

Get a jump start on your Spring cleaning! Page 2!



VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

Vol. 15, No. 8 Published Every Other Wednesday Established 2007 January 12 - January 25, 2022



Money was raised through the sale of a 270-pound pig donated by 18-year-old Allison Reiman.

Local youth teams up with Ventura County Fairgrounds Foundation

The Ventura County Fairgrounds Foundation has announced the dedication of \$69,760 to the Ventura County Fair Livestock Department. The money was raised at the 2019 VC Fair Junior Livestock Auction through the sale of a 270-pound pig donated by 18-year-old Allison Reiman of Santa Rosa Valley 4H. The funds will be used for essential needs for the Livestock Department including pig panels and pens.

Miss Reiman lives in Camarillo and has been involved in the Fair Livestock programs for 13 years, raising various species of small and large livestock, starting when she was five years old. A senior at Grace Brethren High School in Simi Valley, she plans to pursue a degree in animal science.

"It is so rewarding to hear that the donation is playing a role in the betterment of the facilities at the fairgrounds," said Reiman, adding, "The Ventura County Fair is a place where I, along

Continued on page 8



Nancy Allen and Karyn Jackson had been attending Rubicon productions for more than twenty years. Building photo by Patricia Schallert.

Major gifts help secure the future of Rubicon Theatre Company

Rubicon Theatre has received an extraordinary donation and a commitment for a future legacy gift that will help ensure a bright future for the organization. As a result of the generosity of Karyn Jackson of Arcadia (a former Ventura resident), her sister Nancy Allen of Ventura, and Nancy's husband Leo

Allen, Rubicon has been able to purchase a four-unit property on Poli Street which will be used to house visiting artists. Additionally, the company has also received a pledge for a future legacy gift which will mean a new name for the building that houses the company at Main and Laurel in Ventura's Downtown Cultural District.

Founded in 1998, Rubicon is regarded as Ventura's premier non-profit professional theatre company and has served more than 480,000 residents and visitors with award-winning productions.

According to Board President Doug Halter (member of the Ventura City Council), "This is the largest single gift in Rubicon's 23-year-history. It is a remarkable tribute to the world-class artistry that has been a hallmark of Rubicon productions, and a vote of confidence in the future. We could not be more touched by the largesse of these special friends, or more grateful to them for making sure that Rubicon is here for future generations."

Adds Karyl Lynn Burns, Rubicon Co-Founder and Producing Artistic Director, "I truly feel that this was divine providence. From the moment we met, we all felt that this was 'meant to be.' It was difficult at first to know just how, but Karyn and Nancy's passion for the theatre and for the artists who do the work is so moving. Their joy in life has been making memories for others. It's the way they have lived their life and a practice modeled for them by their father."

Burns was initially approached about the Poli property by two members of Rubicon's Board of Advisors during the run of Shrek, Jr. at Villanova this summer, Rich Stewart and Harriet Clune. The two were volunteering as ushers for Rubicon's outdoor education performances with fellow members of the Ventura East Rotary Club. Rich had served on the facilities committee for the theatre some years before and recalled that Rubicon spent \$100,000 to \$150,000 a year on artist housing. Stewart and Clune's neighbor Karen Heyrend, had told them about a property within walking distance of the theatre that had four-units and five-rooms. The couple put Heyrend and Burns together.

When Heyrend took Burns, Rubicon

Continued on page 3



On Jan. 7, a 911 call was received at the Fire Communication Center to report a traffic collision on the N/B 101 Fwy at the Lemon Grove turn. Fire personnel arrived on scene within minutes of the initial call and found a heavily damaged small passenger vehicle with one occupant that was trapped. Fire personnel performed advanced medical treatment, vehicle extrication and hazard mitigation to free the victim from the vehicle entrapment. The victim was treated and transported to a local medical center for further evaluation and treatment.

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COMMUNITY CLEANUP & RECYCLING DAY

Saturday, February 12 - 2022

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Free Event for
City of Ventura
Residents Only

Preregistration required. Register here:
www.CityofVentura.ca.gov/ESevents



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- **Trash/Yard Waste**
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CITY OF
VENTURA
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY
www.cityofventura.ca.gov

City News

Get a jump start on your Spring cleaning!

On Saturday, February 12, 2022, the City of Ventura's Environmental Sustainability Division hosts its next Community Cleanup & Recycling Event. These cleanup and recycling events are held throughout the year to help City residents drop off unwanted items to be properly disposed of or recycled. Event space is limited, and registration is required to participate. Items accepted, but not limited to the following:

Household, trash, and garage items: appliances, clothing, furniture, and metal.

Electronic waste: computers, TVs, printers, audio/video equipment

Paper (limit two banker's boxes): secure onsite shredding service available

Tires (limit four per household): for drop-off instructions, visit the registration website

Items not accepted:

Household hazardous waste (HHW) is the only material type not accepted at the event. These items include but are not limited to aerosol cans, automotive fluids, motor oil and filters, paint, batteries, chemicals, and fluorescent tubes. For more information on how to dispose of HHW or register for an upcoming drop-off event, visit www.cityofventura.ca.gov/hhw.

Commercial or business waste

is not accepted at these events, and vehicles clearly marked for commercial purposes will not be allowed entry.

Register today at www.cityofventura.ca.gov/ESevents. For more information about this event or other questions for the City's Environmental Sustainability Division, call (805) 652-4525.

Bag food waste, tie it off, and place it in the yard waste cart

The Food Waste Recycling Program for residents launched on January 1, 2022. Residents in single-family homes must bag food waste, tie it off, and place it in the yard waste cart. Food waste includes meat, bones, dairy, bread, fruit, vegetables, as well as all other edible and inedible parts of food typically thrown into the trash. Once at the sorting facility, bagged food waste is separated and composted into soil products. Do not place food waste directly into the yard waste cart, as this will contaminate the yard waste.

E.J. Harrison & Sons is providing complimentary food waste collection pails (2 gallons) to assist Ventura residents with participating in the new food waste recycling program. In December, the City's Environmental Sustainability team began delivering the pails to all single-family homes

in Ventura. The food waste recycling pails are also available by request and to residents in multi-family housing units as the program expands.

Before buying new bags for the pails, consider reusing bread bags, takeout bags, or grocery bags as a liner for the pail to collect food waste. When the bag is ready to be disposed, tie off the bag and place it in the yard waste container. Do not place your food waste recycling pail out for curbside collection.

This new program is required by California's Senate Bill (SB) 1383. SB 1383 aims to reduce methane emissions by diverting organic material from landfills by establishing statewide food waste recycling requirements for cities. The City is rolling out food waste recycling for all residents, businesses, and multi-family properties to comply with the law.

City of Ventura welcomes new Chief Building Official

The City of Ventura is pleased to welcome Shawn Huff as the Chief Building Official in the Community Development Department. Huff joins the Ventura team from the City of Chico where he was the Deputy Director of the Community Development Department. Prior to that, he served as the Chief Building Official

for the City of Visalia.

With over 20 years of serving both state and local governments, Huff has a wide range of technical and regulatory experience. He served as an administrator in the State Housing Law Program and helped develop the state's building standards with the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD). Before starting his public service, Huff worked in the private sector in the trades.

"It's exciting to bring Shawn onboard with his broad background in both the private and public sectors," shared Community Development Director Peter Gilli. "His technical and regulatory knowledge brings a diversified skill set in serving our residents and businesses."

Huff holds a master's in public administration from Golden Gate University, a Bachelor of Arts degree from California State University Chico, and an Associate of Science degree in Building Inspection Technology from Butte Community College.

"I am looking forward to the opportunity to live, work in and serve the fine community of Ventura," said Huff. "I look forward to fostering relationships with our citizens and providing safe and efficient building standards that protect our residents."

The City's Chief Building Official is responsible for managing all building regulation services and programs. To learn more about the Community Development Department, visit www.cityofventura.ca.gov/CommunityDevelopment.



City News



Skatepark project will expand the skatepark by more than 20,000-square-feet. Photos by Patricia Schallert.

City of Ventura awarded nearly \$2 million grant for skatepark expansion

The City of Ventura received a nearly \$2 million grant from the state’s “California Outdoors for All” initiative to fund construction to expand the skatepark at Westpark, located at 450 W Harrison Avenue.

The Westpark Skatepark Expansion Project expands the existing skatepark by more than 20,000-square-feet and includes features tailored to various skill levels, green infrastructure, and public art.

“This is an exciting win for Ventura, especially for our families living on the Westside,” shared Mayor Sofia Rubalcava. “This grant will do so much good in our community. An expanded skatepark will provide more space and opportunities for our kids to play outside and enjoy more recreational activities.”

The existing 3,200-square-foot park is one of three skateparks in the City built over 20 years ago. Along with the skate bowls at Pacific Park and Hobert Park, the community identified a need for facilities geared to a range of skaters. As a result, multiple community partnerships helped support the project through fundraising and participation. Among the supporters, the Westpark Skatepark Expansion Steering Team (W.E.S.T.) raised \$10,000 for the project design and construction and assisted with public outreach.

“The City worked closely with our residents, skate park users, local stakeholders, and Spanish-speaking community members to create the initial design for the skatepark expansion project at Westpark,” said Parks and Recreation Director Nancy O’Connor. “In preparation for this statewide grant, the City started community outreach efforts in May 2019 and early 2020. Through a series of in-person and virtual meetings, we received hundreds of ideas on specific skatepark features, sustainable landscaping, public safety, and beautification.”

In the coming weeks, the City will conduct additional outreach during the request for proposal process to gather public input as it refines the final design for the skatepark expansion project.

This grant is provided by California State Parks as part of Governor Newsom’s “California Outdoors for All” initiative, which will provide \$548.3 million in grant funding to more than 100 communities to create new parks and new recreation opportunities in underserved communities across California.

The City’s Parks Division maintains 39 facilities with current construction projects underway at Community Park as well as the first-ever inclusive playground at Arroyo Verde Park.

For more information about City parks and facilities, visit www.cityofventura.ca.gov/Parks.

Major gifts help secure the future

Continued from page 1

Co-Founder James O’Neil and Director of Outreach Beverly Ward to see the Poli property, it was love at first sight. “It was beautiful and perfectly kept-up,” says Burns, “just the kind of place we try to rent for artists so that they get a sense of Ventura’s history and feel at home and comfortable.”

“We had just refinanced the mainstage theatre through Brian Donovan, Market Manager at Montecito Bank & Trust,” says Halter. “We knew we could make the Poli payments in terms of cash flow and that it would reduce overall production costs.”

Russ Charvonia, a wealth advisor and charitable planning attorney, donated his time to explore the possibility of a win-win scenario and Heyrend facilitated a meeting with the Allen’s and Karyn Jackson, who had owned the property at one time and had a passion for the community and the theatre.

With help and advice from Brian Donovan at Montecito Bank & Trust, Rubicon was able to secure the loan for Poli. Karyn Jackson decided not only to donate enough for the down payment, but also to make a legacy gift to rename the theatre.

“Karyn is such a humble person,” says Halter. “She often gives anonymously.” She and Nancy and Leo join the Meister and Laby families in being major cornerstone contributors to theatre and the arts in our region.”

In February the theatre building will be renamed Rubicon Theatre Company at The Karyn Jackson Theatre. The name of the company will remain the same. The Poli visiting artist property will be named in Nancy Allen’s honor, with a Plexiglas wall display telling the “Tale of Two Sisters”.

To make a tax-deductible contribution to Rubicon Theatre Company as the company prepared to open, or to learn more about underwriting or sponsorship opportunities, contact Beverly Ward at (805) 667-2912, ext. 280, or bward@rubicontheatre.org. For information about upcoming Rubicon events and programming, or to receive e-news from Rubicon, go to www.rubicontheatre.org, or call Guest Services at (805) 667-2900.



