# VENTURA RELETA

Published Every Other Wednesday

Your Hometown Paper

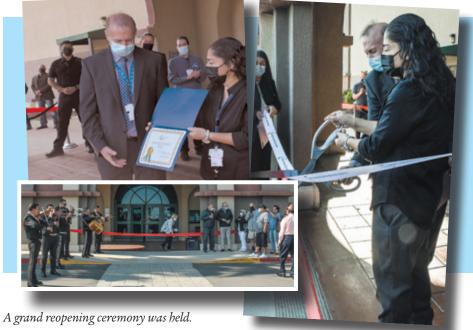
Established 2007

Players Casino Ventura is back in business in a new location at the Ventura County Fairgrounds. The casino, much like other businesses has suffered from the effects of Covid-19 and shut down permanently last December filing for bankruptcy four months later. Ventura City was faced with the loss of a major tax revenue source. At a recent City Council meeting, the council approved the re-opening of the casino at a new location that will help fill in the cash shortfall from the closure.

Players has been temporarily approved to open at the Derby Club located at the Ventura County Fairgrounds.

On Wednesday, February 2, 2022, a grand reopening ceremony was held. The decision to open at the Derby Club gives the casino an opportunity to recoup some of its losses and keep the tax revenue stream flowing again.

Attendees at the event included Joe Schroeder Deputy Mayor and Stephanie Caldwell, President of the Ventura Chamber of Commerce. A ribbon cutting ceremony led by Patrick Berry was conducted as a crowd of eager gamblers gathered at the front of the casino serenaded by a Mariachi Band on hand to add to the festivities. The crowd was



# Players Casino re-opens at a new location

by Richard Lieberman

addressed by local and county officials all praising Players second chance at life.

Tax revenue for the city, on average amounted to two million dollars a year leaving a gaping hole in city coffers after the casino closed. The city expected the revenue to continue through the 2021-2022 fiscal year but has drastically reduced the expectations to a fraction of what it was. The city in approving the reopening and relocation has hopes to make up for at least some of the tax revenue even though the city, because the new location is owned and managed by the state will receive no tax revenue.

February 9 - February 22, 2022

The city had depended on a 15% tax stream but will receive a steady flow of income through a program known as PILOT (payment in lieu of taxes) program. Players has agreed to pay the city a lesser amount, with the agreement running through 2025. The casino has offered, and the city has accepted a reduced amount. The casino will give up 10% of it is operations and the casino will be able to defer 5% of its income until 2027 to make up for relocation costs.

Patrick Berry General Manager said, Continued on page 5



The time has come to say goodbye to the Harbor arcade. Photos by Patricia Schallert.

Aarmark Beer Gardens to run

A state-of-the-art family entertainment venue, managed by Aarmark Beer Gardens, Inc., will open in the Ventura Harbor Village with the approval of a multi-year lease by the Ventura Port District Board of Port Commissioners. The contract for the lease was approved unan-

imously by the Ventura Port Commission on Jan. 19. Aarmark signed a six-year lease with options for three additional fiveyearterms.

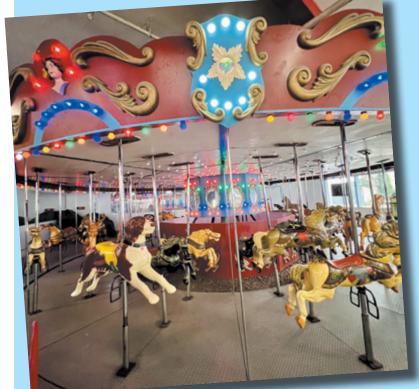
new venue

Aarmark will pay a base rent and common-area maintenance charges totaling about \$13,000 a month, plus 4% of gross sales.

The 5,700 square foot venue hopes to open by April, 2023.

Aaron Running, CEO of Aarmark Beer Gardens said entertainment Continued on page 6





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# City News

# Residents invited to spread the love on biking, walking, and rolling in Ventura

The City of Ventura will host a virtual workshop on Thursday, February 17, 2022, from 6:00-8:00 p.m. to gather input about walking, bicycling, and accessing transit as part of its Active Transportation Plan, or ATP.

"Our goal with the Active Transand accessibility when walking, biking, rolling, and taking transit in the City," shared Ventura Public Works Director Phil Nelson. "Gathering feedback from community members with different cultural, racial, and demographic identities has been an important focus of our outreach efforts related to this plan. We want to invest in and prioritize healthy and equitable transportation options that will benefit the entire community."

For the ATP workshop participants will be able to share ideas about project goals and objectives as well as review bike and pedestrian networks. The workshop will also be live-streamed on YouTube and posted on the ATP project website to allow people to view the presentation and contribute feedback on their own time. To register for the virtual workshop and sign up to receive email updates, visit www.ActivePlanVentura.com.

The ATP was launched in summer 2021 and aims to create a roadmap of projects and programs that will enhance the experience for all modes of transportation throughout Ventura. Project elements include a Safe Routes to School component to recommend infrastructure improvements and traffic safety programs for K-12 students and families, as well as a Complete Streets component to develop policy guidance and standards recommendations for City staff.

To date, the City's public works team has completed the first phase of engagement for the ATP, which concluded in the fall of 2021. Staff collected nearly 1,400 responses in a citywide active transportation survey and conducted research at 25 local schools to observe drop-off portation Plan is to improve safety and pick-up patterns. Outreach efforts have also included two community bike rides, virtual and in-person focus groups as well as pop-up events with community stakeholders, low-income and minority households, homebound seniors, youth, and parents.

To view the community survey results, existing conditions report, or to register for the upcoming workshop, visit the City's ATP website at www.Active-PlanVentura.com.

# Enjoy Super Bowl LVI responsibly

Whether you've come for the Cincinnati Bengals, the Los Angeles Rams, the commercials, or the love of the game, the

# City News

Ventura BREEZE

Ventura Police Department reminds football fans to designate a sober driver if drinking at a Super Bowl LVI watch party.

On Super Bowl Sunday, February 13, the Ventura Police Department will have additional officers on patrol looking to deter, detect, and stop drivers suspected of being under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.

"When it comes to getting to and from your watch party safely, we're all on the same team," said Officer Chris Wilson. "The choice is simple, don't drive impaired. Have a ride share service or a sober friend take you home instead."

If your Super Bowl plans include drinking, make a game plan and know the rules:

In California, it is illegal to drive with a Blood Alcohol Content, or BAC, of .08% or higher. Even if you have only one alcoholic drink, it's always safer to designate a sober driver.

If the driver is under 21 years old, it is illegal to driver with a BAC of .01% or higher.

Don't let friends drive drunk. If someone has been drinking, take their keys and help arrange a safe ride.

If you see a drunk driver on the road, call 911 immediately and take note of the vehicle, license plate number, and direction of travel.

The Ventura Police Department reminds the public that alcohol is not the only substance that impairs. Marijuana, prescription drugs, and over-the-counter medications can impact safety and awareness when driving. Know the potential side effects of certain drugs.

Funding for Super Bowl Sunday enforcement is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. To learn more about the Office of Traffic Safety grant and VPD's educational efforts, visit OTS.ca.gov or contact, Emily Graves, Community Outreach Specialist with the Ventura Police Department, at egraves@cityofventura.ca.gov.

# Final public hearing held for redistricting map

The City of Ventura has posted the preferred draft of the Council District Map available for review at www.city-ofventura.ca.gov/Redistricting.

The updated district map was discussed at the fourth redistricting public hearing at the City Council meeting on Monday, February 7. Information about participating in the public hearing can be found on the redistricting website.

"The redistricting process is something that's done every ten years and impacts how residents elect their city council members. The primary goal when developing election districts is to draw lines that respect neighborhoods, history, and geographical elements," said Interim City Clerk Tracy Oehler. "We encourage the community to attend this final public hearing to learn more or share input about boundaries for their neighborhood."

Every ten years, local governments use new data from the Census to redraw their district lines to reflect how local populations have changed. State law

requires cities and counties to engage communities in the redistricting process by holding public hearings and doing public outreach, including to underrepresented and non-English-speaking communities.

The final deadline for the City Council to adopt a district map as part of the City's ordinance is April 17, 2022. The new map will be used during the November 8 election.

For more information about the City of Ventura's redistricting process, visit www.cityofventura.ca.gov/Redistricting.

# **Community Events**

Ventura events

by Ana Baker

Many children and teens have experienced the death of a loved one during the pandemic. This is a difficult time for anyone grieving a loss. Livingston's Grief and Bereavement Program recognizes children and teens' value from sharing their grief experiences with their peers. The Good Grief Club meets on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month from 5:30 to 6:30 p.The Young Teen Group meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

If you would like to register a child or young teen for a support group, please contact Stacia Sickle at 805-389-6870 x452 or ssickle@lmvna.org. All support groups are free and conducted through Zoom at this time.

The Elite Theatre Company is excited to welcome audiences to our first 2022 main stage production, Picasso at the Lapin Agile, written by Steve Martin, and directed by Christopher Robin Rubin.

The Lapin Agile, beloved watering hole to struggling artists and would-be geniuses, welcomes two soon-to-be legends for one extraordinary night. Pablo Picasso and Albert Einstein, whose egos are as big as their intellects, spar with the regulars.

The play runs through Sunday, February 13, 2022. Showtimes are Friday-Saturday at 8pm and Sundays at 2pm, with a special Thursday night show on February 10, 2022. Info at www. theelite.org. Elite Theater Company is located at 2731 Victoria Ave, Oxnard.

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

Feb. 17: For the next virtual East **Ventura Community Council meeting** on Thursday. The Council represents those who live east of Victoria Avenue, and the public is encouraged to attend and participate. A representative from Shea Homes has been invited to speak about the Parklands II Development on Telegraph Road. The agenda will also include continued discussion of road conditions and other issues of concern to East Ventura residents. Area crime statistics will be shared by Commander Weeks of the Ventura Police Department. Other topics may be added to the agenda, so be sure to check the group's Facebook page for updates. The meeting will be held online via the Zoom application at 7 p.m. The Zoom link can be accessed at

Continued on page xx









Member, Ventura Chamber of Commerce

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The Ventura Breeze is printed with soy based ink on paper with minimum 40% recycled content.

I'm tired all this nonsense about beauty being only skin deep.
That's deep enough. What do you want and adorable pancreas?

—Jean Kerr

# Opinion/Editorial



The City of Ventura has extended the temporary **closure** of its facilities through mid-to-late February due to rising COVID-19 cases and exposures.

"The extension of the City's temporary closure is a precautionary measure that allows critical services and operations to continue while minimizing opportunities where transmission may be possible," said Ventura City Manager Alex D. McIntyre.

City staff remains available online or by phone during regular business hours. In addition, all public safety services will continue regular 24/7 operations.

Let's hope the community can get the support it needs online or by phone support.

The focus of two articles in this issue will

The focus of two articles in this issue will bring pleasure to some Venturans. Aarmark Beer Gardens will be moving into the space in the Harbor Village that is now the arcade. The new entertainment and restaurant venue won't be open until next year after extensive remodeling is done to the space. The arcade has struggled for some time and is in great need of updating which the current owner can't afford to do. It is a prominent location in the Harbor, so I hope it's a great addition.

Also, the **Players Club** has re-opened at the Derby Club at the Fairgrounds. If you are tired of playing cards you can go downstairs and bet on the horse racing.

■ No **president** should take credit for a robust economy because it could tank in a week. They should say something like, "I'm very happy that the economy is so good. I certainly hope it can continue doing so well."
■ After several years of delays, Thousand

Oaks' first two **cannabis dispensaries** have opened. Leaf Dispensary and Legendary Organics are strictly medical cannabis dispensaries, but they would like to start selling recreational cannabis in the near future with the city's permission.

What is the delay in Ventura's cannabis dispensaries opening already? Just more of our tax dollars still going outside of Ventura.

Even though there has been a resurgence of **Monarch butterflies**, the future for these wonderful insects is still in jeopardy. Ventura has a wonderful opportunity to help save them by creating habitats where milkweed could be grown. Milkweed is what Monarch's eat and lay their eggs in.

Ventura has two (actually two-and-ahalf) golf courses where butterfly habitats could be developed. Golf courses take up a huge amount of space that is only enjoyed by a very small part of our population so why not create habitats for butterflies? And, helping them it would create areas that could be enjoyed by many more people.

■ The Ventura County Board of Supervisors has passed a resolution to request the California Public Utilities Commission and other state agencies take a closer look at Southern California **Gas Company's compressor** site located off of the Avenue in Ventura. SoCalGas plans to replace three gas compressors on the site with four new ones with more horsepower.

