

This Weekend: California Strawberry Festival at The Fairgrounds



VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

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X Games California 2023 lands in Ventura

by Visit Ventura

Visit Ventura has announced that in partnership with the City, Ventura County Coast, and Visit California, X Games is coming back to California. This summer marks three years since X Games fans have been able to watch Skateboard, BMX, and Moto X competitions in a large event format in person together. This summer, fans will be able to watch athletes soar to new heights with the Ventura coastline as the backdrop to the world's most elite action sports event.

Fans will gather at the Ventura County Fairgrounds from July 21 to July 23 to watch more than 150 Skateboard, BMX, and Moto X Athletes compete at featured events including skateboarding park, street, street best trick, vert, and vert best trick; BMX park, park best trick, street, dirt, and dirt best trick; and Motocross quarterpipe high air, best trick, and best whip. The weekend will also feature an interactive festival and live music over the course of three days.

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Chief Endaya welcomes newest group of fire academy graduates.

A Day in the Life of a Fire Chief

by Mira Reverente

Some people just seem to know what they want early on in life.

As a second grader, David Endaya knew he wanted to be a firefighter paramedic. His inspiration was a neighbor across the street, a real-life LA city firefighter. "He was my first vision of a firefighter in the flesh and what a firefighter did, aside from being just a really great person," says Endaya. "There were many after him but he was the one that definitely left a mark."

His parents, both immigrants, had instilled in Endaya and his older sister the value of education and hard work, so he attended college at UC Santa Barbara, while also taking paramedic classes at Santa Barbara City College.

He became a paramedic back in 1994, with the City of Ventura, when the city still had ambulances. While most firefighters now get hired straight out of the fire academy, Endaya received some great advice when he was starting out. "I was advised to get my bachelor's first then earn my paramedic license," he says, recalling how stiff the competition was back then when the number of applicants far outnumbered the number of vacancies. "There were people ahead of me who had been testing for about a year or two so I had to learn how to test well and just be persistent and patient."

The best part of the job, as cliché as it sounds, is really the ability to help people on a daily basis. He remembers a horrible accident as a kid, not too far from his childhood home in Arleta, where the firefighters arrived and calmly worked the scene. Young David thought, "What a cool job that is to have the

Continued on page 5

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Member, Ventura Chamber of Commerce

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— Buddha

Local Government News

We received the following email from Ivor Davis. We had the city respond. Being from England we were concerned that he may have been parking on the wrong side of the street going in the wrong direction.

Invasion of the parking meters:

One day, not long ago, I woke, strolled downtown and much to my horror noticed that parts of Main Street have suddenly been infested with those deadly parking meters. (curbs freshly painted with numbers etc.) Sprouting east on Main Street just past the Rosie Lee British fine food emporium. Sure, I reasoned, I was probably sleeping when the powers that be warned us that the meters may continue to march east (or is it west) to compensate for all that lost Main Street revenue.

But then I woke sweating a few days later: Will I one day have to pay for parking outside my own home? So in desperation, I am writing to the Hon. Sheldon Brown to see if he (who knows and understands everything) can explain this predicament and whether I will have to fear (like Ukraine) that the relentless parking meter march will continue!

Thank you.

Ivor Davis

Very, very long time Ventura resident.

City response:

A recent parking study showed that a paid parking model on the 700 block of Main St, would help manage our parking system. Parking meters

or “pay stations” were installed a couple weeks back, along with signs, pavement marking and parking stall numbers.

As of this week, the pay stations are fully operational, and visitors may begin to utilize them!

Our Parking Enforcement team will begin enforcing June 1st, only issuing “warnings” until then.

Additionally, we are actively working on a Parking Action Plan, which was recently presented to City Council. The plan includes new parking technologies, additional paid parking areas downtown and other parts of the city, and work towards a new parking structure!

Downtown residents may be eligible to receive a parking permit through the City’s Downtown Parking Permit Program. The permit, which is offered in our downtown, medical, and school areas, provides all day parking for residents who live near paid parking areas. By displaying a valid parking permit on your car, you can park all day without the worry of getting a parking ticket or moving your car from space to space on your block near their home.

Related to the recent change in the mentioned area, our Parking and Mobility Program Analyst, Sergio Albarran, shared that a recent parking study showed that a paid parking model on the 700 block of Main St, would help manage our parking system. This topic was



addressed by the Downtown Parking Advisory Committee (DPAC) and with Downtown Ventura Partners before the installation of the meters.

The parking meters or “pay stations” were installed a couple weeks back, along with signs, postcard notices to the 700 block, pavement markings, and parking stall numbers.

City staff was able to add an additional eight parking spaces in the area as well. As of this week, the pay stations are fully operational, and visitors may begin to utilize them.

Additionally, City staff is actively working on a Parking Action Plan, which was recently presented to City Council in three separate workshops culminating in a final presentation on Monday, May 8, 2023.

The Plan seeks to identify parking solutions using new parking technologies, additional paid parking areas Downtown and other parts of the City, and a potential new parking structure to better accommodate parking demand.

Additional information can be found at the City’s website at www.cityofventura.ca.gov/Parking. We hope this information is helpful and please let us know if you have any additional questions.

Jennifer Buckley
Senior Community Outreach Specialist

As I See It by Sheldon Brown

Unless we find another one to use, the Breeze will no longer publish a horoscope. So, you will need to get your fortune from fortune cookies. Also, we will have different cartoons. Enjoy!

Good and odd times for the Fairgrounds. Good news is that the Strawberry Festival and X Games are coming to the Fairgrounds.

When Minneapolis hosted the X Games in 2019, the event generated an estimated \$53 million in economic impact. Being a much smaller city, we probably won’t generate near that amount but still a great economic boon for our hotels, restaurants and other businesses (plus TV exposure).

At the press event I asked, “Will there be money spent refurbishing the Fairgrounds.” I was told yes there would be. It certainly needs it. The Fairgrounds are like an old run-down car that needs a new engine, upholstery and paint.

The return of the California Strawberry Festival to the Fairgrounds is wonderful. The event hasn’t been held (COVID) for several years so glad they decided to do it here.

Now the odd part. Less than a year after she was hired, Stacy Rianda is no longer CEO of the Fairgrounds. The Fairgrounds board of directors announced they had accepted Rianda’s retirement. No explanation was given.

She was hired to replace longtime CEO Barbara Quaid who retired. A new CEO will need to be hired, and probably not prior to the X Games.

All questions regarding this matter were referred to the California Department of Food and Agriculture who owns the grounds.

The volunteers who serve on the Ventura County Fairgrounds board of directors hold their seats until they

resign, are replaced or die. Directors are not paid.

It has been tough times for the board and Fairgrounds. The COVID-19 pandemic forced the Ventura County Fair to be canceled for two years. The Fair is a major source of income.

The latest controversy involved a \$319 million facelift of the fairgrounds that would include building a 7,500-seat stadium to be used for minor league baseball, conventions and concerts. Directors rejected the proposal.

After eight months of legal wrangling, the Ventura County Christian School and Ventura Unified School District board approved a settlement releasing the school from back rent and future rent in exchange for it leaving the MacMillan Avenue campus at the end of the school year by July 15.

The VUSD waived more than 10 months of rent. As part of the agreement, the VCCS also agreed to waive religious discrimination claims against the district. Which this case was certainly not about. It was all about the safety of the building, and, perhaps, whatever else the city has planned for the property.

As goes Disney goes Florida. Florida would miss Disney more than Disney would miss Florida.

As reported, “A mass shooting at a teenager’s birthday party in Dadeville, Alabama left at least four dead and reportedly more than 20 injured. A high school senior who planned to play college football was among those killed.”

I find the football part of the announcement about the shooting to be disgusting. Is his life somehow more important than all of the other kids that were killed because he played football? Would the report have stated, “A high school senior who played violin in the

school band was among those killed?” I think not.

A company was fined \$1.5 million for illegally employing more than 100 minors to carry out hazardous jobs, the Department of Labor announced. Children as young as 13 were working with hazardous chemicals and cleaning meat processing equipment at 13 Packers Sanitation Services Inc. facilities in eight states. In addition to the company, shouldn’t their parents also be held accountable? Maybe even more so.

This was an odd decision. A jury found that Donald Trump sexually abused and defamed E. Jean Carroll but also found that Carroll did not prove that Trump had raped her. The mixed decision, which was unanimous, took the jury, which was made up of six men and three women, less than three hours to reach a unanimous verdict, awarding Carroll a total of \$5 million in damages.

He is still degrading her so she might sue him again.

Eleven-year-old Yusuf Shah is being hailed as a genius after he made the highest possible score, 162, on a Mensa intelligence test. His performance beats those of physicists Stephen Hawking and Albert Einstein, who were both estimated to have IQs around 160. Since theirs’ were only estimates, maybe they exceeded 160 and Yusuf is only the third smartest. So big deal I’m the third smartest in my household right behind Diane and Savana the cat.

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



Carol Humphrey

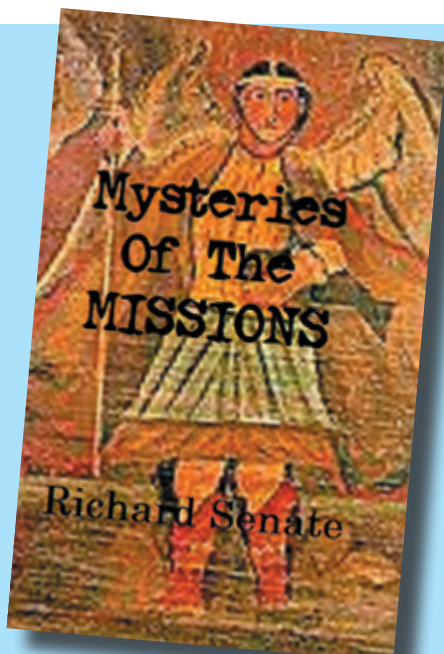
On May 7, a triathlon was held in Ventura. It was the perfect Ventura weekend for the event. The race had 14 separate events and 2 different starting points. Every event that included a swim discipline started at the beach. Many of the athletes familiarized themselves with the bike and run course by driving or riding it prior to the race.

It included 7 Olympic distance events and 7 Sprint distance events. Typically, the swim and run distances are standard but the bike distance varies from race to race.

Several seniors participated including Carol Humphrey. She's 83 years old and she loves the 5k races.

Photos by Patricia Schallert.

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“To provide exposure and expand awareness of mental health challenges.”

The First Annual Mental Wellness Festival of Ventura County is happening on Saturday, June 3rd. It will be at Ventura Harbor Village on the large grass area from 10 am - 5 pm. Celebrating the completion of National Mental Health Awareness month. This is a grass roots mental health and wellness festival inclusive of

a unique (client-submitted) art exhibit, Turning Point's Growing Works horticultural (client-cultivated) native plant exhibit, uplifting music, activities, knowledge, community services and programs plus a blend of cultural, holistic, therapeutic and spiritual wellness related vendors.

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The objective: “To provide exposure and expand awareness of mental health challenges and illness as a growing concern and stigmatization in our community. To provide exposure and expand awareness of local mental wellness programs and pathways available to help treat, maintain and/or improve our mental health.”

There will be live music from Orchard Bluegrass Band, Yoga and Sound meditation sessions from Meditation Mount, plus more! Admission and Harbor Village parking are free. There will also be a 10% off special from participating Harbor Village restaurants and stores that day.

Local non-profit Turning Point Foundation is the organizer of this unique event. Their mission is to improve the quality of life for adults experiencing serious mental illness, addiction, lack of housing and inadequate physical health care. They do this through providing health navigation services, rehabilitation, wellness and recovery programs, as well as temporary, transitional and permanent supported housing in Ventura County.

Come out to support this event and its participants. Learn more, view unique art and garden exhibits, shop, relax your mind and enjoy a beautiful day at the Harbor. Visit mentalwellness-fest.com for more information!



**A day in the life of a Fire Chief
Continued from page 1**

ability to work a scene calmly and know what to do.”

It is humbling to realize that someone’s best fighting chance at survival in a very dire situation is sometimes just you, according to the 52-year-old Endaya.. “You’re almost never off-duty. You could be on vacation with your family or on a flight and you’ll still be called to jump in if there’s an emergency. It goes with the territory, in or out of uniform,” he adds.

While most of us usually have pleasant thoughts and happy associations with holidays, Endaya associates some holidays with emergencies that transpired that day. They got seared in his mind and the memories have stayed with him through the years from his days as a paramedic to becoming fire chief in 2014.

In the past few years, he hasn’t gone out on calls as much as he used to, until something large like the

Thomas Fire happened in 2017. “I had to head out and help,” he recalls that period. “It was all hands on deck but organized chaos. I’m really proud of how our county and the various agencies responded during that time.”