REASONS TO CHOOSE CREMATION

Cremation continues to grow in popularity. Here are the top reasons people pick cremation over burial:

1. **Saves Money** (often less expensive than traditional burials)
2. **Saves Space** (no need for cemetery space, though it’s an option)
3. **Saves Environment** (doesn’t require harmful chemicals)
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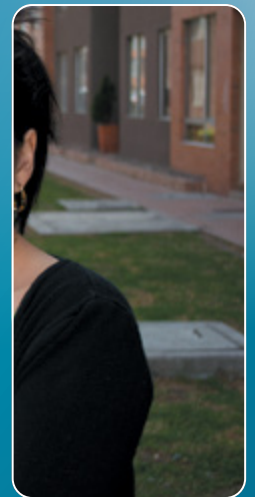
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free registration: www.housingtrustfundvc.org

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS **Troy Brown**, City Manager
City of Moorpark

Ray Pearl, Executive Director
California Housing Consortium





VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

Member, Ventura Chamber of Commerce

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

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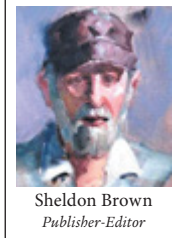
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your country
only when
you win.
— President
Joe Biden

Opinion/Editorial



Sheldon Brown
Publisher-Editor

■ Court proceedings for **Jamal Omar Jackson**, 52, the suspect (we need to call him that) in the 2018 fatal stabbing of Anthony Mele, 35 at the Aloha Steakhouse in Ventura are scheduled. That terrible tragedy occurred nearly four years ago.

In Nov. 2020, Jamal was deemed mentally incompetent to stand trial. It has since been determined that he is well enough to appear in court. His mental competency hearing is scheduled on Thursday, Jan. 13.

I know that many people will say what's the difference if he was mentally ill when he killed Anthony Mele? The difference is motivation. If his mental demons were telling him that he was being followed by the CIA and they are instructing him to kill someone this is very different then killing during a robbery or an argument.

Perhaps Jamal knew he needed help but the unwillingness to accept treatment or care by the mentally ill is over 60% in the U.S.

Stigma is the biggest barrier to obtaining **mental care**. That could be reduced if people understood, and accepted, the fact that mental illness is a neurological condition the same as other illnesses such as diabetes. We need to think of these as brain disorders that can not be controlled without proper treatment.

■ In her newly drawn 26th District, Congresswoman **Julia Brownley** will represent a more conservative Simi Valley, but lost the cities of Ventura and Ojai. The changes came as part of redistricting, which happens once every 10 years, after every census, to ensure that each district has the same amount of people.

■ NASA's Jim Green has left the agency where he served for 12 years as the director of NASA's planetary science division and the last three as its chief scientist.

He is forming a plan to geengineer **Mars** into a planet habitable for humans. Green's plan hinges on warming and thickening Mars' atmosphere by using a giant magnetic shield between the Red

Planet and the Sun, which would bring temperature and pressure levels above the point at which humans could walk on the surface without a space suit, without their blood boiling inside their bodies.

Wonderful - one day we could live on Mars and destroy it also.

■ In a previous issue, I stated that I felt it was good the city has made the process easier to secure the required **permits and approvals** to obtain permits for developments. To clarify my position, I'm not happy with the huge amount of multi-unit projects being built, especially on Thompson Blvd. (the townhouses, fancy word for condos, that will cost \$800,000 and up).

I just don't think you control development by making it extremely time consuming and difficult to obtain permits. Proper control is done by thoughtful zoning and a general plan.

This is like controlling traffic by putting a speed hump (cities call them humps, not bumps) every 10 feet to slow down traffic.

■ **Mozart** and I have something in common; we both have an un-finished symphony. The only difference is that I haven't started mine yet.

■ I love things being pitched on **TV** that are not for sale anywhere else so there is no comparative pricing. For instance, something like this; "Pots for sale. Six pots for 3 payments of \$39.95, and if you buy in the next 10 minutes you get 3 more for free." You're not getting anything for free, you're getting 9 pots for 3 payments of \$39.95 because they have no intrinsic value except what they tell you that they're worth. And "buy in the next 10 minutes" is also a joke because you could order in 10 hours or 10 days and they wouldn't know the difference.

■ Funny stuff - **twins** were born on both sides of midnight to end the year. So, one baby was born in 2021 and other in 2022. Do you think they will have separate birthday parties?

■ A federal judge sided with the congressional committee investigating the **Jan. 6 riot** by refusing to block the release of scores of White House documents from the Trump administration. The federal judge was unimpressed

with Trump's legal arguments.

While most Republicans were absent on Capitol Hill Thursday, one of the party's most prominent statesmen was there. Asked why he came to the Capitol for the Jan. 6 anniversary Dick Cheney said, "It's an important historical event. You can't overestimate how important it is." He added, "I'm deeply disappointed we don't have better leadership in the Republican Party to restore the Constitution."

President Joe **Biden** marked the first anniversary of the January 6 insurrection by calling out former President Donald Trump for attempting to undo American democracy, saying such an insurrection must never happen again.

"For the first time in our history, a President had not just lost an election. He tried to prevent the peaceful transfer of power as a violent mob reached the Capitol," Biden said in a speech from the US Capitol that lasted just under 30 minutes. "But they failed. They failed. And on this day of remembrance, we must make sure that such an attack never, never happens again."

■ The largest and most powerful **space telescope** is on its way to a destination 1,000,000 miles away. It will take months to get there and an additional five months, give or take, to start eventually sending information back to earth. NASA Administrator Bill Nelson said the \$10 billion observatory "is going to give us a better understanding of the universe and our place in it, who we are, our search that's eternal."

On Saturday, Jan. 8, the new observatory successfully unfolded its final primary mirror segment to cap what NASA has billed as one of its most complicated deployments in space ever. The team is now turning its attention to directing the telescope to its final destination.

Maybe we will finally find other worlds full of polluting people.

Sad in a way that humans have the incredible intelligence and abilities to create such a telescope and send it into space but can't solve things like mental illness, homelessness, global warming and food scarcity here on earth.

Mailbox

Dear Sheldon,

Thank you for publishing The Power of Kindness by Visit Ventura in the Dec 29 - Jan 11 issue of the Ventura Breeze. And thank you to the author for the extra light and joy your article brought to my day. It feels like an invitation to choose kindness, something we all can do.

Carrie Calvert

Breeze:

I posted on Next Door my praise for the intense rain we have had in our area after years of severe drought. We got close to 8 inches in two weeks in two bog storms. It has struck a chord with people who also feel elevated by the rain, though it will not end the drought. It has helped lift my mood, maybe yours too.

This rain and wind and cold may be the results of an erratic Atmospheric River streaming over our area. And others want to assure us it's not a drought buster. OK, I get it.

But do we all get how wonderful this rain is, with gutters and curbs

running with water, the barrancas roaring, creeks and rivers flowing, the slick weighted trees bending from the wet, the puddled lawns and gardens and the drenched hillsides and mud-covered roads through them, with the wild animals wet and happy?

This will perk up every living animal and plant, and it perks up me and I hope you too. We will get a spring wildflower bloom, new sprouts of everything, and revived trees and softer ground for the barrage of gophers.

It does not wash away the gloom of 2021, but this river of rain clouds lifted a mood cloud from me, and I am looking out our windows and not worrying that the dry hot winds may never stop.

They have for now, as this uplifting crescendo drowns out the drone of woes, at least for a spell. Hail glorious rain, we welcome you!
Robert Chianese, Ph.D.,
Emeritus Prof. English, CSU
Northridge
website: <https://islandviewmedia.net>

New Year Reflection

Our coastal light that turns crescent,
Gestures, the clouds to daydream on
the moon,
The tide gathers to push out the fog,
An evening drizzle leaves a mist on
New Years.

Proceeds to create a lunar calendar,
The moon is overshadowed with
damp skies,
Our suns early douse of golden
colors,
Rinses it clear on a Ventura Morning.

The ocean reflection is New
Years best view.

By Jeff Russell

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



A very appreciative thank you to our wonderful readers who have contributed financially so that we could continue to bring news to Ventura. There are many others who did not want to be recognized.

Sheldon and staff

- | | | | |
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Community Events

Ventura events

by Ana Baker

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

Looking for some outdoor fun? Try Lawn Bowling a great fun and terrific low impact exercise. You get to play on a beautiful green with free club equipment and free lessons. Also included are friendly people and social activities. Located at 350 N. C St. Oxnard. 9 – Noon. Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. All are welcome.

Jan. 20: East Ventura Community Council Meeting on Thursday at 7 p.m. via Zoom. Ventura Environmental Sustainability Program Supervisor Brandon Kayser will talk about changes to our waste and recycling program. Kathy Thomson from Friends of the Library will provide an update on long-term plans for a possible permanent library in East Ventura. Area crime statistics will be shared by Commander Weeks of the Ventura Police Department. Other topics may be added to the agenda, so be sure to check the group's Facebook page for updates. The Council represents those who live east of Victoria Avenue, and the public is encouraged to attend and participate. The Zoom link can be accessed at the group's website, www.eastventura.org. The

meeting will be recorded and can be viewed on the website, www.eastventura.org. For more information, contact EVCC Chairperson, John McNally, at eastventuracc@gmail.com.

Jan. 26: The College Area Community Council in Ventura will be holding a Zoom meeting on Wednesday, at 7p.m. An invitation and link to the meeting will be sent to everyone on the CACC mailing list. Council meetings include speakers and discussion on topics of neighborhood and community interest, including public safety and economic development. CACC represents citizens in Council District 3, currently neighborhoods north of Hwy.126 between Dunning/Lemon Grove/Agnus on the west and Hill Road on the east. Visit the College Area Community Council website at <https://caccventura.com> to learn more, to be added to the mailing list and to access a link to the Zoom meeting.

Feb. 9: Livingston's Grief and Bereavement Program announces a new Men's Grief Support Group starting on February 9, 2022. The group is for men grieving the death of a loved one. It will meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of every month from 6:30 to 8:00 pm, via Zoom. If interested, please contact us at 805-389-6870. For more information, visit LMVNA.org

Livingston's Grief and Bereavement Program support groups are committed to maintaining an open, accepting, confidential atmosphere. We also offer individual, couple, and family grief counseling in English

and Spanish.

All support groups are free and conducted through Zoom at this time. For more information on the Grief and Bereavement Program, visit LMVNA.org.

Ojai news and events

Ojai Women's Fund awards \$85,000 in grants

The Ojai Women's Fund has announced the award of \$85,000 in grants to seven organizations that serve residents of the Ojai Valley. OWF is an all-volunteer nonprofit organization, and these awards were made possible by the collective effort and dedication of this year's 375 members, who are organized around the giving circle concept. Grants are awarded in five focus areas—Arts, Education, Environment, Health, and Social Services—based on votes by individual and giving circle members. With these awards, the total amount given by OWF members in the past six grant cycles exceeds half a million dollars.

The Ojai Women's Fund works to inspire and educate all women to become leaders in philanthropy and to help make a difference in the Ojai Valley Community. OWF welcomes new members and encourages organizations that serve the Ojai Valley to consider applying for a grant during the 2022 grant cycle, which begins in May. To join or for more information on 2021 grant winners visit www.ojai-womensfund.org.

ously eligible in 2017, 2019 and 2021; and Moorpark College in 2019.

The 150 eligible colleges have been invited to submit data and narratives as next steps in an intensive data and practice review process. The top 10 finalists for the 2023 Aspen Prize will be announced in spring/summer 2022.

A jury of notable leaders will select a winner, finalists with distinction and institutions that have significantly improved their practices known as "Rising Stars" in late spring 2023.

Following the announcement of being named eligible for the prize, the VCCCD board and college presidents expressed their appreciation of the honor:

"The fact that each of our colleges is eligible for this prize serves as a testament to the District's commitment to equity and high-quality education that yields professional and personal success for our diverse students," said VCCCD Board Chair Joshua Chancer.

"Ventura College is honored to be recognized multiple times. It reflects Ventura College's educational opportunities and academic success as an accredited two-year institution of higher education," said Dr. Kim Hoffmans, president of Ventura College. "This distinction illustrates the dedication of our faculty, classified professionals and administrators and their commitment to the success of all Ventura College students."

For the list of the top 150 eligible institutions and to read more on the selection process, visit <https://highered.aspeninstitute.org/aspen-prize/>. The Aspen Prize is made possible by generous support from Ascendium and the Joyce Foundation.

The Aspen Institute College Excellence Program aims to advance higher education practices and leadership that significantly improve student learning, completion, and employment after college, especially for the growing population of students of color and low-income students on American campuses. For more information, visit <https://highered.aspeninstitute.org>.

