

Should teachers be armed? Page 14.



# VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

Vol. 15, No. 20 Published Every Other Wednesday Established 2007 June 29- July 12, 2022



Money raised will be used to support the Ventura Fire Foundation's programming. Photos by Mary Thompson

## Firefighters' Ball honors and celebrates Ventura City Firefighters



The Ventura Fire Foundation, in partnership with the Ventura City Fire Department, celebrated the Ventura City Firefighters at the 2022 Firefighters' Ball, presented by Flying Embers. The event was held on June 10, at the Olivas Adobe. Firefighters in their Class A uniforms, and their spouses attended an evening of recognition, camaraderie, and celebration.

The actions of five sworn personnel and one civilian employee were recognized by the Ventura Fire Department and the Ventura Fire Foundation. Additionally, thirty-six employees were promoted, and forty-seven Lifesaving Medals were distributed for excellent service to the City of Ventura.

"The City is blessed to have so many exemplary firefighters and staff who go above and beyond to serve our community. They provide all-hazards emergency response, perform life-saving actions each day, and often times provide care and compassion to people on their toughest day," said Fire Chief

*Continued on page 3*

Ventura Springs will provide housing for homeless veterans. Photos by Patricia Schallert.

## The project will provide a safe affordable place to call home



Ventura Springs, located on 10 acres of land previously owned by the City of Ventura located at 10900 Telephone Rd. in Ventura will be a new community made up of 122 apartments for formerly homeless veterans as well as for low-income veterans and their families. The 11 buildings that make up Ventura Springs will be primarily two-story walk-ups with two three-story buildings, and will be surrounded by vibrant courtyards with a variety of uses and activities. The \$62 million project will provide Ventura veterans safe, affordable place to call home and the resources and community needed to build stable futures.

*Continued on page 11*

### Happy July 4th!

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# City News



Arroyo Verde Park's main play structure was destroyed in the Thomas Fire.

## Arroyo Verde Park's inclusive playground receives Project of the Year Award

The recently completed first-ever inclusive playground in Ventura at Arroyo Verde Park received the 2021 Project of the Year Award from the Ventura County Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA) in the structures category for its safety performance, effective construction management, environmental considerations, and community outreach.

During the City Council meeting on May 9, APWA Ventura County director at large Andrew Grubb shared that, "this project stood out for its inclusive play area with unique considerations to children with

sensory and cognitive needs along with the community support and donations received for the playground's replacement after the Thomas Fire."

The APWA Project of the Year Award distinguishes the project's efficient and effective construction management techniques, schedule mitigation amid COVID-19 supply chain challenges, construction management, control techniques, jobsite safety practices, and a demonstrated commitment to sustainability.

The 10,750 square foot play area at Arroyo Verde Park features a colorful play

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

In December 2017, Arroyo Verde Park's main play structure was destroyed in the Thomas Fire. Rather than rebuilding the same structure, the City of Ventura decided to re-imagine the space and create the first fully inclusive play area in Ventura; a space where the community could have fun together without barriers.

The Parks and Recreation Department engaged with the community to understand which features they would most like included in the rebuild. Families, community members, medical professionals, and playground manufacturers were included in the playground design conversations. Extensive renderings and options were presented at neighborhood council meetings, and community feedback was gathered to capture the heart and soul of the project.

To learn more about this project, visit [www.cityofventura.ca.gov/AVP](http://www.cityofventura.ca.gov/AVP).

and reporting by starting a Neighborhood Watch group.

The Ventura Police Neighborhood Watch Program is a crime prevention effort that relies on an active partnership between residents and the officers who patrol those neighborhoods. The goal of the program is to reduce crime through education, increased neighborhood reporting, and improved communication among neighbors.

"Many criminals are opportunists," said Police Chief Darin Schindler. "Neighbors that are willing to communicate and interact with each other are better able to identify and report suspicious activity and safeguard their homes, ultimately preventing criminal activity."

By forming a group and participating in Neighborhood Watch, residents will get to know neighbors who live nearby as well as learn how to:

- Recognize and report crimes and suspicious activities
- Better protect their homes and those of their neighbors
- Identify quality of life concerns and crime in the area and work proactively with VPD staff to solve issues

Neighborhood Watch does not give residents the power to take law enforcement action when observing suspicious activity. The Ventura Police Department does not encourage residents to "patrol" neighborhoods or put themselves at risk. Community members are the extra eyes and ears of the Ventura Police Department and should report suspicious activity.

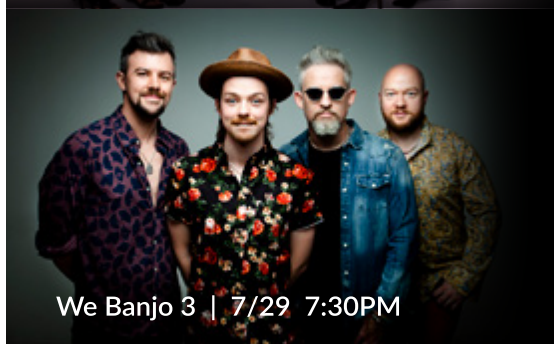
To learn more about the Neighborhood Watch Program, please visit [www.CityofVentura.ca.gov/NeighborhoodWatch](http://www.CityofVentura.ca.gov/NeighborhoodWatch).

## Ventura Police bring back Neighborhood Watch

The Ventura Police Department (VPD) encourages residents to take an active role in crime prevention, reduction,



Adaawe | 7/27 5:30PM



We Banjo 3 | 7/29 7:30PM



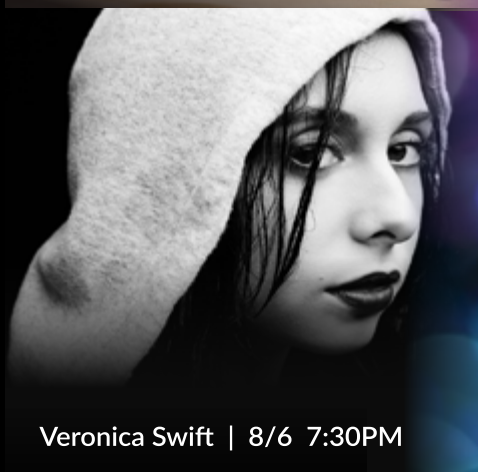
Django Festival Allstars | 7/30 7:30PM



Sean Chen | 7/31 3PM



The Moanin' Frogs | 8/5 7:30PM



Veronica Swift | 8/6 7:30PM



The Crossing | 8/7 3PM

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## City News



As the City's Fire Marshal, Brett will oversee community risk reduction programs.

### Ventura Fire Department announces Brett Reed as Fire Marshal

After a highly competitive, open recruitment process, the Ventura Fire Department has selected Brett Reed as its new Fire Marshal.

"Brett is a lifelong student of fire prevention, risk reduction, and leadership," said Fire Chief David Endaya. "He has a proven track record of developing, implementing, and leading progressive change and holds himself and those around him to the highest standards."

As the City's Fire Marshal, Brett will oversee community risk reduction programs in the department's Fire Prevention division. These programs include development plan review and inspections, state-mandated occupancy inspections, defensible space inspections, and fire cause investigations.

"I am incredibly excited to continue my service to Ventura as the fire marshal," said Brett. "It's an honor to serve a city that I love, and in a role that is vital to ensuring community safety. I look forward to continuing to provide the preventative, high-quality service to our community members."

Brett has a strong background in risk reduction and has completed State Fire Inspector Training, National Fire Academy fire inspection principles, fire and arson origin, and cause determination courses, and is a certified International Code Council Inspector and Plans Examiner.

Prior to being selected as the fire marshal, Brett served as a fire prevention specialist and the fire prevention supervisor with Ventura Fire. He has also worked in Mono County as a firefighter, fire engineer, emergency medical technician (EMT), inspector, and hazardous materials specialist.

For more information about the City's Fire Prevention Division and programs, visit [www.CityofVentura.ca.gov/FirePrevention](http://www.CityofVentura.ca.gov/FirePrevention).

### Celebrate the 4th of July at Ventura's Annual Parade & Street Fair

Ventura's annual 4th of July Street Fair and Pushem-Pullem Parade returns to the Downtown District on

Monday, July 4, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. This year's event theme is "2022: Red, White & Blue!"

The Pushem-Pullem Parade, presented by the Rotary Club of East Ventura, will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Main Street in front of Cemetery Memorial Park and continue into Downtown Ventura, leading into the Street Fair.

Both events are free to attend. Bikes, scooters, strollers, and wagons are welcome to participate in the parade. Motorized vehicles are not allowed.

The street fair features arts and crafts booths, live entertainment, a car exhibit, and family-friendly activities. Downtown businesses and restaurants will also be open as part of the Main Street Moves program.

The Downtown Ventura Partners Organization presents live entertainment stages with local bands and community group performances at Mission Park and at the intersection of California Street and Main Street. Several smaller stages will also be placed throughout the event featuring acoustic artists.

Visit [www.CityofVentura.ca.gov/StreetFair](http://www.CityofVentura.ca.gov/StreetFair) for more details. For event questions, contact Recreation Coordinator Allyson DesBaillets at [adesbaillets@cityofventura.ca.gov](mailto:adesbaillets@cityofventura.ca.gov) or (805) 654-7749.

#### Firefighters Ball

*Continued from page 1*

David Endaya. "This year's event was extra special as it was the first time we've gathered to celebrate and recognize the accomplishments of our team."

Engineer Eric Craddock received the Firefighter of the Year award for his dedication to fire and rescue training, leading the oversight at the Fire Training grounds, and embodying the highest standards of the fire service.

The Greg Andrews Safety Award, recognizing a continued commitment to ensuring a safer workplace for all, was presented to Firefighter-Paramedic James Kenney.

Kenney devoted hundreds of hours on developing maps for crew responses to several of Ventura's large complexes. Without these critical maps and level of detail required to design them, life-saving minutes navigating buildings would be lost.