About 70 to 85% of calls are medical emergencies. For example, a car crash is a separate type of call, but it often has a medical component. Another example is a structural fire. It has a medical component as well due to possible smoke inhalation. A majority of the calls are bonafide medical emergencies like trauma, seizures, childbirth and the like.

Also, the Safe Surrender program is still in place in most fire stations around California. Under this program, parents can safely surrender their newborns without any questions asked.

Looking forward, Endaya says a seventh fire station is being considered. The sixth and last one was built



Community outreach is a huge part of the chief’s responsibilities.

in 1988. Part of a five-year strategic plan is looking for potential locations and designs for number seven. Also looking at increasing gender diversity

within the ranks and hiring more female firefighters. According to Endaya, there is no shortage of female applicants but the job market has become so competitive that prospects find themselves sifting through multiple job offers.

If he weren’t fighting fires and attending to emergencies, he thinks he would still be in a job which allows him to make a difference. He says, “I’ve thought of becoming a helicopter or jet pilot maybe, but I know I just have to be around people and solving problems. I would be happiest doing that.”



Endaya with the fire station’s therapy dog in training Hope.

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**X Games California 2023
Continued from page 1**

“For decades, California has been the epicenter of action sports, producing some of the most talented athletes in the world. It’s only fitting the X Games make their way back to the ultimate state for play to celebrate the culture that inspired these incredible events,” said Visit California President & CEO Caroline Beteta. “We’re honored to host the X Games in Ventura and can’t wait to see the next generation of extreme athletes take the stage.”

Ventura City Mayor Joe Schroeder, X Games CEO Steve Flisler, X Games Vice President of Fan Experiences & Hospitality Valerie Ryan, Beteta, Ventura County Supervisor Matt LaVere, Professional Skateboarder Curren Caples, and LOSSAN Managing Director Jason Jewel spoke at an in-person press conference to announce that X Games California 2023 is coming to Ventura.

“Ventura offers the ultimate playground for extreme sports enthusiasts. Our surf and skate culture is a key part of our community’s ethos and naturally compliments the energy and excitement of an international competition like this,” said Schroeder at the press conference. “We look forward to welcoming thousands of athletes and fans to our community and showing the world all the unforgettable things Ventura has to offer.”

Visit Ventura’s relationship with the X Games goes as far back as 2019. Conversations around X Games coming to Ventura in 2020 were shut down when the global pandemic changed the way people gathered in person. “This has been a vision of mine, the Visit Ventura

team, and Ventura partners to build relationships to bring an internationally recognized event to Ventura. The brand alignment is spot on and I am thrilled that the X Games will be a part of the fabric of our community,” said Visit Ventura President & CEO Marlyss Auster. “Needless to say, this is the result of an enormous amount of support, collaboration, and passion. We can’t wait for the X Games athletes, media, sponsors, and enthusiastic spectators to meet our Ventura. It really is happening, and it is going to be amazing!”

Professional skateboarder and Ventura resident Curren Caples also

spoke during the press conference.

X Games California 2023 will be the largest event in Ventura’s history, with a record-breaking economic impact on the community. In 2019 —X Games’s last fully in-person summer event— the games brought \$53 million into the city of Minneapolis. In 2023, the economic impact is anticipated to be even larger.

Around 17.5 hours of live television broadcast on ESPN, ESPN2, and ABC and live streaming contributes to the media value of X Games California 2023 in Ventura.

A sustainable way to travel to Ventura should be at the forefront of fans’ minds:

X Games, Visit Ventura, Visit California, and Amtrak Pacific Surfliner are partnering for a summer campaign to provide a sustainable way to travel up the coast. X Games fans will be dropped off at the Ventura train station, located at the Ventura County Fairgrounds and a few feet away from the action.

“Ventura is excited to have the X Games as part of its community. X Games embodies the adventuresome spirit and inherent love of outdoor activities that we’re known for,” said Visit Ventura Board of Directors Chair Ed Wehan.

Tickets went on sale on Wednesday, May 10.



XGames CEO Steve Flisler and the Mayor.

Visit Ventura CEO Marlyss Auster with Mayor Joe Schroeder.

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“From the Avenue to The Channel Islands” Program

680 students from DATA Middle School will dive into outdoor recreation and ocean-related activities after months of environmental education with MERITO Foundation’s “From the Avenue to

The Channel Islands” Program.

Last fall, the MERITO Foundation launched a new program in partnership with De Anza School of Technology & the Arts (DATA) Middle School, Ventura Unified School District, and the City of Ventura, titled “From the Avenue to The Channel Islands” (ATCI). The program gives students from DATA, many of who reside in the community of the Avenue, the opportunity to take part in outdoor recreation and environmental education in their local community and natural areas.

DATA students in the ATCI program have been learning about environmental, ocean and climate sciences, as well as participating in environmental restoration, exploration and monitoring. In addition, this month all 680 DATA

students will partake in an array of exciting outdoor recreation activities, such as kayaking, hiking, surfing, sailing, and camping. DATA science teachers enrolled in the ATCI program were given a variety of educational and recreational opportunities to choose from for their students based on specific grade levels.

The core focus of study for 6th graders in the program is watershed science. Last December, students biked from their school on the Avenue to the Ventura River estuary with our partners at Once Upon a Watershed where they learned the importance of keeping our watershed clean. Students also planted vegetables and native plants in their native habitat garden and harvested lettuce as part of the Garden Club. In May, they will be catching some waves, taking surfing lessons with Surf Class at Surfers Point.

7th grader ATCI participants are immersed in environmental and ocean science topics, such as urban runoff, coastal and island ecology. Students have had field experiences at the Ventura Water Reclamation Facility where they toured operations, performed water quality testing and monitored wetland birds.

The focus of education for 8th-grade students in the ATCI program is on ocean and climate topics such as ocean circulation, sea level rise and plankton ecology. On April 12 and 13, they boarded the Mystic Whaler, a 100’ Tall Ship replica, where they collected water samples, measured physical parameters, and identified plankton while learning the basics of sailing.

The pinnacle experience for all DATA students in the ATCI program will be 2 night/3 days camping trips to Santa Cruz Island! 220 students in grades 6 and 7 (accompanied by 30 chaperones) will camp, hike, kayak, and snorkel, all while learning more about the natural history of the Channel Islands National Park and National Marine Sanctuary.

The ATCI program also provides DATA students with leadership opportunities as “Youth Outdoor & Environmental Stewards”. Currently, there are eleven youths chosen as stewards, who are providing 50 hours of community service. They support MERITO and partner organizations at outreach events, field experiences, and assist with the DATA Middle School leadership program. As stewards, they also have the opportunity to job shadow professionals at work with our partner organizations, including the Port of Hueneme, Ventura Water, and Buenaventura State Parks.

The Bookmark

About Libraries and Friends

by Mary Olson

One County One Book

The Ventura County Library and Ventura County Library Foundation are beginning planning for One County One Book for 2023. One County, One Book unites the members of the Ventura County community in order to spread interest and facilitate discussion about selected books. The selected title for 2023 is *Solito* by Javier Zamora. This year, the author talk will take place earlier than in past years, on Saturday, September 30, 2023. The main author event, VIP Reception with the author, and booths featuring vendors, non-profits, local authors and children’s story time will take place on the campus of CSU Channel Islands.

Are you a local author, vendor, or non-profit who would like to participate? Please contact: email@vclibraryfoundation.org

Legos at the Library

On Fridays, from 2:00 to 4:00 pm, E.P. Foster Library hosts Lego Play. Children of all ages are invited to bring their imaginations and experiment with creative designs.

Hill Road Library’s Maker Lab offers Lego Challenge on Thursdays, from 3:30 to 4:30. On Thursday, May 25, children can bring a favorite stuffed animal to Maker Lab and create protective armor out of Legos to shield it with an exoskeleton or create a camouflage suit!

Find Your Voice! **Family Musicals Film Fest and Coloring**

Beat the heat this summer at Hill Road Library with air conditioning, fun family musicals, drawing, and coloring for all ages.

Tuesday, June 6, 3:00 to 5:00 pm:

Encanto

Tuesday, June 13, 3:00 to 5:00 pm:

Sing II

Tuesday, June 20, 3:00 to 5:00 pm:

The Lego Movie Part 2:

The Second Part

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Soul

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 store at <https://venturafol-107753>.

square.site/s/shop and pick up your
 purchase at the store in E.P. Foster. At
 Hill Road Library, check the Friends
 of the Library sales shelves, directly
 ahead of you as you enter the library.
 Choose your books and deposit
 payment in the box whenever you visit
 the library.

17th Wine in the Pines 2023

Calling all wine lovers, mark your
 calendars for Saturday, July 8th, for
 the 17th annual Pine Mountain Club
 Wine in the Pines, festival in the Pine
 Mountain Village Center. From 1pm to
 4pm (noon to 4pm with a VIP ticket),
 you'll be able to taste exciting wines from
 the world's top wine-growing regions,
 with dozens of premiere wineries to
 choose from. If you need a break from
 too much fine wine, then enjoy some
 cold craft beer from several wonderful
 breweries. And then there's the food,
 many favorite restaurants will be on
 hand serving everything from classic
 gourmet finger food to good-ole western
 barbeque. Great live music and artisan
 vendors will complete this wonderful
 heavenly mountain setting.

You must be 21 or older to attend
 and purchase tickets. IDs will be checked
 at the front gate. General Admission
 tickets are \$60 in advance and \$70 at the
 door. VIP tickets allow for an intimate
 early noon entry and are only \$80 (must
 be purchased in advance as they are not
 sold on the day of the event). This event
 usually sells out, so buy your tickets
 early. Admission includes wine & beer
 tasting from noon to 4pm, a logo glass,
 and fabulous food.

Tickets for Wine in the Pines can be
 purchased online at the event website,
www.wineinthepines.com. This annual
 fundraising event is hosted by the
 Pine Mountain Club Commercial
 Property Owners and its volunteers.
 The PMCCPOA is a non-profit, whose
 mission is not only to help to improve
 our local community, but also to help
 local non-profits flourish in their
 missions. Our proceeds will continue
 to go toward community projects and
 various non-profits.

The Village is located between the
 Coastal Communities, Bakersfield,
 Santa Clarita and the San Fernando
 Valley. Pine Mountain Club is an
 easy and scenic 90-minute drive from
 Ventura, off Interstate 5. From I-5, exit
 at Frazier Mountain Park Road and
 follow the signs to Pine Mountain Club.
 No matter which direction you come
 from, it's a beautiful mountainous
 drive. There's truly nothing like the
 pine-scented air and the shade of tall
 pines to compliment the taste of good
 wine, food and live music. For a map and
 directions, hotel & cabin rental links
 and other details about the event, go to
www.wineinthepines.com, or find us on
 Facebook.

Ventura Land Trust Celebrates its 20th Anniversary

Ventura Land Trust celebrates 20
 years of conservation in 2023, starting
 with a free community birthday party on
 Friday, May 19th at Topa Topa Brewing
 Company (4880 Colt Street, Ventura,
 93003) from 6-9 pm.

"From the beginning, this has been
 a community endeavor," says Ventura
 Land Trust (VLT) Executive Director
 Melissa Baffa. "We were started 20 years
 ago by a concerned group of citizens who
 wanted to protect the hillsides north of
 the city from development. They wanted
 the natural beauty of those hills to be
 preserved for generations to come, and
 that mission still holds true today."

Founded in 2003 as Ventura
 Hillside Conservancy, Ventura Land
 Trust (VLT) protected its first parcels of
 land along the Ventura River—donated by
 local families—in 2012. VLT stepped into
 the spotlight in 2020 with the opening
 of the 2,123-acre Harmon Canyon
 Preserve. Open daily for free, Harmon
 Canyon Preserve has been embraced by
 the community as a recreation destina-
 tion and as a place to experience nature's
 beauty and diversity close to home.

The threatened hillside land that
 inspired the organization's founding,
 Mariano Rancho, was purchased by VLT
 in 2019 and is expected to open to the
 public as a nature preserve in 2025.

The community spirit and support
 that has sustained VLT for two decades
 continues to drive its conservation work.
 Each year, hundreds of volunteers work

alongside staff on land restoration
 projects and community outreach, and
 hundreds of thousands of individuals
 visit VLT preserves.

"Not all land trusts open their
 conserved lands to the public," says
 Baffa. "For VLT, welcoming visitors to
 these open spaces is an both an invita-
 tion to experience how special they are
 and a call to action. When we connect
 people to nature, they understand why
 it's worth protecting."

