

Happy Mother's Day!



VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

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"Our team sees firsthand the lives saved by the willingness of others to give life."

CMH partners celebrate Donate Life Month

Community Memorial Hospital joined thousands of hospitals and community organizations nationwide in April to celebrate National Donate Life Month, including hosting a flag raising ceremony at the hospital on Tuesday, April 20th. The celebrations are designed to help encourage Americans to register as organ, eye and tissue donors and to honor those who have saved lives through the gift of donation.

"Our team sees firsthand the lives saved by the willingness of others to give life," said Diane Drexler, CMH's Vice President of Patient Care Services and Chief Nursing Officer. "The flag raising ceremony is an opportunity to recognize the generosity of families who have offered this gift to others while experiencing a profound personal loss."

At 9 a.m. on Tuesday, April 20th, CMH, in partnership with OneLegacy, the world's largest nonprofit organ, eye and tissue recovery organization, hosted a flag raising ceremony to highlight the importance of donation and celebrate donors and recipients. Speaking at the event were Reverend Curtis Hotchkiss, CMH's director of Spiritual Care Services; Drexler; and Alexa Delima and Angela Bolaris of OneLegacy. Ellen Langston of Ventura represented a donor family and transplant recipient Jennifer Vasilakos of Ojai also attended.

A single organ donor can save the lives of up to eight people and improve the lives of up to 75 more people by

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Nancy O'Rode, Christy Weir and Barbara Brown, founding members of Ventura Tree Alliance, assist at a Restore Earth Day event.

Community members combat climate change

With all the bad news about climate change... the increasingly high temperatures of summer and the rise in the number of windy days, a handful of community members in Ventura are stepping up to do what they can to make a difference.

The idea germinated when two candidates running for City Council tried to place their political signs in Ventura's tree wells and found there was a surprisingly high number of empty wells; the trees had died or been removed and had never been replaced. As it turns out, there are over 12,000 empty tree wells in Ventura.

Co-founders Christy Weir and Barbara Brown wanted to do something about that. Thus the genesis of the Ventura Tree Alliance (VTA), a nonprofit public-benefit corporation bringing community members, educators, and business professionals together to enhance the urban tree canopy in Ventura.

"We're interested in planting trees to add to our urban forest, beautifying the city and counteracting climate change. We hope to inspire, engage, and support Venturans in planting and caring for trees through education, volunteerism,

partnerships and fundraising," states Ms. Weir, former City Councilmember. "We're making this announcement in honor of Arbor Day, with the expectation that tree-plantings will take place this spring and summer."

"Our goal is to plant trees in the abandoned wells, in city parks and in parking lots, creating shade and wind breaks on hot days, sequestering carbon emissions and augmenting wildlife habitat," says Barbara Brown, co-founder. "In addition, trees capture rainwater and reduce run off. They add to the aesthetic benefits in neighborhood pride often with increased property values. Large cities all over the world are addressing this opportunity including Denver, Los Angeles, New York and Shanghai with their "One Million Trees" initiatives but as a smaller community, we need to address this as well."

Board member and educator Nancy O'Rode states that according to Ventura's Tree Master Plan, "Street trees are among the most valuable community assets, reducing pollution by recycling air and water; and by cooling streets helping to maintain asphalt for longer periods of

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The undertaking involved the planting of many trees by volunteers. Photo by Richard Lieberman.

Earth Day 2021: New Oak Grove at Harmon Canyon Preserve

by Mira Reverente

To commemorate Earth Day, Ventura Land Trust (VLT) launched its first reforestation project at Harmon Canyon Preserve. The undertaking involved the planting of 50 live oak trees and 150 native plants, around 40 volunteers and a longtime partnership with SoCalGas.

After welcome remarks by Dan Poultney, executive director at VLT and Matt LaVere, Ventura County supervisor, the volunteers broke off into small groups and tackled the task of planting near the trailhead of Ventura's first large-scale nature preserve.

Dan Hulst, VLT preserve director, led the reforestation efforts and showed the volunteers how to use and spread mulch, how deep to dig a hole and how to adequately water the plants. "These plants are in shock from being transported so the more water, the better," he said, after pointing out the various native plants including lemonade berry, purple sage, coast sunflower, California sage brush and Yerba Buena.

The Martinez family was one of the families who volunteered. "We like doing this type of activity as a family," said Elizabeth Martinez, director of public relations at Meruelo Enterprises, a local construction company and minority

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The Crown Jewel in Retirement Living



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The Ventura Breeze is celebrating 14 years of publishing local news thanks to the support of the Ventura community and our advertisers. The time has come, however, for us to ask our dedicated readers to consider helping us continue publishing during this difficult time. Due to the lack of advertisers (which we understand) we really need your generous support to continue to bring local news to the community. In order to do this, we are starting the Ventura Breeze Honor Roll. The names of Honor Roll donors will be published in the paper unless donors don't want to be shown. As the publisher of this community's favorite newspaper, we appreciate the relationship we have with our readers and we pledge to keep bringing you all the local news and events.

There are a couple ways to contribute and be a 2021 Honor Roll Donor. You can go to our website (www.venturabreeze.com) where you will find a DONATE link at the top of the page and use the PayPal button to make a donation, which allows you to pay by credit card or with your PayPal account. If you would rather pay by check or have the Breeze staff process your donation, you can use the form below and mail in your check or credit card information. You may also contribute by going to www.gofundme.com/f/support-the-breeze.

We thank our latest donors **Vella Buchanan, Neal Pounder Family Trust, Paulita Neal Ttees, Priscilla Homes, Barbara D. Topping, Linda Dorothy Hunz, John & Cherie Brant** and the ones that don't want to be mentioned.

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Community Memorial Health System

PRESENTED BY:



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Community Events

Ventura events

A virtual event full of community, celebration, and fun. Back by popular demand, hosts Curtis Knight, CalTrout executive director, and George Revel, CalTrout board member and owner of Lost Coast Outfitters, will entertain and inspire. Plus, live special reports from CalTrout member Sydnie Kohara.

The 2021 Trout Camp Gala will celebrate 50 years of taking action for California's fish, water, and people - a milestone success made possible by partners and members like you. Tune in for a high-energy virtual showcase of innovative conservation work across the state, cameos from CalTrout staff, and more!

Register now at <https://caltrout.org/trout-camp-gala>. Event site: [https://](https://caltrout.org/trout-camp-gala)

caltrout.org/trout-camp-gala

Denis O'Leary Book Signing Sat. June 5th (1-3 pm). Bank of Books, 748 E Main St. (805) 643-3154.

Denis O'Leary, a prolific writer and illustrator, became an advocate and spokesperson for many in the Latino community. Denis took leadership roles in organizations such as the California Association for Bilingual Education, the League of United Latin American Citizens and the United Farm Workers.

He served 17 years as a School Board Trustee of the Oxnard School District. Denis has worked to better represent Latino families in their efforts to improve the lives of their next generation. Today, Denis O'Leary often receives calls for help from organizations, law enforcement and foreign governments to assist in issues of education and human rights.

City News



Fire Hazard Reduction Program, visit www.cityofventura.ca.gov/FHRP. For more information about how to prepare for wildfire, download a Ready, Set, Go! brochure at www.VenturaCityFire.com.

CMH partners celebrate

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donating their corneas and tissue, says OneLegacy. Nearly 40,000 life-saving transplants were performed in the U.S. in 2020, according to the organization, which also notes that nationwide, over 107,000 people are on waiting lists for a donated organ.

To become a donor, people can register with the Department of Motor Vehicles or online at www.OneLegacy.org/Register. To help facilitate organ recovery and placement, CMH is one of over 200 hospitals and nine transplant centers in Southern California that works directly with OneLegacy.

Community Memorial Health System is a not-for-profit health system that comprises Community Memorial Hospital, Ojai Valley Community Hospital, a skilled nursing facility, and several primary and specialty care clinics that serve communities throughout Ventura County, California.

Earth Day 2021

Continued from page 1

business enterprise. Martinez brought her husband, son and daughter-in-law along.

Since the preserve has been open to the public last June, its 10 miles of trails featuring hills, canyons and spectacular views have attracted outdoor enthusiasts including runners, hikers, cyclists as well as families who just want to explore or get away from the hustle and bustle of city life. "It was definitely much-needed during the pandemic," said Derek Poutney, executive director of VLT. "There is so much open space to enjoy amongst these 2,100 acres of nature."

According to Maria Ventura, public affairs manager at SoCalGas, "VLT is really a good steward of the environment and we are proud to partner with them again."

Harmon Canyon Preserve is open to the public. There is free parking available at the trailhead off of McVittie Place. Docents are available and on-site most days to answer questions.

For more information, visit www.venturaladtrust.org.

Clear brush ahead of fire season

Thousands of letters have been sent to homeowners in our city's most vulnerable fire areas, to remind the community to harden properties by clearing combustible vegetation by May 18, 2021.

More than 6,500 parcels will receive Fire Hazard Reduction Program (FHRP) notices advising property owners to clear brush away from nearby buildings and maintain 100 feet of defensible space.

FHRP is designed to minimize fire danger by controlling the density and placement of flammable vegetation. The defensible space for each structure varies and depends on the topography and type of vegetation in that area. It is essential to slow or stop the spread of wildfire and it helps protect homes, businesses, and valuable property from catching fire either from direct flame or radiant heat.

The Ventura City Parks and Recreation Department and Fire Department have partnered with the Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council (VRFSC) to provide a free community chipping event on Saturday, April 17, 2021, from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Residents are encouraged to drop-off yard waste and dispose of vegetation at the Poinsettia Pavilion, located at 3451 Foothill Road. See www.venturafiresafe.org for more information.

Inspections of properties in the highest fire hazard areas will begin at the end of May.

If you have questions or concerns about whether a property is in compliance with the defensible space requirements, please call (805) 658-4709, or email fhpr@cityofventura.ca.gov.

For additional information on the

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VENTURA BREEZE

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Member, Ventura Chamber of Commerce

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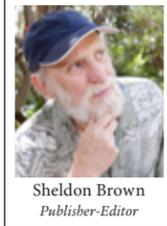
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If people knew how hard I worked to get my mastery, it wouldn't seem so wonderful after all.
– Michelangelo

Opinion/Editorial



Sheldon Brown
Publisher-Editor

Once again, I want to thank our wonderful readers who are contributing financially to support the Ventura Breeze. The Breeze staff appreciates what you are doing to help keep us in print. The good news is as COVID control allows more businesses to open, our advertising base, is improving.

In this issue (page 7), we have an article on a proposed 72-unit townhouse project to be located on Channel Dr. There has been organized objection to the project. The proposed **Haley Point** development includes 14 units, or 20%, which will be “below market rate” for low- and moderate-income households. This is a very important part of the project. The Haley Point project is located in Dist. 2, represented by Councilmember Doug Halter.

It is important to know that the State of California is basically now in charge of all housing projects in California per Senate Bill 330, the Housing Crisis Act of 2019, whether single-family housing or multi-units like this one.

The State wants much more housing built in California with an emphasis on low and moderate income households. When 20% are affordable units per the State bonus density, the developer gets two concessions (not city variances - that's out of the city's hands). The developer used their two concessions to reduce two setbacks. In other words, they did not request any discretionary approvals or variances from the city. The development also gets some leeway on parking standards. But each unit will have a 2-car garage.

If a project complies with the density range of the General Plan (which this does), Ventura's ability to reduce units or deny the project has been eliminated. The state's emphasis on the housing crisis has limited the city's ability to do much regulation. The Ventura General Plan designation for this site actually allows more units than the developer has proposed.

Soon R-1 single family lots will be a thing of the past and all residential lots will be allowed to build another unit. Again, state mandates. The State, under some conditions,

is also lowering parking standards.

This will be a very good-looking development and much safer and better looking than the blight that was there. And the value of immediate homes will be greatly increased, plus crime will likely be reduced because of this project.

I find ads on TV from some attorneys very disturbing. One such ad is targeted to women who have been **sexually assaulted**. It gives a list of possible exploiters to sue. Among the list is “by a wealthy businessman.” So, if you've been assaulted by a businessman who is not wealthy (they don't mention what wealthy is exactly) don't bother contacting them because it isn't worth their time to help you out in a humanitarian manner.

Another aspect of the **Derek Chauvin** conviction that I think is just as important is that the “blue wall of silence” has been eliminated in this trial with police officers (even



Talk about an oxymoron (a building on Ventura Avenue).

