



# VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

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Matsumoto, Murphy and Loy at Haole's Memorial Garden remembering Haole Boy's one year anniversary. Photo of Haole Boy by Sebastian De Schepper.

## Between a rock and a hard place: Haole Boy's Memorial Rock Garden's

by Amy Brown

If you walk along the iconic Ventura promenade near Surfer's Point, you'll encounter a beautiful tribute to another major Ventura icon: Haole Boy, the city's late surfing Ambassadog. Haole had been surfing C Street and traveling the country for seven years as a surf therapist with the non-profit A Walk On Water for children and adults with special needs. He helped hundreds of aspiring surfers feel comfortable catching waves, riding right on the board with them—and he

always made it look easy.

Haole passed away after a long battle with cancer in May of 2020, and was mourned by folks from across the country in person at his memorial and through ongoing worldwide outpourings of love and support. His mom, Kim Murphy and her friends Cris Loy and Dorianne Matsumoto decided to create a rock garden memorial to honor his beautiful surfing stoke and spirit on the

*Continued on page 3*



In a previous issue we had an article about the Gentry Eagle that was stored in the Ventura Harbor boat yard. It was once the fastest luxury yacht in the world. This yacht has been berthed and idled in the Ventura Harbor for over 15 years.

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.

Even though there were many rumors about its future the Eagle has now been demolished by a huge mechanical "hand." It was carefully pulled apart piece by piece so that the aluminum (and other valuable parts) could be salvaged. Her ghost will always remain in the harbor.

Photos by Patricia Schallert and Yana Khyod. More photos on page 3.

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# City News

## Main Street Moves towards long-term installation

After much support from the public and the downtown business community, the City Council unanimously approved extending Main Street Moves to 2024 during its meeting on April 11, 2022. Staff will continue to collect data and collaborate with downtown stakeholders on the long-term installation of the program.

Main Street Moves closes five blocks of Downtown Ventura, from the San Buenaventura Mission to Fir Street and a portion of California Street. The program, launched in May 2020 during the COVID-19 pandemic, creates a pedestrian-friendly area along Main Street, retaining the existing curb, gutter, and sidewalk configuration through a flexible design approach.

“We want to build a program with the most consensus and greatest benefit to the downtown district,” said Economic Development Manager Meredith Hart. “After working with the businesses, most want to move forward with a full closure model, and almost all are willing to participate in a flexible closure model, which would involve parklets.”

The City and Downtown Ventura Partners are working with property owners, restaurants, and retailers in the impacted downtown area to continue to gather feedback on participation within the different operating models. The proposed models have ranged from the current full street closure to the previous

full open street model.

A long-term full street closure model for Main Street and the re-opening of California Street with the allowance of parklets will be analyzed through an environmental impact review, a traffic study, and bids for the design and installation of removable bollards. City Council determined to re-open California Street to improve ADA parking and access. If implemented, the project will need to adhere to the Pedestrian Mall Law of 1960. Establishing a long-term program will also require creating a licensing agreement with property owners for the use of the public right-of-way areas.

In response to an increased demand for parking in the downtown area, parking hours will be adjusted on weekends to allow for more use with paid parking rates increasing to \$1.00 per hour. In addition, parking hours on Friday and Saturday will be extended to 11:00 p.m. Parking hours on Sunday through Thursday will remain from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. These changes will go into effect May 9, 2022. In addition to paid parking spots, the City maintains designated ADA parking spaces at each intersection, surface lots, and parking structure, with approximately 2,000 free parking spaces throughout downtown.

To learn more about Main Street Moves and view reports or survey results, visit [www.cityofventura.ca.gov/OutdoorDiningProgram](http://www.cityofventura.ca.gov/OutdoorDiningProgram).

## Do we need to water only once a week?

There has been much confusion regarding the use of Ventura water. We asked Stephen Glenn, Management Analyst II Ventura Water to answer a few questions. This is part 1 of 2 articles.

*Q: What are Ventura’s water sources?*

A: The City of Ventura is unique in that it relies exclusively on water from 100% local sources. These sources include surface water from Lake Casitas and the Ventura River, and groundwater from the Santa Paula, Oxnard Plain, and Mound Basins.

*Q: What is their condition?*

A: Ventura Water continually assesses short and long-term water supply and demands through various planning efforts including the Annual Comprehensive Water Resources Report and the Urban Water Management Plan. These assessments consider new development projects, anticipated increase in water demand, and impacts to the water supply, to ensure a balanced and stable water future.

Currently, staff is completing the 2022 Comprehensive Water Resources Report. This plan evaluates the City’s projected water supply and demand for the next 3 years. Lake Casitas is currently below 40% capacity which requires the City to reduce its purchases by 30%. Ventura River supplies are expected to be less than 25% of capacity due to below average rainfall in 2020 and 2021 and the settlement agreement that requires the City stop pumping when flows reach 4 cfs. Groundwater levels in the Oxnard Plain are decreasing, but the City does not anticipate a reduction

in its allocation this year. Groundwater conditions in the Santa Paula and Mound Basin are stable and allocations are not expected to be reduced this year.

Considering the current challenges, uncertainties, and reliability associated with Ventura’s water sources, the plan concludes that water supplies are sufficient to meet demands for at least 2022-2024. The 2022 Final Draft CWRR shows that the projected supplies for the next three years are slightly greater than the projected water demands. This indicates that if the City’s customers continue to conserve at current levels, the City will not need to declare a water shortage or enact water shortage surcharge rates within the next three years unless there are unanticipated changes to supply projections.

*Q: Are any plans to control water usage?*

A: In 2021, Ventura Water released the 2020 Water Shortage Event Contingency Plan to provide guidance if triggering events occur – whether from reduced supply, increased demand, or an emergency declaration – and identify corresponding actions to be taken during the various stages of a water shortage. The plan includes voluntary and mandatory stages which are intended to be fair to all water customers and users while having the least impact on business, employment, and quality of life for residents.

Additionally, the City of Ventura’s ordinance Section 22.170.010 – Water waste prohibited, lists out prohibited uses and penalties, which remain in place regardless of if a water shortage event has been triggered.

It is important to note (as stated in your previous publication) that the restrictions being imposed by Metropolitan Water District do not impact the City’s customers. Currently, the City does not receive any State Water and is instead reliant on a diverse

# COMMUNITY CLEANUP & RECYCLING DAY

Saturday, May 21

765 S Seaward Ave - Corner of S. Seaward Ave. & Alessandro Dr.

Free Event for City of Ventura Residents Only

Preregistration required. Register here: [www.CityofVentura.ca.gov/ESevents](http://www.CityofVentura.ca.gov/ESevents)



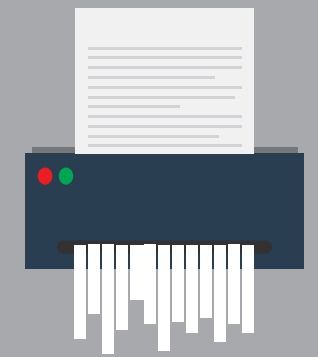
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# City News

portfolio from 100% local sources. Staff continues to monitor considerations being made by the State Water Resources Control Board regarding Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-7-22 that may require all Californians to conserve water whether a local water shortage exists or not. The SWCRB is expected to take action on May 24, 2022, so the City will evaluate whether local actions are necessary following that date.

Lastly, Ventura Water continues administer a robust water efficiency program that has helped transform water conservation into a Ventura way of life. Ventura Water customers' continued water conservation efforts have allowed the City to avoid a critical water shortage situation. For a complete list of programs offered by the Ventura Water, please visit Rebates & Incentives | Ventura, CA.

## Public invited for a community bike ride at the Ventura River Trail

The community is invited to join Ventura Mayor Sofia Rubalcava, local officials, the City of Ventura, and Caltrans for a community bike ride on Saturday, May 21, at 9:00 a.m. at Westpark Community Center, located at 450 W. Harrison Ave. The bike ride celebrates the \$5 million Clean California Grant awarded for the Ventura River Trail.

In addition to the bike ride, a press conference, and event fair will also take place for the community to participate.

"May is National Bike Month and this is an opportunity to celebrate the many supportive efforts to renovate and reinvigorate

the Ventura River Trail," shared Mayor Sofia Rubalcava. "We hope everyone can join us in celebrating this important win for our beloved Ventura River Trail."

"Caltrans is excited to see the City of Ventura fulfill its vision for this trail for beautiful and clean communities," said Caltrans District 7 Director Tony Tavares. "And since May is National Bike Month, there is no better way to celebrate this Clean California grant than with a community bike ride."

Continuous improvements of the Ventura River Trail include repaving the bike trail, adding solar lighting, and removing and replacing trail fencing. Targeted improvements include accessibility improvements to access the trail, public art, trail monuments, environmental and 'no litter' signage, native and drought-tolerant shrub and tree planting, trash cans, wayfinding to the trail, and other various trail user amenities.

The City of Ventura invites families, community members, and local businesses to participate in free events in celebration of National Bike Month and National Bike to Work Week, happening May 16 - May 22.

According to the League of American Bicyclists, "May is a time to celebrate biking and the freedom, the joy, and the wellbeing it imbues within us. It's a time to encourage ourselves to bike a little bit farther and a time to encourage others to bike a little bit at all. Because we know that when more people ride bikes, life is better for everyone."

With more than 60 miles of bike lanes, 35 miles of bike routes and paths, and over 400 bicycle lockers for riders to use, the City of Ventura is designated by the League of American Bicyclists as a bronze-rated bicycle friendly community.

For more information, please contact Jennifer Buckley, Senior Community Outreach Specialist, at [jbuckley@cityofventura.ca.gov](mailto:jbuckley@cityofventura.ca.gov).

To learn more about the Clean California Grant Program, visit [cleancalifornia.dot.ca.gov](http://cleancalifornia.dot.ca.gov).

### Between a rock and a hard place

*Continued from page 1*

one-year anniversary of Haole's passing. It started with just a few brightly painted rocks, and now, at the one-year anniversary of the garden itself, it's a beautiful kaleidoscopic tribute that grows every week.

It started with someone painting a single special memorial rock for Haole, and the idea for the garden germinated from there, according to Loy. "We said 'we should start a rock garden with this rock, and it should really be overlooking Haole's surf break,'" said Loy. "We all went home and started painting rocks like crazy." The garden started from that group of friends with about 40 memorial rocks, with a kindness rock section soon added. "I kind of wanted both memorial and kindness rocks, since Haole was all about kindness, and we wanted this to be about kindness too," said Loy.

The Kindness Rock Project started a few years ago, and is now a viral trend—people paint inspirational messages or images on rocks and leave them out for strangers to find and be inspired by. The distinction between memorial rocks and kindness rocks is that memorial rocks are to be left in place, honoring a lost loved one, human or pet, while kindness rocks are to be shared, in a 'take a rock, leave a rock' philosophy. Haole's garden has a section for both. "Nothing fills my heart quite like the love and support we still receive. I feel as if the spirit of Haole is still so

present in Ventura by the community continuing to support us, and cherish the memories that Haole made for all of them," said Murphy. "We still often hear stories of Haole, and how he continues to touch people's hearts."

You don't have to be an artist to participate, but you might just become one. "I first thought, I am not artistic. Art is not my thing!" said Matsumoto. Then, "I could paint a few rocks." However, she is now one of the most prolific contributors, having since created nearly 100 rocks, beautifully painted with many time-consuming coats of resin, to the garden. She shared that she is always moved by the sentiments expressed in rocks created by others. "You see the rocks made by little kids for their pets, or others made for lost loved ones, and it's clear they've all been made with love," said Matsumoto.

One particularly talented artist who regularly contributes to the memorial garden creates photorealistic paintings on rocks of people's pets, while others are more simple, but all are powerful. Murphy and her husband John share that anyone is invited to visit the memorial, and leave a rock for a loved one, but ask that if visitors would like a memento to take a kindness rock, while leaving the memorial rocks in place, as they are meaningful and meant to be permanent. "This garden has brought much healing and happiness to us, and we absolutely love that Haole is still bringing people together," said Murphy.

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*Gentry Eagle continued from page 1*

### Trash, Recyclables and Yard/Organic Waste Pick Up Delay Due to the Memorial Day Holiday

Due to the Memorial Day holiday on Monday, May 30, trash, recyclables and yard/organic waste will be collected one day later than usual the week of May 29 - June 4 in the Cities of Ventura, Ojai and the surrounding areas.

Thank you and Happy Holiday  
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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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It's not hard to understand modern art. If it hangs on a wall it's a painting, and if you can walk around it, it's a sculpture.  
— Simon Updike

## Opinion/Editorial



Sheldon Brown  
Publisher-Editor

■ Ventura City Manager Alex McIntyre has taken responsibility for a **Brown Act** violation committed by five members of the City Council during a

March conference in Washington, D.C.

McIntyre said he was unaware that the council was not allowed to have what he deemed 'social meetings'. "It was my fault for failing to understand this." Five elected officials, McIntyre, and Deputy City Manager Barry Fisher, traveled to the nation's capital as part of the National League of Cities Conference.

The Brown Act is the state's open meeting law, it dictates how public meetings are conducted and notified to the public. It prohibits a majority of members of a legislative body from communicating or taking action on an item outside of an open meeting that has been notified to the public.

■ The Ventura Police Department Traffic Unit conducted a **DUI checkpoint** on Main Street, east of Callens Road on Friday, May 13, 2022, from 7:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m.

DUI checkpoint locations are chosen based on a history of DUI collision statistics and arrests, with the primary purpose not to make arrests, but to promote public safety by deterring residents from driving impaired.

The following is a list of the enforcement activities that took place at, or as a result of the checkpoint:

876 cars passed through the checkpoint

489 drivers were contacted and screened through the checkpoint

7 SFST's (sobriety test) were conducted

6 drivers cited for VC12500(a), Unlicensed Driver

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

■ On May 6 (I couldn't attend because of a birthday party) **Art City Studios** hosted a reception for artist Ramon Bryne entitled "Composed in Stone". At the event art lovers learned that the future of the art space is uncertain because after 37 years the property owner is trying to sell

it so it could be developed. The selling price is \$1.7 mill.

