



VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

Vol. 17, No. 13 Published Every Other Wednesday Established 2007 March 20 to April 2, 2024



Ebeling has over 15 years of experience as a public works director.

City of Ventura appoints Charles "Charlie" Ebeling as new Public Works Director

The City of Ventura is pleased to announce the appointment of Charles "Charlie" Ebeling as its new Public Works Director, effective April 1, 2024, following an extensive selection process. Mr. Ebeling brings a wealth of experience and expertise in roadway and bridge design, traffic engineering, and transportation planning to his new role.

With over 15 years of experience as a public works director and nearly 27 years of engineering experience in both the private and public sectors, Mr. Ebeling's leadership has been instrumental in delivering significant transportation projects in his previous roles at the City of Goleta and the City of Carpinteria.

Continued on page 3

A Night to Remember: Ventura Prom 2024

by Patricia Schallert

On March 8th, 2024, Mission Church hosted an unforgettable prom for students (aged 12 to 25) with disabilities from all over Ventura County. The aim was to create a stress-free and enjoyable experience in a safe and inclusive space for students to have fun, socialize, and create cherished memories. The theme for the prom was "A Night to Remember," and it was held at the Ventura County Fairgrounds. The venue was transformed into a captivating space, bringing the "A Night to Remember" theme to life and was free of charge for the students and their escorts.

The fairground venue was transformed into a truly magical setting, thanks to a team of dedicated volunteers who worked tirelessly to create a visually stunning ambiance that perfectly captured the spirit of the event. The decorations, combined with the efforts of the volunteers, made the prom a truly memorable

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The night was also filled with dazzling attire, hairstyling and makeup.

Visit Ventura Honored with Visit California Poppy Award



Visit Ventura staff is proud of their award.

Visit Ventura is extremely proud to announce that it was selected as the winner in the Best Strategic Partnership category at the Visit California Poppy Awards Gala, one of the most prestigious award ceremonies in the California travel and tourism industry.

At their biennial Poppy Awards, held March 12 in Greater Palm Springs, Visit California honored tourism destinations and attractions across California for excellence, creativity, and effectiveness in tourism marketing and destination stewardship.

Among hundreds of submissions, a panel of industry marketing experts selected Visit Ventura as the destination winner for the Best Strategic Partnership category, recognizing the organization's

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Your Hometown Paper

Member, Ventura Chamber of Commerce

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The Ventura Breeze is printed with soy based ink on paper with minimum 40% recycled content.

Is this the one
where I get an
extra hour of
drinking or
lose an hour of
drinking?
– Author
unknown



Bev and Kirby Ward are co-founders of Art City.

New Art City Theatre Welcomes Sally Struthers

New Art City Theatre, Ventura County's newest professional theatre, is pleased to announce Festival '24, the company's inaugural festival of new works. Festival '24 runs April 25th through 28th at The Museum of Ventura County. Beverly Ward and Kirby Ward, the founders and Co-Producing Artistic Directors, are especially thrilled to bring renowned actress Sally Struthers to Ventura to join the cast of Drowned Cats, one of four brand-new plays presented as part of the four-day, jam-packed schedule of staged readings and discussion panels.

The mission at New Art City Theatre (also know as NACT) is unique. As an emerging nonprofit, NACT serves two groups: writers and audience. "Our goal is to support the work of established and emerging playwrights as well as to expand the audience who attends

professional performing arts events," states Kirby Ward. "By keeping the readings free, we're saying, everyone is welcome!" adds Bev Ward, Kirby's wife of nearly 40 years.

"It's a win-win. Writers who develop new works need an audience, and audiences crave affordable, live entertainment," she adds. Key to the company's mission is to attract less typical attendees, like young people with modest means and older people who may be on a fixed income.

The Wards bring decades of professional theatrical practice to their roles. Ultimately, their work as writers shapes their vision as they cultivate relationships with playwrights across the country. As part of their annual programming, NACT will open a submission portal each year and accept scripts of all types, from comedy to drama, and musical theatre, too. For this year's festival, 175 scripts were submitted from playwrights and composers across the county. With the help of volunteers, each submitted script is read by multiple readers, narrowing the selection to a handful of projects, eventually settling on four. The four writers participating in Festival '24 hail from Maryland, Long Island, Seattle and Chicago

Each show will have two presentations (matinee and evening) involving professional actors, including Ms. Struthers. The Wards first worked with the star of stage and screen on the east coast, and she later performed in a Manhattan reading of Lord Arthur Savile's Crime, a musical written by the Wards. "Sally is incredible! Not just funny, but as fine an actress as I've ever seen on stage. Her role in Drowned Cats

will benefit from her sublime sense of humor" gushes Bev.

The Wards spent the first two weeks of March on casting and are confident all the talent will rise to the level set by Struthers. "We saw nearly 150 actors in L.A. and Ventura and there were so many wonderful auditions. We can't wait to bring these new scripts to life at The Museum of Ventura County." beams Kirby.

To reserve your free ticket, go to: <https://newartcitytheatre.org/festival/> The theatre has open seating.

The plays:
Swimming Up The Sun - April 25, 1 & 7 PM
Reconciliation - April 26, 1 & 7 PM
Drowned Cats - April 27, 1 & 7 PM
Imitating Life - April 27th, 5:00 PM
Blowhole - April 28, 1 & 5:30 PM
Talkback immediately following each performance.

To Reserve your free ticket, go to: <https://newartcitytheatre.org/festival/> About New Art City Theatre

New Art City Theatre (NACT) is a groundbreaking theatre company based in Ventura. Founded in 2023 by Kirby and Beverly Ward, renowned theatre professionals, the company is dedicated to the development of new works and offers a platform for emerging playwrights to showcase their talents. By giving equal access to diverse voices and inviting a broader audience to participate, NACT aspires to elevate all that is compelling about original theatre. For more information, visit www.newartcitytheatre.org, email info@newartcitytheatre.org or connect on Facebook or Instagram.

As I See It by Sheldon Brown

- Congratulations to our local stars, Supervisor Matt LaVere on winning a strong majority of the votes in the primary. He won't have to run in the general election this fall. And California State Representative Steve Bennett who will be on the November ballot for a runoff but will certainly win.
- Ventura has been awarded \$640,000 for a homelessness prevention pilot program. The city's new homeless prevention and diversion program will provide rental and utility assistance to residents.

This will help 100 (if not more) eligible households with up to \$4,000 in rental and utility assistance so they may keep their housing. The aid is possible through state funding awarded to the city in February for a two-year homelessness pilot program. More than \$410,000 will go directly to applicants, and the remaining funds cover administrative and staffing costs and associated taxes and benefits for the program.

The assistance could be for payment for back rent or up to two months of future rent to prevent evictions. It could also cover outstanding utility costs.

The income limit is \$74,400 a year or less for a one-person household or \$85,000 or less for a two-person household. Perhaps I'm eligible.

To apply for housing help with the city, contact Mercy House at 805-399-9099 ext. 385 or case manager Norberto "Sal" Meza at norbertom@mercyhouse.net.

- The Ventura City Council voted 6-0 (Jim Duran was absent) to hold off on converting some free parking into paid parking until at least January. The city will conduct a study of rates and details

that should be complete in November.

The original plan was approved on Nov. 13 in a 6-1 vote, and would have turned hundreds of free spots into paid stalls starting May 1. The change would have included the parking structure on Santa Clara Street and many surface lots downtown.

The additional revenue (if ever implemented) will help pay for a new parking garage planned for downtown, which is very much needed. The preliminary design calls for spending \$31.3 million (which will of course cost much more) and provide for 435-spaces at the corner of Santa Clara and Palm.

- The two largest pharmacy chains in the United States will start dispensing the abortion pill Mifepristone this month, a step that could make access easier for some women. At least some of our country makes sense.

Daylight Savings Time (DST) was first implemented in the US with the Standard Time Act of 1918, a wartime measure for seven months during World War I in the interest of adding more daylight hours to conserve energy resources.

In the United States, Arizona (with the exception of the Navajo Nation), Hawaii, and the five populated territories (American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the US Virgin Islands) do not participate in daylight saving time. Indiana only began participating in daylight saving time as recently as 2006. Since 2018, Florida Republican Senator Marco Rubio (and others) has repeatedly filed bills to extend daylight saving time permanently into winter, without success.

Apparently, pets' internal clocks don't change for daylight savings time. Our cat

Savana the cat lets me know at 6:30am that it's time for breakfast. Now she lets me know at 7:30. They are such odd animals. Some mornings I put the food in her bowl, and she just looks at it and gets back in bed. I think she just likes to let me know that she's in charge.

- How odd movie ratings are on Spectrum. Mad Max gets 97% and Gone with the Wind 90%. So now Mad Max must be considered one of the best movies of all time.

Mailbox

An Opinion

by Veterans for Responsible and Efficient Government Editors

The evidence continues to mount, proving a problem exists with Ventura Water, the Water Commission and VenturaWaterPure.

In 2019, the Carollo Report presented several options to Ventura to VenturaWaterPure, many of which were less expensive. However, the Ventura Water Department convinced the City Council to ignore the report's options.

A September 12, 2019 report titled Ventura Water Supply Projects and Alternatives shows estimated project costs of another \$320 million plus annual

Continued on page 14

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



Pier remains closed. Photos by Patricia Schallert.

Pier Closure Update

The iconic Ventura Pier, a cherished local landmark, has faced unprecedented challenges in the last year, leading to its closure to the public in January 2023. The closure was necessitated by significant storm damage that raised serious safety concerns. Despite setbacks, the City of Ventura has been unwavering in its commitment to address the damage and secure the pier’s long-term integrity.

In response to the severity of damage caused by winter storms and high surf, the City declared a local state of emergency to expedite disaster response and seek emergency funding from the state to aid in the recovery process. The City Council officially ratified the local state of emergency on January 9, 2024.

The reopening of the Ventura Pier, initially scheduled for March, has been postponed to the summer of 2024 due to additional damage caused by heavy surf in December 2023. The high surf, plus winter storm events from January 2023, dislodged support pilings, braces, and brackets, necessitating extensive repairs and causing a delay in the reopening date.

Last year’s damage involved a total of 34 damaged and 20 dislodged piles, with the recent inspection revealing 19 missing or damaged timber piles, 20 dislodged piles, and 62 damaged or missing braces. The Ventura City Council members recently approved a \$1.75 million agreement with Jilk Heavy Construction Inc. to address the December damages, adding to the \$1.45 million allocated for last year’s repairs. The comprehensive repair cost amounts to \$3.2 million, with the city expecting approximately \$1.58 million in reimbursements, including support from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the California Disaster Assistance Act, and the Ventura County Community Foundation.

Recently, the City of Ventura received a \$40,000 donation from Pier Into the Future to help support restoration efforts. Read the press release.

The Ventura Pier, formerly known as the Ventura Wharf and the San Buenaventura

Wharf, is a wooden pier. The pier is the oldest pier in the state and is designated as Ventura Historic Landmark No. 20. Since 1872, the Ventura Pier has stood as a symbol of the region’s rich history and natural resources. Once the cornerstone of Ventura County’s agricultural, construction and oil trade, today the Ventura Pier is a favorite attraction for fishing, picnics, sunset strolls and beautiful views.

Charles “Charlie” Ebeling Continued from page 1

“We are thrilled to welcome Charlie Ebeling to our City’s leadership team,” said City Manager Bill Ayub. “With the City of Ventura’s rich history spanning over 150 years, our aging infrastructure presents unique challenges. Charlie’s extensive experience and innovative approaches will be invaluable as we address these issues and continue to enhance and maintain our public infrastructure for the benefit of our community.”

A native of Santa Barbara, Mr. Ebeling received a bachelor’s degree in civil engineering from California State University Chico. He holds credentials as a Professional Engineer and Traffic Engineer and is a Certified Master Technician through the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence (ASE).

“I am honored to join the City of Ventura as its new Public Works Director,” said Charlie Ebeling. “I look forward to collaborating with the talented team here and working closely with the community to address our infrastructure needs and enhance the quality of life for residents.”

The City of Ventura’s Public Works Department is accredited by the American Public Works Association (APWA) and is responsible for overseeing the City’s capital improvement program, floodplain management, engineering survey, environmental sustainability, fleet and facilities, and transportation engineering.

As Public Works Director, Mr. Ebeling will earn a base salary of \$246,973.00 annually.

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On Monday, April 1 CAPS is launching ReCAPS

CAPS premieres ReCaps – a special series of Ventura storytelling

On Monday, April 1 CAPS is launching ReCAPS, a very special weekly series of original programs featuring storytellers throughout Ventura County. Every Monday night at 7pm a new edition of ReCAPS will premiere on CAPS Channel 6 and stream online, with stories and histories by a variety of local storytellers sharing their personal journeys.

