstock) is credited in the program. Director Walthall cleverly staged bodies to disappear into a great pit or otherwise go out of sight. The many killings are then implied by movement adjustments and costuming enhancement.

The first act was strong and powerfully played as the story unfolded and the audience adjusted to the "look" of the action. However, the second act seemed to me to downgrade into periods of melodrama in delivery and characterization, eliciting laughs as one after another individual was dispensed with and dragged offstage, to return as another minor character.

Andronicus is an unusual choice for season's end, but it does serve as a reminder that despite a challenging year we have managed to survive and move forward. The Elite is struggling to continue as well. Your support is appreciated.

Andronicus continues through December 19 on the South Stage at the Elite Theater. [www.theElite.org](http://www.theElite.org) or 805-483-5118.

Streaming Spotlight by Cindy Summers

## King Richard

– HBO Max



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

King Richard chronicles the rise of Venus and Serena Williams to tennis elites, at one time being ranked No.1 and No. 2 in the world of tennis, all due to the plan their father's grand plan.

Richard Williams (Will Smith) started coaching them from a very young age on the neglected tennis courts of Compton rain or shine to develop their skills to a level in which he was able to seek out funding and to find a professional coach that would take them on for nothing. King Richard (as he was come to be known in the Compton neighborhoods) was able to get the attention of pro tennis coach Paul Cohen (Tony Goldwyn)

Cohen coached well-known players like John McEnroe and Pete Sampras, and after seeing both girls play he agreed to take on Venus (Saniyya Sidney), but didn't feel that Serena (Demi Singleton) was ready. While Venus was coached by Cohen, Serena's mother Brandy Williams (Aunjanue Ellis) worked with Serena to strengthen her skills. The family had 5 girls total, including Richard's 3 stepdaughters, who were all very close and supported of each other.

Cohen convinced Richard to have Venus play in juniors tournaments, the traditional pathway to going pro, and Venus was 63-0 in her first season. Richard wanted his daughters to be respectful and practice modesty, and

was constantly on them to manage their pride and egos, especially as Venus was quickly seen as unbeatable. Though she was playing great and winning all her matches, Richard decided to pull Venus from the juniors after only one year and stopped working with Cohen after a meeting that went wrong with some investors Cohen had lined up.

Richard was even more convinced of Venus' ability to go pro, so looked for a new coach and the means to follow their dreams. He reached out to Coach Rick Macci, who coached players like Jennifer Capriati and had a training facility in Florida, and convinced Macci to come to California to see Venus and Serena. Macci agreed to coach Venus and move the family to Florida.

Richard decided to remove Venus from any tournament play for the next several years and only practice with pros, focus on studies and have childhood fun. Once the whole family relocated to Florida, he shared this with Coach Macci who was stunned, feeling duped and quite confused how to move forward but went along with Richard's unrelenting commitment to his plan. Though it was hard for Serena, Richard told her that though he knew Venus was eventually be No.1, that Serena would be the greatest ever.

Venus improved significantly over the next few years, and at 15 years old Coach Macci felt she was unquestionably ready to play a pro tournament, suggesting the upcoming Bank of the West tournament in Oakland. Though Richard had his reservations, he eventually allowed Venus to play after asking her personally if she felt ready. Coach Macci found a sponsor willing to offer a \$3 million dollar if they would sign the contract before the tournament.

When asked, Venus decided to pass on the contract and see what offers could come after her first tournament in years. Venus played well and ended up in the finals on the main court with



Arantxa Sánchez Vicario, the No.1 ranked player at the time. Though she didn't win, she became known to the world and 9 months later signed a \$12 million dollar contract with Reebok.

Venus went on the win Wimbledon five time, and two years later Serena joined Venus on tour becoming a 23-time Grand Slam champion and considered perhaps the greatest player in tennis history, just as Richard predicted.

Rated: PG-13

Runtime: 2h 26m

## Opera Santa Barbara presents Handel's comedy Semele

Opera Santa Barbara kicks off the new year with its third company premiere of the season: a 90-minute adaptation of Handel's comedy Semele, set in Hollywood's silent movie era. Performances take place Friday, January 14, at 7:30pm and Sunday, January 16, at 2:30pm at the Lobero Theater. Tickets are now on sale at the Lobero Theatre.

