

Have a happy one!



VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

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A Year of Highlights from the City of Ventura

by Ventura Mayor Sofia Rubalcava

The coming of a New Year marks a time when many people take a moment to reflect on the past year. It's a time to acknowledge achievements, recount past accomplishments, and celebrate milestones. As we wrap up 2021, I'm reminded of how productive the City and Council have been in the last year. We've done a lot amidst a pandemic and seen many long-term efforts come to fruition.

The City Council recently approved a permanent streamlining ordinance to simplify the development review process. For several years, it has been a Council priority to streamline the planning and public hearing process for those who want to build in Ventura and businesses who want to improve their properties. Under the improved streamlining process, the City can shorten a development project's review time while keeping the community informed through early public notification and involvement.

The City Council also recently approved extending the five-block closure of Main Street to vehicle traffic through July 2022. In addition, work is underway to explore options for making Main Street Moves a more permanent attraction through a cost-effective, flexible design approach for the downtown area. This project will come back to Council

for review and approval as it develops.

Thanks to City staff's determination and hard work, the City Council unanimously approved key terms for a potential development agreement worth \$35 million to extend Olivas Park Drive and construct a levee in the flood plain along the Santa Clara River. The 139-acre project is the southern gateway to the City, adjacent to Highway 101 and the Ventura Auto Center, and has been a priority since the 1980s. Under the agreement, the City would pay for the road extension, and the three property owners would pay for the levee. This project is a huge win because it will create significant sales and property tax revenues and improve traffic flow in the area. City staff will bring the final proposed deal to the Council early next year.

Apart from recent Council-approved items, it's important to acknowledge City

staff's commitment and dedication to launch new programs and engagement opportunities in a wide variety of City departments.

Transitioning public services online has been an ongoing priority. In 2021, the City launched a new virtual public permit counter. Ventura Online Permit Services, also known as Ventura OPS, is a digital public permit counter that allows a customer to submit a permit application, upload plan sets, schedule inspections, and check project status online without coming into City Hall. Next year, continued enhancements such as an integrated online payment system and improved forms are planned.

In 2021, construction kicked off for a second entrance at Community Park and the City's first ever inclusive playground at Arroyo Verde Park. Both sites are anticipated for completion in 2022. The City was also awarded a \$2 million grant from the state's "California Outdoors for All" initiative to fund construction to expand the skatepark at Westpark. The project will add more than 20,000-square-feet to the existing site with features tailored to

Continued on page 3



On Friday, December 17 & Saturday, December 18 the Parade of Lights & Fireworks was held in the Ventura Harbor. The 2021 theme paid homage to all things ocean and sea – Back to Seality! The beautifully lit boats and spectacular fireworks lit up the sky and water. For winners see page 2. Photos by Patricia Schallert.

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ALOKOY



SWEEPSTAKES (POWER OVER 26 FT)
TORTUGA



SHOWSTOPPER (SAIL UNDER 29 FT)
AUSTIN BLUE



SHOWSTOPPER (POWER UNDER 25 FT)
ALOHA OHANA

Human Powered
1st Place: Ventura Outrigger
2nd Place: Hokuloa Outrigger

Dinghy/Duffy
1st Place: Little Buddy
2nd Place: Eaglet

Power 26' & Over
1st Place: Harmony
2nd Place: Kraken

Power 25' & Under
1st Place: Watts Up Dock
2nd Place: T3 (Tin Tub III)

Sail 30' & Over
1st Place: Heavenly
2nd Place: Stellar

Non-Profit
1st Place: The Leo Robbins

THANK YOU TO OUR GENEROUS SPONSORS

Commercial
1st Place: Freedom Boat Club

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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

State regulations for food waste recycling taking effect

Starting January 1, 2022, the City of Ventura will be required to comply with California’s Senate Bill (SB) 1383. The City Council recently adopted an ordinance in November 2021 to comply with state law. The City also began rolling out food waste recycling programs for all residents, businesses, and multi-family properties to assist with the mandate. SB 1383 aims to reduce methane emissions by diverting organic material from landfills by establishing statewide food waste recycling requirements for cities.

“Food waste includes items like bones, nuts, dairy, bread, fruit, vegetables, meat, and more,” shared Public Works Director Phil Nelson. “The City’s Environmental Sustainability team has worked diligently to ensure our community has resources to assist with these new state regulations to recycle food waste and reduce air pollutants like methane gas.”

Residents in single-family homes must bag their food waste and place it in their yard waste cart. Once at the sorting facility, the bagged organic waste will be separated and composted into soil products. Businesses and multi-family properties can expect to be contacted by E.J. Harrison & Sons to set up yard waste and food waste collection services unless they apply and qualify for an exemption.

Businesses can request exemptions if they generate very little organic waste or if they do not have space for additional containers. Exemption waivers must be filed before SB 1383 regulations take effect on January 1, 2022.

The statewide law was enacted in 2016 by Governor Brown to reduce emissions of short-lived climate pollutants (SLCP’s), which contribute to global warming and negatively affect human health. SLCPs remain in the atmosphere for less time than carbon dioxide, but potentially cause more damage due to their potency. By collecting and composting organic waste, SB 1383 aims to reduce the state’s greenhouse gas emissions by preventing the release of methane into the atmosphere.

The City’s Environmental Sustainability team continues to provide residents and businesses with guidance and support with food and organics recycling resources. Visit www.CityofVentura.ca.gov/ES to learn more.

Ventura events

January 2: Open house tours of the 1892 Dudley Historic House Museum—with COVID protocols—will take place on Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m. As an added treat, “Mrs. Dudley” will be guiding tours that day. Tour group size will be limited. Admission is free. The museum is located at the corner of Loma Vista and Ashwood streets (197 N. Ashwood) in Ventura. For information please call (805) 642-3345 or visit the website at dudleyhouse.org.

Continued on page 9



Community Events



Paul Whitehead - Trisha van Cleef
 One Man - One Woman artist in residence - January 8th - March 3rd 2022
 Ojai Art Center, 113 S. Montgomery St. Ojai, California, 93023

The Ojai Art Center Theater announces its 2022 Season

A series of all-time audience favorites there is something for everyone, as this season promises whacky comedies, classic musicals, and a heartfelt drama.

The season opens January 21 with Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike, a Tony award-winning play by Christopher Durang. We are excited to welcome back the multi-talented Taylor Kasch to direct. Taylor has acted and directed numerous plays in Ventura County and is sure to put his exceptional spin on this hilarious and offbeat comedy. Jill Dolan is directing the second show of the season in her directorial debut on our stage.

A perfect way to escape and enjoy a night of laughter is through the third play of the season, All in the Timing, and the fifth play of the season, Just the Ticket. All in the Timing, written by David Ives, is filled with Ives satire and wit. Just the Ticket is a one-woman show starring Ojai's own Lynn Van Emmerik. This hilarious journey follows a loud and lonely woman to Australia on her 60th birthday.

The big summer musical is Meredith Willson's The Music Man is

coming to Ojai at the very same time it is being revived on Broadway with Hugh Jackman and Sutton Foster.

Just in time for the spooky season of Halloween, the theater is offering one of the most popular hits of the London and Broadway stages, Blithe Spirit, a hilarious and somewhat terrifying story of a novelist who is being haunted by the ghost of his late first wife. This will be the séance of all séances, so don't miss this delightfully horrific comedy by the great Noël Coward.

To top off the end of the year, we are bringing to Ojai the uproarious adventures of Buddy the Elf in Elf: The Musical presented during December to conclude the 2022 season. Directed by veteran director Gai Jones, all expect this brand-new musical (based on the movie starring Will Ferrell) to be a holiday smash!

Grab your 2022 season tickets now, and join the Ojai Community as we welcome back live theater, laughter, singing, and the carefully picked favorites of theater-goers for years. To learn more about the season or purchase tickets visit www.ojaiact.org.

A Year of Highlights

Continued from page 1

various skill levels, green infrastructure, and public art. Our Parks and Recreation Department will conduct additional outreach to gather community input as it prepares a final design for the Westpark skatepark in the coming year.

The City recently completed the visioning phase of its General Plan Update, which involved virtual workshops, seven in-person pop-up events, and more than 1,500 survey responses. The goal of this phase was to gather input on community values, identify locations for new development, and determine potential land-use changes in different areas for the future and long-term growth of our City.

In support of the General Plan, the City is also working on its Active Transportation Plan to identify projects and programs that will make walking, biking, and taking transit great choices for all who live, work,

or visit Ventura.

Some other notable 2021 achievements include adopting and implementing new water and wastewater rate increases to support daily operation and maintenance of the City's existing water and wastewater systems. Additionally, this will support approximately 36 planned capital improvement projects, including the long-anticipated State Water Interconnection Project and the VenturaWaterPure Program.

VenturaWaterPure is the long-anticipated potable reuse project that will divert water currently being discharged to the Santa Clara River Estuary to a new advanced water purification facility. Currently, the program remains in the design phase, with construction anticipated to begin in 2023. To date, VenturaWaterPure has received over \$4 million in federal grants. The City continues to pursue grants and other cost-sharing opportunities to maximize value and minimize financial impacts for

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our community.

This past year has been one full of many successes thanks to the resilient spirit of our community members, businesses, City Council, and hard-working City staff. I'm so proud of what we've accomplished

working together. I'm looking forward to more exciting projects and enhancements on the horizon. Happy New Year, and cheers to 2022!

To learn more about these and other City of Ventura news, visit www.CityofVentura.ca.gov.



On Dec. 17, at 3:28pm, Ventura City Fire Department was dispatched to a reported structure fire in the 300 Block of Jones St. First arriving fire units found a fully involved single family home with all residents out and Ventura Police Officers evacuating adjacent homes. Firefighters initiated suppression efforts and extinguished the fire 20 minutes after arrival on scene. Two additional homes were initially threatened by the fire but were unharmed because of the fire suppression efforts.

On Dec. 18, at 3:16pm, Fire units were dispatched to a reported residential structure fire 4600 blk of Rossini Lane. Units arrived to find a growing fire inside an occupied apartment. Fire crews made an aggressive attack on the fire and thankfully prevented spread to other near by apartments. The fire originated in a HVAC unit and exact cause is currently under investigation. Residents are reminded to always have a working smoke detector in any living space and to never leave any open flame such as a candle unattended.



VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

Member, Ventura Chamber of Commerce

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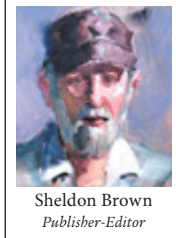
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Opinion/Editorial



Sheldon Brown
Publisher-Editor

■ I wish all a happy, happy New Year.

We all thought 2022 would be better with the elimination of COVID, but it appears that it is here to stay. I think going forward

receiving COVID shots will be just like getting the flu shot. Just something we do every year.

A special happy new year to our wonderful readers, donors and the amazing Breeze staff who make the paper possible.

■ The Ventura City Council unanimously voted to extend the downtown outdoor dining program until July. It was set to expire on Jan. 7. Making this closure permanent could take several years. The added time will allow city staff to create a new special permit to address lost parking revenue and other traffic concerns. With the closure extended, the city expects to lose approximately \$236,000 in parking fees from downtown meters.

To make the street closure permanent there will be a traffic study, an environmental analysis, approvals needed from the Coastal Commission and other procedures put in place.

The question to many is what negative effect this has on non-restaurant businesses (many would have closed without this) and additional traffic pushed over to Poli and Santa Clara?

Councilman Jim Friedman stated his concerns saying, "I'm starting to see emails and more people checking in saying this is great for the restaurants but it's really not great for the retail. We can't turn a deaf ear to that nor can we say it's a done deal because we have to have a lot more public discussion about it. I'm not being negative about it, I'm being realistic."

■ When did the pound sign # become hashtag? And why? Is the & sign next?

■ From CNN. Never one to understand a filter, former President **Donald Trump** veered into antisemitism in a recent interview with journalist Barak Ravid. "It used to be that Israel had absolute power over Congress," he said. "Today, I think it's the exact opposite, and I think Obama and Biden did that." The comments were in relation to how Jewish people feel toward Israel, and according to Trump, they don't seem to care about the Jewish

nation. "The Jewish people, in the United States, either don't like Israel or don't care about Israel," he said before fully blowing the dog-whistle. "I mean, you look at The New York Times—The New York Times hates Israel, hates it. And they're Jewish people that run The New York Times. I mean, the Sulzberger family."

The release of Trump's diatribe comes a day after his on-and-off favorite network, Fox News, got in trouble for posting an antisemitic cartoon featuring billionaire George Soros, who is Jewish, as a "puppet master" controlling Democratic prosecutors.

■ **Robert Palmer**, 54, of Largo was sentenced to 63 months behind bars in D.C. federal court by Judge Tanya Chutkan. The sentence equaled what prosecutors had been recommending. It is the stiffest criminal sentence of any Jan. 6 Capitol riot defendant so far.

Palmer admitted during an October court hearing where he pleaded guilty that he was the man photographed throwing a wooden plank at police outside the U.S. Capitol and spraying a fire extinguisher at officers, then throwing the empty device at the line of police.

It will be very interesting when the Jan. 6 Capitol commission eventually releases its findings.

■ Be very careful buying or using interconnected smart products, toys, etc. They might be a threat to your privacy. They may collect huge amounts of data about their users and their surroundings. Your **personal information** may be worth lots of money because the manufacturers could sell it to advertisers, and you will be inundated with ads that you don't want and maybe even hackers will get ahold of your information. Its bad enough that every time we research something that information is collected and sold.