Founder Paul Lindhard is trying to stay optimistic hoping a way could be found to keep it the wonderful gallery that it is. The space, at 197 Dubbers St. has been home to dozens of sculptors



Art City Studios supporters are trying to save it from development.

and other artists for decades and is a great way to spend hours walking the space and appreciating the sculptures and other art objects there.

Supporters hope people will send letters to city leaders about saving this cultural resource. Or, perhaps a wealthy art lover could buy it. Depending on its zoning it might be impossible for the city to stop its sale and development. For more information visit [www.artcitystudios.com](http://www.artcitystudios.com).

■ What is the most important issue facing America?

- A Inflation
- B Ukraine war
- C Baby formula shortage
- D Lack of water
- E Climate change
- F COVID
- G None of the above

If you selected G you are correct the most important issue seems to be **abortion**.

Even Columbia allows the procedure until the 24th week of pregnancy. It is also widely available in Cuba and Uruguay but not in our enlightened country. There is even some question if abortion is even mentioned in the bible which is the basis for preventing abortions.

Margaret Kamitsuka, an emeritus professor of religion at Oberlin College, argues there's significant ambiguity about abortion in the Christian tradition. She notes it's never mentioned in the Bible. "Which is quite stunning," she said, "because pretty much every other moral issue is talked about – from divorce to gluttony and robbery and so on."

## Mailbox

Editor:

What are Measures A and B, and why is it so important for County voters to vote "yes" when oil companies are saying vote "no"?

Here's the answer: Approving Measures A and B will confirm that voters agree that all new oil well development in Ventura County should be subject to the modern environmental standards approved by the Board of Supervisors in 2020. When they approved the 2040 County General Plan, the Supervisors approved policies to encourage continued oil development in Ventura County, but also required that any new drilling comply with modern environmental standards protecting air, water, public health, and disadvantaged communities, and which address climate change.

Then oil companies spent millions hiring signature gatherers to put Measures A and B on the June ballot. A YES vote is for applying the modern en-

vironmental standards approved by the Board. A No vote is for going back to the old days when oil companies could escape environmental review and standards that protect air, water, and public health, and which address climate change. Now, oil companies are spending \$5.5 million more to scare voters into voting no.

Oil companies are spreading lies and misinformation about Yes on A and B.

They say oil production would be shut down – not true. Supervisors made it clear that oil drilling continues to be encouraged – with modern environmental safeguards.

Oil companies say jobs would be lost – not true. Measures A and B do nothing to stop drilling or cause job losses.

They say that gasoline prices would rise if A and B are approved – not true. Nothing is stopping oil companies from drilling.

Now it is up to Ventura County voters to tell oil companies: YES, you can

*Continued on page 15*

Read Representative's Brownley's article on page 8 regarding this that I certainly agree with.

The Supreme Court has become so political (forget the constitution) it is time to impose a term limit on justices. This idea (like abortion) is favored by a majority of Americans.

### ■ Guns In the News

A report from Johns Hopkins University found the number of people dying from gun violence in the United States reached a record high in 2020: an average of 124 people dead every day,

The analysis of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention data from the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions showed there were 45,222 gun deaths in 2020, a 15% increase from 2019. Gun homicides rose by 35%.

Suicides accounted for more than half of all U.S. gun deaths in 2020 – 24,292. How sad is that? I doubt if any of those killing themselves purchased a gun for that purpose.

Authorities say the white 18-year-old male who fatally shot 10 people and injured three others Saturday at a Buffalo supermarket in the heart of the city's Black community traveled from another New York county hours away.

Thirteen people – 11 of whom were African American – were shot, with three suffering non-life-threatening injuries.

The white male was actually live-streaming it online and had posted racists comments on social media. Good grief, what is happening in this country? So very sad and pathetic.

Seventeen people were shot Friday night in downtown Milwaukee just hours after three were shot a few blocks away, near the arena where the Milwaukee Bucks were playing in the NBA Playoffs.

Ten people were taken into custody in the shooting downtown, and nine firearms were recovered, according to Milwaukee Police Capt. Warren Allen.

A 16-year-old boy was fatally shot near "The Bean" sculpture in downtown Chicago's Millennium Park, authorities said. Police said the teen was shot in the chest at about 7:30 p.m. Saturday near the popular tourist attraction.

A mother was charged with shooting and critically wounding her two sons while they lay in their beds early Monday morning, one day before the family was set to be evicted from their home.

A father and daughter were allegedly shot with a rifle by the daughter's boyfriend at their Oxnard home late Saturday morning. The incident was reported as a family disturbance shortly before 11:40 a.m. in the 100 block of James Avenue, said Oxnard Police Department Cmdr. Luis McArthur.

Officers found the daughter, 27, and her 61-year-old father with gunshot wounds. The woman's 23-year-old boyfriend was arrested and a gun recovered, McArthur said.

Bucks County District Attorney Matt Weintraub said at a news conference Monday afternoon that 38-year-old Trinh Nguyen shot her two sons and tried to shoot a neighbor, her ex-husband's nephew, as he left for work around 7 a.m.

Six people were shot, killing three, at a DeKalb County condominium complex Sunday night, according to police.

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



# Community Events

## Ventura events

by Ana Baker

Many children and teens have experienced the death of a loved one during the pandemic. This is a difficult time for anyone grieving a loss. Livingston's Grief and Bereavement Program recognizes the value children and teens receive from sharing their grief experience with their peers. Our groups provide support, connection and validation that they are not alone.

The Good Grief Club meets the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of every month from 5:30 to 7 pm.

The Young Teen Group meets the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month from 5:30 to 6:30 pm.

If you would like to register a child or young teen for a support group, please contact Stacia Sickle at 805-389-6870 x452 or at ssickle@lmvna.org.

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

**The Ventura Senior Men's Group continues to meet for a social lunch and program at the Poinsettia Pavilion 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.

**May 19: The East Ventura Community Council will meet via zoom on Thursday. Meredith Hart, the city of Ventura's new Economic Development Manager, will talk about plans within the city's business community.**

In addition, Ventura County Ballot Measures A and B will be discussed. Commander Weeks of the Ventura Police Department will share the area crime statistics. The Council represents those who live east of Victoria Avenue, and the public is encouraged to attend and participate. The meeting will be held at 7 p.m., link below. The Zoom link is available on the website, [www.eastventura.org](http://www.eastventura.org). A recording of meeting will be available later at website.

**May 19: Join in the fun at our Channel Islands Gulls Fundraising Luncheon and help raise funds for the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI Ventura).** NAMI is a grassroots, family and consumer self-help support and advocacy organization dedicated to improving the lives of people with severe mental illnesses. The Luncheon will be on Thursday at Yolanda's, 86 East Daily Drive, Camarillo. Social hour will be at 11 a.m. and Noon for meeting. Cost: \$40 per person – Advance reservations and payment required. For more information, call 263-7759 or [cigullreservations@gmail.com](mailto:cigullreservations@gmail.com).

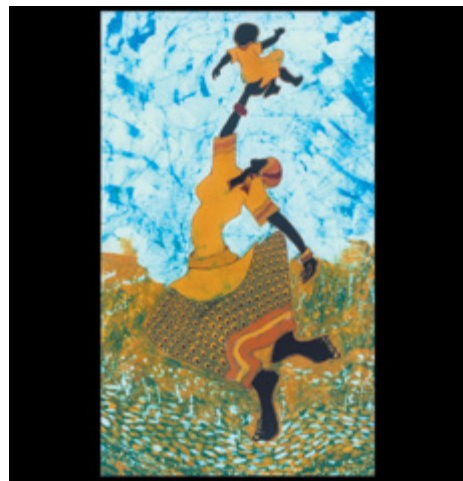
**May 21-22: The Gold Coast Gem Show is coming to the Ventura County Fairgrounds.** It will be featuring 30 dealers, including demonstrators and local Gem and Mineral Societies. Diane Cook, the owner of Daisy's Rocks and Things, has curated a variety of vendors/dealers who specialize in gems, minerals, and fossils. Show goers will find unique and quality specimens, beads, jewelry, and lapidary supplies, including demonstrations and activities for the whole family. The show is free and open to the public (fairground parking is additional). The show hours are 10-6 p.m. on Saturday, May 21 and 10-4 p.m. on Sunday, May 22. The Ventura County Fairgrounds is located

at 10 W. Harbor Blvd.

**May 25: The recently passed federal infrastructure bill potentially provides much needed funding for communities like Ventura.** Congressperson Salud Carbajal will be explaining to the College Area Community Council how the city can take advantage of this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. City Councilperson Doug Halter and Ventura Fire Prevention Supervisor Brett Reed will also be speaking. Join us on Zoom Wednesday, at 7 p.m. A link to the meeting will be sent to everyone on the CACC mailing list. Visit the College Area Community Council website @ [caccventura.com](http://caccventura.com) to learn more, to be added to the mailing list, or to access a link to the Zoom meeting.

**June 25: Channel Islands PC User Group (CIPCUG) will have a discussion, tutorial, and Q&A sessions centered on Computers, email, the Internet, social media brokers such as Facebook, LinkedIn, Google, and Yahoo.** 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, online and now live at our temporary location Ventura County Computers 2175 Goodyear Avenue, Unit 117. All CIPCUG events may be attended online. Due to limited space, live attendance is reserved for members. Details for connecting to online events are emailed prior to the event. To receive connection instructions, please sign up on our website: <http://www.cipcug.org> or call 289-3960

**May 25: The Channel Islands Chapter of the Embroiderers' Guild of America (CICEGA) will meet at 9:30 a.m. on Wednesday at the United Methodist Church, 291 Anacapa Drive, Camarillo.** This month we will be learning new techniques while we make a Ribbonere Scissor Case. For more information, e-mail [president@channelislandsega.org](mailto:president@channelislandsega.org) or visit our website at <https://www.channelislandsega.org>.



The art of Lungala Nzalamba.

## Ojai news and events

**Renowned quartet Gov't Mule – led by GRAMMY® Award-winning vocalist, songwriter, guitar legend, and producer Warren Haynes – will be heading out on a U.S. summer tour supporting their critically acclaimed, chart-topping blues album, Heavy Load Blues.** The cross-country outing, incorporating a mix of headlining shows, festival appearances and select multi-band/support dates, will be stopping locally in Ojai on Sunday, June 19 at Libby Bowl. Tickets are on sale now.

**The Ojai Art Center is kicking off its 45th annual Art in the Park celebration Memorial weekend on May 28 and May 29, 2022.** Unlike last

*Continued on page 15*

# WE'RE BACK!



The Gold Coast Gem Show is coming to the Ventura County Fairgrounds, May 21-22, 2022, featuring 30 dealers, including demonstrators and local Gem and Mineral Societies. Diane Cook, the owner of Daisy's Rocks and Things, has curated a variety of vendors/dealers who specialize in gems, minerals, and fossils. Show goers will find unique and quality specimens, beads, jewelry, and lapidary supplies, including demonstrations and activities for the whole family.

The show is FREE and open to the public (fairground parking is additional). The show hours are Saturday, May 21, 10-6 pm, and Sunday, May 22, 10-4 pm. The Ventura County Fairgrounds is located at 10 W. Harbor Blvd., Ventura, CA 93001.

We look forward to seeing you there!

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

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## News & Notes

### The Bookmark

# About Libraries and Friends

by Jill Forman

### Friends Online Bookstore Update

We invite you to continue to visit our online store for local sales. Special for May: Audiobooks \$2.00!

During the most recent library closure, inventory on the online store has expanded – many more great non-fiction, classics, fiction and vintage are available.

Books purchased at the online store will be available for pick up at the bookstore in E. P. Foster. You will receive an email letting you know when your purchase will be available for pick up. Any questions? Please email bookstore@venturafriendsofthelibrary.org

### LIBRARY EVENTS

#### Paws for Reading is back!

The Paws for Reading Program brings together young readers and affectionate, canine listeners to help boost the confidence of beginning readers.

Hill Road Library – Wednesdays, 3:30 to 5 pm

E.P. Foster Library – Thursdays, 4 to 6 pm

Join PAWS dogs for one-on-one reading sessions. Arrive at the library early to choose a book and get in line to read to a special pooch. Children of all ages are welcome.

#### INCA, the Peruvian Music & Dance Ensemble

Hill Road Library, Saturday, May 21, 11:30 am to 12:30 pm

INCA presents music and dances

from the native Incas of Peru, the Criollo coastal communities, the Amazon jungle natives, and the Afro-Peruvian communities from towns south of Lima. The musicians play Andean ethnic instruments, which include woodwinds, percussion and strings. This program is made possible in part with a grant from the California Arts Council.

### Lyrical Literature

#### E.P. Foster Library

Saturday, May 21, 2 to 4 pm

Enjoy a free concert of the music of Ventura composer Ross Care in the Topping Room. Care has worked extensively in theater music and is also a published author. The program will emphasize his music's literary association, including song settings of poetry by Shakespeare, Emily Dickinson, and Lewis Carroll, and instrumental excerpts from his theater music for plays such as *The Glass Menagerie* and his original musical, *(Alice)Through the Looking Glass*.

The music will be performed by an ensemble of well-known singers from the Ventura area with guest instrumentalists on harp and flute from Los Angeles. Tyler Carlisle will serve as pianist and musical director. The composer will moderate.

**Ukulele Jam** is back in the Topping Room E.P. Foster Library every 1st and 3rd Monday at 7 pm, hosted by Alan Ferentz.

**Open Mic Night hosted by Phil Taggart** returns to the Topping Room

at E.P. Foster Library and via Zoom. Thursdays, 6:30 to 10:00 pm

Enjoy a featured poet, then share your own work with the group. All are welcome to just sit and listen as well.

Join Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9607501600>

Meeting ID: 960 750 1600

### Family Storytime

E.P. Foster Library

Mondays, 10:30 to 11 am

Stories, poems, music, movement,

& fun! This event takes place on Main Street in front of the Topping Room. If there is inclement weather, the storytime will be held in the Topping Room. This event has a limit of 30 people. If the limit is reached, another storytime will be held at 11:00 AM. Ages birth to 5.