George Frederick Handel, known to everyone as the composer of "The Messiah", was one of the most successful opera composers of all time. Semele, with an English libretto based on Greek mythology, premiered in London in 1744, and caused an uproar with its bawdy subject matter: Jupiter, king of the gods, pursues a romantic relationship with the mortal princess Semele. When his wife Juno finds out, she promptly plots Semele's demise. In Opera Santa Barbara's production Jupiter becomes a movie mogul with a roving eye, and Semele an ambitious ingenue who encourages his advances at her peril. The score is filled with

vocal pyrotechnics and comic shenanigans.

"Handel is one of the greatest opera composers of all time. No other composer exults the human voice like him. Yet opera lovers often stay away from his operas because of their length", said Opera SB's Artistic and General Director Kostis Protapas. "This version of Semele is only 90 minutes long and contains some of Handel's greatest tunes. Now more than ever we need to start the new year on a lighthearted note. Semele is our New Year's toast to Santa Barbara for a happier 2022."

Santa Barbara-born and Metropolitan Opera National Council Award winner soprano Jana McIntyre sings the title role; the cast includes Sarah Coit as Juno; Robert Stahley of the Los Angeles Opera Young Artists Program as Jupiter; Music Academy of the West alum Logan Tanner as Athamas; Colin Ramsay in the dual role of Kadmus and Somnus; Christina Pezzarossi as Ino; and Chrisman Studio Artist Sunwoo Park as Iris.

The production will be directed by Los Angeles-based Sara Widzer, who made her company debut with "Carmen in your Car" in December 2020. Rising star conductor Emily Senturia, with recent appearances at Washington National Opera, Houston Grand, Boston Lyric, and Wolf Trap Operas, makes her Opera Santa Barbara debut conducting members of the Opera Santa Barbara Orchestra. Projection Designer Yuki Izumihara, choreographer Nicola Bowie, Lighting Designer Helena Kuukka, wig and makeup designer Heather Sterling, and Costume Designer Stacie Logue complete the all-female creative team.

"The great thing about Baroque opera is that there is so much freedom of interpretation," said conductor Emily Senturia. "Working on music from this era is such terrific fun because even

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## This 'n' That



Harmon Canyon Preserve. Photo by Rafael Ojeda.

### Ventura Land Trust and Topa Topa Brewing Company announce \$10,000 match

Ventura Land Trust and Topa Topa Brewing Company have joined together in the month of December to launch giving campaign Harmon for the Holidays. Topa Topa Brewing Company will match up to \$10,000 in donations to Ventura Land Trust (VLT) in support the conservation of Harmon Canyon Preserve. Ventura Land Trust is proud to be one of Topa Topa Brewing Company's local 1% for the Planet partners.

"We are proud to partner with VLT as one of our 1% for the Planet beneficiaries this year," says Jack Dyer, founder and CEO of Topa Topa Brewing Company. "As stewards of our community, we are beyond excited about the great work VLT does to protect and steward the open spaces that make Ventura the wonderfully vibrant outdoor community that it is."

Harmon Canyon Preserve was in development for 10 years before it opened in 2020. "This is our first real opportunity to invite the community to directly support the conservation of Harmon Canyon Preserve," says Ventura Land Trust Executive Director Melissa Baffa. "We really believe that connecting to the land and connecting to community go hand in hand, so we couldn't be more pleased to partner with Topa Topa for this campaign."

Topa Topa Brewing Company's Harmon for the Holidays campaign will benefit Ventura Land Trust's work to protect and preserve Harmon Canyon Preserve forever. Across the preserve's 2,123 acres, trails and dirt roads climb through coast live oak groves and stream crossings, up to expansive views of Southern California mountain ranges, coastlines, and Channel Islands National Park.

The preserve protects over 1,000 acres of coastal sage scrub, one of the most endangered habitats in North America, as well as a variety of other plant and animal species. Visitors can enjoy 10 miles of trails for hiking, biking, and enjoying nature. The

preserve is open daily, dawn to dusk, for free.

The mission of Ventura Land Trust is to permanently protect the land, water, wildlife and scenic beauty of the Ventura region for current and future generations. Founded in 2003, Ventura Land Trust believes that preserving open space and providing public access enhances the economy, quality of life, and public well-being of Ventura and surrounding communities. The organization owns and manages land along the Ventura River and in the Ventura hillsides, including the 2,123-acre Harmon Canyon Preserve, opened in June 2020.