Minneapolis Police Chief Medaria Arradondo) testifying against Chauvin. I think policing will change in the aftermath of Chauvin's guilty verdict and officers (knowing that other officers might now testify against them) will be more aware of their actions.

Five months after the presidential election, the **Supreme Court** recently said that it won't take up a case from several Republicans challenging changes to election rules in the battleground state of Pennsylvania. The unsigned ruling sends yet another message that the court's majority has no interest in relitigating the last election.

Before Monday, the justices had already declined several requests to dive into one of

the most litigious elections in history, denying petitions from then President Donald Trump and other Republicans seeking to overturn election result in multiple states President Joe Biden won.

With our very divided two-party system, being **president** is very tough. Any president is immediately approved by 50% and condemned by 50% before they even do anything. Therefore, a president with a 55% approval rating is considered to be doing a good job.

Former President **George W. Bush**, who has mostly stayed on the political sidelines after leaving the White House, has reemerged with criticism of his Republican successor as he advocates for a sharply different immigration policy from former President Donald Trump. “The problem with the immigration debate is that it, one, can create a lot of fear. They're coming after you,” Mr. Bush said during a recent interview with CBS News at his 1,600-acre ranch in Crawford, Texas.

“The country was very divided during that period of time. And, you know, as a result, he wasn't reelected,” Mr. Bush said of Trump.

Six days after Election Day 2020, then President Donald Trump tweeted this: “Nevada is turning out to be a cesspool of Fake Votes.” He added that when the findings were released, “will be absolutely shocking!” All of the country votes were shocking to him because he lost.

Nevada Secretary of State Barbara Cegavske, a Republican, announced that her office had found zero “evidentiary support” for claims of fraud or bias in the Silver State's 2020 election results.

“While the Nevada Republican Party raises policy concerns about the integrity of mail-in voting, automatic voter registration, and same-day voter registration, these concerns do not amount to evidentiary support for the contention that the 2020 general election was plagued by widespread voter fraud,” wrote Cegavske in a letter to the Nevada GOP.

Georgia's new sweeping elections law has a number of controversial provisions that will restrict access to voting. One in particular sounds as if it is from SNL. Under the bill, signed into law by Republican Gov. Brian Kemp, it's now illegal to hand out food or water to people standing in line to vote.

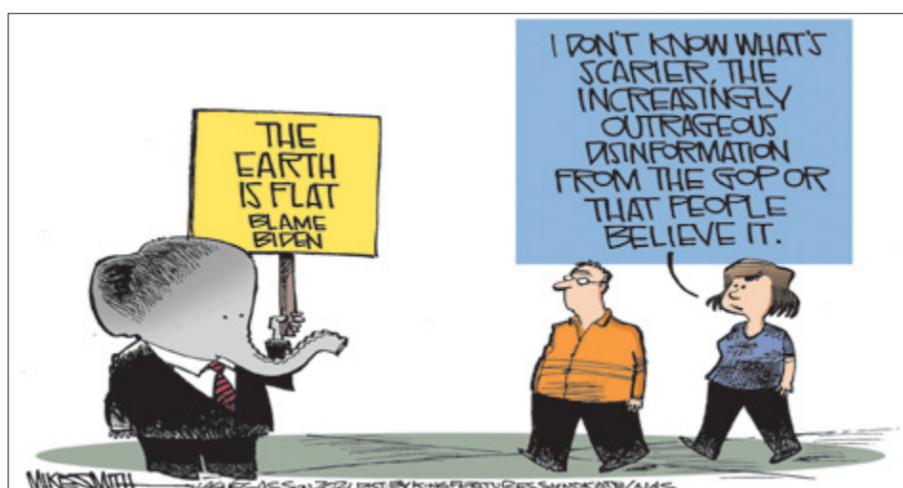
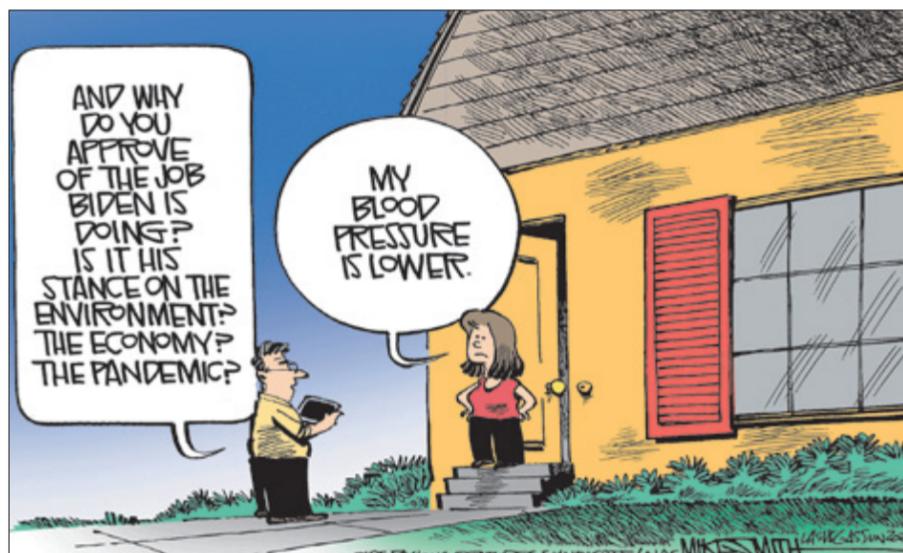
“No person shall solicit votes in any manner or by any means or method, nor shall any person distribute or display any campaign material, nor shall any person give, offer to give, or participate in the giving of any money or gifts, including, but not limited to, **food and drink**, to an elector,” the new law states.

Perhaps voters can be bought-off for a slice of pizza.

This sounds like another episode of SNL. A 28-year ban on **yoga** in Alabama's public schools may be in place a little longer. The Senate Judiciary Committee Wednesday deadlocked on legislation from Rep. Jeremy Gray, a Democrat, that would lift the prohibition after testimony from Christian conservatives, who claimed it would lead to proselytizing in public schools by followers of **Hinduism**.

“Yoga is a very big part of practicing Hindu religion,” said Becky Gerritson, a longtime conservative activist. “If this bill passes, then instructors will be able to come into classrooms as young as kindergarten and bring these children through guided imagery, which is a spiritual exercise, and it's outside their parents view, and we just believe that this is not appropriate.”

And I've seen people practicing yoga on park lawns which could kill the grass so I agree (down with yoga).



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



News & Notes



CAPS Media KPPQ Radio continues to rock the house

by Patrick Davidson

CAPS Media's award-winning radio station, KPPQ-LP, hasn't missed a beat during the past year's pandemic. Launched in 2017 the station is still going strong delivering engaging, locally focused programming every day 24/7. Despite the fact that the KPPQ Radio studio in the CAPS Media Center is still closed to the public during the pandemic, the dedicated CAPS Media/KPPQ Member DJs and Hosts, consistently create innovative, engaging and entertaining programs in their homes for airing on 104.1fm in Ventura and streaming worldwide on myTuner-Radio and on capsmedia.org.

The range of KPPQ programming is as diverse and interesting as the Ventura community itself. KPPQ music includes The Pam Baumgardner Music Hour, The Pure Rock Show, Oldies with Double K, Doc's Delta Blues Lounge, Ojai Dream, NAMBA Performances and more, including everything from rock to bluegrass, psychedelic, hip hop and oldies, plus local artists from ska to jazz to rock and roll.

In the past few months a wide variety of individual and community topics have been explored in the locally produced and curated KPPQ programs including Ventura Vibe!, In The Women's Room with Kathleen Good, ECTV produced by students from El Camino High, Teen Centric, Creative Community, Women of A Certain Age, Attainable, and Fireside Tails with Wolfgang, plus Ventura Library programs for kids and the elderly, the YMCA's commitment to health and fitness, the Ventura Botanical Gardens offerings, the Surfrider Foundation initiatives and more.

Other KPPQ engaging discussions addressed women's health and fitness programs, zero waste and composting, personal growth and career planning, while socially conscious and political discussions centered on Black Lives Matter, Stand Up for Racial Justice, Stem education in schools, Democracy in Danger and much more.

Despite the fact that the KPPQ Radio studio at the CAPS Media Center is still closed to the public, innovative and creative DJs and hosts are continually producing outstanding radio programs in their homes.

To learn more about KPPQ and to join the Radio team contact Elizabeth at radio@capsmedia.org. Elizabeth will get you the info you need to know and set up a time for online training to get you on the air on

KPPQ-LP Ventura.

In addition to the outstanding productions by KPPQ DJs, CAPS Media crew members have stayed very active throughout the pandemic facilitating City meetings and producing informative videos for the City and County. Every week CAPS team members coordinate, broadcast and stream multiple City meetings including City Council meetings, committee meetings and more.

CAPS crews working on the CAPS studio soundstage record monthly updates by Ventura City Mayor Sofia Rubalcava's. The mayor's engaging reports provide the community with valuable information including her insights on city government and the community.

In addition, every week throughout the pandemic CAPS Media crews facilitated the County's COVID updates with county officials from the County government center and locations throughout the community.

During the shutdown, CAPS Member/Producers can submit programming via the online portal at capsmedia.org for broadcast and streaming on CAPS public access television Channel 6 and on CAPS Radio KPPQ 104.1FM. All of us at CAPS Media hope everyone stays Safe, Strong, Socially Distant and Healthy during these very challenging times. We encourage everyone to continue getting tested and get vaccinated. Thanks again for the continuing community effort to Stay Strong during these challenging times.

Community members combat

Continued from page 1
time. In addition, trees lower temperature in the shade about 10 degrees. Because of the availability of recycled water, it's more feasible to maintain trees without using Ventura's constrained potable water supply."

"Few improvements are a better expenditure of resources and give greater satisfaction to community life than planting and maintaining the "right tree in the right place". A healthy urban forest enhances the quality of life for all Venturans," adds Ms. Weir.

To volunteer or for more information about the Ventura Tree Alliance, check out our Facebook page or our website at www.venturatreealliance.com.

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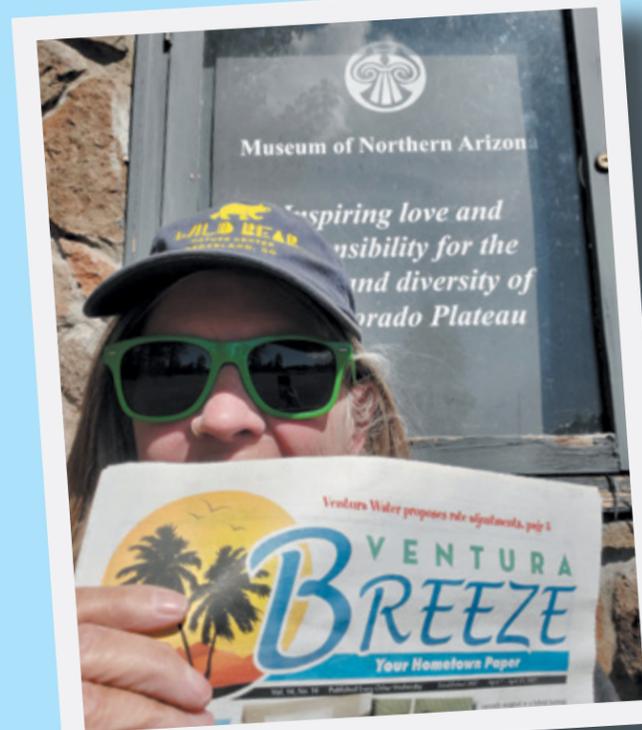
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THIS SPACE FOR WRITING MESSAGE

On her way to visit her Colorado family Jill Forman visited the Museum of Northern Arizona in Flagstaff. She took a Ventura Breeze to share with her family and to read her article in the paper.

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The City Center has been in operation for the last seven years.

The City Center achieving 100% success rate

Since 2014, local Ventura organization The City Center has developed a residential program working with the homeless population – achieving 100% success rate.

Finding a way to ensure homeless families in need are given a chance to have success in life is a challenging task. The City Center however, has a 100 percent success rate at helping graduates rebuild their lives. Since 2014, 253 people have graduated from its program debt free with full-time employment and reliable transportation, representing 78 families who will never return to homelessness.

Led by Executive Director, Jim Duran, The City Center has worked to lift people out of homelessness or defeat with the help of its onsite staff, case managers, therapists, and mentors.

“It’s giving a hand up, rather than a handout,” said Duran. “Each family receives the help and guidance they need to find and hold jobs, leave all government support behind, and learn to care for themselves and their children.”