CAPS crews have recorded hundreds of interviews with fascinating people on a wide range of productions including Ventura County’s 150th Celebration, The Thomas Fire, Ventura City’s 150th Celebration, Ventura Legacies and many more. CAPS has also recorded personal histories for special presentations for the Museum of Ventura County, the

Ventura College Foundation, and many other organizations. Brief segments from all the interviews were included in CAPS programs and presentations, but that leaves a lot of wonderful history and storytelling to be shared. ReCAPS is the place where all the complete interviews can be found.

The initial set of ReCAPS features numerous storytellers included in the Museum of Ventura County’s landmark exhibit “Ventura County: The Place We Call Home”, created for the county’s 150th Celebration, personal interviews recorded for “The Perfect Firestorm,” CAPS Media’s documentary on the Thomas fire, and for CAPS’ storytelling series, “Ventura Legacies.” A complete list of

ReCAPS programs and schedule are on the CAPS website at capsmedia.org.

Starting on Monday, April 1, ReCAPS storytellers include Carlos Ortega, chief curator of the Museum of Ventura County, Moses Mora, longtime resident of Ventura’s westside community and Tortilla Flats historian, and Jake and Jennie Dilbeck, firefighter, and survivor of the Thomas Fire.

In coming weeks ReCAPS programs will feature “Home” stories and memories from Jim and John Proctor, Barbara Macri-Ortiz, Pedro Chavez, Julie Tumamait-Stenslie, and others, plus complete heart-wrenching, first-person stories from Thomas Fire survivors and fire fighters Kat Merrick, Clark Tulberg, Trevor Quirk, Chad Cook, David Endaya, and others. The series will include “Ventura Legacies,” personal histories by Ventura County’s most influential families including the Fosters, Harrisons, Smith, Hobson, and Petit families, plus county histories of tortilla flats, surfing, and oil exploration.

The ReCAPS includes engaging interviews by museum director Elena Brokaw with innovators from a wide range of organizations throughout the county, plus tasty and entertaining “Feast or Flop” food programs that recreate Ventura County historic recipes, flavored with county origin stories hosted by Renee Tallent, collections manager at the Museum of Ventura County and recreated by local chefs.

Every Monday night at 7pm ReCAPS features a new storyteller that has a special and personal story to share. The programs will repeat throughout

the week on Channel 6 and streaming online. The schedule is posted on the CAPS Media website.

You may think you’ve heard all the great Ventura County stories, but the ReCAPS storytellers are certain to entertain and surprise you.

CAPS manages and programs cable channels 6 (Public) and 15 (Education and Government), and CAPS Radio KPPQ in Ventura, and manages the CAPS Media Center, at 65 Day Road, which is open Tuesday – Thursday, 12p– 8pm. CAPS provides unlimited creative resources and expertise in Ventura. Everyone in the community is invited to join us for an orientation session held on the first Monday of each month at 6pm. Drop by and discover what the CAPS Crew and our creative community have to offer.

Community Memorial Hospital receives Outstanding Patient Experience Award

Community Memorial Healthcare is proud to announce that, for the second consecutive year, its Ventura hospital has received the Healthgrades Outstanding Patient Experience Award.



We are now enrolling pre-school through 12th grade for the 24-25 school year!

In 2024-25, children are eligible for TK if they turn five between September 2, 2024- June 2, 2025.

www.venturausd.org

Healthgrades, a leader in hospital research and transparency, also awarded the hospital 5 Stars in several specialty care areas.

The Outstanding Patient Experience Award places Community Memorial Hospital – Ventura among the top 15% of hospitals nationwide for patient experience, according to Healthgrades. The patient experience measures reveal how patients felt about the care they received overall at the hospital and are based on patient survey data that Healthgrades obtains from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

“Earning the Outstanding Patient Experience Award for the second year in a row underscores the dedication of our physicians, staff, and leadership to providing outstanding patient care on an ongoing basis,” said Mick Zdeblick, President & CEO, Community Memorial Healthcare. “As an independent community hospital, it’s an honor to be among the top 15% in the nation, and I am proud of our team for their commitment to maintaining this high level of care.”

To identify the top hospitals for patient experience, Healthgrades applies a scoring methodology to ten patient experience measures using Hospital Consumer Assessment of Healthcare Providers and Systems (HCAHPS) survey data submitted by the hospital’s own patients. Survey questions focus on how patients viewed their hospital care, including cleanliness, noise levels, medication explanations, interactions with doctors and nurses, and hospital staff responsiveness. The measures also include whether a patient would recommend the hospital to friends or

family and their overall rating of the hospital. For this annual analysis, Healthgrades evaluated more than 2,500 hospitals that submitted at least 100 patient experience surveys to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), covering admissions from January 2022 to December 2022.

Healthgrades also awarded Community Memorial Hospital – Ventura the highest 5-star ratings in the treatment areas of heart failure (cardiac care), cranial neurosurgery, stroke treatment (neurosciences), treatment of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD, pulmonary), gastrointestinal bleeding (gastrointestinal care), and respiratory failure (critical care). These 5-star ratings distinguish Community Memorial Hospital – Ventura as a leading provider of care in these specialties, providing better-than-expected outcomes. For the specialty care ratings, Healthgrades evaluated patient mortality and complication rates for common conditions and procedures at thousands of hospitals nationwide to identify the top-performing hospitals for cardiac care, neurosciences, pulmonary, gastrointestinal, and critical care.

Healthgrades is a top platform for finding a doctor and is a leader in healthcare transparency, helping millions of consumers find and schedule appointments with healthcare professionals. Consumers can visit [healthgrades.com](https://www.healthgrades.com) for more information on how Healthgrades measures hospital quality. Complete Healthgrades reports are available at <https://www.healthgrades.com/quality/hospital-ratings-awards>.

Springtime




at the Harbor Village



Saturday, March 30th
10 AM – 4 PM | Village Main Lawn
Complimentary Admission
Kid's Egg Hunt & Cottontail Bunny at 10am



VENTURA HARBOR VILLAGE



This year’s theme for the St. Pats Parade was “Shamrocks & Shenanigans,” giving parade participants an invitation to embrace their inner leprechaun with whimsy and mischief in the creation of their parade entries. The Grand Marshal was 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.

Photos by Michael Gordon.

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Ships greatly decrease the likelihood of striking whales with their ships.

Car drivers can learn green driving from ship captains

by David Goldstein

Ship captains are reducing the speed of large vessels passing through the channel off our coast, providing three environmental benefits. They cut fuel consumption, reduce air pollution, and. This program expanded last year, despite the end of financial incentives for participation.

From 2014 to 2022, participating captains earned financial incentives for their shipping companies by slowing to 10 knots or less, but in 2023, despite the end of incentives, the program grew from 23 to 33 participating companies. Also, captains of these participating companies' ships met slowing standards 81 percent of the time, compared to 78 percent in the previous year, according to data from automatic transponders installed on ships.

Rather than money, these companies now receive only public recognition for authorizing their ship captains to cooperate with the ongoing, voluntary program. Recognition is promoted by the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District and its partners through press releases, social media posts, and advertisements. Additionally, the consumer products shipped through this program can advertise participation in "sustainable shipping" initiatives.

Pilots of the French shipping line CMA CGM achieved 96 percent cooperation, the highest rate of any line in the 2023 season, and 12 additional companies reached "Sapphire" level, the top recognition category. These are CSL Group, D'Amico Tankers DAC, Hapag-Lloyd, Mediterranean Shipping

Co. (MSC), NingBo Ocean Shipping Co., NYK Ro-Ro, Ocean Network Express (ONE), Orient Overseas Container Line (OOCL), OSG Ship Management, Swire Shipping, Yang Ming, and Wallenius Wilhelmsen.

David Goldstein, Ventura County Public Works Agency Environmental Resource Analyst, may be reached at (805) 658-4312 or david.goldstein@ventura.org



The Lore of the Olivas Owls

by Richard Senate

The large eucalyptus trees that grow near the Olivas Adobe have been, for decades the home of a family of Great Horned Owls. They are the largest of the owl family and they are called "great horned" because of two tufts of feathers on their head that resembles horns. Sometimes they are called Tiger Owls or Hoot Owls and they can have a wingspan of up to 4.5 feet (1.4 meters). They can weigh in as much as three pounds (1.4 Kilograms). Their Latin name is Bibo Virginianus Pacifica. They use their

excellent eyesight to prey upon the gophers from the near-by golf course. They are known for their distinctive call, hence the name "hoot owls." Their cry is believed to be an omen of ill fortune and coming death. They say if you see an owl perched atop a house it means that one of the residents will die soon. Folklore says that owls only make their nest near haunted houses.

In the Middle Ages owls were linked to witches and witchcraft. Because of this they were, like cats, hunted and killed by superstitious people. Owls have been part of the Olivas Adobe for decades and each spring new owlets are hatched in the large tree where the baby owls in the nest can be viewed in the Spring. It is only fitting because the Olivas Family descended from warrior knights who served the Spanish King. The family crest is a shield with a large owl!

The Bookmark

About Libraries and Friends

by Mary Olson

It's time for another Ventura Friends of the Library Book Sale Saturday, April 6, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Vons at Telegraph & Victoria Children's books - buy one get one Free (except graphic novels) Puzzles; DVDs and CDs \$1.00 each; Books on CD \$1.50-\$2.00 each

BUNNY BONANZA HUNT at E.P. Foster Library, Friday, March 22, 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm

Fun for the all the family - Bunny

& Empathy Expertise

That's how you earn Healthgrades' Outstanding Patient Experience Award. *Again.*

Providing a great patient experience takes ...experience — not to mention teamwork, expertise, empathy, dedication, and grit. All of us at Community Memorial are proud to have earned Healthgrades' **2024 Outstanding Patient Experience Award** again this year. This designation, based on patient survey data that Healthgrades obtains from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, puts us **in the top 15% of hospitals nationwide** for patient experience. We also achieved 5-star ratings from Healthgrades in five key service areas, including: pulmonary, gastrointestinal, neurosurgery, stroke, and heart failure. These ratings designate us as a leading local provider of care in these specialties, delivering better-than-expected clinical outcomes. We're delighted with this recognition, because when it comes to award-winning care, you can always Expect More.

Learn more at mycmh.org/awards.



& 2023 & 2024



Petting Zoo, Spring Crafts, Spring Scavenger Hunt!

Presented by EP Foster Library's Teen Advisory Group. The Teen Advisory Group is open to students, 13 to 18 years. Students earn community service hours while planning fun TEEN and CHILDREN'S events! For more information, call 805 626-READ.

Ventura author **P. Scott Corbett** will visit the Ojai Library at 2 pm on Saturday, March 23, to talk about his new trilogy of books: *Harvest of Hunger*, *Fortune's Retrieval*, and *Pursuing Shadows*.

Meet the author who turned a lifelong passion for writing, China, and Asia into compelling historical fiction. He'll discuss his works, the creative process, and publishing.

P. Scott Corbett received his Ph.D. in History from the University of Kansas Columbia University. He has taught American history at the college level for over 30 years, including at Ventura College and CSUCI. He has also taught American history in China and Singapore.

The trilogy recounts the saga of four generations of an American family serving as missionaries and cultural ambassadors in China. Though a certain amount of literary license has been used in developing the narratives, they do track closely actual historical events and experiences of actual people encompassing the North China famine of 1920-21, war-torn China from 1937 to 1945 and China in the 1980s.

This event is free and open to the

public. For additional information, contact Ron Solórzano, Regional Librarian, at (805) 218-9146 or ron.solorzano@ventura.org.

Discover Science at Hill Road Library, Saturday, March 23, 11:00 am to noon This Rainbow in a Jar water density experiment with sugar uses only a few kitchen ingredients but produces an amazing science experiment for kids!

STEAM SATURDAY at Avenue Library --Saturday, March 30, 12:00 to 2:00 pm.

Art Dice: Create a set of dice to gamify your art! Create randomly generated art, where every toss of the dice provides the chance to practice drawing skills, color and shape recognition, art vocabulary, and more.

Space and supplies are limited. This program is free and open to the public.

The Ventura County Library Foundation is bringing its **Rising from the Ashes Home Tour** back for a third year, on Saturday, April 20, 12:00 to 4:00 pm. Visions to See - Stories to Tell - The 2024 tour features five homes, a native plant garden, refreshments, live music, and more.

The Thomas Fire caused devastation, but not defeat. Join us and witness the resilience of Ventura, as we tour some of the beautifully rebuilt homes and hear the stories of rebirth.

Tickets are \$50 each. To purchase tickets, visit <https://www.vclibrary-foundation.org/> Proceeds benefit the Ventura County Libraries.

