



Barbara Brown and Doug Halter pose in front of the newly erected sign. Photo by Richard Lieberman

A new sign was erected at the entrance to the Skyline Community

by Richard Lieberman

Barbara Brown, a neighbor in the Skyline community and Chair of the College Area Community Council led the effort to replace a sign at the entrance of the Skyline community. A prior attempt started in 2020 but was unable to complete the replacement of the sign. Renewing the project and involving the non-profit College Area Community College group was key in being able to bring the project to completion. “We got all the neighbors to pitch in and help fund raise for it and then all the neighbors pitched in to paint,” said Brown. In choosing the design and the font for the sign they kept in mind the age of the development. They also had security in mind when they chose the letters to be one single piece rather than single separate letters.

The community is located just off Foothill, near Arroyo Verde Park. Attending the event were attendees that included Ventura’s District two Councilmember Doug Halter, College Area

Continued on page 8

Youth Activity League packs punch for locals

by Tracy Marcynszyn

Every weeknight from 5-7 p.m., a committed group of local youth gathers at Westpark Community Center in Ventura to work out and learn to box with Sal Flores, a Ventura businessperson and lifelong resident who works with the city Parks & Recreation Department to mentor at-risk kids, ages 6-18.

“It’s a really nice place to distract yourself instead of being at home; it’s good for you!” says participant Breana Hernandez, 13.

Many of the youth, like ninth grader Rafael Juarez, who started in third grade, look forward to boxing year after year.

“It gives me an outlet and helps me work out,” says Juarez. “It’s helped me build a lot of stamina and make friends; everybody has been like a family.”

Continued on page 7



“I love doing it; I really do,” says Flores.

Olivas Adobe Historical Interpreters held their annual celebration



DA Erik Nasarenko installed the new officers.

On January 20, the Olivas Adobe Historical Interpreters held their annual celebration and installation of officers dinner at the Ventura Marina Park Clubhouse. Appetizers, drinks and dinner prepared by the docents was served.

Prior to the installation A Steal That Gift Game and an auction for fine art and gift bags was held. The hundreds attending heard County District Attorney Erik Nasarenko install the new officers. They are Bob Sandler President, Mary Thompson Vice President, Marsha Brumana Secretary and Glenda Jackson Treasurer.

“It was an honor to swear in the newly elected Olivas Adobe board members,” said Erik Nasarenko. “The Olivas Adobe is a cultural and civic touchstone, which connects people from all over the world

Continued on page 7

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City News

Openings on City of Ventura boards, commissions, committees

The City is seeking applicants for its Housing Authority Board, Downtown Parking Advisory Committee, and Water Commission. These positions provide the City Council with recommendations on related projects and programs. Applications are due by Friday, February 2, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. Applications for the Housing Authority Board are due by Friday, February 9, 2024, at 5:00 p.m.

“Civic engagement is the foundation of local government,” said Mayor Joe Schroeder. “When individuals contribute their time and energy to address common issues and pursue common goals, they strengthen the fabric of our community.”

Vacancies occur either by the expiration of a term or resignations during the year. Per San Buenaventura Ordinance 2019-003, no citizen may serve on more than one committee, commission, or board. Dual appointments are not permitted.

There are two openings on the Housing Authority Board. This seven-member board of commissioners meets the second Wednesday of each month at 3:00 p.m. to review the Tenant applicants and assess both their status and if they are in good financial standing. These openings are for residents.

There is one opening on the

Downtown Parking Advisory Committee. This seven-member advisory committee meets on the third Thursday of the month at 3:00 p.m. to advise on parking management strategies and programs in the Downtown Parking District area. This opening is specifically for a Downtown District commercial property owner.

There is one opening on the Water Commission. This seven-member commission meets on the fourth Monday of the month at 5:30 p.m. to review and make advisory recommendations regarding water rates, water resources infrastructure projects in the five-year capital improvement program, water supply options, and other water resource issues. This opening is in the ‘professional’ category.

To learn more and apply, visit www.cityofventura.ca.gov/Recruitments. For questions, contact the City Clerk’s Office at (805) 658-4787 or by email at cityclerk@cityofventura.ca.gov.

City of Ventura takes swift action in response to severe high surf events

Responding proactively to recent severe high surf events, the City of Ventura has officially declared a local



state of emergency. This move allows the City to expedite disaster response and seek emergency funding from the state to aid recovery. The City Council ratified the local state of emergency on January 9, 2024, and it will remain in effect for the next 60 days.

“With recent damages to our iconic and historic pier, Ventura faced repair needs and additional cleanup costs caused by recent high tide events,” noted Ventura Mayor Joe Schroeder. “The declaration of a local state of emergency enables us to seek essential emergency funding, expedite recovery endeavors to swiftly address damage, hasten repairs, and ensure the prompt restoration of our City’s infrastructure.”

The winter storm began on December 28, 2023, and produced large breaking waves with life-threatening rip currents and significant coastal flooding. City staff swiftly responded to reports of flooding, roadway debris, retaining wall damage from high surf, and other hazardous conditions in public areas. Beach protective measures were implemented to mitigate tidal impacts. During the high surf event, the Ventura Fire Department had 38 Ocean Rescue unit responses and 10 Ocean Rescue calls.

Addressing potential hazards on public property and within the public right-of-way, the Ventura Pier, previously impacted during the January 2023 winter storm events, underwent

Continued on page 8

As I See It by Sheldon Brown

Who would ever think that electric vehicles could result in bumpy roads? It seems the money lost from gas taxes were used for road improvements. Billions of dollars are being lost from reduced gas taxes, so the more electric vehicles we have the worse roads will get. Maybe we need to ban electric vehicles.

Thousands of feet of pipeline have been installed to connect Marina Park with the Ventura Harbor as part of the ocean outfall project for VenturaWaterPure, a planned water treatment facility. The treatment plant is projected to provide up to 20% of the city’s water supply when fully operational and is millions of dollars over budget. See article in this issue.

Ventura’s Stout Burgers & Beers located downtown has closed after operating for less than a year. The rear of the business was a shared space with retail store Iron and Resin and Humblemaker Coffee Co. So, this means 3 more downtown businesses are now gone. Might this be because of Main St. being closed to vehicles? Some merchants think so.

Another icon is gone. This won’t mean much to young readers, but Pea Soup Andersen’s in Buellton shut down as of Jan. 1. Going there was a must when I was growing up.

Another comment on TV advertising. An ad for a restaurant said their breakfast special is now \$5.99 (unless it’s \$7.99 at your location).

I think that aliens might be coming here to watch football games, which are probably banned in more advanced cultures. We should watch to see if there are more UFO sightings during football season. Commercial airline pilots would

be able to report the UFO sightings to the federal government under a recent House bill after House leaders heard testimony from military officers who described reports of mysterious objects outmaneuvering military jets.

The council has approved changes to rules for aggressive panhandling and oversized vehicle parking. The council unanimously approved modifications that change the definition of aggressive solicitation.

Aggressive solicitation is now defined as following pedestrians, using abusive language, making unwanted physical contact, intentionally blocking pedestrians or traffic and causing fear or bodily harm to get money or goods.

People who violate the revised ordinance will initially be given a warning. After the warning, a violator will be fined \$132. The fine doubles for a subsequent violation. Oh, sure, panhandlers with no money are going to be fined. And when they don’t pay, what do we do to them? What a brilliant idea.

The city is especially concerned about aggressive panhandling in high-traffic areas such as roadways, center medians and outside businesses. This is a problem but what is the solution?

City officials did acknowledge that many panhandlers are homeless and there are social services and assistance programs available to them. Nonsense. Adequate services for the homeless (especially the mentally ill) do not exist at the levels needed.

Council members voted 4-3 to cut back hours for oversize vehicle parking on city streets. The revision also added more days when such parking is prohibit-

ed. The updated rules apply to vehicles at least 25 feet long, 80” wide and 82” high. Police officers will now need to carry tape measures along with guns and handcuffs.

Some 20 million people have signed up for health insurance this year through the Affordable Care Act (Obamacare) marketplaces, a record-breaking figure. President Joe Biden will likely proclaim those results regularly on the campaign trail for months to come as former President Donald Trump, the Republican front-runner, vows to dismantle the Obama-era program.

Signs-ups spiked after Biden took office, with Democrats rolling out a series of tax breaks that give millions of Americans access to low-cost plans, some with zero-dollar premiums.

What is interesting about our politics is that Republicans don’t like Obamacare, but if it was called Trumpocare they would love it. Sometimes our political system doesn’t work to make America better.

Mailbox

Sheldon,

In your latest issue you write, “We now have an official state bat - the Pallid bat - and an official state mushroom - the Golden Chanterelle”.

Good for the Mushroom. Ventura

Continued on page 8

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

When a man steals your wife, there is no better revenge than to let him keep her.

– David Bissonette



VenturaWaterPure is now running pipes into the ocean. Photos by Steve Mimiaga Project Manager.

VenturaWaterPure is paving the way for a sustainable future

by Gina Dorrington
Ventura Water General Manager

The City of Ventura is developing a sustainable, drought-proof water supply with VenturaWaterPure. This program includes designing and constructing new water infrastructure and upgrading existing wastewater facilities. Last month, U.S. Congressman Salud Carbajal and Secretary of the Interior Deb Haaland visited Ventura Water’s facilities to celebrate progress on VenturaWaterPure, at the ocean outfall construction site, which is a vital component of the City’s planned purified recycled water program.

VenturaWaterPure will recover, treat, and reuse water currently discharged into the Santa Clara River Estuary, creating a new, local water supply that doesn’t depend on rainfall. Once fully operational, VenturaWaterPure will provide up to 20 percent of the City’s water.

Water is a highly precious resource that we cannot afford to waste. Programs that recycle and reuse water, such as VenturaWaterPure, are becoming the trusted solution to protect against drought and water shortages.

Communities such as San Diego, Orange County, and Monterey are advance-treating recycled water for drinking water purposes. Neighboring communities such as Carpinteria, Calabasas, and Pismo Beach are in the

process of designing and developing their reuse programs. We expect to see more programs in the future, as the State Water Board recently published new regulations to expand the scope of water reuse projects throughout California.

While it provides long-term water supply benefits, VenturaWaterPure was developed in response to a 2012 legal settlement with the Chumash, Wishtoyo Foundation and its Ventura Coastkeeper Program, and Heal the Bay. The settlement requires the City to divert a portion of its treated water away from the Santa Clara River Estuary by 2025 and find a beneficial reuse for this diverted recycled water.

Over the past decade, Ventura Water explored several project alternatives to overcome its water and wastewater challenges, including expanding its recycled water irrigation system (purple pipe), sending water to the City of Oxnard’s Purification Facility, building a pipeline to United Water’s Spreading Grounds for groundwater recharge, and developing an Ocean Desalination Plant to supplement the City’s water supply.

VenturaWaterPure emerges as the sole financially viable solution in navigating Ventura’s evolving water landscape, aligning with our legal obligations and effectively tackling

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the city’s long-term water supply challenges. Our dedicated team is diligently exploring avenues to mitigate the impact of costs, seeking potential savings in program design, and pursuing state and federal assistance.

VenturaWaterPure has already secured \$18 million in grant funding and an additional \$173 million in low-interest financing through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA). Staff has applied for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation’s Large Scale Water Recycling Program, which could potentially result in an additional \$83 million for the program.

As stewards of public funds and the future sustainability of water resources, the City and Ventura Water are resolute in our commitment to manage program costs responsibly.

We are dedicated to providing our residents with consistently safe, sustainable, and high-quality water and wastewater services. Through collaborative efforts, we seek to balance financial prudence and our obligation to ensure Ventura’s flourishing water future.

Join us at an upcoming City Council or Water Commission meeting to learn more about the proposed next steps for VenturaWaterPure. Ventura’s City Council meetings occur on Tuesday nights at 5:00 p.m., and Water Commission meetings occur monthly every 4th Monday at 5:30 p.m. For meeting details, agendas, and dates, please visit the City of Ventura’s website at Cityofventura.ca.gov.

For additional information regarding the VenturaWaterPure Program, visit VenturaWaterPure.net.

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PORTSIDE VENTURA HARBOR *Events Calendar*

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FEB **03** **THE SWEETHEARTS POP-UP**
10AM - 4PM

FEB **03** **VITALANT BLOOD DRIVE**
10AM - 3PM

FEB **10** **SUNSET SOUNDS**
2PM - 5PM

FEB **16** **MOVIE UNDER THE STARS**
50 FIRST DATES
6PM FREE POPCORN & HOT COCOA!

FEB **17** **THE POP-UP MARKET**
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Business Profile



Congratulating the Success of New Ventures at Portside Ventura Harbor

The arrival of Crave Gelato Kofi Bar last year enchanted locals with delicious drinks, gelato, pastries, and focaccia bread. Harbor Mart also became a local favorite with their extensive wine collection, impressive deli, and diverse snacks from around the world.

Upcoming Community Events:

As we step into the new year, Portside Ventura Harbor embraces a vibrant lineup of community events. Live jazz music every Sunday at Crave sets the tone for a relaxing

and enjoyable atmosphere. The community can anticipate monthly highlights, including Movie Night Under the Stars every third Friday and the Pop-Up Market every first and third Saturday. These events bring the Ventura community together, fostering memorable experiences for both residents and visitors.

Join us Sundays for Live Jazz at Crave and The Pop-Up's Sweetheart Market on February 3rd at 10 am in the Portside Plaza!



Dance social at Portside to support Ventura Downtown Lions Club

“When there’s a need, there’s a Lion,” echoing the spirit of the Lions Club where individuals unite for a shared

passion in community service, guided by the mantra “We Serve.” So, when a group of friends in the close-knit Portside community set out to plan a simple dance social for a night of fun, their vision expanded into a larger community gathering for a noble cause – supporting the Ventura Downtown Lions Club’s Admin Account.

The goal: turning a night of enjoyment into a meaningful service for the community. Remarkably, several small businesses like Ambitious Beauty Studio, Art Is Passion, Harbor Mart, CRAVE Gelato Kofi Bar, Mystic Relics, FOCUS Sup & Boards, Vasquez Float Reiki, Portside Ventura Harbor, Portside Ventura Electric Boat Rental, Neuroboxing, Portside Yoga, Portside Ventura Harbor Marina, Top This Chocolate, KO Tacos, TapTruck 805, and many more have come together, pooling silent auction items and services to contribute to this admirable cause. The event is Friday, Feb 2nd starting at 5:30 PM in the Portside Clubhouse and is open to the public. \$15 entry fee. Tacos and alcohol available for purchase. Free dance lessons will be provided as well.

On Vacation – Yucatán



John and Bebe Johnston enjoying the Breeze at the Barcelona Riviera Maya resort on the Yucatán peninsula.



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Join the Creative Community at CAPS

Happy New Year from CAPS. We are looking forward to another entertaining, educational, and productive year serving the Ventura community. We encourage everyone in Ventura to join us and take advantage of the limitless creative opportunities and resources available at the CAPS Media Center.