Though housing is temporary, The

City Center allows their residents to stay in the program for one to two years. Graduates of The City Center leave with a savings account and no longer need government assistance. Additionally, 30% of residents leave with college degrees, trade school degrees and/or certificates of completion in their field.

“We work with our residents over many months with a variety of methods to get them back on their feet,” said Duran. “We want them to be empowered to become independent, but we always do it through guidance and love, that’s the secret to our success.”

The City Center has been in operation for the last seven years. In order to continue this support and structure for their residents, they are working to purchase their property, which is a converted motel, located at 837 E. Thompson Blvd. This next step will assist them in moving their success ratio and programs forward into more converted motels in more cities in Ventura County.

To learn more about The City Center and information on ways to support them, please visit www.thecitycenter.org.

News & Notes

Water rates increase 43%

by Res Publica

Decisions made by past and present City Councils led to Ventura Water increasing water rates by 7% and wastewater rates by 6% for each year over the next four years. In truth, water rates for the “average” ratepayer will increase by 43% during that time.

IF YOU DON'T PROTEST, YOU VOTE "YES" AUTOMATICALLY

Ventura is obliged under Proposition 218 to allow ratepayers to protest the rate increases. Yet, Ventura Water doesn't make it easy to do so. The protest form is intentionally challenging to locate. In the 8-page Ventura Water 'Proposed Rate Adjustments' document <https://www.cityofventura.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/26577/Final-Ventura-Prop-218-Notice?bidId=>, Ventura Water buries the protest procedure on the last page. It is not bolded or highlighted to stand out to the reader. The protest format is not user-friendly. There is little explanation on how to complete the form, making it confusing to property owners.

If you oppose this increase, Ventura Water's notice states that the parcel owner, or customer of record on the water bill, must file a written protest with the City Clerk at City Hall.

WHERE TO GET YOUR PROTEST FORM

The City did not enclose a protest form with the rate increase notice. Instead, the brochure directs you to go online. You can find the Water Shortage Rate Protest form here <https://www.cityofventura.ca.gov/DocumentCenter/View/26577/Final-Ventura-Prop-218-Notice?bidId=>. You can complete the form online, but you must print it for it to count.

Written protests may be submitted by mail to the Ventura City Clerk's Office at 501 Poli Street (Room 204) Ventura, California 93001, or in person at the drop box near the back entrance of City Hall at 501 Poli Street, Ventura, California 93001 (parking lot behind City Hall). All mailed written protests must be received (not postmarked) by the City

Clerk no later than May 17, 2021, at 5:00 pm.

To prevent the rate increase, most property owners (51%) must file a protest. Renters have no right to protest. Business owners have no right to protest. Only the 32,000 people that own property with water meters have a right to vote. The remaining 81,000 people in the City of Ventura are effectively disenfranchised. They have no vote but will have to pay.

WHY IS VENTURA DOING THIS?

Ventura Water plans to build a \$240 million wastewater treatment plant that will duplicate facilities that already exist near Ventura. The 2019 Corollo Report (commissioned by Ventura Water), titled Ventura Water Supply Projects and Alternatives <https://ca-ventura.civicplus.com/DocumentCenter/View/18399/2019-Ventura-Water-Supply-Projects-Final-EIR>, states that if Ventura Water utilizes the United Water Conservation and the Oxnard Water Treatment Plant, they would not need to build a separate treatment plant. The cost savings to Ventura ratepayers could be enormous.

The 'lack of control and trust' Ventura Water purports to be why it's not cooperating with other water agencies is absurd. It's already working with several other agencies and depends upon many other outside agencies for water resources.

If we continue down this path, Ventura ratepayers will pay more than may be needed. Ventura Water has put the price tag on “control” and “trust.” It's \$200 million

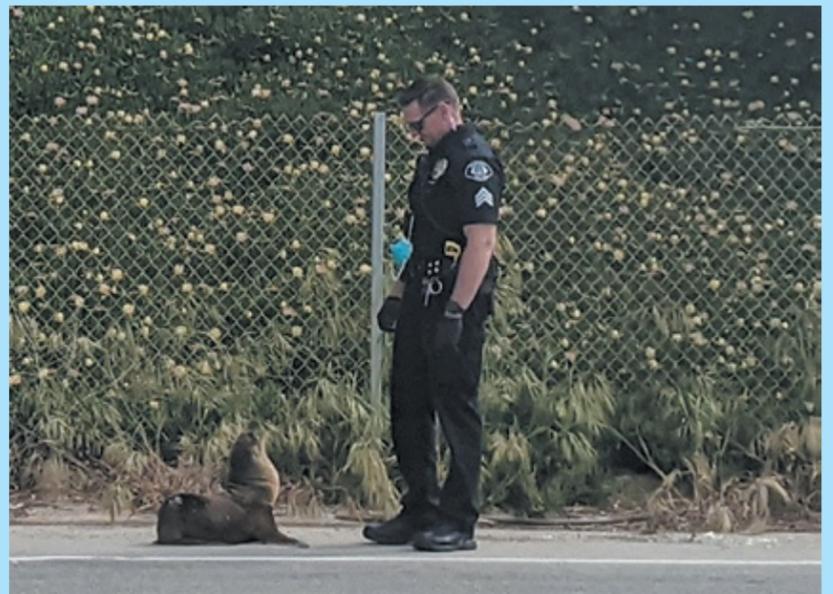
The Ventura City Council should: Call for an accurate, independent, cost analysis that could result in potential savings of \$200 million

Delay any rate increase to Wastewater rates

Direct the City attorney to apply for a deadline extension on the Wishtoyo Consent Agreement to provide more time to find the optimal solution while avoiding substantial legal penalties

Open negotiations with United Water and the City of Oxnard to utilize a wastewater treatment process.

Our current path is misguided and needs reevaluation. Making a financial decision based on “trust and control” is not in the public's best interest.



Sgt. Casey Sutherland told the seal “I’m sorry but you were jay-walking so I will need to write you a ticket!” Only kidding of course, Casey is a hero for trying to help this injured seal. Photo by Susan Lang.



News & Notes



Demonstration by residents held in opposition to development. Photo by Richard Lieberman.

Haley Point Demonstration puts local residents at odds with state law

by Richard Lieberman

A recent demonstration by residents who live around and near the proposed Haley Point housing project marched from California and Main to City Hall. The protesters have organized, set up a GoFundMe page and are asking the city to hear their concerns about the proposed project. The proposed development by Warmington Residential is slated for 72-unit condominium project and of those 72 units 14 units, or 20% will be offered below market rate for moderate income households. Each unit will have a two-car garage.

The group now known as Midtown Ventura Coalition has grown using social media to get their message out to residents. "We were notified in August about a zoom meeting with the developer Warmington Residential who wants to build seventy-two townhouses on a 4.2-acre plot near the end of Channel Island Drive where it meets Seaward Ave, we looked at the design and the design is pretty and we liked the way it looked, everyone of us wants to see more housing in Ventura," said Jim Gibson, a sixteen-year resident of Rancho Drive. "The problem is this is on what is almost a cul-de-sac the far end of a low-density neighborhood where peoples children are playing in the streets," he added. Gibson also added that the group has reached out to city officials and the developer to express concerns about increases in traffic density and how the city is handling the developer's requested variances, combining requests for smaller setbacks and fewer parking spaces into one request.

If the decision is not what the neighbors want or if the decision is not what the developer wants it will be appealed. "We fully expect it to be appealed," said Peter Gilli, community development director for the city. In May 2020, the City Council passed a measure to facilitate processing projects dubbed an Emergency Streamlining Ordinance (EMSO). The EMSO made two changes, according to Gilli, One, a project will still have multiple hearings, with recommendations coming from those boards. But the last hearing body, determined by Gilli according to the ordinance, will

"make a final decision on the project" The final decision is also subject to an appeal which puts the project before the city council for a final non-appealable finding.

"Zoning says that the developer has to have a twenty-foot set back, they are trying to bring it down to thirteen, which is a 35% reduction of what's required in that neighborhood" said Miles Glazner spokesperson for the group. "They are trying to put two variances together, they are trying to put the rear set-back which they want to do 17.8 and the from one they want to bring down to thirteen feet they want to combine those two variances saying that is just one," added Glen Overly "We are in favor of the kind of development that will provide the housing we need," he added.

State law prohibits the city from changing plans when it comes to modifying density or not approving housing developments. "The general plan designation for this site allows more housing than the developer has proposed. That is state law now. Five years ago, it was different. Now if a project complies with the density range of the General plan, then our ability to shrink or deny the project has been eliminated, added Gilli. Before the current plan it was commonplace for the city to demand fewer units even under allowable densities and impose that on the development. "The city can't do that anymore, the states emphasis is on the housing crisis has taken that away and limited the city's ability to do things like that," he said. Adding Gilli said "Our residents have not wanted to hear that answer," Currently Ventura is in the planning stages of an update covering the existing General Plan. With the update and state law, the city is mandated to approve housing projects that do not conflict with the General Plan.

Haley Point, for the most part, complies with state law and complies with city rules. State law puts the city in a position where they must comply and to grant what the developers are asking for.

For further comments see Opinion-Editorial on page 4.



The Faces of Heroes

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News & Notes

The Bookmark

About Libraries and Friends

by Jill Forman

(Note: This Bookmark was supposed to be in last issue but inadvertently, of course, was left out so you have the pleasure of reading two Bookmark articles in this issue.)

Book sale

By the time this comes out, the Ventura Friends of the Library will have had their first outdoor, hands-on sale of the year, on April 17. We are so excited to be able to offer high-quality used books to the booklovers of Ventura, and to generate funds for library programming and supplies. Thanks to all the volunteers and to the folks who came out to get bargains and support us!

Reopening status

Now that Ventura County is in Orange tier, the libraries will be open for limited in-person browsing. Check with your local branch to find out those hours, and to make arrangements.

Bad Art presentation

Director Louise Reilly Sacco will join the Ventura County Library at 6pm on Friday, April 30, 2021, to talk about the collections at the Museum Of Bad Art (MOBA) via ZOOM.

The Museum Of Bad Art collects, exhibits, and celebrates art that will be seen in no other venue. Since 1993, they have collected art from thrift stores, yard sales, sidewalk trash, and even the artists who create it.

In this presentation, the world's leading cultural institution dedicated to art in which something has gone wrong describes how and why it was established. MOBA presents pieces from their collection, with an insightful, pithy, and often humorous commentary.

This event is free and open to the public. To register for this event, visit bit.ly/VCLMOBA. For additional information, contact Ron Solórzano, Regional Librarian, at (805) 218-9146 or ron.solorzano@ventura.org. Instructions for registering for this event on Zoom can also be found on our online calendar at www.ventcolibrary.org/calendar.

Member event

Kate McDermott, author of *The Art of the Pie*, will lead a hands-on session of baking with follow-along instructions on Saturday May 8 at 2:00 p.m. via ZOOM. Current VFOL members will receive email invitations and will be given priority for pre-registration.

Learn how to make and shape a flaky all-butter pastry dough which can be used to make many tasty treats in your kitchen.

If you do not receive an invitation by April 25, call Mary Olson at 805-223-1187.

Online Store Update

Many new offerings in education and travel. Remember travel?

We are losing some of our storage space at Hill Road, so if your order from us we thank you and request that you pick up your items within a week. If for some reason you cannot, email the bookstore folks and we'll see what we can arrange.

More educational and entertaining programs offered by your libraries

Poetry Virtual Open Mic Night hosted by Phil Taggart. Thursdays 7:30 - 10:00 p.m. Enjoy a featured poet, then share your own work with the group if you wish. Black Poets of Ventura County featured through May 6. Friends of the Library Book Discussion. Saturday May 1, 10:00 a.m.- noon. The Long Haul by Finn Murphy. emmamayer9866@gmail.com. Ukulele Jam Mondays 7:00 - 10 p.m. [https://](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/426255353?pwd=dmd-nTTdDdmdFZDYrUnAxZEU5bkxhdz09)

us02web.zoom.us/j/426255353?pwd=dmd-nTTdDdmdFZDYrUnAxZEU5bkxhdz09

Always more events than I can cover: Storytimes, Discover Science, Minecraft Mondays, Art Lessons...

The Bookmark

About Libraries and Friends

by Jill Forman

Book sale report

The Ventura Friends of the Library had its first in-person book sale of the year on April 17, in the E.P. Foster Library parking lot. Volunteers filled their cars and trucks, and displayed the books on tables and in their trunks and hatchbacks, sorted by genre. COVID protocols were observed.