The celebration of Purim

Purim is a Jewish holiday that commemorates the saving of the Jewish people from annihilation at the hands of an official of the Achaemenid Empire named Haman, as it is recounted in the Book of Esther (usually dated to the 5th century BCE). It will be held on March 23 this year.

Haman was the royal vizier to the Persian king Ahasuerus (Xerxes I or Artaxerxes I; Khshayarsha and Artakhsher in Old Persian, respectively). His plans were foiled by

Mordecai of the tribe of Benjamin, and Esther, Mordecai's cousin and adopted daughter who had become queen of Persia after her marriage to Ahasuerus. The day of deliverance became a day of feasting and rejoicing among Jews.

According to the Scroll of Esther, "they should make them days of feasting and gladness, and of sending portions one to another, and gifts to the poor".

Purim is celebrated with food, charity and gatherings. The four observances of the holiday are to read the book of Esther, give charity to at least two needy individuals, share the gift of food with at least one friend and partake in a festive meal.

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Serra Cross Park has been closed to car traffic for six weeks as major renovations were happening. It is now open. Please come enjoy the repaved parking lot, speed hump (yay) and landscape improvements. The side access road is now smooth asphalt, with bollards to keep vehicles off the lawn. New curbs and sidewalks and dog pathway. And no litter! Let's keep it clean. The Serra Cross Conservancy is the property owner. It is not city property. The Conservancy paid for all of the work. Submitted by Christy Weir.



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All of this will be removed shortly.

Taking down the sound wall

by Patricia Schallert

Exciting news! The time has come to bid farewell to the sound wall at Marina Park. In a momentous decision, the au-

thorities have decided to take down the sound wall to bring back the natural beauty of the park and to restore it to its

original state.

Marina Park, known for its stunning waterfront views and vibrant atmosphere, will now undergo a transformation that promises to make it an even more inviting space for all to enjoy. With the removal of the sound wall, visitors will be once again, treated to unobstructed panoramas of the surrounding area, allowing for a blend of nature and recreation.

The removal process will be conducted by a professional team, ensuring safety and efficiency. Their expertise will guarantee that minimal disruptions occur during the final construction phase at the park, allowing everyone to continue their activities at the park with ease.

The decision to take down the sound wall demonstrates a commitment to recreating the open environment at Marina Park. It presents an opportunity for an enhanced visitor experience, providing a greater connection to the beauty of the surroundings and the calming sounds of the nearby ocean. Once the park is restored, there will be no evidence of the activities that took place behind the sound wall.

So, get ready to embrace a revitalized Marina Park, where you can soak in the picturesque views, enjoy recreational activities, and create lasting memories. The removal of the sound wall is a step towards making Marina Park an even more remarkable destination for locals and visitors alike.



Symposium held at the CSU Channel Islands (CSUCI) campus.

A Home For Education gathers community leaders

Housing Trust Fund Ventura County (Housing Trust Fund VC) welcomed community leaders to its Annual Meeting and “A Home for Education” symposium February 29th at the CSU Channel Islands (CSUCI) campus. The symposium was presented in collaboration with the County of Ventura, CSUCI, Ventura County Office of Education, Ventura County P-20 Council, and Housing Trust Fund VC to an audience of key decision makers in education, government, land use planning, and affordable housing development.

The Annual Meeting highlighted accomplishments by Housing Trust Fund VC, including \$27.5 million in funded or committed loans since 2013 and \$40 million raised, resulting in 1,177 affordable apartments and homes committed, funded, and produced throughout Ventura County. The meeting also provided an opportunity for community members to provide comment about Housing Trust Fund VC’s products and service.

The symposium was held to inform attendees of current issues surrounding the development of affordable housing on educational properties, providing an opportunity for discussion and questions. The event began with keynote presentations from Abraham Galvan Sanchez of Best, Best, and Kreiger LLP, and Al Grazioli of the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD). The keynotes were followed by a panel moderated by Linda Braunschweiger, CEO of

Housing Trust Fund VC and Housing Land Trust VC, and included Sanchez and Grazioli as panelists with Scott Kolwitz, City of Thousand Oaks, Ken Triguero, People’s Self-Help Housing and Chelsee Russell, Office of Ventura County. The event continued with local affordable housing case studies presented by Dr. Kimberly Hoffmans of Ventura College, Sabrena Rodriguez of the Ventura Unified School District, and Laurie Nichols from CSUCI.

An event highlight was a guided tour of two developments adjacent to the campus, University Glen and the currently under construction Anacapa Canyon. Both developments were built on educational properties owned by CSUCI [lc1] and will be home to nearly 2,000 residents including CSUCI employees, educational allies, alumni, seniors, and the public[lc2] . “These developments remind us that discussions like today have the potential of becoming homes tomorrow. Today we took an important step towards ensuring more homes for all as a community.” said Linda Braunschweiger, CEO Housing Trust Fund VC and Housing Land Trust VC.

For those interested in developing solutions and adding their support for affordable housing in Ventura County, the next step is to attend Unlocking Affordable Housing – Reshaping Housing Solutions,” presented by Housing Trust Fund VC on Thursday, May 9, 2024, at Walnut Grove at Tierra Rejada Farms in Moorpark. Purchase tickets here.



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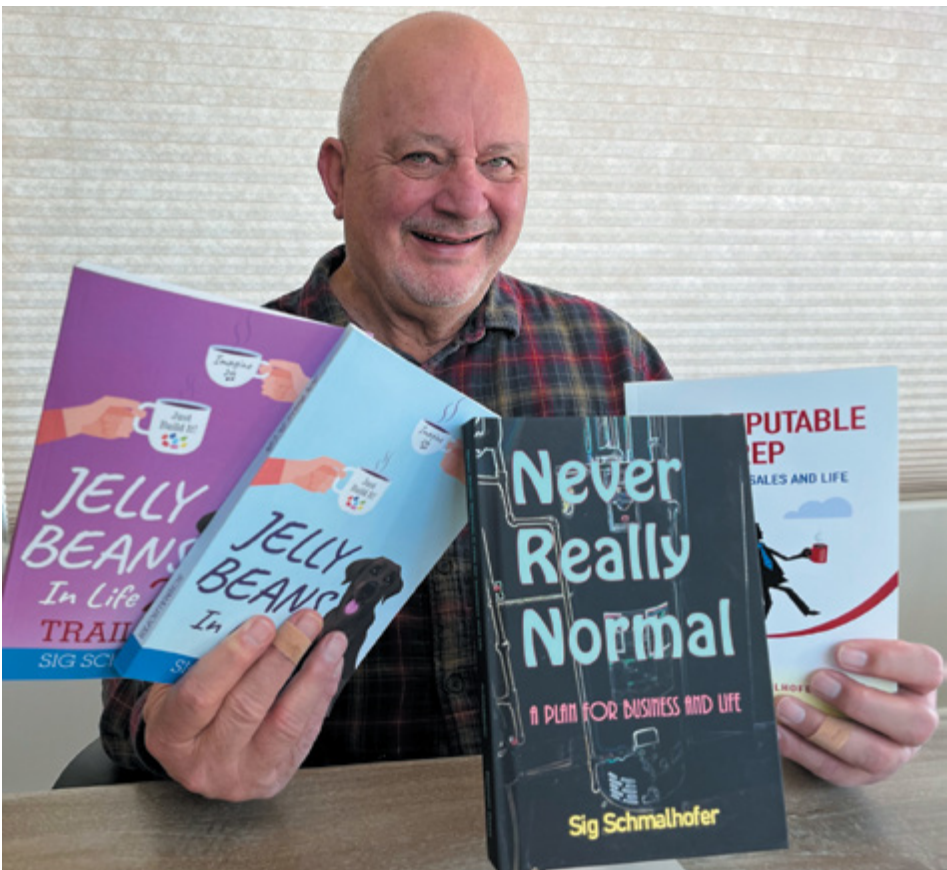
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Senior Living



Sig has published two novels.

Sig Schmalhofer is living proof that retirees can have a full life

by Sheli Ellsworth

Sig Schmalhofer’s quest to fulfill the American Dream began in 1956 as a five-year-old German immigrant. The sum of the family’s possessions were stuffed into two suitcases when they landed at LAX. The first English words he learned became a lifetime mantra, “Early to bed, early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy and wise.” His mother had memorized the Benjamin Franklin proverb and recited it often to the family. After graduating from Newbury Park High School in 1969, he married his high school sweetheart, Beverly.

Schmalhofer worked his way through college by working in plumbing shops. After he earned a degree in English from CSUN, he was an elementary teacher in Thousand Oaks. Three years later he capitalized on his knowledge of plumbing industry and made it his career.

In 1993, he was diagnosed with Limb Girdle Muscular Dystrophy, a debilitating genetic disease which robs victims of muscular strength. “That’s when the list of tasks I could do by myself got shorter, and things I needed help with, got longer. Thank God for Bev. She’s flawlessly stepped in to help me do things that need to be done.” The couple raised three children and have seven grandchildren.

After they built a successful career in Riverside, Sig and Bev moved back to Ventura County, where it all began.

“I’d planned to play golf every day of my retired life,” Sig says. “But when my physical challenges made the game that I love an exercise in ‘Hit the ball, drag Sig’, I turned my attention to other hobbies. The centerpiece of that list is writing.”

Sig has published two novels, *Jelly Beans in Life* and *Jelly Beans in Life 2*; a business book, *The Reputable Rep*; and a memoir: *Never Really Normal*. Coming soon is the first of a series of mysteries.

The Ventura resident is living proof that retirees should be armed with a manageable list of hobbies beyond asking children and grandchildren questions they really don’t want to answer. His favorite pastime is playing enthralling, winner-take-all, games of Cribbage with Bev. “We’re super competitive. We play two or three games a day and record the results of every game in what we dubbed *The Book*. The ultimate goal is to win a ‘World Series Championship’ which takes about six months.”

Sig and Bev also post Wordl and Connections scores on a family text, daily, and each of them maintains their own exercise program. Sig has six ‘exercise stations’ in his home where he completes a list of daily routines prescribed by Dr. Selvey, his physiotherapist.

Schmalhofer also rides around the neighborhood in his souped-up wheelchair he calls his Sigmobile. He watches



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baseball, golf and football but not the news. “Watching news,” he says, “is the ideal way to make yourself act like a grumpy old man.” Because I’ve been blessed to live a life well worth living with friends and family well worth having,” Sig said. “The first words out of my mouth every day are, “Thank God, I’m still alive.”



Is there much training involved in becoming an instructor?

Volunteers needed to enrich the lives of seniors in Ventura County

by Carol Leish, MA

How do you get involved in volunteering for the Fall Prevention Classes at the Ventura County Area Agency on Agency? Is there much training involved in becoming an instructor?

“Our volunteer instructors are

passionate about helping seniors in the community,” according to, Julianna Eusanio, MSW, Program Coordinator for the Fall Prevention Classes. “No previous experience is needed to become an instructor. We are flexible with our instructors’ hours to fit into their schedules.

“Volunteer trainings to instruct classes varies depending upon the class. For a Walk with Ease class, the training is 2 hours online. For the Matter of Balance class, the training is 2 days. Class members and instructors are very supportive of each other. Volunteers gain a sense of community while helping seniors. Training for volunteers, along with the classes for the community, are free to those who are age 60 and older, along with those with disabilities, who qualify for the classes.

“Carol Vaughn has been teaching Tai Chi with the Area Agency for 7 years, and is a senior advisor and master trainer. Pam Hantgin has been teaching Tai Chi for almost 2 years. Pam first started taking the classes, and enjoyed the classes so much that she decided to become an instructor of the classes.”

Through the classes: 1) Bingocize; 2) A Matter of Balance; 3) Stepping On; 4) Walk with Ease; and, 5) Tai Chi Moving for Better Balance, adults 60 and older are helped in maintaining their independence at home. A good method of preventing falls is by participating in one of these five FREE evidence-based classes. The classes help those who are mildly active and have fallen or who have a fear of falling to help them to improve their balance, mobility, and their confidence.

Bingocize is a 10-week series that meets twice weekly for 1 hour per session

Continued on page 10

Senior Living



Art in a class is a wonderful activity to overcome loneliness.

Loneliness

There are things you can do to help protect yourself or a loved one from the negative effects of loneliness and social isolation. First, it's important to take care of yourself. Try exercising, eating healthy, getting enough sleep (7 to 9 hours), and pursuing activities you enjoy to help manage stress and stay as mentally and physically healthy as possible.

It's also important to stay active and connect with others. People who engage in meaningful, productive activities they enjoy with others feel a sense of purpose and tend to live longer. For example, helping others through volunteering helps you feel less lonely and allows you to have a sense of mission and purpose in life, which is linked to better health. Studies show activities like these may help boost your mood and improve your well-being and cognitive function.

