

Have a Happy New Year!



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Front row - Jim Friedman, Jeanette Sanchez-Palacios, Sofia Rubalcava, Jim Duran, and Liz Campos.
Back row - Lorrie Brown, Joe Schroeder, Mike Johnson, Doug Halter, and Bill McReynolds.

New Ventura City Councilmembers sworn into office

The City of Ventura has sworn in four newly elected Councilmembers at the City Council reorganization meeting hosted on Monday, December 12, 2022.

The oaths of office for council districts were taken for Liz Campos (District 1), Jeannette Sanchez-Palacios (District 4), Bill McReynolds (District 5), and Jim Duran (District 6). The new members join the seven-seat Council, which includes Councilmembers Joe Schroeder (District 7), Doug Halter (District 2), and Mike Johnson (District 3).

The Council also held nominations for the Mayor and Deputy Mayor's elections. Joe Schroeder was selected as Mayor, and Jeannette Sanchez-Palacios

was selected as Deputy Mayor.

The Council selects both titles of Mayor and Deputy Mayor among its members every two years. The mayor's duties are to preside over the sessions of the Council, sign official documents, and act as the official head of the City. The mayor has the power to administer oaths and affirmations but has no power of veto. The Deputy Mayor shall act as Mayor in the absence or disability of the mayor.

During the meeting, the Council, City staff, and community members also recognized and thanked outgoing members, including Mayor Sofia

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Aera Energy and the Gene Haas Foundation help Ventura teens explore STEAM

Aera Energy and the Gene Haas Foundation are helping get middle and high school teens at the Boys & Girls Club of Greater Ventura (BGC GV) excited about STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and mathematics). STEAM weaves in critical thinking with experimental and dynamic learning at its core. Each organization donated \$25,000 – for a total of \$50,000 – to elevate STEAM programming at each of the club's four locations in Ventura, Saticoy and Oak View.

The expanded programming will begin in 2023 and continue thereafter. The club will be adding a STEAM programs manager, who will focus on middle and high school STEAM programs at all four club sites: Harrison, LeFevre, West End Teen Center and Oak View Teen Center.

“Our clubs offer a nurturing environment where youth can thrive,” said Patti Birmingham, chief executive officer, Boys & Girls Club of Greater Ventura. “Aera Energy and the Gene Haas Foundation are making it possible for our teens to explore careers in STEAM and have hands on practical experience, which can translate to great paying jobs for them. Most of our youth do not realize how many local careers are within their reach.”

This gift from Aera Energy and the Gene Haas Foundation will also provide BGC GV with funding to purchase 3D printing and robotic supplies, tinkering and circuit-building kits. The club will also be able to enhance its existing coding and engineering programs and start a cybertechnology program, enabling the

Continued on page 3



The Boys & Girls Club of Greater Ventura makes positive and lasting impacts on the lives of Ventura teens.

Happy New Year!
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Local Government News

Ventura Water General Manager's Message

Thank you, Ventura, for an amazing 2022! We have accomplished so much in this year and met so many challenges. As we faced another dry year, we were asked to conserve even more. We met those unprecedented levels of water conservation while continuing to see new development within the City. Our team hit the ground to message conservation by setting up booths at community events, engaging our customers via social media, following up on water waste reports and more. Not only did we benefit from the City reaching up to 29% reduction in water use, our hard-working Conservation Team won an award from the Tri-Counties Section of the California Water Environment Association (CWEA) for the Community Engagement and Outreach Program of the Year! We add this to another award from the Ventura County Chapter of the American Public Works Association (APWA) for Environmental Project of the Year for the Foster Park Fish Passage Project. Our Engineering and Environmental Teams worked to produce a project that meets the needs of our ecologically sensitive water source and have been recognized by their peers for a job well done!

As we wrap up 2022, we look at what we need to do in the future. Our "Wastewater Pollutant Series" gives insight

into keeping our water safe and clean (and crafty!) In closing, you will see in our holiday schedule notice below, that City offices will be closed the week of December 26th thru January 2, 2023. But, as always, if you need assistance you can reach us by means of the methods given in the notice.

Respectfully,
Gina Dorrington

Our City Council explained

There are 7 members of the Ventura City Council. Starting with the 2018 Election, four (4) Councilmembers were elected by Districts with the remaining three (3) Councilmembers elected by Districts in 2020. While elected by Districts, each member represents the interests of the City as a whole.

Elections to select Councilmembers are held on the 1st Tuesday after the 1st Monday in November of the even numbered years. The newly elected Councilmembers assume their seat on the City Council in December, after the election is certified and serve for a term of four years.

At the same time, the Council is reorganized and one of its members is selected to be Mayor. The Mayor serves a term of 2 years. He/She is the presiding officer of the Council. The Mayor has been delegated the responsibility to act as the City Council's ceremonial representative at public events and functions. The Deputy



Mayor is also selected in the same manner and serves a 2-year term.

City Councilmembers serve a term of 4 years with the terms being staggered on a 2-year basis with three (3) members being elected at one election and four (4) at the next. The terms commence from/after 8 p.m. of the day of the first regular meeting in December following the election. To be placed on the ballot a candidate, during the Nomination Period, must circulate a nomination form provided by the City Clerk, gathering not more than 30, but not less than 20 signatures of registered voters in that District to qualify for placement on the ballot. Please see Elections for more information on the District-Based Election process and Nomination Period Dates.

The election of members of the Council prior to 2018 had been from the City at-large with candidates receiving the highest number of votes shall be declared elected until the number declared elected equals the number of Council offices to be filled at the election. Starting with the 2018 Election, City Council members are elected by Districts. Candidates must live in their District and reside in that District once Elected. All ties shall be decided by lot in the presence of the candidates concerned and under the direction of the election authorities.

These are the emails of your City Council members. If you think that something in the City is wrong or right or needs improving, please email them and let them know. They are there to serve you.

Bill McReynolds, Councilmember-District 5-
bmcreynolds@cityofventura.ca.gov

Doug Halter, Councilmember - District 2 - dhalter@cityofventura.ca.gov

Jeannette Sanchez-Palacios Deputy Mayor - District 4 -
jpalacios@cityofventura.ca.gov

Joe Schroeder, Mayor District 7 -
jschroeder@cityofventura.ca.gov

Mike Johnson, Councilmember District 3 -
mjohnson@cityofventura.ca.gov

Liz Campos, Councilmember-District 1-
lcampos@cityofventura.ca.gov

Jim Duran, Councilmember-District 6-
jduran@cityofventura.ca.gov

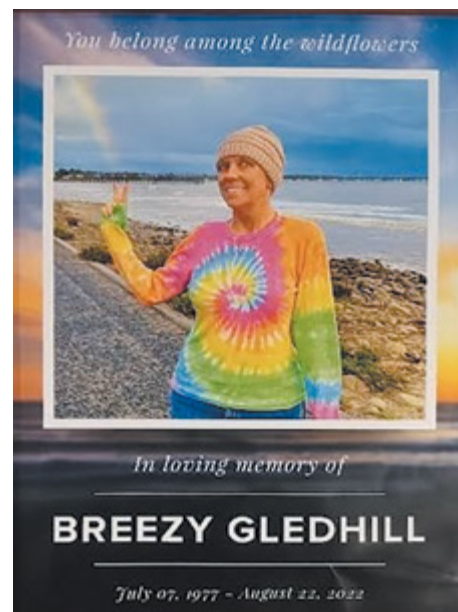
As I See It by Sheldon Brown

This is the time of the year when I usually reflect on what has been good and bad about the Ventura Breeze. What has worked and what hasn't? What needs improving or changing?

But this year, I'm only reflecting on one thing which is the untimely passing of the most wonderful Breezy Gledhill. There are very few days that I don't think of her (maybe none).

I'm usually wanting to share a Breezy moment by texting her, but she is not here. Wanting to share a photo by emailing her, but she is not here. A new restaurant would open, and we would have lunch there to check it out, but she is not here.

I (and all that knew her) miss her dearly. Take care - keep your loved ones close. Thanks for the Breeze support in 2022. A toast to a brighter and happier 2023.



Mail Box

Breeze:

Thanks for printing the article by Richard Senate. The way the Missions allowed Spanish soldiers to kill the Natives and rape their women is disgusting. They were slaves and yet no reparations have ever been offered. It was the only slavery in California except when Native American tribes made slaves of other tribes defeated in raids and warfare. I am not sure what happened back then and I question Mr. Senate's story. The Mojave is quite far from the Ventura Mission. I have heard there was a Native American uprising around 1819. General DeLaGuerra chased Chumash fleeing and killed them all. Disease ravaged the population and without slaves the missions fell

apart. Anyway, if interested, there is a great class at Moorpark College. And at Santa Barbara city college spring 2023.

Sincerely,
Maryanne deGoede

Opinion:

This time of year I reflect on what Ventura needs to have to attract visitors. There is a line in the Musical "Hello Dolly" I recall, Barnaby says he wants to go to New York's Barnum's Museum to see the stuffed White Whale. It was something that excited him to see this unique display. That's what Ventura needs a "White Whale" something that no one else, no other city in the west, has. It must be grand and will serve as a magnet

for tourism. But, what could it be? I am sure the creative readers of the Breeze maybe able to come up with something that could draw people to our community. Remember--it must be unique. Here are some of my ideas: Good and bad.

1. A signature event. Santa Barbara has "Old Spanish Days," Oxnard has "The Strawberry Festival" what do we have? Well, most of the calamari consumed in the state come out of Ventura's Harbor. We could have a Calamari Festival at the Harbor with

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

Always remember that you are absolutely unique. Just like everyone else.
- Margaret Mead



There were approximately 70 volunteers throughout the day.

The California Highway Patrol provided each child with a toy

On December 17, over 500 people attended the holiday event for west end families, including 347 children. The event was hosted by the Rotary Club of Ventura, Coats for Kids (which distributed over 347 coats), Boys and Girls Club of Greater Ventura, Chick-fil-A (which gave away breakfast entree gift cards), Arise Ventura, and Food Share (which gave away food boxes).

The California Highway Patrol provided each child with a toy. Kids selected earrings to give to their moms which were made and donated by Rotary member Mary Saputo. Participants enjoyed taking photos with Santa and his Elf. Some teens will receive Vans shoes in January if the donated sizes fit them.

There were approximately 70 vol-

unteers throughout the day made up of Arise Ventura, Boys & Girls Club of Greater Ventura staff & teens, Rotary Club of Ventura, Interact volunteers from Foothill Technology & Pacific High Schools, and the CHP.

