



VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

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Maintaining an ongoing streak, the Ventura Visitors & Convention Bureau (VVCB) was kindly honored with a prestigious Gold Award from Hospitality Sales & Marketing Association International (HSMIAI) at the 65th annual Adrian Awards, the world's largest global travel marketing competition. VVCB won in the category "Corporate Social Responsibility," the award given based on VVCB's numerous programs and efforts aimed at supporting Ventura during the pandemic.

Out of over 600 entries submitted this year, VVCB's work was judged to be exceptional by expert hospitality, travel, tourism, and media professionals. The focus of the 2021 HSMIAI Adrian Awards this year shifted slightly, focusing on innovative efforts aimed at helping communities get through the pandemic and continue to flourish on through recovery.

"This year is a little different, and particularly special," said Marlyss Auster, VVCB President & CEO. "Throughout the pandemic - and continuing on - we asked ourselves a



The Visit Ventura crew enjoying a beautiful Ventura day on the pier.

Visit Ventura Wins an Adrian Gold for Pandemic Efforts

simple question every day. What is the next right thing we can do to help our community? How could we reach - and really help - as many friends as possible? Every program we created and launched was based on that."

Adrian Awards judges were asked to evaluate each entry based on its own merit and success in achieving its objectives. Past winners of this coveted award include such industry giants as Choice Hotels Interna-

tional, Visit California, Hilton Worldwide, Marriott International, and Royal Caribbean International. VVCB's wins continue a "little engine that could" fairytale come to life. Including this year, Visit Ventura has won five Adrian Awards, including four gold awards and one silver award.

The 2021 Adrian Award winners were honored at the Adrian Awards Celebration, March 30th at The Boca Raton, Boca Raton, Florida.

But Visit Ventura isn't about to rest on any laurels.

"It feels great to be recognized for doing the right thing," said Auster. "We know there were a lot of worthy entries, but I'm really proud of everything our Visit Ventura team did to help our Ventura home. If the pandemic showed us anything it was how we all look out for each other. And we're going to continue on full speed ahead, doing everything we can to help the town we love. It should also be noted that our mighty little engine that could includes our amazing volunteers and Board of Directors."

Photos by lots of people, Patricia Schallert, Richard Lieberman, Trent Steven, Jenny Cooper and Kathy Navarro.

Celebration held to honor mural artists

On Saturday, March 26, Mayor Rubalcava joined the Westside Community Development Corporation welcomed a large gathering to celebrate and honor the 57 artists who brought to life a 600-foot mural called Pura Avenida.

It featured a Chumash blessing, photo opportunities, and lowriders.

The Pura Avenida mural features images and icons celebrating beloved features of life on the Avenue in the Westside area of Ventura. The project stretches across a 600-foot public wall that runs along Wall Street, a well-known street located between and parallel to Ventura Avenue and Cedar Street in Ventura.

"Pura Avenida was brought to life thanks to the many established artists, mural makers, and youth who worked together every step of the way. From washing the wall to priming, sketching, painting, and sealing the mural, community members were involved in all aspects of the project," said WCDC Director Jackie Pearce. "The Pura

Continued on page 18



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City News



Construction for the play area began in early May 2021.

City of Ventura opens Arroyo Verde Park Inclusive Play Area

The City of Ventura is thrilled to announce the official opening of its all-inclusive play area at Arroyo Verde Park on Friday, April 1, 2022. This new public amenity is Ventura's first fully inclusive play area for youth of all abilities.

The 10,750 square foot play area features a colorful play surface, new landscaping, gathering areas, swings, hammocks, balance beams, a sensory garden, a motion-inclusive carousel, embankment climbers, and music play areas. It also features a sensory wall with recognition tiles dedicated to those who donated to the project.

"The all-inclusive play area means so much to our community and is a

beautiful addition to Arroyo Verde Park," said Mayor Sofia Rubalcava. "This area has transformed into a space where people of all ages and abilities can play without barriers and experience the joy of connection."

Construction for the play area began in early May 2021. Arroyo Verde Park's previous play structure was destroyed in the 2017 Thomas Fire. Rather than rebuild the same structure, the community and City worked together to re-imagine the space.

Families, community members, medical professionals, and playground manufacturers shared valuable input into the playground's design. Through

meetings and conversations, park designers developed an adaptive play space where children of all abilities can play together.

This project was supported by generous donations from the Ventura Community Partners Foundation (VCPF), as well as community groups, residents, medical professionals, and local businesses. A donor appreciation video is available on the City's YouTube Channel at https://youtu.be/OZA1b-PI_93I.

For more information on the Arroyo Verde Park Inclusive Play Area, please visit www.cityofventura.ca.gov/AVP or contact Community Outreach Specialist Taylor Pineda at tpineda@cityofventura.ca.gov.

Collaboration of Police and Sheriff Trainings with Ventura Behavioral Health

by Carol Leish, MA

"Ventura Police Department Officers receive mental health training while in Basic Academy under Learning Domain 37, which consists of 15 hours," according to Emily Graves, Community Outreach Specialist for the City of Ventura/Police. "The Basic Academy training is an introduction for first responders and Crisis Intervention Training. Officers are taught a basic understanding of a variety of mental health disorders, developmental disabilities, and brain injuries. They are exposed to mental health consumers and family members who speak about their experiences with loved ones who suffer from mental illness."

"The weeklong Crisis Intervention Training (CIT) Academy," according to John Schipper, Ph.D., Division Chief for Adult Services for Ventura County Behavioral Health (VCBH), "includes training by VCBH staff and members of the community. This training is for all the Ventura County police and sheriff departments, including Ventura, Oxnard, and Port Hueneme Police and Sheriff

departments. This training educates officers/deputies on different types of mental illness, de-escalating techniques, and role playing of various scenarios. These trainings have been happening for over 20 years.

"Instructors in the CIT Academy include various presentations. Tri-County Regional Center and mental health staff from the Ventura County Behavioral Health provide these presentations."

Graves said, "Following academy graduation, Ventura Police Officers attend a more robust 40-hour Crisis Intervention Training Academy where new officers are exposed to over 50 instructors and guest speakers from various law enforcement agencies and community organizations who donate a total of 250 hours to make the class possible. At the CIT Academy, officers get more in-depth mental health knowledge, are taught de-escalation skills, and practice those newly learned techniques in multiple scenarios."

"Providing a refresher course is essential," according to Dr. Schipper. "Starting in 2022, the Crisis Intervention Training will be including 8-hour CIT Update Courses every two years for past CIT Academy graduates," according to Graves.

Apply now to join a City of Ventura board, commission, or committee

The City of Ventura invites residents to get involved in local government services and decisions that impact the community. Currently, there are 24 openings across several City boards, commissions, and committees.

These positions assist and advise City Council on various programs and projects. Applications are due by Friday, April 15, 2022.

There are four openings on the Local Construction Appeals Board.

There are three openings on the Mobile Home Rent Review Board.

There are two openings on the

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE VENTURA BREEZE!

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

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The Ventura Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting at Coastal Architects on March 25. Coastal Architects is a full-service architectural, planning, and design firm specializing in customer services that range from initial master planning and pre-development sketches to technical and construction documentation through all phases of the development.

1567 Spinnaker Dr., Suite 204 in the Ventura Harbor Village. 805-985-7654.
Photo by Michael Gordon.



Community Events

Parks & Recreation Commission.
 There are four openings on the Arts & Culture Commission.
 There are two openings on the Water Commission.
 There are three openings on the Historic Preservation Committee.
 There are three openings on the Downtown Parking Advisory Committee.
 There are two openings on the Design Review Committee.
 There is one opening on the Ventura Port District.
 Vacancies on the Boards and Commissions occur either through scheduled vacancies created by the expiration of a term or resignations during the year. Residents interested in serving on a Board or Committee may apply. Per San Buenaventura Ordinance 2019-003, no citizen may serve on more than one Committee, Commission, or Board. Dual appointments are not permitted.
 For questions or to apply, contact the City Clerk's Office at (805) 658-4787 or email cityclerk@cityofventura.ca.gov. To learn more about the City's boards, commissions, or committees, visit www.cityofventura.ca.gov/Recruitments.

Ventura events

by Ana Baker

The Ventura Senior Men's Group continues to meet for a social lunch and program at the Poinsettia Pavilion in Ventura on the first and third Tuesday each month. Men of all descriptions are always welcomed to stop in to sample our shenanigans. Bob Likins at 805-587-1233 or Rick Follenweider at 650-520-1098 can supply details.

April 9: Come blossom with the Turning Point Foundation. Our nursery will be in full bloom during our uplifting Spring Fling event from 10-2 p.m. Blossoming with health and wellness ideas, live music, delicious food, and stunning plants for sale that will all go to a beautiful cause. Our Spring Fling is open to the public of all ages. So, bring your kids, grandkids, neighbors, and friends for an inspirational day at Growing Works Nursery! 1736 S. Lewis, Camarillo. We're excited to meet some new faces and celebrate our years of caring for homeless populations and veterans!

April 10: Will Olivia the great horned owl return to the Olivas Adobe this Spring? We may never know for sure, but we can still celebrate her at this free family event. Docent lead tours of the rancho home are available for a small fee, plus visit our gift shop and small adobe gallery for owl-themed paintings and trinkets to purchase. Sunday 11-3 p.m. Olivas Adobe, 4200 Olivas Park Drive www.cityofventura.ca.gov/OlivasAdobe or call 805-658-4728 for additional information

April 12: Ventura County Writers Club is glad to announce that Alicia Doyle will be the speaker for the upcoming meeting. With more than two decades of experience, the award-winning journalist will bring her expertise to the industry and her vast knowledge of storytelling. The meeting is a free event open to anyone interested in writing. Located at 1605 Burnley St. in Camarillo at 7 p.m.

April 16: The Ventura County Genealogical Society presents a Free Family History Presentation Online

with Zoom. Saturday, 1- 4 p.m., Sara Cochran will discuss techniques for finding new clues in records we already have and look at several small case studies to see the value of taking the time to go backward in order to go forwards. <https://venturacogensoc.org/this-month/>

April 21: Channel Islands Gulls Fundraising Luncheon. Join in the fun at our April luncheon and help raise funds for California Coastal Horse Rescue. CCHR rescues and re-homes horses and provides educational programs to school and community groups. 11:00 a.m. Social Hour; 12:00 noon Meeting and Lunch. The Greek, 1583 Spinnaker Drive, Ventura Harbor Cost: \$40 per person - Advance reservations and payment required: cigullsreservations@gmail.com or 805/263-7759

April 22: Join us for an in-person production of Hansel & Gretel on April 22 and 23 at the Ventura College Performing Arts Center. Experience this musical fairy tale with folk-music-inspired themes, including the famous "Evening Prayer" in Engelbert Humperdinck's opera production. Free admission for children ten and under. Friday, April 22 at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, April 23 at 3:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Purchase Tickets in Advance: <https://www.venturacollege.edu/performing-arts>

April 27: The College Area Community Council will be holding a Zoom meeting on Wednesday at 7 p.m. An invitation and link to the meeting will be sent to everyone on the CACC mailing list. Council meetings include speakers and discussions on neighborhood and community interest topics, including public safety and economic development. Visit the College Area Community Council website @ <https://caccventura.com> to learn more, to be added to the mailing list, and access a link to the Zoom meeting

Ojai news and events

Chamber On The Mountain presents top-selling, Czech Violin Superstar, Pavel Šporcl, on Sunday, April 10, 2022, 3:00 pm at Logan House (located at the Beatrice Wood Center for the Arts in Upper Ojai). Tickets \$30.00 at www.ChamberOnTheMountain.com.

Nicknamed "the fighting musician," Pavel Šporcl has been triumphantly received by audiences in major music venues throughout the world thanks to his formidable art, rich classical background, and unique and distinctive stage presence.

Acclaimed Americana singer-songwriters Manda Mosher, Pi Jacobs, Amilia K Spicer and Arielle Silver will come together for an intimate, in-the-round performance at Ojai Underground Exchange. The show will also be broadcast to ticketholders who wish to see it as a livestream. Attendees can expect a magical evening, as the four artists "vibe" off one another, as well as the audience. "Women of Americana" will perform one show only, on Saturday April 9th at 7 pm at Ojai Underground Exchange. Tickets are \$20 to come to the live concert. Broadcast tickets are \$10-\$20. Purchase

Continued on page 15

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THE HEART OF VENTURA

Second Saturday Community Events April 10, 2022

♥ **District 3 Cleanup with Mike Johnson, 10 am - noon**

Picking up litter, scraping stickers, and cleaning graffiti. If you have buckets/gloves/pickeruppers, bring them, but we'll have extras. Meet in front of Barnes & Noble.

Contact mike.johnson@cityofventura.ca.us

♥ **Westside Neighborhood Cleanup & Recycling Event**

9-noon or until full. 71 Bell Way. Drop-off only. Free for Westside families.

Accepted: Appliances, clothing, furniture, metal, tires, green waste, wood, cameras, cell phones, computers, monitors, printers, TVs, VCRs

NOT accepted: Household hazardous waste including aerosol cans, automotive fluids, batteries, motor oil, oil filters, paint, pesticides, polishes and varnishes, pool chemicals

Contact: 805.628.3869 or WestsideVentura.org

Share your love for the community!



VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

Member, Ventura Chamber of Commerce

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

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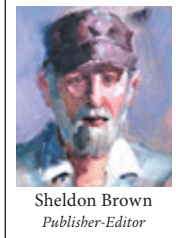
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Opinion/Editorial



Sheldon Brown
Publisher-Editor

■ I'm very sad to write that this will be the last issue for our Senior Account Executive **Breezy Gledhill**. As some of you know, she has been dealing with cancer for the last two years. At the Breeze luncheon, held last summer, she announced that she was free and clear of cancer, and we all clapped, shrieked with happiness, and cried a little.

But, the cancer has roared back and attacked her liver. She has been getting chemo with the hope that it reduces enough to be removed. She feels that right now the best thing for her well-being is to concentrate on her health and future.

For the last 11+ years, without her amazing contributions, the Breeze would not exist. She will always remain a part of the Breeze family and a lifelong friend. I have always considered her to be my "adopted" daughter and wish her nothing but the very best as she carries on with her life. She has been a delight to work with and her spirit and optimism during her struggle is an inspiration.

■ Very exciting (at least for now) that **live performances** are back in Ventura, and I attended two of them recently.

The **Rubicon** presented Joe Spano and JoBeth Williams in the Rubicon Theatre Company's production of The Gin Game by D.L. Coburn and directed by Jenny Sullivan. The Rubican will have a full season of events and productions.

I also attended the first event at the new Ventura Music Hall, the former Discovery Ventura on Thompson. Truthfully, I didn't attend to hear the music because I listen to jazz and classical music, but I wanted to check it out.

The décor is simple, which is okay because the wood high-truss ceiling is amazing and is all that it takes to make it a great space. It has a small stand-up bar and casual dining area that is above the dance floor. It is now serving salads, burgers, sandwiches and such but this could change as they see what is being consumed by patrons. There were also some tables set up on the dance floor (or should I say standing floor as most were standing and not dancing). I think it will be successful.

■ Despite the slight overall reduction in Part I Crime, **violent crime** in Ventura saw a significant increase of 15.24% in 2021, with 50 more offenses reported than in the previous year. Aggravated assaults increased 16.92%, with 34 more assaults

being reported. Sexual assaults had a significant increase of 35.48% having 11 more incidents than last year. Robberies increased by 7.45%. Seven more than the year prior. The only decrease in violent crimes was homicides in which we had none compared to two the year prior.

Hopefully this year will see a decrease, but we should feel good there were no homicides the entire year.

■ The City of Ventura voters approved a ballot measure for the taxation of **cannabis** in the City of Ventura in November of 2020. City Council approved a Regulatory Ordinance on February 24, 2021, allowing certain types of commercial cannabis businesses to operate in the City of Ventura with a cannabis business permit.

The Application Period 1 for commercial cannabis business permits closed on Wednesday, August 11, 2021. Application Period 1 will only allow applications for commercial cannabis business permits in the non-Coastal Zone (up to 3 retail and 10



The last issue for Breezy Gledhill.

industrial-type permits may be awarded). The window for Application Period 2 is pending a final decision from the CA Coastal Commission. This will not happen until late 2022.

There have been 24 applicants - 23 for retail storefronts and only one for distribution (manufacturing or testing). A tough approval process to select only 3 out of 23 applications. It will be nice when we finally have them in business. Let's keep the money in Ventura.

■ The Ventura City Council has approved funding for two more **firefighters** to add improvements to the fire department. Fire Chief David Endaya stated the two positions are lateral transfers. They are anticipated to begin training in early May.

Former Thousand Oaks mayor and former Los Angeles Fire Department deputy fire chief Andy Fox, and Dianne McKay, Ventura County Community College District trustee, presented a five-year strategic plan to the council with Chief Endaya. Fox and

McKay were hired by the city as consultants to work on the strategic plan.

The nearly 50-page plan addresses long-term goals for the fire department, including personnel, capital improvements and ways to increase response times. As part of the five-year plan, the city hopes to build a new fire station No. 7.

■ Ventura has approved a final version of the City Council **District Map**. The map was officially adopted at the City Council Meeting on March 21, 2022 and can be found on the City's website at www.cityofventura.ca.gov/Redistricting.

Due to the new changes in district boundaries, some residents who previously voted in the District 2, 3, and 7 elections will now have the chance to vote again in 2022 as members of District's 1, 4, 5, and 6. Some residents who were scheduled to vote this year in the District 1, 4, 5, and 6 elections have now been designated within District 2, 3, and 7 boundaries and will not vote until the 2024 election.

Every ten years, cities with by-district elections must use new census data to review and, if necessary, redraw district lines to reflect local population changes. District elections alternate every two years, with councilmembers serving four-year terms. This year, Districts 1, 4, 5, and 6 will be up for election on November 8, 2022. Elections for Districts 2, 3, and 7 will take place in 2024.

Once the boundaries are updated on the interactive map, residents will be able to determine which district they reside in by typing in their address into the City's website.

Your city council members are:

Sofia Rubalcava: Mayor - District 1
Joe Schroeder: Deputy Mayor - District 7
Lorrie Brown: Councilmember - District 6
Jim Friedman: Councilmember - District 5
Doug Halter: Councilmember - District 2
Mike Johnson: Councilmember - District 3
Jeannette Sanchez-Palacios: Councilmember - District 4.

They would love to hear from you.

Their emails are:

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■ My wife, Diane, and I binge-watched How the Universe Works even though we have absolutely no idea what they are talking about. Maybe they make it up talking about stuff that is millions and millions of light years (light travels at 186,000 miles per second) away as if they know. Depressing, they said that in 4-5 million years our universe will run into another universe, and it will be the end of our universe. So, no reason to over plan for the future.

■ Port Hueneme residents will have an opportunity to show their support or opposition for changing the name of their city during public meetings. At an upcoming online meeting, city staff will give a presentation on the benefits and drawbacks of changing the city's name and the associated costs. I have a great idea - we should change Ventura into **San Buenaventura**. It sounds much fancier.

Mailbox

Never Give Up

I yearn to paint the colors of sunrise,
Authenticate nature's unknown course,
Understand the mystery of silence,
The calm that follows an alternative route.

The unseen blues that wander below,
Are forbidden waters that rise beneath,
In between the waves I hear the answer,
A clear picture that turns the tide.

By Jeffrey Russell

Sheldon:

William Greenberg has had several cartoons featuring classical composers. I know who they are but don't listen to

classical music. Maybe you could explain them to me?

Thanks
Mary Johnson
Mary:

I would be happy to.

"The Four Seasonings" The Four Seasons is a group of four violin concertos by Italian composer Antonio Vivaldi, each of which gives musical expression to a season of the year. These were composed around 1718-1720, when Vivaldi was the court chapel master in Mantua. You may have heard some of it while on hold as they are often played while waiting.

"Beethoven's Fifth" The Symphony No. 5 in C minor of Ludwig van Beethoven, Op. 67, was written between 1804 and 1808. It is one of the best-known compositions in classical music and one of the most frequently played

Continued on page 12

He who knows
what he is told,
must know a
lot of things
that are not so.

— Arthur
Guiterman

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



News & Notes



Rich specializes in environmental and adventure photography.

Ventura Audubon Society: Program with Rich Reid

Ventura Audubon will host award-winning photographer, film-maker, and instructor, Rich Reid. Rich has specialized in environmental and adventure photography for more than three decades. Since 2008, he has been guiding guests worldwide as a National Geographic Photographer aboard Lindblad Expeditions fleet of ships.

He started his career as a photo-journalist at the University of California, Santa Barbara and since then has shared his photography passion operating photo tours in Alaska, teaching Visual Journalism at Brooks Institute, creating environmental documentaries, and presenting his work

on a nationwide travel film circuit. He was awarded the Fellows Award from North America Nature Photography Association for his exceptional service to the nature photography industry. Rich will be presenting a collection of his amazing photographs and stories from is many adventures, including Alaska, the Galapagos Islands and Antarctica.

The meeting will be held in the Santa Paula room at the Poinsettia Pavilion 3451 Foothill Rd. and via Zoom on April 12, from 7-8:30. For more information and the Zoom link go to <https://www.venturaudubon.org/monthly-speakers>

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On March 30, the Ventura Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting ceremony at Ventura Skincare and Body Works in their new location at 3140 Telegraph Road! Photo by Michael Gordon.



Artists Lisa Mahony and Laura Jespersen explore spring flora and local landscape in this exhibit in the small building at the Olivas Adobe. On Saturday, March 12, an open house was held at the Adobe to meet the artists and enjoy their paintings. Docent President Mary Thompson is shown with the artists. Photos by Patricia Schallert.

OLIVAS ADOBE HISTORICAL PARK

Owl Festival

Will Olivia the great horned owl return this year?

April 10 ~ 11am to 3pm

Admission FREE! ~ House tours for a small fee

4200 Olivas Park Drive

We may never know for sure, but we can still celebrate her at this free family event! Learn about these magnificent raptors with owl-focused activities and entertainment, including face painting and owl themed crafts.



www.cityofventura.ca.gov/OlivasAdobe



News & Notes



Five hundred people live within a quarter mile of the plant.

Local advocates protest SoCal Gas Plan to expand West Ventura Compressor Station

by Richard Lieberman

The Westside Clean Air Coalition, CFROG, Food and Water Watch, Cause, and members of the West Ventura Community protested at a community forum with a stated goal of disrupting a Southern California Gas Company public forum. Designed to expand public awareness on the company's proposed modernization and expansion of the Ventura Compressor Station located at 1555 N. Olive Street in Ventura.

Southern California Gas Company sponsored a public forum on Thursday, March 31, at the Crowne Plaza which is one of six proposed public forums the company will host from March 29 through April 2.

Concerns over air quality, climate change, and safety of local neighborhoods including the 91-year-old school E.P Foster Elementary School located directly across the street from the facility.

Protestors, among other things, want an independent Environmental Impact Report normally conducted by a government entity.

Five hundred people live within a quarter mile of the plant with another 4,750 live within one half mile. Close enough to be affected by a gas leak or in the worst case an explosion at the plant. Pipeline explosions have happened in the past. The San Bruno pipeline explosion occurred September 10, 2010, and first responders and SoCal Gas crews took over an hour to identify the event as a gas pipeline explosion. Eight people were killed because of the explosion. The natural gas compressor has been operating at the site since 1923, before homes and the elementary school were built in the area.

The compressor facility distributes natural gas for heat, hot water, and other uses to over a quarter million homes, businesses and industries in

Ventura and the central coast. Southern California Gas wants to replace three gas compressors built in the 1980's with four new more modern compressors. The company also wants to rebuild an old warehouse and office building that are already set for demolition.

Tomas Morales Rebecchi spokesperson for the group said "We are speaking up about a polluter in our neighborhood on our Westside across the street from a school. it poses a pollution danger to us through air pollution, but also a physical danger too through explosions and other horrible things that could go wrong. So, we are here to protect our air and to protect our children from the dangers of the gas compressor."

On the day of the forum the United States Transportation Department issued a new rule for all companies with high pressure pipelines to install emergency shutoff valves that quickly shutoff oil or natural gas pipelines when a leak or rupture is detected.

Southern California Gas responded to the protestors with assurances of safety and careful operation of the gas facility. "SoCal Gas safely maintains its natural gas system by collaboratively working with multiple regulatory agencies with oversight of our operations." Stated Marissa Girolamo. Addressing the call for an Environmental Impact Report Girolamo said, "whether and Environmental Impact Report is required for a project depends on the type of permits required. For this project an EIR is not being undertaken because the project is not subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)."

"We understand that the community has concerns regarding facility safety. The facility is safe and equipped with a series of systems that protect our employees and the neighboring community. All these systems are routinely checked and verified for proper operations." She added.

SoCal Gas literature states that Methane detection sensors are installed in the compressor building to closely monitor methane leaks. The station is also equipped with an emergency shutdown system that is designed to isolate the station from all energy sources when triggered, including when methane leaks are detected inside the compressor station. "This equipment is intended to provide additional transparency and the data will be made available to the public." Concluded Girolamo

\$40,000 philanthropic donation to Women's Economic Ventures

Koolaburra by UGG, in partnership with Ashley Tisdale and Frenshe, celebrated International Women's Day with a \$40,000 philanthropic donation to Women's Economic Ventures (WEV).

"Koolaburra by UGG is proud to be a supporter of Women's Economic Ventures this International Women's Day," said Lorie Pointer, GM of Koolaburra by UGG. We're honored to be able to support their mission of providing a network for women to realize their dreams."

WEV community connects women entrepreneurs from multiple business categories to share insights and tips with each other, including how they are handling business challenges, adapting to new hybrid working conditions, and achieving work-life balance. WEV believes that economic empowerment is the foundation that allows women to achieve their potential in all aspects of life - career, family, and community.

Throughout the pandemic, WEV met the rising demand for business education, mentoring and advisory services, community meetup events as well as entrepreneurial funding via online offerings and webinars. Looking ahead to recovery mode, WEV is increasing marketing and ecommerce education, expanding financial literacy/business finance resources, and increasing Spanish language offerings to support the rapidly growing number of Latina entrepreneurs.

WEV CEO Kathy Odell shared that "Women's Economic Ventures is incredibly grateful to receive this generous donation. The timing could not be better. More than 2.5 million women entrepreneurs started businesses in 2021 - more than double the rate of previous years. These entrepreneurs are committed to a new way of doing business that celebrates today's multi-dimensional woman business owner. WEV is thankful to be able to immediately deploy this gift to deliver services that support the wave of emerging women entrepreneurs."

