

VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

Vol. 14, No. 9 Published Every Other Wednesday Established 2007 January 27 - February 9, 2021



"With the global pandemic, this past year has been a real struggle for all of our employees."

Current Ventura Unified School District situation due to the Pandemic

by Carol Leish

Ventura Unified School District's Superintendent, Dr. Richard Rice, who was appointed in January, 2019, and started working in March, 2019, said, "I love the community of Ventura and am extremely proud to serve its residents."

"With the global pandemic, this past year has been a real struggle for all of our employees," according to Dr. Rice. "We have lost more than 500 students, and our progress on many of the compelling programs we had beginning in the pipeline have been slowed down. This said, I am optimistic that things are getting better and I am very hopeful that soon, we will be shifting our focus more and more away from handling the ever-changing COVID-19 situation and the operational impacts COVID-19 has had on our District and return to building the great programs that we have planned."

As far as how Zoom is working for both students and teachers, Dr. Rice said, "Like any other non-traditional approach, it is working better for some than for others. On the whole, I am extremely pleased with our teachers growth in offering distance learning and I think in the future, this will serve us well. I also think there will be many students

who prefer this model of learning. We are planning to expand upon our distance learning options for next year."

As far as students and teachers being able to adapt to Zoom, Dr. Rice said, "I think that students and teachers both have adjusted well to the technical pieces of working in/with Zoom and other distance learning platforms. That said, there is no substitution for a teacher's direct in-person presence in the instruction of students. We look forward to returning to more in-person learning as soon as possible. Currently, our plan is to resume to a hybrid in-person instruction at the elementary school level on February 1st. And, at the secondary level, on April 12th"

"Obviously, every school and district are dealing with some degree of learning loss," according to Dr. Rice. "The challenge is/will be accurately measuring how much, and in what areas. My understanding is that this year's state standardized testing will be truncated and therefore likely now serve as the best indicator of this. This is troubling since we need to know where the learning loss is occurring in order to address it. Thankfully, our instructional staff is well versed in formative assessment and I am looking forward to hearing more from them over the remainder of the year as to exactly where they see learning loss has been occurring, and working with them to address those needs."

Dr. Rice said that there is not an easy answer to the questions: "Who determines where schools can open?" "Ultimately, the degree in which a school district can open its schools is up to the local School Board and Superintendent. It is also true that the requirements laid out by the California Department of Public Health, the Ventura County Department of Public Health, and now the Governor, have seriously limited the circumstances under which schools can reopen, including putting strict limits on how they operate once they are open."

Even though Dr. Rice says, "I applaud the Governor's intent to incentivize and reward returning to in-person learning models, I have several areas of concern regarding it. Chief among those concerns is the change to the current testing

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Volunteers planted 25 trees.

Ventura Land Trust believes in equitable access to open space

The Ventura Land Trust celebrated the life and legacy of Martin Luther King, Jr. with the MLK National Day of Service. Ventura Land Trust staff and a small group of volunteers spent the morning at Harmon Canyon Preserve planting 25 coast live oak and sycamore trees at the trailhead and around the parking area. These trees will grow on the preserve as symbols of their commitment to Martin Luther King, Jr.'s vision of equity and equality in society. Ventura Land Trust

believes in equitable access to open space, which is why the preserves are open daily to the public, dawn to dusk, for free.

There are ways for everyone to roll up your sleeves to improve the community every day: learn about issues around conservation and environmental justice, plant a native plant garden at home, pick up trash on our beaches, (wear gloves or use a grabber tool!), or support Ventura Land Trust or another organization with membership or a donation.



First responders paraded outside of hospital to show their support of health care staff.

First responders honor health care staff

The front entrance at St. John's Regional Medical Center (SJRMC), a Dignity Health Central Coast hospital,

was a sight to see this week as Oxnard's first responders, firefighters, and police officers caravanned to honor health care staff for their efforts in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic.

The motorcade driven by first responders - from fire engines to patrol cars - had their sirens blaring and lights flashing as the vehicles paraded around the hospital's Mercy Cross tower. Physicians, nurses, support staff, and hospital leadership stood outside in appreciation of the recognition shown by fellow first responders.

"Our continued partnership with local first responders is essential, and to be honored by Oxnard's Police and Fire Departments is incredibly meaningful to each of us," said Darren W. Lee,

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Learn more and sign up to be notified when it's your turn:
www.vcrecovers.org





News & Notes



The Girl Scout Cookie Program has long taught girls how to run a business.

Girl Scouts has kicked off the 2021 Girl Scout Cookie season

Girl Scouts of California's Central Coast and Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) has kicked off the 2021 Girl Scout Cookie season nationally, during a challenging time when many Girl Scouts are selling in creative, socially distant, and contact-free ways to keep themselves and their customers safe. Even in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, girls are adapting their sales methods to share the joy of Girl Scout Cookies through the largest girl-led entrepreneurship program—including taking contact-free pickup and delivery orders through a new national collaboration with Grubhub. Additionally, GSUSA is making online cookie ordering available nationwide on February 1 so consumers who don't know a Girl Scout can still purchase cookies from a local troop for direct shipment to their homes or donation to local organizations.

The Girl Scout Cookie Program has long taught girls how to run a business via in-person booths, door-to-door activity, and the Digital Cookie® platform online, which GSUSA launched in 2014. When the COVID-19 pandemic hit in the middle of the 2020 season and girls were faced with the same challenges as other small businesses, girls in the Central Coast quickly pivoted their sales methods. From marketing their cookie businesses online to facilitating orders that ship directly to customers' door, girls as young as five years old are continuing to embrace their entrepreneurial spirits, stay connected to their communities, and have fun by participating in the cookie program. And, the proceeds from each and every purchase stay local with the troop and its council to power Girl Scouts' essential leadership programming.

For all locations and their corresponding business hours, visit www.girlscoutscoc.org for more information. As always, the proceeds benefit the troop and council while providing another innovative way to safely run the cookie program virtually. GSUSA is grateful to Grubhub for waiving all fees for the organization to make this new delivery option feasible for sales without reducing troops' and councils' proceeds.

This year, Girl Scouts of California's Central Coast will offer the new Toast-Yay!™ cookie, a French toast-inspired cookie dipped in delicious icing and full of flavor in every bite. Toast-Yay! gives consumers a new way to celebrate moments of joy alongside other favorites, like Thin Mints® and Caramel deLites®. And though social distancing measures may keep families and friends apart, cookie customers can share joy and stay connected this season through a gift-box option that ships directly

to others via the Digital Cookie platform.

Girl Scout Cookie season is recognized in the Central Coast through March 14, 2021. Consumers can support Girl Scouts by purchasing Thin Mints®, Peanut Butter Patties®, Shortbread®, and more in a few different ways:

If you don't know a Girl Scout, visit www.girlscoutcookies.org, text COOKIES to 59618 (message and data rates may apply. Text STOPGS for STOP, HELPGS for help), or use the official Girl Scout Cookie Finder app for free on iOS or Android devices to find cookies in your area.

Current Ventura Unified School

Continued from page 1

program that he is proposing, and how that will be impacting schools and districts. We have been told that funding may be an average of \$425 per student, along with a discounted rate of \$35 per test, which both have been mentioned. However, the best information that we have been able to find in Ventura County is that the cost per test will likely be more in the \$50 range. If we are required to test teachers and students as proposed (every two weeks), that money, from the grant, will be gone in a matter of a couple of months, and will not address any of the other impacts of COVID-19 that we are experiencing. I am also concerned about local testing and lab result processing capacity. Obviously, when you add many people to the testing pool, the capacity is going to be pushed. Testing is of a limited value if the results are not promptly provided."

According to Dr. Rice, "The parameters to reopen also include what color tier we're in, which is based on the case rate per 1,000, and also the positivity rate of testing. We are currently in the deep purple tier with a positivity rate of 15.4%. We need to be below 8%, which we're not even close to."

Regarding the COVID-19 Vaccine, Dr Rice said, "Now, since mid-January, some of our staff our eligible for the vaccine. This includes our school nurses, health techs, school psychologists, and the occupational therapists. Educators and staff probably will be eligible very soon. I don't think their will be a problem for the educators/staff to want to be vaccinated since they are keenly aware of wanting to keep the kids safe. Thus, they will be getting vaccinated on their own without needed our encouragement to do so. Kids will be needing parental permission before they get vaccinated."

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

**“I will be a
President
for all
Americans”
– Joseph
Biden**

Opinion/Editorial



Sheldon Brown
Publisher-Editor

■ All kinds of good stuff at www.venturabreeze.com. Surf reports, weather, past issues, **Scampclub** pets, horoscopes and the current issue. Plus, other goodies.

■ The Ventura Port District Board of Port Commissioners approved a program to defer rental payments for **Ventura Harbor Village** tenants who have been directly impacted by the pandemic. Which is probably all of them. Businesses which have been closed by government order or lost 20% or more of their typical monthly pre-COVID-19 revenue are able to take advantage of the program. This will last, at least for now, through March 31, 2021. And I'm sure will be extended again.

■ A man found dead last week on the sidewalk in front of a vacant lot in Ventura has been identified. Anthony Miller, 42, of Ventura, died of a stab wound in the chest, according to the Ventura County Medical Examiner's Office. Miller was listed as homeless, according to the medical examiner's office. Ventura police were called just before 7 a.m., on Dec. 28, about a body found in the 100 block of Leighton Drive off N. Ventura Avenue.

Miller was the fourth **homicide victim** reported in Ventura in 2020.

■ The Ventura City Council rejected an appeal of the city Planning Commission's approval of a planned 50,000-square-foot **Veterans Affairs** outpatient clinic in Ventura. The council voted unanimously, 7-0, to deny the appeal of the Planning Commission's approval in November of the planned U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs clinic. The project can now move forward and replace a smaller VA clinic located in Oxnard.

The appeal was filed by Pasadena attorney Mitchell Tsai on behalf of the Southwest Regional Council of Carpenters, a labor union representing more than 50,000 carpenters in six states.

Even though the stated purpose of the appeal cited environmental review asserting that the project's noise, air quality and other

impacts were not adequately analyzed or disclosed, it was more about using local tradesmen on the project.

The council adopted a resolution upholding the Planning Commission's finding that the project's initial environmental study appropriately discussed and mitigated the negative environmental impacts and upholding the Planning Commission's approval of the project.