The Nancy Merman Paramedic of the Year honor was awarded to Engineer Kyle Tong. "Kyle has worked tirelessly on grant opportunities for the department, including a grant where we were able to purchase LUCAS CPR devices for each apparatus," said Emergency Medical Services Coordinator Heather Ellis. "He has trained every firefighter on this device. His is a true asset to our agency."

Captain Mark Nielsen and Firefighter-Paramedic William Nackers were both honored for exceptional duty for their ingenuity in providing life-saving service, going above and beyond the call of duty, and upholding the department's core values.

Finally, Danielle Motherspaw was recognized as the Fire Prevention Employee of the Year. Danielle provides exceptional service with a smile, can be called upon at any time to assist a coworker, and demonstrates pride in producing quality work.

Health and safety restrictions and a shift in priorities during the COVID-19 pandemic prevented the annual ceremonies honoring excellent service and the promotions of employees since 2019.

"We are incredibly excited to celebrate

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R

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Ventura City firefighters, and join the City in honoring their achievements," said Joe Booth, executive director of the Ventura Fire Foundation. "The past two years have been especially difficult for first responders and their families, so we are eager to have a night of fun."

For more information about the Ventura Fire Department, visit [www.VenturaCityFire.com](http://www.VenturaCityFire.com).





# VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

Member, Ventura Chamber of Commerce

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## Opinion/Editorial



Sheldon Brown  
Publisher-Editor

■ There is so much to write about I don't know where to start. Like lots of Americans (certainly not all), I am very depressed by the recent decisions of the Supreme Court. And on a more local issue, by the situation of **Ashley Bautista.**

■ From a previous issue of the Breeze; "The County of Ventura has selected Ashley Bautista as their new Public Information Officer following the retirement of Bill Nash. The position reports to County Executive Officer Mike Powers."

She spent the previous five years as a public information officer for the city of Ventura and the Ventura Police Department and has won several awards for her work.

Ashley Bautista was arrested in Ventura in a suspected misdemeanor DUI hit-and-run crash. The accident was at the intersection of Paseo de Playa and Harbor Blvd. near the Ventura Promenade.

While at a stop sign, a car was rear-ended by Bautista's and she continued driving away after the collision. When she was pulled over Ashley was arrested on suspicion of misdemeanor DUI involving alcohol and misdemeanor hit-and-run.

She has since resigned from her position with the county. Even though our relationship has been on a professional level I have always considered her to be a friend and am very upset that this has happened to her. I hope this was an isolated incidence and she can put her life back on track.

■ In a major expansion of **gun rights** after a series of mass shootings, the Supreme Court determined that Americans have a right to carry firearms

in public for self-defense, a ruling likely to lead to more people legally armed. The decision came out as Congress and states debate gun-control legislation. The high court's first major gun decision in more than a decade split the court 6-3, with the court's conservatives in the majority and liberals in dissent.

■ From New York Daily News

"Using a garbled reading of history as a crutch, the U.S. Supreme Court's supposed textualist conservatives have just managed to codify a cartoon cutout version of the Second Amendment, obliterating New York State's concealed carry firearm permitting system. We will mince



The Supreme Court has made some major decisions.

no words: This will cost the lives of civilians and police officers, as almost anyone in New York City will now be free to carry a gun. At a time when the proliferation of weapons is already killing record numbers of Americans, the nearly absolutist right of self-defense the majority canonizes will become a right to societal suicide."

"It's just 27 simple words written in 1789: "A **well regulated Militia**, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."

Justice Clarence Thomas, writing for the six-member majority, brazenly ignores that first clause and renders the second in the most expansive terms imaginable."

Ohio's permit-less gun carry law for "qualifying" adults is a measure that would lift restrictions on school teachers, custodians and bus drivers from carrying firearms at work. Is a "qualifying" adult one that signs a promise that they won't kill a spouse, themselves, or students? So, the solution to gun deaths is to arm more people with guns, right?

This might help, though, President Joe **Biden** has signed the most sweeping gun violence bill in decades, a bipartisan compromise that seemed unimaginable until a recent series of mass shootings, including the massacre of 19 students and two teachers at a Texas elementary school.

"Time is of the essence. Lives will be saved," he said in the Roosevelt Room of the White House. Citing the families of shooting victims he has met, the President said, "Their message to us was, 'Do something.' How many times did we hear that? 'Just do something. For God's sake, just do something.' Today we did."

Even though the majority of American's support **Roe vs. Wade** in the other depressing Supreme Court decision is the overturning of this long-running statute. Even though objections to abortions are supposedly based on religious beliefs I still have not seen, or have been sent the passages from the Bible that support this position.

■ Writing in the LA Times Robin Abcarian stated:

"Goodbye, legal right to abortion. Goodbye, separation of church and state. Goodbye, common-sense gun laws. Goodbye, Miranda rights. And that's just the beginning."

■ For some good news, with the debut of **macOS Ventura** (likely later this year) Ventura images will be seen throughout the day on the screens of almost every Mac computer in the world. The tech giant Apple has chosen the name "Ventura" for the company's new Mac operating system.

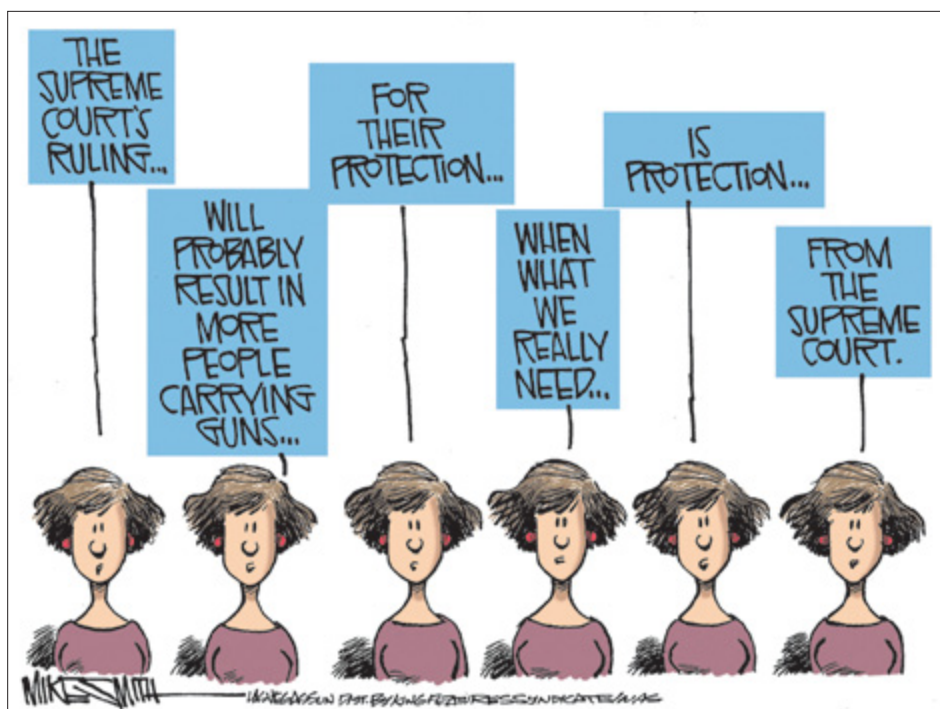
Visit Ventura's Digital Marketing Manager Mike Laan stated, "Literally every creative person in the world is going to be using this operating system, and Ventura photos will be on the desktop by default. I think it will bring more exposure to Ventura."

■ For now, single-family residential properties in the City of Ventura are encouraged to voluntarily reduce **water use** by 20%. Stricter measures, including implementing water shortage rates and mandatory outdoor watering restrictions, could go into effect if demand reductions are not achieved through voluntary efforts.

■ Most of California beaches (including Ventura's) are much cleaner than in past decades. In its annual report Heal the Bay graded more than 700 beaches and concluded that 94% logged clean water quality.

■ Amazon plans to begin delivering some packages by **drone** to homes in a select few Northern California homes this year. My question is how much do you tip a drone when it delivers a pizza? And if it accidentally delivers it to your next-door neighbor can your neighbor legally eat it by saying they thought it was a birthday present?

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



Electric clocks aren't entirely useless when the power goes off. They tell you exactly when it happened. —Jane Goodsell



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## Community Events

### Ventura events

by Ana Baker

**If you have experienced the loss of a loved one due to suicide, do not hesitate to join our Survivors of Suicide Loss grief support group.** Livingston's Grief and Bereavement Program are committed to maintaining an open, accepting, confidential atmosphere, meets the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of every month from 6:30 - 8 p.m. If you would like to register this support group or would like more information on other bereavement groups that we offer, please contact Stacia Sickle at 805-389-6870 x452 or at ssickle@lmvna.org. Visit www.LMVNA.org for more information.

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

**Hope and Help for Overeaters. Is your eating out of control? Are you feeling fat? Overeaters Anonymous can help.** Saturdays, 10-11a.m. at 133 S. Laurel Street, Ventura (building next to the church). For more information, call Amy at (805) 340-5882. Donations only.

**July 2: Sespe Fly Fishers of Ventura will be conducting our monthly "First Saturday" introductory Fly Rod Casting and Intro to Fly**

**Fishing clinic.** There is no charge and all are welcome. Chumash Park, Petit and Waco. 9-11a.m., in East Ventura, off Telephone Rd. For more information: Casting Program Coordinator Thomas Hall (805) 377-5249 www.sespeflyfishers.org

**July 3: Old-Time Country Bluegrass Gospel Music Assoc. will be playing at the Poinsettia Pavilion 3451 Foothill Road, Sunday, 2-4 p.m.** Live Music on stage. Jamming in the Canada Room. Free Admission. Free parking and open to the Public. For more information call 805-517-1131 or visit Facebook: OTCBGMA

**July 6 & 20: Parent grief support group. The Compassionate Friends (TCF) of West Ventura County provides free grief support for families after the death of a child.** Parents, grandparents and siblings over 16 are welcome to join us on the first and third Wednesday of every month from 7-8:30 p.m. via Zoom. First-time attendees join the call at 6:45 pm. We provide peer-led support where you can openly grieve without being judged. If interested, please contact (805)-835-9100 and leave your email address so we can forward the Zoom link via email a few days before the scheduled call. For more information, visit TCFVentura.org or contact Laura Lindsay at (914) 610-8918. We welcome you to this club no one ever wants to join. We understand grief and are here to help you take the next step in your healing journey.

