



# VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

Vol. 15, No. 9 Published Every Other Wednesday Established 2007 January 26 - February 8, 2022

CAPS Media's KPPQ-LP Radio station is celebrating a major milestone in February: 5 years of delivering non-stop, award-winning original and specially curated programming and entertainment to local and worldwide listeners.

KPPQ-LP FM 104.1 is Ventura's only non-commercial, public radio station. The CAPS Media station belongs to the public and reaches more than 100,000 people in Ventura and countless more worldwide.

Launched in 2017 the vibrant radio division of CAPS Media has grown steadily in a few short years to become one of the most engaging and go-to sites in Ventura. KPPQ broadcasts 2/47 everyday at 104.1 FM, and streams worldwide on myTuner radio and capsmedia.org. Week in and week out KPPQ-LP's everygrowing cadre of volunteers create innovative and engaging programming in the state-of-the-art radio studio in the CAPS Media center or, often during COVID crisis, in their home studios, delivering an eclectic mix of programming to KPPQ-LP listeners.

"The radio platform empowers women by keeping the conversation



## Happy 5th Birthday KPPQ Radio!

going, to highlight the stories of our local women and all that we are doing right here in our community—the place where change happens!" Kathleen Good, Host of In The Women's Room

"CAPS Media's KPPQ-LP is such a great service and resource for our

community. Being able to validate and share so much talent by playing music from local artists on my show is such a privilege." Pam, The Pam Baumgardner Music Hour.

"I was looking for a creative way to connect with my community. KPPQ

opened my eyes and my heart to radio and podcasting. I have truly connected with my community through Ventura Vibe!" Nadine Piche, Host of Ventura Vibe!

"I have had a voice in the community ... I'm thankful we have such a gem of a resource in our community and cannot wait to see what they do in 2022!" Michelle Hoover, Producer, Fireside Tails for Wolfgang

"Our work with CAPS Media and specifically what we've done in collaboration with KPPQ has been one of our most rewarding partnerships. Youth that have had the opportunity to be interviewed in the studio always walk away from that experience inspired and excited. It's been a great privilege to partner with them." Craig Rosen, Host of Teen Centric, Director of the Arts & Youth Justice program

"Elizabeth Rodeno and the good people at CAPS media helped me learn radio production. With their wonderful facilities and training...I have gone on to create two radio shows and an international podcast. THANK YOU CAPS and

*Continued on page 16*



*There were over 20 homes in the Keys with damage to their docks/ramps. Photos by Patricia Schallert, Russ Jenkins and Sheilla Leiman.*

## Tsunami activity in the Ventura Harbor and Ventura Keys

An undersea volcano erupted in spectacular fashion near the Pacific nation of Tonga, sending large tsunami waves crashing across the globe. Harbor Patrol Rescue Boat 17, docked at the time, was inundated with an outgoing surge, capsized and sunk in the

*Continued on page 3*



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# Share Your Love for Walking, Biking and Rolling

The route between you and me has no detour

## in VENTURA



**Thursday,  
February 17, 2022  
6:00 PM - 8:00 PM**



Register to attend

Send in your ideas for making walking, biking, and accessing transit better.

Join the virtual workshop or watch it live on YouTube.

[www.ActivePlanVentura.com](http://www.ActivePlanVentura.com)

Follow us on social media @cityofventura



## City News

### Share your love for walking, biking, and rolling in Ventura

by Public Works Director Phil Nelson

Wheel you be our valentine?

There's so much to love about Ventura, especially when it comes to enjoying time outdoors with our remarkable year-round climate! We love seeing the community get moving, whether it's biking to one of our many bike paths, walking or rolling to the beach, or hopping on local transit to head downtown.

On Thursday, February 17, the City will host a virtual workshop at 6:00 p.m. to gather ideas on improving active transportation options in Ventura. We invite the community to ask questions and share their ideas with us during the public meeting!

Workshop participants will have an opportunity to ask questions, preview current bike and pedestrian networks, and review the City's Active Transportation Plan. Additionally, participants can share ideas for how the City should prioritize improvements such as building sidewalk connections near schools

and parks or enhancing existing sidewalks near popular destinations.

The City's public works department launched the Active Transportation Plan in summer 2021, thanks to funding provided by Caltrans. This project is important because it creates a roadmap to improve walking, biking, and transit through future projects and programs. Additionally, the project includes information about safe routes to school, a traffic safety program for K-12 students and families, and a program called complete streets, which outlines standards for transportation infrastructures throughout the City.

In the last several months, we've collected thousands of ideas through surveys, visited local schools to learn more about pedestrian safety for students, met with community stakeholder groups, and hosted virtual and pop-up events to gather a diverse mix of feedback.

Everyone's feedback is important!

To register for the virtual workshop, sign up to receive email updates, and review the latest findings from the community, visit [www.ActivePlanVentura.com](http://www.ActivePlanVentura.com).

The workshop will also be streamed live on YouTube. A recording will also be posted to the project's website for those who can't join us.

## Emergency action for tsunami damages approved

Ventura Harbor experienced unpredictable currents and damaging surges following a massive undersea volcanic eruption near Tonga on Saturday, January 14, 2022. As a result, the Ventura Port District Board of Commissioners took immediate action at their Board Meeting held January 19, 2022, by approving a State of Emergency resolution to restore District assets in the Ventura Harbor.

Thankfully, no injuries were reported in the Ventura area following the Hunga Tonga Tsunami Advisory. However, the powerful surges led to damage of both public and private property in the Ventura Harbor and the adjoining Ventura Keys. There are at least two dozen damaged docks at multiple marinas and private residences and two Ventura Harbor Patrol Boats have been rendered out of commission.

"Our Commission's swift action in adopting an emergency resolution paves the way for the repair and replacement of Port District assets," said Brian Pendleton, Ventura Port District General Manager. "It will also help the Port to expedite and restore redundancy for our on-water patrol and emergency response capabilities," Pendleton added.

The Harbor remains open, including the public launch ramp. Recreational activities on the water were temporarily discouraged during the surges, however all activities have since resumed. It is still advisable to proceed with caution as some navigation buoys are absent and residual

debris may still be in the water.

Following the tsunami activity, Senior Harbor Patrol Officer, Pat Hummer, conducted a depth soundings to evaluate the conditions of the entrance channel and inner harbor. The sounding showed that sand removed during the surges has increased the water depth, which is one silver lining for the boat traffic in Ventura Harbor overall.

"The efforts by our Harbormaster and Ventura Harbor Patrol officers are commendable, as they offer around the clock support to help safeguard the public and property whenever possible," said Pendleton. Channel Watch Marine/Tow Boat US/Vessel Assist Ventura also aided in towing and removal of debris. Both teams partnered for a quick response to those in our coastal community during the surges. around the world," Pendleton said.

Below, the Ventura Port District shares resources and contacts for assistance to those affected by the tsunami surges in the Ventura Keys and Ventura Harbor. As more information becomes available, updated resources and information will be available on [VenturaHarbor.com](http://VenturaHarbor.com).

City of Ventura-Contact: Dara C. Sanders, Planning Manager, Community Development Department, City of Ventura: [dsanders@cityofventura.ca.gov](mailto:dsanders@cityofventura.ca.gov)

California Coastal Commission-Contact: [SouthCentralCoast@coastal.ca.gov](mailto:SouthCentralCoast@coastal.ca.gov) and visit <https://www.coastal.ca.gov/cdp/cdp-forms.html> to identify the appropriate applications

For repair work that involves pile replacement or other disturbance of the seafloor

US Army Corps of Engineers-Contact: Antal Szijj, Team Lead, Regulatory Division, Ventura Field Office: [Antal.J.Szijj@usace.army.mil](mailto:Antal.J.Szijj@usace.army.mil)

Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board-Contact: Emily Duncan, Ph.D., Senior Environmental Scientist, Regional Programs Section: [Emily.Duncan@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Emily.Duncan@waterboards.ca.gov)



Arroyo Verde Inclusive Play Area. For more information visit [www.cityofventura.ca.gov/AVP](http://www.cityofventura.ca.gov/AVP). Photos by Patricia Schallert.



## Community Events

### Ventura events

by Ana Baker

**The Ventura Investment Group 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! It is 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 93030. Nine to Noon, Monday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. All are welcome.

**Jan. 26: The College Area Community Council will be holding a Zoom meeting on Wednesday at 7 p.m.** An invitation and link to the meeting will be sent to everyone on the CACC mailing list. Council meetings include speakers and discussions on neighborhood and community interest topics, including public safety and economic development. State Assemblymember Steve Bennett will review state policies that affect Ventura County. Brandon Kaysen will explain the new Ventura food waste recycling program. Visit the College Area Community Council website @ caccventura.com to learn more, to be added to the mailing list, and to access a link to the Zoom meeting."

**Feb. 3: Join UCSB Arts & Lectures to present Celebrated Violin Virtuoso Joshua Bell, violin and Peter Dugan, piano on Thursday at 7 p.m. at The Granada Theatre.** With a career spanning almost four decades, Grammy-winning violinist Joshua Bell is one of the most celebrated artists of his era. Named Musical America's 2010 Instrumentalist of the Year and an Indiana Living Legend, Bell serves as music director of the Academy of St Martin in the Fields. He appears in recital with Peter Dugan, the "fearlessly athletic" (San Francisco Chronicle) pianist and host of NPR's From the Top.

**Feb. 6: Open house tours of the 1892 Dudley Historic House Museum—with COVID protocols—will take place on Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m.** Tour group size will be limited. Admission is free. The museum is located at Loma Vista and Ashwood street (197 N. Ashwood). For information, please call 642-3345 or visit the website at dudleyhouse.org.

**Feb. 19: The Ventura County Genealogical Society presents free Family History presentations online with Zoom on Saturday 1to 4 p.m. 1:00 p.m.** Presenter: Drew Smith "AncestryDNA Today" VCGS General Meeting Lecture sponsored by the DNA SIG. AncestryDNA continues to add new tools to help match other testers, categorize the matches into groups, and discover the right relationships. This presentation focuses on using the latest AncestryDNA tools (ThruLines, groups, etc.) to identify relatives near and distant. <https://venturacogensoc.org/this-month/> Drew Smith has been a librarian in the Academic Services department at the University of South Florida (USF) Tampa Library since 2007.

### Ojai news and events

On March 12 Broadway put aside the industry adage "The show must go on," and suspended all plays in the wake of the spreading coronavirus. At the Ojai

Art Center Theater plans for the opening of "Vanya and Sonia and Masha and Spike" spun into limbo, landing on postponement.

Almost two years later Christopher Durang's multi-award-winning comedy finally hits the OACT stage through February 13.

In his day job Peter Schreiner, who plays Vanya, works as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker for Ventura County so he knows how people develop this type of interdependence on each other.

Calamity comes in the form of Masha, Vanya and Sonia's flamboyant movie star sister. Masha, played by Tracey Williams Sutton, blows in to first invite them to a fancy party, then informs them she plans to sell the house.

"This crisis of potentially losing the house has been thrown in their laps and somehow they manage to navigate through the whole thing," said Peter. "That's part of the comedy of the brilliant Christopher Durang, showing how Vanya and Sonia weave their way through the problem to make a leap in their personal growth."