The event was sponsored by a generous donation from SoCalGas. "SoCalGas is proud to support the Rotary Club of Ventura's "Coats for Kids" program which distributed over 347 coats this weekend to children and their families. The work the Rotary does to serve our neighbors in need is truly inspiring and we are proud to support their efforts. "SoCalGas is committed to supporting local organizations that are working to bring holiday cheer," said Maria Ventura, SoCalGas Senior Public Affairs Manager.

our mascot Carmen Calamari (Think a squid version of Carmen Miranda). We could have Calamari Burgers, Calamari ice cream! A Calamari parade!

2. A suggestion was put forward many years ago for a Steam Punk, Captain Nemo like aquarium at the harbor to honor the sea life of the Pacific Coast. It could also Honor Jules Vern the French Writer who invented the future.

3. Maybe we need a focal point for the city. A statue that will draw

people from all over. A signature image. Something non-controversial like a native American.

4. Maybe a large, ornate town clock like they have in Europe. That would ring and have animated performers.

5. Maybe a special dish that was developed in Ventura? Corn taquitos were invented here! The Ortega Chili was developed here by Mr. Ortega. That could be a creation to be celebrated!

Maybe you have some better ideas. Richard Senate

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June Fog

The cloudy mist,
A sprinkle in the air.
Fog looms heavy,
Yet the winds are near.

Early Harbor breeze,
Parts the clouds.
Breaks the June fog,
Pushes it off the pier.

by Jeff Russell

Aera Energy and the Gene Haas Continued from page 1

club to connect with and inspire more teens to reach their fullest potential.

BGCGV is also providing career exploration programming to its teens, with both virtual and inperson tours of local businesses – recognizing that there are many paths to STEAM careers. It's also providing teens access to a variety of careers that can be attained right after high school, through technical training or through institutions of higher learning.

"The Boys & Girls Club of Greater Ventura makes positive and lasting impacts on the lives of Ventura teens," said Erin Larner, manager of operations for Aera-Ventura. "We're excited to help amplify their work to help teens learn about science, technology, engineering, arts and math fields, explore potential careers, and help them realize their full potential. This is one of the ways we at Aera are working to improve the lives of residents in the communities where our employees live and work!"

"The Gene Haas Foundation is proud to support all of the clubs of Greater Ventura," said Joanne Haas, Director of Community Grants California and

Nevada. "We appreciate all of the hard work and dedication that goes into providing a nurturing environment and educating the kids of our community."

New Ventura City Councilmembers Continued from page 1

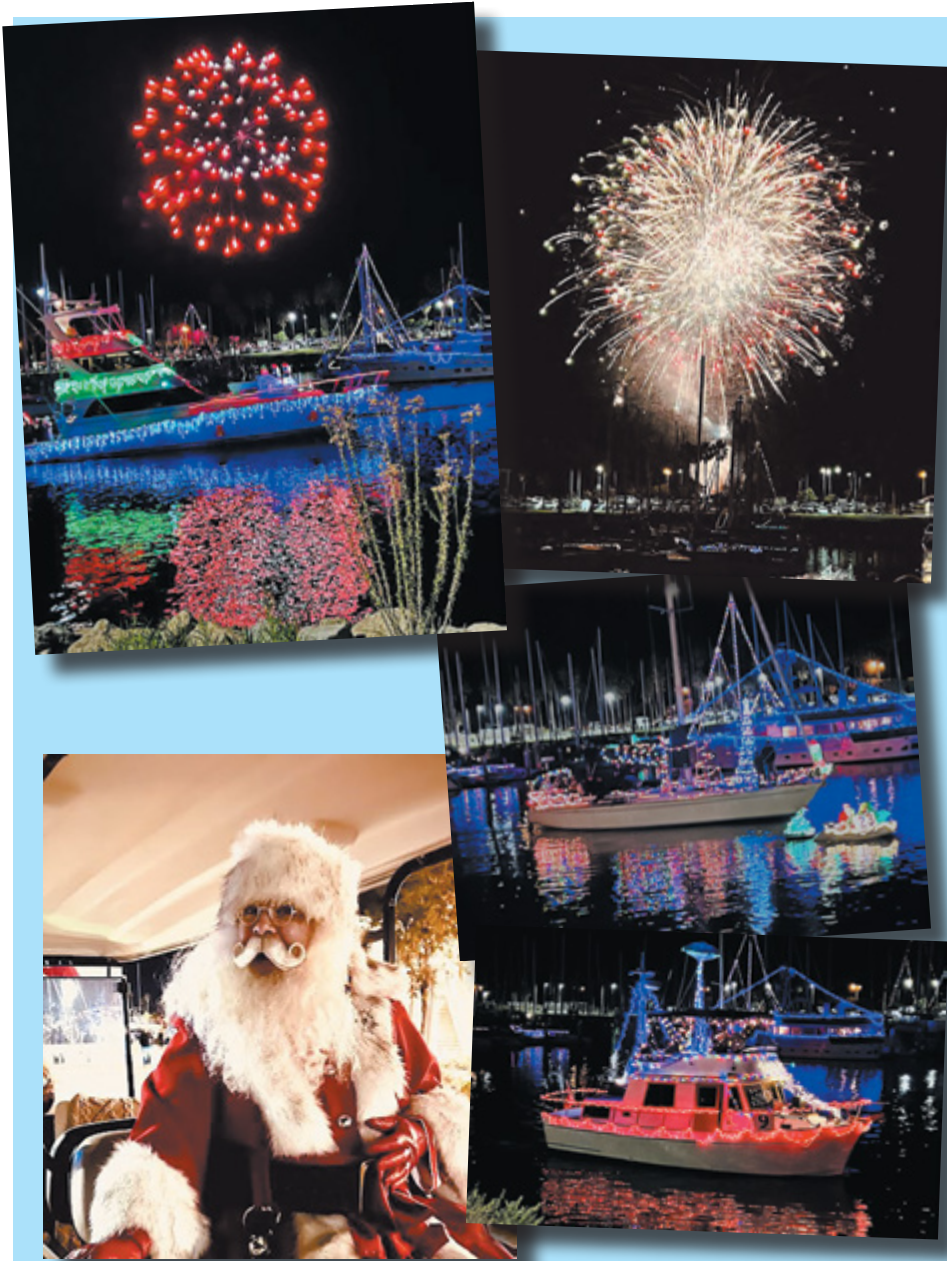
Rubalcava, who served from 2018-2022; Councilmember Jim Friedman, who served from 1995-2003 and again from 2018-2022; and Councilmember Lorrie Brown, who served from 2018-2022.

The City Council meeting and oath of office ceremony are available on the City of Ventura's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/CityofVentura.

To learn more about the Ventura City Council, visit www.CityofVentura.ca.gov/CityCouncil.

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On December 16 & 17 the Ventura Harbor held the Parade of Lights "Out of This World." The boat parade was ended with a beautiful display of fireworks.
Photos by Patricia Schallert.

Biggest-ever group of Ventura County students graduate from pre-engineering program

More than 30 high school students from around Ventura County graduated from Naval Surface Warfare Center, Port Hueneme Division (NSWC PHD)'s fall 2022 Pre-Engineering Program – the biggest cohort to date for the rigorous after-school program.

The Dec. 13 graduation ceremony at the Oxnard Harbor District office in Port Hueneme culminated a 12-week career exploration course in which 32 students from Oxnard Union High School District, Ventura Unified School District (USD) and Santa Paula USD learned from real-life naval engineers and gained hands-on experience.

"One of the beauties of this program is what we call positive professional touch points," said Ramon Flores, NSWC PHD's science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) coordinator, speaking to families at the graduation. "Your students had the opportunity to engage with more than 30 engineers and scientists over the course of 12 weeks to learn all things engineering."

NSWC PHD facilitates the Pre-Engineering Program twice per year in part-

nership with the school districts and other naval organizations. The fall 2022 session was the first to include students from Santa Paula USD, which signed an Educational Partnership Agreement with NSWC PHD in July, enabling the naval command to share educational resources with the school district.

During the Pre-Engineering Program, students rotated through engineering instructors to hear their career stories and to design, build and test projects that represent several disciplines, from systems and electrical engineering to environmental and aeronautical engineering. The instructors were professional engineers with NSWC PHD, Naval Facilities Engineering and Expeditionary Warfare Center (NAVFAC EXWC) at Naval Base Ventura County, the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California, and the Engineering Duty Officer School on the NSWC PHD campus.

After applying for the competitive Pre-Engineering Program through their school counselors, the selected participants took the weekly classes at Fathomwerx Lab on top of their regular academic schedules. After completing the program, the students earned credit toward graduation, a certificate of achievement and a letter of recommendation signed by NSWC PHD Deputy Technical Director Michael Ladner.

During the graduation ceremony, naval officials and school district administrators praised the students for dedicating their time and efforts to expand their STEM knowledge and their career prospects.

Joe Bova, career technical education

Congratulation to the Winners of
OUT OF THIS WORLD
Ventura Harbor Parade of Lights 2022

 SWEEPSTAKES (SAIL 30' & OVER) HEAVENLY	 SHOWSTOPPER (SAIL 30' & OVER) LUCKY SPIN	 PEOPLE'S CHOICE SMOOTH JAZZ	 SWEEPSTAKES (POWER 26' & OVER) IRON WIND	 SHOWSTOPPER (POWER 25' & UNDER) WATTS UP TWO
Human Powered 1st Place: Ventura Outrigger 2nd Place: Hokuloa Outrigger	Dinghy/Duffy 1st Place: Eaglet 2nd Place: Among Us	Power 26' & Over 1st Place: Lone Star 2 2nd Place: Ranger	Power 25' & Under 1st Place: Aloha Ohana 2nd Place: Islakiki	Sail 30' & Over 1st Place: Smooth Jazz 2nd Place: Alolkoj
Commercial 1st Place: Crustacean 2nd Place: Chop Gun		Non-Profit 1st Place: The Leo Robbins		

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administrator at Ventura USD, said that his district and others across the county are working to bring more skill-based opportunities like the Pre-Engineering Program to more students.

“This program is a shining star of the community that everyone should be looking to in terms of work-based learning,” Bova said.

Students from Ventura were:

Buena High School Peter Nguyen
Jordan Tran

El Camino High School Christian
McGrath Maximus True Bashar Zaher

Foothill Technology High School
Alexander Edwards Antonio Franco
Andrew Hotzler

Ventura High School Léo Crampé
Jeannie Ortega Fuentes Liam Genkel
Arkiran Khaira

Pacifica High School Kalia Lomeli

For more information, contact
Theresa McKenrick, NSWC PHD public
affairs officer, at (805) 228-0332 or
theresa.c.mckenrick.civ@us.navy.mil.



Before coming to work in Ventura, Gilman was the Behavioral Health Director for San Mateo County.