A third resolution was also adopted by the council, urging the project's contractor to use local union workers when possible (what about non-union workers?) The question is what is local? City of Ventura, County of Ventura? Always good to keep the money in Ventura but the contractor still has no legal obligation to do this.

The new one-story clinic, which will be run by the VA, is planned for the eight-acre site at 5250 Ralston St., which is the former home of the Ventura County Star that can be seen from the freeway.

City spokesperson Heather Sumagaysay stated, "With the council's denial of the appeal, the project can now move forward in obtaining the necessary permits to demolish the existing building, begin grading and then constructing the new clinic." It is expected to be completed in April of 2022.

The VA will pay an annual fee of \$3.1 million and \$9.7 million to develop the new space.

■ The House of Representatives has approved legislation that would decriminalize **marijuana** and seek to "address the devastating injustices caused by the War on Drugs." The vote in the Democratic led House is the first time a chamber of Congress has voted on federal marijuana decriminalization.

The bill passed largely along party lines: 222 Democrats, five Republicans and a libertarian, voted in support while 158 Republicans and six Democrats voted against it. Those voting against it will need to still smoke pot only in their homes.

Hopefully, this will eventually be law. How stupid that decriminalized marijuana is legal in most states but not by the government.

■ I want to thank Trump for giving us our first female vice president, and Biden.

I'm glad that the inauguration went smoothly, but it is a shame that it took 25,000 military to help make that happen. Even though, at times, I thought that the inauguration was a revival meeting.

How bad for America that leaders and residents of other countries had to see what occurred here and stir their belief in what democracy stands for. Hopefully, Biden, and other future presidents, can change this.

I wish **Biden** the best, but he has inherited a broken country with 400,000 COVID-19 deaths and rising (much more if you count those who died because they couldn't get care they needed due to full hospitals and ICU's and also avoiding the hospital) a broken economy, a minor civil war plus the impact of climate change.

So nice to watch CNN without getting aggravated and depressed.

The Biden administration has rejoined the Paris Agreement. Clean Power Alliance Executive Director Ted Bardacke stated, "On behalf of Clean Power Alliance (CPA), I want to express my profound appreciation and congratulations to President Biden for his Executive Order to rejoin the Paris Agreement. With climate change being one of the most crucial issues facing humanity, it is paramount that our nation be among the leaders in this fight at the global level."

I oppose presidents (not just Trump because other presidents have pardoned more people), and governors having pardon rights. Presidential pardons were from the 1787 Constitutional Convention when Alexander Hamilton suggested giving the president the power to pardon people who have committed crimes.

George Washington granted pardons to two men behind the 1794 Whiskey Rebellion. That rebellion was a response to a federal tax placed on alcohol. Washington pardoned the insurgents in the final days of his second term, sighting the need to temper justice with mercy.

One of the most controversial pardons was in 1974, after President Richard Nixon was forced to resign in the wake of the Watergate scandal. His successor Gerald Ford issued Nixon an unconditional pardon for any crimes Nixon "may" have committed.

Mailbox

Sheldon.....

Feel as you might about Trump, this is America. I started to read your commentary and was stopped when you said, "for those who belong to the party of "law and order" saying it so sarcastically about the Republican Party, really? Like we don't want law and order. You should be ashamed of yourself!

What about all the rioting during the so called "peaceful" demonstrations by Black Lives Matter? Burning our businesses. Maxine Waters telling rioters among others to go for it!!

I cannot even continue to read it, I'm disappointed in you.

Please consider all Americans instead of your own hatred.

Trudy Smith

Trudy:

I am not ashamed of anything that I have said about Trump. Just as, I assume, you are proud of what you feel about Trump. As you say, this is America where we can still all have our own opinions. Thanks for reading the Ventura Breeze I hope you enjoy the rest of the paper.

"What about all the rioting during the so called "peaceful" demonstrations by Black Lives Matter? "What about it? I certainly don't approve of them either. And certainly, would condemn them for storming the capitol and trying to disrupt a peaceful transition to a

new president.

Are you suggesting I have hatred because of my dislike for Trump? You don't know me, I am a very caring and loving person. And if I am a hating person only because of my dislike for Trump then over 50% of Americans are also hateful people.

Hopefully in your next email to me you will explain why you think Trump was a good president.

Sheldon

Breeze:

Thank you Sheldon to you and your staff – I really look forward to each new edition of the Ventura Breeze!! I appreciate your candor, perspective, coverage of local happenings and interesting articles of interest to residents and visitors alike! The ads usually are pertinent too.

Yvonne Besvold

Dear Breeze,

Socialists are fighting the good fight, while American fascists are only fighting for what's in their best interests. Socialists come from a place of generosity, inclusion and compassion for others. They seek justice for the oppressed. Fascists, also known as the Far Right, only care about staying in power at any cost. The differences between these two opposing groups are reflected in what they have chosen

to protest in the past few years.

Socialists speak out against racism, police violence, anti-abortion and anti-Immigrant advocacy, child-abuse at the border and elsewhere, war, misogyny, fascism, out of control capitalism, U.S. Imperialism and voter suppression. On the other hand, fascists groups like the Proud Boys, violently protest against Jewish people, Muslims, people of color, anti-racism, fair voting results, immigrants, gun safety, pandemic and climate change science, healthcare as a human right and mask-wearing. They also support dictatorial leaders.

Which side do you see Venturans supporting? The violent White power thugs or the folks who are standing up to these bullies, and pushing back on the injustices and oppression that so many have experienced in America for decades, if not centuries? Our culture has to change for the better and we must follow the lead of socialists. It is the only way this country will survive in a way that all people can thrive and live in peace.

Sincerely,

The Democratic Socialists of America -
Ventura County Chapter

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



News & Notes



Mary Haffner is on the Ventura Behavioral Health Board.

Providing a treatment facility/continuum of care for those with serious mental illness in Ventura County

by Carol Leish

The mission statement of the Ventura County Behavior Health Department is: 'To provide the highest quality prevention, intervention, treatment, and support to persons with mental health issues.'

Mary Haffner, a Ventura resident, who has been on the Ventura Behavioral Health Board since April, 2015, stresses the importance/need for more inpatient beds here in Ventura County. She said, "Right now, as one of the only large California counties with no effective plan to divert seriously mentally ill people away from jails, no assessment and attendant plan for the appropriate number of acute and subacute beds and supportive housing needed, we are implementing in the dark through a system uninformed by data and assessment. What we have is piecemeal and disjointed resulting in fiscally irresponsibility and poor health outcomes."

In 2005, Ventura County began receiving millions of dollars from Prop. 63 earmarked for people with serious mental illness. According to Haffner, "This money was received for the purpose of implementing programs and erecting facilities to help ensure that so these illnesses would not become more serious and disabling, to help alleviate the cycle of homelessness, incarceration, and hospitalization. For a population of 843,000, one 36 bed public inpatient psychiatric unit, one 16 bed locked Mental Health Rehabilitation Center (MHRC), one 15 bed unlocked MHRC, one 30-day, a 16 bed Crisis Residential treatment center and 45 slots of adult residential treatment housing for people with serious mental illness is woefully deficient and does not represent a long-term, health outcome-based, and fiscally responsible strategy."

According to Haffner, "People with serious mental illness are often arrested for committing crimes and infractions they would not have committed if they had received treatment for their illness. There is no place for them to go once

released either from jail or mental health court. We don't provide enough or adequate housing. Homelessness and/or reincarceration or re-hospitalization are inevitable without these supports."

"Effective crisis service, psychiatric beds, inpatient step-downs, best practice treatment, housing and post discharge supports from acute care facilities and jails are all lacking," according to Haffner. "Ventura County has no effective diversion programs or initiatives aimed as keeping people with serious mental illness out of jail. Ventura County has only 36 public inpatient psychiatric beds and 4 Crisis Support Unit chairs for a population of 845,000. Santa Barbara County, a county with 400,000 fewer residents, just opened 80 beds, which brings their total to 96. Vista del Mar has 55 beds. But Vista del Mar is a private facility who can choose who they admit. A determination regarding, 'budget neutrality,' that's important to the CEO of Ventura County, must include an analysis of the costs of failing to provide these in demand services."

Providing prompt and effective treatment for people living with these serious illnesses is important. Haffner said, 'Budgets cannot be accurate if we do not also factor in the costs associated with not providing the appropriate level of care. For the population that lives with serious mental illness, our failure to provide treatment and facilities is costly. We need to be able to take an honest look at what is needed, generate a plan, and then work to fill these gaps. Other counties are doing this.'

But it is not enough just to have the beds and the facilities. Haffner said, "We need a continuum of care for this population, which would include: a promise to provide best practice treatment; appropriate staffing; effective outreach and engagement; post-discharge supports; and, appropriate housing in our communities, not out of the county. And, we need to do so in the most effective and efficient way possible."



Ventura County Leadership Academy announces new board member

Ventura County Leadership Academy recently announced the addition of Darren Kettle to its board of directors. "Our board is comprised of a dedicated team of community leaders committed to strengthening our county. We're excited to have Darren join the board, bringing his knowledge, passion, and expertise to further our mission." said Brad "Brick" Conners, Ventura County Leadership

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News & Notes



Howell will be responsible for strategizing and implementing editorial opportunities.

Coverly Professional Services, Inc. Communications Specialist

Closing out its 10th Anniversary year, Coverly Professional Services, Inc. (CoverlyPro) announced that Maaeah Howell has joined the team as a Communications Specialist. In this capacity, Howell will be responsible for strategizing and implementing editorial opportunities for clients, delivering SEO empowered copywriting, and supporting social media efforts with analytics, engagement, and developmental growth.

The forward-thinking, marketing project management firm welcomed

Howell in early January. She brings with her a strong journalism background, with a focus in copy and ghostwriting. A native German speaker, Howell has experience as a content creator, blogger and brand ambassador with an emphasis on targeting global audiences. Howell offers a creative and analytical perspective, and incorporates her international experiences gained through studying, working, and living abroad as leverage to reach worldwide engagement.

"Maaeah is a welcome addition to our growing team," said Lynnette Coverly, Founder and CEO of Coverly Professional Services, Inc. "Her real-life experiences of living and working abroad have given her a global perspective so needed in our world today. Certainly, our clients and our team will benefit from her unique perspectives." CoverlyPro remains committed to embracing staff with diverse backgrounds to fit its multi-faceted client portfolio.

