



VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

Vol. 17, No. 15 Published Every Other Wednesday Established 2007 April 17 to April 30, 2024



Ventura Police recently partnered with the Teddy Bear Cancer Foundation to collect Easter basket donations for local children receiving cancer treatment.

Officers Aric Almaguer and Justin Gil made personal deliveries to over 30 families at Ventura County Medical Center. VPD extends its heartfelt appreciation for the generous community support in making this possible!

April is National Distracted Driving Awareness Month

As April marks National Distracted Driving Awareness Month, the Ventura Police Department is increasing its efforts to combat the dangers posed by distracted driving. In alignment with this nationwide initiative, the department will conduct enforcement operations focused on drivers suspected of violating the hands-free cell phone law

Continued on page 3



Nearly sixty 8th-grade students from DATA Middle School navigated the Hokuloa and learned about ocean stewardship.

The MERITO and Hokuloa Outrigger Canoe Club Combined Their Efforts

by **Rocío Lozano-Knowlton**
Executive Director

The MERITO Foundation and the Hokuloa Outrigger Canoe Club amplified their impact by combining efforts, expertise, and resources. They worked together to provide meaningful experiences to close to sixty 8th-grade students from DATA Middle School about what it is like, how it feels, and how exhilarating it is to navigate the Hōkūleʻa way.

Continued on page 15

Ventura Tree Alliance Build a Sense of Community by Planting Trees

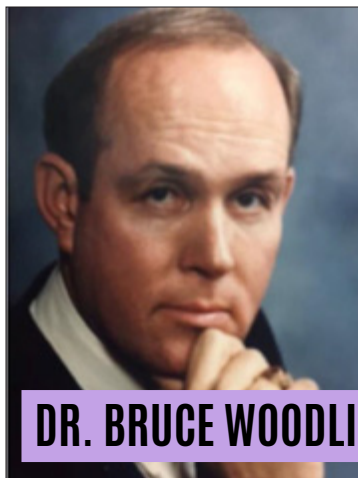
Every year, Californians celebrate Arbor Week by planting trees in their communities. This year the Ventura Tree Alliance (VTA) is planting 15 trees at Elmhurst School and another 20 trees at Montalvo Hill Park. VTA has planted trees every year during Arbor Week since we began in 2021. Our goal is to increase awareness of the benefits of trees.

California is a place where trees are a part of our daily lives. Tree planting here is at an all-time high after significant losses statewide since 2018. Last year, in California nearly 195,000 trees were

Continued on page 7



Barbara Brown, Christy Weir, and Nancy O'Rode are happy planting trees.



DR. BRUCE WOODLING

FRIDAY | APRIL 19 | 1:30 PM

Dementia and Memory Loss



VENTURA TOWNEHOUSE

LUXURY SENIOR LIVING COMMUNITY

R.S.V.P.

805.919.8312

4900 TELEGRAPH RD, VENTURA, CA 93003
VENTURATOWNEHOUSE.COM LIC. 565801810



VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

Member, Ventura Chamber of Commerce

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

PUBLISHER-EDITOR

Sheldon Brown
publisher@venturabreeze.com

PUBLISHER EMERITUS

Staci Brown
Assistant to the PUBLISHER
Ana Baker

Student Intern

Juliette Nasarenko

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Shirley Lorraine · Richard Lieberman
Sheli Ellsworth · Carol Leish
Cindy Summers · Pam Baumgardner
Elizabeth Rodeno · Mira Reverente
Amy Brown · Richard Senate
Patricia Schallert · Ross Williams
Mary Olson · Leslie Sokol
Joseph Seemayer · Tracy Marcynzsyn

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

Richard Lieberman · Michael Gordon
Patricia Schallert · Yana Kbiyod
Joseph Seemayer

In Memoriam Breezy Gledhill

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Janie Tran
janie@venturabreeze.com

DISTRIBUTION

Mary Thompson · Alfred J. Lewis
John Murchison

WEB/ONLINE ADVISOR

Cindy Summers

EXHIBITION COORDINATOR

Jaime Baker

PRINTING

CA Web Print, Inc. (626)281-8989

CONTACT US:

EVENTS & HAPPENINGS
events@venturabreeze.com

OPINIONS
opinions@venturabreeze.com

ARTICLES AND PHOTOS
editor@venturabreeze.com

THE PET PAGE
scampclub@venturabreeze.com

ADVERTISING
advertising@venturabreeze.com

Ventura Breeze

PO Box 832, Ventura, CA 93002
Phone 805.653.0791



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

**Zeus, the father of the
Olympic Gods,
turned
mid-day into night,
hiding the light
of the dazzling Sun;
and sore fear came
upon men.
Archilochus (c680-
c640 BC), Greek poet**

City News

City of Ventura seeks public input on draft action plan

The City of Ventura invites public feedback on its draft action plan for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program. This federally funded initiative aims to address housing needs and serve low-income, homeless, and special-needs populations in Ventura.

“Community service groups play a vital role in fulfilling the spirit of intent with this funding, ensuring that those in need are provided with essential support and resources,” said Mayor Joe Schroeder. “These funds are instrumental in uplifting our community and creating a more inclusive and equitable environment for all residents.”

Through the CDBG program, nonprofits can secure funding for projects and programs that enhance neighborhoods, promote economic development, and address community needs. The draft 2024-2025 Action Plan outlines the City’s approach to align with the objectives of the U.S. Department of

Housing and Urban Development (HUD), focusing on providing adequate housing and fostering economic revitalization.

During the December 2023 to February 2024 application period, Ventura received nine applications requesting a total of \$1.3 million in funding, a significant uptick from the typical annual allocation of just over \$600,000. This competitive process underscores the community’s growing needs and the City’s commitment to allocate resources effectively.

The City encourages the public to share their viewpoints and recommendations during the review phase, with feedback accepted until April 26.

The upcoming City Council meeting on May 7, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. will discuss funding allocations for the 2024-2025 period under the CDBG and HOME Investment Partnerships Program (HOME), and adopt the Annual Action and Funding Plan for submission to HUD.

Residents are encouraged to engage with the City’s funding decisions and plans by reviewing the draft Action Plan and application summaries available online and providing feedback during the 30-day comment period. Written communications may be submitted



online at Cityofventura.ca.gov/publicinput.

To review the draft Action Plan and application summaries, visit the City’s website at Cityofventura.ca.gov/Community-Development-Grant-Programs.

Ventura’s Special Event Grants open with a one-time extra \$150k

The City of Ventura announces the opening of applications for its Special Event Granting Program (SEGP), aimed at bolstering community events for residents. Nonprofit organizations based in Ventura or collaborating with local nonprofits are eligible to apply.

In alignment with the 2023-2024 goals set by the Ventura City Council, an additional \$150,000 in one-time funding has been allocated this

As I See It by Sheldon Brown

• The time has finally come for me to bid farewell as Publisher/Editor of the Ventura Breeze. The May 1 issue will be my last as Publisher/Editor. It has been an incredible journey spanning 17 years, filled with cherished memories, remarkable experiences, and the unwavering support of our beloved Ventura community.

When my daughter Staci and I started this venture 17 years ago, we embarked on a journey fueled by hope and enthusiasm. We didn’t know how Ventura would receive our humble publication, but today, it is heartening to see how it’s become an integral part of life in Ventura. I’m always delighted when strangers approach me to express their love for The Breeze and tell me how much joy it brings them.

This journey has been nothing short of exhilarating and inspiring, and I owe it all to you—our devoted readers, amazing staff, contributors and loyal advertisers. Without your unwavering support and enthusiasm, The Ventura Breeze would not be what it is today. It has been an honor to serve you, and I hope that you’ll continue to find joy and enrichment in the pages of The Breeze for many years to come.

As I transition into a new chapter of my life, I want to assure you that while my tenure as Publisher/Editor may be coming to a close, my commitment to the Breeze remains steadfast. My opinion column may not appear regularly, but rest assured, it will make appearances from time to time, whenever inspiration strikes.

Moreover, I’m delighted to announce that the Breeze will remain within the family, with my son Mark Brown stepping into the role. Mark has decades of experience in both print and digital publishing and can be reached at publisher@venturabreeze.com. I’m confident that the Breeze will continue to play an important role in the Ventura community for years to come.

In closing, I extend my deepest

gratitude to each and every one of you for your unwavering support, encouragement, and readership over the years. The memories we have created together will forever hold a special place in my heart.
Sheldon Brown

• Recently, more than 50 golfers, mostly seniors, filled the Ventura City Council chambers and urged city leaders to hurry up repairs to the 92-year-old Buenaventura Golf Course that has been closed for 15 months because of flooding from storms.

Of course, it would be good to make the necessary repairs, but it always comes down to financing. I’m sure some of the council members are golfers and agree. Hopefully funding can be provided soon (see Mailbox on page 2 for an opinion regarding this).

• Tickets for the 2024 Ventura X Games are now on sale. Organizers say they will make this year’s event even better than last year. The games will return June 28-30 to the Ventura County Fairgrounds for the second year, bringing many of the world’s best action sports athletes to compete for BMX, skateboard, and motocross medals. This is great for Ventura because it is attended and watched by “millions” of fans. I attended last year and was amazed (and scared) by what some of these athletes do as they fly through the air.

• City Council announcement regarding City Attorney. In a closed-session meeting on April 13, 2024, the Ventura City Council unanimously decided to dismiss City Attorney Andrew Heglund from his employment, effective April 13. “The City Council voted 7-0 to terminate the City Attorney’s employment, due to a personnel matter,” stated Mayor Joe Schroeder. Miles Hogan was appointed as acting City Attorney, effective April 13, 2024. Hogan has been part of the City Attorney’s office since 2016, initially serving as Assistant City Attorney II and later promoted to the Senior Assistant City Attorney in April 2022.

Mailbox



“How Long?”

Tom Watson, eight-time golf major champion said, “A great golf course both frees and challenges a golfer’s mind.”

The City of Ventura is fortunate to have two such golf courses (Buenaventura and Olivas Links) that not only provide recreation but are revenue generating assets.

Unfortunately, Buenaventura suffered severe damage in 2023 from flooding during the winter rainstorms. At present, it appears to be on track to being repaired as only a nine-hole course. However, nine holes will impact revenue by 75% according to the City’s own Golf Administrative Report dated 2017.

Continued on page 3

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



year. Grants, ranging from \$1,000 to \$20,000, will be awarded to enhance the diversity of free and affordable community events across Ventura.

“These extra one-time funds greatly enhance cultural and community initiatives. Our city is committed to empowering local nonprofits, enabling them to expand their capabilities and maintain the delivery of enriching experiences for our residents,” said Ventura Mayor Joe Schroeder.

The SEGP typically allocates \$10,000 annually to support community celebrations. These events aim to attract residents and visitors, reinforce Ventura’s cultural heritage and economic vibrancy, and foster innovative collaborations between private and public entities.

Applications are due by Wednesday, May 8, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. (PST). Recipients of grant funding from the City’s Community Partnerships and Cultural Funding Grant Programs are still eligible to apply for the SEGP.

For more information, including grant guidelines, eligibility requirements, and applications, visit www.cityofventura.ca.gov/Grants.

**Distracted driving
Continued from page 1**

Under current law, drivers are not allowed to hold a phone or electronic communications device while operating a vehicle. This includes talking, texting, or using an app. Using a handheld cell phone while driving is punishable by a fine. Violating the hands-free law for a second time within 36 months of a prior conviction for the same offense will result in a point being added to a driver’s record.

If you have an important phone call or need to program directions, pull over to a safe parking spot. Before driving, either silence your phone or put it somewhere you can’t reach.

Funding for this program is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.



Exciting news from Steve Mimiga, Project Manager for the Ventura Water Pure project. “Marina Park is currently undergoing reconstruction to restore its original beauty and functionality, states Mimiga. The sod and mounds are being meticulously reconstructed. With the aim of completing these efforts by Memorial Day weekend. Marina Park is expected to be fully open and ready for visitors to enjoy by July 4th.” Get ready to rediscover the charm of Marina Park.

By Patricia Schallert



*Having second thoughts
about where you made your*
PREARRANGEMENTS?



– WE HONOR –
PREARRANGEMENTS
made at any other funeral home.