Crisis Now Program of Ventura County

by Carol Leish, MA

“I don’t think of all the misery, but of the beauty that still remains”—Anne Frank Scott Gilman, who became the new director of Ventura County Behavioral Health Department in August, 2022, said, “We have an incredible opportunity to improve Ventura County mental health crisis services using the ‘Crisis Now’ Community Planning framework. Sevet Johnson, Ph.D., identified improving mental health crisis services as one of the county’s top priorities.”

Before coming to work in Ventura, Gilman was the Behavioral Health Director for San Mateo County. Gilman also served as CEO of a community mental health and substance use-health center in Michigan.

“The Crisis Now Planning Project,” according to Gilman, “would be funded by the Mental Health Services Act (mhsa@ventura.org). We’ll be able to focus on coordinating current resources into four core elements. This will include: 1) A High-tech Crisis Call Center; 2) A 24/7 Mobile Crisis Team; 3) Commitment to evidenced-based safe care practices, such as Trauma-Informed Care and Zero Suicide principles; and, 4) A multidisciplinary approach to crisis resolutions.

“The National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention in 2016 produced, ‘Crisis Now: Transforming Services is Within Our Reach,’ which has been doc-

umented to be a proven strategy to crisis response with the four core elements listed above.

“The Crisis Now model enables counties to assess community crisis care needs, enhance access to care, and realizes the overall cost savings.” (Crisis Now Multi-County Innovation Plan Mental Health Services Oversight & Accountability Commission.)”

Those who are struggling with suicidal thoughts, please call: ‘988’ (Suicide & Crisis Lifeline)

Or, locally, call the Ventura County Behavioral Health Crisis Team: ‘866-998-2343.’

“It’s important to get the help that you need in order to deal with a crisis in order to realize that you are not alone, and that your situation will improve. For further resources, visit: www.WellnessEveryDay.Org. (“Preventing Suicide: Connections & Community 7th Annual Forum’-Ventura Breeze’-September 21-October 4, 2022.)

According to Gilman, “The four phases of the Crisis Now Innovation Project are/have been: 1) (October-December, 2022) Identifying County data gathering for current crisis responses; 2) (January-February, 2023) Stakeholder Engagements; 3) (February-March, 2023) Innovation Plan Project Design & Budget plan; and, 4) (April-May, 2023) Crisis Now Innovation Plan & Presentation to the Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission for ongoing funding.

“The county also has plans to expand upon crisis stabilization units, along with more crisis beds. Because no two individuals in crisis are the same, we need multiple levels of care that can respond to a variety of unique situations and are not necessarily dependent on law enforcement. Our system of mental health care must also address substance abuse challenges. We know that many individuals experiencing a mental health crisis also have substance use issues. Resolving the immediate crisis is only the beginning of the journey. To ensure individuals are successful, we must continue to build our community-based treatment system so that supports are in place when needed. I believe our community is ready to come together to make this happen.”

Follow-up articles will be done in order to show the progress and changes that have been made.

United Way of Ventura County provides permanent homes for 110 households

United Way of Ventura County’s Landlord Engagement Program has officially provided permanent housing for 110 local households with a 96% retention rate. This means 188 individuals, including 45 veterans, now have a place to call home in the Ventura County community.

Homelessness and housing challenges have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, and limited affordable housing supply, extremely low vacancy rates, and rising rents make

Continued on page 16

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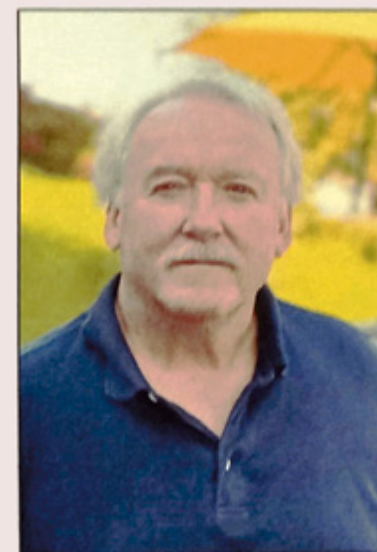
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Dennis Stanley was the tenth of twelve children born to Wayne and Doris “Babe” Stanley in Los Angeles. He graduated from Bellarmine-Jefferson High in 1978 and soon after moved to Santa Barbara, where he resided for 40 years. He met his wife Mary Crawshaw in 1987 and married in 1988 after moving to the Painted Cave community in the mountains of Santa Barbara. He is survived by his wife Mary and two sons, Jason and Justin

Dennis’s love for simple family life was equaled by his kind nature, gentle soul, and generous heart. While a man of few words, he was a wealth of knowledge for any kind of home project and shared his skill gladly.

We will continue to honor him with our memories and cherish his contributions and enrichment to our lives.



Dennis John Stanley (born 1959), owner of Steve’s Plumbing & Hardware has passed away from pancreatic cancer. Steve’s Plumbing remains open.





Is there gold buried under the mission?

Exotic Treasures

by Richard Senate

Ventura County has some exotic treasure yarns that implies that treasures still are to be found here. These include the lost padre's gold mine (at the headwaters of Piru Creek) to the lost Olivas Gold (buried on Red Mountain) But few realize that some treasures exist within the city limits of Ventura! This is a partial list of the lost gold rumored hidden beneath our feet. Now are these just stories or could they really exist? You be the judge. Have they been found but not reported? Perhaps but still, they are worth examination.

The Lost Mission Vault. The story is that the padre's of Mission San Buenaventura operated a gold mine and formed the gold into crude ingots. They were taken down

the Santa Clara River Valley and stored in a hidden vault at the mission Church. Once a year a black painted galleon of the Jesuit Order would come and take away the gold for the use of his Holiness the Pope in Rome. The galleons stopped coming with the Mexican War for Independence and the gold is still there! Some say it was within the thick walls of the church, others say it was under the Mission Padre's Quarters, still others believe it is located in an underground room in the hill behind the church.

The iron bound chest at the Cross. In 1818 a pirate threatened California so the mission treasures were hidden and the settlement abandoned for several weeks. They saw the pirates as godless men who would

be repelled by the cross--so they buried the contents at the foot of the cross on the hill. Native people saw them and curious dug up the goods, only to re-bury them on the hill. When they padres returned the treasure chest had vanished. The present site of the cross was not the original location. Maybe the rusted chest could be found with a metal detector?

The gangster's loot. In prohibition times gangsters smuggled Canadian Whiskey into LA though Ventura. The ships would carry in the booze and fast boats would take it ashore, all the while avoiding the Coast Guard Cutters. The ship captains demanded to be paid in cash. So, the gangsters brought cash in suitcases to pay them. This was hidden in a tunnel under the city. But, before the ship came, an earthquake caved in the tunnel and buried the bag of cash. Those gold certificates would be worth a fortune today!

Ventura County Public Works Agency launches "Don't Dump on VC"

New Illegal Dumping Campaign, perpetrators face \$3,000 fines plus clean-up costs and community service

Ventura County Public Works Agency is constantly battling the ever-growing problem of illegal dumping in Ventura County. VCPWA has joined forces through a grant with the Mattress Recycling Council, to launch a new public campaign

"Don't Dump on VC".

The public outreach for the campaign shows the blight of illegal dumping on beautiful Ventura County and warns those who dump of the consequences, which include fines of up to \$3,000 plus clean-up costs and community service. The Ventura County community can report perpetrators and get details on the responsible disposal of bulky items, e-waste, and household hazardous waste at DontDumpVC.org.

Illegal dumping is a large unauthorized deposit of any waste, usually over 15 pounds, such as mattresses, yard waste, construction debris, and furniture. Aside from the impact of the appearance on our Ventura County landscape, waste pollutes the local environment, is a hazard to humans and wildlife, and places a financial burden on the taxpayer when the government agencies have to clean up.

In 2021, VCPWA collected over 730 tons of mattresses and other junk that had been illegally dumped along county roads. The cost of collecting these mattresses and the other abandoned items over the past year was more than \$340,000.

"Illegal dumping also pollutes our precious water supply, damages soil quality, and affects our air quality," said Chris Kurgan, Director Roads and Transportation. "Our Ventura County Public Works Illegal dumping campaign will seek to educate the public on how to dispose of items responsibly and how to report the crimes. The consequences for perpetrators are significant. The court holds the defendants responsible for restitution to Ventura County. In addition to paying for the cleanup costs, they are subject to court costs, new larger fines of up to \$3,000, and community service".

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Senior Living



"I hope I can remember why this string is on my finger!"

Memory, forgetfulness, and aging: what's normal and what's not?

Many older adults worry about their memory and other thinking abilities. For example, they might be concerned about taking longer than before to learn new things, or they may sometimes forget to pay a bill. These changes are usually signs of mild forgetfulness — often a normal part of aging — not serious memory problems.

What's the difference between normal, age-related forgetfulness and a serious memory problem? It's normal to forget things occasionally as we age, but serious memory problems make it hard to do everyday things like driving, using the phone, and finding your way home.

Talk with your doctor to determine whether memory and other cognitive problems, such as the ability to clearly think and learn, are normal and what may be causing them.

Signs that it might be time to talk to a doctor include:

- Asking the same questions over and over again
- Getting lost in places a person knows well
- Having trouble following recipes or directions
- Becoming more confused about time, people, and places
- Not taking care of oneself — eating poorly, not bathing, or behaving unsafely

Tips for dealing with forgetfulness

People with some forgetfulness can use a variety of techniques that may help them stay healthy and deal with changes in their memory and mental skills. Here are some tips:

- Learn a new skill.
- Follow a daily routine.
- Plan tasks, make to-do lists, and use memory tools such as calendars and notes.

- Put your wallet or purse, keys, phone, and glasses in the same place each day.
- Stay involved in activities that can help both the mind and body.
- Volunteer in your community, at a school, or at your place of worship.
- Spend time with friends and family.
- Get enough sleep, generally seven to eight hours each night.
- Exercise and eat well.
- Prevent or control high blood pressure.
- Don't drink a lot of alcohol.
- Get help if you feel depressed for weeks at a time.

Dementia is not a normal part of aging. It includes the loss of cognitive functioning — thinking, remembering, learning, and reasoning — and behavioral abilities to the extent that it interferes with a person's quality of life and activities. Memory loss, though common, is not the only sign of dementia. People with dementia may also have problems with language skills, visual perception, or paying attention. Some people have personality changes.

While there are different forms of dementia, Alzheimer's disease is the most common form in people over age 65. The chart below explains some differences between normal signs of aging and Alzheimer's.