VLT offers guided hikes and field-
 based educational excursions in English
 and Spanish. Nature exploration
 program Ventura Wild fosters a sense of
 belonging and awareness of the natural
 world for children as young as two years
 old.

"Looking ahead from here, we are
 digging into the science of nurturing
 biodiverse habitats that are resilient
 in the face of climate change. We're
 building a land trust that reflects the
 full diversity of our region and welcomes
 everyone into open spaces," says Baffa.

"Twenty years may seem like a long
 time, but for nature, it's barely a blink.
 VLT is really just getting started on the
 promise we've made to protect these
 open spaces forever. It's a big promise,
 but we are sharing this vision and work
 with so many other people, business-
 es, and organizations. It makes our
 community and our planet stronger."

Learn more about Ventura Land
 Trust at www.venturlandtrust.org.

**Wine in
the Pines**

**July 8th
2023**

From 1pm-4pm
**In the Pine Mountain Club
 Village Center**

Fine Wineries – Specialty Beers
Gourmet Food – Live Music – & More

Admission
\$60 in Advance – \$70 at The Gate
\$80 Early Entry VIP Tickets
(VIP Tickets must be purchased in advance - VIP entry is from 12pm-1pm)

For Tickets & Information
www.wineinthepines.com
info@wineinthepines.com

You Must Be 21 Years of Age to Attend This Event
 Sorry, no Dogs please
 Presented by the Pine Mountain Club Commercial Property Owner's Association, Inc.

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
VENTURA
LAND TRUST VLT!**

**Celebrate 20 years of conservation
and community at Ventura Land
Trust's 20th Birthday Party!**

Friday, May 19th, 6-9 pm
Topa Topa Brewing Co.
4880 Colt Street, Ventura

RSVP for free
www.venturlandtrust.org/events



Business Profiles



Ian and Jaime possess a keen eye for identifying individuals with the entrepreneurial spirit.

From Businesses to Bungalows, The Lashley Group

by Ross Williams

Southern California's real estate market is renowned for its competitiveness, especially when it comes to

buying and selling businesses. However, Ian and Jamie Lashley have found their passion. They operate The Lashley Group, a boutique firm specializing in business brokering and residential real estate.

Ian's journey began during the 2008 market crash when he decided to sell his retail clothing business. This experience led him to discover the world of business brokering, where he could leverage his skills and knowledge to assist other entrepreneurs in achieving their dreams. After gaining six years of experience with other brokerages, Ian took the plunge and established his own business brokerage firm.

While the past few years have proved to be a great for real estate, the current market has seen a significant slowdown in house sales. Consequently, Ian's focus this year has been on the flourishing business selling side.

Ian specializes in selling various types of businesses, with a particular emphasis on service, manufacturing, and the food and beverage industry. Many of these transactions involve negotiations surrounding purchase price, leases, and assets. Ian's role primarily centers around mediating these negotiations, which can be influenced by factors such as financing,

training, and the transition period with the previous owners. Maintaining confidentiality is crucial in business sales. Most sellers prefer to keep the sale hush-hush, as they don't want to jeopardize client trust or worry their employees. Prospective buyers often need to sign a non-disclosure agreement (NDA) to inquire about a business for sale.

Determining the value of a business requires an assessment of its potential value and current worth. Ian examines profit and loss reports, tax returns, and cash flow to understand the business's financials. This enables him to evaluate whether a business is underperforming and ascertain its true value.

Buyers come from various backgrounds and industries. Plumbers may acquire other plumbing businesses, while individuals may opt for retail, wholesale, or restaurants. Private investment groups might purchase businesses and retain the owners for a transitional period to learn the ropes. These groups often specialize in specific business types or industries like plumbing or manufacturing.

Ian and Jamie possess a keen eye for identifying individuals with the entrepreneurial spirit. The most rewarding aspect of their job is helping people achieve their dreams and being part of their clients' journeys. Business Brokerage website: www.TLGbusinessbroker.com | Real Estate website: TheLashleyGroup.com | (805) 535-3693 | @TLGbusinessbroker

home and office life more organized, efficient, simple, and easy. With her tech-savvy skills and vast experience in household and office organization, she helps people ranging in age from 35-95 to solve problems they haven't been able to solve or haven't had the time or family support to accomplish. Her work greatly enhances their lives by removing the clutter in their homes and in their minds, systematizing their day-to-day tasks, and to keep up with current technology; all of which helps them find more inner peace, joy, and more time to live their lives to the fullest.

She has a long list of the types of projects she provides to her clients which include de-cluttering, categorization, systematization, computers/TV/Smart Phones and Tablets, and several Internet issues and opportunities to simplify their lives. She is available for short-term projects or longer-term support. See her advertisement on page 21 for more details.

After a long marriage that ended five years ago, Dianna moved to Nashville for over a year, and then came back to Orange County, California where she had lived for over 27 years raising her family and running her own publishing business that provided specialized reading materials to schools to help students build their reading fluency and comprehension.

COVID-19 greatly affected her company's sales as her clients were public and private schools, and not knowing what the lasting effects might be, an opportunity arose to sell her business during the pandemic. So, after more than 20 years of being self-employed, she decided to take that step, and then take a year or more off to rest and restart and then decide what was next. Her personal assistant work began with one person knowing a friend who needed help. She then was referred to others that also referred her to others which has given her the many current and past clients she has today.


Dianna has two sons and one daughter, all grown and doing well, and five grandchildren ranging from 1-7 years old. They live from San Clemente to Sacramento which led her to explore Ventura to be in the middle. She is very active in her community and also loves to play tennis! You can find details and contact information at www.diannacleveland.com.



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The Lashley Group, Ian Lashley CBB, IBBA Broker Cal DRE #01912181

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

Due to the Memorial Day holiday on Monday, May 29, trash, recyclables and yard/organic waste will be collected one day later than usual the week of May 28 - June 3 in the Cities of Ventura, Ojai and the surrounding areas.

Thank you and Happy Holiday
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Senior Living



Martha Shapiro, LCSW, Director of Programs at Senior Concerns in Thousand Oaks.

The Importance of Caregivers

by Carol Leish, MA

“Between 2012 and 2050, our county will experience considerable growth in its older population, projected to be 83.7 million,” according to, Martha Shapiro, LCSW, Director of Programs at Senior Concerns in Thousand Oaks. “According to the Ventura County Area Agency on Aging, there are now more people living in Ventura County who are age 60+ than who are under the age of 18.

“Most Americans over the age of 65 live in the community, not in nursing homes or other institutions. Only 4.5 percent (about 1.5 million) of older adults live in nursing homes and 2 percent (1 million) in assisted living facilities. This means that there will continue to be a greater reliance on community-based services, such as those offered by Senior Concerns.

“According to the Alzheimer’s Association, between 2020 and 2025 the number of people age 65+ with Alzheimer’s disease is estimated to increase 21.7% and most will be care for at home by a family member, who themselves may experience a variety of physical, emotional, financial, and social burdens associated with the caregiving role.”

Caregivers in the home may provide hands on assistance with dressing, bathing, feeding and more. Or, they may only provide verbal assistance

and guidance while also providing emotional support. Each person’s needs are different, and may change over time.

Caregiver burnout can happen for various reasons, according to Shapiro. “Caregivers are often tasked with providing difficult, sometimes medical in nature, physical and emotional help. They may be on guard 24/7, having to be aware of their loved ones’ needs. This can take a toll emotionally and physically. If they do not have proper support and breaks, they can feel physical and mental exhaustion.”

Providing caregivers, the community’s support and caring is essential since caregivers are the backbone of the long-term care system in America. Shapiro said, “I encourage people to reach out to those in caregiving roles and offer concrete help. Rather than asking, ‘What can I do to help?’ suggest something clear and specific. Considering to offer dropping off a meal once a week, or picking up groceries or prescriptions every Saturday, or sitting with their loved ones for two hours a week so that the caregiver can take a break. Be clear about what you can offer so that it will be easy for the caregiver to accept the help.

“Senior Concerns has a Caregiver Resource Center to support and empower family caregivers,” according

to Shapiro. “Anyone caring for an aging loved one can schedule a free care consultation to understand the resources available to them, and create a plan of care to help them in their caregiving role. Several caregiver support groups are also offered to facilitate caregivers coming together and supporting each other. Senior Concerns also offers seminars over Zoom that our open to the public that provide education and information on a variety of topics pertinent to older adults and family caregivers.

Contact Martha Shapiro, LCSW, at Senior Concerns at: Mshapiro@seniorconcerns.org, or by calling: (805) 497-0189. Also, look at their website at: www.seniorconcerns.org.

Other information that can help caregivers caring for family members or others can be found by calling the Ventura County Area Agency on Aging at: (805) 477-7342. For further information website at: www.vcaaa.org. For those who are caregivers, or need caregivers, realize that Ventura County has services to offer support and encouragement.

Elder Abuse: An Underreported Problem

by Carey Aldava

Adult Protective Services

This article appeared in LIVEWell.

Billions of dollars are stolen from older adults each year, while self-abuse also plagues this age group. Know the

signs to help stop elder abuse.

According to a 2021 report by the National Council on Aging, one in 10 Americans aged 60 and older have experienced some form of elder abuse. However, it is estimated that only one in 24 cases is ever reported. Ventura County Adult Protective Services received over 5,200 reports of abuse and neglect in 2022. Financial abuse, as indicated over the past seven years, is consistently one of the most reported types of abuse against elders in our county.

Some of the risk factors include living alone, no regular physician, lack of social support/isolation, lack of resources, family conflict, substance abuse, confusion or cognitive impairment, and refusing help from others.

According to the National Center on Aging, elders throughout the United States lose an estimated \$2.6 billion to \$36 billion annually due to financial abuse and exploitation. These critical funds are needed to pay for basic necessities such as housing, food, and medical care.

Unfortunately, no one is immune to abuse, neglect, and exploitation. It occurs in every demographic, and can happen to anyone – a family member, a neighbor, even you. Yet it rare to discover these crimes, typically because clients are reluctant to disclose the abuse and/or neglect.

Elders neglecting their own needs, which is commonly known as self-neglect, is the second-most consistently reported type of abuse against elders in our county. According to the National Center on Elder Abuse, self-neglect is

Continued on page 13



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Senior Living



If you are starting a new exercise program, begin slowly and be as efficient as you can.

Quality Versus Quantity

by Leslie Sokol

When it comes to exercise, you might be struggling to figure out which is more important – quality or quantity of your workouts? No matter what age you are, both of these factors come into play when creating a fitness routine. Of course, as one might expect, quality exercise will always be better than a half-hearted workout. And some quantity of exercise is important to maintain general consistency that produces real and long-lasting results.

If you are starting a new exercise program, begin slowly and be as efficient as you can. Consistency (aka “quantity”) is important, but the quality of your workouts is crucial, especially in the beginning. As the saying goes, “Variety is the spice of life,” and this is especially true when it comes to designing your fitness routine. How each of these factors fit into your routine will depend on your specific fitness goals. Let’s dig a little deeper to

see what this means to you!

Why Quality Exercise is Important

Quality exercise means a few things: first, it means to move well and exercise with proper form and technique. Take your time and focus on the movement you are performing. For example, when stretching, do not force or move the muscles too abruptly. Hold your stretch, relax, and ease into it. Keep your back flat, shoulders down, chest out and stomach pulled in to promote good posture. This will prevent injury, improve flexibility and increase mobility.

Second, quality exercise means putting your best effort into your workouts. You might feel lazy some days, thinking you can get away with having one foot in and one foot out of your workout session. Make sure you keep both feet in!

Third, more reps of a particular exercise or exercising more frequently isn’t always better. You want to be doing a variety of exercises that works the entire body and utilizes all of your muscles.

Why Quantity of Exercise is Important

While quality exercise is extremely important, quantity should have a place in your exercise routine as well. Without consistency, progress is difficult, if not impossible. Schedule regular workout sessions to build your fitness and ensure those results keep racking up.

Both quality and quantity complement each other. They are essential elements that need to be in everyone’s exercise program. So make sure to incorporate both and enjoy your workouts!

Leslie Sokol is the creator and founder of the adult dance and fitness program For the Young at Heart. She has been teaching adults and children for forty-five years. You can watch For the Young at Heart by visiting her YouTube Channel or on TVSB. She also teaches in retirement communities throughout Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties.

For more information contact Leslie at Dancekidsfun@gmail.com 805-312-8089 or visit the website: www.Leslie-SokolDance.com

County of Ventura approves move aligning VCAAA as division of HSA

The County of Ventura Board of Supervisors has voted to approve a change in the Ventura County Area Agency on Aging’s administrative reporting structure, which will see the VCAAA become a division of the Ventura County Human Services Agency. The move is intended to better align the county’s older adult services.