To see and experience what CAPS has to offer we invite Venturans to drop by the CAPS Media Center for member orientation and demonstration sessions during the first week of every month. All of the meetings are held at 6pm at the CAPS Media Center at 65 Day Road.

General Orientation sessions on the first Monday of the month and directed by Donald McConnell, operations manager, Studio/Soundstage Tours are on the first Tuesday directed by Phil Taggart, producer/trainer, Editing and Videography Orientations are on the first Wednesday, directed by Gary Roll or Alex Uvari, and CAPS Radio Orientations are on the second Thursday directed by Elizabeth Rodeno, Radio/Program director.

The informative sessions give guests the opportunity to meet the knowledgeable CAPS staff members, learn what CAPS has to offer and understand the requirements and resources of a CAPS membership. Following orientation sessions individuals are invited to become CAPS Members.

Anyone who lives, works, or attends

school within the City of Ventura is invited to become CAPS Members. Nonprofit organizations located in Ventura County are also eligible to be members. Annual membership fees are \$40 per year for individuals and \$100 per year for nonprofit organizations and may designate up to four persons to be active members at CAPS.

CAPS Members receive free training in all aspects of media production including camera and video production, studio and radio production, postproduction editing, story development, scripting, and storytelling. All CAPS programming, including Member Productions, must be commercial free.

CAPS Radio Members are distinct from CAPS Media memberships. Radio membership requires a separate membership fee of \$50 per year. Radio Members receive training to produce programming in multiple formats including music, talk, reviews, event coverage and more. CAPS Radio broadcasts in Ventura on 104.1fm, online at capsmedia.org and on myTunerRadio.

CAPS Members are encouraged to schedule one-on-one training sessions with skilled CAPS staff members in all aspects of media production. The timing of the training is set up directly by the Member with the CAPS Staff trainer.

CAPS, Community Access Partners of San Buenaventura, is an independent non-profit organization, not a division

of the City of Ventura. The CAPS Mission is to create an engaged and informed community through participation in electronic media.

The CAPS staff manages the CAPS Media Center and programs cable television channels 6 (Public) and 15 (Education and Government), and CAPS Radio KPPQ. CAPS is governed by a Board of Directors comprised of community members and representatives from the City, County, VUSD and Ventura College.

The CAPS Media Center is Open Tuesday – Thursday, 12p– 8pm. CAPS encourages everyone to drop by and check us out or join one of the orientation sessions during the first week of each month.

The CAPS Media Center and staff provide unlimited resources and expertise for everyone in Ventura. Drop by, see what CAPS has to offer you, and consider joining the CAPS Creative Community.

County Ventura St. Patrick's Day Parade slated for March 16

Entries for the Ventura Elks Lodge's annual County Ventura St. Patrick's Day Parade are now being accepted. The parade will commence at 10 a.m. on Saturday, March 16, along Main Street in midtown Ventura.

This year's theme, "Shamrocks & Shenanigans," gives parade participants an invitation to embrace their inner leprechaun with

whimsy and mischief in the creation of their parade entries.

Among the county's most popular annual community events, the St. Patrick's Day parade has been a tremendous success since it returned two years ago after two years off, to a route filled with happy, green-garbed families having a wonderful time. This year, the parade will run the same midtown route it has the past two years, downhill along Main, from Lincoln Drive to Fir Street. Beyond Fir and heading into downtown, the party continues after the parade, with dozens of restaurants and other attractions open to everyone along the auto-free downtown streets.

Entry to join in the parade is easy: Prospective entrants can simply go to the parade website and follow the basic steps to submit their forms and pay via PayPal. Entry deadline is Thursday, March 7; the first 100 entries will be accepted.

Our grand marshal this year is the wonderful Elena Brokaw. Executive director of the Museum of Ventura County, Elena is a perennial Ventura County civic leader who before heading up the museum worked with the city of Ventura for 13 years, including as director of Parks, Recreation and Community Partnerships. She's led the museum since 2016. In 2019, she was named Citizen of the Year, earning the top honor bestowed by the Ventura Chamber of Commerce in its annual prestigious Poinsettia Awards.

For more information on the parade and to enter, visit venturastpatricksdaysday-parade.com.

If you have any entry questions, call parade coordinator Brian Brennan at 805-746-5955 or committee member Aaron Gaston at 805-340-8217. For other parade info, call Jim Monahan at 805-340-1356.

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“Atoms for Peace” reflects the dream that atomic power would solve all of our energy problems.

Landmarks of Midtown Ventura

by Richard Senate

The city of Ventura is really three cities, The largest section is called midtown. Most of our history is found in the West End, or Old Town, but Mid-town has a great many overlooked historic sites well worth a visit. Midtown incorporates The Ventura harbor, Seaward enclave, the Pacific View mall, Ventura College and had a great many colorful sites and history. These are a few historic places worth taking the time to visit.

Ventura High School Auditorium, on Main Street. Built in 1939 in a depression style, Art Deco. It seats 1500 and was the largest auditorium in Ventura County. In World War Two, it was used for war bond drives. Once singer Nelson Eddy performed here with Russian Cossack dancers from the USSR. Before the massive hall is the statue “Atoms for Peace” that reflects the dream of the 1950s that atomic power would solve all of our energy problems.

Pierpont Inn on Sanjon. This classic Inn and Restaurant was built in 1910 and managed by. Mrs.J.E, Pierpont. It quickly became known as the place to go for everyone who was anyone, from writer/ lawyer Erle Stanley Gardner to Hollywood

director Cecil B. DeMille. The Craftsman style building started with 24 rooms, but each room had its own bath. Gardner met his second wife here where she was working as a hostess for the restaurant.

Olivas Adobe Historic Park, Olivas Park Drive. This 1841 adobe hacienda was built by Raymundo Olivas for his extensive cattle ranch. The house is large and needed to be because he and his wife had twenty-one children. He was known for his hospitality and lavish parties. The two story home became the social center of the whole Santa Clara River valley. Purchased by Yeast King, Max Fleischmann in 1928 he restored the house and, upon his death, he gifted it to the city of Ventura for a museum. It was opened as a historic house museum in 1972.

Ventura Harbor Tile murals and Fisherman’s Monument. The decorative archway is dedicated to all the fishermen lost at sea off Ventura County.

Ivy Lawn Cemetery. Many of the movers and shakers of Ventura history rest here. from Senator Thomas R. Bard (our only US Senator from Ventura County) to movie stars and baseball heroes. Tombs, headstones and art, show the history of Ventura.

The Sears Building, Main Street, Art Deco style. It also served as a bomb shelter in the cold war. One of the few buildings in town with a basement.

The Side Car --and old railroad car transformed into a dinner. Once a wild honk tonk in prohibition days when it was outside city limits. It was once a dinner car on a circus train.

The Dudley House on Ashwood. Built by farmer Benjamin Dudley in 1892 Three generation of Dudley family lived here. Now a museum open first Sunday each month for tours. With original furnishings, depicts life in the late 19th and early 20th Century.

Bus-House Sculpture on Telegraph, Pacific View mall. The transportation center has this unique bit of modern art that depicts a house turning into a bus.



Olivas Adobe Historical Interpreters Continued from page 1

to California’s only remaining Monterey style adobe from the Rancho era. The board members will serve as historic interpreters for the Olivas Adobe, ensuring that the past is protected and the site’s many special events are accompanied by these wonderful docents. Congratulations,

and thank you for volunteering your time, talent and passion to the Adobe and the public it serves!”

Vice President Mary Thompson thanked Erik “A big thank you to Erik Nasarenko for officially swearing us in. We are looking forward to serving our community in 2024. Our agenda is jam packed with family fun events to keep the history of the Olivas Adobe alive.”



Youth Activity League Continued from page 1

Building relationships and connecting with the kids, as well as teaching them boxing skills and promoting physical fitness, drives Flores to dedicate his time to mentoring youth.

“I love doing it; I really do,” says Flores, now in his 12th year as a youth mentor. “I was one of these kids. I live by the code ‘kids don’t know how much you know until they know how much you care.’” Flores recalls spending time as a kid in the same community center where he now teaches.

As a troubled teenager with a rough family life, Flores struggled in his younger years, getting arrested and landing in jail before turning his life around with the help and encouragement of a local mentor in the police force.

“Use the bad experiences for good,” Flores advises. “I used to break into cars, now I own a locksmith company; I used to destroy things, and now I own Ideal Upholstery, where I fix and make things nice again,” says Flores, who founded a local Youth Activity League (YAL; formerly structured as a Police Activity League with the Ventura Police Foun-



dation) to support, mentor and inspire at-risk youth.

Working with local school districts, Flores visits schools twice a week, every other Monday during lunch, to encourage and connect with kids through the Youth Activity League. Bringing lunch (Subway sandwiches this week) and guest speakers, such as probation officer Mark Varela and former WBC Welterweight boxer Victor Ortiz, Flores aims to inspire youth.

“We really try to guide these kids; we bring them lunch, talk about what matters,” says Flores. “We try to show we really care for them and that we’ve been in their shoes. We were stuck and thought we couldn’t be successful. Whatever these kids need, we guide them to resources. We want to teach the value of life lessons.”

Guest speaker Ortiz recently shared his story to encourage teens to overcome challenges. Referring to a broken jaw that impacted his boxing career as a “blessing in disguise,” Ortiz noted that “often adversity brings us blessings or change.”

“I came from a messed-up background,” shared Ortiz, who also participated in a PAL as a kid in Kansas. “I was

just hanging on ... then as a successful boxer, I learned money wasn’t where it was at. Hollywood wasn’t either. It’s what brings joy that counts. Now I have two boys—they’re what matters. I want to give the youth hope.”

“It’s the experience you give to others. When you have a story kids can relate to, and they see we’re so passionate about sharing our story, it matters,” says Flores, who also serves as a pastor at Redemption Church in Ojai.

Building trust and showing youth that people care can divert kids from turning to gangs when seeking to connect and belong, says Flores.

“They are a part of something,” he explains, pointing out several kids who show up to work out in the boxing program each night, year after year, on their own accord. “Some kids have been here for 5 years,” notes Flores.

Aldahir Benitez began boxing with Flores at Westpark at age 16 to “meet new friends and be with my cousins.” Today, Benitez is employed with the city Parks and Recreation afterschool program and volunteers in the boxing class after his shift.

“I like boxing and interacting with the kids,” says Benitez, noting that “Sal is a great person; he helps everyone that he can, whenever he can.”

Flores beamed watching the young boxers eagerly unwrap and try out a shipment of new boxing gloves recently donated by the city, noting the YAL is currently seeking donations for t-shirts.

“We want all of them to walk with pride,” says Flores. “They show up, committed; most of them have a tough family life.”

With some 58 kids participating in the weeknight boxing program and another 50 teens in the school lunch

YAL, Flores is making an impact.

“It’s something we love to do,” says Flores, noting the YAL’s goal is to obtain a dedicated facility to expand programming and reach more kids. “We want to inspire youth.”

For more information, including how to donate to the Youth Activity League, contact Sal Flores at 805.651.8647.

High school reunions planned

Two major events for the 50th Class Reunion of the Ventura High School Class of 1974 are planned for Saturday, July 20, and Sunday, July 21.

The Class With Class will gather, reminisce, laugh, remember and celebrate. A traditional reunion dinner will include tributes to the classmates who have passed away, music, dinner, dancing, drinks, videos and other special moments. The reunion is planned from 5-9 pm Saturday, July 20, at the historic Ventura City Hall on the hill overlooking beautiful Downtown Ventura.

An all-inclusive Combined Reunion with the VHS Classes of 1973 and 1975 and the St. Bonaventure and Buena Classes of 1973, 1974 and 1975 is scheduled starting at 2 pm Sunday, July 21. Great music from the mid-1970s will play from 3-7 pm at the iconic Tony’s Pizzeria near the Fairgrounds. Guests may purchase food and drinks.

Classmates are encouraged to set the dates, watch Facebook page Ventura High School Class of 1974 for updates and spread the word with other classmates.

Questions may be directed to Pat McKean on Facebook Messenger.



The Ventura County Long Term Care Ombudsman Program is seeking a few good people who want to make a difference in the lives of the elderly in long term care facilities, 60% of whom in nursing homes have no family or friends who ever visit. You can contribute significantly to their lives and to yours.

If you'd like to be that voice for an older or dependent adult, we'd love to hear from you.

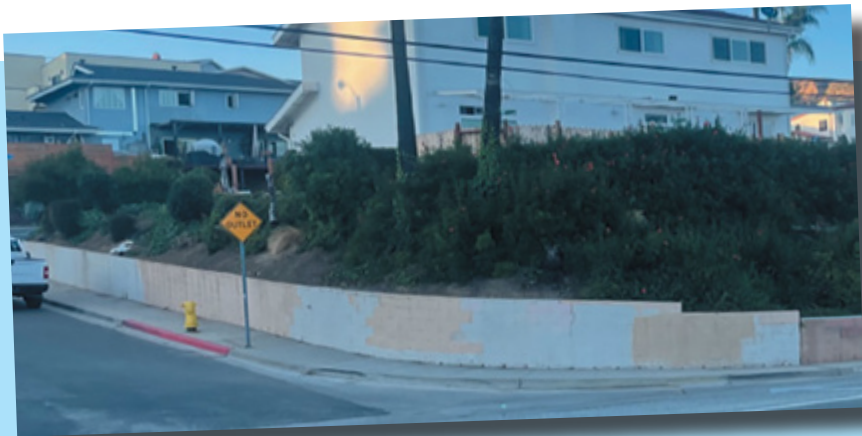
Please call **805-656-1986**

for more information...or visit our website at

www.Ombudsmanventura.org

to fill out an application.

Our upcoming training is scheduled for February 2024 and we're accepting applications now. Space is limited.



The wall at the entrance of the Skyline Community before the painting.



Barbara Brown, Doug Halter and a crowd of volunteers and neighbors gather for the completion of a new sign. Photos by Richard Lieberman.

**New sign to the Skline Community
Continued from page 1**

Community Council (CACC) and the neighbors of Skyline.

The original sign was removed around 1990 and never replaced. The removal left the entrance bare and over the years the city's maintenance crews covering up graffiti painted over the entrance with varying shades of beige. Neighbors and the local community

funded the grassroots project. "Lots of volunteers helped paint the wall, and the project took about four months to complete," added Brown.

Doug Halter councilmember commented "I think this sign is important because it defines the neighborhood," he said. "So just seeing this makes it feel like the neighborhood is coming back together again," he added.

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Business Profile



CRAVE introduces “ROAST & AROMA”

The development of Gelato Kofi Bar’s captivating design unfolded serendipitously, marked by meaningful encounters with skilled artisans that blossomed into cherished friendships and mentorships. This unique connection shaped the foundation of CRAVE’s distinct approach. They celebrated the New Year

with a Ribbon Cutting on January 12th, bringing the community together and kicking off an exciting, SWEET 2024!

