



VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

Vol. 17, No. 16 Published Every Other Wednesday Established 2007 May 1 to May 14, 2024



Free arts and crafts activities and educational programs will be available for participants.

Celebrate spring at the Pollinator Palooza

The community is invited to attend the second annual Pollinator Palooza event on Saturday, May 18, 2024, between 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at Barranca Vista Park, 7050 Ralston Street. Free arts and crafts activities and educational programs will be available for participants of all ages to learn about the significance of pollinators!

“We’re thrilled to welcome new and returning community members to this fun family-friendly gathering,” said Recreation Manager Emily Fox. “We’ve built upon last year’s success and have partnered with incredible community groups to showcase the vital role of pollinators in everyday life.”

Get ready to buzz with excitement as participants explore the fascinating world of pollinators through a wide range of engaging and informative activities, including:

- Creating bee wax candles
- Learning about beekeeping while painting bee boxes
- Constructing a seed ball to help our vital pollinators thrive
- See native plants and register for a Milkweed plant giveaway
- Attending pollinator story time and puppet theatre
- Making sun prints, butterfly crafts, and

Continued on page 5

Take 5 and Read to Kids! campaign kicking-off



Ventura County District Attorney Eric Nasarenko reading to Take5 and Read to Kids children.

The eighth annual Take 5 and Read to Kids! campaign will kick-off May 3rd at preschools and various locations throughout Ventura County. More than 50 local celebrity readers will be reading to young children. First 5 Ventura County hosts the free community events to help raise awareness about the importance of early childhood literacy for the more than 55,000 children in Ventura County who are age 5 years and younger. For more information, visit www.first5ventura.org/talk-read-sing/

This year’s impressive lineup of readers includes Congresswoman Julia Brownley, Assemblymembers Steve Bennett and **Continued on page 3**

CSFM Rope Rescue Technician course

by Patricia Schallert

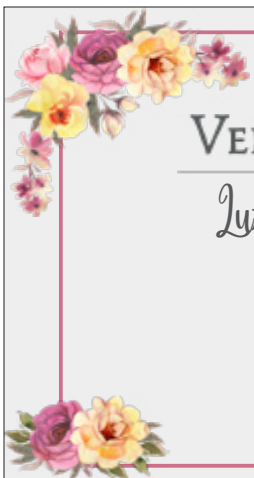
From April 15 - 19, the Ventura City Fire Department put 17 students through the CSFM Rope Rescue Technician course at the Ventura Botanical Gardens. This course, which is the second in a series, builds upon the students’ existing skills and focuses on the art of rope-based rescue. Throughout the training, the students and instructors were immersed in intricate scenarios, and were challenged with advanced techniques in order to execute successful rescues.

The training provided to the students was far from restrictive, preparing them for a diverse range of rescue scenarios. Engineer Eric Caddock, from Ventura Fire Station 5C, expressed his thoughts on the matter. He emphasized that “the expertise of the Ventura Fire Department extends beyond the confines of a single environment.”

Eric added, “Training covers a wide **Continued on page 6**



The class consisted of an exceptional group of students and instructors.



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Your Hometown Paper

Member, Ventura Chamber of Commerce

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

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At last came the golden month of the wild folk-- honey-sweet May, when the birds come back, and the flowers come out, and the air is full of the sunrise scents and songs of the dawning year.
— Samuel Scoville Jr.,
Wild Folk

City News



Join the design review committee and decide if this building should be approved.

Ventura recruiting commission and committee members

The City is seeking applicants for its Arts and Culture Commission, Parks and Recreation Commission, Water Commission, and Design Review Committee. These positions provide the City Council with recommendations on related projects and programs.

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

goals, they strengthen the fabric of our community.”

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

There is one unscheduled vacancy for the Arts and Culture Commission with a term that extends to June 2026. This seven-member commission meets the second Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. to advise and make recommendations on matters about arts, culture, and cultural tourism in the City of Ventura. Applications are due by May 13.

There are two vacancies on the Parks and Recreation Commission with terms that extend to June 2028. This seven-member commission meets the second Wednesday of each month at 4:00 p.m. to assist in recommending and promoting public parks and recreation programs, facilities, and events. The Commission also assists in the preparation of and annual review and revision of long-range plans for public parks and recreational facilities and programs. Applications are due by May 24.

As I See It by Sheldon Brown

• **The time has finally come for me to bid farewell as Publisher/Editor of the Ventura Breeze. This will be my last issue. 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 of Publisher/Editor. 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

• The closure to traffic of 5 blocks of Main Street was started in May 2020, and has been extended several times by the city council.

A group of property owners called “Reopen Main Street” is seeking a court order that would force the city to reopen the streets to vehicle traffic, alleging that the closure has been bad for their businesses. A majority of polled Venturans are in favor of keeping the street closed to cars.

It should be easy for Ventura to determine the effect it has had on downtown businesses by analyzing sales tax receipts, bed tax receipts, etc. for each business.

I understand that businesses that sell products are certainly suffering. It's tough to buy a product and carry it several blocks to the parking structure or a side street. Perhaps (if money could be found) a shuttle from the parking structure that goes through downtown might solve this problem.

Hopefully the city can work with the unhappy businesses to work out some way to help them maintain their customers.

It would be a shame to demolish all of the wonderful outside eating areas that restaurants have spent many dollars to construct.

Regarding the parking structure, I parked on the 3rd level last week to eat downtown. I made the mistake of taking the elevator down. It was disgusting. It smelled, was dirty, un-kept. Certainly, the city could at least clean it up and



There are two vacancies, one professional and one non-professional, on the Water Commission with terms that extend to June 2028. This seven-member commission meets the fourth Monday of each month at 5:30 p.m. to review and make advisory recommendations regarding water rates, water resources infrastructure projects in the five-year capital improvement program, water supply options, and other water resource issues. Applications are due by May 24.

There are three vacancies on the Design Review Committee with terms that extend to June 2028. This five-member committee meets the third Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. to review, consider, approve, or deny applications for approval of design of architectural, landscaping, aesthetics for public and private projects, applications for sign variances, and proposed design elements or components of specific plans, historic districts, or other special areas. Applications are due by May 24.

To learn more and apply, visit www.cityofventura.ca.gov/Recruitments. committee members

install new flooring. Upon returning I took the stairs up which wasn't too much better. Rails with little paint so that the bare metal showed. This is a simple solution, paint them.

It's bad enough that Venturans need to deal with this, but tourism is very important to Ventura and this gives a very bad impression of our town.

Mailbox



Opinion

by Ivor Davis (Rambunctious Old Geezer)

As a 45-year resident of Ventura-- I would like to go on a short rant.

My moan is about our Post Office Service—specifically what has happened to the once proud customer service at the main post office in downtown Ventura on Santa Clara.

They used to be an icon of good, efficient service. But now it has become yet another ordeal in life.

In my opinion—it has deteriorated beyond belief.

Today in the year 2024--should you happen to take package to mail—expect a wait in line for up to 30 minutes!

Continued on page 5

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



City Council considering important items

by Patricia Schallert

During the City Council meeting held on April 25th, 2024, Rachel Dimond, the hearing officer, brought forward two important items for discussion which also included public comments. The initial topic on the table was the proposed paid parking plan for Harbor Village, which was intended to be implemented at various locations including Harbor Cove, Harbor Village & Marina, Ventura Isle Marina, and Surfer's Knoll. However, a final decision on this plan was postponed until the Directors Hearing scheduled for May 23, 2024 to allow for further examination and discussion.

The second item on the agenda revolved around the Derektor Ventura Coastal Development Permit, Planned Development Permit, and Major Design Review for a project located on Anchors Way. The presentation included the consideration of public comments. The applicant, Tom Dereckor, along with Taylor Hernvall, the Senior Planner, provided detailed information on the Coastal Development Permit (CDP), which ensures adherence to specific regulations for coastal areas. They also highlighted the Planned Development Permit (PDP), allowing for customized development outside of existing zoning regulations. Furthermore, the design review process meticulously evaluated both the aesthetic and functional aspects of the proposed development to ensure it blended harmoniously with the surrounding community.

The presentation placed emphasis on the building development near The Waters Edge Restaurant on Anchors Way, aiming to create an inviting and vibrant space for both the local community and visitors alike. Currently, the project is in its planning and approval phase, with the developers fully dedicated to meeting zoning regulations, obtaining permits, and fulfilling other necessary requirements. Throughout the process, the City Council has prioritized community engagement, providing ample opportunities for residents to voice their concerns, make suggestions, and share their thoughts.

One local resident, Victoria Hubbell, expressed her concern during the meeting regarding potential view obstruction caused by the proposed 36-40 foot tall boat storage racks on the north end of the parking lot. She suggested "amending the plans by lowering the height of the storage racks specifically in that area, thereby addressing the potential impact on views."

The proposed project encompasses various elements, including the reconfiguration of day sail stalls and parking lots, renovation of the Water's Edge Restaurant to create a new taproom, construction of a new mixed-use building, installation of additional boat storage areas, establishment of a public boat service area and promenade with seating, along with other related improvements. The architectural design of both the existing and proposed structures will adhere ensuring a visually cohesive appeal that aligns with the surroundings harbor and community.

At the meeting, the Design Review

Committee (DRC) gathered to discuss the proposed Major Design Review. The Ventura City Council, expressed support for the project, emphasizing its positive impact on the community through the enhancement of public spaces, improved services and amenities, and the creation of employment opportunities. In light of this, the Committee unanimously recommended the project's approval as presented by the Community Development Director.

Further information can be found on the Ventura City website: www.city-ofventura.ca.gov

Be well informed about local evacuation procedures

With a firm commitment to saving lives, the City of Ventura is spearheading efforts to ensure residents are well-informed about local evacuation procedures. Recognizing the complexity of the various hazards that could prompt evacuations in Ventura, the City has meticulously divided Ventura into 15 evacuation zones, considering factors such as hazard vulnerability areas, population density, and major thoroughfares.

To educate residents on the new evacuation plan, evacuation zones, shelter locations, and transportation assembly points, community members and business owners are invited to join Emergency Services Manager Mack Douglass for a community workshop on Saturday, May 18, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at the Ventura Police Department, located at 1425 Dowell Drive in Ventura.

The workshop will cover information about the 15 designated evacuation zones, potential shelter locations and transportation assembly points.

"With Ventura's unique geography, location, and limited ingress and egress routes, it is crucial for residents to be aware of their designated evacuation zones in case of an emergency," said Police Chief Darin Schindler. "By empowering residents with the knowledge and resources needed to respond effectively, we can streamline evacuation processes and save lives."

The workshop is just one part of the outreach efforts. Additional presentations will be made at neighborhood community councils, ensuring accessibility to all residents. These presentations will cover essential details and provide opportunities for questions and feedback.

Residents are invited to attend the following meetings:

Westside Community Council: Wednesday, May 1, at 6:30 p.m. at the Bell Arts Factory
East Ventura Community Council: Thursday, May 16 at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom
Downtown Ventura Partners: Thursday, June 27, at 9:00 a.m. at the Crowne Plaza

The Evacuation Plan was developed based on feedback from over 900 residents who completed the Emergency Preparedness Community Survey in 2023. Survey responses provided diverse insights on all-hazards evacuation preparedness, including familiarity with current evacuation routes, emergency

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shelters, transportation options, preferred communication methods, and overall readiness.

The completed Emergency Evacuation Plan is inclusive of diverse populations, recognizing the needs of individuals with visual or hearing impairments, chronic medical conditions, language barriers, disabilities, access, and functional needs.

For more information, please visit CityofVentura.ca.gov/EvacuationPlan.

Take 5 and Read to Kids Continued from page 1

Jacqui Irwin, Supervisors Jeff Gorell, Matt LaVere, Kelly Long, and Janice Parvin, County Executive Officer Dr. Sevet Johnson, Ventura County Sheriff Jim Fryhoff, Ventura County Fire Chief Dustin Gardner, and many more.

Members of the public with children age 5 and younger are invited to attend Take 5 and Read to Kids! storytimes with a celebrity reader at select First 5 Ventura County Neighborhoods for Learning (NFL) sites as well as local libraries during their regularly scheduled storytimes:

Ventura locations:
Sheridan Way Elementary (NFL classroom), 573 Sheridan Way, Ventura, May 3rd at 9:30 a.m.
E.P. Foster Library on Monday, May 6th at 10:30 a.m.
Hill Road Library on Wednesday, May 8th at 10:30 a.m.

First 5 Ventura County encourages parents, caregivers, and community members to become champions of early literacy by taking at least five minutes each day to

read with a young child. "Talking throughout the day with your young child, reading together, telling stories, and singing all help develop pathways in the brain that will later be used to recognize letters, read, and think critically," Supervisor and First 5 Commissioner Matt LaVere added.

"We know that the first five years of life lay the foundation for success in school and life. For young children, early exposure to books is beneficial for long-term academic achievements," said Health Care Agency Director and First 5 Commission Chair Barry Zimmerman. Studies have proven that when you talk, read, and sing to children starting at birth, you promote and support early language and literacy development.

Brain research shows that the prenatal period and first five years of a child's life are critical for developing lifelong social, emotional and learning skills. Based on this research, California voters passed Proposition 10 (a tobacco tax) in 1998 which established First 5 county commissions throughout the state to improve health and education programs for children prenatal to 5 years.

For more than 25 years, First 5 Ventura County's investment, expertise and leadership have made a significant, positive impact on early childhood in our community. F5VC's early education and childhood development programs - Neighborhoods for Learning and Help Me Grow - strengthen families and help ensure Ventura County's 55,000 children age 5 and younger reach their full potential. About First 5 Ventura County, www.first5ventura.org



Yana and a friend enjoying Earth Day. Photos by Yana Khyod and Patricia Schallert.