■ I'm very happy the US Food and Drug Administration has made the decision to reduce the requirements that **abortion** inducing medication be dispensed in person by a healthcare worker at a medical facility. These medications have been available since 2000 and are effective during the first ten weeks of pregnancy, well beyond the six weeks now required in Texas when women won't even know they are pregnant. Especially for lower income women who might not be able to afford an abortion even if they were to find a

facility providing this procedure.

I certainly hope the Supreme Court's refusal to block the Texas "anti-abortion" law does not signal that it is ready to overturn Roe vs. Wade.

■ Finally, the government is going to take a close look at identified aerial phenomena **UAPs** as they call them which we know as UFOs. In November, senator Kirsten Gillibrand(D-NY) introduced legislation creating in office to study UAPs and report their findings to Congress. It will investigate only UAPs sited in sensitive military airspace. There has been criticism of this limited role but it's certainly a good beginning. I hope when aliens land here they give us an ultimatum that we all live in peace or they will blow the earth up. It would seem this is the only way we can have peace, as nothing else has worked or ever will.

■ The Trump administration engaged in "deliberate efforts" to undermine the U.S. response to the coronavirus pandemic for political purposes, a congressional report concludes. The report, prepared by the House select subcommittee investigating the nation's Covid response, says the White House repeatedly overruled public health and testing guidance by the nation's top infectious disease experts and silenced officials in order to promote then-President Donald Trump's political agenda.

■ Trump was booed by a portion of an audience in Dallas when he said he had received a Covid-19 booster shot.

The comments by Trump, who, despite championing his administration's efforts to develop Covid vaccines, rarely discusses his own vaccination and has largely declined to encourage others to get it came during a stop on his tour with former Fox News host Bill O'Reilly.

■ Senate bill 9 and 10 takes effect January 1. They require communities in California to allow duplexes, and in some cases 4 units in most **single-family home** neighborhoods. A majority of Los Angeles County voters support the new state laws which are designed to spur housing construction and to provide more opportunities for residents to own their own home (the American dream).

■ Californians will be able to dial a new three-digit number when seeking help for a **mental health crisis**. After weeks in which funding to make the hotline work seemed uncertain, the state Department of Health Care Services has announced it would spend \$20 million to help support the 9-8-8 network.

The money "is a first step towards creating an easier to access system for mental health care. But it's just a first step," Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg said in a statement. The Steinberg Institute he founded had advocated for even more money. "We're going to continue to fight for sustained funding for a mental health crisis response system that includes mobile crisis teams and appropriate follow-up care. Our jails and emergency rooms can no longer be our primary treatment for people in crisis."

As the mayor said this is a wonderful first step in handling those that are dealing with mental health issues. Next must be providing them adequate housing and services.\

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

Mailbox

Oooooops:

From last issue events:

"The Poinsettia Pavilion proudly presents a musical evening of dancing to the Ralph Mathis band (brother of the late Johnny Mathis) from 7pm - 9:30pm. \$10 at the door and refreshments will be served. The Poinsettia Pavilion is located at 3451 Foothill Rd. in Ventura. For more information call 805-648-1143 or visit www.poinsettiapavilion.org."

Johnny Mathis is alive and well. Born September 30, 1935 (age 86 years).

Thanks to Ivor Davis for pointing this out.

Sheldon;

I would like to give a shout out to Standard Industries, a recycling center in Saticoy where I have frequented many times to drop off recyclables. As a volunteer for Canine Adoption and Rescue League in Santa Paula, I have started a recycling fundraiser and use the proceeds to do repairs to the kennel and add money to our winterizing fund to get

dog heaters to the kennels. Therefore, I am a frequent customer at this facility and on average go there with my recyclables three times a week.

Every time I am there all the employees are very courteous to all the customers and myself. This includes the employees who bring over the wagons with bins in the parking lot and assist you in unloading your car, the employees who weigh your recyclables, the fork lift operator who is always on the look out for customers coming and going in the parking lot and the cashiers.

Standard Industries has also donated money to CARL in the past as we are a non profit, no kill and all breed dog rescue. It is always a pleasure to interact with the employees and I can now tell you they are my friends as well. By the way, in the six years I have been taking my recyclables to this facility, I see the same smiling faces so I know the employees are treated well. It is nice to see a company such as this in our community.

Marsha Moreland

Nothing is
really lost.
It's just where
it doesn't
belong.
— Suzanne
Mueller



The Ventura Breeze Presents The Face Of Ventura by Johanna Spinks

Images copyright by Johanna Spinks johanna@johannaspinks.com www.johannaspinks.com www.thefaceofventura.com



Captain Bill Finley



Howard Borough-



Rachel Morris



Jolene McBee



Tony Barrios



Jerry English



Bonnie Weigel



Manuel A. Valenzuela



MB Hanrahan



Emily Olszow



Olivia Simonson



Lynn Mikelatos



Lorenzo DeStefano



Gene Dunn



Star Soto



"Jalopy Joe" Moody



Mati Waiya



Donna Granata



Bill Pendergrass



Josh Addison



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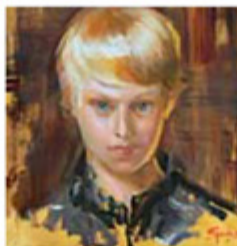
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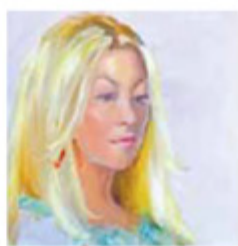
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Joe Ryba



Barbara Quaid



Mary Osborne



Helen Yunker



Sheldon Brown,
honorary Face Of Ventura

This is the last time that you will see the entire collection of The Face Of Ventura in the Breeze. You can visit the portraits at Crowell, Weedon & Co., located at 5740 Ralston St. until March 30 at which time they will find a most wonderful permanent home at the Museum of Ventura County.

This is the 10th year anniversary of the Face of Ventura portrait series by Johanna Spinks that appeared in the Ventura Breeze. The first sitter was Captain Bill Finley of the Salvation Army on December 29, 2010. The collection is in the Ventura County Museum's permanent collection. Johanna and the Breeze are happy about that.



News & Notes



The entire CAPS Media Crew wants to thank everyone in Ventura and Ventura County for their tremendous support and collaboration throughout 2021. The COVID-19 pandemic presented considerable challenges throughout the year, however despite the obstacles CAPS Media crews continued to provide communication and information services for the City of Ventura and the entire Ventura County.

All year long CAPS Media crews stayed extremely busy producing City projects that included covering more than 140 separate live meetings which totaled more than 290 hours and included City Council, Administrative Public Hearings, Design Review, Economic Development Strategy Committee, Finance, Historic Preservation, Parks and Recreation and Safe and Clean and Homeless Committees, and the Water Commission all broadcast and streamed on CAPS Media Channel 15 and on capsmedia.org.

Working in collaboration with City of Ventura Public Information Officers, CAPS Media video crews produced more dozens of informational City videos for the public including monthly updates by Mayor Sofia Rubalcava, informative videos from other City Council Members, Ventura Police and Ventura Fire. Creation of the videos required more than 900 hours of field and in-studio production and editing.

Throughout 2021 CAPS Media crews were collaborating with Ventura County PIOs to produce multiple projects including COVID-19 Updates and educational videos in multiple languages, as well as fire safety, housing, and healthcare videos, totaling more than 75 separate projects

requiring more than 800 hours of field and studio production and editing.

CAPS Media's KPPQ Radio crews continued providing the community with non-stop original, locally produced, non-commercial programming throughout 2021. The resourceful KPPQ DJs produced high-quality, innovative programming in the KPPQ studio and in their home studios week in and week out.

Under the direction of station manager Elizabeth Rodeno and engineer Evan Carpenter, CAPS Media KPPQ has trained more than 100 producers in the skills and art of radio and podcast production. Since the launch of KPPQ, more than 500 hours of original local music shows have been broadcast on the station including Pure Rock Show, The Pam Baumgardner Music Hour, Doc's Delta Blues Lounge and Ojai Dream. KPPQ DJ's have hosted an extensive range of community/youth and public affairs programs including In the Women's Room, Ventura Vibe!, Teen Centric, Women of a Certain Age, The ECTV Radio Show, The Shiver Show, Fireside Tales for Wolfgang.

During 2021 the KPPQ team produced and more than 300 hours of Ventura Community centered talk show programs, combined with specially selected licensed programs fueled nonstop distribution on KPPQ 104.1fm, streaming on capsmedia.org and myTuner Radio.

Throughout the 2020-2021 school year CAPS Media staff, led by Phil Taggart, continued to mentor El Camino High School students in the award-winning ECTV media education program, teaching students how to master media technology to create, produce and communicate their own stories. The collaborative curriculum

includes hands-on training as well as vital communication and storytelling skills. ECTV is a student internship and career pathways program in collaboration with Ventura Unified School District and Ventura College.

As the year draws to a close, the entire CAPS Media staff want to express our appreciation to the members of the dedicated CAPS Media Board of Directors. Thank you all for an engaging 2021 and best wishes for a Happy and Healthy 2022.

The Bookmark

About Libraries and Friends

by Jill Forman

Dang, what a year!

The Ventura Friends of the Library, along with the rest of the world, has had an eventful and challenging year. We started off shut down due to COVID with no libraries, bookstore, book sales or our usual occupations and sources of generating funds for the libraries. But we were not idle. We had started an online store; the warehouse changed its staffing to comply with county COVID protocols and continued to process donations.

Some of us made it our mission to stock the Little Free Libraries around town. Folks were frequently leaving boxes of books on my front porch, since they couldn't get into the libraries to donate; these went into LFL's in my neighborhood, at the parks, and so on.

Speaking of donations, people apparently used their at-home time to sort through their books and divest themselves of ones they no longer wanted. As a result, our warehouse was overwhelmed. Luckily, many bookstore volunteers switched over to helping out as book sorters and pricers.

We were able to have a parking lot sale at Foster Library, with all COVID precautions adhered to. And later on, a sale at the Topping Room.

When volunteers could get into the libraries again, we moved the Foster Bookstore to a larger and more open area on the first place of Foster Library. This was a giant effort by many volunteers, spouses, and library staff. This new space has been a success with patrons and volunteers alike.

The Friends of the Library book sale shelves at the Hill Road Library were also restocked and ready for booklovers to find more bargains by the time the libraries reopened.

As a result of all these efforts, the

Friends will be able to donate a substantial amount to the libraries for services and supplies despite the obstacles of this unprecedented year. Exact figures will be released after the end of the fiscal year.

And the citizens of our community have had access to books!

Library updates from Dolly

The Minecraft server continues to be used by steady gamers. Discover Science, Storytime (held out of doors), Minecraft Monthly (began in person in November,) and the Mobile Library are all currently active and well received. The Mobile Career Center is actively helping at libraries and the Mac van has its own computers.

The County Library System has applied for a \$100,000 grant from the State Library for the Mobile Career Center.

Book clubs

Hill Road – last Tuesday of each month at 5 p.m.

January's book: *The Good Lord Bird* by James McBride

Foster – January 8 at 10 a.m.

January's book: *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison

From Leslie Bellmore, Online Sales manager

Online bookstore continues to offer quality books at great prices, with easy browsing.

Volunteers wanted

The warehouse needs sorters and pricers Fridays 9-11.

The bookstore needs helpers, varied dates and shifts.

Email: bookstore@venturafriendsofthelibrary.org

Tentative date for next book sale

Saturday January 22, 2022. No location or time available yet. But mark your calendars to come buy books – or better yet, volunteer!

What does National Handwriting Day have to do with Ventura?

by Sheila Lowe, MS, CFDe

Every January 23rd, National Handwriting Day is celebrated by the Writing Instrument Manufacturers Association (WIMA), educators, and handwriting analysts throughout the United States and

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News & Notes

the world. Beginning in the early 1980s, the date was chosen by WIMA because it is generally accepted as the birthday of John Hancock—Remember the Founding Father whose big, bold signature graces the bottom of the Declaration of Independence? Although the story may be apocryphal, rumor has it that Hancock wrote it that way so Mad King George could see his signature without the aid of his spectacles (glasses).

Today, many young adults are unable to read Hancock’s signature or the Declaration of Independence because they were never taught to read cursive (joined-up) writing. Grandparents are often shocked to learn that since 2009, when the Common Core Curriculum was produced, the requirement to teach cursive handwriting in public schools was left out. Consequently, many states simply stopped teaching it. After a few years of seeing the negative aftermath of this omission, the states began to add cursive back. To date, twenty-five of them have returned the requirement to the curriculum and five more have legislation pending. Some leave the decision up to the school districts, and only ten states have absolutely no requirement to teach cursive. California simply requires children to learn to write legibly. However, prior to the onset of the pandemic, the LA Unified School District had a plan to re-introduce cursive to public schools. Hopefully, VUSD will soon see why it should follow suit.

Maybe you’re thinking ‘what’s the big deal? Why bother when everyone uses keyboards these days?’ It would take a much longer article to answer that question, and if you are interested, you are invited to download a free white paper on the current research into why handwrit-

ing is still important in a cursive age. It is available in seven languages here: <http://ahafhandwriting.org/publications>

Bottom line, research confirms that children who learn cursive, do better in spelling and reading, and they retain information better than those who just learn printed writing or keyboarding. Handwriting also helps the young brain develop self-discipline, combatting the effects of video games and TV.

One Ventura school teacher has a strong belief in the benefits of learning cursive. Laurie Curtis Abbe, who teaches 8th grade at Anacapa Middle School, makes sure that by the end of the school year, every student who entered her classroom will know how to write in legible cursive handwriting and be able to sign their name. Laurie is also an exceptional role model, preparing her students for real life by teaching them good manners and other skills that will serve them well for the rest of their lives. As Laurie says, “all of them know that it will improve their brain’s abilities, help them in reading primary source documents for Language Arts 8 and U.S. History 8, and give them an advantage over their peers for their future in many other ways.”