If you’re concerned about changes at the funeral home where you’ve made prearrangements, *we have good news...we’ll honor them.*

If you would like information regarding transferring your prearrangements to our firm, or any other way we can help, please call us.



JOSEPH P. REARDON
FUNERAL HOME & CREMATION SERVICE

757 E. Main St. • Ventura, CA 93001
805-643-8623

FD#883



BOYKO & REARDON
TELEGRAPH ROAD MORTUARY & CREMATION

15 Teloma Dr. • Ventura, CA 93003
805-765-4137

FD#2390

ReardonFuneral.com

©adfinity®

**Mailbox
Continued from page 2**

Olivas Links was redesigned by Forrest Richardson and reopened in 2007. It was immediately recognized as one of the “Top Ten Municipal Courses” by Golfweek. The city directed Mr. Richardson to make the course a “destination venue for golfers,” not only county residents, but for non-resident golfers. According to 2022-2023 Parks and Recreation data the course has admirably accomplished this goal with 30% of rounds played by non-residents who pay higher green fees than residents. Unfortunately, Olivas is not able to realize its full revenue potential due to unsightly dilapidated temporary trailers that are 17 years old.

Harry Vardon, a six-time British Open Champion golfer said, “More matches are lost through carelessness at the beginning than any other cause.”

This is certainly true when we become

aware of how much money has been expended to rent these trailers. That amount is approximately 3 million dollars according to a reliable source. If a decent clubhouse and cart storage structure had originally been built, both structures would now be paid off and additional revenue generated from food and merchandise sales.

How long before our current Ventura Mayor and City Council members recognize the need to improve this infrastructure? This investment will not only enhance revenue lost to Buenaventura downsizing but will maintain the course as a “destination venue for golfers.” The National Golf Foundation indicates that 26 million people play golf in the United States. Most importantly, our junior golfers and future golfers of tomorrow have expanded by 40%. Golf is growing and Olivas requires first class infrastructure facilities.

William Gohlke

805 Gift Emporium



We have expanded our children’s department! Come over and see.



805.340.0805 • Hours: 1:00pm – 6:00pm on Wednesday
11:00am – 5:00pm on Thursday, Friday and Saturday

2500 Channel Dr. at the end of Howard St.



MOVIE NIGHT

Under the Stars



**APRIL 19,
2024**

STARTS AT 7:30PM

**PORTSIDE
VENTURA HARBOR
PLAZA**

**1196 PORTSIDE DR.
VENTURA, CA 93001**



**DON'T FORGET TO ORDER YOUR
DINNER BOX FROM HARBOR MART
USING THIS QR CODE!**



*Home of the best burgers, organic coffee & gelato, amazing shops,
events and more!*



Greystar California, Inc., DBA Greystar Broker License No. 1525765 Broker: Gerard S. Donohue



Second Annual Mental Health Wellness Festival

by Carol Leish, MA

The Ventura County Mental Wellness Festival returns to Ventura Harbor. The organizer is local non-profit, Turning Point Foundation, whose mission is to improve the quality of life for adults experiencing serious mental illness, addiction, lack of housing and inadequate physical health care. The festival's objective is to raise awareness about mental health and share mental wellness pathways that support, maintain and/or improve peoples' mental health. This annual event celebrates the completion of National Mental Health Awareness Month (May).

Folks can visit Ventura Harbor Village (lawn area) at 1583 Spinnaker Dr. The event will be from 10:30am - 4:30pm on Saturday, June 1st 2024. Come relax with yoga and sound meditation, hosted by Meditation Mount. Enjoy live music from the Orchard Bluegrass Band. This band has been entertaining audiences of all ages throughout Southern California for many years. Two of the venues they have performed at include the Reagan Library and Ventura County Fair.

View the Mental Health Art Exhibit, which displays a variety of artwork submitted by Turning Point's wellness program clients. Also, shop a variety of native plants and talk to horticulture experts at the Growing Works Garden Exhibit. Growing Works is an innovative wholesale plant nursery that serves as one of Turning Point's mental wellness programs. It provides job training, employment, volunteer opportunities, recovery services and hands-on horticulture work experience to people experiencing mental health challenges.

Participate in an arts and crafts activity by Ronald McDonald House Charities (SoCal) Camp Good Times! RMHC's Camp Good Times provides a cost-free multi-day sleep over experience for kids battling cancer and their families. Ronald McDonald House-Charities of Southern California's mission is to create a positive, long-lasting impact on children with cancer and their families by providing fun-filled medically supervised cost-free year-round programs in tandem with seven houses spread through Southern California. This includes the newest "Family Room" at Ventura County Medical Center.

Event exhibitor and activity sponsors include: Ventura County Behavioral Health; Meditation Mount; Camp Ronald McDonald for Good Times; Tinyplants; Growing Works; Oxnard Wellness Center; 1Health Right 360;

Autism Society-Ventura County; California Lutheran University; Ventura Breeze; New Talk 1590-KVTA; VC Reporter; Nate's Places Wellness & Recovery Center and Rotary Ventura South.

Contact: jcarsman@turningpoint-foundation.org to become a sponsor and/or vendor!

Special thanks to Ventura Harbor Village as the venue! Join us at the grass lawn. Also, explore the wonderful array of shops, restaurants, boat rides and more.

Event Website: mentalwellnessfest.com

Get a 10% off at participating Ventura Harbor restaurants & shops by going to: <https://mentalwellnessfest.com/venturaharborvillagefestivaldiscount.html>

Ventura Charter School hosts 13th annual EcoFest!

Ventura Charter School is excited to once again present Ventura EcoFest, an Earth Day celebration of our planet for the community of Ventura. This family-friendly free event welcomes the community to enjoy good green fun in the form of live performances, a silent auction, a raffle, local vendors and non-profits, food trucks, eco arts and crafts and educational games on Sunday, April 28th, 2024, from 11:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the Ventura Charter School campus, 2060 Cameron Street, Ventura. In 2023 more than 2500 attendees enjoyed the Earth Day festivities, with more expected for this year's event.

In support of Earth-friendly practices Ventura Charter School's EcoFest welcomes the community to head to the campus utilizing a variety of transportation options. Bicycle to event and receive bike valet services sponsored by Bike Ventura County. Through Gold Coast Transit District's Youth Ride Free Program, students and children 18 and under ride free with no identification required. There will be a variety of entertainment for the whole family to enjoy, including a kid zone, an EV car exhibit, live music and dance and plenty more.

Guests can bid in a silent auction, benefiting Ventura Charter School's many diverse and inclusive academic programs. Among the items available for in-person

Continued on page 13



Tickets on sale May 7

Saturdays at the Olivas Adobe Historical Park

4200 Olivas Park Dr
Ventura, CA

2024 SUMMER CONCERT SERIES • 7:30-9:30 PM

7/13 Identity Theft
'80s dance party
Presented by ATC-Affordable Tables & Chairs

7/20 Smooth Sounds of Santana
A journey through Santana's greatest hits
Presented by The Breeze

7/27 Pretzel Logic
A Steely Dan revue
Presented by The Breeze

8/3 Start ME UP
Rolling Stones vs Rod Stewart
Presented by The Breeze



8/10 Dirty Cello
Unique spin on blues, rock & Americana
Presented by The Breeze

8/17 AbSOULute
R&B, funk, soul, and classic rock band
Presented by Andria's Seafood

8/24 Dark Desert Highway
Eagles tribute band
Presented by V3 Printing

8/31 Susie Hansen Latin Band
High-energy Latin dance music
Presented by Presto Pasta



www.cityofventura.ca.gov/MUS



Rubicon Theatre Company Launches New Special Event Series

Rubicon Theatre Company, celebrating its 25th Anniversary Season, is proud to announce the launch of its exciting new special event series, "Ventura Live: Music, Laughter And Comedy," featuring one-night and short-run concerts, jam sessions, new play readings, magic nights, comedy, and much more. The series runs from May 11 - June 15, 2024. From a reading of a new rock-and-roll musical, to a side-splitting comedy and soulful tributes, this diverse series promises to dazzle and delight audiences of all ages and tastes.

The series kicks off on Saturday, May 11 at 7 pm with "Make Your Own Kind of Music," celebrating the iconic women of the 60s and 70s. Led by Heather Youmans (Dark of the Moon at Rubicon) and featuring an all-star band, this event will showcase musical guests from hit shows such as "The Voice," "American Idol," and "Dancing with the Stars."

On Mother's Day, Sunday, May 12 at 3 pm, Tony and Emmy Award-Winner Lillias White will take the stage in "From Brooklyn to Broadway." With a stellar career spanning 16 Broadway

shows, including The Life, Fela!, and Hadestown, White will delight audiences with some of Broadway's best-loved songs.

"The Folk Legacy Trio in Concert" on May 17 and 18, offers folk favorites featuring George Grove and Rick Dougherty (both Lifetime Grammy Winners with The Kingston Trio) and JERRY SIGGINS (The Diamonds). For theatre enthusiasts, Somebody to Love, a Plays-in-Progress of a new rock-and-roll musical in development will be showcased on May 20 with a post-show talkback.

Additional highlights of the series will include a range of musical tributes, including "Palomino Nights" on May 26, a Country and Rhythm Revue Benefit

for Rubicon's Education Programs featuring Beau Red, Mark Masson (Shaky Feelin), the Van Allen Twins, And Jay Ponti, "Marley's Ghost" on May 30, and "Trevor and Sylvie Sing James & Joni" on June 4.

On June 1, audiences can enjoy a night of uproarious laughter with "Jerry Rocha Comedy Hour: Cancer Culture." Known for his appearances on Netflix, Conan, Comedy Central, and Last Comic Standing, Jerry Rocha brings his unique brand of humor to shed light on even the darkest of subjects. "In Love with a Wonderful Guy" on June 2 featuring Golden Globe Award-Winner Amanda McBroom ("The Rose") celebrates love in various forms in celebration of Rubicon Company Member (and her husband)



RUBICON THEATRE COMPANY
presents

Ventura LIVE

JOIN US for our NEW special event series: one-night and short-run concerts, jam sessions, new play readings, magic nights, comedy and more



Sat, May 11 @ 7 pm
Make Your Own Kind of Music
An Evening Celebrating the 60s' & 70s' Most Iconic Women in Music
Tickets: \$39.50



Sun, May 12 @ 3 pm
(Mother's Day)
From Brooklyn to Broadway
Tony and Emmy Award-Winner Lillias White in Concert
Tickets: \$39.50



Fri, May 17 @ 7 pm | May 18 @ 2 pm
The Folk Legacy Trio in Concert
Tickets: \$69.50 | \$89.50 for VIP Seats with Post-Show Reception with the Artists with (by popular demand) Irish stew, breads, cheeses and stout. (Friday Performance Only)



Mon, May 20 @ 7 pm
w/Talkback Following
Somebody to Love
Plays in Progress of a New Rock-and-Roll Musical in Development
Free (Please pick up by 6:45 p.m)



Sun, May 26 @ 6:30 pm
Palomino Nights
Country and Rhythm Revue
A Benefit for Rubicon's Education Programs
Tickets: \$25 at door | \$20 in advance



Thu, May 30 @ 7 pm
Marley's Ghost
Singer/Instrumentalists: Dan Wheatman, Jon Wilcox, Mike Phelan, Ed Littlefield Jr., Jerry Fletcher and Bob Nichols
Tickets: \$39.50



Sat, Jun 1 @ 7 pm
Jerry Rocha Comedy Hour: Cancer Culture
Tickets: \$25 at door | \$20 in advance



Sun, Jun 2 @ 7 pm
In Love with a Wonderful Guy
Amanda McBroom with Michele Brouman and Larry Tuttle
Tickets: \$39.50 | \$55 includes after-party with food, birthday cake, wines and "George's Socks" (a whiskey tasting)



Tue, Jun 4 @ 7 pm
Trevor and Sylvie Sing James & Joni
Sponsored by Nancy and Richard Francis
Tickets: \$29.50



Thu - Sun, Jun 6 - 9
(Check website for times)
Forever Motown
Tickets: \$64.50 (Sides) - \$74.50 (Center)



Sat, Jun 15 @ 7 pm - Sun, Jun 16 @ 2 pm
John Carney in Carney Magic
A Show about Secrets, Mentors and the Beauty of a Perfect Illusion
Tickets: \$49.50 | \$20 for those 18 and under



Oxnard / Ventura / Santa Barbara









For details or tickets:
rubicontheatre.org
805.667.2900

Save \$5 with code: BREEZE





George Ball's big birthday!