**July 8, 9,10: NAMBA Performing Arts Space is thrilled to announce**

**the 2nd Annual Women's Voices Festival July 8, 9, and 10th. In the spirit of Hollywood Fringe, Solo Fest, and LA Women's Theater Festival, Namba Arts, in collaboration with Producer Robyn Migel, brings three unique stories illuminating women's voices.** With over 30 shows being vetted, only three will be nominated for NAMBA's prestigious "Splash" award. Nominees will be announced on Saturday, June 25; the winner to be announced Sunday, June 26 at the Hollywood Fringe Awards Ceremony. Stay tuned or visit Nambaarts.com for more details!

**July 12: The Ventura peer support group of Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA) will resume its free weekly meetings on Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at 5654 Ralston St. Unitarian Universalist Church of Ventura.** Enter by way of the main door. Please bring your own N95 mask. For more information, go to the website DBSAAlliance.org or Wendell Jones at (805) 640-6472, or email him at wenj16630@sbcglobal.net.

**July 12: The Ventura County Writers Club is offering a class at the Pleasant Valley Parks and Rec facility at 1605 Burnley in Camarillo.** Noreen Lace will speak on the legal liabilities of memoir writing. Lace is an educator at CSU Northridge where she earned her MA and MFA. The class will begin at 7 p.m. and is free and open to all interested parties. Call (805)-300-1365 for more information.

**July 17: The Ventura and Santa Barbara County chapter of the**

**National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors (NAWCC) will meet Sunday, in the Campus Student Center of Ventura College, 4667 Telegraph Rd. at 11a.m.** There will be a mart where items will be for sale followed by lunch. An informational meeting and a presentation on a topic on clocks or watches will start at 1p.m. More information about chapter 190 can be found at www.nawcc-ch190.com.

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## News & Notes



All this fun and free concerts. Photo by Richard Lieberman.

### Free Concerts at the Country Fair with Ocean Air

The VC Fair has announced the 2022 Grandstand Entertainment Series. Fair visitors can see favorite musical acts and rodeos free with paid admission to the fair.

Good vibrations and great live music will be the standard for the 2022 Grandstand Entertainment series, sponsored by Chumash Casino and Resort. The VC Fair Grandstand Arena, presented by Firestone 805, will present 8 free concerts covering a range of music from Country to Pop, Rock R&B and Funk.

This year's list of Fair entertainers will satisfy Ventura County music lovers with every unique performance:

All Grandstand Concerts and Rodeos are free with Fair admission!  
Martina McBride; Wednesday, August 3 at 7:30PM  
KC & The Sunshine Band; Thursday, August 4 at 7:30PM

The All-American Rejects; Friday, August 5 at 7:30PM

Blue Oyster Cult; Saturday, August 6 at 7:30PM

Día De La Familia Concert; Sunday, August 7 at 3PM

(performers will be announced at a later date)

The Beach Boys; Monday, August 8 at 7:30PM

Clay Walker; Tuesday, August 9 at 7:30PM

Cheap Trick ; Wednesday, August 10 at 7:30PM

PRCA Rodeo; Friday, Aug. 12 at 7:00 PM; Saturday, Aug. 13 & Sunday, Aug. 14 at 2 and 7PM

The 147th Ventura County Fair, "A Country Air with Ocean Air", begins Wednesday, August 3 and runs through to Sunday August 14. For more information please call (805) 648 -3376 or visit [www.venturacountyfair.org](http://www.venturacountyfair.org).

### Plein Air Painting Workshop at Harmon Canyon Preserve

Ventura Land Trust broadens its public program offerings with an Artist-Led Plein Air Painting Workshop on Saturday, July 9th at 8:00 am at Harmon

Canyon Preserve. Artists Debra Holladay, Laura Wambsgans, and Marian Fortunati will offer instruction for beginner and experienced artists on how to capture Harmon Canyon's natural landscape through composition, form, color, and paint handling.

Participants will receive instruction as a group and one-on-one. Group discussion will allow painters to learn from one another. Ventura Land Trust staff will join the workshop to share elements of Harmon Canyon Preserve's natural and cultural history.



Finalists at the Awards Ceremony at the Museum of Ventura County.

### Successful ending of the Ventura River Action Network (V-RAN) Program with awards for students

After six months of involving 750 students from Ventura Unified School District (VUSD) in the monitoring and restoration of the Ventura River and its tributaries in support of the work of many environmental organizations, the last three months of the V-RAN program focused on students conducting energy, water, or waste audits of their school campuses, or researching the issues around the removal of the Matilija Dam, then crafting and submitting project proposals to reduce the environmental footprint of their schools or advocating for the removal of the dam.

Students submitted 78 projects which were reviewed by a judging panel for the first phase. The top 16 finalists moved on to present their proposals in person for the second and final phase to an expert panel of judges at the 7th Energy Efficiency to

Mitigate Climate Change and Ocean Acidification (EECCOA) Challenge Award Ceremony on May 5th, 2022 held at the Museum of Ventura County.

The young authors of the top environmental business proposals in each category were awarded cash or in-kind prizes by the Ventura Unified School District. Cash prizes ranged from \$500-\$200, and in-kind prizes included tickets to the Channel Islands.

The MERITO Foundation would like to thank V-RAN program partners and sponsors that including UC Davis Center for Community and Citizen Science, and Ventura Water for their support, and all the event sponsors that helped with our culminating event. We are ready for the launch of the 2022-2023 V-RAN program!

Painting en plein air, the French expression for "in the open air," is the act of leaving the walls of a studio and painting in the outdoors. Artists explore how to paint form and light, with its changing, ephemeral qualities, with portable paints and easel.

"Plein air painting allows me to focus and interact in real time to understand and learn about a place," says workshop leader Debra Holladay. "Experiencing the light, color, sound, smell, temperature, and touch magnifies and records my experience through paint."

"One of the most rewarding aspects

of working en plein air is seeing things you've never noticed before, like the color of dry grass or a fleeting neon edge where light bends or reflects. I hope to share that aspect of seeing and how to translate it into paint with participants of the workshop, in addition to a basic approach to transforming a blank canvas into a painting."

The workshop is \$20 for Ventura Land Trust members and \$30 for non-members. Participants can view a fill list of suggested painting supplies and register for the workshop at <https://www.venturalandtrust.org/pleinair>.



### CONNECT WITH US AT A LOCAL FIRE STATION!

- Meet your Ventura firefighters
- Tour neighborhood fire stations
- Hear about current conditions
- Share input about the vision to create a 21<sup>st</sup> century fire agency

#### Select Wednesdays, from 6-8 pm

June 15, Station 3	5838 Telegraph Rd, 93003
June 22, Station 1*	717 N Ventura Ave, 93001
June 29, Station 2*	41 S Seaward Ave, 93003
July 20, Station 4	8303 Telephone Rd, 93004
July 27, Station 5	4225 E Main St, 93003
August 3, Station 6	10797 Darling Rd, 93004

\*Live Spanish interpretation available on site



Escanee aquí para ver la información en español.

[www.CityofVentura.ca.gov/FireOutreach](http://www.CityofVentura.ca.gov/FireOutreach)





Like many people, he just didn't know what to expect when he retired.

## Retirement as David sees it!

by Patricia Schallert

David is a 78 year young, retired gentleman, born in Anchorage, Alaska where he grew up in the dark and cold. He left Alaska at the age of 18, after one year at the University of Alaska, and went to the University of Colorado where they had an Architectural Design Department and beautiful mountains for skiing, which he loved.

After graduation he emigrated to Australia and began his career as an Architect. Returning to Colorado a few years later he started his own firm, David Barber Architects.

After fifty years of designing stunning custom homes and office buildings, he found himself becoming more frustrated with the ever-expanding bureaucracy associated with his work, and decided it was time to retire. He loved the creativity involved in his work and would look for other ways to satisfy his artistic life, without the stress of being a busy Architect.

Like many people, he just didn't know what to expect when he retired. What would he do? How would he fill his time? Once retired, at the youthful age of 74, he decided to hit the road in a small motorhome, visiting most of the National Parks in the West. He eventually settled in Ventura, near the harbor, with his dogs, Ruby and Doodles. He liked the weather, which suited his outdoor activities year-round.

He wakes early and walks his dogs as the morning light peaks through the fog and low clouds.

He is grateful for his good health, which allows him to hike, bike and play golf (even though he says he "never plays very well.") But "Golf is not a game of perfect", David says, and he continues to play as often as he can. He walks the golf course and carries his golf bag, getting a good walk and a good workout as he plays.

He is also excited about his oil painting hobby which satisfies his

creative need. He loves to paint scenes of the many National Parks he has visited and the mountains of the West. He often dreams about painting, he says, and cannot wait to get up and get to his easel.

Motivated by anything that involves learning, David is currently studying Italian for his up and coming trip to Italy with his son's family. He would really like to order a cup of Cappuccino in Italian and be able to say 'Grazie!' with flair.

David never feels lost or unhappy and cherishes the memories of his successful architectural career. His transition to retirement was not without its own challenges, however. He had to find activities that were interesting and which included learning and creativity to keep him busy and mentally engaged. As part of his day, he does the New York Times Crossword Puzzle.

He learned through meditation and painting to be and stay positive and is happiest when he is walking his dogs, bike riding, having stimulating discussions with friends and "learning something new every day", which he says is his key to happiness. That, and the thought of hitting a 'Hole in One!