The resolution requests the CPUC assess the impact on the neighborhood that the expansion at their facility at 1555 North Olive St. would create. It also requests the California Environmental Protection Agency consider the potential health of the nearby neighborhood.

This is not the first time that concern has been shown. In May, Ventura unanimously passed a resolution requesting state regulators to review the potential environmental, health and safety impacts of the expansion. The city and county resolutions come after months of community opposition to the project including the Ventura Unified School District because of its proximity to E. P. Foster Elementary School.

### Guns In The News

One person has died, and several others were hurt after a Butte County shooting inside a Greyhound bus.

One person was killed and four others injured in a shooting at a hookah lounge in downtown Blacksburg.

The suspect who shot and killed a woman and injured two others in a church in Aurora, Colorado, knew at least one of the victims, police said. "It wasn't just a random shooting inside this church," police said.

One student is dead and another is in critical condition after a shooting outside a school in Richfield. At a news conference Richfield Police Chief Jay Henthorne told reporters the two victims were shot on a sidewalk outside the District 287 South Education Center.

A four-year-old boy has died after he accidentally shot himself in the head with his father's gun inside a car where his mother and another adult were smoking marijuana.

Two people were killed and two were injured in a shooting at the Park Plaza Apartments in Brown Deer. Brown Deer police said they got a call of shots fired at about 10:10 a.m. When officers arrived, they were shot at by a person in the building.

A Wisconsin man was arrested after a

gun he was handling discharged and killed an 8-year-old girl in Milwaukee, an incident that prompted the city's acting mayor to ask citizens to "put down the guns" on the heels of a record-breaking year for homicides.

A multiple-homicide investigation was underway in Milwaukee after police discovered six adults dead inside a home during a welfare check.

Police are looking for a tow truck driver who shot a 3-year-old in Port Richmond in a Jiffy Lube parking lot. Investigators say the incident at 12:15 a.m. started as a fight between two tow truck drivers. One of them pulled out a gun and began shooting; one of the bullets hit the toddler who was sitting inside the truck.

An argument in the checkout line of a South Florida grocery store escalated into a fatal shooting, as other shootings around the state took place in a sports bar and a banquet hall. The argument between two men started in the checkout line of a Publix. One of the men pulled a gun and shot the other man. The victim died in the store, and the shooter was in police custody.

Four people were shot at the Player's Sports Bar and Grill in North Lauderdale. After a fight took place in the sports bar and a patron was told to leave, the patron shot at the bar, striking several people.

In Orlando, police were searching for a suspect in a fatal shooting at a banquet hall. Police were called to the event space where they found a victim in critical condition. The victim was pronounced dead at a hospital.

A community is in shock after eight people were shot in an apparent murder-suicide in Texas. A man killed four people, including a child, and critically wounded three at two different crime scenes. The suspect, Kevin Milazzo, is believed to have killed his mother, 61-year-old Connie Mimms, and stepfather, 68-year-old William Mimms, in Corsicana.

Police say Milazzo then drove to Frost, where he shot and killed his 21-year-old son, Joshua Milazzo, and a four-year-old boy, the son of his ex-girlfriend.

Police tracked the 41-year-old Milazzo through his vehicle GPS and were able to turn off the engine remotely. As members of the SWAT team approached his vehicle, they found him critically injured from a self-inflicted gunshot wound in his head.

Assemblymember Steve Bennett (D-Ventura) and Senator Monique Limon announced legislation to restrict gun sales at the Ventura County Fairground. They were joined at the press conference by Senator Dave Min (D-Irvine) who announced legislation to end gun sales at all county fairgrounds across the state.

According to a report published by UC Davis, gun shows have been identified as a source for illegally trafficked firearms.

"Unfortunately, the United States experiences far more gun violence per person than virtually every other modern industrialized country in the world," Said Bennett "The United States has one of the most pervasive gun cultures in the world supported by a powerful gun lobby. Gun shows at the Fairgrounds enhance this and it is time for each of us to play a role in changing this culture."

■ Another **journalist** has been killed in Mexico. The fourth in less than a month. More than 50 journalists have been slain in Mexico since 2018. The writer wrote for a website that reported on government corruption which means this might not have been a cartel slaying.

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

# Mailbox

Breeze

Ventura Harbor experienced unpredictable currents and damaging surges following a massive undersea volcanic eruption near the Pacific Nation of Tonga on Saturday, January 15, 2022.

Daniel Wall, City Emergency Services Manager shared at the Ventura City Council Meeting of January 24, 2022 that he had received a call at 6:15am from the Office of Emergency Services advising him that Ventura would experience a 20 centimeter increase in water level at the Ventura Harbor and "we should be aware and let people be aware.

The event created a significant amount of damage: 24 residential docs were destroyed, a Harbor Master Patrol boat sank due to the tide and swift moving water. It presented itself as a mild event and turned into a pretty significant event".

Mr. Wall proclaimed that this was considered a State of Emergency. It was

shocking to also learn that Emergency Services found that "the Tsunami Monitor in the Harbor was not working and this will result in that being repaired, whatever that particularly means".

Needless to say, this brought to mind the events of the Thomas Fire and what did not work during that catastrophic event.

Patti Channer

Opinions

Let me get this straight Sheldon, if I park somewhere, lock my car, leave some valuables inside, somehow I deserve to have my car broken into? Did you spend some time in the Soviet Union? Ted Rose

Ted I

I assume your question regarding "I deserve" is rhetorical. You obviously don't deserve to have your car broken into. In a perfect world you could even leave valuables

Continued on page 20

## **News & Notes**



Chip Bell chained himself to the tree to protest their cutting down by city. Photos by Patricia Schallert.

# Let's save the trees, not cut them down

Ventura has a sign when you drive into the city that says Ventura is part of Tree City, USA. Yet, some trees are being slated for a cut down instead of a trim.

On San Clemente St., there are beautiful Ficus Macrocarpa trees that line the street and provide nesting for great horned owls, hawks and various small birds. These trees are also known as Malayan Banyan and are at least 100 years old. They have been part of the community since it was developed in the 1920's and 30's. These beautiful trees provide a canopy of shade in the summer months when it's hot and are a refuge for the wild birds as they migrate north or south. The residents of this community believe these trees are interconnected with a co-depending root system.

Chip Bell, a resident in the community, together with many of his neighbors, felt it was important to save the trees not only in his community but to develop awareness of how important trees are to the entire Ventura community. He chained himself to one of these trees that the city had slated to cut down. As the city was cutting down one tree at the end of the block due to some wind damage, they decided not to cut Chip's beloved tree. It was saved for the time being.

Barbara Brown and Christy Weir co founders of the Tree Alliance came by to give a shout out to Chip and his neighborhood for their efforts to save the Ficus Macrocarpa trees.

Former City Council Member Christy Weir stated "Now would be a good time to revisit the city's tree removal policy. Our residents value mature trees, and want to save as many as possible. Ventura's Urban Forestry staff care about trees, and their expertise combined with our community's passion for a healthy environment can help us to examine potential ways to retain our tree canopy."

Barbara Brown said "The safety of our community in wind storms and rain events is critical, but if we cut down these heritage trees, we take away so much from the intrinsic beauty of these neighborhoods. We also lose important habitat for the native birds and insects. There has to be a way for these heritage trees to be saved."

Editor's note: We have tried to obtain a statement from the city but have not been able to. Sorry.

### Players Casino re-opens

Continued from page 1

"I think from our viewpoint right now that the percentage, the 10% and the deferral are what is going to allow us to keep in business." Berry added "We don't know what is going to happen, and we hope nothing happens and things just go up from here."

With the agreement on revenue amounts to the city, Ventura will receive approximately 1.3 million a year according to City Council estimates.



# Tree Town



Ten new Valley Oaks were planted at the Ventura Community Park last October. These deciduous trees begin to leaf out in late winter.

Quercus lobata (Valley Oak) grows into the largest of North American oaks. It is native to California, growing in interior valleys and foothills in the central coast region. The Valley Oak is now a protected species in Ventura County because of its decline over past decades due to removal for development. Mature specimens may attain an age of up to 600 years.

www.venturatreealliance.com

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## **News & Notes**



Dimitri Poulos celebrates after winning the Rincon Classic. Photo by Cristy Poulos.

# Dimitri Poulos takes the Rincon Classic Title

by Amy Brown

Dimitri Poulos waited until the ripe old age of four to start surfing. However, he made up for lost time when he began surfing in local competitions at age ten. Since then, he has gone on to become a professional surfer, earning two gold medals at the Junior world championship level at age 17, and more recently, taking his first Pro title at the 40th annual Rincon Classic with a total score of 15.43.

The 19 year old Ventura native is sponsored by O'Neill, Red Bull, Roberts Surfboards, Pro-Lite, and Futures Fins, and his future looks exceptionally bright. He stays humble, however, and is focused on honing his craft and encouraging other young surfers. He is grateful for the folks that were there to encourage him when he was just starting out. "There wasn't a huge

surf culture of younger kids when I was young," said Poulos. "There were obviously people who helped me, and I know some kids who've gotten some other help from older people, but I want really to be there for the younger kids. I just try to be nice to everyone and encourage them to be more psyched for surfing."

Poulos shared that the best advice he ever received was to just have fun and not take it too seriously. He said that he is inspired by many, but that he really looks up to his father Peter and his coach Mike Lamm. "They just inspire me and have both taught me so much. I owe my surfing career to both of them, and my family obviously, since they got me into it and taught me what I know. Those two guys have pushed me the most, and of course I'm inspired by

a lot of other professionals, the guys on the world tour." Surfing is a family affair—in addition to his dad being a lifelong surfer, his 16-year-old sister Delaney won second place in the Wahines Under 17 division at Rincon, as well.

While Poulos had competed at the Rincon Classic several times in previous years, this was his first win. "It felt very good--I went in with no expectations, I haven't competed in a pretty long time, with Covid all the contests were cancelled or postponed before, so I was a little nervous, with this first contest, maybe some rust, but it felt really good for it to work out in my favor."

Asked what is still on his surfing bucket list, he replied, "I really want to get over to Indonesia for a contest, and would like to make the world tour." He said that it's the love of the sport that truly drives him. "I still have so much fun doing it, I don't really think of it in terms of I have to do this or that, I'll still surf with my friends, and then when it's time for a contest, it's time to switch gears and get ready to do this."



# Dr. Bill Saleebey: upcoming book signing

Dr. Bill Saleebey, Ventura author and networking expert, will be signing and discussing his new book Networking in the Virtual Age: Connecting with No Limits on Saturday, February 26, from 3-7 p.m. at House of Rio Design Co., 1718 E. Main St. in Ventura.

Dr. Saleebey is a foremost expert on the topic of business and personal networking. He is also the author of Connecting: Beyond the Name Tag and Connecting: Key Networking Tips for Business and Life. He organized and leads numerous networking groups throughout California. He has written the books Sell Yourself and Study Skills for Success.

His recent work Networking in the

Virtual Age: Connecting with No Limits was written during the pandemic and chronicles how networking groups, service organizations and other groups managed to nurture interpersonal connections when people were unable to meet in person. He examines such technologies as Zoom and provides numerous examples and suggestions about how to connect virtually on multiple channels, as well as in person.

Saleebey, a native of Pasadena and graduate of UCLA, has been a resident of Ventura for eight years. His doctorate in Educational Psychology has allowed him to train and guide businesses about how to use networking to build and sustain their referrals.

In addition to his extensive experience in networking, Dr. Saleebey has been working in the field of corporate relocations for forty years. Prior to that, he did research on the educational challenges of Samoan migrants, based on his work in American Samoa.

Dr. Saleebey will discuss the impetus for writing the book, some examples of how people and groups adapted during the pandemic, and the current state of the art of networking. Anyone interested in networking and how to better connect with others are invited to attend.

### Aarmark Beer Gardens to run new venue

Continued from page 1

options will include "multi-sport simulators, virtual reality, retro arcade games, a stadium seating sports viewing, and more." This is much more in keeping with the type of games that are played today by both youth and adults as compared to what is there now.

The company operates restaurants in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties, including SB Biergarten in Santa Barbara's Funk Zone, Fire & Vice in Moorpark and Santa Maria, and Copenhagen Sausage Garden in Solvang.

The Ventura Port District, that manages the Ventura Harbor Village, plans to invest \$725,000 in facade and infrastructure improvements to the building. Aarmark will invest an additional \$651,500.

District's General Manager Brian Pendleton said "This exciting and vibrant entertainment use will continue to expand upon offerings springing up at Harbor Village, joining many long-time favorites."