"Forever Motown," featuring the original New York cast, will run from June 6 to 9 with a tribute to Motown legends. Closing out the series on June 15 and 16, "John Carney in CarneyMagic" presents a show about secrets, mentors and the art of illusion. Regarded by his peers as one of the top sleight-of-hand performers in the world, Carney has won more awards from Hollywood's Magic Castle than anyone in history.

All events will take place at The Karyn Jackson Theatre in Ventura's Downtown Cultural District, 1006 E. Main Street. For tickets and prices, or more information about "Ventura Live" go to www.rubicontheatre.org or call (805) 667-2900.

Ventura Tree Alliance
Continued from page 1

planted during Arbor Week. By the end of 2024, the Ventura Tree Alliance will have planted nearly 200 trees in Ventura.

Community, business and non-profit leaders from all fields understand that trees are important for practical and aesthetic reasons. Trees cool the air, reducing the need for air conditioning. Trees add property value to homes and businesses. Tree filled communities tend to be safer, more sociable and healthier.

Ventura loves trees, but in many communities, people are indifferent. But they shouldn't be. Studies show urban greenery improves public health: 40 percent fewer people are overweight or obese, residents are three times as likely to be physically active, children have reduced symptoms of attention deficit disorder, hypertension and

asthma, and stress levels are lower.

If the intangible benefits to trees in our environment aren't enough evidence, what about the dollars and cents? A study done in the Inland Valley showed that one large tree will provide over \$2,700 in environmental and other benefits over its lifetime. That's a 333-percent return on investment. For 100 large public trees, communities can save over \$190,000 in 40 years.

While VTA does what we can locally, California ReLeaf is leading the statewide effort. Last year, they funded 33 projects with local organizations resulting in over 23,000 trees planted, and the creation or retention of nearly 200 jobs and job training for young people over the next two years. Because of our partnership with California ReLeaf, when you celebrate California Arbor Week locally, you'll be celebrating with the rest of the state as well.

This California Arbor Week and in the future, we need your support. Neighbors can come together and help each other plant trees on their property. Volunteers can donate materials or their time to plant trees at parks or in schoolyards. Communities that work together to plant trees forge bonds that cannot be measured through the tons of carbon dioxide removed from the air or gallons of rainwater collected by trees. These are the relationships that lead to a greater understanding amongst neighbors and the inner peace that comes from living in a greener community. Join Us!

Volunteers are needed to help plant trees on Thursday, April 25, 10am at Montalvo Hill Park. Bring a shovel or rake (with your name on it), a sun hat, sunscreen and water... and have a great day outdoors making a difference in Ventura.

GREG RENTS

EQUIPMENT RENTAL & BULK MATERIALS



SEWER SNAKES



ROTOTILLERS & TRENCHERS



PRESSURE WASHERS



SKID STEERS



CHAINSAWS & HAND TOOLS



WOOD CHIPPERS

**HOMEOWNERS
CONTRACTORS
LANDSCAPERS**

**WE'RE HERE TO HELP
YOU IMPROVE YOUR
PROPERTY VALUE.**



3072 TELEGRAPH RD., VENTURA
(805) 651-1012 WWW.GREGRENTS.COM

Springtime at the Harbor Village
Saturday, April 20th



Plein Air Paint Out

1pm - 4pm

View more than 12+ local artists painting harbor scenes + Plein Air Exhibit at Harbor Village Gallery & Gifts



Jumpin' Jaz Swing Band

Noon - 3pm

Put on your dancing shoes & join for a swinging live jam in the heart of the Village!

VENTURA HARBOR VILLAGE *.com*



When did white wedding dresses become fashionable? Photo by Michael Gordon.

Wedding Dress colors and ghostly attire at the Olivas Adobe.

by Richard Senate

In looking at the photographs of the family in the parlor of the old Olivas Adobe one is struck that many are wedding pictures that depict the brides that are many times not wearing white dresses. That was a tradition that didn't take hold for many years after Queen Victoria was married in white lace.

It was believed that the color selected for a wedding dress would determine what sort of marriage one might have and what colors to absolutely avoid. They even had a poem for it;

Marry in white, you have selected right,

Marry in blue, your love will be true,
Marry in pearl, you will live in a whirl,
Marry in brown, you will live in town,
Marry in red, you will wish yourself dead,

Marry in yellow, you will be ashamed of your fellow,

Marry in green, you will be ashamed to be seen,

Marry in pink, your troubles will sink,
Marry in gray, you will move far away,

Marry in black, you will never come back.

The wedding of Sarita Olivas and Anton Peters hangs on the wall and she is wearing a black wedding dress showing she is in mourning for a lost loved one. Perhaps that wasn't a good idea. Two years after that picture was taken Sarita was dead, having died in the birth of her first child, a son who lived.

Several ghost sightings seem to be those of brides, mostly seen at the chapel where history tells us weddings were held. One, panic stricken fleeing the chapel in a long white dress, perhaps it wasn't white but pearl? More recently another phantom woman was seen in the chapel her dress was pink, and yet another ghostly bride was dressed in a brown dress.

The Bookmark

About Libraries and Friends

by Mary Olson

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.

The "Rising from the Ashes" Home Tour celebrates the strength and solidarity of the Ventura County community following the devastating Thomas Fire. Attendees can look forward to exploring homes rebuilt after the fire featuring a variety of architectural styles. The 2024 tour features five homes, a native plant garden, refreshments, live music, and more.

All proceeds from the home tour will directly support the Ventura County Library Foundation, a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing Ventura County Library Services. The funds raised will contribute to a vast array of programs at Ventura County libraries, encompassing literacy, the arts, technology, and cultural lessons designed to engage and inspire library members of all ages throughout the county.

Tickets are \$50 each. To purchase tickets, visit <https://www.vclibraryfoundation.org/>

California State University, Channel Islands Broome Library Lecture Series Faculty from disciplines across the CSUCI campus participate in these unique and informal lectures at local libraries throughout the county as a way to engage with the broader public and participate in community outreach. Events are free and open to the public.

Peering Into Darkness: Exploring the Deep Sea

Hill Road Library, Sunday, April 21, 11:30 am

What makes the deep ocean a wondrous, mysterious environment? Dr. Geoffrey Dilly will discuss the strange adaptations deep ocean animals have developed, the human impact on this far-away ocean environment, and his own experiences in deep sea biology, including several dives on Alvin, the most widely recognized deep-sea submersible. For more information, contact Linda Cherry, Hill Road Librarian, Linda.Cherry@ventura.org

Who Wrote Shakespeare?

Hill Road Library, Tuesday, May 7, 5:00 pm.

Shakespeare's plays are known worldwide and have shaped our languages and literary imaginations for centuries. But is William Shakespeare truly the author of the works we know as "Shakespeare's"?

English Professor Bob Mayberry will host a presentation and discussion of the

myths, legends, and theories surrounding the authorship of what we know as "Shakespeare" as part of the Broome Library Lecture Series.

Professor Mayberry has taught classes on English, poetry, composition, swearing, and even baseball literature during his 16 years at CSU-CI.

For additional information, contact Linda Cherry, Hill Road Librarian, at linda.cherry@ventura.org

The Ventura Friends of the Library Bookstore in E.P. Foster Library **2nd Look Books** is now open 7 days a week, Monday through Saturday, 11:00 am to 4:00 pm and Sundays, 1:00 to 4:00 pm.

New donations arrive every week and the stock in our store is regularly refreshed.

We also invite you to visit our online bookstore for local sales for unique items, including Manga, Vintage, Art and Architecture. In April, the Music category is 10% off. Find the link at our website: <https://venturafriendsofthelibrary.org>. Orders are picked up at our bookstore in E.P. Foster Library.

Kathy Odell to step down as WEV CEO

Kathy Odell, CEO of Women's Economic Ventures (WEV), announced her retirement and resignation, effective May 1st, 2024. After five years of dedicated service, Kathy will transition to the role of CEO Emerita, marking the end of a transformative chapter in her career.

Under Kathy's leadership the WEV team has achieved significant milestones and made lasting contributions to the lives of thousands of women and small business entrepreneurs within our community. WEV has provided essential training and resources, technical support and funding to women entrepreneurs, advocated for gender equality in the business world, helped local businesses thrive, and inspired hope for a brighter future for women in business.

Reflecting on her time as CEO, Kathy expressed deep gratitude for the opportunity to lead such a dynamic and impactful organization. "The last five years have been some of the most rewarding of my career," she said. "But now, it is time for me to embrace the next chapter of my journey."

Despite stepping down from her role, Kathy emphasized her unwavering commitment to WEV's mission. "WEV is a strong and enduring participant in our communities," she remarked. "And while I may be stepping away from day-to-day involvement, my dedication to supporting women entrepreneurs and driving economic prosperity remains steadfast."

In announcing her resignation, Kathy expressed confidence in WEV's continued success under the leadership of Nicki Parr, who has been appointed Interim CEO. Nicki has been an employee of WEV since 2018, most recently in the role of Chief Operating Officer. "Nicki's experience, expertise, and leadership will undoubtedly ensure that WEV continues to thrive and make a meaningful difference in the lives of women entrepreneurs and small business owners," Kathy stated.

As she embarks on the next phase of her journey, Kathy expressed heartfelt appreciation to the entire WEV community for their dedication, passion, and support. "It has been an honor and a privilege to serve as CEO," she said. "And I look forward to continuing to advocate for WEV and being an active participant in our community."



Designed especially for retirees with at least \$350,000 in investment assets, we reveal the 4 most common mistakes made when a written retirement plan is implemented. If you have a retirement plan or considering establishing one, these **FREE** reports can be yours by:

- Calling our office in the Oxnard Financial Tower (805) 392-3205 for our 24-hour recorded message line (no salesperson, just leave a message).
- Request your free report online at <https://tyo.essentialreportsgroup.com>

- **Maximize your Social Security benefits** by reviewing your break-even point
- **Internal Portfolio fee and Recession draw-down analysis**
- **How much IRA Tax & RMD's** will I/we have over the next 30 years?
- **Income Model** that incorporates a revenue sourcing map and a revenue sourcing allocation model for tax-efficient money distribution... Uncle Sam!

Hurry, this free offer expires soon!



Tom A. Tyo, MBA
Managing Director
CA #0199948



Senior Living



Maureen returned to her hometown roots to retire in Ventura and Oxnard. Photo by Dave Gunther

Local Senior Sees Beyond Limitations

by Tracy Marcynszyn

“I’m on a new journey,” declares Maureen Angelini, sitting in her grandmother’s chair in her Oxnard home filled with family and sentimental heirlooms, like the statue of Isis (an Egyptian goddess) that belonged to her grandfather.

A teacher and principal in Baldwin Park and Bakersfield for 30 years, Maureen returned to her hometown roots to retire in Ventura and Oxnard.

“I loved my career! I believed in what I did,” reflects Maureen. Every Friday she was in the cafeteria to shake the hands of students who completed all their weekly homework assignments. This reinforced teachers’ hard work and acknowledged, encouraged, and congratulated student efforts.

A teacher at heart, Maureen continues to share her knowledge and encourage others to go beyond what they think is possible, albeit in a less traditional subject than during her three decades within the public school system.

An event changed the direction of Maureen’s life. Two years before retirement, she attended the funeral mass of a

coworker who died by suicide.

“While praying for Eddie’s soul, I saw his essence in a light fog above his casket and heard these words in my mind, ‘I didn’t know I would cause so much pain.’ This incident defied logic and my Catholic upbringing,” declared Maureen.

She shared how a series of unsettling events and a dream about Angel Therapy guided her to take a class with Charles Virtue in 2013. This exposed her to meditation, the terms of mediumship, and ways to use her senses to connect with the other side. A month later, Maureen attended a one-week course with James Van Praagh.

“The ability to hear spirits surprised me but felt natural at the same time,” she recalled.

To quiet doubts about whether her communication with spirits was real or her imagination, Maureen went to England and took courses at the renowned Arthur Findlay College of Psychic and Spiritual Development.

“It was amazing!” said Maureen with a smile. She described the school as



THE
PALMS
at Bonaventure

Experience The Palms at Bonaventure!

Spring is here, which means now is the time to start a new lifestyle.