Earth Day

The Earth Day celebration in the City of Ventura held on April 20th at Plaza Park was an exceptional display of community spirit and environmental consciousness.

Attendees were treated to an array of attractions, including electric cars,

eco-friendly activities, live music, sustainable vendors, interactive displays, and captivating performances by local Mexican dance groups and vocalists.

Mia Lopez, embodying her Chumash heritage, bestowed a heartfelt blessing upon the festival's opening, emphasizing the ongoing efforts for a better Ventura. Mayor Joe Schroeder echoed "the sig-

nificance of embracing Mother Earth and promoting unity amidst diverse lifestyles is important."

The event served as a unified platform for acknowledging the past and collectively moving forward towards a greener, more sustainable future. It was a celebration that left a lasting impact on the community, igniting a shared commitment to environmental stewardship.

The Bookmark

About Libraries and Friends

by Mary Olson

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.

Who Wrote Shakespeare?

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

Ojai Library, Wednesday, May 8, 6:00 pm

Shakespeare's plays are known world-wide 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, Hill Road Library is located at 1070 S. Hill Road, Ventura.

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

Ojai Library is located at 111 East Ojai Avenue in Ojai. For additional information, contact Ron Solórzano, Regional Librarian, at (805) 218-9146 or ron.solorzano@ventura.org.

Get a Vehicle Day Use Pass for California State Parks at your library.

In partnership with California State Parks and the California State Library, free State Parks vehicle-day use passes are available for circulation to help Californians access beautiful parks, lakes, beaches, and monuments in the State Parks system free. The Library Parks Pass is valid for vehicle day use at 200+ participating state park units of the California State Park System operated by State Parks. The pass is not valid for per-person entry or tour fees (such as museums), boat use, group use or sites, special events, additional/extra vehicle fees, sanitation disposal use or for supplemental fees. Passes circulate for 21 days and are renewable if no other customers are waiting. For more information, go to <https://www.venturabreeze.org/library-things/parks-pass> or call 805 626-READ.

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. Find the link at our website: <https://venturafriendsof-helibrary.org>. Orders are picked up at our bookstore in E.P. Foster Library, 651 East Main Street, Ventura.

With our extended hours, we could use more volunteers to staff the store. If you would like to help, please stop by the store and speak to a volunteer or email bookstore@venturafriendsof-helibrary.org.



The smell of barbecues filled ventura.

The Pigs of the SS Kalorama

by Richard Senate

In the days before the coming of the railroad, and paved roads, the only dependable means of transportation in Ventura was by sea. The Ventura Pier was built in 1872 so ships could land here to take on cargo and passengers. But, the plan was to have breakwater to make landing at the pier safe but the breakwater was never built (too expensive). Ships had to come in at their own risk, especially in the winter months when tides could change and storms come in fast off the Channel Islands.

On February 25th, 1876, the coastal steamer SS Kalorama came in to take on a cargo of pigs. As she was leaving the pier, an errant wave hit the ship and sent her into the beach. Here the pounding waves slowly broke the ship apart. Her cargo of frightened pigs escaped, leaping into the water and swimming for shore. and then into the community! The crew of the stricken ship tried to recapture the animals but only a few were caught. The rest ran up California Street and into all neighborhoods of Ventura.

People came out of their houses to catch the pigs, rich and poor, all took part in the wild adventure. The escaping porkers were rounded up only to vanish into barns and back yards, never to be returned to their rightful owners. It is said that when summer came, the smell of barbecues filled the town and most citizens feasted on pork ribs. It was a festive July 4th that year.

Some enterprising Venturans risked their lives by going out to the wreck and pulling off souvenirs and mementos from the wrecked ship. The Ventura County Museum of Art and History has some of the artifacts from the SS Kalorama in its collection. One of the downtown streets was named Kalorama for the lost ship. Two other streets are named for ships that were beached here and lost, the schooner Ann and steamer Crimea.

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Korbin Bray demonstrating the Bridgewalk built by Boy Scout troop 111.



Summer Dalton, Amanda Kelley and Alison Beck, Chairperson of the fundraiser committee.

Eco Fest offered a variety of engaging activities

by Patricia Schallert

On April 28th, 2024, The Ventura Charter School held their 13th annual Eco Fest. It was an exciting and educational event that celebrated environmental conservation and sustainability. Held annually, this free festival welcomed the community and aimed to promote awareness about the importance of protecting and preserving our planet for future generations.

The Eco Fest offered a variety of engaging activities and exhibits for people of all ages. One of the main attractions at the festival was the interactive exhibits, where visitors learned about renewable energy sources, waste reduction techniques, and eco-friendly practices. From electric cars to rope bridge demonstrations, these exhibits showcased innovative ways to live a more sustainable lifestyle. Guests were also given the opportunity to bid in a silent auction, benefiting Ventura Charter School's many diverse and inclusive academic programs.

In addition to the exhibits, the Eco Fest also featured a wide range of topics such as sustainable gardening, water conservation, and climate change. Attendees had the opportunity to gain valuable knowledge and practical tips on how to achieve a greener and more environmentally conscious lifestyle.

Another highlight of the Eco Fest was the local vendors market, where guests were able to browse and purchase a wide range of eco-friendly products. From organic produce to handmade crafts made from recycled materials, this market supports local businesses that prioritize the environment. It is a great opportunity for visitors to support sustainability while discovering unique and environmentally friendly products.

The festival also featured live music performances, delicious food trucks offering organic and locally sourced options, face painting and games for children. With its lively and vibrant atmosphere, the Eco Fest created a sense of community and encour-

aged people to come together in support of our planet.

The Ventura Charter School Eco Fest, held annually, is more than just a festival; it is a platform for individuals and organizations to come together and create positive change. It inspires and empowers the community to take action towards a more sustainable lifestyle and showcases the incredible possibilities of living in harmony with our natural world.

Overall, the Ventura Charter School Eco Fest is an annual must-attend event for anyone interested in environmental conservation and sustainability while benefiting Ventura Charter School. With its engaging exhibits, informative workshops, silent auction and fun-filled activities, it is an excellent opportunity to learn, connect, and have a great time while making a positive impact on the planet. Thank you to the fund-raising committee for all the work they put into making this festival a successful event.

Mailbox Continued from page 2

I am not, (repeat not,) complaining about PO Veterans like James and Bill, who still valiantly toil behind the counter as he has for many decades. Singlehandedly he does a brilliant job—but he has little help. I mean, who wants to admire those outstanding wall murals for half an hour for what was once a simple in and out purchase of stamps, or mail parcels?

When I checked, here's what I was told: All the delivery persons have been moved to Oxnard Post Office so that today the cavernous sorting area in the back of the post office, is empty--now a ghost warehouse!

As a result of that move, the Post office—without a thought for its warm body clients—has severely cut back on its counter staff.

This is the sorriest state of affairs I have ever seen in my 40 plus years of using that once dominant downtown post office.

Today, for example a couple came in to purchase a money order and spent 15 minutes at the counter, paying for their very large cashier's check with one-dollar bills.

A patient client finally shouted, "Pleeze---send in the cavalry!"

So: Can someone in the postal service--particularly Postmaster General Louise DeJoy--please inform me how we can bring some joy back to the Ventura postal system. And whether the good old efficient days of a visit to the post office will ever come back?

Sheldon:

We loved the alien sending his vacation picture from Marina Park! Thank him for showing us what's in that fortress-thing. Did you translate the Breeze into Marspeak for him?

Jill Forman

Jill:

We tried to translate it into Marspeak but Word didn't have that option. Hopefully when he returned home they have that ability. Would you like to deliver there if they want to start reading every issue?

Insanity

Since when do politicians, judges and now Justices of the Supreme Court make medical decisions regarding abortion care? It was bad enough when the above outlawed abortions for rape and incest victims, as well as for a woman's personal decision!

Now, the above (mostly men), and none with medical degrees are arguing about how much bleeding should a woman endure, or how septic and how high a fever

before a woman can get needed medical care. Or, require a woman to carry a non-viable, or dead fetus that may prevent future pregnancies!

Women are suffering in hospital parking lots waiting to bleed more or become more septic before doctors can save their lives!

How evil and how dare these politicians and judges treat women so cruelly!

Have we become a Third World Country or are we really The United States of America where all people are supposed to have freedoms over their medical decisions.

Judith A. Beay, RN

Pollinator Palooza Continued from page 1

chalk art

Meeting real-life pollinators

Making a mini bee house

Learning from a UC Master Gardens expert

Touring the City's Cornucopia Community Garden

Participate in our community bike ride at 1:00 p.m.

This event is hosted by the City's Parks & Recreation Department, with support from the Ventura Water Department, and Environmental Sustainability Division.

Community partners include Bike VC, Channel Islands Chapter of the California Native Plant Society, East Ventura Community Council, MiniNature Reserve, University of California Master Gardeners, Rincon-Vitova Insectaries Inc., Santa Monica Mountain Fund, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Ventura Bee Rescue, and the Ventura Land Trust.

Find event details and more at www.cityofventura.ca.gov/Events.

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Music Under The Stars at the Adobe start on July 13.

Olivas Adobe Events

Sunday, May 5- Olivas Adobe House Tours 11-3pm The Olivas Adobe historic site features the original two-story adobe home of Don Raymundo Olivas built in 1847. Celebrating Ventura's Rancho and Latino heritage. Located at 4200 Olivas Park Drive, Ventura. House tours are \$5 for Adults and \$3 for children and Seniors. More Information is available at <https://www.cityofventura.ca.gov/648/Olivas-Adobe-Historical-Park>.

Annual Murals & Roses
Sunday, May 12 · 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Mothers Day at the Olivas Adobe.

Murals and Roses is a free art exhibit held annually on Mother's Day at the Olivas Adobe. The exhibit showcases the historic Olivas Adobe Rose Garden and a series of colorful murals painted by renowned California muralist Marguerite Hardeman. Each year, up to fifteen of the murals are taken out of storage and displayed around the Olivas Adobe grounds in celebration of spring. Visitors can enjoy historic tours of the Olivas Adobe grounds and browse the site's unique gift shop.

Sunday, May 19- Olivas Adobe House Tours 11-3pm The Olivas

Adobe historic site features the original two-story adobe home of Don Raymundo Olivas built in 1847. Celebrating Ventura's Rancho and Latino heritage. Located at 4200 Olivas Park Drive, Ventura. House tours are \$5 for Adults and \$3 for children and Seniors. More Information is available at <https://www.cityofventura.ca.gov/648/Olivas-Adobe-Historical-Park>.

Sunday, May 26- Olivas Adobe House Tours 11-3pm The Olivas Adobe historic site features the original two-story adobe home of Don Raymundo Olivas built in 1847. Celebrating Ventura's Rancho and Latino heritage. Located at 4200 Olivas Park Drive, Ventura. House tours are \$5 for Adults and \$3 for children and Seniors. More Information is available at <https://www.cityofventura.ca.gov/648/Olivas-Adobe-Historical-Park>.

The Murphy Auto Museum is Closing

The Murphy Auto Museum will be permanently closing. The last day for public admittance will be Sunday, July 7, 2024. The museum will use the remaining month of July to sell furniture, fixtures, chattels and ephemera as they begin the de-accession of the contents. The building will be turned over to the landlord on July 31st.

The museum will keep its regular operating hours from now through July 7th, which is every Saturday and Sunday from 10:00am till 4:00pm; the last admission is at 3:00pm since it takes about an hour to view the museum's collection. Admission is \$10.00

for guests 13 years old and older, free to guests younger than 12 years old, and free to active military with identification.

The museum's board has been trying for several years to find a sustainable path to keep the museum viable and part of the community. However, economic realities have forced the decision to close the museum in conjunction with the end of the present lease agreement. The Murphy Auto Museum has been a part of Ventura County since 2005 and sees an average of 10,000 visitors per year. The museum, at any given time, has over 40 antique and vintage cars on display, as well as Americana, an HO scale model railroad, a large slot car raceway, vintage trailer town, diecast car collection, a monthly car show and more.

"We've been embedded in Ventura County since 2005," said David Neel, Executive Director of the foundation. "I took over the running of the foundation from Dan Murphy, the museum's founder in January of 2014 because it was in danger of closing then. It is sad that Oxnard has had two fantastic car museums for many years, ourselves and the Mullin, and that the Mullin has closed and the Murphy will be closing."

The museum invites the public from near and far to visit the museum before it is gone. "We're a little gem in the big city of Oxnard, and we bring a lot of smiles to people's faces. We want everyone to come visit the museum one last time and make a lasting memory."

The museum is located at 1930 Eastman Avenue in Oxnard. For additional information, the public can email the executive director david@murphyautomuseum.org, call the museum at (805) 487-4333, or visit us on the web at www.MurphyAutoMuseum.org.

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CSFM Rope Rescue Technician Continued from page 1

array of settings, from challenging industrial landscapes featuring cranes and towers, to the natural hillsides, deep valleys, and barrancas. "Our firefighters are equipped with the necessary skills to rescue individuals who find themselves stranded on steep slopes in hiking parks". Additionally, we devote our efforts to aiding those whose vehicles have encountered mishaps down embankments, necessitating the use of a robust rope system to safely retrieve them." It's quite incredible to note that VFD has even conducted rescues from the heights of a crane ride at the Ventura County Fair!

The class consisted of an exceptional group of students and instructors belonging to the esteemed California Regional Task Force 7. Comprised of the courageous firefighters of Ventura City Fire Department, Ventura County Fire Department, and Oxnard Fire Department, this task force tackles the most challenging urban search and rescue missions across the state of California.