Marlyss Auster, President and CEO of the Visit Ventura praised the new Village endeavor. "The family entertainment, complemented with fresh restaurant offerings, add to the wonderful variety of options available at Ventura Harbor Village, and will encourage visitors to stay longer to enjoy its scenic setting."

# VENTURA COUNTY COVID-19 PCR TESTING SITES



### **COUNTY TESTING SITES**

Make an appointment at vc.fulgentgenetics.com

### County of Ventura Human Services Agency Building

1400 Vanguard Dr., Oxnard, CA 93033 | Tuesday-Sunday / 10am-7pm

### **Moorpark College**

7075 Campus Rd., Moorpark, CA 93021 | Tuesday-Sunday / 10am-7pm

The State also operates 20+ testing sites in Ventura County!
Register by calling 888-634-1123 or visiting
www.lhi.care/covidtesting

Testing is recommended if you have COVID-19 symptoms or 5-7 days after a gathering, travel, or exposure to COVID-19.



www.vcrecovers.org



## **News & Notes**



In the current experiment, heat transfer is being assessed.

# Students take hands-on approach to space knowledge

by Shirley Lorraine

The eighth-grade science classes at Ventura Missionary School, taught by Alane Woods, are, instead of reading textbooks and theory, actively engaged in building experiments designed by Quest for Space who then shares their information with NASA. Along with other students' works worldwide, these experiments provide valuable information to be used in research.

Ms. Woods has been utilizing Quest for Space Inspiration Station kits for six years now, with great success. Students are enthusiastic about getting to experience first-hand various elements of science, engineering, coding, and more. The day I visited the classroom, the air was literally electric with excitement.

In the current experiment, heat transfer is being assessed. Which color transmits heat faster and more effectively - white or black? How is this information used in space? Are there differences between how earth and space transmit heat? Are there differences among the planets as to how heat is transmitted? Students learn about the process, the types of heat transfer, and how heat is conducted.

First, I was treated to a "walk-through" by two of the students, Isabelle and Drayden. Their excitement about the experiment was palpable. Both extoled the virtues of working in teams and of learning the different elements that must be considered. They gave me a quick tour of a completed unit, explaining how it worked and how the information is ultimately sent to the International Space Station (ISS) to be used in space endeavors.

Split into teams, each team receives a boxed Quest kit. Each kit contains Step-by-Step instructions and all the parts needed. Each team builds the same experiment and then compares results.

The kits require the building of complex circuits, resistors and connectors to run the experiments. Progress and process are logged. Each member of each team is

assigned a specific role and may fill in other roles as needed.

I stopped by each team to observe and learn where they were in the process. I was immediately struck with the focus, the enthusiasm, the willingness to share and the respect shown by the students.

When the conductor is built, computer coding enables the results to be fed to Quest for Space which then sends it on to the ISS. Students learn the results of the work their team has done. The information is then compiled with other research results.

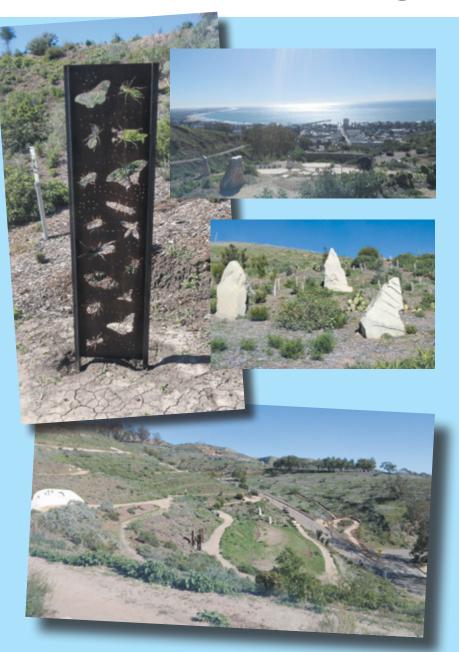
"Students learn not only how to use science, but also why, and that their input to the scientific world is valuable" stated instructor Alane Woods.

The NASA website provides this

"As an orbiting laboratory, the International Space Station (ISS) offers researchers around the world the unique opportunity to perform experiments in microgravity and under the rigors of the space environment. Scientists have used the station for everything from testing technology for future space exploration to studying human health."

More than several students shared that their favorite part of the experiment is the teamwork and the coordination of the many components of hands-on work. One contributed that the best part for her was "doing the electrical, hooking it up and seeing the light come on. You know it worked!" Others stated, "It's a really cool thing" and "It's fun, it's cool, actually being able to put it together and see how it works."

I wish I had had this much fun in eighth grade science class. The website www.nasa. gov offers experiments that can be done at home as well. Check out the STEM engagement tab. Maybe I'll give one a go. Or maybe I should leave it to Ms. Woods' 8th grade science class. They are doing an excellent job



Decimated by the Thomas fire the Ventura Botanical Garden is once again thriving. Where not all of the plants (but plenty enough) have totally returned the magnificent views, the wonderful pathways, designed seating, sculptures, stairways and other features make for a wonderful day.

The Ventura Botanical Gardens (VBG) is a 107-acre world-class site with spectacular views of the California coastline, agricultural vistas, the Channel Islands and Ojai's Тора Тора реак.

With a 40-year master plan and already over 30,000 plants in the ground, the Gardens represent the five Mediterranean climate zones of the world; Chile, the Cape of South Africa, Southern Australia, the Mediterranean Basin, and California. These are low water climate zones, much like Ventura, allowing for long term sustainability.

These photos are from the entrance at the Merewether Welcome Center (above city hall) to the upper street Kalorama. Much more is being built above the street and is ready for even more wonderful visual experiences and walks. And a short walk to also enjoy Grant Park

There is a wonderful gift shop, full of artisan gifts, pottery and plants at the entry to the Gardens.

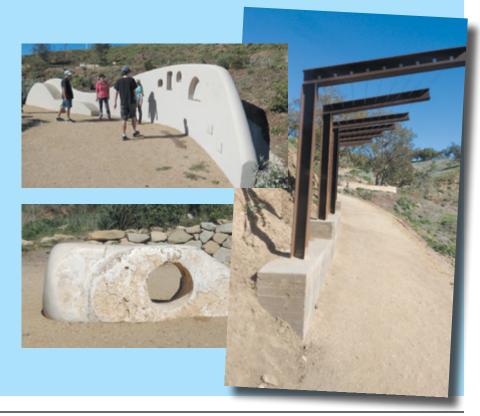
The garden needs volunteers to fill many volunteer positions including gardening, fundraising and writers for their newsletter. If you are interested in volunteering send an email to info@venturabotanicalgardens.com.

Entrance is only \$7.00 for those over 18 and free for under 18. A yearly pass is also available.

There are also some free days.

Leashed dogs are welcome on Wednesday and Friday.

You can visit the gardens at venturabotanicalgardens.com.





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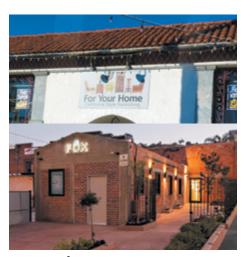
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# **News & Notes**



# Main Street Moves: two viewpoints

by Carol Leish, MA

"As the owner of Fox Fine Jewelry," Debbie Fox said, "I recognized the benefits to the community for a vibrant downtown with the closure of Main Street and California Street. I did estimate a slight sales drop from the closure. However, for the long-term benefit of us all, of which Fox Fine Jewelry is one part, I have advocated strongly for the continuation of Main Street Moves."

Fox also stated, "I've been on the Downtown Ventura Partner's (DVP) Board of Directors, and have been an active advocate of implementing and extending the closure. When COVID-19 first appeared in Ventura, the DVP realized that we needed to make critical changes, quickly. These changes would

keep the restaurants afloat. Restaurants are the backbone of downtown's overall health. As they rise, we (other businesses), and the restaurants, all rise. And, Main Street Moves has had a positive impact on the health of downtown Ventura."

"The closure," according to Fox, "gave Ventura unexpected exposure to residents within driving distance. Because most other places in Southern California were shut down, Ventura became the place to go. We were discovered. This halo effect had a small positive impact on Fox Fine Jewelry's sales."

"The vast majority of people," according to Fox, "favor the closure, but some have legitimate concerns. As we continue to move forward, their will be various pieces that are being closely reviewed for solutions. One possibility is that Main Street can be either open or shut at will, with removable bollards. Outdoor dining would be in safe 'parklets."

Visit Fox Fine Jewelry at: 560 E. Main St. (805) 652-1800. Look at: http://www.foxfinejewelry.com/.

As the owner of For Your Home, Kevin Seelos said, "I voted in favor of the Main Street Moves in downtown Ventura because I felt it would be in the best interest of downtown Ventura as a whole. Obviously, the main beneficiaries are the food and drink establishments. But they bring people to downtown, and these people are potential customers for the retailers and service businesses.

"There are some negatives, such as accessibility for older customers who have trouble parking a distance from my business. But, the majority of responses from our customers has been favorable. I feel that the closure has had a neutral to

slightly positive effect on my business."

Regarding the Pandemic, Seelos said, "When and if the Pandemic is completely over and the entire population is comfortable again with inside dining, opening up the downtown will need to be reconsidered. An issue that needs to be addressed is the loss of the parking spots the closure has caused. When larger employers have their staffs return from remote work and when we lose further parking lots to development, such as the one at California Street and Poli Street, parking will be even more difficult than it is now. The proposed new parking structure hasn't even broken ground yet, and I believe that the plans have been in place for a couple of years."

Visit For Your Home at: 443 E. Main St. (805) 641-1919. Look at: http://www.fyhfurn.com/.

### The Bookmark

# About Libraries and Friends

by Jill Forman

### What is happening?

What a good question. Libraries are closed but **you can still get books**. Curbside service continues with the pre-existing branch hours. Clients can reserve books online or on the phone. Staff is there to help you; they are happy to look up books for you, get them, order them, or tell you where they are available. Many programs are available online; some will be detailed below. As with everything the past couple of years,

everything is changing and might be different before this goes to press. Ask your library staff.

The Foster bookstore and the Hill Road sale shelves are unavailable but **you can still buy books**. Our online bookstore is open for business, and inventory has increased due to the store closure. More on this below.

Confession: the rest of this column is thanks to the email newsletter of the Ventura Friends of the Library. Thanks to Mary Olsen, the President of the Friends and our computer guru, for keeping us all informed.

Here's some good news:

Zip Books are Back!

Zip books are books (print or audio) delivered to you free and directly from Amazon, which you return to your local library when you are done. This is a grant program funded by the California State Library. This service is for books the library does not own, and there are some parameters.

Just fill out a form at the vencolibrary.org website. Please allow time to place the order. No notification is given when orders have been placed. Three weeks after receiving book, return the book to your library branch and hand it to staff please. Put the Amazon receipt, or a note, in the book so it is identified as a Zipbook.

We invite you to continue to visit our online store for local sales.

Books purchased from the online store are prepared for pick up on Fridays and will be available for pick up at Hill Road Library at the loading dock on Saturdays from 10 am to noon.

Continued on page 20

# Senior Jiving



Meetings are held at the Crosspointe Church.

# Free Ventura County Parkinson's Support Group meetings

A community-based support group focusing on sharing relevant information and education about all things Parkinson's.

Meetings are held monthly on the third Tuesday, 10-11am, at Crosspointe Church (5415 Ralston Ave.). Next meeting on Tuesday, Feb. 15.

Ventura County Parkinson's Support Group gets together every month with skilled, experienced professionals who present significant breakthroughs, strategies and related issues surrounding Parkinson's. The group's mission is for participants to better understand and talk about how this information impacts their own lives and affects immediate family members. In addition to those diagnosed with PD, are all welcome to attend free of charge.

More than just a meeting, all discussions/presentations offer interactive, compassionate, relevant education on PD. Topics range from "How to get up off the floor when you've fallen," to "Nutrition and Parkinson's" to "The benefits of deep brain stimulation and assessing if you're a good candidate for DBS."

Jon Everhart, retired accountant, US Marine and regular group attendee said, "It's nice comparing treatments, symptoms, and the challenges we all face living with Parkinson's." This caring group empowers people like Jon to be more proactive and to participate in deciding the direction of his treatment, complemented by his team of doctors' suggestions.

This unique group gives everyone a great opportunity to learn more about current PD research, to gain more awareness about local help and resources, to share relevant experiences with others – and to have fun along

The Ventura County Parkinson's Support Group was recently resurrected (post-Covid) by Dr. Vanessa White, owner of Ventura County Neurofitness (a local fitness program designed specifically for those with Parkinson's and other neurological degenerative diseases). The impetus for her assuming this responsibility was after her mother-in-law, Toy White, was diagnosed several years ago with PD. This important, special group was born upon her passing.