### Hill Road Library

Wednesdays, 10:30 to 11:30 am

This event takes place on the patio, so remember to bring a sweater or a cozy blanket!



Even in 1849 Mary Thompson was reading the Ventura Breeze at the Murals And Roses event held at the Olivas Adobe. Photo by Yana Khlyod.

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On Mother's Day, May 8, the annual exhibit Murals And Roses was held at the Olivas Adobe Historical Park. Marguerite Hardeman's series of murals depicts the 1542 landing of Cabrillo, the first European explorer to navigate the California coast on behalf of the Spanish empire.

The rose garden is a bloom with over 130 hybrid teas, grandifloras and other flowers that are maintained by volunteers.

Photos by Yana Khyod.

## Seaside Vacay Giveaway

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Photo Credit: Altia Adam

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## News & Notes

### US Representative Julia Brownley D-CA 26th District on leaked Roe vs. Wade

On Monday night, press sources obtained a leaked draft opinion in the *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* case, which appears to overturn *Roe v. Wade* and *Planned Parenthood v. Casey*.

While this draft decision is deeply alarming, it is very important to be clear: Right now, *Roe v. Wade* is still the law of the land. Abortion is legal.

Sadly, this leaked draft decision shows us what we already knew: the conservative, Republican-appointed Justices on the Supreme Court have once again shown their utter disregard for the rights of people who need abortions, and they are bowing down to the demands of extremists. If finalized, this court opinion overruling *Roe* would effectively allow states to ban access to safe and legal abortion entirely, as well as allowing Mississippi's 15-week ban to go into effect.

Decades of attacks have left abortion rights hanging by a thread in the United States. We have seen a flurry of state bans in recent weeks, and anti-abortion state lawmakers are already trying to prohibit people from accessing abortion across state lines. These types of laws must be stopped.

Anti-choice activists have made it clear that they aren't stopping with *Roe* – they're committed to a future where abortion is outlawed in every state across the country, showing there is no limit to

their cruel attempts to control people's personal health care decisions.

The House has already taken action by voting to codify the right to abortion access into federal law. As a member of the Pro Choice Caucus, I am proud to have voted for the Women's Health Protection Act, and I will continue fighting until every person – no matter where they live, no matter their socio-economic status, and no matter the circumstance – has the freedom to make their own decisions about their lives and futures.

This issue could not be more urgent. The House has done its job and passed a bill to codify *Roe* into law. Now, the Senate needs to do its job and pass that same bill. This leaked opinion makes it clearer than ever that we cannot rely on the courts to protect our rights.

Abortion bans affect everyone, but the impacts of this decision, whenever it comes, will fall hardest on people who already face discriminatory obstacles to health care – particularly Black, Indigenous, and other people of color, people with disabilities, people in rural areas, young people, and those having difficulty making ends meet.

Every American should be able to make the personal health care decisions that impacts their life, their health, and their future. We must – and we will – continue to fight to protect and expand abortion access across the United States.



CMH Auxiliary work hard in sorting and packaging gifts.

### CMH providing excellent care

The nurses and medical staff of the Community Memorial Health Services work hard to provide excellent patient care. As a result, CMH has consistently ranked among the highest-rated hospitals for patient satisfaction.

Recently, several CMH Auxiliary members assisted in sorting and packaging gifts to be distributed to various Health Services entities and the nursing staff in appreciation for all they do.

Helping out with projects is only one way the Auxiliary is involved. Members in their navy and white uniforms can be seen throughout the hospital—at the front desk, in the gift shop, escorting patients, and assisting in various departments. These volunteers make a difference!

household in North London run by Binda Tagorstani, a Hindu widow, and her son Ravi.

Like all true stories that get their grip on us and percolate for many years, this one took hold of me and just would not let go.

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Lorenzo DeStefano

### Night includes live music, dinner and silent auction

The Cabrillo Middle School Music Department is excited to be holding – once again – their annual fundraising event on Saturday, May 21, 2022 at Boccali's Pizza and Pasta in Ojai. The event features live music, dinner and a silent auction. All funds raised benefit the school's music program.

This will be the first time the annual event is being held in two years due to COVID-19. Parent coordinators, the music program's leadership and student musicians alike are more than excited about being able to hold and participate in this event again.

"This event has always been an important event for our program both from a fundraising standpoint and just a super fun event to be able to showcase the students' hard work," said Cabrillo Middle School Music Director, Mr. Mario Boccali. "All the groups – professional and student – are delighted to perform, especially after COVID which put a lot of groups off the stage for so long."

Attendees will be able to listen to jazz music from both student and professional groups including Cabrillo Middle School Jazz Band A, The Thatcher School's Jazz Ensemble, Ventura High School Jazz Band and professional jazz musicians including Sean Riddle, Josh Jones and Andrew Chermak.

The Music Department at Cabrillo Middle School is directed by Mr. Mario Boccali and Mr. Gabriel Garnett and works to bring together music-making and the academic learning of music in the areas of composition, performance, music history and music theory. The department offers a variety of ensembles for every student – from those who have never played an instrument to those who enter the program with years of experience. Students learn music fundamentals and how to work hard and succeed as a group to produce great results. The program aims to provide a positive and fun environment where music students have the opportunity to participate in clinics with music professionals and perform at music festivals and other fun events throughout the community. The school's top groups perform at nationally adjudicated festivals each year on the annual Spring Tour.

*Continued on page 17*



Dear Friends,

I'm pleased to let you know that my debut novel, "House Boy" is being published on June 7, 2022 by Atmosphere Press.

I am grateful to all of you for your interest and support over the years for my previous work as a writer of non-fiction, playwright, Theater director, and filmmaker. This novel is quite a departure for me, venturing into a level of storytelling that I am excited to share with you.

Based on an obscure story I first read in the UK Press in the mid-90s and have never been able to forget, the novel explores the disturbing phenomena of modern slavery, specifically domestic servitude schemes, through the harrowing experiences of Vijay Pallan, a young Dalit man from a village outside Chennai, trapped in a Brahmin





# Senior Living

## Fall Prevention Classes offered in Ventura

by Carol Leish, MA

The Ventura County Area Agency on Aging offers different types of Fall Prevention Classes. These classes include: A Matter of Balance; Stepping On; Tai Chi: Moving for Better Balance; and, Walk with Ease. These classes, which are part of the Fall Prevention Program, strives to assist adults to maintain their independence at home.

A Matter of Balance is an 8-week, 2 hours per week class. It is designed for those 60 and older who are inactive

with poor balance, who have fallen, and who may have developed a fear of falling. It helps to improve balance and strength of individuals. Stepping On is a 7- week class that meets 2 hours per week in which participants 65 and older have access to a physical therapist; a vision expert; a public safety expert and a pharmacist in order to realize how vision issues can be linked to falls and how medications affect someone's links to falls. Par-

ticipants will also learn strength and balance exercises.

Tai Chi: Moving for Better Balance is a 12-week class that meets twice weekly for 1.5 hours each class. It includes easy-to-do exercises that increases strength, stamina, mindfulness and body awareness to provide better balance. Walk with Ease is a 6-week structured walking class that starts out with walking a minimum of 30 minutes a day. It includes health information and motivational tips. Both Tai Chi: Moving for Better Balance and Walk with Ease are for those who are 60 and older.

“There is an educational aspect that deals with nutrition and emotional/physical wellness in all the classes offered,” according to Jannette Jauregui, MSJ, Public Information Officer at the Ventura County Area

Agency on Aging. “The classes are all evidence-based, designed with those 60 and older in mind. Studies have been done to show the effectiveness of the classes in improving and strengthening balance and mobility. A Fall Prevention Forum will be offered in September of this year.”

All classes are FREE and open to any Ventura County resident 60 or older. For more information, call: (805) 477-7800 (option 6), or email: Fall.Prevention.Program@ventura.org. Find more information at: <https://www.vcaaa.org/our-services/fall-prevention/>.

(Future articles will focus on other programs offered by the Ventura County Area Agency on Aging dealing with: Care Management; Information provided by the Assistance Team; and, the Senior Nutrition Program.)



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## Senior Living

# Alzheimer's Disease Biomarkers

Scientists have demonstrated that a new blood test can accurately predict the presence of beta-amyloid plaques in the brain, according to a new study funded in part by NIA. Published in *Neurology*, the study analyzed the ability of a blood test to predict the presence of Alzheimer's disease-associated protein beta-amyloid in the brain. The new blood test, which performs comparably to existing brain scan- or spinal tap-based tests, could lower costs and expand the availability of diagnostic studies for Alzheimer's disease.

Alzheimer's is characterized by the buildup of a protein called beta-amyloid, which forms sticky plaques on the brain and can cause brain cells to die. Testing for the presence of these amyloid plaques on the brain is an important part of Alzheimer's diagnosis and research. For people experiencing memory problems, checking for amyloid in the brain helps health care providers determine whether Alzheimer's is the potential cause. It also can help doctors determine which patients will respond to drugs that target amyloid. For people without any signs of dementia, the presence of amyloid plaques on the brain may help researchers enroll participants in clinical trials for treatments to prevent or delay the onset of cognitive symptoms.

There are two well-established ways

to determine if beta-amyloid is in the brain. One measures the amount of beta-amyloid present in cerebrospinal fluid, the fluid that surrounds the brain and spine, through a spinal tap. The other uses a PET brain scan to produce images of beta-amyloid on the brain. Although both methods are accurate, they are expensive, invasive, and have limited availability. Recently, a highly sensitive blood test for beta-amyloid was developed, but there were concerns about how the test would perform in the clinic on blood samples that had been collected and processed in different ways. To address these concerns, researchers from Washington University; University of California, San Francisco; University of Pennsylvania; University of Melbourne and Edith Cowan University in Australia; and Lund University in Sweden studied how well the blood test could predict the presence of amyloid plaques visible on a PET brain scan, using samples that were collected and processed in different ways.

Across all the blood samples, the scientists found that the blood test could effectively predict the presence of beta-amyloid in the brain. The test became even more accurate when the research team took into account the version of APOE (a gene linked to Alzheimer's disease risk) that each person had. Using blood samples will make it easier to screen healthy people for potential enrollment in clinical trials that test interventions to prevent or treat Alzheimer's disease.

Although the new test shows promise, one major limitation is that the blood samples used in the study were from majority white, affluent individuals, and the authors note that the results may not

be generalizable to other demographic groups. Overall, the authors suggest this new blood test could be a powerful tool that expands the ability to diagnose Alzheimer's. The researchers estimate that replacing brain imaging and spinal tap studies with blood tests could drastically reduce costs, increase the availability of tests, and even improve clinical trial recruitment of diverse groups of people.

These activities relate to NIH's Alzheimer's and Related Dementias Research Implementation Milestones:

## Mild Cognitive Impairment

Mild cognitive impairment (MCI) is a condition in which people have more memory or thinking problems than other people their age. The symptoms of MCI are not as severe as those of Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia. People with MCI can usually take care of themselves and carry out their normal daily activities.

People with MCI are at a greater risk of developing Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia. Estimates vary as to how many people who have MCI will develop dementia. Roughly one to two out of 10 people age 65 or older with MCI are estimated to develop dementia over a one-year period. However, in many cases, the symptoms of MCI stay the same or even improve.

Many factors can cause problems with memory and thinking. There is no single cause of MCI, and it's more likely to occur as someone ages. Estimates

vary, but roughly 10% to 20% of people over age 65 have MCI, with the risk increasing as someone gets older. Other factors like genetics and certain conditions — including diabetes, depression, and stroke — may affect a person's risk for MCI.

In some cases, memory and thinking problems may be caused by conditions that are treatable. For example, a bad reaction to medication, emotional problems, drinking too much alcohol, blood clots or tumors in the brain, or a head injury can all cause serious memory problems that can be resolved with treatment.

Middle-aged woman doing physical activity to reduce risk for dementia.

Reducing Your Risk for Dementia

We don't yet know for certain whether lifestyle and behavior changes can prevent dementia, but leading a healthy lifestyle may help.

Symptoms associated with MCI lie in the space between what are considered normal age-related changes and dementia. Signs of MCI include losing things often, forgetting to go to important events or appointments, and having more trouble coming up with words than other people of the same age. It's common for family and friends to notice these changes. Movement difficulties and problems with the sense of smell have also been linked to MCI.

If you or a loved one is experiencing symptoms of MCI, discuss these with your doctor. Your doctor can perform medical tests and assessments to help determine whether the source of memory problems is something treatable or may be MCI. He or she may also suggest that

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## Senior Living

you see someone who specializes in the diagnosis of memory disorders, such as a neurologist, psychiatrist, or neuropsychologist.

There is currently no treatment or medication for MCI, but there are things you can do that may help you stay healthy and manage changes in your thinking. Keeping your mind active is one thing that may benefit your brain. The following tips may help you feel better, and could help your memory:

People with MCI may worry that their memory problems will progress to Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia. Because MCI may be an early sign of a more serious memory problem, it's important to see your doctor every six to 12 months to track any changes in your memory and thinking skills over time.

If symptoms do progress to dementia, getting a diagnosis early can help you and your family prepare for the future. While there are no medications to stop or reverse Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia, there are medicines that may help slow down certain symptoms, such as memory loss or behavioral problems.

If you are concerned about memory problems, talk with your doctor. If you or someone you know has recently been diagnosed with MCI, explore the resources on this website and referenced below to find out more about care, support, and research. The person with MCI may also consider participating in research by joining a clinical trial or study. Many studies are recruiting people with MCI to test early interventions that could slow or stop the progression of cognitive impairment.

## VCAAA seeks new community vendors

The Ventura County Area Agency on Aging (VCAAA) is inviting qualified individuals, public and private nonprofit services, and private for-profit organizations to apply as new contracted vendors for VCAAA programs that serve older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers.

The VCAAA is the focal point in Ventura County for those seeking resources and services related to aging and for those caring for an aging loved one. The VCAAA also operates Ventura County's Aging & Disability Resource Center in partnership with the Independent Living Resource Center, with the end goal of providing a one-stop-shop approach for information and assistance. Potential vendors will share an equal commitment to assisting older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers and are expected to provide the best possible customer service to help Ventura County residents age optimally in place.