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News & Notes

The Bookmark

About Libraries and Friends

by Jill Forman

Foster Library re-opens. Friends Bookstore re-opens

Due to a water leak, Foster Library has been closed. Both the library and bookstore re-opened last week.

Friends of the Library Book Sale a big success

On Saturday March 19 the Friends had a book sale at the Vons parking lot on Telegraph and Victoria. We appreciate Vons for allowing us to have periodic sales at that location. We made over \$1500, impressive considering the books are priced from 10 cents to \$3. Thanks to all the folks in Ventura who came by.

Special gratitude to Boy Scout Troop 155; the many volunteers who helped load and transport, unload and arrange; and to the “truck dudes” without whom the sale would not happen: Clyde Hofflund, David Bayer, David Young, and Woody Bretz. And all the folks at the warehouse, who receive donated books, organize, price, shelve and pack them. That work goes on all year.

All earnings go to support Ventura’s libraries.

Friends have a car in the St. Patrick’s Day Parade

First-hand report from FOL board member Joanne Fields.

Shamrocks, shamrock streamers & posters decorated the car. Three

library student volunteers (Jack & Luke Armitage; twins, and Gisela Salazar) walked the route and handed out 300 lollipops & flyers to people along the route. They helped decorate and were a great help. Philip, Librarian at Foster came through with flying colors despite the water leak that closed the library. Mary Olson and I rode in the car.

Rescheduled Music Event

In the last column we learned about a music presentation “Lyrical Literature,” originally scheduled for Saturday March 26 at Foster Library. Unfortunately it had to be cancelled due to the water leak. It has been rescheduled for Saturday May 21 at 2 p.m.

Movie at Museum of Ventura County April 23 and Rising from the Ashes Home Tour

The Ventura County Library Foundation and the Museum of Ventura County are partnering with the Ventura County Library to present an upcoming special event.

At 2pm on Saturday, April 23, 2022, the Ventura County Library will host a screening of Radu Sava’s film Not If But When: Wildfire Solutions. This event will take place at the Museum (100 E Main St, Ventura, CA 93001). The film, which was awarded Best Environmental Visions Film at the Sacramento International Film Festival, discusses how wildfires are becoming a global issue, and California is one of the places that is hit the hardest. The film is based on interviews with leading experts from state, federal, and grass-

roots organizations, water agencies, community partnerships, and more. You can register to attend this event by visiting bit.ly/vclfire.

This film event will complement the Rising from the Ashes tour of homes rebuilt after the Thomas Fire, which will be presented by the Ventura County Library Foundation on Saturday, April 30, 2022. For more information about this home tour please visit www.vclibraryfoundation.org.

Book groups

Foster Library – continues on hiatus for another month

Hill Road: April 26 at 5 p.m. –

The Sound of a Wild Snail Eating by Elizabeth Tova Bailey

New group – Wise Owls (childrens’ books for grownups)

April 12 at 5 p.m. – When the Sea Turned to Silver by Grace Lin

When and what is Passover?

Passover 2022 begins at sundown on Friday, April 15, and ends Saturday evening, April 23.

Passover is a festival of freedom.

It commemorates the Israelites’ Exodus from Egypt, and their transition from slavery to freedom. Passover or Pesach is an important, biblically derived Jewish holiday. The Jewish people celebrate Passover as a commemoration of their liberation by God from slavery in Egypt and their freedom as a nation under the lead-

ership of Moses. It commemorates the story of the Exodus in which the Israelites were freed from slavery in Egypt.

Passover commences on the 15th of the Hebrew month of Nisan and lasts for either seven days (in Israel and for Reform Jews and other progressive Jews around the world who adhere to the Biblical commandment) or eight days for Orthodox, Hasidic, and most Conservative Jews.

A day commences at dusk and lasts until the following dusk, thus the first day of Passover begins after dusk. It is one of the most widely observed Jewish holidays.

The rituals unique to the Passover celebrations commence with the Passover Seder.

In the narrative of the Exodus, the Bible tells that God helped the Children of Israel escape from their slavery in Egypt by inflicting ten plagues upon the ancient Egyptians before the Pharaoh would release his Israelite slaves; the tenth and worst of the plagues was the death of the Egyptian first-born.

The Israelites were instructed to mark the doorposts of their homes with the blood of a slaughtered spring lamb and, upon seeing this, the spirit of the Lord knew to “pass over” the first-born in these homes, hence the English name of the holiday.

When the Pharaoh freed the Israelites, it is said that they left in such a hurry that they could not wait for bread dough to rise (leaven). In commemoration, for the duration of Passover no leavened bread is eaten.



News & Notes



Don and Marcy Ornales, Kenny Slaught: Dream Foundation's Board Chair And Eva Rhodes Board Member. Photo by Patricia Schallert.

Dream Foundation offers Marcy her dream family trip

On March 28, Ventura local Marcy Ornelas, her husband Donald and their fourteen-year-old daughter, Shoshanna were off to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveand, Ohio, on a final dream family trip thanks to the Dream Foundation, the only national dream-granting organization for terminally-ill adults.

Music has always been a positive constant in Marcy's life. "I can leave somewhere in a terrible mood, put my radio on as I drive, and after a few songs, my stress melts off and I can go home feeling good and can be a better wife and mother. Music has always been there for me."

Rock & Roll is Marcy's favorite. She is often up late at night watching one of her favorite concerts and even falls asleep to the comforting sounds of the guitar and snare drum. While Marcy doesn't sing or play and instrument, she always tells people that she "plays a mean radio".

Diagnosed with end-stage breast cancer that has recently spread to her organs, Marcy asked the Dream Foundation to help with a special family trip to the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland, Ohio. Donald and Shoshanna will join Marcy on a train trip from Ventura, California to Cleveland, Ohio.

"I love trains. You can look at each other face to face, play games and talk." The Dream Foundation also gave Marcy and her family a basket full of goodies for the train and they have dinners available while they travel.

Hosts from AirBnB have generously donated a two-night stay in the city for the family and the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame will welcomed the family on April 6. It was a day which will inevitable create memories that will last a lifetime for the family.

Kenny Laugh, Dream Foundation's Board Chair and Eve Rhodes, one of the foundation's newest Board Members hosted the Dream Delivery on March 28 at Marcy's home in Ventura to celebrate her life and presented her everything for

the family's trip, including a rental car, a scooter while at the Hall of Fame, t-shirts, snacks for the train and dark chocolate.

The Dream Foundation, the only national dream-granting organization for terminally-ill adults fulfills final dreams that provide inspiration, comfort and closure at the end of life. With the support of a nationwide network of volunteers, hospices, health care organizations and committed donors.

Dream Foundation has given life to more than 33,000 final dreams since being founded in 1994. Dream Foundation receives no state or federal funding and relies solely on private donations. To support the mission of the Dream Foundation, please visit DreamFoundation.org/donate.

TREE TOWN



April 22 is Earth Day! To help care for Ventura's environment, you can grab a shovel and expand our urban forest. It's the season to "Plant and Post," sponsored by the Ventura

Tree Alliance. Plant a tree at your home, business, church, school— and then post a photo on social media. We will celebrate together the greening of our community!

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Senior Living

Parkinson's support group meetings

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 Tuesday, April 19.

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, caregivers, family members and friends 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



Every Thursday a group of mostly seniors meet at the Robert J. Lagomarsino Visitor Center at Channel Islands National Park to play very competitive cards (they play for dessert). These are Lynn, Jan and Christine Brumby and Bill and Beverly Flothmeier playing. A Breeze guy was there to make sure there was no cheating. Photo by Deena Gledhill.

more awareness about local help and resources, to share relevant experiences with others – and to have fun along the way.

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.

This month's meeting will feature Robert and Jenna Adelman, owners of Way of Orient Martial Arts Academy (2750 E. Main St., Ventura) who will be presenting a very important session on senior safety where they will introduce and teach self-defense for seniors.

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Senior Living



“Are you sure this is a really healthy way to eat?”

Healthy eating and Alzheimer’s

Eating healthy foods helps everyone stay well. It’s even more important for people with Alzheimer’s disease. Here are some tips for healthy eating.

Buy healthy foods such as vegetables, fruits, and whole-grain products. Be sure to buy foods that the person likes and can eat.

Give the person choices about what to eat—for example, “Would you like green beans or salad?”

Buy food that is easy to prepare, such as premade salads and single food portions.

It may be helpful to have someone else make meals or use a service such as Meals on Wheels America, which brings meals right to your home. For more information, contact Meals on Wheels

America at 1-888-998-6325 or www.mealsonwheelsamerica.org.

When a person with early-stage Alzheimer’s disease lives alone, you can buy foods that the person doesn’t need to cook. Call to remind him or her to eat.

Maintain Familiar Routines
Tips to make mealtimes easier for people with Alzheimer’s.

Share this infographic and help spread word about making mealtimes easier for people with Alzheimer’s.

Change can be difficult for a person with Alzheimer’s disease. Maintaining familiar routines and serving favorite foods can make mealtimes easier. They can help the person know what to expect and feel more relaxed. If a home health aide or other professional provides care,

family members should tell this caregiver about the person’s preferences.

Try these tips:

View mealtimes as opportunities for social interaction. A warm and happy tone of voice can set the mood.

Be patient and give the person enough time to finish the meal.

Respect personal, cultural, and religious food preferences, such as eating tortillas instead of bread or avoiding pork.

If the person has always eaten meals at specific times, continue to serve meals at those times.

Serve meals in a consistent, familiar place and way whenever possible.

Avoid new routines, such as serving breakfast to a person who has never routinely eaten breakfast.

As Alzheimer’s progresses, familiar routines and food choices may need to be adapted to meet the person’s changing needs. For example, a family custom of serving appetizers before dinner can be preserved, but higher-calorie items might be offered to help maintain the person’s weight.

Stay Safe

In the early stage of Alzheimer’s, people’s eating habits usually do not change. When changes do occur, living alone may not be safe anymore. Look for these signs to see if living alone is no longer safe for the person with Alzheimer’s:

The person forgets to eat.

Food has burned because it was left on the stove.

The oven isn’t turned off.

Other difficulties, such as not sitting down long enough for meals and refusing

to eat, can arise in the middle and late stages of the disease. These changes can lead to poor nourishment, dehydration, abnormally low blood pressure, and other problems.

Caregivers should monitor the person’s weight and eating habits to make sure he or she is not eating too little or too much. Other things to look for include appetite changes, the person’s level of physical activity, and problems with chewing or swallowing. Talk with the person’s doctor about changes in eating habits.

For More Information About Healthy Eating for a Person with Alzheimer’s NIA Alzheimer’s and related Dementias Education and Referral (ADEAR) Center 800-438-4380

adear@nia.nih.gov

www.nia.nih.gov/alzheimers

What Is Mild Cognitive Impairment?

Some older adults have more memory or thinking problems than other adults their age. This condition is called mild cognitive impairment, or MCI.

There is no single cause of MCI. The risk of developing MCI increases as someone gets older. Conditions such as diabetes, depression, and stroke may increase a person’s risk for MCI.

The symptoms of MCI are not as severe as the symptoms of Alzheimer’s disease or dementia. For example, people



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with MCI do not experience the personality changes or other problems that are characteristic of Alzheimer's. People with MCI are still able to take care of themselves and do their normal daily activities.

Signs of MCI may include:

Losing things often

Forgetting to go to events or appointments

Having more trouble coming up with words than other people of the same age

Movement difficulties and problems with the sense of smell have also been linked to MCI.

How Is Mild Cognitive Impairment Diagnosed?

Family and friends may notice memory lapses, and the person with MCI may worry about losing his or her memory. These worries may prompt the person to see a doctor about their memory problems.

In some cases, memory and thinking problems may be caused by conditions that are treatable. A doctor can perform tests and assessments to help understand whether the source of memory problems is something treatable or may be MCI. He or she also may suggest that the person see a specialist for more tests. How Is Mild Cognitive Impairment Managed?

There currently is no standard treatment or approved medication for MCI, but there are things a person can do that may help them stay healthy and deal with changes in their thinking.

Because MCI may be an early sign of more serious memory problems, it's important to see a doctor or specialist every six to 12 months. A doctor can help track changes in memory and thinking skills over time. Keeping a record of any changes can also be helpful.

People with MCI might also consider participating in clinical trials or studies. Clinical trials are research studies that help test if a treatment, like a new drug, is safe and effective in people. People with and without memory problems can take part in clinical trials, which may help themselves, their families, or future generations.

To find out more about participating in clinical trials for people with memory problems and people without cognitive impairment, visit Alzheimers.gov or call the Alzheimer's and related Dementias Education and Referral (ADEAR) Center at 1-800-438-4380.

Does Mild Cognitive Impairment Lead to Dementia?

Researchers have found that more people with MCI than those without it go on to develop Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia. An estimated 10 to 20% of people age 65 or older with MCI develop dementia over a one-year period. However, not everyone who has MCI develops dementia. In many cases, the symptoms of MCI may stay the same or even improve.

Research suggests that genetic factors may play a role in who will develop MCI, as they do in Alzheimer's and related dementias. Studies are underway to learn why some people with MCI progress to Alzheimer's and others do not.