What can you do to participate in National Handwriting Day? You might want to make a “pencil toast.” Join with the non-profit educational organization, the American Handwriting Analysis Foundation on their Campaign for Cursive Facebook page. It’s easy. On January 23, write a few words and your autograph on a post-it note or other piece of paper; take a photo and post it here: <https://www.facebook.com/CampaignForCursive>



The annual Spark of Love toy drive, in conjunction with the Ventura Fire Department, hosted by the residents of Ventura Marina Senior Community, was another festive success. Food was prepared and served by the volunteer elves in the clubhouse kitchen, along with catered items, delicious holiday beverages and desserts. Residents participated by bringing unwrapped gifts, which were gathered up by the VFD and distributed to area charities. Residents show their appreciation for the service provided by the VFD throughout the year by hosting this annual event. Thank you VFD!

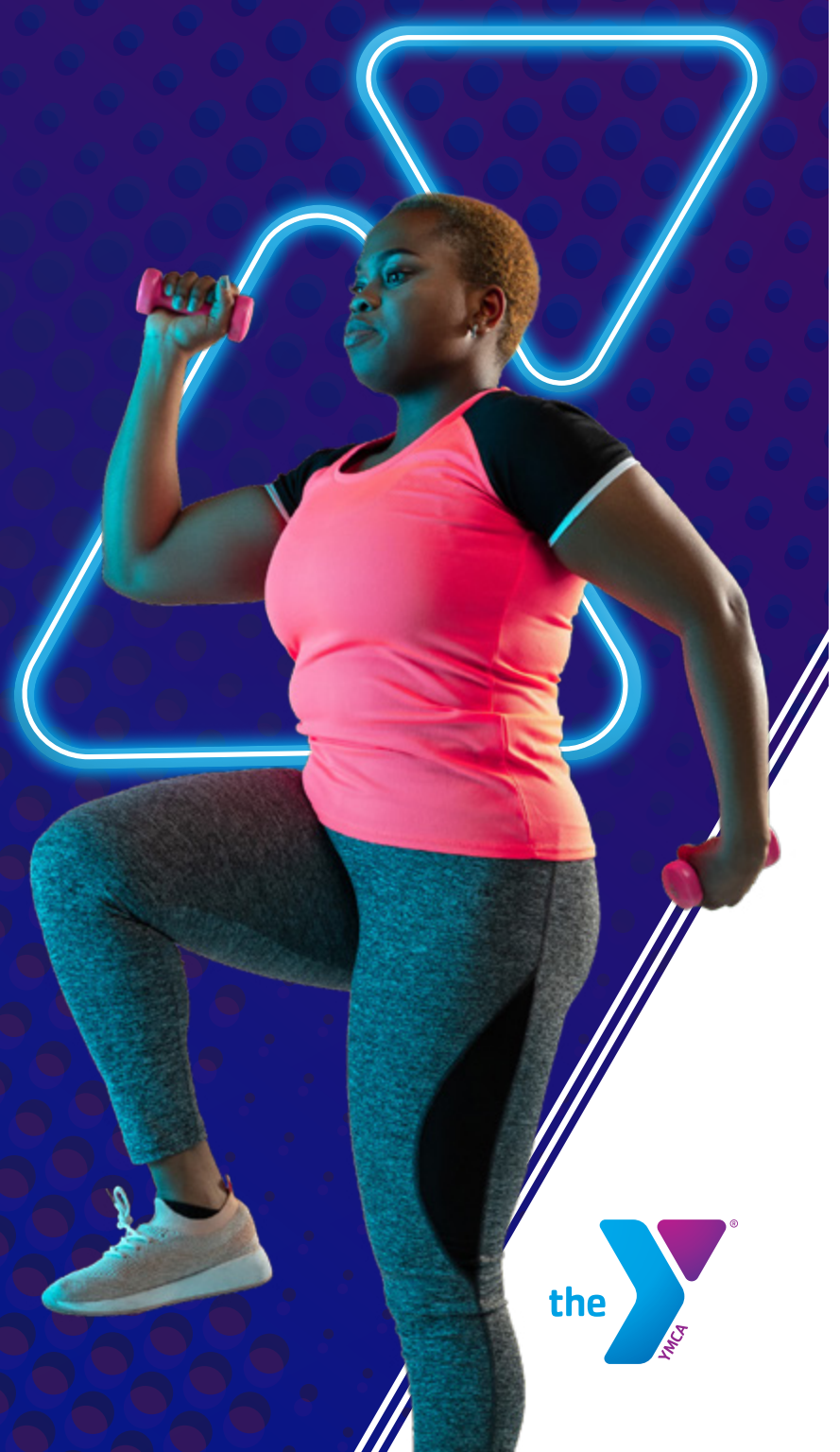
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News & Notes



Steve Ross, Pastor of Arise Ventura Church and his family with the Clauses, Ventura Rotary volunteers, Interact Youth, Boys & Girls Club staff and teen volunteers.

Holiday event for families

A holiday event for families was held at the Arise Ventura church building located at 831 N. Olive on Saturday, Dec. 18. Pre-registered families picked out a toy for each child, a gently used coat, receive a new pair of shoes for each kid, a lunch, a visit with Santa and a pair of custom made earrings for mom. From 1:00-3:00 pm, there were toys and coats for walk up families with lunch.

This event included Arise Ventura, Boys & Girls Club of Greater Ventura, Rotary of

Ventura, Rotary of Ventura - Coats for Kids, CHP and Kicks for Kids.

Patti Birmingham, CEO Boys & Girls Club of Greater Ventura stated "We served over 300 kids at the event. Each child or teen was provided with a gently used coat, a visit and photo with Santa & Mrs. Clause, a plush toy & candy cane from Santa, Moms and some teen girls got to choose a pair of home-made holiday earrings, pick out some Christmas wrapping and or bows, given a Christmas story book and was able

to choose a couple of toys for each child (including teens). Two CHP vehicles and officers were onsite in the afternoon for photos and interaction with the kids. Kicks for Kids also made soft tacos for everyone and families were given a food box, provided by Food Share on the way out."

"In addition to providing some much-needed relief to West End families, it was an incredible example of what can be done when non-profits pull together and pool resources. There was such a feeling of warmth and comradery. Between Ventura Rotary, BG Club and Arise Ventura, we had about 50 volunteers throughout the day."

"As we pooled our resources and partners together, the Boys & Girls Club brought Rotary of Ventura, Interact (the High School arm of the Rotary Program), Coats for Kids (Rotary Ventura Program), SoCalGas (who provided a \$5,000 grant for Coats for Kids), and Kicks for Kids (a program that provides new sneakers and education programs to underprivileged youth). Arise Ventura had connections with CHP Chips for Kids, City Kids and Spark of Love who all provided toys for the event and Food Share provided food boxes. Members of the Arise Ventura church also provided coats and some gift cards for families."

The Boys & Girls Club of Greater Ventura will be opening a Teen Center on the West End in January. The new center will be located in a building owned by Arise Ventura Church at 831 N. Olive Street and will provide critical mentoring, homework and job readiness, life skill and social wellness programming to middle school and high schoolers on the West End.

VMF presents guitar titans Tommy Emmanuel and Mike Dawes

by Richard Newsham
VMF consultant

Tommy Emmanuel and Mike Dawes—"two of the greatest acoustic guitar players on the planet"—have teamed up for a USA

tour and are touching down at the Oxnard Performing Arts Center (OPAC), 800 Hobson Way, on Thursday, January 20 at 8 pm.

It's the 2022 opener for the 27th "Onward!" season of Ventura Music Festival, co-presented by OPAC/Canyon/Sterling Venue Ventures.

The two guitar giants discovered "good chemistry between us" when recording a spell-binding acoustic cover of the Gotye smash "Somebody That I Used to Know" that has gone viral with millions of YouTube viewers. Emmanuel's liquid blues lines and Dawes' mastermind percussive rhythms add solace to this anthem's "certain kind of sadness" in sync with our current pandemic mood.

Hailed as "one of the world's most creative modern fingerstyle guitarists," 32-year-old Englishman Mike Dawes "slaps, taps, and caresses his way to brilliance," says Guitar World Magazine.

A foremost guitar workshop teacher, music educator and touring and viral artist, he composes, arranges and performs multiple parts simultaneously live on a single instrument with an "innate melodic instinct and incredible guitar prowess." Watch his amazing solo performances on YouTube of "Jump" (Van Halen), "One" (Metallica) and "Slow Dancing in a Burning Room" (John Mayer).

Tommy Emmanuel—a child prodigy who became "the greatest guitar player alive" and "Aussie national hero"—is now a U.S. citizen recording in Nashville. He is known for his "needs to be seen maybe more than heard" charisma and unsurpassed technique, virtuoso articulation and breath taking grooves "full of grace, fire and chills."

Emmanuel performs a gorgeous all melody repertoire that ranges over jazz, blues, bluegrass, folk, country and rock. He is one of only five guitarists anointed as "C.G.P." or "Certified Guitar Players" by his hero Chet Atkins, joining the august ranks of such guitar legends as Django Reinhardt, George Benson, Larry Carlson and Eric Clapton.

Keep the high vibes of the holidays going in the New Year—don't miss "today's foremost acoustic guitar virtuosos" bringing their distinctive styles to "a collaborative concert of perfect equals" on January 20th in Oxnard.

Tickets are on sale now through Ticketmaster, or save fees by calling the box office directly at (888) 645-5006 for will-call-only tickets. For more information and to watch videos visit VenturaMusicFestival.org.



On Saturday, December 11, and Sunday, December 12 WRITERS | Ventura held their first bi-annual Writers' Festival, held at the E.P. Foster Library on Main St.

"Our goal at WRITERS | Ventura is to provide a platform for writers to connect with readers," said Pamela Zero, founding member of WRITERS | Ventura. "There are so few ways that our vibrant community can interact. It's time to get readers and writers together."

The Writers' Festival brought together local writers with local readers, creating and reinforcing a community that loves books.

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News & Notes



Chamber President/CEO Stephanie Caldwell, Fire Department's Fire Chief David Endaya, Esmeralda Juarez and Ventura College Foundation Executive Director Anne Paul King.

Esmeralda Juarez named a Ventura Chamber Hometown Hero during annual Poinsettia Awards

Esmeralda Juarez, Ventura College Foundation's Weekend Marketplace supervisor, was named a Ventura Chamber of Commerce 2021 Hometown Hero during the chamber's annual Poinsettia Awards Ceremony December 9.

Juarez, who has worked at the Marketplace for 20 years, was honored for her leadership that enabled the Marketplace to remain open and serve the community during the pandemic. For over 35 years, residents have relied on the Marketplace for their everyday goods and fresh produce. The Marketplace also generated almost 100 percent of the operating revenue of the Ventura College Foundation through vendor rental income. When the county shut down on March 13, 2020, the Marketplace closed, leaving the community without an open-air fresh food and goods market and the Ventura College Foundation with only three months of operating cash.

"The Marketplace reopened 2 1/2 months later after Esmeralda was able to guide her team and marketplace vendors through operating and safety protocols while passing continual health and safety inspections," says Anne Paul King, Ventura College Foundation executive director. "The Marketplace was the only swap meet in the county allowed to operate almost entirely through the pandemic."

Initially, Juarez had 149 vendors sell their products at the Marketplace. Each weekend, over 1,200 Venturans shopped for essential goods in a safe outdoor environment. When protocols loosened in July 2021, she brought back 150 additional vendors and raised Ventura College Foundation net revenue to pre-pandemic levels within four weeks.

"Ventura College Foundation now has nine months of operating revenue in reserves and is financially secure," says King. "We could not have done it without Esmeralda. In the next 10 years,

the Marketplace will allow the Ventura College Foundation to support over 30,000 students through scholarships and other services. Esmeralda's leadership over the past two years will have a tremendous long-term impact."

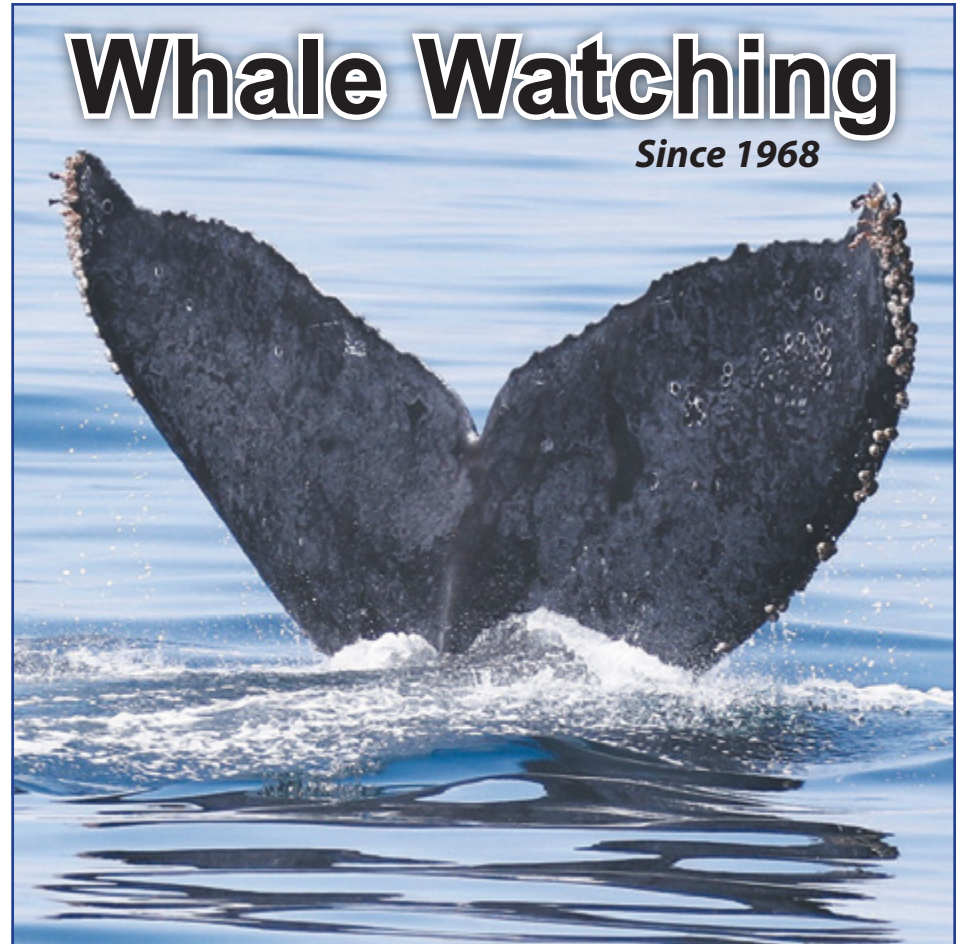
In addition to Juarez, the chamber honored hometown heroes Gabrielle Moes (on behalf of Seasons Catering), Ashley Bautista (County of Ventura), Monica White (on behalf of Food Share), Isis Wagner (Veterans Home of California, Ventura) and Anshul Bajaj (on behalf of Stembassadors).