The following service categories are specifically being sought: counseling, money management/bill payment/document organization, transportation services (for frail seniors and/or disabled adults), personal care products, home repair and/or home safety modification, biohazard cleaning & waste management (i.e. ability to remove and legally dispose of potentially pathogenic substances), adaptive equipment/non-medical home equipment (must be a contracted provider with both Medi-Cal and/or Medicare for wheelchairs, threshold ramps, hospital beds, walkers, etc.), respite, personal

care, chore and homemaker assistance, registered dietitian services, nutrition education, and home delivered meals.

Providers with bilingual Spanish, Tagalog, Farsi and Chinese Mandarin staff are encouraged to apply. Prior to a vendor being granted a contract, they must complete a vendor application packet and supply proof of all required licensing and insurance as required by the California Department of Aging, Federal Transit Administration, Administration for Community Living and the County of Ventura.

A vendor application packet may be obtained at the VCAAA offices located at 646 County Square Drive in Ventura, or by calling 805-477-7300. Those interested may also obtain an application online by visiting [www.vcaaa.org/for-providers/vendor-service-tools/](http://www.vcaaa.org/for-providers/vendor-service-tools/). This application process is ongoing. Preference will be given to vendors that provide service throughout the county. VCAAA administration will review all applications. Vendor contracts are subject to the receipt of federal and state funds. Funds are expected to be available beginning July 1, 2022, and are anticipated to end on June 30, 2023. Contracts may be renegotiated to provide additional or fewer services. For more information concerning the vendor application process, contact Brian Murphy, at (805) 477-7300.

## How older adults can get started with exercise

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

Start slowly when beginning exercise

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

To play it safe and reduce your risk of injury:

Begin your exercise program slowly with low-intensity exercises.

Warm up before exercising and cool down afterward.

Pay attention to your surroundings when exercising outdoors.

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

Wear appropriate fitness clothes and shoes for your activity.

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

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

Short-term goals will help you make physical activity a regular part of your daily life. For these goals, think about the things you'll need to get or do in order to be physically active. For example, you may need to buy walking shoes or fill out

an Activity Log so you can figure out how to fit physical activity into your busy day. Make sure your short-term goals will really help you be active.

Here are a few examples of short-term goals:

Today, I will decide to be more active.

Tomorrow, I will find out about exercise classes in my area.

By the end of this week, I will talk with my friend about exercising with me a couple of times a week.

In the next two weeks, I will make sure

I have the shoes and comfortable clothes

I need to start walking for exercise.

Write down your long-term goals

After you write down your short-term goals, you can go on to identify your long-term goals. Focus on where you want to be in six months, a year, or two years from now. Long-term goals also should be realistic, personal, and important to you. Here are a few examples:

By this time next year, I will swim one mile three times a week.

Next summer, I will be able to play pitch and catch with my grandchildren.

In six months, I will have my blood pressure under control by increasing my physical activity and following my doctor's advice.

## Make smart food choices for healthy aging

Choosing healthy foods has health benefits for everyone. As you age, food provides the nutrients you need. Learn about making smart food choices as part of your daily life.

It's never too late to make smarter food choices. Healthy eating is an important part of staying healthy as you age.

Following these tips can help you maintain a healthy weight, get the nutrients you need, and lower your risk of chronic disease.

Try to eat and drink from these food groups each day: fruits, vegetables, grains, protein, and dairy. Variety is an important part of eating healthfully!

Cut back on foods and beverages that are high in calories and added sugars, sodium, and saturated fats. Shift to healthier options like fresh fruits and vegetables instead.

Instead of high-calorie snacks, such as potato chips, try nutrient-dense snacks, such as carrots.

Instead of fruit products with added sugars, such as fig cookies, try fresh fruit, such as a peach.

Instead of regular cola, try water flavored with fruits or vegetables.

Use a food diary to help you keep track of your total daily calories, carbs, protein, etc., and see if you are making healthy choices. Understand how many calories you need based on your level of daily activity.

Choose a variety of foods that are packed with nutrients and low in calories.

Check the food labels to understand what foods will meet your nutritional needs each day.

How Many Calories Do You Need Each Day?

Women:

Not physically active – 1,600 cal.

Moderately active – 1,800 cal.

Active lifestyle – 2,000-2,200 cal.

Men:

Not physically active – 2,000-2,200 cal.

Moderately active – 2,200-2,400 cal.

Active lifestyle – 2,400-2,800 cal.



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# This 'n' That



The Westview II units are located in Ventura.

## Housing Trust Fund Ventura County announces \$2 million in lines of credit

Housing Trust Fund Ventura County (Housing Trust Fund VC) announces two, \$1 million lines of credit (LOC), one each from Community West Bank and Mission Bank. The funds will be used as part of Housing Trust Fund VC's Everyone Deserves a Home revolving loan fund, a community impact note that provides flexible, below market interest rate loans for the development of affordable housing in Ventura County. Three upcoming developments that will

receive funding are a new pre-development loan for Fillmore Terrace being developed by Peoples' Self-Help Housing Corporation (PSHHC), a GAP loan for Mesa Ojai being purchased by Mesa, and a construction loan to the Housing Authority of the City of San Buenaventura (HACSB) for Westview II.

The LOCs provided by Community West Bank and Mission Bank join a pool of funds from other public and private investors, sponsors, and donors to provide

lending capital in support of Housing Trust Fund VC's Community Promise of building safe and equitable homes in Ventura County. Brian Schwabecher, Chief Banking Officer of Community West Bank stated, "Community West Bank is proud to support Housing Trust Fund Ventura County with financing for their housing initiatives, and we're also honored to help sponsor the Everyone Deserves a Home Compassion Campaign event on May 12." The nonprofit's annual fundraiser takes on a unique twist this year as a guest immersive experience shining light on housing equity as told through the lives of connected individuals. Please visit: [www.housingtrustfundvc.org/compassioncampaign2022](http://www.housingtrustfundvc.org/compassioncampaign2022) to learn more.

The construction loan for Westview II (which will provide 50 homes to low-income and homeless seniors), were pulled from a pool of investments from Bank of the Sierra, Mission Bank and Community West Bank, and were provided to the developers at below market interest rates and reduced fees to help the developments move to the next phase of development.

"We are excited to build on our Community Promise of funding affordable homes with the support of both Community West Bank's and Mission Bank's generous lines of credit, which allow us to continue funding impactful developments," states Housing Trust Fund VC CEO Linda Braunschweiger.

As of April 1, 2022, Housing Trust Fund VC has invested over \$22.3 million through its revolving loan fund, creating 870 affordable apartments and homes for very-low, low- and middle-income employees, transitional age foster youth, veterans, farm workers, and the homeless.

heading in the future," stated Dr. Antonio Castro, Assistant Superintendent, Educational Services. "It is important to both the Board and the staff that all stakeholders have a voice in this process. It is a vital component to our future goal-setting."

There are several surveys for stakeholders this year including surveys aimed at parents/guardians of VUSD students, a student survey, a staff survey, and a community survey.

The public is encouraged to fill out the survey(s) that best represent their association with the Ventura Unified School District. VUSD oversees the K-12 public schools in the City of Ventura, not the County of Ventura.

For more information on the LCAP and access to the surveys, the public can visit the LCAP website at [www.venturausd.org/about/lcap](http://www.venturausd.org/about/lcap).



## Happy 13th Anniversary to The Ladies Luncheon

by Laurie Ann Meyer

The Ladies Luncheon began as a women's networking group in 2009. Over the past 13 years, it has transformed into an opportunity for women to experience connection, community, and support.

Together we have/continue to foster a safe space for achieving common goals and developing lifelong friendships.

Whether you own a business and want to network or you attend to be a part of a warm group, we always have fun, laugh a lot, and raffle great prizes!

I will share how/why I started The Ladies Luncheon in order to help ladies, and to meet at a convenient lunchtime hour. Please join us to celebrate 13 years of creating connections, community and empowering women in business. Thank you!

Come join us at on June 2nd, 2022, at The Greek Mediterranean Steak & Seafood Restaurant at the Ventura Harbor from 11:30am-1:00pm. Please go to: [www.theladiesluncheon.com](http://www.theladiesluncheon.com) to register! See you all very soon!




On May 9, the Ventura County Fire Communication Center received a call from the Ventura Police Department of a commercial building on fire at the AutoZone store at 2610 E. Main St.

Fire personnel arrived on scene within minutes of the initial call and found a large 75' x 150' single story commercial building with a large amount of smoke and flames coming from the rear of the building. Fire personnel ensured that no occupants were inside the commercial building and began an aggressive fire attack to contain the fire to the area of origin. A primary/secondary search of the building were attempted but hampered due to the structural integrity of the building, however the building was confirmed vacant by the business owner.

## Ventura Unified School District requesting community input


The Ventura Unified School District (VUSD) is asking the public for assistance. VUSD is conducting its Local Control & Accountability Plan (LCAP) Survey. The LCAP is a three-year plan that helps the VUSD Board and staff set goals for the City of Ventura's District and schools and determines how to use resources and funding. The deadline to provide feedback is Sunday, May 15, 2022.

"This is the chance for our community to help guide the District and provide input on the direction Ventura Unified should be



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# Harbor Patrol Blotter

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

The Ventura Police column will be back next issue.

**4/25** 6:43pm, received a report of suspicious activity in the VWM parking lot. The RP believes a white sprinter van does not belong in the lot. Officers investigated and found that the individual is a tenant of VWM, was hanging out in his vehicle

**4/27** 7:20pm, received a request to tow a dead sealion near the Derektor marina. Officers responded in Fireboat and towed the mammal out to sea.

**4/28** 10:35am, observed an injured sea lion at VWM II. Officers investigated and found a neck injury from a line, but the line was cut or finally fell off.

3:53pm, dispatched to a kite surfer in distress at The Point. Officers responded in Boat 12, pulled victim from the water and transported to beach. No injuries.

**4/29** 8:52pm, dispatched to a Traffic collision at VWM parking lot, person not breathing. Officers responded, found the patient pinned in vehicle, but were able to extricate, begin CPR. Unfortunately, they were unable to resuscitate patient.

**5/01** 1:05pm, dispatched to an assault victim in the Portside complex. Officers responded and assisted VFD/AMR/VPD with the call. Patient transported.

5:06pm, dispatched to a sick person in the Portside complex. Officers responded and assisted VFD/AMR with an individual suffering detox. Patient transported.

**5/02** 2:22pm, dispatched to difficulty breathing in the Ventura Marina Community. Officers responded and assisted VFD/AMR with the call and assessment. = !

**5/05** 9:45am, received report of a disabled vessel en route to harbor, towed by a good Samaritan fishing vessel. Officers responded in the Fireboat and took over the tow 3 miles offshore. The vessel was safely towed to the Districts' longdock.

**5/07** 2:40am, dispatched to a hazardous condition at the Portside Apartments. Officers responded with VFD and investigated the incident. Leak was mitigated.

2:53am, received a dispatched to abdominal pain in Ventura Marina Community. Officers responded with VFD/AMR to the call.

59:30pm, monitored PD units responding to Harbor Village for a domestic dispute. Patrol staged and observed/report the situation. VPD was able to capture the assailant after foot chase through the village.

**5/08** 12:41am, while on patrol, monitored VFD responding to brush fire near the Santa Clara Bridge. Observed small vegetation fire, VFD extinguished.

10:25am, issued warning for PWC's operating recklessly near swimmers at HC.

4:15pm, officers aboard Fireboat issued multiple safety inspections for small vessels operating in the Gale conditions, attempting to keep them in the harbor.

11:39pm, dispatched to a carbon monoxide alarm. Officers responded with VFD to the Ventura Marina Community. VFD investigated with CM detector.

**5/09** 8:00am, observed National Weather Service downgraded Gale to Small Craft Advisory for NW winds to 25kts. Adjusted warning pennants to pennant.

8:43am, while on patrol, officers observed the large vessel Gentry Eagle demolition beginning in the Ventura Boat Yard with two large excavators.

2:40pm, dispatched to a fall victim in the Ventura Marina Community. Officers responded with AMR/VFD to a male who lacerated his head, he was transported

**5/10** 10:11am, received report of a disabled Personal Watercraft in the main channel. Officers responded in the Fireboat to tow the vessel to the launch ramp.

11:05am, observed disabled PWC near the surfline near Marina Park. Officers passed tow line and towed the disabled vessel to the launch ramp.

5:05pm, observed the ongoing demolition of the Gentry Eagle. Only about a quarter of the aluminum hull left.



The event began with the 16 finalist teams presenting to a panel of judges.

## Students from VUSD presented proposals to reduce their schools' environmental footprint

On Thursday May 5th, forty-five 7th-12th-grade students from Ventura Unified School District (VUSD) presented their environmental business proposals to a panel of judges. Students chose their project from 4 categories: Water Conser-

vation, Energy Efficiency, Waste Reduction at their school campuses, or to inform their communities about the benefits of removing the relic Matilija Dam from the Ventura River. The event took place at the Museum of Ventura County, in

# Music Under the Stars

Tickets on sale May 2

The best summer party in Ventura!

SATURDAYS • 7:30-9:30 pm

Tickets \$20  
 Reserved tables additional \$25  
 805-658-4726 • Book early, concerts sell out!  
 Location:  
 Olivas Adobe Historical Park  
 4200 Olivas Park Drive  
 Ventura, CA

### 2022 SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

7/9	<b>British Beat</b> 1964-1985 it's a British music invasion	
7/16	<b>Savor</b> Santana Tribute Band	
7/23	<b>Identity Theft</b> '80s Cover Band	
7/30	<b>Soul Infusion</b> Top 40, Pop, Soul, Funk, Dance	
8/6	<b>Rhythm Krewe</b> Rhythm, Blues & Soul	
8/13	<b>Dark Desert Highway</b> Eagles Tribute Band	
8/20	<b>4 Lads From Liverpool</b> Beatles Tribute Band	
8/27	<b>Lisa Haley and the Zydekats</b> Zydeco Music	

Full beverage service available on site.

