



VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

Vol. 16, No. 18 Published Every Other Wednesday Established 2007 May 31 to June 13, 2023

Federal loan awarded to Ventura Water Pure to aid in increasing water supply

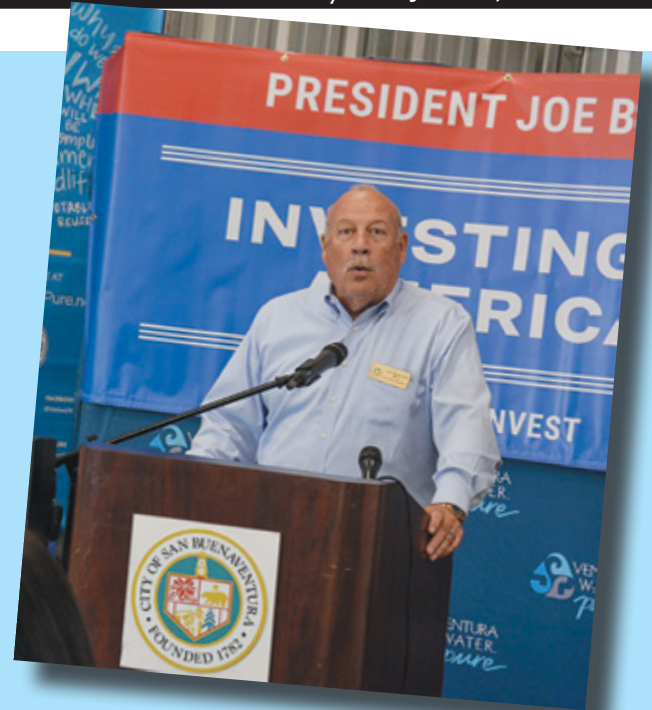
By Richard Lieberman

To turn wastewater into safe drinking water Ventura has been awarded a federal loan amounting to \$174 million. The loan will cover half the cost of a new program that will convert treated wastewater into safe drinking water. Currently wastewater from the city is sent to the Ventura Water Reclamation Facility. Once there it is treated and cleaned then discharged into Santa Clara River Estuary. When the program is completed a portion of this treated water will be sent to a new Advanced Water Purification Facility for reuse.

At a news conference held at the city's water reclamation plant, speakers said the new program will be beneficial to the environment, increase water supplies by around 20%, and will be a safeguard to the community against drought.

Speaking to the assembled crowd Ventura Mayor Joe Schroeder called the award a "monumental milestone" at the event where federal, state, and city officials gathered to revel in the \$174 million

Continued on page 2



Ventura Mayor Joe Schroeder addressing the assembled crowd.

Mayor delivered two 2023 State of the City Address

Ventura Mayor Joe Schroeder presented the annual State of the City Address at two events on Thursday, May 25, 2023. The first presentation was hosted by the Ventura Chamber of Commerce and held in the ballroom of Crowne Plaza Ventura Beach the second was held at the Museum of Ventura County and hosted by the City of Ventura.

Topics highlighted during the 2023 State of the City presentation included:

Overview of the Fiscal Year 2023-24 Budget.

Continued on page 5



Stephanie Caldwell President & CEO Ventura Chamber of commerce.



Mayor Joe Schroeder Photos by Patricia Schallert

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Your Hometown Paper

Member, Ventura Chamber of Commerce

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

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The Ventura Breeze is printed with soy based ink on paper with minimum 40% recycled content.

The only one who can tell you “you can’t win” is you and you don’t have to listen.
— Jessica Ennis

Local Government News



Zach Benner receiving his award from Fire Chief David Endaya

Ventura Fire Department honors Paramedic Zach Benner as Paramedic of the Year

During National Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Week the Ventura Fire Department was proud to recognize

Zach Benner as its Paramedic of the Year. Additionally, the Department honored 28 employees with 33 Life-saving Medals for excellent service to the City of Ventura.

Zach Benner has been a firefighter-paramedic with the Ventura Fire Department for 7 years and was awarded the Paramedic of the Year honor for providing high-quality care to those in need, serving as the secondary acting EMS Coordinator when needed, and showcasing himself as an exemplary leader among his peers.

“Our firefighter-paramedics are highly trained professionals who provide life-saving care in dangerous situations and put their lives on the line to ensure the safety of our community,” said Fire Chief David Endaya. “I am proud to lead such an exceptional team and thank them for their commitment to our city, residents, and visitors.”

In 2022, Ventura firefighter-paramedics responded to over 18,000 calls for service, over 13,500 of which were EMS-related responses.

Currently, Ventura Fire has 79 EMS professionals who engage in continuous classroom and manipulative training exercises annually to maintain fine skills and licensure.

The Ventura Fire Department is currently hiring Lateral Firefighter-Paramedics. Learn more and apply online at www.CityofVentura.ca.gov/Jobs.



Ventura Water Pure Continued from page 1

in new funding. The project is called Ventura Water Pure and upon completion will supply the city with a scientifically proven method that will treat wastewater to drinking water standards.

The loans will pay for about half of the \$354 million slated to be spent on the initial phases of the program, said Director Linda Sumansky. Currently 5.5 million gallons of treated effluent are going into the estuary on a daily basis. Around 60% of that will be diverted to an advanced purification plant slated to be built for the project. “The plan is to get to zero discharge. “Said Vince Ines, wastewater utility manager for the city” Another phase of the project which will let all the effluent to be diverted will cost the city an additional \$80 million.

Ventura is one of the largest cities in Southern California to rely solely on local water supplies. Rainfall feeds the Ventura River, Lake Casitas, and groundwater basins to meet all community needs. Prolonged drought conditions and increasing environmental regulations have created challenging conditions to maintain and increase local water sources.

This new program began after a 2012 legal settlement with environmental groups over discharge of wastewater into the estuary, which provides habitats for

As I See It by Sheldon Brown



Congratulations to Ana Baker for going back to school and obtaining her AA degree from Ventura College while holding a full-time job. Now it's on to California State University Channel Islands. Staci and Sheldon helped her celebrate.

The Ventura Fire Department is currently hiring Lateral Firefighter-Paramedics. Learn more and apply online at www.CityofVentura.ca.gov/Jobs.

I apologize for not responding to birthday wishes sent to me on Facebook. I seldom look at Facebook. Thanks for your good wishes.

The Museum of Ventura County has announced the installation of three new exhibits, which will require temporarily closing the doors of the main campus at 100 East Main Street from May 29th through June 21st. Reopening on Thursday, June 22nd.

The Ventura City Council has approved (with recommendations and conditions) moving forward with the next steps for a major housing project proposed at 2325 Vista Del Mar by KB Development. The council voted 5-2 in favor of future action for 394 residential. Councilmembers Mike Johnson and Liz Campos voted no.

I agree with the two no votes, but

perhaps for different reasons. With the hotel down the street near completion, plus whatever will be built in place of the Golden China when it is torn down, the traffic from Vista Del Mar to Seaward will be huge and not very manageable.

The vote means city staff will prepare a development agreement with the developer KB Home. The project will also require approval by the California Coastal Commission.

KB has agreed to a railroad crossing and funding traffic studies and also to pay for required upgrades. The city's 2005 general plan identifies the acreage for high-density residential use.

Stewart Rhodes, the founder and leader of the Oath Keepers, was sentenced to 18 years in prison for leading the insurrection to keep then-President Donald Trump in power after he lost the 2020 election. The sentence is the first handed down in over a decade for seditious conspiracy. “What we absolutely cannot have is a group of citizens who – because they did not like the outcome of an election, who did not believe the law was followed as it should be – foment revolution,” District Judge Amit Mehta said before handing down the sentence.

“I'd like to start by just saying that I'm a political prisoner, and like President Trump, my only crime is opposing those who are destroying our country,” Rhodes told Mehta in court. He is confused about who is trying to destroy our country and our democracy.

Jean Carroll, who this month won \$5 million in damages from former President Donald J. Trump, is now seeking a “very substantial” additional amount in response to his insults on a CNN program just a day after she won her sexual abuse and defamation case. Ms. Carroll's filing in federal court seeks to intensify the financial pain for Mr. Trump.