With the generous support of federal grant funding and the cooperation of agencies within Regional Task Force 7, VFD is able to provide this valuable training. While firefighters already train extensively every day to handle a variety of emergency situations, this specific course spanned a duration of 5 days. The skills acquired by the students during this intensive program will continue to be honed and utilized throughout their entire careers.

Under the guidance of the remarkable Firefighter Miguel Martinez, students learned the crucial role of guiding and tending to the basket. Miguel's expertise ensured that the basket remained free from any obstacles and the safety of the victim was prioritized at all times.

These words from Eric Caddock, Engineer from Ventura Fire Station Fire Station "The extensive training and capabilities of the Ventura Fire Department. With their unwavering commitment to excellence, they consistently rise to the occasion, providing invaluable aid and support in a variety of challenging situations."



Nicole Dembowich of NZ Designs Studio is creating mugs for the festival.

150 Artisans Will Display Their Designs At 38th Annual California Strawberry Festival

Artisans from California and beyond will display their creations at the 38th Annual California Strawberry Festival, May 18 and 19 at the Ventura County Fairgrounds in Ventura (10 W. Harbor Blvd., Ventura, CA 93001).

Known for its array of strawberry-themed food and beverages, the festival has also established itself as one of the top destinations for unique and eclectic artistic designs. Many of the 150 crafters at the festival incorporate strawberries into their paintings, woodwork, sculpture, ceramics, jewelry, specialty foods, furniture, children's toys and photography. "While strawberries are the main attraction, festivalgoers often head straight to the arts and crafts booths to check out what's new,"

says Dana Hale-Mounier, director of Pacific Fine Arts Festivals and coordinator of the festival's arts and craft booths.

For Britney Mendoza, this will be the first time she will be displaying her candle designs at the festival. "The California Strawberry Festival is very nostalgic for me," says Mendoza, who began her Thirty Four Charms business nearly a decade ago. "My family would attend all the time when I was a kid growing up in Oxnard. Spring is officially here when I see the festival come to town."

Paul Crabtree, owner of Colorburst Studios, will display earrings (including strawberry designs), barrettes, necklaces and bracelets made from Niobium and Titanium.

Nicole Dembowich of NZ Designs Studio

is creating mugs, berry bowls, sponge holders, trinket trays, pitchers, olive oil bottles, serving trays, butter dishes, garden stakes and more that will all be strawberry-themed. This will be Dembowich's third year participating at the festival.

The California Strawberry Festival, which attracts 50,000 visitors over two days, features more than 50 food and beverage booths, many with a strawberry dish or drink made from fresh strawberries. Other attractions include live entertainment on multiple stages, Strawberryland for Kids, carnival rides, a Ninja Nation obstacle course and a \$5 "build-your-own" Strawberry Shortcake Experience.

Festival general admission is \$15, active

military with ID and family and seniors 62 and over, \$10, youth ages 5 to 12, \$8, and children 4 and under are free. Tickets can be purchased in advance at www.CAstrawberryFestival.org or upon entry to the festival. A limited amount of parking is available onsite for \$20 per vehicle.

Festival-goers are encouraged to use the free shuttles, which will run every 15 minutes to the festival from nearby locations in Oxnard and Ventura. Festival hours are 10:00 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Saturday and 10:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. on Sunday.

For more about the festival visit www.castrawberryfest.org or follow on Facebook and Instagram.



On April 22, fire units were dispatched to a reported structure fire at Main and Ann St.. Firefighters arrived within 6 minutes of dispatch and found a single-family residence with smoke showing. Firefighters deployed hose lines into the home and were able to locate and extinguish a fire in the kitchen within 10 minutes. One civilian was treated for smoke inhalation by firefighter/paramedics and taken to Community Memorial Hospital by AMR for further treatment. Ventura City Fire units were assisted by Ventura County Fire Department, AMR and Ventura Police Department.

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California Strawberry Festival



Encelia californica is beloved by native bees and beetles.

Explore Lower Harmon Canyon

Now is the perfect time to hit the trails and explore. Lower Harmon Canyon is open and promises unforgettable beauty!

California brittlebush (*Encelia californica*) is in peak bloom! One of four sensitive plant alliances in Harmon Canyon, *Encelia californica*, are true Southern California locals - growing in coastal sage scrub from San Luis Obispo County to northern Baja. To spot these beauties, look for daisies with dark centers (disk flowers) and yellow "petals" (ray flowers).

Encelia californica is commonly seen

on drier south and west-facing slopes and is beloved by native bees and beetles. The east side of Trail 101 is a wonderland for this special community - slow down and check out all the pollinator action!

Interesting observations are everywhere - including at your feet! In the moist early morning hours, keep your eyes peeled for the Trask shoulderband snail (*Helminthoglypta traskii*). Considered a sensitive species in California due to habitat loss and degradation, these beautiful, long-lived animals are thriving in the vibrant shrublands of Harmon Canyon. To distinguish them from the

invasive European garden snail (*Cornu aspersum*) look for their narrower shell with a distinctive dark-colored band that follows the whorled spiral.

Helminthoglypta traskii are active longer than usual this year, enjoying the moist conditions of our extended rainy season. They estivate (a state of dormancy like hibernating but in response to heat and dryness) during the drier months and may not be as visible soon, so enjoy these delicate detritivores while you can.

The Hollywood Jazz Orchestra is coming

The Hollywood Jazz Orchestra (HJO), which has performed in premier L.A. Jazz venues like Catalina's and LACMA, is bringing their eclectic mix of new and relevant music to Ventura for the first time. The 18-piece Orchestra is led by conductor, composer, arranger Charley Harrison, who has also directed UCLA Jazz Orchestra since 2004. Over the years, Harrison has had compositions and arrangements performed by jazz greats like Kurt Elling, Marcus Miller, Cedar Walton, Joe Williams and The Count Basie Orchestra.

"I'm excited for the upcoming HJO performance at The Grape as it provides an opportunity to showcase the virtuosity and versatility of the HJO musicians" says Harrison. "We will be featuring new music from our composers and arrangers that highlight the breadth of the HJO repertoire"

The nucleus of HJO were members of the Buddy Collette Big Band formed in the mid-2000's during the saxophone legend's later years. After rejoining forces with many new performers in 2022, the new Orchestra (featuring many younger members) made it's debut at Catalina's in Hollywood and later headlined at LACMA and the Rochester International Jazz Festival in New York. Its arrangers include Harrison, Tom Garling, Nick DePinna, Conrad Herwig and Bob Mintzer. Among its storied, in-demand musicians: Justo Almario, Gerry Pinter, Clayton Cameron, Les Benedict, Ian Vo, Randall Willis, Anne King, Ann Patterson and Brian O'Rourke.

Until recently a resident of Ventura, David Payne, HJO's Executive Director, says "We've played sold out concerts at important traditional venues but we're looking to bring the orchestra to venues where big bands seldom play. We're trying to change the public perception

of big band concerts.

Tickets for the Thursday May 23 concert are on sale now: \$20 online at theGrapeventura.com; \$25 at the door. The Grape's mid-town address: 2733 E. Main St.

With your support we are creating more affordable housing in Ventura County

Housing Trust Fund Ventura County's 5th Annual Compassion Campaign - Unlocking Affordable Living is quickly approaching on Thursday, May 9th. Now is the time to secure your seat! Join community leaders and affordable housing advocates for a memorable evening of reimagining and reshaping the vision for the future of affordable housing in Ventura County.

As a guest you will learn about innovative housing solutions from guest speakers, including Mark Stivers, Director of Advocacy for the California Housing Partnership, a private nonprofit organization created by the State Legislature in 1988 to help provide housing that is sustainable and affordable for working families, homeless, veterans, seniors and disabled individuals. Alex Russell, CEO of Homes & Hope and Chair of the Housing Land Trust VC, will also speak on leveraging public land for housing affordability. We'll showcase two case studies from the developers at Mesa in Ojai who are focused on supporting transitional age young adults at risk of homelessness, and The Villages at Westview developed by the Housing Authority of the City of San Buenaventura. Westview replaces the city's oldest and largest public housing complex.

Guests will be invited to stroll through a path of innovations, including observing the ingenuity of using energy-efficient structural insulated panel (SIP) walls allowing for quick and cost-effective onsite assembly. An oversize map will showcase the many developments funded in part by Housing Trust Fund VC across the County since 2013. Each guest will receive a key to "unlock affordable living" with three lucky winners receiving special prizes.

Purchase tickets at <https://www.housingtrustfundvc.org/compassion-campaign2024.html>

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The proposed College Community Courts on Telegraph R. in Ventura will provide 57 new affordable housing units. The project is set to receive more than \$12 million through state funds.



Senior Living



Debbie Lasley (Volunteer Engagement Coordinator), Angie Archer (Student Engagement Coordinator), Paris W. (Student), Kathy Lea (Adult volunteer) and Tikva K (Student).

High School Student Volunteers needed to help local seniors

by Amanda Knight
Volunteer, vccaregivers.org

High school student volunteers are needed to work in supervised teams to provide companionship, household cleaning, yard maintenance and home organization to homebound seniors in Ventura County.

This opportunity is made possible through the Building Bridges Intergenerational Program at CAREGIVERS: Volunteers Assisting the Elderly which is now marking a 40-year milestone to support older neighbors aging in place with the helping hands of volunteers.

One of those volunteer opportunities is designed for high school students. “We identify an adult volunteer Team Leader

who will provide transportation, supervision and serve as a mentor during home visits to the seniors we serve,” said Angie Archer, student engagement coordinator at CAREGIVERS Volunteers. “We need new high school student volunteers as much as we need adult Team Leaders to assist in providing this program to the community.”

Scheduling is generally flexible and coordinated around the needs of the senior and the availability of the Building Bridge team. Ideally, Building Bridge teams are scheduled weekly in two hour blocks of time which includes travel time and one hour to do chores at



Jennifer Hollowell (Senior Engagement Coordinator), Debbie Lasley (Volunteer Engagement Coordinator) and Angie Archer (Student Engagement Coordinator).



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the senior’s home. “We rotate visits to the same seniors over the course of the month to ensure that everyone gets a little help,” Archer said, adding that one of the greatest gifts of volunteering are the friendships people build. “We now have student volunteers who are growing up and taking on the role of adult volunteers. Most of all, we have people from all walks of life, spanning the generations—and building intergenerational bridges—that last a lifetime.”

Regular monthly visits to the same

homebound senior give everyone an opportunity to get to know each other over time. During the visit, student volunteers are able to tackle light household chores such as changing the bedsheets, putting heavy wet laundry in the dryer, changing a lightbulb and running the vacuum—tasks that someone who uses a walker may struggle to do.

“This program allows college bound high school juniors and seniors to gain life skills that will be helpful in their

Continued on page 11



Paul Swanson has lung issues and needs to have supplemental oxygen. For a while now he has taken short walks to the Harbor. He was always exhausted when he got back home. He came up with the idea of getting a Segway. He now has a Segway which he has customized. He can hang his oxygen generator on the optional handlebars. The Segway has a remote control so it will follow him. He walks until he gets tired and then rides home.



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Senior Living

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Free tutor training for adults (18 and over) to tutor adults who want to learn or improve their English and learn about American culture.

When: Saturday, May 4, 2024 from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm.

Where: 1500 Palma Drive, Ventura CA 93003.

Make a difference in one person's life. Become a tutor. Laubach Literacy of Ventura County provides free tutoring and tutor training to adults for English as a second language. No prior teaching experience is required. You don't have to speak a foreign language to be a tutor. We provide all materials for free to both the tutor and the adult learners. We will train you on cultural awareness and tutoring techniques for all levels of ability. Our adult learners want to speak, understand, read, and write English and learn American culture. Laubach Literacy has been teaching English for free for over 40 years in Ventura County. Registration is required for the training.

Register for the May 4 workshop by emailing your name, city, phone, and email address to laubachventura@gmail.com. You will receive a return email confirming your successful registration.

Price: Free

For More Information: Contact Laubach Literacy of Ventura County. Phone: (805) 385-9584, please leave a message and we will call you back. Website: www.laubachventura@gmail.com.

This list provides common steps to consider when getting your affairs in order

1. Plan for your estate and finances. Depending on your situation, you may choose to prepare different types of legal documents to outline how your estate and finances will be handled in the future. Common documents include a will, durable power of attorney for finances, and a living trust.

A will specifies how your estate — your property, money, and other assets — will be distributed and managed when you die. A will can also address care for children under age 18, adult dependents, and pets, as well as gifts and end-of-life arrangements, such as a funeral or memorial service and burial or cremation. If you do not have a will, your estate will be distributed according to the laws in your state.

A durable power of attorney for finances names someone who will make financial decisions for you when you are unable to.

A living trust names and instructs a person, called the trustee, to hold and distribute property and funds on your

behalf when you are no longer able to manage your affairs.

2. Plan for your future health care. Many people choose to prepare advance directives, which are legal documents that provide instructions for medical care and only go into effect if you cannot communicate your own wishes due to disease or severe injury. The most common advance directives include a living will and a durable power of attorney for health care.

A living will tells doctors how you want to be treated if you cannot make your own decisions about emergency treatment. You can say which common medical treatments or care you would want, which ones you would want to avoid, and under which conditions each of your choices applies. Learn how to prepare a living will.

A durable power of attorney for health care names your health care proxy, a person who can make health care decisions for you if you are unable to communicate these yourself. Your proxy — also known as a representative, surrogate, or agent — should be familiar with your values and wishes. A proxy can be chosen in addition to or instead of a living will. Having a health care proxy helps you plan for situations that cannot be foreseen, such as a serious auto accident or stroke. Learn how to choose a health care proxy.