Presenting Sponsor Series Sponsors

[www.cityofventura.ca.gov/MUS](http://www.cityofventura.ca.gov/MUS)

downtown Ventura, from 4 -7 pm. The keynote speaker for the event was Chipper Bro, Environmental Advocate, Professional Surfer, and 13-time Frisbee World Champion.

The event began with the 16 finalist teams presenting to a panel of judges who ranked the proposals based on merit and cost effectiveness. First place in the Energy Efficiency category was awarded to the "Electric Warriors" Team from Ventura High School, Ms. Miyata's class. In the Water Conservation category, top prize went to "Project Motion Sensor" team from Ms. Mendez's class at Anacapa Middle School. In the Waste Reduction category, the first-place prize went to "Recycling at Buena" team from Mr. Yorke's class at Buena High School. In the last category, Matilija Dam removal, the top team was "Give a Dam" from Mr. Yorke's class at Buena High School.

The EECCOA Challenge Awards Ceremony is the culmination of the 9 month-long Ventura Action Network (V-RAN) Program administered

by VUSD in partnership with the MERITO Foundation. The following schools participated in the 2021-2022 V-RAN program: Buena High School, Anacapa Middle School, Ventura High School, Foothill High School; Balboa Middle School, Cabrillo Middle School; and Sunset K-8.

In addition to the EECCOA Challenge, the Ventura Action Network (V-RAN) Program provides professional development field training, webinars, science curriculum and stipends to science teachers, as well as, environmental monitoring experiences for their 600-750 middle and high school students each year at Ventura River watershed and the coast.

The MERITO Foundation is a 501(c) 3 nonprofit organization based in Ventura, CA, dedicated to protecting the ocean by facilitating education, conservation and scientific research opportunities to multicultural youth and their communities. The EECCOA Challenge empowers

*Continued on page 20*

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

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



# The Pet Page



## Dedicated to Scamp

SPAN Thrift Store is open to the public and looking for donations of adult clothing, household items and tools. SPAN Thrift Store regularly provides \$10 spays and neuters for low-income households for cats and dogs. Upcoming clinics: May 24th at Shiells Park, in the parking lot at 649 C St., Fillmore, 93015. And May 31st in the parking lot of SPAN Thrift Store, 110 N. Olive St., Ventura. Please call to schedule an appointment - (805) 584-3823.

A dog was found abandoned and tied to a fire hydrant in Green Bay, prompting the Wisconsin Humane Society to remind everyone it will never turn away an animal in need.

The dog had a note with her explaining the owners could not take care of her anymore.

The dog, named "Baby Girl," was left with a bag filled with dog food, treats and toys.

Baby Girl is now being cared for at the WHS, and she's "doing great."

**Fake meds from online sellers could prove dangerous to your pet by Keely Arthur**

WRAL consumer reporter

Seventy percent of U.S. families own a pet, according to the National Pet Owners Survey, and they are spending more money on their furry friends, including \$10 billion on pet medications alone, according to a Pet Medications in the U.S. report. Shopping online for medication can expose consumers and their animals to knockoffs that either do not work or could be dangerous.

Dr. Jennifer Shults is a veterinarian and the owner of Veterinary Emergency Care of Cary. Shults is seeing more pets with faulty medications in their system in the Triangle, especially during and since the pandemic. She tells Five on Your Side that fake heartworm and flea prevention medication and fake injectable arthritis medications are the biggest offenders. She says that in all cases the medications were purchased online.

"If your pet takes the wrong medication, there is certainly a risk of death," Shults said.

At the very least, she says a pet will not get the treatment it needs or get the preventative treatment it needs to keep a problem from arising. Shults suggests pet owners get their prescriptions through their local vet.

If you suspect your pet has received counterfeit parasite preventative products, please call the National Pesticide Information Center (N.P.I.C.) toll-free at 1-800-858-7378. To report the retailer you purchased the product from, alert the E.P.A.

HealthDay News: If longevity were a priority when choosing a pup, Jack Russell terriers and Yorkshire terriers would be top picks.

Those little dynamos have the longest life expectancy of a host of common dog breeds, according to a new study by Dr. Dan O'Neill, an associate professor of companion animal epidemiology at the Royal Veterinary College in Hertfordshire, England.

Jack Russells and Yorkies have a life expectancy of nearly 13 years, O'Neill and his

colleagues found after poring over thousands of dog records in the United Kingdom.

On the other hand, flat-faced breeds such as French bulldogs (Frenchies) and pugs tend to depart this world earlier than average, the study found.

Although they're all the rage now, Frenchies live only around 5 years, which is less than other flat-faced breeds, including English bulldogs (7 years) and pugs (8 years), according to the study.

Those that are healthiest and live the longest are dogs that "look like dogs" – not too big or too small with snouts and tails, according to O'Neill.

"We're looking at different configurations of dogs, mainly by breed, and we're seeing that life span tells us a story about the general health of these dogs," he said.

O'Neill and the team analyzed more than 30,500 records of dog deaths throughout the United Kingdom between 2016 and 2020. They categorized dogs into 18 breeds recognized by the Kennel Club and also some types of crossbreeds. Using these data, they created tables that calculated life expectancy starting at birth.

Besides Jack Russells and Yorkies, other long-lived breeds include border collies and springer spaniels, with an average life span of 12 years.

Across all breeds, the average life expectancy for male dogs was 11.1 years, about four months shy of the estimate for females. Neutered dogs had a life expectancy of close to 12 years for females and 11.5 years for males. Life expectancy for unneutered dogs was about 10.5 years for males and females.

O'Neill recommends putting some thought into choosing a dog: Be conscious of the animal's health and life span and the life that the animal would like to live.

"When you go out to buy a dog, think about the world from the dog's point of view. Why buy a dog that will only live seven years and is likely to be plagued with illness?" he said.

O'Neill noted that human meddling is the cause of some unhealthy and short-lived breeds.

When people started keeping dogs for hobby and not for work, and the era of dog shows arrived, people started inventing breeds that didn't exist in nature, and this stopped dogs from evolving naturally, O'Neill said.

"The ones that have the very short life span tend to be the ones with extreme configurations," he pointed out.

These extremes include bigger or smaller than normal dogs, flat-faced dogs, dogs without tails and dogs with excessively wrinkled coats, O'Neill said.

Many of these engineered breeds have breathing problems, crowded teeth and eye abnormalities. Some can't give birth normally, O'Neill noted.

Breeders have become more conscious of the health problems that shorten the lives of some breeds and are breeding dogs to eliminate these traits, said Dr. Jose Arce, president of the American Veterinary Medical Association.

When selecting a dog, Arce suggests making sure it matches your lifestyle.

"How many hours you're going to spend in the house, how long you're gone, the size of where you live, because certain breeds need

## Scamp Club

(Scampclub pets are not for adoption.)



Pogo loves to wave and will wiggle for a treat. He is 2 years, single and recently moved from San Diego. He loves long walks on the beach. He is an Old English sheep dog and large standard poodle and a beauty.

## Join Scamp Club

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

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

exercise regularly and to socialize. Other breeds can adapt to apartment life and don't need as much social life," Arce said.

Also, taking good care of your dog can extend its life and yours, he said.

"We want our pets to live as long as possible," Arce said. "We know how positive, how important the human animal bond is, and how dogs living with people help people live longer, healthier lives, so the longer the pet lives, the healthier and the longer the

owner is going to live."

Dr. Jerry Klein, chief veterinary officer at the American Kennel Club, said the application of life tables is still in its infancy.

However, "life tables generated in the current study promote not only a better understanding of the life trajectory of dogs, but also may offer several applications for the veterinary profession and research to study and improve the health and welfare of dogs," Klein said.



Abandoned dog Baby Girl rescued.



CMH therapy dogs are always ready to help with patient's needs.

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SPAY/NEUTER ANIMAL NETWORK

Seeking donations of Clothing, Tools and Small Electric Kitchen appliances.

10am - 4pm Tues, Thurs & Sat  
Wed./Fri 10-12

\$10 Low/No Income Spay & Neuter Tuesday May 24th Shiells Park parking lot. 649 C Street, Fillmore, CA 93015 Must call for appointment (805) 584-3823

\$10 Low/No Income Spay & Neuter Tuesday May 31st in SPAN parking lot. Must call for appointment (805) 584-3823

805.641.1170 110 A & B N. Olive St., Ventura CA 93001 [www.spanonline.org](http://www.spanonline.org)



# The Pet Page

## Forever homes wanted

Hi! I'm Mishka (means mouse), a beautiful 5 1/2-year-old German Shepherd X in need of a new home as my elderly owner needs major surgery and can no longer care for me. I enjoy treats and running around. I'm nervous and bark at new people and need a little time to get to know you. Once I do I'm sweet, friendly and energetic. I'm smart and will sit for those I know. I'm good with other dogs (I used to live with one before she passed away from old age.) and children. I have chased cats before, but just to play. I need a fence that is at least 5 feet tall. I will sometimes try to follow when you leave. If you're interested in meeting me, please fill out an online application to meet me. Canine Adoption and Rescue League C.A.R.L.



Kyper is a playful, 3-year-old Pit Bull Terrier mix. He loves playing ball and splashing in the pool. He was previously in a home with kids and did great. He's looking for a home of his own. If you'd like to meet him, please come down to the Camarillo Shelter and say hi! Animal ID: A783613.

Adoption Process: [www.vcas.us/adopt](http://www.vcas.us/adopt)

# This 'n' That

## Gold Coast Concert Chorus offers a Toon-Full Cure for the "Twenty-Two Blues"

Let's face it – 2022 has been a rough year. We've been dealing with a pandemic that refuses to go away, higher prices, and weather that can go from one extreme to the next. If there were any time that people needed to smile, laugh, and forget about their troubles for a while, this is it! Well, the Gold Coast Concert Chorus believes they have the cure for the "Twenty-Two Blues" - a concert featuring music from recent and classic Disney animated features.

For the last couple of months, the community chorus has been rehearsing every Monday night in the parking lot of a church in the Ventura foothills. Their singing has gotten good reviews from the church's neighbors, and now they're just about ready to come down from the hills and spread a little musical magic to the people of Ventura County, in a concert titled "Toon Tunes 2022".

"Toon Tunes 2022" has been in the works for a long time – more than twenty years, in fact! It's a sequel to a 2000 concert by the chorus paying tribute to music from animated films and television shows; this show will focus on a selection of songs from recent Disney films like Tangled, Moana, and Encanto, but will also feature selections from classic Disney features like Pinocchio, The Jungle Book, The Little Mermaid, and Aladdin.

Some people might argue that music from animated films is just kids' stuff, but the chorus' artistic director Elizabeth Helms, assistant artistic director Jessica Helms, and the chorus members would beg to differ. "The music we'll be performing in concert talks about universal concerns like finding and losing love, the power of dreams, and the importance of trust and working together", said Paul

Schnebelen, a singer and the chorus' membership chairman. "The music and lyrics are rich and complex, can be a challenge to perform, and are a joy to listen to. They're not just for kids – they speak to all of us."

Be sure to mark your calendars for "Toon Tunes 2022", to be performed on Friday, May 20th at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, May 21st at 2:00 p.m. at St. John's Lutheran Church in Oxnard. Livestream tickets are also available for the Saturday performance. Audience members will be requested to wear masks or provide proof of vaccination and ID at the door.

### Ojai news and events

*Continued from page 5*  
year's socially distant Art in the Park, 2022, Walking through downtown Ojai's Libbey Park where over 80 artists will showcase their recent works.

Last year's Best of Show, Lungala Nzalamba, returns to Art in the Park. He uses a wax resistant fabric dying technique called batik to create vibrant and relatable images.

Enjoy the Memorial weekend in Libbey Park. Free admission. Call 805-646-0117 for further information or visit [www.ojaiartcenter.org](http://www.ojaiartcenter.org)

**For 34 years, the Ojai Wine Festival has served as the primary non-profit fundraising effort of the Rotary Club of Ojai West Foundation and its numerous philanthropic endeavors.** This year, proceeds from the Ojai Wine Festival will benefit local charities including HELP of Ojai, Secure Beginnings, Ojai Unified School District, and support the free Ojai

**Gold Coast Concert Chorus Presents**

# TOON TUNES 2022

Music of animated feature films!

**May 20th at 7:30 pm**  
**May 21st at 2pm**  
Also streaming online

In-person at  
**St. John's Lutheran Church**  
1500 N. C St., OXNARD

Proof of COVID  
vaccination or negative test  
within 72 hours required.

**\$20 Adults, \$15 Children 6-12**  
**Children 5 and under FREE**

**Tickets at [GoldCoastChorus.org](http://GoldCoastChorus.org)**  
Questions? (805) 293-4196

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Community Band concerts in Libbey Bowl in July and August. Historically, proceeds from the Ojai Wine Festival have donated more than \$1,400,000 to Rotary's charity efforts around the world.

This year, event participants of the 34th Annual Ojai Wine Festival can taste wines from all of California's unique growing regions in one beautiful lakeside location.

For additional information or to purchase tickets for the 34th Annual Ojai Wine Festival, please visit [www.ojaiwinefestival.com](http://www.ojaiwinefestival.com)

Saturday, June 18th from 12:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
\$85 in advance, \$105 at the door  
Lake Casitas Recreation Area,  
11093 Santa Ana Road

### Mailbox

*Continued from page 4*  
continue to drill for oil, but we expect you to comply with the reasonable environmental standards the Supervisors have already adopted.

Ventura County voters must vote YES on Measures A and B.  
Phil White  
Ojai  
*The writer is a former County Planning Com-*

*missioner and Air Pollution Control District Director who now sits on the County Climate Emergency Council*

Dear Sheldon,

The Breeze just gets better and more informative. The May 4 Breeze first page was attractive and compelled me to read the story by Patricia Schallert about "Sobre Las Olas". The photos were great!

The Breeze is a gift you have given to Ventura and it just keeps on giving! Suzanna Ballmer  
Ventura  
*Thanks Suzanna makes all of the work worth while.*

Ocean Promises

It's an unseen promise for all generations, A warm beach that extends to the horizon,  
Its word of honor is a Pacific sunrise. In pursuit of hope; to turn the tide. The westerly swell brings us a Ventura picture, When nature's beauty reaches us at high tide.  
Let us quietly listen to these ocean sounds. For their stories remind us someone has gone before us.