The Palms at Bonaventure Senior Living is a vibrant, welcoming assisted living and memory care community that is coupled with exceptional, personalized care.



Call (805) 647-0616 or visit ThePalmsBonaventureSeniorLiving.com to schedule your personalized tour today.

111 North Wells Road, Ventura, CA 93004

License #101336

“a playground for the soul.” It confirmed her abilities and was a safe place to interact with souls in the afterlife under tutors’ guidance and fellow students’ support.

The author of *Wisdom from the Afterlife: Messages from Departed and Suicide Souls*, Maureen takes readers on a journey through her personal experiences intertwined with stories that spirits channeled through her. Many of the souls were victims of suicide or drug abuse. Four were famous entertainers who struggled with inner battles that contributed to their early deaths. Today, people fight these same challenges.

The book provides a blueprint for reflection and change, with an emphasis on the importance of letting go of past hurts, understanding which struggles are worth the fight, and living without future regrets.

“After the completion of the book, I discovered a common theme that ran through all the stories: self-bullying. It’s the negative words or thoughts we tell ourselves. This unconscious act sabotages joy and self-worthiness,” she noted.

Maureen acknowledges and understands the uncertainty and religious dogmas that surround mediumship and suicide.

“I held the same beliefs before retirement. When I accepted my innate ability to communicate with the other side, the sorrow, humility, and love felt within the transmitted messages couldn’t be ignored. Spirits provided urgent and timely messages of healing for those who struggle with life and the aftermath of a death by suicide.”

Statistics reveal suicide claims the lives of over 48,300 Americans each year. An estimated quarter million people

become living survivors.

More than a decade after retirement, Maureen continues her mission to encourage people to step beyond their self-hindering beliefs and comfort zones. A positive attitude, purpose, and awareness transform challenges into growth opportunities for change and unlimited possibilities.

Her book, *Wisdom from the Afterlife*, published by Gracepoint, is set to be released this July.

Maureen plans to offer classes in Meditation, Mind Expansion, How to Understand the Spirit Messages of Loved Ones, and Unleashing Your Unlimited Potential this fall.

For more information, visit MaureenAngelini.com.

How to talk with your doctor about sensitive issues

by NIH

Much of the communication between doctor and patient is personal. To have a good partnership with your doctor, it is important to talk about sensitive subjects, like sex or memory problems, even if you are embarrassed or uncomfortable. Most doctors are used to talking about personal matters and will try to ease your discomfort. Keep in mind that these topics concern many older people. You can use booklets and other materials from NIA or the organizations listed at the end of the article to help you bring up sensitive subjects

Continued on page 11



GARDEN TOUR

2024

5 FABULOUS GARDENS



NOON to 4 PM

ON THE 5th OF MAY

plus Art • Boutique • Music • Raffle • Refreshments

Tickets
\$30

Available at the Following Locations

Camarillo Hospice Office
400 Rosewood Ave

Camarillo Farmers Market
Saturdays from 8 a.m. to noon

B&B Do-It Center
Surroundings Gifts & Home Décor

Tickets and sponsorships also available at lmvna.org/gardentour or by scanning the QR Code below.
All proceeds from the event directly benefit grief and bereavement services throughout Ventura County.

For more information please call (805) 642-0239 ext. 639



Livingston Memorial
Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice
Grief & Bereavement Services

1996 Eastman Ave., Ste. 101
Ventura • (805) 642-0239



Senior Living



Residents are lined up and ready to Spring into shape with Lelie!

Let's Dance

by Leslie Sokol

Spring is in the air! This is the perfect season to get moving, be fit, and have fun. One of the best ways to improve your overall health and get in shape is to dance. Dancing can be many things: an expression of art, a social activity with friends, part of a cultural experience, a fun hobby, or a great form of exercise. The combination of movement, time spent with others, and rhythmic music is good for your physical and mental well-being. No matter your age, moving your body to the sound of music can transform your life for the better.

9 Ways Dancing Improves Your Health

Boosts cardiovascular health. Like other aerobic exercises, dancing increases your cardiovascular endurance by elevating your breathing. Dance moves of a moderate intensity can reduce your risk of developing heart disease.

Builds core strength. Dance requires balance and builds core strength, which promotes good posture and prevents muscle injuries and back pain. For example, ballet moves train your body to stand still and balance on one leg using deep muscles in your body and engaging your abs.

Promotes flexibility. Many forms of dance stretch your limbs and improve flexibility. This in turn will help improve your balance, help you avoid falls and decrease the risk of injury in many areas of your life.

Helps with weight loss. Dancing may include both aerobic and anaerobic exercises. Aerobic exercises involve continuous movement fueled by oxygen - examples include bike riding or running. Anaerobic exercises involve short bursts of high-intensity movement fueled by energy stored in your muscles (think weight lifting). Both types of exercise can improve your health and are great calorie burners. In general, the more up-tempo the dance style, the more calories and energy will be burned.

Improves bone health. As a form

of weight-bearing activity, dancing can help you maintain bone density and even build new bone mass.

Helps prevent memory loss. One of my favorite sayings is, "Sound mind, sound body." Dance gets you moving both physically and mentally. Learning new steps and routines requires mental focus while counting and staying on beat to the music. This makes you feel more alert, focused and engaged and improves your cognitive skills.

Improves mental health. Dance is one of the best types of exercise to lift your spirit. Dance decreases anxiety, increases self-esteem, and improves your psychological well-being. Reduces stress. Dancing can be uplifting, make you feel good and forget your worries. It is the perfect way to brighten your mood on days where you might be feeling upset or stressed.

Creates social connections. Social connectedness and interaction are critical components of your mental and physical health. Dancing with others is a shared experience. When you take a class, you will feel an immediate connection with your fellow students as you all respond to the music and the movements of your bodies. Incorporating dance into your life will have an immediate positive impact on how you feel. It will help you focus, improve self-discipline, increase your confidence, and change your brain and body for the better. Through my many years of dance training and teaching, I am so grateful to be able to share my knowledge and experience with others. From ages 3 years to 105 years old, my students learn the positive power of dance. So put a spring into your step and let's get dancing!

Leslie Sokol is the creator and founder of the adult dance and fitness program For the Young at Heart. She has been teaching adults and children for forty-five years.

For more information contact Leslie at Dancekidsfun@gmail.com 805-312-8089 or visit the website: www.LeslieSokolDance.com

THE BONAVENTURE

SKY ACTIVE LIVING



SAVE THE DATE FOR THE GRAND REOPENING ON JUNE 5, 2024!

SCHEDULE A TOUR TODAY!



10949 Telegraph Road, Ventura, CA 93004
(805) 671-9700 • TheBonaventureSeniorLiving.com



Senior Living



Artists must reside in Ventura County and be 60 years old or over.

County of Ventura puts out call to older-adult artists for May exhibition

May is Older Americans Month, and to celebrate the occasion, the Ventura County Area Agency on Aging (VCAAA), Ventura County Arts Council (VCAC), and County of Ventura Arts & Culture will host an art exhibition of works created by the county's older adults.

The exhibit will be held in the County of Ventura's Hall of Administration Atrium Gallery (800 S. Victoria Ave. in Ventura). It will open on May 13, 2024, and run through June (closing date TBD).

The exhibition will aim to showcase the vibrant creativity and talent of artists ages 60 and older within our community through an open call. While there is no specific theme, artwork is encouraged that explores the sharing of experiences, traditions, customs, and stories across generations.

Entry Guidelines:

Only one entry per artist will be admitted.

Entries will not be accepted without registration.

Submissions will be reviewed and approved by the Ventura County Arts Council according to the County of Ventura's art display guidelines.

Approved submissions will be

provided with designated drop-off locations across the county.

Artists must reside in Ventura County and be 60 years old or over.

Important Dates:

Online registration is currently open and must be received by the deadline: Sunday, April 28, 2024, at 11:59 p.m.

Artwork must be dropped off at pickup location by Friday, May 3, 2024.

Exhibition schedule: Monday, May 13 to June (closing date to be determined).

Artwork will be returned to the drop-off locations upon exhibit closing.

For online registration and complete entry guidelines, visit www.vcartscouncil.org.

Talk with your doctor Continued from page 9

when talking with your doctor.

It is important to understand that problems with memory, depression, sexual function, and incontinence are not necessarily normal parts of aging. A good doctor will take your concerns about these topics seriously and not brush them off. If you think your doctor isn't taking your concerns seriously, talk to him or her about your feelings or consider looking for a new doctor. Read on for examples of ways to bring up these subjects during your appointment.

Anyone at any age can have a drinking problem. Alcohol can have a greater effect as a person grows older because the aging process affects how the body handles alcohol. People can also develop a drinking problem later in life due to major life changes like the death of loved ones. Talk with your doctor if you think you may be developing a drinking problem. You could say: "Lately, I've been wanting to have a drink earlier and earlier in the afternoon, and I find it's getting harder to stop after just one or two. What kind of treatments could help with this?"

Driving is an important part of everyday life for many people, and making the decision to stop driving can be very difficult. Tell your doctor if you or people close to you are concerned about your driving and why. He or she can go over your medical conditions and

medications to see if there are treatable problems that may be contributing to driving difficulties.

A fall can be a serious event, often leading to injury and loss of independence, at least for a while. For this reason, many older people develop a fear of falling. Studies show that fear of falling can keep people from going about their normal activities and, as a result, they may become frailer, which actually increases their risk of falling again. If fear of falling is affecting your day-to-day life, let your doctor know. He or she may be able to recommend some things to do to reduce your chances of falling. Exercises can help you improve your balance and strengthen your muscles, at any age.

Regular exercise makes you stronger and can help you prevent falls. NIA has articles and free videos designed for older adults that can help you fit exercise and physical activity into your daily life.

Ventura Audubon Society Presents: Wings of Hope

Nesting season arrives for the Western snowy plover along Ventura County's shores, marking a critical time for awareness and conservation efforts. Responding to the challenges posed by habitat changes and human activity, the Ventura Audubon Society introduces a month of awareness events and 'Raise the Roost,' an April fundraiser aimed at supporting the protection of these shorebirds. With habitats under pressure from urban development, human disturbance and shifting sands, the initiative seeks community support to fund the Shorebird Recovery Program. Ventura's coastal ecosystem faces significant threats, urging collective action to safeguard the snowy plover's survival, along with all other dune ecosystem wildlife.

Throughout April, Ventura Audubon Society welcomes the public to engage with a variety of events designed to cater to diverse preferences and foster public support for the conservation of the western snowy plover and the dune ecosystem on our Ventura County beaches.

Key Events:

Saturday, April 20th, 8:30am: Come birding with us for a guided nature walk with chapter leaders at Ormond Beach. Registration is required through our field trips webpage; we will have binoculars to loan.

Tuesday, April 23rd, 6pm: Test your avian knowledge at Bird Trivia Night with Ventura Audubon at Ventura Coast Brewing Company. Meet our Shorebird Recovery Team

Saturday, April 27th, 1pm-4pm: Raise the Roost Fundraiser: Join us for a social gathering, prize raffles, and exclusive merchandise at Ventura Coast Brewing Company. Proceeds benefit the Shorebird Recovery Program.

Western snowy plovers, among California's smallest shorebirds, nest directly on the sand in small depressions known as 'scrapes,' which they make above the

high tide line. Their camouflaged eggs seemly vanish into the sandy surroundings. Protected under the Endangered Species Act since 1993, the Pacific Coast population faces threats from habitat loss, human disturbance, urban development. Locally, persistent issues arise from off-road vehicle users cutting fencing designed to safeguard nesting habitat, trespassing into restricted areas, and causing habitat destruction. In addition to threats from human activity, snowy plovers also face natural factors such as predators, erosion, inclement weather, and climate change.

Ventura Audubon seeks the support of the public in joining our efforts to protect nesting snowy plovers and preserve our coastal ecosystems. We invite interested individuals to attend one of our events, where they can meet us, learn more about the special wildlife on our County Beaches, and be inspired to volunteer. Together, we can make a difference.

Ventura Audubon Society is dedicated to promoting the protection and restoration of bird populations and wildlife habitats for the benefit of humanity and biodiversity.

When and what is Passover?

In 2024, Passover runs from the evening of April 22 to the evening of April 30.

Passover is a festival of freedom.