*Editor: If you are a senior (over 70 please) or know of one who would like to share their retirement or job let us know at editor@venturabreeze.com.*

## During the very early stage of Alzheimer's, toxic changes are taking place in the brain

In 1906, Dr. Alzheimer noticed changes in the brain tissue of a woman who had died of an unusual mental

# Senior Living

illness. Her symptoms included memory loss, language problems, and unpredictable behavior. After she died, he examined her brain and found many abnormal clumps (now called amyloid plaques) and tangled bundles of fibers (now called neurofibrillary, or tau, tangles).

These plaques and tangles in the brain are still considered some of the main features of Alzheimer's disease. Another feature is the loss of connections between neurons in the brain. Neurons transmit messages between different parts of the brain, and from the brain to muscles and organs in the body.

During the very early stage of Alzheimer's, toxic changes are taking place in the brain, including abnormal buildups of proteins that form amyloid plaques and tau tangles. Previously healthy neurons stop functioning, lose connec-

*Continued on page 8*



Alzheimer's disease is named after Dr. Alois Alzheimer.

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## Senior Living



Taylor-Stein has been executive director since 1999 of Long-Term Care Services.

### Long Term Care Ombudsman in Ventura County make a difference

by Carol Leish, MA

As advocates, the Long-Term Care Ombudsman make a difference for residents in order to improve conditions. Sylvia Taylor-Stein, Executive Director of the Long-Term Care Services of Ventura County Ombudsman Program said, "Through advocating, the main services provided by the Long-Term Care Ombudsman include: 1) Facility Monitoring & Complaints Resolutions; 2) Investigating and resolving complaints of neglect and abuse that may include physical, financial, psychological and/or verbal abuse. Another main service is: 3) Advanced Health Care Directives, which is a mandated duty that ensures an Ombudsman will witness all directives that are executed by residents in

nursing facilities. Also, 4) Pre-placement Counseling, which informs, supports, and educates those who may be considering the placement of themselves or a loved one in a long-term care facility."

Taylor-Stein has been executive director since 1999. She and her husband have five adult children, and live in Ventura County. She said, "My greatest inspiration in my life was my grandmother who died at age 92 after suffering with Alzheimer's disease for 10 years. It was the love and deep respect for my grandmother that influenced my desire to become involved with the elderly and the exceptional work with the Ombudsman program. My grandmother was blessed to live and die at home with loving people around her. This is not the case for most of our elderly in long-term care. My goal is to help to build a strong ombudsman program her in Ventura County that can provide the effective advocacy, care and support that those living in long-term care facilities need and deserve."

Taylor-Stein emphasized that, "No other organization is federally mandated and authorized, like we are, to go into long-term care facilities unscheduled and unannounced, and to advocate for the persons living there. The Ombudsman is guaranteed access by federal and state law to long-term care facilities and its residents. No other agency exists for this purpose or is guaranteed access to enter the facility, move unescorted and unhindered throughout the facility and to advocate for those who live there."

The State of California has named the Ventura Ombudsman Program as a model program for its excellence and high standards-including weekly and monthly visitations to nursing homes and other long-term care facilities. It is cited by the California Department of Aging as Best Practices in Volunteer Recruitments, Training and

Retention. Also, the Ventura Ombudsman Program has been recognized for best practices in family and caregiver support and best practices in systems advocacy.

Taylor-Stein said, "There is always a need for more volunteers to be able to help out in such a meaningful way to ensure the best living situation for those at long-term care facilities. By visiting unscheduled and unannounced and meeting with residents and investigating their complaints/concerns, situations can/will improve. Volunteers also attend Resident Council meetings where residents in groups voice their issues and concerns. We also attend Care Plan meetings with residents in order to get firsthand knowledge of their care needs and how the facility will address their needs."

"Main services provided by volunteers are: 1) Ombudsman Training/Certification/Re-certification, which is a mandated function of the program. This includes 25 classroom training hours plus 15 hours of field training to new volunteer recruits to ensure that they are prepared to take on facility assignments. Every year thereafter volunteers complete 18 hours per year in continuing education in order to qualify for annual rec-certification."

Go to [www.ombudsmanventura.org](http://www.ombudsmanventura.org) or call: (805) 656-1986 for those interested in becoming volunteers. "It's rewarding and important work," according to Taylor-Stein. "You can download the application form on our website. After filling it out, you will be contacted to do a phone interview, followed by an in-person interview. Thank you for making an important difference for those living in long-term care facilities."

### VCAAA seeking new contracted 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.

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.

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. For more information concerning the vendor application process, contact Brian Murphy, at (805) 477-7300.

#### Early stage of Alzheimer's

*Continued from page 7*

tions with other neurons, and die. Many other complex brain changes are thought to play a role in Alzheimer's as well.

The damage initially appears to take place in the hippocampus and the entorhinal cortex, which are parts of the brain that are essential in forming memories. As more neurons die, additional parts of the brain are affected and begin to shrink. By the final stage of Alzheimer's, damage is widespread and brain tissue

has shrunk significantly.

Memory problems are typically one of the first signs of cognitive impairment related to Alzheimer's. Some people with memory problems have a condition called mild cognitive impairment (MCI). With MCI, people have more memory problems than normal for their age, but their symptoms do not interfere with their everyday lives. Movement difficulties and problems with the sense of smell have also been linked to MCI. Older people with MCI are at greater risk for developing Alzheimer's, but not all of them do so. Some may even revert to normal cognition.

The first symptoms of Alzheimer's vary from person to person. For many, decline in nonmemory aspects of cognition, such as word-finding, vision/spatial issues, and impaired reasoning or judgment may signal the very early stages of the disease. Researchers are studying biomarkers (biological signs of disease found in brain images, cerebrospinal fluid, and blood) to detect early changes in the brains of people with MCI and in cognitively normal people who may be at greater risk for Alzheimer's. More research is needed before these techniques can be used broadly and routinely to diagnose Alzheimer's in a health care provider's office.

As Alzheimer's worsens, people experience greater memory loss and other cognitive difficulties. Problems can include wandering and getting lost, trouble handling money and paying bills, repeating questions, taking longer to complete normal daily tasks, and personality and behavior changes. People are often diagnosed in this stage.

In recent years, scientists have made tremendous progress in better understanding Alzheimer's and the momentum continues to grow. Still, scientists don't yet fully understand what causes Alzheimer's disease in most people. In people with early-onset Alzheimer's, a genetic mutation may be the cause. Late-onset Alzheimer's arises from a complex series of brain changes that may occur over decades. The causes probably include a combination of genetic, environmental, and lifestyle factors. The importance of any one of these factors in increasing or decreasing the risk of developing Alzheimer's may differ from person to person.

For more information about Alzheimer's disease NIA Alzheimer's and related Dementias Education and Referral (ADEAR) Center 800-438-4380 [adear@nia.nih.gov](mailto:adear@nia.nih.gov) [www.nia.nih.gov/alzheimers](http://www.nia.nih.gov/alzheimers)

The NIA ADEAR Center offers information and free print publications about Alzheimer's and related dementias. [Alzheimers.gov](http://Alzheimers.gov) [www.alzheimers.gov](http://www.alzheimers.gov)

Explore the [Alzheimers.gov](http://Alzheimers.gov) portal for information and resources on Alzheimer's and related dementias from across the federal government.

Alzheimer's Association  
800-272-3900  
866-403-3073 (TTY)  
[info@alz.org](mailto:info@alz.org)  
[www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org)  
Eldercare Locator  
800-677-1116  
[eldercarelocator@n4a.org](mailto:eldercarelocator@n4a.org)  
<https://eldercare.acl.gov>

This content is provided by the NIH National Institute on Aging (NIA). NIA scientists and other experts review this content to ensure it is accurate and up to date.

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## Police Reports

by Cindy Summers

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

### Assault with a Deadly Weapon

On June 19, at approximately 7:45 pm, patrol officers responded to a hit and run in the cul-de-sac at the 300 block of South Dunning. The information indicated that a person had been hit by a vehicle and was lying in the cul-de-sac. The suspect fled in a vehicle before police arrived on scene.

Responding officers found the 54-year-old victim lying in the street, losing consciousness. The victim was transported to VCMC, where she is being treated for life-threatening injuries.

VPD CSI and Detectives responded and began investigating the incident. The investigation revealed the incident started as a domestic violence altercation between the 54-year-old victim and her estranged partner 47-year-old Elizabeth Guillen. During the incident, Guillen ran the victim over with her vehicle causing life-threatening injuries. The victim is currently in the hospital in critical condition.

Detectives located Guillen and the vehicle used in the incident on June 21. Guillen was taken into custody without incident and booked into Ventura County Jail for Assault with a Deadly Weapon and Domestic Violence with Injury.

We encourage anyone with information related to this incident to call the Ventura Police Department at (805) 339-4400.

## Harbor Patrol Blotter

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

**6/08** 5:05pm, while on patrol in Fireboat, officers contacted and escorted a long distance swimmer outside the breakwall back to shore.

**6/09** 9:20am, dispatched to an Ocean Rescue, swimmer caught in a rip current. Officers responded in Fireboat along with State Parks, VFD, AMR. The swimmer was assisted and safely returned to shore.

9:45am, received report of a vessel sinking in slip VWM D-dock. Officers responded in Fireboat with portable pump to dewater a 28ft Columbia. The boat was nearly full, dewatering was successful and the vessel towed to boatyard.

**6/10** 12:06am, received report of vehicles "burning-out" at the Launch Ramp lot. Officers responded, observed vehicles in violation. Issued warning, all left area.

8:15pm, received report of an injured pelican at VWM A-dock. Officers responded and captured the bird for rescue volunteers, to rehabilitate.

**6/11** 8:00am, while monitoring out rigger canoe race in the fireboat, officers ran the fire monitor to honor a recently deceased paddler from the Hokuloa club.

1:13pm, received dispatch to stingray strike at Harbor Cove. Officers responded with hot water to assist State Parks lifeguards with the patient.

**6/12** 3:25pm, observed and received multiple reports of Personal Watercraft in violation of speed and wake ordinance throughout the harbor. Officers contacted many operators at the launch ramp and from the Fireboat. Issued warnings and educated multiple operators on ordinances and operations.