CRAVE’s mission goes beyond being just an establishment; it aims to strengthen community bonds. CRAVE introduces “ROAST & AROMA” tasting social experiences, the tastings that delve into the origins of the beans, the farmers, and the cultivation process. It’s an invitation to discover a whole new coffee experience, crafted with purpose and passion.

Enriching the community further, CRAVE will be launching quarterly Art Talk and social events, showcasing local painters, photographers, and like-minded artisans. The first gallery and Art Talk event, featuring the talents of Mouserawk, was on January 21st from 4-6 pm with nostalgic Vinyl-Cover music. Patrons can also join CRAVE every Sunday afternoon for live jazz sessions from 12-3 pm. Amidst harmonious tunes, one can stroll along Portside Ventura Harbor, enjoying the beautiful promenade while taking in spectacular Ventura sunsets.

CRAVE’s new 2024 logo captures the essence of its coastal location, alongside with a series of upcoming offerings. These include handcrafted gelato pints to take home, crafted cold-brews in refillable growlers, and an array of merchandise such as stickers, aprons, and t-shirts.

Stay tuned for additional information as CRAVE continues to unfold its commitment to community, sustainability, and a rich, immersive coffee culture. For more information, follow CRAVE on Instagram @gelatokofibar. Mention the BREEZE for \$1 off \$10 Purchases Monday and Thursday.



The Ventura Chamber held a ribbon cutting at CRAVE.

Swift action to severe high surf
Continued from page 2

emergency stabilization measures. The recent high tides resulted in additional damage, extending the pier’s closure for several months.

Recent damage includes nineteen missing or damaged piles and estimated costs exceeding \$1.75 million, further postponing the reopening for several months. The ongoing emergency repair endeavors focus on rectifying dislodged piles, damaged bracing, and brackets.

“Ventura City staff, in collaboration with the County of Ventura and numerous local and state agencies, worked cohesively to swiftly respond to emergency calls for help, clear debris, reopen public areas, and implement mitigation efforts along the coastline,” stated City Manager Bill Ayub. “We express our gratitude for their effective coordination, which played a crucial role in addressing challenges posed by coastal flooding and significant high surf.”

For real-time updates and informa-

tion on emergency efforts, residents can visit the dedicated webpage at www.city-ofventura.ca.gov/EmergencyAlerts.

For critical emergencies, please call 911. Stay informed of critical incident updates in your area by registering for VC Alert, Ventura County’s Emergency Notification System, at www.VCAAlert.org.

Mailbox
Continued from page 2

used to have a Mushroom Farm next door to Olivas Adobe. Maybe it is time for the City of Ventura to designate the Mushroom Farm a Historical Landmark. Michael Gordon

Michael:
Only if we also have a Ventura bat.

Sheldon

We applaud your position on Hamas. Many writers forget there was a cease fire in place on October 6th. The attack of October 7th breached that peace. Robert Myman



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"JOHN RUBINSTEIN IS 'THEATRE'S PREZ-IDING MAN,'" - NEW YORK POST





Beach volleyball at Portside Ventura Harbor courts top row Greg, Holly, Chi, Eli, Josh, Kelly, Jason. Bottom row Jeanine, Kristen, Ashley, Andrew. And the dog is Drake!

Spiking to success in the sand

by Patricia Schallert

Volleyball is an exciting sport that is enjoyed by people of all ages. It requires teamwork, coordination, and skill. The object of the game is to hit the ball over the net and into the opponent's court without letting it touch the ground. With its fast-paced action and strategic plays, volleyball offers a thrilling experience for both players and spectators alike.

Beach volleyball and court volleyball are two popular variations of the same sport, each possessing unique characteristics.

While beach volleyball and court volleyball share similar rules and objectives, their differences in playing surface, number of players per team, strategy/tactics employed, scoring systems used, and equipment requirements make each version distinct. Both types offer their unique challenges and require specific skill sets from athletes who participate. Whether it's the thrill of jumping high for a spike on the court or diving into sand to save a ball during beach play - both forms provide an exciting experience for those passionate about this globally beloved sport.

Starting in February, 2023, a small private group of friends have been playing beach volleyball regularly. Prior to that, several of members of the team played at East Beach in Santa Barbara, while others had played pickup at the San Pedro courts in Ventura. When one team member moved to Portside Harbor Ventura, a small contingent started playing at the Portside courts and it has since grown! Kristen Brown, one of the



members of the team, said "they typically like to play 3 vs 3, but with the limited (2) courts at Portside lately, they've been having full courts of 6 vs 6 or 5 vs 5, which isn't ideal, but they make it work." There are no 'sign ups' per se as they are a privately organized group of friends who have a private messaging platform that they use.

Kristen further related, that the players range in age from 20's to 60's, but average age is mid-thirties. "They enjoy each other's company and though food is not part of the game, sometimes they will have a BBQ or a potluck usually to celebrate a birthday of some event within their group."

The team is mostly beginner to intermediate players, all improving their skills together! Some members have been playing

volleyball since high school, others are just learning. "We're out there to have fun and get better together!"

For this team, sides are picked informally. They are all close friends. If one team looks a little stacked, they might do some rearranging, but for the most part they just divide up naturally.

The courts are located at the very end of Navigator Dr.

The Bookmark About Libraries and Friends

by Mary Olson

Ventura County Library has initiated a new phone system. To reach any branch, dial 805 626-READ. The friendly person who answers the phone can assist you with many basic services, including helping you renew a book or place a book on hold, updating your library account, providing operating locations and hours, and more. And, if they can't help you directly, they will get you to someone who can in a timely manner.

Local author Joseph M. Puglia will visit the Ojai Library at 2 pm on Saturday, January 27, to talk about his books *Girl with the Purple Ribbon*, *Always Return*, *Redemption*, and *Campfires with Dr. Joe*. His talk will focus on the evolution of the novel as it relates to characterization, themes, scenes, and plots. Puglia will reference the classics as his characters explore the proverbial question: "What makes life

Continued on page 21



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Senior Living



Doris celebrating 100 years with daughter Doreen and the Pierpont Racquet Club gang.

100 Years and Going Strong - Doris Cowart

Doris and John Cowart came to Ventura in 1951. John taught at Ventura high school for 33 years and Doris was an RN for the same doctor for 30 years. Doris is a lifelong exercise lover. She walked to work her entire career. Since she only worked part time, there were many hours devoted to fun activities.


In 1977 Doris and John joined the Pierpont Racquet Club and she was one of the regulars swimming at the Club. She believed you shouldn't drive to exercise so she would walk to the PRC from Sunset Street above Ventura high school to swim her mile, and then she would walk back up the hills to home. She also loved to ride her bike. She had many bikes over the years

because she wore them out. She said she put more miles on her bike than her car. She loved to ride to Santa Barbara and back which is a 60 mile round trip and again she would ride back up the hills to Sunset Street.

She wanted to ride across America in 1976 for the bicentennial. The problem was she couldn't find anyone to go with her and at that time there were no organized group rides. Another interesting experience with Doris was her organizing the kids in the neighborhood along with her 2 daughters and hiking up to two trees carrying gallons of water, shovels to tend to the trees.

For the last five years, Doris has been going to the DeAnza pickle ball courts

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five days a week to watch her daughter play. She said it has given her a new lease on life. So many new friends and she really enjoys the laughter and giggling on the Courts. One of her secrets to longevity is to stay positive, laugh and have fun each and every day. She says every day is special.

Tips for everyday tasks for people living with dementia

People with dementia experience a range of symptoms related to changes in thinking, remembering, reasoning, and behavior. Living with dementia presents unique challenges, but there are steps you can take to help now and in the future.

Alzheimer's disease and related dementias get worse over time. Even simple everyday activities can become difficult to complete. To help cope with changes in memory and thinking, consider strategies that can make daily tasks easier. Try to adopt them early on so you will have more time to adjust. You can:


- Write down to-do lists, appointments, and events in a notebook or calendar.
- Set up automated bill payments and consider asking someone you trust to help manage your finances.
- Have your groceries delivered.
- Manage your medications with a weekly pillbox, a pillbox with reminders (like an alarm), or a medication

Continued on page 12



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Senior Living



Leslie and her students at the Regency Palms Senior Living getting a head-to-toe workout.

Motivation in Motion

by Leslie Sokol

Physical activity is a great way to boost your health and mood. As you age, staying active and healthy can help you maintain the ability to do the activities you have always enjoyed most. However, it can be difficult at times to find the energy or desire to follow through on your fitness goals. In order to make sure you stay on track, it's important to understand what motivation is and how you can use it to your advantage.

What is Motivation?

Motivation is a process that initiates, guides and maintains goal-oriented behaviors. In short, motivation causes you to act in a way that gets you closer to your goals, needs, desires, wants or drives. Motivation creates action -- the more you plan and the more you achieve, the more motivated you feel to continue driving that action forward. It also reflects something unique about each one of us and allows us to gain valued outcomes like improved performance, enhanced well-being, personal growth, and a sense of purpose. Motivation is a pathway to changing your way of

thinking, feeling and behaving.

There are two types of motivation: intrinsic and extrinsic. Intrinsic motivation comes from within you -- you choose to do an activity for its inherent satisfaction. When you are intrinsically motivated, the reward is the enjoyment of the task and the satisfaction of seeing it through. You might feel inspired because what you are doing aligns with your personal core values. Extrinsic motivation comes from external factors. It describes behavior driven by external rewards, such as money or social recognition. These two types of motivation aren't mutually exclusive. Motivation is typically a blend of internal and external factors that contribute to your desire to stay committed or interested in a position, goal or subject.

There are eight types of intrinsic and extrinsic motivation:

- 1) Attitude
- 2) Achievement
- 3) Incentive
- 4) Power
- 5) Fear

- 6) Expectancy
- 7) Affiliation
- 8) Competence

Several factors can contribute to your motivation levels and they can affect your productivity, dedication and commitment to work and success.

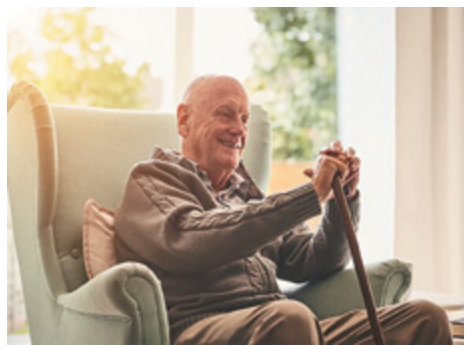
Motivation and Exercise

One area that almost all of us struggle with is staying motivated to exercise on a regular basis.

We know that consistency is the key to achieving the results we want but we find ourselves making excuses to skip workouts. It's crucial to be able to motivate yourself on days when you're not feeling excited about working out.

Once you do get motivated to exercise just know that you have to work at it consistently and stay focused on your goals. Be patient with yourself, results do not happen overnight! Remember to pat yourself on the back and give yourself lots of credit for staying motivated and consistent with your exercise plan. You can achieve anything you set your mind to, stay motivated, have fun, and keep moving!

Leslie Sokol is the creator and founder of the adult dance and fitness program For the Young at Heart. She has been teaching adults and children for forty-five years. You can watch For the Young at Heart by visiting her YouTube Channel or on TVSB. She also teaches in retirement communities throughout Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. For more information contact Leslie at Dancekidsfun@gmail.com 805-312-8089 or visit the website: www.LeslieSokolDance.com



Do you worry about how to manage if you live alone?

Have you recently been diagnosed with mild cognitive impairment?

by National Institute on Aging

Have you, or has someone you love, recently been diagnosed with mild cognitive impairment, early-stage Alzheimer's disease, vascular dementia, Lewy body dementia, or a frontotemporal disorder? Do you worry about how to manage if you live alone? If so, these tips offer ways to help cope with changes in memory and thinking, prepare for the future, and stay active and engaged.

Many people with early-stage dementia continue to manage their everyday activities. But it's important to look ahead to a time when performing daily tasks will be harder. The sooner you adopt new strategies to help you cope with changes, the more time you will have to adjust to them. Here are some tips:

Organizing your days. Write down to-do lists, appointments, and events in

a notebook or calendar. You can also keep track of activities with computer software or a smartphone app. Some people have an area in their home, such as an entryway table or bench, where they store important items or organize the things they need each day. You may also want to consider using a digital clock that displays the day of the week and date, in addition to the time.

Paying bills. Setting up automated payments is an easy way to pay your bills correctly and on time without having to write checks. Many companies and banks offer this service at no extra charge. You can set up automatic payments with your utility providers, insurance companies, bank, and mortgage company or leasing office. Also consider asking someone you trust to help you pay bills. That person could review your financial statements and ask you about anything unusual.

Shopping for meals. Many stores offer grocery delivery services, usually for a small fee. You can also order fresh or frozen meals online or by phone. Meals on Wheels America (888-998-6325) can deliver free or low-cost meals to your home, too, and this service sometimes includes a short visit and safety check. Other possible sources of meals include religious communities and senior centers. If you make your own meals at home, consider easy-to-prepare items, such as foods that you can heat in the microwave.

Taking medications. Several products can help you manage medications. You can try a weekly pillbox, a pillbox that gives you a notification (such as an alarm or vibration) when it's time to take medicine, or an automatic medication dispenser. You can buy these items at a drugstore or online, but you may need someone to help you set these up. Or try an electronic reminder system, such as a smartphone app or an alarm you set on your phone or computer.

Using transportation. If you drive, you may find that you become confused, get lost, or need help with directions more often than before. Talk with your doctor about these changes. If family or friends express concerns about your driving, take their concerns seriously. Some people decide to give up driving and learn how to use public transportation or ride sharing. Neighbors, volunteers, or ride services for older adults may also be able to help with transportation.

Contact the Eldercare Locator at 1-800-677-1116. This nationwide service from the Administration on Aging connects older Americans and their caregivers with local support resources.

Tips for everyday tasks
Continued from page 11
dispenser.

Ask your doctor to provide a care plan and write down care directions (or have a family member or friend take notes during the visit).

Dementia often changes a person's sleeping habits. You may sleep a lot, or not enough, and wake up many times during the night. Poor sleep quality can make dementia symptoms worse.

Tips for better and safer sleep:

Follow a regular schedule by going to sleep and getting up at the same time each day, even on weekends or when traveling.

Develop a relaxing bedtime routine with lowered lights, cool temperature, and no electronic screens.

Avoid caffeine and naps late in the day.

Have a lamp that's easy to reach and turn on, a nightlight in the hallway or bathroom, and a flash-

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Bernie M.

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Senior Living

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Keep a telephone with emergency numbers by your bed.

Talk to your doctor if you have problems sleeping.

Healthy and Active Lifestyle Tips for People Living With Dementia

Participating in activities you enjoy and getting exercise may help you feel better, stay social, maintain a healthy weight, and have regular sleep habits.