The VCAAA will retain its current organizational structure, and there will be no change to the existing services provided by the VCAAA, or how clients access these services.

A newly formed Aging and Disability Department will oversee both the AAA functions and programs, and in a phased manner, will assume oversight of four programs currently managed by the HSA: In-Home Support Services (IHSS), IHSS-Public Authority, Adult

Protective Services, and Public Administrator.

Victoria Jump, the current director of the VCAAA, will oversee the new Aging and Disability Department and become an HSA Deputy Director.

“For everyone that has relied on us for more than 40 years, the VCAAA will continue to provide the same high level of service to the community that we have come to be known for,” Jump said. “That’s not going to change. The VCAAA’s services will be enhanced as a result of this new structure.”

A reason for the reorganization is to reduce the siloed nature of how services to shared populations are delivered. Both existing VCAAA and HSA programs currently serve many of the same clients. Improvements in communication and coordination will reduce duplication of efforts and resources. The move will also create a central point in access for older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers, and provide more integrated services to these populations.

Additionally, the reorganization will improve the level of administrative support available to the VCAAA, aiming to streamline operations and create better outcomes for clients. Further, it may result in additional leveraging of federal and state funding to support critical programs for older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers.

The changes will take effect with the new fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2023.

Older adults currently comprise 26% of Ventura County’s population, and that is estimated to rise to 29% by 2030 and 32% by 2050. In recent years, both a State Master Plan on Aging and a Ventura County Master Plan on Aging have been established with the aim of addressing the complexities faced by an aging population, and the HSA/VCAAA merger will help the County better accomplish the goals laid out in those plans.

OLLI Taste of Summer Registration Opens

Make your summer something to remember by exploring new ideas, staying mentally active, and making new friends at the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute (OLLI) at California State University, Channel Islands.

The “Taste of OLLI” program offers 25 classes for people age 50+ that are both in-person and online via Zoom. Each class is two hours long, and there are no homework assignments, tests, or grades to worry about. Instead, learning is fun.

Choose from a variety of fascinating topics, such as how Winston Churchill changed history with his inspiring speeches; the psychology of aging; how you can use artificial intelligence online; and even the mystery of who murdered “Mad Monk” Rasputin- the whodunnit of the 20th century!

Classes start on June 12th; and registration opens on May 30th. For more information, go to go.csuci.edu/olli or call (805) 437-2748.

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Larry B.

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Senior Living

Elder Abuse

Continued from page 11

a form of self-harm that may co-occur with, provoke, or be triggered by elder mistreatment. It is characterized as the behavior of an older person that threatens their own health or safety, including but not limited to, the refusal or failure to provide themselves with life's necessities.

Self-neglect is an under-reported type of abuse in Ventura County. In 2020, self-neglect was reported 49.2 percent of the time nationally. However, in 2021, only 38 percent of referrals received in Ventura County had self-neglect allegations.

Risk factors for self-neglect include recent widowhood or the loss of a loved one, worsening medical problems or a disability, lack of outside contact, isolation from friends and family, lack of a caregiver, and cognitive impairment or dementia. Studies have indicated that the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the incidence of self-neglect in aged populations and increased the need for the use of intervention tools for aging

adults and geriatric patients living alone, many of which may include in-home artificial intelligence systems.

Here are eight things that anyone can do to prevent elder abuse:

Learn the signs of elder abuse, neglect, and self-neglect

Stay physically and mentally active

Avoid isolation, keep involved in the community and with family

Stay healthy and seek medical care when necessary

Monitor your financial affairs and watch for unusual banking activity

Be aware of scams – if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is

Use licensed and bonded caregivers who have had background checks

Be careful before adding family or caregivers onto your bank accounts

If you suspect elder or dependent adult abuse, please contact the Child and Elder Abuse Reporting Hotline at (805) 654-3200 to make a report. Or, you may submit a report online at <https://www.reporttoaps.org/>.

Hueneme. It has dozens of small group off shoots from sports activities, to wine tasting, bridge, games, book groups and more. (www.bcnnwomensgroup.org)

June 10: Food, Wine & Beer Event 4-7 p.m. The Monarch Breeding & Research Institute at Camp Arnaz 155 Sulphur Mountain Road. General admission is \$50. Buy Tickets here girlscoutscvc.org/foodwine-beerfestival. Ticket entry gets you a complete pass to enjoy food and beverage samplings from our vendors. Enjoy the beautiful surroundings of the Monarch Breeding & Research Institute at Camp Arnaz.

June 18: Visit Patchwork Show downtown. Patchwork Show is Dear Handmade Life's bi-annual maker's festival showcasing local emerging artists, crafters, junior entrepreneurs, and designers alongside artisan food, DIY crafting, and music. Shop from 60+ local makers, crafters, junior entrepreneurs, designers, and food artisans while enjoying the family and dog-friendly atmosphere. All Patchwork shows are free to attend.

June 24: Channel Islands PC User Group (CIPCUG). Online and Live at our temporary location Ventura County Computers 2175 Goodyear Avenue, Unit 117 Ventura (805) 289-3960. Discussion, Tutorial, and Q&A. Events begin Saturday at 9:30 a.m. All CIPCUG events may be attended online. Due to limited space, live attendance is reserved for members.

June 3: Ventura Audubon Society will be conducting a volunteer Beach Naturalist training workshop on Saturday from 9am to 2pm. Become a beach naturalist volunteer for the Shorebird Recovery Program. You will learn about beach ecology, plover/tern nesting and chick rearing. After lunch, included, you will join Biologists and Outreach Coordinator to practice what you have learned. Volunteers will be asked to complete two beach shifts per month through September. Funding for this grant program is made possible by sales of the WHALE TAIL® License Plate, donations to the Protect Our Coast and Oceans Fund on the California state tax return, and funds from the State of California. Sign-up by June 2nd. For location information and to register go to venturaaudubon.org/beach-naturalists or email outreach@venturaaudubon.org.

June 4: Old-Time Country Bluegrass Gospel Music Assoc. Sunday, 2:00-4:00 pm 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

Sept. 9: Relay for Life of Ventura. 10-10 p.m. at the Ventura County Credit Union, 2575 Vista Del Mar. The largest, most inspiring, and supportive cancer fundraising event on the planet. www.facebook.com/relayforlifeofventura.

Ventura events

by Ana Baker

The Ventura Senior Men's Group continues to meet for a social lunch and program at the Poinsettia Pavilion in Ventura on the first and third Tuesday of each month. Men of all descriptions are always welcome to sample our shenanigans. Lyle Hotzler at 805-341-9820

Do you want a Play Bridge? Join us for ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge games. Every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at 12:30 p.m. All levels of play, and we will guarantee to have a partner for you if you need one. Lessons are available. Contact: Richard 805-850-8011 or Rose 805-659-9223 or buckleyrose357@gmail.com. All Welcome.

May 18: The East Ventura Community Council (EVCC) will meet virtually at 7 p.m. Visit the EVCC website at <https://eastventura.org/> for the Zoom meeting link. The agenda includes the East Ventura police report and a presentation from Ventura Fire Marshal Brett Reed.

May 24: The College Area Community Council will hold a Zoom meeting on Wednesday at 7 p.m. Leona Rollins, Ventura's Housing Services Manager, will describe the city of Ventura's homeless services. Visit the College Area Community Council website @ <https://caccventura.com> to learn more, to be added to the mailing list, or to access a link to the Zoom meeting.

May 27: Children's Health & Wellness Expo 10-3 p.m. The Monarch Breeding

& Research Institute at Camp Arnaz 155 Sulphur Mountain Road Ventura. General admission is \$5. Children under the age of 5 are free. Buy Tickets at girlscoutscvc.org/chwexpo. Live Demonstrations Including: Police K-9, Martial Arts, Search & Rescue k-9. Over 20 vendors to visit on a walkthrough through Camp Arnaz Fun for the whole family! Learn to be better prepared for mental health and emergency needs.

June 3: Girl Scouts & SoCalGas present Robots & Friends Open House 11-2 p.m. Westview Apartments, 1187 Riverside Street, Ventura. General admission is free- RSVP online to enter a free raffle prize. [RSVP girlscoutscvc.org/robotfriends](http://RSVP.girlscoutscvc.org/robotfriends). Robot displays and interactive activity booths. Fun for the whole family. Visit booths and learn more about Girl Scouts.

June 4: Open house tours of the 1892 Dudley Historic House Museum will take place on Sunday from 1-4 p.m. Admission is free. The museum is at the corner of Loma Vista and Ashwood Streets. 197 N. Ashwood. For information, please call (805) 642-3345 or visit the website at dudleyhouse.org.

June 7: Wednesday BCNN, Beach Cities Newcomers and Neighbors monthly meeting speaker is Frank DeMartino an avid birdwatcher whose passion for birds has led him to serve on the board for both Ventura Audubon Society and Conejo Valley Audubon Society. Currently he serves as the President for CVAS and he opened a Wild Birds Unlimited store in Ventura in 2017. BCNN is a group for women from Ventura, Oxnard, and Port



Valerie, Tinette, Patty and Adam prepared the great meals.

Volunteer Appreciation Week held at CMH

During Volunteer Appreciation Week members of the Community Memorial Health Services Auxiliary were treated to a delicious lunch in the 8th floor auditorium of the Mountain Tower of the hospital. Hospital staff served the beautifully displayed entrees, salads, and desserts that tempted auxiliary members as they entered the room. The food did not disappoint!

The many hours of service performed by Auxiliary volunteers allow hospital staff to provide the quality care for which CMH is known. Almost every day volunteers may be seen in various parts of the hospital in their distinctive navy blue and white uniforms.

From the front desk to the emergency room, gift shop, pharmacy, and most other departments, they continue to assist nurses and staff in providing patient care. The luncheon is one way the hospital staff show their appreciation for all the time that is contributed.

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a volunteer with the CMH Auxiliary, applications are available at the front desk of the hospital, or you may ask any of the volunteers and they can obtain information for you. In addition, you may call the Auxiliary office at (805)948-4299 and leave a message with your contact information. You will be appreciated!

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2022 CHOICE WINNER



The Pet Page



Dedicated to Scamp

■ Dogs and cats can develop a form of senile dementia. In humans, it's easy to notice confusion but in dogs and cats it may be harder to determine. As pets age, they develop both physical and mental issues. In cats, it's hard to determine, as cats are more likely to be loners and normally sleep a lot.

However, there are signs that may help identify a mental problem.

Signs of confusion such as not using the litter box, excessive roaming, lack of appetite, or not using their favorite napping spot may point to some form of beginning dementia. If a cat is normally friendly and likes to be petted, held, and cuddled then becomes easily irritated and avoids human contact, this could be a sign.

Being stoic creatures, cats don't normally vocalize if there isn't a reason. If a cat begins to be more vocal and shows signs of becoming confused, restless and unsure, it will usually happen at night.

Canine senility commonly occurs among older dogs. 'Dogs are considered to be geriatric when they reach 10 years of age, although smaller breeds may not show signs for another 3-5 years.

Most dogs benefit from a regular schedule and seniors are more relaxed having a routine. However, as his age advances, he may not remember his schedule as well.

Older pets may be more prone to developing bladder infections. There is help for this in the form of prescribed medications. It's important to get regular check-ups for any suspected condition.

Soiling inappropriately should never be punished, as an aging formerly housebroken dog or cat is not being naughty, but may be losing control due to an aging issue. They should never be punished for something they can't help.

Some suspected mental conditions may have a medical basis. If your pet is drinking a lot of water, has a good appetite but is losing weight, it could be

a sign of diabetes. With a loss of bladder control, he will need more potty breaks.

Dogs can also develop lesions in their brains similar to those found in human Alzheimer's patients. The typical age for their formation begins around 7 or older.

Some behavior changes may also be linked to dental issues. Loss of vision and hearing, arthritis, kidney, and heart disease can cause both physical and mental changes.

Diet is very important so that your aging pet receives adequate nutrition and maintains a healthy weight. Pets with medical conditions may need a special diet formula.

Dr. Joanna Bronson
Bronson Veterinary Services

■ So why have cats evolved to have such exceptional night vision?

"Adaptations for vision are the direct result of a species' need to interact with its environment," Plummer said. "Cats are obligate carnivores, meaning they must eat meat in order to stay healthy. They are unable to produce certain required proteins and must ingest them from an external source. Many of their potential prey items are active at night or in dim light."

Despite being more active than the average human during the night, cats are not strictly nocturnal animals. Rather, they are considered "crepuscular," or active during twilight, owing to their fondness for hunting at dusk and dawn.

