



VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

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Anna Izaguirre and Mark Whitley of ESSC celebrated the ribbon cutting at Easterseals. Photos by Patricia Schallert.



Renovated ESSC features a Garden of Eatin' Outdoor Classroom, Kitchen and Garden

On Nov. 3 an open house celebration and ribbon cutting was held at Easterseals Southern California (ESSC) located at 10730 Henderson Rd. in Ventura. ESSC which assists more than 15,000 people with disabilities or from underserved communities and their families throughout SoCal celebrated the renovation and expansion of its Child Development Center in Ventura.

The center serves 168 kids ages from 6-weeks to 5 with Early Head Start and other pre-school services that are free to income-eligible families. Children who participate in Easterseals Child Development Services come from the local communities of Fillmore, Oxnard, Saticoy, Port Hueneme, Santa Paula and Ventura.

The newly renovated space features the innovative Garden of Eatin' which includes:

Outdoor learning spaces with unique curriculums.

A garden and green house where kids learn to grow their own organic fruits, vegetables and plants.

An outdoor kitchen for hands-on food preparation, learning healthy eating habits and an appreciation for the taste of natural foods.

A reading gazebo, stage for music and plays and several playgrounds for exploration and more.

"Children receive rich learning experiences that are meaningful and culturally relevant," said Regional Director, Anna

Izaguirre. "Our outdoor learning environment exposes children to Science, Technology, Reading/Relationships, Engineering, Arts and Math (STREAM). We work with our local community and

are able to provide enrichment classes including music, dance, cooking, gardening, pottery and healthy eating. The learning that happens indoors is also enhanced outdoors in a fun and

engaging manner."

"With a combination of federal, community and corporate funds, the site now boasts about \$1 million in newly updated spaces indoors and outdoors as well as the furnishings for them."

The center also features a computer lab for parents who may not have access to technology or the Internet, enabling them to research and apply for jobs or to fulfill other needs. Said ESSC Executive Vice President Carlene Holden, "We have a holistic approach with services that support both the child and parents. Our staff of quality teachers and support workers partner with families to prepare children for lifelong success."

Commented Mark Whitley, president & CEO of ESSC, "Pre-school programs, such as those offered by Easterseals, are essential to raising healthy, happy kids and elevating entire communities. Widely available early education and childcare benefits kids both today and long-term. It allows children to be prepared for kindergarten and life beyond, while families build a strong economic foundation by pursuing additional education, job training or work."

Ventura Councilmember Jeannette Sánchez-Palacios added, "Thank you for inviting me to be here today to say a few words. It's an honor to represent the 4th district and I am even more honored and fortunate to have Easterseals in my



Josh D. makes it look easy at AWOW's event. Photo by Peter Snell.

A Walk on Water leaves kids walking on air

by Amy Brown

"The first wave I ever caught, I felt like a mermaid—and I was flying!" said 14-year-old Grace Gerenser, with a giant grin, describing the first time she tried surfing with A Walk On Water (AWOW). She'd just finished her session at the

recent AWOW event at Surfer's Point, catching wave after wave with an instructor on the board with her. AWOW provides surf therapy—guided surf instruction—to children with unique needs.

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WITH THE CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR ADVERTISERS, DONORS AND READERS, WE CONTINUE TO BRING LOCAL NEWS AND INFORMATION TO VENTURA (NOW IN OUR 14TH YEAR). THE COVID PANDEMIC HAS AFFECTED ALL SMALL BUSINESSES, AND LOCAL NEWSPAPERS HAVE BEEN DEEPLY IMPACTED AS WELL AS THEY ARE SOLELY DEPENDENT ON ADVERTISING REVENUE. WE CONTINUE TO ASK OUR LOYAL READERS TO HELP SUPPORT THE BREEZE. WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING OUR MISSION OF BRINGING YOU THE INFORMATION IMPACTING VENTURA.

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THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE VENTURA BREEZE!

City News

City of Ventura launches Winter Weather Response Plan for unhoused individuals

As temperatures get colder, the City of Ventura is preparing to launch its winter response plan for homeless persons and asking for community donations for stay warm packs.

The Winter Weather Response Plan is co-sponsored by the City and the River Community Church and provides stay warm packs and temporary shelter to homeless persons during severe weather events, such as severe rain, wind or low temperatures. The program starts December 1 and runs through March 31, 2022.

“This is the second year the City’s Safe & Clean Program has partnered with local social service providers and non-profits to provide outreach and support to our most vulnerable population,” said Rebecca Kofman, the Interim Safe & Clean Program Manager. “I’m excited to continue with another successful year.”

The City is accepting community donations to create ‘stay warm packs’ for Ventura’s unhoused individuals during harsh weather events. Needed donations include rain ponchos, blankets, jackets, hand-warmers, socks, toiletries, soft snacks, tarps, and carrying bags for items.

People interested in donating can bring materials to the River Community Church, located at 859 E. Santa Clara Street.

Monetary donations are also being accepted by mail. Checks should be labeled “Foul Weather” and mailed to 859 E. Santa Clara Street, Ventura, CA, 93001.

The City’s Winter Weather Response Plan also includes an emergency temporary shelter that can accommodate motel rooms for up to 20 individuals. Shelters will be activated at least 48 hours in advance when temperatures are projected to fall below 40 degrees or if weather projections show more than half an inch of rain overnight.

Priority will be given to homeless individuals who are 65 and older or live with chronic health conditions. All remaining motel rooms will be distributed on a first come, first served basis. Individuals who receive a room must arrive at the River Community Church between 5p.m. and 6p.m. on the day of the weather event. Those who are unable to secure a room will receive stay warm packs.

To learn more about the Winter

Weather Response Plan, please visit the City of Ventura’s Safe and Clean Program website at www.CityofVentura.ca.gov/SafeandClean or contact Rebecca Kofman, Interim Safe and Clean Program Manager, at rkofman@cityofventura.ca.gov.

Community invited to draw map boundaries for redistricting

The City of Ventura continues its redistricting process and encourages residents to participate in the district maps creation phase, open through December 10, 2021.

Residents are invited to draw proposed district boundaries and submit recommendations by print in the City Clerk’s Office or electronically with map drawing tools available online at www.CityofVentura.ca.gov/Redistricting.

Using the online mapping tool called DRA, users can submit maps electronically. All maps received will be reflected as a “layer” on the interactive review map.

Community members can also pick-up printed maps, available in English and Spanish, in the City Clerk’s Office at Ventura City Hall, located at 501 Poli Street in Room 204.

Community feedback for redrawn districts must use the 2020 U.S. Census data and comply with the Fair Maps Act, adopted by the California legislature as AB 849 effective January 1, 2020. For details on the Fair Maps Act Criteria, visit www.CityofVentura.ca.gov/Redistricting.

To submit paper maps, please email to cityclerk@cityofventura.ca.gov. Draft maps are due by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, December 10, 2021.

For resources and additional information about the City of Ventura’s redistricting process, visit www.CityofVentura.ca.gov/Redistricting.

For questions or to submit public comments, including suggested draft maps, email the City Clerk’s Office at cityclerk@cityofventura.ca.gov



On Nov. 6, at 1:50pm, Ventura City Fire Department was dispatched to a reported structure fire in a large apartment complex located at 1300 Saratoga Ave. with reports of people screaming and trapped victims. As fire units arrived, they found a second story end unit apartment well involved in fire and Ventura PD evacuating adjacent apartments. Fire fighters controlled the fire within 16 minutes and performed a primary search of the involved apartment. No persons were trapped as a result of the fire and all residents of the 16-unit building got out safely. Firefighters overhauled the involved area, including the attic and adjacent units to ensure the fire was completely out.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation. Eight adults and 4 children were displaced as a result of the fire.



Community Events

Ventura events

The Ventura Investment Group has reconvened and is meeting in the rear room of Denny's Restaurant at the corner of Telegraph and Ashwood each Monday at 10:30 a.m. All people interested in investment are welcome.

Nov. 26, 27, 28; Dec. 4 & 5; 11 & 12: Dudley House Holiday Boutique. The 27th annual fundraiser for the 1892 historic house museum is back with COVID protocols, new hours and fewer days. Come celebrate the spirit of holidays past where you'll find quality crafts, home décor, antiques and collectibles plus a silent auction and bargain "basement". Hours are 12 to 5 p.m. with a flea market added on Sundays. 197 N. Ashwood in Ventura. (805) 642-3345. Free.

Dec. 4 & 5: New West Symphony, led by Grammy-winning artistic and music director Michael Christie, is celebrating the holidays with a series of musical delights. Tales of Winter is a symphonic program of holiday classics and winter-themed surprises. Prior to the December 4th performance, a first-annual Winterfest celebration dinner and reception will be hosted at the Thousand

Oaks Civic Arts Plaza. The special event will honor long-time supporters Harry & Pat Croner and Marilyn & Stan Sutton for their contributions. For more information on Tales of Winter the Winterfest pre-concert experience, and the New West Symphony's full season, visit www.NewWestSymphony.org or find them on Facebook and Instagram. Tickets & Information Starting at \$30866.776.8400 <https://newwestsymphony.org/2021-22-season/tales-of-winter/>

Dec. 11 & 12: Ventura County Ballet proudly announces its return to live, in-theater performing with the 23rd annual production of Tchaikovsky's beloved holiday classic, The Nutcracker. The show takes to the stage of the Rancho Campana Performing Arts Center on Saturday, December 11, at 2:00 pm and 7:00 pm and on Sunday, December 12, at 2:00 pm. Rancho Campana is located at 4235 Mar Vista Drive, Camarillo 93010. The Nutcracker's cast is headlined by international dance star Aaron Smyth returning as the Nutcracker Prince. More than 50 local professional and preprofessional dancers round out the cast, including Ventura

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On Friday, November 12, the Ventura Salvation Army held their 2021 Red Kettle Kickoff Fundraiser Luncheon at their headquarters located 650 S. Petit Avenue.

While sharing a delicious lunch, and the fellowship of other business and civic leaders, attendees had a chance to learn more about the myriad programs of the Ventura Corps including their Free Eye Clinics, The Hope Center for transitional living, Food Pantries in east and west Ventura, and holiday meals and toys for hundreds of local families.

The event officially launched one of our country's most endeared holiday traditions, the ringing bells of the Salvation Army Red Kettles. The Ventura Salvation Army is lead by Juan & Patricia Torres.

Juan stated "We are excited for the start of this year's Red Kettle Campaign and today's kick off was a wonderful way to begin the Christmas season. We are so grateful to everyone that came to the luncheon in support of what The Salvation Army is doing here in our beautiful Ventura."

Photos by Patrish Schallert.

WE OPEN OUR DOORS TO YOU TO CELEBRATE THE SEASON!

You and your family are cordially invited to a special evening celebrating the Holidays and Christmas season featuring

"A Little Dickens, Christmas Carolers"

This professional group of Christmas Carolers will be adorned in traditional holiday garb and will be singing traditional Christmas carols and holiday songs.

Bring your family and friends to our open house and free concert!

All are welcome to this concert at 7pm Thursday December 9, 2021

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VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

Member, Ventura Chamber of Commerce

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

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A man must
have a certain
amount of
intelligent
ignorance to
get anywhere.