Try these tips for a healthy and active lifestyle:

Try to be physically active for at least 30 minutes on most or all days of the week. But be realistic about how much activity you can do at one time. Several short “mini-workouts” may be best.

Aim for a mix of exercise types – endurance, strength, balance, and flexibility. For example, you could do a mix of walking or dancing, lifting weights, standing on one foot, and stretching.

Even everyday activities like household chores and gardening help you stay active.

Your diet may need to change as dementia progresses to maintain a healthy weight. Talk with your doctor about the best diet for you, and choose nutritious foods such as fruits and vegetables, whole grains, and lean sources of protein and dairy products. Avoid added sugars, saturated fats, and sodium.

Stay social by talking on the phone with family and friends, joining an online support group, or going for a walk in your neighborhood.

Finding Care and Support: Tips for People Living With Dementia

Many people may be able to help in different ways. These people might include family members, friends, professional caregivers, community organizations, and others with dementia. For example, you can:

Business Profile



Neuroboxing Fight Camp Now Open at Portside

Neuroboxing Fight Camp has opened its doors at the beautiful Portside Ventura Harbor! Beth Baumer is the Founder, Manager, and a Coach of the program. Her father Hank Laubacher was diagnosed with Parkinson’s Disease in 2010. He discovered Neuroboxing offering classes in Agoura Hills and started driving up from Oxnard to participate. Beth decided to get trained in boxing and get certified as a Neuroboxing Instructor and Program Director. Right around the same time, Beth’s Aunt, Hank’s sister Jane went through a traumatic and tragic experience with domestic violence. The family became advocates of DV awareness, prevention, and self-defense. Maureen Shea, a professional boxer, had moved to Oxnard from the Bronx. She trained Hilary Swank in the movie, “Million Dollar Baby.” Maureen is a victim of DV and an outspoken advocate of DV awareness. She gave presentations to local junior high and high schools about dating violence prevention. The Laubacher Family became a friend of hers and took up boxing, one of the best cardiovascular workouts. Non-contact boxing is known to assist in brain body connection, overall physical and mental health and wellbeing. NBFC services individuals with Par-

kinson’s and neurological disease, as well as spinal cord and central nervous system issues, MS, cancer and other rare diseases. There is one thing in common, they all cause movement disorders. The non-profit program encourages participation from caregivers, friends, and family members and welcomes volunteers! A free monthly support group is also offered.

Non-contact boxing, kickboxing, strength and conditioning classes for ALL will be offered at the new studio! Any age, anybody is welcome! Demo classes can be booked by contacting Beth Baumer. She works with a team of incredible instructors and will be adding more to create a dynamic and motivating coaching staff! You will love the gratifying workout in a gorgeous setting looking over the sparkling ocean waters, boats and marine life!

As the program continues to get set up, new things will be added including personal nutrition coaching, free Tai Chi classes, Argentine Tango lessons and more!

www.neuroboxingfightcamp.com
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Staying in your own home as you get older is called “aging in place”

by National Institute on Aging

Many people want the same things as they get older: to stay in their own homes, to maintain independence for as long as possible, and to turn to family and friends for help when needed. Staying in your own home as you get older is called “aging in place.” But many older adults and their families have concerns about safety, getting around, or other daily activities. Living at home as you age requires careful consideration and planning. This article offers suggestions to help you find the help you need to continue to live independently.

The best time to think about how to age in place is before you need a lot of care. Planning ahead allows you to make important decisions while you are still able.

The first step is to think about the kinds of help you need now and might want in the future. You can learn about home-based care and other services in your community and find out what they cost. Planning ahead also gives you time to set up your home to meet your needs as you age.

Another step is to consider any illnesses, such as diabetes or heart disease, that you or your spouse might have. Find out about how the illness could make it hard for someone to get around or take care of themselves in the future. Your

health care provider can help answer your questions.

Talk with your family, friends, and other caregivers about what support is needed for you to stay in your home. Be realistic and plan to revisit the decision as your needs change over time.

Support for aging at home

Home-based care includes health, personal, and other support services to help you stay at home and live as independently as possible. In-home services may be short-term – for someone who is recovering from an operation, for example – or long-term, for people who need ongoing help.

In many cases, home-based support is provided at home by informal caregivers, such as family members, friends, and neighbors. It can also be supplemented by formal caregivers and community services.

Help you can receive at home includes:

Personal care: Help with everyday activities, also called “activities of daily living,” including bathing, dressing, grooming, using the toilet, eating, and moving around – for example, getting out of bed and into a chair

Household chores: Housecleaning, yard work, grocery shopping, laundry, and similar chores around the house

Meals: Shopping for food and preparing nutritious meals

Money management: Tasks such as paying bills and filling out health insurance forms

Health care: Help with many aspects of health care, including giving medications, caring for wounds, helping with medical equipment, and providing physical therapy

Transportation: Assistance getting around, such as rides to the doctor’s office or grocery store

Safety: Home safety features and help in case of a fall or other emergency

The Pet Page



Dedicated to Scamp

Humane Society of Ventura County February spay/neuter special! All spray/neuters for cats are just \$10.00. Appointments required. Call 805-646-7849 to book today.

402 Bryant St. Ojai. www.hsvc.org/fix

There is an AI pet robot that feeds and cares for your dog while you're away and a heart monitor to help you keep track of your furry friend's health.

Oro's AI-powered pet robot will take care of your pet while you're away Oro's AI-powered pet robot lets you interact with your dog, even while you're away.

Leaving your dog at home alone all day is truly one of the worst feelings in the world. If your dog has separation anxiety, leaving for the day can be equally as stressful for your dog as it is for you.

This robot lets you check in on your pup with two-way audio and interactive video and dispense treats or food. Since it's powered by AI, the robot can learn your dog's behavior and try to calm it down at signs of distress. Oro's AI-powered robot retails for \$799 and begins shipping in April of this year.

Lawmakers in South Korea have passed a watershed ban on the production and sale of dog meat for human consumption, a centuries-old practice that has become less popular with younger generations (what about cats?).

South Korea's parliament voted 208-0 in favor of the ban, which will go into effect in 2027 after a three-year transition period allowing dog farmers and restaurants to repurpose or close their businesses.

Animal rights activists celebrated the ban which comes after years of organized, vocal opposition to the practice of eating dog meat, such as in stews. South Korea joins a growing list of places that have banned human consumption of dog meat, including Hong Kong, Taiwan, the Philippines, India, Thailand and Singapore, as well as individual cities across China, Indonesia and the Siem Reap province in Cambodia, according to Humane Society International

Can Home Electronics Harm Your Pet? Elana Spivack Pet Science

Sirens, thunder, vacuum cleaners, and fireworks can wreak havoc on your pet. Subtler sounds — ones that don't even register to human ears — may also affect them. But how can you know what your pets can hear, especially if you can't hear it yourself? Understanding your pet's hearing capabilities and the quiet cacophony of your home could help identify any nuisances.

If something bothers our pet, it often shows up in their behavior. Katherine Houpt, professor emeritus of behavioral medicine at the Cornell University

College of Veterinary Medicine, recounts to Inverse one instance she remembers about one couple whose dog "suddenly began to pace." Worried, "they took it to the emergency room where they had a huge bill. But they noticed that as soon as they left the house, the dog was fine."

It turns out this couple, who were elderly and had become hard of hearing, couldn't hear their smoke alarm chirping for fresh batteries.

She also warns that pets might be conditioned to react to beeps and buzzes. Invisible Fence, for example, trains a dog to stay in an unfenced yard with a collar that plays a tone if the dog approaches specified boundaries. If the dog crosses that threshold, the collar delivers a light electrical shock, deterring the dog from ever leaving the yard on its own. One unintended consequence, Houpt says, is that the dog may begin to take cues from out-of-context sounds.

"There are some dogs that don't like the beeps from the microwave," she says. "Dogs may confuse the sound of an appliance with the sound of their Invisible Fence collar saying, 'If you take another step, you're going to be shocked.'"

However, she's not aware of any cases in which animals responded poorly to high-pitched sounds emitted by household electronics.

Cats can hear frequencies, or pitches, up to 64,000 Hertz and dogs up to 45,000 Hz, compared to a human's mere 20,000 Hz.

A 2015 UK-based survey published in the Journal of Feline Medicine and Surgery assessed potential causes of seizures in cats with a condition called feline audiogenic reflex seizures. Sounds like ringing phones, a metal spoon dropping into a ceramic bowl, tapping on glass, rustling paper or plastic bags, computer keyboard typing, and tongue clucking all evoked seizures in the 96 cats surveyed. This condition is far more severe than simply being bothered by a sound, but it demonstrates how highly sensitive an animal's hearing is.

A 2005 study also found that ambient laboratory sounds can mess with animals' endocrine and sleep cycles — though you probably don't live in a laboratory. To the point, we can't always see how sounds affect an animal; they may not even suffer from ambient noise.

Sadly, we can't protect our fur babies from absolutely everything that frightens them. While you could opt for quieter vacuum cleaners or even stand vigilant by the microwave as it counts down to make sure it never dings again, the best you can do is observe how your pet behaves around certain gadgets or in response to switching something on.

"People should bear in mind when they add something to their household — whether it's another dog, an electronic appliance, or a child — they should think about what effect it will have on the dog so that they can be prepared in case the dog reacts badly," Houpt says.



"We would much rather eat out of a bowl!"

Scamp Club

(Scampclub pets are not for adoption.)



I'm Scout an adorable male terrier. I take morning strolls in Thille Park with my human mom. I like to romp on the wet grass with all his K-9 friends, and chase squirrels and cats. I am very friendly and love meeting new friends.

Join Scamp Club

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

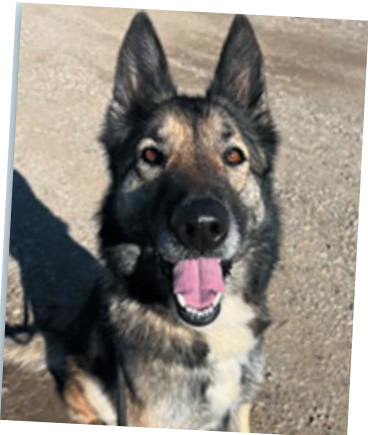
Lost pet? Go to LostCatVenturaCounty.com or LostDogVenturaCounty.com - free websites for finding and posting when you've lost or found a cat or dog.

The ravages of smoking cigarettes on human health have long been established. Now a new study says that contact with cigarette smoke, even if it's on your clothes after coming from a smoky environment, can damage your dog's health as well.

The study, which was led by Purdue University veterinarian Deborah Knapp, looked at the health and lifestyle factors of 120 Scottish terriers over the course of

three years and found that those exposed to cigarette smoke had a six times higher chance of developing bladder cancer than those that weren't. The dogs that developed cancer were exposed to a median level of 10 pack-years of smoke, while the ones who did not get the disease were exposed to a median level of 1.5 pack-years of smoke. A pack year is the equivalent of smoking one pack of cigarettes a day per year.

Forever homes wanted



Hi: I'm Willow, a beautiful 3 1/2 year old Collie X with a gorgeous smile, rescued from a LA Shelter in my hour of need. I'm thankful to my sponsor who made it possible for me to come into CARL's adoption program. I know they will help me find my forever home. Not a lot is known about me yet, but I greet everyone I meet with a smile and a tail wag. I love to be with people. I was out for a walk and the volunteer said I was very good. If you have a fur baby in the home already, please bring him/her along

so we can do a meet and greet. I can't wait to be a cherished member of a loving family. If you're interested in meeting me, please fill out an online application. Canine Adoption and Rescue League C.A.R.L.

Meet 2-year-old dog social husky Soleil! Soleil is a gorgeous, toasted marshmallow and a perfect playmate. In fact, she even helps new shelter dogs get comfortable in playgroup. If you're looking for an affectionate, engaged adventure buddy who will always match the energy and bring good vibes with other dogs, Soleil's your gal. Pet Link: www.vcas.us/viewan-2/?ida=A825930 If you'd like to meet Soleil, schedule an appointment at <https://www.vcas.us/adopt> or come down to the shelter during normal Adoption Hours of 1:00pm - 6:00pm Tuesday - Sunday. If you have questions, please contact us at (805) 388-4341 or info@vcas.us.



Note: There was no police action to report.

Harbor Patrol Blotter

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

Sunday 12/31/23
4:00am, receiving multiple requests for entrance conditions since the USCG closed the harbor. At first light officers assessed conditions, advised coast guard its passable, in turn opened the entrance to navigation for mariners/ fishermen.
Tuesday 1/2/24
8:40am, officers transporting city officials to assess damage to the Ventura Pier.
2:37pm, dispatched to difficulty breathing in Ventura Marina Community. Officers responded with AMR/VFD to assist.
Wednes 1/3/24
5:16pm, received missing person report from a parent. A 20 y/o male is “foil-board-ing” from Rincon to Shellburne lane. Officers were able to locate the missing individual, not in distress 300 yards off Seward with binoculars.
Thursday 1/4/24
5:08pm, while on patrol in the Fireboat, officers contacted several fishermen with hoop nets placed illegally near the breakwall. Education was provided.
Saturday 1/6/24
5:05pm, dispatched to a surfer in distress at Greenock Lane. Pulled surfer from

water onto the Fireboat and transported to Marina Park dock, no injuries.
Monday 1/8
4:05pm, while on patrol, observed Harbor Cove lifeguard tower was breeched with beer cans everywhere. Officers secured the tower and cleared debris.
11:55pm, received a request to assist a couple locked inside the cabin of their 22ft motor vessel in VIM A-dock. Officers responded and were able to gain access to the cabin after opening the latch on the companionway.
Tuesday 1/9
11:23am, received report of a female transient walking down the middle of Olivas Park Drive. Officers responded but were unable to locate the individual.
Thursday 1/11
5:33am, observed NWS issued a Gale Warning, raised warning pennants.
11:45am, officers assisting bird rescue volunteers capture a bird at Marina Park.
1:00pm, observing the VenturaWaterPure group pulling pipe from Marina Park.
6:55pm, dispatched to a disabled motor vessel at the breakwall. Officers responded in Fireboat, took a 21ft Radon en tow to

the launch ramp.
Friday 1/12
12:10pm, conducting preventative main-tenance on patrol vessels. Also assisting Port District boat mechanic with wiring the new spotlight for the Fireboat.
5:10pm, while on patrol in the vehicle, received request for a jump start. Officers were able to successfully start the vehicle with a dead battery.
9:35pm, dispatched to a marina fire at VHV D-dock. Officers responded in the Fireboat and found an electric bikes battery smoldering on the dock. No fire and the battery disconnected and no damage to the dock or surrounding vessels.
Saturday 1/13
6:30am, monitoring VenturaWaterPure project at Marina Park. Pipeline is partially submerged, still posing signifi-cant hazard. Numerous perimeter vessels are contacting and conducting vessel traffic safety in the area.
2:41pm, received request for assistance removing a trespasser from a sailboat in VIM. Officers assisted VPD with removing the individual from the marina.
3:40pm, observed a disabled motor vessel

in the keys, with 2 POB’s utilizing paddles to navigate. Officers responded in the Fireboat, took the vessel en tow.
Sunday 1/14
8:00am, observed NWS issued Small Craft Advisory, raised warning pennant.
9:45am, received report of an injured duck at Harbor Cove. Officers responded, were able to capture an injured Grebe and handed over to rescue volunteers.
9:30pm, received request from US coast guard to monitor VHF 16 while they conduct radio maintenance between 0400 – 0630.
Monday 1/15
9:20am, observed beach clean up crews on the South Beach, officers assisted with de-livering filled trash bags to National Park Service collection area.
12:51pm, observed 3 fishing vessels offloading squid with foam/grey water polluting the water. Officers investigating, still on going.
Tuesday 1/16
1:40am, dispatched to a fall victim in the Ventura Marina Community. Officers responded with VFD, and assisted lifting the patient back to bed, no injuries.