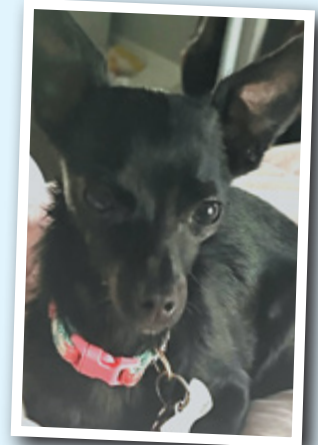
Cats are considered "crepuscular," or active during twilight, due to their proclivity for hunting at dusk and dawn.

However, although feline eyes are designed for night-time jaunts, cats' ability to successfully navigate their environment during periods of near darkness is about more than the composition of their eyes. According to Plummer, cats also rely on their other senses.

So, cats are far more adept at wandering at night than humans are, but when it comes to vision quality, they certainly don't trump humans during the daytime.

Scamp Club

(Scampclub pets are not for adoption.)



Rosario Speed Wagon is 17-months-old weighs 3.5 pounds and absolutely loves everybody she meets. She loves walking on the sand and the promenade here in Ventura. People just love meeting her every time we walk with her. She is irresistible!

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.

Carol was passionate about the environment and animals.

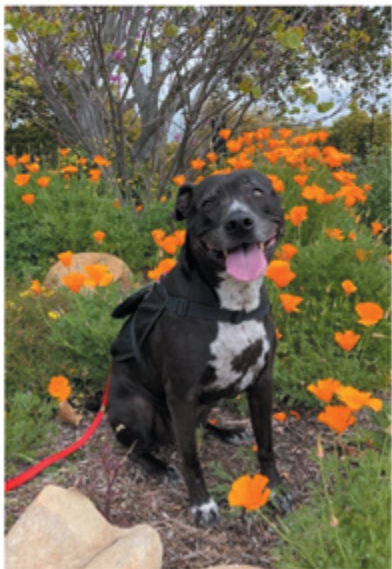
The SPAN community extends condolences to the family of Carol Jeanette Olson who died April 26, 2023. Carol was widely known throughout Ventura County for her passion and extraordinary efforts to trap feral cats and rescue / adopt cats and kittens through the non-profit Pink Paws and Simi Valley Spay and Neuter Clinic.

She will be forever loved, remembered, and appreciated as a member of the feline rescue community. Few realize the many undesirable locations / situations that her dedicated work took her: From sewers and roof tops to chimneys and dark alleys. Carol cared for kittens until they could be adopted, and treated sick felines until they could fend for themselves - no small task for anyone who has tamed down even one cat.

Carol's work within the feline community was tireless, yet she always managed to have a smile on her face...and room for yet one more cat / kitten. She will be deeply missed by the community, friends, and her family.

FOREVER HOME FOUND!

Thank you everyone who inquired or helped spread Daisy's story these past few months. We are happy to announce that Daisy has found her forever home and is settling in wonderfully. As a positive plus, she's only 4 minutes away so we can still visit and have Daisy time!



Forever homes wanted

Hi: We're Cole and Jax, playful Dachshund / Chihuahua X puppies in need of a new home. We're active and good with other dogs. It's unknown how we'd do with cats. We can't wait to be a cherished member of a loving family. Since we're just puppies, children in the home must be at least 6 years of age. We know we're cute and everyone will want us, but please be sure you're ready to take on a puppy as it's similar to having a newborn (2-legged kind) in the home. If you're ready and able to give us a lifetime of love and wonderful memories, please fill out an application to meet us. Canine Adoption and Rescue League C.A.R.L.



Hi: I'm Gorda, a 2-year-old female German Shepherd Dog Mix. I would make a great addition to your family.
Shelter: VCAS Camarillo Animal Shelter
Animal ID: A822423



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 February 1, at approximately 11:00 pm, the Ventura Police Command Center received a 9-1-1 call reference a fight that had just occurred in a parking lot to an apartment complex. Responding officers arrived within minutes and located the victim who was suffering from severe injuries to his face. Ventura City Fire and AMR paramedics attended to the victim on scene and transported him to a local hospital for treatment of non-life-threatening injuries.

The investigation revealed the victim was confronted by the suspect in the parking lot to the apartment complex. The victim feared for his safety and ran for help knocking on doors at nearby apartments. The suspect chased the victim down and began punching the victim and kicked him several times in the head while he was on the ground. The suspect stomped on the victim's face leaving an impression of his shoe. A nearby resident broke up the attack and the suspect fled in a vehicle.

Officers following up on the case located surveillance video from the apartment complex and identified

the suspect as a resident, 25-year-old Ventura resident Coy Duvernay. Officers located the suspect and evidence of the crime in an apartment, and he was arrested. The suspect was booked for Assault with a Deadly Weapon at the Ventura County Jail.

Assault with a Deadly Weapon Arrest

On February 14, at approximately 3:00 pm, the Ventura Police Command Center received several 911 calls about a male subject swinging a knife in the Vons shopping center parking lot. Officers responded to the area and detained 38-year-old vagrant Ramon Carbajal, identified as the subject with the knife.

During the investigation, it was discovered that Carbajal was in the parking lot, swinging the knife when he approached several juveniles and began slashing at them. He struck one of the juveniles in the back, not injuring her. The youth fled into a local business and asked to call the police.

Carbajal was arrested for Assault with a Deadly Weapon and booked at the Ventura County Jail. A search of the Ventura County Superior Court website shows that since 2019 Carbajal has been convicted of ten misdemeanors and felonies, including Vehicle Theft, Vandalism, Petty Theft, Vehicle Tampering, Brandishing with a Knife, Resisting Arrest, Disturbing the Peace, and Identity Theft.

PWC's near the entrance. Officers responded in Fireboat pulled person from water and towed disabled PWC to L/R

Monday 5/8

8:00am, Port District hosting Department of Boating & Waterways basic boating class for officers from around California. The class is a weeklong.

1:35pm, officers preparing swim buoys with anchors and bottom tackle for deployment at Harbor Cove for the summer.

Tuesday 5/9

4:12 received multiple reports of a petroleum spill near VWM B-dock. Officers responded and searched the area, found a small sheen but no source was found.

The Ventura Botanical Gardens is looking for adults and/or children to try special EnChroma glasses for color blindness. If you're color blind, or have a co-worker, friend, or friend who is, and lives in Ventura, please connect with us to try glasses that enable the color blind to see an expanded range of clear, vibrant colors.

The Ventura Botanical Gardens are looking for two or three volunteers, who will be chosen by EnChroma to participate on Tuesday, May 30 at 10am.

To be considered, you must live in Ventura and fill out a brief form at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/KJXYCNX>.

You must be willing to speak with a reporter and be filmed about what it's like to be color blind, and how colors appear to you, then try the EnChroma glasses and describe what you experience. It will require about an hour of your time. You'll get to keep a pair of the glasses as thanks. EnChroma will contact those selected well in advance of the date and provide details. You must not have tried the glasses before the "reveal" date.

Are you color blind?

The Ventura Botanical Gardens is having a color blindness viewer reveal at the end of the month.



On May 8, at 6am, the Ventura County Fire Communication Center received multiple calls regarding a possible structure fire in the Original Pizza Chief located at 1612 Main St. Fire personnel arrived on scene within minutes of the initial call and found smoke coming from the building. The fire was knocked down within 8 minutes of the initial 911 dispatch. The Ventura City Fire Department would like to remind all business owners to ensure that they have working smoke and carbon monoxide detectors in addition to having an effective evacuation plan.

Harbor Patrol Blotter

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

Monday 4/24

1:01pm, dispatched to an unconscious in a vehicle near Riverhaven. Officers responded with AMR, found a deceased 65 y/o male.

8:45pm, received request to jumpstart vehicle in beach lot, officers successful.

Tuesday 4/25

12:28pm, dispatched to a fall patient in Ventura Marina Community. Officers responded with VFD/AMR and assisted a 96 y/o male with head/neck injuries.

1:56pm, requested to remove a female transient setting up camp at the VWM restrooms near D-dock. Officers were able to convince individual to leave.

Thursday 4/27

1:23am, received report of transient with two pit bulls attempting to gain access to hotel rooms at Sheraton. Officers responded with VPD to the call, UTL male.

7:30pm, observed male transient in pants only yelling and dancing on Spinnaker Dr. Officers followed male to Harbor Blvd, police on scene, spotlighted the male until he disappeared in to the riverbottom near Riverhaven.

Friday 4/28

9:45pm, received a request to open restroom in the village for an individual who left their phone in there. Officers responded and were able to retrieve the phone.

Sunday 4/30

2:25pm, observed two swimmers crossing main channel from Harbor Cove to Sand trap. Officers responded in Fireboat, contacted and advised of danger.

Wednes 5/3

11:30am, officers removing large debris from Harbor Cove for Triathlon Sunday 3:03pm, received report of a young aggressive/agitated transient running wild in the village, scaring people. Officers responded and followed the individual.

He was eventually arrested by Ventura PD at "Big Beach" for exposing himself.

9:00pm, officers contacted transient camped outside Village market. Provided a warming kit to the individual and recommended areas to rest.

Thursday 5/4

4:00pm, dispatched to a wellness check on a female on her vessel in VIM. Officers responded and found the woman ok, just sick. Contacted VPD, advised

Friday 5/5

2:46pm, received report from Coastguard LA that a 30ft Wilson with 2 POB's aground at Oxnard Shores. Relayed info to CI Harbor Patrol, they are on scene.

Saturday 5/6

6:24am, observed NWS issued Small Craft Advisory, raised warning pennant. 1:12pm, officers assisting "Cal Triathlon" personnel setting buoys for swim tomorrow at Harbor Cove in the Fireboat.

Sunday 5/7

3:29am, dispatched to sick person in Ventura Marina Community, officers responded with AMR and assisted with treatment. Patient transported by AMR.

6:02am, officers assisting Cal Tri deploying buoys from Fireboat at Harbor Cove

8:50am, dispatched to Ocean Rescue at Ventura Point. Officers responded in Fireboat to assist State Parks and VFD with the call.

11:20am, received request for a tow from a 28ft vessel, patrol towed to their slip.

2:10pm, dispatched to cardiac arrest in the Ventura Marina Community. Officers responded, unfortunately unable to resuscitate, obvious signs of death.

4:24pm, dispatched to fall patient at 1691 Spinnaker Dr. Officers responded and assisted VFD and AMR with the call. Patient refused assistance.

4:57pm, received report of disabled

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 26 mins.

P	A	R	E	S	G	Y	G	L	C	E	
A	G	E	M	A	M	A	A	I	D	A	
G	O	L	D	P	L	A	I	Z	E	S	
I	O	T	A	P	E	N	N	Y			
L	E	G	G	S	T	A	B				
I	T	I	S	H	E	D	O	O	H	S	
E	N	O	P	I	E	R	S	O	I	P	
V	A	N	H	A	L	E	N	F	E	T	A
E	V	E	R	E	A	T	E	R			
C	H	O	R	E	B	R	I	O			
R	O	B	O	P	E	A	R	L	J	A	M
I	N	O	N	H	A	L	E	O	R	E	
B	E	E	S	D	R	E	D	Y	E	W	



2022 finalists in the annual EECCOA Challenge Awards Ceremony.

Students from VUSD will present proposals

For the 8th year in a row, students from Ventura Unified School District will present proposals to reduce their schools' environmental footprint and receive awards.

On Monday, May 22nd, the MERITO Foundation and Ventura Unified School District (VUSD) will host the 8th annual EECCOA Challenge Awards Ceremony. At this event, 7th-12th-grade student finalists

will present their environmental business proposals to either reduce the carbon footprint of their school or advocate for the removal of the relic Matilija Dam from the Ventura River. The primary sponsor of this year's EECCOA Challenge Awards Ceremony is Clean Power Alliance.

For the EECCOA Challenge, students had the option of choosing a project theme from 4 categories:

water conservation, energy efficiency, or waste reduction at their school campuses, or outreach about the ecological benefits of dam removal. This multi-disciplinary competition is an opportunity for our youth to combine environmental science with business ideas, and practice environmental entrepreneurship. School administrators also benefit by hearing from students on how to improve their schools' infrastructure and reduce utility costs.

The event will take place at the Poinsettia Pavilion, in Ventura, from 4 -7 pm. The keynote speaker for the event is Anna Cummins, Co-Founder & Executive Director of 5 Gyres, a leading organization in the global movement against plastic pollution, with more than 10 years of expertise in scientific research, engagement, and education. Representatives from the offices of Senator Monique Limón, and Congressman Salud Carbajal will be present to congratulate the students.