Help with the homerless count

The Ventura County Continuum of Care is looking for volunteers to assist with the 2022 Homeless Count on Wednesday, January 26, 2022. This count is required for all of our state and federal grants that fund local homeless shelters, permanent supportive housing, rental assistance programs, street outreach and more! The survey is anonymous and we need to make sure everyone gets counted. This year we will provide hygiene supplies and recommend face masks to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

We will be using a mobile app to capture the survey data which will be reviewed during training in mid-January. Volunteers can sign up online to assist during shifts between 6:30am to noon: <https://forms.gle/cmByTeEBArQZJV7k6>

County Community Colleges named among 150 eligible for 2023 Aspen Prize

Ventura County's community colleges are among 150 institutions nationwide eligible to compete for the \$1 million Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence. Moorpark, Oxnard and Ventura colleges are now eligible for the 2023 prize, known as the nation's signature recognition of high achievement and performance among America's community colleges. It recognizes colleges with robust student outcomes in equity, teaching and learning, certificate and degree completion, transfer rates and bachelor's degree attainment and workforce success.

Only 15% of the approximately 1,000 community colleges the Aspen Institute evaluates across the U.S. are selected to contend for the esteemed honor. This is the first time that all three Ventura County Community College District colleges have been eligible for the Aspen Prize at the same time. Ventura College was previ-

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News & Notes



Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

Each year on the third Monday of January we observe Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and reflect on the work that still needs to be done for racial equality. This January 17, make the holiday more than just a day off and take time to reflect and take action on civil rights issues across the globe.

Martin Luther King Day is observed every year on the third Monday of January.

King was an influential civil rights leader – best known for his work on racial equality and ending racial segregation in the United States. His life and achievements are remembered and celebrated on this day.

The concept of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day as a holiday was promoted by labor unions. After King's death, U.S. Representative John Conyers and U.S. Senator Edward Brooke introduced a bill in Congress to make King's birthday a national holiday. The bill first came to a vote in the U.S. House of Representatives in 1979; however, it fell five votes short of the number needed for passage. Two of the main arguments mentioned by opponents were that a paid holiday for federal employees would be too expensive and that a holiday to honor a private citizen would be contrary to long-standing tradition, as King never held public office. At the time, only two other figures had national holidays honoring them: George Washington and Christopher Columbus.

Soon after, the King Center looked for support from the

corporate community and the general public. The success of this strategy was cemented when musician Stevie Wonder released the single 'Happy Birthday' to popularize the campaign in 1980 and hosted the Rally for Peace Press Conference in 1981. Six million signatures were collected for a petition for Congress to pass the law and is considered the largest petition in favor of an issue in U.S. history.

President Reagan originally opposed the holiday, citing cost concerns. But on November 2, 1983, Reagan signed a bill, proposed by Representative Katie Hall, to create a federal holiday honoring King. The bill had passed the Senate by a count of 78 to 22, and the House of Representatives by 338 to 90. The holiday was observed for the first time on January 20, 1986. It's observed on the third Monday of January rather than directly on Martin Luther King, Jr.'s birthday because it follows the guidelines of the Uniform Monday Holiday Act.

The Bookmark

About Libraries and Friends

by Jill Forman

What next?

In the last column, I talked about the challenges and accomplishments of the past year. My idea for this issue was to describe the plans for the

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.**



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coming year.

Ah yes...plans.

Update from VCLSA Director Nancy Schram:

Effective Wednesday January 5, 2022, Ventura County Library Branches and the Mobile Library will be closed for indoor library services, but will continue to provide curbside/walk up holds pick up to provide access to library materials including Computer Kits with internet access. Online programs will continue to be available including a robust collection of e-books, databases, and virtual services such as live homework assistance, chat reference services, and more. Wi-Fi will be available outside library facilities during normal hours of operation.

Over the next few days, we will work to update the website to reflect this change and notify customers, work with our Friends of the Library groups to cease indoor library sales inside the libraries, implement walk up holds pickup (and curbside where feasible by special request), provide telework opportunities for staff whenever possible and work with minimal staffing levels in library facilities, cease in-person meetings at the libraries, cease in-person programs and services in library facilities, and post updated signs that are clearly visible in both English and Spanish at all library facilities.

The Ventura Friends of the Library may still distribute used books they have sold online outside the Hill Road Library, and staff should be able to continue to accept donations.

Select library programs may continue in-person if they are held outside and with safety protocols in

place.

At this time, there will be no change to hours of operation at the library facilities. We may have to make adjustments moving forward.

The safety of our staff and customers remain the utmost priority.

Update from City Librarian Dolly Knight:

Currently all branches will continue their regular hours.

How does the Ventura Friends of the Library fit into this?

Good question. Since the situation is changing daily, we will once again be called on to be flexible and innovative. Fortunately, we have procedures in place that can be reinstated while this state of affairs continues.

Online sales – Will be continued, with pickup re-established at Hill Road. As of now, pickup will be 10-12 a.m.

Foster Bookstore and Hill Road Shelves - Closed for at least three weeks.

Donations – Bins at Foster and Hill Road will be out during curbside pick-up hours. Please limit your donations to one bag at a time. The warehouse will continue to take donations on Fridays 9-11 a.m.+

Warehouse – COVID protocols can be reinstated: Limited number of workers at a time, masks, checking temperatures if that is part of current practices, and whatever new requirements arise.

Proposed book sale January 22 – Postponed for now.

This is all just announced and may be completely changed before this issue goes to print. Regardless, The Friends will continue to serve the community and the Ventura Libraries; that is our mission and our passion.



News & Notes

Free virtual seminar addresses kids and the COVID-19 Vaccine

Are you thinking of vaccinating your child against the COVID-19 virus? If you have questions or are looking for more information, join Community Memorial Health System for a free and informative online discussion about the COVID-19 vaccine and children.

CMHS's pediatric specialist, Dr. Alison Shuman, will talk about the data, safety, and the most recent FDA recommendations for children and the vaccine. CMHS is hosting this free online seminar at 6 p.m. on Thursday, Jan. 13 to kick off the Speaker Series Online for 2022. There will be a live question-and-answer session for participants to have their questions addressed by an expert. To join in, please RSVP at www.cmhshealth.org/RSVP.

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

Weather events December 2021

by Tom Johnston

The following weather report is based on weather stations data located near Ventura College campus beginning 1964 or 57 years of record. The weather events during this December 2021 have for the most part been beneficial and interesting to study. There were 15 days of measurable rainfall for a total of 10.2 inches. Two days each had two inches of rainfall. This month's rainfall was the highest December amount on record.

With all of this rain a person would think the current drought is over. Yes it was beneficial. The demand for irrigation has decreased somewhat but the lakes, the water aquifers (ground water), wells and springs will need several years of above normal rainfall to fully replenish. Another subject is how much of this heavy rainfall is due to climate change. Probably some but I will let the experts answer that one.

The meteorologists with the National Weather Service located in Oxnard have done an outstanding job of forecasting this weather. Their warnings of hazardous conditions on the highways, on the waters, sky and snow has saved the injury and even death of a number of persons and, yes, animals.

As for the air temperatures the daytime temperatures were several degrees below normal due to thick clouds blocking the sunrays. The average daytime temperature was 61 degrees while the average night time lows was

44.5 degrees. The highest monthly temperature was 69, night 38 degrees.

Other weather-related events you may have missed. Depending on where you were located you may have seen snow on the Topa Topa mountain range north of Ojai. On the night of December 24 a weak thunderstorm made its presence known by brief thunder and lightning. At colder inland locations a few mornings had light frost. As for the wind there were 5 windy days with highest gust 34 mph.

Tom Johnston became interested in the weather at age twelve. He is now a retired Licensed Clinical Social Worker.

Local youth teams up with Fairgrounds

Continued from page 1

with many others, found a passion and appreciation for agriculture. Supporting and preserving these programs is vital when it comes to teaching the next generation of youth the importance of hard work, responsibility, and leadership. It was truly an honor to be able to give back to the Ventura County Fair by doing something I love. I hope that it will continue to impact future generations in the way that it did me."

Accepting the award on behalf of the Fair, CEO Barbara Quaid commented that the VC Fair Livestock Auction, scheduled for August, is an integral part of the annual Ventura County Fair, stating "After having been postponed for two seasons due to the COVID 19 pandemic we are very excited to resume the Livestock programs along with the many other Fair programs that we have all been

waiting for. We are grateful to the Fairgrounds Foundation for this generous dedication and we join them in their continuous praise and support of the hard working youth of Ventura County and for the Fair.

The Fair's Livestock department provides an important program for Ventura County Youth in 4H, Grange and FFA groups as well as children with independent projects. The auction is an important tool in the vocational education of children who are pursuing or interested in a career in agriculture and related industries. The Livestock auction takes participants through the steps of acquiring an animal for auction, raising the animal in a manner that is consistent with state and local marketing standards, showing the animal in competition and finally bringing the animal to auction where the culminating experience of their hard work includes the rewards, both monetary and awards.

The mission of the Ventura County Fairgrounds Foundation is to provide financial support for improvements to the grounds, capital projects, equipment and programs in order that the Ventura County Fairgrounds continue to be an exemplary multi use community resource.


For information and to make a tax-deductible donation to the Foundation please visit www.venturacountyfairgroundsfoundation.org.

To learn more about the 2022 Ventura County Fair, August 3-14, please visit www.venturacountyfair.org.

SPEAKER SERIES
ONLINE
2022

Community Memorial Health System


PRESENTS ...




This FREE virtual event will take place on:

THURSDAY
JAN. 27
6 p.m.

PRESENTED BY



Omid Fatemi, M.D.



Jennifer Wan, M.D.

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Join our CMHS structural heart and cardiothoracic surgery experts as they explain some of the modern approaches to treating structural heart disease, as well as the diagnosis and recovery resources that are available at Community Memorial Hospital.

This event features a LIVE Q&A.

To RSVP for this free, informative online seminar, hosted by Community Memorial Health System, VISIT: cmhshealth.org/rsvp



Senior Living



100 and still going strong.

He retired with rank of full bird colonel

On Saturday, January 8, a 100th birthday celebration was held for Mr. Edward “Dick” Meares an Independent Living resident at Cypress Place Senior Living. Dick is a U.S. Army veteran who received a Bronze Star and Legion of Merit in addition to so many other medals that when you see him in his uniform it is quite spectacular. At his party he was presented a quilt specially made for him by the Quilts of Honor program.

Dick works out every day in the gym at Cypress.

Edward Dickinson Meares was born on January 8, 1922, in Greenville, S. Carolina.

He lived Greenville until his mid-teens when his family moved to Washington, DC.

Dick earned a Bachelors Degree in Electrical Engineering from Michigan State University and a Masters in Adult education from Georgetown University.

He was a career army officer serving for 30 years. He retired with the rank of full bird colonel.

When he has free time, he plays chess and likes reading. In his earlier years he enjoyed horseback riding with his sitters.

One of his grandson’s Alan is carrying on the military tradition. He is an air force pilot and flies the U-2 Dragon Lady

ultra high altitude spy plane. He has flown it over Afghanistan and around North Korean air space.

He has 6 great grandchildren. Being a military family some of his kids lived in Germany, Michigan, Massachusetts, Japan, Arizona, Virginia, and California.



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Changes in a small area in the brainstem could help detect Alzheimer’s disease

An area of the brain called the locus coeruleus, sometimes called “the blue spot,” might show signs of Alzheimer’s disease before any other brain area does, according to a recent NIA-supported study. Published in Science Translational Medicine, the findings suggest a potentially promising new early indicator for Alzheimer’s disease.

In Alzheimer’s disease, tau protein accumulates in cells throughout the brain and forms tangles. Tau tangles, along with the accumulation of amyloid, another type of protein that forms plaques, are two hallmarks of Alzheimer’s disease. Treating Alzheimer’s disease is a challenge, in part because it is usually diagnosed after the onset of symptoms when significant damage in the brain has already occurred. However, by using new advancements in brain imaging, scientists from Massachusetts General Hospital may be one step closer to diagnosing Alzheimer’s, even before cognitive deficits emerge.