Community shows strong support for 8th Annual Women’s Rally & March

by Tracy Marcynsyn

Braving hecklers and stormy weather, hundreds turned out to support women’s rights at the 8th annual Women’s Rally & March on Saturday, January 20th at Plaza Park.
Presented by Justice For All Ventura County and Planned Par-enthood Central Coast Action Fund, the event featured speakers and information booths by community organizations aimed to foster social justice.
“Women’s rights are human rights,” declared speaker Rabiah Rahman “Women’s rights are indis-tinguishable from environmental justice, from social justice, and racial justice. They can’t silence us, no matter how hard they try! They cannot take away our vote and they cannot take away our right to march.”
A spirited crowd comprising all genders and ages clapped and cheered as they gathered in solidar-ity to support women’s rights.
“Roe versus Wade and the banning of books” were the main reasons 24-year Ventura resident Kerry O’Connell named for coming to the march. “Some things just really matter,” says O’Connell, who forwent her cribbage tour-nament in San Diego to attend this year’s march for the 8th year running. “I can’t vote,” says the Australian citizen, “but I can show up in other ways.”
Noting that 2024 is a watershed year for the nation when voters will make decisions on critical issues about leadership, access to health care and social justice, local orga-nizations like the League of Women Voters helmed information booths at the event in an effort to help

attendees learn more about how they can participate in ongoing efforts to help the community.
“The state of women’s rights and reproductive rights may seem secure in California, but with national politics and politicians making decisions across the country looming, we can’t be content with the status quo,” says president of Justice for All Ventura County Shane Meserve. “Our progressive beliefs may mean nothing without the right people in office.” JFAVC’s mission is to “motivate, educate, connect and mobilize people to actively engage in their government and future in support of social justice” and the rally and march represents its first large community event of the year.
The public is encouraged to be a part of the solution by attending events, sharing information, donating to offset expenses and volunteering to further the cause. Learn more at www.JusticeForAll-VC.org.



Rabiah Rahman



The public is encouraged to be a part of the solution.

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

I can help you with that!

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HomeServices

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ADELA TRAINOR

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TEAMTRAINOR12@GMAIL.COM

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 23 mins.

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

Ventura events

The Ventura Senior Men’s Group continues to meet for a social lunch and program at the Poinsettia Pavilion in Ventura on the first and third Tuesday each month. Men of all descriptions are always welcomed to stop in to sample our shenanigans. Lyle Hotzler at 805-341-9820

Wanna Play Bridge? Join us for ACBL sanctioned duplicate bridge games every Tues., Wed., and Thurs. at 12:30. All levels of play and we will guarantee to have a partner for you if you need one. Lessons are available. Contact: Richard 805-850-8011 or Rose 805-659-9223 or buckleyrose357@gmail.com. All Welcome.

The Ventura County Philatelic Society’s meetings are held every first and third Monday of the month at the Church of the Foothills, Ventura. Meetings start at 7:30pm. Website with more information can be found at <https://venturacountyphilatelicsoc.org>

Monthly Beach Cleanup First Saturday of every month! Come meet your neighbors and help keep our beach looking fresh. Hosted by Pierpont Beach Community Council in partnership with Surfrider. Meet up at the end of Seward near the beach. (1140 S Seward St) 8:30-10:30am. Arrive any time during the timeframe. Fun for the whole family! Supplies provided BYO water.

Paws for Reading brings together young readers and affectionate, canine listeners to help boost the confidence of beginning readers.

Hill Road Library, Wednesdays, 3:30 to 5 pm
E.P. Foster Library, Thursdays, 4 to 5:30 pm

Join PAWS dogs for one-on-one reading sessions. Arrive at the library early to choose a book and get in line to read to a special pooch. Children of all ages welcome!

January 27: 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Ventura Friends of the Library will hold a Book Sale at the Vons at Telegraph and Victoria (6040 Telegraph Rd.) Fiction, Non-fiction, Children’s Books Manga, Comic Books, Graphic Novels Puzzles, Audiobooks, CD’s and DVD’s!

February 3: Sespe Fly Fishers of Ventura will be conducting our monthly “First Saturday” introductory Fly Rod Casting and Intro to Fly Fishing clinic. There is no charge and all are welcome. Whether you are an experienced fly fisher or a complete novice we want to help you improve your casting and learn to enjoy this great sport. If you don’t yet have a fly rod, don’t worry, just come and use one of ours. Please join us at Chumash Park, Petit and Waco, 9:00 to 11:00 am, in East Ventura, off Telephone Rd. For more information: Casting Program Coordinator Thomas Hall thomasfoleyhall@gmail.com (805) 377-5249 www.sespeflyfishers.org

February 4. Open house tours of the 1892 Dudley Historic House Museum will take place on Sunday, from 1 to 4 p.m. Admission is free. The museum is located at the corner of Loma Vista and Ashwood Streets (197 N. Ashwood) in Ventura. For information please call (805) 642-3345 or visit the website at

dudleyhouse.org.
February 4: Old-Time Country Bluegrass Gospel Music Assoc. Sunday from 2:00-4:00 pm Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Rd. Ventura Live Music on stage. Jamming in the Canada Room. Free Admission. Free parking Open to the Public. For more information call 805-517-1131 or visit Facebook: OTCBGMA

February 7: The speaker for BCNN February’s meeting is Emily Zivot, Park Ranger at Channel Islands National park. She will be giving a slide show highlighting how the ocean connects the Channel Islands and resident wildlife to each other and to the mainland. BCNN, (Beach Cities Newcomers and Neighbors) meeting is the first Wednesday of the month, and runs from 10:00 AM to 11:30 AM. Doors open at 9:30 AM. BCNN is a group for Women from Ventura, Oxnard and Port Hueneme. It has dozens of small groups, off shoots from sports activities, to wine tasting, bridge, games, book groups, movie group and more. Please take note that the group has moved to the Pacific Corinthian Yacht Cub 2600 Harbor Blvd Oxnard.

February 10: Saturday, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Our monthly plant and collectibles sale resumes in February with a “Hearts & Flowers” sale on the grounds at the Dudley House. Bromeliads, orchids and succulents will be on sale along with a variety of collectibles. Vendors please call Charlie at 805/746-4317 for details. The museum is located at the corner of Loma Vista and Ashwood Streets.

February 10: Public workshop on American pocket watches presented by Ventura/Santa Barbara chapter of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors. Topics include a history of the American watch industry and participation in disassembly and reassembly of a typical watch movement.

Expert assistance and all tool and watch movements will be supplied. The class will be held at the Dudley House museum in Ventura. Contact Dave Coatsworth (Dave@biswebdesign.com) for more information and to register.

February 22: Unleash the magic of tradition and connection at Chabad of Ventura’s Mega Challah Bake at 6 pm! Calling all wonderful women of Ventura County to join us in a delightful evening of laughter, learning, and the art of making the perfect traditional Jewish bread, Challah. Come together with a diverse community, spanning generations and backgrounds, to create memories, friendships, and of course, delicious Challah! Poinsettia Pavilion 5:30 registration and salad bar. 6pm program Secure your spot now at www.chabadventura.com/challah and let’s embark on this journey together!

February 24: Join Supervisor Matt LaVere for an afternoon at an Italian Bistro to help raise rental assistance funds for Ventura Homeless Prevention. Lasagna, wine, music, auction and more. Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura. 5654 Ralston. Tickets and donations at venturahomelessprevention.org.

February 24: Channel Islands PC User Group (CIPCUG) Location: Online and Live at Ventura County Computers 2175 Goodyear Avenue, Unit 117 Ventura (805) 289-3960. Discussion, Tutorial, and Q&A sessions centered around Computers, email, the Internet, AI, and social media brokers such as X, Facebook, and Google. Events begin at 9:30AM. All CIPCUG events may be attended online. Due to limited space live attendance is reserved for members. Details for connecting to online events are emailed prior to the event. To receive connection instructions, please sign up on our website at: <http://www.cipcug.org>>cipcug club website.

GET INVOLVED!



The City is seeking applicants for the following council advisory groups:

- **Downtown Parking Advisory Committee:** Drive the future of convenient and accessible parking.
- **Housing Authority Board:** Build a foundation for inclusive and affordable housing.
- **Water Commission:** Dive into solutions for sustainable water management (for professionals).

Application Deadline: February 2, 2024
cityofventura.ca.gov/Recruitments



A vegetation fire on Sanjon that looked worse than it was. Photo by Yana Khiod.



Unknown participant with Sara Pelaez, Betty Ann Wright, Irma Heffner and DA Erik Nasarenko.

Soroptimist 17th Annual STOP Human Trafficking

Soroptimist International sponsored the 17th Annual STOP Human Trafficking Community Walk and Speaker Panel on Saturday, January 13, at Columbus Hall, 36 Figueroa Street, in downtown Ventura.

The event started with an awareness walk down Main Street and followed with a speaker panel — Dr. Anthony Walls, co-founder of Healthcare for All; Alia Azariah, Survivor/Advocate from Safe House Project; Detective Kellyn King, Simi Valley PD, Major Crimes Department; and Sandy Esparza, Survivor/Advocate from Zoe International.

Social service agencies were on site

with additional information.

The four Ventura County Soroptimist International clubs—SI Oxnard, SI Ventura, SI Camarillo, and SI Channel Islands continue a “Dream Big” community awareness campaign with digital signage on the 101 Freeway for January: National Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Month. The goal is to raise a new and/or renewed awareness about the heinous crime of sex and labor trafficking that happens throughout Ventura County.

For more information go to www.stoptraffickingventuracounty.org

Housing Trust Fund Ventura County announces \$88,000 in funding for affordable housing lending

Housing Trust Fund Ventura County (Housing Trust Fund VC) begins 2024 by announcing \$88,000 in new funds for the development of affordable housing in Ventura County. The funds come in the form of \$85,000 in grants from U.S. Bank, First Citizen’s Bank and PennyMac Financial Services as well as \$3,000 in year-end contributions from private donors. The amount will be applied toward the increased need for affordable housing funding as the staggering need for housing continues to grow.

U.S. Bank has awarded Housing

Trust Fund VC a General Operating Home Grant to assist the organization in addressing the region’s need for affordable housing. The funds are to be used entirely to increase affordable housing options for low- and moderate-income families, seniors, veterans, transitional age youth and special-needs populations throughout Ventura County in alignment with U.S. Bank’s HOME Pillar. “Every dollar we receive is an opportunity to assist in addressing one of our county’s most pressing issues,” said Linda Braunschweiger, CEO of Housing Trust Fund VC, “These funds will significantly impact the lives of county residents by creating more affordable housing choices for all.” Housing Trust Fund VC received additional support in the form of \$3,000 in year-end donations to wrap up 2023.

Housing Trust Fund VC will also receive a grant of \$25,000 from the First Citizen’s Bank Community Development grant. The grant is a one-time award which will be used to support affordable housing to low- to moderate-income individuals, families and communities including transitional age foster youth, veterans, farm workers, and the homeless, with the intention of

promoting economic development and opportunities for revitalization and stabilization throughout the county.

PennyMac Financial Services has also approved a charitable grant request for Housing Trust Fund VC. The grant is part of the PennyMac Corporate Giving Fund in Memory of Stanford L. Kurland. The PennyMac Corporate Philanthropy Program prioritizes its giving to organizations that align with the corporation’s culture, core values, vision and philanthropic focus areas. “It was an honor to attend the 2023 Compassion Campaign to learn more about the great work that Housing Trust Fund Ventura County does,” said Kisha

Parker Croom, Managing Director, Corporate Sustainability for PennyMac. “PennyMac recognizes the positive social impact that

Housing Trust Fund is making in Ventura County, and it is our hope that this contribution will help further that impact.”

Housing Trust Fund Ventura County – 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 December 2023, Housing Trust Fund VC has committed to investing \$28 million through its Revolving Loan Fund, creating 1,177 affordable apartments and homes for very-low, low- and middle-income employees, transitional age foster youth, veterans, farm workers, and the homeless.



Troop 60852 in June of 2023 bridging to ambassadors (the highest level in Girl Scouts).

“The Path to Girl Scouts”

by Juliette Nasarenko

Girl Scouts have been thriving since 1924! The Girl Scout program in Ventura County fall under the Girl Scouts of the California Central Coast (GSCCC) which is comprised of Ventura County, Santa Cruz County, Monterey County, San Benito County, San Luis Obispo County, and Santa Barbara County. The Central Coast has a membership of 5,700 girls and 4,500 adult volunteers. Girl Scouts is an organization that empowers young women to serve their communities, gain leadership skills, and

Continued on page 21



TASTE WEEKLY

CRUMBL — VENTURA

1708-C S Victoria Ave
Ventura, CA 93003





Mary Maranville, SEEAG's founder and CEO, and George Adam, owner/operator of Innovative Produce and a LEAGUE² member.

SEEAG introduces Visionaries Circle LEAGUE²

Students for Eco-Education and Agriculture (SEEAG) is introducing its Visionaries Circle LEAGUE² (Leaders in Agriculture United for Educational Excellence) membership to recognize its premier donors who have shown support for SEEAG's youth agricultural and nutrition education programs and Farm Day community education and outreach events. SEEAG's focus is to educate students and the public about the farm origins of food, healthy eating, and the importance of local agriculture. Many of these donors have been involved in SEEAG since its first program was introduced almost 16 years ago.

"SEEAG has been extremely fortunate to have a dedicated, loyal donor base whose contributions have made a real difference in SEEAG's ability to offer the cost-free programming we do. Without them, we would not be able to reach thousands of students every year," says Mary Maranville, the nonprofit's Founder and CEO.

SEEAG educates over 8,000 students annually in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties. Activities include classroom presentations, farm visits and nutrition assemblies for elementary-age students, and career pathway programs for local middle, and high school students—all 100 percent free.

"The information and experiences children receive stay with them. They become life-long ambassadors for agriculture, making healthy food choices and overall wellness," says Maranville.