First responders honor health care staff

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President and CEO of St. John's Pleasant Valley Hospital and St. John's Regional Medical Center. "The show of solidarity serves as an inspiration for our staff, who have worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic to provide care for our communities."

This gesture of kindness offers a much-needed boost for the health care heroes of SJRMC.



Dr. Lissa Barger, Dr. Nessa Meshkaty and Host Sandra Siepak at Our Ventura TV.

Our Ventura TV features introduction to COVID-19 Vaccinations

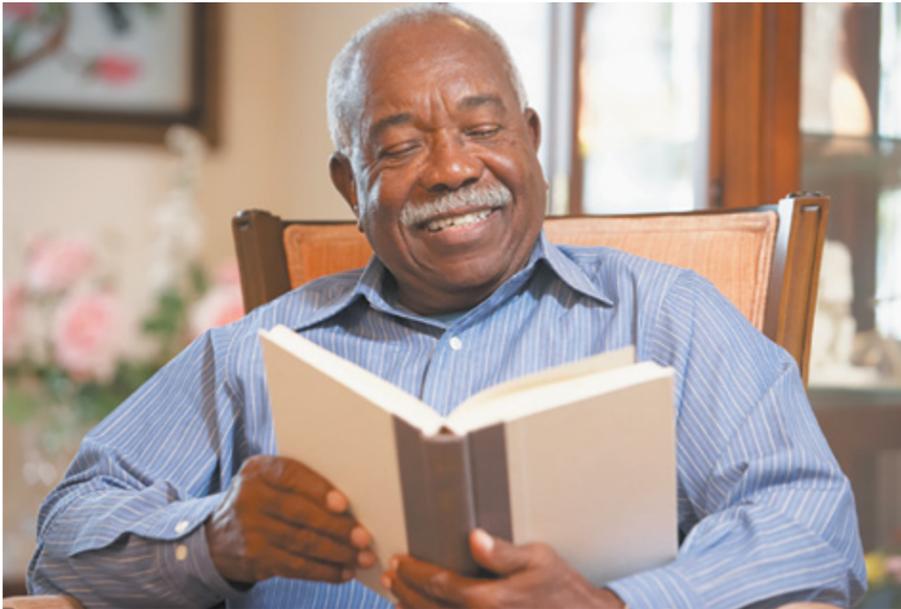
Dr. Lissa Barger and Dr. Nessa Meshkaty, Infectious Disease Physicians with Oceanview Medical in Ventura, recently joined Our Ventura TV host Sandra Siepak for a discussion on the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccines available in Ventura County.

They shared more on how the vaccines work, offer protection, their long-term effects, safety and advice during COVID-19. With safety being the priority, Dr. Barger and Dr. Meshkaty also discuss and encourage continued use of masks and social distancing to slow COVID-19's spread. "Our discussion answers many important questions about the vaccines and how we can all better protect ourselves during the pandemic," explained host Sandra Siepak.

The Our Ventura TV interview with Dr. Lissa Barger and Dr. Nessa Meshkaty is available online at www.ourventura.com. Our Ventura TV is an award-winning weekly talk show broadcast on Ventura Cable Channel 6 TV and also published online as well as on social media networks. To become a guest and for more information on the program go to the website and click "contact."



Senior Living



“Reading is enjoyable and good for my mind.”

Keep your mind active

Being intellectually engaged may benefit the brain. People who engage in personally meaningful activities, such as volunteering or hobbies, say they feel happier and healthier. Learning new skills may improve your thinking ability, too. For example, one study found that older adults who learned quilting or digital photography had more memory improvement than those who only socialized or did less cognitively demanding activities. Some of the research on engagement in activities such as music, theater, dance, and creative writing has shown promise for improving quality of life and well-being in older adults, from better memory and self-esteem to reduced stress and increased social interaction.

However, a recent, comprehensive report reviewing the design and findings of these and other studies did not find strong evidence that these types of activities have a lasting, beneficial effect on cognition. Additional research is needed, and in large numbers of diverse older adults, to be able to say definitively whether these activities may help reduce decline or maintain healthy cognition.

Lots of activities can keep your mind active. For example, read books and magazines. Play games. Take or teach a class. Learn a new skill or hobby. Work or volunteer. These types of mentally stimulating activities have not been proven to prevent serious cognitive impairment or Alzheimer’s disease, but they can be fun! Plus, findings from observational studies suggest that some informal mentally stimulating activities, such as reading or playing games, may lower the risk of Alzheimer’s-related cognitive impairment and dementia.

Some scientists have argued that such activities may protect the brain by establishing “cognitive reserve.” They may help the brain become more adaptable in some mental functions so it can compensate for age-related brain changes and health conditions that affect the brain.

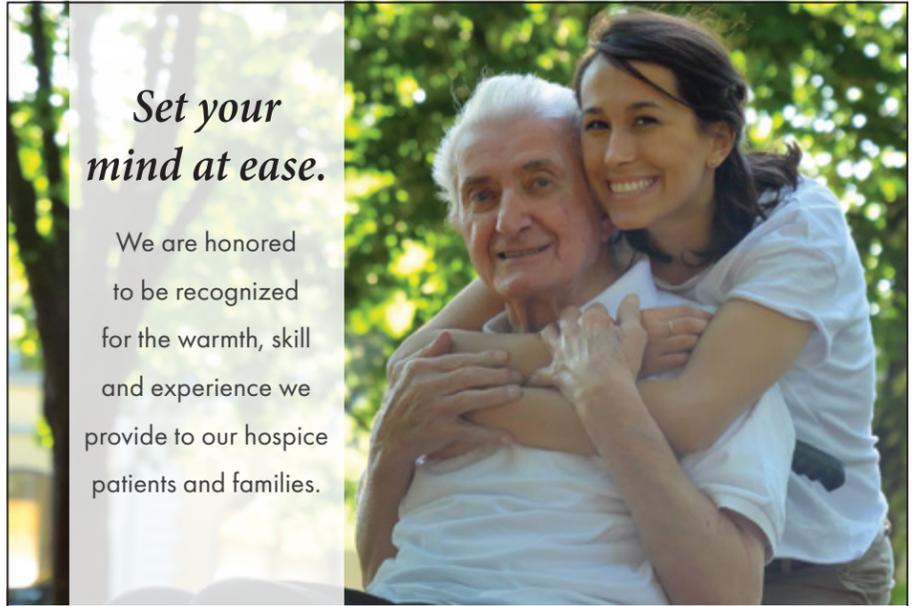
Some types of cognitive training conducted in a research setting also seem to have benefits. For the Advanced Cognitive Training for Independent and Vital Elderly (ACTIVE) trial, healthy adults 65 and older participated in 10 sessions of memory training, reasoning training, or processing-speed training. The sessions improved participants’ mental skills in the area in which they were trained with evidence suggesting these benefits persisted for two years.

Be wary of claims that playing certain computer and online games can improve your memory and other types of thinking as evidence to back up such claims is evolving. There is currently not enough evidence available to suggest that computer-based brain training applications offered commercially have the same impact on cognitive abilities as the ACTIVE study training. NIA and other organizations are supporting research to determine whether different types of cognitive training have lasting effects.

Comparing health care providers

Looking for a way to find and compare health care providers? Check out Medicare.gov to get helpful information about doctors, hospitals, and other health care services in your area, based on your individual needs.

See contact information, directions, and quality ratings for:
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Sincerely,
 The Medicare Team

Seniors Craft Shoppe seeks new members

Do You have an artistic flare? Are you skilled in a craft?

The Seniors Craft Shoppe in downtown Ventura is just the place you need to associate with other artists and crafts persons and put your pieces on display for sale in a retail store. We are seeking new members. If you are a Ventura County resident aged 50 years or older, and interested, please call or visit our Shoppe at 429 E. Main St. Our phone number is (805) 643-3059. Our current hours are Thursday through Sunday from noon to 5:00 PM.

World War II veteran has 99th birthday with a drive-by celebration

Not every World War II hero carried a gun. In the case of Ventura World War II veteran Jack. D. Schulz, his battle-

front was IBM’s newfangled “tabulation machine” that was then considered cutting-edge warfare technology.

The veteran who helped win the war with his prowess on the keyboard celebrated his 99th birthday on Saturday, January 16, with a drive-by parade that included the Ventura City Police and Fire Departments.

The drive-by celebration was held at the Turning Point Foundation’s Veterans Transitional Housing Program at 43 East Vince Street in Ventura.

Schulz was born in Michigan in 1922, when Prohibition was sweeping across the nation and President Warren G. Harding gave his first radio address. Schulz lived through the Great Depression and was drafted into the U.S. Army in 1944, at the age of 22.

When Army officials learned Schulz could type an accurate 40 words per minute on an Underwood manual typewriter, they put him to work on a machine IBM had invented that was a lot like today’s laptop computer when compared to the unwieldy wall-to-wall computers of 1944.

Schulz was stationed in California where he learned to input data with this new technology, which was designed to support the troops overseas. At the end of the war, Schulz was honorably discharged as a Tech-5 specialist and was awarded an Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal.

Schulz remained in sunny Southern California and convinced his mother and grandmother to relocate with him from Michigan and its frigid winters to the seaside city of Port Hueneme. He enrolled in the University of Southern California (USC) on the GI Bill and earned a bachelor’s degree in Marketing. Work was

Continued on page 8



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Maria hugged the robotic dog and kissed its nose.

VCAAA Voice: COVID-19 Continuum of Person- Centered Service

by Jannette Jauregui

The smile on Maria's face said it all.

The Santa Paula woman is among the more than 200,000 older adults

currently living in Ventura County. Like many of her peers, Maria has been isolating at home for nearly a year now as part of an effort to remain safe and healthy as the County's number of COVID-19 cases continues to rise.

Her smile that day came from a robotic companion pet delivered to her by Ventura County Area Agency on Aging (VCAAA) social worker, Ana Lett. As Maria hugged the dog and kissed its nose it became clear that, in that moment, the fear and loneliness associated with the pandemic were no more.

"It was an honor to have been able to make this delivery happen because seeing Maria's reaction to her pet was what I needed," Lett said. "The joy it brought was everything."

The comfort brought to Maria that day meant the goal of the VCAAA's Robotic Companion Pet Program was a success. It meant that the isolation Maria has faced might be a bit more manageable.

With a person-centered focus, the VCAAA continues to work to expand existing services that address the needs of individuals navigating the twists and turns of COVID-19. The implementation of a Robotic Companion Pet Program for the Agency's case management clients is just one of the innova-

Senior Living

tive methods used to combat isolation, loneliness, and depression.