For More Information About Mild Cognitive Impairment

NIA Alzheimer's and related Dementias Education and Referral (ADEAR) Center 800-438-4380

adear@nia.nih.gov

www.nia.nih.gov/alzheimers



"It's nice to have a pet that will live a long time."

Some lab rodents lived longer when fed a lower calorie diet

From the NIH Director's Blog, a guest post by NIA Director Dr. Richard J. Hodes

As people age, they are more likely to have multiple chronic diseases, and NIA-supported research studies reflect a strong focus on geroscience. This advancing area of science seeks to understand the mechanisms that make aging a major risk factor and driver of common chronic conditions and diseases of older people.

More than 85 years ago, researchers at Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, observed that some lab rodents lived longer when fed a lower calorie diet that otherwise had the appropriate nutrients. Since then, many scientists have studied calorie restriction to shed light on the various biological mechanisms that may explain its benefits and perhaps discover a way to extend healthy years of life, known as our healthspan.

Although there have been many studies of calorie restriction since the Cornell findings, the NIA-supported clinical trial CALERIE, which stands for Comprehensive Assessment of Long-term Effects of Reducing Intake of Energy, provided critical data on the impact of this intervention in people. Completed in 2012, CALERIE was the first carefully controlled study to test whether study participants undergoing moderate calorie restriction would display any of the benefits observed in animal studies.

Volunteers for the CALERIE study were healthy, non-obese adults ages 25 to 45.

In addition to demonstrating that people could sustain moderate calorie restriction for two years, the CALERIE study also showed that this intervention could diminish risk factors for age-related cardiovascular and metabolic diseases². The CALERIE investigators also made their data and biological samples available for other research teams to study further.

Recently, a team led by Vishwa Dixit, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, examined CALERIE data to investigate the effects of calorie restriction on immune function. The findings, published in the journal *Science*, suggest that calorie restriction may improve immune function and reduce chronic inflammation^{3,4}.

As people age, the size of the

thymus, which is part of the immune system, tends to become smaller. As this organ shrinks, its output of T cells declines, which hampers the ability of the immune system to combat infectious diseases. This deficiency of T cells is one of the reasons people over age 40 are at increased susceptibility for a range of diseases.

Dixit's team noted that MRI scans showed the thymus volume increased among people who reduced their calories for the two-year CALERIE study but was not significantly different in the control group. The increase in thymus size in the group restricting calories was accompanied by an increase in indicators of new T cell production.

Next, the team analyzed immune system effects in belly fat samples from people in the CALERIE study. The team discovered that the PLA2G7 gene – which codes for a protein involved in fat metabolism that is made by immune cells such as T cells – was suppressed after calorie restriction.

To test this hypothesis, the team suppressed the PLA2G7 gene in lab

mice. When these mice were 2 years old, which is equivalent to a human age of about 70, the thymus had not decreased in volume. In addition, the mice had decreased fat mass and lower levels of certain inflammation-promoting substances. These findings suggest that mice without the PLA2G7 gene might have been protected from age-related chronic inflammation, which has been linked to many conditions of old age.

Taken together, the findings extend our understanding of the power of calorie restriction and suggest that it might also improve immune function and reduce chronic inflammation in people.

The results also indicate interventions that influence PLA2G7 gene function might have favorable health effects. Additional research is still needed to assess the health effects and to determine whether calorie restriction extends lifespan or healthspan in humans. The NIA is funding more studies to determine the benefits and risks of calorie restriction, as well as the mechanisms that account for its effects.



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This 'n' That



Andre Pico put forth a Bill in the Assembly to split off the southern counties of the state.

Once Ventura was in Colorado!

by Richard Senate

Remarkable as it is to imagine, once what is today Ventura County was listed as part of the newly formed Territory of Colorado. No, not the present state of Colorado but a newly formed southerly section, split off from the State of California in 1859 and designated as the "Territory of Colorado." This was one of many plans to break California into two or more sections that started in Mexican Times and continues to this very day. This attempt came closest to success in the chaos of the approaching Civil War and was the brainchild of a remarkable Californian named Andre Pico, the younger brother of Pio Pico, the last Mexican Governor of California under the Mexican Republic. Andre Pico was the owner of the San Fernando Valley.

In the Mexican-American War of 1846-8 he commanded the Mexican California Militia lancers and pro-Mexican Native Americans at the Battle of San Pasqual. He was serving as acting governor when he surrendered to Col. John C. Fremont at the Treaty of Cahuenga pass ending the fighting in California. Andre Pico became an American citizen with full rights and served as member of the California Constitutional convention in Monterrey that formed the new State in 1850.

Andre Pico put forth a Bill in the Assembly to split off the southern

counties of the state at the 36th parallel as "the territory of Colorado." He sighted cultural differences between the peoples of the north and south. The act was passed in 1859 and a local referendum held where 75% of the Southern California voters supported the action. The Governor John B. Weller (a Douglas Democrat) signed the "Pico Bill" and sent it to Washington DC.

The election of 1860 disrupted everything. The New Republican Party put forth "Honest Abe" Lincoln, as the Democrats split into two parties, supporting Douglas and the firebrand secessionist Breckenridge (had the Democrats stayed united, they would have beaten Lincoln and perhaps delayed the Civil War). Republicans in California won the state by less than a thousand votes, Southern California went for Breckenridge with Santa Barbara County (Ventura was part of Santa Barbara at the time) going for Douglas. (Ventura cast all her votes for Lincoln). The looming Civil War and attempts at peace caused the Pico Bill to die in Congress. When fighting, started after the shelling of Fort Sumter in April of 1861, Andre Pico and other supporters swore allegiance to Abe Lincoln and the Union and the movement to split California became another footnote in history. But such an action could well have changed the history of the west.

VEP's LAUNCH celebrates innovation in education

Ventura Education Partnership (VEP) announces details for the third annual LAUNCH event at the beautiful Museum of Ventura County on April 21, at 5:30pm.

Aera Energy returns as the Presenting Sponsor. Amy Fonzo, External Affairs Specialist said, "Aera values the brightest minds and the boldest spirits and the educators we honor every year at LAUNCH have demonstrated there are no boundaries when it comes to creativity and innovation in education. That is why we are proud to support LAUNCH as the presenting sponsor again this year. Aera is committed to partnering with local organizations such as VEP to build strong communities where we operate and to support innovation in education to benefit

students in Ventura."

LAUNCH is the signature annual event created by Ventura Education Partnership to recognize and celebrate Ventura Unified School District educators who bring learning to life for their students in innovative, creative and engaging ways, encouraging students to expand their depth of knowledge. LAUNCH features three local educators who will present their novel and inspiring ideas around education.

"LAUNCH gives the community a look inside VUSD classrooms. It's an inspiring evening that will make you laugh and even feel a little teary-eyed as educators share their stories of classroom innovation," said Madhu Bajaj, LAUNCH Committee Chair and VEP's Vice President of Grants.

LAUNCH will highlight the work of the following three educators:

Joel Levin, Buena High School, is an English teacher, teacher librarian, songwriter and novelist; his primary goal in life is to help others find their voices – literally and figuratively, onstage and offstage, in the classroom and beyond the halls of high school.

Erin Beerer, Balboa Middle School, is a Special Education teacher who supports students with disabilities that are moderately to severely impactful on their lives. She strives to provide them with access to opportunities equal to their typically developing peers.

Eva Cherrie, Elmhurst Elementary School, strives to use STEAM and the outdoor learning experiences to enhance engagement and achievement in core content academics. She has

focused on studying birds, insects, and gardening to encourage students to go outdoors and be curious about the world around them.

"When you see and hear the stories the three educators share at LAUNCH, you get to witness firsthand the differences that grant funded projects make for VUSD students AND you raise funds for the next school year," said VEP's CO-Presidents, Kathy Asher and Debbie Golden.

Additional LAUNCH sponsors include Dr. Andrei Bobrow & Ms. Sabrena Rodriguez, Fastsigns of Ventura, Madhu Bajaj, James Forsythe, Kailash & Rajni Narayan, Very Ventura Gift Shop & Gallery, EJ Harrison, State Farm Agents Irene Henry and Dena Rogers and more. For more information and to sponsor the event visit www.venturaeducationpartnership.org or contact Madhu Bajaj (805) 754-9861.

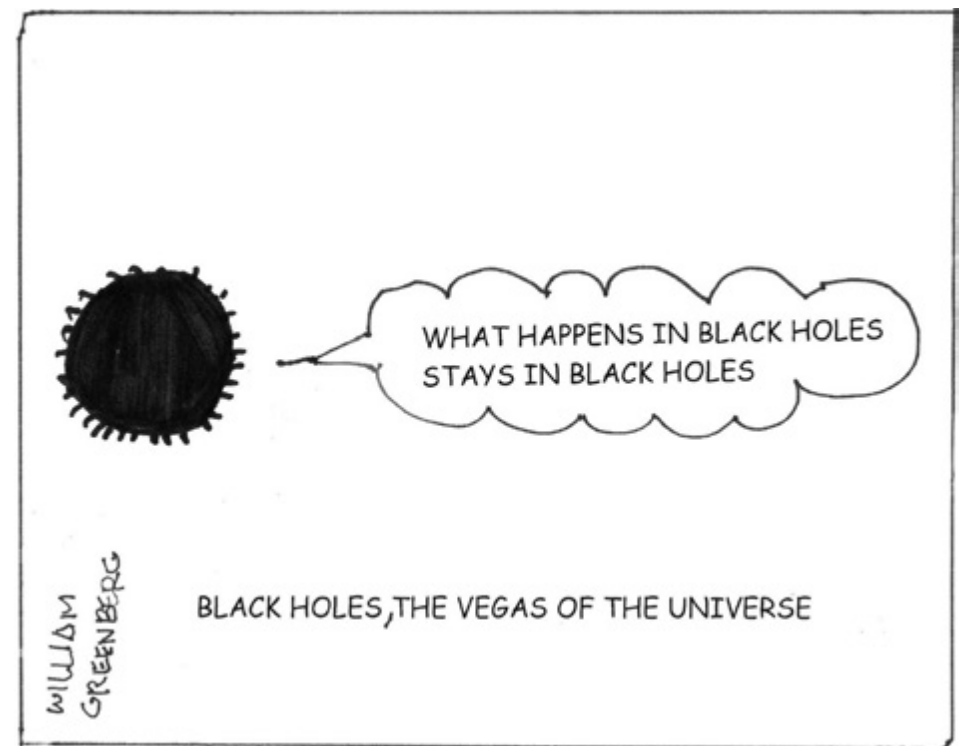
Mailbox

Continued from page 4

symphonies. Many consider it to be the greatest symphony ever written.

"Rachmaninoff's Third" Sergei Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 3 in D minor, Op. 30 (Rach 3), was composed in the summer of 1909. The work often has the reputation of being one of the most technically challenging piano concertos in the standard classical piano repertoire. Rachmaninoff's third piano concerto is 40 minutes of finger-twisting madness.

You can listen to them on YouTube. You might become a fan of classical music.



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License: #0102882

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For people with Medicare

2022 SCAN Classic (HMO) Benefits for Ventura County include:¹

\$0 NEW Monthly plan premium

\$0 Copay for Tier 1 and Tier 2 drugs¹

\$25 Insulin copay (30-day supply)²

¹\$0 copay for Tier 1 Preferred Generic and Tier 2 Generic drugs at Preferred pharmacies and with mail order only. ²Humalog®, Humulin®, Lantus®, Lyumjev®, Toujeo® only. \$25 copayment through Preferred retail and mail-order only. ¹Benefits listed are for SCAN Classic (HMO) offered by SCAN Health Plan (HMO) in Ventura County only. Other SCAN plan options are available in this county and plan benefits may differ from those listed here. SCAN Classic (HMO) is an HMO Plan with a Medicare contract. Enrollment in SCAN Health Plan depends on contract renewal.



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.

Shooting With Arrest

On March 23, at approximately 12:30 am, the Ventura Police Command Center received a 911 call of shots fired in the area of Scottsdale St and Jasper Av. Responding officers arrived within minutes of the call and saw a male suspect matching the description provided by witness. The suspect fled from officers and began to jump fences into the backyard of residences.

Simultaneously officers received information that a female victim had been dropped off at the Ventura County Medical Center suffering from a gunshot to the arm.

Officers pursued the suspect on foot as the suspect ran into a residence that was determined to be his. The suspect gave up after 45 minutes of negotiating and was taken into custody without further incident.

The subsequent investigation revealed that the suspect had confronted two male individuals who were inside a private community pool after hours. An argument ensued with a verbal exchange. The suspect left after the argument.

The two male individuals left the pool area and were returning to their vehicle to leave. They arrived at their car and the suspect was standing near the door of the vehicle. Another argument ensued as the two individuals were prevented from leaving by the suspect. The female victim, who was familiar with the two males, arrived to calm the situation down. A scuffle broke out between the three males and the suspect pulled out a handgun and fired one round striking the female bystander.

The suspect was booked into Ventura County Jail for attempted murder and is being held on \$510,000 bail. The victim remains in Ventura County Medical Center receiving treatment for her non-life-threatening injuries.

Attempted Murder

On March 24, at approximately 2:30 pm, the Ventura Police responded to a 911 call of a stabbing at a residence on the 8700 block of Boise St. Ventura. Once on scene, the officers contacted the victim, who had suffered three minor stab wounds to her neck. The suspect, who is the victim's roommate, 47 year old Ventura resident Denise Dabbs, was still at the location and admitted to stabbing the victim.