There was a line of eager booklovers waiting before the opening at 9 a.m. Hundreds of community members came, browsed, and left with bags full of books. Over \$1600 was raised for the libraries.

Thanks to all the volunteers, the buyers, and Boy Scout Troop 155 for making the sale a success.

VCLSA Tutoring program – “Change a Life; It Might Be Your Own”

The READ Adult Literacy program is a vibrant and valuable tool for assisting the community; one that many citizens are not aware of. Adults who wish to improve their literacy skills are teamed with community members who receive training through the library and then are paired with a learner. Traditionally, this has been done face-to-face.

Carol Chapman, in her 18th year as READ Program Director, has this to say about the impact of COVID on her program participants. “The COVID pandemic has been a challenge for the READ program, as it has been for everyone. However, many READ tutors and learners have remained active during stay-at-home sheltering. Some have read to each other over the telephone.

Others have learned to use ZOOM, SKYPE, TEAMS or other internet conferencing sites to meet “face-to-face remotely” and continue their tutoring sessions; often using the program’s popular online “News For You” newspaper.

In addition, numerous tutoring partners took “leave” from their tutoring sessions, some by necessity and others choice, and are eagerly waiting to return to work together again when the libraries open fully.”

About the program in general, she adds, “So many adults grew up struggling with reading all the way through school, and now READ has programs designed to make reading easier for them. When we match a struggling-reader with one of these programs and their own personal tutor – magic begins to happen! I wish more adults would give READ a chance to help. It generally makes their lives much easier.”

Charles McDermott, tutor, says about his experiences, “I have been involved with adult literacy programs since my retirement as a teacher, and it has proven to be the most fulfilling activity I have ever undertaken. Take Jose for example who came to the Oxnard Library Literacy office after lasting 20 minutes in his first college English class. It took us five years of working together but I will remember forever the sight of him dancing off with his daughter after his graduation from Ventura College! Or Julio who wanted to be an American citizen. After struggling for months with the rigorous demands of test preparation, I will never forget that phone call: ‘Mr. Charles I have bad news for you, I’m going to be voting in November!’ Satisfaction indeed!”



Senior Living



Townhouse residents enjoying their new outdoor dining. Photos by Richard Lieberman.

Ventura Townhouse holds grand opening of "The Pier"

by Richard Lieberman

Nancee Borgnine and Harvey Marasigan, both Director of Sales for Ventura Townhouse announced the opening of "The Pier" an outdoor dining patio within the Townhouse facility.

"We have a large and beautiful property and during a pandemic we decided to expand and do something outside. Management thought it was a great idea so we smashed everything in the exterior of the main building and built a gazebo that is now called "The Pier" so that our residents can still enjoy themselves and be outside and feel comfortable and secure and their families can come and visit them as well," said Borgnine, daughter of well-known movie and television star Ernest Borgnine.

"It was perfect timing and moving forward we thought our people would enjoy being outdoors, and this small area within the confines of our property was barely used and we thought that would be a perfect spot for something like this," Marasigan said. "We pitched the idea to the owner Jay Issacs, and he thought it was a brilliant idea and residents were really excited by the idea and so here we are."

The Pier offers residents an outdoor venue to dine, socialize, relax and visit with family and friends in an outdoor setting. "Our residents can enjoy three

meals a day out there, and we are going to do some special things during the holiday season Father's Day, Fourth of July and others, added Borgnine.

The site is situated on 12.5 acres so there is plenty of room to expand and create additional outside areas their residents can enjoy.

"We tell people that if you move into a community like this to live, to live your life, there are a lot of benefits to living here just like this," Marasigan added. Typically assisted living homes like this offer to their residents the ability to socialize and be around others without having to worry about boredom. The facility has much to offer and there is always something to do. For residents "its like living on a cruise ship that never leaves the dock," added Borgnine.

Residents are offered a multitude of amenities and living programs that are noteworthy. Residents have access to all types of daily activities.

The facility is redesigning interiors from the top floor down and will undergo a complete make over from floor to floor.

The Townhouse offers seniors independent adult living facilities, customized memory care, Alzheimer's and dementia care, and respite care.

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Could reducing cardiovascular risk in early adulthood be key to keeping cognition later?

Treating people in early adulthood for cardiovascular risk could preserve their ability to think clearly, learn, and remember as they age, a new study pooling large sets of population data suggests. The findings showed that risk factors such as elevated body mass index, fasting glucose, and systolic blood pressure were associated with worse cognitive health later in life. Funded in part by NIA, the research was published in the March 17 online issue of *Neurology*, the medical journal of the American Academy of Neurology.

Researcher measuring breathing, heart rate, and blood pressure of participant while walking on a treadmill, results appear on a computer screen. Existing evidence suggests that maintaining heart health, in particular blood pressure control, may slow cognitive decline. Yet

research to date on delaying cognitive decline has focused on reducing cardiovascular risk during midlife. To address this gap, researchers compiled data from different groups and measured the association of early adult, midlife, and late-life cardiovascular risk with late-life cognitive decline.

The research team found that across the adult life course, elevated cardiovascular risk factors, including elevated body mass index, fasting glucose, and systolic blood pressure, but not total cholesterol, were associated with greater cognitive decline in late life. Lead author Kristine Yaffe, MD, from the University of California San Francisco, noted that the findings are particularly noteworthy because they show cardiovascular risk exposures in early life in particular are associated with late-life cognitive change, even after accounting for risk exposures in mid- and late-life.

To get a full adult life-course perspective on cardiovascular risk factors and cognitive decline, the research team combined data from four NIH-funded studies: Coronary Artery Risk Development in Young Adults (CARDIA), Multi Ethnic Study of Atherosclerosis (MESA), Cardiovascular Health Study (CHS), and Health, Aging and Body Composition

Continued on page 11



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Senior Living



Riptide Big Band has previously performed at dances, private parties, weddings, reunions, and other events.

Alzheimer's Association's 'The Longest Day' fundraiser gets underway

Ventura County participants are joining in with others across the country to fight the darkness of Alzheimer's by doing an activity that they love for The Longest Day – an Alzheimer's Association fundraiser that culminates on the summer solstice, the day with the most light.

"The Longest Day is a fun way for people to join the fight to end Alzheimer's and other dementia by involving their

business, friends and family in any hobby or activity of their choice," said Jeffery Glover, Development Specialist with the California Central Coast Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association. "All proceeds provide local care and support, as well as critical global research."

This year, fundraising activities are taking form in a variety of different ways, from bake sales to video game tournaments.

Leila Thayer Malone has been restoring pieces of antique furniture in her workshop, which she describes as her "happy place."

Riptide Big Band, the Central Coast's premier 15-piece dance band, will be playing a concert at a senior club

Laura DeLoye is doing dance-grams while dressed up as Uma the Unicorn, a returning event from last year that successfully raised over \$2,500 in 2020.

Others are taking advantage of the beautiful outdoors along California's central coast.

Juerg Geser will be paddle boarding in the Channel Islands Harbor from sunrise to sunset on June 20, accompanied by local friends and others around the world.

Glover shares that the need for support is greater than ever. "There are over 690,000 Californians currently living with Alzheimer's or some other form of dementia, with over one million caregivers watching over them," says Glover. "The chances are very high that you or someone you know has been affected by this disease in one way or another."

To learn more or get involved in The Longest Day, visit alz.org/tld or contact Jeffery Glover at jkglover@alz.org.



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Medicines currently used to treat conditions other than dementia can help prevent or treat Alzheimer's

Researchers in NIA's Clinical and Translational Neuroscience Section in the Laboratory of Behavioral Neuroscience are leading an innovative new study to determine whether medicines currently used to treat conditions other than dementia can help prevent or treat Alzheimer's disease. Plans for the Drug Repurposing for Effective Alzheimer's Medicines (DREAM) study were published recently in *Alzheimer's and Dementia: Translational Research and Clinical Interventions*.

The NIA team, led by Madhav Thambisetty, M.D., Ph.D, collaborated with researchers at Harvard Medical School, Rutgers University, and Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine to design a new approach that would be an alternative to traditional drug discovery. This method focuses the search on drugs that have already been shown safe and effective for other conditions. And, instead of beginning the search for treatments by testing compounds in lab animals for effectiveness, the team will first look at data from large numbers

of people who had already been treated with those compounds for other disorders. Later, researchers may conduct animal studies to validate findings for dementia before planning studies with people.

The research team has already made progress with their plans for drug repurposing research. First, the research team identified a network of about 20 biological pathways linked to abnormal brain metabolism in people with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. These abnormalities may precede or influence the brain changes that lead to dementia.

Next, they identified 35 FDA-approved drugs that might be active against the network of 20 pathways. These drugs are used already to treat diseases other than Alzheimer's and related dementias. Of these 35, the team selected 15 drugs as the best candidates for further analysis.

From this point, the team plans to analyze data collected during routine health care for the effects of a candidate drug on the development of dementia. Data sources include electronic health records from U.S. Medicare and the United Kingdom. The analysis will estimate the incidence of dementia for people treated with the candidate drug and compare it to those receiving another drug for the same disease.

Results from the DREAM study will help guide future research. If a drug appears to reduce the risk or severity of Alzheimer's and related dementias, researchers could conduct lab tests to determine how the drug works against dementia, and the drugs could eventually be tested with people in clinical trials.

The researchers noted that the DREAM study relies on the accuracy of information in the databases being analyzed. The researchers plan to use multiple methods of rigorous analysis to ensure that the study's results are as accurate as possible.

This project is funded by the intramural research program of the National Institute on Aging. It relates to NIH's AD+ADRD



Senior Living

Research Implementation Milestone 7.B, "Initiate research programs for translational bioinformatics and network pharmacology to support rational drug repositioning and combination therapy from discovery through clinical development."

Reference: Desai RJ, et al. Targeting abnormal metabolism in Alzheimer's disease: The Drug Repurposing for Effective Alzheimer's Medicines (DREAM) study. Alzheimer's & Dementia



Sullivan is a front desk concierge at Cypress Place.

A loving heart at Cypress Place Senior Living

As far back as nine years old, Kathy Sullivan remembers admiring the older generation and feeling as

though they were responsible for teaching her to become the best person she could be. She found herself baking cookies and taking them to lonely neighbors, and listening while they shared their life stories. Today, she continues to impact the lives of seniors in tangible ways.

Sullivan is a front desk concierge at Cypress Place Senior Living in Ventura, a senior living community catering to independent living, assisted living, and memory care residents. She has been with the community for 15 years.

On a recent Friday afternoon, the residents and staff and Cypress Place celebrated Sullivan's 15 years of service to the community with a surprise anniversary celebration. She stood speechless as she walked into the community's fireside lounge where she was greeted with applause by both residents and staff members alike.

"Everyone here has benefited from her amazing kindness," said Marion Doane, one of the residents who helped coordinate the surprise along with the Cypress Place management team. "No matter how long you have lived here, whether it be one day, or ten years, you will have been touched by her infectious smile, her kind heart, and her giving spirit."

The touching celebration brought tears to Sullivan's eyes as she recounted how at one point during her employment, a car accident kept her away from the community for about three months.

"When I was recuperating in

my home after my car accident, the residents had a lot to do with me getting better," recounted Sullivan. "I would receive cards and notes all throughout my recovery from the residents. I will always be so grateful for those notes because I knew I needed to get back to the residents. They played a huge part in my recovery."

Sullivan says she loves meeting and greeting the residents and their families daily. Being attentive to their needs, helping each resident feel accomplished, smiling, and always being kind, are her daily mottos, because the residents deserve it according to Sullivan.

"You are beloved by all the residents, as well as all your co-workers," said Gina Salman, executive director at Cypress Place. "You are the foundation for the experience we strive to provide our residents here at Cypress Place."

Colleen Webb, Cypress Place Senior Living associate executive director, was equally as effusive. "Thank you, Kathy, for your loving heart these past 15 years. We look forward to many more years together."

Cypress Place Senior Living is a premiere independent living, assisted living, and memory care community in the city of Ventura. For more information about Cypress Place Senior Living located at 1200/1220 Cypress Point Ln Ventura, visit www.cypressplaceseniorliving.com or call 805-650-8000.

Could reducing cardiovascular risk

Continued from page 9
(Health ABC). CARDIA included data of young to middle-aged adults, MESA of middle-aged to older adults, and the CHS and Health ABC studies of older adults. This pooled cohort included Black and white adult participants ages 18 to 95 years old at enrollment. The researchers assigned values over time for body mass index, fasting glucose, systolic blood pressure, and total cholesterol for 15,001 adults.