**6/13** 1:22pm, dispatched to a stingray strike at Harbor Cove. Officers responded with hot water to assist State Parks lifeguards with the patient.

**6/15** 2:15pm, dispatched to a stingray strike at Harbor Cove. Officers responded and assisted State Parks Lifeguards with victim, brought hot water for treatment.

2:55pm, dispatched to a stingray strike at Tower 3 Harbor Cove. Officers responded and assisted State Parks with victim with hot water for treatment.

**6/16** 5:51pm, dispatched to an Ocean rescue low at VIM K&L docks for a vessel colliding with vessels. Officers responded in Fireboat to the call. The vessel collided with one vessel and no injuries were sustained. Minor damage occurred

**6/17** 3:37pm, received report of a large peddle boat beset by strong winds in the A-basin near VIM G-dock. Officers responded in the Fireboat to assist. The vessel was found in area reported with 1 POB & towed back to Dreamer rental dock.

**6/18** 7:35am, dispatched to a 90 y/o male unconscious/unresponsive. Officers responded with VFD/AMR to the Ventura Marina Community. Unfortunately, the patient was deceased for awhile and resuscitation efforts were unsuccessful.

**6/19** 11:13am, while on patrol, officers observed a female passed out in a vehicle. After repeated attempts, the individual was awakened and appeared under the influence. She refused any medical treatment and went back to sleep.

5:18pm, received a mayday call via VHF 16 from a disabled 40ft sailboat just outside the harbor, near #4 buoy. Officers responded in the fireboat along with Tow Boat US. The vessel was taken en tow to their slip in VIM C-dock.

**6/20** 4:40am, dispatched to a carbon monoxide alarm at Portside complex. No injuries occurred, firefighters explaining functions of the alarm to owners.

7:33pm, dispatched to chest pain in the Ventura Marina Community. Officers responded with VFD/AMR to a 77 y/o female, she was transported to hospital.

### The Bookmark

## About Libraries and Friends

by Mary Olson

Avenue and Saticoy library branches are participating in Lunch at the Library June 20 through July 28. Ventura County Library, in partnership with Ventura Unified School District through the USDA Summer Food Service Program, is making free lunches available at these locations for children and teens 18 years and under. You do not need to sign-up, show identification, or make an application. Lunch will be served on a first come, first served basis.

This program feeds minds and



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

bodies by serving lunches, promoting literacy and preventing the learning loss that can occur when children are out of school during the summer months. Librarians will be taking the opportunity to introduce visitors to library resources and activities relating to nutrition, food waste and farm-to-table and will provide take-home STEAM kits for kids to explore science, math and technology concepts.

Lunch is served

Avenue Library, 606 N. Ventura Ave., M TU W TH, 11am-12pm

Saticoy Library, 1292 Los Angeles Ave., M TU W TH, 12pm-1pm

Hill Road Library has initiated a quarterly book club for adults who appreciate children's literature. The second meeting of the Wise Owls Book Club will be Tuesday, July 12, at 5 pm. The book to be discussed is Ways to Make Sunshine by Renee Watson. In this book, the Hart family of Portland, Oregon, faces many setbacks after Ryan's father loses his job, but no matter what, Ryan tries to bring sunshine to her loved ones. Visit the Hill Road Library to pick up the latest Wise Owls Book Club selection.

E.P. Foster will host Bilingual

Musician/Singer Nathalia on Monday, July 25, 11 am to noon. Bilingual singer Nathalia is a wonderful performer who will sing in both Spanish and English for children of all ages! This event will be held outside on Main Street.

Ventura Friends of the Library will hold a book sale on Saturday, July 16, 10 am to 3 pm at the Vons at Telegraph and Victoria (6040 Telegraph Rd.) As always, your purchase of quality used books at bargain prices benefits the libraries of the city of Ventura by providing funds for book collections and programs!

The Friends have received an unusual book donation – a collection of more than 700 volumes concerning the Civil War. These include documents from the Union and the Confederacy, memoirs of generals and published academic and popular histories. None of these will be on offer at the July book sale. We are in the process of researching the items in an effort to assure that they are appropriately offered for sale or donated to libraries or academic institutions. If anyone with expertise in vintage or antiquarian books would like to assist in this project, please email friends@venturafriendsofthelibrary.org.

### Trash, Recyclables and Yard/Organic Waste Pick Up Delay Due to the 4th of July Holiday

Due to the Independence Day holiday on Monday, July 4, trash, recyclables and yard/organic waste will be collected one day later than usual the week of July 3-9 in the Cities of Ventura, Ojai and the surrounding areas.

Thank you and Happy Holiday

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# The Pet Page



**Dedicated to Scamp**

SPAN Thrift Store is open to the public and looking for donations of lightly used 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: Tuesday, July 5th at Albert Soliz Library, 2820 Jourdan St., Oxnard; Tuesday, July 12th, Shiels Park, 649 C. St., Fillmore; Tuesday, July 26th, SPAN Thrift Store, 110 N. Olive St., Ventura. Please call to schedule an appointment - (805) 584-3823.

Just like people, dogs can get stomach aches for a variety of reasons, from eating something they shouldn't have to catching a disease. Because these causes have a wide range of severity, many dog owners are unsure of how to respond to a dog showing gastrointestinal (GI) upset and if a trip to the veterinarian is always necessary.

Dr. Emily Gould, a clinical assistant professor at the Texas A&M College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, discusses the common causes and symptoms of digestive issues, as well as what owners can do to help their pup through the pain.

"The most common gastrointestinal issues causing owners to seek veterinary care for their dogs are dietary indiscretion (eating of food that upsets their GI tract), ingestion of a foreign object, intestinal parasites, pancreatitis, and chronic inflammatory intestinal disease (caused by food allergies/intolerance or immune-mediated inflammation)," she said.

The most common symptoms for any form of GI upset are vomiting and diarrhea, which can appear as acute symptoms with a sudden onset or chronic symptoms with multiple episodes over several weeks.

"Some animals with GI upset will also become nauseous, which can manifest as excessive drooling/salivation, lip licking, and lack of interest in food," Gould said. "The development of flatulence and/or loud 'gut sounds' (known as borborygmi) might also be noted in some cases."

Many cases of GI upset will resolve on their own, but there are several symptoms owners can watch out for to determine if a trip to the veterinarian is necessary, including if the dog stops eating or drinking, is depressed/lethargic, has frequent or persistent vomit or diarrhea (lasting beyond 24 hours), blood in the vomitus or diarrhea, or is known to have ingested a foreign object.

"For the most part, if your pet is still acting like itself and eating and drinking normally, there is not always a need to bring them in for

signs lasting less than 48 hours," Gould said. "If signs continue for more than 48 hours or any of the earlier criteria are noted, veterinary care is warranted, as vomiting and diarrhea can cause life-threatening dehydration if medical care is not provided."

One notable cause of GI upset in puppies, specifically, is parvovirus, a condition that can be life-threatening for dogs that have not been fully vaccinated. Unvaccinated puppies with GI issues should always be taken to a veterinarian because parvovirus can cause extreme dehydration and death within 24 hours without supportive care.

"Boiled, skinless chicken or turkey breast mixed with white rice or low-fat cottage cheese can be offered in the short term," Gould said. "The low-fat component makes the food easier to digest and helps the stomach empty its contents quickly."

Other dietary changes that may help resolve and prevent GI upset are feeding smaller, more frequent meals throughout the day and not giving a dog table scraps, raw meat, or foods high in fat.

Because the causes of digestive issues can range from mild to severe, dog owners should always be on the lookout for any signs of discomfort. A quick response, and trip to the veterinarian, if necessary, can save time, money, and even a dog's life.

"Gastrointestinal upset can be very distressing for owners, and it is always better to be on the safe side with having your dog evaluated if you are at all concerned," Gould said. "While many causes of GI upset are not life threatening, some can be, which is why assessment by a veterinarian is never wrong."

Pet Talk is a service of the College of Veterinary Medicine & Biomedical Sciences, Texas A&M University.

By Laura Polacheck

Temperatures are rising soon, so Salt Lake County Animal Services is reminding people that keeping pets safe in the heat will prevent tragic accidents.

On a 70 degree day, the temperature in the car can soar to 116 degrees in as little as 10 minutes.

Animal Control Officers respond to over 500 calls about dogs kept in sweltering car temperatures annually, with over 100 such calls already this year.

Because dogs can't release heat from sweating, their internal body temperature rise quickly and cause heat stroke, which can be deadly.

Senior dogs, puppies, and those with flatter faces, suffer even more in hot weather.

Here's what to do if a dog is spotted in a hot car:

If a pet inside a vehicle excessively panting, non-responsive, drooling, or listless, call 911.

## Scamp Club

(Scampclub pets are not for adoption.)



Sophie Cole is a playful loving Golden Retriever. She is eleven years old. She especially loves treats and a good run on the beach. She is Queen of the courtyard where she lives.

## 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.

Take a photo of the pet, the license plate, and give that information to Animal Control Officers.

Ask managers of nearby businesses to page the owner to return to their vehicle immediately.

What not to do:

Never break a window of a vehicle on your own to pull out a pet, you could be liable for damages.

Don't just leave the A/C on. It's best to leave your pet at home where they can lounge in a comfy, cool place, with plenty of water.

Signs of pet heatstroke include excessive panting, a rapid or erratic pulse, muscle tremors, convulsing, and vomiting.

Pets with these signs should be moved to a cool, shady place, cooled down with water in a tub or stream, fanned to reduce the animal's core temperature, and taken to a veterinarian as soon as possible.

Don't forget to take water for animals on hikes, and make sure to avoid trails with hot sand that can burn an animal's paws.

If the pavement feels too hot to the touch after five seconds, it's too hot for dogs. And while balconies seem like a safe spot, they too can become overheated quickly. When in doubt, leave your dog at home to steal the couch and have access to long drinks of water.