The victim was transported to a local hospital and treated for her wounds. Dabbs was arrested for attempted murder and booked into the Ventura County Jail. Ventura Police Major Crimes Detectives are still investigating this crime. Anyone with information related to this crime are encouraged to contact Sergeant Bill Dolan at 805-339-4444.

Felony Evading, Unlawful Taking of a Vehicle, Hit and Run

On March 27, at approximately 3:45 pm, Ventura Police Patrol Officers attempted to stop a stolen vehicle in the area of Harbor Blvd. and the Ventura Pier. The car, a white Jeep Cherokee, was reported stolen in Ventura on March 26, 2022. The driver did not yield to officers, and a pursuit was initiated. Officers pursued the vehicle eastbound Harbor Blvd. for about 2 miles and terminated the pursuit due to the driver failing to

stop at a red light and driving at a high rate of speed.

After the pursuit was terminated, a witness notified officers that the vehicle was seen turning onto Spinnaker Dr. towards the Ventura Harbor. Officers located the car parked and unoccupied in the 1300 Block of Spinnaker Drive. As officers checked the area, they saw 22 year old Santa Barbara resident Joshua Campbell, who matched the driver's description, walking near the Four Points Sheraton Hotel. Officers took Campbell into custody without incident. During the investigation, officers learned that a minor hit and run traffic collision involving the Jeep Cherokee occurred at Harbor Blvd and Olivias Park Dr.

Campbell was arrested for Felony Evading, Unlawful Taking of a Vehicle, Hit and Run, and a parole violation. No one was injured during this incident.

Harbor Patrol Blotter

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

03-17 12:15am, observed two Manson Construction vessels at the VPD longdock were unsecured. Officers found parted stern and spring lines, were able to secure with new lines. The vessels experienced heavy harbor surge from wind, rough seas.

10:15am, received report of an Ocean Rescue, vessel in the surf near McGrath. Officers responded in Fireboat with TowBoat US. A line was passed to the vessels captain, TowBoat was able to safely pull them out of the surf, no injuries

03-19 7:45am, contacted by owner of an RV, jump started in the VIM parking lot.

10:17am, dispatched to a fire in the riverbottom, officers responded with VFD and investigated. A small warming fire was located and extinguished.

03-21 3:05pm, received request to assist Tow Boat US with towing a 104ft motor vessel to the haul out slip. The vessel "Gentry Eagle" was secured to Ventura Boat yard docks for a very long time. The vessel is to be destroyed. Harbor Patrol assisted the vessel when it first arrived from Hawaii, its last port of call.

03-24 10:20am, received report of a vessel accident at VIM D-dock. Officers responded and investigated two large motor vessels that were involved. Major damage was sustained. The two owners were notified, investigation continues.

7:24pm, received report of a stolen vehicle, advised to contact VPD. While searching the area, officers found the vehicle parked on the other side of VHV.

03-27 3:45pm, assisting VPD searching for a subject pursuit in a stolen vehicle, ending up in VIM parking lot and then fled on foot. After a brief foot pursuit he was caught near the Holiday Inn Express. He was arrested for multiple violations.

03-28 6:06am, observed National Weather Service issued a Small Craft Advisory for winds to 30kts. Officers raised warning pennant at the Ventura Port District.

6:30am, observing and experiencing heavy rain and strong winds. Eventually measuring 2.1 inches of rain for the storm.

03-29 3:20am, dispatched to a fall victim in the Ventura Marina Community. Officers responded, assisted VFD with lifting the patient to her chair. No injuries.



Each of these officers went above and beyond the call of duty.

Four Ventura Police Officers honored for extraordinary bravery and excellent public service

The actions of Officers Jack Ortega, Ashley Hetzel, Tristan Cullum, and Karl Reyes were recognized by the Peace Officers Association of Ventura County (POAVC) at the Medal of Valor Awards Ceremony for outstanding acts of bravery, courage, and compassionate service to the City of Ventura.

"Each of these officers has gone above and beyond the call of duty in service to our community," said Police Chief Darin Schindler. "They run toward danger, they place the safety of others above their own, and they make a difference every single day. We are honored by their selfless dedication to Ventura."

Such was the case for Officer Jack Ortega who received a Medal of Valor for swiftly and effectively bringing a vehicle pursuit of an armed suspect to a close with no police officer or civilian injuries.

After a lengthy vehicle pursuit on city streets and a tire deflation, the suspect came to a stop directly across from a busy shopping center and residential area where residents were in significant danger. The suspect fled; Officer Ortega immediately gave chase. The suspect then produced a handgun and fired towards Officer Ortega. Ortega returned fire and struck the suspect, stopping any further threat to the public.

"That night, Officer Ortega demonstrated what he had displayed his entire career; sound judgement, unwavering good decision making, and an ability to remain calm under pressure," said Commander Sarah Heard, the Watch Commander on duty that evening. "Officer Ortega certainly deserves to be commended for keeping with the highest standards of the Ventura Police Department and for acting with extraordinary bravery in a life-threatening situation."

Officer Ashley Hetzel, and her trainee Officer Tristan Cullum, were both awarded a Medal of Merit for applying a life-saving tourniquet on a stabbing victim during a rapidly changing, life-threatening incident. Officers Hetzel and Cullum responded to a call of a stabbing, and upon arrival, located a woman actively bleeding

out from her wounds, with an armed suspect still inside the residence. Officer Hetzel quickly evaluated the situation, instructed her trainee to hold coverage on the front door, and had to make a choice to cover the first-floor patio door or attend to the victim who was quickly losing consciousness.

Officer Hetzel chose to attempt to save the victim's life by applying a tourniquet which emergency room staff stated unequivocally saved the victim's life. The suspect was taken into custody and no one else was injured.

"During this incident, officers made the conscious decision to place themselves in harm's way to save a life," said Chief Schindler. "The actions of Officers Hetzel and Cullum that night were an outstanding act of service, requiring extreme bravery and devotion to duty."

Finally, Detective Karl Reyes was honored as the Ventura Police Department's Investigator of the Year. Detective Reyes is assigned as a Street Crimes Detective and is part of the Ventura County Auto-Theft Task Force (VenCATT). From January through November 2021, Reyes investigated nearly 300 cases, assisted with and made over 50 arrests, and sent nearly 20 arrest warrants to the District Attorney's Office. On top of local cases, he also spent significant time assisting other County agencies in recovering stolen vehicles and arresting car thieves.

"Beyond his investigative attributes, Detective Reyes is the epitome of a fantastic team member. His candor and humbleness are appreciated, and his leadership presence is respected and trusted," said CHP Sergeant and supervisor of the VenCATT, Matt Marien. "The Ventura Police Department is fortunate to call Detective Reyes one of their own."

Every year, the Peace Officers Association of Ventura County honors acts of bravery, heroism, and service by law enforcement personnel and community members. These exemplary individuals receive recognition at the annual ceremony and were presented with their medals by the sheriff or respective chief of police.



The Pet Page



Dedicated to Scamp

■ Medication is an often-underutilized tool that can greatly help with managing aggression in dogs, according to veterinary behaviorist Dr. Karen Overall. “I’ve never not treated aggression with medication, because aggression is fundamentally an anxiety disorder,” said Dr. Overall, a professor of behavioral medicine at the University of Prince Edward Island Atlantic Veterinary College. “We change how the dog thinks by using selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors and tricyclic antidepressants that work by remodeling neurons and make acquiring new behaviors easier,” she explained.

Approximately 4.5 million people are bitten by dogs in the United States each year, and more than 800,000 dog-bite victims require medical attention, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Dogs with unaddressed behavioral problems not only threaten public health but are more likely to be surrendered and euthanized. To the untrained eye, a snarling or barking dog may be seen as overly threatening or aggressive when in fact the dog is behaving normally in the particular situation. As Dr. Overall explained, agonistic behaviors are complex social interactions that manifest as displays of dominance, submission, and reconciliation.

These behaviors can appear aggressive and include biting but are ultimately a normal part a dog’s behavioral repertoire. “Maybe there are communication errors or uncertainty, or maybe a dog was behaving aggressively but reconsidered after obtaining more information from one of the participants,” Dr. Overall said. “Implicit here is one party makes a statement, the other party responds, and they go from there.”

Determining whether aggressive behaviors are normal or inappropriate is the context in which they occur. One example of normal aggression is a dog snarling when another dog in the household, after eating its own meal, tries to eat the meal that the snarling dog is eating. In contrast, abnormal or pathological aggression occurs out of context or over an extended period of time. It also manifests as an extreme overreaction given the situation.

“Inherent in these comparisons is that the response to a triggering circumstance is episodic in fear and fear aggression, but chronic in anxiety aggression, since the initial trigger is the underlying state itself,” Dr. Overall said.

Fearful dogs choose to withdraw. They want distance between themselves and whatever is scaring them. They’ll back off and lower every part of their body. Anxious dogs, on the other hand, won’t retreat but must scan and monitor the situation. Their anxiety prevents them from interrupting what is happening in a given context.

Key to treating aggression is identifying the context and causes for the behavior. Before a dog becomes aggressive, there is first an arousal phase in which the dog reacts to negative stimuli. The arousal

phase can occur quickly and is easily missed, Dr. Overall said.

“You don’t realize how fast it happens,” she said. “The window closes so quickly, maybe a tenth of a second. People say they tried to redirect the dog when it becomes aggressive, but it’s too late at that point.”

Clients can participate in their dog’s treatment by using a smart-phone to make a recording of their pet that a veterinarian can review. “We want videos. We want to see what they do in their home environment. All the information is right there,” Dr. Overall said.

Four drug compounds are currently approved by the Food and Drug Administration to treat some forms of canine anxiety: clomipramine, fluoxetine, dexmedetomidine, and imepitoin.

Dr. Overall considers treatment with drugs as a complement to behavioral modification, which rewards positive behaviors and ignores unwanted behaviors.

National Dog Bite Prevention Week, sponsored by the AVMA, is being held this year from April 10-16.

■ **Do’s and Don’ts for Communicating with Your Cat: From body language to training tips, here’s how to build better bonds with feline pals.**
by **Brittany Edelmann**
Do: Watch Their Body Language

If your cat approaches you with his or her tail up, like a question mark, this can mean it is “probably going to be friendly, or at least comfortable with the interaction that is going on so far,” Lilly explains. But, if there is slow movement and low-to-the-ground posture, pretending as though the cat “doesn’t exist” to increase comfortability prior to interaction can help, Lilly says. Likewise, if the ears are pinned back, “then they’re not a happy cat,” says Marina Jaworsky, associate veterinarian at Green Tree Animal Hospital in Libertyville, Illinois.

Don’t: Reprimand Your Cat

If you pet your cats or try to get them to come near you and they become scared or uncomfortable, they may decide they’ve had enough, “and they might even nip at you,” Jokela says. Even if you think your pet is being mean – what cat owner hasn’t? – don’t act out against them. Yelling, scolding, or even spraying water on them will “definitely break the bond,” Jokela says.

Don’t: Use Laser Pointers

Playing with your cat can help you form a stronger bond, Jokela says. But laser pointers, which many cats seem to love, may not be the best toy. The caveat? When cats are constantly chasing something that they will never catch, it can create or worsen OCD and obsessive tendencies, where your kitty is “always looking out for this thing because they don’t get the satisfaction of catching it at the end,” Castro says. Left with nothing to nab, this can leave cats stressed and contribute to health and behavior issues. One 2021 research study showed increased reports of abnormal repetitive behaviors the more that laser light pointers were used.

Every cat is different. Understanding what they like and don’t

Scamp Club

(Scampclub pets are not for adoption.)

My name is Kona and I have a pretty amazing life. My humans give me so much attention, and I love them so much, that I even give them “high 5” when I want a “treat”. When my mom does yoga I make myself present in her practice, laying on her yoga mat.

I even have my own instagram: Konatheygakitty .



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.

like, keeping stress to a minimum and making them as comfortable as possible is key to a better relationship. What’s most important? “Respecting their boundaries and

interacting in a way that they want to interact, versus the way you may want to interact, can be beneficial for your relationship,” Castro says.



“No, no, not the pants!”



“Hurry up I need to go!”



The Pet Page

Forever homes wanted

Hi! I'm Raven, a 7-year-old beautiful Chow X who was rescued from an LA Shelter. I'm thankful to be given a chance to find my forever home. I'm fortunate to be in a foster home. "She has good leash manners but has trouble coming to be leashed. She was shy with us for a while, I think she was not well socialized or walked. She definitely wants to be with her people. She likes your attention and is also willing to lie in the kitchen while you work." She has dry eyes and needs drops in each eye twice a day. She is a sweet girl and will make her new family very happy. If you're interested in meeting her, please fill out an online application to meet me. Canine Adoption and Rescue League C.A.R.L.



Kiki is a 15-year-old female Shih Tzu Mix She can be adopted after Sunday April 10, 2022. She was found in Oxnard and is as adorable as can be. Shelter: Camarillo Animal Shelter Animal ID: A656832 Kennel: 103

This 'n' That



In her free time, Maites enjoys staying active both indoors and outside.

CMHS welcomes new VP of Marketing & Development, Jamie Maites

Community Memorial Health System is proud to welcome Jamie Maites, a seasoned healthcare executive from Northern California, as its new Vice President, Marketing & Development. Maites brings the health system nearly 20 years of healthcare marketing experience.