# caregivers, family members and friends Physical activity repost from NIH Research **Matters**

by Sharon Reynolds

Fewer than 1 in 4 adults in the U.S. get the amount of exercise recommended to maintain health and prevent chronic disease. Designing interventions that encourage people to exercise more regularly has proven

Researchers have tested many strategies to increase physical activity. But these studies tend to be small. Variation in populations, locations, and other factors also makes it hard to compare results. And what works in one setting may not work in another.

To overcome these limitations,

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researchers led by Drs. Katherine Milkman and Angela Duckworth from the University of Pennsylvania tested dozens of different ways to boost exercise using a novel approach they developed called a megastudy.

The research team included 30 scientists from 15 universities. They enrolled more than 60,000 members using a gym Members are required to check in electronically before using the gym. This allowed the researchers to track how often people exercised before, during, and after the study.

The researchers created 53 different 4-week programs designed to encourage exercise. All programs included planning when workouts would occur, text message reminders before planned workouts, and micro-rewards-points redeemable for small credits on Amazon. Additional strategies and incentives were then stacked on top of these three elements.

Because of the study's size, each intervention could be tested in hundreds to thousands of people. The researchers compared the interventions against the baseline program for their ability to boost the number of gym visits during four weeks of intervention and for ten weeks afterward. An additional control group received no intervention except for an Amazon credit when they enrolled in the study equal to the expected earnings in most programs (\$1.08).

The study was funded in part by NIH's National Institute on Aging (NIA). Results were published on December 8, 2021, in Nature.

Overall, 45% of the interventions boosted the number of weekly gym visits during the four-week study period compared with the control

group. These increased exercise from around 9% to 27%.

Five of the interventions stood out for being especially effective. One provided higher overall rewards for workouts. Two provided bonus rewards for returning to the gym after a missed workout. One let participants choose whether they wanted their rewards framed as losses or gains (that is, losing or earning reward points). And another sent text messages informing participants that most Americans exercise, and that this fraction is growing.

To explore the value of the megastudy approach, the researchers surveyed more than 300 experts in the field about which programs they thought would most effectively boost exercise. Those predictions did not match up with the interventions that resulted in the most gym visits.

"These results show how difficult it is to predict which interventions to increase exercise will work," says Duckworth.

"They also highlight the value of megastudies," Milkman adds, "which allow researchers to test many different approaches to changing behavior at once in order to determine what interventions are most effective."

Negative results from small studies often get little to no attention. Megastudies have the additional advantage of being able to rule out, all at once, many interventions that don't work. They're now being used to test other public health interventions, such as encouraging vaccination.

This research is supported in part by NIA grants P30AG034546 and 5P30AG034532.



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# Senior Living



Doctor using equipment to examine the eyes of an older adult.

# Cataract removal linked to a reduction in dementia risk

associated with a lower risk of developing dementia among older adults, according to a new study, supported in part by NIA. Published in JAMA Internal Medicine on Dec. 6, 2021, the study suggests that the improvement in the quality of life for the affected individual and family is likely considerable given the substantial association and its lasting effect beyond 10 years..

Dementia affects nearly 50 million people worldwide. With no cure currently, efforts to reduce the risk or delay dementia onset are increasingly important. Several studies suggest sensory loss may be a potentially modifiable risk factor for dementia later in life. The prevalence of hearing (1 out of 3) and vision impairment (1 out of 5) in adults age 70 or older in the United States is high. Because sensory impairment and dementia are both strongly associated with aging, more knowledge about the association may have important implications for adults as they age, particularly if interventions to improve sensory function reduce dementia risk.

For this prospective, longitudinal cohort study, researchers analyzed data from a subset of participants from the Adult Changes in Thought (ACT) study - an ongoing population-based cohort of randomly selected members of Kaiser Permanente Washington. Participants were 65 years or older, were dementia-free at the start of the study, and were diagnosed with cataracts before the onset of dementia. Of the 3,038 participants, 59% were women, 41% were men and 91% were self-reported white race. Data used in the analyses was collected from 1994 through September 2018.

Researchers found that participants who underwent cataract removal surgery had nearly 30% lower risk of developing dementia compared with participants without surgery, even after controlling for numerous additional demographic and health risks. In comparison, glaucoma surgery, which doesn't restore vision, did not have a significant association with dementia risk. One of the major strengths of this study is that it was based on a large prospective, community-based, observational cohort that allowed for years of follow-up starting before participants developed dementia. However, researchers noted that because the study population was predominately white, the findings may not be representative of

Undergoing cataract removal was other groups. Recent enrollment efforts for the ACT study include new strategies to recruit a more diverse population.

Some of the limitations of this study were that participants were primarily white individuals, and researchers evaluated only the participant's first cataract surgery and it's unknown whether subsequent surgery in the other eye impacted dementia risk. If validated in future studies, cataract surgery may have clinical relevance in older adults at risk of developing dementia.

According to the researchers, participants who underwent cataract removal surgery had a lower risk of developing dementia compared with participants without surgery. However, they note that additional studies are needed to determine how cataract removal impacts dementia risk.

This research was supported by NIA grants R01AG060942, P50AG005136, and U01AG006781.

# Repurposed cancer treatments could be potential **Alzheimer's** drugs

A data-driven analysis method aimed at speeding up testing of potential Alzheimer's disease therapies identified two existing cancer drugs, one FDA-approved and another still experimental, as having promise for being repurposed for Alzheimer's disease. The study also identified interesting connections between brain protein alterations in young individuals who carried the APOE4 gene and those of older study participants who had Alzheimer's disease.

The findings by a team of NIA-supported researchers led by the NIA Intramural Research Program were published in Science Advances.

While scientists have been studying Continued on page 11

# Senior Living



Not all exercise needs to be in the gym.

# Questions to ask your doctor about exercise

Are you considering adding exercise to your daily routine or significantly increasing your level of activity? Talk to your doctor about the exercises and physical activities that are best for you. During your appointment, you can ask:

### Are there any exercises or activities I should avoid?

Your doctor can make recommendations based on your health history, keeping in mind any recent surgeries or ongoing health conditions such as arthritis, diabetes, or heart disease. This would be a great time to check with your doctor about any unexplained symptoms you've been experiencing, such as chest pain or pressure, joint pain, dizziness, or shortness of breath. Your doctor may recommend postponing exercise until the problem is diagnosed and treated.

### Is my preventive care up to date?

Your doctor can tell you if there are any tests you might need. For example, women over age 65 should be checked regularly for osteoporosis.

### How does my health condition affect my ability to exercise?

Some health conditions can affect your exercise routine. For example, people with arthritis may need to avoid some

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types of activity, especially when joints are swollen or inflamed. Those with diabetes may need to adjust their daily schedule, meal plan, or medications when planning their activities. Your doctor can talk to you about any adjustments you need to make to ensure that you get the most out of your new exercise routine.

### Repurposed cancer treatments

Continued from page 10

how the APOE4 gene increases risk for Alzheimer's disease for decades, they still are unsure how the associated increased disease risk might manifest. In recent years, however, researchers have focused on related protein changes earlier in life. In the current study, researchers compared autopsy brain samples from young study participants who were APOE4 carriers (average age at death was 39 years) with samples from older participants who had Alzheimer's disease (average age at death was 89 years). The analyses included brain samples from the Baltimore Longitudinal Study of Aging, the Religious Orders Study, and other NIA-funded studies.

They identified differences in protein levels that intersected in different directions - higher in the young APOE4 carriers and lower in the older participants with Alzheimer's disease. Their findings confirmed that APOE4-related protein alterations in the brain occur decades before Alzheimer's disease symptoms become apparent.

Using cell culture models, the investigators then found that two compounds - Dasatinib, an already FDA-approved treatment for chronic myeloid leukemia and a still-experimental drug for liver cancer – affected those proteins, suggesting that they could be potential Alzheimer's therapies. The two drugs reduced neuroinflammation and the development of amyloid plaques and tau tangles, two known hallmarks of Alzheimer's disease, underscoring their potential as candidates to be tested in clinical trials.

These findings add to evidence from another recent study showing the value of this kind of data-driven approach to drug repurposing research. The goal is that by using drugs that are either already FDA-approved or have been safety tested in clinical trials, the timeline for testing their efficacy against Alzheimer's disease could be decreased. For future studies, the researchers aim to design more experiments to confirm their findings and validate other drugs in animal models over a longer period of time.

This research was supported in part by NIA grant 1ZIAAG000436-01.



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# This 'n' That

# Volunteers needed for Homeless Point-in-Time Count

by Mike Johnson

Ventura City Council District 3

Every year, cities and counties across the US count their unsheltered residents and report the data to the federal government. The snapshot census results help determine crucial state and federal funding for local programs. The next count is coming up, and the County's Continuum of Care needs volunteers.

The count will take place Wednesday, February 23, from 6am to noon. Volunteers will serve at least one two-hour shift. Volunteers will be trained in mid-February. They'll be partnered up and assigned a specific area to canvass, using a cell phone or tablet to collect survey data. Volunteers need to be 18, and able to walk for a couple hours. Learn more or sign up at http://Mike-ForVentura.com.

Some of the most valuable data is about the subpopulations, grouped by age, race, ethnicity, or gender. If comfortable, canvassers also ask survey questions to learn more about the person they're interviewing, and the problems they face.

For example, the community-minded volunteers in 2020 were able to conduct 269 surveys in Ventura. 38 respondents were current or former foster youth; 59 had pets; 29 were fleeing violence or sexual assault. 10 were retired; 54 had been homeless for less than a year; 20 had lost their home to a wildfire or natural disaster. 86 had been in custody during the past twelve months. 19 were veterans.

Knowing this data also helps the city and county better understand the problems we're working to solve. Comparing data across the county allows the county to shift resources to be most effective. Tracking the data year after year lets us see trends, so we can work proactively. This data also helps us access federal and state grant funding to address homelessness.

In 2020, Ventura's homeless population – sheltered, unsheltered, or in transitional housing – was 531. We all know the real number is higher – it's not easy finding every unsheltered person in the city on one winter morning. But by performing the count year after year, we see the trends.

Our highest count was 701, in 2012. Then it dropped steadily until 2016, when we hit 300, our lowest recorded

number. As everybody knows, homelessness has grown since then, and not just here. The increases since 2016 in both Ventura and Ventura County follow pretty closely the percentage increases across Los Angeles County.

The city has partnered with the county to address homelessness, because regional problems require regional solutions. The recently completed ARCH shelter is funded 50-50 by the city and the county. So are two social workers who perform street outreach within the city and connect people experiencing homelessness to local resources for housing and shelter. Our partnership with the County's Continuum of Care has been invaluable.

We have to do more, in Ventura, in the County, in the state. The housing market is in crisis after decades of building very little new housing to accommodate population growth. The best predictor of homelessness in a city our size is median rent, and rent's ridiculously high in Ventura. The ranks of unsheltered residents are swelling with people who've never experienced homelessness before.

Every unhoused person's path is unique, but illness, disability, substance abuse, trauma and poverty can all push a person into homelessness. Once someone is unsheltered, those problems can get worse. Some people aren't sick, traumatized, or abusing drugs until after they've had to live unsheltered.

In Ventura, with public and non-profit services, we have programs for those who have turned down shelter and services before. We have programs for those who are looking for a dry bed on a rainy night, or a bed of their own. We have programs to help veterans, families, women fleeing abuse, pet owners. We have programs to help people who are on the cusp of losing their home. Call 2-1-1 to connect to

We are also committed to adding new housing, both affordable and market rate, to help get California back on track. It will take governments and nonprofits and churches and civic-minded folks working together to find solutions to the many problems that contribute to homelessness. We need your help.

# Our Ventura TV has launching its first-ever "Faith-Based" TV series

Throughout 2022 each of the Our Ventura TV hosts will include a few of the Ventura County faith-based organizations (FBOs) as part of their routine interviews. All FBOs are welcome to participate and may become a guest by visiting OurVentura.com and clicking "Contact" to get scheduled. There's no cost to participate.

Sandra Siepak, one of the Our Ventura TV hosts noted: "We hope these segments will help interested viewers gain a better understanding of our local churches and religions and their value to the community."

Just like regular Our Ventura TV programming, these interview segments will be broadcast on Ventura cable channel 6 TV, and will be posted online at OurVentura.com, YouTube, Facebook, LinkedIn and other social media networks and can be freely posted on FBO websites.

Host, Monique Nowlin said, "Faithbased organizations are enduring and trusted institutions in the community."