By Jeff Russell



by Pam Baumgardner  
VenturaRocks.com

25 years in business is quite the milestone, so congratulations go out to the crew at Winchester's Grill and Saloon in downtown Ventura! You'll want to be on hand when they celebrate with live music in their covered parking lot on Saturday, May 21 from 1 to 8 pm featuring CRV, the Brandon Ragan Project and Ray Jaurique & the Uptown Brothers. There will be drink specials, giveaways and as usual, no cover charge!

Heading to the other end of downtown Ventura on Main Street, you'll find a special singer/songwriter dinner event when Peirano's and Jodi Farrell team up on Thursday, May 26. Artists on the bill include Michael Henszey, Karyn 805, Dylan Brehm, Luke Hannington, Ella Robles, Aaron Burch, Oliva Mucha and Caroline Lloyd. Reservations are strongly encouraged via Peiranosmarket.com.

There are a couple of country music events coming up the next two weeks, first it's the KHAY Fest with Josh Turner, Dylan Scott and Tenille Arts on Sunday, May 22 at the Ventura Fairgrounds and then on Memorial Day, Monday, May 30, it's the Gold Coast Country Music Festival with Richie McDonald (Lonestar), Heidi Newfield (Trick Pony), Heath Wright (Ricochet), Coffey Anderson, Wade Hayes, Jamie O'Neal and a whole bunch more; this one is being held at the Camarillo Airport. You can find more info at GCCFest.com.

Dreamland is back post pandemic featuring Kimberly Ford celebrating the music of Joni Mitchell. The seven-piece band will make a stop at the Grape here in Ventura for a special performance on Sunday, June 5. Modeled on Mitchell's mid-1970's band with Tom Scott and the L.A. Express, Dreamland features Lee Rollag, guitar and violin; Tom Buckner, saxophone; Tom Etchart, bass; Dave Hunt, drums; George Friedenthal, keyboards, piano and melodica; and Sven Holcomb, backup vocals, guitars and percussion.

Another special event at the Grape features NYChillharmonic. This 18-piece progressive-rock orchestra is a female fronted band where their music fuses multiple genres including rock, pop and jazz. Having played multiple jazz festivals including Montreal, Melbourne, Buenos Aires, and Tokyo to name a few, you won't want to miss this two-time "Herb Alpert Young Jazz Composer Award" winners when they play this intimate venue here in town on Friday, May 27.

Quick Notes: Tickets are already on sale for Billy Idol on August 25 for the Ventura Theater; the Happy Face Music Festival out in Simi Valley is worth the trip for Mike Campbell and the Dirty Knobs, Sam Morrow, Hardcastle and Kelly's Lot on Saturday, May 28; Christine Law's Star Goes Nova project releases a new CD on May 19; Stellar Ruins is holding an album release party on Saturday, May 28 at Sans Souci; and Moorpark's High Street Arts Center's production of Rodgers & Hammerstein's The Sound of Music runs June 3 – July 3.

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

### Boatyard Pub

#### Ventura Harbor

Wednesdays: Frank Barajas

Thursdays: Jim Friery, then Bluegrass Jam

Fri 5/20: Teresa Russell w/ Stephen Geyer

Sat 5/21: Big Adventure Duo

Sun 5/29: RJ Mischo

#### Café Fiore

66 S. California St., Ventura

Wed 5/18: Donna Greene

Fri 5/20: Self Righteous Brothers

Wed 5/25: Edgar Thatcher duo

Fri 5/27: Instone

Sun 5/29: Free Love Project

#### Camarillo Airport

455 Aviation Dr.

Mon 5/30: Gold Coast Country Music Festival

#### Cantara Cellars

126 N. Wood Rd., Camarillo

Fri 5/20: Slogan Acoustic

Sat 5/21: Ignition

Fri 5/27: Cadillac Zack presents Lionel Young Band

Sat 5/28: Caliente Band 805

#### The Cave

4435 McGrath St., Ventura

Music 5:30 – 8:30

Wednesdays & Thursdays: Bobby Apostol

Fridays & Saturdays: Warren Takahashi

#### Deer Lodge

2261 Maraicopa Hwy, Ojai

Fri 5/20: Pleasure, Dark Tea, Color Green

Sat 5/28: Moonily, Head Cut

#### Downtown Ventura Main Street Stage

##### California & Main

Sat 5/21: Tribal Me; Rhythm 805

Sun 5/22: Jim Friery, RubeSkyeMusic

Sat 5/28: Sepiatone

##### Four Brix Winery

2290 Eastman Ave., Ventura

Sun 5/22: Jodi Farrell & Jim Rankin

Fri 5/27: Karen Eden & the Bad Apples

Sun 5/29: Strummed Down

##### The Garage

1091 Scandia Ave., Ventura

Sundays: DJ Also

Wednesdays: Blues Jam

Sat 5/21: Blown Over

Fri 5/27: Jayden Secor

##### Gigi's Cocktails

2493 Grand Ave., Ventura

Sat 5/28: Carry the 9, Vacant Skies, Last Point

##### The Grape

2833 E. Main St., Ventura

Tuesdays: Jazz Jam

Wed 5/18: The Rachel Eckroth Trio

Thurs 5/19: Anthony Fung CD release

Fri 5/20: D.on Darox & the Melody Joy Bakers

Sat 5/21: Max Haymer Trio

Wed 5/25: the Eric G Project

Thurs 5/26: Pete Curtis presents Pete's Pandemic Playlist

Fri 5/27: NYChillharmonic

##### Keynote Lounge

10245 E Telephone Rd, Ventura

Thursdays: Open mic jam

Fri 5/20: Fallen Saints

Fri 5/27: Heathers on Fire

##### Leashless Brewing

585 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

Music 6:30 – 8:30; Sundays 3-5

Thurs 5/19: Blown Over

Fri 5/20: Mint Dolphin

Sat 5/21: Jacob Marquez & the Good Vibes

Sun 5/22: Danny Moa

Thurs 5/26: Katie Leigh

Fri 5/27: Keyth Garcia

Sat 5/28: Illunis

Sun 5/29: Daniella Cardilo

##### Libbey Bowl

210 Signal St., Ojai

Sun 5/22: Musical Box performs Genesis, "The Lamb Lies Down on Broadway"

##### Lucas Sellers Wine

330 Zachary St., Moorpark

Sat 5/21: Jayden Secor

Sat 5/28: Mitch Bradford

##### Lucky Fool's Pub

75 E. High St., Moorpark

Sat 5/28: Doc & Pete

##### Made West Brewing

1744 Donlon Street, Ventura

Sun 5/22: RJ Mischo

Sun 5/29: Lindsey Marie

##### Majestic Ventura Theater

26 S. Chestnut Street, Ventura

Fri 5/20: D Smoke, Ruggo, Mark 4ord, OG David James

Sat 5/28: The Exploited

##### Manhattan Restaurant

5800 Santa Rosa Road, Camarillo

Thurs 5/5: CRV

Wed 5/18: Robert Van

Fri 5/20: The Lisa Ritner Trio

Sat 5/21: Tour Support

Fri 5/27: Jeanne Tatum

Sat 5/28: Michael Falcone Trio

##### Margarita Villa

##### Ventura Harbor

Fri & Sat 8-11 pm; Sun 5-8 pm

Fri 5/20: Troy Edwards

Sat 5/21: Crosscut 805

Sun 5/22: Tossers

Fri 5/27: Colette Lovejoy Band

Sat 5/28: Red Rhythm

Sun 5/29: CRV

Mon 5/30: Los Amigos

##### Mrs. Olson's

2800 Harbor Blvd., Oxnard

Sun 5/22: Teresa Russell w/ Stephen Geyer

Sat 5/28: Shaky Feelin, Free Love Project, Steph's Rockin' Road Show, No Remorse

##### Namba Arts

47 S. Oak Street, Ventura

Sat 5/21: Corey Highberg, Jaqueline Moore, Jason Brock

Fri 5/27: Listening Room Redux

##### Oceanview Pavilion

##### Performing Arts Theater by the Beach

575 E. Surfside Dr., Port Hueneme

Sat 5/28: Bruno and the Hooligans

##### Ojai Arts Center

113 S. Montgomery St., Ojai

Sun 5/22: Landmark String Quartet

##### Onyx Bistro

2390 Las Posas Rd., Camarillo

Fri 5/20: Jesse Davis

Sat 5/21: Lainey Taylor

Fri 5/27: Gianna Bella

Sat 5/28: George Krikes

##### Oxnard Performing Arts Center

800 Hobson Way, Oxnard

Thurs 5/26: Torena, Paralysis, iDecline, Ceramik

##### Peirano's on the Terrazzo

204 E. Main St., Ventura

Thurs 5/26: Michael Henszey, Karyn805, Dylan Brehm,

Luke Hannington, Ella Robles, Aaron Burch, Oliva

Mucha, Caroline Lloyd

##### The Raven Tavern

1651 S. Victoria Ave., Oxnard

Fri 5/20: Sean Wiggins

Sat 5/21: Tyler James

Fri 5/27: Doc Rogers Band

Sat 5/28: the Daily Prophet

##### Rock & Roll Pizza

305 Arneil Road, Camarillo

Sat 5/21: California Space Truckers

Sat 5/28: TruckerBomb

##### Sans Souci

21 S. Chestnut St., Ventura

Sat 5/28: Stellar Ruins Album release

##### The Shores

1031 Harbor Blvd., Oxnard

Fri 5/20: CRV

##### The Six Chow House

419 E. Main St., Ventura

Sat 5/21: TV Broken, 3rd Eye, Katie Skene Band

Sun 5/22: Shawn Jones Trio

Sat 5/28: The Bomb

##### The Sound Palace

1681 Beacon Place, Oxnard

Sat 5/21: Fralex, Los Ramification, Eastside 5

##### Strey Cellars

951 N. Rice Ave., Oxnard

Fri 5/20: the 805 Social Club

Sun 5/29: the Vanise Terry Band

##### Surfside Seaford

550 E. Surfside Dr., Port Hueneme

Wednesdays: Teresa Russell

##### Tony's Pizzeria

186 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

Thurs 5/19: Rising Son

Sun 5/22: the Trivle Omdobble

Topa Topa Brewing

4880 Colt St., Ventura (headquarters)

Tues 5/24: Ventura Bluegrass jam

##### Topa Topa Brewing

104 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

Sun 5/29: Casual Business, the Barn Burners

##### Topa Topa Brewing

2024 Ventura Blvd., Camarillo

Wed 5/18: Gianna Bella

Sat 5/21: Katie Shorey

##### Topa Topa Brewing

341 Ojai Ave., Ojai

Fri 5/20: Jess Bush

Fri 5/27: Mike Barrone

##### The Twist on Main

454 E. Main St., Ventura

Wednesdays: Vintage Boots Collaboration

Thursdays: LA Jazz Connection

Fri 5/20: Jen Staves & the Bluzfish

Sat 5/21: Steve and Sally Williams; Divebar Messiahs

Sun 5/22: Divebar Steve; Ray Jaurique

Fri 5/27: Mark Masson & Phriends

Sat 5/28: Jayden Secor; Guy Martin

Sun 5/29: Joe Delia, Déjà vu Too

Mon 5/30: Divebar Steve Trio w/ Jerry Breiner

##### Ventura Fairgrounds

10 W. Harbor Blvd., Ventura

Sat 5/21: KHAY Fest with Josh Turner, Dylan Scott,

Tenille Arts

##### Ventura Harbor Village

1583 Spinnaker Dr., Ventura

Sat 5/28: Unkle Monkey

Sun 5/29: Blown Over

##### Ventura Music Hall

1888 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

Thurs 5/19: Delta Spirit

Fri 5/20 & Sat 5/21: the Garden Street, Final Conflict

(sold out)

Sun 5/22: Justin Hayward

Tues 5/24: Weyes Blood, Sam Burton

Wed 5/25: Brother Ali, Locksmith, DJ Last Word

Fri 5/27: Sgt Pepper; Gasolina – Reggaeton Party

Sat 5/28: the Strike & Sub-Radio

Sun 5/29: Rayvn Lenae

##### The Vine

308 E. Ojai Ave., Ojai

Saturdays: Smitty and Julija and Friends

Sundays: Austin Vallejo

Fri 5/20: Toni Jannotta Jazz Trio

Fri 5/27: Duncan and the Dragonslayers

##### Waterside Restaurant & Wine Bar

3500 S. Harbor Blvd., Oxnard

Sat 5/28: Déjà vu Too

Sun 5/29: Milo Sledge Trio

##### Winchesters





# Ventura Art Scene

Hey, You've Got MAIL! MAIL ART we mean.

Imagine sending in a piece of art through the mail, and then having it displayed in a museum, online, and in local venues. That's happening in Ventura right now.

The ARTLIFE INC. Foundation is holding its annual MAIL ART Exhibit.

Hundreds of artists throughout the world have submitted over 200 pieces of art in a small 6" x 9" format with all kinds of imagery and it must come through the mail!

We will show these works at the Museum of Ventura County on Saturday June 4 at 100 E. Main Street, Ventura, 2 to 5 pm. The Public is invited. Admission is free.

After that, various venues throughout Ventura County will display our frames of MAIL ART in their stores and businesses for about a month.

(N A M B A, Stephen's Grill, House of Rio, and other places)

Check out our website to see the entries online: <https://artlife-foundation.org/>



VUSD Districtwide Student Art Show Opening Reception Thursday, June 2nd from 5-8pm at the Museum of Ventura County.