– Charles
Kettering

Opinion/Editorial



Sheldon Brown
Publisher-Editor

■ Congratulations to two Breeze staff (we call ourselves Breezers) **Sheli Ellsworth** is the new President of the Ventura County Writers Club. She is an award-winning short story writer and contributing writer to the Breeze. **Mary Thompson** is the new President of the Olivas Adobe Docents. She is one of our distributors and sets up our booth at some events.

■ The City Council is still deciding on what the future is for the permanent closing of some downtown streets, which is called “Main Street Moves.” They are still examining how much the city and downtown businesses should pay to keep Main Street closed to vehicular traffic. The closing has kept many businesses (especially restaurants in business) by allowing outdoor dining, but if kept permanent it will very expensive if done right.

The Council has requested staff provide additional information on the proposal.

Even though a majority of residents asked preferred the street closures remain, I wonder if people living on Poli and Santa Clara were asked how they felt about all the additional cars on their streets? And how has this affected business for non-restaurants downtown? Will people walk several blocks to get a cup of coffee?

I assume that eventually this will become permanent, and the streets will be closed. Pavers, planters, fountains should be installed at a great expense. Where will the money come from?

I think it is a great idea, but perhaps should only include three streets, and not all of downtown. Main St. down by the mission has great potential and should be considered when thinking about what to do downtown.

■ Since I changed our clocks back before I went to sleep on the 7th and not at 2AM as instructed, I hope I don’t get in trouble. I got confused though. Did that mean that I lost an hour of having fun or picked up an hour to have fun? Will I need to wait a year to resolve this?

■ Recently a high school (Inglewood High) football team beat another school **106-0**. Inglewood went for a two-point conversion leading 104-0. I think

this is awful for both the losers and maybe more so for the players on the winning team. What did this teach them about sportsmanship? The coach should be fired, or suspended, and their football team should forfeit a game. The principal did issue an apology, though that probably wasn’t enough.

■ From George Skelton writing in the LA Times.

“Guns, violence and **political extremism** are on the rise. And Americans risk disaster, sooner or later. That’s the view of a longtime University of California firearms researcher whose hard-hitting report was published last week in the journal Injury Epidemiology.”

Whom am I to disagree with this?

■ A New Jersey gym owner has been sentenced to more than three years (41 months) in prison for punching a police officer during the insurrection on Jan.6 at the **Capitol**. Hopefully this will be the guideline for others who face prison terms. Perhaps whomever sparked the insurrections should also go to prison.

■ An **Anacapa Middle School** history teacher, who was not named, is no longer working at the school. A video of in-class comments made by her stating that Hunter Biden had child pornography on his laptop and was having sex with his niece was made public. I certainly hope that she is also no longer employed by the school district. She also told her students that Donald Trump was currently president.

The teacher is no longer at the Anacapa but is still an employee of the VUSD while the review of the situation continues. If this is all true, I certainly hope that she is eventually fired from the district.

I know that we all hate it when some students use their cell phones during class, but, when they record this behavior, they are serving an important purpose of exposing teachers who shouldn’t be teaching our young people.

■ A new 600-seat **music venue**, and restaurant is set to open next year on the site of the former Discovery Ventura bowling alley in midtown.

It was an odd mix; a bowling alley, fine restaurant and a music venue, and it just didn’t work. I know several Venturan’s who lost

money by investing in Discovery Ventura. I know the owner opened in another city and was accepting investors even as he declared bankruptcy.

I certainly hope this new venue is successful as it would bring new life to mid-town and some well-known musical acts to Ventura.

■ I certainly don’t know much about what is in the new \$1.85-trillion **social safety** net bill (I doubt if those voting for and against also know much about what is in it). I do know there is \$390 million provided for early childcare and education. It would provide universal preschool for 3- and 4-year-old children. It would also subsidize the cost of childcare for a large number of parents with children under 6.

I think this is extremely important, as it would help millions of working parents (especially low-income families) to keep pace with the more affluent who can afford to have their children attend private early classes and allow both parents to work.

Many minority children fall behind in school very early and have a hard time catching up.

■ **Big Bird** has ruffled some feathers by announcing he had been vaccinated against COVID-19. The Muppet tweeted that he had gotten the shot. Even though he has been on TV since 1969, he is officially only 6-years old so only just became eligible to get the shot. He stated, “My wing is feeling a little sore, but it’ll give my body an extra protective boost that keeps me and others healthy.”

This is, of course, a decision which is not shared by all parents as sensible/necessary. It is not known if Ernie and Bert have been vaccinated.

■ According to a new poll from the Public Policy Institute of California, nearly 80% of California voters are in favor of changing the state’s process for recalling elected officials. The survey comes nearly two months after an unsuccessful attempt to remove Gov. Gavin Newsom. The first-term Democrat defeated the recall with 62% of the vote (the same margin he won when he was elected in 2018).

I’m glad both Republicans and Democrats realize how absolutely absurd this process is, plus it cost “us” almost \$300 million.

■ The United States had its hottest summer on record this year, narrowly edging out the previous one that was set 85-years ago during the Dust Bowl.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration announced that the average temperature this summer for the contiguous U.S. was 74 degrees. The heat record saw a season full of extremes, with persistent drought, wildfires, record-breaking heat, hurricanes and other extreme weather. If I didn’t know better, I would think this is **climate change**. As I write this, it is 85 degrees outside.

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

Mailbox



Breeze:

I was visiting from Las Vegas and parked in the parking structure by the beach. It is in deplorable condition. Needs painting, cleaning up and repair.

This does not give a very good impression of your wonderful city.

Thanks
Larry Dote

Ventura Highway

A coastal Dawn is a Pacific view,
The morning breeze that leads home,
Where an ocean highway turns while it drops,

A 101 route is there to survey the tide.
As we cruise north in the right lane,
The charm of four wheels turns heads,

The only car with a nostalgic view,
Is my top-down Mustang ride with you.

By Jeff Russell



News & Notes



Paul Lenderman, Spiritual Counselor/Officiant addresses the attendees.

A night of reflection, The Seventh Annual Candlelight Remembrance Ceremony

On the evening of Thursday, November 4th, the Joseph P. Reardon Funeral Home & Cremation Service again opened its doors to all of greater Ventura County for their seventh annual community Candlelight Remembrance Ceremony for anyone who has experienced any loss and wished to remember their loved one in a sacred space.

Michael Boyko, owner of the funeral home stated “we again are so proud to be able to host this evening for our entire community in need of reflection, consolation, and care. The last year or two hasn’t been easy on any of us and when facing loss even our traditions of saying goodbye, expressing grief, and the memorial experience had changed slightly during the times of COVID-19. Moreover, I remain humbled to be able to provide such a touching ceremony with the entire highly professional staff of Assisted Home and Hospice of Ventura.

Hospice caregivers much like my staff didn’t stop during COVID and continued to assist the public without hesitation during the trying times of pandemic and public health emergency.”

This evening featured live harp music from Ted Nicholson, professional harpists from the peninsula hotel in Beverly Hills as well as the officiant Paul Lenderman, Spiritual counselor/grief coordinator of Assisted Hospice in Ventura. Dr. William and Dr. Lisa Rajala also took time and spoke with spiritual poems and readings of consolation. Spiritual Counselors Daniel Aguiar and John Kirby also participated with life affirming prayers and tributes to loved ones and patients that have passed within the last few years.

Michael went onto say “we offer a helping hand to all who need it no matter the circumstances. Yesterday, today, and tomorrow we’ll be here to help”.



Girl Scout showing her code bracelet made in one of the free STEM activities.

Games, giveaways, raffles, food trucks and fun

Girl Scouts of California’s Central Coast (GSCCC) welcomed girls ages 5 - 18 to their second free EPIC Community event sponsored by SoCal Gas. On November 6,

2021, from 11 AM until 2PM, fun-filled games and activities were held at an EPIC Community Center.

Girls in kindergarten through high school engaged in exciting STEM learning activities, made crafts to take home, met new friends in their neighborhood, and won special Girl Scout swag. While girls played, learned, and made new friends, families enjoyed free tacos and ice cream at the La Poblanita and Mister Softee food trucks. Parents interested in learning more about the Girl Scout program also had the opportunity to speak to council staff and volunteers about how to get involved.

With family support, EPIC exists to build character in vulnerable youth and create everyday leaders throughout marginalized communities, using experimental learning and arts as the mediums to produce responsible citizens. EPIC offers a mentorship program as well as workshops for parents and kids to develop and unleash a child’s inner leader. Girl Scouts of California’s Central Coast partnered with EPIC to support this effort and provide

YOUR LOCAL PLACE TO LEARN HOW TO KNIT, CROCHET, SEW, AND MORE!

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Handmade Holiday Boutique

Sunday, November 21st, 6:30-8:30pm

Come by and shop local for handmade presents this holiday season. We have made some great gifts at a variety of price ranges, and we hope you will find something you love. For more info, please visit our website, or email us at stringsandthingsinfo@gmail.com.

Hope to see you there!

Strings & Things Studio

2112 Eastman Ave. #111 - Ventura CA - 93003 - www.stringsandthingsstudio.com - (805) 620-7050

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The City Center Transitional Living has a 100% success rate - 272 people have graduated from their program and none have returned to homelessness!

Current Residents
Photo by Broc Ellinger

Visit gofundme.com/thecitycenter

girls based in Ventura with fun activities that inspire the leader in them.

“SoCalGas is pleased to sponsor today’s event; we believe in investing in the communities where our employees live and work. As an advocate for advancing diversity and inclusion; which includes developing tomorrow’s women leaders, providing opportunities for all girls to reach their full potential is vital,” says GSCCC Board Member and SoCalGas Public Affairs Manager, Maria Ventura who was instrumental in bringing the two entities together to support the event.

Learn more about this event and Girl Scouts at www.girlscoutsgcc.org or contact info@girlscoutsgcc.org for more information.

Renovated ESSC, a Garden of Eatin’
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district. It sounds cliché but when we invest in our children we are investing in our future leaders.

“From the artists who contributed to the beautiful art at this facility, to the individuals who interact with them everyday, to those who helped set up this wonderful outdoor space, thank you for your commitment and collaboration.

“Thank you for having a vision and making this special place a reality.

“Our children are fortunate to have you and to have this space as they begin their journey in life.”



News & Notes



Booksale at Foster Library.

The Bookmark

About Libraries and Friends

by Jill Forman

People still love books! (and bargains) Book sale a big success

On Saturday morning the 6th, before the sale even started, booklovers were pouring in the doors of the Foster Topping Room and checking out the children's tables outside the library. Hundreds of folks came through, many with boxes and folding carts, looking for bargains. At \$4 a bag (\$3 for Friends members) there were definitely bargains to be had.

The Friends are fortunate to have Venturans donating literally tons of books; we sort through every one and categorize them. Every once in a while we need to clear out our warehouse, and have what we call a "Bag Sale." Every genre is offered, at prices readers can't resist. In fact, the workers always have a stack hidden somewhere for them to buy after we are finished working. You'd think we'd be sick of looking at them...nope!

Our goals for all sales are to raise funds for the library, to reach out to the community and inform the community of all the events and services the libraries have to offer, and to get books in the hands of people who will appreciate them. We made over \$700 this sale, an amazing amount considering the pricing.