Yaffe, who recently described the importance of this kind of population-based evidence in an NIH lecture, "Epidemiology of Cognitive Aging: Why Observational Studies Still Matter," noted a strength of this study is its large sample size and ability to study exposures over the adult life course. Limitations described include that the missing measures of early- and mid-life cardiovascular risk were imputed and these values tended toward average levels, thereby lessening the strength of the associations with cognitive decline. However, the analysis suggests that absence of cardiovascular risk factors in early adulthood is associated with better cognitive health in old age, even when midlife and late life cardiovascular factors are taken into account. Next steps in this area of research would be to determine if treating early-life cardiovascular risk factors has an effect on cognition in late-life.

This research was supported by NIA grants 1RF1AG054443 and K01AG047273.



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

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This 'n' That



WEV will present the 2021 Rock Star: Lifetime Achievement Award to Lupe Anguiano.

Local women business owners honored as 2021 Spirit of Entrepreneurship Award finalists

Women's Economic Ventures (WEV) is proud to announce the 30 finalists for the 11th annual Spirit of Entrepreneurship Awards (SOE) to be held virtually on May 21, from 12noon -1:30pm. The SOE Awards celebrate outstanding women business owners from Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties in ten industry categories. Community members are invited to attend the free, online event; register at Spirit of Entrepreneurship Awards.

A panel of independent judges, who all live outside the tri-county area, selected the finalists from an impressive group of applicants throughout Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties. This year, the judges also took into consideration the impact the businesses make in their community and the entrepreneurs' resiliency to the challenges presented by the global pandemic.

Stacy Harris, a judge from Phoenix, Arizona, said the finalists are "an impressive class of driven female entrepreneurs adapting to an unpredictable environment during the pandemic in support of community and creative services and products."

"We are thrilled to honor these incredible women who have shown strength and creativity in keeping their businesses

going through a tough year," said Kathy Odell, WEV CEO. "It's important to take the time to stop and celebrate these accomplishments not only to recognize the winners but so we can all be inspired by them."

Along with the 10 category winners, WEV will present the 2021 Rock Star: Lifetime Achievement Award to Lupe Anguiano, an entrepreneur and activist known for her work on women's rights, the rights of the poor, and the protection of the environment who has founded two impactful nonprofits.

World-renowned political activist and feminist organizer Gloria Steinem told WEV, "I'm so glad that you are honoring my longtime friend, Lupe Anguiano. She has been my trusted leader, from the farm worker struggle to today's understanding that as human beings, we are linked, not ranked. She always has been ahead of me on the path, and she lights the way ahead."

Major sponsors of the 2021 Spirit of Entrepreneurship Awards include American Riviera Bank, City National Bank, Cox, County of Ventura, JPMorgan Chase & Co, La Arcada, LinkedIn, and Ventura County Credit Union.

Women's Economic Ventures is dedicated to creating an equitable and just society through the economic empowerment of women. WEV is a business resource network for anyone looking to start a business, grow a local business, or improve their business skills. WEV provides small business training, advisory services, financial literacy programs and small business loans in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. While WEV's focus is on women, it welcomes people of all gender identities into the WEV community. Business courses, programs and loans are provided in both English and Spanish.

Since 1991, WEV has provided business training and small business advisory services to more than 19,000 people throughout Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. WEV has made more than \$6.4 million in small business loans and helped more than 5,000 local businesses start or expand, generating an estimated \$770 million in annual sales and creating nearly 12,000 local jobs. WEV is a U.S. Small Business Administration's Women's Business Center and Microlender, as well as a certified Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI).



Alison Kenis, Lynette Coverly and JoAnne Hadley are finalists to receive awards.

Continued/increasing need for a continuum of care facility for those with severe mental health issues

By Carol Leish

Mary Haffner, who served on the Behavioral Health Advisory Board for the past six years, says that, "Ventura County is not the only California county dealing with the societal, economic, and human health costs associated with our society's collective failure to provide a continuum of care for those with severe mental health issues. While serving on the board, I was able to get a close look at Ventura County's mental healthcare system as it relates to people with the most serious mental illnesses like schizophrenia, bi-polar disorder, and major depressive disorder. The needs of this population are far different from those who have mild to moderate mental health challenges and they require a specific set of treatment protocols and post-discharge supports. The good news is that these illnesses are highly treatable and people can do well given prompt and effective treatment."

In a letter dated, October 29, 2019, to the Ventura County Board of Supervisors, from Haffner, while on the Behavioral Health Advisory Board, that concerned, 'The Continuum of Care for the Seriously Mentally Ill in Ventura County,' she stated: "Ventura County does not provide a full continuum of coordinated mental health care for the seriously mentally ill. Others with (physical) illnesses receive prompt and effective science-based treatment and follow-up supports to realize recovery. Investing in the continuum of care for those living with serious mental illness can alleviate stress on numerous agencies and begin to tackle the cycle of hospitalizations, incarceration, and homelessness."

According to a letter to the Ventura County Board of Supervisors, from the Behavioral Health Advisory Board, on February 22, 2021, regarding the 'Lanterman-Petrus-Short (LPS) Reform Workgroup Report': "There was a need to reform provisions of the LPS Act." However, "It was the County Counsel's opinion that the Welfare and Institution code did not give the Behavioral Health Advisory Board the ability to engage in legislative matters or to advocate in support of legislation, even though members of the board strongly believed that behavioral health legislation was to be an integral part of its ability to address and work to resolve the needs of the behavioral health system of care in Ventura County."

According to Haffner, "Providing treatment now requires adequate infrastructure, to include acute inpatient beds, appropriate step-down facilities, wrap-around post discharge supports, and supportive housing. Ventura's crisis bed capacity is lower than counties similar in size. We do not have a facility that can directly accept psychiatric emergencies, necessitating long waits in hospital emergency rooms. Because people with serious mental illness often interface with numerous departments and agencies in a county system (hospital, jails, probation, behavior health, courts, homeless services), the most efficient way to utilize scarce resource is to look at the entire system, fortify communication between agencies, and to find ways

to leverage resource to provide upstream treatment and supports. San Diego, Orange, and Los Angeles counties have all created templates for whole-systems approaches to provide treatment and supports for this population. And, other counties have used the Mental Health Services Act funding to partner with private entities to provide Crisis Stabilization Units and other crisis facilities."

"Understanding the dire lack of crisis services and need for prompt and effective treatment," according to Haffner, "the Behavioral Health Advisory Board recently prepared a report with recommendations for the Ventura County Board of Supervisors. Among these recommendations is a 30-day extension of hospitalization for individuals deemed gravely disabled in order to provide better care and stabilization and to avoid the need for Conservatorship. The reality of serious mental illness is that people need to receive treatment for longer than 3 days."

Haffner believes that, "We don't do more to help these people because I believe that discrimination and stigma play a big role in our society's failure to provide treatment. We have normalized the jailing of people with mental illness and we have too many people who don't want any treatment facilities in their communities. That is why leadership is so important. We need leader who understand the illness and who are willing to educate the public and work toward solutions."

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The ROSA® Knee System is a robotically assisted surgical system that includes features to assist with bone resections and assessing the state of soft tissues to facilitate implant positioning intraoperatively. Data provided by ROSA allows surgeons to use computer and software technology to control and move surgical instruments, allowing for greater precision and flexibility during procedures.

The webinar presenter is Dr. John Ross Burge, a hip and knee reconstruction specialist with extensive joint reconstruction training. His expertise includes robotic-assisted joint replacement, computer navigation joint replacement, revision hip and knee construction, minimally invasive surgery, partial knee replacement, and anterior and posterior hip reconstruction.

Community Memorial Health System is a not-for-profit health system that comprises Community Memorial Hospital, Ojai Valley Community Hospital, a skilled nursing facility, and several primary and specialty care clinics that serve communities throughout Ventura County, California.

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Police Reports

by Cindy Summers

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

DUI Drugs, Possession of Controlled Substances, Commercial Burglary, Grand Theft, Identity Theft

On April 14, at approximately 1am, the VPD Command Center received a call from a security guard in the Downtown area that a glass door to a shop in the 500 block of Main St had been shattered. Patrol officers arrived and discovered the store had been burglarized. CSI processed the scene, discovering around \$3,000 worth of merchandise had been stolen.

At about 7am, the VPD Command Center received a call from a victim in the 6000 block of Promontory Lane, their unlocked vehicle had been entered, and about \$2500 worth of property was taken from it.

At about 9:30am, Patrol officers were dispatched to the 1900 block of Tanager St reference a subject slumped over in a vehicle with the motor running. Officers searched the area and were able to locate the car parked in the 7/11 parking lot on Bristol St. Officers contacted 29 year old Ventura County resident Whitney Byrd, who appeared under the influence, and they began a DUI investigation. During the investigation, officers located a large amount of stolen property and contacted Street Crimes detectives.

Detectives were able to link Whitney to the earlier burglary and theft from an unlocked vehicle. Detectives also located evidence of Identity Theft. Whitney was arrested for Driving Under the Influence of a Drug, Possession of Controlled Substances (methamphetamine and fentanyl), Commercial Burglary, Grand Theft, and Identity Theft.

A search of the Ventura County Superior Court shows Whitney has prior arrests for being Under the Influence of a Controlled Substance, Possession of a Controlled Substance, Petty Theft, Possession of a Stolen Vehicle, and Burglary.

Narcotics Arrest

On April 7, at 11:00am, Ventura Police patrol officers contacted 39 year old Ventura resident Elizabeth Haberstich in the 100 block of Santa Clara St. During the detention, officers conducted a probation search.

Officers located narcotics on Haberstich's person, members of the SCU Narcotics unit responded and assisted with the investigation.

During the subsequent investigation, detectives recovered fentanyl, methamphetamines, cocaine, and evidence of narcotics sales on Haberstich's person, vehicle, and hotel room.

As a result of the investigation, Elizabeth Haberstich was arrested for possession for sale of controlled substances.

A search of the Ventura County Superior Court shows that Elizabeth Haberstich has prior arrests for numerous narcotics violations, including several previous arrests for possession for sales of controlled substances.

Stolen vehicle recovery with arrest

On April 24, at approximately 1am, a Ventura Police patrol officer observed a possible stolen vehicle in the 1300 Block of Saratoga Ave. A records check confirmed that the vehicle was stolen from Thousand Oaks. The patrol officer conducted a traffic stop on the vehicle and safely detained the driver, 28 year old Oxnard resident Paul Coronado with the

assistance of additional officers.

Coronado was found to be in possession of burglary tools and was driving on a suspended license as a result of DUI offenses. He was arrested for unlawful driving of a stolen vehicle, possession of burglar's tools, and driving on a suspended license for DUI offenses.

Conspiracy, Prowling, Possession of a Switchblade, Possession of Burglary Tools Arrests

On April 24, at approximately 3:45am, the Ventura Police Command Center received a call of a subject casing residences in the 400 Block of Howard. Ventura PD patrol officers responded and detained a subject matching the description. The investigation showed he was prowling on multiple residences. This subject was found to be on probation with search terms and was carrying various burglary tools and a switchblade knife. This subject was identified as 22 year old Ojai resident Wyatt Revard.

Officers observed a subject in a nearby vehicle waiting in the area and contacted him. The subject in the vehicle, 36 year old Ojai resident Christopher Grant, was determined to be the getaway driver for Wyatt.

Wyatt was arrested for Conspiracy to Commit a Crime, Prowling, Possession of Burglary Tools, and Possession of a Switchblade Knife. Grant was arrested for Conspiracy to Commit a Crime.

Residential Burglary Arrest

On April 24, at approximately 2:30am, the Ventura Police Command Center received a call of an unknown subject inside the victim's home. The caller indicated the subject was going toward the children's room. The father of the children confronted the victim and a fight ensued. Multiple Ventura PD officers arrived and were able to safely detain the suspect, identified as 38 year old Arizona resident Roman Salas.

The investigation showed that Salas had forced his way into the home by kicking in a door at the back of the home. Salas was unknown to the residents and was arrested for Residential Burglary.

The residents and officers were unharmed. Salas was treated for minor injuries sustained from the altercation with the father of the children.

Harbor Patrol Blotter

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

4/17 4:03pm, while on patrol, officers assisted a stranded motorist with a jump start for a dead battery in their vehicle near Andria's seafood.

4:15pm, while on patrol in Rescue B17, officers educated several persons paddling SUP's in violation of no personal flotation device through out the harbor. Officers also educated two vessels for speed/wake violations in harbor.