Prior to COVID-19, VCAAA social workers conducted home visits throughout Ventura County to assess the specific needs of individual clients. The visits often served as the only social interaction clients received in a day or even in a week.

When home visits became prohibited due to an increased risk of exposure to the coronavirus, the VCAAA team pivoted and began offering porch visits in which the social worker wears a mask and maintains a safe, social distance while also having the opportunity to assess and address individual needs. The porch visits serve as a lifeline for many reeling from the negative effects of isolation.

In addition to robotic companion pets and porch visits, the VCAAA offers COVID-19 Care Kits for people sheltering at home that include gloves, masks, sanitizer, soap, and other critical resources to help individuals stay safe should they need to leave their home. Other program expansions include increased access to meal and food resources as part of the Agency's Senior Nutrition Program, and a virtual line-up of classes designed to educate people 60 and older with tips to eat healthy on a budget.

The Fall Prevention Program now offers socially distanced classes in a safe, outdoor setting with a focus on keeping participants active and engaged while also strengthening balance and mobility. The ElderHelp program continues to offer access to transportation via bus tickets, Uber,

and Medi-Rides. Included in this service are rides to COVID-19 testing sites and vaccination sites (once the vaccination becomes more readily available). ElderHelp also provides services for home modifications such as grab bars.

The VCAAA's Information and Assistance team received nearly three times the number of requests for service in 2020 than in previous years, solidifying what most already know – that the COVID-19 crisis has changed the landscape of needs and how those needs are fulfilled. But as the landscape shifts, the VCAAA's dedication and commitment to continue person-centered service remains steadfast. For more information on VCAAA services, please visit www.vcaaa.org or call (805) 477-7300.

World War II veteran

Continued from page 7

hard to come by after the war, but Schulz landed a position doing deliveries while also caring for his grandmother and later, his mother.

Still, Schulz found time to be a community volunteer for 14 years. He married, but his wife passed away in 2017. They had no children, and Schulz said a lawyer who handled his estate took all of his assets, leaving him with nothing but a van, forcing him to start all over.

Schulz lived homeless in his van for two years until 2019, when he was referred to Ventura County Veteran's Services and then to the Turning Point Foundation. Schulz's full story has been archived in Washington, D.C. through the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW).

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Senior Living



“Continue Mrs. Johnson I’m taking notes.”

Talking to your doctor

Asking questions is key to good communication with your doctor. If you don't ask questions, he or she may assume you already know the answer or that you don't want more information. Don't wait for the doctor to raise a specific question or subject; he or she may not know it's important to you. Be proactive. Ask questions when you don't know the meaning of a word (like aneurysm, hypertension, or infarct) or when instructions aren't clear (for example, does taking medicine with food mean before, during, or after a meal?).

Sometimes, doctors need to do blood tests, x-rays, or other procedures to find out what is wrong or to learn more about your medical condition. Some tests, such as Pap tests, mammograms, glaucoma tests, and screenings for prostate and colorectal cancer, are done regularly to check for hidden medical problems.

Before having a medical test, ask your doctor to explain why it is important, what it will show, and what it will cost. Ask what kind of things you need to do to prepare for the test. For example, you may need to have an empty stomach, or you may have to provide a urine sample. Ask how you will be notified of the test results and how long they will take to come in.

Questions to Ask Your Doctor Before a Medical Test

Why is the test being done?

What steps does the test involve? How should I get ready?

Are there any dangers or side effects?

How will I find out the results? How long will it take to get the results?

What will we know after the test?

When the results are ready, make sure the doctor tells you what they are and explains what they mean. You may want to ask your doctor for a written copy of the test results. If the test is done by a specialist, ask to have the results sent to your primary doctor.

There is a lot of information online about medical tests. The National Library of Medicine's MedlinePlus website provides links to many trustworthy resources. You can get information on preparing for lab tests, explanations of different tests, and tips on interpreting lab test results.

Discuss Your Diagnosis and What to Expect

A diagnosis identifies your disease or physical problem. The doctor makes a diagnosis based on the symptoms you are experiencing and the results of the physical exam, laboratory work, and other tests.

If you understand your medical condition, you can help make better decisions about treatment. If you know what to expect, it may be easier for you to deal with the condition.

Ask the doctor to tell you the name of

the condition and why he or she thinks you have it. Ask how it may affect you and how long it might last. Some medical problems never go away completely. They can't be cured, but they can be treated or managed.

Questions to Ask Your Doctor About Your Diagnosis

What may have caused this condition?

Will it be permanent?

How is this condition treated or managed?

What will be the long-term effects on my life?

How can I learn more about my condition?

Escape for a whale watch trip or island excursion!

Because of the spike in Covid-19 cases in Ventura County, Island Packers, boat concessionaire to Channel Islands National Park, public boat transportation has been closed since December 21st. For the sake of all those affected by the pandemic they hope the numbers soon drop significantly. Once hospital capacities exceed 15%, they expect to be given the green light by the County to resume safe operations for transportation to the National Park and Marine Sanctuary.

All trips will continue to run at just 50% capacity with pandemic protocols still in place. (Visit islandpackers.com for a detailed description.) The staff are well trained in the protocols and they have a good track record in keeping passengers safe and comfortable.

The office and gift shop are currently open daily (except Wednesdays) from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for information and reservations. Once open boat trips will fill quickly as we are entering the high season.

Please consider reserving your trip well in advance by telephone or by booking online. If there are extended closures due to continued high case numbers, we will contact you to either reschedule, remain on hold, or receive a refund.

Gray Whales will continue to migrate through the region until mid-April, and we have also had sporadic sightings of Humpbacks and Orca. The island trails will be greening up soon. Come on out to whale watch, hike, kayak, camp, explore, and adventure.

Island Packers staff and management thank you for all your support. Because of you, we will get through this challenging time.

I Love Our Residents!



“Since I started my nursing career, I have always had a passion for working with seniors. When I started working at The Palms at Bonaventure over 10 years ago I knew I was home and I have loved making a difference in the lives of our seniors every day since then. There is nothing more rewarding than seeing smiles on their faces and knowing they are safe and loved by our staff.”

— Brandy McCauley, Administrator

At The Palms at Bonaventure, we get to know all of our residents on a personal level because being part of their lives fills our hearts with joy. We strive to provide each resident with the unique personal care they need while helping to maintain the highest quality of life. Our health services staff includes caregivers available 24/7, so you can have peace of mind knowing you are safe and secure.

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The Pet Page



Dedicated to Scamp

■ SPAN Thrift Store is now open to the public and looking for donations of adult clothing, household items and tools if you've got items you no longer use.

SPAN Thrift Store is providing \$10 spays and neuters for low income households with cats and dogs.

Two upcoming clinics are:

Tuesday, February 2nd at SPAN Thrift Store parking lot 110 N. Olive St. (behind Vons on Main), and a second at Albert H. Soliz Library - El Rio, 2820 Jourdan St., Oxnard, on Tuesday, February 9th.

Please call to schedule an appointment (805) 584-3823.

■ Pet owners and veterinarians are being warned about recalled Sportmix pet food products now linked to the deaths of more than 70 dogs and the illnesses of 80 others.

Midwestern Pet Food is expanding its recall of dog and cat food sold online by retailers nationwide as the U.S. Food and Drug Administration investigates potentially fatal levels of aflatoxins.

Midwestern, based in Evansville, Indiana, is broadening a prior recall to include all pet foods manufactured in the company's Oklahoma plant containing corn and having an expiration date on or before July 9, 2022. The recalled products include "05" in the date/lot code, which identifies them as having been made in the Oklahoma plant. More than 1,000 lot codes are affected.

The company in December recalled only certain lots of its Sportmix product after the deaths of at least 28 canines and the illnesses of eight others. The Missouri Department of Agriculture tested multiple product samples and found high levels of aflatoxins, which are toxins produced by mold that can cause death and illness in pets, according to the FDA. The toxins can be present even if there is no visible mold, the agency cautioned.

Pets with aflatoxin poisoning may have symptoms such as sluggishness, loss of appetite, vomiting, jaundice (yellowish tint to the eyes or gums due to liver damage) and diarrhea. Pets can also suffer liver damage without showing symptoms.

"FDA is issuing this advisory to notify the public about the potentially fatal levels of aflatoxins in Midwestern pet food products that may still be on store shelves, online or in pet owners' homes," the agency stated in an alert posted Monday. "We continue a thorough review of our facilities and practices in full cooperation with FDA," the nearly 100-year-old company said Tuesday in a statement. "Until recently, throughout our long history, we've never had a product recall."

Customers with questions can reach a call center at (800) 474-4163, ext. 455,

or email info@midwesternpetfoods.com.

■ Face masks for pets has increased in 2020 but top vets told Insider you shouldn't put a mask on your pet. Sales for New York-based Pet Masks increased roughly sixfold during the pandemic, the Southwest News Service (SWNS) reported.

People had previously bought the \$25 masks as a novelty or to protect their cats and dogs from pollution. But sales have boomed during the pandemic as people look to protect both their pets and themselves from COVID-19. This is despite the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and UK vet charity PDSA all telling people not to put masks on their animals because it can distress them as well as making it difficult for them to breathe.

■ A study of dog DNA has shown that our "best friend" in the animal world may also be our oldest one. The analysis reveals that dog domestication can be traced back 11,000 years, to the end of the last Ice Age.

This confirms that dogs were domesticated before any other known species.

Our canine companions were widespread across the northern hemisphere at this time, and had already split into five different types.

Despite the expansion of European dogs during the colonial era, traces of these ancient indigenous breeds survive today in the Americas, Asia, Africa and Oceania.

The research fills in some of the gaps in the natural history of our close animal companions.

Dr Pontus Skoglund, co-author of the study and group leader of the Ancient Genomics laboratory at London's Crick Institute, told BBC News: "Dogs are really unique in being this quite strange thing if you think about it, when all people were still hunter gatherers, they domesticate what is really a wild carnivore - wolves are pretty frightening in many parts of the world."

"The question of why did people do that? How did that come about? That's what we're ultimately interested in."

■ **By Rachel Nuwer**

It's easy to understand why early humans domesticated dogs as their new best friends. Tame canines can guard against predators and interlopers, carry supplies, pull sleds and provide warmth during cold nights. But those benefits only come following domestication. Despite more than a century of study, scientists have struggled to understand what triggered the domestication process in the first place. A new theory described today in Scientific Reports posits that hunter-gatherers whose omnivorous digestive system prevented too much protein consumption likely shared surplus meat with wolves. Those scraps may have initiated a step toward domestication.