Vanya's character manifests his transformation through a tirade about the shallowness of today's world, how so many things exist but come and go so quickly. He mourns a sense of shared experiences, like laughing at an episode of Ozzie and Harriet when televisions only aired three channels, instead of 785 on contemporary TVs. Plus, "We licked postage stamps!"

Plus, for the first time ever patrons get to choose their seats when they buy tickets.

**The Ojai Unified School District unanimously voted to give 60 days notice to terminate an agreement with a developer who planned to build a hotel.**

Unhappy with how the developer handled relations with Ojai that overwhelmingly objected to a plan to develop on school district property, school trustees said they will end the district's exclusive pact with SVS Dev LLC to build the hotel.

**Tsunami activity in Ventura Harbor**  
*Continued from page 1*  
Pierpont Basin.

From the Ventura Fire Department:

"On the above date (Jan. 15) and time, a call was received by the on-duty Fire Battalion Chief of extreme tidal activity in the Ventura Harbor and the Ventura Keys. Fire personnel arrived on scene within minutes of the initial call and upon assessment of the harbor area, it was determined that the extreme high and low tidal surges were a result of seismic activity in the Tonga region of the South Pacific. Emergency personnel from various agencies assessed the area and found that numerous docks and boats were damaged because of the extreme tidal surges. The surge activity lasted several hours, and emergency personnel rescued numerous boats and docks that had broken loose during this incident."

"At the time of this media release, no injuries to emergency personnel have been reported. The Ventura City Fire Department would like to remind the public to review the Ventura City Tsunami evacuation plan and be familiar with evacuation routes."

For further information on the damage caused by the tsunami see page 2.

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## Food Waste Recycling Starts in the New Year!

**Starting Jan. 3, food waste recycling services began for all residents of cities served by Harrison Industries.**  
(Residents in unincorporated areas will begin in mid 2022.)

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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# 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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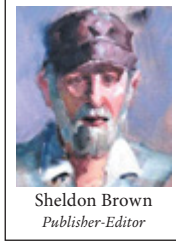
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Nothing splendid  
has ever been  
achieved except  
by those who  
dared believe that  
something inside  
them was superior  
to circumstance.  
— John Barton

## Opinion/Editorial



Sheldon Brown  
Publisher-Editor

■ On this issue's cover we have an article covering the fifth anniversary of KPPQ-LP FM 104.1. I briefly had a radio show on **KPPQ** where I interviewed local government officials and local personalities. CAPS made it easy to learn how to do the show with easily understood classes, instructions, training and an engineer helping to produce the show. It was a wonderful experience and opportunity. You should consider having your own show. You could start by interviewing me.

■ According to the U.S. Geological Survey, a magnitude 3.1 earthquake was reported Jan. 16 four miles from Ventura. An average of 234 earthquakes with magnitudes between 3.0 and 4.0 occur each year in California and nearby Nevada. Coupled with the tsunami, I think mother nature (we always blame the ladies) is trying to tell us something.

■ Recently there were two occurrences of theft in the trailhead parking area at Harmon Canyon Preserve. Both involved windows of **parked vehicles** being smashed. When enjoying the outdoors (or anywhere else), please remember do not leave valuables in your vehicle.

I'm always shocked when someone says, "My car was broken into and my wallet, 5 credit cards, my laptop and my cell phone were stolen." In this case, maybe they deserve it.

■ Saturday marks the 49th anniversary of the supreme court's **Roe v Wade** decision, the landmark ruling that guaranteed the right to an abortion. I certainly hope it is not the last anniversary before it is overturned.

During oral arguments for Dobbs v Jackson Women's Health Organization last year, a majority of the court appeared ready to severely weaken or overturn Roe v Wade.

In my opinion (that's what my column is-always glad to hear yours), such a reversal would be a disaster.

Many Democratic-led states will hopefully pass laws protecting abortion rights. I hope that states can enforce this. Republicans are all for state rights unless they don't agree with what the states do.

Congresswoman Julia Brownley stated, "The threat to the right to choose is in danger as state legislatures throughout the country seek to diminish access

to abortion, which exacerbate racial and economic injustices that harm women, families, and communities. Abortion coverage bans are discriminatory policies that target people of color and young people, who deserve agency over their own bodies. That is why I voted for the House Majority's funding bill that provides increased funding for family planning and repeals the dangerous Hyde Amendment."

■ To help discourage **wasteful water users**, such as hosing off driveways, the state has imposed new water use laws. It prohibits uses such as washing cars without a shutoff nozzle, washing down driveways and watering grass within 48 hours after a rain fall (minimum .02" of rain). Water police will be out looking for those who break these laws. If necessary, they will arrest you using water pistols (individuals may also own water pistols as guaranteed by the constitution). I will be launching the NWGA.

■ Stewart Rhodes, founder, and leader of the far-right **Oath Keepers** has been arrested and charged with seditious conspiracy in the Jan.6 invasion of the US Capitol.

He is charged, with more than a dozen other members and associates of Oath Keepers who went to Washington intent on stopping the certification of our newly elected president. It is the first time the Justice Department has brought such charges against people who did not enter the building but are accused of encouraging the violence (does that sound familiar?).

■ Who wouldn't prefer living in a nice warm house or apartment in Ventura as compared to living on a cold **hard sidewalk**? This is what the homeless are expected to do. It's heartbreaking to me that people are expected to exist under awful living conditions because they are offered no other places to pitch their tents or to live in with some safety and some comfort.

Ventura does offer one such area, though twenty-five dome structures at River Haven provide housing for the homeless, but much more is needed. California will spend a record \$4.8 billion over the next two years to alleviate homelessness in our communities. The package will mark the state's largest financial commitment to assisting people without adequate and safe housing. Also, construction has started on a 19-story homeless housing project in the Skid

Row area in Los Angeles. The 278-unit Weingart Tower replaces a parking lot. This is the first stage of a project that will eventually have 382 units.

I know that some people say why should we help these bums? The majority of these "bums" are mentally ill or are on drugs that they can't quit. And many people are now a paycheck away from becoming homeless or have become homeless because of COVID.

■ From NPR:

The bad news keeps on coming for **President Biden**. He ended 2021 at a low point in his presidency, hoping to turn it around in the new year.

But things have only gotten worse. His spending and voting rights plans are at congressional dead ends. Inflation remains at multi-decade highs. The omicron variant of the coronavirus continues a rapid spread. The Supreme Court ruled against his administration's vaccine-or-test mandate. And there are rising threats from Russia and North Korea.

Presidents need to be able to do multiple things at once, but that's a lot weighing down Biden. And his approval rating is suffering because of it. Biden's average approval rating sits at about 42%, and a Quinnipiac poll this week had it at 33%.

From me: Being president is a tough job. Because the US is equally divided between Republicans and Democrats a president can be great and still only have a 50% approval rating.

■ New York Attorney General Letitia James' office says it needs the testimony of former President **Donald Trump** and two of his adult children to determine their knowledge of what investigators say they have identified as numerous "misleading statements and omissions" in tax submissions and financial statements used to obtain loans.

■ Copied from on-line NBC

The staggering spike in **COVID-19** cases nationwide fueled mainly by the highly contagious omicron variant has many American's questioning how long it will take for the pandemic to finally subside for good. While no crystal ball can provide an exact timeline, several medical experts help lay out what the future might hold.

The changeover for an infectious disease from a pandemic to an endemic occurs when the virus is found regularly in a particular area or among people. The key difference in an endemic condition is that the virus is more manageable with greater population immunity.

The common cold and flu are examples of endemic viral infections that are frequently encountered by the public. Medical Director for Infection Prevention at the Mount Sinai Health System, Dr. Bernard Camins, believes the Sars-Cov-2 virus will eventually become endemic over time.

"The definition of endemicity is that Sars-Cov-2] will come back yearly, especially when winter comes. When it becomes endemic, though, it should not affect a large portion of the population -- only certain groups," Dr. Camins said to NBC New York.

It may take a matter of years before Sars-Cov-2 stops hindering widespread travel plans, hospitalization rates, and healthcare systems, Dr. Camins added.

We encourage you to send your opinions to [opinions@venturabreeze.com](mailto:opinions@venturabreeze.com). Please limit them to about 300 words

## Mailbox

Breeze:

This Covid sickness is like nothing I have ever had before. Lots of body pains (mostly lower back). Coughing and aches. Hard to sleep. I feel weak as a kitten. Last night was the worst. It keeps changing on you. But, I am going to rest as much as I can. Going to let it run its way though me.

Richard Senate

Breeze:

First I would like to say how much I like the Breeze for local information. I moved to Ventura in 2005 and subscribed to the Star for local information and goings on until they kept cutting back on local info. I stopped my subscription when the Star had the same info as the LA Times. But then I found you. I retired here to be in a small town and was interested in everything Ventura. Keep up the good work!

In that vein I would like to offer two

suggestions for improvement to your most recent Editorial. The paragraph on Julia Brownley begs the question if she lost the cities of Ventura and Ojai who is going to represent them? If it is still to be determined why not say so? And secondly in the paragraph on permits and approvals, if you do not like the huge amount of multi-unit projects on Thompson a sentence or two to say why would be informative.

Keep up your good work. I look forward to each informative edition.

Dennis Watson

Dennis: Regarding Julia Brownley her term here will end in January, 2023 so still with us for a year. At that time Salud Carbajal will take over.

Regarding the proliferation of very expensive condos (\$800,000 and up) I'm concerned about the additional cars and the gentrification of Ventura to exclude folks that need to work here but can't afford to live here and the diversity of our population.



# News & Notes

**The Bookmark**

## About Libraries and Friends

by Jill Forman

**What's going on?**

As I write this, the facilities of the City and County of Ventura are closed to the public. Emergency and essential services continue to function.

Having misplaced my crystal ball...the original reopening date for the libraries was January 26 but no updates have been posted. The City has extended its closure until January 31.

The libraries are functioning with their normal hours. Readers can reserve their books online and pick them up at the branches. Computer kits are available. Storytimes have been held outdoors at Foster, online at other locations.

The Ukulele Jam took January off. Open Mike continues in a virtual format.

Carts of books for patrons to browse and check out are outdoors at Foster. Hill Road has books displayed in their window and another display of "Books About Books."

The Mobile Library is still making stops; their schedule is available on the library web site.

Speaking of the website, it is [vencolibrary.org](http://vencolibrary.org).

Book groups (online?)

Hill Road – Tues Feb 22nd at 5 p.m. The Lost Roses by Martha Hall Kelley

Foster – On hiatus until April.

**Ventura Friends of the Library News**

Our financial reports have come in for

the end of the year. Considering that our physical sale venues were closed for half the year, the numbers are impressive.

Book sales totaled at \$31,000 (all figures rounded off):

Foster Bookstore - \$10,300

Hill Road shelves - \$1100

Amazon sales - \$9400

EBay sales - \$500

Bulk sales (at warehouse) – 1000

Warehouse sales (to book dealers) - \$2700

In-person book sales - \$3700

Online Bookstore - \$2200

Other income comes from donations, investments and Memberships. Showing how much the community supports the libraries, donations and grants came in to the tune of \$12,000 and memberships totaled \$14,200. As a result of hard work, flexibility and perseverance the Friends were able to give the libraries the gift of \$53,500 last year!