The Ventura Planning Commission

approved a proposal for a six-story mixed-use building in downtown. The project, which has 94 multi-family residential units, including 13 very low-income units, is located at 211 Thompson Blvd. and Figueroa Street. In a 4-2 vote, commissioners approved the major design review, a coastal development permit and a lot line adjustment.

With the commission's approval, the project can move forward unless it's appealed. A City Council approval is needed if the commission's decision is appealed. The project exceeds the maximum allowed height of four stories because it provides a certain number of affordable units. The state allows applicants to request a size increase under the Bonus Density Law as a way to encourage new housing developments to incorporate subsidized affordable units in exchange for more density.

The State has basically removed cities rights to conform to its own planning and zoning standards. If State guidelines are not followed the city could face potential lawsuits.

Mailbox

Editor:

Thank you for bringing this to attention (minors working in industrial plants). There were thirteen Packers Sanitation Services, Inc. that were discovered by the Dept of Labor and were employing minors.

This reminded me of the early 2000's when the Koch Bros. created America for Prosperity and the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), mainly for members of large corporations who sent Republican lobbyists to Congress trying to ‘bend the laws’ of our nation. ALEC's members are corporations who control about 13 states' legislatures.

During this time Animal Rights



birds and fish. Under the current plan wastewater will be sent to a facility being built near Ventura Harbor for advanced treatment. After treatment, the water will be injected into underground basins and blended with groundwater before being made available to water customers in Ventura. Vince Ines wastewater utility manager said “the resulting water will be better tasting and of a higher quality than it is now”

State Officials have not yet approved regulations to allow cities to sell converted wastewater by itself as potable water.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency approved the loan, as part of a \$50 billion water initiative supporting infrastructure projects initiated by the Biden administration an EPA official said.

“WE have to diversify the water supply and conserve what we have, especially, in the context of the climate crisis,” said Radhika Fox, assistant administrator for water at the EPA.

The city will, of course, need to repay the loan. Terms so far are the city will repay the 35-year loans at an interest rate of 3.66% with revenues paid by water customers. Increases in water rates have already been approved at 6% for water and 7% for wastewater but another rate study will be started in the next couple of years.

“We are grateful to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for awarding the City of Ventura a transformative \$173 million WIFIA loan. This funding is a vital investment in our community’s water infrastructure, ensuring the well-being and prosperity of our residents. With the EPA’s support, we can embark on crucial projects that will enhance our drinking water systems, improve wastewater treatment, and promote sustainable water practices,” said Ventura Mayor Joe Schroeder.



Radhika Fox U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Assistant Administrator spoke about the importance of water infrastructure.



Mayor Joe displays a large replica of the \$174 million check awarded to the city.



Vince Ines Wastewater Manager explaining how the process will work.

organizations had taken pictures inside a meat packing plant. Those state Republican legislatures passed laws that would make it a felony to take pictures in meat packing plants. Claiming that company patent secrets would be leaked when in fact they were worried that the pictures of how animals were slaughtered would outrage Americans.

I am encouraging Breeze readers to dig a little deeper into the corporations that continually break the laws. Find out which companies they are, what organizations and political parties they represent, and what organizations they are members of. And when you vote for your local, state, and national representatives, think hard on whether your choice will be representative of corporations or people.

Diane Garber

Sheldon:

Thanks for giving my letter all that space. And I appreciated the precise and detailed response from Jennifer Buckley, Senior Community Outreach Specialist (I marvel at the titles they conjure up in local government offices.)

It was part informative and part Orwellian details based on info provided by Parking and Mobility Program analyst Sergio Albarran.

In olden days they might have gone straight to the nitty gritty: Something like, “because we are deeply in the red as a result of huge loss of all that Main Street parking meter income, it was decided to try and retrieve some of those losses by extending parking meters.” Thank you.

Ivor Davis

Breeze:

Grandma got run over by an E-bike Last February grandma was run over by two girls on an E-bike while walking on the State Beach Recreational trail. Witnesses said the girls were “out of control” and traveling 10-15 MPH. Grandma was taken to the hospital in an ambulance. She sustained significant injuries.

E-bikes are relatively new. Current regulations are inadequate. Reasonable regulations are needed.

There are three classes of E-bikes. Class 1 and 2 go up to 20 MPH and Class three to 28 MPH.

There are four classes of bike lanes. Class 1 paths are exclusively for bicyclists and pedestrians and are away from main roads. The others are integrated with existing streets.

California defines E-bikes as a bicycle. The rules pertaining to E-bikes are similar to those regulating regular bicycles. A license or liability insurance is not required. E-bikes are heavier and faster than regular bicycles and are potentially more dangerous.

California Vehicle Code prohibits Class 3 E-bikes from Class 1 recreational trails. However, it provides an exception for local jurisdictions to allow this.

There are a myriad of different rules pertaining to E-bikes. Ventura has a municipal code that allows class 3 E-bikes

Continued on page 5

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

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The Red Hat Society ladies.



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Grace Thompson, wife of festival co-chair Mike Thompson with what might be Mike.



Overflow crowds attended the Strawberry Festival at the Fairgrounds. Photos by Patricia Schallert and Yana Khiyod

Smiles and mouths full of food at the Strawberry Festival

Yummy treats, live music, rides and a great time was enjoyed at the California Strawberry Festival held on May 20 & 21 at Ventura County Fairgrounds celebrating its 37th year.

Attendees didn’t mind the long lines as the Festival was held after a three-year absence and at a new location.

Several local bands entertained the guests, some who danced while waiting to eat the many foods available. Much more than just strawberries.

Moving In?
Moving Up?
Moving Out?

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Firefighters honored at ball. Photos by Mary Thompson

Firefighters' Ball and Awards Ceremony

The Firefighters' Ball and Awards Ceremony was a huge success honoring Ventura City firefighters and providing fire families a night of fun and camaraderie.

Highlighting the Ball were the Department's annual awards:

Captain Austin Araiza received the Firefighter of the Year award for his exceptional work in arson investigations, training new team members, and ensuring the correct use of protective gear.

Engineer Zach Benner was recognized as the Paramedic of the Year for delivering high-quality care and serving as a leader among peers (see separate article).

Captain Christopher Pironti received the Greg Andrews Safety Award for his commitment to

workplace safety and support for the Peer Support Team.

Luis Martinez was honored as the Fire Prevention Employee of the Year for his dedication to customer service and producing quality work.

The Matthew Clapsaddle Career Achievement Award was created to honor fallen Firefighter-Paramedic Matthew Clapsaddle, and it was presented to Firefighter-Paramedic Ryan Howard for his support to the Clapsaddle family and his role in the Peer Support Team.

Additionally, Captain Shawn Hughes, Captain Kyle Tong, and Administrative Assistant Kris Edwards received the 3rd Alarm Award for their exceptional support to the department.

After the awards, guests enjoyed dancing, casino games, and a raffle.



Graduates of WEV's Emprendimiento Program in Santa Paula, May 11, 2023. Photo by WEV.

Small business owners graduated from WEV'S Emprendimiento Program

Women's Economic Ventures (WEV)'s Emprendimiento Program increases opportunities for historically marginalized individuals by providing entrepreneurial training and access to capital for limited English proficient (LEP) and Hispanic community members.

Graduation ceremonies were held May 2 - 11 in Oxnard and Santa Paula to celebrate 90 small business owners who completed Women's Economic Ventures (WEV)'s Emprendimiento Program for entrepreneurial Hispanic and Indigenous Ventura County community members.

The 90 participants successfully completed WEV's free, 8-week business training program taught in Spanish and are now each eligible to apply for a \$7,500 microgrant award to grow their existing small business.

Emprendimiento is a unique program developed by WEV for low-English proficiency individuals and is funded by the state of California's Employment Training Panel's (ETP), Social Entrepreneurs for Economic Development (SEED) initiative. Launched in 2021, WEV's Emprendimiento program provides entrepreneurial training, technical assistance, and microgrants for small business owners to grow their enterprise in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. To date, 330 people have participated in WEV's Emprendimiento Program, 261 have graduated, and \$600,000 in microgrants have been awarded to entrepreneurs in Santa Barbara and Ventura

counties. This summer \$337,500 in grants will be awarded to the recent Ventura County graduates.