Scamp Club

(Scampclub pets are not for adoption.)



Hi! I'm Savana, an 8-year-old Himalayan kitty-kat. Because I am a very slow reader I spend most of my time reading the Ventura Breeze. I especially like the pet page of course.

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.

"This is the first time that we have an ecological explanation for dog domestication," says lead author Maria Lahtinen, a senior researcher at the Finnish Food Authority and a visiting scholar at the Finnish Museum of Natural History. "I personally don't think that there is a simple, easy answer behind dog domestication, but we need to see the full picture and complexity of the process."

Lahtinen did not originally set out to solve a long-standing dog mystery. Instead, she was studying the diet of late Pleistocene hunter-gatherers in Arctic and sub-Arctic Eurasia. At that time, around 20,000 to 15,000 years ago, the world was engulfed in the coldest period of the last ice age. In frigid environments then, as today, humans tended to derive the majority of their food from animals. Nutritional deficiencies came from the absence of fat and carbohydrates, not necessarily protein. Indeed, if humans eat too much meat, diarrhea usually ensues. And within weeks, they can develop protein poisoning and even die. "Because we humans are not fully adapted to a carnivorous diet, we simply cannot digest protein very well," Lahtinen says. "It can be very fatal in a very short period of time."

During the coldest years of the last ice age—and especially in harsh Arctic and sub-Arctic winters—reindeer, wild horses and other human prey animals

would have been eking out an existence, nearly devoid of fat and composed mostly of lean muscle. Using previously published early fossil records, Lahtinen and her colleagues calculated that the game captured by people in the Arctic and sub-Arctic during this time would have provided much more protein than they could have safely consumed.

In more ecologically favorable conditions, wolves and humans would have been competing for the same prey animals. But under the harsh circumstances of the Arctic and sub-Arctic ice age winter, sharing excess meat with canines would have cost people nothing. The descendants of wolves that took advantage of such handouts would have become more docile toward their bipedal benefactors over time, and they likely went on to become the first domesticated dogs. As the authors point out, the theory makes sense not just ecologically but also geographically: the earliest Paleolithic dog discoveries primarily come from areas that were very cold at the time.

The new study presents a "fascinating idea about lean protein being a food that humans would have discarded but wolves may have relied on during winter months in the Arctic," says Brian Hare, an evolutionary anthropologist at Duke University, who was not involved in the work. "I think it offers another vital clue for how the human-dog partnership might have been initially fueled."

Mother Goose and Grimm



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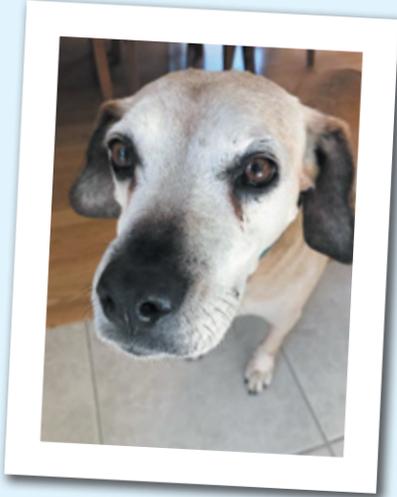
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The Pet Page

Forever homes wanted

Sweet senior gal Audrey is looking for her shot at getting to love someone during her golden years. She is an absolute snuggle bug and just wants to be cuddled on your lap. Audrey loves getting her massages in return for cuddles. And who could resist those darling eyes. Canine Adoption and Rescue League C.A.R.L.



Rufio was found as a stray with repeated stab wounds. He was taken immediately to our medical department who took care of his numerous injuries. The vet staff report that he has been a great patient, is very sweet, tolerant and loves butt scratches. Our other staff report that he is a sweet boy. We haven't gotten him in playgroup yet, but he has met some other dogs through the kennel door and

seemed to be okay with them. If you have another dog at home, bring them along for a meet and greet. Just look at that smile! We think it's time for this sweet 2-year-old boy to have a home where he is loved and protected.

Ventura County Animal Services – Camarillo location – 600 Aviation Drive
Rufio A765119

Ventura's Water security requires investment now

by Susan Rungren
Ventura Water General Manager

Did you know Ventura is one of the largest cities in Southern California to rely solely on local water supplies? Rainfall feeds the Ventura River, Lake Casitas, and local groundwater basins to meet all the water needs of our community.

Water is at the core of our identity and the future of its security is in jeopardy. Although our community's conservation efforts have reduced water use by 20 percent, Ventura's rain-dependent water supplies remain vulnerable to future droughts.

Additionally, results of ongoing litigation will likely limit or reduce the amount of water the City can withdraw from the Ventura River, which currently accounts for roughly 20 percent of Ventura's water supply.

Groundwater—which supplies more than half of Ventura's water—is expected to continue to decline due to recent regulations.

To maintain essential services and protect our water resources, Ventura must continually invest in our water and wastewater systems. Investments will allow us to improve water quality, replace old pipelines and aging infrastructure, meet regulatory requirements, and secure water supply for the future.

The City has a two-pronged approach to address our critical water supply challenges: recycle the water we already have, and access additional water supplies through the State Water Project.

The VenturaWaterPure Project will help

us keep the water we already have. Currently, 8 to 9 million gallons of treated wastewater from the Ventura's Water Reclamation Facility is discharged into the Santa Clara River Estuary each day. This is water that could be better used for our community.

This initiative will divert treated wastewater to an advanced purification facility where it will be purified to drinking water standards and injected into local groundwater basins. This approach will provide a new, drought-resistant water supply, offering up to an additional 3,600 acre-feet of water per year, representing approximately 23 percent of the City's existing supply.

VenturaWaterPure will use an advanced water purification process to produce safe, high-quality drinking water. This purification technology is currently used throughout California, in other states, and internationally. VenturaWaterPure will address Ventura's water needs by provide a reliable, sustainable water supply.

The City currently holds an entitlement from the State Water Project but cannot currently take direct delivery due to a lack of infrastructure to deliver that water. The State Water Interconnection Project will enable Ventura to access the water we have had rights to since the 1970s. A new 7-mile pipeline will allow Ventura to tap into its State Water entitlement, addressing anticipated cutbacks in existing local supply sources. Additionally, the pipeline will enable deliveries between regional agencies during emergencies.

These critical investments, while costly, will offer lasting water security for our community. Currently, the City is undergoing a Water and Wastewater Rate Study to ensure sufficient revenue is available to operate and maintain our existing systems and to invest in these forward-looking projects. Rates must be continually reviewed and adjusted to repair and replace aging in-

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This 'n' That

frastructure, meet regulatory needs, improve water quality, and secure water supply.

In Ventura, water and wastewater rates have remained low compared to neighboring communities. It has been nearly three years since Ventura Water has increased rates. Results of the recent rate study has shown that an annual rate increase of 7 percent for water service and 6 percent for wastewater service is needed over the next five years. For the average homeowner, this will amount to about a \$7.41 increase to a monthly bill, each year for the next five years.

Rate increases are rarely convenient, but now is the time for us to invest in our water and wastewater systems. Deferring project costs, improvements, and upgrades comes at a high price. Safe, clean, and affordable water is vital to life, the local economy, and our community. We hope that our ratepayers, businesses, and policymakers will continue to partner with us to ensure a sustainable and resilient future for our community. More information on the Water and Wastewater Study is available online at www.VenturaWaterRates.net.

Ventura College Foundation provides record support in 2019-20 despite pandemic challenges

The Ventura College Foundation, a nonprofit organization that provides resources and financial support to Ventura College students and to school programs, distributed \$824,548 in financial support during the 2019-2020 academic year—\$699,971 in scholarships, \$84,577 in VC Promise tuition assistance and \$40,000 in textbook support. The annual scholarship distribution was the largest in the foundation's history and was distributed during the COVID-19 pandemic in April.

A total of 427 scholarships (including 17 new scholarship) were awarded to 247 applicants. Over 3,100 students took advantage of the foundation's textbook lending library. All told 5,330 students (41 percent of the student population) received support from the foundation through tuition support, scholarships or textbook lending.

In addition, another \$919,792 of foundation facilitated support went to assist 44 programs in 15 Ventura College departments and divisions.

"Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the VC Foundation had to cut staff, cancel our annual scholarship awarding events, and rework our fundraising strategies. Our on-campus Weekend Marketplace, which generates revenue to run the foundation's day-to-day operations, was closed for over two months," says Anne Paul King, the Ventura College Foundation's executive director. "It reopened with only one third of the vendors and lower gate capacity. It then had to temporarily relocate because of campus construction. Through it all, we have been fortunate to be able to continue our mission to foster and enhance the education of Ventura College students. We are grateful for the generosity of our donors and community members who have made this possible."

For more information on the Ventura College Foundation's financial impact on student education in 2019-2020, <https://venturacollegefoundation.org/foundation-impact>.

Established in 1983, the Ventura College Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization and operates financially independent from Ventura College. It transforms students' lives through education by providing innovative and vital resources and financial support. The Foundation collaborates with Ventura College to enhance human potential, civic engagement, careers and academic success of students enabling their effective impact and legacy on the college, local workforce, and our community. The Foundation also hosts the Ventura College Foundation Marketplace; an outdoor shopping experience held every weekend on the Ventura College campus. For more information, contact Julie Harvey at (805) 289-6502 or jharvey@vcccd.edu or visit www.VenturaCollegeFoundation.org.



Ventura Music Scene



With Ventura moving back into the “Purple Tier,” outdoor dining will be allowed and hopefully venues will start to offer some lite live music once again; however, drive-in concerts are still your safest bet, and now Thousand Oaks is getting into the spirit of things and will be hosting a drive-in concert at the BofA Performing Arts Center with Highway Starr performing on Saturday, February 6.

The Canyon at Oxnard Performing Arts & Convention Center has a number of live shows listed, but they’re not until April with a number of tribute bands and Buckcherry. I did see that Martha Davis and the Motels are scheduled for May as well as Tierra & Malo. To keep track and for ticket information, go to WhereMusicMeetsTheSoul.com (Scroll down and select Oxnard). There is nothing listed yet on the Concerts in Your Car website.