These documents are part of advance care planning, which involves preparing for future decisions about your medical care and discussing your wishes with your loved ones.

3. Put your important papers and copies of legal documents in one place. You can set up a file, put everything in a desk or dresser drawer, or list the information and location of papers in a notebook. For added security, you might consider getting a fireproof and water-proof safe to store your documents. If your papers are in a bank safe deposit box, keep copies in a file at home. View a list of important papers.

4. Tell someone you know and trust or a lawyer where to find your important papers. You don't need to discuss your personal affairs, but someone you trust should know where to find your papers in case of an emergency. If you don't have a relative or friend you trust, ask a lawyer to help.

5. Talk to your loved ones and a doctor about advance care planning. A doctor can help you understand future health decisions you may face and plan the kinds of care or treatment you may want. Discussing advance care planning with your doctor is free through Medicare during your annual wellness visit. Private health insurance may also cover these discussions. Share your decisions with your loved ones to help avoid any surprises or misunderstandings about your wishes.

Different Care Settings at the End of Life

The three most common places people at the end-of-life die are at home, in a hospital, or in a care facility. While not everyone has the chance to decide where they will die, people who know the end of life is approaching may be able to plan ahead. Several factors may help with

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Senior Living

this planning, including knowing the type of care you need and want, where you can receive this level of care, advance care directives, costs, and availability of family and friends to help.

It's important for a caregiver or family member to work closely with the health care team to decide the type of comfort care needed at home in order to make the dying person as comfortable as possible. This type of care can often be provided by nursing assistants or family and friends without medical training. However, a doctor will continue to oversee the patient's health care plan. Hospice care is frequently used at home.

Caring for someone who is at home at the end of life can be physically, emotionally, and financially demanding for the people providing the care. Extra support from paid caregivers or home service providers, also known as respite care, can help. If the person who is dying is returning home from the hospital, sometimes a hospital discharge planner, who is often a social worker, will be able to help with the logistics. Your local Area Agency on Aging might be able to recommend other sources of help.

In a hospital setting, you will have access to medical professionals who understand the needs of a dying person. This can be very reassuring to both the person and their family.

In addition to the regular care team, some hospitals have palliative and hospice care teams that can assist with managing uncomfortable symptoms at the end of life, such as digestive issues or pain. These teams can also help with making medical decisions for patients or families.

No matter which end-of-life care setting you choose, it's important to make plans for this care in advance. Having these documents in place helps medical staff provide the care that you wish to receive at the end of life and helps family members avoid having to make difficult decisions about your care without your input. Learn more about advance care planning.

Many people are in care facil-

ities, such as nursing homes, at the end of life. In a nursing home, nursing staff are always present. Unlike a hospital, a doctor is not in the facility at all times but is available when needed.

Some people are discharged from a hospital to a care facility, while others may already be living in one. If you have lived in a nursing home or long-term care facility for a while, you may choose to stay and receive end-of-life care there. You and your family may already have a relationship with staff who work there, which can help make the care feel more personalized than in a hospital.

This content is provided by the NIH National Institute on Aging (NIA). NIA scientists and other experts review this content to ensure it is accurate and up to date.

High School Student Volunteers Continued from page 9

academic and professional careers as well as their personal development," Archer said, noting that high school volunteers receive impressive invitations to colleges throughout the country.

Ventura County was one of the original pilot locations for the launch of volunteer caregiving in the United States. Over the last 40 years, CAREGIVERS: Volunteers Assisting the Elderly has supported thousands of people aging in place with the helping hands of volunteers. Services are provided at no cost to the people who need it most thanks to the generosity of corporate, foundation and individual donors who contribute.

For more information, email info@vccaregivers.org or call (805) 658-8530.

Bringing people from different generations together for neighborly service allows the development of empathy and compassion - building a stronger sense of community for all involved. Ventura County is one of the largest aging populations in the Nation and Caregivers happily serves hundreds of seniors in need of community support. To sign up, refer a student, refer a senior, donate or learn more call (805) 658-8530, email studentprogram@vccaregivers.org or visit the website vccaregivers.org



Ventura College men's tennis team had a picture-perfect ending. Photo by Larry Gleeson.

"The doubles sweep was huge"

On a picture-perfect day for tennis, the Ventura College men's tennis team had a picture-perfect ending to their 2024 season with a 5-0 sweep over American River College from Sacramento in the 3C2A State Championship at the VC Tennis Center. Julian Tellez clinched the winner for the Pirates (18-6) in No. 4 singles after Rafael Matias had recorded a love and love win in the No. 2 slot. The title is the third for VC under longtime head coach Nelson Emery, their first since 2010.

The match was much closer than the final score indicated, especially in doubles play.

ARC's No. 2 doubles pair held a 3-2 advantage over Matias and Tellez and their contest was tied 5-5 before the Pirates rallied to win three straight games to capture the first point of the championship, 8-5.

Court 3 was tied 2-2 before VC's Robinson Pelluault and Edgar Ploquin took over by winning the next four games. Ventura won the contest 8-3 to go ahead 2-0.

Cody Ray Emery and Lucas Abreu took a 4-1 lead in the No. 1 doubles match for the Pirates before the Beaver's duo came storming back to tie the score at 4-4. Both teams held serve until Ventura broke for a 7-5 advantage. ARC held on their next serve before Emery and Abreu posted the 8-6 victory to put the Pirates comfort-

ably ahead, 3-0.

"The doubles sweep was huge," said VC's coach Emery. "I thought if we could get two doubles, we could split singles. We won all three."

Buoyed by their sweep in doubles, the Pirates took full control in singles play as they won the first set in all six matches. Matias was the first to finish singles with his 6-0, 6-0 victory in the No. 2 slot to put VC on the precipice of the title. Soon thereafter, Tellez watch an ARC shot sail long as he completed his 6-2, 6-0 triumph at No. 4, clinching the crown for Ventura.

"This is why I'm here," said Tellez, a product of Taft High School in Woodland Hills. "This is what I've been working for. It was state title time."

The championship was extra special for Cody Ray, Ventura's No. 1 player and the son of the VC head coach.

"It feels awesome to win, especially with my dad," said the younger Emery. "It's crazy how things worked out."

Coach Emery echoed the sentiments of his players.

"We played, we battled, (we're a) bunch of fighters," said Coach Emery, who has led VC to 12 State Final Fours in his 26 years at the helm of the Pirates' ship. "We've had more talented teams, but this team had the toughness."

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.

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Tony D.

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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

By Elana Spivack
It's unfair that some humans are allergic to human-kind's best friend. An adorable dog or cat ought to bring joy to those around it, not miserable sniffing and sneezing. But between 10 and 20% of the world population is allergic to cats and dogs, marking a significant portion of people who are sensitive to two of the world's most popular household pets.

Hypoallergenic cats and dogs are a purported solution. But what does it mean to be hypoallergenic — and does such a trait really exist?

The most common ones appear in their saliva and shed skin, or dander. People with allergies to these proteins experience immune reactions, meaning their immune system responds as if they're bacteria or viruses, deploying a bevy of unpleasant symptoms like sneezing, itching, or coughing.

Some cats and dogs are deemed hypoallergenic, which means they're "relatively unlikely to cause an allergic reaction, but still can," Koch says. Dog breeds believed hypoallergenic include hairless terriers, poodles, bichon frise, and schnauzers while cats include the Cornish Rex and hairless sphynx, according to Koch. These animals supposedly don't shed as much, or might be hairless altogether, but that might not make a difference when it comes to allergies. Koch says that dogs can produce allergens in their blood, prostate, and anal glands, while cats make allergens in their skin oil glands, anal glands, blood, and male cats produce them in urine.

Salivary allergens are especially problematic because as cats and dogs groom themselves, they spread these proteins all over their body. These compounds can also hang around in the air for several days. Even if you get a hairless cat or dog, an allergy to their saliva can make them a menace to your immune system.

Ask the Vet

Q: I was at the vet's office last month with my Lab for her annual check-up, and he was talking about a vaccination for Lepto. I've never heard of Lepto before. Can you tell me more? Does Betsy (my Lab) need it? E.R., Farragut

A: Leptospirosis, or "Lepto" for short, is a bacteria that can affect most animals, wild and domestic. The bacteria is spread in the urine of infected animals. Dogs can contract the disease by coming into contact with infected urine in standing water, streams, lakes or recently contaminated soil. The bacteria can enter the body through the mouth, nose, eyes or a small cut in the skin or paw pad.

In rural areas, Leptospira can be spread by wildlife, such as deer, opossums and skunks. In urban areas, rats are the primary carriers, with notable outbreaks occurring in Chicago and New York City. All dogs have the potential for exposure, unless he/she is the rare dog that lives inside only and uses a litterbox.

Dogs that contract Lepto typically develop a high fever. They become weak and dehydrated, and often have vomiting and/or diarrhea. Dogs often are jaundiced; the yellow color is visible on non-haired skin, gums and/or the whites of the eyes. In most cases, acute kidney failure develops, and some dogs also develop liver failure. Blood and urine tests are required for diagnosis.

Although we have effective antibiotics, treatment can be lengthy and expensive if the kidneys are severely affected. Thus, early detection, diagnosis and treatment is important.

There has been an increase in cases across the country the last 10-to-15 years, so many veterinarians are talking to clients about the vaccines. The AVMA recently came out with the recommendation that vaccine should be used for all dogs.

With increased incidence, vaccination technology for Leptospirosis has also improved; it's a better vaccine with fewer side effects. Current vaccines include protection for the four most common subtypes.

Unfortunately, there are more than 400 subtypes, so complete protection is not possible. Please have a conversation with your veterinarian regarding Betsy's medical history, lifestyle, exposure and any past vaccine reactions.

• US insurers paid out \$1.12 billion in dog-related injury claims in 2023.

The number of dog bite and related injury claims was 19,062 in 2023, an increase of more than 8% from 2022 and a 110% increase over the past decade, with the total cost of claims at \$1.12 billion, reported Janet Ruiz, director of strategic communications at the Triple-I.

On a positive note, the average cost per claim decreased from \$64,555 in 2022 to \$58,545 in 2023, she said, noting that California, Florida and Texas had the most claims. "Education and training for owners and pets is key to keep everyone safe and healthy."

The National Dog Bite Prevention Week Coalition provides the following tips to prevent dog bites:

Make sure your pet is healthy. Not all illnesses and injuries are obvious, and dogs are more likely to bite if they are sick or in pain. If you haven't been to the veterinarian in a while, schedule an appointment for a checkup to discuss your dog's physical and behavioral health.

Prioritize proper socialization: Socialization involves gently introducing your dog to a range of settings, people, and other animals, and ensuring these experiences are positive. Whether it's quietly observing the bustle of a park, meeting new people in a controlled manner, or getting used to the sights and sounds of your neighborhood, each positive experience builds confidence. Socialization should be a lifelong journey, and not just for the puppy phase.

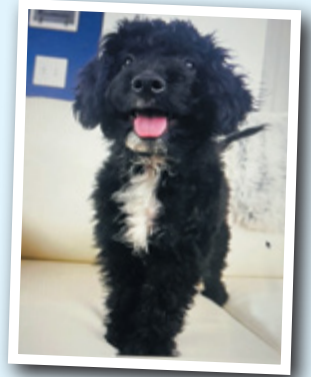
Take it slow. If your dog has been mainly interacting with your family since you brought them home, don't rush out into crowded areas or dog parks. Try to expose your dogs to new situations slowly and for short periods of time, arrange for low-stress interactions, and look for behaviors that indicate your dog is comfortable and happy to remain in the situation.

Understand your dog's needs and educate yourself in positive training techniques. Recognize your dog's body language and advocate for them in all situations. This will give your dog much needed skills and help you navigate any challenges you might encounter.

Be responsible about approaching other people's pets. Ask permission from the owner before approaching a dog and look for signs that the dog

Scamp Club

(Scampclub pets are not for adoption.)



Kobe was named in memory and affection for the late great Laker star Kobe Bryant, he too is the "Black Momba"! At 7 months of age he has tremendous puppy energy, speedily runs and can jump high, while playing with balls much smaller than a basketball. Kobe is an 18 pound Cavapoo, and is now enrolled in puppy class.

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.

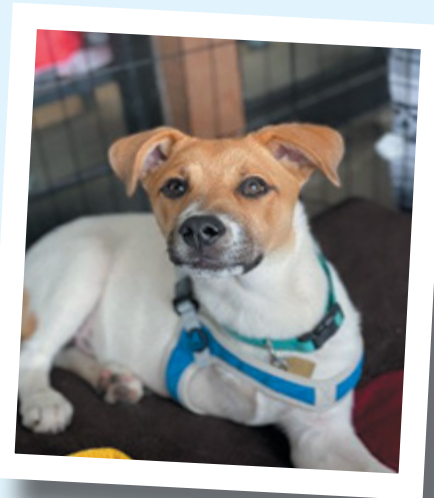
wants to interact with you. Sometimes dogs want to be left alone, and we need to recognize and respect that.

Make sure that you are walking your dog on a leash and recognize changes in your dog's body language indicating they may not be comfortable.

Always monitor your dog's activity, even when they are in the backyard at your own house, because they can be startled by something, get out of the yard and possibly injure someone or be injured themselves.