Gardeners should keep in mind that not all plant varieties are safe

for pets. In fact, some are deadly and should be avoided if there are pets in the household.

Choosing the right plants to make our gardens bloom but also be safe for pets can be a daunting task — some plants are toxic for dogs but not cats, and vice versa, so it is important to do your homework before choosing what to plant.

Some of the most common poisonous plants that should be avoided for pets include:

**SAGO PALM:** Also known as the Palm Sunday palm. The entire plant, and the seeds in particular, contain a potent toxin called cycasin that can be fatal, even if the animal only eats a single seed.

**AZALEAS:** Ingesting even a few leaves can cause serious issues such as upset stomach, drooling, loss of appetite, weakness and leg paralysis, and in some cases, coma or death.

**HYDRANGEAS:** These are poisonous to cats, dogs and horses. All parts of the plant are toxic because they contain cyanogenic glycoside. Signs of ingestion include diarrhea, vomiting, lethargy, confusion and depression.

**BIRDS OF PARADISE:** Toxic for both dogs and cats, they also can be fatal for rabbits. They can cause intense burning and irritation of mouth, tongue and lips, excessive drooling, vomiting, diarrhea, difficulty swallowing and loss of coordination is possible.

### Mutts



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# The Pet Page

## Forever homes wanted

Hi! I'm Milo, a very sweet almost 8-year-old Maltese in need of a new home as my owners can no longer afford my medical care for skin allergies and sometimes I get ear and eye infections. I'm taking Prednisone every other day and need a medicated bath at least once a week to help with my skin allergies. I'm good with other dogs and cats. I've been around children as young as 8 months old and did fine. I enjoy walks, a comfy lap, children, older people and watching tv next to someone. If you are interested in meeting me, please fill out an online application. Canine Adoption and Rescue League C.A.R.L.



Meet Sammie, a cuddly 5-year-old Bull Terrier! She's a happy, playful, snuggly lapdog. She loves walks and belly scratches! She was non-reactive when walking past other shelter dogs and did very well with unfamiliar people. She truly seems like a people-pleaser! If you're interested in adopting Sammie, please come to the Camarillo Shelter and ask for her by name, or schedule an Adoption Counseling appointment at <https://www.vcas.us/adopt>.



Adoption Process: [www.vcas.us/adopt](http://www.vcas.us/adopt) Animal ID: A794866

services including case management, mental health counseling, career development and life skills training. The project, built in a campus-like setting, will encourage healthy living, resident engagement and a sense of belonging through outdoor gathering spaces, recreational areas, community garden, fitness center, computer lab and more.

The goal of Ventura Springs is to create a community that will enrich the lives of local veterans and their families that may have a disability, and or experienced homelessness or economic challenges which have made it difficult to afford quality housing.

More than 50,000 veterans are estimated to live in Ventura County. From 2018 to 2019, the number of veterans experiencing homelessness in Ventura County increased by 68 percent, with more than 90 percent over the age of 45, and more than 50 percent reporting a chronic health condition, a physical disability or both.

Financing for Ventura Springs was provided by Bank of America, California Department of Housing and Community Development, California Tax Credit Allocation Committee, City of Ventura, Community Housing Capital, Home Depot Foundation, Housing Authority of the City of Ventura, Housing Trust Fund Ventura County, LISC, Nonprofit Finance Fund and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

In December, the Ventura City Council unanimously voted to give the project \$74,100 from the city's Successor Housing Agency Fund to get the project going. In May 2021, the council approved another \$545,000. In total the city will give \$3.2 million using funds and deferred fees. The project should be completed by the end of 2023 with a grand opening in early 2024.

A Community of Friends has been the leading nonprofit permanent supportive housing developer in Southern California since 1988. U.S. VETS is the largest nonprofit organization with boots on the ground to combat America's veteran crisis head-on.



### The project will provide a safe...

*Continued from page 1*

California Secretary of Business, Consumer Services & Housing Lourdes Castro Ramirez, Ventura Mayor Sofia Rubalcava and other city council members and Supervisor Matt La Vere joined A Community of Friends (ACOF) and U.S.VETS to celebrate the ground-breaking of Ventura Springs.

As the first supportive housing development for veterans in the City of Ventura, Ventura Springs will provide residents with service-enriched housing, and comprehensive onsite supportive

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## Ventura Rotary Fireworks Show and Family Picnic is back

After a two-year absence due to COVID restrictions and challenges, The Rotary Club of Ventura is bringing back the annual 4th of July Fireworks Show and Family Picnic at the Ventura College athletic fields. This year, the event will be held on Sunday, July 3rd with gates opening at 5 pm and the fireworks show beginning at approximately 9 pm.

Mr. Ken Leandro, Rotary event chairperson, explains, "When we contacted the pyrotechnic companies at the start of year, they could not guarantee that they would have an experienced operator available on July 4th. Their business, like many others, imploded the past two years and is facing staffing challenges. Since the dates fall on Sunday/Monday this year, we decided to hold event on Sunday, July 3rd to ensure we have an expert pyrotechnic operator and a world-class fireworks show. We're so excited to bring the event back, and this year's show will be awesome!"

The event almost didn't come back

because of funding challenges too. Mr. Rob Van Nieuwburg, president of Ventura Rotary, explains, "Costs to put the event on have skyrocketed, and our biggest sponsor in past years was not able to return at that level. A couple months ago we were facing a bleak outlook." Thankfully, two local companies have stepped up as major new sponsors ensuring the event is held. "We're so grateful that The Trade Desk is supporting the event. This dynamic company was launched within a technology incubator program at Ventura's City Hall and their support is indicative of their roots and commitment here," says Van Nieuwburg.

Ventura Rotary also gives big thanks to major new sponsor Wheelhouse.

Ventura Rotary is also grateful for the businesses and organizations that have continued to support the event including the Ventura Auto Center, Hofer Properties, Community Memorial Health Systems, EJ Harrison, and the Crown Plaza Ventura Beach.

Says Van Nieuwburg, "All proceeds from this event directly support the local charity work that Rotary does year-round including programs like Coats for Kids, 3rd grade dictionaries, Perspectives on Peace college scholarships, essay contests, holiday events for underprivileged kids,

*Continued on page 16*





*Green Mansions, watercolor, Lorna Amundson*

Buenaventura Art Association:  
A Members Show at  
Harbor Village Gallery & Gifts  
New show ends July 19, 2022

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

# Ventura Art Scene

FOTM is proud to present two Learning To See Outreach student exhibits at local libraries:

The Ojai Library  
Through August 31, 2022  
111 East Ojai Avenue, Ojai  
Hill Road Library

June 13 - August 15, 2022  
1070 South Hill Road, Ventura  
Mama Bird and Baby by Fletcher  
Grade 5, Topa Topa Elementary  
The creative spirit is on display!

Learning To See Outreach (LTS) professional artists taught students in lessons that focused on creative individuals whose indigenous roots inform their artwork with special attention to inspiration from the Earth.

The Ojai Library is hosting an exhibit of Meiners Oaks and Topa Topa Elementary students. Middle school students from Anacapa, Isbell and Rio del Valle are exhibiting at Hill Road Library.



The wonderful water colors of Leavitt Dudley can be seen at the Dudley House. Leavitt Dudley, Miriam and Oscar's son, was an artist. His artwork includes the Rancho Maps of Ventura, Santa Barbara, and Los Angeles, sketches and models for Ventura County Fair, set designs for Paramount Studios, and illustrations for books and magazines.



## This 'n' That



Music Hall donates \$10,000 at ribbon cutting. Photo by Michael Gordon.

## Ribbon Cutting at Ventura Music Hall

by Shirley Lorraine

What a transformation! From lowly beginnings as a popular bowling alley, to the Discovery music venue and now to this – the Ventura Music Hall, a venue specializing in bringing in entertainment of myriad genres suitable for a wide range of ages.

The June 16 event featured a plaque presentation by Ventura Chamber of Commerce President and CEO, Stephanie Caldwell, as well as the ceremonial ribbon cutting. The Hall has been open for a few months and now it is official. The venue is a revamped, redecorated welcome sight, featuring a large kitchen, bar, comfortable and ample seating, accessible dance floor and stage.

Thomas Cussins, President of Ineffable Music, expressed his sincere thanks as he stated how warmly embraced

he and his project has been by Venturans. He said “this shows how Ventura grows and cares about the arts. It is our mission to bolster the arts, impact the community and give back to the organizations that comprise this wonderful community.”

To that end, a portion of each ticket sold will support local arts and nonprofit causes. At the ribbon cutting, a \$10,000 check was presented to the Ventura Music Festival to continue its mission of bringing world-class music to arts patrons. Susan Scott, VMF Executive Director, and VMF Board members gratefully accepted the ceremonial donation.

The Ventura Music Hall is located at 1888 E. Thompson Blvd. Sign up for the newsletter at [www.venturamusichall.com](http://www.venturamusichall.com) to see the talent line up.

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## This 'n' That



Lauren Lanski has seen more of her students affected by the recent shootings.



Lauren Agnew teaches preschool and trusts her school's protocols.



Marcia Amegadzie has open talks with her students about taking action to stay safe.

## New Curriculum of Safety

by Kylee Brown

Whether a teacher has twenty years of experience in the classroom or two months, most are now required to add a new subject to their academic planning in the current school environment: educators are working to plan for safety in schools in the event of a live shooter, and calming worried students afraid their school could be next. This unthinkable idea has increasingly become a grim reality across the U.S.

Lauren Lanski has been with the Ventura Unified School District for 15 years, the last five as a Health Education, Career

Technical Education, and PE teacher at Buena High. She said that with the recent increase in school shootings, she's seen that more of her students have been affected. "After the last major shooting in Texas I've noticed that some of my students were scared, and a few didn't come to school," said Lanski. "I validated their feelings, and at the same time, tried to reassure them that I felt safe and that we'd be ok." However, she shared that she has been on heightened alert for several years. "In the last few weeks with the increase of school shootings, I am

constantly staring at everyone on campus to make sure there's a reason that they should be here," she said.