The three wooden markers are friends who died this year.

Ceremonies naming people who died without shelter throughout Ventura County were held

This year there were two interdenominational memorial Longest Night ceremonies naming the 136 people who died without shelter throughout Ventura



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County from the end of 2020 to 11/20/2021. One hundred and eight died without shelter in 2021 from January to November 2020.

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura has hosted a memorial event for 15 years. In 2020, they were unable to host a public event and purchased an obituary where 76 people's names were listed. That year, the Oxnard Commission on Homelessness organized an interdenominational virtual service with the reading of the names.

This year Longest Night services were held in both Ventura and Oxnard. The Ventura event was at Plaza Park on Saturday, December 18. It was followed by a silent march downtown.

The Oxnard event was at Oxnard's Plaza Park on Sunday, December 19, and included a memory box where people can write their memories and deposit their thoughts of their loved one.

This year UUCV/ Lift Up Your Voice to End Homelessness and Oxnard Commission on Homelessness obtained the list of deceased homeless people from the Medical Examiner and some of the social service providers. Roy Foster and several others from LUYV created a tombstone display with all the names. There are many people who we do not know of their circumstances and will not be mentioned. Sometimes their family will take them in during the last weeks or months of their life. Some die in the hospital or in respite care and are not counted. We know many fall through the cracks and are not recorded as dying without shelter.

Roy Foster came up with the idea of the headstones about 5 years ago. The three wooden markers are friends who died this year. Roy is housed but lived on the street for a while. Two years ago his brother (Don Baker) died on the street.

Jill and Tom Ball provided music for the event. Three youths and their advisors from

Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura served snacks. Irene Johnson managed the clothing give away.

Reading the names of the deceased were Rabbi Lisa Hochberg-Miller from Temple Beth Torah, Rev John Forrest Douglas from Church of the Foothill, Rev Bonnie Rose from Center for Spiritual Living as Rev. Dana Warsnop rang the bell for each name. Cantor Robin Faigin called all to prayer.

Ventura events

Continued from page 2

January 8: Saturday, Ventura Land Trust events - Guided hike, Harmon Canyon Preserve Learn about the natural and cultural history of the preserve on a 90-minute, easy pace hike led by a VLT staff member (free).

January 13: Thursday - VLT's Environmental Speaker Series returns to the Museum of Ventura County. What does wildlife at Harmon Canyon Preserve do when no one is watching? Certified wildlife tracker Mike Watling shares his trail camera footage (free for members, suggested donation for non-members).

January 10: Cantor Michael Stein, Grammy Award winning singer, songwriter, producer and actor will be in Ventura. The free event, "The Power of Music in Enhancing Spirituality", will be Monday, from 3-5 pm at Congregation Am HaYam. Tickets are free, but registration through Eventbrite is required and can be made at <https://congregationamhayam.com/jewish-life/special-events/the-power-of-music-in-enhancing-spirituality-mike-stein/> Congregation Am HaYam is located at 4839 Market Street, Unit C (rear), Ventura 93003. Ample free parking is available. Please call 805-644-2899 for ticket or other information.



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"This is exercise that we can do together."

Endurance exercises for older adults

Endurance activities, often referred to as aerobic, increase your breathing and heart rates. These activities help keep you healthy, improve your fitness, and help you perform the tasks you need to do every day. Endurance exercises improve the health of your heart, lungs, and circulatory system. They also can delay or prevent many diseases that are common in older adults such as diabetes, colon and breast cancers, heart disease, and others. Physical activities that build endurance include:

Brisk walking or jogging
Yard work (mowing, raking)
Dancing
Swimming
Biking
Climbing stairs or hills
Playing tennis

Increase your endurance or "staying power" to help keep up with your

grandchildren during a trip to the park, dance to your favorite songs at a family wedding, and rake the yard and bag up leaves. Build up to at least 150 minutes of activity a week that makes you breathe hard. Try to be active throughout your day to reach this goal and avoid sitting for long periods of time.

Safety Tips

Do a little light activity, such as easy walking, before and after your endurance activities to warm up and cool down.

Listen to your body: endurance activities should not cause dizziness, chest pain or pressure, or a feeling like heartburn.

Be sure to drink liquids when doing any activity that makes you sweat. If your doctor has told you to limit your fluids, be sure to check before increasing the amount of fluid you drink while exercising.

Senior Living

If you are going to be exercising outdoors, be aware of your surroundings.

Dress in layers so you can add or remove clothes as needed for hot and cold weather.

To prevent injuries, use safety equipment, such as a helmet when bicycling.

Quick Tip: Test Your Exercise Intensity

When you're being active, try talking: if you're breathing hard but can still have a conversation easily, it's moderate-intensity activity. If you can only say a few words before you have to take a breath, it's vigorous-intensity activity.

Strength Exercises for Older Adults

Your muscular strength can make a big difference. Strong muscles help you stay independent and make everyday activities feel easier, like getting up from a chair, climbing stairs, and carrying groceries. Keeping your muscles strong can help with your balance and prevent falls and fall-related injuries. You are less likely to fall when your leg and hip muscles are strong. Some people call using weight to improve your muscle strength "strength training" or "resistance training."

Some people choose to use weights to help improve their strength. If you do, start by using light weights at first, then gradually add more. Other people use resistance bands, stretchy elastic bands that come in varying strengths. If you are a beginner, try exercising without the band or use a light band until you are comfortable. Add a band or move on to a stronger band (or more weight) when you can do two sets of 10 to 15 repetitions easily. Try to do strength exercises for all of your major muscle groups at least 2 days per week, but don't exercise the same muscle group on any 2 days in a row.



Avoid areas where driving can be a problem.

Learn more about driving safety

As you get older, your reflexes might get slower, and you might not react as quickly as you could in the past. You might find that you have a shorter attention span, making it harder to do two things at once. Stiff joints or weak muscles also can make it harder to move quickly. Loss of feeling or tingling in your

fingers and feet can make it difficult to steer or use the foot pedals. Parkinson's disease or limitations following a stroke can make it no longer safe to drive.

Safe driving tips:

Leave more space between you and the car in front of you.

Start braking early when you need to stop.

Avoid heavy traffic areas or rush-hour driving when you can.

If you must drive on a fast-moving highway, drive in the right-hand lane. Traffic moves more slowly there, giving you more time to make safe driving decisions.

Medications Can Affect Driving

Do you take any medicines that make you feel drowsy, lightheaded, or less alert than usual? Do medicines you take have a warning about driving? Many medications have side effects that can make driving unsafe. Pay attention to how these drugs may affect your driving.

Read medicine labels carefully. Look for any warnings.

Make a list of all of your medicines, and talk with your doctor or pharmacist about how they can affect your driving.

Don't drive if you feel lightheaded or drowsy.

Be a Safe Driver

Maybe you already know that driving at night, on the highway, or in bad weather is a problem for you. Some older drivers also have problems when yielding the right of way, turning (especially making left turns), changing lanes, passing, and using expressway ramps.

Have your driving skills checked by a driving rehabilitation specialist, occupational therapist, or other trained professional.

Take a defensive driving course. Some car insurance companies may lower your bill when you pass this type of class. Organizations like AARP, American Automobile Association (AAA), or your car insurance company can help you find a class near you.

When in doubt, don't go out. Bad weather like rain, ice, or snow can make it hard for anyone to drive. Try to wait until the weather is better, or use buses, taxis, or other transportation services.

Avoid areas where driving can be a problem. For example, choose a route that avoids highways or other high-speed roadways. Or, find a way to go that requires few or no left turns.

Ask your doctor if any of your health problems or medications might make it unsafe for you to drive. Together, you can make a plan to help you keep driving and decide when it is no longer safe to drive.

For More Information About Driving
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nhtsa.webmaster@dot.gov
www.nhtsa.gov/road-safety/older-drivers



Senior Living



If you think you might have shingles, talk to your doctor as soon as possible.

What is shingles?

Shingles, also called herpes zoster, is a disease that triggers a painful skin rash. It is caused by the same virus as chickenpox, the varicella-zoster virus. After you recover from chickenpox (usually as a child), the virus continues to live in some of your nerve cells.

For most adults, the virus is inactive and it never leads to shingles. But, for about one in three adults, the virus will become active again and cause shingles. Usually, shingles develops on just one side of the body or face, and in a small area. The most common place for shingles to occur is in a band around one side of the waistline.

Most people with shingles have one or more of the following symptoms:

- Fluid-filled blisters
- Burning, shooting pain
- Tingling, itching, or numbness of the skin
- Chills, fever, headache, or upset stomach

For some people, the symptoms of shingles are mild. They might just have some itching. For others, shingles can cause intense pain that can be felt

from the gentlest touch or breeze. It's important to talk with your doctor if you notice any shingles symptoms.

If you notice blisters on your face, see your doctor right away because this is an urgent problem. Blisters near or in the eye can cause lasting eye damage and blindness. Hearing loss, a brief paralysis of the face, or, very rarely, inflammation of the brain (encephalitis) can also occur.

If you think you might have shingles, talk to your doctor as soon as possible. It's important to see your doctor no later than three days after the rash starts. The doctor will confirm whether you have shingles and can make a treatment plan. Most cases can be diagnosed from a visual examination. If you have a condition that weakens the immune system, your doctor may order a shingles test. Although there is no cure for shingles, early treatment with antiviral medications can help the blisters clear up faster and limit severe pain. Shingles can often be treated at home.

After the shingles rash goes away, some people may be left with ongoing pain called postherpetic neuralgia, or PHN. The pain is felt in the area where the rash occurred. The older you are when you get shingles, the greater your chances of developing PHN.

If you are in contact with someone who has shingles, you will not get the symptoms of shingles yourself. However, direct contact with fluid from a shingles rash can still spread the varicella-zoster virus, which can cause chickenpox in people who have not had chickenpox before or the chickenpox vaccine. The risk of spreading the virus is low if the shingles rash is kept covered.

Everyone who has had chickenpox is at risk for developing shingles. Researchers do not fully understand what makes the virus become active and cause shingles. But some things make it more likely:

The current shingles vaccine (brand name Shingrix) is a safe, easy, and more effective way to prevent shingles than the previous vaccine. In fact, it is over 90% effective at preventing shingles. Most adults age 50 and older should get vaccinated with the shingles vaccine, which is given in two doses. You can get the shingles vaccine at your doctor's office and at some pharmacies.

Assessing changes in older adults and finding local resources

It is important for older adults and their caregivers, families and friends to take a close look to assess the changes they may have experienced during the pandemic—and to look for services and supports that can help address them. The Eldercare Locator, USAging and the U.S. Administration for Community Living have made this the focus of the 2021 Home for the Holidays campaign.

The centerpiece of the campaign is Healthy Aging in a Pandemic World: What Older Adults and Caregivers Need to Know Now, a brochure describing some of the changes that families, friends and

caregivers may notice in the older adults in their lives.

The campaign encourages older adults and caregivers to evaluate their health and well-being and consider any needed changes to their lives or environment.

"Ensuring that older adults have the resources they need to fully—but safely—re-engage, in their communities is central to the mission of the Administration for Community Living," said Alison Barkoff, Principal Deputy Administrator, U.S. Administration for Community Living. "The Eldercare Locator is a vital national resource for older adults, families and caregivers looking for local resources to help them live actively and independently, and to get and stay connected with others."

Launched in 1992, the Eldercare Locator is the only national information and referral resource to provide support to consumers across the spectrum of issues affecting older Americans. The Eldercare Locator, established and funded by the U.S. Administration for Community Living and administered by USAging, can be easily accessed at eldercare.acl.gov.

Home for the Holidays is an annual public education campaign that encourages discussion of important issues affecting older Americans at a time of the year when family and friends often gather.

USAging is the national association representing and supporting the network of Area Agencies on Aging and advocating for the Title VI Native American Aging Programs. Our members help older adults and people with disabilities throughout the United States live with optimal health, well-being, independence and dignity in their homes and communities.

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This 'n' That



Christina Ramos, RN, helping load adopt-a-family gifts into the Lighthouse for Women and Children van.