Thanks to Foster's staff, Boy Scout Troop 155, and all our exhausted volunteers. A special shout-out to David Bayer, Clyde Hofflund and David Young; without their strong backs and trucks this sale would not have been possible.

Library Happenings

Here's something I just found out about, one more service the library offers:

Mobile Career Center, Foster Library

on Monday, November 29, 11am to 5 pm. Staff can assist with resumes, applications, training, and more.

This project is supported in whole or in part by the U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services under the provisions of the Library Services and Technology Act, administered in California by the State Librarian.

Event updates:

The irrepresible Ukulele Jam returns to the Topping Room.

Mondays, 7:00 to 10:00 p.m

Virtual Open Mic Thursdays, 7:30 to 10:00 pm. Free and open to the public! Virtual Open Mic night hosted by Phil Taggart. Enjoy a featured poet, then share your own work with the group. All are welcome to just sit and listen as well. <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9607501600>

Meeting ID: 960 750 1600

Fall Reading Challenge:

October 4 - December 17, 2021

Read books, earn activity badges, and win prizes! Kids and adults! Register at <https://vencolibrary.beanstack.org/reader365>

December book discussion groups:

Foster: December 4, Crescendo by Allen Cheney. Topping Room, 10 a.m.

Hill Road: November 30, The Book of Longings by Sue Monk Kidd. 5 p.m.

Teen Volunteers:

Opportunities for those 13-17 include in-person and virtual environments. Teens research and recommend books for library purchase, recommend websites for teens, and help develop Summer Reading Challenge, STEAM, and Makerspace activity ideas. To begin the application process, fill out an application at a branch or email VCL.volunteer@ventura.org.



Shirley Lorraine is a contributing writer for the Ventura Breeze.

Truly a woman of many talents

by Carol Leish, MA

By being involved in theatre and art, to name two of her talents, Shirley Lorraine is definitely a woman of many talents! Through dancing, acting, and being artistic, too, Shirley displays her creativity.

Lorraine got started in theatre with the Plaza Players in Wagon Wheel Junction, here in Ventura County, in 1968, when she was still in high school. She graduated from Ventura High and Ventura College.

Through getting involved in the formation of several theater companies in Ventura County, Lorraine said that she was involved in all aspects of theatre. "This included being an actor, costumer, make-up artist, choreographer, a director and whatever else that was needed. I had a custom theatrical costuming business: 'Show Clothes,' for a number of years. Even though it was low paying, it was truly a labor of love."

Shirley said, "As a dancer, I was a member of the Pure Joy, the Mackinnon Dance Academy performance group. I was an 'unofficial' mime for the City of Ventura's First Sunday in the Park for many years."

"With my late husband, Jim Spencer," Shirley said, "we had a theater review column: 'Two on the Aisle' for the 'VC Reporter' for over 12 years. We also instituted

REP (Reporter Excellence in Performance) awards for county theaters. We wrote theater reviews (and more) for the 'Ventura Breeze' for about 10 years (solo for last 5, following Jim's passing). Over a span of 30 years, the only actual stage performance we did together was 'Love Letters' for the Camarillo Theatre."

"In regards to magic," Shirley said, "I was encouraged by Jim to incorporate magic with the mime that I was already doing. This led to a solo stage performance and several awards. We formed Spencer/Lorraine Entertainment in 1988. We were also members of the Academy of Magical Arts (Magic Castle). I did Entertaining card and crystal readings as Lady Lorraine (not Tarot). Now, I only perform occasionally."

Besides her acting background, Lorraine worked for the American Cancer Society, and a pediatrics office in Oxnard. She also enjoyed retail work for fine jewelry in Mervyn's.

Shirley worked at the Tri-Counties Regional Center for the Developmentally Disabled for 23 years, beginning there as a medical secretary. She retired as a Facilities and Purchasing Manager. She was instrumental in orchestrating numerous moves for six offices located from Simi to Atascadero.

Lorraine also worked as a teacher at the Santa Barbara Business College (SBBC), Ventura campus, for 11 years. "I was awarded the Teacher of the Year in 2011. I taught classes to students in the Medical Front Office program. These classes included: medical terminology; office procedures; billing and insurance; and more. Sadly, SBBC is now closed."

Lorraine has been involved with several networking, arts, and community focused groups in Ventura County. She's been involved with the San Buenaventura Women's Club for 16 years, serving on the board for most of them, and is currently President-Elect. She's also a Distinguished Toastmaster.

"Since I'm continuously learning," Lorraine said, "I'm glad to be involved with Just4FunCreations-by making jewelry and framed art using vintage and broken jewelry. I write cowboy poetry, and won the Ventura County Fair cowboy poetry contest one year, and placed 2nd another year. I have also performed at cowboy gatherings."

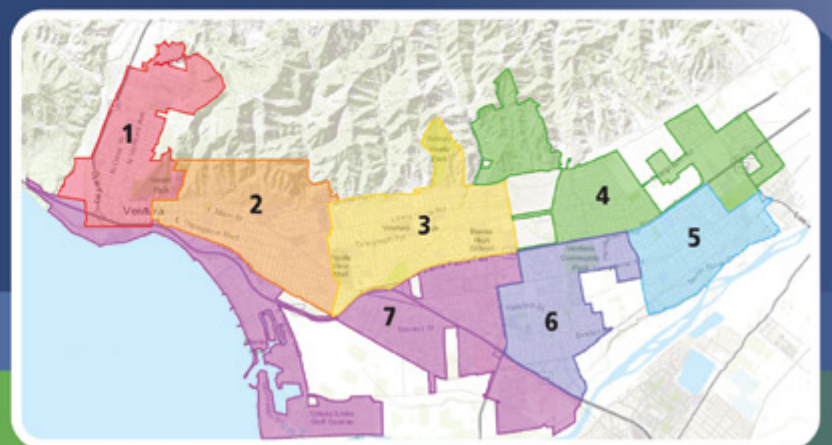
Thus, the woman of many talents continues to be active and creative.

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News & Notes

From Ventura High School to Little House on the Prairie

Karen Grassle, the actress best-known for playing Ma on Little House on the Prairie, has published her memoir Bright Lights, Prairie Dust: Reflections on Life, Loss and Love from Little House's Ma.

Karen grew up in Ventura from the first grade on, graduating from Ventura High School in the Class of 1959 before heading north to college at UC Berkeley. She got her start in acting in Ventura, starring in the senior play and studying with Barbara Brent and performing all over the county with the Barbara Brent Dancers. Her father Gene F. Grassle was the first president of the Ventura Realty Board and had an office on Main Street. He was the first person many people who moved there met!

On Saturday, November 20th at 4pm, she'll be back on Main St., appearing at Timbre Books to talk about her new book and all things Little House on the Prairie. Fans can come to meet Karen, hear her talk about her life, and get her autograph in their own copy of her book. The store asks that attendees RSVP via email to books@timbrebooks.com.

In the memoir, there are surprising and never-before-told details of what really happened on the Little House on the Prairie set, but there's so much more for anyone looking for an inspirational, true story of a woman determined to find meaning for her life. Bright Lights, Prairie Dust is a raw and authentic account of Grassle's

struggles with alcoholism, depression, and lack of self-worth as she journeyed from struggling theatre actress in London and New York to a world-recognized and adored television star.

Virtual seminar on robotic surgeries

Surgical robotics is one of the most rapidly growing and technologically advanced areas of healthcare today, and Community Memorial Health System is proud to offer a full suite of the latest in robotic technology and surgical services to patients in Ventura County. Robotic technology enables CMHS surgeons to provide personalized surgery in a broad range of specialty areas, with incredible precision, faster recoveries, shorter hospital stays, and better results for patients.

CMHS is hosting a free online seminar at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 18 to share the advanced robotic surgeries available locally. CMHS is hosting this online seminar, called The Future of Surgery: Robotic Technology at Community Memorial Health System, as part of its 2021 Speaker Series Online. There will be a live question-and-answer session for participants. To attend, please RSVP at www.cmhshealth.org/RSVP.

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 a network of primary and specialty care clinics that serve communities throughout Ventura County, California.

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Brenner Moon, Private First Class, second platoon recent graduate Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri Army Base always keeps up with the Ventura news by reading the Ventura Breeze that mom Heidi sends him.

Mom said "So proud of my son who recently graduated from Fort Leonard Wood army base in Missouri! The soldiers are very limited on materials that they can receive or being able to make any phone calls. I sent him The Breeze and he said he enjoyed it very much every time a new issue would come in."

"He loved all the back home articles and details about the going on in Ventura." He will continue to be deployed for sometime but guaranteed I will continue to send him the Breeze to enjoy while he's away from us."



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Photo: Bill Layman

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Photo: Phil Ranger

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HOURS
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TREE TOWN



To celebrate OAKtober, ten new coastal oaks were recently planted at the Ventura Community Park (Kimball) to shade benches along the multi-purpose path. The City of Ventura Urban Forestry staff collaborated with the Ventura Tree Alliance, Sierra Club and East Ventura Community Council. The Ventura Tree Alliance donated the trees, and many volunteers helped to plant, mulch and stake them. www.venturatreealliance.com

News & Notes



Women's Auxiliary of the Church of Scientology of Ventura showing stockings made for newborns.

The Women's Auxiliary of the Church of Scientology of Ventura keep a 25-year tradition alive

Over the past several months, the Women's Auxiliary of the Church of Scientology of Ventura have been busy cutting fabric, sewing seams and gluing decorations to make 170 holiday stockings that are given to families whose babies are born in the month of December at Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital.

In 2015, the tradition nearly came to its demise. Hearing the possibility that the tradition would end, Jan King of the Women's Auxiliary decided to keep the tradition alive. She immediately went into action and organized volunteers to make the stockings.

And seeing the need, each year, beginning in early July, Ms. King organizes her group of volunteer that come together to hand craft stockings for the project. "I didn't want the

hospital to lose something that is so positive," said Ms. King. "It is such a great tradition and is something that needs to go on."

The volunteers normally make and deliver 150 stockings to Cottage Hospital. But this year, 20 additional stockings were made for the Newborn Intensive Care Unit (NICU). NICU provides around-the-clock care to sick or premature babies.

The Women's Auxiliary of the Church of Scientology of Ventura has been volunteering and working with community leaders and organizations for over 20 years.

"A community that pulls together can make a better society for all." L. Ron Hubbard - Humanitarian, Philosopher and Founder of the Church of Scientology.

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Senior Living



Reassure the person. Speak calmly. Listen to his or her concerns and frustrations.

Caregiver looking after person with dementia

by National Institute on Aging

A caregiver, sometimes referred to as a caretaker, refers to anyone who provides care for another person. Millions of people living in the United States take care of a friend or family member with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia. Sometimes caregivers live with the person or nearby, other times they live far away. For many families, caring for a person with dementia isn't just one person's job, but the role of many people who share tasks and responsibilities. No matter what kind of caregiver you are, taking care of another person can be overwhelming at times.

These tips and suggestions may help with everyday care and tasks.