If you, a family member, or friend has problems remembering recent events or thinking clearly, talk with a doctor. He or she may suggest a thorough checkup to see what might be causing the symptoms. You may also wish to talk with your doctor about opportunities to participate in research on cognitive health and aging.

At your doctor visit, he or she can perform tests and assessments, which may include a brain scan, to help determine

Continued on page 9



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Senior Living



Optimism can be changed with interventions like writing exercises.

Research has established that optimism is associated with healthier aging and longevity

Optimism is linked to a longer lifespan in women from diverse racial and ethnic groups, and to better emotional health in older men, according to two NIA-funded studies. One study showed that the previously established link between optimism and longevity applies to racially and ethnically diverse populations of women and that the link is only partially due to changes in health behaviors. The other study showed that more optimistic men have fewer negative emotions, due in part to reduced exposure to stressful situations. These findings suggest that increasing optimism may be a way to extend lifespan and improve well-being in older adults.

However, most of these studies were in non-Hispanic White populations. In a collaborative study published in the *Journal of the American Geriatrics Society*, researchers from Harvard University; Boston University School of Medicine; Kaiser Permanente; University of California, Davis; University of California, San Diego; and the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University explored the link between optimism and longevity in a racially diverse population of women.

Researchers analyzed data from over 150,000 women ages 50–79, collected as a part of the Women's Health Initiative (WHI). The WHI included non-Hispanic White, Black, Hispanic/Latina, and Asian women. Each participant in the study completed a validated optimism test and provided demographic and health information. When scientists analyzed the data, they found that the most optimistic women lived, on average, 5.4% longer (approximately 4.4 years) than the least optimistic women. The most optimistic women were also more likely to achieve exceptional longevity, defined as living over 90 years. These trends were consistent across all racial and ethnic groups.

Scientists also tested the hypothesis that optimistic women live longer because they have healthier lifestyles. Previous studies showed that optimistic people are likelier to engage in behaviors that promote health and longer lifespan. Given this, the authors used statistical methods to determine whether lifestyle factors could explain the link between optimism and lifespan. Specifically, the study collected information on exercise, diet, body mass index, smoking history, and alcohol consumption. The researchers found that

these factors only accounted for 25% of the link between optimism and longevity. These results suggest that the link between optimism and lifespan may be partly due to healthier behaviors, but that other pathways and factors are also likely to be involved.

Another NIA-funded study, published in *The Journals of Gerontology*, explored the idea that reductions in stressful experiences could be one of the factors that explain the link between optimism and better health. Prior studies from other research groups established that stress exposure is linked to worse health and a shorter lifespan. In this study, a group of scientists from the VA Boston Healthcare System, Boston University, Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health, Rush Medical College, and Northwestern University analyzed the relationship between optimism, stress, and emotional well-being in older men.

Researchers found that more optimistic men experienced fewer negative emotions. More than 50% of this link could be explained by reduced exposure to daily stressors. These results suggest that optimism may cause older adults to avoid, direct their attention away from, or change how they think about stressful situations. The authors note that their study is limited in that participants were all male, primarily White, and had a higher socioeconomic status than the general population. To determine whether the results apply to everyone, the study should be repeated in more diverse populations.

Results from these two studies provide important insights into how optimism may improve health and longevity. Findings from the first study show that optimism is linked to a longer lifespan across racial and ethnic groups. Although differences in healthy behaviors can explain a modest portion of this link, that is only part of the story. The second study suggests that optimism may benefit health and well-being because it is linked to reduced exposure to stress.

Because optimism is a modifiable characteristic that can be changed with interventions like writing exercises and therapy, improving optimism may be an effective strategy to improve health and extend lifespan across racial and ethnic groups.

This research was supported in part by NIA grants R01AG053273, K08AG048221, and R01-AG018436.



Maintaining good heart health through diet can lessen your risk for developing Alzheimer's.

Alzheimer's is the third leading cause of death in Ventura County

by Alzheimer's Association California Central Coast Chapter

Alzheimer's disease is the third leading cause of death within Ventura County, behind disease of the heart

and all cancers, according to the 2022 Needs Assessment report recently released by Ventura County Community Health Improvement Collaborative.

While disease of the heart and all cancers rank the same when compared to the state and the nation, Alzheimer's holds a notably higher ranking for leading cause of death in Ventura County compared to that of California and the United States, which ranks fifth and seventh respectively.

It is unclear why this disease is a more common cause of death in this county than other areas.

However, research does show that Alzheimer's and other dementias are more prevalent amongst Latino populations; Latinos are about one-and-a-half times as likely as older whites to have the disease.

Ventura County has a large Hispanic/Latino population, making up 44.66% of residents.

Maintaining good heart health through diet and exercise can lessen your risk for developing Alzheimer's or vascular dementia earlier on in life. The risk appears to increase from many conditions that damage the heart and blood vessels, including heart disease, diabetes, stroke, high blood pressure and high cholesterol.

Primary data shared within the report reflect that Alzheimer's and other dementia are part of a significant health need; though less than half (41%) of general respondents chose aging complications—including dementia, falls and social isolation—as an important community health problem.

For the many families who have been affected by dementia, they know firsthand the complications and turmoil that can come with navigating this disease.

And according to the Alzheimer's Association, the numbers of those who are living with Alzheimer's will only continue to grow, estimated to reach 840,000 in California by 2025. Currently, there are over 1.2 million Californians providing unpaid care for someone living with the disease.

"While it is an exciting time for research and treatment, the reality is that there is no cure for this disease that impacts so many people, so it is extremely important to keep Alzheimer's at the forefront of our efforts as a community," said Janelle Boesch, communications manager at the Alzheimer's Association California Central Coast Chapter.

The Association calls all Ventura County residents to become educated about Alzheimer's risk reduction and early detection, as well as best methods for providing care for a loved one living with the disease.

Free support services, including care consultations, support groups and education classes, can be accessed through the Alzheimer's Association. Their Ventura office is located at 2580 E Main Street #201, and their 24/7 Helpline is 800.272.3900 for around-the-clock support and information in English and Spanish. Visit them online at alz.org/cacentral.





Memory, forgetfulness and aging Continued from page 7

Conthe source of memory problems. Your doctor may also recommend you see a neurologist, a doctor who specializes in treating diseases of the brain and nervous system.

Memory and other thinking problems have many possible causes, including depression, an infection, or medication side effects. Sometimes, the problem can be treated, and cognition improves. Other times, the problem is a brain disorder, such as Alzheimer's disease, which cannot be reversed.

Finding the cause of the problems is important for determining the best course of action. Once you know the cause, you can make the right treatment plan. People with memory problems should make a follow-up appointment to check their memory every six to 12 months. They can ask a family member, friend, or the doctor's office to remind them if they're worried they'll forget.

Ventura events

by Ana Baker

Grief support during the holidays. It's that time of year when the expectations we place on ourselves can be unrealistic, especially when faced with the absence of a loved one. Livingston Memorial's Grief and Bereavement Program can offer compassion and understanding during this difficult time of year. Livingston offers multiple support groups that focus on restorative activities, seeking meaning and purpose, identifying changes to self, and receiving support in making life good again. All support groups are free for the community. 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 of each month. Men of all descriptions are always welcome to stop to sample our shenanigans. Lyle Hotzler at 805-341-9820 or Rick Follenweider at 650-520-1098 can supply details.

Do you want a Play Bridge? Join us for ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge games every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at 12:30. All levels of play, and we guarantee a partner for you if you need one. Lessons are available. Contact: Richard 805-850-8011 or Rose 805-659-9223 or buckley-rose357@gmail.com. All Welcome.

Jan. 7: Sespe Fly Fishers of Ventura will conduct our monthly "First Saturday" introductory Fly Rod Casting and Intro to Fly Fishing clinic. There is no charge, and all are welcome. Whether you are an experienced fly fisher or a complete novice, we want to help you improve your casting and learn to enjoy this great sport. If you still need a fly rod, don't worry; just come and use one of ours. Please join us at Chumash Park, Petit, and Waco, 9 - 11 a.m., in East Ventura, off Telephone Rd. For more information: Casting Program Coordinator Thomas Hall (805) 377-5249 www.sespeflyfishers.org

Jan. 8: Old-Time Country Bluegrass Gospel Music Assoc. Sunday 2 - 4 p.m. Poinsettia Pavilion 3451 Foothill Rd. Live Music on stage. Jamming in the Canada Room. Free Admission. Free parking. Open to the Public. For more information, call 805-517-1131 or visit

Facebook: OTCBGMA.

Jan. 17: At 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, program staff from Women's Economic Ventures (WEV) will join the Ventura County Library to lead a Financial Education Webinar titled "How to Navigate your Budget with Confidence and Purpose." This program will take place virtually via Zoom. Are you ready to navigate your financial mindset and its role in your finances? Join us during this 75-minute workshop to identify your financial priorities so you can manage your numbers and budget with confidence and purpose. This session will be facilitated by Irene Kelly, WEV's Financial Education, and Community Engagement Manager. A Spanish-language version of this program will take place on Wednesday, January 18, from 5:30 - 6:45 p.m. This event is free and open to the public. To register for this event, visit bit.ly/VCLWEV17. Contact Ron Solórzano, Regional Librarian, at (805) 218-9146 or ron.solorzano@ventura.org. Instructions for registering for this event on Zoom can also be found on our online calendar at www.vencolibrary.org/library-events.

Ojai news and events

Historian and writer Vincent Burns and professor of journalism Stephen Bates will visit the Ojai Library at 1pm on Saturday, January 14, 2023, to speak about their book Rincon Point in a presentation titled "A History of Rincon Point in Photographs."

Rincon Point is renowned as the Queen of the Coast, one of the premier surfing spots in the world, but that is only a fragment of its rich history. Before the arrival of Europeans, it was a Chumash village called Shuku. Banditos, nudists, movie stars, long-boarders—they have all shaped Rincon Point, a place immortalized by novelists, poets, painters, photographers, and the Beach Boys.

Vincent Burns has deep roots in the area. He helped build his grandmother's house on Rincon Point and writes regularly on surf history. An historian, he had a 30-year career in publishing, bringing tens of thousands of books into print. He has a PhD in History from the University of Wisconsin.

Stephen Bates is a professor of journalism at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and the author of five books, most recently Rincon Point. His family owned the Rincon del Mar Ranch in Carpinteria for more than a century.

The book features unique photographs from the Bateses and other early settlers, pioneer surfers of the 1950s and 1960s, the Carpinteria Valley Museum of History, and elsewhere. This presentation will include a slide show of historical photos, particular information on the surfing history of Rincon Point, and tips on how (and how not) to write a local history book!

Rincon Point is available for purchase through Amazon and at www.arcadia-publishing.com/.