There are currently 86 teams competing in the EECCOA Challenge, from students attending Buena High School, Ventura High School, Foothill Technology High School, Anacapa Middle School, Balboa Middle School, or DATA Middle School. After two rounds of judging, the top 16 finalists will present their projects in person before judges at the May 22nd event. After presentations, the MERITO Foundation and VUSD will award cash or in-kind prizes for 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and Honorable Mention in each category. All participating students have been immersed since September 2022

in MERITO Foundation's Ventura Action Network (V-RAN) Program or "From the Avenue to Channel Islands (ATCI) program in partnership with the VUSD.

The V-RAN program provides professional development, field training, and curriculum to science teachers, as well as hands-on field experience for ~700 middle and high school students throughout the Ventura River watershed and coast. Through the ATCI program, 660 students from DATA Middle School enjoy outdoor experiences at the Ventura River, State Beaches, and the Channel Islands. In addition to environmental education, students also participate in biking, hiking, kayaking, camping, snorkeling, sailing, and surfing, and learn leadership skills that they put into practice at outdoor community events.

Sponsors for the V-RAN Program include NOAA B-WET Grant, Ventura Water, and UC Davis Center for Community and Citizen Science. The 'From the Avenue to the Channel Islands' (ATCI) Program of the MERITO Foundation is funded by the Outdoors Equity Grant, created through AB 209 and administered by California State Parks, Office of Grants, and Local Services.

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

Looking for a local place to dance? Throwback to the 80s Style Music?

Look no further.

The Greek
MEDITERRANEAN STEAK & SEAFOOD

The Greek in Ventura Harbor has added a new reverse happy hour:

"The Greek After Dark"
Thursday-Saturday 9:30pm - 1:30am

Fabulous new food & drink specials

Lazer Light Show

Expanded Open Dance Floor

State of the Art Virtual DJ

No Cover!!

TheGreekVentura.com (805) 650-5350 for reservations.



Shawn is one of the city's homeless.

They are Venturan's trying to make it

by Sheli Ellsworth

Thirty-three-years old, Shawn Hittle is a street performer who specializes in fire spinning. Fire performance typically involves moving and throwing objects like batons or rings made with wicks which can sustain a large enough flame to create an artistic effect. He attends a group that meets near the Seabridge Amphitheater in Oxnard for fire spinning tutorials and practice. "There are a lot of different techniques used. Sometimes we juggle fire and there are elements of martial arts we experiment with," says Hittle.

Hittle grew up on a farm in Illinois where he was a member of 4-H and bred Dutch black and white tuxedo rabbits for show. He graduated high school with a 3.3 grade point average and went on to work in construction doing everything from framing to flooring. He took some online computer classes aspiring to work as a software technician.

Hoping for a job with his uncle, Hittle moved to Ventura with his girlfriend in 2018. His uncle had expressed enthusiasm for the burgeoning marijuana

industry and promised Hittle opportunities. Little did he know, his uncle was living out of his car and the commercial pot growing industry was more difficult than either had anticipated.

After six months, Hittle's girlfriend grew tired of living in a tent and returned home. Since then, Hittle has been couch surfing and relies on his skateboard for transportation. Hittle is one of the city's many homeless.

Hittle says that he gave up looking for employment. Like most homeless, he also has an ID problem. He has a cell phone, but it is not always in working order. "Because I skate everywhere, my phone takes a beating. Half the time, I'm not sure if it is working."

Hittle has been fortunate. He has friends that occasionally volunteer a meal and bed here and there to him. He also receives supplemental food benefits through SNAP.

He has lived in Ventura longer than any previous location since he left home. Because his mother moved a lot, Hittle attended six different high schools in Illinois. He has the occasional call from his sister but is not in touch with any other relatives. Hittle says he would consider free housing but is not keen on oversight. "I stay out of trouble, so someone asking me where I have been or what I have been doing is unnecessary."

He also says that many homeless seem to be a target of police. "When you know you haven't done anything wrong, having the police stop you and ask questions is disturbing." He says that Ventura is pretty low-key compared to some of the places he has lived and is surprised the police even bother.

Safety hasn't been an issue for Hittle—yet—but he does admit that many of the city's homeless have challenges beyond homelessness. "At least 40% of the homeless people here have some type of mental disability," he says. For Hittle, the situation is temporary. He hopes that the future will open some doors—until then fire spinning on the promenade keeps him busy.

Ventura County Concert Band celebrates its 59th Anniversary Season

The Ventura County Concert Band is a community band in Ventura. The band was founded in 1964 and operates as a community service under the auspices of the Ventura Adult and Continuing Education Office. The band's members are volunteer musicians from widespread personal and professional backgrounds.

Larry Weiss served as the band's musical director and conductor from 1974 to 2008. For thirty-four years, Larry instilled a high standard of musical excellence and audience interaction; all for the pure love of music. It is from that perspective that the VCCB continues on after Larry's passing sustaining his legacy of high caliber community musical concerts.

This year, under the musical direction of Dr. Julie Judd, the band celebrates its 59th Anniversary Season. Dr. Judd obtained her Masters in Music

Degree in Wind Conducting from the University of South Florida and her Doctorate Degree from Pepperdine in 2015. Dr. Judd serves as the Chief Technology Officer for the Ventura County Office of Education.

Over the past fifty-nine years a lot of great music has been performed including traditional band repertoire, light classics, music from modern concert compositions, marches, standard "pops" selections, popular tunes of the day and big band selections.

The real story behind the VCCB is its dedicated membership. Many of the volunteer members have been with the Band for over thirty years. Howard Leach, playing clarinet, is a local architect with offices in Ventura and a founding member having played with the Band for 59 years.

Its members are truly dedicated to the Band's mission of playing music at a very high standard for the benefit of the community at large free of charge. The Band rehearses weekly and performs four times during the Ventura Unified School District academic year.

As the VCCB looks forward to its 60th anniversary season, they do so at a time when sadly, in a difficult economic climate, music and art programs often are cancelled barely surviving. We

Continued on page 19

THE Gold Coast GEM SHOW

FREE Admission*

VENTURA COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS

Saturday, May 27, 10am-5pm Sunday, May 28, 10am-4pm.

Featuring 30 dealers, including demonstrators and local Gem and Mineral Societies.

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Fire prevention starts WITH YOU!



• Check smoke alarms regularly to ensure they're working properly



• Fire extinguishers should be located near an exit and away from fire hazards

BRUSH MANAGEMENT DEADLINE JUNE 1, 2023



Create a defensible space



Maintain grass, trees & shrubs surrounding structures.



More information: CityofVentura.ca.gov/FirePrevention



Plants were distributed to families during Plantopia.

Plantopia Earth Day Event

Over 1,800 vegetable plants were distributed at Students for Eco-Education and Agriculture's (SEEAG) first annual Plantopia U Pick Transplant Fundraiser on Earth Day. The fundraiser raised over \$5,000 to help with SEEAG's agricultural education programs that teach students about the farm origins of their food, water resources, soil health, entomology and locally grown fruits and vegetables.

SEEAG provided 500 bags of potting soil donated by Agromin in Ventura County and Engel and Gray in Santa Barbara County to give plants a healthy start.

"We plan to make Plantopia an annual event," says Mary Maranville, SEEAG's founder and CEO. "It's a great way to kick off planting season, remind people of the importance of our farmers and celebrate Earth Day."

Plantopia was held at SEEAG's Farm Lab at Petty Ranch in Ventura and Plantel Nurseries in Santa Maria. In addition to tomatoes, zucchini, squash, basil and pepper seedlings,

Other annual SEEAG events include Santa Barbara County Farm Day in September and Ventura County Farm Day in November.

For more about SEEAG, go to www.SEEAG.org.




In August 2018, a very large pine tree in Plaza Park was transformed into an amazing sculptured art piece by John Mahoney. It has been water-blasted to keep it fresh and beautiful.

AMR PRESENTS
A Global Medical Response Solution

STATE of the CITY


ADDRESS



Thursday, May 25, 2023
7:30 – 9:30 AM

Presented by Mayor **Joe Schroeder**

Crowne Plaza Ventura Beach
Top of the Harbor
Grand Ballroom
450 E. Harbor Blvd
Ventura 93001



TICKETED EVENT • \$60 for members, \$80 for non-members
Register online: VenturaChamber.com/StateoftheCity

<p>PLATINUM SPONSORS</p> <p>FOUR POINTS BY SHERATON VENTURA HARBOR</p> <p>Harrison</p> <p>Wick</p>	<p>GOLD SPONSORS</p> <p>AERA</p> <p>at&t</p> <p>EDISON Energy for What's Ahead</p> <p>Montecito Bank & Trust</p> <p>MUSTANG MARKETING</p> <p>UCLA Health</p> <p>Ventura Auto Center</p> <p>The Port</p>	<p>SILVER SPONSOR</p> <p>VENTURA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE</p> <p>BRONZE SPONSORS</p> <p>Aegis Living</p> <p>Bank of the Sierra</p> <p>Crowne Plaza Ventura Beach</p> <p>Portside Ventura Harbor</p> <p>SESPE Consulting</p> <p>Tolman & Wiker An Assured Partners Agency</p> <p>Ventura College</p>
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GOLD COAST BROADCASTING

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BREEZE



Rubicon Theatre Company Announces the Second Event of the Company's May Concert Series

THE DRIFTERS AND CORNELL GUNTER'S COASTERS

Two Legendary Rock and Roll Groups Join Forces Performing the Timeless Doo-Wop Sounds of the '50s and '60s in 5 Spectacular Concerts!

Friday and Saturday, May 19th and 20th at Rubicon Theatre in Ventura

Rubicon Theatre of Ventura presents the second event in the company's May Concert series on Friday and Saturday, May 19th and 20th - THE DRIFTERS AND CORNELL GUNTER'S COASTERS. Making their celebrated return after their sold-out Rubicon shows in 2019, these two legendary groups are teaming up again for an unforgettable concert experience. The Drifters are American treasures, the first group to be inducted into the Rock-and-Roll Hall of Fame. Their "Under the Boardwalk" is the most played R&B hit of all time. They are joined by Cornell Gunter's Coasters, now in their 35th year! Fans will get the chance to relive the magic of the golden era of music and witness some of the most timeless hits of all time, live on stage. Both groups will perform some of their biggest hits, such as: "There Goes My Baby," "Under the Boardwalk," "Love Potion No. 9," "Charlie Brown," and more!

THE DRIFTERS AND CORNELL GUNTER'S COASTERS is a special limited engagement on Friday, May 19th at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., and Saturday, May 20th at 2 p.m., 5:30 p.m., and 8 p.m. at Rubicon Theatre Company, 1006 E. Main Street in Ventura's Downtown Cultural District. Prices are \$69.50 with special discounts for students, seniors, military and Equity members. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.rubicontheatre.org or call 805.667.2900.

THE DRIFTERS, known for their soulful and melodic tunes, have been a force in the music industry for over six decades. They were the first group to be inducted into the Rock-and-Roll Hall of Fame, along with fellow inductees The Rolling Stones, The Beatles, Bob Dylan and The Supremes. Rolling Stone Magazine named them in their "Top 500 Greatest Rock and Roll Performers" issue, declaring, "No group has done it this well for so long - no one, not even the Rolling Stones."

With their 50-year-old catalog of hits such as "Under the Boardwalk," "Save the Last Dance for Me," and "Up on the Roof," which sold over two million records, The Drifters have cemented their place in the hearts of music lovers around the world. Their impeccable harmonies and smooth vocals are sure to captivate audiences of all ages.

CORNELL GUNTER'S COASTERS, known as the Clown Princes of Rock and Roll, are also a beloved group that has left an indelible mark on the music industry. With chart-topping hits such as "Yakety Yak," "Charlie Brown," "Poison Ivy," "Young Blood," and "Love Potion No. 9," Cornell Gunter's Coasters are known for their upbeat rhythms, witty and catchy lyrics, and energetic performances. Over the years, they have continually built a new market for their approach to 1950's music. They are among the few artists in rock history to successfully

straddle the line between music and comedy. Their undeniably funny lyrics and onstage antics meld into an engaging and infectious combination, securing their place as one of the most entertaining doo-wop/vocal groups of all time.

The concert promises to be a nostalgic journey down memory lane. Fans will get to sing along to classic tunes and make new memories with family and friends while witnessing two of the greatest groups in music history come together for a night of music and memories.

THE DRIFTERS AND CORNELL GUNTER'S COASTERS' takes place on Friday, May 19th at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., and Saturday, May 20th at 2p.m., 5:30 p.m., and 8 p.m. at Rubicon Theatre Company, 1006 E. Main Street in Ventura's Downtown Cultural District. Prices are \$69.50 with special discounts for students, seniors, military and Equity members. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.rubicontheatre.org or call 805.667.2900.