It commemorates the Israelites' Exodus from Egypt, and their transition from slavery to freedom. Passover or Pesach is an important, biblically derived Jewish holiday. The Jewish people celebrate Passover as a commemoration of their liberation by God from slavery in Egypt and their freedom as a nation under the leadership of Moses. It commemorates the story of the Exodus in which the Israelites were freed from slavery in Egypt.

Passover commences on the 15th of the Hebrew month of Nisan and lasts for either seven days (in Israel and for Reform Jews and other progressive Jews around the world who adhere to the Biblical commandment) or eight days for Orthodox, Hasidic, and most Conservative Jews.

A day commences at dusk and lasts until the following dusk, thus the first day of Passover begins after dusk. It is one of the most widely observed Jewish holidays.

The rituals unique to the Passover celebrations commence with the Passover Seder.

In the narrative of the Exodus, the Bible tells that God helped the Children of Israel escape from their slavery in Egypt by inflicting ten plagues upon the ancient Egyptians before the Pharaoh would release his Israelite slaves; the tenth and worst of the plagues was the death of the Egyptian first-born.

The Israelites were instructed to mark the doorposts of their homes with the blood of a slaughtered spring lamb and, upon seeing this, the spirit of the Lord knew to "pass over" the first-born in these homes, hence the English name of the holiday.

When the Pharaoh freed the Israelites, it is said that they left in such a hurry that they could not wait for bread dough to rise (leaven). In commemoration, for the duration of Passover no leavened bread is eaten.

I VOLUNTEER BECAUSE

It's the right thing to do. You get what you give whether here or the afterlife.



Susan P.

FIND YOUR NEXT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY AT
www.vccaregivers.org

Kirby Subaru is honored to treat each Volunteer Caregiver with a free car wash as a thank you for their service to seniors throughout Ventura County.








The Pet Page



Dedicated to Scamp

Animals have been known to help people in hospitals, schools, and fire and police departments. Annie is unique as she helps other animals calm their nerves for Jackson County Animal Control Officer Shawn Lutz.

“What she does is she helps me catch dogs that are scared of people who have been running for a while,” said Lutz. “She is a confident dog; she goes out, and she befriends them and brings them back to me so I can get them caught and off the street.”

Since 2020, Annie has been a ride-along partner for Lutz and a family pet. Lutz said Annie has helped retrieve over 70 dogs.

“The biggest thing is, every morning, my wife says make sure Annie comes home. I am assuming she wants me home as well,” said Lutz.

The bond between Annie and Lutz is special, and he said he could not imagine working without his partner by his side.

“She talks to me, we interact all day long, we really kind of read each other, I look out for her, and she looks out for me,” said Lutz. “It would be very awkward to not have her with me on a regular basis working the road.”

Annie is a big celebrity around town and at public events, but Officer Lutz said he still worries about her whenever she is called upon to work.

“I get nervous every single time,” said Lutz. “She has had a couple of times where she has been nipped over the years doing this job. I worry every single time she gets out of the truck, and she is working with me and helping me that she is going to have a negative encounter.”

As for Annie, she is just happy to be working alongside her best friend.

Breakthrough Cancer Vaccine For Dogs Is ‘Truly Revolutionary’, Scientist Says
HEALTH By David Nield

A recently developed cancer vaccine for dogs is showing promising results in clinical trials, which have been running since 2016, and there’s hope that some of the benefits of the vaccine could be translated into human cancer treatments.

More than 300 dogs have been treated with the vaccine to date, and the twelve--month survival rate for canines with certain cancers has been lifted from about 35 percent to 60 percent. Tumors in many of the animals have also shrunk.

Known officially as the Canine EGFR/HER2 Peptide Cancer Immunotherapeutic, the treatment grew out of studies of autoimmune diseases, where the immune system damages the body’s own tissue rather than any invading threats. The vaccine is designed to get the immune system to attack cancer instead.

“In many ways tumors are like the targets of autoimmune diseases,” says rheumatologist Mark Mamula, from the Yale University School of Medicine.

“Cancer cells are your own tissue and are attacked by the immune system. The difference is we want the immune system to attack a tumor.”

Regression of lung metastases in a canine patient. Chest X-rays were taken three months apart. (Doyle et al., Translational Oncology, 2021)

As outlined in a 2021 study by Mamula and colleagues, the treatment gets the immune cells to produce antibody defenses, which attach themselves to tumors and interfere with their growth patterns.

Specifically, these antibodies hunt down two proteins: epidermal growth factor receptor (EGFR) and human epidermal growth factor receptor 2 (HER2). Mutations causing overexpression of these proteins drive uncontrolled cell division in some human and canine cancers.

Existing treatments targeting EGFR and HER2 call upon just one kind of antibody. The new vaccine boosts its effects by creating a polyclonal response – one that involves antibodies from multiple immune cells, rather than a single one, making it harder for the cancer to become resistant to the drug.

“In veterinary oncology, our toolbox is much smaller than that of human oncology,” says veterinary oncologist Gerry Post, from the Yale School of Medicine. “This vaccine is truly revolutionary. I couldn’t be more excited to be a veterinary oncologist.”

For now, the vaccine remains a post-diagnosis treatment option rather than any preventative measure, but it’s already helped dogs like Hunter: he’s now cancer-free, two years after being diagnosed with osteosarcoma, a type of bone cancer.

Typically, only about 30 percent of dogs with osteosarcoma will survive beyond twelve months. Around one in four dogs will get cancer during their lifetimes, so the potential impact of the treatment is huge.

Considering the similarities between dog cancer and human cancer, from genetic mutations and tumor behavior to treatment responses, the researchers suggest the vaccine will also help our understanding of cancers in humans.

The Yale University team isn’t the

Scamp Club

(Scampclub pets are not for adoption.)

In the heart of Casita Boricua, Tiger Lily reigns as the embodiment of love and playful spirit. Adopted by Juanita Vega, she arrived as a stray, filling the void left by her predecessor with boundless affection and joy. Tiger Lily’s days are filled with camaraderie, as she hosts feline gatherings in the lush native garden. With an appetite for fresh cooked turkey dinners and the thrill of chasing butterflies, this two-year-old darling embodies the essence of love and companionship, enriching every moment with her presence.



Join Scamp Club

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

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

only ones making progress with canine cancer treatments, either. Researchers are also trialing various immunotherapies for dogs with melanoma and lymphoma. However, as with human cancers, not all dogs respond to treatment, and it’s difficult to predict which ones do.

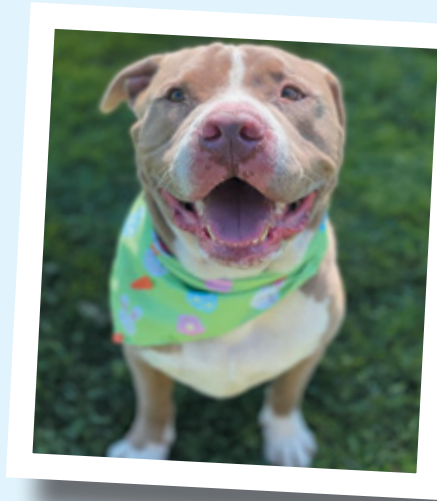
“Dogs, just like humans, get cancer

spontaneously,” says Mamula. “They grow and metastasize and mutate, just like human cancers do.”

“If we can provide some benefit, some relief – a pain-free life – that is the best outcome that we could ever have.”

The research has been published in Translational Oncology.

Forever homes wanted



Hi: I’m Santa, a 3 1/2 year old playful Pit Bull X who is in need of a new home as my owner needs to move out of the country to take care of his seriously ill mother and there is no one to take care of me. I’m very high energy and strong. I need an active owner who will exercise and play with me daily. I know basic commands, but need work on leash training.

I’m good with children, but I need a home with no other dogs.

It’s unknown how I would do with cats. I’m also choosy with strangers. If you’re interested in meeting me, please fill out an online application. CARL adoption

Nala is a 2-year 1 month old Pit Bull Terrier Mix
A Spayed Female
Adoptable Date: Sunday April 21, 2024
Animal ID: A843699
Kennel: 108 City Found: Oxnard
Shelter: Camarillo Animal Shelter VCAS



Some dogs help other dogs.



Harbor Patrol Blotter

Just a few of the things the Harbor Patrol tends to. **No Police Report this issue.**

Wednes 3/27

9:05pm, observed the Manson Dredge in the A-basin of the harbor conducting "beneficial reuse" of sediment to replenish harbor and beaches downcoast.

Thursday 3/28

3:12pm, received report of a Hazard to Navigation in the keys. Officers responded in Rescue B19 and removed a 20ft long garden hose floating in basin.

6:34pm, received report of a female screaming near VHV C-dock. Officers responded, found the female transient as reported, escorted her to Harbor Blvd.

Friday 3/29

4:07am, dispatched to a fall victim in the Ventura Marina Community. Officers responded, assisted the patient up off floor, no injuries were sustained.

3:20pm, received report of illegal fishing at Pond in Ventura Marina Community. Officers responded and removed the young men from the park.

Saturday 3/30

9:33am, officers cleaning, relocating equipment in preparation for their Boat House remodel and rebuilding beginning next week.

2:09pm, while on patrol, observed 5mph buoy in the A-basin off station. Officers towed it back to its position, moved during dredging.

Sunday 3/31

12:32am, dispatched to 99 y/o unconscious. Officers responded with AMR / VFD and assisted with treatment and preparing for transport.

Monday 4/1

3:20pm, received report of 2 transients attempting to use thrown away paddle

boards to paddle to the Santa Clara Rivermouth from the L/R. Officers were able to convince them to postpone the adventure. Issued warning for no PFD's.

Tuesday 4/2

3:10pm, dispatched to vehicle in the water at the L/R, officers responded by land and water. Once on scene, determined no one in the vehicle. The individual was retrieving their vessel and accidentally backed into the water. Vehicle towed out of the water with assistance from TowBoat US and Anacapa towing.

Thursday 4/4

10:40am, received a request for disposing of expired flares. Officers explained US coast guard receives flares at CI Harbor safety expo or contact USCG.

Friday 4/5

4:43pm, while on patrol in truck, flagged down by injured individual at the launch ramp. Officers rendered first aid for an injured thumb, released at scene.

6:51pm, received report of an injured seabird, Greeb on Spinnaker Dr. Officers responded and were able to capture the bird for rescue group and rehabilitation.

Saturday 4/6

5:15am, received request to jumpstart security vehicle in the village. Officers responded and were able to start the vehicle.

12:18am, dispatched to a sick person in the Ventura Marina Community. Officers responded and assisted VFD and AMR with the patient.

3:22pm, dispatched to investigation of large oil spill occurring at Surfers Knoll. Officers responded, found Manson conducting beneficial reuse, or replen-

ishment of sand erosion. The operation was explained to concerned patrons and caller.

Sunday 4/7

6:33am, observed bad weather forecast again, raised Gale Warning pennants.

2:25pm, dispatched to an unknown medical at Surfers Knoll. Officers responded and found the patient intoxicated and going in and out of the ocean, to the concern of beach patrons. Convinced the individual to stay out of the sea.

11:33pm, officers securing vessels due to gusty winds loosening lines.

Monday 4/8

10:44am, advising fire dispatch that primary response vehicle is Out-of-Service, 2nd vehicle in primary role. Harbor 1 needs diagnostics and fuel tank repair.

11:41am, dispatched to a sick person at the Surfers Knoll parking lot. Officers responded with VFD/AMR to assist the patient who was transported to hospital.

5:03pm, received report of a disgruntled customer at gift shop in the village. Officers responded and diffused the situation, customer satisfied with returns.

Tuesday 4/9

8:47am, officers conducting traffic control in Fireboat/Rescue B19 for Manson Dredge returning to Pierpont Basin for repairs.

Ventura Charter School hosts Continued from page 5

bidding are outdoor gear, tickets for local entertainment, yoga class passes, whale watching passes, local restaurant gift cards and much more.

In addition to the silent auction, the event will feature a raffle. Pre-sale raffle tickets can be purchased from families of Ventura Charter School students or at the event. All tickets are \$1. The grand prize is \$1,000 in Disney Cash. The raffle will be pulled each hour, with the grand prize drawing at 4:00 p.m. Winners need not be present.