4/18 10:20am, received several reports of an injured pelican at South Beach in the surfline. Officers responded, captured the bird for rescue volunteers.

11:15am, received report of an individual working on a commercial vessel in its slip near the fuel dock. Officers responded and issued written warning for debris in the water. Workers complied and removed what they could from the water.

4/19 1:33pm, received report of a lost/stolen dog at Surfers Knoll. Officers responded and assisted Ventura PD search, unfortunately they



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were unable to locate it.

4/20 3:18pm, received a report of an injured pelican near VWM D-dock. Officers responded, the RP called back and watched the bird fly away.

4/22 10:36am, dispatched to a fall victim in Ventura Marina Community. Officers responded and assisted VFD/AMR with treatment and preparing for transport.

4/23 9:45am, observed a large motor vessel struggling to maneuver in the Pierpont Basin. Officers were able to assist the disabled vessel and secure it to longdock.

9:23pm, officers broke up a gathering of 125 people at Surfers Knoll. Attendants to the social gathering dispersed peacefully and were young adults.

9:56pm, issued warning to skipper of disabled vessel at longdock for securing w/o permission, having a vessel in un-seaworthy condition, & no plan for a slip.

4/24 10:10am, dispatched to a 18 y/o with a fractured femur on a PWC at the launch ramp. Officers responded by land and sea to assist VFD/AMR with the

patient. After placing a traction splint, patient was transported to local hospital. 6:35pm, officers contacted & issued V/W to a food truck in Harbor Cove lot for conducting business without a permit. The truck closed shop and moved on.

11:01pm, received a request to park vehicle overnight to be a responsible driver in the Ventura Village parking lot. Officers complied, advised Courtney Patrol.

4/25 1:20pm, observed dangerous swimming conditions and officers contacted several inexperienced bathers about rip currents and a strong longshore current from a large South Swell. Rip currents increase with larger waves and currents.

1:37pm, dispatched to stroke victim in Ventura Marina Community. Officers responded and assisted a 69 y/o female who recently suffered a major head injury and was extremely confused. Patient transported to local hospital.

5:27pm, dispatched to 1 y/o with a head injury near 1583 Spinnaker. Officers responded with AMR/VFD to assist the young patient.

Weekly SUDOKU Answer

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

King Crossword Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

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



The Pet Page



Dedicated to Scamp

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

Three upcoming clinics are: Tuesday, May 11th at the Albert H. Soliz Library - El Rio, 2820 Jourdan St., Oxnard, 93036, a second one on Tuesday, May 18th at Shiells Park, in the parking lot, located at 649 C St., Fillmore, 93015 and a third one on Tuesday, May 25th at SPAN Thrift Store parking lot 110 N. Olive St. (behind Vons on Main). Please call to schedule an appointment (805) 584-3823. By Linda Carroll

Beachgoers may have felt safe from Lyme disease, but a new study suggests those heading to the shore also need to keep a careful eye out for disease-carrying ticks.

Researchers in California were surprised to find just as many adult black-legged ticks carrying *Borrelia burgdorferi*, the bacterium that causes Lyme, in areas of grass and scrub leading to the beach they did as in the woodland habitats in the northwestern part of the state.

"We went into new habitats and found them in numbers we didn't expect," said lead author Daniel Salkeld, a research scientist at Colorado State University. "A few years ago I would have said the ticks there wouldn't have been infected because there aren't any grey squirrels, which are the source for Lyme in California."

People may not be looking for ticks when heading to the beach, but the tiny bugs could be hiding in coastal grasses or nearby scrub areas.

"I think they've been under our noses all along," Salkeld told NBC News. "We just haven't thought to look very closely."

Fortunately, for Californians, at least, the ticks aren't a year-round problem. They're only there during the rainy season, Salkeld said.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that around 476,000 Americans are diagnosed and treated for Lyme disease each year.

Typical symptoms include:
Fever
Headache
Fatigue
A characteristic skin rash, called erythema migrans

Most cases of Lyme can be successfully treated with a few weeks of antibiotics, according to the CDC. Untreated, the illness can spread to the joints, heart and nervous system.

To take a closer look at where the ticks might be hanging out, Salkeld and his team dragged public and private areas, including California state parks, county and regional parks and national parks in Marin, Monterey, Napa, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz and Sonoma counties for the blood-sucking bugs.

The researchers found *Borrelia burgdorferi* in 4.1 percent of adult ticks in coastal

scrub and in 3.9 percent of adult ticks in woodland areas.

Salkeld doesn't know yet how the ticks are being infected. The reservoir of the bacteria "could be voles or rabbits," he said.

The findings were published in the journal *Applied and Environmental Microbiology*.

"This is a great study," said Laura Goodman, an assistant research professor at the Baker Institute for Animal Health at the Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine. "There is a bias in this country where people think they are only at risk when they go into the woods. But really, prevention and vigilance should be practiced everywhere outdoors, and we should be vigilant year-round."

Lia Gaertner, director of education and outreach at the Bay Area Lyme Foundation, offered prevention tips:

Stay on trails and on sand.
Wear light clothing and use tick repellent.
Check and triple check your body — up to three days later.
Throw clothes into hot dryer once inside. Shower.

"We tell people that if they find a tick attached to themselves, they should always save it so you can send it for identification and see what type it is and if it carries disease," Gaertner said.

While black-legged ticks are predominantly a woodland and shrubland species, they can also be found in grasslands near the coast, said Richard S. Ostfeld, a tick expert and distinguished senior scientist at the Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies in Millbrook, New York.

How Often Should You Wash Your Dog? By Jennifer Nelson

Is your pup smelling a little ripe? How often and when to bathe your dog can depend on several factors. "Dogs don't need baths as often as humans," says Dr. Callie Harris, a veterinarian at Purina, who is based in Atlanta, and judge of ABC's Pooch Perfect, a new dog grooming competition show.

How often you bathe your dog can vary depending on his coat type, lifestyle, health conditions, and even the time of year. But a good rule is about once a month. Dr. Harris says you can let your nose make the call. "My personal gauge is when I am kicking my dog out of the bed. This usually means it's time for a bath," she says.

If you have a very young puppy, it's a good idea to hold off baths for a bit. Young puppies can't regulate their body temperature, so their first bath shouldn't be before about eight weeks old.

Long haired breeds, like Shih Tzus or collies, and double-coated breeds, like labs, beagles, and huskies, obviously need more bathing to keep long or thick coats clean and matt-free. Short hair breeds who don't get that dirty may need less washing.

Dr. Harris says to use dog-safe shampoo, and for those double-coated breeds, a de-shedding shampoo can help cut down on the amount of hair they shed. "No matter what shampoo you choose, make sure you thoroughly rinse all product out of your dog's coat to prevent any skin irritation."

Scamp Club

(Scampclub pets are not for adoption.)



Hi I'm Tweety, a 4 weeks old baby finch. Tweety is just one of 28 birds. Don't know if it's male or female yet. It loves to sit on Ana's finger and spends its day chirping for food.

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.

Doggie conditioner is probably not necessary for most breeds, but long-haired dogs whose fur can mat easily may benefit. Check with your vet or a good groomer about the best conditioners for a long-haired breed. Conditioners also come in de-shedding formulas.

You can wash your dog too frequently, and it's important not to. "Excessive bathing may cause your dog to have a dry coat or dry skin," says Dr. Harris. Similar to how humans can develop dry skin from long, hot showers, you don't want to overdo bathing your dog. If she already has dry skin, ask your veterinarian about special shampoo and conditioning products that are more hydrating and keep baths infrequent if possible.

What if Your Dog Hates the Bath?

For dogs who aren't a fan of bath time, several tricks can make the experience less stressful:

Use a tub that is non-slippery and comfortable.
Try showering with your pup. He might like

it more if you're in there, too. Make it calm and stress-free by placing your dog in the tub or sink gently. If she doesn't like running water, fill the tub up a few inches before you put her in. Use a cup to wet your dog rather than a shower sprayer.

Start with wetting and sudsing her back legs first. Give lots of treats. Smearing peanut butter, cheese, or other favorite snacks in the shower or tub can help distract.

If your pup still isn't loving the bath, establish a relationship with a groomer who is trained to bathe dogs successfully with minimal stress. Pet parents may not realize that bath time can be a great way to bond with your dog and provide positive engagement. Turning your pup's bath time into a family affair by involving the kids may help, too.

As always, consult your veterinarian about questions and concerns at your pet's next appointment.

Mutts



The Brilliant Mind of Edison Lee



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The Pet Page

Forever homes wanted

Hi: I'm Dextyr, an 8-year-old Irish Terrier mix who is looking for a new home.

I am having a hard time adapting to a baby in the house. I love to watch you cook, cuddle, and play with you. I'm very loyal and loving. I get nervous in new situations and babies/kids scare me. I am house and crate trained. I need to be the only pet as I don't care for cats or other dogs. Not shown in the picture is my awesome mohawk.

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These two bonded boys came in as strays. We think they are about 6 months old, so should give you years of fun. We think it's time for these cute guys to have a home of their own. Ventura County Animal Services - Camarillo location - 600 Aviation Drive. A770393 and A770394

This 'n' That



Old furniture did not meet new state standards for classrooms.

VUSD needed to maximize classroom space as much as possible

In order to accommodate the large number of families who wanted to return in-person instruction and to abide by the State's requirement to bring students back to the classroom to the "fullest extent possible," VUSD needed to maximize classroom space as much as possible in order to comply with the recently changed public health guidelines providing for three feet between student desks. Many of our classrooms would not have accommodated such changes due to being filled with older furniture such as double desks which took up too much space.

Therefore, the Ventura Unified School District (VUSD) used one time money provided by the state to help with these exact issues to purchase new, smaller

single desks for many of our classrooms. These changes were discussed several times during publicly agenzied Board of Education meetings. And because VUSD does not have storage space to hold on to older, more obsolete furniture we decided not to waste public funds trying to find a place to store such items. Instead, and based on hearing from many families that our students do not have a dedicated space at home to study, we felt the best use of this furniture would be to continue to support the education of our students by declaring the items surplus and providing families a chance to claim and use these desks at home. This action also assists with environmental impacts that would have occurred had we discarded them in local landfills. For additional information or discussion, please feel free to contact Rebecca Chandler, Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, at 805-641-5000 x 1202.

8th Annual Ventura County Charity Golf Tournament to Benefit Kids & Families Together

Now in its ninth year, the goal of the Ventura County Charity Golf Tournament (VCCGT) remains the same, to be... "Fun, Affordable & For a Good Cause". This annual event was founded by two Ventura County professionals, RJ Cutting and

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Robert Clark, both assisting Ventura County residents through the various stages of the home buying and lending process. Each year since 2012 (minus the COVID-19 hiatus of 2020), VCCGT has benefited numerous Ventura County based non-profit organizations, raising an estimated \$100,000 to date. All funds raised have gone back to serve organizations in the Ventura County community.

VCCGT has selected Kids & Families Together (K&FT) to be the charity of choice for 2021's event. Now in its 21st year, K&FT is a nonprofit that has been serving foster/resource, adoptive, kinship, and birth families throughout Ventura County since 2000. K&FT works with children who have experienced trauma, abuse, neglect, loss, and multiple placements. K&FT also works with caregivers who need specialized education, support, and strategies to help raise safe, healthy, nurtured children that thrive.

This year's event will take place on Friday,

May 14th, 2021 at Sterling Hills Golf Club in Camarillo, beginning with a 9am shotgun start. Sign up for yourself and your team now, as space will be limited to 144 golfers (36 teams of 4 golfers). Included in the event for all golfers will be a box lunch and drinks. Prizes, raffle and Hors d'oeuvre will follow at the conclusion of the tournament.

There are many ways available for you to support this event, even if you are not a golfer. Donate a raffle item, or become an event sponsor! There is a range of sponsorships levels available. Can you or your business become a "Presenting Sponsor"? Tee Sign sponsorships start as low as \$135 or two for \$200! Below is the event poster and sponsorship form highlighting all the details. Join us this year in bringing back an event that has supported so many!

Call today to reserve your spot or to become an Event Sponsor! RJ Cutting (805)279-9579



by Pam Baumgardner
VenturaRocks.com

More venues are offering more live music as we transition gently back towards normalcy. I'm grateful to see strict Covid guidelines in place at the venues I've frequented the past couple of weeks. I'm hearing Winchesters will be offering live music on Thursdays (along with Fridays and Saturdays), the Raven Tavern in Oxnard now has live music on the weekends, Pierano's has been ramping up their live music roster, and more and more artists are reaching out to me sharing their live music schedules which can be found at VenturaRocks.com. You can find the week's listing on the Ventura Weekly Music Calendar link and the current day's line up on the homepage.