Emprendimiento Program information, including enrollment for the fall 2023 Santa Barbara County cohort, visit www.wevonline.org/classes-resources/emprendimiento/.

Women's Economic Ventures is dedicated to the economic empowerment of women. WEV is a business resource network for anyone looking to start a business, grow a local business, or improve their business skills. WEV provides a full range of small business support - including classes, consulting, and funding - as well as financial literacy programs in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. While WEV's focus is on women, it welcomes people of all gender identities into the WEV community. Business courses, programs and loans are provided in both English and Spanish.

Want to make a difference at our local beaches?

The Ventura Audubon Society will be conducting a volunteer Beach Naturalist training workshop on Saturday June 3rd from 9am to 1:30pm at the Channel Islands Maritime Museum in Oxnard. Become a beach naturalist volunteer and help educate visitors on western snowy plovers and California least terns as part of the Shorebird Recovery Program.

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Attend this free half-day workshop where you'll learn about beach ecology, plover/tern nesting and chick rearing, rules and regulations, and data collection.

After lunch (included in the training) you will join our Biologists and Outreach Coordinator to practice what you have learned in the field. After finishing the training, volunteers will be asked to complete two beach shifts per month through September to share your knowledge with beach goers.

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. To register go to www.venturaaudubon.org/beach-naturalists or email outreach@venturaaudubon.org. Register by June 2nd.

Mailbox

Continued from page 3

to ride on class 1 recreational trails and they may go where regular bicycles can. E-bikes are allowed on the Promenade and the blocked off part of downtown Ventura. The Ventura County rules only allow Class 1 and 2 E-bikes on its class one trails like the Ojai Trail. The California State Park rules allow only class 1 E-bikes on the Class 1 San Buenaventura State Beach trail. The State of California allows class 1 and 2 E-bikes on class 1 trails such as the Rincon Trail.

These conflicting rules are a well kept secret and are largely not followed. Better and more widely known rules would create safer conditions for everyone.

Steve Blum



Mayor delivered two addresses
Continued from page 1

Fiscal Year 2024 City Council goals. The X Games coming to Ventura in July 2023.

Completion of the Classification & Compensation Study.

\$173 million Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) loan for VenturaWaterPure.

Successfully securing over \$66 million in grant funding for various Citywide projects.

Travel related spending and local tax revenue

Encouragement to get involved in the City's Economic Development Five Year Strategic Plan.

Project highlights and accomplishments from Community Development, Parks & Recreation, Public Works, Ventura Water, Police, and Fire.



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You can meet Des most days on the Promenade.

They are Ventura citizens trying to make it

by Sheli Ellsworth

Destin (AKA Des) Starchile was fortunate. “I was adopted in San Antonio at a young age and my father was president of the Texas Cradle Society,” he says. “My parents were pillars of the community. As a child, I had numerous health problems and spent a lot of time recovering from surgeries on my legs.”

Starchile is now a local artist who enjoys painting pictures of animals and landscapes. “I’m always willing to paint someone’s pet for donations to cover supplies.”

His professional life has been varied. “Starchile says he earned his GED and even attended a police academy in

Florida. “I was a private security guard, a gaffer, a roughneck in the oil field and a mechanic.” “As a young kid, my dad taught me the ins and outs of fixing engines.” Starchile’s father had been a driving force in his life until Starchile left home for government service.

“Five years ago, I was on my way to Hawaii with equipment to start my own motorcycle repair shop when the police confiscated my tools over on Mission Street.” Starchile says that he is a Christian and believes that God brought him to Ventura for a reason. “I don’t know the reason, but I pray and meditate every day, hoping for guidance. I went home to care for my mother after she fell and came away with the realization that my family worships the almighty dollar.”

He is unable to have a relationship with them. “I started painting to relieve my anxiety.” Starchile can often be found painting at the Ventura Promenade.

The 66-year-old Starchile lives in a tent and has been homeless for the last five years. He is a self-described artist, writer and Texas hippie. When asked if he would consider living in government housing, Starchile says that the state’s 5150, rules and curfews would keep him from embracing most housing programs. When asked if he is ever afraid, Starchile says the only time he feels threatened is when the police stop him.

A philosophical approach has helped Starchile cope with homelessness. “Basic things like brushing teeth can be a challenge. There is the way we want things; the way they should be; and the way they are.”

Editor’s note: For his wonderful art see the Art Scene on page 21.



Nadine Piché, KPPQ Producer of the Month.

A Busy Season for CAPS Media

As Ventura cruises into the summer, May and June are very busy and exciting months for CAPS Crews with a variety of productions including City press conferences for the upcoming X Games and grants for Ventura Water Pure treatment program, two State of the City presentations with a live and streaming presentation at the Museum of Ventura County hosted by the City of Ventura and one at the Crown Plaza hosted by the Ventura Chamber of Commerce. CAPS is also recording and live streaming graduation ceremonies at Ventura College and at all VUSD high schools: Buena High on June 14, Ventura High on June 15 and El Camino and Pacific High Schools and VACE on June 16.

The fun continues in the coming months with CAPS producing multiple projects supporting Ventura County’s 150th Anniversary celebration – 150 days of events starting in June and culminating with the State of the County presentation in October. CAPS is collaborating with the Museum of Ventura County to produce a series of programs for the county celebration including “Interviews with Innovators” with engaging discussions hosted by museum director Elena Brokaw featuring fascinating innovators throughout the county; “Feast or Flop” a tasty menu celebrating the savory unique heritage of agriculture and cuisine in Ventura County; “Ventura Voices” selected Oral Histories from the vast museum archives and more.

KPPQ Producer of the Month Nadine Piché, longtime Ventura resident and host of Ventura Vibe!, joined KPPQ – CAPS Radio in 2017. She heard about CAPS Media through her son who had taken a digital filmmaking class one summer. With her interest in podcasting she asked for recommendations on local resources. She learned about KPPQ. “I could learn right there. I hadn’t thought about radio. But of course! I took the introductory class. I wasn’t sure if radio was for me. There were so many buttons! But I stuck it out. And I’m so glad I did.” She produced her first show in the KPPQ studio in January of 2018. With so many great ideas she launched two radio shows/podcasts at KPPQ-LP 104.1 FM: A limited series titled Spotlight on Special Education and an ongoing weekly series, Ventura Vibe! Nadine says “Both shows taught me so much about production and the process of putting a show together. The best part of the process is connecting with people in the community and getting to ask lots

of questions.” Ventura Vibe! currently airs on Mondays at 2pm, Tuesdays at 8am, Thursdays at 1pm and Saturdays at 3pm on 104.1fm and on myTuner. Both programs are featured on the KPPQ Podcast network, a plus for KPPQ community producers and listeners. You can find her podcasts at capsmedia.org/podcasts and tune in to KPPQ at 104.1fm or on the myTuner app.

CAPS’ channel 6 presents programming created by and for the public including community information programs, faith-based services and more. CAPS manages and presents government meetings at City Hall including city council, design review, general plan advisory committee and planning commission on channel 15 which also features education and information programs including those by El Camino High School students.

To learn more about CAPS, visit capsmedia.org. CAPS Media City Council Presentation 2023 video presents an overview of the organization. Additional information on the CAPS website includes links to programming and information regarding reopening of the CAPS Media center to the public.



Chip In For Charity is more than just a golf event.

Chip In For Charity: A Non-Competitive, Family-Friendly Golf Event to Benefit Ventura Land Trust

Chip In For Charity is thrilled to announce its upcoming event, a non-competitive and family-friendly golf experience dedicated to raising funds for local non-profit groups. This year, Chip In For Charity is proud to support Ventura Land Trust. The event will take place in Ventura, on June 17th, and aims to bring together the community in support of local non-profit efforts.

With a history of successfully raising over \$25,000 for local non-profit organizations, Chip In For Charity is excited to continue its mission of giving back to the community. This unique golf event encourages families and individuals, regardless of their golfing experience, to participate in a day of fun-filled activities. The event will take place at Olivas Links Driving Range from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm.