Book Donations – Donation bins are outdoors during curbside hours at Foster and Hill Road. Please, just one bag of books at a time. The warehouse continues to accept donations on Fridays 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Due to the huge amounts of donated books we are receiving, we can still use volunteers at the warehouse.

Books, and our libraries, have helped many of us through the last two years. The Ventura Friends of the Library have supported all these efforts with time, money, and a lot of work. So...here's my blurb of the day: Join Ventura Friends of the Library. Student: \$10; Individual: \$25; Family: \$35. Download application to become a member, join online, or make a donation: [Venturafriendsofthelibrary.org](http://Venturafriendsofthelibrary.org).

## Ventura Executive Suites Welcomes You

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## TREE TOWN



Harmon Canyon is home to many mature Coast Live Oak trees, which were blackened in the Thomas Fire. Some were destroyed, but most are still alive and showing healthy new growth after the recent rains. California native oaks are resilient and can live hundreds of years, providing shade and habitat for wildlife. [www.venturatreealliance.com](http://www.venturatreealliance.com)



Black Bear Diner has opened its 2nd Ventura County location at 2401 E. Harbor Blvd in Ventura. The first Black Bear Diner in Ventura County opened in Simi Valley on May 28, 2019.

Founded in 1995, Black Bear Diner is a fast-growing family restaurant with over 110 locations. Breakfast is served all day. Learn more at [blackbeardiner.com](http://blackbeardiner.com)

Photo by Patricia Schallert.



The Westpark Community Garden has 22 plots available to rent to community members. Managed by the Parks and Recreation Department, the garden attracts community members who live near Westpark, enjoy cultivating the land, and celebrating their harvest.

Contact Ryan Power Recreation Coordinator [rpower@cityofventura.ca.gov](mailto:rpower@cityofventura.ca.gov) 805-648-1895

Photos by Patricia Schallert.



## News & Notes

### Person To Person

by Amy Brown

# Looking Back and Ahead in Ventura



#### Lawren Agnew:

Preschool teacher/ Varsity cheer coach

*What did you see in Ventura in 2021 that was encouraging?*

We're all masked up, but I find it encouraging to hope for a future of not that. It was great being outside more, seeing people's smiles, it really gave me hope for the future. Everything we've been through, just seeing how positive and generous and nice people are, even in a pandemic, whether it's just to open a door, and be encouraging to each other. I think last year we were able to be more comfortable around people—before that in the pandemic, we were nervous to even talk to a stranger. Last year we had football games, and great to be able to get together again, outside while taking other safety precautions. Spreading their joy with everyone around them really encourages me for the future. I loved getting dressed up again in 2021, it was nice not being in pajamas all the time.

*What would you like to see improve in*

*the city in 2022?*

Well, of course the pavement and roads need to be improved. I hope one thing they don't change is downtown, with the ability for folks to be eating outside.

*What did you personally learn from last year?*

I've been a really adaptable person, but this last year especially, with all the ups and downs, not just Covid, but life in general, I learned to be more adaptive and always have a plan. I learned to be more open to other plans—instead of being stubborn with my one plan—and see what can work. Also being more appreciative of the little things, and enjoy people more, and be more outgoing.



#### Britney Mendoza:

Owner, Candle company

*What did you see in Ventura in 2021 that was encouraging?*

It was more encouraging that the community was finally coming through outside, and not stuck inside. I'm a vendor, and got to see markets outside, people becoming a unit and taking care of each other in a big community and also

in their own small community.

For example, I have what are called candle cousins, I'm not the only candle maker in Ventura county—there are at least six others, and now we all get together online, and have meetings, letting each other know, 'I'll be at this market,' so we aren't in each other's way. It's kind of nice, since you'd think they'd just be competitive, but it's not like that at all—I see that people are very helpful.

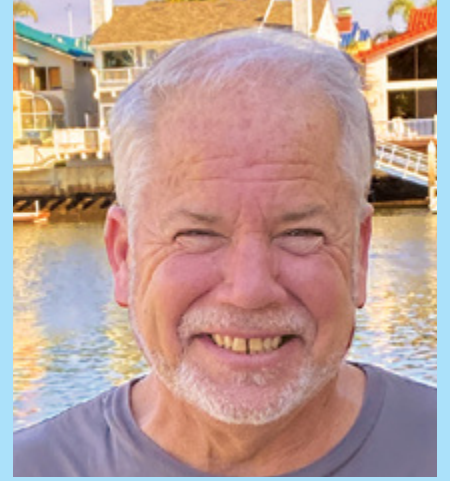
*What would you like to see improve in the city in 2022?*

I would like to see that the testing sites come back, so they're more accessible and you don't have to have a doctor's appointment. I'd like to see the small mom and pop stores get more support—I'm so afraid you hear a lot of stores not making it, we have a lot of small businesses, it's unfortunate to see them closing because they don't have the right tools to reach their customers.

*What did you personally learn from last year?*

I grew as a person to have more patience and tolerant with myself and towards other people as we all navigate through these tricky times.

I also learned patience in starting a new business, Thirty Four Charms, in July, and everything is not going not be happy go lucky the first few months. However, it's going very well, we just landed a local retail spot. Starting a new business is terrifying, but extremely exciting at the same time. This is going to be a big year, I manifest it, I believe it and now I am seeing it.



#### Tommy O'Halloran:

Self-employed

*What did you see in Ventura in 2021 that was encouraging?*

Most impressive thing I saw was on Main Street, with the restaurants outside doing the best they could to keep things alive and kicking. Having that accessibility was amazing.

It seems like the city did a good job trying to keep the people that are actually homeless off the streets, either sheltered or directed to help. The city stepped up and offered services, like on the river bottom on Harbor, they went through and so many county services showed up and started helping these people with housing and clothing.

*What would you like to see improve in 2022?*

I'd like to see them address all the potholes, and for sure make more available test sites.

*What did you personally learn from last year?*

That wearing a mask is really no big deal. I know some people resisted. Think about somebody other than yourself, why not just take the precaution? And of course, patience. Just give it a little more room—there's no hurry to get to the next red light, and do what you can for others.



**We have the tools to fight this COVID-19 surge**

Find information on COVID-19 vaccines and testing at [www.vcrecovers.org](http://www.vcrecovers.org)

Make a vaccine appointment at [MyTurn.CA.gov](http://MyTurn.CA.gov) or call 833-422-4255



Get **vaccinated** and **boosted**



**Stay home** when you are sick



Wear a **mask**



**Get tested** when you have symptoms or have been exposed



Consider **temporarily pausing** on attending unnecessary indoor events



COUNTY of VENTURA



# Senior Living



Do only people in their 70s and older get Alzheimer's disease?

## Alzheimer's is just one type of dementia.

Alzheimer's disease is a leading cause of death in the United States, and millions of Americans are affected by the disease. It's important to distinguish the facts from the myths about Alzheimer's, especially when it comes to finding information online. Read on to learn about common myths surrounding this disease.

People often use the terms Alzheimer's disease and dementia interchangeably, but there is a difference. Dementia refers to impaired memory, thinking, reasoning, and behavior, and Alzheimer's is just one type of dementia. The terms are likely confused because Alzheimer's is the most common cause of dementia and the most well-known. But there are other types of dementia, too, including Lewy body dementia, frontotemporal dementia, and vascular dementia.

### I will develop Alzheimer's disease if my parent has it

If a parent or close relative has Alzheimer's disease, you may be worried about developing it as you get older. A person's chance of developing Alzheimer's is higher if they have certain genetic mutations or variations that can be passed down from a parent. However, just because a biological parent has Alzheimer's does not mean that their children will develop it.

Alzheimer's disease is complex, and scientists don't yet fully understand what causes it in most people. Research suggests that in most individuals, a host of factors beyond genetics play a role in the development and course of the disease. Environmental and lifestyle factors, such as exercise, diet, exposure to pollutants, and smoking may also affect a person's risk for Alzheimer's. Although we don't yet know how to prevent Alzheimer's, it's important to practice healthy behaviors throughout

your lifetime, such as exercising regularly and eating a balanced diet.

### Only people in their 70s and older get Alzheimer's disease

While the greatest known risk factor for Alzheimer's is age, that does not mean that only older adults develop it. For most people with Alzheimer's, it's true that symptoms first appear in their mid-60s or beyond. However, some people experience symptoms earlier, even as young as their 30s. When a person develops Alzheimer's between their 30s and mid-60s, it's called early-onset Alzheimer's. Early-onset Alzheimer's is rare – representing less than 10% of people with Alzheimer's. Developing Alzheimer's earlier in life can present specific challenges. People diagnosed at younger ages may be more likely to be raising children who are still at home or managing work and having to apply for disability than those who are diagnosed at older ages.

Many people with Down syndrome, a genetic condition, will also develop Alzheimer's at an earlier age and may begin to show symptoms in their 40s.

Many people become more forgetful as they age, and some forgetfulness, such as losing things from time to time, is normal. However, common signs and symptoms of Alzheimer's, such as making poor judgments and decisions a lot of the time, having problems recognizing friends and family, or losing track of the date or time of year are not a normal part of aging.

If you are worried about your memory or other possible Alzheimer's symptoms, talk with your doctor. The doctor may ask questions about your health history, perform assessments of your thinking and memory, and carry out medical tests

*Continued on page 9*

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Each live webinar session focuses on one of the **FIVE WISHES**, guiding you through the successful completion of your own Advance Care Directive.

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## Senior Living



*Tooth loss can result in problems that might lead to nutritional deficiencies.*

### Tooth loss in older adults linked to higher risk of dementia

Older adults with tooth loss have a higher risk of cognitive impairment and dementia, with increasing risk with each missing tooth, according to a new study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Directors Association*.

Problems with oral health, such as poor oral hygiene, tooth cavities, gum disease, and tooth loss, are more common in older adults than in other age groups. Older adults are also more likely to have cognitive impairment or dementia, and recent studies have suggested a link between oral health and these conditions. To get a comprehensive picture of this association, NIA-supported researchers led by a team at New York University analyzed results from several long-term studies on the link between tooth loss

and the risk of cognitive impairment.

The researchers conducted a detailed search of six major databases of biomedical science publications and identified 14 relevant studies. These studies used questionnaires, assessments, medical records, and information from death certificates to identify participants with cognitive impairment or dementia. Out of a total of 34,074 participants, 4,689 had cognitive impairment or dementia. The studies used medical examinations and self-reported records to assess tooth loss and classified participants as having more or fewer missing teeth.

The researchers found that participants with more missing teeth had, on average, a 48% higher risk of cognitive impairment and a 28% higher risk of dementia. The relationship between tooth loss and cognitive decline was “dose-dependent”: Each lost tooth was associated with a 1.4% increase in the risk of cognitive impairment and a 1.1% increase in the risk of dementia. Participants who were missing 20 or more teeth had a 31% higher risk of cognitive impairment. Participants who had lost all their teeth had a 54% higher risk of cognitive impairment and a 40% higher risk of dementia. Interestingly, participants who had missing teeth but used dentures did not have a significantly higher risk of dementia than participants without missing teeth.