The locus coeruleus is a small area of the brain located in the brainstem. It gets its nickname “the blue spot” because the cells in the area produce a blue pigment that makes the whole region appear blue. Many researchers who study Alzheimer’s are interested in the locus coeruleus because it seems to accumulate tau long

before any noticeable clinical signs of the disease arise. However, the size of the area, and the type of brain cells within it, make the locus coeruleus difficult to image with normal magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) and positron emission tomography (PET) scans.

In this study, the team of scientists used a new technique to look at the signal intensity of the locus coeruleus. This signal intensity gives information about the number and health of cells in the region. A lower signal indicates that neurons may be damaged, which can be a sign of tau accumulation.

To conduct the study, scientists utilized data from 174 participants from the Harvard Aging Brain Study, some of whom had cognitive impairment, while others had normal brain function. All participants underwent MRI and PET brain imaging and most received repeated long-term assessments to measure brain functions, such as memory and attention, as part of the larger aging brain study.

Using the high-resolution MRI together with PET scans that identify tau tangles and plaques in other brain areas, the scientists made an important connection. They found that a low-intensity signal from the locus coeruleus was associated with an increased presence of tau tangles and amyloid plaques in an area of the brain called the entorhinal cortex, which is involved in memory function. The scientists also found that a weaker signal from the locus coeruleus was associated with a loss of memory and a decline of other brain functions.

To confirm their results, the scientists compared the imaging findings against autopsy data from two established datasets, the Religious Orders Study and Rush Memory and Aging Project

Continued on page 11



Senior Living



“Are we sure this counts as drinking water before, during, and after your workout session?”

How much activity do older adults need?

Deciding to become physically active can be one of the best things you can do for your health. Exercise and physical activity are not only great for your mental and physical health, but they can help keep you independent as you age. Now, let's talk about getting started.

According to the Physical Activity Guidelines for Americans (PDF, 14.5M) you should do at least 150 minutes (2 ½ hours) a week of moderate-intensity aerobic exercise, like brisk walking or fast dancing. Being active at least 3 days a week is best, but doing anything is better than doing nothing at all.

You should also do muscle-strengthening activities, like lifting weights or doing sit-ups, at least 2 days a week. The Physical Activity Guidelines also recommend that as part of your weekly physical activity you combine

multiple components of exercises. For example, try balance training as well as aerobic and muscle-strengthening activities. If you prefer vigorous-intensity aerobic activity (like running), aim for at least 75 minutes a week.

How Older Adults Can Get Started with Exercise

Exercise and physical activity are great for your mental and physical health and help keep you independent as you age. Here are a few things you may want to keep in mind when beginning to exercise.

Start Slowly When Beginning Exercise

The key to being successful and safe when beginning a physical activity routine is to build slowly from your current fitness level. Over-exercising can cause injury, which may lead to quitting. A steady rate of progress is the best approach.

To play it safe and reduce your risk of injury:

Begin your exercise program slowly with low-intensity exercises.

Warm up before exercising and cool down afterward.

Pay attention to your surroundings when exercising outdoors.

Drink water before, during, and after your workout session, even if you don't feel thirsty. Play catch, kickball, basketball, or soccer.

Wear appropriate fitness clothes and shoes for your activity.

If you have specific health conditions, discuss your exercise and physical activity plan with your health care provider.

Fit for function infographic

Don't forget to test your current fitness level for all 4 types of exercise—endurance, balance, flexibility, and strength. You may be in shape for running, but if you're not stretching, you're not getting the maximum benefit from your exercise. Write down your results so you can track your progress as you continue to exercise.

Make notes about how these test exercises feel. If the exercises were hard, do what's comfortable and slowly build up. If they were easy, you know your level of fitness is higher. You can be more ambitious and challenge yourself.



“I'm sure I can pass this memory test.”

Make a resolution to get a memory screening in 2022

As we get ready for 2022, the Alzheimer's Foundation of America (AFA) is encouraging individuals to make a New Year's resolution to get a memory

screening. AFA offers free, confidential memory screenings through a secure virtual format every Monday, Wednesday and Friday—appointments can be scheduled by calling AFA at 866-232-8484 or through AFA's website. The service is available to everyone—there are no minimum age or insurance prerequisites.

“Annual screenings are important, including for our brains, which is why everyone should make getting a memory screening a New Year's resolution for 2022,” said Charles J. Fuschillo, Jr., AFA's President & CEO. “Just as we regularly check other facets of our health, we should all get a checkup from the neck up, regardless of whether or not we are having memory problems.”

Memory screenings are simple, quick (approximately 10-15 minutes) and noninvasive, and consist of a series of questions, administered by a qualified professional, to gauge memory, language, thinking skills and other intellectual functions. They are similar to other routine health screenings, such as those for blood pressure, cholesterol and skin checks. Results are not a diagnosis, but a memory screening can suggest if someone should see a physician for a full evaluation.

Early detection of memory impairments is extremely important. Many different conditions can cause memory issues, including treatable or curable conditions such as vitamin deficiencies, thyroid conditions, urinary tract infections, stress, anxiety and depression.

Even in the case of a dementia-re-

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lated illness such as Alzheimer's, early detection can provide greater opportunity to begin treatments that can help slow the symptoms of the disease, as well as taking part in a clinical trial. In addition, it affords the person the chance to take advantage of community services, such as support groups and therapeutic programming, as well as have a greater say in making legal, financial and health care decisions.

Memory screening appointments can be scheduled by calling AFA at 866-232-8484 or through AFA's website here. Screenings are conducted through secure videoconference technology (i.e., Facetime, Zoom, Skype)—all that's needed is a device with a webcam and Internet capability, such as a smartphone, laptop, or tablet.

The Alzheimer's Foundation of America is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide support, services and education to individuals, families and caregivers affected by Alzheimer's disease and related dementias nationwide and to fund research for better treatment and a cure. Its services include a National Toll-Free Helpline (866-232-8484) staffed by licensed social workers, the National Memory Screening Program, educational conferences and materials, and "AFA Partners in Care" dementia care training for healthcare professionals. For more information about AFA, call 866-232-8484, visit www.alzfdn.org, follow us on Twitter or connect with us on Facebook, Instagram or LinkedIn. AFA has earned Charity Navigator's top 4-star rating for seven consecutive years.

Vascular dementia

Vascular dementia refers to changes to memory, thinking, and behavior resulting from conditions that affect the blood vessels in the brain. Cognition and brain function can be significantly affected by the size, location, and number of vascular changes.

Symptoms of vascular dementia can begin gradually or can occur suddenly, and then progress over time, with possible short periods of improvement. Vascular dementia can occur alone or be a part of a different diagnosis such as Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia. When an individual is diagnosed with vascular dementia, their symptoms can be similar to the symptoms of Alzheimer's.

What causes vascular dementia?

Vascular dementia is caused by different conditions that interrupt the flow of blood and oxygen supply to the brain and damage blood vessels in the brain.

People with vascular dementia almost always have abnormalities in the brain that can be seen on MRI scans. These abnormalities can include evidence of prior strokes, which are often small and sometimes without noticeable symptoms. Major strokes can also increase the risk for dementia, but not everyone who has had a stroke will develop dementia.

Other abnormalities commonly found in the brains of people with vascular dementia are diseased small blood vessels and changes in "white matter" — the connecting "wires" of the brain that are critical for relaying messages between brain regions.

Researchers are investigating how these changes in the brain — and their underlying causes — are involved in the onset and progression of dementia. Research has shown a



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strong link between cardiovascular disease, involving the heart and blood vessels, and cerebrovascular disease, involving the brain, and subsequent cognitive impairment and dementia. This area of research is referred to as "vascular contributions to cognitive impairment and dementia," or VCID. It is helping researchers better understand this connection and whether the methods used to prevent and treat cerebrovascular disease and heart disease could also help prevent dementia.

Researchers investigating VCID are exploring diverse conditions that affect blood flow to and within the brain, including infarcts (an area of dead tissue resulting from a lack of blood supply), hemorrhages (bleeding from ruptured or damaged blood vessels), cerebral hypoperfusion (reduced blood flow), and small vessel disease in the brain such as that thought to be associated with white matter hyperintensities (white patches seen on brain MRI scans), and stroke.

Because many different disease processes can result in different forms of vascular dementia, there may not be one treatment for all. However, vascular dementia is often managed with medications to prevent strokes and reduce the risk of additional brain damage. Some studies suggest that medications that are used to treat Alzheimer's might benefit some people with an early form of vascular

dementia. Treating modifiable risk factors like high blood pressure, diabetes, high cholesterol, and problems with the rhythm of the heartbeat can help prevent additional stroke. Living a healthy lifestyle is important to help reduce the risk factors of vascular dementia.

Changes in a small area in the brainstem

Continued from page 9
 (ROSMAP) and the National Alzheimer's Coordinating Center (NACC). These datasets contain postmortem assessments of locus coeruleus damage, brain function, and Alzheimer's-induced cellular damage in numerous other areas. Similar to the results from the high-resolution MRI, the researchers found that participants whose autopsy results showed tau tangles in the locus coeruleus also showed Alzheimer's-related brain damage and a decline in brain function.

Scientists do not know how, or if, tau moves from the locus coeruleus to other brain areas. However, findings from this study show that changes in the locus coeruleus could be a promising marker to indicate the brain's tau tangle and amyloid plaque burden and have the potential to help providers evaluate an individual's risk for cognitive decline. This research paves the way for advances in the early detection of Alzheimer's, which may increase the chances of successful treatment.

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This 'n' That



Knox's green wagon was stolen from inside a duplex.

Thankful for our sense of community here in Ventura

by Carol Leish, MA

"It's important to be a part of our community and to be able to pick each other up," according to, John Burdick. "When I saw that Chris G. had more of an urgent need for the wagon, I just wanted to be able to help him out by giving it to him."

Chris & Dani G. live with their three young children in the Pierpont area of Ventura. Chris recently posted on Nextdoor that his 4-year-old son Knox's green wagon was stolen from inside a duplex with a 6ft. fence. He also posted a picture of the wagon. He said that Knox came inside upset and said, "A bandit took my wagon."

First, Chris was also upset because of the theft of the wagon. But, after posting about the incident on Nextdoor, and getting two generous responses to pay for a new wagon, and the response from John Burdick to give his wagon to them, he said, "I was overwhelmed with a sense of community."

John said that, "Now that my sons are ages 7 and 10, I hadn't been using the wagon to pull them around various places anymore. And, I realized that Chris had more of an urgent need for it. I know how it feels when something is stolen from you. We need to pick each other up by helping out each other."

"It was also an awesome experience when Chris and Knox picked up the wagon from outside my home here in Ventura. My kids were proud to be

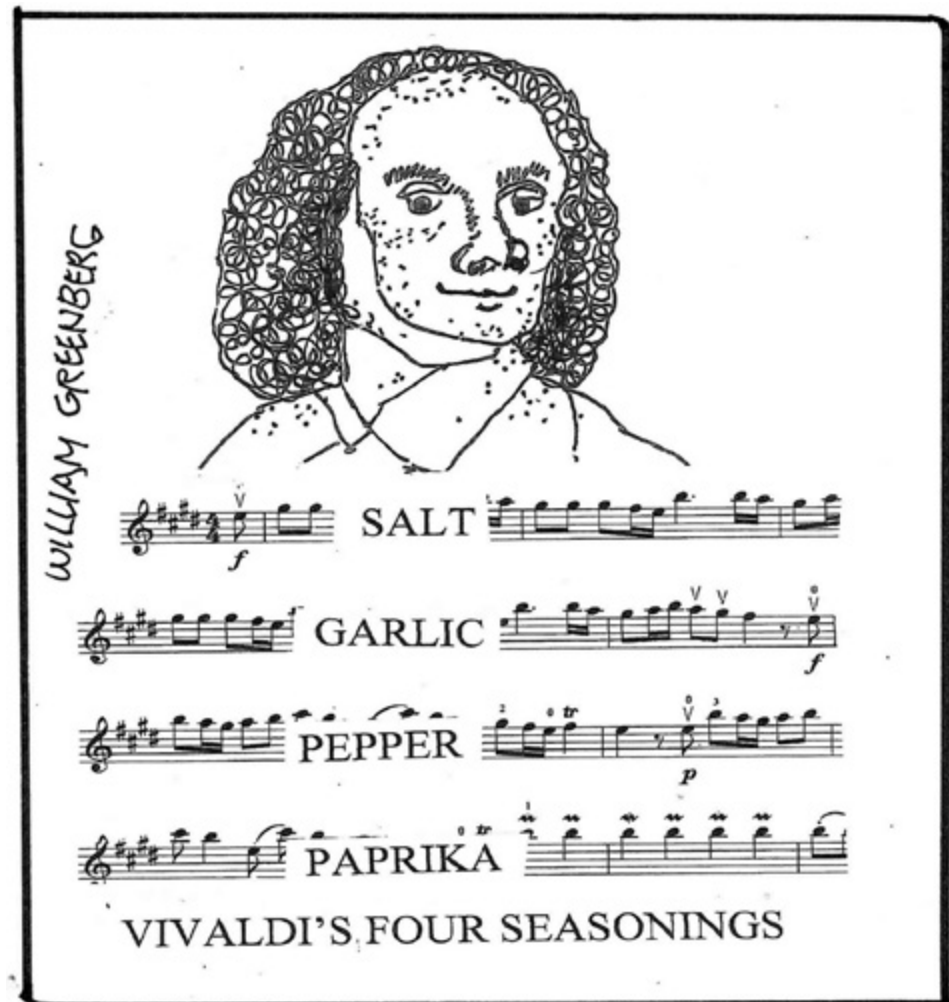
donating the wagon, too. In fact, it was the same wagon that we were giving to them, that had been stolen from them. Thus, I was donating it back to them so that they wouldn't be missing a beat." Having fun playing while riding in the green wagon would be continuing on!