In this issue of the Breeze, I have a Q&A with local artist Tom Buenger, He first landed on my radar performing as Tom & Milo around town a few years ago. Tom has been working on original music which always warms my heart. He has his debut release Suburban Gospel this month so I thought I'd reach out and get the community acquainted with Tom Buenger.

Pam: How long have you been playing live music in the 805?

Tom Buenger: I grew up in the 805 and have always been around music one way or another. But after I left the military and settled into Ventura County in 2014, I quickly met Milo Sledge. Milo and I played a few times a week at venues between Goleta, Oxnard, Ventura, and Camarillo. One New Year's, (2017 I think), I picked up a gig, and Milo was unavailable. I asked Teresa Russell if she would play the gig with me, and we instantly hit it off. She and I then played at least weekly until 2020 or so. *Give me the background on your musical journey.*

Tom: I grew up singing. My mom has the most beautiful voice, and I was raised with her constantly singing to me. Singing, melody...just a sort of melodic communication...is even more engrained into my brain than the English language. I did not pick up an instrument until I turned 21. While in the Air Force I went to this Blues Club (Blues Central) for my 21st, while I was stationed in Alaska. There was a man playing wonderful boogie woogie blues on the piano, and

I eventually asked if he would teach me a thing or two. He taught me the Nashville system, and it was downhill from there. I obsessed over piano, locking myself in my apartment on my days off until I had the basic skill (and courage) to play at a local blues jam. I got up, played my one song, it was absolutely terrible, but I loved it.



Milo Sledge, Tom Buenger & Teresa Russell.

I was obsessive about it and practiced not to memorize, but to understand the language of it all.

Eventually I fell in love with the Hammond organ sound; I saved and bought a Hammond B3, and played in a classic rock band while I was at the Air Force Academy where I learned how to be a good band-member and musician. After a while, I got tired of lugging a 350-lb organ everywhere, and looked for the smallest instrument I could find...the harmonica. Similarly, to piano, I obsessed, keeping a few in my car, playing and practicing harmonica for hours while in traffic and on road trips.

Then a couple years ago, I turned my time and attention to the guitar, which

has been the hardest instrument for me, by far. However, it's opened up a whole new level of understanding and satisfaction, and it really opened the door to allowing me to (1) play extended solo gigs, and (2) write my own music.

What music most influenced you growing up?

All the great music my mom and dad listened to. We would go on camping trips, and the playlist had everything from Elton John to Earth Wind and Fire, to Clapton, and so on. In high school, I discovered jazz, which led me to the blues, which brought me to gospel (sort of backwards!). And I fell in love with the gospel sound. All that said, I spent many hours listening to Ray Charles, Nat King Cole, and funny enough, Bradley Nowell from Sublime. I tried hard to emulate their voices as a kid before finding my own.

original tunes?

I started writing original tunes about a year ago. Until that time, I felt like I had always had some mental block, keeping me from writing original music. With COVID slowing the world down, coming through a tough personal time in life, and then finding new love, I learned that writing (for me) is all about head-space...open space, mentally, to allow my brain and body to communicate feelings I hadn't quite understood before.

Suburban Gospel is your first release as a solo artist?

Suburban Gospel is my first release. I'm not typically one who is good at self-promotion or shouting about my successes, but I will say that I'd put the music on Suburban Gospel up against anyone's; it's a great album for which I'm incredibly proud. I also have another 15 songs just about complete for album number two.

What does the title suggest?

I grew up in the church, and I love the gospel sound. I'm also a middle-class white guy who loves the blues, soul...all of it. I thought Suburban Gospel sort of fit what I was going for. For some songs, I get a bit up onto my soapbox (or pulpit), while others are more songs of hope, and then others are love songs. I'm not sure what genre this album is...It's certainly blues and gospel influenced, but I truly believe I've created something uniquely me. It breaks the mold of a "blues" album in too many ways to be considered blues.

What kind of plans do you have in motion to help get the word out?

I will probably hire some marketing or push toward a label. As of now, I'm hopeful the music will speak for itself, once it comes available May 14.

Where can people find out more?

Tom: Follow me on Instagram @tombuengermusic, or on my website www.thomasbmusic.com

Closing words?

Tom: Suburban Gospel is available everywhere, beginning May 14. I have a bunch of collaborations in work, and I'm excited to share more music with the world!

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 where you can hear Tom Buenger's single, "Butter my Bread" off of Suburban Gospel. My show 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.

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

EPS banned from local use

Starting July 1, 2021, food providers in the City of Ventura will be banned from distributing expanded polystyrene (EPS) food and beverage containers.

EPS is commonly known as "Styrofoam", is commonly found as litter on our beaches and other open spaces,

where it is difficult to clean up because it breaks into small pieces and is easily moved by the wind.

Food providers include any person or business located within the City that provides prepared food or beverages for public consumption including, but not limited to, any store, supermarket, delicatessen, restaurant, shop, caterer, or mobile food vendor. Food and beverage containers include but are not limited

to: cups, plates, bowls, meat trays, clamshells, and coolers that are not wholly encapsulated by another material.

There are exemptions for products that are packaged outside the city, such as EPS egg cartons. Additionally, there is a one-year financial hardship or practical difficulty exemption which can be found at www.cityofventura.ca.gov/EPSBan

City staff is available to answer questions and to help you navigate this

change. There are ways to switch to non-EPS products at no cost, including partnering with Plastic Free Restaurants, an organization that subsidized the cost to switch to 100% compostable food and beverage containers.

Email EPSban@cityofventura.ca.gov for more information, and to receive assistance from City staff. For the complete ordinance text, visit: <http://bit.ly/EPSmunicode>.



Water color art from residents of the Ventura Townhouse painted during the water color class offered at the Townhouse.

Twelve-year-old **Phoebe Hopp**'s wide eyes stared hauntingly out at her grandmother from the self-portrait she'd drawn in art class. Lydia Hopps couldn't see her granddaughter's expression. Most of her face was covered by a mask, which she and other students had worn to prevent spread of COVID-19 during the class at Vita Art Center.

Thus began an ambitious community art project at Vita Arts Center called "Through Our Eyes," organized by the center's founding director, **Mary Perez**. The project involves a series of free art workshops for children ages 8 to 18, led by professional artists. Instructors guide students to create a self-portrait of themselves wearing a face mask.

Workshops at Vita Arts Center are already underway, and the center plans to hold several more through the end of the year. An on-site and online exhibit of 100 self-portraits is planned for June. The center will also create a printed catalog of the portraits that will be available to the public.

So far, Perez has enough funding to provide workshops for 100 students. She hopes to secure enough funding to offer workshops to a total of 500 children and teens.

Parents can sign their children up for the workshops online, and registration is on a first-come, first-served basis. Perez is also reaching out to local schools to discuss hosting workshops for their students.

To sign up for a workshop or to donate to the Through Our Eyes Community Art Project and Exhibit, visit www.VitaArtCenter.com Workshop spaces are limited and pre-registration is a must. Vita Art Center is located at 28 W. Main St.



Hiking Arroyo Verde, 2021, Oil on panel, 8 X 10 inches by **Barbara Brown**

Ventura Art Scene



Our Ventura TV presents First Responders tributes

Our Ventura TV presents a special First Responders tribute series honoring those who have made a difference to others during the pandemic here in the Ventura County area. The series of tributes begins airing on Ventura cable TV channel 6 and online in May 2021 and features local community leaders recognizing those individuals they wanted to thank and honor for their outstanding service.

The First Responders tribute series is hosted by Our Ventura TV's Sandra Siepak and Monique Nowlin who introduce us to the guests and those featured for their numerous contributions to the community and lead role during Covid 19.

Some of the respective honorees featured in the Our Ventura TV First Responders series include: Raphael Stoneman and his service dog Leo, Bob Harris, Officer Michael Anselmo, Patrick Maynard, Dr. Thanh Neville, Matthew Clapsaddle and Heather Ellis.

Several community leaders took part and selected their choice of honorees for the tribute including, Ventura County

Sheriff Bill Ayub, City of Ventura Fire Marshall Joe Morelli, Dr. Janika Shah, Meredith Hart and Lars Davenport from the City of Ventura, Ventura County Fire Engineer Richard Macklin, Ventura City Firefighter Kyle Tong, Dennis Murphy of Gold Coast Veterans and more.

"Each of these individuals honored made a significant contribution in the Ventura community during this challenging time. All of us at Our Ventura TV are pleased to recognize their efforts," added associate producer Mary Christine Ballestero.

Our Ventura TV and the First Responders tribute series is produced by George Alger and directed by Michelle Hoover. MB Hanrahan and Juan Mancera are also with Our Ventura TV.

Our Ventura TV is an award-winning weekly talk show television series featuring programs about non-profits, community advocates, business leaders and artists who contribute to the Ventura County community. For more information and to become a guest on Our Ventura TV, just visit <http://OurVentura.com> and click "Contact."

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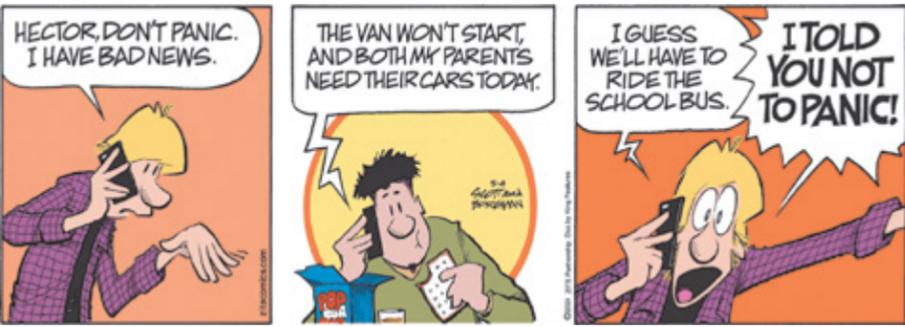
Mother Goose and Grimm



Baby Blues



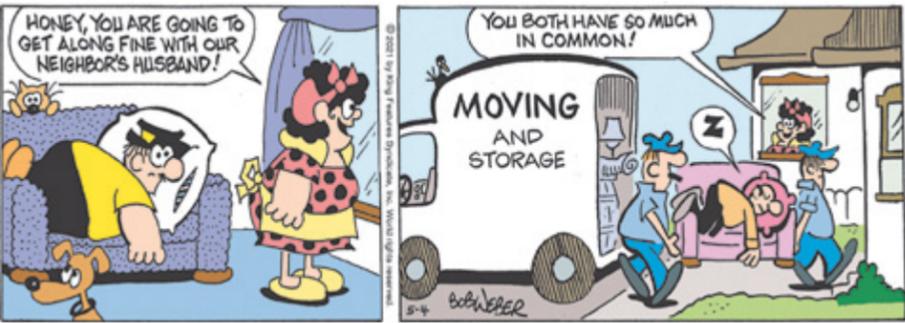
Zits



Marvin



Moose and Molly



Dustin



Solutions on page 13

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

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

Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 3-box square contains a 1 of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

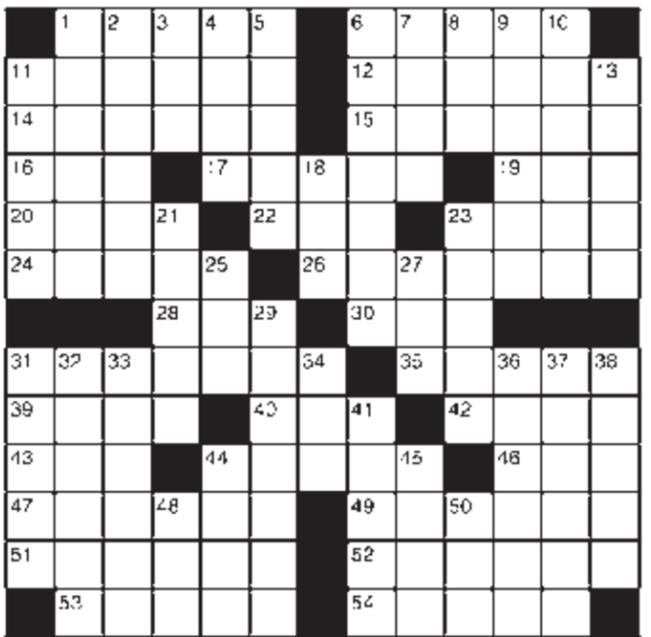
♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