Source: Insurance Information Institute

Forever homes wanted



Hi: I'm Paxton, a friendly 4-month-old Terrier X rescued from Kern County in my hour of need. I'm thankful to my sponsors who enabled me to come into CARL's adoption program. As you can see, I am a 3-legged pup. My front right leg was amputated and I know some people will see this as a flaw, but I think it makes me special. I'm still an active pup and I'm looking forward to spending a future full of love and adventures with my special someone. They don't know

what happened to me, but suspect I was hit by a vehicle. Since I'm just a puppy, children in the home must be at least 6 years of age. It's a lifetime commitment, not a temporary one where the love and attention wears off after I'm grown. If you're ready and able to give me a lifetime of love and wonderful memories, please fill out an application to meet me. Canine Adoption and Rescue League C.A.R.L.

Meet 5 year old Coffee! He recently went on a field trip outside of the shelter, and did amazing meeting adults and children. He loves rolling around with his stuffie toy and perks up at the sight of treats! Ready to add a shot of joy to your mornings? If you'd like to meet Coffee, schedule an appointment at <https://www.vcas.us/adopt> or come down to the shelter during normal Adoption Hours of 1:00pm - 6:00pm Tuesday - Sunday. If you have questions, please contact us at (805) 388-4341 or info@vcas.us.





Police Reports

by Cindy Summers

Police reports are provided to us by the Ventura Police Department and are not the opinions of the Ventura Breeze. All suspects mentioned are assumed to be innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

Robbery

On April 23, at 9:28pm, the Ventura Police Department received a call of a robbery that had just occurred on the walking path along Harbor Blvd, between San Jon Rd and the Ventura Pier. The victim (41-year-old female, Ventura resident) said she was walking westbound on the path when the two suspects (14-year-old male, Ventura resident and 17-year-old male, Ventura resident) approached her, demanded her purse, and brandished a handgun at her. The suspects took her purse and fled

westbound on bicycles.

About 25 minutes later, a patrol officer saw two subjects matching the suspect descriptions in the 400 Block of N. Ventura Avenue. The suspects were detained and found to be in possession of a loaded gun and some of the victim's stolen property. Both juvenile suspects were arrested and booked at juvenile hall for various charges, including armed robbery, possession of a loaded gun, possession of a "ghost" (unserialized) gun, and conspiracy to commit a crime.

Ventura PD honors Erin Burdine during National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week

During the second week of April, the Ventura Police Department (VPD) celebrates National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week, shedding light on the indispensable first responders who operate behind the scenes, bridging the gap between the public and emergency services during critical moments.

"This year we recognize Erin Burdine as our Dispatcher of the Year," shared Communications Center Supervisor, Sergeant Tim Ferrill. "Erin is incredibly knowledgeable, leans in to offer help, and has served as an exemplary leader in our center. She is a reassuring voice for

residents and a skilled dispatcher that our officers trust deeply."

Handling 191,900 total calls in 2023 alone, including over 50,000 9-1-1 calls, Ventura Police public safety dispatchers play a pivotal role in coordinating emergency responses for the city.

"I take immense pride in our dedicated team of dispatchers, whose pivotal role in serving Ventura cannot be overstated," said Police Chief Darin Schindler. "Our 17 dispatchers display professionalism at every turn and their swift and precise actions lay the foundation for effective crisis management, providing vital support to both callers and police officers."

Erin started with VPD as a police cadet in 2005. During her time as a cadet, she explored various law enforcement career options and was hired as a dispatch trainee in 2007 and has faithfully served Ventura since.

As the demand for skilled dispatchers continues to grow, the Ventura Police Department invites qualified individuals to join their team. Learn more and apply online at CityofVentura.ca.gov/PoliceJobs.

Harbor Patrol Blotter

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

Sunday 4/14

10:15am, patrol officer supervisors training with online video modules.

3:30pm, received report of a capsized sailboat near the Ventura Pier from an individual walking around the Botanical Gardens on hill in Ventura. Officers responded in the Fireboat to investigate. Nothing was found, only a SUP surfer.

9:05pm, received request to search all electric boats operating in Ventura Harbor because the caller believes their iPhone is on one of them. To the callers' chagrin, advised to call back later in the week to see if the phone is turned in.

Wednes 4/17

3:53pm, while on patrol in the vehicle, officers observed a large tire near the Santa Clara Rivermouth. It was picked up and placed in the roll-out dumpster.

Thursday 4/18

3:42am, dispatched to 1215 Anchors Way for a 79 y/o female with severe pain. Officers responded with AMR/VFD to assist with the patient.

2:45pm, received a request for an annual parking permit for the Launch Ramp. Officers returned from patrol and assisted the individual with issuing a permit.

Friday 4/19

7:40am, officers in RB19 providing traffic control for Manson construction pulling sand replenishment pipe off the beach and towing to Oceanside harbor.

Saturday 4/20
9:33am, received report of an overdue 42 ft Beneteau sailboat, officers advised the reporting party to contact US coast guard for such calls.

10:30am, received request from US coast guard to check the slip of the overdue 42ft sailboat. Officers responded in vehicle, checked the slip, no vessel in the slip, contacted US coast guard and they advised the vessel was located at smugglers cove Santa Cruz Island safely anchored and in no distress.

Sunday 4/21

6:35am, received a request for a tow from a disabled vessel at the harbor entrance. Officers responded, towed the vessel to the launch ramp.

2:20pm, dispatched to Ocean Rescue four swimmers in distress near the South Jetty. Officers responded by land and sea to the call. The officers in the vehicle assisted three swimmers near shoreline, began assessments for aspirated sea water with AMR/VFD. Officers aboard Rescue B19 deployed a rescue swimmer to pull an unconscious victim from the water, later transported to hospital by

On Vacation – New Zealand



Matt and Lark Stevens visited Sydney Australia before taking a cruise to New Zealand. That's the Sydney Opera House in the background.

AMR for further evaluation.

8:30pm, received report that the South Jetty red aid-to-navigation (ATON) light is extinguished. Officers contacted US coast guard and advised of the hazard.

Monday 4/22

8:40am, officers replacing ATON buoys P, #8, #13 and #14 on station with Fireboat 1 after Manson Construction replenishment dredging completed.

10:45am, received report of vessel accident, commercial FV colliding with the fish offloading pier. Officers responded and are investigating the

incident.

1:50pm, dispatched to a K9 swept across the Santa Clara River breach. Officers responded, deployed rescue swimmer, rescued then returned dog to owner.

Tuesday 4/23

11:42am, dispatched to medical in the Ventura Marina Community. Officers responded with AMR/VFD to the call to assist with 79 y/o female.

4:07pm, dispatched to an ill person near 1431 Spinnaker Dr. Officers responded with VFD Squad 2/AMR to assist with the patient.

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

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ADELA TRAINOR

DRE 01985025

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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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



Ventura events

by Ana Baker

Ventura Senior Men's Group meets from 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m., first and third Tuesdays of each month at the Poinsettia Pavilion.

Any man who considers himself 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 or 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. 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 Welcome.

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

Monthly Beach Cleanup First Saturday of every month! Meet your neighbors and help keep our beach looking fresh. Hosted by Pierpont Beach Community Council in partnership with Surfrider. Meet up at the end

of Seward near the beach. (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.

May 5: Open house tours of the 1892 Dudley Historic House Museum will take place on Sunday, from 1 to 4 p.m. We will also have an exhibit of our award-winning Ventura County Fair display, "Times in the Life of the Dudley Family" in our Community Room. Admission is free. The museum is located at the corner of Loma Vista and Ashwood Streets (197 N. Ashwood). For information please call (805) 642-3345 or visit the website at dudleyhouse.org.

May 14: The San Buenaventura Women's Club will be meeting at the Poinsettia Pavilion at 12 noon for lunch, program and meeting. New officers for the term 2024-2026 will be inducted. and member achievements will be recognized. Lunch is \$25. Reservations may be made with terri.berri057@gmail.com.

June 22: The "Ventura High School Class of 71 Turns 71" Reunion will be held on June 22, 2024, at the Pierpont Raquet Club (500 Sanjon Rd. Vta) from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Beer, wine, non-alcoholic drinks, and light

appetizers will be served. Please RSVP by June 1st to: venturahighclassof71@gmail.com \$50 per person-payment information to follow your RSVP

July 20 & July 21: As part of the 50th Reunion of the Ventura High School Class of 1974, we are organizing an all-inclusive Combined Reunion with the VHS Classes of 1973 and 1975 and the St. Bonaventure and Buena Classes of 1973, 1974 and 1975. The unique and major event is scheduled from 2-7 pm Sunday, at the iconic Tony's Pizzeria. Our traditional reunion with just our class is scheduled Saturday, July 20, from 5-9 pm at historic Ventura City Hall.

Ojai Events

Local Ojai Author Catherine Ann Jones will visit the Ojai Library at 2pm on Saturday, May 25, to give a talk on her book East & West: Stories of India.

East & West is a captivating book, in which contrasting and complementary aspects of Indian culture are explored through stories of seekers, stories of ordinary Indians, and stories of heroes, frauds, and victims. R.E. Mark Lee, author of World Teacher: The Life and Teachings of J. Krishnamurti, writes that:

"In the best tradition of storytelling in India, this new book by Catherine Ann Jones is a modern classic. Seemingly covering the entirety of Indian culture, values, current events, and philosophy, the fifteen stories in her collection will long be treasured for capturing the ethos of the twenty-first century. In spite of the 114th sloka of the Dharma Shastra that intones 'The essence

of dharma is hidden and elusive,' it is true that the Catherine Ann Jones dharma is storytelling."

Description automatically generated with medium confidence Catherine Ann Jones has played major roles in over fifty productions on and off-Broadway, later becoming an award-winning playwright. To learn more about Catherine Ann Jones, visit wayofstory.com.

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.

Dear Valued OACT Community and Theater Enthusiasts,

As spring sweeps the valley, our stage switches from one show to the next! Step into an exciting world of live theatrics with our latest offering, One Acts, directed by Steve Grumette.

This is a special event to benefit the 85th Anniversary of the Ojai Art Center, and promises to be an unforgettable evening of drama, laughter, and introspection. This short run of performances will play weekends from May 3rd to May 19th in our cozy theater, with a vibrant showcase of compelling one-act plays that explore the nuances of human relationships and personal journeys.

Under the direction of Steve Grumette and Ashley Osler, a dynamic cast featuring Lynn Van Emmerik, Buddy Wilds, Anna Kotula, and Steve Grumette will bring these stories to life. It promises to be an evening that is as enriching as it is entertaining!

805 Gift Emporium

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11:00am – 5:00pm on Thursday, Friday and Saturday

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SATURDAY BRIDGE GAME

ACBL Sanctioned Game

Saturdays at 11:30am

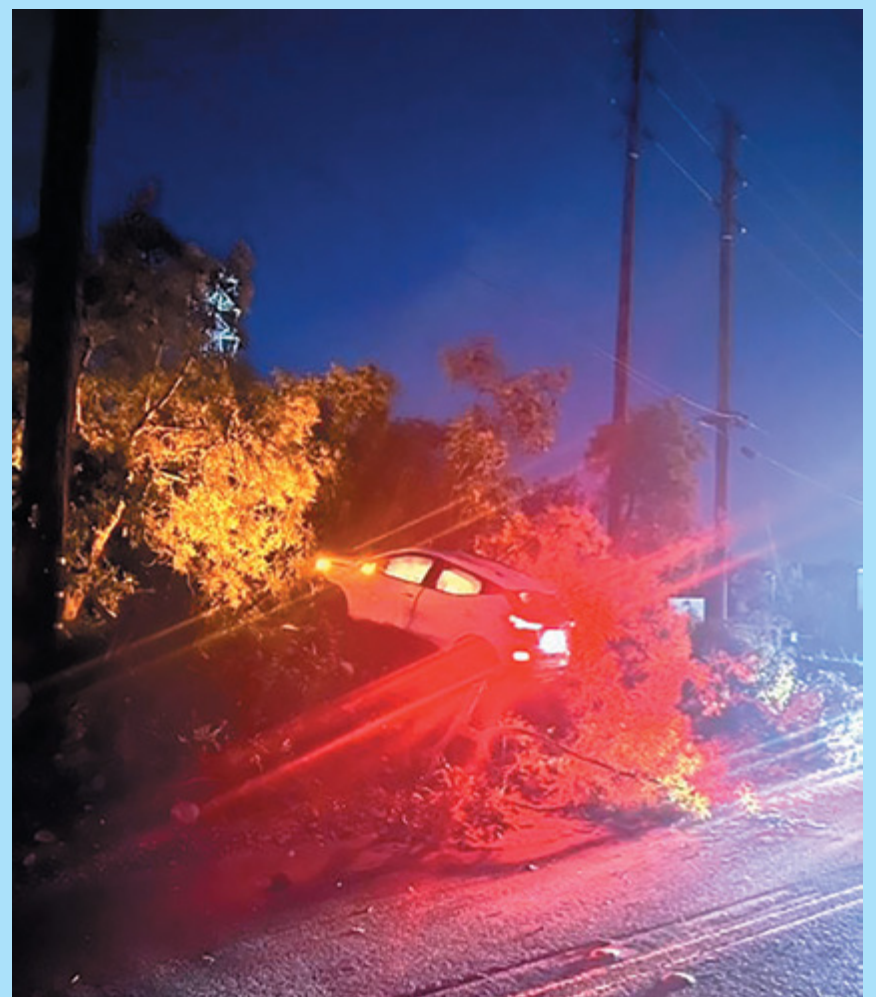
Open Game \$7.00

You can come without a partner!