Many FBOs enjoy committed volunteers, donations, and sometimes access to underserved communities. Certain FBOs may provide older adult programs, free food, gently used clothing, child care, and in some cases, rent and energy bill assistance. Priority is often given to elderly, the homeless or school-aged children.

Host, MB Hanrahan observed, "Faithbased groups can be associated with almost every ethnic and cultural group."

In addition to their efforts meeting the spiritual, social, and cultural needs of their members, FBOs (such as churches, temples, synagogues, and mosques) work to better the world and their communities by caring for those in need. This can include soliciting donations to distribute groceries for the elderly and medically vulnerable and providing service to the homeless.

Michelle Hoover, the Director of Our Ventura TV said, "The faith-based series on Our Ventura adds support to the people of the community and, along with our other segments, helps to bring us all closer together."

Since starting in 2008, the theme for the TV series has been "People doing good things in Ventura County." The majority of programs are talk shows featuring guests who are interviewed about their activities in the community.

Additionally, there are music and other programs of community interest.

George Alger, the Founder/Producer of Our Ventura TV and one of the hosts stated, "The goal of this series is to represent some of the diversity of Ventura County faithbased organizations."

This faith-based series does not change routine Our Ventura TV programming, it's a special adjunct series.

Our Ventura TV is an award-winning weekly talk-show television series broadcast on Ventura cable channel 6 TV and also published on OurVentura.com as well as on social media networks. The programs are primarily about nonprofits, community advocates, leaders, artists and organizations who contribute in some way to the Ventura County community. Visit OurVentura.com for more information and to become a guest.

### Ventura events

Continued from page 3

the group's website, www.eastventura. org. If you miss the meeting, you can always view it later on the website, www. eastventura.org. For more information, contact EVCC Chairperson, John McNally, at eastventuracc@gmail.com.

Feb. 19: Author Book Signing Chip Fraser, "Looking for Emerald City" Saturday from 1-3 p.m. Bank of Books 748 E. Main St. 643-3154 "Looking for Emerald City" is designed to inspire, entertain, and is made up of vignettes predicated on hope, dreams, and positive thinking, challenging yet hopeful. The core message of Looking for Emerald City is for everyone to live in the present, cease criticizing others, eat healthily (mostly), smile regularly, exercise patience, practice prayer and meditation, and volunteer whenever possible.

Feb. 23: "The College Area Community Council in Ventura 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. CACC represents citizens in Council District 3, currently neighborhoods north of Hwy. 126 between Dunning/ Lemon Grove/Agnus on the west and Hill Road on the east. Visit the College Area Community Council website @ https:// caccventura.com to learn more, add to the mailing list, and access a link to the Zoom meeting.



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# **Police Reports**

### by Cindy Summers

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

### Felony Hit and Run Collision

On January 26, at approximately 7:30 pm, the Ventura Police Command Center received a 911 call of a pedestrian being dragged under a vehicle on Crescent St. from the intersection of Johnson Drive.

Responding officers arrived on scene and found an unresponsive male subject laying in the eastbound lane of Crescent Street. Fire and paramedic personnel rendered immediate medical attention and the victim was transported to the Ventura County Medical Center with life-threatening injuries.

The ensuing investigation revealed a separate vehicle had originally collided with the victim on Johnson Dr. at the intersection with Crescent St. and that vehicle failed to stop. That elderly driver returned to the scene minutes later to report he may have been involved in a collision. While a witness was using his vehicle to block the pedestrian down in the road, a red sedan drove around their vehicle and drove over the downed victim. This red sedan fled the scene westbound on Crescent St. at a high rate of speed, dragging the victim approximately 300 feet under the vehicle. At this time, we have not located the red sedan involved in this second collision and traffic investigators are gathering evidence.

The victim is currently in critical condition. The elderly driver in the first collision was evaluated and was not found to be under the influence. The cause of this collision is under investigation and preliminary evidence may suggest the victim was crossing Johnson Dr. against a don't walk signal.

Anyone with any information is requested to contact Traffic Investigator Tyler Bevan at 805-339-4447

### Robbery

On January 27, at approximately 6:30 pm, the suspect 25 year old vagrant Garrett Powell entered the Aloha Steak House and went to the Bar where he ordered a drink. Powell was denied service when he was unable to provide identification. He then ordered dinner and, after finishing, walked out of the restaurant without paying for his meal.

A customer who noticed Powell leaving without paying attempted to stop Powell. In response, Powell began to pull out a machete from his duffle bag. The Bartender for the restaurant told the customer to let Powell leave and immediately called 911. Powell left the restaurant and began walking north towards Downtown Ventura. Within 3 minutes of receiving the call, Ventura Patrol Officers located Powell at California St and Santa Clara St.

Powell was immediately contacted and identified as the suspect. During the initial contact, Powell refused to listen to the officer's orders and, out of concern for the community's safety, was physically taken to the ground. Once on the ground, the officers successfully took him into custody. Powell was not injured during the arrest, and one officer sustained a minor sprain to his hand, which was treated at a local hospital. Powell was transported to Ventura County Jail and booked for Robbery.

### **Residential Burglary Arrest**

On January 29, a Ventura Police Department Patrol Officer responded to a burglary investigation at a residence in the 6300 block of Hunter Street. During the investigation, the officer learned that the suspect, 59 year old Joseph Mancuso, was captured on video surveillance removing property from the residence.

On January 30, at approximately 3:30 pm, Ventura Police Patrol Officers responded to a burglary in progress at the residence on Hunter st. The reporting party was offsite and saw Mancuso on live video surveillance inside the home. Officers arrived within four minutes of the call and determined that Mancuso was still inside. Officers were able to contact Mancuso and ordered him to exit. Upon exiting, Mancuso was taken into custody without incident.

While conducting the investigation, Officers determined that Mancuso was staying in a room at a local motel. Officers searched the room per Mancuso's probation terms and found property taken during the burglary.

Mancuso was booked at Ventura County Jail for 459 PC-Burglary and 496 PC- Possession of Stolen Property.

# **Harbor Patrol** Blotter

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

01/16 8:00am, officers on patrol in Fireboat, assessing damage from the tsunami through out the harbor, many docks damaged or destroyed. Navigation, swim area buoys retrieved, towed to the Basin until they can be put back on station.

5:30pm, receiving multiple inquires about the launch ramp closure. Advising that multiple destroyed and damaged docks were secured to the ramp docks.

01/18 11:50am, received report of an unknown object 1/2 mile from shore near the Ventura Pier. Officers responded in Fireboat and found a dock float, presumably from the tsunami event. The flotsam was towed to the L/R.

**01/21** 1:35pm, dispatched to domestic abuse call in the Ventura Marina Community. Officers responded and staged until VPD cleared scene. No medical component.

11:55pm, dispatched to a fall victim in Portside complex. Officers responded and assisted the patient to his feet & then his bed. No medical, refused treatment **01/22** 8:37pm, received report from the skipper of a 21ft aluminum vessel capsized outside the breakwall while hoop netting. The skipper advised that he swam back to marina park, then to our office, he was unable to call mayday because radio and phone were in the water. Officers responded, found the vessel as reported. TowBoat US took over the salvage operation. No injuries occurred.

01/23 10:15am, received request for a tow from the skipper of a disabled electric boat near the Launch ramp. Officers responded, towed vessel to its slip in the keys.

10:22pm, received report of juveniles drinking in the VWM parking lot. Officers responded and removed the group from the lot.

**01/24** 3:58pm, dispatched to an Ocean Rescue at the Ventura Pier, surfer in distress. Officers responded in Fireboat and on the Rescue watercraft (PWC) to assist State Parks, AMR & Ventura Fire. A surfer used his smart watch to call 911.





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

01/25 9:32am, received report of stolen gasoline from National Park Service vehicles. A siphon was found in one of the vehicles tanks. Incident is under investigation.

**01/27** 7:50am, received request to assist sea bird rescue volunteer capture an injured pelican. While en route, officers found an injured seabird. The two birds were successfully captured and taken to Port District for the volunteer to retrieve. 5:30pm, received report of a commercial lobster trap in the entrance. Officers found the Hazard to Navigation and towed it back to the others off the

**01/28** 8:42am, dispatched to a vessel sinking in the keys. Officers responded in the Fireboat to 2700 Sailor to a small center console. The vessel was not sinking.

**01/29** 10:25am, officers resecuring the

rescue boathouse on the patrol dock and returning/repairing equipment damaged during the Tonga tsunami.

**01/30** 1:55pm, received a mayday call on VHF 16 from a motor vessel unsure of his position. Officers responded in the Fireboat and tried to ascertain the vessels position. While searching around the breakwall, the skipper of the vessel advised he corrected the power outage and was no longer in need of assistance.

**01/31** 10:40pm, received of disabled 20ft motor vessel in the entrance. Officers responded Fireboat, towed the disabled vessel to the launch ramp.

**02/01** 6:21pm, dispatched to a fall victim in the Ventura Marina Community. Officers responded and assisted VFD/ AMR with the patient who sustained arm and finger injuries. Patient was treated and then transported to local hospital.

### Weekly SUDOKU -Answer 8 7 6 5 9 6 2 7 3 5 9 2 5 8 3 6 2 6 9 7 В 4 3 8 2 4 6

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# The Pet Page



Dedicated to Scamp

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

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

Two upcoming clinics are: Tuesday, February 15th in the SPAN Thrift Store parking lot 110 N. Olive St. (behind Vons on Main), and a second 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.

Families with a child on the autism spectrum might consider becoming cat people instead of dog people. Research fellow Gretchen Carlisle of the Research Center for Human-Animal Interaction at the MU College of Veterinary Medicine conducted a longitudinal study placing shelter cats with Columbia families whose children are on the autism spectrum.

She found that autistic children significantly improve in social skills and behavior after adopting a cat. "After the adoption of their cat, parents rated their children as having an improvement in empathy and fewer problem behaviors," Carlisle said. "Parents also rated their children as having less separation anxiety."

Autistic children often respond in a very sensitive way to sound or movement, and a barking dog, for instance, could quickly create sensory overload, Carlisle said. The softness and silence of cats is something children on the autism spectrum appreciate more than people usually know.

"Dogs can be very in your face and loud, whereas cats move quieter and softer, which may be easier for children with sensory issues," she said. "We selected cats over dogs in this study specifically for that characteristic — their ability to move very quietly and calmly — and because so little research has been done on cats with children with autism."

Families brought their children to the shelter and together decided which cat was the best fit for their family. "We wanted the families — and especially the children — to have a say over which cat they would take home with them," Carlisle said.

The new cat owners were supplied with a starter kit, including food, litter, a cat carrier, toys and a climbing tree with a cubby hole. The families in the treatment group were also supplied with basic cat behavior information and access to a veterinary specialist, as well as the study staff at any time.

The research team not only monitored the children's behavior through a social skills survey and their stress levels through an anxiety survey, but the cat's stress levels as well.

The cats seemed to thoroughly enjoy their new home as well, Carlisle said. An easy way to spot sign of stress in cats is assessing weight loss due to lack of eating. In the study, the cats actually were so content that they gained weight.

Carlisle explained that previous research found that younger cats interacted more with children with autism, concluding that looking for a younger cat with a calm and social temperament is where to start the search for a new furry friend who may lend a helping paw to an autistic child.

The study was co-authored by Rebecca A. Johnson, Ze Wang, Jessica Bibbo, Nancy Cheak-Zamora, and Leslie A. Lyons.

### Dogs can differentiate between familiar and unfamiliar human languages By Harry Baker

They are the first non-human animals to be able to tell the difference between

human languages.

If you were to move to a new country with a different language and bring along the family dog, your pet would likely have a hard time understanding commands from the locals, according to a new study looking at how dogs' brains react to different languages.

MRI scans revealed that dogs' brains can distinguish between familiar and unfamiliar languages, making them the first-known, and so far only, non-human animals to be able to tell the difference between human languages.

The new study was conceived by lead author Laura Cuaya, a neurobiologist at Eötvös Loránd University in Hungary.

## Preventing Doggie Dementia By Penny & Ed Cherubino

One of the great gifts you can give your dog in the next year is taking steps, no matter what their age, to prevent dementia and improve their quality of life. In dogs, dementia is called canine cognitive dysfunction (CCD). Many of the same lifestyle habits known to help brain health in humans also apply to our dogs.

Researcher Sarah Yarborough at the University of Washington recently published her findings on common factors reported in dogs with CCD. Her study found, "... odds of CCD was 6.47 times higher in dogs who were not active compared to those who were very active." In addition, she noted, "When controlling for age, breed type, activity level, and other comorbidities, dogs with a history of neurological, eye, or ear disorders had higher odds of CCD..."