The researchers note that the reason for this association between tooth loss and the risk of cognitive decline is unclear. Still, tooth loss can result in problems with chewing that might lead to nutritional deficiencies, chemical imbalances, or changes to the brain that

affect brain function. Also, poor oral hygiene might lead to increased bacteria in the mouth and to gum disease, which can cause inflammation and raise the risk of beta-amyloid plaques in the brain, leading to dementia. Tooth loss without the use of dentures might also be an indication of lower socioeconomic status and lower education level, both of which are independently linked to an increased risk of dementia. Alternatively, missing teeth might be an early sign of cognitive impairment: People with cognitive decline might be less likely to keep up with oral hygiene, leading to tooth loss.

The research was limited by the fact that the various publications studied used different methods of data collection and data analysis. However, the results suggest that timely interventions, such as encouraging the use of dentures and other orthodontic treatments and large-scale education programs on the importance of oral hygiene in older adults, might help prevent or slow down cognitive decline linked to tooth loss.

This research was funded in part by NIA grant R56AG067619.

### Tips for people with dementia

People with dementia experience a range of symptoms related to changes in thinking, remembering, reasoning, and behavior. Living with dementia presents unique challenges, but there are steps you can take to help now and in the future.

Alzheimer’s disease and related dementias get worse over time. Even

simple everyday activities can become difficult to complete. To help cope with changes in memory and thinking, consider strategies that can make daily tasks easier. Try to adopt them early on so you will have more time to adjust. You can:

Write down to-do lists, appointments, and events in a notebook or calendar.

Set up automated bill payments and consider asking someone you trust to help manage your finances.

Have your groceries delivered.

Manage your medications with a weekly pillbox, a pillbox with reminders (like an alarm), or a medication dispenser.

Ask your doctor to provide a care plan and write down care directions (or have a family member or friend take notes during the visit).

Sleep Tips for People Living With Dementia

Dementia often changes a person’s sleeping habits. You may sleep a lot, or not enough, and wake up many times during the night. Poor sleep quality can make dementia symptoms worse.

Tips for better and safer sleep:

Follow a regular schedule by going to sleep and getting up at the same time each day, even on weekends or when traveling.

Develop a relaxing bedtime routine with lowered lights, cool temperature, and no electronic screens.

Avoid caffeine and naps late in the day.

Have a lamp that’s easy to reach and turn on, a nightlight in the hallway or bathroom, and a flashlight nearby.

Keep a telephone with emergency numbers by your bed.

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## Senior Living

Talk to your doctor if you have problems sleeping.

Healthy and Active Lifestyle Tips for People Living With Dementia

Participating in activities you enjoy and getting exercise may help you feel better, stay social, maintain a healthy weight, and have regular sleep habits.

Try these tips for a healthy and active lifestyle:

Try to be physically active for at least 30 minutes on most or all days of the week. But be realistic about how much activity you can do at one time. Several short “mini-workouts” may be best.

Aim for a mix of exercise types – endurance, strength, balance, and flexibility. For example, you could do a mix of walking or dancing, lifting weights, standing on one foot, and stretching. Even everyday activities like household chores and gardening help you stay active.

Your diet may need to change as dementia progresses to maintain a healthy weight. Talk with your doctor about the best diet for you, and choose nutritious foods such as fruits and vegetables, whole grains, and lean sources of protein and dairy products. Avoid added sugars, saturated fats, and sodium.

Stay social by talking on the phone with family and friends, joining an online support group, or going for a walk in your neighborhood.

Finding Care and Support: Tips for People Living With Dementia

Many people may be able to help in different ways. These people might include family members, friends, professional caregivers, community organizations, and others with dementia. For example, you can:

Ask friends or family to help with needs like cooking, paying bills, transportation, or shopping.

If you live alone, find people you trust who can visit often.

Consider letting trusted neighbors know of your diagnosis so they can help if needed.

Use social service agencies, local nonprofits, and Area Agencies on Aging to connect with in-home help, transportation, meals, and other services.



Nutritious meals for older adults available.

## Senior meals

The Ventura County Area Agency on Aging (VCAA) along with various local partners, provide nutritious meals for older adults within Ventura County through the Senior Nutrition Program (SNP), which includes Congregate and Home-Delivered Meal (HDM) services. Our meal programs give seniors access to nutritious meals and contribute to maintaining their health, safety, dignity and quality of life. Last year, VCAA provided a total of 744,115 SNP meals to 5,632 seniors. Nearly 38% (283,114) of these meals were delivered to 1,730 homebound seniors from 11 meal sites throughout the county, mostly using volunteer drivers.

All SNP meals are approved by our Registered Dietitian to meet U.S. Dietary Guidelines for Americans and geared toward the Dietary Reference Intake (DRI) and Adequate Intake for vitamins and elements for older, frail adults. These meals provide a minimum of one-third of the DRI and accommodate diabetic and low-sodium diets.

The Senior Nutrition Program is not income based. There's a suggested donation of \$3 per meal, however no eligible individual (60 years and over) will be denied participation because of failure or inability to contribute. This valuable service is sustained with the help of contributions. We are grateful for any contribution made.

To find a local dining site or home-delivered meal program near you, see our list of countywide meal service locations go to [VCAA.org](http://VCAA.org).

## Oasis Connections program offers discounted classes for aging adults

The Oasis Institute, a nonprofit educational organization dedicated to enriching the lives of adults ages 50+, is offering discounted online safety courses for seniors beginning January 28 in recognition of Data Privacy Week. Created by the National Cybersecurity Alliance (NCA), the initiative encourages individuals to keep their personal data secure and businesses to uphold transparency when it comes to collecting and using such information. Featured Oasis technology classes will be available in an exclusive discounted bundle of “four for \$22 in 2022” (a \$40 value) to educate seniors about internet safety and best cybersecurity practices. The Oasis Connections program, specifically designed for adult learners, has provided high-quality technology education, digital literacy courses, and resources for more than 20 years.

Every year in the United States, millions of seniors are victims of fraud and financial scams. According to the FTC and FBI, cybercrimes against seniors have increased five times since 2014, and have cost more than \$650 million in losses per year. Oasis Connections equips older adults with the skills needed to be safe online through courses that teach participants best security practices to protect their personal information, how to recognize specific threats such as phishing, how to use Wi-Fi safely, and much more.

“Often, seniors have not enabled security settings and are not aware of the nuanced tactics cybercriminals use today,” said Amy VanDeVelde, Technology Education Director. “Older adults who have not been using the internet for very long or who did not participate in security awareness education that many jobs now require need more information. Data Privacy Week, recognized from January 24–28, is a great opportunity to draw attention to the resources that are available for people interested in improving their online safety habits.”



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Classes begin January 28 and will be held live via Zoom for four consecutive Fridays at noon central. Participants can purchase four classes for just \$22 by visiting <https://www.oasiseverywhere.org>, selecting “View Classes,” and entering “bundle” in the search field.

The 2022 Cybersecurity Bundle includes:

Class 1: Online Safety Overview: Friday, January 28, 2022

Class 2: What’s the Best Browser for Me?: Friday, February 4, 2022

Class 3: Going Wireless: How to Use Wi-Fi: Friday, February 11, 2022

Class 4: Phishing and Identity Theft: Friday, February 18, 2022

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to my 90-year-old mother who suffered COVID at approximately the same time at the height of the pandemic before such things as vaccines were even on the table. What is now called a “long-hauler,” Mom had had to give up her home in Nebraska and had moved half a continent away to live with the only child who would take her in here in Ventura.

Hard words to say, but perhaps David had it better.

On our way home, Nancy and I passed the County of Ventura Government Center. An unmasked crowd had gathered with Trump flags and banners declaring “Don’t VAX my kids!” Cars honked as they passed. Me? I gave them my middle finger. At home, Mom didn’t even seem to notice we had been gone for nearly the whole day.

COVID.

“No,” said my wife, removing envelopes and junk-mail papers from the trash bin. “These go into the recycle bin, Roberta.” She had told Mom this some fifty times already. And we would do so some fifty times more. Day in, day out. COVID had stolen Mom’s ability to process short-term memory, and each day was Ground Hog Day. Over and over again.

COVID.

If you don’t think you need to get vaccinated; if you think it’s a “deep-state” hoax and Biden conspiracy; if you think you are safe: Think again. Meanwhile, just this past week, our next door neighbor’s daughter went to school on Monday and came home with COVID, variety Omicron, on Tuesday. We are not at the end. Quite frankly, I believe this has only begun.

To all deniers: Wake up! It’s here. It’s real. It’s killing people. It’s taking away their minds. It’s attacking their children. It’s making their families grieve and struggle as never before since World War II in a living hell.

COVID.

It’s real. And it’s devastating to all those it hits. And it is far from over. Listen, and be safe. If not for yourself, then for David, for Mom, and for little Gillean next door.

*Editor: Is this an opinion? We couldn’t decide so up to you.*

### Alzheimer’s is just one type

*Continued from page 7*

to determine your diagnosis.

There are no treatments available for people with Alzheimer’s disease. There has been significant progress toward developing better treatments for people with Alzheimer’s. Several medications are available that can help treat people with Alzheimer’s disease. There are also coping strategies to help manage behavioral symptoms.

While there is currently no cure for Alzheimer’s disease, thanks to scientific advances, research has never been more promising. In total, NIA is funding more than 250 clinical trials including both drug and nondrug interventions. These include testing treatments that target behavior and lifestyle factors as well as underlying causes of the disease.



# The Pet Page



## Dedicated to Scamp

From CARL: 2021 started out just as tough as 2020 ended. With the pandemic continuing into its second year, our rescue saw a continued large increase in owner surrenders and more dogs looking for their second chance at a happy life waiting in high kill shelters. We have seen such tremendous support for the dogs in our rescue thanks to our rescue village. With over 100 finding their forever homes this year, we have a few stories that have touched our hearts, that we wanted to share with you all.

April 2021: Sasha was found as a stray and ended up at the Devore Animal Shelter in San Bernardino County. She was immediately put on the euthanasia list and hidden in their quarantine section due to her behavior. She was labeled as aggressive and her future looked grim. Thankfully we were able to save her and she gained a second chance. Once she arrived we saw a very young girl who was looking for structure and training. We knew it was going to take a special person to be the one to adopt her.

Fast forward to November 2021, and Sasha is now in her forever home. Her new owner loves her just as much as we all did. She likes to spend her time drinking from the water hose and lounging at the picnic table.

What started out as a pandemic foster, turned into a forever home for CARL long term resident Mamba. It was never understood why Mamba was never adopted during her 12 years at CARL. She is a very happy gal with good spirits and a loveable smile. Maybe she had fallen victim to “Black Dog Syndrome”, maybe it was because she wasn’t the right fit for those who were interested, or maybe she was closer to her person than anyone realized.

In early 2017, Chrissy began volunteering with CARL and soon enough she became Mamba’s friend. Over the years they created a special bond and once the pandemic hit, Chrissy chose Mamba to be her work from home buddy after spending years in a kennel environment. After a year of being roommates, Chrissy knew she had to make it official. Mamba now spends her day lounging around the house, watching neighbors from the window, and seeing her other 4-legged friends around her home.