Tips for Everyday Care for People With Dementia

Early on in Alzheimer's and related dementias, people experience changes in thinking, remembering, and reasoning in a way that affects daily life and activities. Eventually, people with these diseases will need more help with simple, everyday tasks. This may include bathing, grooming, and dressing. It may be upsetting to the person to need help with such personal activities. Here are a few tips to consider early on and as the disease progresses:

Try to keep a routine, such as bathing, dressing, and eating at the same time each day.

Help the person write down to-do lists, appointments, and events in a notebook or calendar.

Plan activities that the person enjoys and try to do them at the same time each day.

Consider a system or reminders for helping those who must take medications regularly.

When dressing or bathing, allow the person to do as much as possible.

Buy loose-fitting, comfortable, easy-to-use clothing, such as clothes with elastic waistbands, fabric fasteners, or large zipper pulls instead of shoelaces,

buttons, or buckles.

Use a sturdy shower chair to support a person who is unsteady and to prevent falls. You can buy shower chairs at drug stores and medical supply stores.

Be gentle and respectful. Tell the person what you are going to do, step by step while you help them bathe or get dressed.

Serve meals in a consistent, familiar place and give the person enough time to eat.

Tips for Changes in Communication and Behavior for People With Dementia

Communication can be hard for people with Alzheimer's and related dementias because they have trouble remembering things. They also can become agitated and anxious, even angry. In some forms of dementia, language abilities are affected such that people have trouble finding the right words or have difficulty speaking. You may feel frustrated or impatient, but it is important to understand that the disease is causing the change in communication skills. To help make communication easier, you can:

Reassure the person. Speak calmly. Listen to his or her concerns and frustrations. Try to show that you understand if the person is angry or fearful.

Allow the person to keep as much control in his or her life as possible.

Respect the person's personal space.

Build quiet times into the day, along with activities.

Keep well-loved objects and photographs around the house to help the person feel more secure.

Remind the person who you are if he or she doesn't remember, but try not to say, "Don't you remember?"

Encourage a two-way conversation for as long as possible.

Try distracting the person with an activity, such as a familiar book or photo album, if you are having trouble communicating with words.



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How to notice signs of functional decline in seniors

by Richard Bitner

After a certain age, some level of decline should be expected year after year. In our forties and fifties, this decline is incremental. It happens slowly, and while it can affect our physical and mental performance, most of us are still able to live our lives comfortably. But in our sixties and beyond, decline begins to speed up. Eventually, seniors reach a point of functional decline. This is the point where elderly care is required for seniors to live comfortably and safely.

Unfortunately, it can be hard to spot functional decline. While decline accelerates in seniors, it still happens gradually enough that functional decline can go unnoticed. As a result, seniors who require elderly care in some form — either from family caregivers, in-home elderly care professionals, or facility living — end up without the support they need. How to Notice Signs of Functional Decline in Seniors

To determine whether or not your loved one may need elderly care or another senior service, you need to know the signs of functional decline. Keep in mind that functional decline relates to physical and cognitive function, so you need to be aware of the signs of decline for both.

People sometimes miss signs of

decline because they don't know what to look for. But more often, people miss them because they aren't really looking. Decline happens gradually enough that family members fail to recognize the point where elderly care may be necessary. To help prevent this from happening, family members should be making a conscious effort to monitor their elderly loved ones and track changes in their functional abilities.

One strategy is to take stock of the things your loved one has difficulty with over the course of a typical week or month. You can do this mentally, or you might consider taking private notes. This will allow you to compare how your loved one is functioning now compared to the past. Gradual changes become much more stark if you can compare how well they're doing now to six months or a year ago.

You may also wish to have conversations with family members. Sometimes, individual family members each notice different signs of decline, but nobody notices all of them. Conversations with your loved one will also give you a better sense of the areas where they feel they're having the most trouble. These conversations can also give insight into signs of decline that occur in private.

Should you determine that your loved one is suffering from functional decline, you may wish to explore elderly care options. If you are considering in-home elderly care, we invite you to contact your local Visiting Angels. The care coordinators at our local offices will be happy to provide guidance about coping with decline, speak with you about your care options, and schedule your loved one for a free, in-home elderly care assessment. How to Notice Signs of Functional Decline in Seniors



Senior Living

The risk and progression of multiple aging conditions can be influenced by several fundamental mechanisms

by National Institute of Health

Statistical trends show that by 2050, approximately a quarter of the world population will consist of older adults. This forecast highlights the need for strategies to promote healthy aging and the development of biological markers that can identify which individuals are at increased risk for age-related conditions and disabilities.

The risk and progression of multiple aging conditions can be influenced by several fundamental mechanisms and processes such as damage and repair of tissue components, alterations in cellular bioenergetics, and changes in genomic structure and function. Thus, the discovery of biomarkers – whether circulating in the body or in specific organs and tissues – can help us track and better understand how these mechanisms and processes affect long-term health outcomes. Biomarkers could also lead to better ways of testing new therapies to

treat or prevent age-related conditions.

With this immense scientific potential in mind, NIA seeks to support technological innovations that make new biomarker discoveries possible. Among the areas we hope to develop are:

High-throughput ways to analyze blood and its components

Translational research on crucial methodologic issues for collection and storage conditions for human biospecimens to assess the activity of specific cellular pathways

Development of statistical methods that will help researchers evaluate the relationships of mechanistic markers to aging-related outcomes

Research to understand the relationships between levels of a marker in one tissue compared with other organs and tissues

NIA's Predictive Biomarkers Initiative

In 2019, NIA launched the Predictive Biomarkers Initiative and established an innovative research network focusing on the development and validation of high-throughput assays to examine several aging-related processes through biomarker detection and validation. This network is currently assessing and refining analytical methods, developing and validating markers of multiple aging mechanisms, testing variability of markers in human populations, and establishing relationships between biomarkers and aging-related traits from a variety of longitudinal cohort studies and/or clinical trials.

There is exciting progress being made already! Project highlights include:

Biomarkers focusing on cell-specific profiles and mechanistic measures in

blood and skeletal muscle biopsies

Validating and optimizing the use of the epigenetic clock as a biomarker of healthspan and lifespan using blood and saliva samples

Applying state-of-the-art proteomics technologies to identify and refine robust

senescence-related biomarkers

Investigating viral burden and systemic inflammation as predictive biomarkers for chronic disease and frailty

Validating non-invasive single-cell imaging technologies as reliable biomarkers



87-year-old Lee Mills of Ventura and daughter Lori Mills ran the Surfer's Point marathon on Nov. 7. Lee won Gold for being the oldest racer in the 10k. Daughter Lori ran the half marathon.

Lee lives in the California Veteran's Home in Ventura. Lori is the owner of the Malibu Contemporary Art Gallery.

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Senior Living



Holiday Greetings Campaign to reach older adults and people with disabilities.

VCAAA extends call to action for holiday greetings campaign

The Ventura County Area Agency on Aging (VCAAA) is extending a call to action to the community and local schools as we relaunch the Holiday Greetings Campaign, which aims to reach older adults and people with disabilities who are living in Ventura County. The VCAAA is seeking greeting cards that are handmade or premade with a short holiday greeting written inside. Cards will be distributed as part of the VCAAA's meal service and care management programs. The first phase of the campaign will focus on Thanksgiving, while phase two will focus on the winter holiday season.

Thirty percent of Ventura County's older adults are living alone, and the isolation, loneliness, and depression many of them are experiencing worsened during the COVID-19 crisis. With the holiday season quickly approaching, the VCAAA recognizes that this is the most critical time to extend not only our services to these populations, but also our care and support.

The VCAAA has received more than

15,000 letters and cards from the community since the Letters of Support and Holiday Greetings campaigns were initially launched in 2020. Those interested in participating should send completed greeting cards to the VCAAA through December 17th. Greeting cards may be mailed to, or dropped off at, 646 County Square Drive, Suite 100, Ventura, Ca. 93003. Please notate VCAAA Holiday Greetings Campaign on the envelope. All cards will be reviewed and then delivered to older adults and people with disabilities throughout Ventura County.

The VCAAA continues to encourage family members and neighbors to safely connect with loved ones who may benefit from similar holiday greetings, and from support with grocery shopping or other errands. It is extremely important to keep open lines of communication to help minimize the isolation so many Ventura County residents are experiencing.

Community members interested in participating in this program may e-mail



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The Ventura County Area Agency on Aging, an agency of the County of Ventura, is the principal agency in Ventura County charged with the responsibility to promote the development and implementation of a comprehensive coordinated system of care that enables older individuals, caregivers, and individuals with disabilities to live in a community-based setting and to advocate for the needs of those 60 years of age and older in the county, providing leadership and promoting citizen involvement in the planning process as well as in the delivery of services.

California Seniors / Top 10 Safety Tips

Protect yourself from fraud and financial abuse! Be vigilant, be observant. Physical or financial abuse will continue so long as no one knows about it. Listed below are our Top 10 Safety Tips to always keep in mind.

Never give out financial information such as bank account, credit card, social security or Medicare numbers to someone you do not know.

Medicare and Social Security do not cold-call beneficiaries or make house

calls. If someone calls you and says they are from Medicare or Social Security, hang up. Do not give them any information.

Don't be pressured into buying anything immediately or because the offer will expire if you don't act soon. Never be afraid to call someone for assistance. Remember, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!

Before making any important financial decisions, make sure you fully understand the purpose and effect of the product you intend to purchase.

If you do make a purchase, make sure you get everything in writing and require copies of all documentation.

It is advisable not to wire money to anyone.

Do not share personal information like your address or phone number on social networking sites like Facebook.

Do not let strangers into your home without a trusted person, such as a family member or friend, present.

Delete e-mail messages that ask you to verify your account information. Banks, credit card companies and Paypal will not ask for this.

If you suspect anything is wrong, or that you or a loved one is being abused, do not hesitate to contact your local law enforcement agency to report your suspicions.

VENTURA COUNTY AREA AGENCY ON AGING

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This project was supported, in part by grant number 90SAPG0094-02*, from the U.S. Administration for Community Living (ACL), Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, D.C. 20201. Grantees undertaking projects under government sponsorship are encouraged to express freely their findings and conclusions. Points of view or opinions do not, therefore, necessarily represent official ACL policy.









This 'n' That

Luisa Arzate,
Marfer InkBlanca Hoffmeier,
SWPPP CALRochida McClure,
McClure Counseling
& ConsultingArturo & Julio Palencia, Mexa
Brands, LLCLillie Parker,
WaterLillie Salon

Local minority and women-owned small businesses to receive no-cost training and forgivable funding

With grant funding awarded by Kaiser Permanente and the National Association for Latino Community Asset Builders (NALCAB), Women's Economic Ventures (WEV) has announced the Forgivable Business Loan & Coaching Program recipients. Five Ventura County small business owners will each receive no-cost technical assistance and training, as well as \$10,000 in forgivable funding, to support their recovery and growth. Program information on the WEV website.