SEEAG Programs

Farm Lab. Geared for third graders, Farm Lab builds awareness and appreciation for agriculture, following the journey of food from farm to table. Hands-on learning includes classroom presentations and a trip to the farm with an emphasis on soil science, plant science, water cycles, and entomology.

Youth Wellness Initiative. Educates, inspires and empowers third-grade students to eat fresh fruits and vegetables and cultivate connections to surrounding farms.

STEM Career Pathways in Agricul-

ture. For sixth through 12th graders, the program teaches students about the diverse job opportunities available in agriculture.

Farm Day in Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties. Farm Day is California's largest agricultural education and outreach event, attracting over 13,000 visitors annually. It is held separately in Ventura and Santa Barbara in the fall. Farm Day allows the public to visit local farms, ranches, wineries, and agricultural organizations and take part in tours, produce tastings, giveaways, and other activities at no charge.

Visionaries Circle LEAGUE² members include The Edwin & Jeanne Woods Family Foundation, Santa Barbara Foundation, Mission Produce, Gills Onions, Al Lowe Construction, Innovative Produce, Santa Maria Berry Farms, and the Scott Family Foundation.

As LEAGUE² members, donors have their logos featured on the SEEAG website and student resource bags. They are recognized in SEEAG marketing, participate in annual members-only events and tours, and receive fresh holiday trees and other merchandise.

To learn more about the LEAGUE², go to <https://www.seeag.org/visionaries-circle-league> or contact Maranville at 805-746-0606, mary@seeag.org.

Founded in 2008, Students for Eco-Education and Agriculture (SEEAG) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that aims to help young students understand the origins of their food by bridging the gap between agriculture and consumption through its agricultural education programming. SEEAG's "The Farm Lab" program teaches schoolchildren about the origins of their food and the importance of local farmland by providing schools with classroom agricultural education and free field trips to farms. Through this and other SEEAG programs, over 100,000 elementary school students in Central and Southern California have increased their understanding of the food journey. For more information, visit www.seeag.org or email Mary Maranville at mary@seeag.org.



Snapdragon Place Apartments is just one of the CEDC's Ventura projects.

Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation receives \$75,000 from U.S. Bank

Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation (CEDC) announced it has received a \$75,000 contribution from U.S. Bank. The grant will be used to help create safe and stable housing for children, families and communities to thrive.

"Creating equitable living opportunities for families in our community requires resources, and we appreciate the support from U.S. Bank. With their support, we are able to continue building and expanding our options of safe and affordable housing for local families," said Margarita H. de Escontrias, Chief Executive Officer at CEDC.

CEDC develops and manages service-enriched, inclusive residential communities, ensuring access to affordable, secure, quality housing for lower-income families in the community. Through this work, they also provide residents in their properties with programs that include homework clubs, education for adults and youth, fitness and

nutrition classes, empowerment and leadership training, and more.

U.S. Bank is committed to powering human potential and creating lasting change in communities. The bank does this through the Community Possible platform, including philanthropy, community investments and team member volunteerism.

The Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation has been making dreams come true, one home at a time, since 1981. Proud to be the largest developer of affordable homes in Ventura County, Cabrillo's success is the result of decades of passion, dedication, and vision. With a mission of providing comprehensive housing services and community economic development activities, Cabrillo facilitates self-sufficiency for individuals and families who are most lacking in opportunity. At Cabrillo, home is more than a place to live—it is the cornerstone of the community's economic, environmental, and social wellbeing.



Senior Assistant City Attorney Miles Hogan came to the City in 2016.

Hogan works to provide safe and reliable water and wastewater services to the City

As we flow through the systems and people of Ventura Water who work to provide safe and reliable water and wastewater services to the City, we will focus on specialized staff who support that mission. Because water is essential for all life on Earth, this resource has been legislated to be utilized sustainably and equitably. Another important consideration is the impact water and wastewater ac-

tivities have on human and environmental health. There are many laws and regulations governing the use of water resources, from the Clean Water Act—the primary federal law designed to ensure the integrity of our nation's waters—to California's many water-related rights, laws, and regulations. For Ventura Water there are also local mandates, including the Consent Decree that addresses wastewater discharge into the Santa Clara River Estuary. To understand and adhere to the multitude of laws and regulations requires legal expertise.

Miles Hogan came to the City in 2016 and currently serves as a Senior Assistant City Attorney. He holds an undergraduate degree in marine biology from UCLA and a law degree from UC Davis with certifications in environmental law and public interest law. Miles' education combined with his experience at a private law firm representing public agencies, primed him to be Ventura Water's legal counselor.

He also advises the City's Water Commission. In addition, Miles supervises the City Attorney's Office Transactional team of attorneys, who advise all city departments on their contracts and agreements, draft ordinances and resolutions, and give general legal advice. His efforts are supported by the Office's executive assistant, who assists Ventura Water by processing legal services agreements and invoices, scheduling negotiation meetings,

processing important documents, and other related work.

Miles explains that the City’s water and wastewater issues are unique due to the diversity of its resources and services provided. Regulations change depending on the type of source—whether surface water from Lake Casitas and the Ventura River, or subsurface water from local groundwater basins. As we prepare to accept our allocation from the State Water Interconnection Project, other legal considerations will come into play. And as we shift to reusing our water resources with the VenturaWaterPure Program, there are specific legal considerations for implementation of this beneficial technology. The City conforms to laws protecting endangered and threatened species as we draw water from the river and discharge treated wastewater into the estuary. Ventura Water provides potable water service to customers in the geographically separated Saticoy Club community, and wastewater service to customers along the Rincon, which periodically presents unique legal issues. And our Mobile Reuse Program has its legal constraints and requirements.

When asked what he enjoys most about his position, Miles says that there is always something new to address which means his job is always interesting. He also greatly enjoys serving the public and working with the wonderful staff at the City (his words). Asked about job challenges, he says the diversity of Ventura Water’s portfolio is a mixed blessing because, though it gives Ventura more resilience to climate change impacts or emergencies, defending and protecting our varied water resources requires constant work by a team of people including him, Ventura Water staff, and outside firms that support the City. Protecting the City’s water resources on behalf of its customers is a very fulfilling career which Miles appreciates every day.

Ventura Council of PTAs Awarded Center for Family Engagement Grant

The Ventura Council of PTAs was one of just eight PTAs from across the country selected to receive a grant from the National PTA’s Center for Family Engagement. The program is part of the National PTA’s efforts to advance family-school partnerships to best support students along their educational journey.

The grant will be used to support implementation of the National PTA’s updated National Standards for Family-School Partnerships.

“Strong partnerships between families and schools are critical to support our students’ success academically, socially and emotionally, and there could not be a more urgent time for this,” said Yvonne Johnson, president of National PTA. “We are thrilled to provide funding to the

PTAs to help advance meaningful and effective strategies for strong partnerships that will make a real impact for students, families and schools.”

“I’m incredibly grateful to have our schools chosen for this grant,” said Cherie Egbert, Ventura Council PTA President. “We’ll all get to improve the ways we surround our students with what they need to succeed, at home, school and in the greater community.”

The Ventura Council PTA coordinates information exchange and support for the 16 PTAs that operate in Ventura Unified School District as well as Santa Paula Unified School District.

Last year, National PTA released its updated National Standards for Family-School Partnerships, which provide guidance for building strong partnerships between families, educators, and schools to support student success. The updated PTA National Standards incorporate research and best practices including increased focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion; and expand the approach to student success to include whole child development. For resources to support implementation of the standards, visit pta.org/Standards and watch the association’s Transforming Family-School Partnerships Webinar Series.

“Our updated National Standards for Family-School Partnerships provide critical guidance and best practices for strong, meaningful partnerships between families and schools,” added Nathan R. Monell, CAE, National PTA executive director.

National PTA® comprises millions of families, students, teachers, administrators, and business and community leaders devoted to the educational success of children and the promotion of family engagement in schools. PTA is a registered 501(c)(3) nonprofit association that prides itself on being a powerful voice for all

“Keeping People Housed: That’s Amore”

by the Ventura Homeless Prevention

The Ventura Homeless Prevention keeps many of our neighbors in Ventura from experiencing the double traumas of eviction and homelessness in the year ahead. In 2023, thanks to our generous donors, Ventura Homeless Prevention provided over \$83,000 in rental assistance that kept 70 households (103 adults and 64 children) from losing their homes. In 2022, \$101,000 in donations allowed us to keep 78 households with 125 adults and 69 children in their homes. In every case, a one-time, temporary financial setback had left neighbors who’d been paying rent on their own for years on the cusp of eviction. With our one-time help, all of them were able to stay housed and resume paying their own rent again. We are grateful we were able to help so many

Continued on page 23

Edward Jones

> edwardjones.com | Member SIPC



New job, new retirement account options

Changing jobs? Consider these 401(k) options:

- Leave the money in your previous employer’s plan
- Move it to your new employer’s plan
- Roll it over to an Individual Retirement Account (IRA)
- Cash out the account subject to early withdrawal penalties

We can talk through your financial goals and find the option that works best for you.



Frances Jones, CRPC™
Financial Advisor
1891 Goodyear Ave 613
Ventura, CA 93003
805-650-9802

IRT-1948L-A AECSPAD 20867508

Kids & Families Together
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the Power of Love

Join Us!

SAT FEB 10 6-10pm
Poinsettia Pavilion

FUNraising DANCE
80's Attire Strongly Encouraged!

FEATURING We Are The 80's LIVE BAND

Kids & Families Together
kidsandfamilies.org



by Pam Baumgardner
VenturaRocks.com

There’s already a lot going on for 2024, so let’s get right to it. You should consider treating yourself to an intimate show with singer/songwriter, Nathan McEuen, on Friday, January 26, at the Ojai Underground. I became a fan when he had a week-night residency at Amigo’s several years ago, and I’ve played his original music on my radio show at Caps Media in the past. He’s a sweetheart of a guy and uber talented coming from a musical family including his brother, Jonathan, and father John McEuen of the Nitty Gritty Dirt Band fame.

Namba Performing Arts will be hosting their 2024 Winter Gala, a celebration of the diverse tapestry of talent in our community as well as to honor their late founde, Julia Campbell Namba. Featured performers include Grammy Award winning jazz pianist, Greg Karukas and Mexico City based singer/songwriter, Maya Burns. While I’m happy to report this one is sold out, that doesn’t mean you can’t still help keep Namba going by making a donation, large or small, to NambaArts.com.

On Friday, February 2, The Deer Lodge hosts British singer/songwriter, Pete Molinari, but also on the bill will be Robin Taylor Zander. Now if this name sounds familiar and you’re a fan of classic rock, well it should; his dad, Robin Zander, is founding member of Cheap Trick with whom he’s been touring with the past few years. I caught Cheap Trick in 2022 at the Ventura County Fair where it was a treat to see father and son on the same stage.

The Beatrice Wood Center for the Arts will host a Women’s Voices Concert on Sunday afternoon, January 28, featuring Grammy nominee Janet Robin, national radio chart topper Rebecca Folsom; International Singer-Songwriter Associate (ISSA) Entertainer of the Year Charu Suri; poet & NYT Bestseller Katie Hendricks; and #1 iTunes top Singer/Songwriter, Kris Angelis.

Tickets are on sale now for 311 at the Ventura Theater for Tuesday, March 5 and recently added to Ventura Music Hall are Los Lobos for Sunday, March 3, Guttermouth with Buck-O-Nine on Thursday April 18 and Steel Pulse for Friday, April 19.

Quick Notes: Julian Marley and the Uprising play the Ventura Music Hall on Wednesday, January 24; a special Sunday afternoon birthday bash will be held on January 28 at the Garage with Bloody Mary Morning in the mix starting at 3 pm; The Trivle Omdobble play Topa Topa Brewing on Sunday January 28; Jesse Harris and his band with special guest Katie Skene will play Cantara Cellars on Friday, February 2; Phil Salazar and Tom Corbett play the Ojai Under-

ground on Saturday, February 3; and the Old-Time Country Bluegrass Gospel Music Association standing monthly gig at the Poinsettia Pavilion falls on Sunday, February 4;

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

Music Calendar

For more listings, additional times and genres go to VenturaRocks.com

- The Angry Ferret**
11990 Hertz St., Moorpark
Sat 2/3: Whole Hog
- Aqua Beachfront Bar (Crowne Plaza)**
450 E. Harbor Blvd., Ventura
Wed 1/24: Déjà vu Too
Wed 1/31: Big Adventura Duo
- Beatrice Wood Center for the Arts**
8585 N. Ojai Rd., Ojai
Sun 1/28: Janet Robin, Rebecca Folsom, Charu Suri, Katie Hendricks, Kris Angelis
- Boatyard Pub**
1583 Spinnaker Dr., Ventura
Music 6-9; except Thurs 4-9
Tuesdays: Noah Thoresen
Wednesdays: Frank Barajas
Thursdays: Jim Friery (4 pm); Bluegrass Jam (6:30 pm)
Fri 1/26: Mack & D
Sat 1/27: Bill Macpherson & Karen Eden
Fri 2/2: Teresa Russell & Stephen Geyer
- Bombay Bar and Grill**
143 S. California St., Ventura
Thursdays: Ventura Blues Night
Sat 1/27: Neon Blonde
- Café Fiore**
66 S. California St., Ventura
Tues 1/30: Karen Eden & the Bad Apples
Tues 2/6: Open Mic and Jam
- Cantara Cellars**
126 N. Wood Rd., Camarillo
Fri 1/26: Ray Jaurique and the Big Band
Sat 1/27: Doc Rogers
Fri 2/2: Jesse Harris & His Band w/ Katie Skene
Sat 2/3: Fish Fry and the Vonettes
- The Cave**
4435 McGrath St., Ventura
Wed & Thurs: Bobby Apostol
Fri & Sat: Warren Takahashi
- Copper Blues**
591 Collection Blvd., Oxnard
Fri 1/26: On Tap
Sat 1/27: Don’t Push
Sat 2/3: FlashPants
- Deer Lodge**
2261 Maricopa Hwy., Ojai
Fri 1/26: Pylon Reenactment Society
Sat 1/27: The Senate, Beau Red
Fri 2/2: Pete Molinari, Robin Taylor Zander
Sat 2/3: Emily Rose & the Rounders, Darlin’ Brando
- Four Brix**
2290 Eastman Ave., Ventura
Fri 1/26: Midlife Crisis
Sun 1/28: Smokey & Friends