I’ve been receiving a lot of great feedback on the interviews I’ve conducted with local musicians over the past year. It’s always interesting to check in and see how our local artists are faring and to see what new projects they’ve been working on lately. This time around, I reached out to an old friend of mine Christine Law who has a new project called Star Goes Nova.

Pam: Let’s get people who are not familiar with your work up to speed. Tell me about your past projects.

Christine Law: More widely known as a bassist, I’ve toured and recorded with the famous and the obscure; credits include Theo Mordey (Jesus Christ Superstar), Charles Law & Jagged (college radio), Grammy winner John Baffa and platinum selling songwriter David Holster. I recorded bass on Suzanne Paris’ Grammy nominated album “Pink Lipstick” - and toured nationally with her. Earlier, I played bass for Jan Kuenehe-

mund’s (from Vixen) solo project around Los Angeles. I also had the chance to jam with many artists at iconic L.A. clubs in the early 2000’s - that was awesome! For about 3 years in the mid 90’s, I toured and recorded with Martha Davis during her hiatus from The Motels. My first experience having a song played on the radio was with my hardcore band Tantrum in the late 90s. About 15 years ago, I met my husband Charles, a singer/songwriter, when he performed at Zoey’s in Ventura. We recorded 3 albums together from which several songs charted Top 10 nationally on college radio. I’ve been so fortunate to hang out with iconic artists and perform fantastic venues, complete with wild stories!

Describe Star Goes Nova and why you’re delving into EDM (Electronic Dance Mix).

Christine: Last year, I inherited my Mom’s pianos - a 115-year-old Turin grand piano, and a newer Kawai upright. I hadn’t played piano since my high school piano lessons, but, when I first put my fingers on the keyboard of the Turin, all these songs just started writing themselves. I had been dabbling with EDM, going the Cinematic Dubstep direction, and the piano stories I was writing just blossomed with the electronica. I write fantasy Cinemata and Dubstep Dance EDM - it’s like my high school orchestra, piano, and hardcore got melded together. Beautiful and powerful.

Please share the story behind your song, “The Ocean Between Stars.”

Christine: I knew your Dad had been terminally diagnosed, and one day, you told me about taking him to the beach. I sat at my piano, thinking about you two on the beach - the day, the sounds, the waves and wind - and the journey ahead. “The Ocean Between Stars” tells of the sojourn of the souls of our lost

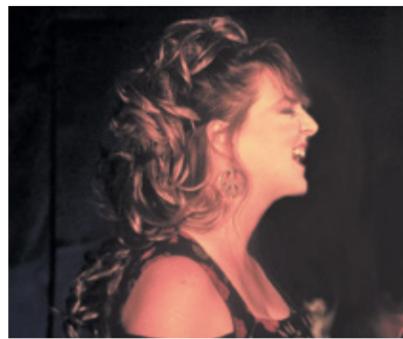
loved ones. The song also contains a sonification (Hubble telescope recording of galactic frequencies) of the supernova Cassiopeia A. There’s an angel there too...

I feel so honored by this Christine; it truly gave me goosebumps the first time I heard it. I will be sharing it on my next radio show on KPPQ-LP. Who are other EDM artists you admire?

Christine: I really admire the Santa Barbara based EDM record label Ophelia - they have great artists - Seven Lions, Tauri and Gem, MitiS. I also love Illenium and Grimes. I’d say my music is a cross between Grimes and new age pianist Leo Z.

How is the EDM community/genre different from other genres?

Christine: EDM evolves very quickly, and there are truly no rules. From pure electronica to inclusion of acoustical instruments and vocals, it’s all out there. I have noticed that artist collaboration



Christine Law of Star Goes Nova.

is practiced and really valued - from swapping samples to writing/recording to putting raves together. Many of the samples, songs and community are offered freely (no charge). Also, I’m into offering high-resolution versions to the market that has high-res (96K) systems (like Sony); many EDM artists will offer 96K downloads along with their regular spec releases. You haven’t heard music until you listen to it in 96K - that’s the resolution the artist hears in the studio. I’d love for people to hear my work at 96K! *How big a following does the EDM community have?*

Christine: Well, Electric Daisy Carnival in 2018 had over 200,000 attendees, and Tomorrowland had over 400,000. Given this portion, I’d say the fans are in the millions, with around 300-400 artists, and about 50 of those really well known. *How are you networking/marketing to get the*

word out?

Christine: I work with a PR firm for the social media side, which is just getting started. For now, I use Facebook www.facebook.com/Stargoesnova and Twitter [@StarGoesNova](https://twitter.com/StarGoesNova) and Instagram [star_goes_nova](https://www.instagram.com/star_goes_nova). And of course, the website www.StarGoesNova.com

What if any plans do you have to expand on this new project?

Christine: I am currently releasing singles on social media, which will be compiled into a complete album. I’d like to host an “electric” rave - you know, with headphones!! Socially distanced of course!! I’ll also perform at Burning Man (if they have it this year), and then a couple of EDM festivals. My super big dream is to go to Ibiza or Mykonos and collaborate on a recording and also have a song spun there. Ibiza is the ultimate! I also want to continue collaborating with other artists. So far, two amazing local artists have collaborated on Star Goes Nova singles - Karen Eden (from The Bad Apples) and Fuse (from Hard Six).

How can people find out more?

Christine: Go to www.StarGoesNova.com and become a Stargazer by clicking on “Become a Stargazer”! or Facebook. com/StarGoesNova. Check out the tunes also on Spotify, iTunes and ReverbNation.

Any final words?

Christine: Keep looking ahead. Keep dreaming. Keep doing things that bring meaning to people’s lives. Mankind is becoming interplanetary and interstellar, we must keep our art, music and dreams as part of our reach into the stars.

Don’t forget to tune into the Pam Baumgardner Music Hour on KPPQ-LP out of CAPS Media at 104.1 FM here in Ventura. It airs Tuesdays at 5 pm with repeats on Fridays at 5 pm and Sundays at noon. You can also listen via the MyTuner app on your smart device or online at CapsMedia.org/radio. Every show I feature artists out of the 805 and artists who come to the 805 to play as well as a handful of indie artists I’ve come across.

Do you have any music-related news or upcoming shows (online or live) 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.

Harbor Patrol Blotter

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

1-10 12:08pm, dispatched to an Ocean Rescue at the Ventura Pier for a missing surfer. Officers responded in Rescue B-19 to assist searching for a diabetic patient who went surfing and was last seen four hours ago. After searching with multiple agencies, the patient was found safe, tired from surfing for four hours.

4:08pm, dispatched to an Ocean Rescue, individual threatening to jump off the end of the pier, refusing to leave. Officers responded in Rescue B-19 & RWC to assist VPD & State Parks with suicidal individual. Convinced him to not jump.

1-11 8:15am, observed and received reports of several Hazards to Navigation throughout the harbor probably from the heavy surge due to the large West swell event yesterday and last night. Docks were damaged in the keys also. Hazards found included trees, logs, dock floats and construction debris.

3:30pm, dispatched to an Ocean Rescue, kite surfer in distress upcoast of the Ventura Pier. Officers responded in Rescue B-19. The victim was found uninjured and was escort back to the beach.

1-13 7:15am, observed a large, deceased sea lion near the Surfers Knoll Groin. Due to the position, high tide and the weight of the animal, officers were unable to remove it. Local volunteer organization, CIMWI was contacted and advised.

1-14 9:45am, received report of

a vessel accident between to fishing seiners in the commercial docks. Officers responded in fireboat to investigate the report. After interviewing witnesses, minor damage was sustained, no injuries reported.

1-15 12:23am, received report of noise disturbance in the keys from kids on an electric boat. Officers responded and terminated the voyage due to no lifejackets

11:20am, while on patrol in Fireboat, contacted a 20ft MV in the sandtrap and advised of the shoaling and the danger of navigation in the area.

11:37pm, dispatched to a medical alarm in the Ventura Marina Community. Officers responded and found the patient who accidentally activated alarm.

1-16 1:20pm, received dispatch to ocean rescue, swimmer caught in a rip at the Greenock lane jetty. Officers

responded and assisted State Parks with call.

10:23pm, received report of a vessel in distress outside the Harbor Entrance. After a search and assistance with the RP, it was determined that what the RP was observing was the #2 entrance navigation buoy and red light flashing.

1-17 3:55am, received a request for entrance conditions from Tow BoatUS, they are inbound towing a 30ft sailboat with a fouled prop. Officers passed conditions.

11:54am, observed a small vessel towing a disabled one. Officers on patrol in Rescue B-19 took the disabled vessel en tow at the Harbor Entrance to the L/R. 4:29pm, received report of fireworks at Harbor Cove near the mermaid statue. Officers responded, found a rap group filming a video and igniting fireworks. The video production was terminated and warnings for the fireworks given.



Ventura Art Scene

The ceramic artists at The Ventura Pottery Gallery have been busy experimenting, creating and firing exciting new works of art. If you haven't visited the Gallery in a while it's time to discover this crown jewel nestled in the Ventura Harbor Village. Each month they will be featuring ceramic artists from The Ventura Pottery Gallery and preview some of their new work.

Fluid and transformational easily describe the ceramic work of Ventura Potters' Gallery next Featured Artist, Ruty Levy. Ruty moved from Israel to Southern California in the late 1970s. Studying at Long Beach State gave her a firm foundation under renowned ceramic artist Tony Marsh and a degree in graphic design.

"Creativity has been a very important part of my identity" states Ruty, "It has always been an essential form of self-expression for me. I was drawn to clay with its basic elemental nature and tactile qualities without boundaries."

Ruty is adept in both functional and sculptural work, always putting her unique style on her work. The Ventura Pottery Gallery is loaded with

many award-winning artists.

Visit the gallery and see how ceramic artists unleash their creative talents during the pandemic.

The Gallery is located at 1567 Spinnaker Drive, Suite 105 in Ventura Harbor. They have hand sanitizer available if you would like to examine the pottery. The Gallery is open seven days a week from 11 am - 6 pm. Can't visit the gallery? Visit online store at venturapotteryonline.com.

For more information visit www.venturapottersguild.org.



Featured Artist – Ruty Levy

Author/journalist Ivor Davis launches Zoom interview series

After the wildly successful, members-only Zoom series Behind the Scenes with Ivor Davis wrapped up this past fall, the Museum of Ventura County is thrilled to present Ivor Davis: Up Close and Personal, a new Zoom series featuring a rotating guest list of notable and celebrated Ventura County residents, including Chris Hillman, Malcolm McDowell, Miriam Arichea, and more. This new series is free and open to the public with registration.