Find an activity that you enjoy, restart an old hobby, or take a class to learn something new. You might have fun and meet people with similar interests.

Schedule time each day to stay in touch with family, friends, and neighbors in person, by email, social media, voice call, or text. Talk with people you trust and share your feelings. Suggest an activity to help nurture and strengthen existing relationships. Sending letters or cards is another good way to keep up friendships.

Use communication technologies such as video chat, smart speakers, or even companion robots to help keep you engaged and connected.

If you're not tech-savvy, sign up for an online or in-person class at your local public library or community center to help you learn how to use email or social media. Older adult holding a dog to combat loneliness and social isolation.

Consider adopting a pet if you are able to care for them. Animals can be a source of comfort and may also lower stress and blood pressure.

Stay physically active and include group exercise, such as joining a walking club or working out with a friend. Adults should aim for at least 150 minutes (2 1/2 hours) of activity a week that makes you breathe hard.

Introduce yourself to your neighbors. Find a faith-based organization where you can deepen your spirituality and engage with others in activities and events.

Check out resources and programs at your local social service agencies, community and senior centers, and public libraries.

Join a cause and get involved in your community.

If you or a loved one has dementia and lives alone, family members, friends,

or other caregivers may be able to help in different ways.

Identify a person you trust, such as a neighbor, who can visit regularly in-person or via a video call and be an emergency contact.

Learn about home- and community-based support and services from social service agencies, local nonprofits, and Area Agencies on Aging.

Stay connected with family and friends through video chats, email, and social media. If you're not tech savvy, ask for help to learn.

A sudden wealth loss may lead to cognitive decline

Experiencing a negative wealth shock, defined as a sudden loss of 75% or more in total wealth, was linked to cognitive decline among older adults in the United States and China, but not in England or Mexico, according to an NIA-funded study. The results, published in Lancet Healthy Longevity, suggest that factors such as government policies and social safety nets may account for cross-national differences in the adverse health effects of negative wealth shocks.

There is a positive association between household wealth and cognitive health outcomes in later life, with poorer outcomes among people with lower socioeconomic status. However, the link between negative wealth shock and cognitive function in later life had not been examined. To look more closely at a potential relationship, and whether the association varied in countries with different income levels, University of Michigan scientists in this study examined data from four NIA-funded longitudinal studies of aging: the Health and Retirement Study in the United States and international partner studies in China, England, and Mexico.

These study findings suggest negative wealth shocks may be a potential risk factor for cognitive decline. The researchers note some limitations of the study, including possible errors in wealth measurement,

and respondents experiencing declines in cognitive function may face problems with money management that could then lead to loss of wealth. The authors also underscore several strengths of the study, including its large, representative sample. Future studies may explore differences in government policies and social safety nets that contribute to variations across countries.

This research was supported in part by NIA grants U01AG009740-35, P30AG012846-26, R01AG069128-04, R01AG070953-04, and K99AG070274-02.

Volunteers needed Continued from page 9

Participants play bingo, answer trivia questions, and participate in seated and standing exercises that they can also do at home. In a Matter of Balance, which is an 8-week series that meets once a week for 2 hours per session, that focuses on improving balance, strength, flexibility, and self-confidence.

Stepping On is a 7-week class that meets once weekly for 2 hours per session. Participants complete standing and seated exercises with gradual use of leg weights, both in class and at home. This class also offers access to a physical therapist, and a vision expert, who provides information linking vision issues to falls. A public safety expert discusses how to avoid falls in public. A pharmacist explains how various medicines affect a person's risk of falling.

Walk with Ease is a 6-week class that meets three times weekly for 1 hour per session. This class gives motivational tips on how to exercise with arthritis while still maintaining a walking goal. Tai Chi: Moving for Better Balance is a 12-week class that meets twice weekly for 1.5 hours per class. Participants participate in slow and controlled seated and standing movements. Participants also focus on improving their strength, stamina, balance, and body awareness.

Those who are interested in trainings to become a volunteer to support seniors within the community, along with getting exercise for themselves, please call the Ventura County Area Agency on Aging at: 805-477-7354; or, email: fall_prevention.program@ventura.org.



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Parkinson's support group bingo and talent show to Ventura

by Patricia Schallert

Calendars were marked and the crowd arrived. The Parkinson's Foundation and the Ventura County Neuro-fitness Center Bingo/Talent Show aimed at supporting the mission to improve care and advance research for Parkinson's disease and to support fundraising efforts for the Parkinson's Foundation.

On Friday, March 15th, from 7-9 pm, the Ventura Marina Community clubhouse came alive with over 250 attendees eager to participate in the Bingo/Talent Show extravaganza. The doors opened at 6:00pm, allowing everyone time to settle in before the bingo games that kicked off promptly at 7pm.

To join in the excitement, the entry fee was just \$10 per person, with an additional \$5 buy-in for bingo. Each of the five regular bingo games offered a minimum prize value of \$100, in the form of Amazon or Wood Ranch gift cards. As a special treat, the talent show began at 8pm, showcasing the impressive talents of Ventura's local community.

This event was open to the public, and 100% of the proceeds will go directly towards supporting the Parkinson's Foundation. Dr. Vanessa White, owner/founder of the Ventura County Neurofitness Center and Director of the Ventura County Parkinson's Support Group, expressed her enthusiasm for this partnership and hopes to establish this as an annual event.

Parkinson's disease is a neurodegenerative disorder that affects the nervous system, leading to a range

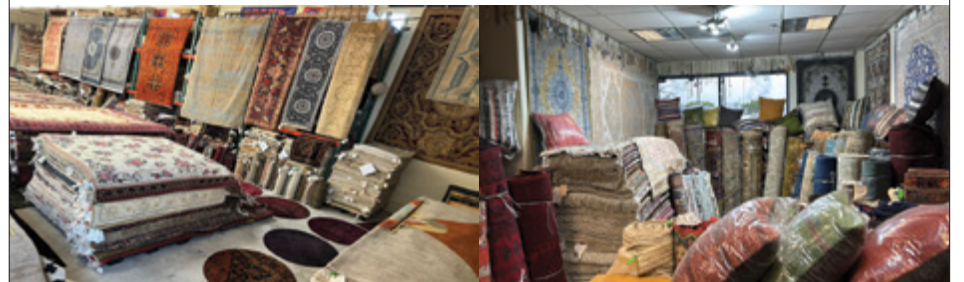
of motor and non-motor symptoms. Vanessa White added , “One of the most effective ways to manage and combat the symptoms of Parkinson’s is through regular physical exercise.” In recent years, a particular form of exercise known as “Neuroboxing” or “Neurofitness” has gained significant popularity for its positive impact on individuals living with Parkinson’s. “The success and popularity of neurofitness in managing Parkinson’s symptoms are evident by the growing number of specialized gyms and programs dedicated to offering these classes worldwide.” “These facilities provide safe and supportive environments where individuals with Parkinson’s can engage in regular exercise, improve their quality of life, and build a network with others who share similar experiences.” Bernice Detig, Foundation Development Manager.

For those who were unable to attend the The Parkinson's Foundation and the Ventura County Neurofitness Center Bingo/Talent Show but would like to contribute, donations can be made directly through the Parkinson's Foundation website via the A-Team page (Ventura County Moving Day - http://www3.parkinson.org/goto/ATeam_2024).

For more information, please visit vneurofitness.com or reach out to Dr. Vanessa White at 805.300.7749 or vneurofitness@hotmail.com. This incredible evening, supported a worthy cause while attendees enjoyed the thrill of bingo and talented performances.



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The Pet Page



Dedicated to Scamp

By Meghan Bartels

No matter how much trouble your pet gets into when they're awake, few sights are as peaceful as a dog curled up in their bed or a cat stretched out in the sun, snoring away. But their experience of sleep can feel impenetrable. What fills the dreams of a dog or cat?

That's a tricky question to answer. Snowball isn't keeping a dream journal, and there's no technology yet that can translate the brain activity of even a sleeping human into a second-



"I dream about not having to do anything like a cat." – Dog
"I have nightmares about having to wag my tail and run over to my human every time I see them." – Cat

hand experience of their dream world, much less a sleeping animal. "No one has done research on the content of animals' dreams," says Deirdre Barrett, a dream researcher at Harvard University and author of the book *The Committee of Sleep*.

But Rover's dreamscape isn't entirely impenetrable, at least to educated guesses. First of all, Barrett says, only your furrier friends appear to dream. Fish, for example, don't seem to display rapid eye movement (REM), the phase of sleep during which dreams are most common in humans. "I think it's a really good guess that they don't have dreams in the sense of anything like the cognitive activity that we call dreams," she says.

Whether birds experience REM sleep is less clear, Barrett says. And some marine mammals always keep one side of their brain awake even while the other sleeps, with no or very strange REM sleep involved. That means seals and dolphins likely don't dream in anything like the way humans do. But the mammals we keep as pets are solidly REM sleepers. "I think it's a very safe, strong guess that they are having some kind of cognitive brain activity that is as much like our dreams as their waking perceptions are like ours," she says.

That doesn't mean that cats and dogs experience humanlike dreams. "It would be a mistake to assume that other animals dream in the same way that we do, just in their nonhuman minds and bodies," says David Peña-Guzmán, a philosopher at San Francisco State University and author of the book *When Animals Dream*. For example, humans rarely report scents when recounting dreams; however, we should expect dogs to dream in smells, he says, given that olfaction is so central to their waking experience of the world. "We need to think about

what a uniquely canine or uniquely feline dream might be, based on what we know about the experiences of dogs and cats," Peña-Guzmán says. "They dream on their own terms."

In addition, Barrett suggests the so-called continuity hypothesis for dreaming might apply to dogs and cats. This idea, which is supported by strong evidence in humans, holds that people's dreams reflect their daily experiences. (An alternative idea, called the compensatory hypothesis, holds that people's dreams reflect what they lack in daily life and is less supported, Barrett says.)

"Whatever you can observe dogs being interested in by day is what you would expect to show up in their dreams," Barrett says. "That's so much how it works for us that it would be surprising if they somehow did the compensation pattern." For pet dogs, that likely means dreaming about food, play and yes, beloved owners, she says.

A unique experiment offers a glimpse inside feline dreams. In the late 1970s a neuroscientist tested a theory about which part of the brain prevents the body from acting out what's happening in a dream. In that study, the late Michel Jouvet, then at the Claude Bernard University Lyon in France, damaged a region called the pons in cats. The cats indeed began moving during REM sleep; in particular, they displayed behavior that scientists interpreted as hunting small prey.

"It's a very safe assumption that cats dream about stalking and pouncing on prey—stronger than any extrapolation," Barrett says. She also expects cats' dreams to follow the continuity hypothesis, although of course your feline's daily experiences are different from Fido's. Other cat dreams might include lying in the sun, stretching and playing with toys, she notes.

And are pet cats, like dogs, dreaming about their humans? Yes—in the most feline way, she says. "You would kind of expect that the cats that had a fairly strong attachment to owners would dream about owners some—but probably not as much as dogs."

• What is socialization?
by AVMA

Socialization is the process of preparing a dog or cat to enjoy interactions and be comfortable with other animals, people, places and activities. Ideally, socialization should begin during the "sensitive period" which is between 3 and 14 weeks of age for puppies, and 3 and 9 weeks of age for kittens.

Adopting a new kitten or puppy is a wonderful and exciting experience. It is also a time where a little extra planning can help a new pet develop the calm and confident temperament that will help them enjoy life to the fullest.

Create a socialization plan specifically for your dog or cat to prepare him or her for life in your household. Plan exposures to the animals, individuals, environments, activities and objects that will be part of his or her new life.

Provide regular positive and diverse experiences to encourage your dog or cat to enjoy new experiences without becoming fearful or aggressive.

Provide praise, play and treats to reward engagement. Allow the dog or cat to withdraw if he or she is uncom-

Scamp Club

(Scampclub pets are not for adoption.)



I'm Peanut a 5-month-old Maltipoo. I love running, snuggling and reading the Ventura Breeze (especially the Pet Page, I wish I got to meet Professor Scamp) with mom.

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fortable. Move at a pace appropriate for your pet's personality.

Well-managed puppy or kitten socialization classes are a good way to socialize your new pet within the sensitive period.

Puppies or kittens that are not fully vaccinated should not be exposed to unvaccinated animals or places they

may have been (such as outdoor parks).

Continue to reward your dog or cat for calm or playful responses to social interactions throughout his or her life.

For dogs or cats with special behavioral needs, develop a plan with your veterinarian and/or another animal behavior expert.