Sponsors include Kirby Auto Group of Ventura, UNPaste, Bamieh & De Smeth, Amigos Party Rental, Brooklyn Charm, Bodhi Salt Yoga, Bella Luna Gardens, Edible Ojai and Ventura County, and Mission Bank.

"We are excited to continue this important annual tradition for our community, and our students," said Lisa Hildebrand, Executive Director of Ventura Charter School, "Our students look forward to this event for the fun but it's also an important reminder for them and for us that we are stewards for our planet and change starts with our own choices."

Proceeds from this event benefit Ventura Charter School, a tuition-free nonprofit school that serves 450 students from kindergarten to eighth grade. During school hours, Ventura EcoFest encourages students to take a closer look at their personal habits to see how they affect the planet and make changes, such as a student-led campaign to reduce disposable utensils on campus. Along with the EcoFest celebration, students experience an involved project-based curriculum centered upon empowerment through critical thinking, empathy, research, and action to benefit the spaces they occupy throughout their lives with inclusion and equity. To learn more about Ventura EcoFest or enrollment at Ventura Charter School, please earthdayventura.org



A perfect opportunity to plant a garden and celebrate Earth Day.

SEEAG Hosts Earth Day Plantopia "U-Pick Your Garden" Fundraiser

Students for Eco-Education and Agriculture (SEEAG) will host its 2nd annual Plantopia "U-Pick Your

Garden" fundraiser to celebrate Earth Day. The event, held on Saturday, April 27, will raise funds to support SEEAG's agricultural education programs where students learn about the farm origins of their food, water resources, soil health, entomology and locally grown fruits and vegetables.

Plantopia is from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and will be held at two locations in Ventura County: Growing Works Nursery (1736 S. Lewis Rd., Camarillo) and SEEAG's headquarters in Ventura Harbor (1575 Spinnaker Dr., Ventura). For a \$35 donation, participants can select a combination of 12 small plants to fill two six-pack containers. Participants who order in advance can also select seedlings that produce vegetables that makeup three types of food specialty gardens: salsa garden, soup garden and salad garden. The organic seedlings are from Plantel Nurseries. Pre-order online and receive a free four-quart bag of Agromin's potting soil.

Plantopia is also taking place at Refugio Ranch Tasting Room (2990 Grand Ave., Los Olivos) and Santa Barbara Eary Day Festival (Alameda Park, Santa Barbara).

"Plantopia is a perfect opportunity to plant a garden and celebrate Earth Day," says Mary Maranville, SEEAG's founder and CEO. "It's a great way to kick off Spring."

For more information about SEEAG's Plantopia and to select and reserve your plants, go to www.SEEAG.org/plantopia or pre-order directly through My805Tix.

The No-Pressure, Friendly Business Broker

SELL YOUR BUSINESS!

Spring is the best time to list your business.

The Lashley Group, Ian Lashley CBB, IBBA Broker Cal DRE #01912181 ☎ (805) 535-3693
 ✉ Ian@TLGbusinessbroker.com 🌐 TLGbusinessbroker.com 📧 @TLGbusinessbroker

Moving In? Moving Up? Moving Out?

I can help you with that!

ADELA TRAINOR

DRE 01985025

☎ 805.701.7694

✉ TEAMTRAINOR12@GMAIL.COM

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY | California Properties HomeServices
 © 2023 Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices California Properties is a member of the franchise system of BHAF Affiliates LLC. BHHGI and the BHHGI symbol are registered service marks of Columbia Insurance Company, a Berkshire Hathaway affiliate.

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 23 mins.

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



Ventura events

by Ana Baker

Ventura Senior Men's Group meets at the Poinsettia Pavilion from 11:30 - 1:30 p.m. on the first and third Tuesdays of each month. Any man in the "senior" category (and many who don't) might benefit from a visit to the Ventura Senior Men's Group. Buffet luncheon with interesting speakers and good friends. Your first lunch is free. We talk about everything except religion and politics. Eligible to all men 50 plus. Call Tom at 805-657-1071 for more information, visit VSMG.net to find out who our speakers will be.

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.org>.

Monthly Beach Cleanup: This is the first Saturday of every month! Meet your neighbors and help keep our beach looking fresh. Pierpont Beach Community Council hosts it 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.

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.

April 18: New Art City Theatre is conducting an online Art Auction supporting its inaugural Playwrights Festival '24. The work of Ventura actress and fine artist Virginia (Ginnie) Buckle will be showcased at the Museum of Ventura County. Her art, along with pieces by Beatrice Wood, Dickens Change, and Alexander Calder, can be viewed and bid on at <https://event.auctria.com/e77dedcf-61ff-405b-850d-430b5f285ef9/>

April 18: The East Ventura Community Council (EVCC) will meet virtually at 7 p.m. At <https://eastventura.org/> for the Zoom meeting link.

The agenda includes the East Ventura police report and a presentation from Dani Brusius, Ventura County Master Gardener. The purpose of the EVCC is to encourage residents to understand East Ventura's problems, needs, and expectations and to recommend, initiate, and participate in developing and implementing programs or solutions.

April 20: Plant & collectibles sale at the Dudley House Museum Saturday 8 - 2 p.m. Our monthly plant and collectibles sale continues in April on the grounds at the Dudley House. Bromeliads, orchids, and succulents will be on sale along with various collectibles. Vendors, please call Charlie at 805/746-4317 for details. The museum is located at the corner of Loma Vista and Ashwood Streets (197 N. Ashwood). Free

April 24th: The College Area Community Council will be holding a Zoom meeting at 7pm. Council meetings include speakers and discussion on topics of neighborhood and community interest, including public safety and economic development. This

meeting will include the election of officers. An invitation and link to the meeting will be sent to everyone on the CACC mailing list. Visit the College Area Community Council website @ <https://caccventura.com> to learn more, to be added to the mailing list or to access a link to the Zoom meeting."

April 27: RescueCon, OPAC's one-day event bringing creativity and community together to celebrate and facilitate animal rescue and adoption, returns on Saturday, April 27 from 11 am to 4pm. Rescheduled from March 23 due to wind and rain, this year's event features animal welfare influencer, the Kitten Lady (Hannah Shaw), and is free and open to the public. Festivities will be held at Community Center Park East, just behind the Oxnard Performing Arts & Convention Center. More information can be found at: theopac.org/rescuecon

April 25-28: New Art City the Playwrights Festival '24 will be held at the Museum. See renowned actress Sally Struthers in Drowned Cats, one of four brand-new plays presented in a jam-packed schedule of staged readings and discussion panels with the audience. Go to <https://newartcitytheatre.org> to register for your free tickets.

May 1: The Ventura County Garden Club is celebrating 100 years of sharing friendship, gardening, and beautification projects. Join the fun at the Camarillo Ranch House starting at 10 a.m. Events include car, flower, and quilt shows, performances, snacks, and a picnic luncheon with desserts; send your check for \$50 made out to VCGC to Nancy Cope at 603 4th St., Fillmore, 93015. Please indicate your luncheon choice of Roast Turkey and Jack Cheese, Black Forest Ham and Cheddar Cheese, Vegetable and Cheese, or vegan sandwich, and, if you prefer, the gluten-free option. For more information, VenturaCountyGardenClub.com

May 7: Hill Road Library presents the Associate Professor of English Bob Mayberry at 5 p.m. on Tuesday to deliver a presentation entitled "Who Wrote Shakespeare? The Shakespeare Authorship Controversy." This program is a part of the California State University, Channel Islands Library Lecture Series. Location: 1070 S. Hill Road.

May 25: Group: Channel Islands PC

Choral Spectacular – Collaborative Concert

Channel Islands Choral Association (CICA) and Channel Islands Chamber Orchestra (CHICO) will join together in a collaborative concert program with over 125 singers from across Ventura County to perform major choral works by W.A. Mozart and John Rutter. In addition to the CSU Channel Islands University Chorus, high school choirs from Camarillo, Santa Paula and Ventura, and the Pleasant Valley School District Chorus, will perform. The concerts are conducted by Dr. KuanFen Liu, Associate Professor at the California State University of Channel Islands and the Artistic Director of both CICA and CHICO.

The program features Mozart's Ave Verum Corpus; Missa Brevis in C Major, K. 220; and Rutter's Mass of the Children. Concerts are Saturday, May 4 at 7 PM and Sunday, May 5 at 3 PM; Rancho Campana High School Performing Arts Center, 4235 Mar Vista Drive in Camarillo. Admission is a suggested \$20 donation at the door.

"I am thrilled to bring a musical program to Ventura County audiences that showcases choral singers from the community and students from our elementary, middle and high schools and CSU Channel Islands," says Artistic Director, Dr. KuanFen Liu. "I am proud that the performance opportunities we provide to students enrich their learning experiences and may inspire them to pursue a career in music."

For more information, visit cicachoir.org or cichamberorchestra.org.

Vegan & Gluten Free Available



6100 TELEGRAPH RD., STE F
VENTURA, CA, 93003

(805) 676 0000

DINE IN | TAKE OUT | CATERING

Order Online For Delivery
or Pickup at
<https://chilibasil.blizfull.com>

MONDAY - FRIDAY
11:00 am. - 2:30 pm
4:30 pm - 9:00 pm
SATURDAY - SUNDAY
12:00 pm. - 9:00 pm

Facebook:
CHILIBASILTHAICUISINE ©
IG: @CHILI_BASIL
WWW.CHILIBASILVENTURA.COM



A ribbon cutting was held at Chili Basil Thai Cuisine with Ventura Chamber on April 11. They are located in the Victoria Plaza at 6100 Telegraph Rd Ste F. (805) 676-0000.



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

Ojai news and events

Dance Ojai, a newly established dance arts organization, proudly announces the inaugural Ojai World Dance Festival, celebrating cultural diversity and artistic creativity. The festival will take place on Saturday, April 20th, 2024, from 7-9 PM at the iconic Libbey Bowl in Ojai.

The Ojai World Dance Festival promises to be a mesmerizing evening of vibrant and magnetic multicultural dance performances featuring highly acclaimed artists from around southern California.

The festival will be accompanied by an eclectic mix of music, ranging from traditional rhythms to contemporary beats, adding an extra layer of energy and excitement to the performances. Whether it's the infectious grooves of Bollywood or the pulsating rhythms of salsa, the music at the Ojai World Dance Festival will transport audiences on a journey around the world through sound and movement.

Join Dance Ojai for an unforgettable evening of celebration and unity at the Ojai

World Dance Festival. Tickets are available online at www.OjaiDanceFestival.org.

For more information about Dance Ojai and the Ojai World Dance Festival, please visit www.DanceOjai.org or contact their team at contact@danceojai.org.

The Beatrice Wood Center for the Arts is pleased to present a performance by Live-Looping Electric Cellist, Composer and Recording Artist Briana Tam on Sunday, April 21st at 3 pm.

Using her bare feet, her loop station, and her electric cello, Brianna Tam envelops listeners in her mesmerizing and dynamic symphonic realm while simultaneously capturing their hearts with her charming and charismatic personality.

Tickets are \$35 and can be purchased at: https://www.beatricewood.com/brianna_tam.html. The Beatrice Wood Center for the Arts is located at 8585 Ojai-Santa Paula Road in Upper Ojai.

Associate Professor of English Dr. Bob Mayberry will visit the Ojai Library at 6pm on Wednesday, May 8, 2024, to give a talk titled "Who Wrote Shakespeare?" This program is a part of the California State University, Channel Islands Library Lecture Series.

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. The Ojai Library is located at 111 East Ojai Avenue in Ojai, CA. Hours of service are 10am to 8pm Monday through Thursday and 12pm to 5pm Friday through Sunday.

A special program coming up at the Ojai Library. Local Ojai author Joseph M. Puglia will visit the Ojai Library at 2pm on Saturday, April 27, to give a talk titled "A Brief History of Westward Expansion from Thomas Jefferson through the Manifest Destiny."

On Vacation - Puerto Vallarta



While vacationing in Puerto Vallarta John and Royce took time out from golf to read the Breeze.



The MERITO and Hokuloa Continued from page 1

Hökülé'a is the traditional Polynesian style of voyaging using outrigger canoes, your physical strengths, and by working in teams. The experiences occurred at Ventura Harbor on April 10 and 11, 2024, combined with ocean research and monitoring activities for the same students at the beach focused on plankton collection and identification, and the monitoring of microplastics.