"Live events are back and we are beyond excited"

VMF announces diverse, star-filled 28th festival set for July 28-30 and August 4-6.

"Live events are back and we are beyond excited about the artist line-up for this summer," says VMF Executive Director Susan Scott.

5-time Grammy Winner, Dianne Reeves, one of the pre-eminent jazz vocalists in the world today, headlines. Also, Mark O'Connor, a musical genius considered by many to be "the most influential fiddle player ever."

There is the sublime artistry of guitarist Ana Vidovic, and the Grammy-nominated jazz supergroup, Special EFX All-Stars, featuring guitarist, bandleader and 3x Emmy winner Chieli Minucci, joined by Elliott Yamin, Brian Bromberg, Jeff Kashiva, Lao Tizer and Gene Coye.

The Moanin' Frogs sextet, (Covid-beset in 2022) finally arrives to perform this summer featuring all six saxophones from soprano to bass in an electrifying, delight-producing program.

And to expand the programming even further, we kick things off (pun intended) with choreographer and tap prodigy Caleb Teicher who joins piano virtuoso Conrad Tao. Together, they create magic onstage. In their second national tour, they bring "Counterpoint," an artistic collaboration exploring the intersections between their artistic worlds.

Program schedule and details, along with video clips are online at www.Ventura-MusicFestival.org. Ticket prices range from \$15 to \$65. A 15% Early Bird Discount is available May 1-21, accessed with the discount code: CELEBRATE.

Ventura County Concert Band Continued from page 17

believe that our story will be inspiring to other people involved with community service organizations, especially those in the performing arts.

The Band will next perform on Sunday, June 4th, at 3:00 at the Ventura High School auditorium. The June concert will be a "Pops" concert including music from Disney, Rodgers and Hammerstein, The Beatles, Henry Mancini, Stevie Wonder, Stephen Sondheim, Louis Armstrong, and George and Ira Gershwin.

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SATURDAY JUNE 3 7 P.M.

RUBICON THEATRE COMPANY

FOR TICKETS:
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At Studio 99 @ The Bell Arts Factory Nature's Apotheosis Solo Show by **Robert Wassell**.

Exhibit Runs thru July 1, 2023

Robert Wassell, habitual hiker and prolific and popular painter, calls his collection of more than 30 recent oil-on-canvas works "Nature's Apotheosis," a word meaning the highest point in development, or culmination. "It says that nature is the pinnacle of the world we live in," the Ventura artist explained.

Open Thursdays through Sundays, noon to 4pm, for the full run of "Nature's Apotheosis." Wassell will host almost all Saturdays and Sundays (call to confirm - 805-648-1235) during his show, providing many "meet the artist" opportunities. Executive Director, Sharon Taylor, will host Thursdays and Fridays.

The entrance to Studio 99 at the Bell Arts Factory is around the back of the building off of Wall St.

The Ventura Unified School District (VUSD) is excited to announce that the VUSD District-Wide Student Art Show will be held at Vita Art Center from May 25-29, 2023. The show is made possible through the efforts of the Ventura Education Partnership, Vita Art Center, and the Ventura Arts Collaborative. The juried show will highlight our incredibly talented high school, middle school, and elementary school artists.

Opening night reception is Thursday, May 25, from 5:00-8:00 pm. Student chefs will provide hors d'oeuvres. High school student awards will be presented at 7:00 pm after the viewing. All proceeds from this event support VUSD's art programs.



Ventura Art Scene



The Ojai Art Center is excited to present the 46th Annual Art in the Park fine art show. This much-anticipated event will take place in downtown Ojai, on the weekend of May 27th and 28th. The show will be held in Libbey Park.

Art in the Park is a showcase for some of the best artists in the region, featuring paintings, sculptures, photography, ceramics, jewelry, and mixed media. The show will provide a unique opportunity for visitors to experience fine art in a beautiful outdoor setting.

The event will be held from 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM both days, and admission is free to the public. Come meet the artists and learn more about their work.

The Ojai Art Center has been promoting the arts in the Ojai Valley since 1939, and the Art in the Park show is just one of the many ways they support the local arts community.

For more information about the Art in the Park show or the Ojai Art Center, please visit www.ojaiartcenter.org.

Ventura County Public Works to host over 1,300 Local Students

For this year's National Public Works Day on May 23rd, more than 1,200 students in Ventura County will visit the Ventura County Public Works Agency! National Public Works Day is an opportunity for kindergarten through high school students to learn about the world of public works. PWA provides water, sanitation, vertical construction, survey, grading, roads, transportation systems, controlling and conserving storm waters, and working as first responders for major events. This year's theme, "Connecting the World Through Public Works," highlights how public works professionals connect us through infrastructure, planning, and building.

VCPWA will transform the "G" lot at the Government Center into a display of heavy equipment and booths demonstrating the agency's work. Local students will participate in interactive demonstrations focused on science, technological innovations, illustrations of current engineering projects, career opportunities, and more.

"Public Works Day is one of our most fun days of the year. Our staff loves to showcase their work to protect and enhance the safety and quality of life in Ventura County and maybe inspire some public works agency staff of the future," said Jeff Pratt, PWA Director. "With the theme of 'Connecting the World Through Public Works,' it is important to note that we collaborate on many projects with the Ventura County Sheriff and the Ventura County Fire Department, as first responders for major events, as engineers in building county jails and other facilities, and in supporting our community during times of need."

Employees of the other Ventura County departments will join us on May 23rd."

Members of the public, as well as homeschooling parents, are invited from 11 am to 2 pm at the Government Center in Ventura on May 23rd.

Ventura County Library encourages families to "Find Your Voice" and participate in Summer Reading!

There are a wide range of themed events scheduled at the VCL branches, in addition to the regular Storytime and special events programs. Families are encouraged to stop by their local VCL branch to participate in themed bi-weekly STEAM activities and challenges and other subjects related to this year's theme "Find Your Voice".

VCL encourages the love of reading with a range of free activities for children, teens, and adults throughout the summer.

This program is free and open to the public. For additional information, contact Molly Krill, Ventura County Library Youth Services Manager at (805) 677-7170

Ventura branches:
 Avenue Library, 606 North Ventura Avenue, Ventura, CA 93001
 E.P. Foster Library, 651 East Main Street, Ventura, CA 93001
 Hill Road Library, 1070 S. Hill Road, Ventura, CA 93003
 Saticoy Library, 1292 Los Angeles Avenue, Ventura, CA 93004

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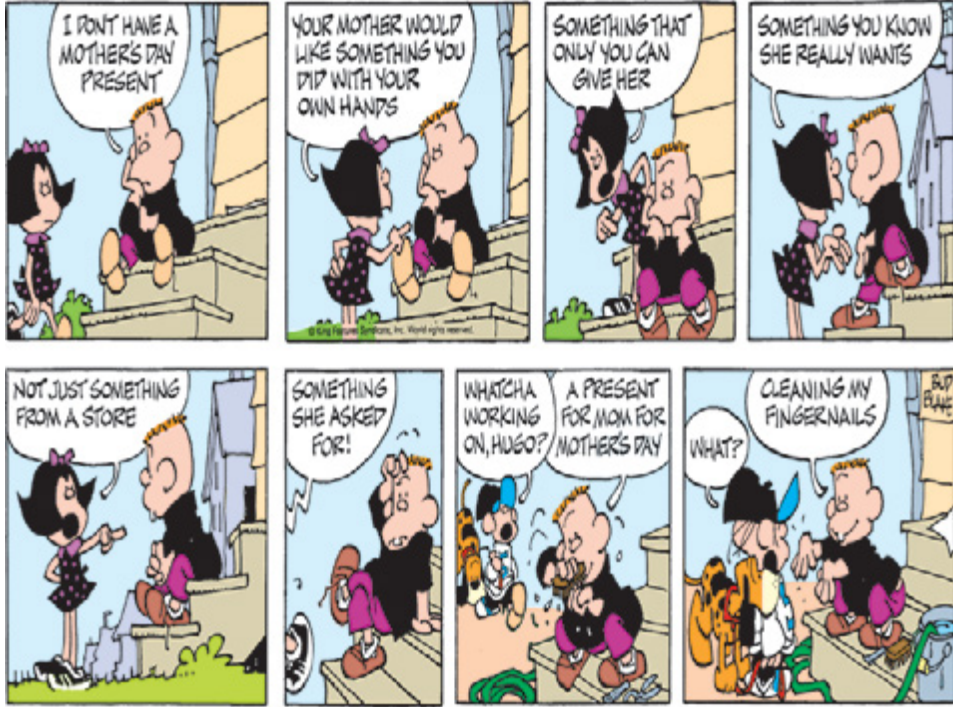
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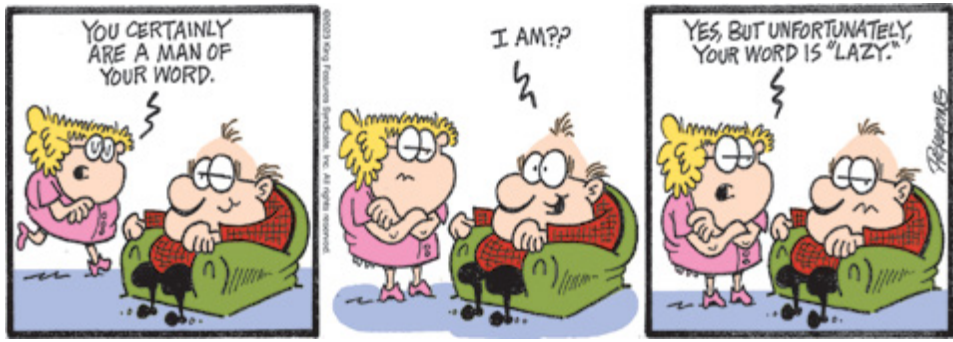


Lighter Breeze

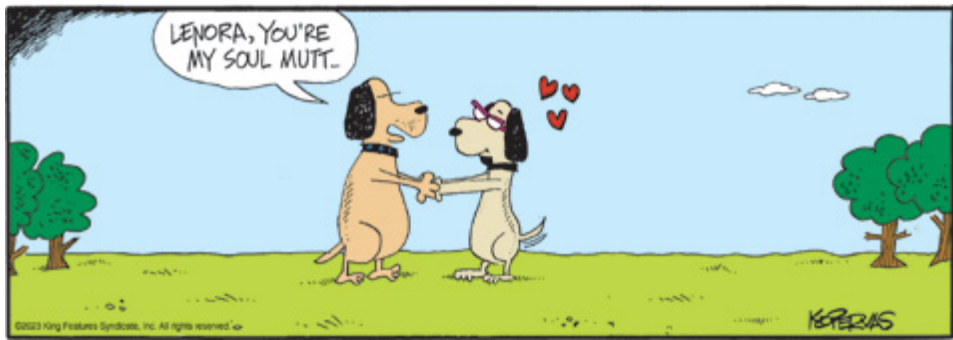
Tiger



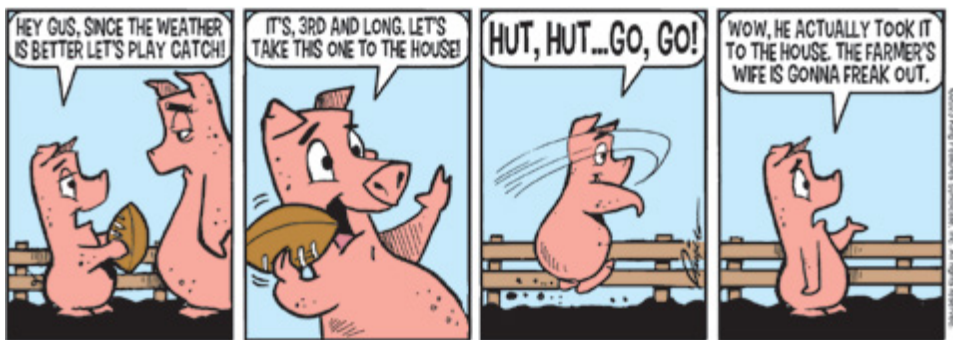
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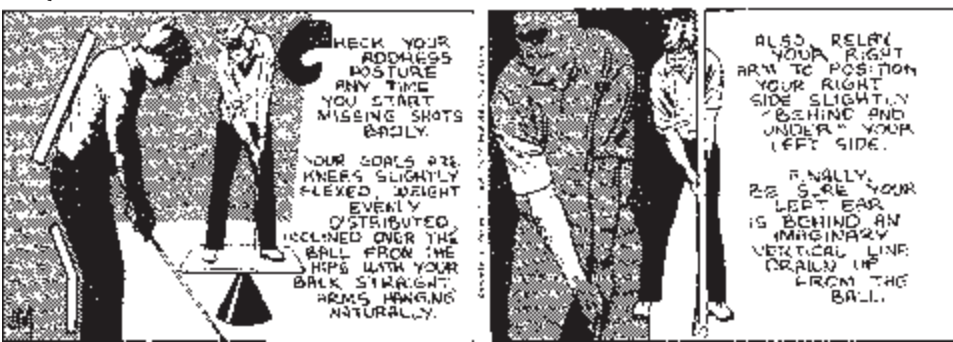
Out on a Limb