These findings translate to the same steps that we can take ourselves to promote healthier aging. You protect your dog from CCD by increasing exercise, and by doing it together, you protect yourself. It's a win-win situation. Always consult both your doctors before starting any big change in exercise routines.

We know that loss of sensory input increases the danger of dementia in humans. That's why seniors need to have their hearing tested and use hearing aids as recommended. Scientists are working on hearing aids for dogs, and corrective eye surgery for dogs is now standard. However, we as guardians can make sure we are aware of and provide the necessary care to prevent ear and eye infections from causing

# Scamp Club

(Scampclub pets are not for adoption.)

This is Dallas (Garner), who turned 2 on 02/02/22!! She is a Rottweiler and Pitbull mix and is very well behaved. She loves chasing squirrels, chewing bones, destroying toys, long walks, playing with other dogs, getting attention from humans, and loves watching Real Housewives on Bravo TVII



# Join Scamp Club

Animals of all sorts can join the ScampClub. Email me your picture and a little about yourself to Scampclub@venturabreeze.com.

You will be in the Breeze and become world famous.

Lost pet? Go to LostCatVenturaCounty.com or LostDogVenturaCounty.com - free websites for finding and posting when you've lost or found a cat or dog.

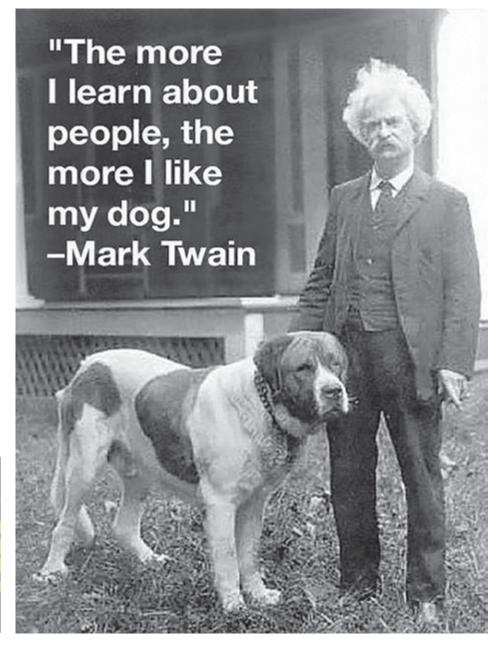
deafness and blindness.

Some humans do crossword puzzles to engage their brains. You can provide your dog with brain stimulation by engaging her in play and training or retraining sessions. Old dogs can and should learn new tricks and training is a lifelong responsibility for dog families.

Prevention is a lifelong program to prevent brain degeneration. However, there are still things you can do if your older dog is showing symptoms of CCD. Don't just blame old age if your dog is losing housetraining and soiling your home. Report this to your veterinary team because it may be a dementia symptom or something else that can be corrected.

Changes in a dog's sleep/wake cycles are another reportable symptom, as is disorientation. You might also see increased separation anxiety, phobias, excessive vocalization, and changes in a dog's interaction with people and other animals.

As your dog ages, note changes in these areas and ask your veterinarian to help you choose the best interventions for your particular animal. Keeping a log of what you notice is a great way to monitor how long changes have been happening and whether they are worsening or getting better.





# The Pet Page

# Forever homes wanted

Hi: I'm Brutus, a handsome and lovable 2-year-old Labrador / Pit Bull X who is in need of a new home as I'm not allowed at the home my owners

are renting. I'm good with other dogs, but no cats please. I love to cuddle and sleep next to you. I know basic commands and walk great with a no pull harness. I can be possessive of my things so I'd do best in an adult only home. I do have food/environment allergies and I get car sick. I'm on a special diet and medication to help keep this under control. Canine Adoption and Rescue League C.A.R.L.





I'm Buddy a 3-year-old male miniature

City Found: Simi Valley

Shelter: Camarillo Animal Shelter Animal

ID: A788485

Kennel: 120 info@vcas.us 805-388-4341

# This 'n' That



McDonald brings extensive experience to the Assistant Fire Chief position.

# VFD selects Kris McDonald as **Assistant Fire** Chief

Twenty-six-year veteran firefighter, Kris McDonald, has been selected as the next assistant fire chief with the Ventura Fire Department. This promotion follows the retirement of 29-year firefighter and Assistant Fire Chief Jack Hansen.

"The Ventura Fire Department has a dedicated and talented team of firefighters serving our community," said Chief David Endaya. "Kris has had a long and successful career with the department and will serve as a key member of Ventura Fire's command staff in enhancing our services. He has continually demonstrated a commitment to public safety, serving our residents, and strong leadership skills in the workforce."

With over 26 years in the fire service, and 18 years with Ventura Fire, McDonald brings extensive experience to

the Assistant Fire Chief position. His fire service training includes expertise in fire operations and in California's Incident Command System, or ICS.

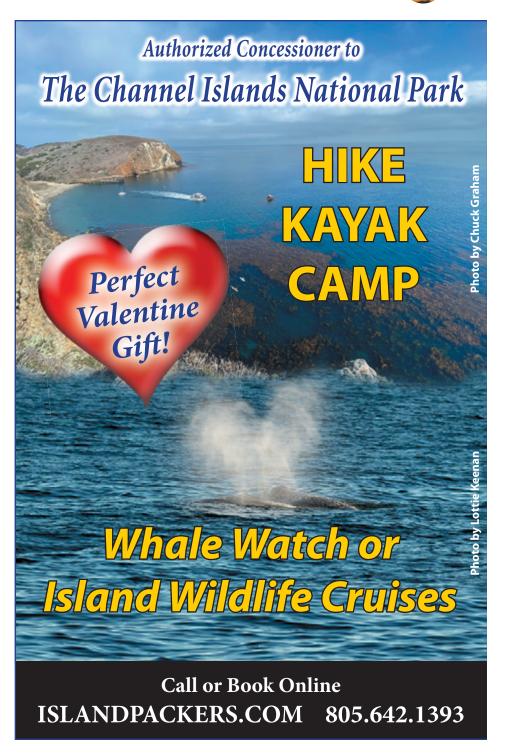
Chief McDonald most recently served as a battalion chief and training chief and was responsible for managing ongoing training schedules, mobile radio communications, mobile data dispatch computers, and OptiCom Traffic Control Systems. Regionally, his specialty qualifications within California's Incident Command Certification System include Resource Unit Leader, Task Force Leader, Strike Team Leader, and Division Group Supervisor.

"I am thrilled and truly humbled to be selected for this opportunity," said Chief McDonald. "I've spent the last 18 years of my career working for Ventura. I look forward to continuing the proactive and progressive work of our fire department in providing all-hazards response and emergency medical services to my community."

Chief McDonald began his firefighting career in 1994 as a volunteer firefighter and EMT in northern California, where he was born and raised. He became a paramedic in 1997 and was hired by the Eureka Fire Department in 1998. In 2002, McDonald joined the Ventura Fire Family, hired as a lateral firefighter paramedic and seamlessly moved through the ranks of engineer, captain, and battalion chief.

He is currently pursuing his bachelor's degree in Fire Administration, as well as various Section Chief position qualifications within California's Incident Command Certification System, which are all responsible for major areas of extended incident management.

McDonald assumed the role of assistant fire chief upon the retirement of former Assistant Chief Jack Hansen on December 30, 2021. Hansen passionately served Ventura for 29 years, was awarded Firefighter of the Year in 1998, honored by Mothers Against Drunk Driving in 1998, and earned numerous commendations for going the extra mile throughout his career.



To learn more about the Ventura Fire Department's leadership team, visit www. cityofventura.ca.gov/MeetOurTeam.

# Volleyball players were observed by attending officials

On Saturday, January 5, a beach volleyball clinic was held for referees at the sand volleyball courts located at Portside Ventura Harbor.

Referees from local and statewide beach

communities attended the volleyball clinic.

Entry level beach volleyball official certification is awarded by a region and a Local beach official. Certification and recertification requirements are to be administered by the individual Region.

Local beach volleyball players from Ventura High and Camarillo High played to help with the certifications.



Referees volleyball clinic held. Patricia Schallert.



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### by Pam Baumgardner

VenturaRocks.com

Tickets go on sale February 15 for the 5th Annual Oxnard Jazz Festival which will take place over the weekend of September 9-11. The event will be held at Oxnard Beach Park after a two-year hiatus. Artists on the roster include Althea Rene, Paula Atherton, Eric Darius, Jeannette Harris, Hiroshima, Najee and Jeffrey Osborne. In order to attend, you must show proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test. Masks will be highly encouraged for everyone. For more information and to snap up your tickets, go to OxnardJazzFesitval.com.

Concerts for Causes date at the Ventura Theater will be on Saturday, February 12 and will feature Mike Scully & the Weary Travelers, Adaptive, Lira and No Idea. This evening's show raises money for the Last Stop Cat Sanctuary, a pet sanctuary for aging, sick, and terminally ill pets. There will be a \$12 cover. Go VenturaTheater.net for COVID protocols.

The Ventura Harbor Comedy Club will host two shows over the weekend of the 18th. First, it's the Conga Sessions with Fausto Cuevas III on Friday evening with a \$10 cover and then Bubbly Brunch & Brazil with Catina de Luna featuring Otmaro Ruiz on Sunday, February 20 with a \$20 cover.

A number of acts have cancelled/ postponed dates at the Thousand Oaks Performing Arts Center but those still scheduled include Rockapella on Friday, February 11, Kenny G on Sunday, February 20, and Chicago who continues to tour with three out of seven of their original members on Tuesday, February 22.

Quick Notes: Soulfly plays the Ventura Room at the Oxnard Performing Arts Center on Wednesday, February 9 along with Short Fuse, I Greater Than He, Boilerman and Slowbleed; Cadillac Zack presents Teresa James at Cantara Cellars on Friday, February 11, call for tickets (323) 377-5291; The Radolescents will play the Adolescents Blue Album in sequence in its entirety at Rock & Roll Pizza in Simi Valley on Friday, February 11, other bands include the Hajj, iDecline, and the Afraid; Melinda Gibson plays the Angry Ferret Brewing Co. on Saturday, February 12; Donna Butler performs jazz standards for Valentine's day dinner at Café Fiore; Gonzalo Grau y la Clave Secreta play the Grape on Saturday, February 19; the Storyplayers perform at the Ojai Underground on Saturday, February 19; and the rescheduled Circle Jerks show is Sunday, February 20 at the Ventura Theater;

Then finally, since KPPQ is celebrating its five-year anniversary providing public access radio to the community, that means I too am celebrating five years producing my music show highlighting mostly artists out of the 805. FIVE YEARS!!! Where does the time go? If you've produced music sometime during your life and would like to share it with the community, just drop me a line and we'll see about getting you some airtime

on the Pam Baumgardner Music Hour. I produce a show every two weeks with each show getting aired Tuesdays and Fridays at 5 pm 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, additional times and genres go to VenturaRocks.com

### A Bar Called Country 211 E. Santa Clara Street, Ventura

Music 9 pm - 12:30 am Sat 2/12: Jayden Secor

### **Angry Ferret Brewing Co.** 11990 Hertz Street, Moorpark

Music 6-9 pm Sat 2/12: Melinda Gibson Sat 2/19: Milo Sledge Trio

### **Boatyard Pub**

Ventura Harbor Wednesdays: Frank Barajas

Thursdays: Jim Friery; then Bluegrass Jam Tues 2/15: CRV 3 Fri 2/18: Teresa Russell & Stephen Geyer

### **Bombay Bar & Grill** 143 S. California St., Ventura

DJs Friday – Sunday

Sat 2/19: Déjà vu Too

### Café Fiore

### 66 S. California Street, Ventura

Wed 2/9: Edgar Thatcher Fri 2/11: Instone Mon 2/14: Donna Butler Wed 2/16: Donna Butler Fri 2/18: Urban Dread

### Cantara Cellars 126 N. Wood Road, Camarillo

Fri 2/11: Teresa James Sat 2/12: Caliente Band 805 Sat 2/19: Buena Onda

### The Cave

### 4435 McGrath St., Ventura

Music 5:30 - 8:30

Wednesdays & Thursdays: Bobby Apostol Fridays & Saturdays: Warren Takahashi

### Copa Cubana Ventura Harbor Village

### Tuesdays: Blues Tuesdays

Saturdays and Sundays: Kenny DeVoe Sat 2/12: Teresa Russell

### **Four Brix Winery**

### 2290 Eastman Ave., Ventura

Music Fridays 6-8 pm; Saturday 1 – 3:30 Sat 2/12: Terrell Edwards & Joe Rozum Fri 2/18: Doc Rogers Band Sat 2/19: Teresa Russell w/ Stephen Geyer