The experiences took place after months of planning, coordination, and preparation by all involved, from MERITO raising the funds to cover buses, the lifeguard on duty, the safety and other water sports gear; the teaching of relevant ocean science lesson plans drawn from MERITO Foundation's curricula in the classroom by Ms. Jennifer Willis and Ms. Laurel Davidson; the introduction to Hokuloa Outrigger Canoe Club in the school classes by Ms. Yvonne Menard, Chair of the Hokuloa

Outrigger Canoe Club, and the time volunteered by the members.

The idea behind combining a water sport traditionally underrepresented in minority youth with hands-on ocean science experiences is to ignite interest in both the water sport and ocean stewardship. The students just loved it! You could see it in their happy faces. Not one student looked bored or even remembered their phone existed, said Rocío Lozano-Knowlton, founder and director of the MERITO Foundation.

This experience was one of many provided by the 'From the Avenue to the Channel Islands' (ATCI) Program of the MERITO Foundation funded by an Outdoors Equity Grant, created through AB 209 and administered by California State Parks, Office of Grants, and Local Services.

More information at <https://www.meritofoundation.org>.

Credit goes to the Outdoor Equity Grant of State Parks

SUNDAYS AT THE DUDLEY HOUSE



The Dudley House Museum is open for docent-led tours every first Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. Admission is FREE. We hope you'll join us for these special events.

May 5th: Photo display "Times in the Life of the Dudley Family."

June 2nd: Plumerias 101, a drop-in drop-out demonstration under the pergola given by Charlie Uvari, professional plumeria grower with over 30 years experience.

July 7th: Wood carving demonstration by the Channel Islands Carvers.

August 4th: Attic Bébés antique doll collectors and restorers.

October 6th: Regular tours with ghost stores upon request.

November 3rd: "Mrs. Dudley" will lead tours today!

**Location: Corner of Ashwood & Loma Vista
197 Ashwood, Ventura**

Dudleyhouse.org



Brand New Day, 2nd Place, BAA's 34th Annual Open Competition, Lois Bloom. Call for Entries Now Open! BAA's 35th Open Competition A juried show for members and non-members Exhibiting May 4 - May 29, 2024 at Ojai Art Center Call for entries is now open on "Entrythingy" on our website! Deadline: Friday, April 19, midnight We used to be able to say, "Annual Open Competition" but the pandemic interfered with

Andres Salazar is having an exhibit of his art work at the WAV Gallery (175 S. Ventura Ave.) with an opening reception on May 3, 6-9pm and on the weekends May 4-25th from 1-4pm. This exhibit dances with the raw energy of action painting and landscape expressionism. Infused with movement and life, the canvas shows the process of making the art. It is a journey of both spaces and emotions. Each canvas serves as an open invitation, a playground where viewers can embark on their own journeys through the constellations of my shapes, forging their own connections and narratives.



Andres has considered Ventura his home for the last 20 years, and is a resident of the WAV community. Graduated at UCSB, he has always been involved in creative arts and worked in the graphic novel publishing industry. Story and art have always influenced his work and he brings that storytelling to the canvas using vibrant colors and dynamic shapes.

that! Our last Open Competition -- our 34th Annual -- was in 2020. It's finally here again, not quite "annual" but greatly anticipated! First Place \$500, Second Place \$350, Third Place \$250 Four Honorable Mentions at \$100 ea. All winners also receive a free one-year membership to BAA. Juror: Chuck Kovacic. Find out more about him at <https://cfkovacic.wixsite.com/chuckkovacicarts> Artist Eligibility: Artists must be 18 years or older and may submit up to three

Ventura Art Scene

Spring into action: Give blood with the Red Cross

Make an appointment now to help save lives during National Volunteer Month.

During National Volunteer Month in April, the American Red Cross asks donors to help protect the blood supply by making and keeping blood donation appointments in the weeks ahead. Donors of all blood types – especially type O blood donors and those giving platelets – are needed now to keep the blood supply strong enough to support critical patient care this spring.

The Red Cross depends on thousands of volunteer blood donors to collect about 12,000 blood donations every single day. With no substitute for blood and no way to manufacture it, volunteer donors are essential in transfusion care. Blood drives and donation centers also depend on the generosity and valuable time of those who make it possible for the Red Cross to help people in need

Spring into action – book a time to give lifesaving blood or platelets now by visiting RedCrossBlood.org, calling 1-800-RED CROSS or by using the Red Cross Blood Donor App. Those who come to give April 8-28, 2024, will receive a \$10 e-gift card to a merchant of choice, plus be automatically entered to win a \$7,000 gift card. There will be two lucky

winners. See RedCrossBlood.org/Spring for details.

Upcoming blood donation opportunities April 8-28

Ventura- 4/23/2024: 11:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m., Knights of Columbus, 36 S. Figueroa St.

Simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enable the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device to make an appointment or for more information. All blood types are needed to ensure a reliable supply for patients. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.



American Red Cross



Celebrates its 5th Annual Compassion Campaign

Thursday, May 9, 2024 · 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.
Walnut Grove at Tierra Rejada

UNLOCKING affordable LIVING

Reshaping Housing Solutions

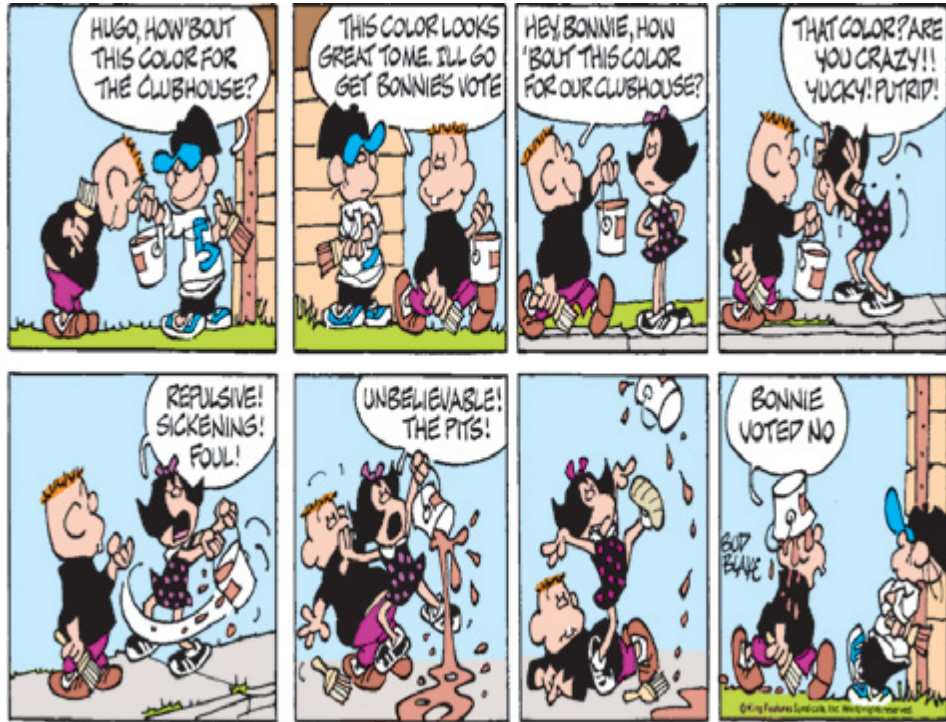
Purchase tickets and secure sponsorships for this must-attend event that reimagines housing affordability.

housingtrustfundvc.org

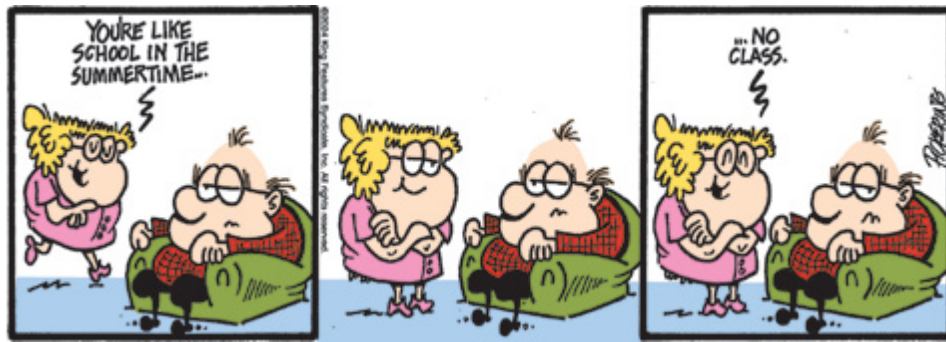


Lighter Breeze

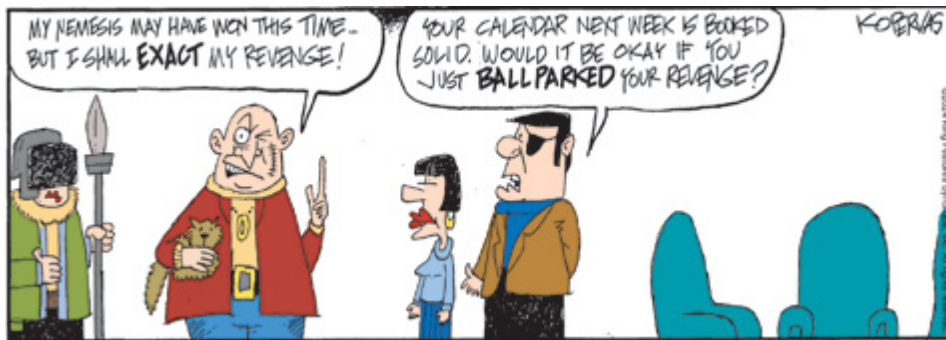
Tiger



The Spats



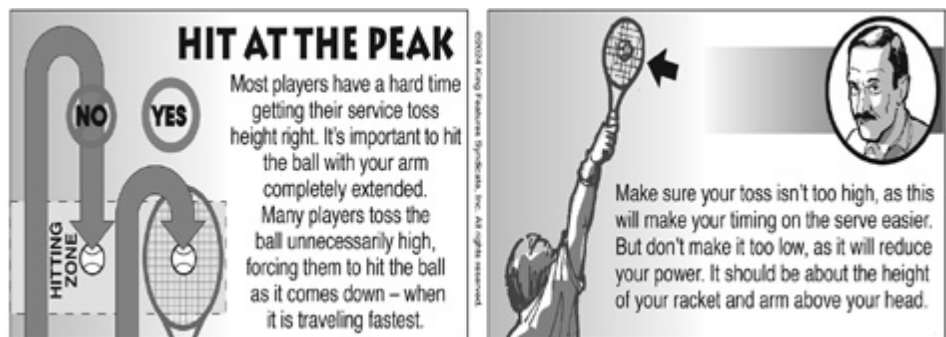
Out on a Limb



Amber Waves



Stan Smith's Tennis Class



Solutions on page 13

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

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

Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row, across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains a 1 of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

Solutions on page 13

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Flair
5 Enterprise letters
8 Stuffing herb
12 Taunt
13 Aussie hopper
14 Hockey legend Phil, to fans
15 Home of the Packers
17 Compared to
18 Congeal
19 Sturdy tree
20 Spassky's game
21 - -Manuel Miranda
22 Huge
23 Bottom
26 Fear stricken
30 "C Pluribus -"
31 Blue hue
32 Lighten
33 Arty area
35 Hinder
36 Sailor
37 Soda container
38 Norwegian inlet
41 "It's c-c-cold!"
42 Right angle
45 Actress Russo
46 Chinese brew
48 Diminutive suffix

DOWN

1 Omelet needs for a fruit
2 Old Italian money
3 Help a crook
4 Born abroad?
5 City-related
6 Drench
7 Sauce source
8 "The Italian
9 Tennis champ Arthur
10 Transcript stats
11 Eternities
16 Dark film genre
20 Spy org.
21 Color named for a fruit
22 Journalist Nello
23 Gist
24 Year in Spain
25 "God, ya think?"
26 Alias abbr.
27 Yoga pad

28 Jargon suffix
29 Aachen article
31 Bro or sis
34 '60s chic
35 Challenge
37 El Greco's birthplace
38 Gratis
39 Joan of rock
40 Aware of
41 Author Harte
42 To be, in Toulon
43 Some July babies
44 Endure
46 Wildebeest
47 Up-to-date

© 2024 King Features Synd., Inc.