St. John's Hospitals physicians, nurses and staff provide gift baskets to families in need this holiday season

Physicians, nurses and staff at Dignity Health-St. John's Hospitals in Camarillo and Oxnard are paying it forward by providing more than 40 families with presents for Christmas.

More than 500 wrapped gifts will be given to families who are served by the County of Ventura Homeless Services Program, Lighthouse for Women and Children and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Ventura County.

"Many of the families we adopted have been financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and will truly benefit from these gifts," said Barry Wolfman, President and CEO of St. John's Regional Medical Center and St. John's Hospital Camarillo. "While we have faced our own challenges throughout the pandemic, our staff feels fortunate to lend a hand to those in need in our community."

Individuals from each family provided a wish list which consisted of basic need items such as clothing and shoes as well as toys for kids.

The gifts will be shared with the families just in time for Christmas.

Dignity Health-St. John's Regional Medical Center in Oxnard and St. John's Hospital Camarillo comprise the largest non-profit acute care

provider in Ventura County. Founded more than 100 years ago, St. John's Hospitals are nationally recognized for quality care, safety and service.

Both hospitals are supported by an active philanthropic Foundation to support new programs and services, as well as to advance the community's access to health care. Learn more at DignityHealth.org/StJohnsRegional or DignityHealth.org/StJohnsHospitalCamarillo.

Kwanzaa the holiday

Kwanzaa is an African American and Pan-African holiday which celebrates family, community and culture. Celebrated from December 26 thru January 1, its origins are in the first harvest celebrations of Africa from which it takes its name. The name Kwanzaa is derived from the phrase "matunda ya kwanza" which means "first fruits" in Swahili, a Pan-African language which is the most widely spoken African language.

Kwanzaa was created in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karina, professor,

Department of Black Studies at California State University, Long Beach, author and scholar-activist who stresses the indispensable need to preserve, continually revitalize and promote African American culture.

It is important to note Kwanzaa is a cultural holiday, not a religious one, thus available to and practiced by Africans of all religious faiths who come together based on the rich, ancient and varied common ground of their Africanness.

Gifts are given mainly to children, but must always include a book and a heritage symbol. The book is to emphasize the African value and tradition of learning stressed since ancient Egypt, and the heritage symbol to reaffirm and reinforce the African commitment to tradition and history.

Harrison honored by Clean-Air Group

Harrison Industries continues to lead the ecological charge, achieving a noteworthy 12 years of Climate Registered™ Gold status for its ongoing efforts to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions.

The Climate Registry is a nonprofit organization that operates greenhouse gas reporting programs globally and monitors emissions; using an independent review process, the registry assists companies in measuring, reporting and verifying the carbon in their systems in order to manage and reduce it. Carbon greenhouse gas emissions are responsible for trapping heat the Earth's atmosphere and causing climate change.

In a recent letter, Climate Registry officials thanked Harrison for opening its corporate books to again complete the registry's emissions inventory report and congratulated the Ventura-based trash and recycling hauler for its 12th consecutive year of top-level recognition on the elite registry.

"We thank you for your exceptional climate leadership," the registry's Ryan Cassutt, manager of verification and registry services, wrote in the Oct. 22 letter. "Harrison Industries will receive a Climate Registered Gold physical certificate and will enjoy enhanced eligibility for a Climate Leadership Award."

Earlier this year, The Climate Registry rewarded Harrison for surpassing net zero in emissions by a remarkable 21 times.

"As you can imagine, any company just trying to get to net zero is hard," said Bill Camarillo, CEO of Harrison partner Agromin, "but the Harrisons have been able to average, over 10 years, 21 times greater than net zero, which is a tremendous accomplishment."

"The numbers are remarkable but not unexpected," said Nan Drake, Harrison's director of governmental affairs and public relations. "Harrison has a well tracked history of avoided emissions – including a fleet of trucks that run entirely on clean fuel – and of following all the protocol. At Harrison, we see this as our greatest responsibility and our foremost success as a trash/recycle company."

In 2019, Harrison was honored to be the only waste hauler to ever be distinguished with The Climate Registry's Member of the Month commendation.

Throughout its nearly 90-year history – since long before global warming became a sweeping social issue – Harrison has strived to reuse waste material and avert it from the landfill, where methane gas emissions have caused the atmospheric warming that's led to climate change.

In 1990, at the dawn of the recycling movement, Harrison launched its Gold Coast Recycling facility. Using state-of-the-art equipment – which has been updated several times over the decades, including in 2019 – Gold Coast has remained consistently at the top of national environmental performance rankings.

Among the company's proudest achievements has been its annual high ranking on the prestigious Climate Registry, which has been governed by U.S. states and Canadian provinces and territories since its design and creation in 2007.

Since joining the registry in 2008, Harrison has remained far ahead of the clean-air curve every year, proactively and voluntarily reporting the company's greenhouse gas emissions annually through The Climate Registry.

Details on these avoided emissions from recycling, composting and averted landfill use are available in the full report from The Climate Registry, at www.theclimateregistry.org.

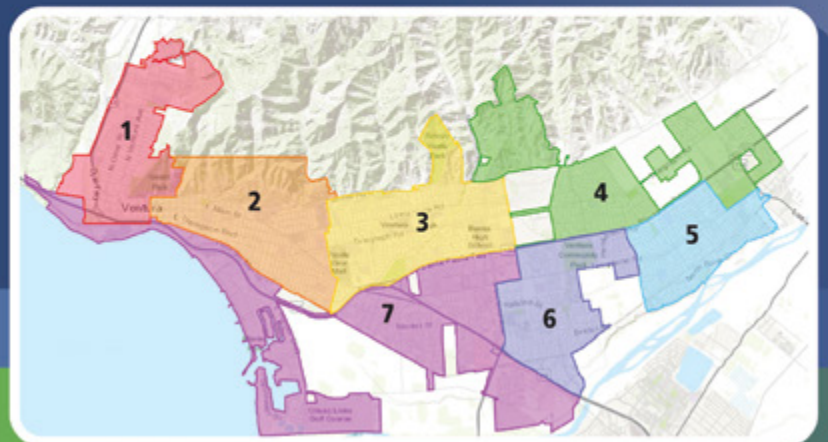
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Police Reports

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.

Armed Robbery Arrest

The Ventura Police Department responded to two armed robberies that occurred in October and November 2021.

The first robbery occurred on 10-21-21 at 2850 Johnson Dr (Wild Side Smoke Shop). The suspect entered the establishment with a handgun in his waistband and demanded money from the clerk. The clerk complied with the suspect and gave him an undisclosed amount of money. The suspect fled on foot after the robbery.

The second robbery occurred on 11-13-21 at 1145 S Victoria Av (Blenders in the Grass). The suspect entered the store brandished a knife and demanded money from the clerk. The suspect fled on foot after this clerk provided him with an undisclosed amount of money.

Ventura Police detectives began to investigate these two robberies and during the investigation it was determined that the suspect was the same person in both incidents. Detectives located witness and physical evidence to these crimes to assist in linking the suspect to both locations.

On 12-15-21, the suspect, Saad Fakhouri (9/26/96) Ventura Resident was found on Johnson Dr and was taken into custody without incident. He was booked into Ventura County Jail on two counts of felony armed robbery.

Stabbing Arrest

On Dec.15, at 7:35pm, the Ventura Police Department Command Center received a call of a stabbing in the 500 block of East Thompson Blvd. Patrol Officers arrived in the area within three minutes of the call and immediately located the suspect and took her into custody. During the investigation, officers learned that the victim was attempting to walk by Mary Martin, 01/06/1978, Vagrant, who was blocking the victim's path to her residence. As the victim walked by Martin, Martin threatened her and then stabbed the victim in the leg and arm. The victim sustained non-life-threatening injuries and was transported to a local hospital for treatment.

Martin was arrested for assault with a deadly weapon and criminal threats.

Harbor Patrol Blotter

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

12/08 4:23pm, dispatched to an offshore Search & Rescue for missing fisherman from the commercial boat John Start. Officers responded in the Fireboat and Rescue B17 with multiple agencies to aid in the search. Search patterns were conducted for five hours in the Santa Barbara Channel along with USCG vessels/aircraft & TowBoat US. Sadly, and with heavy hearts, only his vessel was found and he is still missing. Tran was one of the longest tenants of Ventura Harbor, beloved by everyone, he always made the effort to say hello, shake your hand with a huge smile. Fishing, years ago, Tran rescued a

former Ventura HP officers' father in an outrigger canoe accident.

12/09 12:30pm, officers assisting the family of Vuong Tran tow his vessel the John Start to be offloaded at the VHV fuel pier and then returned to its slip in VHV.

12/10 7:36pm, received a report of a vessel hoop netting at the breakwall without navigation lights. Officers responded in Rescue B17, educated operator.

12/11 10:05am, received a complaint from a fisherman about another fisherman placing his hoop nets illegally too close to the breakwall. Officers investigated and educated the individual about harbor ordinance on legal placement of traps.

12/12 1:15am, dispatched to Ventura Marina Community for female complaining of difficulty breathing. Officers responded and assisted VFD/AMR with call.

8:20am, received report of an alarm sounding on a vessel in Portside F-dock. Officers responded, no issues noted. Owner notified, en route to secure alarm.

12/13 12:30pm, received request from CIMWI (CI marine wildlife institute) to assist in capture of emaciated sea lion at Harbor Cove. Officers assisted and were successful in capturing the mammal so that it can be rehabilitated.

12/15 12:49am, dispatched to an Ocean Rescue at VHV D-dock, 26 y/o male fell overboard from a Commercial Fishing vessel. Officers responded and found the individual intoxicated and hypothermic from water immersion. He refused care.

12:04pm, received a report of an individual harassing sea lions at VIM. Officers investigated, contacted the disturbing party; no evidence of harassment found.

12/16 10:20am, contacted a male with three labs off leash at Harbor Cove. Educated the individual about leash law and to please be in control of his dogs due to numerous complaints about the issue.

12/17 4:15pm, officers preparing for the 2021 Parade of lights, setting turning buoys and answering numerous inquiries about the event.

5:30pm, officers monitoring the parade of lights from patrol vessels and vehicle. Several warnings for safety violations issued to vessels watching the parade.

12/18 12:50pm, officers attended the memorial for lost fisherman from the John Start.

1:15pm, officers in fireboat lead a procession of vessels for the lost fisherman.

5:05pm, officers preparing for the second night of the Parade-of-lights. Setting the turn buoys and receiving assignments for the evening.

10:54pm, dispatched to a traffic accident at 1901 Spinnaker Dr. Officers responded and assisted VPD/VFD with the accident. No injuries occurred.

12/19 11:02am, dispatched to a stroke victim in the Ventura Marina Community. Officers responded and assisted VFD/AMR with female patient.

12/20 6:37am, dispatched to a fall victim in the Ventura Marina Community. Officers responded and assisted the 72 y/o male back to his bed, he refused treatment.

Food Waste Recycling Starts in the New Year!

Starting Jan. 3, food waste recycling services begin for all residents of cities served by Harrison Industries.

The program is simple: Just place all of your food waste in plastic bags (anything from bread bags to trash bags will do); tie the bags and place them in your yard waste carts, for collection along with your (loose) yard waste on your regular service day.



We will take it from there, to make sure it's all turned into organic compost or other products.

Taking effect on Jan. 1, California Senate Bill 1383 requires communities statewide to prohibit organic waste from going to landfills. Food and other organic waste emits destructive methane gas as it decays, damaging the Earth's atmosphere and causing global warming.

*** ALL FOOD WASTE is accepted for recycling – including bones, peels, shells and coffee grounds. DO NOT place trash; non-organic recyclables (plastic, metal, glass); pet waste; or Styrofoam in yard waste carts.**



1-800-41-TRASH
www.ejharrison.com
 Connect with us! @ejharrisoninc



E. J. Harrison & Sons • Newbury Disposal • Santa Clara Valley Disposal

Celebrate the holiday season responsibly

This holiday season, the Ventura Police Department reminds the public to celebrate the holiday season responsibly by not driving under the influence.

The Ventura Police Department is committed to keeping Ventura safe and encourages everyone to stay in for the night or use a designated sober driver if you consume alcohol, marijuana, prescription medications, or over-the-counter drugs that may impair.

Through New Year's Day, the Ventura Police Department will have additional officers on patrol looking for drivers suspected of being under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs. The extra enforcement effort is part of a national campaign, Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over, with the

goal of stopping suspected impaired drivers who put others on the road at risk.

"When it comes to consuming drugs and/or alcohol and driving, there is a clear right and wrong choice," said Sergeant Mike Brown. "Make the right choice by not driving impaired so everyone is able to enjoy the holidays."

Some prescription medications or over-the-counter drugs may interfere with driving. Always follow directions for use and read warning labels about driving or "operating heavy machinery," which includes driving a car. While medicinal and recreational marijuana are legal, driving under the influence of marijuana is not. Marijuana can be impairing, especially when combined with alcohol or other drugs, which can also result in a DUI.

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

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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



The Pet Page



Dedicated to Scamp

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

provides \$10 spays and neuters for low income households with cats and dogs.

Three upcoming clinics in January are: Tuesday, January 4th at the Albert H. Soliz Library - El Rio, 2820 Jourdan St., Oxnard, 93036, a second one on Tuesday, January 11th at SPAN Thrift Store parking lot 110 N. Olive St. (behind Vons on Main), and a third one on Tuesday, January 18th at Shiells Park, in the parking lot, located at 649 C St., Fillmore, 93015.

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

■ A border collie, named River, who suffered spinal injuries and was paralyzed in his hind legs after collapsing unexpectedly in October can stand and is beginning to walk again, following neurosurgery six weeks ago by UC Davis veterinarians. River came in to UC Davis after suddenly being unable to stand and walk on his own, said UC Davis veterinary neurology resident Amanda Xue.