This event is free and open to the public. For additional information, contact Ron Solórzano, Regional Librarian, at (805) 218-9146 or ron.solorzano@ventura.org.

The Ojai Library is located at 111 East Ojai Avenue in Ojai, CA. Hours of service are 10am to 8pm Monday through Thursday and 12pm to 5pm Friday through Sunday.

On Vacation



Hello my name is Rhonda Moss and I am in Mammoth Lakes. This is taken at the Twin Lakes lookout in Mammoth. Rhonda Moss. This is Emerald Lake in Mammoth.

Chamber Ribbon Cuttings



A Chamber ribbon cutting was held at Olive Ventura.

Olive Ventura was born from a passion for locally sourced, healthy, delicious, artisan extra virgin olive oil. Our friendly staff is knowledgeable, and will help you pick out an olive oil and balsamic combination to suite your taste buds.

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Info@OliveVentura.com

Photos by Michael Gordon.



The Pet Page



Dedicated to Scamp

■ SPAN Thrift Store is open to the public and looking for donations of adult clothing, household items and tools. SPAN Thrift Store provides \$10 spay and neuter clinics for low-income households for cats and dogs. Upcoming clinics: Tues, Jan. 3, Albert H. Soliz Library parking lot - El Rio, 2820 Jourdan St., Oxnard, 93036; Tues., Jan. 10 at Shiells Park parking lot at 649 C St., Fillmore, 93015 and Tues., Jan 24, SPAN Thrift Store, 110 N. Olive St., Ventura. Please call to schedule an appointment (805) 584-3823. www.spanonline.org.

■ According to 2018 statistics from the American Veterinary Medical Association, 57% of U.S. households have a pet. About 80% of those surveyed consider those pets to be family members and 17% consider them companions.

Twenty-three million American households added a dog or cat to their households during the COVID-19 pandemic, according to the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. And people may have spent more time with their pets during the pandemic.

Knowing all this also means more people are likely to ultimately experience pet loss.

Some folks have a mentality that pets are easily replaced, whereas people are not. That may lead those with strong pet bonds to not talk about their relationships with their pets and their feelings of loss because they may feel they'll be made fun of.

"I actually hope that providers are able to start including companion animals as support systems," Crossley said. She envisions them "really starting to have the conversation from the get-go of who are your support systems and do you have any companion animals and what role do you see they play in your life, in your mental wellness or in your stress?"

Rolland said counselors may be able to employ different strategies depending on whether the individual is a child who considered the pet a confidante, a widow or widower who saw the pet as their last connection with a loving spouse, or someone with disabilities who relies on the companion animals.

In fact, according to the ASPCA's Animal Poison Control Center, last year more than 7,000 pets were potentially exposed to drugs - a 60% increase from the year before. Marijuana toxicity takes the top spot.

Dr. Centola says signs that your dog may have ingested something: vomiting, wobbliness, struggling to breath, seizures or collapsing.

If your dog exhibits any of these symptoms, Dr. Centola says to take them to the veterinarian or ER right away for treatment.

"Most of the time with these types of toxicities, with aggressive supportive care treatment, most of the time these pets have a good prognosis and are ready to go home within one to three days," he said.

■ Walking is healthy for you and your dog. Not only is it physical activity, but it's mental stimulation for your dog to smell, see and hear beyond the limits of your yard. Walking helps preserve your pet's muscle tone and joint movement. If your pet is overweight or obese, walking can be a great way to shed those extra pounds.

The following tips can help you design a safe walking program for your dog...or even for your cat. (Yes, it is possible to train a cat to accept a harness and go for walks!)

Consult your veterinarian before starting any new exercise program with your pet. You need to make sure your pet is healthy enough for the exercise you plan.

Train your dog to behave on a leash, and seek help to address any behavioral problems.

Begin with short, frequent walks, and take frequent rests as needed.

If your pet seems to just want to go back home, try driving to a nearby park or less familiar area for your walks.

Remember that walks are also a means for your dog to enjoy his/her environment; allow your dog to take "sniff breaks" within reason.

Build gradually to one or more 15 minutes periods of brisk walking, then allow for cool-down time and recovery.

Avoid walks during the hottest parts of the day during warmer weather. Learn the signs of heat stress (Your veterinarian can teach you!) so you can recognize and address any problems that occur.

During warm, sunny weather, avoid hot surfaces - such as asphalt - that can burn your pet's feet.

Avoid walks during the coldest parts of the day during cold weather, based on your pet's cold tolerance. Learn to recognize signs of frostbite and hypothermia so you can address any problems that occur.

Walk on safe footing to avoid slips, falls or injuries.

Avoid deep sand or similar footing because it can cause fatigue and injuries.

If your pet shows signs of lameness, difficulty breathing, or seems to tire quickly, consult your veterinarian.

Obey leash laws, and always clean up after your dog.

Starting an exercise program for your pet

You've probably seen the warnings on fitness equipment that instruct you to consult your physician before starting an exercise program. The same applies to your pet, for good reason; it's best to make sure that your pet is healthy enough to begin an exercise program and that the program is tailored to fit your pet's health needs. Not sure where to start with your pet's exercise program? Start with your veterinarian! In addition to walking, there are other opportunities for exercise programs that you can do together with your pet.

If your pet is recovering from injuries, talk to your veterinarian about exercise options (water treadmill sessions, swimming, etc.) that provide no- or low-impact exercise and can be used in the short term and/or incorporated into your pet's exercise regimen.

Scamp Club

(Scampclub pets are not for adoption.)



Simon is only 8 weeks old but she is already working with team Breeze to bring the good news to Venturans.

Join Scamp Club

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

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



America's four newest search teams, from our neighbors the Search Dog Foundation now join SDF's national roster.

Forever homes wanted

Hi: I'm Anubis, named after the Egyptian god, a beautiful 4 1/2 year old Pit Bull X who is in need of a new home as I don't care for dogs or cats. I'm a very sweet social dog with people and need an active home where I can be your one and only. I enjoy chasing balls and playing tug. I'm good with older children, but it's unknown how I'd do with younger ones.

I have environmental allergies and take Zyrtec once a day, fish oil daily and eat Science Diet for sensitive skin and stomach. I know basic commands, but need work on walking on leash (I tend to pull). Although I don't have a history of escaping, I do need a fence over 6'. If you're interested in meeting me, please fill out an online application to meet me.

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



Jet is a friendly and outgoing rabbit who adores attention. He would be the ideal companion. He is litter-trained and is waiting for a home of his own. Interested? Email VCASBunnyBrigade@gmail.com.

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Harbor Patrol Blotter

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

Tuesday 12/6
 11:37am, dispatched to unknown problem at 1591 Spinnaker. Officers responded with AMR/VFD to an unconscious person in elevator. The patient was awoken, and no medical was discovered, transient sleeping.

Wednes 12/7
 7:00am, raised flags to half staff for Pearl Harbor Memorial Day.
 4:11pm, dispatched to a boat fire at VWM E-dock. Officers responded in Fireboat, VFD responded by land. After investigation, discovered an electrical fire with heat detectors. Power disconnected; owner advised of fire source.
 6:26pm, received report of disturbance between Portside security and fishermen. Officers responded, assisted settling the dispute. Fishing not allowed in the area.

Saturday 12/10
 6:03am, observed Weather Service issued Small Craft Advisory, raised pennant.
 10:45am, observed the start of the "Santa Paddle" beginning at the village.
 11:00am, contacted a Standup foil paddler in harbor paddling without a lifejacket. Officers issued a warning, educated what was needed, a lifejacket.
 9:18pm, observing the weather is "turning" for the worse. Rain is intensifying, wind is gusting to 25kts out of South Southwest.

Sunday 12/11
 12:33pm, received report of a vessels' bilge pump continually pumping in VIM B-dock. Officers responded, investigated. A valve was failing, and the vessel was in serious danger of sinking. Contacted owner, TowBoat US took over call.
 3:50pm, while on patrol, observed the Santa Clara Rivermouth breached.

Tuesday 12/13
 8:33pm, while on patrol in Rescue B19, officers contacted three separate fishermen with illegally placed hoop nets outside the breakwall, after educating the group they placed their nets 250ft off the breakwall.
 10:30pm, dispatched to a fall victim in the Ventura Marina Community. Officers responded with VFD/AMR and assisted the patient who refused medical treatment or transport after being help to her feet.

Wednes 12/14
 12:53am, dispatched to abdominal pain in VIM marina building. Officers responded with VFD/AMR, assessed patient, AMR transported to hospital.
 11:53pm, received report of a transient refusing to leave front door of business in the village. Contacted the individual and convinced him to leave the area.

Thursday 12/15
 8:40am, officers taking scientist studying tagging sharks around to their offshore buoys onboard the Fireboat.
 6:53pm, dispatched to a lift assist in the Ventura Marina Community. Officers responded with VFD and were able to place the patient back in her wheelchair.

Friday 12/16
 6:03am, observed Weather Service issued Small Craft Advisory, raised pennant.
 11:10am, officers preparing navigation buoys for the Parade-of-lights parade route through the harbor.
 1:35pm, dispatched to a snake bite in the bird watching/settling pond area near Surfers Knoll. Officers responded, found an individual digging in the dirt for what he believed is a dead body. VPD arrived and arrested the individual for

drug offense and probation violation. No medical or snake bite observed.
 6:30pm, 2022 Ventura Parade of lights begins. Fair weather observed and no major incidents reported during the parade. As usual, heavy traffic on Spinnaker
 Saturday 12/17
 12:48am, dispatched to a fall patient in Portside apartments. Responders had to gain access through an open window. No injuries, patient assisted back to bed.
 9:00am, officers taking scientist out on Rescue B19 for annual Audubon Christmas bird count to the breakwall and beyond.
 1:50pm, while on patrol in Rescue Boat19, observed commercial lobster trap in the navigable channel just outside the Harbor Entrance. Officers were able to relocate the trap out of the channel and back to the other traps off the breakwall.
 4:05pm, while placing navigation buoys for Parade, observed a sheen of petroleum in the South Basin of the harbor. Officers investigated, UTL source.
 6:30pm, Parade of lights begins, 43 participants for this evening's parade.
 Sunday 12/18
 9:37am, received report of female transient trespassing on vessel in VWM. Officers responded, the repeat offender detained, PD investigating incident.
 7:41pm, dispatched to Portside apartment for unknown problem. Officers responded, found reporting party worried about neighbors excessive drinking. Investigated, contacted/assessed patient, no issues or medical found.
 Monday 12/19
 1:46pm, received report of sick sealion from concerned beach patrons. Officers explained who to contact, and contacted rescue volunteers to investigate.