Ventura Port District Receives \$200,000 Grant

Improvements of restrooms and shower facilities to be made at local facilities.

The Ventura Port District (District) Board of Port Commissioners (Board) are pleased to announce that a funding agreement has been signed with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to receive a grant of \$200,000 for the improvements of restrooms and shower facilities at Harbor Cove Beach, Surfers Knoll Beach, and the District's public launch ramp.

This grant is the second awarded to the District by NFWF under the "Refugio Beach Oil Spill Settlement: South Coast Shoreline Parks and Outdoor Recreation Grants Program" (Program), the first of which was a grant of \$93,301 provided in 2022. Those funds were fully expended to improve beach accessibility, install three new light poles for Harbor Cove Beach parking lot, and the purchase of public safety communications equipment.

The District competed for the second grant, and was successful in securing \$200,000 from the Program for projects to compensate the public for loss of use and enjoyment of public beaches, parks, and other public or natural resources in Ventura County. The Program is administered by NFWF with oversight by state natural resource trustee agencies for the oil spill near Refugio State Beach in 2015 - the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the California State Lands Commission, the California Department of Parks and Recreation, and the Regents of the University of California.

The District's application was supported by key community leaders, including Congressman Salud Carbajal, Assemblymember Steve Bennett, State Senator Monique Limón, and County Supervisor Matt LaVere.

Congressman Carbajal offered comment on the grant award: "Ventura's harbor and nearby beaches are a perfect place for Central Coast families to enjoy our little slice of paradise, and with public facility improve-

ments from this grant, we can ensure these areas are ready to serve the thousands of Ventura residents and others who enjoy our port district for years to come. Joining my colleagues in pushing for the approval of this funding was a no-brainer - I know how many will benefit from these facilities after a morning at Surfer's Knoll or a weekend at Harbor Cove Beach - and I'm proud to have been a part of bringing this important funding to Ventura."

Letters of support were also received from Ventura Visitors & Convention Bureau and Los Angeles Volleyball Academy.

District General Manager Brian Pendleton stated, "We really could not have been so successful with our grant pursuits without the continued support of our elected representatives. We are so very grateful that they are invested in ongoing improvements in Ventura Harbor."

Planning has already begun for the exterior improvements at both Harbor Cove and Surfers Knoll beaches, which will include regrading the pavement (to meet ADA accessibility requirements), installation of new shower units, and repair work to some of the adjacent hardscape. In addition, the restrooms at both beach lots as well as at the District's public launch ramp, will receive interior improvements and new exterior doors.

Board Chair, Michael Blumenberg stated, "These enhancements will improve the aesthetics, functionality, and accessibility for these public facilities. I'm very proud of the continued improvements the District has been able to implement in Ventura Harbor, especially as they relate to improving accessibility and an equitable experience for all."

The District anticipates completing these improvements by the end of 2024.

The Ventura Port District is an independent special district of the City of Ventura and is the owner and operator of the Ventura Harbor. The Ventura Port District is committed to providing a safe harbor that is an inviting inclusive seaside destination, with exceptional facilities for fishers, boaters, residents, and visitors.

For more information on the Ventura Port District, Ventura Harbor amenities, and its programs visit VenturaHarbor.com.



Show Time

A View from House Seats

“Deer” Delves Deep in Ojai

by Shirley Lorraine

Prepare to be amazed, analyzed and shocked at the current offering of the Ojai Art Center Theater. Deer, by Aaron Mark, directed by David Henderson is billed as “A bloody comedy where love and hate collide.” It is a journey many will identify with, shed tears over, laugh about, cheer on and be repelled by all at once. It is quite a full evening and well worth it. This one pulls out all the stops and then some.

The play opens with a couple who have been married a long time out on a journey to their cabin in the mountains for a week of respite and rediscovery. Their daughter has recently moved

along with her life, leaving them alone. What should be a relaxing week away at their hideaway in the Poconos quickly becomes the stuff of nightmares.

The drive to the cabin is filled with a steady stream of chatter from husband Ken (Taylor Kasch) which is received by resolute and angry blank stares by wife Cynthia (Cynthia Killion). They are each coping with the grief of an empty house and facing a future of potentially meaningless existence.

In the dark of night on the lonely country road, driver Cyn hits a deer. Convinced that the poor (clearly dead) animal can be revived, she insists on taking

it to the cabin to nurse it back to health. Ken knows this is a pipe dream but is unable to sway Cyn in her desire to nurture something.

What follows is emotional combat at its best that highlights the mostly unstated, repressed underlying resentments and desires of the couple. It sounds devastating, but in the hands of these two highly skilled actors, it is a seething black comedy that will captivate you.

The story line has some twists and turns that may catch you off guard. Just when you think one thing may happen, there is an abrupt veer you did not see coming. Therein lies part of the fun. Just sit back and watch the action unfold.

The script is raw (definitely not recommended for children) which allows true feelings to come to the surface. It is quite a ride. The deer becomes an integral third-party

player in this battle, prodding the couple to cope with down deep issues that come bubbling to the surface like hot lava. The deer (lovingly called Doe-Doe) even gets biographical credit as a cast member, as well she should.

John Mirk’s set design of the cabin interior is beautiful and functional. My mind could not help but connect symbolisms in the A-frame interior and the pointedness of the characters’ conflicts.

Bravo to the OACT for producing this brave work. Bravo to director David Henderson. Bravo to Cynthia Killion and Taylor Kasch who each gave a performance to be remembered.

There is only one more weekend to catch this extraordinary production. Make a reservation now for this Friday, Saturday or Sunday. www.ojaiact.org/ 805-640-8797.

Streaming Spotlight by Cindy Summers

The Greatest Hits

- Hulu



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

Many people have the experience of hearing a song that takes them back to the past, but for Harriet (Lucy Boynton) this became her reality. Since the death of her boyfriend Max two years earlier, every time Harriet heard a song relating to their relationship she literally traveled back in time where she tried desperately but unsuccessfully to change the events that led to his death. When triggered Harriet would fall unconscious, so had to wear headphones when out in public.

Harriet’s friend Morris (Austin Crute) worked at a record store where Harriet could safely search through albums looking to find the song that would allow her to save Max in the past. To help cope with the tragic loss of her boyfriend from a car accident they were both in, Harriet was attending a grief support group but was generally just as an observer. A new guy named David (Justin Min) joined the group and Harriet gave him an invite to a fundraiser for Morris’ record store.

David did show and when chatting with Harriet looking over album covers he said “I love how music can pull you back to some moment in time” which was the sentiment Harriet was actually living. David found an album to buy, but Harriet also wanted it so they jokingly agreed to joint custody of the record with David agreeing to call her for details if she would give him her number. Then Harriet returned to her apartment to continue listening to albums in search of rescuing Max.

David called and asked Harriet to meet for coffee and she shared she needed to wear headphones due to a medical issue. She explained she lost her boyfriend and just couldn’t seem

to get herself back together. David’s parents passed months apart, but unfortunately when sharing the music from her headphones Harriet heard familiar music from the street and slipped into the past. She retreated to the bathroom for a bit to recover, then walked out while David sat confused.

Harriet called David and asked if she could make up for the coffee shop by inviting him to a dance party hosted by Morris. Harriet knew it would be a safe place where she could have her headphones off because Morris was sensitive to the songs that triggered her time travel. When David asked how she could only be without headphones at record store fundraisers and drag queen dance parties, she simply said she was just haunted by music.

At the next grief support meeting, David invited Harriet out for a drive in his convertible but a song came on the radio and she had an episode. Once she recovered Harriet explained she got a traumatic brain injury leaving her in a coma for a week after the accident, and after waking she found she traveled to the past whenever hearing a song related to her boyfriend. She told David the whole situation, but it all seemed too much for him and he left.

Harriet reached out to David who gave things another try by surprising Harriet by taking her to a silent rave on the top of a building in the middle of the city. Afterwards David decided to share some of his life by bringing Harriet to the family thrift store. As it turns out, Harriet had seen David before, the day of the car accident at the thrift store they visited just before, though she didn’t have any interaction with him, just observed a brief conversation between David and his mother.

In a stack of records in the shop Harriet found the one she was looking for that was playing the day of the accident. David said he didn’t believe the time travel stuff, but Harriet was actually able to prove to him she saw him the day of the accident. This reality brought the opportunity for Harriet to save Max, but it would mean erasing her past with Max and her present with David.

Runtime: 1h 34m

VCCCD, VCOE collaborate in second Dual Enrollment Community of Practice

The Ventura County Community College District (VCCCD) and the Ventura County Office of Education

(VCOE) recently organized the second Dual Enrollment Community of Practice, emphasizing the importance of designing college pathways for high school students in Ventura County. Held on March 4, 2024, the workshop brought together educators and leaders from both school systems in a dynamic meeting of collaboration and inspiration.

The workshop, titled “Empowering Futures: Building Intentional Pathways for All Students,” highlighted the increasing opportunities available

Continued on page 20



HUGE SALE!
60% TO 80% OFF! LIFETIME EXCHANGE GUARANTEE!



WE BEAT ALL COMPETITIVE PRICES, PLUS AN EXTRA 20% OFF!



OVER 10,000 AUTHENTIC HAND-KNOTTED RUGS, KILIMS, TAPESTRIES & ARTS FROM PAKISTAN, INDIA, IRAN, TURKEY, AFGHANISTAN, NEPAL & RUSSIA



ABCRUGSKILIMS.COM - 818 585 4181
961 N. RICE AVE, UNIT 4, OXNARD, CA, 93030



Discover the Channel Islands National Park

Island Packers.com
805-642-1393

Photo: Doug Mangum

VCCCD, VCOE

Continued from page 19

for the county's high school students. These dual enrollment programs allow students to complete college-level courses while still in high school, providing them with a head start on their higher education journey. This event marked the continuation of efforts initiated during the first meeting in November 2023, where educators from both systems collaborated to envision dual enrollment opportunities across the county.

The ongoing collaboration between VCCCD and its K-12 partners underscores the commitment to advancing education and empowering students to pursue their academic and career goals.

"Community colleges are in the business of creating hope and opportunity. Dual enrollment experiences help all students realize that they are indeed college material," said Dr. Rick MacLennan, Chancellor of the VCCCD.

Monday's Community of Practice workshop was sponsored by the California Community College Chancellor's Office and facilitated by Career Ladders Project, a California nonprofit organization specializing in equity-minded community college redesign processes. Participants discussed the importance of establishing clear and intentional pathways to provide a seamless transition from high school to college, enabling students to pursue higher education and career opportunities more quickly and at little-to-no cost. These discussions underscored the importance of tailored approaches to address the needs of

varying student populations and help them overcome existing obstacles to access. Done strategically, dual enrollment can serve as both a powerful tool for student success and future workforce development.

"Implementing dual enrollment to meet equity goals for the students in our community will require a lot of hard work," said Melissa Johnson, Program Director of Dual Enrollment at VCCCD. "There's not a one size fits all solution—it will be school by school, college by college, and district by district, and we are committed."

Through the Community of Practice event series, the VCCCD and VCOE are aligning with state-wide educational objectives. Vision 2030, California's strategic plan for the community college system, sets the ambitious goal of 12+ units of college credit for every high school graduate. Such credit may not only count toward high school graduation but can also pave the way for career or apprenticeship pathways at local community colleges. By fostering an environment where any high school student can earn college credits tailored to their future careers, the VCCCD and VCOE are laying the groundwork for a future where dual enrollment is a cornerstone of educational equity and success.

A third Community of Practice event will be held later this year. For more information about dual enrollment in the Ventura County community colleges, please visit vccd.edu/Dual-Enrollment or contact Melissa Johnson at mjohnson1@vccd.edu.

ON STAGE **APRIL 4-21**

THE LEHMAN TRILOGY

BY **Stefano Massini** ADAPTED BY **Ben Power** DIRECTED BY **Oánh Nguyễn**

Chris Butler as Emanuel Lehman **Troy Blendell** as Henry Lehman **Leo Marks** as Mayer Lehman

"Dazzling and compelling! Every bit a blockbuster"
JESSE CAVERLY, VOICE MAGAZINE

etc ENSEMBLE THEATRE COMPANY AT THE NEW VIC Tickets starting @ \$40!

etscb.org | 805.965.5400 SANTA BARBARA'S PROFESSIONAL THEATRE COMPANY