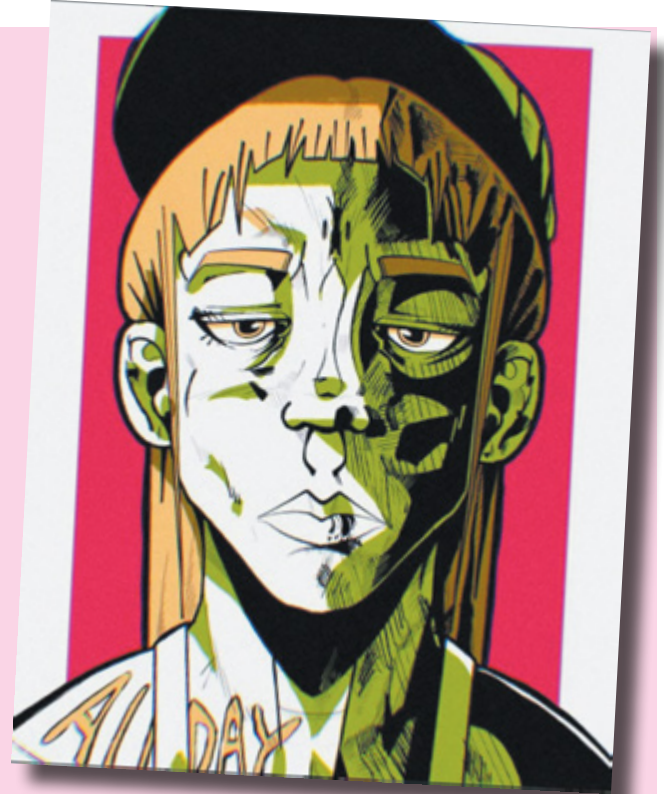
This juried art show will highlight talented student artists of all grades in the Ventura Unified School District. In total, over 50 works have been selected from hundreds of submitted pieces, including watercolors, photography, acrylic paintings, mixed media, and pencil drawings.



on those nights. Normal operating hours are noon-4 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays for the gallery at 432 N. Ventura Ave.

BAA, the cooperative Ventura arts group founded in 1954, also has an outlet at Harbor Village Gallery & Gifts at Ventura Harbor.

For more about BAA and its programs, call the gallery at 805-648-1235 or visit [buenaventuraartassociation.org](http://buenaventuraartassociation.org).



"Meaningful Images" will be the theme of William D. Winbush's solo exhibition May 27-July 30 in Buenaventura Art Association's Studio 99 gallery at Bell Arts Factory in Ventura.

"I paint traditional, representational realism," he said, "Therefore, I really enjoy 're-creating' what I see in all its glorious detail."

He plans to fill the Studio 99 walls with 15-20 paintings ranging in size from 20 by 18 inches to 7 by 5 feet.

Receptions for his show will be 5-8 p.m. June 3 and July 1, in conjunction with Ventura's First Friday gallery crawls

## This 'n' That

### NAMIWalks Your Way brings community together to support mental health

It's a new day for mental health in America. More people are speaking openly about their mental health conditions than ever before, and the need for mental health services is on the rise.

It's also a new day for NAMIWalks Your Way Ventura County, the annual fundraising and awareness event presented by the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), known locally as NAMI Ventura County. For 2022, NAMIWalks Ventura County will return as an in-person event.

NAMIWalks Ventura County will be held on May 21st in Port Hueneme. This is the first time the event has been held in Port Hueneme. NAMIWalks will start at 9am.

Every year, NAMIWalks Your Way raises funds for NAMI's free, top-rated programs, amplifies awareness to eliminate stigma and strengthens the ever-growing mental health community. This year, organizers and participants are poised to take this award-winning event series to a new level and continue to be an integral part of the growing mental health movement. "This year promises to be a banner year for all those who turn out to help us move closer to our goal of Mental Health for All," according to Roberta Griego, Executive Director of NAMI Ventura County.

To join NAMIWalks Your Way, visit

[namiwalks.org/venturacounty](http://namiwalks.org/venturacounty). There is no registration fee, but fundraising is encouraged. One hundred percent of funds raised support NAMI Ventura County's free local mental health programs, resources and services. In 2021, NAMI Ventura County served more than 5,000 individuals throughout Ventura County.

NAMI Ventura County is part of the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness. NAMIWalks Your Way, a Top 30 Peer to Peer Fundraising Event, is a national mental health event series with walks taking place in more than 120 locations.

*Editor: Even though this event is not in Ventura it is extremely important.*

#### Night includes live music, dinner...

*Continued from page 8*

An all-volunteer, nonprofit organization, the Cabrillo Music Boosters serves to support Cabrillo Middle School's vibrant award-winning music program. The Music Boosters' primary function is to support the music program in several ways, the most important being fundraising. The CMS Boosters help to pay for new instruments, uniforms, new sheet music, music tutors for beginning band students, and transportation expenses for festival performances. To donate to or learn more about the program, go to: <https://sites.google.com/view/cabrillomiddleschoolmusic/>.

The event which is open to the public runs from 5:30-7:30 p.m. Ticket price is \$35 in advance, at \$40 at the door. Admission includes dinner, music and a silent auction. Tickets can be purchased ahead of time at <https://sites.google.com/view/cabrillomiddleschoolmusic/home>.



With honor and gratitude  
**WE REMEMBER**

### Free Admission on Memorial Day

Recognizing and honoring those who have given their lives for our county, the Ventura Botanical Gardens will be open and free to the public on Memorial Day! Leashed dogs are welcome.

Be sure to stop into our Courtyard garden shop. All pots in the shop will be 30% off on Memorial Day.

**JOIN US**  
Monday,  
May 30

**HOURS**  
9am-5pm

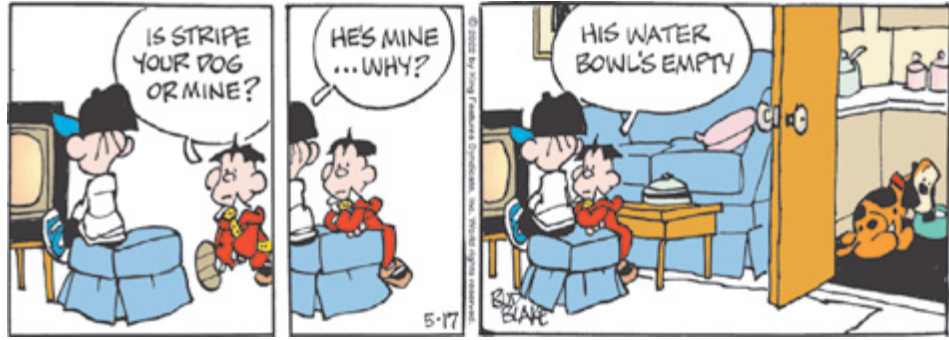
**SUPPORT THE VENTURA BOTANICAL GARDENS,  
BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!**

567 S. Poli St. | 805.232.3113 | [VenturaBotanicalGardens.com](http://VenturaBotanicalGardens.com)

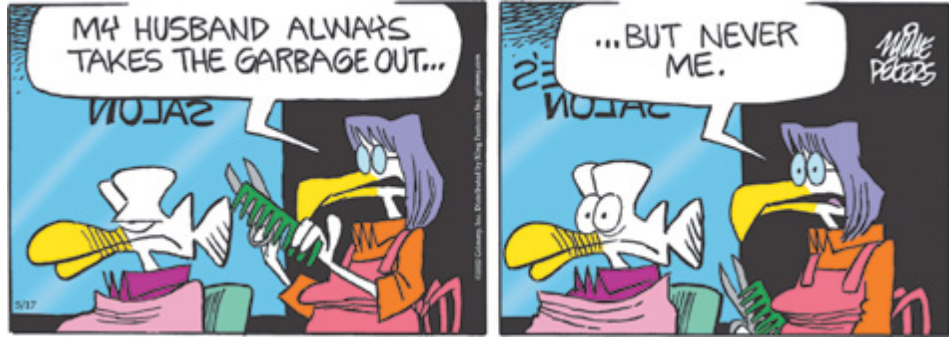


# Lighter Breeze

## Tiger



## Mother Goose and Grimm



## Beetle Bailey



## Blondie



## Hagar the Horrible



## Mallard Fillmore



Solutions on page 13

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

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

## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

### DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

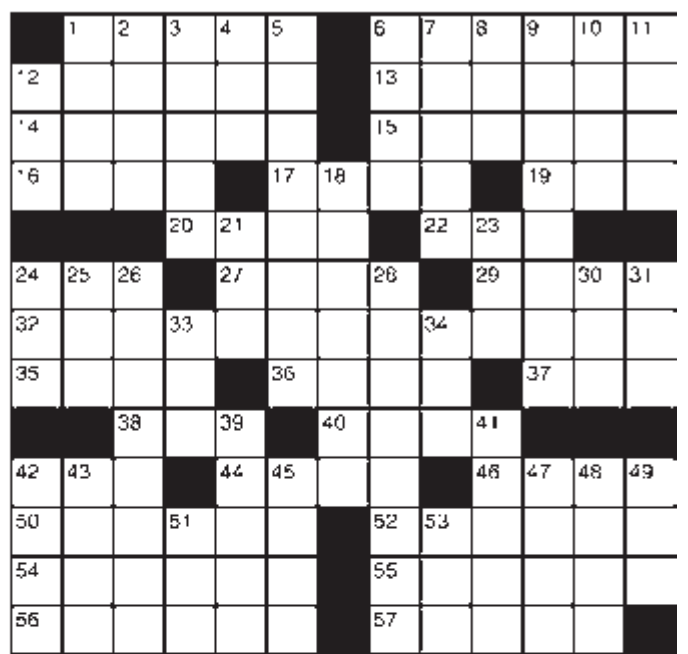
◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging  
◆◆◆ HOO ROY!

Solutions on page 13

## King Crossword

### ACROSS

- 1 Went out with
- 6 Chinese martial art
- 12 Moolah
- 13 Skillful
- 14 Sheathe
- 15 Mountain chain
- 16 Stadium cheers
- 17 Quaker pronoun
- 19 Profit
- 20 Canadian gas brand
- 22 City area, for short
- 24 Gun lobby org.
- 27 Male turkeys
- 29 Show ennui
- 32 Pale, sweet fruit
- 35 Riga resident
- 36 "I smell —!"
- 37 Despondent
- 38 Hem's partner
- 40 Jealousy
- 42 Prefix with athlete
- 44 Early auto-maker
- 46 Burden
- 50 Aplenty
- 52 Strange thing
- 54 "Can you give me directions?"
- 55 Family girls



- 56 Goes angling
- 57 Tennessee county
- 11 "Let's leave — that"
- 12 German article
- 18 Hit one out of the park
- 21 Farm pen
- 23 Reuben bread
- 24 Stanley Cup org.
- 25 Caviar base
- 26 Mounds built by insects
- 28 Final performance
- 30 Romance
- 31 SSE's opposite

### DOWN

- 1 Lady of Spain
- 2 Eyebrow shape
- 3 Rib
- 4 German river
- 5 Fresca, e.g.
- 6 Hit with a stun gun
- 7 Farewell
- 8 Hot temper
- 9 Like "Green Acres" humor
- 10 Employ

- 33 JFK info
- 34 VJ's network
- 39 Not as good
- 41 Alpine air?
- 42 Pre-weekend cry
- 43 Malek of 'Bohemian Rhapsody'
- 45 Reply to "Shall we?"
- 47 Pleasing
- 48 Western tribe (Abbr.)
- 49 Method
- 51 Reaction to fireworks
- 53 Cato's 502

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**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) Personal relationships improve. Professional prospects also brighten. A job offer could come through by month's end. An old friend seeks to make contact.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) Your senses detect that something is not quite right about a matter involving a workplace colleague. Best advice: Follow your keen instincts and don't get involved.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) A prospect offers rewards, but it also demands that you assume a great deal of responsibility. Knowing you, you're up to the challenge, so go for it, and good luck.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) A favor you did a long time ago is repaid, as a trusted colleague steps in to help you with a suddenly expanded workload. A family member has important news.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) A new job offer could require moving across the country. But before you let your doubts determine your decision, learn more about the potentials involved.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) Your sense of fair play doesn't allow you to rush to judgment about a friend who might have betrayed you. Good! Because all the facts are not yet in.

**BORN THIS WEEK:** You have a romantic nature that allows you to find the best in people. You would excel at poetry and drama.

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**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) A stubborn refusal to go ahead on a project mystifies colleagues who expected more flexibility. But once you explain your position, they'll understand and even applaud you.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) A relationship seems to be stuck in the same place. Now it's up to you, dear Bovine, to decide how far you want it to go and how intense you want it to be. Choose well and choose soon.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) A relationship progresses more slowly than you would prefer. Best advice: Insist on a frank and open discussion. What is learned could change minds and, maybe, hearts.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) It's all right to be grateful to a workplace colleague who has done you a good turn. But gratitude shouldn't be a life-long obligation. The time to break this cycle is now.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) It's going to be especially nice to be the King of the Zodiac at this time. A recent money squeeze eases. Plans start to work out, and new friends enter Your Majesty's domain.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) Before you make a commitment on any level (personal, professional, legal), get all the facts. There might be hidden problems that could cause trouble later on.



## Showtime

A View from House Seats

### Ojai Actors Explore Inner Space

by Shirley Lorraine

Have you ever had an out-of-body experience in which you know you are somewhere important, but cannot seem to pin down where? I had one such experience just recently when I went to see All in the Timing by David Ives at the Ojai Art Center Theater.

This unusual offering was presented in five one-act plays that challenge the brain. As I understand it, the author has written a plethora of one-acts and various productions choose which to present.

Director Steve Grumette's previous experiences with Ives' works led him to pitching his enthusiasm to the theater wing of the Art Center. Each of the five pieces is a mind-bending adventure into vocabulary, possibilities, and aspects of the central theme of "what if."

What if, for instance, a conversation could be instantly re-written if the current one just is not working? Using an age-old improv technique of "new line," a bell rings and the actors try again with a different response or a new expression or a new action. In the second act titled "Sure Thing" a couple meet in a restaurant and keep changing verbalizations until ultimately a suitable stopping point is reached. Some conversations play out like that. Some stop attempting to make sense of it all and don't get that far.

The author certainly does have a way with words, flinging them about with abandon. At times, I found it to be more than my Friday night brain could absorb. In the act Philip Glass Buys a Loaf of

Bread, the four actors begin with a single line each. As the action progresses, they are reduced to a single word, trading the words as they move about. Singing and dancing to the rhythm of the syllables, the words become soup. The act was written to parody the minimalist style of prolific composer Philip Glass.