### The Garage

### 1091 Scandia Ave., Ventura

Wednesdays: Blues Wednesday Sundays: Soul Sunday w/ DJ Also Sat 2/12: 805 Social Club Band Fri 2/18: Alla & the Rahkas Sat 2/19: Collaboration Band

### GiGi's Cocktails

### 2493 Grand Ave., Ventura

Sundays: Kokopelli Karaoke w/ Betty Jean

### The Grape

2833 E. Main Street, Ventura

Tuesdays Jazz Jam Saturday afternoons Salsa with Fausto Cuevas y la Moderna (2 pm) Wed 2/9: A Tribute to the Greats Thurs 2/10: Jimmy Calire and Friends Fri 2/11: RJ Root Guitar Night Thurs 2/17: Tom Etchart & Friends Sat 2/19: Gonzalo Grau y la Clave Secreta

### The Greek Restaurant Ventura Harbor

Music 4-6 pm

Wednesdays & Thursdays: Ken Devoe

### **Keynote Lounge** 10245 E Telephone Rd, Ventura

Thursdays: KJ Carlos Fri 2/11: DJ AVG Sat 2/12: Jimi Nelson Band Fri 2/18: Caliente 805 Sat 2/19: DJ Joe

### **Leashless Brewing**

### 585 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura Music 6:30 - 8:30; Sundays 3-5

Thurs 2/10: Matt of Blown Over Fri 2/11: Jacob Marquez & the Good Vibes

Sat 2/12: Irie Nature Thurs 2/17: Vinny Berry Fri 2/18: Keyth Garica Sat 2/19: Illunis

Sun 2/20: Brion Shearer & the Unreliable Villians

### **Lookout & Grill**

### 2800 S. Harbor Blvd., Oxnard

Wednesdays: Tommy Foytek's Variety

Thursdays: Acoustic Open Mic

### **Lucas Sellers Wine** 330 Zachary Street, Moorpark

Music 6-9 pm Sat 2/12: Karen Eden

### Sat 2/19: Bill Rotella **Made West Brewing**

### 1744 Donlon Street, Ventura

Sun 2/13: Gianna Bella Sat 2/19: Lindsey Marie Sun 2/20: RJ Mischo

### **Majestic Ventura Theater**

26 S. Chestnut Street, Ventura Sat 2/12: Mike Scully & the Weary Travelers, Adaptive, Lira, No Idea

Sun 2/20: Circle Jerks **Manhattan Restaurant** 

### 5800 Santa Rosa Road, Camarillo

Music 6:30 - 9:30 pm Wednesdays: Robert Van Fri 2/11: Pam and Hollywood Sat 2/12: Jeanne Tatum Mon 2/14: Andy Street

Fri 2/18: Tour Support Sat 2/19: Jeanne Tatum

### Margarita Villa Ventura Harbor

Sat 2/19: CRV

### Mrs. Olson's

2800 Harbor Blvd., Channel Islands

### Music at Noon

Sat 2/13: Teresa Russell w/ Stephen Geyer

### Namba Arts

### 47 S. Oak Street, Ventura

Sat 2/12: The Salty Suites Thurs 2/17: Listening Room Redux 4 Sat 2/19: Dirty Cello Band

### Ojai Underground Exchange 616 Pearl Street, Ojai

Sat 2/19: The Storytellers

### **Oceanview Pavilion**

575 E. Surfside Drive, Port Hueneme Sat 2/12: DSB

**Oxnard Performing Arts Center** 

## **Canyon at Oxnard PACC**

Wed 2/9: (Ventura Room) Soulfly, Short Fuse, I Greater than He, Boilerman, Slowbleed

### Paddy's Cocktails

2 W. Main Street

Wednesdays: Karaoke

### **Prime Restaurant**

### 2209 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

Tuesdays: Danny D

### The Raven Tavern 1651 S. Victoria Ave., Oxnard

Music at 7-10 pm

Fri 2/11: The Remedies feat. Troy Edwards

Sat 2/12: Brittney Burchett

Fri 2/18: Vinyl Gypsies Sat 2/19: Tyler James (Foo Flannels)

### Ric's Restaurant

### 2500 Las Posas Road, Camarillo

Tuesdays: Tour Support with Kurt Griffey & Bob DeLellis

### The Shores

### 1031 Harbor Blvd., Oxnard

Fri 2/11: Rocker Fellas 805 Mon 2/14: Daniela Cardillo

### The Six Chow House

419 E Main Street, Ventura Fri 2/11: I Want my 80s

Sat 2/12: Bring on the Night Fri 2/18: Lion Heights

Sat 2/19: Sweet P Sun 2/20: T.C. King

### Taqueria Jalisco Restaurant 4275 Tierra Rejada Rd., Moorpark

Music 5-8 pm

Tuesdays & Fridays: Jim Friery **Topa Topa Brewing** 

2024 Ventura Blvd., Camarillo

### Sun 2/20: Xenia Flores **Topa Topa Brewing**

341 Ojai Ave., Ojai Wed 2/9: Ted Lennon

Fri 2/11: Kellen van Allen Fri 2/18: Jess Bush, Kellen van Allen, Drea van Allen

### The Twist on Main

### 254 E. Main Street, Ventura

Weds: Classic Country w/ Jesse Harris Thursdays: LA Jazz Connection Fri 2/11: Dave Rea and Acoustic DNA Sat 2/12: Dianne Miller; Crosscut 805 Fri 2/18: Colette Lovejoy Band Sat 2/19: Steve and Sally Williams; Dive Bar Messiahs

### Sun 2/20: Joe Delia

### Vaquero y Mar 435 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

Thursdays: Delta by the Beach Sundays: Mariachi Gallos de Oro

### **Ventura Harbor Comedy Club** Ventura Harbor Village

Fri 2/18: Fausto Cuevas III Sat 2/19: Catina de Luna featuring Otmaro Ruiz

### The Vine

### 308 E. Ojai Ave., Ojai

Sundays: Fire on the Mountain Saturdays: Smitty and Julija and Friends Fri 2/18: Tommy & Paddy Marsh

### Waterside Restaurant 3500 S. Harbor Blvd, Oxnard

Sat 2/12: Déjà vu Too Sun 2/20: Teresa Russell

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

Music Thurs 5:30; Fri 7 pm; Sun 3 pm Thurs 2/10: Brandon Ragan Fri 2/11: The Tossers Thurs 2/17: Warren Takahashi

Fri 2/18: Ray Jaurique Trio Sun 2/20: Mark Masson & Phriends

Ventura Music Scene







**Ghada Amer**'s art is a series of metal garden words in downtown. And one of her large living art installations is located in the Botanical Gardens.



· Appetizers · Dinner · Cocktails · Jazz Band

· Dancing · Silent and Live Auction

Social Distancing - Ceramic, by Elena Berdnikova

Hawk - Hard Maple, by John Parker

At Studio 99 @ The Bell Arts Factory

**BAA Members** Show Plus Board Member Appreciation Show

Now thru March 12, 2022 Open Fridays and Saturdays, noon to 4pm First Friday reception on March 4th

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

A Members-Only Show at Harbor Village Gallery & Gifts Now thru March 15, 2022

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

# Saturday, February 26, the Ventura County Handweavers and Spinners Guild will hold a Virtual Zoom Meeting, Show and Tell and Program starting at 9:00 a.m.

Welcome to a meeting of a creative community with the specific purpose to advance, foster, and promote the art of handweaving, spinning and related crafts through charitable and educational activities. Virtual Zoom Program: Deborah Jarchow will give a program on End Finishing Techniques. Following the meeting will be a Zoom Workshop - 1 1/2 days Saturday afternoon and Sunday - \$120. Deborah Jarchow will lead a workshop on Rya, Twining, Looping, Soumak, and Inlay Sampler on the Rigid Heddle Loom (Tapestry Techniques). For more information www.vchsg.org.

# Ventura Art Scene



TurningPointFoundation.org | VenturaSouthRotary.org

Donate

February 9 - February 22, 2022

# Lighter Breeze





### **Baby Blues**



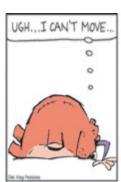
### Mutts



### **Daddy Daze**









### Hagar the Horrible





Sam and Silo









Solutions on page 13

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

		•					•	•
	2			7				[ 4 ]
1					2		3	
		8	3			9		
4				2				7
		2	6			8		
	5				8		1	
		1		4			7	
5					9	4		
	7		5					6

### Weekly **SUDOKU**

by Linda Thistle

Place a number to the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and leach smail 9-box equate some as all of fee numbers from one to non-

### DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: •••

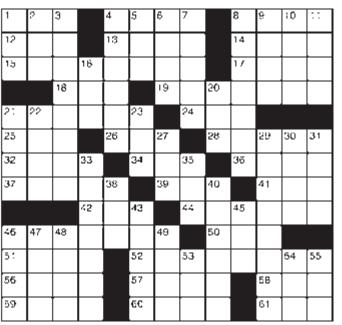


Solutions on page 13

# King Crossword

### ACROSS

- Kitten's cry
- 4 Opera set in Egypt
- 8 Garden
- intruder
- 12 Eggs 13 Some deer
- 14 -bitty 15 Containers for
- laundering 17 Appease
- 18 "So there!"
- 19 Pittsburgh pro
- 21 Emphasize 24 Droop
- 25 Chop
- 26 Pirate's potation.
- 28 Yokels
- 32 "I've Got in. Kalamazoo'
- 34 Pinnacle
- 36 "- come back now. hear?"
- 37 Trifled (with)
- 41 Roman 151
- "— the sea-42 son ...'
- 44 NASA vehicle 46 Critic's essays
- 50 Part of DJIA
- 51 Send forth 52 Give a faded look to, as
- jeans 56 Lettuce vari-



- 57 Think (over) 58 HBO rival
- 59 Sheltered 60 Between jobs 10 Diminutive
- 39 PC alternative 61 Layer

### DOWN

- 1 Trim the grass 2 Actress Longoria
- 3 Remove by cleaning
- 4 Tennis legend.
- Ashe 5 Debtor's note
- 6 Society new-

- 7 Admin, aides. 8 Know-it-all And others
- (Lat.)
- suffix
- 11 Color worker 16 Dinner for
- Dobbin 20 Corn spike.
- 21 Excellent, in: slang
- 22 Toy block name
- 23 Place
- 27 May honoree
- 29 Aftermath
- 30 Vogue rival 6) 2022 King Features Synd., Inc.

- 31 Thin cut
- 33 Beatles classic. 35 Standard
- 38 Conk out
- 40 Pamper
- 43 Sage
- 45 Farm female 46 Country's
- McEntire: 47 Actor
- Jannings
- 48 Unspoken feeling
- 49 Gulf War missile
- 53 Unwell
- 54 Yon maiden.
- 55 Sweetie

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Temper that Aries impatience. Demanding answers or results before they're ready to be revealed could create more delays. Take time out for fun with family or friends. TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Someone involved in your latest venture makes new demands that you find disturbing. While you dislike being a quitter, it might be

serious implications than you first thought. Get more information and seek the counsel of trusted friends before you sign or say anything.

best to drop this project and move

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) It's a good time to reconsider some of your plans, especially those involving major investments of money and/or time. Expect to hear from someone in your past.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) Love continues to dominate for both single and paired Lions. In the workplace, deal with a co-worker's thoughtless comments before they cause problems later on.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) You might be angry enough to end a friendship because of consider the source of the gossip Inc.

before you act.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Your career move seems to be stalled. Request a meeting to discuss the situation. It will be a learning experience for everyone involved.

**SCORPIO** (October November 21) That important relationship is about to move to a new level. Continue to be patient, and resist pushing it even further. It still needs time to blossom.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Paired Sagittarians do very well at this time. However, some challenges loom for single Archers who are considering stronger romantic commitments.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Be patient. A mis-GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) understanding is close to being A decision could involve more completely resolved, as new facts emerge that will help change those stubborn minds.

> **AQUARIUS** (January 20 February 18) A change in a personal relationship reveals some long-hidden truths. Your challenge now is to use this new information wisely for all concerned.

> **PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) Draw on your deep reserves of good Piscean common sense to avoid taking the lure from someone who thinks he or she can get the best of

> **BORN THIS WEEK:** You have a remarkable ability to make friends with strangers. This allows you to command an army of devoted admirers.

something you were told. But (c) 2022 King Features Syndicate,

## Showtime

A View from House Seats

## Hi-Jinx on High Street with Matilda

by Shirley Lorraine

It is a multi-award winner. It was Best New Musical in 2012. It is high energy, high camp and filled with talent. The production is Matilda, the Musical, based on the 1988 book by Roald Dahl, perhaps best known for Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory.