The goal for 2023 is to raise \$15,000 to support the local conservation and preservation work carried out by the Ventura Land Trust. Participants will have the opportunity to chip golf balls towards sponsored targets strategically placed throughout the venue, while enjoying local food and drinks and

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The Chamber of Commerce recently held a ribbon cutting for Tricounty Services. Located at 2437 Grand Ave. in the Montalvo neighborhood. 805-585-3894.

Tricounty provides heating, air conditioning, fireplace, indoor air quality, and plumbing services.
Photo by Michael Gordon.

the chance to win prizes. Through generous target sponsorships by local businesses and ticket sales, Chip In For Charity is proud to donate 100% of the event proceeds to their non-profit beneficiary.

“Chip In For Charity is more than just a golf event; it’s an opportunity to make a difference in our community and have fun while doing it!” expressed Maria S, a previous participant.

“I like to think of it as a spin on Top-Golf, but for a local cause,” added Todd G.

Brandon Wasilewski, the media contact person for Chip In For Charity, is available for any inquiries regarding the event. He can be reached at 805-856-8773 or via email at chipinforcharity805@gmail.com.

Registration is now open, and participants are encouraged to visit the official website at www.ChipInForCharity805.com for more information and to secure their spots.

Chip In For Charity is dedicated to supporting local non-profit organizations through non-competitive, family-friendly golf events. With a proven track record of raising over \$25,000 for local non-profits, Chip In For Charity strives to make a positive impact on the community through engaging experiences that blend golf, community, and philanthropy.

Email: chipinforcharity805@gmail.com

The Bookmark

About Libraries and Friends

by Mary Olson

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

The Ventura County Library (VCL) Summer Reading Challenge is underway. VCL encourages the love of reading with a range of free activities for children, teens, and adults throughout the summer.

Participants may register at vencolibrary.beanstack.org and record their reading with opportunities to win prizes for reaching reading goals. Registration continues through August 4th. Once again VCL will

give away 13 Nintendo Switch Grand Prizes as well as other STEAM prizes throughout the summer to readers who reach various reading challenge goals. Youth may visit their local branch to choose a free new book to add to their personal collections, once they log 500 minutes of reading.

Families are encouraged to stop by their local VCL branch to participate in themed bi weekly STEAM activities and challenges.

The Summer Reading Kick off program features **bilingual Magician Zany Zoe**. She will appear at: Oak Park Library on Monday, June 5 at 3:00 pm; Albert H. Soliz Library on Friday, June 9 at 4:00 pm; Saticoy Library on Saturday, June 10 at 11:00 am; Hill Road Library on Friday, June 16 at 11:00 am; E.P. Foster Library on Friday, June 16 at 2:00 pm and Avenue Library on Saturday, June 17 at 4:00 pm.

Find Your Voice! **Family Musicals Film Fest and Coloring** at Hill Road Library offers 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

Foster Library’s **Young Readers Book Club**

Saturday, June 24 @ 1 pm 2 pm:

Discuss One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams Garcia & create a summer journal.

Minecraft Club meets at Hill Road & Foster Library Mondays: June 12 & 26, 3:30 5 pm. This program is limited to participants ages 5 17 years old. Space is limited. First come, first served.

Purchases from Ventura Friends of the Library bookstore and sales help support the Summer Reading Program.

Ventura Friends of the Library Bookstore in E.P. Foster Library open Tuesday through Saturday, 11:00 am to 4:00 pm and Sundays, 1:30 to 4:00 pm.

You can also shop at our online store at <https://venturafol107753.square.site/s/shop> and pick up your purchase at the store in E.P. Foster.

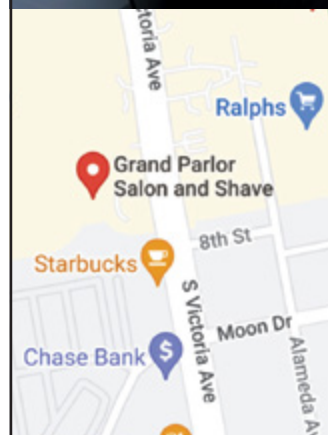


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On May 19, the Ventura Land Trust celebrated a milestone at their 20th anniversary birthday party! It was held in the beer garden at Topa Topa Brewing Company at 4880 Colt St. All enjoyed a piece of cake, games, and a gathering of friends and supporters who have been a part of VLT’s success.

Photos by Patricia Schallert and Janie Tran.



Lucky Assemblymember Steve Bennett giving a hug to Breeze photographer Yana Khiyod.





Rotary Club of Ventura holds Fifth Annual Perspectives on Peace Scholarship Awards

by Richard Lieberman

Recently at the fifth annual Peace Scholarship Awards Luncheon hosted by the Rotary Club of Ventura scholarships were awarded to local area students. The awards were presented to high school seniors and is unusual for art students to be presented with a financial incentive to pursue and continue their education in art related subjects. Five scholarship awards were offered in amounts ranging from five thousand dollars to the first-place winner, two thousand five hundred dollars for the second-place winner, one thousand five hundred dollars to the third-place winner, seven hundred fifty to the fourth-place winner and five hundred dollars to the fifth-place winner.

The focus of the scholarships presented was on the subject of peace. Students were asked to “Express your voice and show what peace means to you.” For the fifth year of the program the focus on peace remains one of the Rotary Clubs major areas of interest. Peace as defined by the Rotary Club International is an environment that supports equality and justice for all.” An initiative for peace can be anything that supports the human condition, for example the need for

food, water, shelter, health care, literacy, jobs and human rights.”

The scholarships were awarded to: First place winner Kimberly Fickerson, for her short film “Rain”, Second place winner Ixzel Nava for her short film “Peace is Infinite”, Third place winner Clarisse Cortez “Let’s Live Together”, Fourth place winner Summer Rose Hayashi for her “Justice is Peace” and Fifth place winner Juan Orozco Mendez for “Peace”

Kimberly Fickerson of Foothill Tech Highschool said “I found out about this scholarship during a presentation from my art teacher. He said it was a really important opportunity for us to try to do it, my mom really encouraged me to take part in it and so then on one rainy day I was sitting down trying to figure out what I was going to do I thought well I could use the rain because I really like the rain. Rain is my favorite type of weather pattern, so I used that to inspire me to write a short poem about rain and then filmed it,” she said “I was quite shocked to receive the award, but I also knew I put a lot of hard work in it, so I was really grateful to receive the award” she added.

Clarisse Cortez of Foothill Tech High School said, “It started out at the beginning of the school year I noticed the blue poster for the perspectives on peace scholarships I left it on the back of my brain for two weeks.” Cortez said. “Okay, then what should I do so it was really interesting for me because it was like I had to go through a little bit of a paradox like what would war be without peace and what peace would be without war.” Added Cortez. “I worked on the project for three days. Working eight to ten hours each day until completion” she added.

Second, fourth and fifth place winners were not available for interviews after the presentation.



Scholarship award recipients and their “big” checks.

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Housing Trust Fund VC CEO Linda Braunschweiger speaking to the packed house.

Housing Trust Fund VC’s Annual Compassion Campaign sets another fundraising record

Housing Trust Fund Ventura County (www.housingtrustfundvc.org) set another fundraising record at its 4th Annual Compassion Campaign. With a strong showing of community leaders in attendance, the organization exceeded last year’s record setting fundraising high. Supported in part by Keystone Sponsors City National Bank and HOPE (Housing Opportunities for People Everywhere), the Museum of Ventura County provided the perfect

back drop for this year’s theme, HOME MADE: Fund It + Build It + Live It, which featured three museum-quality exhibits that immersed guests into a learning experience, which highlighted through sight and sound what it takes to fund, build, and live in safe, equitable, and affordable homes in Ventura County.

An evening highlight was an intimate conversation on a living room styled stage hosted by Housing Trust Fund VC CEO Linda Braunschweiger. She spoke



Rotary Club of Ventura held annual Scholarship Awards Luncheon.