Recipients of WEV's Forgivable Business Loan & Coaching Program are:

Luisa Arzate, Marfer Ink (Printing & Marketing, Oxnard)

Blanca Hoffmeier, SWPPP CAL (Stormwater Management, Thousand Oaks)

Rochida McClure, McClure Counseling & Consulting (Behavioral Health Therapist, Ventura)

Arturo and Julio Palencia, Mexa Brands, LLC (Importer & Distributor, Ventura)

Lillie Parker, WaterLillie Salon (Hair Salon, Ventura)

Research performed in California earlier this year by Small Business

Majority found that 32% of minority business owners were denied a loan, compared to 17% of white business owners. Without access to capital, many underserved small business owners are at a higher risk of not recovering from the pandemic, impacting the future and vitality of our local communities.

"This program is the ideal combination of providing essential business capital and coaching for local women and minority entrepreneurs," said WEV's Director of Lending Marni Brook. "Add in the support of the WEV community, and now we have a recipe that empowers local business owners to grow, thrive and build for the future."

WEV plans to launch an expanded version of the Forgivable Business Loan & Coaching Program to include both Santa Barbara and Ventura County small business owners.

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.

Museum of Ventura County announces return of Bonita C. McFarland Scholarship

Museum of Ventura County is now accepting applications for its Bonita C. McFarland Visual Arts Scholarship. The scholarship fund has a total of \$17,500 to be awarded to eligible applicants who are high school seniors enrolling in college courses in fall semester of 2022 or any continuing visual arts college student who is a Ventura County resident. Requirements for submission are a completed application, 400 word essay about

their art and career or education goals, a letter of recommendation and prior artwork or projects. Applications are due no later than February 28, 2022. Students are allowed to submit up to 10 bodies of work, and are encouraged to start early. For further details and to apply, visit: venturamuseum.org/bonita-c-mcfarland.

Funds for the scholarship are provided through an endowment of the scholarship's namesake, Bonita C. McFarland, a generous supporter, and longtime donor to the arts of Ventura County. The funds are held, administered and awarded by the Museum of Ventura County, to individuals based on artistic merit, eligibility, and needs of the applicant. Past recipients have received over \$500 each, after being carefully selected by a collaborative committee consisting of Museum of Ventura County personnel and members of



Grace Gerenser and 'Uncle Lippy' celebrate at the awards ceremony. Photo by Peter Snell.

A Walk on Water

Continued from page 1

This is Gerenser's eighth year participating in the event, and she had some solid advice for any young people considering trying it out. "I caught a lot of waves this time—they were massive and huge!" she said. (She was right.) "Don't be nervous, though, just stick with me, you can practice on the sand first, and just be sure to listen to your instructor."

Grace's mother Tammy was thrilled with the event and how the program has positively impacted their lives. "Her first time with AWOW, we were like 'Ok, so she doesn't really know how to swim...' and her now long-time instructor, Steven Lippman, one of the founders (whom Grace calls 'Uncle Lippy') just said 'I've got this. She's going to be fine,' and frankly, we haven't looked back since." She shared how strong and protective the surf instructors are that take the kids out on the boards with them. "They are amazing, they have such strength and skill, and we know she is completely safe with them. And she gets to do something she wouldn't be able to do otherwise."

Lippman said that while giving back is a primary AWOW objective, making meaningful connections with the kids and their families is key. "AWOW is a family, and we strive to create these relationships with these families over years, and creating that bond, developing trust is what gives these athletes the experience, and the parents get to witness a pretty amazing moment in time for their children," said Lippman. "We treat them like they're our own. Each of these

athletes is a hero."

About 50 families signed up for the event, including some from as far as Utah and from Northern California—like 9-year-old Josh D. and his parents Angie and Lee. "He had so much fun! There's a reason why we drive so far, we usually go to the ones in Northern California, but we just couldn't stand waiting any longer. We all had a great time, and he was just floating on air, and couldn't wait to go back to school and tell his friends about it," said Angie, who shared that her family has participated in the events for the last four years.

According to Angie, the entire experience provides fun and confidence to the kids far beyond the exhilaration of riding the waves. "It's more just the camaraderie, being around people who believe in him, and that's something AWOW brings. You're not being treated like you have a disability out there—you just do it, that's the greatest thing, as well as the confidence of actually of catching a wave." She reported that Josh came running up to them as soon as he'd surfed in the event, grinning ear to ear, shouting, "I did it!"

Kim Murphy is the Director of Volunteer Engagement for the organization and reported that it was particularly meaningful to end this 2021 season in Ventura. She and her husband are well known for their surfing dogs, the late, great Haole Boy, who was honored at the end of the event, and his younger brother Pancho, who is just starting to surf. "The smiles seen all day on the beach leave me with the absolute purest form of happiness," said Murphy.

the Museum's Fine Arts Committee.

"It's always an exciting time to see the creativity of these young, dedicated and hard-working artists flourish," says chair of the Fine Arts committee Linda Edison, "Last year's talent was truly outstanding. Each piece was filled with individuality and excellence. I can't wait to see how students take this opportunity to represent our county this year." Last year's scholarship winners were Cal State University

Northridge students Yasemin Zografos (Thousand Oaks) and Amelia Compton (Camarillo), Moorpark College student Jullianne De La Cruz (Oxnard), and California Institute of the Arts student Amelia Compton (Camarillo).

The committee will review submissions in March of 2022, and scholarship winners will be announced in April. An awards reception at the Museum of Ventura will be scheduled

in the Spring to celebrate the honorees accomplishments. Stay up to date with the scholarship awards process, by visiting the museum online at: venturamuseum.org.

The Museum of Ventura County celebrates, preserves and interprets the art, history and culture of Ventura County, the California Channel Islands and the surrounding region through its collections, exhibitions, events, educational programs, publications and its research library, and serves as a gathering place for the community. The Museum has two locations - the main museum is located at 100 East Main Street, Ventura, California (805-653-0323). The Agriculture Museum is located at 926 Railroad Avenue, Santa Paula, California (805-525-3100). Both museums are open Thursdays through Sundays, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. - venturamuseum.org.

Trash, Recycling and Green Waste Pick Up Delay for Thursday & Friday Customers Due to the Thanksgiving Day Holiday

Thanksgiving falls on Thursday, Nov. 25 this year. As a result, customers who have their trash, recyclables and green waste collected on Thursday or Friday will have it collected one day later than usual the week of Nov. 21-27. Customers with Monday, Tuesday or Wednesday pickup schedules will not be affected by the holiday. The regular schedule for all customers will resume the following week.

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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.

Vehicle Pursuit with Arrest

On Nov. 6, at 8:56 am, Ventura Police Officers responded to a domestic disturbance in the 100 Block of N. Evergreen Dr. Before officers arrived, the disturbing party, Gloria Kapp(06/28/74, Ventura Resident), was reported to be driving erratically in the area. As Officers arrived, Kapp committed a traffic violation, and a patrol corporal attempted to stop Kapp. Kapp failed to stop her vehicle, and a pursuit was initiated. Officers pursued Kapp for a distance of about 5 miles with speeds reaching up to 50 mph. As Officers pursued Kapp, she committed multiple traffic violations.

The pursuit was terminated as Kapp entered the Ventura College Campus. Officers remained in the area of the college and observed Kapp stop on West Campus Way. Officers positioned their police vehicles to block Kapp's vehicle and prevent her from continuing due to several pedestrians in the area. Kapp intentionally drove her vehicle into an officer's patrol car at a slow speed while the officer was inside, striking the patrol car. Kapp exited her vehicle, and officers took her into custody. There were no injuries to any officers.

Kapp was arrested for domestic battery, felony evading, and assault with a deadly weapon.

The complete press release, including suspect description, can be viewed online at www.venturapd.org

If you have any information about this crime, you can make an anonymous call to Crime Stoppers at 1-800-222-TIPS.

If your information leads to an arrest, you could receive a cash reward of up to \$1,000.

Harbor Patrol Blotter

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

10/27 8:45am, received report of an injured pelican on Spinnaker Dr. Officers responded, captured the bird for rescue volunteers to attempt rehabilitation.

10:11pm, dispatched to a fall victim in Ventura Marina Community. Officers responded, assisted the patient up, no injuries occurred from the fall.

11:56pm, hoopnet fishermen complaining about pulling each other's traps they have video of the incident. After investigation, determined mistaken trap ID.

10/28 4:00pm, received a walk-in complaint from a VIM tenant that his boat is being investigated for diesel pollution. Advised to report visible sheens and that officers respond to all reports of petroleum spills

10/29 7:30am, while on patrol in the vehicle, approached by a known transient complaining about Harbor Cove amenities. Officers educated the individual of the several violations with his vehicle and the no camping ordinance.

10/30 7:16am, dispatched to a medical at 1559 Spinnaker Dr. Officers responded and assisted VFD/AMR with a 50 y/o male in breathing distress. Patient transported 11:05am, while on patrol in the Fireboat, officers observed 2 illegally placed hoopnets near the harbor entrance. They were

removed and impounded.

1:03pm, officers training on search patterns and setting anchor techniques.

10/31 8:51am, dispatched to a fire alarm at Four Points Sheraton. Officers responded and assisted VFD with the call. The alarm was discovered to be false.

12:35pm, dispatched to a traffic accident, vehicle vs motorcycle near 1449 Spinnaker. Officers responded and assisted VFD/AMR with the patient who sustained leg injury, femur fracture. Patient transported to local hospital.

7:00pm, received report of an assault in Ventura Harbor Village, officers responded with VPD to the call. VPD handled the call.

11/03 5:14pm, received a dispatch to an assault at the Portside sales office. Officers responded with Ventura PD and assisted with the call.

9:33pm, received a report of transients camping in a vehicle in VIM parking lot. Officers responded, educated of the trespassing violation and moved them on.

11/04 11:03am, dispatched to unknown medical at Holiday Inn. Officers responded assisted VPD/AMR with a patient on fentanyl, who was transported to hospital.

9:20pm, dispatched to a person with a gun in the water near the Ventura Pier, being chased by Ventura PD. Officers responded in Fireboat to assist with the detention of the suspect. He was caught and arrested before officers arrived.

11/05 9:45am, officers assisting National Scholastic Surfing Association scout an area for them to set up two separate contest areas for College & Goldcoast seasons.

5:03pm, observed dense fog, 1/8 of a mile visibility. Activated fog signal.

11/06 8:50am, officers attending ceremony for veterans at the village lawn with a 3 shot salute. Ventura PD advised of the blanks being fired for ceremony.

11/07 7:12:15pm, received report of found property, a peddle boat that was found near the entrance to the keys. Officers posted info on social media and impounded it.

11/08 8:15am, contacted by an individual who locked keys in their vehicle. Officers contacted AAA for the individual and waited until they arrived to open vehicle.

12:55pm, while on patrol in Fireboat, officers retrieved a commercial lobster trap near the breakwall. Officers returned it to the owner near the fuel dock.

5:35pm, dispatched to a stroke patient at Brophy Bros. Officers responded and assisted VFD/AMR with the 84 y/o patient. He was transported to hospital.

Ventura events

Continued from page 3

High Schools senior Greta Pankratz as the Sugar Plum Fairy and Ella Hoyt as the Dew Drop Fairy and Foothill Technology High School freshman Miranda Aguilar as young Clara. Tickets are on sale now at <https://www.venturacountyballet.com/events>. Prices range from \$20 to \$40 with special group rates also available. For more information, please call (805)765-1734 or email info@venturacountyballet.com.