Recreational boating safety and education will be taught. Photo by U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Boat operators must take an approved boating safety course

Beginning January 1, 2022 all recreational boaters 45 years of age or younger are required to obtain the California Boater Card. The card is issued by the California State Parks Division of Boating



Are you an amateur cartoonist? Send your cartoon to editor@venturabreeze.com.

and Waterways. All boat operators must take an approved boating safety course prior to applying for a Card. If you are interested in an exciting, in depth boating safety course approved by the State of California and the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators, check out the Boat America boating course taught online by the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary (USCGA).

The 8 -hour online conference course will be held on Saturday January 29, 2022, 8:30am. Boat America is a boating certificate class that offers an in-depth and interesting boating safety course, and provides the knowledge needed to obtain the Boater Card. Taught by certified instructors from the Ventura County division of the Auxiliary, the class covers

Introduction to Boating, Boating Law, Boat Safety Equipment, Safe Boating practices, Navigation, Common Boating Problems, Trailering, Storing and Protecting Your Boat, guidelines for Fishing, Water-skiing and River Boating.

Many boat insurance companies will offer discounts on boating insurance to boaters who successfully complete Boat America. The USCGA is the uniformed volunteer component of the United States Coast Guard. The main mission of the Auxiliary is assisting in marine safety and environmental protection, recreational boating safety and education, while acting as a force multiplier in support of Coast Guard authorized missions. The January 29, 2022 class costs \$25.00, which includes textbook and USCGA Certificate. For more information and to register contact Patrick Newburn, Flotilla Commander auxnewburn@gmail.com or (818) 388-2796

Campuses will start Spring 2022 semester primarily online

To protect the health of students and employees within the Ventura County Community College District and to

help mitigate the surge in the county's COVID-19 cases, Ventura County's community colleges will start the Spring 2022 semester primarily online beginning Jan. 10. Spring classes at Moorpark, Oxnard and Ventura colleges and Ventura College East Campus will be mainly remote for a limited time with exceptions for classes requiring in-person instruction. Scheduled in-person class sessions will be reinstated following a reduction in COVID-19 infections and hospitalizations.

"The health and safety of our students and employees has been paramount in operations throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. We made the current decision to help reduce transmission and support ongoing public health efforts. We know we must be flexible in our planning as we approach the start of the Spring semester. Remote instruction will contribute to reducing employee and student absences as we help students attain their educational goals," said Chancellor Greg Gillespie.

"We need to make sure that our campuses are safe, which is why the board of trustees voted unanimously to mandate the vaccine for all students, faculty and staff on our campuses. Online options are available for students who choose not to be vaccinated," added Board Chair Dianne B. McKay.

Only vaccinated employees and students, and those with an approved exemption, can be on-site. All health and safety protocols currently in place will continue, including daily screening, wearing face masks and twice-weekly testing for people with medical or religious exemptions.

The District's action related to remote learning for the Spring semester will be continually monitored with input from the Ventura County Public Health Department and in accordance with applicable laws, regulations and guidelines.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines state the best protection against COVID-19 is to be vaccinated and get a booster shot. Ventura County vaccination information is available at VenturaCountyRecovers.com. Vaccination appointments can be scheduled online at MyTurn.

Area Manager position

Manage two car washes and supervise 100 staff (mgrs, crew, cashiers, etc). Requires Master's Degree in Management or related or equivalent. Travel within Ventura County required.

Mail resume to
Alisam Oxnard Operating, LLC
dba Waterdrops Express Car Wash
21241 Ventura Blvd. Ste. 181
Woodland Hills, CA 91364

Job Location: Oxnard, CA.
Attn. Behzad Bandari



The Pet Page



Dedicated to Scamp

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

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

Two upcoming clinics are:

First one will be at on Tuesday, January 18th at Shiells Park, in the parking lot, located at 649 C St., Fillmore, 93015. The next one will be cats only, at the Albert H. Soliz Library - El Rio, 2820 Jourdan St., Oxnard, 93036, on Tuesday, February 1st.

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

■ "If there are no dogs in Heaven, then when I die I want to go where they went." - Will Rogers

■ A family was put in a difficult situation as they needed to move from their home and had to give up one of their two dogs. They were able to keep their Chihuahua but had to give up their Rottweiler named Creed. The owners of Creed found a nice family to care for him who lived in a farmhouse so he had plenty of land to run around. They said to the new owners if anything came up where they could not care for Creed then to let them know and they would find him another home.

About a year later a property manager went by to check on the farmhouse and found the occupants had moved out and left Creed behind and inside a chain link kennel next to the house. He fed Creed for a couple of days hoping the occupants would return to pick up their dog but no one came for him. The property manager called Canine Adoption and Rescue League (CARL) as he has in the past when he finds abandoned dogs and so an employee picked up Creed and brought him to their kennel. Creed was checked out by a vet and then placed up for adoption. Creed was cared for by the employees at CARL and exercised by the volunteers for about four months

While some volunteers of CARL were at an off-site adoption event, they were approached by a lady who asked if we had a dog named Creed and we said yes. The lady said, "I think that is our dog". It turns out they drove by where the new owners used to live and noticed the house was vacant. They discovered a video of Creed that a volunteer at CARL had made and placed on social media.

The original owner made an appointment with CARL to go see Creed the very next day and brought along Creed's little Chihuahua brother. Once they walked up to his kennel, there was no doubt that this was their Creed! Tails were wagging and lots of tears flowed of the happy reunion. Creed's original owner is now in a situation where they can keep him and so they brought home their dog from the kennel the same day. All

of this is possible due to CARL picking up Creed and caring for him until his original owners could be found. It truly is a Christmas Miracle! For more information on Canine Adoption and Rescue League, their website is carldogs.org.

■ What can your pet eat?

While you generally should not give pets human food, there are some treats that are safe apples, carrots, green beans and bananas. It is usually better to get treats that are made for them.

No matter how cute those puppy-dog eyes are, do not give your pets these items: Sweets, especially chocolate.

Grapes
Raisins
Onions
Garlic
Chives
Nuts

Turkey meat, skin or bones
Anything with artificial sweeteners, especially ones using Xylitol
Yeast dough

Cats have been known to eat plants, some of which are toxic to them. Avoid plants like poinsettias and Christmas cactuses if your pet likes to munch on plants.

Keep pets safe, whether you travel or host. If you are traveling with your pet, make sure to use this checklist:

Collar
Identification tags
Usual food and medicine
Contact information for an emergency clinic

A safe space prepared for pets while guests visit

A pet carrier for travel

During holidays, pets will likely have their routines thrown off. Try to take them on walks, play with them before guests arrive and let them have a secure, safe place away from the party.

■ By Susanne Ruststaf

Bentley seemed to be in a haze. Normally this 12-pound Chihuahua-terrier mix would never refuse hot, fresh French fries from a drive-through fast food joint. But on a recent warm afternoon, he turned his head away at his owner's offer.

"He wouldn't take them, so I knew something was wrong. He was just out of it," said Dana Long, a resident of Tiburon. Long eventually took his dog to the veterinarian, who informed him that his typically sprightly and voracious Bentley was stoned. He had likely picked up a chocolate edible on the fields of a nearby middle school, where Long's daughter was playing softball.

While excess cannabis consumption by canines is not new, cases are growing as more and more states legalize the drug, and its use becomes more widespread, according to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The group's poison hotline suggests that as more and more states have legalized recreational marijuana, reports of marijuana toxicity in dogs have also grown.

Between 2017 and 2020, national call volume for cannabis ingestion rose from

Scamp Club

(Scampclub pets are not for adoption.)



This is Yogi. He is a Greater Swiss Mountain dog. He lives in Ventura. He loves treats and loves to sleep and eat. He is after all, ten-years-old. He's from Washington DC and still gorgeous and always smiling.

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.

1,436 to 3,923 cases, said Tina Wismer, a veterinarian and senior director of the New York-based ASPCA Poison Control Center.

Those numbers are likely just a fraction of the true incidence of marijuana poisonings — reporting to the control center is voluntary — but the trend is clear. In California, where recreational marijuana was legalized in November 2016, call numbers grew by 276% between 2016 and 2020. In Colorado, those numbers have risen eleven-fold since legalization in 2012.

It might sound funny that so many pooches are getting into the hooch. But for dogs who accidentally ingest potent edibles intended for a human several times their weight, the narcotic effect can be serious. In addition, if dogs are chewing on drugs found outdoors, it is possible those drugs are laced with chemicals other than THC, the active ingredient in pot, said several veterinarians.

■ Lebanon, N.H. (AP) A German shepherd named Tinsley, first thought to be a lost dog, successfully led New

Hampshire state police to the site of its owner's rollover crash.

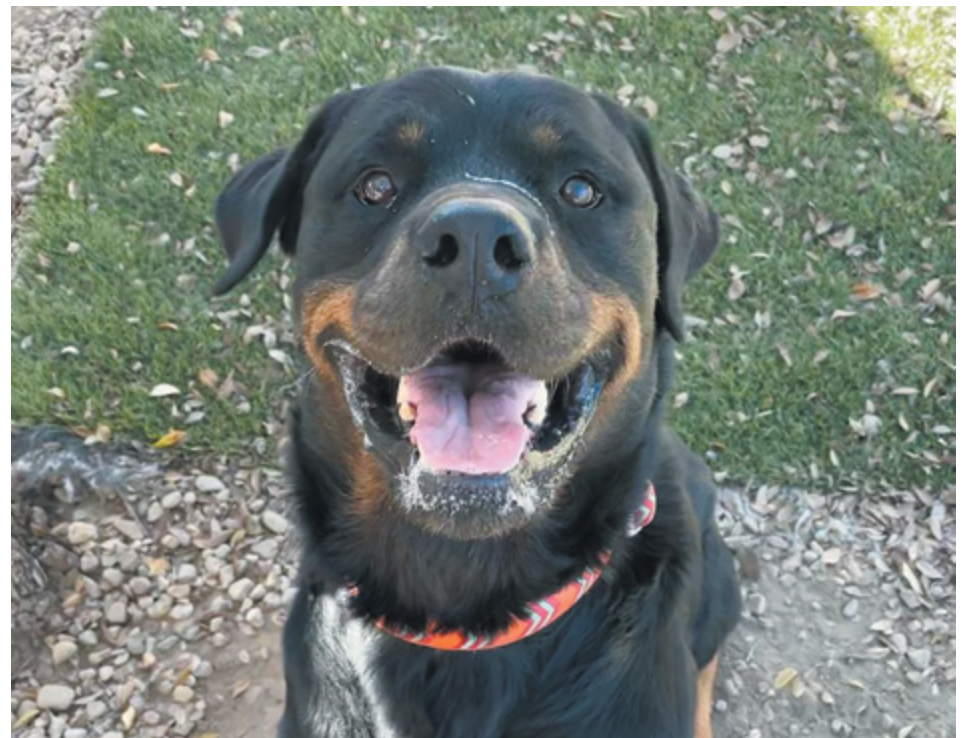
Both the vehicle's occupants were seriously hurt, but thanks to Tinsley's dogged efforts they quickly received medical assistance once officers discovered the truck, which went off the road near a Vermont interstate junction, WMUR-TV reported Tuesday.