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Harbor Patrol Blotter

Just a few of the things the Harbor Patrol tends to. **There are no Ventura police actions to report**

Tuesday 2/27
2:00pm, received report of an RC sailboat caught in a dock near Marina Park. Officers responded, were able to rescue the RC sailboat, returned to owner.
10:24pm, dispatched to pregnancy issue at restrooms in the Village. Officers responded with AMR/VFD to assist a 20 y/o homeless female have labor pains. The patient refused treatment and/or any assistance from responders.
Wednes 2/28
6:30am, dispatched to injured ankle in riverbottom south of Surfers Knoll. Officers responded with AMR/VFD and transported medics to the scene in Patrol truck. The patient was treated and transported to local hospital
6:30pm, while on patrol in the Fireboat, officers contacted several vessels engaged in hoop net fishing. All fishermen followed ordinances.
Thursday 2/29
10:30am, Patrol Officers training new Marine Safety Officers on duties as deckhands on rescue vessels and other duties for MSO's.
Friday 3/1
4:40pm, dispatched to traumatic injuries on commercial vessel Island Explorer. Officers responded to VHV I-dock, assisted with moving the patient to a gurney.
Saturday 3/2
9:40am, new patrol officers undertaking the USCG license application, after passing all testing. Seasoned patrol officers assisting with the lengthy process.
Sunday 3/3
8:33am, officers raised Gale warning pennants for winds gusting to 35kts later.
11:13am, dispatched to a fall patient at the VYC. Officers responded and assisted VFD/AMR with a 98 y/o patient who fell on the dock.
6:57pm, dispatched to difficulty

breathing at VYC. Officers responded with AMR/VFD and assisted the patient, who was eventually transported to hospital.
Thursday 3/7
8:31am, dispatched to a traffic accident on Spinnaker Dr. Officers responded with VFD/AMR to assist a patient with neck/hip pain. Patient transported.
7:44pm, dispatched to an ill person in the Ventura Marina Community. Officers responded with AMR/VFD to assist the patient who was transported to hospital.
Friday 3/8
9:58am, a sink hole was discovered near the entry feature at Spinnaker Dr. The City of Ventura is repairing sewer lines that have failed in the area.
8:43pm, while on patrol in the truck, officers observed that Navigator Dr. north bound lanes were closed due to the sink hole and sewer work by Ventura City.
Saturday 3/9
3:51pm, while on patrol in Fireboat, officers observed a large hat blown off a crew member of the dive boat Spectre. The hat was retrieved and returned.
8:00pm, while on patrol in vehicle, observed a large bon fire near Surfers Knoll. Officers contacted the youths, extinguished the fire. A large group was forming, parking in the village. Ventura PD was on scene, dispersing the crowd.
Sunday 3/10
5:15pm, received report of a suspicious person frightening customers at the Casa de Regalos in the village. Officers responded, contacted the individual who was under the influence of some sort of opioid. He eventually sped up his purchase after what seemed like forever to count his money and left without incident.
Monday 3/11
10:00am, officers conducting tow training with Fireboat and Rescue Boat 19.
11:50am, received a mayday call via

cellphone from the skipper of a disabled motor vessel near the Ventura Pier. Officers responded in Rescue Boat 19 to assist the disabled vessel and towed to the launch ramp.
10:15pm, while returning from patrol in the vehicle, observed the power go out throughout the harbor. Fielding multiple calls for information on the outage. Relaying to inquiries that

officers were in the dark about the cause. 10:17pm, dispatched to electric hazard near the National Parks building. Officers responded with VFD, unable to locate source, contacted Edison.
Tuesday 3/12
7:45pm, contacting several vessels hoop netting near the entrance. Most vessels were deficient in safety equipment. Issued warnings for violations.

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Ventura PD officers honored for saving a life.

Officers Veronica Ross and Nick Nunez were dispatched to the fifth story of the hospital parking structure to check the well-being of an individual seated on the top floor ledge. They saw him leaning over the edge and wasted no time quickly leaping towards him to pull him back before he slipped entirely off the edge.
Nick and Veronica were honored as our 2023 Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) Officers of the Year for their patience, skill, and compassion in de-escalating crises and ensuring community safety.

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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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



Ventura events

by Ana Baker

Wanna Play Bridge? Join us for ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge games every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at 12:30 p.m. There are 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, Rose 805-659-9223, or buckleyrose357@gmail.com. All are Welcome.

The Ventura County Philatelic Society meets every first and third Monday of the month at the Church of the Foothills, Ventura. Meetings start at 7:30 p.m. For more information, visit <https://venturacountyphilatelic-soc.org>.

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

BCNN, Beach Cities Neighbors and Newcomers, meets the first Wednesday of the month from 9:30 to 11 a.m. It offers dozens of small group activities, from sports activities

to wine tasting, bridge, games, book groups, and more. www.bcnnwomens-club.org. The meeting is at PCYC Pacific Corinthian Yacht Club, 2600 Harbor BLVD, Oxnard.

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 - 5 p.m. and E.P. Foster Library, Thursdays, 4 - 5:30 p.m. 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 are welcome.

March 21: The East Ventura Community Council (EVCC) will meet virtually at 7 p.m. Visit the EVCC website at <https://eastventura.org/> for the Zoom meeting link. The agenda includes the East Ventura police report and a presentation from Korinne Bell, Ventura County Agricultural Commissioner. Ms. Bell will brief us on the agricultural issues facing East Ventura.

March 23: The office of Senator Monique Limon alongside Assemblymember Steve Bennett will host a free tax preparation event. Eligible community members are invited to receive free tax filing services, claim the earned income tax credit (if applicable), enjoy free tacos, and learn about community resources. Services are available in both English and Spanish. 9 - 1 p.m. CLU Oxnard Campus 2201

Outlet Center Dr. #600 Oxnard. Schedule an appointment by dialing 21.
March 27: The College Area Community Council in Ventura will hold an in-person and Zoom meeting on Wednesday at 7 p.m. Community council meetings include speakers and discussion on topics of neighborhood and community interest. Our meeting will take place in person at CAPS Media, 65 Day Rd., and by Zoom. Visit the CACC website at <https://caccventura.com> for more information, a Zoom link to the meeting, or to be added to the mailing list.

April 3: The Ventura County Garden Club celebrates its 100th Year Season in 2024. The Fillmore members and the Fillmore Director/Organizer, Stephen McKeown, will provide the luncheon. The Luncheon will be held at noon on Wednesday at St. Paul's Episcopal Church located at 117 N. 7th Street, Santa Paula. We welcome new members. For more information, visit our website at VenturaCountyGardenClub.com.

April 3: Tammy Glenn, Executive Director of CAREGIVERS, will speak at BCNN's April meeting. Caregivers was developed as a community-based model to meet the growing need for services for frail and homebound elderly people.

April 6: Ventura Friends of the Library will hold a Book Sale at the Vons shopping center at Telegraph & Victoria from 10 to 3 p.m. Children's books—buy one, get one Free (except graphic novels), puzzles, DVDs, and CDs—are \$1.00 each. Books on CD are \$1.50-\$2.00 each.

April 27: Channel Islands PC User Group (CIPCUG) Online and Live at our temporary location Ventura County Computers 2175 Goodyear Avenue, Unit 117. 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 Saturday at 9:30 a.m. CIPCUG events may be attended online. Due to limited space, live attendance is reserved for members. To receive connection instructions, please sign up on our website at <http://www.cipcug.org> >cipcug club website. (805) 289-3960.

SCORE To Launch In-Person Workshop Series for Small Businesses and Entrepreneurs

In partnership with the City of Ventura and the Ventura Chamber of Commerce, SCORE will launch a series of in-person no cost workshops that will help local entrepreneurs and business owners gain valuable and practical knowledge from subject matter experts on a wide range of business-related topics.

The workshop series will kick off on March 27 with the topic "Four Key Marketing Strategies to Attract More Customers". The event will be held at the Ventura City Hall Community Meeting Room at 8:30AM. The workshop will

be led by Steve James who is a Digital Marketing Consultant with the firm RevLocal. Topics covered will include how to enhance your Google ranking, how to harness the power of reviews and how to master paid advertising.

"How to attract more customers is one of the most challenging tasks that new and growing small business owners face," says SCORE Ventura Chapter Co-Chair Danielle Malconian. "We put together the "Four Key Marketing Strategies to Attract More Customers" workshop to help answer their questions, so they can focus on other challenges and opportunities," Malconian adds.

Other SCORE workshops that will be held in 2024 at the Ventura City Hall will cover topics ranging from starting a new business to how to incorporate Artificial Intelligence into your business. For workshop information, including how to register, go to <https://www.score.org/ventura/local-workshops>.

Since 1964, SCORE has helped more than 11 million entrepreneurs start, grow, or successfully exit a business. SCORE's 10,000 volunteers provide free, expert mentoring, resources, and education in all 50 U.S. states and territories. Visit SCORE at www.score.org.

Funded in part through a Cooperative Agreement with the U.S. Small Business Administration. All opinions, conclusions and/or recommendations expressed herein are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the SBA.

For more information about starting or operating a small business, visit SCORE Ventura at www.score.org/ventura.

An Opinion Continued from page 2

operating expenses of \$29.Million for VenturaWaterPure. Yet, the Carollo Report presented options costing a mere \$50 million for the project and operating costs of only \$3.9 Million.

Now after five more years of operating without any severe limitations, more damning evidence surfaced this month when Water Commissioner George Amandola resigned from the commission. Mr. Amandola cited various problems he saw within Ventura Water, the Water Commission, and the City Council. Critical points in the resignation letter are a stultified, bureaucratic, autocratic Ventura Water Department. He lacks confidence in the project management and financial planning for VenturaWaterPure. He also felt that Ventura Water had neutered the Water Commission and prevented it from doing its duty.

These are not frivolous accusations made by an outsider. These are observations made by an insider, capable of seeing the entire landscape of what's happening with VenturaWaterPure.

Meanwhile, the project's costs mount. Today, they are half a billion dollars, and it is reasonable to believe they will go even higher. With no ceiling on cost increases, Ventura Water ratepayers bear the burden. Soon, the project's costs will triple the price of water.

What more evidence does the City Council need to finally admit that there are problems with the Water Department and the Water Commission? How long will the city hide its head in the sand before taking action?

City staff often uses the Consent Decree as an obstacle in addressing



On March 16, fire units were dispatched to a reported structure fire with people and pets still inside the structure in the 200 block of Carol Dr. Firefighters arrived within 4 minutes of dispatch and found a detached garage with heavy smoke conditions. Firefighters searched the garage and adjacent home. Uninjured civilians and pets were found inside the home and evacuated. Due to an aggressive attack, firefighters were able to limit the fire to the garage. The fire was knocked down within 10 minutes of arrival. Ventura City Fire units were assisted by Oxnard Fire Department, AMR and Ventura Police Department.

Ventura’s water problems. This Consent Decree addresses two issues. Part one is cleaning up the estuary. Extracting the wastewater from the estuary is being accomplished.

Part two is developing a practical use for extracted water. Ventura Water has named this Ventura WaterPure. However, nowhere does it say that Ventura WaterPure must be a stand-alone facility. There are also exceptions to allow for an extension of the timeline of the Consent Decree. Conditions to extend providing proper reuse of the extracted water are financial feasibility and proof that there is a sincere effort to comply with the Consent Decree. Ventura can meet both of these standards. An extension is reasonable and justified.

The major cost factor is that Ventura believes it must have a separate, stand-alone facility to treat the extracted water. While nobody says Ventura WaterPure needs to stop, it simply needs to be processed differently.

Oxnard has an underutilized recycling facility. Ventura Water has refused to consider this option, which would cost Ventura over \$200 million.

To solve this issue, the City of Ventura must reconsider all options, including treating the wastewater in Oxnard. The city must issue an up-to-date formal Request for Proposal (RFP) to the City of Oxnard and United Water. Oxnard’s and United’s responses must come directly from them (not via a Ventura Water Department Consultant) and be on their letterhead.

If Ventura partners with other agencies, it must demand documentation for those alternatives. Please do not rely on Ventura Water or its consultants’ estimates and projections. Additionally, Ventura must have a cash flow projection that includes timelines, operating, maintenance, and taxpayer fee schedules.

It’s time for the 2024 Ventura City Council to meet its fiduciary duty. The council must force Ventura Water to provide reliable alternatives to VenturaWaterPure. We now know the “cost to go it alone” exceeds the \$200 million Ventura Water projected in 2019. Collaborating with other water agencies may be less costly.

Contact your City Council and demand:

- Get a new Request for Proposal (RFP) from the City of Oxnard and United Water.
- Have Ventura Water produce a cash flow projection analysis.
- Install a new Water Commission with the authority to manage this process and make decisions in the rate payer’s best interest.