"I'm thrilled to join this innovative and influential organization. I look forward to advancing our vision – to be an indispensable community treasure – and am grateful to my predecessor, Michael Ellingson, for the work he and the team accomplished over the years," said Maites, of Ventura.

Previously, Maites served as Vice President of Marketing & Communications at MarinHealth, an independent health-care system in the San Francisco Bay area comprised of a 327-bed hospital, 40+ clinics

staffed by more than 150 physicians, and a philanthropic foundation that supports the healthcare system. During her tenure there, she oversaw brand strategy as well as internal and external communications. Maites led marketing efforts to regain community preference for the hospital, pass a \$394 million bond initiative, and prepare for and support the grand opening of a new hospital. She also drove a full-scale re-branding effort when the hospital, medical network, and foundation combined under a single umbrella brand with a seamless system offering.

Most recently, Maites showed strong leadership throughout the pandemic. Her team used a full range of communications tools including broadcast, print, digital media, social media, direct mail, and email to keep physicians, staff, patients, and the community informed about changing policies, testing, treatment, and more. Prior to joining MarinHealth, Maites worked at El Camino Hospital in Mountain View, CA, where she supported marketing, community relations and planning objectives.

In her free time, Maites enjoys staying active both indoors and outside. Her passions include cooking, traveling, hiking, and scuba diving. She is also the proud owner of a "pandemic puppy," a Havanese/toy poodle that she adopted in September 2020. Maites earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Business Management Economics from UC Santa Cruz in 2004 and studied abroad for a year with the UC Education Abroad Program at the University of Melbourne in Australia.

"We are excited to welcome Jamie to our organization. Her dynamic skill set and breadth of experience in healthcare marketing and communications will bring a fresh perspective and energy to the community," said Gary Wilde, President & CEO of Community Memorial Health System.

Community Memorial Health System's former Vice President, Marketing & Development, Michael Ellingson, retired in 2021

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When: Thursday, April 21st @ 4:00 PM

Where: 701 E. Santa Clara St., Ventura CA., 93001

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after 16 years of service to the organization. "Michael led our efforts to become the regional healthcare system of choice, and in exceeding our capital campaign goal of \$25 million to support the construction of our new hospital. The impact he had will long be remembered," said Wilde.

Ojai news and events

Continued from page 3
 at: <https://ojaiundergroundexchange.square.site/#ACmOes>

Bill Cunliffe April 8, 2022 at 7 PM

Imagine receiving an invitation to a gala featuring Bill Evans. Bill has received 4 Grammy Nominations that resulted in his 2010 Grammy Award.

He has toured or recorded with Frank Sinatra, Freddy Hubbard, James Moody, Joe Henderson, Mary Lou Williams, and many others.

After a long pandemic hiatus, walking tours of historic Ojai resumed on April 2. Put on your comfortable shoes, bring a friend or family member, and enjoy learning about Ojai as you walk around town.

Walking Tours of Historic Ojai start at the Ojai Valley Museum. They are offered year-round (except in the hottest months of July-September). Tickets are \$10 per adult, \$25 per family, children 6-17 and OVM

members are \$5 and include admission to the museum all day.

The Ojai Valley Museum is located at 130 W. Ojai Avenue in Ojai. Free parking is available behind the museum, off Blanche Street. The Museum is open Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 10 am to 4 pm. For more information, call the Museum at (805) 640-1390, ext. 201, email info@OjaiValleyMuseum.org or visit the museum website at OjaiValleyMuseum.org.

Join author and plant educator Lanny Kaufer for a leisurely evening stroll on the historic wetland that is now the Ojai Meadows Preserve on Wednesday, April 13, from 5:00 to 7:00 p.m.

For decades the wetland was buried under sediment and fill dirt from nearby construction. A grove of non-native Eucalyptus trees was planted in the 1950s, negating the possibility of native habitat returning on its own.

Before the walk, Kaufer will have copies of his book, Medicinal Herbs of California, available for sale and signing.

Paid registrants will receive a confirmation email with parking directions, what to bring, weather forecast, etc.

The cost for the hike is \$35/person. Senior, student and child discounts are available by request. Register now at HerbWalks.com or by calling 805-646-6281.



by Pam Baumgardner
VenturaRocks.com

Well, they pulled it off! The all-new Ventura Music Hall opened on time, March 22 with G. Love and the Juice and I couldn't be more pleased. The room looks fantastic, the music doesn't compete with bowling lanes anymore, there are two bars to serve (one just for beers) and the staff is super friendly. This concert hall took over the former Discovery venue at 1888 E. Thompson Blvd, and their calendar is filling fast. You should bookmark their website (VenturaMusicHall.com) so you won't miss any upcoming shows and you can get tickets before they sell out. See listings below for the next two weeks' worth of shows including Don Felder, formerly with the Eagles for a seated show on April 9.

Congratulations to Kathy Bailey, new owner of Surfers Point Café (formerly the Sandbox Coffeehouse at Thompson Blvd and Figueroa). They've been making some improvements and I'm happy to report live music will be booked on the weekends. On the books already, Ben Garcia on April 9 and 23, Gabby Montiel on April 16 and the CocoKnots on April 30.

Oceanview Pavilion in Port Hueneme has a few shows lined up including Smooth Sounds of Santana (Santana tribute) on April 9 and Think: X, an exploration of the music of Pink Floyd on April 23. Think: X features Norwood Fisher from Fishbone, Scott Page and Roberta Freeman who both worked with Pink Floyd, Stephen Perkins from Jane's Addiction, and more.

Quick Notes: Bad Religion plays the Majestic Ventura Theater on Wednesday, April 6; do note, all kinds of Deadheads will take over the Ventura Fairgrounds for the Skull & Roses festival April 7-10; the Doug Webb Group featuring Danny Carey of TOOL returns to the Grape for a show on Friday, April 8 (I understand they're donating half their take to the Grape for future improvements on the club); Julie Christensen returns to town for a special night of music at the Ojai Underground on Friday, April 8; along with a couple of DJs, ADD will be playing the VIP Bunny Lounge during the Spring Wine Walk on Saturday, April 9; Ventura Music Festival presents Twanguero's classical Spanish/Flamenco guitarist at the Ventura College Performing Arts Center April 9; Cadillac Zack presents the Jimmy Vivino Band at Cantara in Camarillo on Friday, April 15; Night Demon plays a gig at Casa Agria Specialty Ales on April 16; and one of the surviving remaining members of "the Wrecking Crew," Don Randi and Quest, will play a special show at the Grape on Saturday, April 16.

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

Anna's Cider

801 E. Main Street, Santa Paula

Sat 4/9: The Late Knights

A Bar Called Country

211 E. Santa Clara Street, Ventura

Music 9 pm - 12:30 am

Fri 4/15: Brother Earl and the Cousins; Jonathan Sheldon

Sat 4/16: John Surge and the Haymakers

Beatrice Wood Center for the Arts

8585 Ojai-Santa Paula Road, Upper Ojai

Sun 4/10: Chamber on the Mountain:

Violinist, Pavel Spord

Boatyard Pub

Ventura Harbor

Wednesdays: Frank Barajas

Thursdays: Jim Friery; then Bluegrass Jam

Sun 4/10: CRV

Fri 4/15: Teresa Russell w/ Stephen Geyer

Sat 4/16: Big Adventure Duo

Bombay Bar & Grill

143 S. California St., Ventura

DJs Friday - Sunday

Café Fiore

66 S. California Street, Ventura

Wed 4/6: Bryan McCann

Fri 4/8: Instone

Wed 4/13: Donna Butler

Fri 4/15: Otis Hayes

Cantara Cellars

126 N. Wood Road, Camarillo

Fri 4/8: Slogan Acoustic

Sat 4/9: The Vonettes; Fish Fry

Fri 4/15: Cadillac Zack presents: the Jimmy Vivino Band

Sat 4/16: Caught Red-Handed

The Cave

4435 McGrath St., Ventura

Music 5:30 - 8:30

Wednesdays & Thursdays: Bobby Apostol

Fridays & Saturdays: Warren Takahashi

Casa Agria Specialty Ales

701 N. Del Norte Blvd., Oxnard

Sat 4/16: Night Demon; Tung

Copa Cubana

Ventura Harbor Village

Tuesdays: Blues Tuesdays

Saturdays and Sundays: Kenny DeVoe

Copper Blues

591 Collection Blvd., Oxnard

Fri 4/15: Decadent Decades

The Deer Lodge

2261 Maraicopa Hwy, Ojai

Sat 4/9: Covenhoven

Downtown Ventura Main Street

Stage California & Main

Sat 4/16: Tribal Me; Jim Friery

Four Brix Winery

2290 Eastman Ave., Ventura

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

Fri 4/8: Heathers on Fire

The Garage

1091 Scandie Ave., Ventura

Sundays: DJ Aslo

Wednesdays: Blues Jam

Fri 4/15: Freddy Castro & Friends

The Grape

2833 E. Main Street, Ventura

Tuesdays Jazz Jam

Saturday Afternoons 2 pm: Fausto Cuevas y la Moderna

Wed 4/6: Chris Golden Trio

Thurs 4/7: David Binney and Luis Cole

Fri 4/8: The Doug Webb Group feat.

Danny Carey (TOOL)

Sat 4/9: Matt Gordy Jazz Sextet

Wed 4/13: Swing Shift Big Band

Thurs 4/14: Logan Kane Trio

Fri 4/15: RJ Root Guitar Night feat. Hans Ottson

Sat 4/16: Don Randi & Quest

Keynote Lounge

10245 E Telephone Rd, Ventura

Thursdays: Open mic jam

Fri 4/8: DJ AV

Sat 4/9: Magnificent Bastards

Fri 4/15: Jimi Nelson Band

Sat 4/16: DJ Joe

Leashless Brewing

585 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

Music 6:30 - 8:30; Sundays 3-5

Thurs 4/7: Dylan Brehm

Fri 4/8: Animo Cruz

Sat 4/9: Keyth Garcia

Sun 4/10: Daniella Cardillo

Thurs 4/14: Nate Ward

Fri 4/15: Bombafiya

Sat 4/16: Jacob Marquez & the Good Vibes

Sun 4/17: Illunis

Lookout & Grill

2800 S. Harbor Blvd., Oxnard

Wed: Tommy Foytek's Variety Show

Thursdays: Acoustic Open Mic

Lucas Sellers Wine

330 Zachary Street, Moorpark

Sat 4/9: Karen Eden

Sat 4/16: Natalie Watre

Made West Brewing

1744 Donlon Street, Ventura

Sat 4/9: Pull the Trigger

Sun 4/10: Milo Sledge

Sat 4/16: Buck Moon and the Ramblers

Majestic Ventura Theater

26 S. Chestnut Street, Ventura

Wed 4/6: Bad Religion

Sat 4/9: Geezyworld Tour

Fri 4/15: Queen Nation

Manhattan Restaurant

5800 Santa Rosa Road, Camarillo

Music 6:30 - 9:30 pm

Wed 3/23: Robert Van

Thursdays: CRV

Fri 4/8: Tour Support

Sat 4/9: Jeanne Tatum

Margarita Villa

Ventura Harbor

Fri & Sat 7-10 pm; Sun 4-7 pm

Fri 4/8: Troy Edwards

Sat 4/9: Studebaker Hawk

Sun 4/10: Corsican Brothers

Fri 4/15: Vinyl Gypsies]

Sat 4/16: Operation 90s

Sun 4/17: Cinnamon Whiskey

Mrs. Olson's

2800 Harbor Blvd., C I Harbor

Music at Noon

Sun 4/10: Teresa Russell w/ Stephen Geyer

Sat 4/16: Part Time Playahz

Namba Arts

47 S. Oak Street, Ventura

Fri 4/8: Bill Cunliffe

Sat 4/16: Delta by the Beach

Oceanview Pavilion

Performing Arts Theater by the

Beach 575 E. Surfside Drive, Port

Hueneme

Sat 4/9: Smooth Sounds of Santana

Ojai Underground Exchange

616 Pearl Street, Ojai

Thurs 4/7: Rose Valley Thorns

Fri 4/8: Julie Christensen

Sat 4/9: Women of Americana

Ojai Valley Brewing

307 Bryant Street, Ojai

Fri 4/8: Hannah Jobus

Onyx Bistro (formerly Relm)

2390 Las Posas Rd., Camarillo

Fri 4/8: Jesse Davis

Sat 4/16: Brenda Carsey

Peirano's on the Terrazzo

204 E. Main Street, Ventura

Fri 4/8: Jodi Farrell & Jim Rankin

The Raven Tavern

1651 S. Victoria Ave., Oxnard

Music at 7-10 pm

Fri 4/8: Jetlemons

Sat 4/9: Vinyl Gypsies

Fri 4/15: Holgers Heros

Sat 4/16: Brittney Burchett

Strey Cellars

951 N. Rice Avenue, Oxnard

Fri 4/15: The Renegades

Surfers Point Café

204 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

Sat 4/9: Ben Garcia

Sat 4/16: Gabby Montiel

Taqueria Jalisco Restaurant

4275 Tierra Rejada Rd., Moorpark

Music 5-8 pm

Tuesdays & Fridays: Jim Friery

Topa Topa Brewing

341 Ojai Ave., Ojai

Fri 4/8: Jess Bush

Fri 4/15: Ted Lennon

The Twist on Main

454 E. Main Street, Ventura

Weds: Classic Country w/ Jesse Harris

Thursdays: LA Jazz Connection

Fri 4/8: The Collaboration

Sat 4/9: Bella Lucarolli (2 pm); Dave Rea &

Acoustic DNA (7:30 pm)

Sun 4/10: Tim Arlon

Fri 4/15: Littlefish

Sat 4/16: Steve and Sally Williams (2 pm);

Divebar Messiahs (7:30 pm)

Sun 4/17: Bobby, Finn & Dave

Vaquero y Mar

435 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

Tuesdays The Sea Hunters

Thursdays: Delta by the Beach

Ventura Coast Brewing Co.