"The dog was trying to show them something," said Lt. Daniel Baldassarre of the New Hampshire State Police. "He kept trying to get away from them but didn't run away totally."

"It was kind of, 'Follow me. Follow me.' And they did that and you know, to their surprise to see the guardrail damaged and to look down to where the dog is looking at, it's just, they were almost in disbelief," he said.

A New Hampshire state trooper and police from the nearby city of Lebanon responded to the crash site late Monday, just across the state line in Vermont.

There were no further details on the condition of those injured in the single-vehicle crash.



A Christmas Miracle for Creed.

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805.641.1170 110 A & B N. Olive St., Ventura CA 93001 www.spanonline.org

\$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

\$10 Low/No Income Spay & Neuter **CATS ONLY** Tuesday, Feb. 1st Albert H. Soliz Library - El Rio 2820 Jourdan St., Oxnard, CA 93036 Must call for appointment (805) 584-3823



The Pet Page

Forever homes wanted

For the new year Rambo is trying to find his forever family. He has shown to be good around other dogs and children (6 y.o. +). He is such a sweet boy who is waiting for someone to take a chance on him. He loves running around and doing zoomies. Rambo is guaranteed to put



Thor is a sweet, happy pit bull terrier 9 year old boy who is happiest chewing on a tennis ball. He knows some basic commands like “sit” “down” and “off” and is easy to bathe! His previous owners reported that he didn’t get along with other dogs and cats, and that he did well with kids but can get excited when he’s playing and may accidentally knock over small children. Please come to the shelter to meet him! VCAS Camarillo Animal Shelter Animal ID: A773713 www.vcas.us/adoption-process



This 'n' That



This past academic year was like no other for students.

Ventura College Foundation provided \$696,095 in direct student support during COVID

Despite pandemic challenges, the Ventura College Foundation, a nonprofit organization that provides resources and financial assistance to Ventura College students and school programs, distributed \$696,095 in direct student financial support during the 2020-2021 academic year

and another \$871,749 to 28 Ventura College programs across 17 department and divisions.

“This past academic year was like no other for students and their families, college leadership, faculty and staff, donors and the foundation,” says Anne Paul King, Ventura

Trash collection schedule unchanged for MLK Day

Plus: Don't forget to recycle your food waste

Harrison Industries will maintain its regular trash, recycling and yard waste collection schedule in Ventura County during the week of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Jan. 16-22, 2022.

Also: Residents of cities served by Harrison, remember to RECYCLE YOUR FOOD WASTE.

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.

Harrison Industries serves the cities of Ventura, Ojai, Camarillo, Fillmore and unincorporated areas of the county.

Thank you and Happy Holiday



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This 'n' That

College Foundation executive director. “Despite everything, the foundation was able to build its financial reserves while distributing over \$1.5 million in student and school program aid.”

The foundation awarded 400 scholarships (including 8 new scholarships) to 228 applicants. Its lending library and veterans’ textbook program provided textbooks to 602 students including 53 veterans.

According to Ventura College data, 55 percent of the college’s 10,000-student population are classified as extremely low income or low income and 18 percent are housing insecure. Twenty-eight percent sought assistance from the college’s Basic Needs Office, which helps students with food and housing.

“Because of the effects of the pandemic, we saw the number of students in economic crisis grow,” says King. “The foundation responded by redirecting some of its fundraising efforts to raise more than \$19,000 to help support students with their basic living expenses. When these needs are met, we know students can better focus on their academic studies. We are so grateful to our donors. Their commitment to education is building a stronger and brighter future for VC students and our community.”

For more information on the Ventura College Foundation’s financial impact on student education and donor honor in 2020-2021, go to <https://venturacollegefoundation.org/foundation-impact>. To learn about Ventura College Foundation donation options, click on <https://venturacollegefoundation.org/giving>.

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

Girl Scouts of California’s Central Coast will offer a new brownie-inspired cookie

Girl Scouts of California’s Central Coast and Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) are happy to announce that the new Adventurefuls cookie will join the nationwide lineup for the 2022 season. An indulgent brownie-inspired cookie with caramel-flavored crème and a hint of sea salt, Adventurefuls take cookie lovers on a delicious taste adventure. Girl Scouts in the California Central Coast area and across the United States will offer the Adventurefuls cookie next season alongside favorites like Thin Mints® and Caramel deLites®.

Every purchase of Adventurefuls, and the whole portfolio of iconic cookies, during cookie season, fuels local Girl Scouts’ adventures throughout the year: exploring what interests them, discovering their passions, and taking action on issues they care about. Whether they’re using their STEM skills to solve a problem, changing a law to help their community, having a courageous outdoor experience, or starting an innovative nonprofit, Girl Scouts build a better future for themselves and the world. Through the Girl Scout Cookie Program, not only do girls become entrepreneurs as they gain hands-on experience running their own small business, but they also earn money to fuel their Girl Scout adventures, which catapult them where they want to go.

Also new this year, GSUSA recently announced new Cookie Business badges that help girls think like entrepreneurs as they run their own cookie businesses and incorporate online sales via the Smart Cookies platform. The badges progress from goal setting and effective sales-pitching in person and online to using market research, creating business plans, and implementing digital marketing campaigns.

The Cookie program is set to kick off on January 29 in the counties of Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura. Girl Scout booths will begin to appear council-wide on February 11.

Available nationwide, every bite of Adventurefuls is full of indulgent brownie-inspired flavor with a combination of chocolatey and caramel flavors, and smooth and crispy textures, for an incredible taste of adventure in every bite.



by Pam Baumgardner
VenturaRocks.com

The winner of the first BlackCouch Studios Music Showdown was announced this week! The friendly competition between 16 musicians here in Ventura was the brainchild of Jerry McWorter (Hi-Hat Entertainment) and Guy Martin (BlackCouch Studios). They placed sixteen names in three different hats (8 guitarists, four bass players, four drummers) then arbitrarily put together four bands by pulling names out of the hat. The members showed up without knowing who their bandmates were, nor the song they were to record. They were given three hours to record their rendition of Midnight Rambler. The winner of the first round (group 1 & group 2) and the winner of the second round (group 3 & group 4) went head to head on YouTube with viewers voting for their favorite rendition without knowing who the players were. I want to thank both Guy and Jerry for being on my radio show and for letting me play the winner on the Pam Baumgardner Music Hour this week. The winning group was #2 with winning musicians Ray Jaurique, Joe Baugh, Hank Van Sickel and Chris Jenson. Speaking from the heart, I loved every single rendition and as we discussed on my radio show, this project was great for the heart and soul of Ventura's music scene. I'm looking forward to the next installment of the BlackCouch Studios Music Showdown!

The Tavern at 211 E. Santa Clara Street in Ventura has switched gears and as the first of the year are now called A Bar Called Country where they'll be offering line dancing every Sunday at 5. The live music I've found so far includes Hard Rooster, Brother Earl and the Cousins and Dan Hitchcock on Thursday, January 13, and Medicine Hat with the full band on Fri January 14.

According to their official website, Adrian Smith and Richie Kotzen's project, Smith/Kotzen's very first live date in the US is scheduled for the Ventura Theater on January 15. Smith is best known as one of the main guitarists for Iron Maiden and Kotzen from the Winery Dogs, as well as having worked with both Mr. Big and Poison. Also playing the theater this month the Stuts on January 23 and Subtronics on January 27.

Quick Notes: The Bank of America Performing Arts Center in TO has REO Speedwagon on January 12, and David Foster on January 19; Krueley, a band marketed as Tokyo disgusting music, plays with Apparition, Slowbleed and Upon Stone at the Oxnard Performing Arts Center on Friday, January 14; The Sewer has a special Sunday Psycho Sunday event on January 16 with Frenetic Trio from Brazil, joining the bill, The Cursed Bastards; and Kelly's Lot's performance at Namba has been

rescheduled to March 26, but still on the books are Franck Goldwasser aka Paris Slim on January 15 and Dreamland, music of Joni Mitchell featuring Kimberly Ford on January 22.

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

Music Calendar

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

Bank of America Performing Arts Center

2100 E. Thousand Oaks Blvd., Thousand Oaks

Wed 1/12: REO Speedwagon

Wed 1/19: David Foster

A Bar Called Country

211 E. Santa Clara Street, Ventura

Thurs 1/13: Hard Rooster, Brother Earl & the Cousins, Dan Hitchcock

Fri 1/14: Medicine Hat

Boatyard Pub

Ventura Harbor

Wednesdays: Frank Barajas

Thursdays: Jim Friery; then Bluegrass Jam

Sat 1/15: Big Adventure Duo

Tues 1/18: Karen Eden & Bill Macpherson

Fri 1/21: Teresa Russell w/ Stephen Geyer

Bombay Bar & Grill

143 S. California St., Ventura

DJs Friday – Sunday

Cantara Cellars

126 N. Wood Road, Camarillo

Music 6:30 – 9:30 pm

Fri 1/14: Slogan Acoustic

Sat 1/15: Ray Jaurique & the Uptown Brothers

Sat 1/22: Heart and Soul

The Cave

4435 McGrath St., Ventura

Music 5:30 – 8:30

Wednesdays & Thursdays: Bobby Apostol

Fridays & Saturdays: Warren Takahashi

Chuy's Simi Valley West

1397 E. Los Angeles Ave., Simi Valley

Wednesdays: Rockstar Karaoke

Sat 1/15: Vinyl Gypsies

Copa Cubana

Ventura Harbor Village

Saturdays and Sundays: Kenny DeVoe

11 am

Sat 1/15: Teresa Russell

Sun 1/23: Buena Onda

Four Brix Winery

2290 Eastman Ave., Ventura

Music Fridays 6-8 pm; Saturday

1 – 3:30 pm

Fri 1/14: Karen Eden & the Bad Apples

Sat 1/15: Smokey & Friends

Sat 1/22: Brittney & Ben

Sun 1/23: Big Adventure Duo

The Garage

1091 Scandia Ave., Ventura

Wednesdays: Blues Wednesday

Sundays: Soul Sunday w/ DJ Also

Sat 1/15: The Late Knights

The Grape

2833 E. Main Street, Ventura

Tuesdays Jazz Jam

Wed 1/12: CHOMSKYJazz

Thurs 1/13: Blanco Diablo

Keynote Lounge

10245 E Telephone Rd, Ventura

Thursdays: KJ Carlos

Fri 1/14: Caliente

Sat 1/15: DJ Sherman

Fri 1/21: DJ AVG

Sat 1/22: Whiskey Business

Leashless Brewing

585 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

Music 6:30 – 8:30; Sundays 3-5

Thurs 1/13: Dylan Cunningham

Fri 1/14: Mike Belk & Swingin' Johnny

Sat 1/15: Jacob Marque & the Good Vibes

Sun 1/16: Illunis

Thurs 1/20: Warren & Dr. Dan

Fri 1/21: John Espinoza

Sat 1/22: Mark & Guil duo

Sun 1/23: Exit 15 unplugged

Lucas Sellers Wine

330 Zachary Street, Moorpark

Music 6-9 pm

Sat 1/15: Bombafiya

Sat 1/22: Natalie Wattre

Made West Brewing

1744 Donlon Street, Ventura

Music 3-5 pm

Sun 1/23: The Devil's String Band Duo

Majestic Ventura Theater

26 S. Chestnut Street, Ventura

Sat 1/15: Smith/Kotzen, Raised on Vinyl, Rusted Stone

Sun 1/23: The Struts

Manhattan Restaurant

5800 Santa Rosa Road, Camarillo

Fri 1/21: Tour Support

Mrs. Olson's

2800 Harbor Blvd., Channel Islands Harbor

Music at Noon

Sun 1/16: Teresa Russell w/ Stephen Geyer

Namba Arts

47 S. Oak Street, Ventura

Sat 1/15: Franck Goldwasser

Thurs 1/20: The Listening Room Redux

Sat 1/22: Dreamland

Oxnard Performing Arts Center

Canyon at Oxnard PACC

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

Fri 1/14: Krueley, Apparition, Slowbleed, Upon Stone

Thurs 1/20: Tommy Emmanuel

Fri 1/21: Slowbleed, Momentum, Treacherouskin

The Raven Tavern

1651 S. Victoria Ave., Oxnard

Music at 8 – 11 pm

Fri 1/14: Brittney Burchett

Sat 1/15: Holgers Heros

Fri 1/21: Sean Wiggins

Sat 1/22: Tyler James (Foo Flannels)