Visit Ventura Honored with award
Continued from page 1

leadership in bringing together a first-of-its-kind city, county, and state partnership to bring the X Games to Ventura last summer.

“Receiving a Poppy Award is a dream come true! It’s a win not only for our small but mighty Visit Ventura team but also for the entire community,” said Marlyss Auster, president and CEO of Visit Ventura. “We brought together local business owners, our local transportation partners, city and state officials, leaders from the Chumash tribe, and so many more to make the summer of 2023 a summer no one will forget. I am so proud of our community for dreaming big and collaborating to

make it all happen!”

A phone call in 2019 that began the journey of a partnership between the X Games and Visit Ventura blossomed into a partnership that brought together partners from all corners of the industry to put on a larger-than-life event to drive visitation and worldwide recognition to Ventura.

A transportation partnership with Amtrak Pacific Surfliner, Ventura County Transportation Commission, and a local bike and skate shop resulted in a successful holistic transportation plan with 2,000 cars off the roads and 2,000 bikes and skateboards utilizing the free skateboard and bike valet. Collaboration between Ventura Fire and Police Departments created a safe event for families of all ages. A partnership with local Chumash tribe leaders made the X Games’ first land acknowledgment possible in front of the media and athletes. And as you walked through the streets of Ventura, you saw the strategic partnership in action on nearly every corner as local businesses embraced the X with special X Games offerings.

Visit Ventura helped facilitate all these conversations, making space for ideas and collaboration to make the summer 2023 X Games an event the Ventura community could be proud of.

“The past two years have seen tremendous growth, resilience and innovation from California’s travel industry,” said Caroline Beteta, president and CEO of Visit California. “This year’s Poppy Award-winning campaigns inspired visitors from around the world to rediscover California, highlighting our state’s welcoming spirit and abundance of world-class experiences.”

Beteta, alongside Visit California’s board officers, presented the 2024 Poppy Awards during the 16th annual Visit California Outlook Forum, held March 11-12 at the Westin Rancho Mirage Golf Resort & Spa. This year’s Outlook Forum celebrated record attendance, welcoming more than 800 attendees.

XG California 2023 changed the landscape of Ventura’s business community and city at large, now and for years to come. Most of all, our community is proud of what took place on a sunny summer weekend in their hometown. And that’s what it’s all about.

A night to remember
Continued from page 1
experience.

A tremendous amount of community support contributed to the prom’s success. Over 400 students with disabilities and over 800 volunteers participated in the event.

Transportation was arranged with party buses, limousines, and even classic cars, ensuring a smooth and glamorous arrival to the red carpet.

Lead Pastor, Mike Hickerson of Mission Church, expressed how this night was a unique and heavenly experience for both the guests and volunteers. He emphasized “that when everyone is out on the dance floor together, they recognize their similarities, and it feels like something is truly right in the world.”

The night was also filled with dazzling attire, hairstyling, makeup, corsages or boutonnieres. As the guests walked down the red carpet, they were cheered on by paparazzi, families, and volunteers, making them feel like true celebrities. Each student guest was accompanied by a student host from the



The fairground venue was transformed into a truly magical setting.

community. Photo booths captured precious memories as the guests entered the venue.

Delicious food and drink options were carefully selected. Dietary restrictions and preferences were considered and were catered to everyone’s needs. The music, provided by a professional DJ, played music to different tastes and preferences, ensuring that everyone could enjoy themselves on the dance floor and show off their dance moves.

The “Night to Remember” prom was more than a special night. It will hold a lasting impact on the community. Taylor Hunt, NTR’s Event Director, expressed excitement about the event’s ability to celebrate and uplift people who are

often overlooked and under-celebrated. The organizers went above and beyond to tailor every aspect of the prom to the needs and preferences of the attendees.

Overall, the Ventura prom “Night to Remember” for students with disabilities in 2024 was a resounding success, made possible by the hard work and dedication of event organizers, volunteers, and the tremendous support from the community. It provided an inclusive and joyous occasion where students with disabilities could celebrate and create lasting memories. After a pause during the Covid pandemic, “Night to Remember” finally returned and left an indelible mark on all those who attended.



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Once Upon a Time... 2024 Spring Business Expo

Four Points Sheraton | May 16, 2024 | 4:00 - 6:30 pm

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This event is totally FREE!

FOR VENDOR INFORMATION CONTACT
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by Pam Baumgardner
VenturaRocks.com

What a celebration it was for VenturaRocks.com's 15th anniversary on Sunday, March 17 at Tony's Pizzeria. Bruce Barrios is the best host anywhere, the band, the Brandon Ragan Project was on fire, and the crowd couldn't have had more fun dancing and enjoying all the festivities including a few numbers from the Ventura City Firefighters Pipes & Drums (love a man in a kilt!). It was so heart-warming to have so many people stop by to congratulate and share their stories of how much they love and appreciate the website. Many thanks to all who came out including Sheldon Brown, publisher of the Ventura Breeze and his daughter Staci Brown (Editor Emeritus), Kat Merrick of Totally Local VC, Milo Sledge who had a gig up the street at Topa Topa Brewing, Steve and Polly Hoganson (formerly of Zoey's fame) and so many musicians and lovers of live music and VenturaRocks.com. I kept hearing, "Here's to another 15," which makes me wonder if I have 15 more in me or not. We'll see!

Libbey Bowl's line up is looking pretty good with most shows through the Canyon Club; make sure you're getting the best price for your tickets, by going through their website. New dates added to this summer's calendar include Los Lonely Boys on August 8, Don McLean on August 10, Maxi Priest on August 81, Pablo Cruise with Peter Beckett of Player on August 31 and Judy Collins on September 13. In-between, you'll find a number of tribute bands as well. Check out the full calendar at LibbeyBowl.org.

In honor of Women's History Month, the Ojai Underground will have three fantastic singer/song-writers playing in the round, Zoe Fitzgerald Carter, Jess Bush, Natalie Gelman and Arielle Silver. Tickets on sale now for this Friday, March 22 performance at OjaiUndergroundExchange.com.

Surf Rodeo hasn't listed any bands to date other than they'll be back this year in a new location at the tip top of Surfers Point where the Ventura County Fairgrounds meets the beach. Dates will be July 5 and 6 which according to my calendar are a Friday and Saturday.

Quick Notes: Moofish Café in the Crowne Plaza will have Dueling Pianos Friday and Saturday nights; All female band playing AC/DC covers, Herway to Hell, will be at Copper Blues on Saturday, March 23; X is at the Oxnard Performing Arts Center on Sunday, March 24; Danny Carrey of Tool will be featured with Doug Webb at the Grape on Saturday, March 30; The Honeysuckle Possums play the Santa Paula Theater Center on Saturday, March 30; RAW record release party will be held at Vaquera y Mar on Saturday, March 30 with Plot and the Hong Kong Frenzy; and The Bone Thugs-n-Harmony show at the Oxnard Performing Arts center is postponed until September 14. If you have tickets, they'll be honored on new date.

Do you have any music-related news or upcoming shows you want help publicizing? Please send all information short or long to Pam@Ventura-Rocks.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 Brewery
11990 Hertz St., Moorpark
Sat 3/23: Charlie Baker
Aqua Beachfront Bar (Crowne Plaza)
450 E. Harbor Blvd., Ventura
Wed 3/27: Big Adventure duo
Wed 4/3: Jerry Breiner
Sat 4/6: Colette Lovejoy Band

Beatrice Wood Center for the Arts
8585 N. Ojai Rd., Ojai
Sun 3/24: Shaoling & Shirley Xiao-Ling Wang w/ Hui Wu
Boatyard Pub
1583 Spinnaker Dr., Ventura
Music 6-9; except Thurs 4-9
Wednesdays: Frank Barajas
Thursdays: Jim Friery (4 pm); Bluegrass Jam (6:30 pm)
Fri 3/22: Epitome of Dreams
Sat 3/23: Karen Eden & the Bad Apples
Sun 2/24: Ken Devoe
Fri 3/29: Mack and D
Bombay Bar and Grill
143 S. California St., Ventura
Thursdays: Ventura Blues Night
Café Fiore
66 S. California St., Ventura
Wed 3/20: Fabulous Hangovers
Fri 3/22: Brittney and the B-Sides
Tues 3/26: Open mic and jam
Wed 3/27: Donna Greene & the Roadshow Daddies
Fri 3/29: Instone
Cantara Cellars
126 N. Wood Rd., Camarillo
Fri 3/22: Decadent Decades
Sat 3/23: Midlife Crisis
Fri 3/29: Sugar Ray Rayford
Sat 3/30: Runaway
The Cave
4435 McGrath St., Ventura
Wed & Thurs: Bobby Apostol
Fri & Sat: Warren Takahashi
Copper Blues
591 Collection Blvd., Oxnard
Fri 3/22: The Mixxers
Sat 3/23: Herway to Hell
Fri 3/29: Heart & Soul
Sat 3/30: Und Cvr Spr Grp
Deer Lodge
2261 Maricopa Hwy., Ojai
Fri 3/22: The Spires, Shy Fades, The Pretty Flowers
Sat 3/23: Particle Kid
Fri 3/29: The Chillz
Sat 3/30: Bart Budwing
Duke's Beach Grill
1124 S. Seaward Ave., Ventura
Sat 3/23: Mark Cross
Sat 3/30: Vinny Berry
Feros Ferio Winery
310 E. Ojai Ave., Ojai
Sun 3/31: Two Tossers
Four Brix
2290 Eastman Ave., Ventura
Fri 3/22: Heathers on Fire
Garage
1091 Scandia Ave., Ventura
Fri 3/22: Breaking Bored
Sat 3/23: We are the 80s
Fri 3/29: A Little Bit of Everything
Sat 3/30: What the Funk
The Grape
2733 E. Main St., Ventura
Tues: The Gratitude Jazz Jam
Wed 3/20: Sean Riddle Quartet
Thurs 3/21: Jun Lida
Fri 3/22: Dennis Mitcheltree
Sat 3/23: Flattop Tom (2 pm); Jonathan Stout & His Campus Five (8 pm)
Wed 3/27: Jim Fox Guitar Hang
Thurs 3/28: SicNarf
Fri 3/29: The Michael Falcone Quintet
Sat 3/30: Shawn Jones (2 pm); Doug Webb feat. Danny Carrey (TOOL)

Keynote Lounge
10245 Telephone Rd., Ventura
Thursdays: Open Mic
Sat 3/23: Magnificent Bastards
Sat 3/30: Breaking Bored
Leashless Brewing
585 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura
Thurs 3/21: Charlotte Dickinson
Fri 3/22: Van Allen Twins
Sat 3/23: One Peopl
Sun 3/24: Braden Waiters
Wed 3/27: Heavy Hitters
Thurs 3/28: Eliana Jansen Trio
Fri 3/29: Ellis Bryant
Sat 3/30: Keyth G & the Universouls
Sun 3/31: Whole Hog
Limon y Sal
598 E. Main St., Ventura
Music 1-4 pm
Sundays: In Stone
Lucky Fool's Pub
75 E. High St., Moorpark
Fri 3/22: Mack and D
Sat 3/23: 24 Strings
Fri 3/29: Doc Rogers Band
Sat 3/30: Strummed Down
Majestic Ventura Theater
26 S. Chestnut St., Ventura
Fri 3/29: Trish Toledo
Manhattan
5800 Santa Rosa Rd., Camarillo
Thursdays: Tom McMorran
Wed 3/20: Robert Van
Fri 3/22: Tour Support
Sat 3/23: Lisa Ritner
Wed 3/27: Warren Takahashi
Fri 3/29: Jeanne Tatum
Sat 3/30: Blue Moon Boys
Margarita Villa
1567 Spinnaker Dr., Ventura
Fri 3/22: Adrian Floy & THC
Sat 3/23: Crosscut 805
Sun 3/24: James Bros
Fri 3/29: Divebar Steve & Friends
Sat 3/30: Cinnamon Whiskey
Sun 3/31: Los Amigos
Moofish Café (Crowne Plaza)
450 E. Harbor Blvd., Ventura
Fridays & Saturdays 8-10: Dueling Pianos
Thurs 3/21: Seth Andre Oster & Michael Velasques
Mrs. Olson's
2800 Harbor Blvd., Oxnard
Wed 3/20: Leftover Crack, Informal Society, Spider Baby, Boilerman
Sun 3/24: Teresa Russell
Namba Arts
47 S. Oak St., Ventura
Sat 3/23: Shawn Jones
Fri 3/29: Chatterton feat. Milly and Friends
Sat 3/30: Michael Henszey & Friends
Ojai Underground Exchange
616 Pearl St., Ojai
Fri 3/22: Zoe Fitzgerald Carter, Arielle Silver, Natalie Gelman, Jess Buss
Sat 3/23: Brothers Koren
Sat 3/30: Louis Goffin
Ojai Valley Brewing
307 Bryant St., Ojai
Thurs 3/21: The Mercers
Fri 3/22: Daniela Cardillo
Sat 3/23: Beau Red & the Tailor Maide
Fri 3/29: Pi Jacobs
Sat 3/30: Damaged Goods, David Franz
Onyx Bistro
2390 Las Posas Rd., Camarillo
Fri 3/22: Vinny Berry
Sat 3/23: Smokey & Friends
Fri 3/29: Steve and Sally Williams
Sat 3/30: Natalie Wattre
Oxnard Performing Arts Center
800 Hobson Way, Oxnard
Sun 3/24: X
Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar
2209 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura
Tuesdays: Danny D
The Raven Tavern
1651 S. Victoria Ave., Oxnard
Fri & Sat 7 pm; Sundays 2 pm
Fri 3/22: CRV