Ojai news and events

The Ojai Art Center (OAC) is proud to announce an upcoming benefit concert by internationally acclaimed and Golden Globe artist Amanda McBroom with a very special guest, Roger Kellaway, a Grammy Award winner and Academy Award nominated pianist and composer. McBroom has performed to a sold out

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and enthusiastic crowd several years ago to raise funds for the Center, is "a local treasure."

"I leapt at the chance to sing in my own home town again, to sing at all, after this period of long down time," said McBroom, who then reached out to Kellaway. "

McBroom came to fame winning a Golden Globe with Bette Midler's recorded version of her song "The Rose," from the movie by the same name.

Her pal Kellaway, who has recorded more than 250 albums and counting, and has worked with everyone from Ellington to Elvis, Joni Mitchell to Barbra Streisand, and Quincy Jones.

It should be one heck of a concert and it's for a good cause. After being shuttered during the Covid-19 Pandemic, the Art Center is thrilled these artists have stepped forward to help us continue to serve the arts community in Ojai.

Performances is at 7:30 p.m. November 20 and proof of Covid vaccination and masks are required . Tickets are \$50- \$125. Reserve tickets online www.ojaiartcenter.org or by

calling 805-640-8797.

Chamber On The Mountain presents Duo Apollon, a Voice & Guitar Duo, on Sunday, December 5, 3:00 pm at Logan House (located at the Beatrice Wood Center for the Arts in Upper Ojai). Tickets \$25.00 at www.ChamberOnTheMountain.com.

Aaron Haas, Classical Guitarist and Anastasia Malliaras, Soprano of Duo Apollon will delight the audience as they perform art song repertoire with the unique sound of voice and guitar.

Audience members are invited to stay and meet the artists at a lovely reception that will take place outside on our patio immediately following the performance.

Chamber On The Mountain is presented by the Beatrice Wood Center for the Arts. Celebrating its Ninth Season, the chamber music series brings internationally recognized musicians to Happy Valley in Upper Ojai - home of the Besant Hill School, the Happy Valley Cultural Center, and the Beatrice Wood Center for the Arts. For more information visit www.ChamberOnTheMountain.com.

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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



The Pet Page



Dedicated to Scamp

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

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

Two upcoming clinics are: Tuesday, November 23rd at the Albert H. Soliz Library - El Rio, 2820 Jourdan St., Oxnard, 93036, and a second one on Tuesday, December 7th at Shiells Park, in the parking lot, located at 649 C St., Fillmore, 93015.

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

■ Of all the cute things dogs do, cocking their head to one side while they look at you may be the most endearing. Yet surprisingly little research has looked into why they do it. Now, a new study of "gifted" canines—those capable of quickly memorizing multiple toy names—shows they often tilt their heads before correctly retrieving a specific toy. That suggests the behavior might be a sign of concentration and recall in our canine pals, the team suggests.

The researchers stumbled upon their find by chance while conducting a study of "gifted word learner" dogs. Most dogs can't memorize the names of even two toys, but these talented pups, all border collies, could recall and retrieve at least 10 toys they had been taught the names of. One overachiever named Whisky correctly retrieved 54 out of 59 toys he had learned to identify.

Over the course of several months, the researchers tested the dogs' abilities to learn and recall labels for toys, comparing their skills with those of 33 "typical" dogs. Owners placed toys in another room and asked for them by name. Only the seven gifted dogs were able to rapidly learn and remember names. But these dogs shared something else in common: the head tilt. The pattern was too consistent to be pure coincidence, says Andrea Sommese, an animal behavior researcher at Eötvös Loránd University who led the study. "So, we decided to dig into it."

A quick internet search turned up plenty of speculative results positing that dogs tilt their heads to hear better, to listen for specific words or tones, or to see past their snouts. Sommese found one poster hypothesizing that shelter dogs do it more often because they know on some level that humans find it irresistible.

The scientific literature was much more sparse. A search for previous studies on head tilting yielded surprisingly few results. There were some veterinary papers about the practice as a symptom of certain health problems, Sommese says, but nothing about the quizzical behavior familiar to dog owners. That led researchers back to their own data to look for clues.

The scientists found that when asked

to retrieve a toy gifted dogs cocked their heads 43% of them time over dozens of trials, compared with just 2% of the time in typical dogs, they report this week in - Animal Cognition. (Although gifted dogs tilted their heads much more often, they were just as likely to retrieve the correct toy regardless of whether they made the motion.) The animals even had a favored side, just like humans favor their left or right hand. This was consistent over months of recordings, regardless of where the owner was standing in relation to the dog. "If a dog was a left tilter, it would stay a left tilter," Sommese says.

All of the border collies in the study were familiar with the words being spoken, he notes, but only the gifted dogs who had correctly attached a meaning to each word consistently exhibited the tilting behavior. That means head tilting isn't just a sign of familiarity with particular sounds, Sommese argues. If it were, all 40 dogs would be equally likely to do it. The team thinks it could be linked to mental processing—a sign of high attentiveness or concentration in the gifted dogs. The dogs might be cross-referencing the command with their visual memories of the toys, for instance.

Monique Udell, a human-animal interaction researcher at Oregon State University, Corvallis, has never seen head tilting featured in a study like this before. She cautions that these observations are preliminary, but says she thinks they could provide an exciting new direction for research on canine cognition. "The next step is asking more questions to get at what the head tilt really means," Udell says. "Can we use head tilting to predict word-learning aptitude, or attention, or memory?"

Sommese hopes to follow up on this study by figuring out what sorts of sounds might be similarly meaningful to the nongifted dogs, to elicit the same behavior. Until then, dog owners will have to be content knowing that when a pooch tilts its head, it's probably just trying its best to understand what you're doing.

■ Through grocery store tabloids and TV commercials inundating us with new fad diets it seems that we, as humans, are constantly focusing on our weight. But what about when it comes to where our feline friends fall on the scales?

Dr. Ashley Navarrette, a clinical assistant professor at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, offers insight on how to manage your cat's weight.

"When evaluating body condition on a cat, veterinarians look and feel to determine the fat coverage on a patient and assign them a number on a scale - generally 1-9 -, " Navarrette said. "An ideal body condition ranges from a BCS 4-6 with a score of 5 being ideal. We start to get concerned when cats are a BCS 7 and above, which is where we start to label a patient as overweight and progressing toward obese (8 and 9)."

Scamp Club

(Scampclub pets are not for adoption.)



Zoe is eight-years-old and a very happy girl. She is very affectionate, great with kids and loves her ears scratched and stroked. This ole girl is a lover. She is half Labrador and half Rottweiler. She is very protective of the young masters in the home who are 8, 10 and 12 and is very well read.

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.

"Thankfully, most people can weigh their cats at home using the trick of weighing themselves first, weighing themselves and the cat, and then doing some simple math," she said. "I recommend owners routinely check their cat's weight at least once a month to catch any upward or downward trends early."

Because patients typically only see their veterinarian one to two times a year, Navarrette says "it is heavily (no pun intended) the responsibility of the owner to keep their pet at an appropriate weight."

Some owners may believe that a couple of extra pounds isn't a big deal; however, Navarrette warns that that "fat and happy" does not exist. "While your pet may seem content being overweight, their body systems are being affect by the excess fat tissue and even so much as a pound overweight can make a big difference to a cat," she said. "Cats that are overweight and obese tend to be less social and less active. We also tend to see decreased grooming because they simply cannot reach due to their size."

In some cases, your veterinarian may also suggest transitioning your cat to an over-the-counter or a prescription weight-loss diet; these foods are traditionally higher in protein and fiber than other cat foods.

However, transitioning from one food to another can be a more difficult task than it sounds.

"Cats like what they like and hate what they hate" Navarrette said. "Often cats become accustomed to a particular diet, and you may have to trial various diets before your cat accepts one."

Finally, when managing your cat's weight, integrating exercise into their everyday life through indoor cat trees, interactive toys or cat perches can stimulate their metabolism.

"As with any weight loss journey, whether that be feline or other pets, this is a marathon and not a sprint. Weight loss will take time; patience and consistency are key to this process," Navarrette said. "Check-ups may need to be as frequent as every six to eight weeks to monitor progress and make necessary modifications."

Tiger



Mutts



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 Tuesday, December 7th
 Shiells Park parking lot,
 649 C Street, Fillmore, CA 93015
 Must call for appointment
 (805) 584-3823



The Pet Page

Forever homes wanted

Hi: I'm Mason, a handsome 2-year-old Chow mix who needs a home to help me build some confidence. I am easily frightened by noises. I did come in with my buddy Teddy, but we are not kenneled together. It is not known how I would do with other pets and children. Because I am a black dog I will tend to get overlooked. Please help me get seen and share me with all your friends and family. I'm a sweet soul who deserves a chance at a forever home.

Canine Adoption and Rescue League C.A.R.L.



Otter Pup, 2-year 5 month Pit Bull Terrier, loves to run and play, and especially loves playing with squeaky toys. He's still a younger guy and would benefit from bring with someone who has the time and energy to keep provide structure so he can direct his energy into fun activities! With small kids and other dogs, Otter Pup can get really excited and can overwhelm them – so a home without little kids would be preferable. Kennel: 089. Shelter: Camarillo Animal Shelter 600 Aviation Dr. Animal ID: A773951



Ventura College Foundation revises scholarship application requirements

The Ventura College Foundation has revised its scholarship application requirements. The changes are designed to remove barriers to applying. The revisions were approved by the foundation board and are effective immediately.

"We reviewed our scholarship program outcome data, researched best practices for scholarship providers along the lines of diversity, equity, and inclusion, and conducted a student forum to receive feedback from students who had previously gone through the scholarship application process. We heard from many that the old requirements presented unrealistic barriers that prevented them from applying," says Amy Cherot, chair of the foundation's Scholarships & Grants Committee. "We're always looking for ways to better serve Ventura College students and to improve diversity and equity in our scholarship application process."

One of the significant changes to the scholarship application requirements is that instead of requiring applicants to have completed 12 Ventura College credits by the end of the fall semester in which they are applying, they will have had to complete at least six credits. Credits earned in previous semesters at the college count toward the minimum unit requirement.

"The scholarship program was never intended to only support full-time

students," says Anne Paul King, foundation executive director. "Many students attend part-time while working full-time. This change opens the door to many outstanding students who can't afford to take on a full course load."

Instead of requiring applicants to secure two letters of recommendation to apply and be eligible for scholarships, the foundation will instead require one. Students can still submit two. The foundation will review both and select the strongest recommendation letter when evaluating the application.

Previously, the foundation required dual enrollment students (those who are enrolled in high school and Ventura College classes simultaneously) to attend Ventura College upon high school graduation. This old policy prevented dual enrollment students who had completed all their general college education requirements while in high school from receiving foundation scholarships if they were ready to transfer to a four-year university directly from high school. Now, dual enrollment students can apply for the foundation scholarship program regardless of whether they are continuing their education at Ventura College or immediately transferring to a four-year university.

"Many of our scholarships provide funds for students moving on to four-year universities," says King. "Students who have completed all their Ventura College transfer courses while in high school are now eligible for these types of scholarships."

Scholarship applications are being accepted through January 21, 2022. For more information, go to <https://venturacollegefoundation.org/scholarships>. Virtual workshops on scholarship requirements and how to apply are taking place throughout November and December.