The Rotary Club of Ventura East has now awarded over \$825,000 in total scholarships

The Rotary Club of Ventura East recently awarded \$125,000 in scholarships at their annual Scholarship Awards Luncheon on April 27th. 40 Students from the Ventura Unified School District class of 2023, and past VUSD graduates currently in college received the awards.

Those 2023 graduating seniors receiving scholarships from Ventura High School are Lilia Duque, Kanan Welch, Carolyn Caulkins, Brooke Roberts, Hugh Murphy, Liza Manninen and Ella Ullrich. From Buena High School, Xavier Ramirez, Joshua Alcantar, Malia Brown, Colin Guenther and Avery Trask. Natalie LeFevre from Foothill Technology High School also received an award.

Twenty-six prior graduates of

VUSD also received grants as they continue their educations at various colleges and universities.

The Rotary Club of Ventura East has now awarded over \$825,000 in total scholarships from their club's foundation. Tim Hughes the scholarship chairman stated "It is an honor and a privilege to honor these outstanding students for their academic excellence and their school and community involvement. The Rotary Club of Ventura East looks forward to honoring future graduates of the Ventura Unified Schools."

If you are interested in Ventura East Rotary check Facebook at Rotary Club of Ventura East or rotaryventuraeast.org

with Elenore Vaughn, Executive Director of the City of Santa Paula's Housing Authority, Jennifer Harkey from the County of Ventura's Continuum of Care, and John, a U.S. veteran and resident of Oakwood Court senior affordable apartments - the second ever funded development by Housing Trust Fund VC in 2016. "It's inspirational to see the recognition of two Santa Paula Housing Authority residents at this event who still reside in the first two developments funded by Housing Trust Fund VC. It validates the work we all do to help low-income families obtain housing that truly changes lives for the long-term," commented Vaughn.

The evening was emceed by David Kohlmeier, President & Chair of the Board of RAIN Communities, who shared his powerful story of finding himself and his then five-year-old son homeless, even as he had a paying job. Now a proud homeowner, Kohlmeier credits organizations like RAIN and Housing Trust Fund VC for giving people like him and John a supportive hand up so that they can contribute to the collective prosperity of our community.

"I'm energized by the growing support for affordable housing in

Ventura County," said Housing Trust Fund Ventura County CEO Linda Braunschweiger. "As we know from the recent Homeless Point in Time count, the need continues to solve housing insecurity and we hope that providing educational guest experiences like our signature Compassion Campaign can shed light on what we all can do - it can be as simple as earmarking donations to Housing Trust Fund Ventura County."

The event's immersive exhibits were sponsored by Community West Bank, McCarthy Construction Companies, and the City of Ventura. Additional Compassion Campaign 2023 sponsors include Ventura Investment Company, Bank of the Sierra, CBC Federal Credit Union, First Citizens Bank, Montecito Bank & Trust, Amcal Somis Ranch, Blois Construction, County of Ventura, Cannon Constructors, Landscape Development, Limoneira Company, Port of Hueneme, Premier America, Staples Construction, VC Community Foundation, and Ventura County Credit Union.

To support funding more affordable housing across Ventura County, please visit: www.housingtrustfundvc.org/donate-now.

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HIMIWAY

Business Profile



Kathrin and Dave come from completely different business backgrounds.

Focus SUP Hawaii/Ventura

October 2021, Kathrin and Dave opened their Paddle Board Store directly across the public launch pad in the newly built complex called Portside Ventura Harbor.

At Focus SUP Hawaii - Ventura, their first love is offering experiences to people's lives, no matter if it is buying a SUP board or offering activities on and off the water.

Kathrin and Dave come from completely different business backgrounds. Kathrin is an architect and was born and raised in East Germany. Dave is a retired Police SWAT and lived most of his life in California. Both are certified yoga teachers, SUP yoga teachers and paddle instructors for several years.

An opportunity arose to start their own paddle board business representing a brand they have been using and believing in for years. Just recently they added Himiway e-bikes to their collection. You do not know if paddle boarding is for you or what type of board is right for you? You are thinking about buying an e-bike, but you have never ridden one before and are unsure if it is what you are expecting it to be? Focus SUP Hawaii - Ventura is your place to go!

They also offer SUP yoga classes, paddle board tours, paddle board workshops and Yoga on Yoga Balance Boards that can be booked privately, semi privately or for groups up to 10 people. Gentle Yoga is available on land for all levels every Sunday Morning from 10:00 AM - 11:15 AM and bookable online.

One of Kathrin's specialties is working with people that have physical challenges of any kind. She teaches yoga based on people's abilities and needs. As an energy healer, she feels you and will make sure your needs are met. Feel free to contact her in order to discuss any worries and concerns.

Dave and Kathrin are a great team and complement one another. They are not selling you a product or class. They are making sure you have all background knowledge needed to make the best choice for you. No matter what you are going to book or buy, both will make sure you feel confident about your decision.



And a string of curious coincidences brought her to this reporter's attention.

Community Memorial Hospital Welcomes a New Neurosurgeon; Katherine Wagner, MD

by Richard Lieberman

During a recent surgical procedure at Community Memorial Hospital in Ventura, I had run into a series of coincidences that brought me under the care of Neurosurgeon Katherine Wagner

who had recently joined the practice of Dr. David Westra and unbeknownst at the time a small series of coincidences brought me back 74 years and a continent away.

Originally, I had been scheduled to see another Neurosurgeon, but the wait time was measured in months. Got an unexpected call from the same neurosurgery office. A new surgeon had joined the practice and asked if I would like to see her. Yes of course I said and was scheduled for just a day later. This turned out to be coincidence number one.

After doing my due diligence on a Dr. I did not know and was new to Ventura when I discovered she went to medical school in the state and city where I was born. Later I was to discover Dr. Wagner was born and lived in New Jersey and had attended Rutgers Medical school in my hometown. This turned out to be coincidence number two.

"A logical choice for me was to go to Rutgers Medical School, my home state school with an excellent reputation in my field of study," Wagner said. "When I was a third-year medical student, I rotated with the neurosurgeons on my neurology clerkship. One thing I loved about neurosurgery is that it married some of the aspects of medicine that I enjoyed like doing something for a patient that would help deal with a problem in the more short term. Found it really gratifying that we had patients leave the hospital without that brain tumor they had been suffering with," she added. When you are a neurosurgeon, it really is the center of your life and a lot of decisions you and your family make are based on that, A lot of my and my



Dignity Health - St. John's Regional Medical Center (SJRMC) and St. John's Hospital Camarillo (SJHC) were honored by Practice Greenhealth, the nation's leading organization dedicated to environmental sustainability in healthcare, with the Partner for Change Award. This recognition is given to organizations that demonstrate superior performance in environmental sustainability, covering a range of different sustainability programs and activities, as well as those that have made substantive progress on mercury elimination.

family's decisions are based on my career," she said.

Some time after our first meeting I was scheduled for neurosurgery and Dr. Wagner would be the surgeon.

"One thing about Neurosurgery is that there are only so many places you can work, just so many places that have a job opening at the time you are looking," So what I really liked about Ventura, I really fell in love with the community here. I love the scenery, the downtown scene, it really has a small city vibe it just cannot be replicated in other places," she said. There is a devotion to the town that you really cannot find anywhere else, people are really, really proud of their community, she added.

After being admitted to Community

Memorial one evening Dr. Wagner stopped by my room and we chatted for a bit. As we talked, I mentioned that I had been born at Beth Israel hospital in New Jersey some 74 years ago. She smiled and said, "I worked at the same hospital, I did rotations there" Coincidence number three.

We continued to chat for some time, and I don't know why I even mentioned this, but I asked her if she had ever seen a Netflix Documentary called "Lenox Hill" (it is a documentary series about neurosurgery and surgeons at a New York hospital) She visibly perked up for a minute then said "Oh I was in the documentary" and coincidence number four found it's way to a small hospital room in Ventura, California.

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Large mixed-use project under construction.

Photo by Joseph Seemayer

Question: What is the very large building under construction at N. Banks?
Fred Taylor

Answer:

It is a 306-unit apartment mixed use complex located at Johnson and North Bank drives.