- Fri 2/2: Inna Rude Mood
Sat 2/4: Teresa Russell & Stephen Geyer
- Garage**
1091 Scandia Ave., Ventura
Fri 1/26: Robert Heft Band
Sat 1/27: The Renegades
Sun 1/28: Bloody Mary Morning (3 pm)
Fri 2/2: Operation 90s
Sat 2/3: Rayford Bros.
- The Grape**
2733 E. Main St., Ventura
Tues: The Gratitude Jazz Jam
Wed 1/24: Stephane Wrembel
Thurs 1/25: Bill Cunliffe Trio
Fri 1/26: Brian Charette Quartet (night 1)
Sat 1/27: Brian Charette Quartet (night 2)
Mon 1/29: The Pickle Mafia
Wed 1/31: Dr. T & the Blues Criminals
Thurs 2/1: WoRK Quintet
Fri 2/2: The Artistocats
Sat 2/3: Delta by the Beach (2 pm);
- Institutional Ale Company**
3841 Mission Oaks Blvd., Camarillo
Thurs 2/1: Solomon King
- Keynote Lounge**
10245 Telephone Rd., Ventura
Thursdays: Open Mic
Fri 1/26: Reign
- Leashless Brewing**
585 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura
Fri 1/26: Keyth Garcia & the Universouls
Sat 1/27: Boom Duo
Sun 1/28: Danielle Cardillo
- Lucky Fool’s Pub**
75 E. High St., Moorpark
Fri 1/26: Doc Rogers Band
- Majestic Ventura Theater**
26 S. Chestnut St., Ventura
Fri 1/26: Explosions in the Sky
- Manhattan**
5800 Santa Rosa Rd., Camarillo
Wednesdays: Warren Takahashi
Thursdays: Tom McMorran
Fri 1/26: Lisa Ritner Duo
Sat 1/27: Pam and Hollywood
- Moofish Café (inside Crowne Plaza)**
450 E. Harbor Blvd., Ventura
Thursdays: Seth Andre Oster & Michael Velasquez
- Mrs. Olson’s**
2800 Harbor Blvd., Oxnard
Sat 1/27: Dead on the Harbor: Scarlet Fire
Sun 1/28: Teresa Russell
- Namba Arts**
47 S. Oak St., Ventura
Fri 1/26: The Listening Room
Sun 1/28: Larry Bellorin & Joe Troop
Thurs 2/1: Greg Karukas, Maya Burns
- The Ojai Pub**
914 E. Ojai Ave., Ojai
Wed 1/24: Katie Leigh
- Ojai Underground Exchange**
616 Pearl St., Ojai
Fri 1/26: Nathan McEuen
Sat 1/27: Bud Foster w/ Perla Bertala, Gaby M
Sat 1/3: Phil Salazar & Tom Corbett
Sun 2/4: Alison Shearer
- Ojai Valley Brewery**
307 Bryant St., Ojai
Sat 1/27: Ted Lennon Band
- Onyx Bistro**
2390 Las Posas Rd., Camarillo
Fri 1/26: Vinny Berry
Sat 1/27: Brenda Carsey
- Orozoco’s de Ventura**
839 E. Front St., Ventura
Fridays: Soul 4 II
- Poinsettia Pavilion**

- 3451 Foothill Rd., Ventura**
Sun 2/4: Old-Time Country Bluegrass Gospel Music Assoc.
- Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar**
2209 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura
Tuesdays: Danny D
- The Raven Tavern**
1651 S. Victoria Ave., Oxnard
Fri & Sat 7 pm
Fri 1/26: Three Rivers Band
Sat 1/27: Holgers Heroes
- Sam’s Place**
308 E. Ojai Ave., Ojai
Fri 1/26: Tommy Quayle and Friends
- San Souci**
21 S. Chestnut St., Ventura
Fri 1/26: The Blue Moon Boys
Sat 1/27: Stellar Ruins, NoSilence
- The Shores**
1031 Harbor Blvd., Oxnard
Fri 1/26: Brittney and the B-sides
Sat 1/27: Robert Heft Band
- The Six**
419 E. Main St., Ventura
Thurs 1/25: Vinyl Gypsies
Fri 1/26: Mark Masson and Friends
Sat 1/27: Jahmon Soul
Mon 1/29: Open Mic w/ Big Stu
Thurs 2/1: Morrison Drive
Fri 2/2: Sophie Diumenti
Sat 2/3: Ganda
- The Sportsman**
4426 Central Ave., Camarillo
Sun 1/28: Swing Shift
- Strey Cellars**
951 N. Rice Ave., Oxnard
Sat 1/27: Ignition
Sun 1/28: Vinyl Gypsies
- Taqueria Jalisco**
4275 Tierra Rejada Rd., Moorpark
Tuesdays & Fridays: Jim Friery
- Topa Topa Brewing**
4880 Colt St., Ventura
Sun 1/28: The Trivle Omdobble
- The Twist on Main**
454 E. Main St., Ventura
Tuesdays: Tuesday Blues Day w/ Hot Roux & guests
Sat 1/27: Cyamak Ashtiani (1 pm); Brittany and Brian (4 pm); The Mends (8 pm)
Sun 1/28: Dive Bar Steve Trio
- Vaquero y Mar**
435 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura
Sundays: Mariachi
Tuesdays: The Sea Hunter, Lowered Expectations
Wednesdays: The Jelly Jam Band
- Ventura Music Hall**
1888 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura
Wed 1/24: Julian Marley and the Uprising
Tues 1/30: Soja, Hirie, Likkle Jordee
Sat 2/3: The Third Mind featuring Dave Alvin
Tues 2/6: Too Many Zooz, Cloudchord
- Winchesters**
632 E. Main St., Ventura
Music Thurs 5:30; Fri 7 pm; Sat 3 pm; Sun 3 pm
Thurs 1/25: Mack & D
Fri 1/26: Doc Ventura
Sat 1/27: Blown Over
Sun 1/28: James Schulfer Band
Thurs 2/1: Karyn 805
Fri 2/2: Steve and Sally Williams
Sat 2/3: Elektrik Love in Duo
Sun 2/4: Karen Eden & the Bad Apples
- 1901 Speakeasy**
740 S. B St., Oxnard
Fri 1/26: Teresa Russell & Stephen Geyer
Sat 2/3: RJ Mischo





Staring Tiger, Oil on canvas, Yuliya Greben

Buenaventura Art Association at Studio 99 @ The Bell Arts Factory

Animals Wild & Domestic, Real or Imagined exhibit runs to February 24.

Reception on First Friday, February 5th, 6 - 9pm

Our artists start the year at Studio 99 with a collection of stunning depictions of nature and animals. Realistic or redesigned, these animals will give you a new appreciation of nature and its boundless variety.



A previous winner.

Museum of Ventura County announces call for applications

The Museum of Ventura County is proud to announce that applications for the Bonita C. McFarland Scholarship for the Visual Arts are now open. This significant scholarship program, established in honor of Bonita C. McFarland—a devoted supporter of the Museum and the broader arts community—aims to increase opportunities for emerging artists and amplify their impact on our community.

The Museum of Ventura County is committed to empowering the next generation of artists. The Bonita C. McFarland Scholarship has \$10,000 to award. Winners also become part of the program's alumni network – a community of emerging artists and art supporters. “The Bonita McFarland scholarship program reflects the Museum’s dedication to nurturing arts in education, aspiring student artists, and fostering a vibrant cultural landscape within our county.” - Elena Brokaw, Barbara Barnard Smith Executive Director

The Bonita C. McFarland Scholarship is open to all high school seniors and college undergraduates residing in Ventura County who demonstrate exceptional talent and commitment to the visual arts. Applicants will be evaluated based on the quality of their submitted portfolio, academic achievements, personal essay, and recommendations. Applications are due by April 7, 2024, 11:59 PM PST. For further details and to apply, visit: <https://venturamuseum.org/2024-museum-of-ventura-county-bonita-c-mcfarland-arts-education-scholarships/>

We invite all eligible students to apply and help us continue Bonita C. McFarland’s legacy of supporting the arts. Together, we can shape the future of art in Ventura County and make a lasting impact on our community.



Celebrate Love with handmade pottery this Valentine’s Day at Ventura Pottery Gallery. Our one-of-a-kind pieces are crafted with the loving hands of local artists. Giving pottery is a unique way to honor those you care about the most. And pottery will last year after year – long after the flowers have wilted, and the candy is consumed.

While the Gallery is open daily in Ventura Harbor Village, we invite you to join us for a special one-day Valentine’s sale on Saturday, February 10 from 11-6. Not only will there be work inside, our artists will set up a special display outside the Gallery giving you a wide selection of heart-themed work including mugs, jewelry, vases, kitchen items, sculpture and whimsical pieces.

The Gallery is located at 1567 Spinnaker Drive, Suite 105 in the Ventura Harbor Village. Don’t miss this chance to support local artists. More information can be found at <http://venturapotteryguild.org> and you can also visit our online store at www.venturapotteryonline.com



Mayor Joe Schroeder presenting the Ventura High School Girls Cross Country team.

Ventura High School CIF Champions

On January 9, the City Council recognized the Ventura High School Girls Cross Country team for their recent State Championship victory.

City Council also recognized their coach, Josh Spiker, and Sadie Engelhardt who won the individual title as well as breaking the Division II course record with a time of 16:40.7.

After 19 years, the state titles are back in the hands of VHS Girls Cross Country

On Saturday, Nov. 25 in Fresno, VHS Girls Cross Country crossed the finish line with the new title of Division II CIF State Cross Country Championship winners.

Ventura won its third state championship that day in Woodward Park, Fresno. The team won with a score of 85 points by a 29-point margin over Whitney High School, who placed second.

The Path to Girl Scouts Continued from page 17

provide girls with opportunities to step out of their comfort zones and explore new interests. Girls participate in volunteering for organizations, camping, individual creative projects, and council events. These are some of the opportunities that inspired me to be a part of Girl Scouts at age five as I finish out my last and final year of Girl Scouts as a senior in high school.

Being a Girl Scout in Ventura with Troop 60852 for 13 years has taught me to become a leader, manage my time, and become more socially responsible. When I was young, I was extremely shy. Standing up in front of the class to give a presentation was a debilitating experience. Now I have the confidence to lead group presentations and advocate for ideas and others. As the years have passed through my various scouting activities, projects, and achievements I have developed a strong leadership skill set. I have earned the Bronze, Silver, and recently earned my Gold Award this year.

For the Bronze Award, my troop and I created a CD with all our campfire songs and passed it along to younger troops. With my Silver Award, I built a bell and implemented it at Camp Arnaz where we host our annual camping weekend each year. Lastly, I earned my Gold Award by creating a program called Bringing Memory and Strength to Senior Citizens. Integrating music, physical exercise, and dance movements, I hosted a week-long summer camp with seniors at local assisted living homes.

I also coordinate monthly performances at the homes with my high school music department. Through Girl Scouts I have enjoyed hosting Camporee (the annual camping trip at Camp Arnaz), volunteering at Food Share and Assisted Living Homes, and lastly, taking fun trips with the Girl Scout money we earned from selling cookies. Community service is so necessary in today’s society and most organizations as public entities cannot run efficiently or at all without volunteers.

Through Girl Scouts, I have built memories for life and gained skills that I will take with me into the future.

About Libraries and Friends Continued from page 10

significant?” Joseph Puglia has worked the docks of NYC, counseled street gangs, boxed, hustled beer at Yankee Stadium, been a newspaper columnist, spent 10 years in the Marines as an officer and taught college. His undergraduate studies were in classics, his masters in counseling psychology, and his doctorate in sports psychology.

Author events are free and open to the public. For additional information, contact Ron Solórzano, Regional Librarian, at (805) 218-9146 or ron.solorzano@ventura.org.

Career Coaching Offered at Ojai and Piru Libraries

Ventura County Library, in partnership with the Workforce Development Board of Ventura County (WDBVC), is offering free one-on-one career coaching at the Ojai and Piru Libraries. Coaching is free, registration is not required, and drop-ins are welcome.

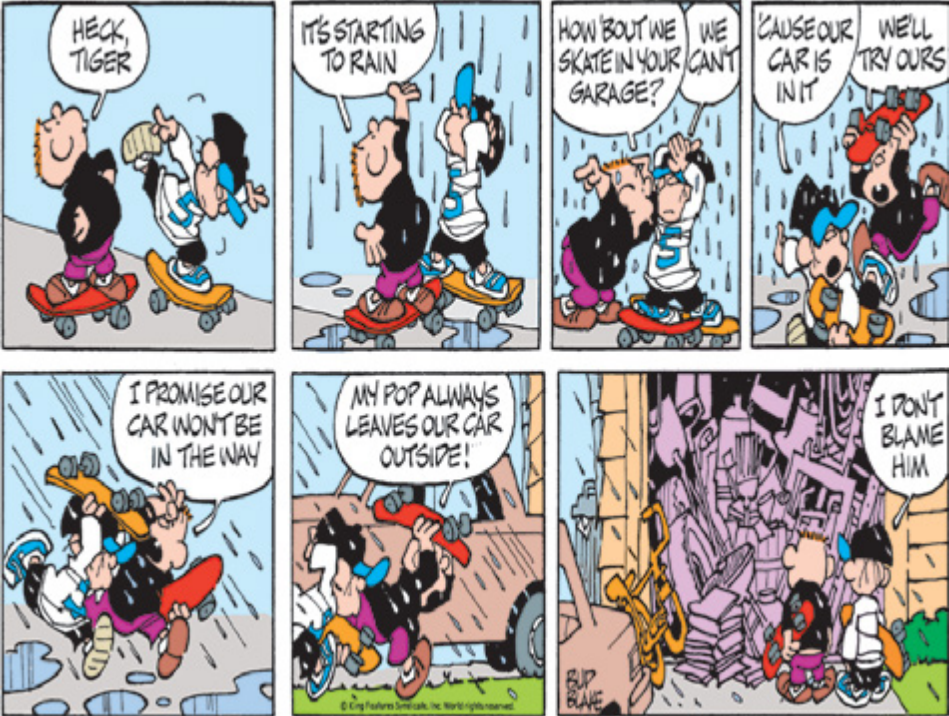
You can also register to secure your spot at <https://forms.gle/uzJMGre6iB-gMGKk6A>. Workshops will be held at Ojai Library (111 East Ojai Avenue, Ojai) every other Thursday from 2 to 4 p.m, beginning Jan. 11 through May 30 and at Piru Library (3811 Center Street, Piru), every other Tuesday from 2 to 4 p.m, beginning Jan. 9 through May 28. This program is 100% federally funded. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. If you have hearing or speaking limitations, dial 711 to reach the California Relay Service. Workshops include topics such as branding, emotional intelligence, networking and winning the interview. For more information about this program, see the vencolibrary.org website or contact Ventura County Library Education, Literacy, and Outreach Manager Antonio Apodaca at Antonio.Apodaca@ventura.org or (805) 677-7159.