**Location: VENTURA TOWNEHOUSE
4900 Telegraph Road, Ventura CA
Vista Room 7th floor**

**Hosted by: Ventura Unit Bridge Club
vcbridge.org**

Questions: Call Margie 805-293-9552



On April 15, fire units were dispatched to an electrical hazard with multiple callers stating there was a large explosion and power poles are on fire near Foothill Rd / N. Kimball Rd. while en-route, fire units received updates that this was a vehicle that hit a power pole. Firefighters arrived within 6 minutes of dispatch and found a vehicle that had left the roadway and hit a major transmission power pole carrying over 60,000 volts of electricity. The solo occupant of the vehicle was treated and released to Ventura PD. Southern California Edison arrived and ensured all power lines were safe and no longer energized. Ventura City Fire units were assisted by the Ventura Police Department and Southern California Edison.



Wild & Scenic Film Festival, is making its return

Ventura Land Trust's annual flagship event, the Wild & Scenic Film Festival, is making its return on Saturday, August 24th! The festival is entering its 15th year and will be held on the lawn of the Ventura County Credit Union headquarters, in Ventura. In addition to nearly two hours of inspiring environmental and activism-focused films, festival-goers can expect incredible music, food, and a selection of beer and wine from Ventura County locals.

The evening's festivities will feature the live music of local legends Spencer the Gardener, an onsite raffle, and an online silent auction. Beverages from Topa Topa, Castoro Cellars, Balcom Cider, Ventura Spirits, and food from a variety of local food trucks will be available for purchase.

In the Ventura Vibe VIP Lounge, small bites and local favorites will be paired with a curated selection of wine, beer, and cocktails. VIP Lounge guests will also enjoy a range of comfortable seating for relaxing and catching up with friends.

This is a family-friendly event and attendees are encouraged to bring chairs and blankets to take advantage of the Ventura County Credit Union lawn. Doors will open at 5 PM, with film screenings starting just before 8 PM as the sun goes down.

General admission tickets are priced at \$40, with children's tickets available for \$5 and teen tickets (ages 13-17) at \$10. For those seeking an elevated experience, VIP tickets are available for \$125 and offer exclusive early access to the Ventura Vibe VIP Lounge, providing additional free beverage and food options. Tickets and vendor details can be found at www.venturalandtrust.org/wsff2024.

Beyond being VLT's signature community event, the festival serves as a call to action and encourages attendees to learn more about what they can do to save our threatened planet. Your support through the Wild & Scenic Film Festival helps Ventura Land Trust restore habitat, build trails, plant trees, and clean up local rivers. Ventura Land Trust preserves are open daily for visitors to enjoy, and always for free.

The mission of Ventura Land Trust is to permanently protect the land, water, wildlife, and scenic beauty of the Ventura region for current and future

generations. Founded in 2003, Ventura Land Trust believes that preserving open space and providing public access enhances the economy, quality of life, and public well-being of Ventura and surrounding communities. The organization currently owns and manages land totaling nearly 4,000 acres along the Ventura River and in the Ventura hillsides, including the 2,100-acre Harmon Canyon Preserve. Harmon Canyon Preserve, which opened in June 2020, is Ventura's first large-scale nature preserve and is open to the public daily from dawn to dusk for free. In addition to these major holdings the Ventura Land Trust owns and stewards other smaller parcels across Ventura County. Ventura Land Trust received accreditation by the Land Trust Alliance in 2019. Learn more and become a member at www.venturalandtrust.org.

Community invited to join workshop for Surfers Point project

The City of Ventura is excited to announce an upcoming community workshop for the Surfers Point Managed Retreat Project. The workshop will occur on Thursday, May 2, at 5:30 p.m. at Santa Rosa Hall, located at the Ventura County Fairgrounds. Spanish interpretation will be available.

This workshop presents a valuable opportunity for community members to engage in interactive discussions, activities, and collaborative sessions that will shape the amenities and potential public art themes at the Surfers Point site, among other aspects.

"We are thrilled to involve our community in this pivotal stage of the Surfers Point Managed Retreat Project," said Mayor Joe Schroeder. "After receiving over \$16 million from the State of California's Coastal Conservancy to fund this project, community input and collaboration are crucial in creating a space that reflects the needs and aspi-

rations of our residents and visitors for this iconic location."

The Surfers Point Managed Retreat Project aims to meet the City's coastal resilience goals through a multifaceted approach. To help protect against erosion, this project continues an innovative method of replacing existing infrastructure along the coastline that has been damaged due to consistent wave action.

In addition to coastal protection, the project will include the construction of a new multi-use path and parking lot with an attendant station, a public art component, new lighting, drainage improvements, landscaping, and electrical vehicle parking. The reconstructed dunes, plantings, and buried cobble berm will protect these areas.

The Surfers Point Managed Retreat Project builds upon a previous initiative that was completed in 2013 in collaboration with the Ventura County Fairgrounds, Ocean Protection Council, State of California Coastal Conservancy, Beach Erosion Authority for Clean Oceans and Nourishment (BEACON), Surfrider Foundation, and more.

"The City of Ventura is one of the world's leading pioneers in this approach to restoring its coastline by reconstructing the area with natural features that help provide long-term protection against erosion," shared Public Works Director Charlie Ebeling. "We are fortunate to have so many partners to help safeguard this site for generations to come."

Community members are encouraged to RSVP for the workshop and learn more about the project's history and background at Cityofventura.ca.gov/SurfersPoint.

Brush management deadline is June 1, 2024

Despite recent heavy rainfall, Ventura residents are urged to remain vigilant as the threat of wildfires persists. The Ventura Fire Department stresses the importance of creating defensible space by maintaining flammable grass, trees, and shrubs surrounding vulnerable structures.

Over 6,200 parcels will receive notices in mid-April as part of the Fire Hazard

Reduction Program (FHRP). Property owners are required to complete 100 feet of vegetation management from structures or to the property line by June 1, 2024.

"Defensible space isn't solely about protecting property; it's about protecting lives," said Ventura Fire Marshal Brett Reed. "Neglecting vegetation management can lead to hazardous conditions during wildfires. Acting promptly, residents can greatly diminish wildfire risks and help contribute to our community's safety."

The FHRP aims to reduce fire danger by managing the density and placement of flammable vegetation. The required defensible space varies based on an area's terrain and vegetation type. This approach is critical for slowing or stopping the spread of wildfire and shielding structures from ignition by direct flames, radiant heat, or airborne embers.

Inspections of vulnerable properties will begin in early June.

For more information on the Fire Hazard Reduction Program, visit Cityofventura.ca.gov/FHRP or call the Fire Prevention Division at 805-658-4717.

Ventura Sunrise Optimist Club's Most Optimistic Community Member

Do you know someone who has inspired you by their optimism? Do you know someone who encourages you to be your best self? Do you know someone who makes a positive difference in the lives of others?

The third annual Most Optimistic Community Member nominations are now being accepted by the Sunrise Optimist Club until June 15, 2024.

Recognized last year were Faith Friedlander of Kids and Families Together and Jennifer Thompson of Cassie's Cats both non-profit organizations that benefit foster children and rescue cats respectively. The awards were given at the club's annual awards gathering.

"Faith Friedlander is and always has been, one of the most optimistic people that I have had the pleasure of being around. Faith's constant dedication to all of the programs Kids &

Continued on page 20

WELLBEING STARTS HERE

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ciymca.org/2024











Child watch now open!



We will watch the kids while you workout!



by Pam Baumgardner
VenturaRocks.com

Sheldon Brown, thank you for giving me the opportunity to cover Ventura's music scene. Your paper brings so much happiness to those who read it; your contribution to our town has been immense. I'm sure your son will carry the torch in fine fashion. I'd say I'll miss you, but I know we'll continue to see you out and about and of course we'll have those occasional lunches to catch up. Love you!!

Now to business... while the Strawberry Festival will be held later this month at the Ventura Fairgrounds, the Moorpark Apricot Festival returns after a five-year hiatus. Fun fact: Moorpark is actually named after the fruit, the Moorpark Apricot (*Prunus Armeniaca*) which is the most common apricot in the world. Over half a century ago they were known for growing this variety and for a while were known as the Apricot Capital of the World. Unlike the Strawberry Festival, this one is free to the public sponsored by the Daly Group and the City of Moorpark. Live music will include performances by CLU Mariachi ensemble, Conjunto Zacamandu, Moorpark Symphony Orchestra and Moorpark College Jazz. This fun-filled day falls on Saturday, May 11, 11 am - 5 pm on Historic High Street. Get all the data you need at MoorparkApricotFestival.com including where to park and all the other activities and art exhibits for the day.

The Rubicon Theatre's "Ventura Live" music series offers up a variety of one-night shows from Heather Youman's evening celebrating the 60s and 70s most iconic women in music to Tony and Emmy award-winner, Lillias White who performs some of Broadway's best-loved songs. You'll want to go to the Rubicon website (RubiconTheatre.org) to see all performances which will run through June so far.

The Ventura Music Hall added a number of Reggae shows including Fortunate Youth on May 23, Burning Spear on May 28, and Katchafire on July 20.

And the Libbey Bowl calendar keeps filling up for the summer as they just added Queen Nation and So Petty for August, Thievery Corporation for Thursday, Sept 5, and Angel Olsen for September 11.

Quick Notes: Cantara Cellars hosts Kelly's Lot on Friday, May 3; Duncan and the Dragonslayers return to Bombay's on Saturday, May 4, along with RXTC and Casual Business; Be warned, Raging Arb and Friends take over Duke's on Saturday, May 4; Plan B is providing live music again with Taylor Made Tapestry on Sunday, May 5, and Rock the Boat on Saturday, May 11; The Park View Courts music series continues with a performance by Will Breman on Tuesday, May 7; Guy Martin

plays the Grape on Saturday afternoon, May 11; and The Psychedelic Furs play the Majestic Ventura Theater on Tuesday, May 14 with opening act John Doe and Exene.

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

Music Calendar

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

The Angry Ferret Brewery 11990 Hertz St., Moorpark

Sat 5/4: Whole Hog

Aqua Beachfront Bar (Crowne Plaza)

450 E. Harbor Blvd., Ventura

Wed 5/1: Jerry and Bobby

Sat 5/4: Colette Lovejoy Band

Wed 5/8: Déjà vu Too

Boatyard Pub

1583 Spinnaker Dr., Ventura

Music 6-9; except Thurs 4-9

Wednesdays: Frank Barajas

Thursdays: Jim Friery (4 pm);

Bluegrass Jam (6:30 pm)

Fri 5/3: Teresa Russell & Stephen Geyer

Bombay Bar and Grill

143 S. California St., Ventura

Thursdays: Ventura Blues Night

Sat 5/4; RXTC, Duncan and the

Dragonslayers, Casual Business

Cantara Cellars

126 N. Wood Rd., Camarillo

Fri 5/3: Kelly's Lot

Sat 5/4: Caliente 805

Sun 5/12: Natalie Wattre

The Cave

4435 McGrath St., Ventura

Wed & Thurs: Bobby Apostol

Fri & Sat: Warren Takahashi

The Collection, Park View Court

2751 Park View Ct., Oxnard

Tues 5/7: Will Breman

Copper Blues

591 Collection Blvd., Oxnard

Fri 5/3: Tone 6

Sat 5/4: Red Hot Tribute

Deer Lodge

2261 Maricopa Hwy., Ojai

Fri 5/3: Sam Blasucci

Sat 5/4: Radio Skies

Wed 5/8: Fruit Bats

Sat 5/11: Dylan Cunningham

Duke's Beach Grill

1124 S. Seaward Ave., Ventura

Sat 5/4: Raging Arb and Friends

Sat 5/11: DNA

Four Brix

2290 Eastman Ave., Ventura

Sat 5/4: Teresa Russell & Stephen

Geyer

Sun 5/5: Milo Sledge Trio

Fri 5/10: Caught Red Handed

Sun 5/12: Frank Barajas & Joe

Hamilton

Garage

1091 Scandia Ave., Ventura

Fri 5/3: Steph's Rockin' Roadshow

Sat 5/4: Monkey Bump

Fri 5/10: Breaking Bored

Sat 5/11: Sin Chonies

The Grape

2733 E. Main St., Ventura

Tues: The Gratitude Jazz Jam

Wed 5/1: Ray Jaurique & Friends

Thurs 5/2: Simpson Phillips/Derek

Sherinian

Fri 5/3: SicNarf

Sat 5/4: Dr. T & the Criminals (2p);

Dreamland (8 pm)

Wed 5/8: Blanket of Clouds

Thurs 5/9: The Ed Smith Group

Fri 5/10: The Christopher Linman

Jazz Ensemble

Sat 5/11: Guy Martin (2p); Danny

Janklow Quartet feat. Roy McCurdy

(8p)

Sun 5/12: Tony Maddox

Leashless Brewing

585 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

Fri 5/3: Spring Loaded Band

Sat 5/4: Top Shelf

Sun 5/5: Boom Duo

Fri 5/10: Ellis Bryant

Sat 5/11: Brandon Ragan Project

Limon y Sal

598 E. Main St., Ventura

Music 1-4 pm

Sundays: In Stone

Sun 5/5: Mariachi Bands

Lucky Fool's Pub

75 E. High St., Moorpark

Fri 5/3: Morrison Drive

Sat 5/4: Charlie Baker

Sat 5/11: Jayden Secor

Majestic Ventura Theater

26 S. Chestnut St., Ventura

Tues 5/14: Psychedelic Furs, John

Doe & Exene

Manhattan

5800 Santa Rosa Rd., Camarillo

Thursdays: Tom McMorran

Wed 5/1: Robert Van

Fri 5/3: Brittney and Friends

Sat 5/4: Lisa Ritner Trio

Wed 5/8: Warren Takahashi

Fri 5/10: Tour Support

Sat 5/11: Jeanne Tatum Trio

Sun 5/12: Kent Rollins (1p); Monte

Montgomery (4p)

Margarita Villa

1567 Spinnaker Dr., Ventura

Fri 5/3: Joe Delia

Sat 5/4: Little Alice & the Cats

Fri 5/10: Cinnamon Whiskey

Sat 5/11: Vinyl Gypsies

Sun 5/12: Doc Rogers Band

Moorpark Apricot Festival

Historic High Street, Moorpark

Sat 5/11: Conjunto Zacamandu,

Moorpark Symphony Orchestra,

Moorpark Jazz, etc...