How you can help today:

Dog rescue never stops and everyday a new surprise arises. We have been fortunate to continue to save the lives of countless dogs who are looking for their forever homes. Below are a few ways to help benefit the dogs at CARL:

Donate directly to CARL through Network for Good or Paypal

Donate items from our Amazon Wishlist  
Use the WoofTrax app when you go for a walk

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram  
Canine Adoption and Rescue League  
PO Box 5022  
Ventura, CA 93005

SPAN Thrift Store is open to the public and looking for donations of adult clothing,

household items and tools if you’ve got items you no longer use. SPAN Thrift Store regularly provides \$10 spays and neuters for low income households with cats and dogs.

Three upcoming clinics are: Tuesday, February 8th at Shiells Park, in the parking lot, located at 649 C St., Fillmore, 93015, a second clinic on Tuesday, February 15th in the SPAN Thrift Store parking lot 110 N. Olive St. (behind Vons on Main), and a third clinic in the SPARC parking lot, located at 705 E. Santa Barbara St., Santa Paula, 93060, on Tuesday, February 22nd.

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

Dear Friends,

Ventura County Animal Services participated in the #BettyWhiteChallenge, a nationwide fundraising event kickstarted on Twitter and shared by well-known celebrities. The trending movement, inspired by Betty White’s long history of animal activism, called upon the community to donate \$5.00 to their local animal shelters on Monday, January 17, 2022, what would have been her 100th birthday.

VCAS set a modest fundraising goal of \$10,000 and quickly launched our participation in the challenge. We are absolutely thrilled to announce that we exceeded our original fundraising goal by leaps and bounds, collecting an extraordinary \$51,510! We received nationwide coverage on NBC4 and held a concurrent pet adoption event which resulted in 24 animals finding loving, forever homes. We were both surprised and honored by the massive outpour of support from our Ventura County community and we wish to thank all who participated in the Betty White Challenge!

Please consider being a part of this movement and donating today at [www.vcas.us/donate](http://www.vcas.us/donate). Ventura County Animal Services.

An athletic Hungarian farm dog and a tiny pet of bygone Russian aristocrats are the latest breeds in the American Kennel Club’s purebred lineup.

The club announced that it’s recognizing the Russian toy and the mudi. That means they’re eligible to compete for best in show at many U.S. dog shows, including the AKC’s big annual championship and the prestigious Westminster Kennel Club show.

The mudi (whose American fans pronounce its name like “moody,” although the vowel sound in Hungarian is closer to the “u” in “pudding”) descended from long lines of Hungarian sheepdogs before a museum director took an interest in the breed and gave it a name around 1930. Fans say the medium-size, shaggy dogs are vigorous, versatile and hardworking, able to herd sheep, hunt boars, snag rats and compete in canine sports such as agility and dock diving.

The Russian toy developed from small English terriers that gained the fancy of Russian elites by the early 1700s. The diminutive dogs — supposed to weigh no more than 6.5 pounds (2.7 kg) — have a leggy silhouette, perky expression and lively demeanor, breeders say.

These additions bring the number of AKC-recognized breeds to 199.

## Scamp Club

(Scampclub pets are not for adoption.)



Hi: My name is Lulu. No, I’m not a puppy, I am 16-years-young. I love living in Ventura and running on the beach.

## Join Scamp Club

Animals of all sorts can join the ScampClub. Email me your picture and a little about yourself to [Scampclub@venturabreeze.com](mailto:Scampclub@venturabreeze.com). You will be in the Breeze and become world famous.

Lost pet? Go to [LostCatVenturaCounty.com](http://LostCatVenturaCounty.com) or [LostDogVenturaCounty.com](http://LostDogVenturaCounty.com) - free websites for finding and posting when you’ve lost or found a cat or dog.

## Forever homes wanted

Rascal is a 2-year-old Shepherd mix who was rescued from a high-kill shelter. He has been going off site lately and has shown his true love for walks and car rides. He has worked on long leash walks and has done great. Rascal would make a great companion for someone who is willing to take the time to get to know him. If you’re looking for a guy that would make a great walk or hiking buddy, who you can toss the ball around with, Rascal is your guy.

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



Fred is a handsome 8-year-old domestic medium hair neutered male. He has been lucky enough to spend time in a foster home. He loves to be brushed and be pampered and is mellow gentleman and would love a household that matches his vibe. If you’re interested in meeting Fred, please reach out to our Feline Care Coordinator at Dereka. [Schoenewald@ventura.org!](mailto:Schoenewald@ventura.org!)

Animal ID: A785937

Adoption Sign-up and Process: [www.vcas.us/adoptionprocess](http://www.vcas.us/adoptionprocess)



The mudi is a new breed in the American Kennel Club’s purebred lineup.

**SPAN Thrift Store**  
**SPAY/NEUTER ANIMAL NETWORK**

**\$10 Low/No Income Spay & Neuter**  
Tuesday, Feb. 8th  
Shiells Park parking lot.  
649 C Street, Fillmore, CA 93015  
Must call for appointment  
(805) 584-3823

**\$10 Low/No Income Spay & Neuter**  
Tuesday, Feb. 15th  
in SPAN parking lot.  
Must call for appointment (805) 584-3823

**\$10 Low/No Income Spay & Neuter**  
Tuesday, Feb. 22nd  
in SPARC parking lot.  
705 E. Santa Barbara St.  
Santa Paula, CA 93060  
Must call for appointment  
(805) 584-3823

**WE ARE OPEN!**  
**10am - 4pm Tues, Thurs & Sat**  
Call us today!  
**805.641.1170 110 A & B N. Olive St., Ventura CA 93001 [www.spanonline.org](http://www.spanonline.org)**



# Police Reports

by Cindy Summers

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

## Possession of Illegal Narcotics for Sale

On January 12, at 4:00 am, a Ventura Police Patrol officer stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation at Santa Clara St and Hemlock St. The officer located a loaded firearm being illegally carried in the vehicle. During the investigation, officers found 41-year-old Ventura resident Brenton Cherrie in possession of two illegal loaded handguns, a silencer, and two high-capacity magazines. Officers also located large amounts of marijuana, fentanyl, methamphetamines, LSD, and Psilocybin (Mushrooms).

Cherrie was arrested and booked at the Ventura County Jail for possession of narcotics for sales, possession of marijuana for sales, possession of psilocybin for sales, possession of high-capacity magazines, possession of a firearm silencer, possession of narcotics and a firearm, and carrying a loaded firearm in a vehicle.

## Arrest for Possession of a Stolen Vehicle, Driving while under the influence of drugs, and evading arrest.

On January 14, at approximately 8:30 am, a Ventura Police Department Motor Officer attempted to make a traffic enforcement stop on a vehicle for excessive speed. When the officer attempted to make the traffic stop, the vehicle's driver failed to yield and continued driving. Approximately one minute later, the vehicle stopped in the area of Community Memorial Hospital and the three occupants of the vehicle fled on foot in an effort to evade arrest.

Multiple Ventura Police Motor Units and Patrol Units responded to that area and began a search for the occupants. Ultimately, the driver, 30 year old Oxnard resident Robert Pulido, was located by an officer hiding in the bed of a pickup truck in the parking lot of Community Memorial Hospital. Officers suspected that the vehicle may be stolen, so they contacted the registered owner. The owner indicated that the vehicle was in fact stolen out of Oxnard earlier that same date.

## Unlawful Taking a Vehicle, Carrying a Loaded Firearm in Public

On January 17, at 8:00 am, a Ventura Police Street Crimes Unit detective received information that a car was stolen out of Thousand Oaks by 27-year-old Los Angeles resident Mantej Sunner, a wanted felon. The detective located the vehicle in the parking lot of the Victoria Motel in Ventura. Detectives took Sunner safely into custody when he left the motel.

During the arrest, Sunner had a firearm concealed on his person. Sunner was arrested for Vehicle Theft, Carrying a Concealed Firearm in Public, Possession of a Firearm with Controlled Substances, Felon in Possession of a Firearm, and warrants from LA and Ventura County. Sunner was booked at the Ventura County Jail.



## Vehicle of interest in a fatal hit and run collision located

On January 7, at approximately 5:00 am, the Ventura Police Command Center

received a 911 call of a subject down in the roadway on Harbor Bl., between Sanjon Rd. and Vista Del Mar Drive.

Responding officers arrived on scene and found an unresponsive male subject laying in the eastbound lane of Harbor Boulevard. Fire and paramedic personnel rendered immediate medical attention, but the victim succumbed to his injuries as a result of the collision.

Ventura police have located the vehicle believed involved in a fatal hit-and-run but the driver has yet to be found.

# Harbor Patrol Blotter

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

**01/04** 5:06pm, received report, hazard to navigation in the keys. Officers responded and found a dock box submerged, removed it. Contacted a number inside and the owner advised they haven't lived in the keys for years, placed in L&F.

**01/07** 11:58pm, dispatched to chest pain at the Holiday Inn. Officers responded with AMR and attempted to assist the patient but they refused medical aid.

**01/08** 10:53am, received report of vessel accident at VIM L-dock. Officers responded and investigated. Disabled vessel collided with a catamaran on the endtie. Minor damage was observed and the both parties were advised of the situation.

6:56pm, dispatched to a fall victim at the Greek restaurant. Officers went and found an 60 y/o male with a laceration on his head. Patient transported by AMR

**01/09** 5:30am, observed NWS issued a Small Craft Advisory. Officers raised pennants.

10:40am, received report of two overdue Standup paddlers on a long distance trip. Officers investigated, and the two SUP'ers were found safe.

11:55am, officers en route to the docks in front of the Greek restaurant to lifeguard the swim for the cross event, "the Greek epiphany."

**01/10** 2:39am, dispatched to a fall victim at VWM. Officers responded and assisted a 64 y/o male that fell earlier and wanted ride to hospital, AMR transported patient

**01/11** 4:35am, dispatched to a traffic accident on Spinnaker Dr. Officers responded and found a vehicle into a light pole. No injuries, but VPD arrested driver for suspicion of driving under the influence. Edison contacted about light pole.

11:59am, received report of a subject threatening to shoot someone. Officers advised to call police. Explaining to the caller that the Harbor Patrol are "boating" officers focusing on education and are not armed police officers.

10:13pm, dispatched to an ill person with Covid 19 at one of the marinas. Officers responded and assisted AMR with the call. All precautions taken.

**01/12** 8:49am, dispatched to a missing surfer at the Ventura Pier. Officers responded and found a surfboard broken in half. The surfer was eventually found onshore.

11:50pm, dispatched to a missing 50 y/o female, last scene near Harbor Cove. Officers assisted VPD with the search,

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Moving Up?  
Moving Out?**

**I can help you with that!**

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**805.701.7694**

**TEAMTRAINOR12@GMAIL.COM**

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the person was located 4 hours later on a commercial fishing vessel with a friend. No injuries or crimes observed.

**01/13** 10:57am, dispatched to an injured surfer near the Santa Clara Rivermouth. Officers responded with VFD/AMR to assist. Patrol transported patient to medics in Surfers Knoll lot. Patient transported for possible collar bone fracture

**01/14** 10:00am, Officers assisting VC Sheriff with their helicopter training at the end of Spinnaker Drive. They were conducting hoisting rescue operations.

**01/15** 5:00am, received report of a

tsunami advisory in effect for California from Tonga underwater volcanic eruption. Officers contacting marinas and receiving requests for information. Attempting to call all available officers to work.