She does not believe teachers should have to be armed. "I personally do not want to be armed with a gun at school. If I truly felt that afraid that I should have to carry a gun, I'd have to personally reconsider what I'm doing," said Lanski.

Some teachers feel it should be up to individuals to decide if they want to carry a firearm in the classroom. Lauren Agnew is a new preschool teacher and a high school cheer coach. She said she is confident in her school's active shooter protocols but nervous in the presence of guns. When asked if teachers should be armed in the future, she responded, "If they feel comfortable enough to be armed, then yes, I feel like it would be up to the teachers if they feel comfortable doing it or not." Agnew said that if schools allowed teachers to carry on campus, the

school should be responsible for paying for proper training. Amidst the gun violence in schools nationwide, she still feels safe. "You do what you've got to do to protect yourself and keep those kids safe," she said.

It also falls to the teachers to reassure, prepare, and protect students. Marcia Amegadzie has taught PE and Health at Buena for the last ten years. Amegadzie takes an open and strategic role in starting the conversation with her students for tactics to stay safe. "I tell them, 'don't ever be sitting ducks.' I say I would be the first line of defense, and they should look around the classroom to see what they could pick up to use as a weapon," she said. "My approach is, again, if we see a clear path, let's get the heck out of here."

She believes in taking strategic action, but she is very much against teachers carrying on campus. "I feel like that is just a massive disaster waiting to happen if teachers are armed," said Amegadzie. "If a teacher ever feels threatened by a student, what are they going to do? They could say 'I felt my life was in danger,' and the student could possibly be innocent, but it's that teacher's viewpoint of the student and situation. I just think that's a really, really terrible idea."

Amegadzie suggested that more significant investments should be made on campus security instead of focusing money on arming teachers. "In general, schools just need to be more aware, more alert," she said. *Editor: If you are a teacher, student or parent we would love to hear from you about teacher's being armed. editor@venturabreeze.com.*



Top row coaches Larry Molina, Malissa Thompson, Jim Thompson, John Higgins, Shaun Jacobs, and Manager Justin Welch. Players are Taylor Bellitski, Addison Dutter, Adeline Luttenberger, Gianna Speer, Delanie Thompson, Kennedy Welch, Ivy Higgins, Kaylin Jacobs, Valentina Garcia, Mailie Norris and Andrea Molina.

## Ventura Girls Fastpitch 10U Silver Western C District Champions

Congratulations to the Ventura Girls Fastpitch 10U Silver team for becoming the 2022 USA Softball of Southern California Western C District 10U All-Star Tournament Champions in Newbury Park Father's Day weekend.

The team started the tournament Friday night defeating La Canada Spartans (Gold) 12-0. They continued their winning streak Saturday defeating Moorpark Gold All-Stars 6-2 and Camarillo Silver All-Stars 13-5. Sunday morning, they garnered another win against the undefeated Newbury Park Gold All-Stars 3-2, giving them an undefeated record and automatically advancing them to the championship game.

In this 2-game elimination tournament Ventura Silver headed to the Championship Game Sunday afternoon with no prior losses. After waiting 4 hours to find out who their opponent would be in the Championship game, Ventura Silver once again played Newbury Park Gold and lost 11-0 the first game, forcing them

to play a second championship game to determine the ultimate winner.

However, the girls did not let the loss bring their spirits down. Instead, they used the defeat to pump themselves up for the second game. After three innings Ventura failed to score any runs and gave up 2 to Newbury Park. During the 4th inning Ventura scored 5 runs taking the lead and holding it. During the 5th and final inning Ventura scored 4 more runs. For a final score of 9-7 to clinch 1st place and became the 2022 USA Softball of Southern California Western C District 10U All-Star Tournament Champions!

With an overall All-Star season record of 14-5-1 these girls have worked hard, practicing 3 times a week with multiple games on the weekends.

Next stop the 2022 Southern California C State Championship in Lancaster.

The team is sponsored by Kirby Auto Group, Paradise Chevrolet, Sushi Yusho, Theis Construction, Higgins Financial and Insurance Services, and their families.

## Lighter Breeze

Crossword and sudoku can be found at [www.venturabreeze.com](http://www.venturabreeze.com)



**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) Be prepared to face some challenges stirred up by an envious colleague. Your best defense is the Arian's innate honesty. Stick with the truth, and you'll come out ahead.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) Your sensitivity to the needs of others is admirable. But be careful to avoid those who would take unfair advantage of your good nature, especially where money is involved.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) Having an optimistic attitude is fine, as far as it goes. But don't be lulled into a false sense of confidence. There still are problems to deal with before you can totally relax.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) You might feel somewhat "crabby," as you fuss over plans that don't seem to work out. Maybe you're trying too hard. Ease up and let things happen without forcing them.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) Heed that keen Leonine instinct. It's trying to tell you to delay making a decision until you're sure there are no hidden problems that could cause trouble later on.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) This is a good time to reach out to those who might be nursing hurt feelings over recent events. Best advice: Ignore any pettiness that could delay the healing process.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October

22) Your understanding helps a colleague get through a difficult period. Although you didn't do it for a reward, be assured that your actions will be repaid down the line.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) You score some high marks in the workplace, which will count in your favor when you face the possibility of changing direction on your current career path.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) Your goal lies straight ahead. Stay focused on it and avoid distractions that could throw off your aim and cause potentially detrimental delays.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) Keep that burst of exuberance in check and resist pushing through your new project before it's ready. In your personal life, a family member again needs help.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) Paying attention to your work is important this week. But so are your relationships with those special people in your life. Make time for them as well.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) Good news. Someone is about to repay a long-standing debt. But be warned. That same someone could try to charm you into lending it back unless you say no and mean it.

**BORN THIS WEEK:** You are sensitive to matters that involve your home and family. You would make a fine family-court judge or social worker.

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## Showtime

A View from House Seats

# Music Man Brings in Summer in Ojai

by Shirley Lorraine

The Ojai Art Center Theater is now running what may be the quintessential summer musical – the ever popular *The Music Man* by Meredith Wilson. Since first introduced in 1957, *The Music Man*, encapsulating the innocent charm of a bygone America, has been a favorite for both audiences and actors alike.

Perennially popular songs including seventy-Six Trombones, Till There was You and Trouble in River City, are once again brought to life by the inimitable Professor Harold Hill and others.

The story begins on the Fourth of July 1912, in the small town of River City, Iowa. Harold Hill, a charming conman, comes to town with a scheme to hornswoggle the citizens into believing he can teach the local youth how to play instruments in a marching band. The plan is to get the parents to buy the instruments, uniforms and instructions. Professor Hill plans to leave the area with the money before the wares are due to arrive. However, local librarian Marion Paroo catches Hill's eye and, despite knowing his true motives, she persuades him to stay. Ultimately the positive influence of hope pervades, and the town rejoices. All is well in River City.

Directed by OACT's Executive Director Tracy Williams Sutton, the large cast is filled with seasoned and up-and-coming talents alike. Larry Toffler leads the band as the charismatic Professor Hill. His performance is energetic, and he delivers the rapid-fire patter quite well. He is paired with Darrienne Lissette Caldwell as Marion the librarian. Caldwell has a beautiful operatic voice which does not need a microphone to be heard clearly. Vocal blending still

needs some refinement, in my opinion, as Caldwell's vocal strength frequently overwhelms any other musical action.

Watching the younger members of the cast shine was a treat. Abby Duclos as Amaryllis, Lily Giuliani as Zaneeta Shinn and Benny Schurmer as Tommy Djilas are particularly of note. Kai Maal-King is wonderful as the reticent Winthrop, delivering his song Gary, Indiana with precision.

The show features live musical accompaniment situated at the rear of the set. This enabled the front of the stage to be useful in many ways and the audience to enjoy the music as opposed to straining to hear the actors over the musicians. Good move, Director Sutton.

A featured highlight, for me, is always the quartet. As Professor Hill entices the school board members to experiment with their voices, the quartet quickly becomes a unit to favorable effect. There are some wonderful voices in there.

The Pick-a-Little Ladies also add concise delivery and comic flair. Several quite strong voices carry the songs, and with a few more performances under their belts, their blending should also settle in.

Also of note are veteran actor Bill Spellman as the befuddled Mayor George Shinn, his wife Eulalie Mackecknie Shinn played to the hilt by Marisa Miculian, and Andrew Eiden as Marcellus Washburn.

The *Music Man* will lift your spirits and provide a family-friendly entrée to the summer in Ojai.

Performances continue Fridays and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. through July 26. Reservations [www.ojaiact.org](http://www.ojaiact.org) or (805) 647-8797.



The Museum's transformation led visitors on an historical journey. Photos by Patricia Schallert and staff.

## Museum of Ventura County reception

The Museum of Ventura County held an open reception introducing the new exciting exhibitions and welcomed guests to a free event on June 18th, in Ventura. The Museum debut included *All That Glitters Is Not Gold*, *Always Keep Creating*, *Chromatic: The Museum in Six Colors* and *Behind The Curtain: An insider's look at the George Stuart Historical Figures*.

The Museum's transformation led visitors on an historical journey, from the 1920's as lived by residents of Ventura County and through 100 years of collected Country artifacts displayed in eye catching chromatic brilliance, to a celebration of Carol Rosenak's artistic range.

*All That Glitters Is Not Gold* is about the surprising history of the 1920s and Prohibition in Ventura County. As population and wealth boomed, creativity flourished – but so did a tide of repression and exclusion. This exhibit tells the local story of the jazz age through collections and archives.

The event included fine finger food, wine and music.

On June 15, an exclusive behind the scenes, pre-public opening press tour with Actor Curator of Collections, Renee Tallent and Research Library & Archives Director, Deya Terrafranca was held unveiling the exciting 2022 exhibit transformation.