Sat 3/23: Unkle Monkey
Sun 3/24: Alphabet Astronauts
Fri 3/29: Rewind
Sat 3/30: Doc Rogers Band
Sun 3/31: Morrison Drive
Ric's Restaurant Sports Lounge
2500 Las Posas Rd., Camarillo
Tuesdays: Tour Support
Wed 3/20: Rick Whitfield
Sat 3/23: Acoustic DNA
Rincon Brewery
4100 Telegraph Rd., Ventura
Fri 3/29: Looking West
Sam's Place
308 E. Ojai Ave., Ojai
Fri 3/22: Toni Jannotta Jazz Trio
Sat 3/23: TD Lind and the Aviators
Santa Paula Theater Center
125 S. 7th St., Santa Paula
Sat 3/30: Honeysuckle Possums
The Six
419 E. Main St., Ventura
Fri 3/22: Bloodshot
Sat 3/23: Adrian Floy & THC
Fri 3/29: Vinyl Gypsies
The Sportsman
4426 Central Ave., Camarillo
Sun 3/24: Swing Shift
Strey Cellars
951 N. Rice Ave., Oxnard
Fri 3/23: Ignition
Sun 3/24: Brandon Ragan Project
Taqueria Jalisco
4275 Tierra Rejada Rd., Moorpark
Tuesdays & Fridays: Jim Friery
Tierra Rejada Golf Club
15187 Tierra Rejada Rd., Moorpark
Fri 3/23: The Sonic Boomers
Tony's Pizzeria
186 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura
Thurs 3/21: Rising Son
Sat 3/23: Aaron Burch's Teen Collective
Sun 3/24: Blue Moon Boys
Thurs 3/28: The Heavy Hitters
Fri 3/29: Shaky Feelin'
Sun 3/31: Heart & Soul
The Twist on Main
454 E. Main St., Ventura
Tuesdays: Tuesday Blues Day w/ Hot Roux & guests
3/20: Dueling Pianos
Sat 3/23: Dave Blanchard (1 pm); Tyler B (4 pm)
Shaky Feelin' (8 pm)
Sun 3/24: Mark Masson
Sat 3/30: Sue Laws (1 pm) Joe Delia (4 pm) Ashiani (8 pm)
Vaquero y Mar
435 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura
Sundays: Mariachi
Tuesdays: The Sea Hunter, Lowered Expectations
Wednesdays: The Jelly Jam Band
Sat 3/30: RAW, Plot, The Hong Kong Frenzy
Ventura Harbor Village stage
1559 Spinnaker Dr., Ventura
Fri 3/23: Kenny Devoe
Sat 3/24: Tony Lee and Forbidden Fruit
Sat 3/30: Casey Jones
Sun 3/31: Jumpin' Joz Band
Ventura Music Hall
1888 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura
Thurs 3/21: Kalan.FrFr
Fri 3/22: Tornillo, Dharius
Sat 3/23: Nick Shoulders and the Okay Crawdad
Fri 3/29: Kim Gordon
Waterside
3500 Harbor Blvd., Oxnard
Sun 3/31: Teresa Russell
Winchesters
632 E. Main St., Ventura
Music Thurs 5:30; Fri 7 pm; Sat 3 pm; Sun 3 pm
Thurs 3/21: T-Ranch
Fri 3/22: Heft & Wilson
Sat 3/23: Teresa Russell
Sun 3/24: Doc Rogers Band
Thurs 3/28: Joe Delia
Fri 3/29: The Van Allen Twins
Sat 3/30: Bobby Hart & Friends
1901 Speakeasy
740 S. B Street, Oxnard
Fri 3/22: Teresa Russell & Stephen Geyer



Ventura Botanical Gardens Hosts Inaugural Plein Air Event

“Cross Pollination” is the first annual Plein Air Invitational paint out hosted by the Ventura Botanical Gardens (VBG). Over the weekend of April 6th & 7th, thirteen gifted regional artists will create original artworks depicting the flora, fauna, landforms, and panoramic vistas of the gardens. From the French, en plein air means in the open air. Plein Air painters draw their inspiration by depicting their subject matter in real time, allowing them to better capture the changing details of weather and light on the surrounding landscape. “The garden color should be spectacular for the painters,” explains Joe Cahill, Executive Director. “There will be so many flowers in bloom including the plants of the California native garden, South African gardens, Chilean garden and the Mediterranean garden. We should also have crystal clear views of the islands as well.” An artist meet and greet will take place Saturday, April 6th from 9:00-10:30 AM at the Merewether Visitor Center. Garden visitors can meet the artists or hike the trails later to watch

the artists at work. This event is free for members and \$7 for nonmembers. The Ventura Botanical Gardens is located at 567 Poli St. Featured artists include: Barbara Brown, Steven Curry, Margaret Garcia, Kevin Gleason, Jeremy Harper, Laura Jespersen, Anette Power, John Robertson, Mary Scott, Doug Singletary, Ruben Zavala, Ron Zolkover, and Kay Zetlmaier. An exhibit of the finished works will be held in conjunction with an artists and VBG members’ reception on Saturday, May 11th from 2:00-4:00 PM. After the reception the paintings will be exhibited and available for purchase on the VBG website at VenturaBotanicalGardens.com. All proceeds will benefit VBG and the participating artists. VBG is a public benefit nonprofit organization that is dedicated to creating a world-class botanical garden for the preservation, education, cultural contribution and enhancement of the community. The gardens celebrate the five Mediterranean climate regions. The locale boasts spectacular 180-degree views of the California coast and the Channel Islands. VBG planning includes outdoor opportunities like community gathering spaces, training and research opportunities, and educational programs ranging from horticulture and botany to sustainability. To find out more, visit www.VenturaBotanicalGardens.com and join us on Facebook.



Spring Walkway Among the Trees by **Barbara Brown**



Glow San Marcos Pass by **Kevin Gleason**

Two artists join Harbor Village gallery

Buenaventura Art Association, a creative force at Ventura Harbor Village since 2005, is proud to add painter Judy Suzuki and photographer Michael Maloney to the roster of talent at its seaside showcase. Harbor Village Gallery & Gifts, a BAA member enterprise, welcomes visitors and art lovers at 1559 Spinnaker Drive, Suite 106. The shop, which moved to its current site in 2016, is open 11 a.m.-6 p.m. seven days a week. Suzuki, a third-generation Japanese American, lives in Ventura and has spent decades immersed in the local arts community as a graphic artist, muralist and teacher. “By practicing tuning into my intuitions, I think less and follow the creative journey through expressions of the brush and paint,” she said. “Whether it’s people, animals or nature, I love capturing the essence of life.” “My intention as an artist is to continue practicing seeing from my heart, not from my head, and remember to have fun in the creative process,” Suzuki said. Maloney is a former newsman now living in Woodland Hills who also pursues art by closely observing nature.

“My background is nearly four decades of photojournalism, mostly with the San Francisco Chronicle,” he said. “With the fast-paced, always-a-deadline world of news and sports photography behind me, I am now retired and enjoying the slower pace of nature photography.”



If Ghosts Could Talk, Photography, **Michael Maloney**

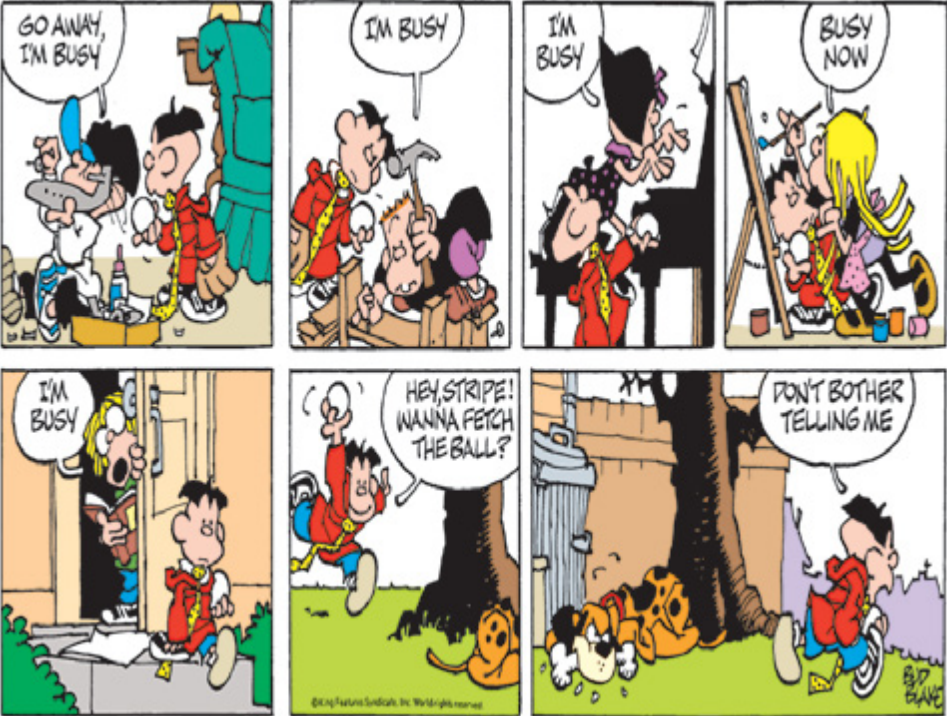
“I am self-taught in photography, starting back in the days of film and darkrooms to currently using the latest in digital cameras and photo processing. I believe that printing in itself is an art form and I take pride in the process,” he said. Maloney added, “With my images, I hope to encourage you to get out and explore this world we live in with a spirit of curiosity, astonishment and hope.” BAA, an arts cooperative founded in 1954, also operates Studio 99 in Bell Arts Factory, 432 N. Ventura Ave., which is open noon-4 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and has members’ artworks on display at SpiceTopia, a retail store at 576 E. Main St., Ventura, that’s open daily, but hours vary. To learn more about BAA and its programs, phone the gallery at 805-648-1235 or visit buenaventuraartassociation.org.