UC Davis team did an MRI and found he had "essentially a slipped disc," Xue said. UC Davis veterinarians drilled a hole in River's back and extracted the material that was compressing his spine. "He's exceeded my expectations," Xue said. He's walking on his own and wagging his tail."

River's owner, Linda Drafton, took the dog in for a recheck exam at UC Davis Veterinary Medical Teaching Hospital's small animal clinic. The past two months has been a whirlwind. She drove three and a half hours from the Redding area to UC Davis to get River help on Halloween; now her dog is mostly back to normal.

■ By the time Carolyn Chow learned that her father had Alzheimer's, he would only have five years before succumbing to the disorder in 2017 at the age of 86. It was devastating to see her father deteriorate so quickly. "He was highly educated, brilliant and highly sociable, and Alzheimer's took that all away," said Chow, a staffing consultant for the Division of Human Resources at Cornell.

Chow is now supporting research into Alzheimer's by bringing her dog Nora, a 7-year-old Chihuahua mix, to the Cornell Veterinary Biobank to contribute to the Dog Aging Project. The nationwide study is an essential part of a \$5.1 million research project recently launched at Cornell, the University of Washington and the University of Arizona to investigate the potential links between Alzheimer's disease and a similar condition in dogs called canine cognitive dysfunction (CCD).

The four-year-project, funded by the National Institute on Aging, is the first large-scale research study to compare CCD and Alzheimer's disease

to determine whether they are triggered by the same genetic and environmental factors.

Researchers in the study will analyze biological samples of hundreds of dogs to identify biomarkers for CCD and bank those samples for future research. Discovering the specific factors that cause CCD will help advance our understanding of Alzheimer's - a rapidly growing disease in the United States. Currently, an estimated 6.2 million Americans 65 and older live with Alzheimer's, and by 2050, that number is expected to reach nearly 13 million, according to the Alzheimer's Association.

Alzheimer's and CCD share many similarities: Both are incurable and both are difficult to diagnose until behavioral changes emerge. Dogs with CCD, for example, do not recognize familiar people and may stare blankly into space and wander aimlessly.

In the first phase of the Alzheimer's study, researchers will identify 200 dogs that have CCD, based on a questionnaire the owners complete when enrolling their dogs in the Dog Aging Project. As the canines reach the end of their natural lives, researchers will then examine 100 of the dogs that died to identify the neuropathological markers of CCD.

Identifying the biomarkers of CCD could then be applied to research on Alzheimer's to determine whether the same cellular changes are associated with the disease in humans.

Castelhana said the collection at the biobank will be made available for future research on Alzheimer's disease and related dementia, as new tools are developed to deepen our understanding of these conditions.

Dogs are also a better animal model to study Alzheimer's than mice, which have traditionally been used but do not develop a similar type of dementia naturally, Kaeberlein said. "Companion dogs living with their owners live in the human environment," he added, "and that's something we really just can't recapitulate in the laboratory."

Sherrie Negrea is a freelance writer for the Cornell College of Veterinary Medicine

■ (CNN) While you're rummaging through cabinets and crevices trying to find your cat's new favorite hiding spot, cats may be keeping mental tabs on you, too. A new study out of Japan found that a stationary cat can track its owner's location using audio cues specifically, the owner's voice.

Saho Takagi, first author of the study and a doctoral student at Kyoto University, said she has always been interested in cats' hearing abilities. She's a cat person all around, but said her favorite part is their ears. Cats have sensitive ears that can move in different directions.

"I saw a cat with only one of its ears tilted back, listening to the sound behind it, and felt that cats must be thinking about many things from the sound," Takagi said in an email to CNN. "This time, I investigated whether they

Scamp Club

(Scampclub pets are not for adoption.)



Hi! I'm Fenix Lumiere. You can find me @fenixlumiere on IG and TikTok (1.6m followers) to watch me prance. 3.5 years old Husky (possible mix because I'm a rescue). I love prancing, prancing and more prancing, the beach, living in Ventura, playing with doggie friends, Mom and Dad, car rides, salmon and fun smells.

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.

map their owner's position spatially from sounds."

The study, which took place in a home setting and at a cat café, observed how cats would react to their owners' voices without visual cues by using speakers that played a recording of owners saying their cats' names. The researchers placed the speakers apart from each other, out of the cats' sight, to see how the cats would respond to the sounds, especially if the owner's voice appeared to teleport from one location to another. Another group of people, who were not animal behavior experts, rated the cats' level of surprise from a scale of 0 to 4, based on behaviors like ear and head movements.

Cats in the study were surprised when their owners appeared to "transport" from one location to another, the study concluded. Results from this study demonstrate evidence of socio-spatial cognition in cats, meaning they can mentally picture where others are through cues like sound.

"It is generally believed that cats are not as interested in their owners as dogs are, but it turns out that they were mentally representing the invisible presence of their owners," Takagi said.

The study said this ability to create mental images based on sound and other stimuli indicates complex thinking. The ability is particularly important for animals that need to hunt prey under poor visibility. Cats understand their names and are probably just choosing to ignore you, a study suggests

"This is an ability that is the basis of creativity and imagination," Takagi said. "Cats are thought to have a more profound mind than is thought."

Ingrid Johnson, certified cat behavior consultant with Fundamentally Feline, said cats can get attached to their humans -- especially when they're older. She said some senior cats wake up distressed when they can't see or hear their owners.

"This is a great example of elevating our expectation of the cat a little bit and realizing that they do have the capability of having that bond in that relationship where they actually will take comfort in their people," Johnson said.

Studies have found cats can also distinguish between their owners' and a strangers' voices, and they can recognize emotional sounds. Our feline friends might be more perceptive -- and hear more -- than we give them credit for.



Cats understand their names and are probably just choosing to ignore you.

SPAN Thrift Store
SPAY/NEUTER ANIMAL NETWORK

\$10 Low/No Income Spay & Neuter
Tuesday, Jan. 4th
Albert H. Soliz Library - El Rio
2820 Jourdan St., Oxnard, CA 93036
Must call for appointment
(805) 584-3823

\$10 Low/No Income Spay & Neuter
Tuesday, Jan. 11th
in SPAN parking lot.
Must call for appointment (805) 584-3823

\$10 Low/No Income Spay & Neuter
Tuesday, Jan. 18th
Shiells Park parking lot.
649 C Street, Fillmore, CA 93015
Must call for appointment
(805) 584-3823

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The Pet Page

Forever homes wanted

Hi: I'm Blossom, a 9 1/2-year-old Poodle X who is in need of a new home. I was found as a stray, but no one came to claim me. I'm grateful to C.A.R.L. who is going to help me find my forever home. I'm an older lady whose vision isn't as good as it used to be, but I still get around just fine. My foster mom says I'm good with other dogs and cats too. I'm a wonderful dog when I'm with you, but I don't like to be left alone and will let you know it. I know people will pass me by because I'm older, but I know my special someone is out there. I still have lots of love to give and hope there is someone who wants to love me in return. Please fill out an online application if you want to meet me.



Spayed Female Shorthaired Rabbit. Lola has personality to spare! This super social house rabbit loves to hop on the couch with her foster family and enjoys other, non-predatory pets. She is a very tidy girl who is good with her litter box. To learn more about Lola and inquire about adoption, please email vcasbunnybrigade@gmail.com and ask for ID #A776348. Adoption Process: www.vcas.us/adoptionprocess

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This 'n' That



In the photo is Deya Terrafranca, Research Library and Archives Director and a copy of *The Daily Free Press* from Dec. 14, 1887. Photos by Patricia Schallert.



A vast collection of resources are available

The Research Library and Archives at the Museum of Ventura County houses a vast collection of resources pertaining to the history of Ventura County and its outlying regions. The collection spans the Chumash Indians, the Mission and Rancho periods, early settlement, commercialization, industrialization, to present times. The collection includes books, newspapers, clipping and ephemera files, maps, oral histories, ledgers, microfilm, manuscript collections,

and photographs, just to name a few. Currently open Wednesday through Friday from 11 am to 5 pm, the public can visit by making an appointment online (<https://venturamuseum.org>). Staff and volunteers are available to assist researchers to conduct historical and genealogical research on any number of local subjects and families. The Museum is currently requiring masks in all indoor spaces, including the Research Library and Archives.



EMERGENCY BROADBAND BENEFIT

Last chance to qualify:
\$50-\$75 OFF
your monthly internet bill!

Eligible households that apply by **December 31** can get up to \$50 off monthly internet service (or up to \$75 off if you live on Tribal lands) with the Emergency Broadband Benefit through the Federal Communications Commission.

You may also qualify for a discount of up to \$100 for the purchase of a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers.

Recipients of CalFresh, Medi-Cal, SSI or certain other public benefits may show proof of their participation to qualify.


Contact your internet provider to see if you qualify, or call 833-511-0311 or visit www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit.



by Pam Baumgardner
VenturaRocks.com

I would like to thank all Ventura Breeze readers for their continued support of this publication. Publisher and owner, Sheldon Brown, truly loves this town as do all the staff. It's pretty amazing to see what goes into publishing a newspaper and the care and respect the writers have for this town. As we usher in 2022, I would like to personally wish you a happy, safe and prosperous New Year!

In our last issue, I covered a lot of the bars and venues holding New Year's Eve parties (which is available online on the Breeze website at VenturaBreeze.com), but you can also find the parties listed here on this page. New York style means they'll be celebrating the New Year at 9 pm (same as New York), otherwise it's Midnight our time. If you need more details like times and whether there is a cover charge, you can go to Venturarocks.com for more information; the website now covers all of Ventura County.

Ventura Music Festival is bringing guitarist extraordinaire, Tommy Emmanuel to town on January 20 at Oxnard Performing Arts Center. Added to the bill, English guitar star Mike Dawes. Tickets are available through Ticketmaster.

It's good to see the Ventura Theater booking more concerts. Shows coming up include January 15 with Smith/Kotzen, which is a collaboration between Adrian Smith of Iron Maiden and Richie Kotzen of the Winery Dogs; The Struts, Strange Days are Over Tour, is on January 23, and Subtronics, Boogie T, Levell Up, Phonon and Space Wizard on January 27.

Quick Notes: The Ventura City Council has voted to continue Main Street Moves which means not only will that four block section will remain closed to thru traffic, but the music downtown at Main and California will continue; enjoy Mariachi Gallos de Oro Sundays at Vaquero y Mar (formerly the Hong Kong Inn) from 11 am – 2 pm; Kelly's Lot plays Namba on Saturday, January 8; and Tharon Weighill from Dr. T and the Blues Criminals is the latest featured artist on the VenturaRockSpot.com.

And finally, condolences going out to the family and friends of Dustin Maddalone. I remember him best as the singer for the Ska Daddyz out of the Nard some 25-30 years ago. The memorial posts on social media speak to his kindness and talent, he touched so many lives. RiP Dustin.

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

raRocks.com.

Music Calendar

For more up-to-the-date listings go to
VenturaRocks.com

Azars

2215 Michael Dr., Newbury Park
Tuesdays: Rockstar Karaoke
Fri 12/31: NYE Party w/ Decadent Decades

Boatyard Pub

Ventura Harbor
Wednesdays: Frank Barajas
Thursdays: Jim Friery; then Bluegrass Jam

Fri 12/31: New York style NYE Party w/ Oleander Falls

Tues 1/4: Karen Eden & Bill Macpherson

Fri 1/7: Teresa Russell & Stephen Geyer

Bombay Bar & Grill

143 S. California St., Ventura
DJs Friday – Sunday
Fri 12/31: NYE Party w/ DJs

Café Fiore

66 S. California Street, Ventura
Fri 12/31: NYE Party w/ Free Love Project

The Cave

4435 McGrath St., Ventura
Music 5:30 – 8:30 (closed New Year's Day)
Wednesdays & Thursdays: Bobby Apostol

Fridays & Saturdays: Warren Takahashi

Copa Cubana

Ventura Harbor Village
Saturdays and Sundays: Kenny DeVoe 11 am

Sun 1/2: Buena Onda 4 pm

Crown & Anchor

2891 Thousand Oaks Blvd, Thousand Oaks
Fri 12/31: NYE Party w/ The Balance

Crown Plaza

450 E. Harbor Blvd., Ventura
Fri 12/31: NYE Party w/ Dance Invasion

Deer Lodge

2261 Maricopa Hwy, Ojai
Fri 12/31: NYE Party w/ Cliff Beach

Downtown Ventura

California & Main Street Stage
Music at 5 unless otherwise listed
Fri 12/31: Sepiatone (5 pm)
Sun 1/2: Erik V (11 am)

Four Brix Winery

2290 Eastman Ave., Ventura
Music 1 – 3:30 pm
Sat 1/8: Vanise Terry
Sun 1/9: The Jukes Band

The Garage

1091 Scandia Ave., Ventura
Wednesdays: Blues Wednesday
Fri 12/31: NYE Party w/ DJ Also
Sun 1/2: Soul Sunday w/ DJ Also

GiGi's Cocktails

2493 Grand Ave., Ventura
Sundays: Kokopelli Karaoke w/ Betty Jean
Fri 12/31: NYE Party w/ Magnificent

Bastards

The Grape
2833 E. Main Street, Ventura
Tuesdays Jazz Jam
Sat 1/8: Dave Stuckey & the Hot House Gang

The Greek Restaurant
Ventura Harbor Village
Wednesdays & Thursdays: Ken Devoe (4 pm)

Fri 12/31: NYE Party w/ CRV

Judge Roy Bean's
2780 Tapo Canyon Road, Simi Valley

Fri 12/31: NYE Party w/ Fasha & the Flapjacks

Sat 1/1: Fasha & the Flapjacks

Keynote Lounge
10245 E Telephone Rd, Ventura

Thursdays: KJ Carlos

Fri 12/31: NYE Party w/ Breaking Bored

Leashless Brewing

585 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura
Thurs 12/30: Alla Rahka

Fri 12/31: New York style NYE Party w/ Jacob Marquez & the Good Vibes
Sun 1/2: Daniela Cardillo

Lookout & Grill

2800 S. Harbor Blvd., Oxnard
Wednesdays: Tommy Foytek's Variety Show

Thursdays: Acoustic Open Mic

Lucas Sellers Wine
330 Zachary Street, Moorpark

Music 6-9 pm

Sat 1/8: Tour Support

Made West Brewing

1744 Donlon Street, Ventura
Sun 1/9: RJ Mischo

Manhattan Restaurant

5800 Santa Rosa Road, Camarillo
Fri 12/31: NYE Party w/ Jeanne Tatum

The Moose Lodge

10269 Telephone Road, Ventura
Fri 12/31: NYE Party w/ Mighty Cash Cats & Linda Ronstadt Experience

Mrs. Olson's

2800 Harbor Blvd., Channel Islands Harbor

Music at Noon

Sun 1/2: Teresa Russell w/ Stephen Geyer

Namba Arts

47 S. Oak Street, Ventura
Sat 1/8: Kelly's Lot

Oxnard Performing Arts Center
Canyon at Oxnard PACC

Sundays: The House Arrest Band (1-4 pm)

Fri 12/31: War

Paddy's Cocktails

2 W. Main Street
Wednesdays: Karaoke

Fri 12/31: NYE Party w/ DJs

Pedals & Pints

156 W. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks

Tuesdays: Open Mic

Poseidon Brewing Co.