10:50am, while searching offshore and from HQ for a missing sailboat, tragically, Rescue Boat 17, docked at the time, was inundated with an outgoing surge, capsized and sunk in the Pierpont Basin. Tow Boat US was able to raise the vessel, towed to the boatyard, hauled out where it awaits a survey of damage.

**VENTURA BOTANICAL GARDENS**

Photo: Phil Ranger

*Awaiting our*

## SPRING FORECAST

**Free Admission on Groundhog Day**

The Karoo Garden aloe is in bloom now and the Fynbos Garden protea will be in bloom coming the end of February. Bring your family and friends to enjoy the Gardens. Leashed dogs are welcome.

Be sure to stop into our courtyard garden shop, browse our plants and pottery, and ask about our plant sponsorships.

JOIN US

Wednesday, February 2

HOURS

9am-5pm

SUPPORT THE VENTURA BOTANICAL GARDENS, BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

567 S. Poli St. | 805.232.3113 | VenturaBotanicalGardens.com

**Weekly SUDOKU**

Answer

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

**King Crossword**

Answers

Solution time: 23 mins.

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



by Pam Baumgardner  
VenturaRocks.com

Though the sign wasn't up the last time I drove past, the construction continues on the Ventura Music Hall (where Discovery was formerly located on Thompson Blvd). More and more shows are being added to their roster, many of which are indie bands, but several are more well known such as Flogging Molly, Gary Numan, and country/bluegrass legend Marty Stuart. At press time, the first show continues to be G. Love & the Juice on March 22. Keep in the loop and bookmark their website VenturaMusicHall.com.

I had to take a double take at the new festival making the circuit with a date coming up in early spring for Ventura, it's called the Punk in Drublic Craft Beer & Music Festival landing at the Ventura Fairgrounds on March 27. As the website states, the festival is created from the mind and livers of NOFX's front man Fat Mike and craft beer fanatic/festival promoter Cameron Collins. Ventura's date features NOFX, Pennywise, Face to Face, Lagwagon, Ill Repute, Dr. Know, the Last Gang and more. Get more information and purchase your tickets at PunkInDrublicFest.com.

I'm so proud of the Grape bringing such talent to Ventura. Case in point, on Thursday, January 27, it's Brian Charette Trio; Charette was the winner of the 2014 Downbeat Critics' Poll "Rising Star: Organ" award and 2015 Hot House Magazine's "Fan's Decision Jazz Award for Best Organist". Last year he placed 3rd in the 2021 Downbeat Critic's Poll. Rounding out the trio will be Joel Taylor on drums, and Doug Webb on sax.

The Circle Jerks pulled the plug on their 2021 tour, but they've re-scheduled dates for 2022. You can catch them at the Ventura Theater on Sunday, February 20 with all tickets previously purchased being honored. Don't forget the Ventura Theater requires a negative COVID-19 test result within 72 hours of the event, OR proof of vaccination for entry. Masks are also required when not actively eating or drinking; and as a gentle reminder per the Ventura Theater's website, no moshing is allowed.

Quick Notes: Twist on Main is temporarily closed for upgrades, but reopening early February; Michael Feinstein plays the Oxnard Performing Arts Center Saturday, February 5; SuperDuperKyle returns to Ventura Theater Friday, March 18; and the Young Ones showcase features up and coming talent at the Vine on Monday evenings with Beckett & the Rebels playing January 31.

And finally, congratulations to Tommy Quayle on the release of his latest record Awakenings. It was

recorded over the past two years during the pandemic. JP Hesser co-produced, mixed and recorded most of the cuts. You can hear the title single on my radio show, the Pam Baumgardner Music Hour on KPPQ-LP at 104.1 FM, or listen online at CAPSMedia.org/radio. The program runs Tuesdays and Fridays at 5 and Sundays at noon.

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

### Boatyard Pub

#### Ventura Harbor

Wednesdays: Frank Barajas  
Thursdays: Jim Friery; then Bluegrass Jam  
Fri 2/4: Teresa Russell & 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

Sat 1/29: Katie Shorey

Sat 2/5: The Jukes

### 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 1/29: Decadent Decades

### Copa Cubana

#### Ventura Harbor Village

Saturdays and Sundays: Kenny DeVoe (11 am)

Sun 1/30: Karen Eden & the Bad Apples (3 pm)

### Four Brix Winery

#### 2290 Eastman Ave., Ventura

Music Fridays 6-8 pm; Saturday 1 – 3:30 pm

Fri 1/28: Whiskey Business

Sat 1/29: Brandon Ragan

Fri 2/4: Ignition

### The Garage

#### 1091 Scandia Ave., Ventura

Wednesdays: Blues Wednesday

Sundays: Soul Sunday w/ DJ Also

Sat 1/29: Mark Masson Band

### GiGi's Cocktails

#### 2493 Grand Ave., Ventura

Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays: Karaoke

Sat 2/5: Teresa Russell

### The Grape

#### 2833 E. Main Street, Ventura

Tuesdays Jazz Jam

Saturday afternoons Salsa with

Fausto Cuevas y la Moderna (2 pm)

Wed 1/26: Guil Juliao Trio

Thurs 1/27: Brian Charette Trio

Fri 1/28: WeBBinney

Sat 1/29: Mitchel Forman 4Tet

### Judge Roy Beans

#### 2780 Tapo Canyon Road, Simi Valley

Fri 1/28: Fasha & the Flapjacks

Sat 1/29: Fasha & the Flapjacks

### Keynote Lounge

#### 10245 E Telephone Rd, Ventura

Thursdays: KJ Carlos

Fri 1/28: Vinyl Gypsies

Sat 1/29: DJ Joe

### Leashless Brewing

#### 585 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

Music 6:30 – 8:30; Sundays 3-5

Thurs 1/27: Lacie Mae

Fri 1/28: TC King

Sat 1/29: Singular Nature

Sun 1/30: Christopher Hawley

### Lookout & Grill

#### 2800 S. Harbor Blvd., Oxnard

Wednesdays: Tommy Foytek's Variety Show

Thursdays: Acoustic Open Mic

### Lucas Sellers Wine

#### 330 Zachary Street, Moorpark

Music 6-9 pm

Sat 1/29: Bill Rotella

Sat 2/5: Singular Nature

### Made West Brewing

#### 1744 Donlon Street, Ventura

Sun 1/30: Gianna Bella

Sat 2/5: Jess Bush

### Majestic Ventura Theater

#### 26 S. Chestnut Street, Ventura

Thurs 1/27: Subtronics

Fri 1/28: Smith/Kotzen, Raised on Vinyl, Black Dragon

### Manhattan Restaurant

#### 5800 Santa Rosa Road, Camarillo

Music 6:30 – 9:30 pm

Fri 1/28: Pam and Hollywood

Sat 1/29: Jeanne Tatum

### Mrs. Olson's

#### 2800 Harbor Blvd., Channel Islands Harbor

Music at Noon

Sat 1/29: CRV

Sun 1/30: Teresa Russell w/ Stephen Geyer

### Namba Art

#### 47 S. Oak Street, Ventura

Sun 1/30: Sunday Morning Praise Band (3 pm)

Sat 2/5: SideMen

### Ojai Underground Exchange

#### 616 Pearl Street, Ojai

Fri 2/4: James Lee Stanley & Dan Navarro

Sat 2/5: Molly Miller, Mark Goldenberg, Adam Levy

### Oxnard Performing Arts Center

#### Canyon at Oxnard PACC

Fri 2/4: Sly Slick & Wicked, Aalon, Miriah Avilah

Sat 2/5: Michael Feinstein

### Paddy's Cocktails

#### 2 W. Main Street

Wednesdays: Karaoke

### Pedals & Pints

#### 156 W. Hillcrest Drive, Thousand Oaks

Tuesdays: Open Mic

Sat 1/29: Kenzie Mae

Fri 2/4: Fam Bam Jam Band

Sat 2/5: Justin Honsinger

### Poseidon Brewing Co.

### 5777 Olivas Park Dr., Ventura

Fri 1/28: Vanise Terry Band

### Prime Restaurant

#### 2209 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

Tuesdays: Danny D

### The Raven Tavern

#### 1651 S. Victoria Ave., Oxnard

Music at 7-10 pm

Fri 1/28: The Remedies

Sat 1/29: Vinyl Gypsies

### 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

Fri 1/28: Mighty Cash Cats; Route 62

Sat 1/29: Ripkatz

Sun 1/30: Bum Roots Project

Fri 2/4: The Dirty Lowdown

Sat 2/5: Sound of the Ghosts; dosTRIOS

### The Shores

#### 1031 Harbor Blvd., Oxnard

Fri 2/4: CRV

### The Six Chow House

#### 419 E Main Street, Ventura

Fri 1/28: GrooveSession

Sat 1/29: Power Syndicate

Sun 1/30: Whiskey Business

Fri 2/4: ADD

Sat 2/5: TV Broken, Katie Skene, Brion Shearer's Reliable Villians

### Sunland Vintage Winery

#### 1321 E. Thousand Oaks Blvd., Thousand Oaks

Music 6-9 pm

Thursdays: Dave & Kevin

### Taqueria Jalisco Restaurant

#### 4275 Tierra Rejada Rd., Moorpark

Music 5-8 pm

Tuesdays & Fridays: Jim Friery

### Topa Topa Brewing

#### 341 Ojai Ave., Ojai

Fri 1/28: Sam Kulchin

### Topa Topa Brewing

#### 104 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

Thurs 1/27: Dylan Cunningham

### 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

Mon 1/31: Beckett & the Rebels

### Winchesters

#### 632 E. Main St., Ventura

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

Thurs 1/27: Milo Sledge

Fri 1/28: Steve and Sally Williams

Sun 1/30: Keyth Garcia

Thurs 2/3: Will Breman

Fri 2/4: Miss Bix & the Nervous Ticks

Sun 2/6: Karen Eden & the Bad Apples

### 1901 Speakeasy

#### 740 South B Street, Oxnard

Music 6:30 – 9:30 pm

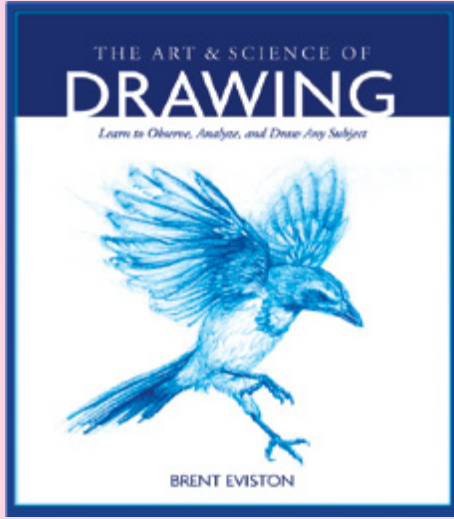
Fri 1/28: Teresa Russell w/ Stephen Geyer & Mama Pat

Sat 1/29: Corey Highberg

ventura Music Scene



Introducing The Art & Science of Drawing: Learn to Observe, Analyze, and Draw Any Subject by Brent Eviston, a new guidebook that will teach you the fundamentals of good drawing. Based on his more than twenty years of teaching, The Art & Science of Drawing shares author and drawing instructor Brent Eviston's secrets that provide the most accessible, streamlined, and effective methods for learning to draw.