The first interview guest was musician Chris Hillman, formerly of the Byrds, Flying Burrito Brothers, and Rock and Roll Inductee.

February 4, is legendary actor and Ventura County resident Malcolm McDowell, winner of Ojai Film Festival Lifetime Achievement Award, whose career has spanned over 50-years--and star of scores of movies including the iconic Clockwork Orange, Caligula, Bombshell, Time After Time, TV series Entourage and Mozart in the Jungle.

February 25: Miriam Arichea, Appeals court lawyer, a concert pianist with local symphony orchestras, director of Rubicon Harmony choir programs, mock trial high school teacher--and all-around Renaissance Woman.

You are invited to join us on Zoom at 6:30–7:30 pm for the first in this series with musician Chris Hillman. Among the conversation topics, Ivor Davis will

interview Chris Hillman about his recent memoir, "Time Between: My Life as a Byrd, Burrito Brother, and Beyond," his time living in Ventura County, his rock 'n roll roots, and much more. This is not to be missed!

Registration is free, and a suggested donation in any amount will allow the Museum to continue providing valuable programming. If you can, please support this programming and the Museum through one of our annual membership levels; when you support the Museum, you support your community.

Ventura College's Advanced Manufacturing Program is preparing for the future

Ventura College's new degree program in advanced manufacturing is training the future manufacturing workers of Ventura County. Prompted by student interest, employer demand and Ventura County's strength as a manufacturing sector, Ventura College's new manufacturing training program will offer the latest information and technology in both lecture and laboratory settings.

Ventura College's advanced manufacturing degree program offers an associate degree, certificates of achievement, pre-apprenticeships and a Journeyman

This 'n' That

Machinist program.

It's a good time for students to get jobs in manufacturing, as the country looks to bring jobs back to the U.S. While learning on the job may have been sufficient in the past, local employers value the streamlined hiring and training process of having entry-level employees who can jump right in. This is particularly important in Ventura County, where manufacturing has been identified by the Economic Development Collaborative as one of six key industries.

"One of the reasons this program is so advantageous is because it trains our local residents to work in an industry where there are high paying jobs in Ventura County," said John Clark, instructor in the manufacturing technology program. "Our graduates will be able to live here, work here and support their families."

The advanced manufacturing program aims to prepare students to be career-ready by training them on full-size, industry-worthy CNC machines, which mirror the machines used in the workplace. Students already in the industry can take classes to expand or update their skills for career advancement. Students may also choose to pursue the AS in Advanced Manufacturing to launch their career in industry or transfer to a university to obtain a bachelor's degree in management, engineering, industrial technology, agricultural engineering or mechanical engineering.

The advanced manufacturing program offers a pre-apprenticeship option to give students real-world experience while providing employers an opportunity to find skilled workers. The goal of the pre-apprenticeship program is to take a student with no knowledge of manufacturing and train them to be capable CNC machine operators in just one semester.

After taking two classes, MT V02 and MT V05, students are eligible to participate in VC's apprenticeship program and earn approximately \$18 an hour. In contrast, the state's minimum wage is \$13-\$14 per hour, depending on company size.

For two and a half years, the student will work full-time in local industry to receive on-the-job training while taking at least one class per semester at Ventura College. In just three years, a student will earn a Journeyman Machinist Card from the U.S. Department of Labor, which can transfer anywhere in the U.S. Following program completion, the student may earn \$25-\$30 per hour.

Ventura College plans to offer two certificates of achievement in manufacturing technology, including CNC Machine Operation and CNC Machinist. The two stackable certificates are pending state approval. The first can be completed in one semester.

From everyone at Diversity \ Collective Ventura County – Thank you!

It's almost trite to use the word "unprecedented" at this point, but that was 2020. We have all been hit by the pandemic in some way. But with your support, DCVC has prevailed and we are looking forward to a bright and healthy 2021.

In 2020, we were challenged early on and without warning to have to cancel our AIDS Walk event, asking participants to create something personal to continue the event on their own. You stepped up and a virtual event was formed. It wasn't easy, but we did it. Together.

We then had to look to our Community Resource Center – a safe and healthy space for our community to gather. It was shuttered to further reduce the spread of COVID19, as well as comply with state mandates. We created our "Stay Safe Drive Through" events where anyone could come and get information, safe sex kits, masks, and hand sanitizer while maintaining social distance.

Virtual PRIDE was incredibly successful, and the amazing team that pulled it together included volunteers, staff, and board members. We reached viewership outside of Ventura County: San Francisco, New York City, and of course Los Angeles, all brought in viewers to enjoy a drag show, a contest, and lighthearted conversations from allies and friends.

With the experience we gained from the two former virtual events, it was a somber pleasure to bring Transgender Day of Remembrance to you. As we remembered those who went before us, we also took pride in where we stand as a community and look forward to the long road ahead.

Rainbow Umbrella is thriving and our youth are finding that virtual interaction is enlightening and fun. We have so many awesome things planned for 2021 – stay tuned. Speaking of youth, one of the good things to come out of this year is our new program, Little Unicorns, for LGBTQ, questioning, and ally kids ages 9-12. We commenced this program in October, and we already have a following of kids enjoying a place of inclusion and acceptance.

All these things happened because you cared enough to support our cause. THANK YOU!

To begin the new year, we are proud to announce that Tess Allen will be stepping into the role of Executive Director. Tess has worked in Development and Fundraising.

Just visit our website and click on the donation button. While you are there, please consider becoming a sustaining GEM (Give Every Month) member to receive more perks and information as we travel the year ahead!

— Weekly SUDOKU —

Answer

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

— King Crossword —

Answers

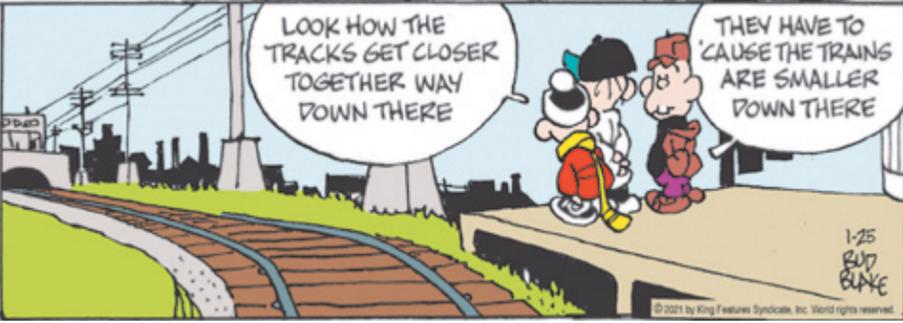
Solution time: 25 mins.

P	O	E	M	T	I	C	J	E	A	N
A	N	I		C	H	O	I	R	N	I
R	E	A	M		M	A	N	I	A	S
A	S	L	O	P	E		S	U	P	S
			S	A	I	L	O	R	S	U
			N	A	T	A	L	A	R	I
			E	V	E	S	S	G	T	N
			R	F	I		S	U	F	
			F	R	I	S	H	F	R	U
				C	H	I	F	N	I	
			B	E	A		I	N	C	
			E	R	S		C	R		
			T	A	T		E	A	T	



Lighter Breeze

Tiger



Baby Blues



Marvin



Dustin



Beetle Bailey



Mallard Fillmore



Solutions on page 13

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

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

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row, column, each section (green) and each small 3x3 box contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

Solutions on page 13

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Wordsworth work
- 5 Spasm
- 8 Billie - King
- 12 Against
- 13 Granada gold
- 14 Sea eagle
- 15 500 sheets
- 16 Chess piece
- 17 Right on the map?
- 18 On an angle
- 20 Dines
- 22 Donald Duck's outfit
- 26 Birth-related
- 29 "Exodus" hero
- 30 Vitamin stat
- 31 Prior nights
- 32 Pvt.'s superior
- 33 Grant basis, at times
- 34 Seminary subj.
- 35 Take to court
- 36 Smartens (up)
- 37 Produce aisle display
- 40 Pan handler?
- 41 Rookie
- 45 Boyfriend
- 47 Business mag
- 49 Press
- 50 Formerly, once
- 51 French vineyard

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

- 52 Bandleader Puente
- 53 Makes lace
- 54 "Dig in!"
- 55 Salty septet
- 6 Lyricist Gershwin
- 7 Monarch's spouse
- 8 Army vehicles
- 9 Test-paper smudges
- 10 Reply (Abbr.)
- 11 Court divider
- 19 Churn
- 21 Swiss canton
- 23 Beer type
- 24 Nantes notion
- 25 Tiny amounts
- 26 Soft ball?
- 27 Say it's so
- 28 Put on the air
- 32 Be enough
- 33 Blockheads
- 35 That lady
- 36 Golfer Michelle
- 38 Closes
- 39 Full-length
- 42 Party cheese
- 43 Greek vowel
- 44 Seth's son
- 45 Wager
- 46 Historic period
- 48 Big D.C. lobby

DOWN

- 1 Law firm aide, for short
- 2 Till bills
- 3 List-ending abbr.
- 4 Brunch cocktails
- 5 "Only Love" actress Marisa

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LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Aspects favor getting out and meeting new people. And as a bonus, you could find that some of your newly made friends could offer important business contacts.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) You might take pride in wanting to do everything yourself. But now's a good time to ask family members to help with a demanding personal situation.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Pay more attention to the possibilities in that workplace change. It could show the way to make that long-sought turn on your career path.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Your need to succeed might overwhelm obligations to your loved ones. Ease up on that workload and into some well-deserved time with family and friends.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Love rules for amorous Aquarians who can make good use of their ability to communicate feelings. Don't be surprised if they're reciprocated in kind.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Fishing for compliments? No doubt, you probably earned them. But it's best to let others believe they were the ones who uncovered the treasure you really are.

BORN THIS WEEK: Your good works flow from an open, generous heart. Nothing makes you happier than to see others happy as well.

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Showtime

Streaming Spotlight by Cindy Summers

Outside the Wire

Netflix Originals



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

In 2036, a violent civil war had erupted in Eastern Europe. US troops were stationed as peacekeepers on the lawless new frontier, which was controlled by a ruthless criminal warlord named Viktor Koval - a ghost that few people had seen. To combat Koval's growing power, the Pentagon deployed robotic soldiers called "Gumps" to active duty for the first time.