5777 Olivas Park Drive, Ventura

Fri 12/31: New style NYE Party w/ Double Trouble

Prime Restaurant

2209 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura
Tuesdays: Danny D

Fri 12/31: Brandon Ragan

The Raven Tavern

1651 S. Victoria Ave., Oxnard
Music at 8 – 11 pm

Fri 12/31: NYE Party w/ Vinyl Gypsies

Fri 1/7: Jetlemons

Sat 1/8: Jayden Secor

Ric's Restaurant

2500 Las Posas Road, Camarillo
Tuesdays: Tour Support with Kurt Griffee & Bob DeLellis

Rock & Roll Pizza

5255 Cochran Street, Simi Valley
Tuesdays: Rockstar Karaoke

Fri 12/31: NYE Party w/ Power Syndicate

The Shores

1031 Harbor Blvd., Oxnard
Fri 12/31: NYE Party w/ Steph's Rockin' Road Show

The Six Chow House

419 E Main Street, Ventura
Sat 1/8: Bring on the Night

Sun 1/9: Teresa Russell w/ Stephen Geyer

Taqueria Jalisco Restaurant
4275 Tierra Rejada Rd., Moorpark

Music 5-8 pm

Tuesdays & Fridays: Jim Friery

Tarantula Hill Brewing Company
244 E. Thousand Oaks Blvd., Thousand Oaks

Fri 12/31: NYE Party w/ DJ Kutz

The Twist on Main

454 E. Main Street, Ventura
Thursdays: LA Jazz Connection

Wed 12/29: Dave Rea and Acoustic DNA

Fri 12/31: NYE Party w/ House Arrest Band

Sat 1/1: A Guy, a Guitar, a Mic and a Mick (2 pm)

Fri 1/7: The Tossers

Twisted Oak Tavern & Brewery
2433 Ventura Blvd, Camarillo

Fri 12/31: NYE Party w/ Toxic Sushi

Vaquero y Mar

435 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura
Tuesdays: The Sea Hunters (5 pm); Karaoke (8 pm)

Thursdays: Delta by the Beach (5 pm)

Sundays: Mariachi Gallos de Oro (11 am – 2 pm)

The Vine

308 E. Ojai Ave., Ojai
Sundays: Fire on the Mountain (2 pm)

Saturdays: Smitty and Julija and Friends

Waterside Restaurant & Wine Bar
3500 S. Harbor Blvd., Oxnard

Sun 1/9: Teresa Russell

Winchesters

632 E. Main St., Ventura
Music Thurs 5:30; Fri 7 pm; Sun 3 pm

Thurs 12/30: James Broz Band
Fri 12/31: NYE Party w/ Jayden Secor

Sat 1/1: Steve and Sally Williams (2 pm)

Sun 1/2: the Tossers

Sun 1/9: Karen Eden & the Bad Apples

1901 Speakeasy

740 South B Street, Oxnard
Music 6:30 – 9:30 pm

Sat 1/1: RJ Mischo

Ventura Music Scene



This 'n' That



That's Officer Beacham and Jasmine enjoying an early Santa.

Shop With a Cop: Ventura kids experience the holidays early

by Mira Reverente

For some very fortunate Ventura children, Santa arrived a bit early this year.

Upon the recommendation of the Ventura Unified School District (VUSD), 22 school-aged children from local schools recently participated in the annual "Shop With a Cop" sponsored by the Ventura Police Department (VPD) at Wal-Mart on Victoria Avenue.

Among the participants was Jasmine, 8, who had a small notebook with her, complete with a wish list and notes from her mother. "I'm going to get my mom size 9 slippers and some arts and crafts supplies. She really wanted those," said the second-grader.

Jasmine's 14-year-old sister Arielle specifically asked for perfume, lotion and some belts. Grandma, who also wears a size 9, wanted shoes. "I think that's it plus maybe something for my furry brother - our dog and some clothes for me," said Jasmine, smiling widely and giving her list a once-over before turning to Officer Taylor Beacham.

Beacham, a three-year veteran at VPD, volunteered for the event for the first time and was paired with Jasmine. The pair hit it off right away, going over Jasmine's shopping list, and checking it twice and were bantering like old friends before the evening was over.

Chief of Police Darin Schindler was pleased with that evening's turn-out. "I know we've been doing this event for at least 10 years now, even before I became chief. I'm really proud of how much it has grown and how many officers and staff volunteer on their own time," said Schindler, a 27-year veteran at VPD.

According to the chief, the size of this annual event largely depends on the department budget and involvement of the community. This year, donations poured in from the Police Community Foundation, the Optimist Club and other service clubs who are passionate about supporting youth in the community.

"Typically, we have 20 to 30 children participating every year, except last year due to Covid concerns," said Emily Graves, community outreach specialist of the City of Ventura, Police and Fire Departments. "However, VPD officers still "played" Santa last year and delivered toys and gift cards to families in need."

This year, every child was given a

\$175 "budget" to spend as they wish at Wal-mart. "Sometimes, the officers even pitch in when their shopping buddy goes over a bit," said Chief Schindler.

Treats and snacks like cookies and hot cocoa were abundant as the children, officers and support staff assembled and "strategized" before hitting the aisles. Some officers and staff came with their spouses or significant others and helped wrap presents before sending the children home.

For children like Jasmine, the joy of shopping, wrapping and giving presents to their loved ones was sheer happiness and something they'll never forget. Santa does come early in some parts of the world.



Interns from PathPoint and Gina Salman at Cypress Place.

Congratulations to the graduating interns from PathPoint Project Search program

by Carol Leish, MA

"Having our first interns from the Pathpoint Project SEARCH program," according to Cypress Place Senior Living executive director,

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

I can help you with that!

ADELA TRAINOR

DRE 01985025

805.701.7694

TEAMTRAINOR12@GMAIL.COM

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Gina Salman, "has made a difference through their ability to help others here. We realized that all three of you have been always learning in order to think positively and to not be afraid of change."

"PathPoint utilizes the Project SEARCH model, which is a school-to-work program for individuals with disabilities that takes place entirely at an employer worksite. Total workplace immersion facilitates a seamless combination of classroom instruction, career exploration and on-the-job training and support," according to their website: www.Pathpoint.org. "Interns build communication and problem-solving skills, as well as job-specific skills, through worksite rotations. These are paid internships, which are funded by Tri-Counties Regional Center. The paid internships are similar to the clinical rotations that are part of every medical school curriculum and many other professional career programs."

"This is the first year that Cypress Place Senior Living has been involved with the Project SEARCH Program," according to, Salman. "We were initially referred to the program by our sister community, Regency Palms in Oxnard." The position that interns did were: 1) Dining Services Attendant in the Dining Department; 2) Laundry Attendant in the Housekeeping Department; and 3) Janitorial/Housekeeping Assistant in the Housekeeping Department. "We would encourage others to get involved in this program by contacting Path Point directly and asking if they need interns who are the right fit for us here at Cypress Place Senior Living or other organizations. Many of these interns have specific skills that they are interested in gaining experience in."

Mike Macke, Community Relations Director at Cypress Place Senior Living said, "Cypress Place

Senior Living is a premiere senior community in Ventura County. The beautiful senior living campus features an Independent Senior Living community and an adjacent Assisted Living and Alzheimer's/Dementia Care community connected by a lushly landscaped courtyard."

For more information about Cypress Place Senior Living in Ventura, visit: www.cypressplaceseniorliving.com or call: (805) 650-8000.

Heather Sturm, Program Coordinator at PathPoint, with various sites in Ventura County, said, "Interns work at a site for six months to a year. Then, we help them to find a job through job searching." Ricardo Castellon, who does Direct Support at PathPoint, said, "The staff at Cypress Place Senior Living has been super kind and welcoming to all of us."

Congratulations to the three graduating interns: Kayla Rucker, Taylor Cargile, and Diane Easley. Kayla Rucker said that, "It 's been a pleasure to have worked here. It was fun." Diane Easley, said, 'I've appreciated working here. Now, it's time to move on (to another position)." Taylor Cargile said, "I was grateful to have worked in the dining room. And, I have accepted a position to work in the dining room, which will be starting in January, 2022."

Shirley and David Hartman, who have been residents at Cypress Place Senior Living for the past two years both said, "All three interns have done a good job. We are going to miss Diane Easley and Kayla Rucker. We are glad that Taylor Cargile will be continuing to be working in the dining room in 2022."

Project Search is now accepting applications for another internship at Cypress Place Senior Living, which will be starting in January, 2022. Contact, Heather Sturm, coordinator, at: Heather.Sturm@PathPoint.org or call: (805) 863-5548.



The Studio C Band "The Finest Standard and Contemporary Jazz" entertained at the Ventura Harbor Village.

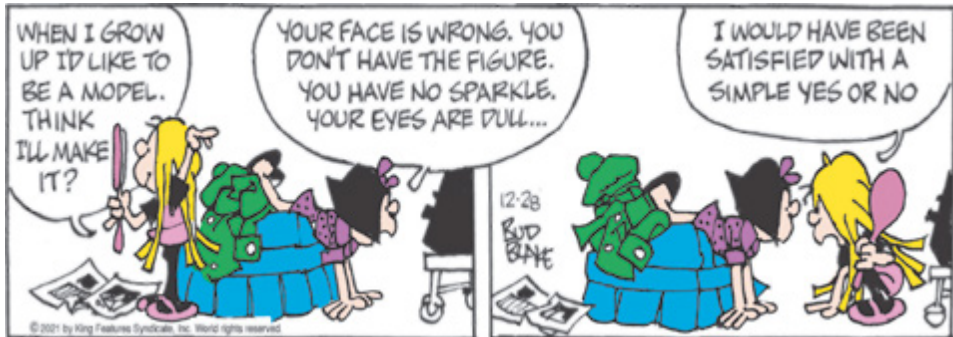


Lighter Breeze

Mother Goose and Grimm



Tiger



Baby Blues



Blondie



Crock



Mallard Fillmore



Solutions on page 13

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

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

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

Solutions on page 13

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Earring site
- 5 Smack
- 8 Blog entry
- 12 Regrettably
- 13 Fuss
- 14 "May It Be" singer
- 15 Dealer's foe
- 16 Moving-day rental
- 17 Aviation prefix
- 18 Energetic person
- 20 Galley supply
- 22 Strikers' queue
- 26 Manhandled
- 29 Chemical suffix
- 30 Hobbyist's abbr.
- 31 Rue the run
- 32 German conjunction
- 33 Lavish party
- 34 — Paulo
- 35 Fuel stat
- 36 Devil's domain
- 37 Playgoer's souvenir
- 40 Writer
- 41 Quindlen
- 45 Gambling game
- 47 Jay follower
- 49 San —, Italy

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

- 6 Greek mountain
- 7 Ad nauseam
- 8 Oyster's prize
- 9 Biased
- 10 Aleppo's land (Abbr.)
- 11 Eastern "way"
- 19 Central
- 21 Consumed
- 23 Monarchs
- 24 Evening, in an ad
- 25 Peepers
- 26 Bygone days
- 27 Exotic berry
- 28 "So what?"
- 32 Chimney pipes
- 33 Maker of ornate eggs
- 35 Gents
- 36 Coloration
- 38 Shoelace woes
- 39 Secret rendezvous
- 42 Dread
- 43 Send forth
- 44 Portrayal
- 45 "Terrific"
- 46 Lawyers' gp.
- 48 Altar constellation

DOWN

- 1 Crow's-nest cry
- 2 Skin care brand
- 3 Hoedown site
- 4 Jailbreak participant
- 5 Mayhem

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that project you put off a while back. LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) As you contemplate the new year's potential, you might want to talk things over with people who are or have been where you want to go. Their experience and advice can be helpful.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) With the new year's opportunities almost within reach, the Arian's courageous aspects are raring to go. And don't be surprised if a lot of people follow the zodiac's most trusted leader.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Change lies ahead for the brave Bovine who is ready to shuck off the tried and true to try something new. But appearances can be deceptive. Check it all out before you charge into anything.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) This week promises a peek into what the new year holds for the Gemini Twins, both in love and careers. Family matters continue to be a factor in decisions you're going to be facing.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) As you move into the new year, your travel aspects grow stronger, and you might find yourself making decisions about a destination and a traveling companion sooner than you'd expected.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) The new year holds both glitter and gold. This means Leos and Leonas should begin getting the facts they'll need to separate the real thing from the sham in order to make important decisions next year.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A good way to start the new year might be to arrange for a visit to someone you haven't seen in a long time. You also might want to pick up

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Someone close to you might feel like you have no more room for him or her in your life. This calls for immediate reassurance of your love so you can start the new year on a high note.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) The coming year will bring more people into your life. Some situations might not work out as well as others. But overall, everyone earns something, and that's always a good thing.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) The new year could find you indulging in one or more of the hobbies you've always wanted to take up. And don't be surprised if they ultimately direct you toward a new career.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) The artistic Aquarian should find more opportunities in the new year. You might even make some potentially helpful contacts as you gather to ring in the year 2022.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) The new year offers challenges for Pisceans who want to make better use of the skills they now have and learn new ones. Personal relationships show stronger positive aspects.