Started in 2002 by Yvon Chouinard, founder of Patagonia, and Craig Mathews, founder of Blue Ribbon Flies, our business members and individual members have given hundreds of millions of dollars to our approved nonprofit partners to date. Today, 1% for the Planet's global network consists of thousands of businesses, individuals and environmental nonprofits working toward a better future for all.

#### Opera Santa Barbara

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though it's centuries old, reinventing it through new ornaments, new tempos, and new choices is part of the process."

All patrons must provide proof of vaccination against COVID-19 or negative test within the last 72 hours accompanied by picture ID. Patrons are required to wear a face covering while indoors. Detailed health protocols can be found on the Lobero Lobero website

Reserved tickets can be purchased online at [lobero.org](http://lobero.org), and are currently priced at \$149 and \$99. A limited number of You Decide! Tickets (pay-what-you-can) are also available by phone through the Lobero Box Office, at (805) 963.0761, thanks to a generous grant from the Holly and Walter Thompson Foundation, Bank of America, N.A. Co-trustee.



Hundreds of dedicated runners turned out for the Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot, at 7 a.m. in strong winds. The event took place at the Ventura Auto Center. Photo by Jill Forman.

### Women's Economic Ventures selected for \$105,000 award

Women's Economic Ventures (WEV) will receive \$105,000 in funding to aid small businesses that have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The grant, awarded by Wells Fargo's Open for Business Fund and NALCAB – the National Association for Latino Community Asset Builders will help increase access to capital for small businesses in low- and moderate-income communities (LMIs), especially those owned by women and minorities in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties.

WEV was selected as one of 15 nonprofit lenders across the country that have a track record of providing small business lending and development services to low-wealth populations that have traditionally had difficulty accessing capital.

"WEV is grateful to have been chosen for this award and we are ready to deploy the funding to assist small businesses in low-moderate income communities in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. Small business entrepreneurs in LMIs need the improved access to capital Wells Fargo and NALCAB have made available and WEV is prepared to help them access it. Within the last two years, WEV has doubled our number of bilingual staff, increased online training programs, expanded access to business training programs, and provided innovative entrepreneurial funding," said WEV CEO Kathy Odell.

"We look forward to seeing what the grantees will achieve with these funds."

NALCAB, a certified Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI), is the hub of a national network of more than 140 member organizations that are anchor institutions in geographically and ethnically diverse Latino communities in 40 states, Washington, DC and Puerto Rico. NALCAB's mission is to strengthen the economy by advancing economic mobility in Latino communities. Approximately 70% or more of those served by the NALCAB Network are Latino, 20% are Black and more than 40% are immigrants.

The Open for Business Fund was created in July 2020 to provide capital and expertise for businesses hardest hit by the pandemic. Wells Fargo is donating roughly \$420 million in gross processing fees from participating in the first round of PPP and has already helped a projected 148,000 small businesses keep an estimated 253,000 jobs nationwide (through September 30, 2021). The Open for Business Fund will continue to award grants to nonprofits serving small businesses through the end of 2021. ###

Women's Economic Ventures is dedicated to creating an equitable and just society through the economic empowerment of women. WEV is a business resource network for anyone looking to start a business, grow a local business, or improve their business skills. WEV provides small business training, advisory services, financial literacy programs and small business loans in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. While WEV's focus is on women, it welcomes people of all gender identities into the WEV community. Business courses, programs and loans are provided in both English and Spanish.

Happy Holidays

#### Trash, Recyclables and Green Waste Pick Up Information for the Christmas & New Year's Holidays

With Christmas and New Year's Day falling on Saturday this holiday season, in the weeks before and after the holidays, trash, recyclables and green waste collection by E.J. Harrison & Sons will not be delayed.

Residents may put out twice the amount of trash at no extra charge during the two weeks following Christmas – Monday, Dec. 27 through Saturday, Jan. 8. Please make sure the trash is in bags. Extra recyclables will also be collected, but please make sure to flatten all boxes.

Remember to recycle your Christmas tree by removing the ornaments, hooks, lights, tinsel, bows, nails and tree stand. Cut the tree into sections no more than 4 feet long and place in the yard waste cart on your scheduled pickup day. Flocked trees can be recycled too!

Thank you and Happy Holidays

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