While soldiers on the ground were pinned down fighting against rebels in a European seized town, drone operator Lieutenant Thomas Harp (Damson Idris) controlled a surveillance drone from a military base in Nevada. He noticed a large vehicle approaching the area at a high rate of speed and asked the commanding officer on the ground for permission to engage. The officer denied his request stating that he had two men down and wanted to rescue the wounded soldiers.

While the ground troops pleaded for cover fire from the drone, Harp called into command to request ignoring the intel on the ground and destroy the vehicle. He stated that though 2 men were in danger that 38 other men could lose their lives if he was correct that the large vehicle was a launcher in disguise. Harp was told to stand down, but ignored the command and fired on the truck killing two US soldiers in the explosion.

Harp was brought before the Ethics Committee, and was asked if he had ever spent any time in a conflict zone or experienced a mass-casualty encounter other than from behind a computer screen. Harp barely avoided court-martial, but

was deployed to Camp Nathaniel on the European front lines and told to report to Captain Leo (Anthony Mackie).

Leo questioned Harp about his number of insurgent kills, as well as collateral, and Harp's response to the collateral number was an uncaring "the numbers are within mission goals and flight hours." Leo told Harp he was Marine Special Operations, then took his shirt off to reveal the electronics at the core of his seemingly human body and told Harp he was a classified 4th generation biotech military prototype known only by Harp and Leo's commanding officer.

Leo told Harp that he wasn't there for punishment, he was there to aid Leo in thinking outside the box and headed outside the wire to deliver cholera vaccines to a clinic. Leo traveled frequently outside the wire and was known to many of the people who lived in the new frontier. While visiting an orphanage where Leo had a contact, Harp saw the reality of his collateral numbers signified by all the children there who had lost their parents in the conflict.

Leo learned of Koval's possible location and that he had most likely acquired the nuclear codes to launch dormant nukes against the US. Leo asked Harp to remove his tracking device from his back so that Koval's men wouldn't detect them through his signal and they went to Koval's compound initiating a drone attack where it appeared Leo also got caught in and destroyed.

The explosion was actually used as a cover to allow Leo to recover the nuclear codes and escape. He had his own plan of destruction he wanted to carry out and could now do so without anyone stopping him as the device Harp removed was not a tracker, but a fail safe. Working with his old commanding officer, Harp set out to track down Leo for a battle pitting man against machine to save the world from nuclear destruction.

Rated: R
Runtime: 1h 55m

Once Ventura had an opera house

by Richard Senate

It opened its doors in December of 1904. It once stood in two-story magnificence at 461 E. Santa Clara Street, built by Banker John Lagomarsino. The wooden theater served the cultural needs of the community for well over thirty years. It opened with the musical comedy "Showgirl" performed by a company brought in by train from The Grand Theater in San Francisco.

When built it was called one of the best playhouses in the state. It was owned and operated by Lagomarsino (who lived next door) but in truth the whole community felt it owned the opera house. Two local amateur company's used the theater between traveling shows. Over the years many well known groups and actors perform on her stage. Once the Famous Georgia Minstrels played here. It was a unique show that featured an all-black cast. In 1908 and 1909 William S. Hart appeared here in the play "The Virginian" before he became a world famous cowboy star in the movies. Actress Gertrude Lawrence played here in the popular Christmas play "Babes in Toyland." According to Emilio

Lagomarsino, the son of the builder, on the night of November 12th, 1908 the first motion picture ever projected in Ventura was shown on a large sheet, with a hand cranked projector.

The next day the Free Press Newspaper wrote; "Charles Walkers moving pictures were a big hit. The pictures were good and the singing first class." In the days of silent film, the movies were accompanied by musical groups and singing. In truth, silent films were never really silent. In 1918 the classic film "Hearts of the World" was projected at the Opera House but new theaters were being built and by 1913 three silent movie houses were offering films.

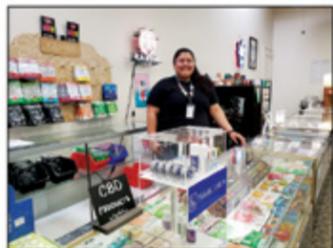
The old drafty Opera House was seen as a relic of another time. Traveling companies came few and fewer as they were replaced by films. The old Opera was closed and, for a time, became a Baptist Church. Lastly, Mr. Lagomarsino used it as a warehouse for his illegal liquor business. By the late 1930s it was demolished. Perhaps, it should be re-built in the downtown of Ventura, a place where local amateur theatrical companies could offer plays to the public, foreign and art films shown as well as classics of the silent screen (with organ accompaniment—or an orchestra perhaps?) Maybe travelogues or lectures or surf films could be offered. Maybe an Opera house might once again provide an ideal focal point for the cultural life of Ventura, as it was in the early years of the Twentieth Century?

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This 'n' That

Ventura Audubon Society Program Speaker Event

February 9th, at 7pm, via Zoom - Brent Paull's California Wildlife Collection.

Free to the public, join us through the Zoom link that can be found on our website under Chapter Programs/Monthly Speakers. The link to our website is also provided here, <https://www.venturaaudubon.org/monthly-speakers>.

Brent Paull was born in California and has since traveled across the west to photograph American landscapes and wildlife. He has over 1400 publication credits, 30 published articles, and 12 magazine covers. He has shot in 18 National Parks, dozens of National Monuments, and National Wildlife Refuges throughout the American West. Join us for this virtual presentation wherein Brent Paull will share his collection of California Wildlife images and his unique experiences as a photographer.

Ventura County Leadership

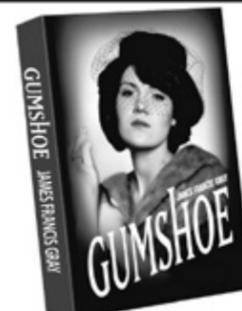
Continued from page 5

Academy's board president.

Darren is the Executive Director of the Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC), a position he started in October 2007. In his service to VCTC, Darren leads a team of transportation professionals focused on improving transportation planning, making data driven decisions to ensure the smart investment of transportation funds on transportation projects, ranging from freeway and highway projects to bicycle and pedestrian projects and bus and rail projects. Darren has a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of California, Santa Barbara and a Master's in Public Administration from California State University, San Bernardino.

VCLA was founded in 1994 and delivers on its mission of "connecting people and issues to strengthen our county" by developing, educating, and inspiring a diverse group of leaders who aspire to enhance the quality of life in Ventura County.

For more information about Ventura County Leadership Academy please contact Pattie Braga via phone: (805) 797-3985 or email: PBraga@vcleadership.org



Gentlemen, I give you "Gumshoe."
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The Bookmark

About Libraries and Friends

by Jill Forman

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Virtual Discover Science - This monthly exploration of science and physics topics is now virtual on Zoom. For Grades K-5. Materials will be available for pick up at Avenue, Foster, Hill Road, and Saticoy Libraries. Registration available online. Library website, "Events" tab. The

link event will be provided through registration

New at the Online Store - The Online Bookstore has updated the Cookbooks section with dozens of new cookbooks for everyone's palate. There is a new Great Gift Idea category with things moved over from Holiday Items, a new music category and a new Travel and Trivia category to be expanded soon. Under fiction, a subcategory of historical fiction has been added, so look for more there soon. We continue to offer \$5 bags of books as well as an ever-changing inventory of fiction and non-fiction for adults and youth.

Book Donations - We appreciate all the books donated to us. However, at Hill Road on Tuesdays and Saturdays, please bring no more than 2 small boxes at a time. Our volunteers have to lift boxes into and out of cars and this may be very difficult for some. Please bring donations of more than 2 boxes to the warehouse at 11251 Riverbank Drive on Monday or Friday from 9 to 11 am or by appointment -- email bookstore@venturafriendsofthe-library.org

Friends of the Library Funding

Per Nancy Schram, Library Services Director, "The \$17,000 provided to the Ventura County Library for the Ventura Libraries in October was allocated to library collections as follows: 40% Foster Library, 30% Hill Road, 15% Avenue, 15% Saticoy.

The 40% allocated to the E.P. Foster Library was additionally evenly divided between adult and children's materials, as we have done in the past years.

These funds enabled the library to purchase an estimated 700 books for the library collections.

...The first and foremost priority for Friends funding remains the library collections at the Ventura libraries. We

are working hard to bring the per capita expenditure on materials in the Ventura libraries up to the state average. ...Additional needs include technology (such as Computer and Internet Kits for loan or Laptop Lending Kiosks), supplies, and Summer Reading Programs.

...We very much appreciate the Friends' ongoing support which has tremendous positive impact on library services in Ventura."

Kaiser Permanente commits \$1 million to promote racial equity

Grant funding to 10 nonprofit organizations will help dismantle racist structures and practices that prevent communities of color from achieving good health.

Kaiser Permanente, the nation's largest integrated, nonprofit health system, today announced it has awarded \$8.15 million to support 40 nonprofit and community-based organizations across the nation, whose programs address systemic racism and its accompanying trauma on individuals and communities of color.

This incorporates \$1 million for 10 organizations in Southern California, including Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy (CAUSE) in Ventura, and is part of a \$25 million commitment

Kaiser Permanente announced in June to promote health equity and break the cycle of racism-driven stresses that lead to poor health outcomes for its communities. Kaiser Permanente serves 4.7 million members in Southern California.

This announcement comes as our nation honored Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s legacy on Monday, January 18, for his commitment to civil rights and racial equality.

"As we honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., I hope Kaiser Permanente is one of many voices plainly saying that there is much, much work still to be done to realize Dr. King's ideal of an equitable society that guarantees every individual the opportunity to thrive," said Greg A. Adams, Kaiser Permanente's chairman and CEO. "I am encouraged as I see what progress is possible through organization, activism and advocacy – and I want our support to enable future generations to follow that path to create change."

Julie Miller-Phipps, president, Kaiser Permanente Southern California and Hawaii, Health Plan and Hospitals, echoed similar sentiments.

"It's important for us to take strong action to stop the economic, physical, psychological, and social impacts of inequity and systemic racism – including discriminatory policies and practices – so that we can create healthier communities where everybody, regardless of their race, ethnic background or skin color can feel safe and thrive," she said. "This is why Kaiser Permanente is pledging significant funding to help achieve an end to systemic racism and break the cycles of stress and trauma that can lead to poor health outcomes."

With input from a panel of national racial justice and trauma experts, Kaiser Permanente will develop a formal evaluation plan for the grants it has awarded to track and measure the initiative's overall progress.