Moorpark's High Street Arts Center has compiled an extensive cast of characters from kids to, well, not kids, all of them eager to share the eccentricities of Dahl's imagination.

It is an extremely ambitious undertaking. Kudos to director Tami Keaton and the multitude of crew members who make the magic happen. And yes, there are some truly magical moments throughout.

Not familiar with the story? It centers around Matilda (dual cast with Noelle Gibson and Bridget Hunzeker), a young girl who is saddled with a set of n'er do well parents, a lazy brother, and no encouragement to become educated. She reads. This angers her mother and father, who clearly think reading is a waste of

They ship Matilda off to a boarding school led by a particularly unpleasant headmistress (played with cartoonish relish by Sean Burns) who enjoys beleaguering the young in her care. Despite efforts to add a touch of empathy to the daily rigor, teacher Miss Honey (Kristina Reyes) befriends Matilda, recognizing her special talents, and things begin to change for the better.

The action is rapid-fire, nearly frantic at times, and spiced with complicated choreography to maintain the very large cast moving so that the stage is fully

**Streaming Spotlight by Cindy Summers** 

Breeze rating from 1 to 4 palm trees,

4 being best.

20 something roommates on the

autism spectrum, Jack, Harrison and

Violet, as they work to gain the skills

to lead independent lives through the

assistance of their life coach Mandy.

The three live in an apartment

together where they have daily

check-ins with Mandy to celebrate

accomplishments and set goals. Each

of them has a different type of autism

diagnoses, and Mandy guides them

with patience and empathy for the

challenges they encounter trying to

be "normal" like the rest of the world.

socially disconnected and does

not like to ever venture out of the

apartment due to his fear of noises,

strange people, dogs, ...most things.

Harrison (Albert Rutecki) is

As We See It follows the lives of three

As We See It

- Amazon Original Series

utilized. Numerous cast members play several roles, switching from speaking parts to ensemble and back with ease.

Matilda's parents, Mr. & Mrs. Wormwood, are played by Megan Razor and Michael Rosenblum to the hilt. They, too, are caricatures of their characters and fascinating to watch as they are clearly approaching the very limits of hamming it up, to the audience's delight. They are not likeable people, but the portrayals are a hoot. PC the play is not.

Opening night featured Noelle Gibson in the pivotal role of Matilda. She was on fire and delivered a solid, sterling performance. Backed up by a bevy of talented up-and-comers, Gibson easily held the leading position.

The story has numerous quite dark moments. My 10-year-old niece (my evening's "date") shared that she "liked most of it, but some of the parts were scary". Indeed, they are, and unpleasant, but well managed. She did enjoy the high-camp, cartoony overall shading of

High Street productions consistently deliver high quality theatrical experiences. Their commitment to bringing lesser done works to the stage and encouraging actors of all ages is laudable.

Matilda, the Musical continues its run through February 27 with performances at 8 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays, and 2 p.m. Matinees on Sundays. Seating is pre-arranged and reservations are required. Come prepared to show proof of vaccination of a negative Covid result and wear your mask. All details are available on their website www.highstreetartscenter.com. 805-529-8700.

made his 10 year old neighbor from upstairs AJ the perfect friend and playmate. AJ was young but had some good street smarts, which lead to he and Harrison getting into trouble on several occasions, Harrison being the one that just followed along.

Jack (Rick Glassman) has Asperger's Syndrome, is a mild form of high-functioning autism more common in males than in females. While quite intelligent, he has no filter which often has him misunderstood and offending others frequently. He does not like being touched and is very detached emotionally, though he is very aware of this fact, and many of his goals revolve around connecting to people as his condition makes social interactions difficult. As an example of this dynamic, he works as a computer programmer, and and when asked at work to change some things with a program he wrote, he said it was asinine and told his boss he had inferior intelligence which got him temporarily fired. Jack is close with his dad Lou (Joe Mantegna) who had just been diagnosed with cancer and concerned he'll die before his son finds independence.

Violet (Sue Ann Pien) is a 25 year old virgin whose sole motivation in life is to have sex, preparing for it by reading Cosmo, watching videos, learning from other sources online and from co-workers at Arby's where she worked at the counter until she hit on a married man in front of his wife and was demoted to sandwich maker. She constantly uses

### No Delay in Trash, Recyclables and Yard/Organic Waste Pick Up Due to the Presidents Day Holiday

Presidents Day will be celebrated on Monday, February 21. We will have regularly scheduled trash, recyclables and yard/organic waste collection the week of February 20-26 in the Cities of Ventura and Ojai.

### Thank you and Happy Holiday E. J. Harrison & Sons

To order services & pay bills online go to www.ejharrison.com

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profane language and regularly blurts out she just needs someone to f\*\*\*, having no filter like Jack, especially when it comes to talking about sex. Her brother Van (Chris Pang) became her caretaker after their parents died, and is trying to not let his sister's issues blowup his relationship with his girlfriend Selena, which has happened every other time in his past relationships.

Mandy (Sosie Bacon) is a life coach who educates them about the world and helps them to navigate it. Her patience and tolerance seems boundless, and is never reactionary, rather extremely calm when dealing with the variety of issues that arise coach all three in the same environment. They all trust her implicitly and generally follow her advise or instructions. Mandy wanted to work in the medical field doing autism research, but didn't pass her MCAT entrance exam, and has a boyfriend named Joel who is trying to persuade her to join him in Berkeley for an internship at USF, but she feels torn about leaving Jack, Harrison and Violet behind.

As We See It is a very warmhearted, compassionate glimpse into the lives of those living on the autism spectrum and Mandy's role as life coach shares some impressive coping skills that can be applied to many everyday situations with people from any walk of life.

Rated TV-16+ 8 – 35min Episodes

# Transparency Certificate of Excellence awarded to Ventura Port **District**

The Ventura Port District has received the District Transparency Certificate of Excellence by bor.com.

the Special District Leadership Foundation (SDLF) in recognition of its outstanding efforts to promote transparency and good governance. Ventura Port District oversees management of both the Ventura Harbor and the Ventura Harbor Village. It joins the ranks of 15 other Special Districts in California that have earned the Certificate of Excellence in the past year.

"This award is a testament to the Ventura Port District's commitment to open government," said, Brian Pendleton, General Manager. "Our staff is to be commended for their contributions that empower the public with information and facilitate engagement and oversight."

receive the Ventura Port District demonstrated the completion of essential governance transparency requirements, including conducting ethics training for all board members, properly conducting open and public meetings, and filing financial transactions and compensation reports to the State Controller in a timely manner.

SDLF is an independent, non-profit organization formed to promote good governance and best practices among California's Special Districts through certification, accreditation, and other recognition programs.

Special Districts are independent public agencies that deliver core local services to communities, such as water, wastewater treatment, fire protection, parks and recreation, healthcare, sanitation, mosquito abatement, ports, libraries, public cemeteries and more. Districts are established by voters and their funding is approved by voters to meet specific needs through focused service. They can be specially molded to serve large regions or small neighborhoods depending on the need.

For information on Harbor amenities, Port District meetings, and happenings visit VenturaHar-





He's overweight, most likely due to the fact that he spends his days watching games shows on TV in the apartment and has a huge appetite for sweets. He comes from a wealthy, supportive family and has the social

mentality of an adolescent, which

Your Hometown Paper www.venturabreeze.com



We use Trex decking materials, the world's #1

decking brand since 1996. All materials are low maintenance, high-performance and eco-friendly products.



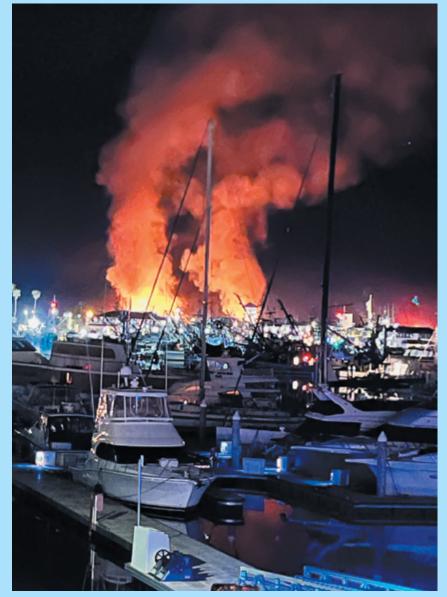
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www.oceanviewdecks.com









On Feb. 4, at 11:50pm, fire units were dispatched to a report of smoke and flames near the water treatment plant by Ventura Harbor. Upon arrival firefighters encountered a fire in thick Arundo burning between the treatment plant and the Santa Clara River. After accessing the fire from the water treatment plant, firefighters were able to stop the progress of the fire 2 hours after the initial report. The fire burned approximately 1.5 acres of vegetation. No structures were damaged. Photo by Matt Barisic.

# This 'n' That



Thought to be extinct tree is now in Plaza Park.

# Ancient Tree from prehistory comes to Ventura

A rare and ancient tree species surviving the age of the dinosaurs and thought to be extinct, is about to become to be a part of Ventura's conservation efforts. Donated by the Ventura Botanical Gardens to the City of Ventura, the Wollemi Nobilis pine will be placed among the plants and trees of Plaza Park.

Prior to its rediscovery in 1994, the Wollemi Nobilis was only known through fossils. Bushwalker and park ranger David Noble found the Wollemi pine in the wild, million-acre canyons of Wollemi National Park near Sydney, Australia.

As part of their global conservation efforts to save and revitalize the tree, National Geographic wrote, "this miraculous time traveler is one of the greatest living fossils discovered in the twentieth century."

"This is the equivalent of finding a small dinosaur alive on earth," penned the Kenneth Hill, Director of the Royal Botanical Gardens, Sydney.

Now, through the efforts of the Ventura Botanical Gardens, Rotary, the City of Ventura, and Emi Tahira, this tree will grace one of Ventura's earliest parks, Plaza Park.

Originally, the plantings at Plaza Park were representative of the Victorian age of exploration. They included large landscape tree species that originated from the Pacific Rim. A few, like the Morton Bay Fig and Araucaria species, are still standing.

"The Wollemi pine fits perfectly within the original botanical concept of this park," states Nancy O'Connor, City of Ventura Parks and Recreation. "We are excited about the inclusion in these important conservation efforts."

"Plant conservation efforts that are global in scope are critically important," responds Joe Cahill, Executive Director of the Ventura Botanical Gardens. "Working with other botanic gardens and partner organizations across the world, we can amass exponentially more knowledge and dramatically decrease the likelihood of extinction. It is incredibly exciting for Ventura to support conservation efforts like this."

"Working in partnership with the donor, the Ventura Botanical Gardens, and the City of Ventura, to bring this rare species to grace Ventura, has been a wonderful experience," said Bruce McGee of Rotary. "The three Ventura Rotary Clubs are proud to be a part of this."

Ventura Botanical Gardens is located at Grant Park in the City of Ventura, their goals

include conservation efforts and encouraging visitors to strengthen their connection to nature. For further information about this tree or the donation, contact jcahill@ venturabotanicalgardens.com. To find out more, visit www.VenturaBotanicalGardens. com and join us on Facebook.

### Mailbox

Continued from page 4

in your unlocked car, banks could leave their doors open after they close, packages left on front porches wouldn't get stolen. But, I'm afraid this very very far from being a perfect world. If it was people wouldn't have stormed the capitol.

No, I have never spent time in the Soviet Union and not sure what that question even means (by the way the Soviet Union hasn't existed since 1991). My grandparents were Russian Jews does that count? Sheldon

### The Bookmark

Continued from page 8

VFOL Online Bookstore has recently added vintage books and comics for online selection. Of course, you will still also find great quality reading selections in both fiction and non-fiction for youth and adults, puzzles and audiobooks as well. Any questions? bookstore@venturafriendsofthelibrary.org

Open Mic Night hosted by Phil Taggart

Thursdays, 6:30 to 10:00 pm. Enjoy a featured poet, then share your own work with the group. All are welcome to just sit and listen as well. Join Zoom Meeting https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9607501600 Meeting ID: 960 750 1600

Minecraft Mondays - 4:00 to 5:30 pm. Join one of the library's Minecraft servers.

Participants must have parental permission and own a personal Minecraft Java Edition license (PC or MAC computers only) or a Minecraft Bedrock license (Windows 10 Edition or App,) and use Minecraft Version 1.16.3 for the Java Edition or the latest version of the Windows 10 Edition or App. Please send your request to join to vencolib. minecraft@gmail.com.

Verified participants will be "Allow Listed" thereby granted permission to access the server.