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This 'n' That



Olga Hamra (Assistant On-Site Manager TCC), Jim Duran (Executive Director TCC) and Brandi Brown (Assistant Case Manager TCC) are all smiles.

Anonymous donor willing to provide up to \$50,000 match funding to support local homeless families

The City Center announced today that they have received a \$50,000 matching donation from an anonymous donor. This gift will match donations made to The City Center now through December 25th, 2021.

The City Center is asking Ventura County to support their work in helping local homeless families become self-sufficient. "Many people complain about the problem with homelessness in our county, but now is the time to be proactive, to realize you can make a difference," said Cheryl Heitmann, former mayor of Ventura City, "Now is a particularly good time to support The City Center, as every \$1 raised will be matched, up to \$50,000, and don't forget there are also tax benefits for donations before year-end. Our community needs to push together to help our most vulnerable population. No child should be homeless. Ever."

"We are so incredibly grateful to the anonymous donor for their generous offer

– however, we must now raise \$50,000. I believe our local community can do this," said Jim Duran, Executive Director. "There were over 5,964 students identified as homeless last year. We need to own our transitional living center at 837 E Thompson Ave, Ventura. Historically, 53% of our funding went to rent, but if we own our home, we will be able to help more homeless children and families,"

The City Center provides homeless families (with children under 12) shelter for up to two years, in addition to training, mentorship, counseling, and assistance. It has a 100% success rate, not one of the 83 families (representing 272 graduates) of the City Center has ever returned to homelessness. In the future, The City Center plans to add additional facilities to support more unhoused people living in the County of Ventura and beyond. Donation should be made at www.gofundme.com/thecitycenter.



David Young, husband of Breeze contributing writer Jill Forman, discusses blacksmithing during Farm Day, at the Oxnard Historic Farm Park on November 6.



Rodrique Benson on display at H Gallery.

The Dab Art Co. is please to present Major Tom. Taken from the lyrics of David Bowie's Space Oddity; the latest group exhibition opening at H Gallery in Ventura has been affectionately named after the song's main character and features the works of some very experimental artists. Just as the title character in Space Oddity is prepared to face the unknown, the artists on display have navigated their latest endeavors with courage and artistic conviction. Major Tom is a visual adventure of contemporary art exploration; artworks utilizing unconventional materials, innovative processes and highly unusual subject matters.

H Gallery 1793 Main in Ventura

Join us for a weekend of art beginning with First Friday's Open Studios at Bell Arts Factory, 432 N.Ventura Ave. A dozen or more artists have created tall vertical art works specially for this exhibit which will be on display in the community room gallery space.
 Friday, December 3rd 5:00- 9:00 w/refreshments
 Saturday December 4th 4:00-8:00 w/refreshments
 Sunday December 5th 11:00-4:00



Arte Para la Gente explores artist **Margaret Garcia's** vast body of work that captures and encapsulates culture, family, and urban life. Over the past four decades, Margaret Garcia has been a leader in the L.A. Chicano Art Movement, championing women, community, and those individuals who are marginalized by society. As a teacher and mentor, Margaret has inspired and encouraged artists to challenge their talents. Her students are encouraged to reach into their souls and create art that is authentic to self, and reflects their passion for the subjects they are painting. Her most recent works, many shown here for the first time, were painted in Ventura County. Arte Para la Gente is on display at the Museum of Ventura County from November 11, 2021 to Spring 2022.
 Photo by Patricia Schallert

Ventura Art Scene

This 'n' That



Yana, paints as often as time allows. Photos by Patricia Schallert

Painting by numbers has allowed Yana to overcome her anxieties

This is Yana. She is an artist living in a townhouse on the Ventura Promenade, she is inspired by the ocean waves and the beautiful sunsets.

Not just any artist, but a "Paint by Numbers" artist. She found great peace in painting by numbers when she was suffering from a severe anxiety disorder. It helped her cope with episodes by keeping her mind occupied and focused. She was an art major in school and could paint with watercolor, oils and acrylic but found that painting by numbers helped in a way none of the other expressions were able to do.

Several "Paint By Number's" artists

have discovered, especially during the pandemic, that it was a perfect activity to keep the mind busy and an inexpensive hobby. Others found PBN was therapeutic and relaxing. Yana, paints as often as time allows. Her canvas is always ready and she has now branched out to other free form art while she pushes away worries and concerns while she paints. She finds that every stroke is a stressless movement when she imitates other artists or when she is painting by numbers. These worries and concerns are in many of our lives, and can be gently pushed away for a short time, while painting with numbers.



The Ventura Pottery Gallery

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Lighter Breeze

Tiger



Baby Blues



Marvin



Hagar the Horrible



Crock



Pardon My Planet



Solutions on page 13

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

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

Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦♦

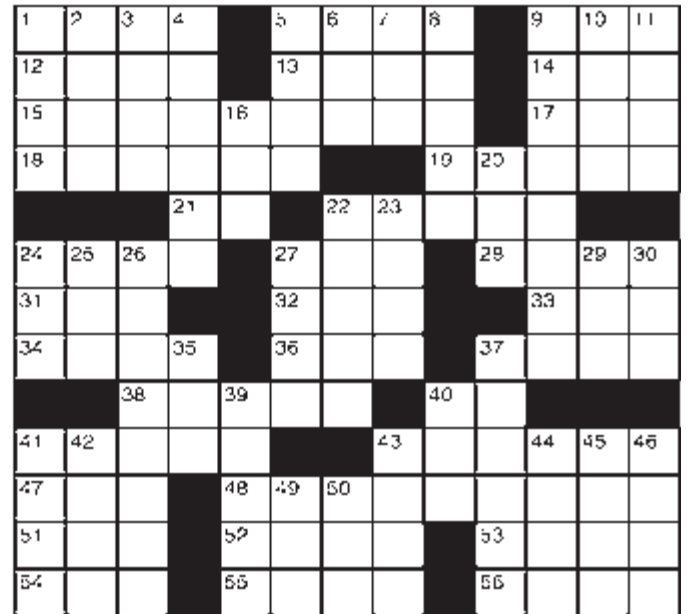
♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

Solutions on page 13

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Greet the villain
- 5 Bummer
- 9 Wd. from Roget
- 12 Incite
- 13 Writer Rice
- 14 Scot's refusal
- 15 Time of youthful innocence
- 17 World Cup cheer
- 18 Jacket part
- 19 Cut wood
- 21 Hectic hosp. area
- 22 Sun block?
- 24 Satirist Mort
- 27 "Exodus" hero
- 28 Infatuated
- 31 Acapulco gold
- 32 Impose
- 33 "Delicious!" warning
- 34 Lugosi of film
- 36 Observe
- 37 Nick and Nora's pet
- 38 Cove
- 40 Room cooler, for short
- 41 Pal
- 43 Geronimo, for one
- 47 Mound stat
- 48 1987 Woody Allen movie
- 51 Hobbyist's abbr.



- 52 Apple product
- 53 Pet food brand
- 54 Snake's warning
- 55 Mediocre grades
- 56 Part of A.D.

- 8 Bas-relief medium
- 9 Winter "no school" times
- 10 Harvard rival
- 11 Grant basis, at times
- 16 Tivo, for example
- 20 Calendar abbr.
- 22 Vinegar bottle
- 23 Low-calorie
- 24 Weep
- 25 "Right you —!"
- 26 Work breaks
- 27 Church section

- 29 Belly
- 30 "I Rock"
- 35 Moreover
- 37 National park in Maine
- 39 Ira Gershwin's contribution
- 40 GI's address
- 41 Hotel furniture
- 42 "Iopaz" author
- 43 Helps
- 44 "Misery" star James
- 45 Church song
- 46 Old U.S. gas brand
- 49 Gorilla
- 50 Fawn's mom

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stand the messages you're getting. **LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) Cupid's call beckons both single Librans looking for a new love, as well as couples hoping to strengthen their relationships. A workplace problem is quickly resolved.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Some changes might seem confusing at first, especially to an Aries whose impatience levels are pretty shaky this week. Take it one step at a time, Lamb, and soon all will be made clear.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) It's been a hectic time for you, and you might want to take a break to restore both body and soul. You'll then be set to face new challenges later this month.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) That difficult situation you've been dealing with continues to call for careful handling. Avoid quickly made choices that might not stand up when they're finally put to the test.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) It's a good idea to take a more conservative approach to your financial situation right now. Some plans made earlier this year might need readjusting.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You still have lots of evaluating to do before you can consider making a commitment. It's better to move cautiously than to risk stumbling into a major misunderstanding.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) This is a fine time to move boldly into those new opportunities I promised would open up for you. Check them over, and then choose the best one for you.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) A previously peevish partner offers to be more helpful with your problems. But remember: The final choice is yours. Be guided by what you feel is the right thing to do.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Congratulations. Your self-assurance is growing stronger, and you should now feel more confident about making that long-deferred decision about a possible commitment.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) As the Big Cat, you sometimes can be pretty rough on those you suspect of betrayal. The best advice is to pull in those claws and listen to the explanation. It might surprise you.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) You're very close to reaching your goal. But be wary of distractions that can lure you off-course and leave you stranded far away from where you really want to be.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Your inner voice usually guides you well. But a note of caution: This is a period of mixed signals for you, so be careful that you don't misunder-

BORN THIS WEEK: You have an inner sight that helps you see into people's hearts. You would be an excellent psychologist or social worker.

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Showtime

A View from House Seats

Santa Paula delivers post hiatus

by Shirley Lorraine

Santa Paula Theatre Center has reopened its doors and raised the proverbial curtains at last with Rapture, Blister, Burn by Gina Gionfriddo. The production was originally planned for 2020 but was put on hold during the Covid crisis that shut performances down county-wide. The actors have hung in there and are now pleased to present this thought-provoking work.

The sizzling 2012 Pulitzer Prize finalist script is filled with smart characters who make dumb (human) decisions, woven throughout a discourse and exploration of the meaning of feminism. The play questions how life might have turned out had alternate life routes been taken, how people cope differently with their choices, and the cost some of those choices extract.

Is the grass greener on the other side? Or is it all an illusion, a dream, an unfulfilled wish? Why do we question our choices in retrospect? Is it possible to be content with the choices we made? One resource cites the play as “an unflinching look at gender politics in the wake of 20th-century feminist ideals.” Heady stuff well presented.

Nimbly directed by Taylor Kasch, the cast features Rosie Gordon, Jessi May Stevenson, Erin Hollander, Susan Muhrer and Ron Feltner.

Jessi May Stevenson is Catherine, a woman who chose a career over a relationship. Coming home to care for her aging mother (Susan Muhrer), she reunites with Gwen (Rosie Gordon) and Don Harper (Ron Feltner), a friend and former boyfriend from college who married after she left for a life of travel

and educational fulfillment. The reunion rekindles old feelings probably best kept buried, leading to upheavals all around.

The Harper’s babysitter, Avery (Erin Hollander) adds new dimension to the awkward triangle. Avery’s youthful, open, pragmatic, and accepting perspective adds food for thought, proving to be a much-needed balancing force.