BORN THIS WEEK: Although at times you tend to be a bit judgmental, you are generous and caring and very much beloved.

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Showtime

A View from House Seats

Ode to a New Year

by Shirley Lorraine

'Twas the night before Christmas
All the theaters were dark
Productions were finished
The stages now stark

Few rehearsals, few readings
Till the New Year will come
Some actors get restless
And do Improv for fun

Now with no costumes, no blocking
No scripts to be read
So many actors
Are going out of their heads!

But wait, there is hope
The horizon still looms
'Tis rumored auditions
Will be held very soon

Could it be? Yes, it could –
Stages come back alive
As the calendar changes
Theater lovers will thrive

On Simi, on Ojai
Conejo and more
Audiences wait with impatience
To see what's in store

Soon it's back to the boards
With sets to be built
Excitement mounts quickly
Acting back in full tilt

County stages will light up
The curtains will part
With theaters announcing
Their new seasons' start

So, patrons get ready
To buy tickets and go
As the New Year takes hold –
It's "On with the Show!"

(Apologies to Clement C. Moore)
Look forward to 2022 season announce-
ments from all our favorite county
theaters. Coming soon!

Happy New Year!

Streaming Spotlight by Cindy Summers

Don't Look Up

– Netflix



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

In *Don't Look Up*, student astronomer Kate Dibiasky (Jennifer Lawrence) discovered a 9 kilometer comet while working on her doctorate research. Initially seeming a cause for celebration, including the esteemed honor of having a newly discovered comet named after her, things changed when Dr. Randall Mindy (Leonardo DiCaprio) and his student team decided to calculate how close it would come to earth. Unfortunately the math showed that it would actually impact earth in just over six months and destroy the entire planet.

After reporting the information to NASA's Planetary Defense Coordination Office head Dr. Teddy Oglethorpe (Rob Morgan) they were flown in a military plane to DC to meet with the president to explain the situation. They waited until late in the evening, watching what seemed to be trivial things get more attention than the literally earth shaking news they were there to share, and were eventually told they would have to wait until the next day.

After being put up in a hotel and waiting a entire second day, they finally met with President Orlean (Meryl Streep) who downplayed the situation as did her son and Chief of Staff Jason (Jonah Hill). Both belittled Dr. Mindy & Kate and sent them on their way saying "we'll have our scientist assess the situation..." so hang tight and don't say anything as it's national security.

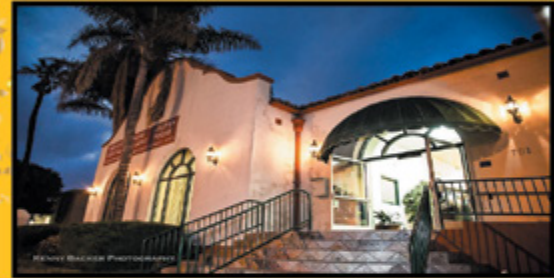
Feeling blown off, they shared the story with the New York Herald and on The Daily Rip, an upbeat morning

show hosted by Brie (Cate Blanchett) and Jack (Tyler Perry), but again were not taken seriously. Then Dr. Mindy, Kate and Dr. Oglethorpe were all swooped up by FBI and brought to the White House where President Orlean said they confirmed the science and we're ready to take any suggested steps, seeming to be done for popularity in the upcoming elections and to avoid some negative personal press. President Orlean then made a announcement to the world regarding the comet and plan to use shuttles with nukes to change the comet's course.

All efforts were shifted to the president's plan and the science seemed to indicate that there was a very good chance they would be successful, until crazy tech giant Peter Isherwell, the billionaire CEO of BASH and one of Orlean's top donors, got President Orlean to abort the mission just after take off. Peter had an alternate plan to use developing tech to blow up the comet in space and mine it's smaller pieces filled with precious minerals estimated to be worth \$140 trillion.

Kate told some people the truth in a bar and though they listened, they panicked and started rioting. The FBI grabbed Kate again, and agreed to drop any charges in exchange for her silence. Propaganda campaigns were started to discredit them, saying things like the comet doesn't even exist and it was all a hoax, but then the comet came into plain site. The scientists replied with "just look up" and the truth can be seen, which created chaos, so President Orlean's response was a "don't look up" campaign, saying it was scientists just trying to invoke fear in people.

Unknown to the world and due to the fact they were cut out of the comet mining deal, Russia, China and India teamed up to send a rocket to destroy the comet but the launch failed, leaving only the BASH plan by eccentric billionaire Peter to possibly save the planet. Will greed become mankind's downfall? Can wealth be a ticket to immortality? These are some of the things revealed in this star-filled, entertaining parody



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Ventura Executive Suites

of today's world stage, headlines and political issues.

Rated: R (Language Throughout | Graphic Nudity | Drug Content | Some Sexual Content)
Runtime: 2h 18m

Ventura's historic defender of the underdog

by Richard Senate

His name was William Edgar Sheppard, he was a lawyer and editor of the Signal, Ventura's first newspaper. Many didn't like him or his liberal ways. Some called him simply, "That Damned Democrat," but he was admired by many, including young attorney Erle Stanley Gardner who compared him to the great Clarence Darrow. One thing that Gardner pointed out was his big heart and his desire to defend the poor and the down-and-out. These were the 1920s and pro-Bono work unknown. Sheppard's family suffered because William Sheppard's clients couldn't pay for his services. Many paid in kind, with produce and chickens. Because of this, wife Theodosia Burr Sheppard, was forced to start a mail order seed business in her back yard to feed and cloth her family. Her seed business proved very successful and he became known far and wide as a floriculturist. Theodosia Sheppard's flower catalogs were the first to use the term "Ventura-by-the-Sea." Williams sharp editorials on statewide and local corruption won him few friends. It upset local businessmen so much they set up a rival newspaper called

"The Free Press" to counter his paper, "The Signal." "The Free Press" is the predecessor to today's "Star" newspaper.

In order to effect change William Sheppard tried his hand at politics. In 1878 he ran to become a delegate for the California Second Constitutional Convention—and lost. In 1892 he ran for State Senate and lost to lawyer Ortesta Orr, He ran again for that same office and lost to Robert Clark, who was just twenty-one at the time. In 1910 he ran for district attorney and once again lost. His losses did earn him some respect for his persistence if nothing else. Gardner said he could have made a real mark for himself if he had moved to Los Angeles but, he preferred Ventura and helping those who needed him here. Gardner said in an interview given to the "Oxnard Press Courier" in 1968, that he recalled a time when the cases were done at the courthouse and the lawyers were talking at the door.

The last case came before the judge. It was a Mexican National accused of a felony, The man could not speak English and Judge Ortega was called to translate for him. The Judge asked if he had a lawyer. The young man looked around and saw William standing next to Gardner and pointed to him. The judge called out: "Hey, Bill, is this your client?" What William said stuck in Erle Stanley Gardner's mind all those years. He said: "Your Honor, I have never set eyes on this man before in my life, but I can see by his clothes that he is poor, the fact he can not speak our language tells me he is a stranger in a strange land, and the empty courtroom mute but eloquent testimony that he hasn't a friend to his name. Yes, this man is my client, and we demand a jury trial." Gardner admitted that more than a little of his character Perry Mason, who fought for the underdog, was based upon William Edgar Sheppard. This man deserves to be remembered.



This 'n' That



"Feel Good Fridays" have highlighted local businesses of every ilk. Photo by Visit Ventura.

The Power of Kindness

by Visit Ventura

Kindness feels good. It is as small as a smile, and a power without limits. Kindness can change a day, a life, a world. Each equally magnificent.

Think back to the last time someone did something kind for you.

"Human kindness has never weakened the stamina or softened the fiber of a free people," said Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Perhaps kindness matters now more than ever, as we continue to navigate a shape-shifting pandemic.

For nineteen months, Visit Ventura has made kindness a cornerstone of our efforts to help Ventura get through the pandemic. It's been part of every program we've created to help our businesses and our hometown during the pandemic. "Shop Ventura, Save Ventura," "Takeout Tuesdays," "Thirsty Thursday," and "Feel Good Fridays" have highlighted local businesses of every ilk. And asked people to perform a simple, but critical, kindness. Please support local.

We've also asked folks to perform simple kindnesses. Buy a cup of coffee for the person behind you in line. Buy takeout from a Ventura restaurant. Buy a sandwich, and hand it to the first person who looks hungry. Right now we're distributing kindness cards – actually we're asking you to, well, kindly do it. We created the cards (which you can pick up at the Ventura Visitor Center, 101 South California Street) for a simple, not-so-simple reason. To pass along kindness. Pick your cards up at the Visitor Center. Keep them handy. Then pass them on,

spontaneously or no, to someone who deserves a thanks. Someone who is a model of kindness. Someone who gave you great service. Someone who inspires you. Someone who just makes you smile.

Your turn to make them smile.

Because we all need a boost.

Kindness isn't just about warm fuzzies. It has serious underpinnings. Early in the pandemic the Ventura Chamber of Commerce took a poll of local businesses. About a third said they didn't expect to make it through the pandemic. As you read this, nearly 90 percent of those businesses are still in business. Why? Because Venturans stepped up to the plate, supporting local as only we can.

And kindness is still seriously required. Ventura's businesses, so many of them locally owned, continue to face ever-changing challenges. Ripple effects of every kind. Now many businesses are short staffed, struggling to do a lot more with fewer people. From hotels, to restaurants, to retail, they are working hard to hire staff, but sometimes waits are a little longer and phones ring a little longer. Necessitating simple kindnesses like patience, an understanding smile, a kind word.

And maybe handing over a kindness card.

We are all walking through this time together. Who wouldn't want to make it more pleasant? And it requires pretty much nothing. No effort (how hard is a smile?). No real inconvenience (how hard, a few extra beats of patience?) No

timetable.

"Be kind whenever possible," the Dalai Lama once said. "It is always possible."

Kindness is no pushover. It is a lot tougher than it looks. Ventura knows the power of kindness. Kindness has proved we won't be knocked down. Not by a fire. Not by a pandemic. Not by anything.

Nothing beats invincible spirit, community, and simple kindnesses.

It's not rocket science.

That may be the greatest power of kindness.

Anyone can do it.



Todd G., a local veteran was greatly helped by United Way.

United Way of Ventura County makes progress to end local veteran homelessness

United Way of Ventura County continues to prioritize providing critical support to veterans in the Ventura County community through its Landlord Engagement Program (LEP) and rapid response efforts throughout the pandemic and beyond.

When COVID-19 first impacted the Ventura community in 2020, United Way of Ventura County mobilized immediately to secure temporary shelter and daily meals for local veterans and have helped a total of 48 veterans and

26 family members. Additionally, the nonprofit provided more than 3,000 Rapid Response Homeless Care Kits, which were distributed by the Ventura County Healthcare for the Homeless Backpack Medicine Team.

"Finally, I was able to get into a clean, decent and quiet apartment. I'm grateful for the assistance provided by United Way," said Todd G., a local veteran.

In addition to United Way of Ventura County's COVID-19 response, its LEP program has placed 34 veterans and their family members with permanent housing. Of these 34 veterans, 20 are seniors and 20 VASH vouchers were utilized. In total, the LEP has permanently housed 123 individuals.

"Our team has worked tirelessly to provide permanent housing for veterans who have served our country and we have made significant progress to achieve our goal to end veteran homelessness," said Eric Harrison, the nonprofit's president. "Our goal is to be able to reach each homeless veteran in our community to provide permanent housing, and we couldn't do it without the wonderful support from our partners and the community."

To continue the conversation and identify housing solutions for the county's unhoused veterans and community members, United Way of Ventura County has its second United to End Homelessness Virtual Symposium scheduled for Feb. 4, 2022, with keynote speaker, Jessica Bruder, author of the critically acclaimed "Nomadland."

Landlords interested in becoming a member of the LEP, please email Amy.Duganne@vcunitedway.org. To learn more about United to End Homelessness Ventura County, visit <https://unitedtoendhomelessnessvc.org>. For more information about United Way of Ventura County, go to <https://vcunitedway.org>. Since 1945, United Way of Ventura County has advanced the common good by creating opportunities for a better life for all. United Way identifies the root causes of poverty and works strategically to solve them by building alliances across all sectors, funding targeted programs and advocating for change. When we work together in common purpose, we LIVE UNITED. For more information about United Way of Ventura County, visit www.vcunitedway.org.

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