Ventura terminates billing associated with Fire Hazard Reduction Program

The City of Ventura has cancelled the billing program associated with the Fire Hazard Reduction Program (FHRP) effective immediately. During a special meeting on December 19, 2022, the Ventura City Council voted to stop billing charges and refund all fees paid by property owners for the program.

"This period of inflation is impacting the cost of everything, and our community members are feeling the effects of higher prices as well as rising insurance rates for those living in areas of high fire risk," said Mayor Joe Schroeder. "The City Council unanimously supported the immediate removal of billing fees associated with the Fire Hazard Reduction Program to help alleviate extra costs for over 6,000 property owners. It was timely to make this change now because every day that goes by means more and more people are paying billing fees."

The Fire Hazard Reduction Program, commonly referred to as FHRP, is the cornerstone of a Wildland Fire Action Plan intended to protect life and property by removing flammable brush, reducing vegetation density, and creating 100 feet of defensible space around structures.

"Removing flammable brush, reducing vegetation density, and creating defensible space around structures is critical to slow or stop the spread of wildfire. It helps safeguard homes, businesses, and valuable property from catching fire caused by direct flame, wind-driven ember cast, or radiant heat," said Fire Chief David Endaya.

In response to the devastating Thomas Fire, the City expanded its defensible space inspection program from 600 inspections to include more than 6,000 properties in the "High" and "Very High" Fire Hazard Severity Zones as identified by the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE). These maps are used to assist in determining defensible space requirements, wildland-urban interface building codes, and the State Minimum Fire Safe Regulations.

During its regular meeting on May 24, 2021, the City Council approved

the City's Fiscal Year 2021-22 Master Fee Schedule, which included a fee to property owners for defensible space inspections and authorized the Ventura Fire Department to bill for those inspections. Fire inspections for all affected properties were billable at \$38.97. Fire Recovery USA, a third-party service, was hired to administer all defensible space billing on behalf of the Fire Department.

While the Fire Department will continue to perform defensible space inspections moving forward, billing charges for inspections have been terminated effective immediately. The City will notify affected property owners and implement a process to refund monies already paid. These actions do not limit the Fire Department's ability to impose fines for non-compliance with the FHRP.

"The Fire Department will continue to work with property owners in creating and maintaining defensible spaces while also educating community members on how to prepare for wildfire," said Chief Endaya.

For additional information on the Fire Hazard Reduction Program, call the Fire Prevention Division at 805-658-4717 or visit www.CityofVentura.ca.gov/FHRP.

Happy Holidays

★ Trash, Recyclables and Yard/Organic Waste Pick Up Information for the Christmas & New Year's Holidays ★

With Christmas and New Year's Day falling on Sunday this holiday season, in the weeks before and after the holidays, trash, recyclables and yard/organic waste collection by E.J. Harrison & Sons will not be delayed.

For two weeks after Christmas, from Monday, Dec. 26, through Saturday, Jan. 7, residents may put out extra holiday waste curbside on collection day - up to two 50-gallon bags - free of charge.

Also, remember to recycle your Christmas tree by removing the ornaments, hooks, lights, tinsel, bows, nails and tree stand. Cut the tree into sections no more than 4 feet long and place in your yard/organics waste cart on your scheduled pickup day. Or, place the whole Christmas tree at the curb on collection day. Flocked trees also are accepted for recycling.

E. J. Harrison & Sons
 805-647-1414
 Order services & pay bills online at www.ejharrison.com

Thank you and Happy Holidays
 Connect with us! @ejharrisoninc

**Moving In?
 Moving Up?
 Moving Out?**

I can help you with that!

ADELA TRAINOR
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 805.701.7694
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BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY | California Properties HomeServices

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 24 mins.

O	A	T	I	C	E	D	S	T	U	R	
U	S	H	N	I	L	E	T	A	R	O	
C	H	A	S	A	F	E	I	T	P	I	N
H	F	I	D	I	N	O	R				
	E	C	G	S	W	O	R	M	S		
P	I	N	W	H	E	L	N	E	A	T	
I	D		T	O	D	C	S	A	X	E	
T	E	R	L	A	P	E	L	P	I	N	
S	A	M	O	A	N	L	H	O			
	O	R	E		P	O	L	K	A		
P	I	N	S	T	R	I	P	P	O	I	
H	I	N	T	I	M	A	N	B	R	O	
C	I	E	S	T	A	R	T	E	K	E	



by Pam Baumgardner
VenturaRocks.com

Happy New Years!!! Have you made your New Year's resolutions yet? May I suggest one you can add to your list? Why not make it a point to get out more often to support our local original artists this year? We have such an abundance of talent right here in the 805 spanning from Simi Valley all the way up to SLO town (San Luis Obispo); and between Ventura and Santa Barbara it's a rare week that goes by without a show featuring original music.

It's a passion of mine to help get the word out on live music because it helps raise your spirits and it can put a smile on that mug of yours. Research as shown that listening to music releases dopamine which has a positive effect on your mood. It's a tonic of sorts which can help relieve stress, and literally lift your spirits. And while I can't say firsthand that it enhances intelligence (though it would be scary to see how dumb I'd be without it), research also suggests that it can increase your IQ along with lowering blood pressure and boosting your immune system.

And as you should know by now, my passion is all about original artists. Of course, I'm a fan of cover bands and artists, but I'm always thrilled when they'll slip in an original tune they wrote. I know it can be disheartening to perform at a venue, play your heart out while the audience is busy talking or dancing or not paying attention at all. Most venues are designed for this, which is why I'm a fan of the smaller listening rooms such as Namba Arts or Ojai Underground; you're there to listen to the performance.

One can forget what music does and the effects it can cause as we listen to it while driving, studying, working and relaxing. We can listen to it while soaking in a tub, or while eating dinner. It's enmeshed in so much of our lives that we forget it takes talented individuals to create it for us. And now getting back to my original suggestion of supporting our local talent, let's give back and show our love by attending their shows, buying their merch, leaving a large tip and paying to download their music. Trust me when I say, your validation and support encourages and makes them realize what a difference their contributions of original music make on other's lives.

And now onto New Year's Eve celebrations featuring the best of cover bands to help bring in 2023. Most venues will have a party whether it be East Coast style (9 pm our time is when the proverbial ball drops on the East Coast), or they'll go to least midnight to bring in the official new year. Many request reservations and a lot will have cover charges for all the extras they'll offer. There are a few parties being held at locations such as the Crowne Plaza, The Greek and the Moose Lodge where they're not typical places you would go to listen to live music. I suggest you take a look at the listings (either denoted with NYE Party or East Coast style NYE) and then find the band you love most and go there!

In closing, thanks for your continued support of the Ventura Breeze newspaper, and for reading all the way through this article so I can tell you just how much I love this community. We not only have the beach, the hillsides, downtown, the Harbor but interspersed all over, we have dozens of venues offering live music. While thinking of where I would like to retire someday, I realized after contemplating about it for a year, "Why would I ever leave?" Ventura Rocks!

Do you have any music-related news or upcoming shows you want help publicizing? Please send all information short or long to Pam@VenturaRocks.com, and for updated music listings daily, go to www.VenturaRocks.com.

Music Calendar

For more listings, additional times and genres go to VenturaRocks.com

Aqua Beachfront Bar

Crowne Plaza Hotel
450 E. Harbor Blvd., Ventura
Sat 12/31: NYE Party w/ Dance Invasion

Boatyard Pub

1583 Spinnaker Dr., Ventura
Wednesdays: Frank Barajas
Thursdays: Jim Friery; Bluegrass Jam

Fri 12/30: Smokey & Friends
Fri 1/6: Theresa Russell & Stephen Geyer

Cantara Cellars

126 N. Wood Rd., Camarillo
Fri 1/6: Johnny and the Lovehandles

Sat 1/7: Bad Habit
The Cave
4435 McGrath St., Ventura
Wed & Thurs: Bobby Apostol
Fri & Sat: Warren Takahashi

Copa Cubana

Ventura Harbor Village
Tuesdays: Blues Tuesdays

Thursdays: Glenn Bennet

Copper Blues

591 Collection Blvd., Oxnard

Fri 12/30: Wired

Crowne Plaza

450 E. Harbor Blvd., Ventura

Sat 12/31: NYE Party w/ Dance Invasion

Deer Lodge

2261 Maricopa Hwy., Ojai

Sat 1/7: Lizardsmouth

The Dutchess

457 E. Ojai Ave., Ojai

Thurs 1/5: Natalie Gelman

El Rey Cantina

2302 Ventura Blvd., Camarillo

Sat 12/31: East Coast Style NYE Party w/Bad Chemistry

Feros Ferio Winery

310 E. Ojai Ave., Ojai

Wed 12/28: Danny McGaw and the 33

Gigi's Cocktails

2493 Grand Ave., Ventura

Sat 12/31: NYE Party w/ Jesse Jay Harris Band

The Greek

1583 Spinnaker Dr., Ventura

Sat 12/31: NYE Party w/ Cinnamon Whiskey

Harbor Cove Café

1867 Spinnaker Dr., Ventura

Saturdays: The Cook Hand Ukles

Institution Ale Company

3841 Mission Oaks Blvd., Camarillo

Thurs 1/5: Whole Hog

Keynote Lounge

10245 Telephone Rd., Ventura

Thursdays: Open Mic

Fri 12/30: Pull the Trigger

Sat 12/31: NYE Party w/ CRV

Leashless Brewing

585 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

Fri 12/30: Adam Lenhard

Sat 12/31: East Coast Style NYE Party w/Fido

Sun 1/1: Emily Coupe

Fri 1/6: VIP Reggae

Sat 1/7: Shaky Feelin' (3p); Kimo Moya (7p)

Sun 1/8: Jessie Bush

Majestic Ventura Theater

26 S. Chestnut St., Ventura

Fri 12/30: Circle Jerks, TSOL

Sat 1/7: Bone Maggot, I Greater than He, Sinsation, Boilerman

Manhattan

5800 Santa Rosa Rd., Camarillo

Fri 12/30: Tour Support

Sat 12/31: NYE Party w/ Jeanne Tatum

Wed 1/4: Richard Weiss

Fri 1/6: Jeanne Tatum Trio

Sat 1/7: Michael Falcone

Mrs. Olson's

2800 Harbor Blvd., Oxnard

Sat 12/31: NYE Party: Steph's Rockin' Road show, Free Love Project, Rising Son

Sun 1/1: Teresa Russell, Stephen Geyer, Coco Roussel & Mama Pat

Onyx Bistro

2390 Las Posas Rd., Camarillo

Fri 12/30: Brenda Carsey

Sat 12/31: East Coast Style NYE Party w/ Gold Rush Constellation

Fri 1/6: Eliya Frantz

Sat 1/7: Julian Velard

Poseidon Brewing Company

5777 Olivas Park Dr., Ventura

Sat 12/31: East Coast Style NYE Party w/ Jonnie Tsunami and the All Stars

The Raven Tavern

1651 S. Victoria Ave., Oxnard

Fri 12/30: Teresa Russell

Sat 12/31: NYE Party w/ Doc Rogers Band

Fri 1/6: Brandon Ragan

Sat 1/7: Teresa Russell

San Souci

21 S. Chestnut St., Ventura

Fri 12/30: Out of Trust, Fuse

Fri 1/6: Roman's Weirdos, Birdbrain, Those Darn Amigos

The Shores

1031 Harbor Blvd., Oxnard

Wed 12/28: Jake McClelland

Fri 12/30: The Remedies

Sat 12/31: NYE Party w/ Sin Chonies

Fri 1/6: CRV

Surfer's Point Café

204 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

Sun 12/18: Ben Garcia (11 am)