The ensemble includes Grumette himself, Anna Kotula, Daniel Ruark, Larry Swartz and Sherry Owen. What a challenging actor's exercise the collection of one-acts presented. The actors, however, were up to the task, freeing themselves from verbal restrictions, encouraging the audience to allow the depth of the concepts to whirl around in inner space. Whether a person ultimately funnels the whirling thoughts to a reasonable ending seems to be up to the individual.

The wide range of theatrical offerings this season surely has something for everyone's tastes.

The OACT's season continues with the ever popular "The Music Man" opening June 24. What a perfect staging for the summer. This will be one to bring the entire family to enjoy. The evening performances begin at 7:30 through the summer and downtown Ojai thrives on the weekends, so parking can be challenging. Put on your walking shoes and enjoy the beauty of Ojai.

The Ojai Art Center is located at 113 S. Montgomery Street. [www.ojaiact.org](http://www.ojaiact.org) (805) 640-8797

Streaming Spotlight by Cindy Summers

### The Wilds: Season 2

— Amazon Originals



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

Season 2 of The Wilds opens with what Leah learned at the end of Season 1 where there was a second group stranded and trying to survive on another island just as they were, except it was a group of boys. Season 1 revealed the key individuals behind the experiment, as well as that it was a staged plane crash and that none of their parents were aware and thinking they had all gone off to some high end resort for spa days and paddleboard adventures.

Season 2 focuses on the boys' experiences while also taking viewers into deeper stories of the girls and how they were ultimately rescued. The dynamics as far as the characters in the groups were very similar and at the opening of Season 2, both groups had been rescued and were in a facility where they were being interviewed about the situations that happened during their island survival experience and told their parents would be arriving to get them.

The idea was that no one was to learn it was an intentional experiment and that each group had two covert insiders to somewhat guide the groups and report information back to the research headquarters when necessary. The islands were rigged with hidden cameras and mics everywhere, known only to the insiders, who always seemed to have helpful ideas or find random stuff to aid in their survival. Leah was the only one who suspected Nora of

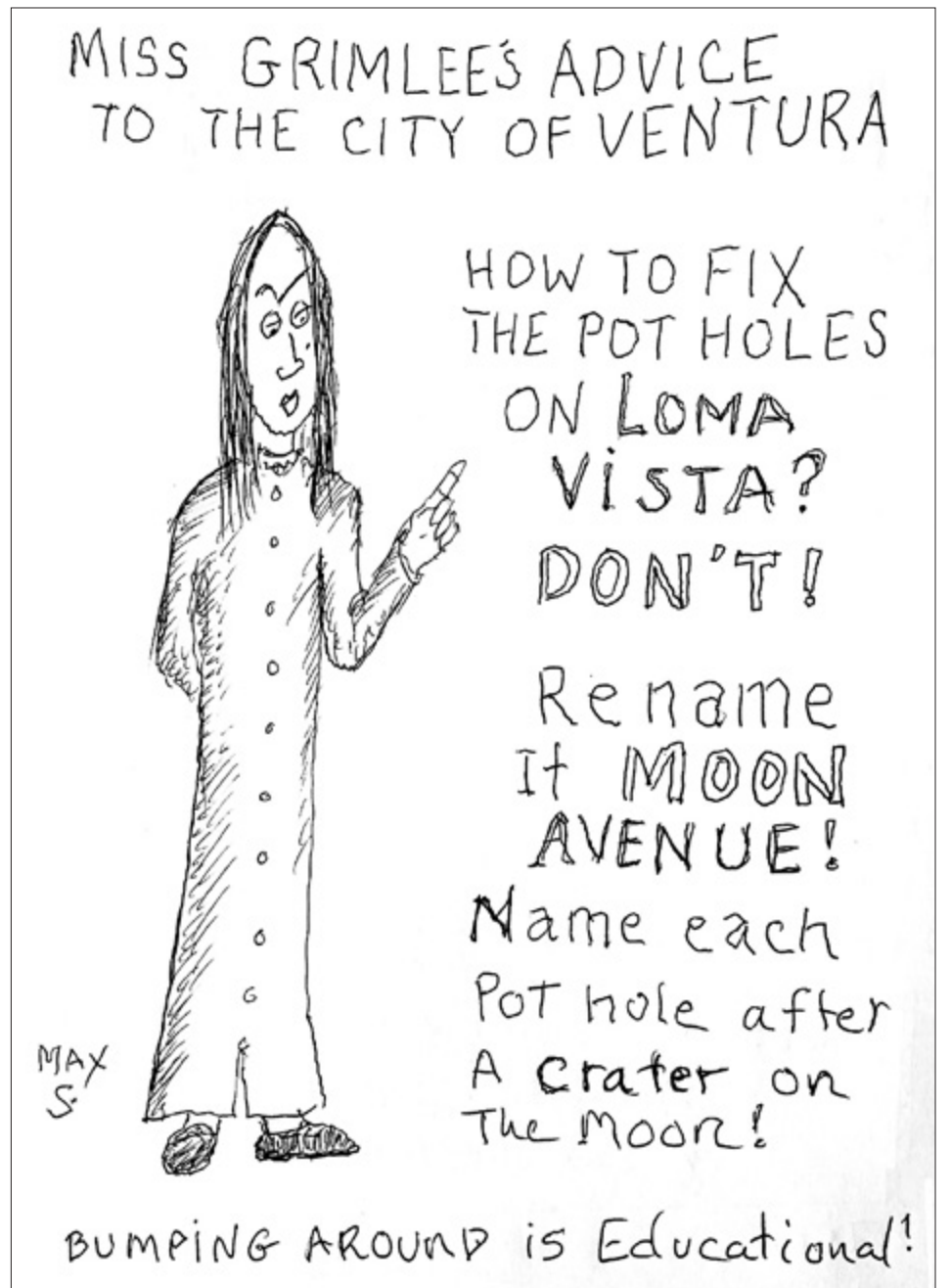
being involved in something ultimately controlling their situation. The problem there was that every time Leah found some proof, it disappeared before she could share it with anyone else, which made her appear to others and herself to be becoming unhinged.

On the boys' island, they also lost one member right from the start as well as having to defend themselves against a dangerous predator that the research team actually had no idea was on the island. The boys teamed up in a coordinated attack and were able to catch and kill the predator. Though seeming to be carrying on well, an incident unknown to the group once revealed altered their dynamics permanently, thus causing them to fail the experiment.

A brush with death rattled all the girls as each of them engaged in their individual struggles to find peace and the truth. Martha had a psychotic break and stop moving or eating for over a week, even causing bed sores on her legs. Rachel struggled with losing her hand and her sister Nora in a shark attack, while Fatin made a unsettling discovery in Nora's journal pointing to the fact that Leah may have been right all along and in the truth all alone.

The researchers brought both teams back to the facility at the same time. The girls surviving 50 days was considered a success, while the boys only lasting 34 days was considered a failure, and research coverts who presented themselves as law enforcement there on their behalf interviewed them one at a time to try and discover what happened to them all out there in the wild. Unfortunately and unknown to any of them, none of them would be seeing their parents anytime soon.

Seasons 2: 8 episodes – 60 min



Are you an amateur cartoonist? Send your cartoon to [editor@venturabreeze.com](mailto:editor@venturabreeze.com).

Channel Islands Chamber Orchestra | Channel Islands Choral Association  
CSU Channel Islands University Chorus | Ventura High School Chorale  
Santa Paula High School Concert Choir

## Choral Spectacular!

KuanFen Liu, Conductor

*Lux Aeterna*

by Morten Lauridsen

*Sea Pictures* by Edward Elgar

Louise Lofquist, Mezzo-Soprano

Saturday, June 4, 7 pm

Sunday, June 5, 3 pm

Rancho Campana High School  
4235 Mar Vista Drive, Camarillo

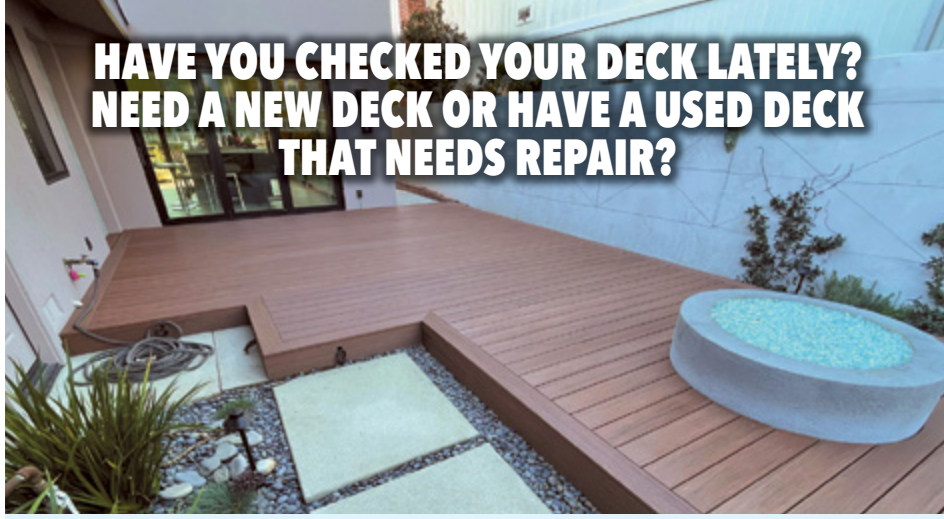


Vaccination record required for ages 12 and older | Mask required  
\$20 suggested donation at the door (no pre-sale)

Sponsored in part by the CSU Channel Islands Instructionally Related Activities Fund



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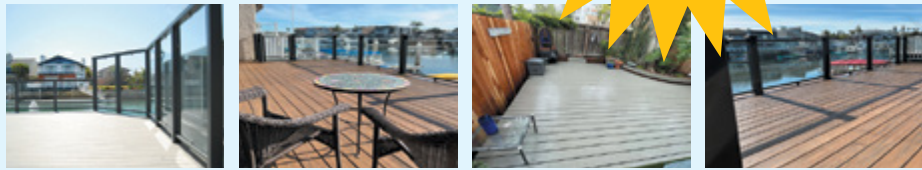


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## This 'n' That



*Dr. Rice's tenure will continue until September 3, 2022.*

### Ventura Unified School District Superintendent retiring

The Ventura Unified School District (VUSD) Board accepted a letter of retirement from Superintendent Dr. Roger Rice, effective September 3, 2022.

As the Superintendent who led the District through incredible gains and the pandemic, Dr. Rice worked to prioritize student achievement, innovation, access, and sound financial stewardship during his tenure.

"The last two years have been exceptionally challenging for educators across the State. Yet, throughout the pandemic, Dr. Rice never wavered in his commitment to our community's children, their bright futures, and safety. Often working around the clock to problem solve in an ever-changing landscape, he led our District with honor, passion, and dedication," stated Board President Sabrena Rodriguez. "We will forever be grateful for his time as our Superintendent. We wish him all the best in his retirement."

Under Dr. Rice's leadership, the District has focused its attention on implementing systems and processes to ensure every student succeeds in the Ventura Unified School District. In addition, the District has focused on equity, alternative educational options, improving educational services, technology, facilities, fiscal responsibility, communications, and professional development during his tenure.

Since Dr. Rice joined the VUSD team in 2019, VUSD has focused on equity and access by transitioning the District to becoming technology-driven, providing each student with a device and Wi-Fi when needed, and implementing the CANVAS content delivery system. In addition, new technology platforms were purchased.

Always a proponent of "access for everyone," Dr. Rice came in and started the Special Education District Advisory Committee, the African American Parent Advisory Committee, increased diversity in school and District leadership personnel, and adopted culturally responsible curriculum and instructional materials.

In addition, he focused his attention on providing innovative programs for all students and ensured that all Career Technical

Education courses would be A-G compliant. In addition, he envisioned and broke ground on a one-of-a-kind organic farm housed at Pacific High School, Sa'Aliyas Ranch, that will allow students to see all aspects of a successful agricultural farm, including the technology, finance, and marketing that goes along with running it. Finally, under his leadership, VUSD built a Business Advisory Board to ensure CTE courses utilized updated equipment and methodologies and created a pipeline for students into careers upon graduation.

Through attrition, Dr. Rice led Human Resources on a project to reevaluate every open position to determine if it was needed or if the resources may be needed in other areas. In addition, he led the 7-11 Committee process that declared several District properties surplus, allowing the District the freedom to consider renting, repurposing, or selling properties not currently being used for student learning. He also worked to support and pass the Parcel Tax Ballot initiative.

Under Dr. Rice's leadership, the District opened up all schools to the Schools of Choice process, which now allows all families to put in for a lottery drawing for any school in VUSD they feel is the best choice for their child. This year, the District increased its K-8 offerings by opening Lemon Grove School and expanding ATLAS Elementary to K-8 for Fall 2022. In addition, he implemented the new FLEX program that allowed multi-site attendance and distance plus live classroom attendance for each student in the program.

Dr. Rice's leadership, professional development opportunities grew exponentially. He saw talent within the District and began an Aspiring Administrators Academy that allowed current staff to learn from, be mentored by, and shadow the District's most exceptional administrators. He also implemented the VUSD Gratitude Awards recognizing employee, student, volunteer, and administrator excellence.

In addition to all of the above, Dr. Rice navigated the District through the COVID-19 crisis. He advocated ensuring that the State considered how decisions would impact students at the state level. He led the Ventura Unified staff to be the first District to return to full-time, in-person learning and offered multiple options for families who were not ready to return in person.

Driven to educate and innovate, he was honored in 2022 with the Superintendent of the Year Award for Region 13 by the Association of California School Administrators.

#### Students from VUSD presented...

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students to be environmental entrepreneurs by providing them with the tools to understand climate change, ocean acidification, drought and wildfires and address these issues with money saving project proposals for their school campuses. Students are also given the option to develop awareness campaigns that inform and involve their communities.



Enjoying the first Ventura Chamber Expo for many years were Jaime Baker, Ana Baker and some really handsome unidentified guy. The booth was arranged by Jaime and Ana.