76 S. Oak Street, Ventura

Fri 4/8: The Late Knights

Ventura County Fairgrounds

10 W. Harbor Blvd., Ventura

Thurs 4/7 - Sun 4/10: Skull & Roses

Festival

Ventura Harbor Village

1583 Spinnaker Dr., Ventura

Sun 4/17: Barrelhouse Wailers

Ventura Music Hall

1888 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

Fri 4/8: Pinegrove, Peaar & Drench Fries

Sat 4/9: Don Felder

Mon 4/11: One-Eyed Jack

Thurs 4/14: Iya Terra, Eli-Mac, Cydeways

Fri 4/15: Hot Chip, Museum of Love

Sun 4/17: Marty Stuart & his Fabulous

Superlatives

Mon 4/18: Tech N9ne, Joey Cool,

X-Raided, Mayday!

Tues 4/19: The Chats, Mean Jeans, Thick

The Vine

308 E. Ojai Ave., Ojai

Saturdays: Smitty and Julija and Friends

Sundays: Austin Vallejo

Fri 4/8: Dianne Miller

Fri 4/15: Corey Highberg

Winchesters

632 E. Main St., Ventura

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

Thurs 4/7: Two's Company

Fri 4/8: Tossers

Sun 4/10: Sean Oliu

Thurs 4/14: Brandon Ragan

Fri 4/15: Karyn 805

Sun 4/17: Kelly's Lot

ventura Music Scene



The amazing watercolor art of **Galina Richardson** can be enjoyed at “Art is Passion” a new art gallery located at 864 Schooner Dr. Unit 103, in Portside Ventura Harbor. She is shown painting at the gallery. The gallery is open Tuesday through Saturday from 11 am to 7 pm and Sunday and Monday by appointment only.



2021 works of MAIL ART in a store window.

Dear Friends of Art:

The ARTLIFE Foundation’s MAIL ART Project with the theme “Spontaneous Inspiration” is well underway. We have already received about a hundred submissions to date. We request submissions of 6 x 9 works of art, which must be mailed to us, with a cutoff date of May 15. They will be displayed locally and on our web site: <https://artlifefoundation.org/>. See details about submitting work there.

About 90 of the current works mailed to us so far have come from Europe, Central America, South. America, Japan, and, happily, one each from Ukraine and Russia. Why? Europeans have been producing mail art for many years and have a center for it in Romania. Our local mail art guru, the late Joe Cardella, is well known and respected by them, says Stefan Balog, President of the Inter-Art Foundation. They have a gallery dedicated to mail art. And the pandemic made mail art a more favored medium for exchanges of actual art around the world with galleries closed to public view. Cardella, in his ARTLIFE magazine, published 275 editions over 25 years, each one filled with imaginative works mailed in from artists everywhere. We keep mail art projects alive to honor his legacy.

Locally, we encourage artists of all stripes and experience to submit, young and old, schoolkids and pros. Who knows, your “spontaneous inspiration” on the small format of this mail-in art may propel you on to bigger and better art-making. That’s our hope anyway.

All the best from the ARTLIFE Foundation: Bob Chianese (President), Nello Panelli, Curtis Cormane, Jonell McLain, Jone Pence, Jeanne LaRocco, Pete Ippel, Friday Gretchen, Lynne Okun, Cathy Barroca.



Michael O’Kelly at the Rubicon until June, 2022.

This solo exhibit (the first in 15-years) is in the downstairs corridor at the Rubicon Theatre. Featuring the beautiful paintings of Venturan artist Michael O’Kelly. Besides an amazing artist he is also an accomplished guitarist. You don’t need to attend an event to see his work. Just enter the side door and go downstairs.

1006 E. Main St.



Laura Walter is the Featured Artist for the month of April at the Harbor Village Gallery & Gifts, 1559 Spinnaker Dr., #106, Ventura.

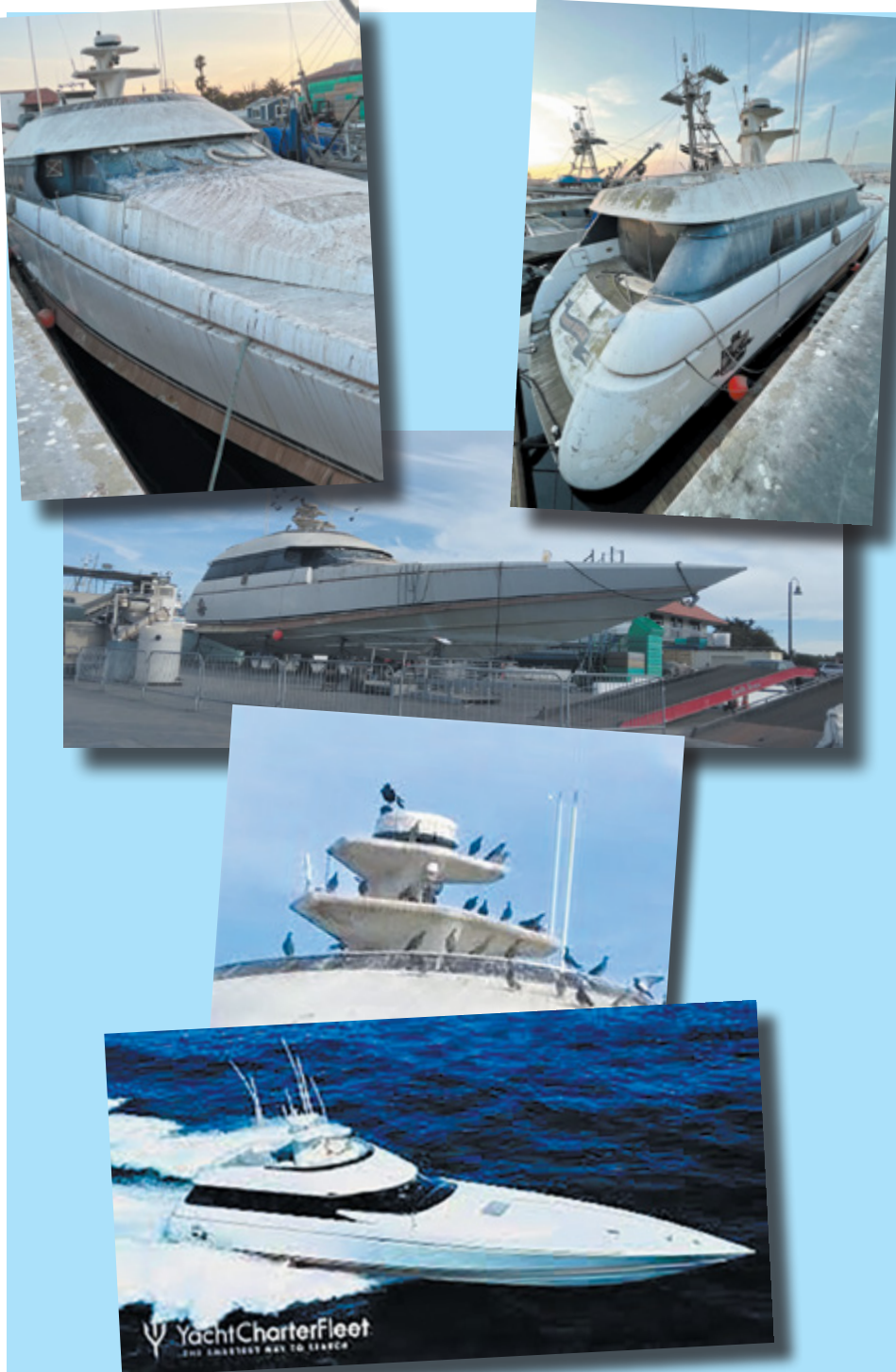
Watercolors and cards depicting sunflowers will be on display, and a portion of the proceeds will go to humanitarian aid for Ukraine.

Ventura Art Scene



This 'n' That

BECAUSE THERE IS SO MUCH NEWS TO REPORT THE HOROSCOPE, CARTOONS, CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU WILL BE FOUND AT WWW.VENTURABREEZE.COM



This yacht has become the home of Ventura birds

by Patricia Schallert

It has been said that “One man’s passion changed the course of maritime history.” - Norman Gentry on his father’s pursuit of excellence

If you stop near the Ventura boat yard, you might come across, if it is still there, the Gentry Eagle, once the fastest luxury yachts in the world. This yacht has been berthed and idled in the Ventura Harbor for over 15 years and has become a home to pigeons, seagulls and other creatures. But when looking beyond the pigeons and seagulls, there was no luxury yacht faster than the Gentry Eagle and her only port has been in the Ventura Harbor.

She is like the Queen Mary of Ventura. Her interior is still exquisite as the critters were primarily confined to the upper decks. Her interior was designed by Robin Rose who designed Jackie Onassis’s yacht. Some who have been inside the Gentry Eagle, commented that it is more luxurious than their own home.

The Gentry Eagle was built in 1988 and on July 26th, 1989 she crossed the Atlantic to win a race, at an average speed of 73 miles per hour in one of the biggest Transatlantic races in maritime history. Tom Gentry,

a developer from Hawaii, launched the Gentry Eagle and was a man with a vision for speed and was known to build boats with super speeds that would slice through the waves. Tom Gentry had ambition and drive to win the coveted Blue Ribbon trophy from entrepreneur Richard Branson for the fastest passage across the Atlantic. And win he did, reaching super speeds of 63.5 knots from Abrose Lighthouse in New York to the first landfall at Bishop Rock, UK in just 62 hours.

At one time holding the world record for speed it now sits as a charming derelict, rather than a magical yacht of dreams, waiting to be demolished or sold.

The Gentry Eagle needs more TLC than is affordable for most and it appears her demise is imminent as she sits in the Ventura Harbor Boat Yard. Visit her while you can and imagine this yacht was built with one goal in mind...speed.

Some specs of the Gentry 112’ long
11,500 horsepower
Dual Jet drive propulsion
Twin 3,480 horsepower turbine combined to propel her over 63 knots (70 mph)



Greg Monterrosa



Gabriella Navarro-Busch

Museum of Ventura County welcomes new additions to Board of Directors

Museum of Ventura County announces the addition of two members to their Board of Directors, longtime Ventura County supporter Greg Monterrosa and Immigration Attorney Gabriella Navarro-Busch. The Museum’s 13-member board helps to guide the collections, exhibits, and educational programs, which collectively celebrate the rich history, art and culture of Ventura County.

“The Museum is honored to welcome these two exemplary and engaged members of our community to our Board,” said Executive Director Elena Brokaw. “Greg’s dedication to serving the people of Ventura County and experience on the board of Conejo/Las Virgenes Foundation will no doubt make an immediate impact. We are equally fortunate to welcome Gabriella, whose leadership in public safety and dedication to helping those in need through her work as an immigration attorney, will enlighten and inform us with her distinct perspectives.”

Greg Monterrosa joins the Museum of Ventura County board with a history of dedicated work in supporting and advancing entrepreneurship, innovation, and economic development in Ventura County. In addition to the Museum, Monterrosa is currently an active board member for the Conejo/Las Virgenes Foundation and has received various awards and recognition for his community leadership efforts.

Gabriella Navarro-Busch comes to the Museum’s board of directors with extensive experience as an immigration attorney. She also is a former president of the Ventura County chapter of the Mexican American Bar Association, recipient of the 2004 State Bar of California President’s Pro Bono Service

Award, and former 23 year employee of the Oxnard Police Department’s Emergency 911 Communications Center. Additionally, Navarro-Busch is the referred attorney for several domestic violence shelters in Ventura County where clients qualify for immigration relief under the Violence Against Women’s Act (VAWA) or U-visa protections.

To learn more about the Museum of Ventura County’s 2021-2022 Board of Directors, please visit: venturamuseum.org/board-and-committees

The Museum of Ventura County celebrates, preserves and interprets the art, history and culture of Ventura County, the California Channel Islands and the surrounding region through its collections, exhibitions, events, educational programs, publications and its research library, and serves as a gathering place for the community.

Also, The Museum of Ventura County announces the return of the Bonita C. McFarland Visual Arts Scholarship. Named after a generous benefactor to the arts in

Ventura County, the total amount awarded will be \$17,500, with individual awards of \$500 or more dependent on need and number of scholarships awarded. Awards will be based on artistic merit and commitment as demonstrated by the requirements. The scholarship is available to any high school senior or college level student of the visual arts, who is also a Ventura County resident. Applicants must complete the application online, along with a 400-word essay about their art and education/career goals, letter of recommendation from a teacher or instructor, 10 images of artwork and/or projects (8MB maximum size per image) by the April 25, 2022 deadline.

Celebration held to honor mural artists

Continued from page 1

Avenida mural was led by a team of talented artists who also worked with at-risk youth to engage them in the project. They learned new skills and contributed to a community project designed to create something far more than they expected. It was so great to see.”