Homeward, Acrylic on canvas, **Judy Suzuki**

Lighter Breeze

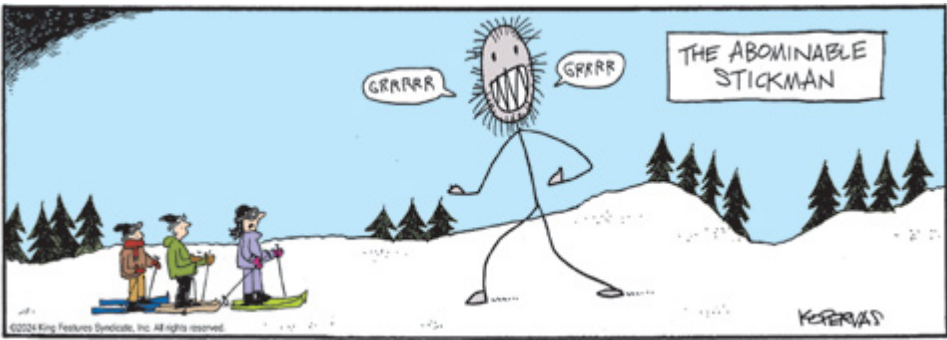
Tiger



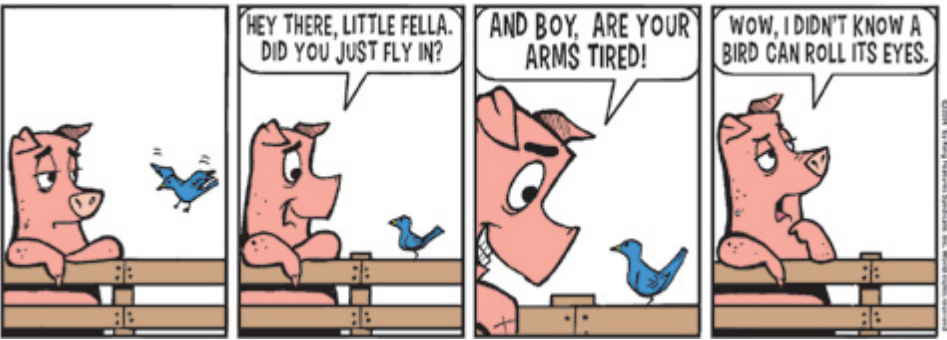
The Spats



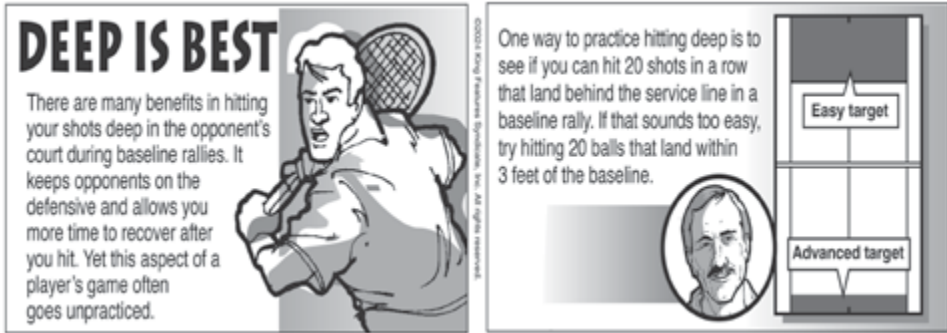
Out on a Limb



Amber Waves



Stan Smith's Tennis Class



Solutions on page 13

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

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

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Solutions on page 13

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Egg on
5 Science room
8 Arm bone
12 Actress Gilpin
13 Hosp. area
14 Wedding cake layer
15 Bridge position
16 Not "agin'
17 "Snap out —!"
18 Monet or Debussy
20 Wards off
22 " — Poetica"
23 Be sick
24 Healthy
27 Embeds
32 Comic Philips
33 Menagerie
34 Trio after M
35 Fish lover's deli order
38 Group of quail
39 Transcript no.
40 Parched
42 Oracle setting
45 "Brigadoon" lyricist
49 Buffalo's county
50 Miss Piggy's pronoun
52 French waterway
53 — Romeo

DOWN

1 Detail, briefly
2 Bell sound
3 — Major
4 Ceremony
5 Not enlarged or reduced
6 Tennis feat
7 "Ironside" star

8 Perfect place
9 Game show aid
10 Astronaut
11 Sciences' partner
19 AMA member
21 Hearing thing
24 Drenched
25 Ostrich's kin
26 Palmist's prediction
28 Neither mate
29 Hit song by OneRepublic
30 Calendar abbr.

31 Cover agent
36 Seem
37 Taunting laugh
38 Secondary route
41 Concerning
42 Bargain
43 Perry's creator
44 Noncommittal answer
46 Pleasing
47 Salinger girl
48 Marsh plant
51 Tram load

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Show Time

Streaming Spotlight by Cindy Summers
American Fiction
– MGM & Rent or Buy



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

“American Fiction” is the story of well-educated black college professor and author Monk Ellison (Jeffery Wright) who was frustrated and challenged by a world around him that continued to support the outrageous stereotypes of black culture in American. Even the books he had written were shelved in the African American section of the bookstore, though the only black thing about most of them was the ink. Following a couple of incidents where Monk crushed the sensitivities of some students in his class of Literature of the American South, he was given some mandatory time off and through a string of unexpected events became the popular center of all he despised.

During Monk’s time off, he had already been scheduled to attend a writers conference in Boston, where he was part of a panel of authors that was meagerly attended due to the presence of another black author Sintara Golden (Issa Rae), who had just written a best-seller called “We’s Lives in Da Ghetto” filled with black stereotypes and ethnic language. Boston was also where his family resided and though Monk didn’t generally spend much time with them he took advantage of connecting with them while he was there.

Unfortunately, his sister Lisa (Tracee Ellis Ross) had a heart attack while they were at lunch and passed away shortly thereafter in the hospital. Lisa had tried to tell Monk that their mother Agnes (Leslie Uggams) was suffering from memory loss, and the point was driven home after Lisa’s funeral when their mom flooded the house while sitting in front of a bathtub of running water. Monk took his mom in for tests that

revealed she had medical indications of early Alzheimer and that her situation would only deteriorate, recommending that the family seek a care facility soon.

With his sister gone and his brother on the verge of divorce, it was up to Monk to find and finance his mother’s care. Due to his mounting family issues and seeming frustration over Sintara’s success, Monk had a few strong drinks and decided to write his own book of black stereotypes filled with drugs, guns, deadbeat dads and gang violence, and called it “My Pafology” under the pen name Stagg R. Leigh. He sent it to his manager who said it would never get published, but Monk said he wrote it as a joke and didn’t care and wanted it submitted to publishers.

To both their shock and surprise not only did a reputable publisher want to publish the book, they wanted to offer Monk \$750,000 believing that it would definitely be a bestseller. To see how far he could push the publishers, he insisted that the book be renamed to “F**K”, to which they excitedly agreed. “F**K” became a bestseller and Monk didn’t disclose to anyone that he was actually Stagg R. Leigh, not his girlfriend or any family, and was eventually chosen to be a judge for the annual Literary Award for which “F**K” was in consideration for though Monk did not support it.

Monk was again shocked that three out of the five judges voted for “F**K”, leaving Monk and Sintara on the losing side, and so it was decided by popular vote that the book won. Side stories were being circulated that Stagg was a wanted fugitive and the FBI even contacted Monk’s manager, though he didn’t reveal the true details. Riding on the wave of bestselling success and constant publicity, Monk was eventually offered millions to make a movie from the book. At this point, all Monk could do was concede to the tremendous success of what he considered a joke.

“American Fiction” received five Academy Award Nominations, including for Best Picture and for Best Actor-Jeffrey Wright, and ended up winning one Oscar for Best Adapted Screenplay.

Runtime: 1h 57m



On March 14, at 5:18pm, fire units were dispatched to a reported structure fire inside an occupied commercial strip mall located at 7826 Telegraph. The fire was inside Clearwoods Dry Cleaning. Firefighters arrived within 6 minutes of dispatch to find heavy smoke and fire showing from the exterior of the building. Firefighters made entry to make an aggressive attack to extinguish the fire. With the amount of smoke and fire showing throughout the strip mall a second alarm was requested. Firefighters extinguished the fire with a coordinated effort of vertical and horizontal ventilation to keep the fire from spreading to adjoining businesses. The fire was knocked down 27 minutes after the initial 911 call. Ventura City Fire units were assisted by Ventura County Fire Department, Oxnard Fire Department, as well as Ventura Police Department.



I got to celebrate Pam Baumgardner’s VenturaRocks.com’s 15th anniversary party and even got a hug out of it (lucky me).

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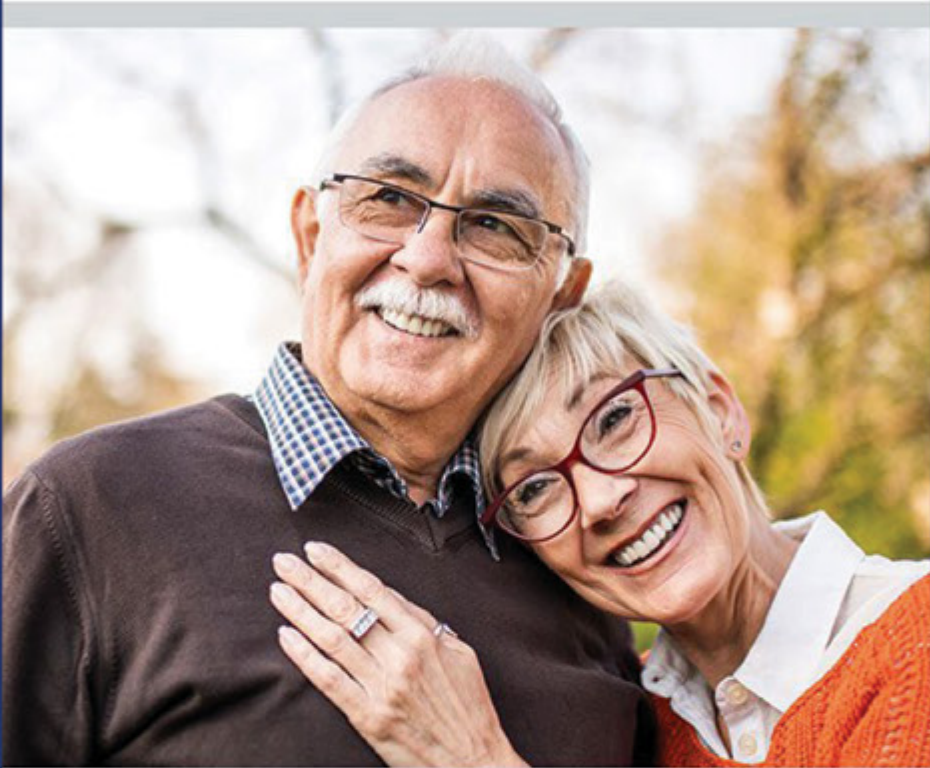


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Ventura College Foundation provided \$809,995 in direct student support

Celebrating its 40th anniversary in 2023, the Ventura College Foundation, a nonprofit organization that provides resources and financial assistance to Ventura College students and school programs, distributed \$809,995 in direct assistance support to over 5,000 students during the 2022-2023 academic year and another \$1.17 million to 68 Ventura College programs across 16 departments and divisions.

“Since the foundation’s inception, it’s raised over \$48 million to benefit Ventura College students and programs. There is no better way to celebrate the foundation’s 40th anniversary than to contribute another \$2 million to help remove the financial barriers to education that students face,” says Anne Paul King, Ventura College Foundation executive director.

In 2022-23, the foundation provided \$75,000 in gap funding for 2,082 students to ensure tuition costs of the Ventura College Promise program were covered due to state budget cuts. The program covers all tuition and fees for eligible students for up to two years. The foundation awarded 439 scholarships to 235 applicants. Its lending library and veterans’ textbook program provided textbooks to 2,688 students including 58 veterans.

The foundation also provided financial support to the Ventura College Basic Needs Program including its pantry and the Jordana Ybarra-Telias Emergency Grant Program. “The pantry was previously serving 250 students per week. It’s now serving 200 students daily,” says King. “Food insecurity is just one of the challenges facing our students. About 55 percent of the college’s student population is classified as extremely low income or low income.”

For more information on the Ventura College Foundation’s 2022-23 Impact Report, go to <https://venturacollegefoundation.org/foundation-impact>. To learn about Ventura College Foundation donation options, click <https://venturacollegefounda->

[tion.org/giving](https://www.venturacollegefoundation.org/giving).
For more information, contact Julie Harvey at (805) 289-6502 or jharvey@vcccd.edu or visit www.VenturaCollege-Foundation.org.

Inspiring Women Speak at WEV

Women’s Economic Ventures (WEV) hosted its first International Women’s Day Celebration at The Hub – Community Environmental Council in Santa Barbara on Wednesday, March 6. The event celebrated the achievements of women and brought attention to the gap in philanthropic dollars that go to women’s and girls’ serving organizations like WEV. WEV is a non-profit dedicated to the economic empowerment of women, providing a full range of financial and entrepreneurial support – including classes, consulting, and funding – as well as financial literacy programs in both English and Spanish. Information at www.wevonline.org.

The event speakers included, WEV Client Jonnie Williams, PsyD., Founder and CEO of Evolve Equity, University of California, Santa Barbara Professor, Sarah Thébaud, Ph.D., from the Department of Sociology, and WEV Board Member, Junemarie Justus, Founder of The Acorn Project.

Sarah Thébaud, Ph.D. from the University of California, Santa Barbara opened the program by sharing her research in gender studies. She said, “It’s no secret we live in a society with gender inequality which is a problem not just for women but for everyone.”

WEV Client, Jonnie Williams, PsyD. opened her remarks by saying hello to the crowd of 50 attendees in her maternal grandmother’s native language from the Bitterwater clan of the Navajo Nation. Williams founded Evolve Equity to advance equity, racial justice, and healing for groups that have been historically marginalized.

WEV board member and founder of The Acorn Project, Junemarie Justus shared, “We all know that given the opportunity to thrive, women lift not only themselves, but their families and communities.”

To support WEV’s work, please visit www.wevonline.org/support.

On Vacation – Rancho Cucamonga



Candy and Tom Curly reading the Breeze in Rancho Cucamonga, California