It will have 13 buildings varying from 2 to 4 stories by developer Beverly Hills-based G.H. Palmer Associates. It will contain 19 affordable units and 5,000 square feet of commercial rental space. It is named the Willows.

The first phase of the project should be completed in early September. The project is located in councilman Jim Duran's District 6, which includes the Montalvo area. It was approved prior to him being on the council. The City Council voted 5-2 in 2018, to approve a zone change necessary for the project to continue. At the time Christy Weir and Neal Andrews voted against the zone change.



Senior Living



“Maybe I should make a list?”

Keeping track of your medicines

Many older people take multiple medications, and it can be challenging to keep track of everything. Here are some tips that can help:

Make a list. Write down all medicines you take, including OTC drugs. Also include any vitamins or dietary supplements. The list should include the name of each medicine or supplement, the amount you take, and time(s) you take it. If it’s a prescription drug, also note the doctor who prescribed it and the reason it was prescribed. Show the list to all your health care providers, including physical therapists and dentists. Keep one copy in a safe place at home and one in your wallet or purse.

Get familiar with your medicines. If you take more than one medicine, make sure you can tell them apart by size, shape, color, or the number imprinted on the pill.

Create a file. Save all the written information that comes with your medicines and keep it somewhere you can easily refer to it. Keep these guides for as long as you’re taking the medication.

Check expiration dates on bottles. Don’t take medicines that are past their expiration date. Your doctor can tell you if you need a refill.

Secure your medicines. Keep your medicines out of the reach of children and pets. If you take any prescription pain medicines (for example, morphine, other opioids, or codeine), keep them in a locked cabinet or drawer. If your

medicines are kept in bottles without safety caps because those are hard for you to open, be extra careful about where you store them.

Dispose of your medicines safely. Check the expiration dates on your medication bottles and discard any unused or expired medicines as soon as possible. Timely disposal of medicines can reduce the risk of others taking them accidentally or misusing the medications on purpose. Check with your doctor or pharmacist about how to safely discard expired or unneeded medications, or review the FDA’s guidance on Where and How To Dispose of Unused Medicines.

Follow instructions. Read all medicine labels and be sure to follow instructions. Don’t take a larger dose of a medicine, thinking it will help you more. This could be very dangerous and even deadly. And don’t skip or take half doses of a prescription drug to save money. Talk with your doctor or pharmacist if you can’t afford the medicine. There may be financial assistance or less expensive options available. Read Saving Money on Medicines for more information.

Take medicine on time. Some people use meals or bedtime as reminders to take their medicine. Other people use charts, calendars, or weekly pill boxes. You can also set timers and write reminders to take your medication. Medication reminder apps for smartphones are becoming more popular; these apps can help you remember when and how to take your medications each day.

Adult Day Health Care Centers: A critical provider of long-term care services

by Katy Krul of Oxnard Family Circle (appeared in LIVEWell)

Adult Day Health Care centers in Ventura County are critical providers of long-term care services in a congregated community-based setting for individuals with cognitive or physical impairments that are cost-effective and great alternatives to institutional care. The centers are licensed by the California Department of Public Health. There are five centers in Ventura County that serve residents over 18 years old with no age limit.

The centers provide activities, health monitoring, socialization, and assistance with daily activities, which allow participants to live in their homes, enhance their quality of life, and receive needed care in a supportive, professionally staffed, safe, and secured environment. This setting allows respite for family caregivers who often neglect their health and social needs by prioritizing the needs of their loved ones. The caregivers’ self-neglect harms their health and affects their loved ones’ well-being. The caregivers are offered resources, education, and support groups that help

to navigate “aging in place” for their family members.

The regular day for a participant at an Adult Day Health Care center starts in the morning when the center’s transportation arrives at the individual’s residence for a pickup. Upon arriving at a center, participants are greeted by the staff, and the services begin. The center’s staff is there to make sure that the needs of every participant are met and are helping with all the activities of daily living, including eating, personal hygiene, and toileting. Those who require the administration of medicines, or other treatments before breakfast, are guided to the nursing room. After a hot breakfast, there are many exciting events, such as exercise groups, arts and crafts tables, games, music, and various other stimulating activities. During the same time, physical, occupational, and speech therapies, nursing treatments, social work groups, and counseling are offered per individual care plans. A hot, nutritious lunch follows. The meals are delicious, culturally appropriate, and served according to individual diets ordered by the staff dietitian. After lunch, transportation is ready to take participants home.

Every Adult Day Health Care center has a medical director on staff; however, nurses, social workers, and therapists communicate with participants’ doctors, take orders, follow up with effectiveness, and report provided treatments.

Traditionally, services at Adult Day Health Care centers are offered in the congregated setting. However, the industry keeps evolving. As a result of

Continued on page 13



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Senior Living



For many people, exercising feels like a chore, too much work or just plain boring.

For the Young at Heart - The Joy of Aging

by Leslie Sokol

It can be argued that age is really just a state of mind. With a positive attitude, love of life, and confidence, you can accomplish anything, no matter how old you are! Feeling good and being joyful from the inside out is so important. Sound mind, sound body. Starting your day in a healthy and happy way by moving your body,

adopting a positive attitude, and focusing on good nutrition is the way to go! Exercise is a natural medicine to move emotions through you. The body was made to move!

It can be challenging to set up a regular exercise routine. Start small and build on it each day, one day at a time. A lot of people ask me what form of exercise is best and I

say the one you enjoy the most! Perhaps you like to take walks, garden, swim, hike, play golf, lift weights, dance, practice yoga, stretch - whatever it is, try to set up a daily schedule and prioritize it. Doing a variety of exercises such as cross training is also a good idea. It works the muscles in different ways and gives you a variety of workouts while utilizing the whole body. Total fitness improves performance, prevents injury and is more enjoyable. Having fun and bringing joy to your workouts is most beneficial.

How to Find Joy in Exercise

For many people, exercising feels like a chore, too much work or just plain boring. When we approach exercise with a negative mindset, it can feel like punishment and it's definitely not fun. The good news is that it doesn't have to be this way. I encourage you to explore a joyful movement mentality and learn how to exercise in a way that benefits your mind, body, and soul. Joyful movement means moving your body in ways that feel good to you in the moment. Some days you might want to take a leisurely walk while other days you might want to participate in a group dance class. What feels joyful and fun now may be different than what your body preferred years ago and that's ok. Your preferences change over time, in the same way that your body changes - discover what is new about yourself and celebrate those changes with a joyful mindset!

Age is just a number so don't allow your age to set your limitations! Make the most of life's moments. Live in the present, enjoy your surroundings, be social and active in your community, be joyful, and appreciative of the life you live!

Health Tip of the Day

Did you know that over 70 percent of your body is made up of water? As the weather gets warmer, you need to be aware of your daily fluid intake. You want to stay hydrated and not get dehydrated. I always suggest that you drink before, during and after you exercise. The more active you are, the more fluids you need. Water is one of the best fluids to drink while exercising.

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.LeslieSokolDance.com

decline in older adults, and the link between sense of smell and brain and cognitive changes may be especially pronounced among those who develop cognitive impairment or dementia. These are the key findings from NIA-led research published recently in Neurology.

The sense of smell declines with age, and loss of olfactory function is also an early symptom of neurodegenerative diseases such as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's. While previous research found the sense of smell was associated with brain volume and function, no studies had examined longitudinal changes within an individual across the whole brain and by cognitive status.

In this study, scientists analyzed sense of smell, brain imaging, and cognitive performance data from participants in the NIA Baltimore Longitudinal Study of Aging. The researchers examined whether sense of smell, as reflected by odor identification scores, was associated with longitudinal changes in regional brain volumes and changes to cognitive function. To examine the association between sense of smell and brain volume, they compared odor identification scores and brain MRI scans from a subset of 567 participants. The association between sense of smell and cognitive function was analyzed by comparing odor identification scores and cognitive evaluations from a subset of 754 participants. The subsets were analyzed separately but included 565 overlapping participants with both brain MRI scans and cognitive assessment data.