Solutions on page 13

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Fashion
- 6 Cougars
- 11 Copier part
- 12 Sanford of "The Jeffersons"
- 14 Sweatshirt variety
- 15 "The Raven" maiden
- 16 Off-roader (Abbr.)
- 17 Burn with steam
- 19 Khan title
- 20 "Moonstruck" star
- 22 - la-la
- 23 War god
- 24 "Praying" singer



- 26 TV actor
- 28 Business mag
- 30 Melancholy
- 31 Dagwood's lady
- 35 Chic again
- 39 Lariat
- 40 Neither mate
- 42 Actress de Matteo
- 43 - de-France
- 44 Red Square figure
- 46 Last (Abbr.)
- 47 Sister of
- 49 Restaurant fan
- 51 Sports venues
- 52 Not as small
- 53 Admin. aides
- 54 Plant firmly
- 6 Columns
- 7 Secondhand novel
- 8 Chess piece
- 9 On the train
- 10 Composer
- 11 Crude cabin
- 13 Rental contract
- 18 Canine cry
- 21 Bonn's river
- 23 Threw in
- 25 Moreover
- 27 Corn serving
- 29 Movie houses
- 31 Hat edges
- 32 Nabokov
- 33 Puccini works
- 34 Very long time
- 36 Plod
- 37 Counted (on)
- 38 Western flick
- 41 Sentry's weapon
- 44 Cannes milk
- 45 Linguist
- 48 Check-cashing needs
- 50 Sphere

DOWN

- 1 Mollify
- 2 Caches
- 3 Pay stub abbr.
- 4 Floral rings
- 5 Upright

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LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Your gift for creating order out of chaos will help you deal with a sudden rush of responsibilities that would threaten someone less able to balance his or her priorities.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Congratulations. Your energy levels are coming right back up to normal -- just in time to help you tackle some worthwhile challenges and make some important choices.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) The sage Sagittarian should demand a full explanation of inconsistencies that might be cropping up in what had seemed to be a straightforward deal.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) A conflict between obligations to family and to the job can create stressful problems. Best advice: Balance your dual priorities so that one doesn't outweigh the other.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Don't guess, speculate or gossip about that so-called mystery situation at the workplace. Bide your time. An explanation will be forthcoming very soon.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Boredom might be creeping in and causing you to lose interest in a repeat project. Deal with it by flipping over your usual routine and finding a new way to do an old task.

BORN THIS WEEK: You can warm the coldest heart with your lyrical voice and bright smile. You find yourself at home, wherever you are.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Temper your typical Aries urge to charge into a situation and demand answers. Instead, let the Lamb's gentler self emerge to deal with a problem that requires delicacy.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You are aware of what's going on, so continue to stand by your earlier decision, no matter how persuasive the counter-arguments might be. Money pressures will soon ease.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) By all means, have fun and enjoy your newly expanded social life. But don't forget that some people are depending on you to keep promises that are very important to them.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You need to wait patiently for an answer to a workplace problem and not push for a decision. Remember: Time is on your side. A financial matter needs closer attention.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) You now have information that can influence that decision you planned to make. But the clever Cat will consult a trusted friend or family member before making a major move.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Good news: You're finding that more doors are opening for you to show what you can do, and you don't even have to knock very hard to get the attention you're seeking.

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Showtime

A View from House Seats

A Peek at the Process

by Shirley Lorraine

The Rubicon Theatre recently presented a unique opportunity. A virtual plays-in-progress event was held to show how a musical is put together. From the beginning.

The free (donations encouraged) event was a Vimeo presentation available for the asking by reservation.

Narrated by the book author, Jonathan Prince, attendees were treated to POSEIDON: The Musical, Act 1 sing-through. Music and lyrics by Andrew Lipa were lively and kept the action moving along.

The premise is not new, a play about putting on a play, but the presentation was certainly different. Action segues from a present-day theater company planning a production of a version of the Poseidon Adventure, to the 1979 action film for background and reference. As Prince narrated, he noted that each actor portrays not only their current character, but also several characters from the film.

Prince described each present and past character in detail, noting slight changes to their roles and introducing the songs. The actors themselves all participated from their respective homes or venues and all displayed charm and beautiful voices. The cast was an impressive mix of Equity actors with lengthy credits.

The problem I had in watching the event was that Prince, in his enthusiasm, went through the information so quickly I found it more than challenging to keep up and keep track of the characters shifting between the two different eras.

Personally, I think I would have

preferred a succinct synopsis of the original, followed by a synopsis of the changes and introduction of the songs. It got quite confusing, to me, flitting back and forth between the now and the then. It made me wonder if folks unfamiliar with the film would make sense of all the information. It is possible that in this discussion, the director/writer was simply attempting to thoroughly fill in all the gaps. In the end, background knowledge may not be essential to enjoying the story.

Post showing of Act 1 as it is currently outlined, the video continued with an informative and illuminating discussion among the creators and actors. They spoke of which songs they liked performing and why, their opinions on the direction some of the action took, and more. Act 2 is still in the works and may be presented in a similar fashion later. It will be interesting to see which songs and ideas make the cut, which get moved around in the script, and which disappear from the final script. Even though I probably missed some information, I did enjoy learning about the process.

Rubicon strives to bring theater in all forms to their audiences by holding talkbacks with the actors during regular productions, youth instruction, classes, and unique opportunities such as this one. I appreciated being “on the inside” from the sidelines.

If health trends continue the current course of diminishing impact (and we hope they will), live theater will once again be an option soon. Please save a seat for me.

not allowed to read or educate themselves, a difficult scenario for former academic and activist Serena Joy, who ended up losing half a finger as punishment for reading books.

June had a best friend Moira (Samira Wiley), who was also captured by Gilead, but was able to escape to the city, and found herself becoming part of the Jezebels – a group of women the Commanders came to the city to have sexual rendezvous with outside the knowledge of their subservient wives. Moira eventually escaped the Jezebels to Canada, where she reunited with June’s husband Luke and both worked relentlessly to find and rescue June and Hannah.

Nick (Max Minghella) was Commander Waterford’s driver, and unknown to them was a eye/spy for the head group of Gilead’s Commanders. June and Nick had exchanged looks and passing words to reveal there was a romantic connection between them, though was something absolutely forbidden under Gilead rule. Due to the fact the Serena Joy was desperate to have a child, and thinking that her husband Fred may actually be sterile, she secretly asked Nick to impregnate June though let all believe it was Fred’s child.

June finally had her child, which Serena Joy named Nicole, and got her out to Canada with a Handmaid named Emily (Alexis Bledel) she helped to escape but would not join due to her commitment to rescue her own daughter Hannah. Fate did bring Hannah back to June for a brief time, but was unable to escape Gilead and eventually ended up being tortured back in line and assigned to a new Commander. All these events only fueled June’s commitment deciding she would try to save as many children as she could with the help of the other Handmaids and ended up getting 86 children on a plane to Canada,

Streaming Spotlight by Cindy Summers

The Handmaid’s Tale

– Hulu Originals



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

“The Handmaid’s Tale” is the story of a dystopian future involving the former United States that is destroyed in a time of plummeting birth rates by a totalitarian society known as Gilead, ruled by “traditional values”. They captured all fertile women, forcing them into a life of sexual servitude to create the children they themselves could not conceive. Though June’s (Elizabeth Moss) husband tried to get her and her daughter to Canada, June was captured and sent to a reform camp lead by sadistic Aunt Lydia (Ann Dowd) where women are tortured into being Handmaids owned by rich couples and sexually assaulted under the pretense of bringing God’s children into the world.

The Handmaids were not allowed to use their original names, rather given the name of the Commanders of their assigned households, so June became Offred, the Handmaid of Commander Fred Waterford (Joseph Fiennes) and his wife Serena Joy (Yvonne Strahovski). Gilead also claimed the children that Handmaids had prior to the takeover and gave them to prominent families, including June’s daughter Hannah. Even wives were

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Answer In A Breeze



Q: Do you know why construction stopped on the hotel next to the Golden China restaurant? Weeds are growing up around the concrete slab and no construction equipment is there. Did they abandon the job?

Marsha Moreland

A: Marsha: According to Charlie the construction superintendent construction stopped for a myriad of reasons that came up during construction. One was some water coming out of the bottom of the slope. They have all been resolved and construction will resume very shortly with completion to be completed in about 18-months and the hotel to open in about 2-years.

Have a question? Send it to editor@venturabreeze.com and we will try to get you an answer.

though was shot during the ordeal.

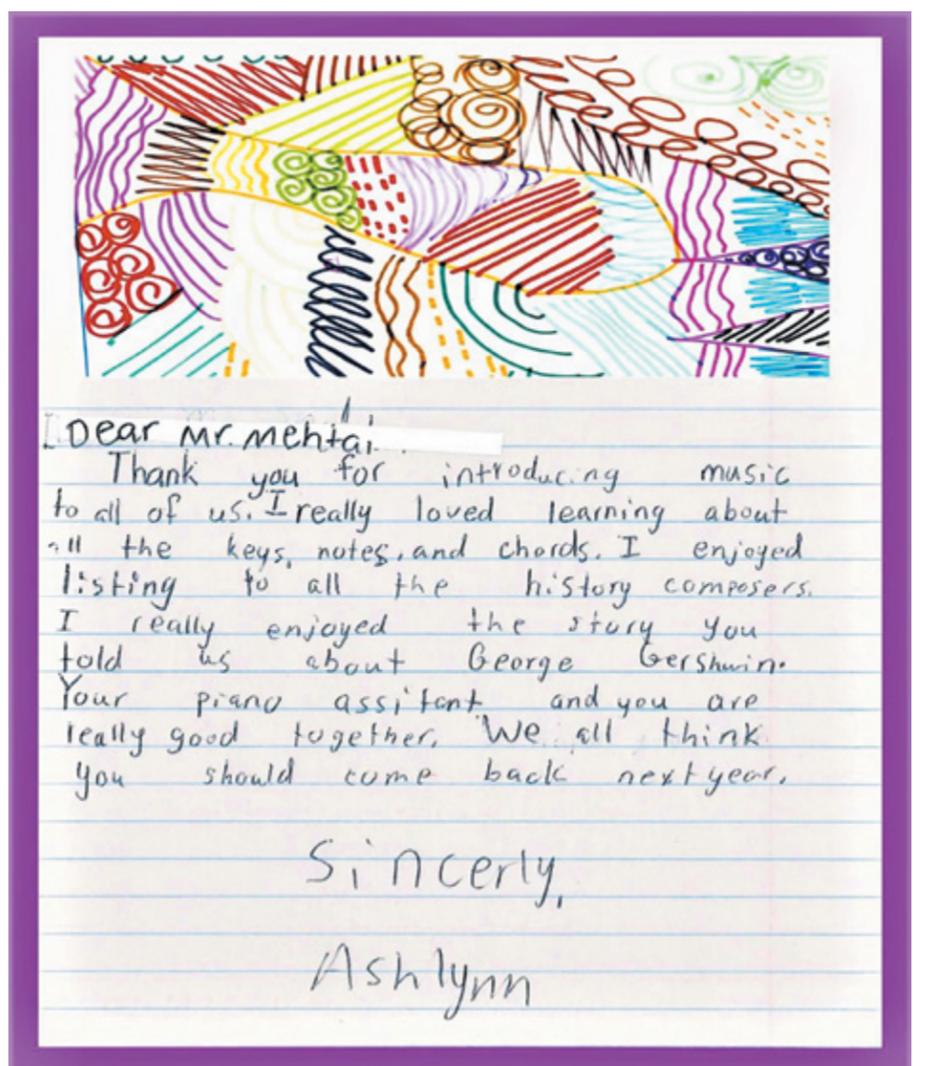
Season 4 opens with three episodes where at this point a few brave Handmaids work to save June’s life and evade capture. Nick became a prominent Commander, though finds himself constantly challenged by the conflict of doing his duty and wanting to protect June. Fred and Serena Joy were tricked into crossing the Canadian border and captured, turning on each other while both being held facing various

criminal anti-humanitarian charges for their roles in Gilead.

“The Handmaid’s Tale” is filled with gripping, edge of your seat moments that often feel paralyzing and hopeless, though somehow it’s clear June will not give up until she saves herself, her daughter and all the Handmaids she became the incidental leader for along the way.

Rated: TV-MA

4 Seasons – (10) 1hr Episodes





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