The Twist on Main

454 E. Main St., Ventura

Thursdays: Davey Miller Trio

Fri 12/30: Jayden Secor Band

Sat 12/31: NYE Party w/ The Jetlemons

Fri 1/6: Vinyl Gypsies

Vaquero y Mar

435 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

Sundays: Mariachi

Tuesdays: The Sea Hunter

Wednesdays: Tribal Me

Fridays: Conjunto Zacamandu de Tomas Herrera

Sat 12/31: NYE Party w/ Joe Valdez, Ruben Estrada, Ruben Palazuelos, the Martinez Brothers

Ventura Moose Lodge

10269 Telephone Rd., Ventura

Sat 12/31: NYE Party: House Arrest Band

Ventura Music Hall

1888 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

Fri 1/6: The Purple Ones

The Vine

308 E. Ojai Ave., Ojai

Sat 12/31: East Coast Style NYE Party w/ The Cliff Beach Experience

Sat 1/7: Smitty and Julija and Friends

Winchesters

632 E. Main St., Ventura

Music Thurs 5:30; Fri 7 pm; Sat 2 pm; Sun 3 pm

Thurs 12/15: Nick & the Old Souls

Fri 12/30: Brittney and Ben

Sat 12/31: NYE Party w/ The Corsican Brothers

Sun 1/1: CRV

Tues 1/3: Open mic w/ Jenna Rose

Thurs 1/5: Teresa Russell

Fri 1/6: LA Jazz Connection w/ Davey Miller

Sat 1/7: Milo Sledge Trio

Sun 1/8: Déjà vu 3

Ventura Music Scene



The Pastel Society of the Gold Coast (PGSC) is a member of the International Association of Pastel Societies. The worldwide organization provides a strong voice for pastel artists.

Every weekend in the month of February Passion for Pastels, an exhibit exclusive to pastel, will be shown at the Camarillo Art Center at 3150 Ponderosa Drive in Camarillo. It's an inspirational family event – introducing children and adults to fine art pastels. Come meet the artists Sunday, February 5th, from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

The Pastel Society of the Gold Coast is a non-profit organization for the specific purpose of providing public exhibitions for its members to educate the community through collaboration with environmental and other non-profit organizations, and to promote the arts in general.



In May of 1999, the City Council established the Municipal Art Acquisition Program to document the history of visual art in Ventura through the annual purchase of important works of art created by area artists. The collection provides increased access to art of the highest quality and of distinctive merit through its display in the public areas of City Hall and other municipal buildings. "Incoming Ocean" by Sally Miller can be seen at City Hall.

<https://www.cityofventura.ca.gov/230/Public-Art-Program>



Snoopy Pond, Ventura Harbor En Plein Air by **Laura Jespersen**

Call for Entries: Open to Members and Non-Members at Studio 99 @ The Bell Arts Factory

Plein Air Open Show

January 13 - February 25, 2023

Entry Deadline: Friday, Midnight, January 6, 2023

This is a non-juried show for acceptance but will be judged for awards!

Juror **Sharon Weaver** - see her work at sharonweaver.com

Join us in Studio 99 @ The Bell Arts Factory on January 21 for a free, in-person and live zoom demo by Sharon Weaver! More details to follow.

Entry fee: Non-members: \$14 for first piece and \$12 for second piece (plus \$3 processing charge)

BAA members: \$10 for first piece and \$8 for second piece (plus \$3 processing charge)

BuenaventuraArtAssociation.org

Ventura Art Scene



Michael Wordsmith took a break from his busy day to read the Breeze while relaxing at Surfers Point. Photo by Patricia Schallert.



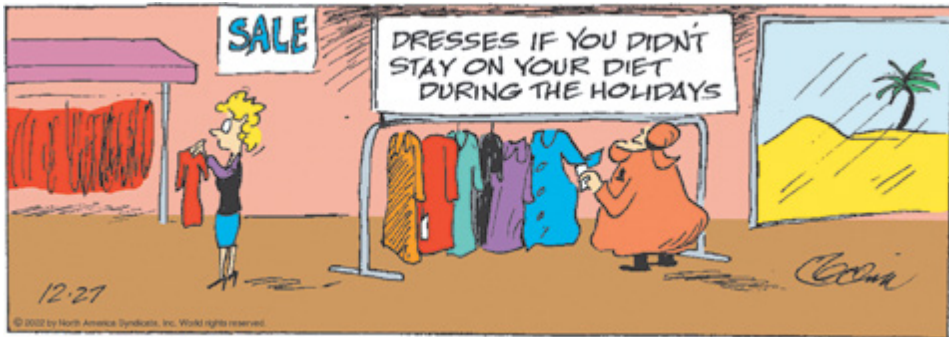


Lighter Breeze

Tiger



Crock



Shoe



Mother Goose and Grimm



Hagar the Horrible



Sam and Silo



Solutions on page 11

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

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

Weekly SUDOKU
by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦
♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

Solutions on page 11

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Feedbag bit
- 4 Chilled
- 8 Theatergoer's souvenir
- 12 Show to a seat, slangily
- 13 Cleopatra's river
- 14 Poi base
- 15 Dance syllable
- 16 Fabric fastener
- 18 Klum of "Project Runway"
- 20 Hide-hair insert
- 21 Lark birds?
- 24 Apple intruders
- 28 Wind-driven toy
- 32 Tidy
- 33 Altar affirmative
- 34 Fusses
- 36 Log chopper
- 37 Region (Abbr.)
- 39 Flag-shaped blazer accessory
- 41 Pago Pago's place
- 43 Sleuth Wolfe
- 44 Sphere
- 46 Lively dance
- 50 Yankee uniform pattern
- 55 Squeak stopper

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13						14		
15				16					17			
19			19					20				
			21		22	23		24		25	26	27
28	29	30					31		32			
33				34				35		36		
37			38		39					40		
41				42		43						
			44		45			46		47	48	49
50	51	52				53	54			55		
56					57					58		
59						60						61

- 7 TV chef Paula
- 8 "Sophie's Choice" author
- 9 Spigot
- 10 Swiss canton
- 11 "— voyage!"
- 17 AAA job
- 19 Morning moisture
- 22 Earth sci.
- 23 Auto style
- 25 Harvest
- 26 Extra-long
- 27 British gun
- 28 Plum centers
- 29 Notion
- 30 Standard
- 31 Easy gait
- 35 Eden tempter
- 38 Perches
- 40 Privy
- 42 Illustrations
- 45 Telly watcher
- 47 Earring site
- 48 "Star Trek" captain
- 49 Medicinal plant
- 50 Prof's degree
- 51 Three, on a sundial
- 52 Away from SSW
- 53 "— Little Teapot"
- 54 Standard

DOWN

- 1 "That hurts!"
- 2 Tennis great Arthur
- 3 Bangkok language
- 4 Perception
- 5 Espionage org.
- 6 Sprite

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You could be happily surprised. **LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) Your plans might have to take a back seat for a bit so that you can handle a problem with a friend or family member. Your schedule will return back to normal in a few weeks.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You've let yourself get distracted from what's really important. But love finally gets your attention this week. However, it comes with a challenge that could create a problem.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Be careful not to bully others into following your lead. Best advice: Persuade, don't push, and you'll get the cooperation you need to move forward with your plans.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Resist the urge to gloat now that you've proved your detractors wrong. Instead, charm them back into your circle. Remember: A former foe can become your best ally.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You might want to claim all the credit for making this holiday season special. But is it worth producing a lot of hurt feelings by rejecting offers of help? Think about it.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Ignore a co-worker's questionable behavior. Instead, put your energy into making your own project special. Then sit back and purr over your well-deserved applause.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) You might not want to accept those suggested changes in your workplace, but don't chuck them out before you check them out.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Relationships in general are beneficial during the early part of the week, including in the workplace. Also, expect some overdue changes in a personal situation.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) "Prudence" should be your watchword this week. Best not to be too open about some of the things that are currently happening in your life.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Money is on your mind, so you'd best mind how you're spending it. Take another look at your budget and see where you can make adjustments.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Resolving to revive an old friendship could open some old wounds. Are you sure you want to risk that? Think this through before making a commitment.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Your need to know more about a new friend could lead to some startling revelations. Best advice: Keep an open mind about what you learn until all the facts are in.

BORN THIS WEEK: Your loyalty to friends makes you a very special person to those whose lives you've touched.

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Show Time

Streaming Spotlight by Cindy Summers

Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery

-Netflix Originals



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

In “Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery”, world famous detective Benoit Blanc (Daniel Craig) finds himself at a lavish private estate on a Greek island owned by billionaire Miles Bron (Ed Norton) who invited his close group of friends for their annual gathering to take part in a murder mystery dinner. The guests included model and fashion designer Birdie Jay (Kate Hudson) and her assistant Peg (Jessica Henwick), Connecticut governor Claire Debella (Kathryn Hahn), brilliant scientist Lionel Toussaint (Lesli Odom Jr.), social media influencer Duke Cody (Dave Bautista) and his girlfriend Whiskey (Madelyn Cline), and Miles’ former business partner Andi Brand (Janelle Monae) who had a falling out with the whole group when Miles cut her out of the company they both started together based upon a business idea Andi laid out on a bar napkin at their favorite bar.

The members of the group seemed to have a love/hate relationship with Miles, who appeared to have been crucial in all of their individual successes, but seemed as though this is what also gave him the ability to control them with the secrets and lies their lives were truly built on. Beniot Blanc’s invitation appeared to be sent to him from someone else in the group, as Miles shared with him that he did not send him an invitation, which was a puzzle box, though realized the boxes could be reset so gladly welcomed the famous detective to join the game. Beniot

said he felt very concerned for Miles because each guest had motives that could cause them to really murder Miles, but Miles just laughed it off.