Namba Arts

47 S. Oak St., Ventura

Sun 5/5: Chris Newman & Maire Ni

Chathasaigh

Sun 5/12: The Listening Room

Ojai Underground Exchange

616 Pearl St., Ojai

Fri 5/3: Gang of Nannies with Chris

Hatfield

Sat 5/4: Teresa James

Ojai Valley Brewing

307 Bryant St., Ojai

Sun 5/5: Maclovia

Sat 5/11: Adrian Floy & THC

Sun 5/12: Buck Moon

Plan B Wine Cellars

899 Empire Ave., Ventura

Sun 5/5: Taylor Made Tapestry

Sat 5/11: Rock the Boat

The Raven Tavern

1651 S. Victoria Ave., Oxnard

Fri & Sat 8 pm; Sundays 2 pm

Fri 5/3: Vinyl Gypsies

Sat 5/4: Cinnamon Whiskey

Sun 5/5: Jake McClelland

Fri 5/10: Brandon Ragan Project

Sat 5/11: Doc Rogers Band

Sun 5/12: Morrison Drive

Rubicon Theatre

1006 E. Main St., Ventura

Sat 5/11: Heather Youmans: Make

Your Own Kind of Music

Sun 5/12: Lillias White: From

Brooklyn to Broadway

Sam's Place

308 E. Ojai Ave., Ojai

Thurs 5/2: Maya Lumen

Sun 5/5: Damaged Goods

Sans Souci

21 S. Chestnut St., Ventura

Sat 5/4: The Focke Wolves, Wabash

Cannons, Big Dictator

The Shores

1031 Harbor Blvd., Oxnard

Wednesdays: Jake McClelland

Sun 5/5: Doc Rogers Band

The Six

419 E. Main St., Ventura

Fri 5/3: Sin Chonies

Sat 5/4: Skunkdub

Thurs 5/9: Vinyl Gypsies

Fri 5/10: Led Tasso

Strey Cellars

951 N. Rice Ave., Oxnard

Sat 5/4: Mirage

Sat 5/11: Midlife Crisis

Tony's Pizzeria

186 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

Thurs 5/2: Reggae Dead All Stars

Sun 5/5: Heart and Soul

Thurs 5/9: Heavy Rotation

Fri 5/10: Shaky Feelin'

Sat 5/11: Ignition

The Twist on Main

454 E. Main St., Ventura

Tuesdays: Tuesday Blues Day w/ Hot

Roux & guests

Sat 5/4: Keyth G. (1pm)

Sun 5/5: Kenny Devoe & Jamie Savko

(1p); Adam Lenhard (5p)

Sat 5/11: Tera Russell (1p); Lynnzee

Fraye (4p); Tiff and the 3 Blind Mice

(8p)

Sun 5/12: Ray Jaurique (1p); Brandy-

wine Buskers (5p)

Vaquero y Mar

435 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

Sundays: Mariachi

Tuesdays: The Sea Hunter, Lowered

Expectations

Wed 5/1: Tribal Me

Ventura Harbor Village stage

1559 Spinnaker Dr., Ventura

Sat 5/4: Surfer Joe Band

Sun 5/5: Cava

Sat 5/11: Karen Eden & the Bad

Apples

Sun 5/12: Vanise Terry Band

Ventura Music Hall

1888 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

Thurs 5/2: Petey, Phoney

Fri 5/3: Diggin Dirt

Sat 5/4: Mariachi El Bronx

Sun 5/5: Shordie Shordie

Thurs 5/9: Highway Starr

Fri 5/10: DB.Boutabag

Winchesters

632 E. Main St., Ventura

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

pm; Sun 3 pm

Thurs 5/2: Mack and D

Fri 5/3: Heft & Wilson

Sat 5/4: Sean Wiggins

Sun 5/5: Mocha Chai

Thurs 5/9: Bradon Ragan

Fri 5/10: Tommy Foytek Band

Sat 5/11: Nick & the Sold Souls

Sun 5/12: McGuire/Moffett Band

1901 Speakeasy

740 S. B Street, Oxnard

Fri 5/4: RJ Mischo



Montserrat Elizondo (FTHS), The Cow Goes Moo, Oil painting. 2024

Ventura Unified School District to host its Annual Student Art Show

The VUSD Districtwide Student Art Show Opening Reception is Thursday, May 16, 2024, from 4-7:30 pm at the VITA Arts Center (28 West Main St.). The show is made possible through the efforts of the Ventura Education Partnership, Vita Art Center, and the Ventura Arts Collaborative, a cooperative program of Ventura Unified School District. The juried show will highlight our incredibly talented high school, middle school, and elementary school student artists.

The VUSD Art Show will run from May 16 - 19. All proceeds from this event support VUSD's art programs.

- 4:00 - 5:00 pm: Elementary and Middle School Viewing Times
- 5:00 - 5:30 pm: Elementary and Middle School Artists Acknowledgment
- 6:00 - 7:00 pm: High School Viewing Times/ Refreshments served by Buena HS Culinary Students
- 7:00 - 7:30 pm: High School Art Awards



Win a gorgeous mug by gallery artist **Kristen Clawson**.

The Ventura Pottery Gallery invites you to join a special Mother's Day Market Saturday, May 11 and Sunday, May 12 from 11 - 6. Over 40 local artisans will exhibit hand-crafted pieces perfect gift giving. You'll find mugs, vases and more in every price range.

Enter our free raffle when you visit the gallery starting April 19 to win a gorgeous mug by gallery artist **Kristen Clawson**.

Ventura Pottery Gallery is located at 1567 Spinnaker Drive, Suite 105 in the Ventura Harbor. The Gallery is open seven days a week from 11-6. More information can be found www.vcp.org. Can't make it to the Gallery? Please visit our Online Store at www.venturapotteryonline.com

Ventura Art Scene

Ventura school project replaces plastic tableware with metal

by David Goldstein

At EarthDay.org, which bills itself as the global organizing hub of the "world's largest environmental movement," an announcement proclaims this year's Earth Day theme, "Planet versus Plastics." Organizers "demanded" a 60% reduction in the production of plastics by 2040 and set a goal of "building a plastic-free future for generations to come."

Earth Day was officially April 22, but local Earth Day events throughout April highlighted a diverse array of environmental issues. In addition to presenting alternatives to plastic products, local events featured electric car shows, recycling reminders, energy saving ideas, gardening tips, and the usual fun, food, and music of festivals.

However, one school in Ventura focused on a practical way to avoid litter and reduce single-use plastics. Students in Emily Noel's and Flow Hansmeier's fourth grade class at Ventura Charter School calculated the school's lunches resulted in the discard of 4,320 plastic utensils per month and started a campaign to reduce the waste. They created a video (<https://www.instagram.com/>

reel/C5rdVRRyQme/?igsh=MzRlOD-BiNWF1ZA%3D%3D) and coordinated other outreach, urging fellow students to bring their own reusable utensils. Parents and teachers joined the effort, buying metal utensils from thrift stores, providing those for students who did not bring their own, and washing the utensils after meals.

Perhaps many more students will be inspired by EcoHero shows sponsored by various public agencies for presentations at school assemblies. These 40-minute shows grab and hold the students' attention by quickly earning respect from a critical mass of kids. Professional presenters impress the kids with call-and-response chants, clever and easy-to-repeat-and-perform songs, involvement of volunteers from the audience, and funky dance moves, all while clearly communicating important messages and providing easy-to-implement tips.

At ecoheroshow.com, schools in Ventura County's unincorporated areas, outside cities, can book an EcoHero show about avoiding food waste free, sponsored by Ventura County Public Works. Schools countywide can arrange for a similarly impressive free show focusing on stormwater pollution prevention, sponsored by the Watersheds Coalition of Ventura County. Schools in Simi Valley can arrange for a great show focusing on bottles, cans, and avoiding litter of material such as plastics.

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

OLIVAS ADOBE
HISTORICAL PARK



Murals & Roses

Sunday, May 12, 2024 • 11 am – 3 pm

Join us for a Mother's Day tradition! The rose garden is in full bloom, and our beautiful murals by renowned artist Marguerite Hardeman (1911-1990) will be on display.

Attending mothers receive a free floral corsage.

View a unique display of vintage dresses, hats, and purses, and explore our current exhibits in the Small Adobe.



Artist: Marguerite Hardeman

Admission is FREE!

4200 Olivas Park Drive

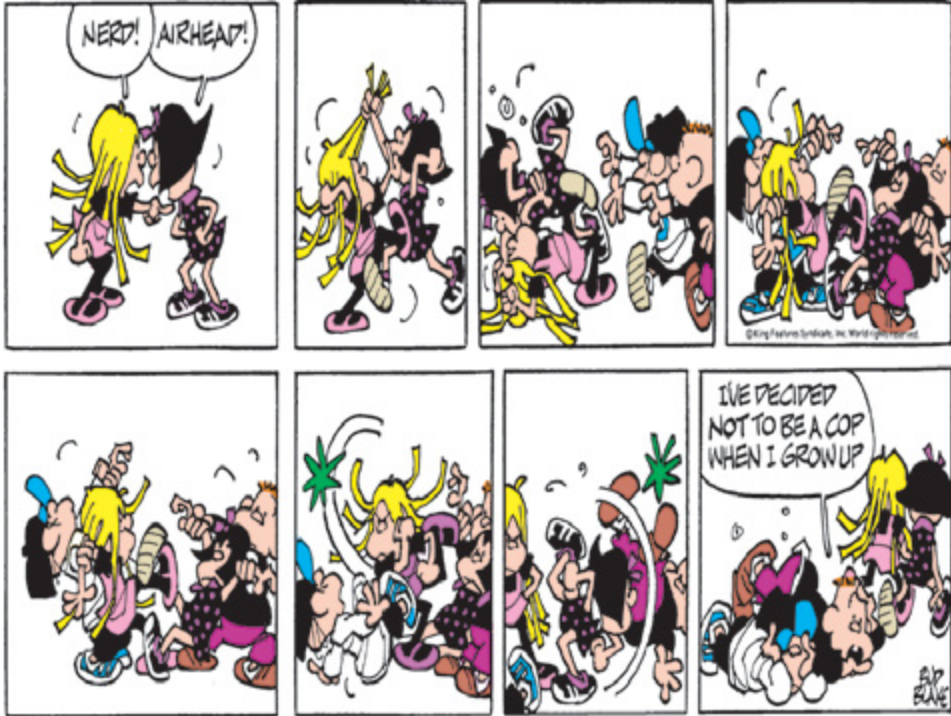
CITY OF
VENTURA
PARKS & RECREATION

www.cityofventura.ca.gov/OlivasAdobeEvents



Lighter Breeze

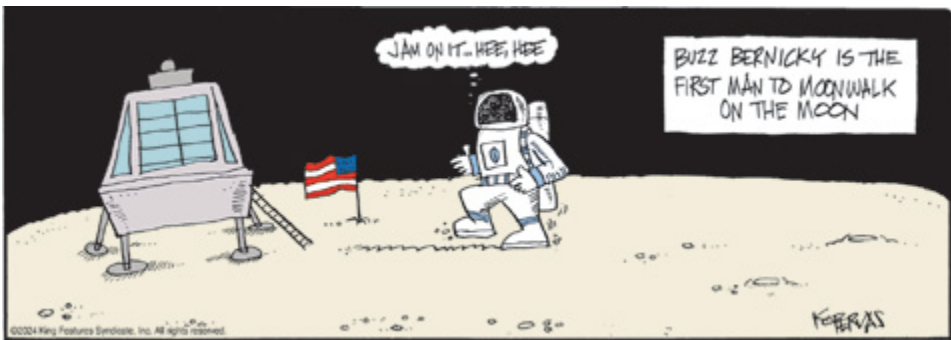
Tiger



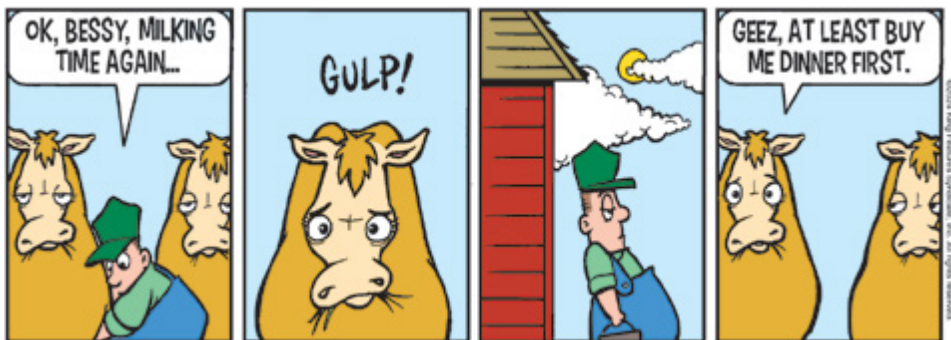
The Spats



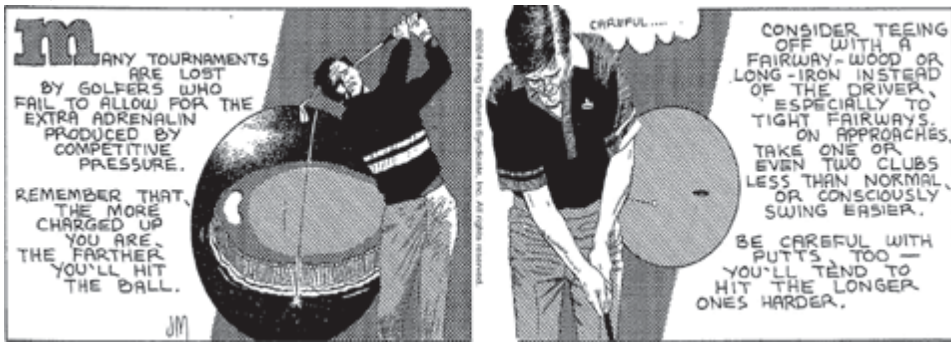
Out on a Limb



Amber Waves



Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



Solutions on page 13

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

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

Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

Solutions on page 13

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 "House" actor Omar
- 5 Nick and Nora's dog
- 9 Mountain pass
- 12 Mend socks
- 13 " - to differ!"
- 14 Flamenco cheer
- 15 Marmaduke, for one
- 17 Allow
- 18 Realm
- 19 Protuberances
- 21 French article
- 22 Filled fully
- 24 Gear teeth
- 27 Understood
- 28 Hoodwink
- 31 Scary cry
- 32 Flying saucer
- 33 Perch
- 34 Attempt
- 36 Knock
- 37 School support orgs.
- 38 Object (to)
- 40 Battery size
- 41 Ibsen's Gable
- 43 Golfer Sorenstam
- 47 Land in la mer
- 48 Bruce Springsteen hit
- 51 JFK regulator
- 52 "Her" actress Rooney