The Hill Road Library Book Club returns Tuesday, January 30 at a new time: 4 to 5 pm to discuss **Remarkably Bright Creatures** by Shelby Van Pelt. Pick up the latest Book Club selection at Hill Road Library. To join the mailing list, please email Linda.Cherry@Ventura.org

Ventura Friends of the Library Bookstore, 2nd Look Books, in E.P. Foster Library is open Tuesday through Saturday, 11:00 am to 4:00 pm and Sundays, 1:00 to 4:00 pm. Our store offerings are definitely worth a second look, from current novels to jigsaw puzzles to vintage books. We also invite you to visit our online bookstore for local sales <https://venturafol107753.square.site/s/shop> for more unique items. Orders are picked up at our bookstore in E.P. Foster Library.

Lighter Breeze

Tiger



The Spats



Out on a Limb



Amber Waves



Play Better Golf with Jack Nicklaus



Solutions on page 15

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

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

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row, across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

Solutions on page 15

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Essence
5 Sprint
9 Weed whacker
12 Part of a French play
13 Draft status
14 Jackson 5 hit song
15 Bribe of a sort
17 Kanga's kid
18 Hindu hero
19 Mature, as fruit
21 Laugh track sounds
24 Painter Joan
25 "East of Eden" son
26 College life
30 Kitten's cry
31 Nearby
32 USN bigwig
33 Wagered
35 Shade provider
36 Candied veggies
37 Plano's state
38 Recap
40 Wild hog
42 — pro nobis
43 Website assistance features
48 Motorist's org.
49 Biblical grain measure

DOWN

1 "How frustrating!"
2 Hosp. section
3 Map lines (Abbr.)
4 Capital of Iran
5 Unhappy destiny
6 Editor Wintour
7 Observe
8 October outing
9 Brother of Groucho
10 Bassoon's kin
11 Nobel Prize subj.
16 More (Sp.)
20 Fury
21 Soccer star Mia
22 Region
23 Cowboy's greeting
24 Sail support
26 Priests' garments
27 Runner Sebastian
28 Notion
29 Iowa city
31 Moth repellent
34 Vichy water
35 Nobel-winning Mother
37 Highland hat
38 Drench
39 Russian river
40 Ran in the wash
41 Nashville venue
44 Outback bird
45 Refusals
46 Show to a seat, slangily
47 Utter

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

THERE ARE THREE WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE. YOU CAN SEND A CHECK, PAY BY CREDIT CARD OR ON PAYPAL AT <https://venturabreeze.com/donate/>

YES, I WANT TO SUPPORT THE VENTURA BREEZE.
VENTURA BREEZE, PO BOX 832, VENTURA 93002

CREDIT CARD INFORMATION

NAME _____

CARD NUMBER _____

EXPIRATION DATE _____

CODE ON BACK _____

ZIP CODE _____

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Show Time

A View from House Seats

Elite Spotlights Hidden History

by Shirley Lorraine

Now playing on the main stage at the Elite Theater in Oxnard, is a new work well worth catching. Inspired by real events, the story offers a unique opportunity to explore motivations and methods to achieve societal change.

There is always more to any story – details clouded by the biases of those telling their side, information omitted from news reports, speculations that grow into pseudo-facts, and more. These concepts and others are investigated in a “suppositional” telling of the story of Mother Jones, an outspoken leader and first female organizer of the United Mine Workers Union.

The drama, written by Roger Holzberg and adapted for the Elite stage by Holzberg and director Angela Decicco, invites the audience to participate in pondering the outcome of a fictional trial.

Mary “Mother” Harris Jones (Lynn Van Emmerik), is brought before the venerable Clarence Darrow (Bill Walthall) and U.M.W. President John Mitchell (Don McGreevy) to explain and justify actions taken in 1914’s Colorado Coalfield War labor dispute in which the uprising for miner’s rights resulted in thousands of deaths.

Jones, at age 77, fought long and hard for coal miner’s rights – to be paid in U.S. dollars, to limit the extent of their workday to eight hours, and to “lifting the chains of industrial slavery” among other worthy pursuits. Jones was a champion of women’s rights to work outside the home for equal pay, access to health care and more. Sound familiar? It should, because this “war” is still being fought.

Accented by historical slides, subtle

character changes to spotlight vignettes and a minimal, yet effective setting, the telling brings up questions relevant even today and asks the audience to judge actions taken. Valid points are brought up by each side. Based on information presented, was Mother Jones justified in asking workers to sacrifice themselves and their families for the cause?

Lynn Van Emmerik presents a persona of Mother Jones that is formidable and strong. She is imbued with an inner fire of conviction that, to her, justifies her retaliatory actions. Despite this passion, might she also be at fault in the eyes of the law?

Walthall and McGreevy, along with Logan Chase and Hana Moon, all present well portrayed characterizations to accentuate points presented in this fictional trial.

The piece is deeply researched and presents many openings for digging deeper to find answers. Mostly lost to history, the incident as spotlighted allows the audience an opportunity to use the context to examine similar actions in current issues.

Opening night held an additional bonus – a talk-back with the author following the presentation, giving audience members a forum to ask questions, express views and offer suggestions. Holzberg will be conducting another talk back at the Thursday performance and possibly a few others. Contact the theatre directly for additional dates.

The Trial of Mother Jones continues Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. with an 8 p.m. performance on Thursday, February 15. www.theElite.org, 805-483-5118.

Annie was an activist fighting the town’s mine who had a lot of haters, driving everybody nuts including locals and mine workers. Navarro worked on the police force as a detective at the time and wouldn’t let the case rest, bugging the wrong prominent people like Kate McKittrick specifically. Detective Navarro showed up at McKittrick’s house demanding answers and even got in a couple fights with mine workers, so was taken off the case and that’s when Danvers came to town to take on the police chief’s position.

The Annie Kowtok case happened several years prior, so Danvers felt there was no way the tongue could have been Annie’s due it medically appearing to only have been detached a couple of days before being discovered at TSALAL. Danvers believed there may be something related to Annie’s case to review but the files were at Captain Hank Prior’s place due to a previous fire at the station, so she asked him to return them though he seemed a bit put off by the request.

Meanwhile, outside of town Rose Aguneau (Fiona Shaw) received a ghostly visitation from her deceased friend Travis who guided her out into the night to a place near TSALAL where the scientists were all frozen together in the ice, naked and appeared terrified. When Chief Danvers arrived and asked Rose how she knew where they were, Rose said “Travis showed me” and though Danvers knew Travis was dead, no one else had been able to find the scientists until then.

Season 4: 6 – 60min episodes

Keeping People Housed
Continued from page 19

and that, on average, it only cost \$1,150 per household or \$500 per individual to keep our neighbors housed. Not surprisingly, the number we are able to help each year is determined by the amount of money we have on hand.

From 12:30-2 on February 24, the third Saturday of Valentines’ month, we are holding a fundraiser we are calling “Keeping People Housed: That’s Amore.” We hope you’ll join us and Supervisor Matt LaVeré for a delicious Italian meal, live music, an online and in person auction, a wine pull, and a chance to meet some of the people we were able to help this past year thanks to the support of our donors.

If you like to help by purchasing a ticket or by donating, you can go to our our website (venturahomelessprevention.org). There’s a link to the auction at that location as well; auction bidding will be open from February 10-25.

Yet another way you could help would be to encourage businesses you frequent to donate an item or a service for our auction. You/They can either email me at venturahomelessprevention@gmail.com with the details or fill in our easy online form here: <https://venturahomelessprevention.betterworld.org/donate-an-item>.

We hope to see you and many of your friends and colleagues on February 24. It should be a fun event, and I know you’ll enjoy meeting several of the hard-working Venturans we helped in 2023.

Streaming Spotlight by Cindy Summers

True Detective: Night Country

- MAX



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

“Night Country” is set in Ennis, Alaska, 150 miles north of the Arctic Circle in mid December when they see the last sunset of the year. Local Police Chief Liz Danvers (Jodie Foster) presided over the small town comprised of Alaskan natives and those who relocated to work in the town’s mine. The TSALAL arctic research station located just outside of town housed 8 scientists from around the globe investigating the scientific origins of life primarily through drilled ice cores.

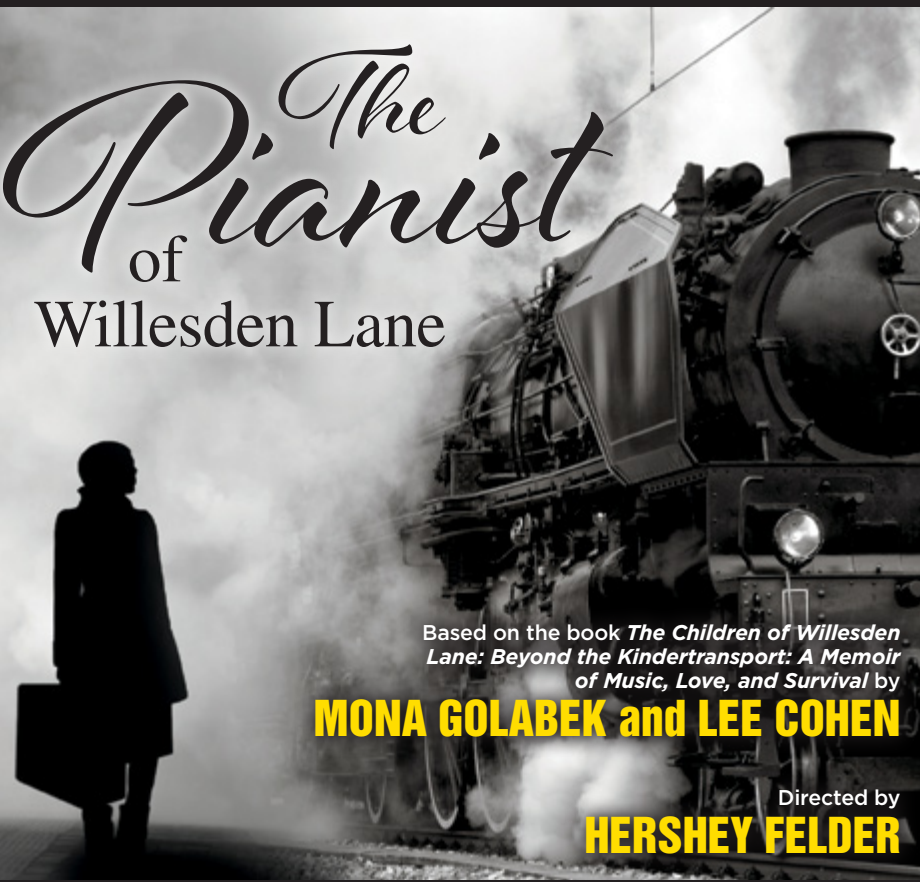
The TSALAL scientific team was going about their usual daily activities when Clark appeared to have a mild seizure, then said looking fearfully “She’s awake” just before the lights went out. A delivery man came from

town three days later to find everyone gone, as if they had left abruptly (uneaten sandwich on the kitchen counter, DVD movie playing over and over) but in dropping his keys on the floor discovered a severed tongue.

When Chief Danvers arrived, Captain Hank Prior (John Hawkes) and his son Officer Pete Prior (Finn Bennett) had arrived earlier and had done an initial search, not finding any sign of the scientists though no vehicles were missing and there would be no way they could survive outside. Chief Danvers determined the eight men had been gone for at least 48 hours and the tongue’s discoloration also seemed to indicate 48 hours, as well as indentations due to constantly repairing fishing nets confirming it was a native woman’s tongue. Chief Danvers also found the message scribbled on a whiteboard that said “WE ARE ALL DEAD”.

Trooper Evangeline Navarro (Kali Reis) was waiting when Chief Danvers returned to the office wanting to know about the native tongue that was found, believing it was related to the past murder case of Anne Mosu Kowtok that they both briefly worked on together. Annie was found on the outskirts of the villages stabbed 32 times with star-shaped wounds and her tongue cut out. The murder weapon was never recovered and the details regarding removing her tongue were kept from public knowledge.

ON STAGE **FEBRUARY 1-18**




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Business Profile



Rosi Barragan - Expert in Accounting and Business Advisory Transforming Enterprises

In the dynamic world of business, having an expert who not only understands the numbers but also the unique needs of each company is invaluable. In this context, we highlight Rosi Barragan, a Certified Public Accountant with an impressive track record in creating and advising small businesses.

With studies in International Business and Marketing, Rosi has dedicated a significant part of her career to the development of operational and administrative processes, providing solutions that thoroughly understand the needs of businesses and their owners or investors. Her focus is on offering peace of mind and quality of life to entrepreneurs through solid financial strategies and customization of accounting systems.

What sets Rosi apart is her outstanding certification in Quickbooks Online in the U.S., positioning her as an expert in efficient accounting. Her passion for providing tools that bring tranquility stands out among similar services.

Based in Ventura, CA, Rosi Barragan offers her services throughout the United States. Her commitment to transparency and legality is reflected in the use of accounting concepts accepted by the IRS, ensuring that her clients receive accurate information and comply with tax regulations.

If you are looking for someone who not only crunches the numbers but also understands the essence of your business, Rosi Barragan is the ideal choice. Transform your company with expert and personalized advice that exceeds expectations.

CoverlyPro unveils fresh new looks

CoverlyPro has lent its voice to elevate brands throughout Ventura County and the region since 2010, and today unveils a fresh new look and revitalized website for itself. The project was completed with collaboration from the entire CoverlyPro team, resulting in a new logo, vibrant color palette, refreshed website, and guiding philosophy, “It’s not what you say, it’s how you say it.” The rebranding supports the company’s upward momentum which is furthered with the addition of its newest members, Communications Specialist Chase Woodard and Social Media Specialist Andrea Mora. These efforts reflect an era of growth for the company, displaying an evolution in its visual identity and core values and demonstrating that in the world of marketing, nobody says it quite like CoverlyPro.

“We are excited to usher in a new era of CoverlyPro to the region,” said CEO Lynnette Coverly, “I am confident that our new branding and additions to our team demonstrate a clear message of who we are and where we are headed.” This rebrand affirms the company’s dedication to the community and its clients by highlighting their ever-present creative and innovative spirit, which has driven CoverlyPro’s continued

success. The project produced a reimagined position statement which aligns the company with its commitment to vibrant collaboration with clients and to elevating client stories by creating actionable and measurable marketing programs.

CoverlyPro also announces the addition of two new team members, growing in their mission to create stories that speak to clients and the public alike. Chase Woodard joins the CoverlyPro team as a Communications Specialist and is a creative thinker who brings experience crafting engaging messaging for client marketing campaigns and formulating inventive ways to engage audiences. Andrea Mora joins the team as a Social Media Specialist, bringing years of experience creating exciting and informational social media posts along with fresh and effective ecommerce content. With its new rebrand, refreshed website, and expanded team, CoverlyPro is looking to leverage this momentum to expand their client roster and amplify their impact.

Founded in 2010 by Lynnette Coverly, Coverly Professional Services (CoverlyPro) is a full-service marketing and public relations project management firm based in Ventura, California. With a varied portfolio of clients, CoverlyPro creates and implements branding and marketing strategies for the “service” industry from non-profits, to professional services, public transit, veterinary, and other industries. To learn more visit www.CoverlyPro.com.