The project was conceived by the WCDC and artists Cynthia Polk, Vince Felix, Onofre Banderas, Juan Martinez, Dain Acevedo, and Patzy Salazar. Fifty-seven artists and over a dozen community members were involved in realizing the project. The mural design was developed by Cynthia Polk and begins with the image of a young girl, masked in traditional Día de los Muertos face paint, who is blowing bubbles that flow down the wall. Each bubble celebrates elements of the Avenue that are appreciated by residents and visitors alike. There are natural features such as the hillsides and “the point” surf spot, vintage cars, popular landmarks and iconic buildings, cultural images, foods, Chumash heritage, recreational features and more! The mural incorporates different graphic styles realized through both hand painting and spray paint techniques.

The WCDC is a local nonprofit and HUD-certified Community Based Development Organization that applies for and receives HUD Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) to bring economic development opportunities and revitalization to the Westside Community. For the past five years the WCDC has overseen five Westside mural beautification projects to deter graffiti and eliminate blight, celebrate the importance of the local creative economy, and increase community pride and engagement.

To learn more, visit www.westsideventura.org/pura-avenida or contact Pura Avenida Program Manager Onofre Banderas at Onofre.vta@gmail.com. To take a virtual tour of other Westside murals, visit www.westsideventura.org/mural-tour.



Joe Spano and JoBeth Williams star at the Rubicon.

A View from House Seats

Rubicon Sets the Stage for the Season

by Shirley Lorraine

The Rubicon Theatre has proudly reopened. Areas of the space, both upstairs and down, have been renovated, remodeled or renewed.

The night I attended the air was electric with excitement as the Rubicon staff and volunteers welcomed patrons back.

Rubicon's 2022 "Welcome Home" season launched with a pre-season event titled "The Gin Game" by D.L. Coburn, featuring accomplished veteran actors JoBeth Williams and Joe Spano. Company stalwart Jenny Sullivan directed. The production heralded the re-opening of the Rubicon and after closing on April 3, goes on the road for a national tour, enticing audiences back into other regional theaters.

The Gin Game is a Pulitzer-prize winning exploration into life toward the end of the road. Weller Martin (Joe Spano) has been living at Bentley Nursing Home, a rather run-down facility, for some time. His solitary existence has rendered him grieving, bored, defeated, and generally unhappy. A newer resident, Fonsia Dorsey (JoBeth Williams) enters Martin's lonely world and the two reluctantly become companions over frequent games of gin rummy. The problems begin when Fonsia cannot seem to lose at the game, bringing Weller's frustration and anger to the surface.

The audience is swept up in the competitive banter between the two, interspersed with insights into a nursing home environment in which neither ever wanted to end up but to which they were consigned because of life circumstances. Despite their differences, the two find their situations have a great deal in common. The frailties and realities of life in a nursing home are constant reminders of the lives both used to enjoy.

Those with friends or relatives living in an elder care facility will find many familiar refrains throughout the play. The frustrations with "systems" are universal. To paraphrase a line Weller utters "we are stored here until the end." The feeling seems to be common.

Both award-winning actors brought performances that pulled at the heart strings. What a lovely way to reintroduce audiences to the magic of live theater and of the Rubicon, our local jewel in Ventura's artistic crown.

The next Rubicon production will be *Twilight*, Los Angeles, 1992, opening on the 30th anniversary of the Los Angeles riots following the Rodney King incident. A powerful account of the "largest social explosion of the American 20th century", *Twilight* delves into the many sparks that fueled the emotional inferno that still evokes reactions today. It promises to be a must-see, thought-provoking production.

Across the county our theaters are an-

nouncing seasons full of variety. Actors and stage crews are in full swing rehearsing and preparing for you, their devoted audience. Most theaters still have mask and vaccination precautions in place – a small inconvenience for a large return. Your support ensures continuation of their health as well.

Check with each theater individually for their production schedules and guidelines. Do something nice for yourself. Attend live theater.

Streaming Spotlight by Cindy Summers

The Power of the Dog

– Netflix



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

The Power of the Dog is a 2022 Oscar winning Western set in Montana in 1925 that focuses on the lives of wealthy ranchers Phil Burbank (Benedict Cumberbatch) and his brother George (Jesse Plemons). Phil was rugged, fierce and the leader of a dozen ranch hands that lived the cowboy lifestyle, often causing him to act cruelly to gain the favor of his cowhand followers. George was very conservative, always wearing a suit and handled the business end of the family business.

The Burbank brothers and their men frequented the Red Mill restaurant owned by a widow named Rose (Kirsten Dunst) and run with the help of her son Peter (Kodi Smit-McPhee). Peter was not very masculine, and along with helping his mother had hobbies like making paper flowers that resembled those he used to see in his mother's old florist shop. Peter's demeanor made him an easy target for Phil to insult to entertain his crew, causing both he and his mother to be in tears by the end of the evening.

George was always complimentary and kind, and comforted Rose while gripped with the frustration of seeing how her son was mistreated and misunderstood. George took a strong liking to Rose, and they were married shortly thereafter. Rose gave up her business and moved to the ranch with Peter, where she began to lose herself and drink to numb her reality. Peter was continually harassed and belittled by Phil and this

band of bigots, who openly called him fairy and would intentionally make Peter feel scared and uncomfortable.

It seemed it would be only a matter of time before some ill would happen with Peter, with Phil often referring to him as Little Lord Fauntleroy and mocking him with every opportunity. One day while Peter was walking in the woods he happened upon Phil's secret spot, where he found some magazines that focused on male bodies and though he did find Phil swimming nearby, Phil was unaware of Peter's discovery.

For some reason after their chance meeting in the woods, Phil completely changed how he treated Peter, including teaching him to ride and spend time with the other cowhands. Phil even promised to make Peter his own rope and show him how to use it, but this simple gesture became his downfall. Phil didn't know that the hide strips Peter gave him to finish the rope was from a diseased cow, which unknown to Peter was often the source of Anthrax on the ranch. As Phil braided the pieces of hide he shared the he and his idol Bronco Henry were more than just friends, and gave Peter a glimpse into the gentler, kinder side of Phil though nothing physical happened between them.

Not knowing it would be the last time they spoke, Phil talked about he and Peter riding away into the mountains and exploring like the original pioneers. The next morning Phil was unable to get out of bed, so his brother rushed him to the doctor but he died shortly after getting to town. Peter kept the rope but left the ranching life behind when Phil passed away, which seemed to help reconcile the relationship with his mother and her husband though Peter seemed to once again be in the world alone.

Rated: R (Full Nudity|Brief Sexual Content)
Runtime: 2h 8m

Mary O'Connor passes away

Mary O'Connor (Tosney) completed her earthly journey peacefully at her residence in Ventura, on Saturday, March 12, 2022. Mary Ann was born to Dr. Robert O'Connor and Mary (McMahon) O'Connor in Buffalo, NY. She spent her early years in the idyllic village of Williamsville, NY.

Mary O'Connor was the rock 'n' roller & Chapter 12 of *The Necklace: 13 Women* and the experiment that transformed their lives.

Mary received her teaching degree from Daemen College and completed her Master's

Degree at SUNY at Buffalo. She taught at her high school alma mater serving as Chair of the English Department.

In August of 1977, Mary wed William (Bill) Tosney in Williamsville. Engineering employment for Bill was sparse in Western NY, and that was the beginning of the westward trek; Nuclear Engineering in Colorado, led to Petroleum Engineering in Ventura, and finally Aerospace Engineering in Los Angeles.

Mary continued her teaching career at St. Bonaventure High School, Bill commuted to L.A. and their children flourished at Our Lady of the Assumption School and St. Bonaventure High.

In the late 80s, Mary founded Signs Now which she owned and operated for 28 years. The business provided an interface to support many community efforts and charitable non-profits.

Mary was a longtime member and sponsor of the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee. In 2007, she was inducted into the second class of the St. Bonaventure Hall




Mary was an extremely generous individual to both those she knew and didn't know.

of Fame in recognition of her dedication and ongoing support of the school. In 2011, Mary was recognized as a Distinguished Alumna of Daemen College in Amherst, NY for her service to the community.

If Mary had an avocation, it was "football fan". She loved all things football and managed to attend several Buffalo Bills and San Diego Chargers games as well as 7 Super Bowls. Her true passion, however, was the Friday Night Lights of St. Bonaventure Seraphs Football, which she followed tirelessly.

Mary was an extremely generous individual to both those she knew and didn't know. She was a dedicated teacher, accomplished business woman, loyal friend, devoted mother and grandmother and cherished wife. Mary was preceded in death by her parents and the love of her life and husband Bill of 42 years.

A funeral mass to be held on Monday, April 4th at the Mulcahy Center behind Our Lady of the Assumption Church with a graveside service at Ivy Lawn Cemetery in Ventura. Arrangements were under the direction of Joseph Reardon Funeral Home.



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This 'n' That



Kristine Tompkins has worked to protect wild beauty and biodiversity. Photo by James Q. Martin.

Ventura Land Trust presents April Environmental Speaker Series: Women in Conservation

Ventura Land Trust will host the next installment of its Environmental Speaker Series, Women in Conservation, on Thursday, April 14th from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Museum of Ventura County (100 E Main St.).

A panel discussion moderated by Ventura Land Trust Executive Director Melissa Baffa will feature Kristine McDivitt Tompkins, Kate Larramendy, and Michelle I. Sevilla, three individuals who are shaping the modern conservation movement in the United States and abroad.

Baffa herself is a biologist and educator who was selected as a 2015 Science Communication Fellow with the Ocean Exploration Trust, and explored the deep sea as part of Dr. Robert Ballard's Corps of Exploration in 2015, 2016, and 2018.

"Our panelists have such a wide range of experience and influence," says Baffa. "They are examples of women who have navigated barriers to build connections among scientists, environmental advocates, policymakers, and communities, and they've made significant contributions to the field of conservation. Because of their work, others who identify as women can follow in their footsteps."

Women in Conservation panelists include Kristine McDivitt Tompkins, who, as president and cofounder of Tompkins Conservation, has worked to protect wild beauty and biodiversity with the conservation of 15 million acres of parklands in Chile and Argentina; Kate Larramendy, past Director of Design and Sustainability for Toad&Co and trustee of The Conservation Alliance; and Michelle I. Sevilla, an immigrant from the Philippines who works on local environmental issues and policy in the California State Legislature. Sevilla is the first Network Manager of the Central Coast Climate Justice Network.

Members of the audience will have the opportunity to ask questions of the panelists in a Q&A session after the panel discussion. Now in its seventh year, Ventura Land Trust's quarterly Environmental Speaker Series educates the public about important local and global environmental issues. Women in Conservation is the second of four events in 2022, with upcoming events in June and October. Environmental Speaker Series events are free and open to the public, but donations are encouraged. Guests are encouraged to RSVP for Women in Conservation at www.venturallandtrust.org/womeninconservation.

The mission of Ventura Land Trust is to permanently protect the land, water, wildlife and scenic beauty of the Ventura region for current and future generations. Founded in 2003, Ventura Land Trust believes that preserving open space and providing public access enhances the economy, quality of life, and public well-being of Ventura and surrounding communities. The organization currently owns and manages land along the Ventura River and in the Ventura hillsides, including the 2,100-acre Harmon Canyon Preserve. All preserves are open to the public daily from dawn to dusk for free. Ventura Land Trust is an accredited member of the Land Trust Alliance. Learn more and become a member at www.venturallandtrust.org.

St. John's Regional Medical Center's Receives "LGBTQ+ Equality Recognition"

St. John's Regional Medical Center has been recognized as an LGBTQ+ Healthcare Equality Top Performer by the Human Rights Campaign which is the nation's largest LGBTQ+ organization.

The HEI is the nation's foremost benchmarking survey of healthcare facilities on policies and practices dedicated to the equitable treatment and inclusion of their LGBTQ+ patients, visitors and employees.

"We are honored to be recognized by the Human Rights Campaign for our dedicated work with the LGBTQ+ community," states Barry Wolfman, President of St. John's Regional Medical Center. "We are deeply committed to equity and inclusion in order to provide everyone with a welcoming and safe environment to receive care."

The HEI evaluates and scores healthcare facilities on detailed criteria falling under four central pillars:

Foundational Policies and Training in LGBTQ+ Patient-Centered Care; LGBTQ+ Patient Services and Support; Employee Benefits and Policies; and, Patient and Community Engagement.

LGBTQ+ patients have historically faced significant and long standing challenges to accessing the care they need, and St. John's is committed to providing welcoming, compassionate care for LGBTQ+ patients and their families.

"Every person deserves to have access to quality healthcare, be respected and heard by their doctor, and feel safe in the facility where they are receiving care. But LGBTQ+ people are often subject to discrimination in all spaces, including healthcare facilities, which leads to members of the community avoiding care and anticipating our voices will not be respected in an incredibly vulnerable environment," said Tari Hanneman, Director of Health & Aging at The Human Rights Campaign. "The Healthcare Equality Index, at its core, strives to ensure LGBTQ+ people are protected and affirmed by their healthcare providers and feel safe seeking services. Our HEI active participants are truly pioneering the healthcare industry by implementing robust, comprehensive LGBTQ+ inclusive policies that hopefully, because of their work, will become standard practice."

For more information about St. John's commitment to LGBTQ+ care, visit www.dignityhealth.org/lgbtqcare.

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