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13					14		
15			16					17			
18							19	20			
			21			22	23				
24	25	26			27	Crock		29	29	30	
31					32				33		
34			35		36			37			
		38		39			40				
41	42						43		44	45	46
47				48	49	50					
51				52					53		
54				55					56		

- 53 Taj Mahal site
- 54 Unwell
- 55 Melville mariner
- 56 Detergent
- 9 Pricey powder
- 10 Sheltered
- 11 Favorites
- 16 Three, in Rome
- 20 British ref. work
- 22 To date
- 23 Perched on
- 24 "NCIS" aier
- 25 Sound of delight
- 26 Bargain
- 27 Mentor
- 29 Zadora of "Hairspray"
- 30 Roswell visitors
- 35 Slugger Williams
- 37 Bamboo eaters
- 39 Molten rock
- 40 Some
- 41 LP player
- 42 Israeli airline
- 43 Basra resident
- 44 Shakespeare villain
- 45 Actress Sedgwick
- 46 Pronto
- 49 -di-dah
- 50 Mouths (Lat.)

DOWN

- 1 Rim
- 2 Italian cheese, for short
- 3 Ready, as for surgery
- 4 Slowpokes
- 5 Staffer
- 6 Govt. loan agcy.
- 7 Toe count
- 8 Representative

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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



Show Time

A View from House Seats

A different viewpoint on death and humor

by Shirley Lorraine

Few comedies open with a beating and a hanging. The Santa Paula Theater Center's "Hangmen" by Irishman Martin McDonagh does. From there the comedy is in the hands and ears of the receivers (you, the audience).

Nominated for four Tony awards and recipient of a Laurence Olivier Award in 2003, the play takes on human foibles and the urge to compete, even in areas where competition is uncommon.

The Irish satire is set in 1965, in an old pub owned and operated by Harry, (Richard Kuhlman) well known as the second-best hangman in the country. The death penalty has just been abolished in the United Kingdom and

poor Harry is now out of a job. Still, he competes for bragging rights with Pierpoint (John Webber), acknowledged as the number one hangman. Harry's cronies (Bill Walthall, Scot Blanchard and Donnie Stroud) solidly back him up, but only as far as a pack of drunken sods who are continually provided with pints of drink can do.

A young, inexperienced journalist (Eric Umali) meets with Harry to get his side of the story. How does he feel being out of a job? While Harry maintains he will not comment, eventually he does, and then some.

Harry's wife Alice (Jolyn Johnson) and teen daughter Shirley (Emily

Redman Hall) do most of the bar duty. Jeff Ham makes appearances as several characters.

Harry's assistant, Syd (Derek Petropolis), would love to take Harry's attitude of superiority down a peg and plots with Mooney (James James), a conningly menacing stranger. Mooney's actual intent is unclear. Insisting he is menacing, not creepy, Mooney intrigues Shirley into meeting him elsewhere, whereupon she disappears for a period, causing Harry and Alice a great deal of angst. Mooney ultimately taunts the group into placing him in a noose which turns deadly as the group attempts to hide this action from the inspectors.

The highly competent cast carries off their well-rehearsed Irish accents beautifully. So well, in fact, that the accents, combined with unfamiliar Brit-speak language, created a challenge (for me, at least) to follow and find the humor. Credit is given to Erin De Horta as dialect coach.

The detailed interior pub set is impressive. Two 1960's clothed dancers (presumably a directorial addition) assist with minor scene changes, providing a tinge of the aura of the era. The dancers are Martha Benevides and Keke Navarro.

Artistic Director Jessi May Stevenson has assembled a cast of talents who perform admirably. Action is tight and natural.

While the play may have fared well in the United Kingdom, I personally did not find it to be the comedy I'd hoped for in this "all comedy" SPTC season. Brit humor can be an acquired taste. There was sporadic laughter at specific well-timed lines, However, the underlying premise is one that is not inherently funny, in my opinion. Perhaps I just needed a pint or two.

Hangmen continues through May 12, Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2:30 p.m. www.santapaulatheatercenter.org or (805)525-4645.

Streaming Spotlight by Cindy Summers

Anyone But You

- Netflix



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

Bea (Sydney Sweeney) met Ben (Glen Powell) when trying to use the restroom at a cafe. The barista told Bea to go to the end of the line, but she felt she couldn't wait and tried desperately to talk her way into getting the bathroom key. Ben, who was next to be served, overheard the scenario and helped her by posing as her husband, getting her the key immediately as well as buying her a drink and holding her coat while his "wife" used the restroom.

Feeling an immediate connection, they went on a date and spent the evening talking eventually just falling asleep in each others arms. When Bea woke in the morning, she snuck out and called her sister to share her great date story, but when questioned by her sister why she left she thought she needed to go back. Ben's best friend Pete (GaTa) had stopped by and poked fun at Ben regarding the date saying it seemed he was in love, so Ben's ego replied by saying Bea was a mess. Unfortunately Ben had no idea Bea was outside the apartment and she quickly fled.

Fast forward six months later and Ben and Pete went to a club to meet up with Pete's little sister Claudia (Alexandra Shipp), who Ben was also close to, to meet her girlfriend Halle (Hadley Robinson). Halle called out to the crowd to introduce her sister to Ben and to both of their surprise it was Bea. Ben had numerous snarky comments regarding "walking out" scenarios, and Bea was quick to return fire recalling what Ben had said to Pete that morning.

Claudia and Halle decided to get married in Sydney, Australia, and Ben and Bea just happened to be on the same flight, though Ben was in first class and Bea was in coach. It was decided that everyone would stay at Pete's parents' house, which was also the wedding location. Claudia's parents had a plan to divert the tension with Ben and Bea by inviting Ben's ex-girlfriend Margaret who he had been quite heartbroken over. Halle's parents flew Bea's ex-boyfriend Jonathan to the wedding in hopes they would rekindle their relationship as they were very fond of Jonathan.

Bea convinced Ben that for each of them to avoid the parent traps that had been set, they should act as if they were together. They spent the next few days doing ridiculously romantic things to convince everyone else they were together. While having a pre-wedding dinner on a yacht, one of their plans backfired while playing Titanic when Bea fell into the sea, but Ben jumped right in after her. While floating on a buoy waiting to be rescued by the coast guard, they decided to call a truce and ended up sleeping together that night. This time Ben snuck out thinking Bea might regret it.

Ben heard Claudia and Halle discussing calling off the wedding because of all the drama, so Ben asked Bea to pretend to be together one last time to save the wedding. At the reception Margaret kissed Ben, but to his own surprise was disinterested. Unfortunately Bea saw them from across the room and left the reception. Ben left to go after Bea, but she had already jumped in a taxi.

Ben said wasn't interested in Margaret and that she kissed him, so they told Ben he had to go after Bea. When Ben asked Halle and Claudia where Bea had gone they said she went people watching and Ben knew exactly where she had gone. So Ben decided to take a leap of faith and jumped on the cliff into the ocean to again be rescued and find Bea to tell her how he truly felt.

For a funny, feel good rom-com, "Anyone But You" delivers with great comedy charisma from the whole cast. Runtime: 1h 43m



A fresco by Yana Khyod

MAY 30-JUNE 16

Alice

formerly of Wonderland

BY Mark Saltzman
DIRECTED BY Jim Fall



Based on a true story...
a new musical from seven-time Emmy
Award-winning writer Mark Saltzman!

Tickets starting at \$40!
etc.sb.org
805.965.5400



ENSEMBLE THEATRE COMPANY
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SANTA BARBARA'S PROFESSIONAL THEATER COMPANY



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ISLANDPACKERS.com 805-642-1393

Photo by Chuck Graham
Photo by Dan Harding



ECTV Students in Control room.

CAPS digital storytelling summer program 2024

The CAPS Digital Storytelling summer program returns this year with week-long sessions July 15-19 and July 29-August 2 for students ages 10-14. Guided by experienced videographers and storytellers, the summer camp crews collaborate in teams of four or five to create their own video productions. The fast paced and engaging creative program features hands-on, experiential learning in all aspects of media storytelling including story development, scripting, casting, staging, directing, camera training with HD camcorders and smartphones, video composition, lighting, remote and in-studio production, graphic design, editing and more.

Each weeklong session runs Monday - Friday, from 8:30am to 1:00pm with class sizes limited to 10-12 students. The Digital Storytelling program is held at the CAPS Media Center at 65 Day Road in Ventura, between Loma Vista and Telegraph, on the eastside of Ventura College. The weekly fee is \$250 for the week and includes five 4-hour sessions, a one-year family membership at CAPS, a CAPS Crew Member shirt, graduation certificate and a special Friday night film festival for friends and family. The registration deadline is June 1. Go to capsmedia.org/digitalstorytelling to sign up.

Prior to the summer program CAPS crews will be busy with multiple productions including recording and live streaming ceremonies for Ventura College graduates and all of the VUSD High Schools graduates. The Ventura College graduation is on May 17 at 10am. The VUSD graduations are June 11 - 13. On Tuesday, June 11 ceremonies begin at 10am with El Camino High School, Pacific High School at 12:30pm, Foothill High School at 2:30pm and VACE at 5:30pm at Ventura College. Wednesday, June 12 is Buena High School's ceremony beginning at 4pm at Buena. The Ventura High School graduation is to be held on Thursday, June 13 at 3pm at Ventura High. All graduations will be live streamed by CAPS on the day of the ceremonies and recorded for broadcast on CAPS channel 15 in the days and weeks that follow.

Recently CAPS launched ReCAPS, the special weekly series featuring storytellers throughout Ventura County. Every Monday night at 7pm a new edition of ReCAPS premieres on CAPS Channel 6 and streams online, with stories and histories by local storytellers sharing their personal journeys. Recent ReCAPS storytellers include Moses Mora, Adam Hart, Jake and Jenny Dilbeck, and Carlos Ortega. In the coming weeks ReCAPS will feature Luis Sanchez, Lucas Zucker, Regina Hatcher-Crawford, Jim and John Proctor, David Endaya, Dustin Gardner and many more.

Congratulations to Phil Taggart, one of

CAPS Media's many artists in residence, who, along with his Arts In Exile crew won a 2024 WAVE Award for excellence in community programming from the Alliance for Community Media's Western region.

Everyone in the community is invited to visit the CAPS Media Center on the first Monday of each month at 6pm for informal introductions. The evening includes a tour of the CAPS studio, information on CAPS membership benefits, and a creative overview of media production from concept development through production. Everyone is encouraged to drop by and discover what CAPS has to offer.

CAPS Media manages and programs cable channels 6 (Public) and 15 (Education and Government), and CAPS Radio KPPQ in Ventura, and manages the CAPS Media Center, at 65 Day Road, which is open Tuesday - Thursday, 12p- 8pm. CAPS provides unlimited creative resources and expertise to everyone in Ventura.

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Families Together offer and the people that work with (and for) her have kept all of us hopeful and positive through a pandemic that made the future not seem so brighter optimism and hopefulness helped us weather that storm and prepare us for anything the future holds for us." Faith was nominated by Kim Becker.

"Not only is Jennifer Thompson of Cassie's Cats loved by the donors, volunteers, sponsors, adopters and community, she is adored by the cats and kittens in the lounge. These discerning creatures gravitate to her—they understand and reciprocate her unconditional love. They trust her and she honors that trust by making sure every adoption is a good fit for the animal and the prospective adopters. Jennifer was nominated by Shannon Evans and Donna Nicholson.

The Sunrise Optimist Club is a service club that provides support and scholarships to youth in Ventura. The cornerstone of the club is The Optimist Creed. The Club has been active in Ventura since 1960 and is affiliated with Optimist International. The primary purpose of Optimist Clubs is to "bring out the best in kids" as well as promoting optimism as a way of life for all people.

To access the nomination form go to the Club's website at www.venturasunriseoptimist.org. For more information about the nomination process or to receive a nomination form for the 2024 Most Optimistic Community Member email MOCM.VenturaSOC@gmail.com or visit the club's website: www.venturasunriseoptimist.org

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