"It begins with the most basic skills like how to hold the pencil and how to draw basic shapes before moving on to more complex subjects like three-dimensional drawing, contour drawing, measuring, and shading," Eviston said. "By working through this book, you will learn the skills and processes necessary for good drawing." The Art & Science of Drawing is a project-based book, meaning each chapter contains a series of lessons and each lesson ends with a project.

Designed for the absolute beginner as well as more experienced artists looking to improve their skills and master the fundamentals, The Art & Science of Drawing will serve as a foundation upon which you can build new skills to suit your creative ambitions.

"Every day I work with people who learn to draw. These are ordinary people without special skills or advantages," he said. "With good instruction and dedicated practice, you can, and will, learn to draw."

## "Open Air Pottery Market - Valentine Celebration"

February 12 & 13, 11 AM to 6 PM both days  
Ventura Pottery Gallery  
1567 Spinnaker Drive Suite 105

Valentine's Day - say it with flowers, say it with candy - but also say it permanently with clay. We have heart mugs and dragon mugs, yarn bowls, rice bowls, heart dishes, ceramic jewelry, sea creatures, flame-ware pottery for cooking, surfers riding waves, candle holders and juicers for your main squeeze.

We invite you to stop by and explore the well-priced creations from over 40 local potters who exhibit at the gallery.



The Ventura County Potters' Guild, a non-profit founded in 1957, continues its mission of promoting ceramic arts through the Gallery, workshops, and monthly meetings. The monthly meetings are open to the public and feature ceramic demonstrations or presentations. More information can be found at [www.venturapottersguild.org](http://www.venturapottersguild.org). Can't make it to the gallery? Please visit our Online Store at [www.venturapotteryonline.com](http://www.venturapotteryonline.com).

# Ventura Art Scene

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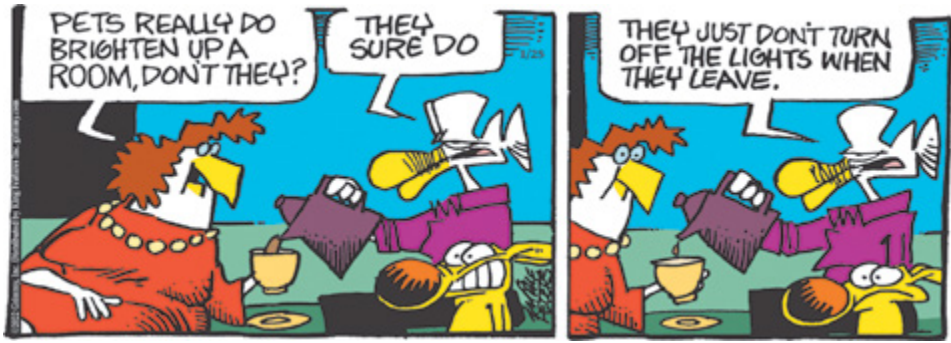
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# Lighter Breeze

## Mother Goose and Grimm



## Between Friends



## Blondie



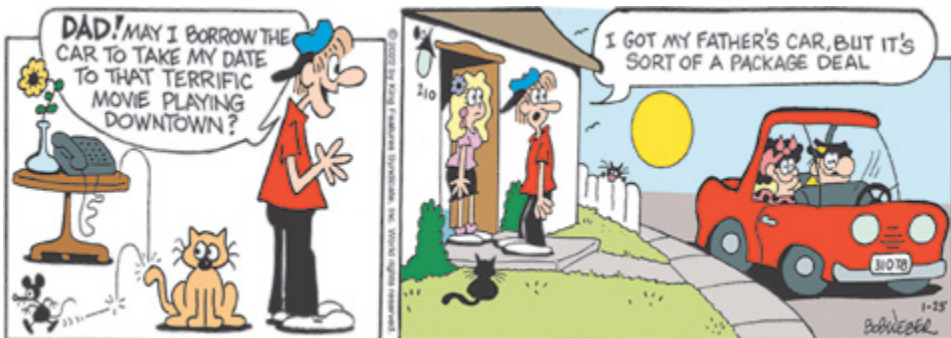
## Beetle Bailey



## Crock



## Moose and Molly



Solutions on page 11

(For a beginners guide to playing Sudoku go to [venturabreeze.com](http://venturabreeze.com))

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

## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

### DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

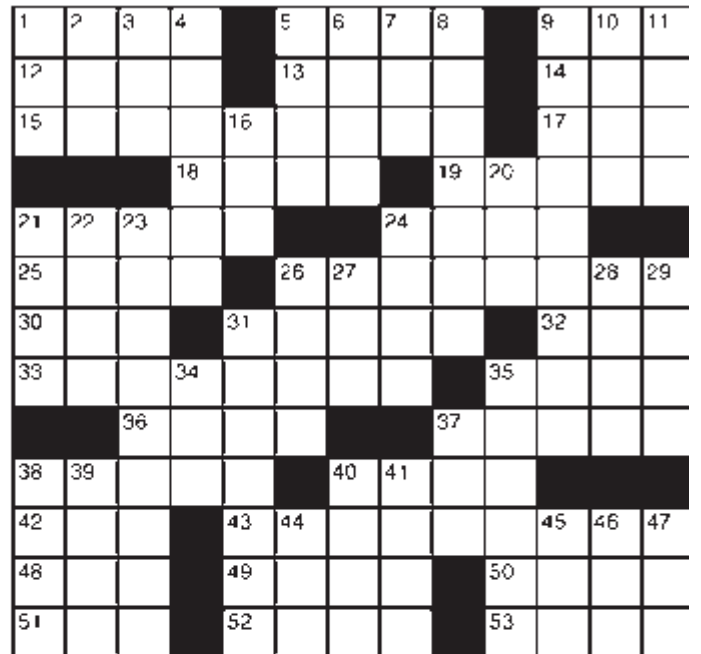
◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging  
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

Solutions on page 11

## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Hula swivelers
- 5 Kvetch
- 9 Comedian Margaret
- 12 Inky stain
- 13 Stead
- 14 Bond rating
- 15 Sooner State native
- 17 "The A-Team" actor
- 18 Trails
- 19 Rose parts
- 21 Halloween disguises
- 24 Rating unit
- 25 iPhone downloads
- 26 Skunk relatives
- 30 " — was saying ..."
- 31 Passion
- 32 — tai
- 33 Olympic winner
- 35 Poet of yore
- 36 Dutch cheese
- 37 Arm bones
- 38 Peer in a box
- 40 The Emerald Isle
- 42 Branch
- 43 Intermediary
- 48 "Patience — virtue"
- 49 Thus
- 50 Corn recipe



- 51 PC linkup
- 52 Calendar squares
- 53 Fill up
- 9 TV station employee
- 10 Injure
- 11 Feed-bag filler
- 16 Possesses
- 20 Tic- — -toe
- 21 Sir's counter-part
- 22 Church section
- 23 Peter Parker's alter ego
- 24 Coin aperture
- 26 Prudish
- 27 Takes too much, in med. lingo
- 28 Skater Lipinski
- 29 Faction
- 31 Fear-stricken
- 34 Big fuss
- 35 Censors
- 37 Internet address
- 38 Hoosegow
- 39 Celestial bear
- 40 Jittery
- 41 Altar vows
- 44 Roth svgs. plan
- 45 Extinct bird
- 46 Picnic crasher
- 47 Born

### DOWN

- 1 "Veep" aier
- 2 Sort
- 3 D.C. figure
- 4 Celery servings
- 5 Drain blockage
- 6 Intends
- 7 Actor Stephen
- 8 Groan-inducing humorist

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**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) You might feel comfortable in your familiar surroundings, but it might be time to venture into something new. There's a challenge out there that's just right for you.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) Your love of things that are new gets a big boost as you encounter a situation that opens up new and exciting vistas. How far you go with it depends on you.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) That recent workplace shift might not seem to be paying off as you expected. But be patient. There are changes coming that could make a big difference.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) While few can match the Goat's fiscal wizardry, you still need to be wary in your dealings. There might be a problem you should know about sooner rather than later.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) Easy does it when it comes to love and all the other good things in life. Don't try to force them to develop on your schedule. Best to let it happen naturally.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) A surprise decision by someone you trust causes some stormy moments. But a frank discussion explains everything, and helps save a cherished relationship.

**YOU BORN THIS WEEK:** Sometimes you forget to take care of yourself, because you're so busy caring for others. But you wouldn't have it any other way.

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# Showtime

A View from House Seats

## Ojai Stage Fills with Layers of Life

by Shirley Lorraine

Isn't it frustrating when something (or someone) comes along to throw a proverbial wrench into your nice, quiet, predictable life? Suddenly your world is in chaos, and no one seems to know how to cope with the smallest things.

Such is the premise presented in Christopher Durang's 2013 Tony-winning Best Play, *Vanya, Sonia, Masha and Spike* now playing at the Ojai Art Center Theater.

Siblings Vanya (Peter Schreiner) and adopted sister Sonia (Laurie Walters) have been living in the family home they grew up in, after both of their parents have passed on. Mom and Dad were both college professors, so they named their children after characters from the works of Anton Chekhov. Vanya and Sonia stayed on, each bemoaning the life they allowed to pass them by. Each feels unfulfilled but reluctant to leave the comfort of their routines.

The action that follows has been described as "Chekhov in a blender" by director Taylor Kasch. Vanya and Sonia's world implodes as older sister Masha (Tracey Williams Sutton), now a successful stage and movie actor, arrives at the ancestral home to announce plans to sell the property. She brings with her Spike (James James), a young, studly actor clearly beneath her station. Together they shake up the staid existence led by Vanya and Sonia, leading to a series of emotional Strum und Drang monologues.

The two siblings' completely relatable relationship of I-love-you, I-hate-you resonates loudly as the play rises to a crescendo. Along the way, Boomers and

beyond enjoy numerous references to "the good old days" of our youth. There was a plethora of knowing nods in the audience on opening night.

In the direct center of the swirling emotional storm enters Cassandra (Cynthia Killion), the occasional maid and full-time wacko whose psychic pronouncements are a portent of things to come. Seemingly random utterings drift into realizations that become meaningful to the others as events unfold.

A sweet, naïve, girl visiting next door named Nina (newcomer Beltane Howden) becomes part of the character mix, adding to the layers of emotions the family experiences. An aspiring actress herself, Nina is enthralled by Vanya's play writing skills, eagerly participating in a "reading" that quickly evolves into a tirade by Vanya about the public's current lack of shared experiences.

There are many layers to this piece that seem to build from the very depths of each character's soul. The situations are, at the core, recognizable, relatable and highly amusing. The actors are fascinating to watch as they embody not only the characters on the surface, but also the "everyman" quality of each one individually and as unit. The performances are mesmerizing.

It is always a joy to watch actors enjoy attacking their roles with abandon. Director Kasch has assembled a tight ensemble for our enjoyment.

VSMS runs Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. through February 13. Socially distanced seating is assigned, and masks are required. Some strong language.

she discovered after the crash while in the woods. Shauna (Melanie Lynskey) ended up marrying Jeff after returning home and was living the life of a settled housewife, though very suspicious of her husband's continual late nights at the office.