Participants who developed cognitive impairment or dementia had worse odor identification scores than those who did not. Better odor identification scores were associated with slower loss of brain volume, particularly in the frontal and temporal regions - areas important for thinking and memory. Better scores were also associated with slower decline in memory, attention, processing speed, and sensorimotor integration skills over time. However, when data points after a diagnosis of cognitive impairment or dementia were excluded from analysis, the associations between sense of smell with brain volume and cognitive functioning were not as strong.

These study findings add to evidence that sense of smell is related to cognitive impairment and dementia and demonstrate longitudinal relationships with brain volume loss in specific brain areas and cognitive decline in specific domains. Future studies with longer follow-ups of change over time may help researchers better understand the potential for using sense of smell as an early biomarker of cognitive decline and the role of specific brain regions in this association.

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



"This still smells good to me, I must be doing okay?"

Sense of smell linked to speed of brain loss and cognitive decline

Having a good sense of smell is associated with slower loss of brain volume and cognitive

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Larry B.

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Senior Living



Protect your eyes from sunlight by wearing sunglasses.

Treatments for vision problems could have potentially prevented cases of dementia

NIA-funded research suggests that existing treatments for vision problems — including eye exams, glasses prescriptions, and cataract surgery — could have potentially prevented about 100,000 cases of dementia in the United States. The study investigators used data from the University of Michigan Health and Retirement Study (HRS), a longitudinal study tracking changes in health and economic circumstances for more than 20,000 older adult volunteers.

Researchers noted that about 1.8% of U.S. dementia cases were associated with visual impairment, and projected that, by 2050, that total would rise to around 250,000 cases. The study also showed that incidence of vision impairment in older adults was higher for Hispanics, at 11%, compared to 8.3% on average overall for Blacks and non-Hispanic Whites.

The researchers found that existing vision correction technologies and treatments, including eyeglasses and cataract surgery, are underutilized in the United States and globally, especially among disadvantaged communities. Additional research is needed to determine if addressing correctable vision problems may be an effective intervention to

protect cognitive health.

If you wear glasses or contact lenses, get your prescription checked, too. Even small changes in sight can increase your risk for falls and injuries. It's important to use the proper prescription glasses or contact lenses.

See your primary health care provider regularly to check for diseases like diabetes and high blood pressure. These diseases can cause eye problems if not controlled or treated.

Tips for healthy eyes at any age

There are things you can do to take good care of your eyes and help keep them healthy as you age:

Protect your eyes from sunlight by wearing sunglasses that block ultraviolet (UV) radiation and a hat with a wide brim when you are outside.

Stop smoking.

Make smart food choices.

Be physically active and maintain a healthy weight.

Maintain normal blood pressure.

Manage diabetes (if you have it).

If you spend a lot of time at the computer or focused on one thing, take a break every 20 minutes to look about 20 feet away for 20 seconds to prevent eye strain.

Frequent testing reduced COVID-19 deaths in nursing facilities

by Sharon Reynolds
From NIH Research Matters

During the COVID-19 pandemic, residents of skilled nursing facilities have been at particular risk of dying from the disease. These nursing facilities are for people who need daily medical care from trained professionals. Although less than 2% of the U.S. population either lives or works in such facilities, they accounted for more than 20% of the deaths from COVID-19 through 2021.

Staff members who contracted an infection outside of work likely seeded most COVID-19 outbreaks in skilled

nursing facilities. Modeling studies have suggested that frequent testing of staff members could help reduce this risk, so such approaches have been widely adopted. But few studies have examined how well this strategy worked in real life.

In new NIH-funded research, a team led by Dr. Brian McGarry from the University of Rochester and Dr. Michael Barnett from Harvard University looked at data collected and reported by more than 13,000 skilled nursing facilities during the pandemic. The team examined rates of staff COVID-19 testing during three main periods between November 2020 and March 2022: before vaccines became available, after vaccines were widely distributed but before the Omicron wave, and during the Omicron wave. Tests included rapid antigen testing done on-site and PCR testing, which had to be sent to an outside lab.

The researchers compared the facilities' rates of COVID-19 infections and deaths with their frequency of staff testing for COVID-19. Results were published on March 23, 2023, in the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

During the entire period studied, facilities that did the most testing (top 10%) had about 43 deaths per 100 outbreaks, compared to about 50 deaths per 100 outbreaks in facilities that did the least testing (bottom 10%). Facilities that did the most testing detected about 15% more COVID-19 infections among staff than those that did the least. This suggests that frequent testing captured more asymptomatic staff infections that could seed outbreaks.

Before vaccines were available, these numbers translated to an approximately 30% reduction in the number of cases among facility residents and a 26% reduction in deaths. During the Omicron wave, frequent testing continued to reduce the number of cases among residents, but no longer impacted the number of deaths. This change reflects the effectiveness of vaccines against the virus.

The number of observed deaths didn't differ between facilities that used rapid testing or PCR testing. However, a faster turnaround time for PCR testing was associated with fewer resident deaths. In the period before widespread vaccination, those facilities that received their testing results in two days or less had fewer deaths per outbreak than those that got them back in three or more days.

"This research demonstrates that frequent COVID surveillance testing protected nursing home residents and undoubtedly saved lives by detecting more infected staff, potentially earlier in the disease course, and disrupting potential viral transmission chains," McGarry says.

This research was supported in part by NIA grant AG058806.

Adult Day Health Care Centers Continued from page 11

current public health developments, regulations allow providing remote/telehealth services and services at the doorstep in case of an emergency, including the deliveries of meals. This change in regulations would allow continuity of care when an individual cannot receive care in person in case of a crisis.

Adult Day Health Care is covered for qualified individuals by Medi-Cal/GCHP, Tri-Counties Regional Center, Veterans Affairs, long-term care insurances, and private funds. Some individuals, who do not have any of these coverages and cannot afford to pay privately, often wrongfully assume that they do not qualify for Medi-Cal. However, changes in the income threshold, asset limit, and immigration status went into effect in 2022, and the eligibility for Medi-Cal changed for the better. It is worth reaching out to the Health Insurance Counseling Advocacy Program at the Ventura County Area Agency on Aging or contacting social workers at an Adult Day Health Care center near you if you have questions about your eligibility.

To find out if you or your loved one may benefit from Adult Day Health Care, please schedule a visit to two or three of your closest centers and see if the environment and atmosphere are right for you. The centers provide care that does not vary in quality because of gender, ethnicity, race, nationality, or socioeconomic status.

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The Pet Page



Dedicated to Scamp

■ Navigating the Unknown: Seizures in Pets

Most pet owners watch their pets carefully and have no trouble deciding when an emergency trip to the vet is in order. But

what is the best action to take if your pet has a seizure?

Dr. Kari Foss, a veterinary neurologist at the University of Illinois Veterinary Teaching Hospital in Urbana, shares the ins and outs of what is happening during a pet's seizure and advises owners on how to respond.

First, you'll need to know whether your pet is, in fact, having a seizure as opposed to other conditions. One example would be syncope, which is a temporary loss of consciousness caused by a drop in blood pressure and can easily be confused with a seizure.

Doctors categorize seizures into three phases: pre-ictal, ictal (active seizure), and post-ictal.

Signs during a seizure may include urination, defecation, and hypersalivation. Many pets may also lose consciousness. Dr. Foss says seizures are typically self-limiting and last less than two minutes.

During the seizure, the best thing a pet owner can do is monitor their pet closely and prevent them from injuring themselves. Dr. Foss warns owners to not reach into or around their pet's mouth; dogs cannot choke on their tongues during a seizure and the owner risks being inadvertently bitten!

Although it may be quite scary to you when your pet has a seizure, a seizure does not necessarily constitute an emergency. Most often pets will return to their normal state after the seizure.

If your pet does not return to normal within a short period or your pet does not stop having seizures, you should take them to an emergency veterinarian as soon as possible.

■ Sunscreen for pets? UV rays can be harmful for dogs and cats, too
By Traci Howerton

When it comes to skin care, most of us are very conscious of protecting ourselves from harmful UV rays and the risks that come along with exposure to the sun.

Protecting our pets' skin from the sun is not usually top-of-mind, but just as for humans, UV rays can be harmful to pets. In fact, dogs and cats can sunburn and get various types of skin cancer.