Amber Waves



Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



Solutions on page 15

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

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

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

Solutions on page 15

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Standard
- 4 Like custard
- 8 Jubilation
- 12 Candle count
- 13 Crib cry
- 14 Verdi opera
- 15 "Yellow" band
- 17 Zorro's marks
- 18 Teeny bit
- 19 Lincoln's coin
- 20 Long-limbed
- 22 Wild guess
- 24 "How sweet -!"
- 25 "Light My Fire" band
- 29 Rock's Brian
- 30 Berth places
- 31 Quick swim
- 32 "Jump" band
- 34 Greek cheese
- 35 Always
- 36 Gourmand
- 37 Task
- 40 Vivacity
- 41 Sci-fi prefix
- 42 "Jeremy" band
- 46 Privy to
- 47 Robust
- 48 Mine yield
- 49 Honey bunch?
- 50 Historic Scott
- 51 Evergreen type

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
2			3					14		
5		15						17		
		18					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	

DOWN

- 1 Lobbying org.
- 2 Previously
- 3 Seminary study
- 4 Void
- 5 Fancy party
- 6 "Today" rival, briefly
- 7 "Rah!"
- 8 Garden pavilion
- 9 Property claim
- 10 Genesis garden
- 11 Relaxed
- 16 Feet, slangily
- 19 Cushions
- 20 Schreiber of "Ray Donovan"
- 21 Sicilian volcano
- 22 Transparent
- 23 Seabird
- 25 Scrabble piece
- 26 Schiller poem used by Beethoven
- 27 Ceremony
- 28 Mast
- 30 Macadamize
- 33 Marsh birds
- 34 Flunk
- 36 Goofed
- 37 First bed
- 38 Sharpen
- 39 Slender woodwind
- 40 Hay bundle
- 42 Third degree?
- 43 Corn serving
- 44 Exist
- 45 Kitten's cry

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WITH THE CONTINUED SUPPORT OF OUR ADVERTISERS, DONORS AND READERS, WE CONTINUE TO BRING LOCAL NEWS AND INFORMATION TO VENTURA. LOCAL NEWSPAPERS ARE SOLELY DEPENDENT ON ADVERTISING REVENUE. WE ASK OUR LOYAL READER TO HELP SUPPORT THE VENTURA BREEZE. WE LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUE OUR MISSION OF BRINGING OUR READERS THE INFORMATION IMPACTING VENTURA.

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DO YOU WANT TO BE LISTED AS A DONOR? YES ___ NO ___

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE VENTURA BREEZE!

Show Time

A View from House Seats

Ojai Stages Original Work

by Shirley Lorraine

Ojai writer, director and artist Peter Fox offers up his play “Disappearing Act” now on stage at the Ojai Arts Center Theater.

Fox’s work features a young man who ostensibly makes his living as a magician. With this background in mind, the body of the work centers around a man struggling with old familial resentments, a curious and surprisingly naive scholar and an older man who magically appears bringing a few skeletons from his own closet.

Woven into this are some bits of magic as well as references to magic history and personalities in the world of magic, many with which the general public is unlikely to be familiar. Fox’s fascination with “inspired magic” is evident. However, from my point of view, it was not fully realized, but did provide a new scenario twist in which to explore disappointment, disillusion and long-buried anger.

The acting by all three is by-and-large adequately done, particularly Buddy Wilds as Frank. He fairly carried the second act which had more depth. However, the three characters did not seem to have developed chemistry between them.

Max Budroe as Donny, the young man, failed to convince me that his skills were honed enough to make a living as a magician, either in presentation or performance. Budroe seemed unsure and tentative opening night handling the cards and basic tricks. His rather shaggy look never said “professional” to me as a performer. There seemed no difference between the man who lounged on the

couch or the man who was performing “at a gig.” He delivered the written material well enough although the actual magic performed seemed quite entry-level. Perhaps his confidence will build as the run goes on.

Emily Vallance gives a strong presence to Molly, a student drafting a thesis on the psychology of magicians. There is a wealth of writing on this subject that seemed given little depth. It was unclear to me what information she was seeking and how it related to the action.

Buddy Wilds’ character was crusty and interesting. The dialogue pace picked up considerably after Wilds entered the action.

Some technical aspects seemed to still be in rehearsal phase. Long pauses when lights either did or did not come up in a timely fashion and uncertain sound cues caused pacing to be somewhat choppy. The audience did react favorably throughout, and pacing should smooth out over the run.

Magic Consultant James Lantagne, owner of The House of Magic in Santa Paula, no doubt lent several props, set decor and instruction but the director and actors must put the polish on, which I found lacking. I was eager for more performance shine to convince me of Donny’s acumen as intimidated by the script. Sadly, I was disillusioned.

Disappearing Act continues through May 28. Note Friday and Saturday curtain times are 7:30 p.m., Sunday matinees 2 p.m. ojaiact.org or 805-640-8797 Not suitable for children.

very well-known athletes. Deloris told Sonny she would consider his offer and get back to him, but a short time later he had heard that Adidas matched the offer and included a Mercedes-Benz 380SL so thought that the deal was not going to happen.

Sonny got a call from Deloris who said regardless of what he had heard that Michael was going to sign with Nike but under one additional condition, that along with the \$250,000 he would also receive a percentage of any Nike product sold under his brand. Sonny knew this had never happened before and felt it would definitely be the deal breaker, but after talking with Phil they decided to go for it and began immediately to develop a prototype shoe

to show the Jordans.

Their chief designer had been working on a line he named “Air”, and named Michael’s shoe the “Air Jordan”. Though the NBA had rigid standards on color, they designed a colorful shoe based on the Chicago Bulls colors and agreed to pay the fine of \$5,000 a game for Jordan to wear the shoes. The Air Jordans were like no other shoe on the market and a record-setting instant hit selling \$162 million in its first year. Currently the Air Jordan brand represents \$4 billion in annual sales for Nike, and Micheal is reported to have made \$400 million a year in passive income as a result of the revenue share with Nike.

Rated: R (Language)
Runtime: 1h 52m

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AIR

- Amazon Studios



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

“AIR” shares the incredible true story of how Nike and Michael Jordan created a brand with a partnership that completely changed the sports industry, athletic branding and even popular culture. Just after the NBA draft in 1984, Nike only held 17% of the basketball shoe market, far behind the leader which was Converse with 54% followed by Adidas with 29%. Nike’s basketball shoes division had to do something big with a comparatively small budget or risk being cut by the board. The film stars Matt Damon as Nike athletic scout Sonny Vaccaro and is directed by Ben Affleck, who also stars as Nike CEO Phil Knight.

Sonny Vaccaro held the unique position of basketball athletic scout with Nike and was responsible for finding talented athletes that would promote the Nike brand. He worked with Nike Basketball Division Marketing VP Rob Strasser (Jason Bateman) who picked the talent pool for the scouts and was mainly focused on the players from the

recent NBA draft. Michael Jordan was 4th in the draft going to the Chicago Bulls and had been a vocal supporter of Adidas shoes and track suits, which were very popular at the time.

Nike CEO Phil Knight assigned the team an annual budget of \$250,000 for three athletes, which made it difficult for Sonny and the team to get top athletes that were being offered more money by their competition. Sonny requested \$500,000 but Phil said no, so Sonny suggested they use the entire budget to try to sign Michael Jordan. Phil was resistant at first, but then agreed and Sonny set off to meet with his friend George Raveling (Marlon Wayans) who coached Jordan in the Olympics and could offer some support in bringing him to Nike.

Howard White (Chris Tucker) was VP of Nike basketball athletic relations and had told Sonny that when dealing with black families that it’s always best to go through the mothers, so Sonny set off to North Carolina without notice to meet with Michael Jordan’s parents. Michael’s father was out front working on his car when Sonny arrived and felt it was a very bold move for him to show up unannounced. Michael’s mother, Deloris Jordan (Viola Davis) came out and Sonny was able to convince her to allow him to discuss the potential of a deal with Nike.

Sonny told Deloris the contract would be for \$250,000 and that Nike had an advantage in that they could devote much more attention to Micheal than the other brands that carried some

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SANTA BARBARA’S PROFESSIONAL THEATER COMPANY



May 02, 2023
Re: Request for sub bids

To Whom It May Concern:

WML & WEBCOR, A Joint Venture is a construction firm bidding on the project listed below:

Project: MBR/UV Upgrade Project
Bid Due Date: May 12, 2023 at 2:00 P.M.

We are seeking sub-bids from DBE subcontractors, and material and/or equipment suppliers in the areas of work included in, but not limited to, those listed below:

- Estimating
- Scheduling
- Plan Review
- Geotechnical Survey
- Potholing
- Cost Risk Management
- Security
- Flood Plain Hydrologist
- Traffic Control
- Corrosion
- Biologist
- Community Outreach

WML & WEBCOR, A Joint Venture encourages all interested DBE companies to contact us at least 1 day prior to the bid due date to review with us your proposed scope of work.

The RFP Documents and Plans are available for review at this Box link: <https://webcor.box.com/s/be9ihp4cbn7xond6zlksek3nw5qjvl>

We are willing to assist all DBE subcontractors/suppliers in obtaining bonds, lines of credit, and/or insurance. If you are interested in participating in this project, please contact us at outreach@webcor.com.



On May 15, at 12:36pm, the Ventura County Fire Communication Center received multiple calls regarding a traffic collision at Telephone and Portola. Ventura Police units quickly arrived on scene and determined a person was trapped in the vehicle. Fire personnel arrived within minutes of the initial call and found a single passenger trapped in a vehicle with major damage. The vehicle was stabilized, and extensive extrication was deployed to remove the victim and transport the victim to the Emergency Room with Fire personnel via ambulance. The cause of the incident remains under investigation and the Ventura City Fire Department would like to remind the public that seatbelts save lives.

Business Profile



My background of being tenacious and not accepting failure as an option has guided me.

Ventura Bike Depot, Inc.

Offers a friendly, safe place to explore the bicycle as an alternative form of transportation.

Free test rides on the latest variety of electric assist bicycles. Both rear hub drive and mid-drive. Come experience the difference and see why the spread in price is warranted.

What inspired Shelley to start this business?

In 1982 she trademarked and imported for the first Italian made Quadracycles into California. The factory name at that time was "JOMARK." She trademarked the name "Pedalina" and opened a dozen rental businesses in Ventura and Santa Barbara, CA.

Shelley Sund, direct descendant of a Washington State homestead family, moved from Seattle to San Diego and imported the first sea container, one of many and was on her way. Trademarking, talking to Franchise companies, and building up fleets and business locations all around. In 2003 she performed a corporate name change from Cycles-4-Rent, Inc. to Ventura Bike Depot, Inc which has been successfully in operation at 239 West Main Street from 1994 to present.

After forty-one years of building and evolving the bicycle business, Ventura Bike Depot has the advantage of a full-service bike shop with new bike sales, repairs & tune ups, plus rentals. Situated right on the bike path system, VBD has an identity all its own with great knowledgeable staff and friendly service.

Shelley Sund, CEO of Ventura Bike Depot, Inc.

Founding Member of The Ojai Bicycle Coalition (1999)

Cycle California Coast (2017)

NBDA National Bicycle Dealer Association (Since 1982)

Channel Islands Bike Club member

Bike Ventura member & Donor

Speaker at the Womens Economic Ventures (WEV) in Santa Barbara, has drawn her advice to always be able to mold and change your business plan on the spot as this can be very useful, especially when you can identify that it may not be working as well and needs an adaptation or mutation.

A background of being tenacious and not accepting failure as an option has been a guiding force.

Remember the book about the story of "Mrs. Fields Cookies?" Hearing how even her own husband who was a financial wizard, told her it wouldn't work but she did it anyway? Well.... LOL. Even during the recent pandemic and past economic downturns, this business has flourished.

My target client/customer is anyone who loves to incorporate bicycles into their lives, somehow, someway. The motto is essentially "More butts on bikes" whether that's for car replacement, a second car, recreational enjoyment, training, exercise, etc. bicycles are efficient, healthy, green and just plain FUN!

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(805) 652-1114
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