Teen Misty (Samantha Hanratty) was intelligent but socially awkward and a bit of an outcast with the team where she was assistant to the assistant coach. Though helpful with emergency medical knowledge to deal with the serious injuries that happened in the crash, she seemed to sabotage things to keep her new found role of importance in the group. Misty (Christina Ricci) worked in a nursing home, but had strange hobbies like being part of an online crime solving group and was repeatedly caught undermining some efforts with issues the group faced as adults.

Teen Natalie (Sophie Thatcher) turned to drugs, alcohol and sex to deal with her troubled home life and tragedies of the past. Nat was the rebel of the group, and started a romantic relationship with Travis that continued into their adult lives. Natalie (Juliette Lewis) just got out of one of her many trips to rehab and ended up connecting with Misty, who shared she had found Travis who unfortunately, apparently committed suicide right after Nat reached out to him, though Natalie was convinced he was murdered.

Teen Taissa (Jasmine Savoy Brown) was not the team captain, however was the leader of the team and was often first to try various rescue attempts, finding a lake so they would have water which also led them to an abandon cabin to use as shelter, though it had an unexplained dead body in the attic.

Streaming Spotlight by Cindy Summers

## Yellowjackets

– Showtime Original Series



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

In *Yellowjackets*, an extremely talented high school girls soccer team is involved in a plane crash in the Ontario wilderness on their way to nationals after having won their state championship. They survived on their own for 19 months until they were rescued, and some never made it home due to the accident and incidents that happened along the way including cannibalism (I don't consider this a spoiler as it is actually the opening scene in the first episode, though presents questions regarding who was involved and who became a meal for the team).

The crash happening in 1996, and picks up on the lives of several key players 25 years later in 2021 as they attempt to put the past behind them and try to lead normal adults lives promising to keep what happened in the woods only between them regardless of the public's relentless pursuit to find out the truth. The story bounces back and forth between the two timelines as viewers discover the terrible challenges they experienced to survive and how it forever changed their lives.

Teen Shauna (Sophie Nélisse) was team captain Jackie's best friend and pregnant with Jackie's boyfriend Jeff's baby, which

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**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE VENTURA BREEZE!**

Taissa (Tawny Cypress) went to college, then to law school and created a good life for her, her wife and son, though decided to run for state senate causing pressure on their relationship and triggering some negative things from the past related to her time in the woods.

Together they were working to solve who was blackmailing them and how did they learn about the secrets meant to be left in the woods. The teen actors are dead ringers for their adult counterparts, and each episode answers some questions while creating many others. The Season 1 finale left viewers anxious for Season 2, scheduled late fall/winter 2022, and was actually pitched for 5 seasons, which actor Melanie Lynskey (Shauna) has already signed on for, though producers didn't commit to Season 2 until the middle of Season 1 after it gained traction.

Rated TV-MA 10 – 1hr Episodes

## Worst blood shortage in over a decade

The American Red Cross is facing a national blood crisis – its worst blood shortage in over a decade, posing a concerning risk to patient care. Doctors have been forced to make difficult decisions about who receives blood transfusions and who will need to wait until more products become available. Blood and platelet donations are critically needed to help prevent further delays in vital medical treatments. Please schedule your blood donation today.

What is causing the blood shortage crisis?

10% overall blood donation decline since

March 2020.

62% drop in college and high school blood drives due to the pandemic. Student donors accounted for ~25% of donors in 2019 accounted for just ~10% during the pandemic.

Ongoing blood drive cancellations due to illness, weather-related closures and staffing limitations.

Additional factors like a surge of COVID-19 cases and an active flu season may compound the already bad situation.

At a time when many businesses and organizations across the country are experiencing pandemic challenges, the Red Cross is no different. We are all learning how to live in this new environment, how we spend our time, where we work, how we give back, how we make a difference in the lives of others – donating blood must continue to be part of it.

The Red Cross, which supplies 40% of the nation's blood supply, has had to limit blood product distributions to hospitals as a result of the shortage. In fact, some hospitals may not receive 1 in 4 blood products they need.

Blood cannot be manufactured or stockpiled and can only be made available through the kindness of volunteer donors. Less than a one-day supply of critical blood types in recent weeks.

As a special thank-you for helping to meet the immediate need for blood and platelets during this blood crisis, the Red Cross has teamed up with the NFL to offer one lucky winner an exciting 2022 Super Bowl LVI getaway to Los Angeles and the opportunity to experience the first Super Bowl in SoFi Stadium.

Tuesday, February 8, Knights of Columbus  
36 S. Figueroa St. 11:30 AM - 05:30 PM

Wednesday, February 16,  
Ventura County Credit Union  
Vista Del Mar Drive 10:00 AM - 03:00 PM

Tuesday, February 22, Knights of Columbus  
11:30 AM - 05:30 PM

<https://www.redcrossblood.org>



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## What makes whale watching a great activity?

Island Packers, the official boat concessionaire to the Channel Islands National Park, has daily departures to the Channel Islands National Park from Ventura Harbor Village and is now offering Winter Whale Watching excursions. Book your spot today to view these magnificent mammals at [www.islandpackers.com](http://www.islandpackers.com).

A winter Whale Watch is a perfect way to gather with family and friends to view Pacific Gray whales migrating through the Santa Barbara Channel from their feeding grounds in Alaska to their breeding grounds in Baja. Pacific Gray Whales are normally sighted in the National Marine Sanctuary near Anacapa and Santa Cruz Island continues through April 23, 2022. This mammoth migration of over 20,000 whales and 6,000 miles twice a year remains a major attraction in Southern California.

Sightings of the southern migration began in December for Pacific Gray Whales, and we also saw Humpback Whales, Fin whales, and occasionally Orcas. Common Dolphin are enjoyed year-round, delighting passengers as they frolic with the boat, and ride the bow and stern waves. For our most recent sightings

visit [www.islandpackers.com](http://www.islandpackers.com) or find us on Twitter.

The half-day Winter Whale Watch Cruise provides stunning views of the Ventura coastline or the Channel Islands; depending on where the whales may be sighted. Winter Whale Watch excursions are available now thru mid-April from Ventura and/or Channel Islands Harbor departing at 9:30 a.m. and/or 1:30 p.m. Rates for half-day trips are \$42 for adults, \$38 for seniors, and \$30 for children 3-12. Children 2 years old and younger ride free. All-day trips with landings and camping trips to Anacapa and

Santa Cruz Island are also available year-round. On Santa Cruz, both Scorpion Anchorage and Prisoner's Harbor are now open. All-day trips run from \$ 63.00 to \$ 120.00 per adult.

What makes whale watching a great activity:

Affordable family fun – half day excursions start at \$42 for adults; \$30 for kids

Flexible – winter trips depart twice a day, almost daily (weather permitting) until mid-April

Educational – crew aboard the whale watching cruises have many years of experience sighting whales on the waters of the Santa Barbara Channel and will narrate and inform guests about all the varieties or marine mammals seen on your cruise

Get in touch with nature – it is not just whales that make the area so special; you may also see sea birds, sea lions, and the coastline of the offshore islands while onboard

Safety protocols keeping visitors to the Channel Islands safe and comfortable include:

## This 'n' That

Passenger loads are limited to under 75% capacity to better facilitate social distancing

Island Packer employees are health screened before every shift.

Eating and drinking permitted outside cabin area

Passengers are required to wear face covering on board vessels.

Office and boat crew wear appropriate PPE when in contact with the public.

For more information about Island Packers, call 805-642-1393 or book or visit online at [www.Island-packers.com](http://www.Island-packers.com)



Ventura High is one of Ventura's 26 elementary, middle, and high schools. Photo by Patricia Schallert.

## Ventura Unified School District salutes its Board of Education

The Ventura Unified School District (VUSD) is proud to join more than 1,000 local educational agencies in the state to recognize board members' contributions during School Board Recognition Month. In this time of unprecedented challenges in nearly every sector of life, board members have worked tirelessly to support student learning and social-emotional health in our District.

"Board members are our elected representatives and a vital link between the school district and the community," said VUSD Superintendent Dr. Roger Rice. "The board sets the foundation and vision for the District, directs resources where they are most needed, and ensures accountability to the community by monitoring progress toward goals. Their end goal, of course, is to support and elevate student achievement."

During this challenging year, the VUSD Board of Education has worked with our staff to:

Close the digital divide by providing every student with a device, direct resources to students most in need, provide healthy and safe environments for our students and staff, provide compelling educational programs for our all students and so much more.

The Ventura Unified School District Board of Education Trustees are Matt Almaraz, Sabrena Rodriguez, Velma Lomax, Jerry Dannenberg, and Amy Callahan.

"I hope you will join me in saluting our hard-working board

members for their support of our students through effective policies and their continued advocacy for more resources at the state level," said Superintendent Rice.

The district is made up of an early childhood education program, 26 elementary, middle, and high schools, with more than 16,000 school-age students, an adult education center, 2,000 staff, and a wealth of parents and community members who all strive to help our children find their passion—academically and personally. For more information, visit [www.venturausd.org](http://www.venturausd.org) or call 805-641-5000.

### Happy 5th Birthday KPPQ Radio!

*Continued from page 1*

happy 5th birthday." Mary Labrie, Host of Women of A Certain Age and The Shiver Show

"In a world where it seems corporations are deciding what we view or listen to - with a lack of diversity in the programming - I treasure the ability to hear the perspective of members of the community and, when it comes to music, to be able to listen to programming by individuals who have non-mainstream tastes. CAPS Media is a treasure and KPPQ is my favorite radio station!" Kevin Wallace, Host of Ojai Dream, a music and talk show.

"KPPQ does a wonderful job representing our community. I am grateful they have given me the opportunity to share my passion, my blues record collection in my show "Doc's Delta Blues Lounge. The team is awake and interested fully committed to producing interesting content of high quality." Doc Ventura, Doc's Delta Blues Lounge

"We're so fortunate to have a unique community radio station like KPPQ. Not only does it serve as a local media source for information and entertainment, but it gives content creators like myself a creative outlet to share our interests! "Mark X, Pure Rock Show

The ever-evolving KPPQ operation was envisioned, masterminded and co-founded by CAPS Media's Elizabeth Rodeno. Elizabeth has been the KPPQ driving force and station manager since its inception.

"As station manager of KPPQ and one of the founders, along with Evan Carpenter, Chief Engineer, I am thrilled to be part of Ventura's Community radio station as we celebrate its 5th year on the air. Since 2017 when we flipped the switch on the only non-commercial community radio station in Ventura, producers have sat behind a microphone and shared their voice and the voice of Ventura County across the globe. I'm really proud to see how our station and membership has grown and thrived these past 5 years and I look forward to the next 5 years." Elizabeth Rodeno, KPPQ Station Manager

KPPQ airs 24/7 on 104.1fm radio and streams worldwide on myTurner Radio and on [capsmedia.org](http://capsmedia.org). Everyone interested in learning more about KPPQ-LP including how to become a Host or DJ, or provide information on an upcoming event, can contact Elizabeth Rodeno, at [radio@capsmedia.org](mailto:radio@capsmedia.org).

Everyone at CAPS Media and throughout Ventura congratulate KPPQ-LP on its momentous 5th birthday. We all look forward to many more years of creative, informative and entertaining programming and services to the community.