Ric's Restaurant

2500 Las Posas Road, Camarillo

Tuesdays: Tour Support with Kurt Griffey & Bob DeLellis

Rock & Roll Pizza

5255 Cochran Street, Simi Valley

Tuesdays: Rockstar Karaoke

Sat 1/15: Black Daze, Stoned Temple Pilots

Sun 1/16: King Sol & the Vibes

Fri 1/21: Jetlemons

Sat 1/22: Metal Health

Sun 1/23: Dan Westerlund

Sans Souci

21 S. Chestnut Street, Ventura

Sun 1/16: Frenetic Trio, The Cursed Bastards

The Six Chow House

419 E Main Street, Ventura

Thurs 1/13: Mark Masson and Friends

Fri 1/21: Power Syndicate

Sat 1/22: Free Love Project

Sunland Vintage Winery

1321 E. Thousand Oaks Blvd., Thousand Oaks

Music 6-9 pm

Thursdays: Dave & Kevin

Fri 1/14: Teresa Russell

Fri 1/21: Guy & Dave

Taqueria Jalisco Restaurant

4275 Tierra Rejada Rd., Moorpark

Music 5-8 pm

Tuesdays & Fridays: Jim Friery

Topa Topa Brewing HQ

4880 Colt Street, Ventura

Music 4-6 pm

Sat 1/15: Nautical Thrust

The Twist on Main

454 E. Main Street, Ventura

Wednesdays: Classic Country w/ Jesse Harris

Thursdays: LA Jazz Connection

Fri 1/14: Tex Pistols

Sat 1/15: Steve & Sally Williams (2-5 pm); Dive Bar Messiahs

Sun 1/6: Joe Delia (2-5 pm)

Fri 1/21: Littlefish

Sat 1/22: Jesse Harris Band

Sun 1/23: Jayden Secor (2-5)

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

Music at 11:30 am – 1:30 pm

Sat 1/22: Déjà vu Too

Sun 1/23: Teresa Russell

Winchesters

632 E. Main St., Ventura

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

Thurs 1/13: Brandon Ragan

Fri 1/14: Guy & Dave

Sun 1/16: CRV

Thurs 1/20: James Broz Bros.

Fri 1/21: Big Adventure

Sun 1/23: Mike Scully & the Weary Travelers

1901 Speakeasy

740 South B Street, Oxnard

Music 6:30 – 9:30 pm

Sat 1/22: Tour Support

ventura Music Scene



Seaward by **Laura Ray**



Lightning in the Harbor by **Denise Henderscheid**

Buenaventura Art Association (BAA) presenting the arts

Members show plus board member appreciation show

January 14 - March 12, 2022

Open Fridays and Saturdays, noon to 4pm First Friday receptions on February 4th and March 4th

Over a dozen new artist members have joined BAA in the last several months! Explore their work along with the artwork of veteran BAA artists and our hard-working Board of Directors in our upcoming shows at Studio 99!

Elsewhere from Buenaventura Art Association:

A members-only show at Harbor Village Gallery & Gifts January 12 - March 15, 2022

Featuring the artwork and artisan crafts of 10 resident member artists, Harbor Village Gallery & Gifts also exhibits the works of over a dozen other BAA members!

Members-Only shows upcoming at SpiceTopia and Very Ventura Gift Shop & Gallery

January 20 - March 31, 2022

Ventura Art Scene

This 'n' That



Housing Trust Fund Ventura County provides \$4 million in pre-development construction loan funds

Housing Trust Fund Ventura County announced that it is providing a \$4 million pre-development construction loan to kick-off the development of Rancho Sierra Senior Apartments (Rancho Sierra), to be built in an unincorporated area adjacent to the City of Camarillo. Rancho Sierra is being developed by Many Mansions with support from the Area Housing Authority of the County of Ventura to provide affordable housing solutions for low-income seniors in eastern Ventura County.

“Our board is committed to identifying and funding projects that make an impact in our community

for those in serious need of safe and equitable housing,” said Linda Braunschweiger, CEO of Housing Trust Fund Ventura County. Rancho Sierra Senior Apartments will consist of 49 affordable housing units with 24 units set aside specifically for homeless seniors or those at-risk of being homeless due to mental disabilities. The site will also include a 4,200 square foot indoor community space to allow for integral services such as health screenings, library services, transportation assistance, and peer counseling for residents.

Learn more about affordable housing solutions in Ventura County

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Moving Up?
Moving Out?**

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at Housing Trust Fund VC’s Annual Meeting on January 26th, 2022 from 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. where it will outline it’s, “Community Promise – a commitment to positively impact people’s lives through the ongoing funding of safe and equitable homes.” During the meeting, Ray Pearl, Executive Director of the California Housing Consortium, will

share a statewide perspective on the advancement of affordable housing and community development. Joining Pearl will be Moorpark City Manager and President of the International City/County Management Association (ICMA), Troy Brown, a 25-year public sector veteran who will share the federal perspective of affordable housing solutions.

GENTLEMEN, I GIVE YOU

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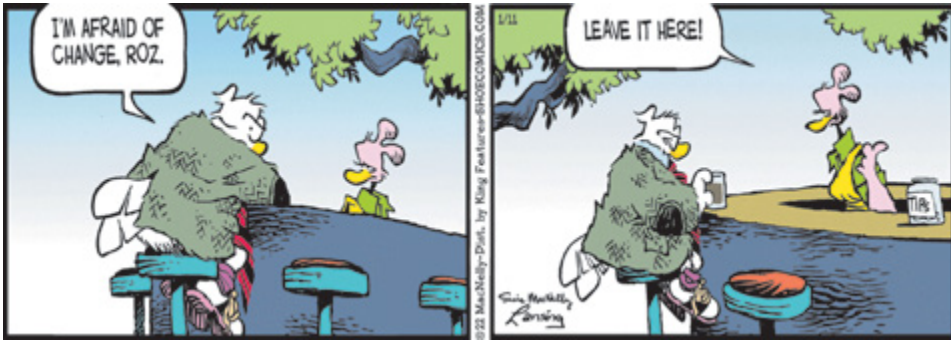
Mother Goose and Grimm



Zits



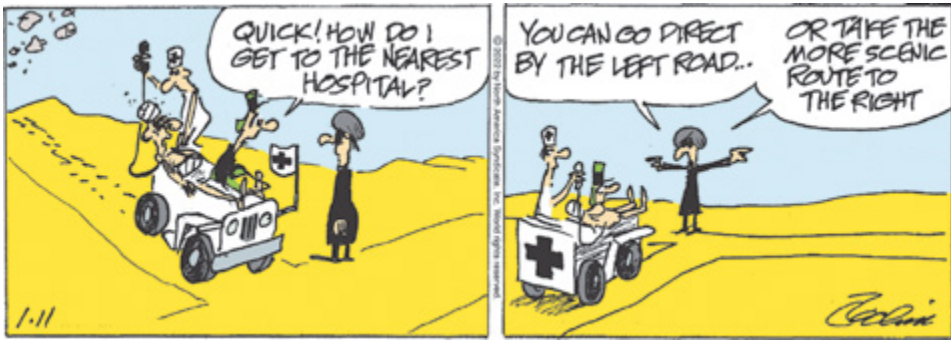
Shoe



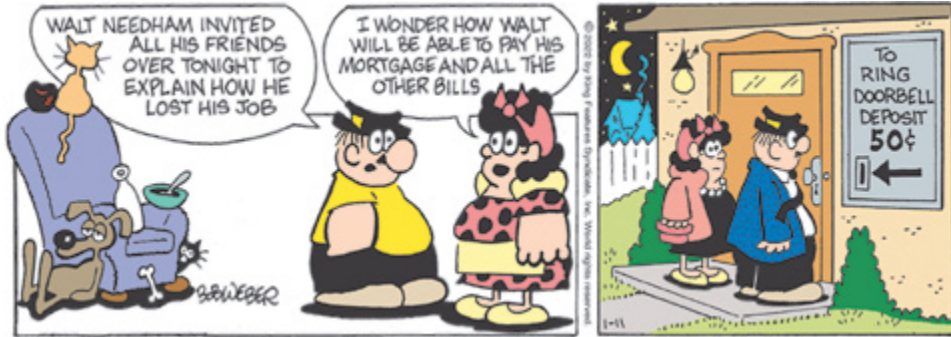
Beetle Bailey



Crock



Moose and Molly



Solutions on page 13

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

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

Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

Solutions on page 13

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Biting remark
- 5 Spheres
- 9 Victory
- 12 Skin care brand
- 13 Joel or Ethan of Hollywood
- 14 Parisian pal
- 15 Hourly pay
- 16 Batman's hood
- 17 Beer container
- 18 Rebuff
- 19 Acting coach Hagen
- 20 Crazy
- 21 Actor Brynner
- 23 Old Olds
- 25 Mourn
- 28 Hit song by the Oak Ridge Boys
- 32 Crown-up
- 33 Snake poison
- 34 Autobiography
- 36 Herbal tea
- 37 Geese formation
- 38 Computer key
- 39 Lose color
- 42 TiVo precursor
- 44 Idle or Clapton
- 48 Khan title
- 49 Close

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					56			

DOWN

- 7 Caveat word
- 8 NBC sketch show
- 9 Texas city
- 10 Apple computer
- 11 Boy, in Barcelona
- 20 Features of romantic comedies
- 22 Loosen
- 24 Graceland idol
- 25 Felon's flight
- 26 Citric beverage
- 27 Silent
- 29 Pig-poke link
- 30 Director Howard
- 31 Soul, to Sartre
- 35 Disclose
- 36 "Fab!"
- 39 Crazes
- 40 Mellows
- 41 Loony
- 43 Give a darn
- 45 Carry on
- 46 One-named supermodel
- 47 Penny
- 49 "The Voice" network

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fall into place before you act.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A legal matter you hoped could finally be settled could be a pesky problem for a while, until all the parties agree to stop disagreeing with each other. Be patient.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Partnerships -- personal or professional -- which began before the new year take on new importance. They also reveal some previously hidden risks. So be warned.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Your associates are firmly on your side, and that persistent problem that has caused you to delay some activities should soon be resolved to your satisfaction.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Favorable changes continue to dominate, and you should be responding positively as they emerge. Someone wants to become more involved in what you're doing.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) A friend wants to share a secret that could answer some questions you've wondered about for a long time. Meanwhile, travel aspects continue to be strong.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Stay on your new course despite so-called well-meaning efforts to discourage you. Rely on your deep sense of self-awareness to guide you to do what's right for you.

BORN THIS WEEK: You have the capacity to meet challenges that others might find overwhelming, and turn them into successful ventures.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) A hectic period begins to wind down. Take time to draw some deep breaths and relax before getting into your next project. A long-absent family member makes contact.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You're eager to move forward with a new challenge that suddenly dropped in your lap. But you'd be wise to take this one step at a time to allow new developments to come through.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You're almost ready to make a commitment. A lingering doubt or two, however, should be resolved before you move ahead. An associate could provide important answers.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Caution is still the watchword as you move closer toward a decision about a new situation. If you act too fast, you might miss some vital warning signs. Go slowly and stay alert.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Your new goal looks promising, and your golden touch does much to enhance its prospects for success. In your private life, Cupid does his best to make your new relationship special.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) That impatient side of yours is looking to goad you into moving before you're ready to take that big step. Stay calm and cool. Let things

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Showtime

Streaming Spotlight by Cindy Summers

Queenpins

– Showtime



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

Queenpins is based on actual events involving one of the largest pink collar crimes known to date. Connie Kaminski (Kirsten Bell) and her best friend JoJo Johnson (Kirby Howell-Baptiste) both had overwhelming financial challenges, so decide to turn a causal hobby into a coupon scam that netted them millions of dollars. After discovering that manufacturers were willing to send FREE coupons for complaint letters, Connie came up with the idea to get FREE coupons to sell at a good deal and JoJo was a vlogger who already had a coupon site they could use to sell them.