The cast performs as a solid ensemble, presenting with clarity and determination. There is an intermission. Patrons can once again enjoy the “pub” and purchase tickets to perchance win an original piece of artwork by Kasch currently in use on the set.

On a more somber note: It was recently learned that William “Bill” Lucking, one of the founders of the Santa Paula Theatre Center, passed away in October at age 80. A gifted actor, Lucking had recurring roles on several television series. The community is in debt to him and his late partner, actor Dana Elcar, for creating such a warm and welcoming theater center for all to enjoy. Gentlemen, your gift to the community lives on and thrives.

Masks and proof of vaccination are required to attend the performance, per current health department mandates. Discretion is advised as the play features mature themes and strong language.

The run of Rapture, Blister, Burn continues with performances Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2:30 p.m. through November 28. Book online and choose your seats. www.santapaulatheatrecenter.com or (805) 525-4645. The Center is located at 125 S. 7th Street, downtown Santa Paula.

Streaming Spotlight by Cindy Summers

Red Notice

– Netflix Originals



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

On their wedding day as a symbol of his undying devotion, Marc Antony presented Cleopatra with 3 bejeweled eggs each one more exquisite than the last. For centuries they were thought to be of myth and rumors, until in 1907 just outside of Cairo a farmer unearthed two of them. Some say the third was never found, others claim it was discovered, but just as quickly lost never to be seen again. Cleopatra’s first egg was put on display in a museum in Rome for all to see. The second egg was sold at auction numerous times and currently was in a private collection.

A very wealthy father in Egypt wanted to give his daughter Cleopatra an unrivaled wedding present and offered \$300 million dollars to anyone who could bring him all three eggs. This bounty caught the eye of criminals around the world, among them was world renowned art thief Nolan Booth (Ryan Reynolds). On a tip that Cleopatra’s egg in Rome was going to be stolen by Booth, Inspector Das (Ritu Arya) teamed up with FBI profiler John Hartley (Duane Johnson) to stop him.

Das and Hartley went to the Rome museum and found that they were too

late, as the egg on display had already been switched out with a fake but had the luck of spotting Booth in the crowd and gave chase. Booth escaped out a window, down a construction chute, stole a scooter making a clean getaway, almost. When Booth returned to his home in Bali three days later, he found Hartley sitting in his living room.

Das and her team took Booth into custody, but as Hartley got in the truck someone disguised as a SWAT team member switched the eggs. When Das discovered the egg was a fake, she went and found Hartley, who was on his way to the airport, and confronted him about the counterfeit egg, an \$8 million encrypted wire transfer in a Swiss bank account in his name, and also that she had contacted FBI headquarters who said they had never heard of him.

Das sent Hartley to a black site/prison in Russia, and found Booth was already there. Thinking that The Bishop had to be behind them being caught, Booth explained the \$300 million bounty for the 3 eggs, and that another well known art thief known as “The Bishop” must have been aiding Das and behind their capture. They were taken from their cell to the warden’s office where they found The Bishop (Gal Gadot), who explained that she was the one that framed Hartley.

The second egg was owned by an international arms dealer named Sotto Voce, so Booth and Hartley decided to team up with a plan to steal the egg when Voce had his masquerade party at his home in Valencia. Booth created a diversion by causing a small riot and together they escaped, stole a helicopter, then one of Booth’s friends picked them up in a jet and flew them to Valencia



VUSD Schools of Choice Lottery Application Available Now!



Families who live in the VUSD boundary area can apply to the lottery until Dec. 5 at 4 pm for their choice of school for next Fall. For more information visit our website.

www.venturausd.org

to get the second egg.

Hartley saw The Bishop at the party and went after her while Booth went after the egg. Little did they know that The Bishop and Voce had teamed up, but she drugged Voce and took the egg while Booth and Hartley were tied up. After escaping, they headed to Argentina to look for the third egg which was supposedly among the loot in Hitler’s lost bunker, which had yet to be found.

Surprisingly, Red Notice has even more unexpected twists to discover as they all go after the third egg, with plenty of the usual clever, comedic one liners from Ryan Reynolds all along the way.

Rated: PG-13 (Violence and Action|Strong Language|Some Sexual References)

Runtime: 1h 57m

City of Ventura awarded grant for bicycle and pedestrian safety

from the Office of Traffic Safety

Ventura, Calif. – The City of Ventura received \$44,000 in grant funding from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) aimed at prioritizing the safety of bicyclists and pedestrians through educational programs and events.

“We remain committed to the safety of our residents when biking and walking in our neighborhoods,” shared Public Works Director Phil Nelson. “Along with the development of our Active Transportation Plan, this funding helps complement our goal of creating safer and

more sustainable mobility options in our communities.”

The City of Ventura is distinguished as a Bronze Bicycle Friendly Community by the League of American Bicyclists. With over 60 miles of bicycle lanes, 35 miles of bike routes and paths, and over 400 lockers and racks, the City encourages increased use of active modes of transportation such as biking and walking in order to improve the quality of life in our community. Active transportation promotes healthier citizens, a cleaner environment, safety for all roadway user types, and economic development.

Grant funds will pay for a comprehensive safety program that will teach valuable skills for all types of road users, including:

Bicycle skills and training courses that educate youth on safe riding behaviors

Helmet fitting inspections and distribution of helmets to those in need

Community and school education presentations on best bike/walking practices

Incorporating bicycle safety skills into regular community bike rides

Partnerships with health care providers and senior centers promoting pedestrian safety measures among older people and those who are experiencing homelessness

Pop-up events that promote the importance of visibility on roads with safety equipment such as reflective armbands/leg bands and bicycle headlights/taillights

A grant from the California OTS provided funding for this program through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The grant program will run through September 2022. For more information about the City’s Active Transportation Plan, visit www.ActivePlanVentura.com or call the Transportation Hotline at (805) 654-7769.



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This 'n' That



Fair will feature rides, games, food, exhibits, animals, entertainment and more. Photo by Richard Lieberman.

‘A Country Fair with Ocean Air’ is set to return in 2022

The Board of Directors of the Ventura County Fair has announced that the dates of the 2022 Fair will be Wednesday, August 3 to Sunday, August 14. The announcement marks the anticipated return of the County's premiere Summer Event after the forced closure due to COVID-19. It was the second closure of that duration in the Fair's 146-year history, the first having been World War II.

“We are looking forward to bringing the Fair back after two years of unprecedented delays brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic,” said Fair CEO Barbara Quaid, adding “The Fair's board of directors and staff are grateful to our beloved community for patiently standing by us during these difficult times and we hope the return of the Fair will mark a turning point for us all.”

The award-winning Ventura County Fair represents a celebration of our community's talent, interests, innovations, and rich agricultural and artistic heritage. The annual 12-day event will feature rides, games, food, exhibits, animals, entertainment and more.

Although some aspects of the Fair will be different as a result of the Covid-19

pandemic, the 2022 Fair will strive to provide a diverse experience with many of the traditional Fair favorite features. For the sake of our visitors The VC Fair will follow all state and county health and safety guidelines.

The anticipated 300,000 returning visitors will benefit the community in many ways including significant economic contributions to restaurants, hotels, stores, service stations and more. The Fair brings temporary employment to hundreds of local residents and offers opportunities for the community to showcase their talents, hobbies, interests and passions as well as the opportunity to educate, inspire and entertain.

The VC Fairgrounds and Event Center had been unable to host many of the usual interim events in 2020 and 2021, but played a vital role in protecting our community by serving as a COVID-19 testing site and vaccination center.

“We are proud that the VC Fairgrounds and Event Center has been here for our community during this time of crisis,” said CEO Quaid, “We are now overjoyed that we can be here for you with the return of celebration.”



Karen Knight

Greg McMurray

Opera Santa Barbara welcomes new members to Board of Directors

Opera Santa Barbara is thrilled to welcome two new members to its Board of Directors. Karen Knight and Gregory McMurray were elected to the Board in October, 2021.

“Our Board of Directors bring a wealth of expertise and dedication to supporting our performing arts community,” said Opera SB Board Chair, Joan Rutkowski. “Karen and Greg are both very familiar with the company and we're excited to channel their talents and energy into furthering Opera SB's mission during this pivotal period in our history.”

Karen Knight is a longtime resident of Santa Barbara who returned two and

a half years ago after a 16-year hiatus in the Temecula area. Since returning to the area, she has spent time volunteering for Opera Santa Barbara, Ensemble Theater Company, and United Way of Santa Barbara County. She also currently serves on the Board of Wood Glen Hall as Co-Chair of their Marketing Committee.

Ms. Knight retired after helping start City Commerce Bank in 1978 where she served nine years as the bank's VP of Business Development, Marketing, and Training. In 1993 she rejoined the workforce in 1993 after raising her children to serve as the United Way of Santa Barbara County's Major Gifts Officer and Coordinator of the Red Feather Ball.

Having graduated with a Bachelor of Arts Degree (B.A.) from the University of California, Los Angeles, Gregory McMurray earned his Juris Doctor Degree (J.D.) at William and Mary School of Law in Williamsburg, Virginia. Mr. McMurray served as a Deputy Public Defender both in Kern County and in Ventura County where he handled misdemeanor, felony and juvenile cases. He has served as a Judge Pro-Tem in Santa Barbara and currently teaches community property law at the Southern California Institute of Law. He is a member of the California State Bar.

As a signature provider of professional musical theatre for California's Central Coast since 1994, Opera Santa Barbara contributes to the cultural enrichment of our region by presenting compelling musical performances and community programs that celebrate the breadth and beauty of opera. The company's annual main stage repertoire features opera favorites, lesser-known classics, and contemporary American works featuring nationally recognized performers as well as artists and craftspeople of our region.



White joined Food Share of Ventura County as President and CEO in 2017.

Food Share CEO appointed to statewide role

Monica White, Food Share Ventura County's President & CEO, has been named the new Chair of the Board of Directors of the California Association of Food Banks (CAFB). The appointment runs from October 2021 through May 2022. White has served for three years on the CAFB Board of Directors having previously served as Vice-Chair of the Executive Committee and Chair of the Governance and Membership Committee.

CAFB, which was founded in 1995, works with 41 California-based member food banks to ensure they have the tools and resources needed to fight hunger across the state. The organization also works to increase access to

CalFresh, California's food stamp program; creates partnerships with the agriculture industry to secure excess produce and reduce food waste; and advocates for pro-food bank and anti-hunger policies at local, state, and federal levels.

Commenting on White's appointment as chair, Stacia Hill Levenfeld, CEO of CAFB, said, “Monica's leadership skills have made her an invaluable resource for our organization over the past difficult months as hunger has risen dramatically across the state and the country. I am delighted to be able to continue to draw on her expert counsel as we continue the fight to end hunger in California.”

White joined Food Share of Ventura County as President and CEO in 2017 after having previously served on the Food Share board. Upon taking the role of CEO, Monica led Food Share out of a period of financial challenges while responding to some of Ventura County's most critical hunger-relief needs during the Thomas Fire and most recently the COVID-19 pandemic. In response to the pandemic, last year Food Share distributed more than 26 million pounds of food, providing more than 21.6 million meals to people in Ventura County - the largest amount of food ever distributed in the organization's 43-year history, and nearly double the previous high of 13.5 million pounds in 2019.