Miles shared with Beniot that fact that he had created an alternate power source from hydrogen and a flake the size of a dime was powering everything on the island. Several members of the group expressed concern over the level of stability in Miles’ invention, but he blew them off and said that his luxury Glass Onion island resort was proof. When they later gathered for the murder mystery dinner, Beniot easily solved the mystery even before the game began, which caused Miles extreme frustration as he had planned to play the game several days over their stay on his resort island. No one could have guessed that someone would actually end up dead on this trip to paradise, and many things were not as they seemed causing everyone to be a suspect as far as Beniot Blanc was concerned.

To complicate matters further, the deceased guest had a gun that was always on him, but went missing at the time of his death. A short time later it was used to shoot Andi while she was talking with Beniot in the courtyard, but due to a timed power outage it was too dark to identify the shooter. With one person apparently poisoned and another shot, Beniot decided it was time to involve the authorities, however due to the tides and the way Miles built his dock they were unable to come out until the following day. Beniot suggested they all return to their rooms and stay locked in until morning but instead they all gathered in the sculpture room, where Andi decided to show Miles how she really felt about him taking away her company.

As they all travel deeper down the rabbit hole, viewers discover nothing is as it seems, but quite the opposite, and pulled off brilliantly by this group of colorful characters that is highlighted by a star-studded cast. Rewatching the “Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery” helps reveal many of the subtle clues that may have been missed the first time around. Rated: PG-13
Runtime 2h 20m

Two Channel Islands plant species reach recovery thanks to Endangered Species Act protections

Two plants that live on California’s Channel Islands and nowhere else on earth – the Santa Cruz Island dudleya and island bedstraw – have reached recovery thanks to Endangered Species Act (ESA) protections. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) is proposing to remove the two island plants from the Federal List of Endangered and Threatened Plants.

“The recovery of these island plants

is the result of long-term cooperation and conservation efforts by scientists and land managers,” said Paul Souza, director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service’s Pacific Southwest Region. “That’s what the ESA can bring to the table – attention, resources, and incentive for sustained conservation work that produces meaningful results.”

Scientists say their understanding of the plants’ ecology, habitat needs, and status has improved due to the diligent efforts of the U.S. Geological Survey, The Nature Conservancy, National Park Service, and Santa Barbara Botanic Garden to survey, study, and conserve habitat on Santa Cruz Island and San Miguel Island.

“Plants are key contributors to the overall food web and island ecosystem,” said Kenneth Niessen, Service botanist. “As the cause of their decline, and now as their caretakers, we have a responsibility to ensure they, and the benefits they provide to their ecosystem, are not lost to extinction.”

THURSDAY
**JANUARY
12, 2023**

**HONORING
Jordan Laby**
for Lifetime Contributions to
the Arts & Community

BENEFITING
VMF Music in the Schools
NWS Laby Harmony Project

The evening combines dinner
and a musical interlude with
toasts to a man, and a couple,
whose vision transformed our
cultural landscape.

TICKETS
\$150 *per person*
TRIBUTE ADS
from
\$100 - \$5,000

Reserve Now!
www.VenturaMusicFestival.org
(805) 648-3146

These cranes are used for building boat docks and or putting pilings into the water. Piled foundations are typically known as deep-set foundations. They are formed from long, column-like structures made from steel, concrete or timber, and are driven or ‘piled’ into the ground.
Photo by Patricia Schallert.



Whale Watching

Since 1968

Photo: Lotti Keenan

Half Day Whale Watch Trip \$44

Day Hike on Anacapa or Santa Cruz Island \$63

Authorized Concessioner

Channel Islands National Park

ISLANDPACKERS.com or 805-642-1393

Channel Islands National Park & Coast Guard responded to grounded fishing vessel

Channel Islands National Park and Marine Sanctuary is working closely with the United States Coast Guard, state, and local agencies responding to a fishing vessel that ran aground on Santa Cruz Island. The cause of the incident is currently under investigation.

Coast Guard Sector Los Angeles/Long Beach watchstanders received a report from Vessel Assist Ventura that the fishing vessel Speranza Marie, a 60-foot fishing vessel with six people aboard and carrying roughly 1,000 gallons of diesel fuel, ran aground in Chinese Harbor on Santa Cruz Island at approximately 2 a.m. on December 15.

A private fishing vessel responded to the incident and safely transferred the six crewmembers to their boat without injury and transported them to Ventura.

Cleanup crews are on-scene containing and recovering the diesel fuel. Diesel fuel is considered a non-persistent oil, compared to a heavier bunker or crude oil product, in even the calmest sea conditions, as it known to lose 40% of its volume due to evaporation within 48 hours in cold weather.

No impacts have been reported but crews are actively monitoring

for them. Protection to natural and cultural resources remain a priority for Channel Islands National Park. Trained responders from the Office of Spill and Prevention Response have been put on standby and will be activated should they be needed.

United Way of Ventura County Continued from page 5

the situation increasingly challenging. UWVC's Landlord Engagement Program advocates for and supports those prioritized for housing vouchers and housing subsidies provided by local jurisdictions and community partners.

The LEP focuses on increasing the rental housing stock available for utilization of housing vouchers through collaboration with landlords willing to help prevent and end homelessness. The program encourages landlord participation by addressing their key needs and concerns, such as responsive customer service, timely rental payments, assistance with inspection processes attached to housing voucher programs, loss of income during move-in lag time and more.

"In today's competitive housing market, many people are struggling to find affordable places to live," said Mitchel Sloan, president and CEO of UWVC. "Our Landlord Engagement Program is helping provide a safe place to call home for our community's most vulnerable individuals, families, seniors and veterans."

So far, the program has provided 38 housing placements in Oxnard, 35 in Ventura, nine in Port Hueneme, eight in Camarillo, seven in Simi Valley, four in unincorporated areas, three in Thousand Oaks, four in Fillmore and



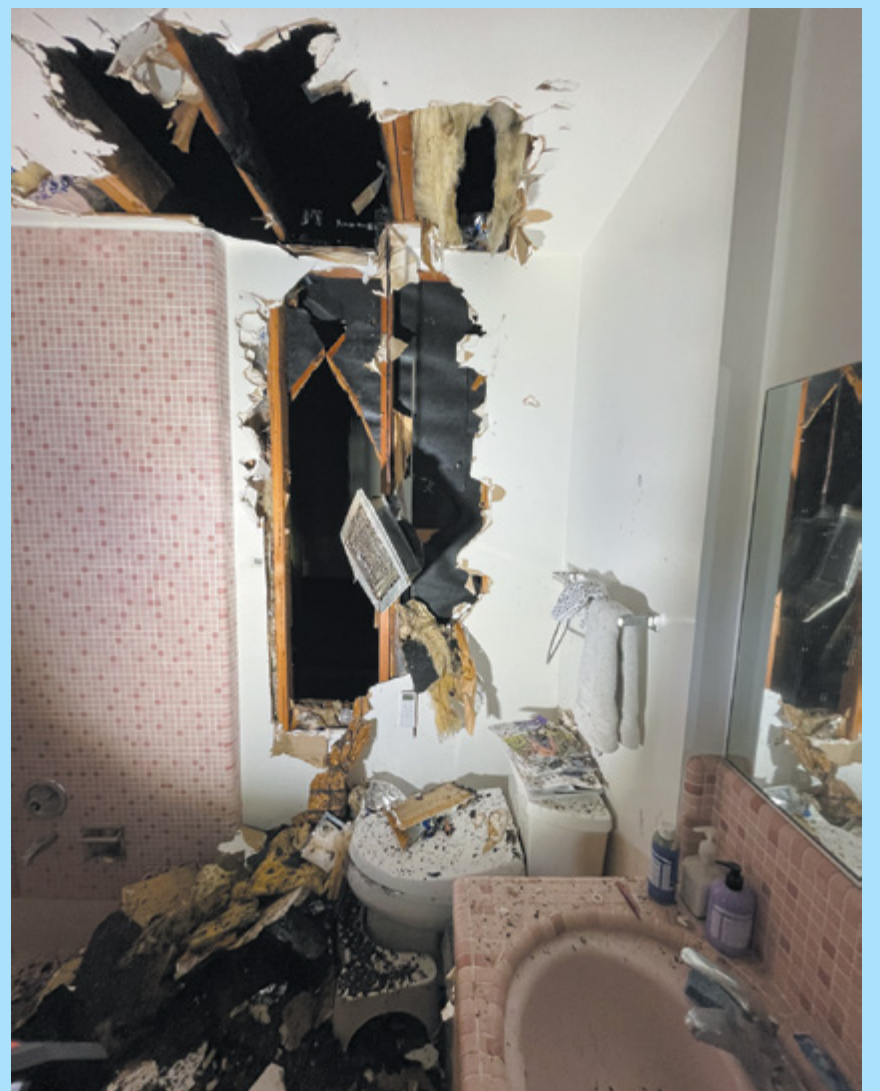
On December 26, the Ventura County Fire Communication Center received a 911 call reporting that smoke was coming from an apartment in the 3000 block of E. Main. Fire personnel arrived on scene within minutes of the initial call and found a single apartment in a large 3 story apartment building with smoke coming from the front door. Fire personnel ensured that no occupants were inside the apartment and began an aggressive fire attack to contain the fire to the area of origin. During a primary search of the apartment, firefighters found unattended combustible materials on top of a stove.

two in Santa Paula. Of those housed, 50 are between the ages of 0-18, 11 are young adults between the ages of 19-24, 89 are adults between the ages of 25-64, and 38 are ages 65 plus.

If you are a landlord interested in becoming a member of the Landlord Engagement Program, please email Carie.Bristow@vcunitedway.org. To learn more about UWVC and its programs, visit www.vcunitedway.org.

Since 1945, United Way of Ventura

County has advanced the common good by creating opportunities for a better life for all. United Way identifies the root causes of poverty and works strategically to solve them by building alliances across all sectors, funding targeted programs and advocating for change. When we work together in common purpose, we LIVE UNITED. For more information about United Way of Ventura County, visit www.vcunitedway.org.



On December 26, the Ventura County Fire Communication Center received multiple calls of a residential structure fire in the 2200 block of Foster Ave. Fire personnel arrived on scene within minutes of the initial call and found a single-story single-family structure with smoke coming from the roof and an exterior wall. Fire personnel ensured that no occupants were inside the dwelling and began an aggressive fire attack to contain the fire to the area of origin. Firefighters were met with light smokey conditions during the initial fire attack and found the seat of the fire in a ceiling fan unit. Firefighters knocked down and extinguished the fire within 19 minutes of the initial 911 call.