Connie noticed that the coupons all came from the same address in Mexico, not far from where they were in Arizona, so the two set out to find a way to obtain more FREE coupons directly from the source. They met a Hispanic couple who worked in the factory for only \$2 per hour and gladly joined Connie and JoJo for a percentage of the profits, agreeing to mail all the excess printed coupons that were supposed to be destroyed directly to Connie and JoJo in Arizona.

The rush of coupons caught the attention of many stores who reported the issue to the district loss specialist Ken Miller (Paul Walter Hauser), who after searching receipts for 11 days was able to find a shopper's information from her credit card who told him she bought the coupons online from the SavvySuperSaver website. Miller took the information to the local FBI office, which blew him

off after he left and sent the information to headquarters to get buried.

After banking several hundred thousand dollars in their paypal account, Connie's account was frozen. Feeling it was the only thing to do, they reached out to Tempe Tina (Bebe Rexha) who was actually the person who caused JoJo's financial trouble after stealing her identity. Tina picked them up, blindfolded them and took them back to her tech hideout. Tina apologized for her past issues with JoJo explaining that now her specialty was Cyber Security, assisting governments and corporations to deal with cyber attacks, and if paid enough to create them.

Tina gave them multiple IDs and a strategy to handle their money for 10% of the profits, and Connie and JoJo decided to follow Tina's plan to stay off the radar and not spend any funds for six months. While Miller continued making unanswered calls to FBI headquarters, Connie and JoJo made over \$5 million mailing coupons, which became their downfall.

Due to the fact that the coupons were mailed, the U.S. Postal Service sent Postal Inspector Simon Kilmurry (Vince Vaughn) to investigate the situation. Kilmurry got the basics from Miller, who was more like a mall cop wanting to be part of the real action. Though Kilmurry denied him initially, they eventually teamed up on the investigation which eventually lead to a cartel size takedown that included millions in fraudulent coupons, luxury cars, and guns.

Queenpins is based on the true story of three Arizona women: Robin Ramirez, Marilyn Johnson, and Amiko Fountain, who ran a coupon scam and the actual police raid found more than \$40 million in fake coupons along with \$2 million in other assets including 22 guns, cash, 21 vehicles, and a speed boat. Ramirez received 24 months in prison with 7 years probation while her friends served 3 years probation. They also had to pay Procter & Gamble more than \$1.2 million.

Rated: R (Language Throughout)
Runtime: 1h 50m

Maternity Honor Roll Status recognizes Ventura County Health Care Agency

From Well Woman Exams and pre-conception counseling to natural delivery options within a hospital setting, The Ventura County Health Care Agency's Baby-Friendly Designated hospitals: Ventura County Medical Center (VCMC) and Santa Paula Hospital (SPH), are leaders in providing comprehensive services to support the community's obstetrical, gynecological, and midwifery care needs.

Each of the past six consecutive years, the California Health and Humans Services Agency and Cal Hospital Compare have named both Ventura County Medical Center and Santa Paula Hospital to the Maternity Honor Role in recognition of low cesarean section rates. This award is a testament to the team's holistic approach to childbirth and the strong relationships built with patients throughout pregnancy.

For expectant mothers, this Maternity Honor Role status means that the likelihood of having a successful vaginal delivery at VCMC or SPH is among the highest in the state of California.

From family centered prenatal care through a nationally acclaimed Family Medicine Residency Program and Family Physicians, to care provided by board-certified Obstetricians and Maternal Fetal Medicine Specialists, or by Certified Nurse Midwives at Ventura County's only hospital-based birth center, VCMC and SPH offer a wide variety of options for prenatal care and delivery.

In addition, multi-lingual resources, such as free pregnancy and childbirth classes, along with traditional Women's Health Specialty Services are offered.

The Health Care Agency is honored to be recognized and proud of the tremendous work that is done every day by the team of physicians, midwives, nurses, and support staff who deliver exceptional obstetrical care to the community.

For more information on services and classes, or to meet our providers and book an appointment, visit: <https://www.venturacountywomenshealth.com/>.

For background on the Maternity Honor Roll recognition visit: <https://calhospitalcompare.org/programs/>.

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A volunteer planting day was held at the Ventura Botanical Gardens. Photos by Patricia Schallert.



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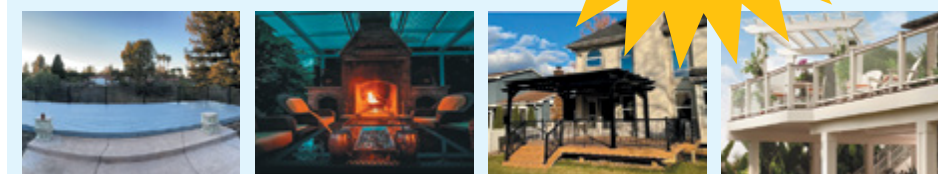
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VCTC in the news

Bus riders in Ventura County are now able to use a single, touch-free system to pay for fares on any of the county's regional buses, making it easier to use public transit to travel to work and appointments, to run essential errands and to simply get around.

The Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) has launched VCbuspass, a contactless fare collection system that allows passengers to pay for fares on any of eight Ventura County regional bus systems.

With VCbuspass, riders can buy bus passes online and use them directly from their mobile devices or use a reloadable smartcard when boarding buses. In addition to purchasing passes online, riders may visit one of the many transit pass ticket counters located across the county and load products onto their cards or mobile phone accounts using cash. Beginning this November, riders can go into any CVS drugstore to load value onto their account, with more stores to follow.

In December 2020, VCTC awarded a contract to Cubic Transportation Systems Inc. for the new regional county-wide system. The VCbuspass system is powered by Cubic's Umo Mobility app. The Umo Mobility app is available for both Android and Apple devices.

To begin using the system and to purchase a pass, passengers can download the Umo Mobility app, go to goventura.org/vcbuspass or visit a transit pass ticket location. An account is not required to use the system; however, riders are encouraged to register to receive alerts and take advantage of other customer features. Riders who choose not to use

VCbuspass can still use cash to pay fares when boarding.

The VCbuspass system is installed on over 160 vehicles across eight transit operator fleets, including Camarillo Area Transit, Gold Coast Transit District, Moorpark City Transit, Ojai Trolley, Simi Valley Transit, Thousand Oaks Transit, Valley Express Bus, and VCTC Intercity transit service. Passengers may buy 31-day passes or add "stored value" that lets riders pay as they go.

"The VCbuspass system gives transit riders all across the county, from Ventura to Simi Valley, greater convenience to buy passes online, and improved safety with faster, contactless boarding at the farebox," said VCTC Commissioner and Oxnard Mayor Pro Tem Bryan MacDonald.

More information about VCbuspass, including Frequently Asked Questions and sales locations, can be found on the VCTC website at goventura.org/vcbuspass.

VCTC invites public to meetings on unmet transit needs

The Ventura County Transportation Commission (VCTC) invites the public to attend an online Unmet Transit Needs community meeting or public hearing to let local government leaders hear ideas about how to improve bus service in Ventura County. The meetings are an opportunity for community members to tell VCTC what can be done to improve transit and to help local residents get where they need to go. Those unable to attend can share input at www.goventura.org/unmet-transit-needs.

"Each year, the annual Unmet Transit Needs process provides an opportunity

This 'n' That

for residents to share input to improve public transit in Ventura County," said Martin Erickson, VCTC transit director. "This year, as we continue to grapple with the challenges of the coronavirus, your input can help local transit operators to offer the most essential transit service to passengers."

The community meetings and public hearing are scheduled to be held on the following dates and times:

Virtual Community Meetings (links available at www.goventura.org/unmet-transit-needs):

Wednesday, Jan. 12 from 6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, Jan. 25 from 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Thursday, Feb. 3 from Noon - 1:00 p.m.

Public Hearing

Friday, Feb. 4 at 9 a.m.

Camarillo City Council Chambers, 601 Carmen Drive, Camarillo, CA 93010

The purpose of the meetings is to identify transit needs that are not currently being met and are reasonable to meet in Camarillo, Fillmore, Moorpark, Santa Paula, Thousand Oaks and adjacent areas of unincorporated Ventura County.

The Ventura County Transportation Commission is the regional transportation planning agency committed to keeping Ventura County moving. Program information is available at goventura.org.

Department of Education awards VCCCD colleges grants of nearly \$10 Million

Two Ventura County Community College District colleges have received multi-million-dollar federal grants to support STEM programs targeting underrepresented students interested in pursuing science, technology, engineering and math-related fields. A grant for Oxnard College totals \$4,901,245, and the grant for Ventura College is \$5 million. Both grants are for the period of Oct. 1, 2021, to Sept. 30, 2026.

"For the third consecutive time, the U.S. Department of Education has recognized Oxnard College's leading work in STEM education through the Hispanic-Serving Institution STEM grant," shared Luis Sanchez, president of Oxnard College. "This grant's renewal will infuse additional resources and staffing into our academic programs, expanding career pathways in STEM for countless Ventura County students and their families. We relish the opportunity to continue this life-changing work for our community."

Oxnard College's grant supports the college's Guided Pathways to STEM Careers project, which is grounded in published research and modeled after programs that produce intended outcomes in STEM.

Ventura College will use its grant for its Servingness: Aspiration, Identity, and Learning (S:AIL) in STEM project for students attending its main campus in Ventura and Ventura College East Campus in Santa Paula. This project aims to increase access and participation in STEM degrees/careers, provide more equitable degree and career outcomes and increase transfer rates

to STEM programs in the California State University and University of California systems.

"The college degree pipeline for Hispanic students most often starts at the community college level, but there are many barriers to educational attainment and transfer, particularly in STEM. This grant will help close the achievement gap for Ventura College students from underrepresented communities by providing them with resources to ensure their success in coursework at our college and later at a four-year college or university," said Dr. Kim Hoffmans, president of Ventura College.

Through the grant, Ventura College students will receive enhanced tutoring, counseling and service programs created to improve their academic success. This includes innovative and customized instruction in gateway English and math courses to retain students and accelerate program completion and transfer rates to four-year higher education institutions. The grant will also address the gaps in the community college to university pipeline by fostering flexible and affordable paths to obtaining knowledge and skills. This will occur through students' participation in experiential and work-based learning.

Oxnard and Ventura colleges are Hispanic-Serving Institutions, meaning they meet certain eligibility requirements as institutions of higher education, and the student population has at least 25% Hispanic students at the end of an award year immediately preceding the date of a grant application. Oxnard College counts 76% of its students as Hispanic, and Ventura College, 61%.

United Way announces departure of President & CEO

United Way of Ventura County (UWVC) announced that President and CEO Eric Harrison has notified the Board of Directors of his decision to resign from his role in order to accept the CEO position with United Way of Central and Northeastern Connecticut. Harrison joined UWVC in December 2014.

"Eric has provided creative and meaningful leadership to our United Way," said UWVC Board Chair Greg Gillespie.

During his time with UWVC, Harrison led the organization with a focus on innovation and results, launching and revitalizing several community initiatives, including Building

Healthy Smiles, which has helped 3,000 local children receive oral health assessments; the Thomas Fire and Flood Fund, which provided assistance to over 1,800 households affected by natural disasters; and the Landlord Engagement Program, which supports individuals, families, seniors, and veterans experiencing homelessness. In less than two years, the program has housed more than 100 individuals and families.

"I'm tremendously proud of everything that this organization has accomplished during the past seven years," said Harrison. "We've assembled a strong leadership team that is passionate about making a difference in the lives of our neighbors in Ventura County. I'm confident that the organization is in good hands and will continue its transformational work."

For more information about United Way of Ventura County, visit www.vcu-nitedway.org.