The Museum of Ventura County is located at 100 E Main St. The Museum celebrates, preserves and interprets the art, history and culture of Ventura County, the California Channel Islands and the surrounding region through its collections, exhibitions, events, educational programs, publications and its research library, and serves as a gathering place for the community.

The Museum has two locations – the main museum is located at 100 East Main Street, Ventura, California (805-653-0323). The Agriculture Museum is located at 926 Railroad Avenue, Santa Paula, California (805-525-3100). Both museums are open Thursdays through Sundays, 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. – [venturamuseum.org](http://venturamuseum.org).

Streaming Spotlight by Cindy Summers

## Good Luck to You, Leo Grande

– Hulu Originals



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

In *Good Luck to You, Leo Grande*, Nancy Stokes (Emma Thompson) was a retired religious education teacher that never experienced an orgasm, having spent her life faking them for her husband during the passionless, predictable sex they had for 31 years. Her husband, who died two years prior, had been the only man she had ever had sex with so she decided to hire a compassionate sex worker named Leo Grande (Daryl McCormack), who gently worked to disarm her insecurities about sex and her own physical appearance.

During their first meeting, Nancy was very apprehensive spending most of the time asking Leo questions about his life and work, though they did eventually end up in bed together. A week later Nancy booked Leo for a second time with a bucket list of sexual acts that she wanted to do having never experienced. Her past as a teacher was why she used a list, giving her discomfort a

matter of structure and also having a sense of accomplishment being able to “check things off her list”.

Leo tried to help Nancy understand that her reservations weren't about sex in general, rather that she needed to work on letting go from what holds her back and her own judgment. To relax her, Leo put on some music and despite her initial objection got Nancy to start dancing and feeling free in her body. Leo started with a simple massage that relaxed Nancy enough to ask Leo if he would take off his shirt so she could explore the contours of his chiseled physique, and ultimately were able to check one thing off Nancy's list.

Leo explained he had many different types of clients: one that wanted to just watch TV, another wanted to have quick ten minute sex with no talking at all, one just wanted him to dress up as a cat and ignore him for an hour, another was a woman who couldn't walk that wanted him to bath her and join her in the bath, and that he never judged any of them. Nancy said he was some kind of sex saint. Feeling more comfortable with him, Nancy shared she had always been ashamed about her body but Leo's charm and charisma helped her to begin to see herself differently.

During their third meeting, they still spent most of the time talking due to Nancy discomfort, through which they discovered they were both using aliases, not their real names. Nancy asked Leo to reveal his real name and confessed that she actually did

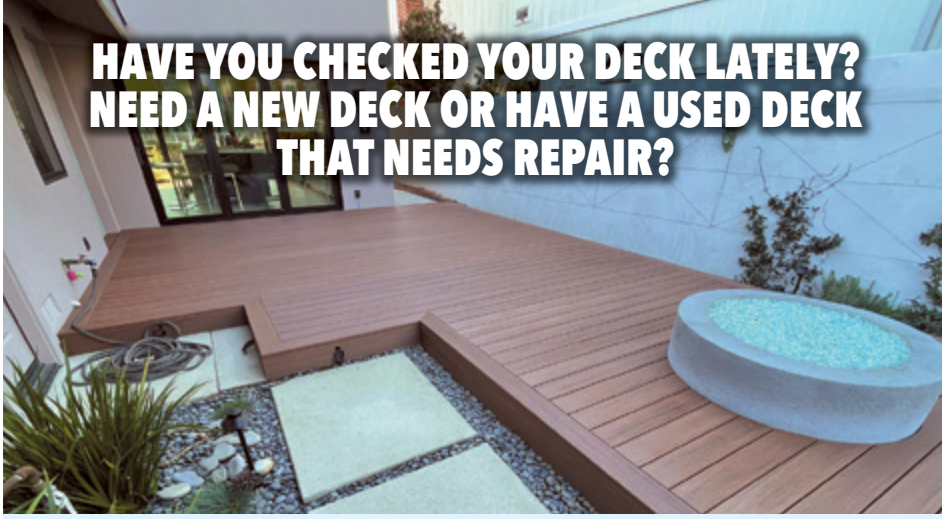
some internet sleuthing and knew who he was, which to Leo had crossed his boundaries. It was apparent that Nancy had become attached to Leo due to their intimate conversations, even offering to explain to his mother about his life as a sex worker, which made him angry and leave telling her to never contact him again.

A short time later Nancy requested a fourth meeting at the hotel coffee shop just to talk, which to her surprise Leo did oblige. She thanked Leo for what they shared, telling him she felt more alive and powerful in their month together than she could remember and told Leo she even recom-

*Continued on page 16*



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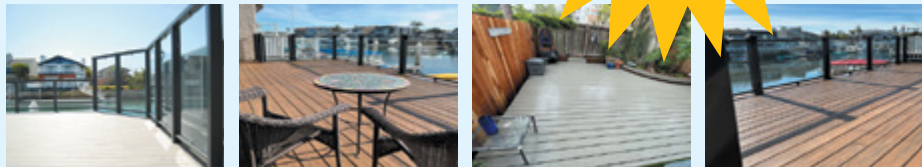


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## Chef William Traynor brings passion and sustainability to the Crowne Plaza's New Moofish Cafe

by Amy Brown

Executive Chef William Traynor discovered an affinity and ability for cooking early in life during Home

Economics classes during high school. In fact, by his senior year, the school had him help teach some of the classes. After high school he enrolled in the Santa Barbara City College hotel restaurant culinary program, and in the subsequent years worked his way up the ladder in this demanding and competitive profession. Once he graduated from the program in Santa Barbara, he held an apprenticeship at the American Culinary Federation, which included a role at what was then Fess Parker's Red Lion. He later moved to San Francisco, where he further honed his craft in opening restaurants like Restaurant Lulu. He returned to Santa Barbara in 1996 and has worked in prestigious locations in Los Angeles and Ventura County area ever since. His most recent appointment as Executive Chef at

## This 'n' That

the Crowne Plaza is opening the Ocean Friendly-certified Moofish Cafe. This accreditation from the Surfrider Foundation demonstrates a commitment to sustainability and environmental best practices, including stringent criteria for reducing items like single use utensils, plastics, polystyrene and paper. The new surf-themed restaurant located on the boardwalk near the pier also embraces a commitment to locally sourced and grown ingredients and a "Farm-and-Sea-to-Fork" philosophy, and includes its own herb garden used for the menu on its back deck.

During his long and successful career, Traynor's been influenced by a range of successful thought leaders in the restaurant world. "My first chef was Larry Ross in Santa Barbara, he basically threw me into roles in every single kitchen in the apprentice program at that multimillion-dollar food and beverage outfit," said Traynor. "Bakery, fine dining, banquet—it was really valuable." He also worked for James Beard winner

hard to get bored—we're so lucky to have all of these wonderful ingredients available."

He said he appreciates the freedom he is given by the company to be creative, and in helping create the new restaurant and its menu. Its beachfront location makes following another passion easy—he also keeps some of his surfboards stored on the wall of the restaurant, along with signed boards from surfing superstars like Rob Machado and Kelly Slater, and a video screen with a feed from the surf camera on the roof of the Crowne Plaza. Chef Traynor regularly paddles out early in the morning right out front at C Street. When asked for advice for anyone considering a career as a chef, he said, "Choose the chefs that make the types of food you like to eat, and learn from them. Don't worry about the money—if you have the passion, the money will follow."

### Ventura Rotary Fireworks Show

*Continued from page 11*

weekly free eye clinics and much more." Leandro adds, "So when a family buys a ticket to the event, or a business supports through sponsorship, they really are contributing to their own community."

As in past years, the event is family-focused with a Kids Zone featuring many bounce houses and organized games like potato sack races and water balloon toss. This year, thanks to sponsors, fun on the bounce houses is included with child's admission!

Families can bring a picnic, a blanket and soft low back folding chairs, and there will also be tasty food available from several Food Trucks. The main stage will have live music and fun giveaways. (No glass. No alcohol. No pets.)

Tickets are available for online purchase at [www.VenturaFireworks.com](http://www.VenturaFireworks.com). Tickets can also be purchased at the gate (cash only at the gate). For more information, please visit [www.VenturaFireworks.com](http://www.VenturaFireworks.com) where details are updated regularly.

Note: The VPD wants to remind you that fireworks are illegal in the City of Ventura.

Fourth of July is synonymous with sun, fun, barbequing, and fireworks. The Ventura Police and Fire Departments encourage community members to enjoy a safe and sane Fourth of July and do their part to help prevent fires and injuries caused by illegal fireworks.

During the Fourth of July holiday weekend, the Ventura Police Department will deploy as many police resources as possible to help catch fireworks violators. If you see a neighbor lighting fireworks, call 9-1-1 if the activity is in-progress or poses an immediate threat to yourself or others.

Anyone found in possession of fireworks, or caught using them, could be fined up to \$1,000 and/or receive a jail term of up to a year.

### Good Luck to You, Leo Grande

*Continued from page 15*

mended him discretely to a few friends. She apologized having realized that she became emotionally invested in the situation and also told Leo her real name. All seemed to clear the air between them and reignite their casual friendship gained through their unique situation.

Good Luck to You, Leo Grande is an insightful, compassionate look into sex positivity and to say there's a big reveal at the end would be an understatement, though not in the way most would assume from the storyline, and actually is extremely heartwarming and triumphant.

Rated: R

Runtime: 1h 37m



Traynor stays innovated by exploring new styles and trends and reading many cookbooks.

Reed Hearon, and later was hired as the second American chef every hired at Padres Martini Bar in Agoura Hills. "Another major influence on my career was working with Tim Kilcoyne, at the Sidecar restaurant in Ventura," he said. "He was focused on using local ingredients 12 years ago, before anyone else was really doing it."

Traynor shared that he stays innovative by exploring new styles and trends and reading many cookbooks. "I experiment a lot in the kitchen and see what works and what doesn't. Whatever is looking good at the farmers market I'll pick up and play around with it," he shared. "Being in California it's

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