Pets that spend a lot of time outdoors are at risk, and some pets are more vulnerable than others. Therefore, limit their exposure to the sun and protect them when they are outdoors.

There are sunscreens on the market for pets. Whether a pet needs sunscreen can depend on many factors, such as how much time they spend outside, the part of the day they are outdoors, and the color and thickness of their coat.

The lighter the coat, the more dangerous the sun can be. If a pet has a light-colored coat or a relatively thin coat, it is a good idea to apply sunscreen as a precaution anytime it will be outdoors on a sunny day, even in the winter. For example, white dogs with pink noses are considered the most vulnerable.

When applying sunscreen, the areas to pay attention to are the ears, belly (which often has little hair), and the tip

of the nose. These are the places most likely to get the most exposure and to easily burn.

Make sure to use pet-safe sunscreen that is specifically for a cat or dog, as some sunscreens that are OK for dogs are not OK for cats, and vice versa.

For all pets, when choosing a sunscreen, make sure to avoid those containing PABA, zinc oxide and octisalate, or any other salicylates, especially in areas where the pet could reach and lick it off.

■ Rochester-area veterinarians are reporting a sharp rise in cannabis poisonings among dogs that are eating products containing the drug, usually in the form of edibles.

Dr. SimonKirk, who is the medical director at Veterinary Specialists and Emergency Services in Brighton, isn't surprised at the surge of these cases since New York state legalized cannabis for medical use in 2016 and for recreational use in 2021.

The local numbers also mirror a national trend, according to data from the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. The ASPCA's poison control center saw a 300% increase in calls related to potential cannabis ingestion over five years. There were 6,939 such calls made to the hotline in 2022.

Kirk is not overly alarmed by the fact that more dogs are coming into contact with cannabis. He is far more concerned that some of the cannabis-laced products they may eat could also contain grapes, raisins, chocolate or xylitol, which can be lethal to dogs.

Most dogs, he said, make a full recovery from cannabis toxicity and fatalities from exposure to the drug are exceedingly rare. The severity of the toxicity varies depending on the animal's, age, health, size, and how much THC was in whatever they ate.

Symptoms of cannabis intoxication in dogs include depression, vomiting, urinary incontinence, tremor, poor coordination, tremor, stupor, and low heart rate.

Treatment for THC poisoning will vary depending on the severity of the ingestion, according to Dr. Tina Wismer, DVM, Senior Director of the ASPCA's poison control center.

Before New York state legalized cannabis, Kirk said dog owners were sometimes wary of admitting that their pet may have ingested it. Now, he said, they are more likely to be open about it, which is best for the person, their dog, and the veterinary staff.

"We are all medical professionals; everything's confidential," Kirk said. "So honesty makes our lives a lot easier and frequently decreases the bill because we don't have to do a bunch of tests to try to figure something out."

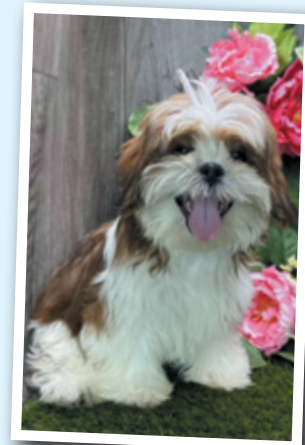
The ASPCA's poison control center hotline at (888) 426-4435 is also open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Callers are connected with a veterinary staff member who may guide them through an at-home treatment plan if that is indicated.

But the best way to protect pets from cannabis consumption is to securely store the products well out of their reach.

Traci D. Howerton is the volunteer coordinator for Animal Rescue New Orleans (ARNO), a nonprofit, volunteer-based, no-kill shelter. For more information on ARNO, visit www.animalrescueneworleans.org.

Scamp Club

(Scampclub pets are not for adoption.)



This is Bentley. A sweet, energetic Shih Tzu. He is one year old and comes from Louisiana. He lives with Sandy who lives in the Marina Park Community. He is comfortable around other dogs and is as cute as Scamp.

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.



"When I'm done reading the local and national news I need a nap." – Savana

Forever homes wanted

Hi: I'm Zozo, a 7-month-old Terrier X rescued from a shelter when my time was up. The shelter said I was fearful, but who wouldn't be not knowing which day might be your last. I know the volunteers and kennel staff will help me acclimate to my new surroundings and help me feel safe and loved. Since I'm just a puppy, children in the home must be at least 6 years of age. Please be sure you're ready to take on a puppy as it's similar to having a newborn in the home. If you're ready and able to give me a lifetime of love and wonderful memories, please fill out an application to meet me. Canine Adoption and Rescue League C.A.R.L.



Meet Cleo (A808223), a spunky 2-year-old! Cleo is an indoor rabbit looking for a home with a more experienced bunny parent. She's got lots of personality and would love to be the center of attention. We are so excited to see her blossom in a gentle and caring home. To adopt, email VCASBunnyBrigade@gmail.com.



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 to Commit Rape Arrest

On May 24, 2023, at about 0815 hours the Ventura Police Department received a 911 call of an assault that had just occurred in the 200 block of South Dunning St.

Responding officers located a 75-year-old female who had been a victim of an attempted sexual assault. The suspect had fled the scene on foot and was apprehended by officers a few blocks away.

The ensuing investigation revealed that the victim was gardening in her front yard when the suspect, Lathanial Walker, approached her on foot. He

stood for several minutes watching her as she continued to garden, he then moved in closer to her and dropped his pants. Walker grabbed the victim from behind and began to drag her toward a more secluded area. The victim yelled for help and neighbors intervened to save the victim from further trauma. Walker fled towards the mall and was apprehended by additional responding officers.

Walker was subsequently booked into Ventura County Jail for charges of aggravated kidnapping, assault with the intent to commit rape, and elder abuse.

A records check of Walker indicates he was released from custody in Ventura County on March 18th, 2023, stemming from a burglary arrest in Oxnard in August 2021. Walker has numerous arrests from Virginia Beach, VA, Jacksonville, FL, and other states including assault on a police officer, robbery, assault on a child, and stolen vehicle.

Harbor Patrol Blotter

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

Wednes 5/10

7:01am, received request to assist VC Sheriff with creating a landing zone for their helicopter to land near Harbor Cove beach, officers prepared the area.

9:01am, dispatched to a person trapped in the restroom near 1570 Anchors Way. Officers responded with VFD, gained entry, no one in the restroom.

Thursday 5/11

1:30pm, officers updating plotting navigation coordinates into Fireboat GPS for the Depart of Boating/Waterways weeklong Coastal piloting class at District.

6:30pm, officers assisting training students with night-time operation of Fireboat and Rescue B19 for the DBAW class being conducted at the Ventura Port Dist.

Friday 5/12

9:25am, dispatched to a stroke in Portside apartments. Officers responded with VFD/AMR. Family was on scene, requesting a welfare check, no one in the unit.

7:55pm, received report of 32ft motor vessel out of gas, 4 miles south of the Harbor. After investigation, tow boat US took over the call and towed the boat.

Saturday 5/13

9:00am, received report of an unsanctioned car show near 1449 Spinnaker in the village. Officers responded and contacted the group. No violations observed, group attempted to circumvent marketing special event permit.

11:00am, officers participating in a memorial for Ventura Port District employee Donna Canfield. The Fireboat monitor was utilized in the celebration of life and spreading of her ashes offshore the harbor.

Sunday 5/14

10:00am, officers on patrol observed large crowds in the village with their mothers and families enjoying the holiday.

11:30am, officers placing the Harbor Cove swim buoys to protect swimmers from the Fireboat. Harbor Cove accommodates swimmers, PWC's & small boats

1:25pm, investigating a petroleum spill near VYC, found sheen but not source.

Monday 5/15

8:13pm, received report of a vessel with parted lines and colliding with vessels in VWM H-dock. Officers responded and were able to secure the vessel. Very strong surges & currents were affecting the area from unseasonably large swells.

Tuesday 5/16

9:15am, dispatched to medical in the Ventura Marina Community. Officers responded with VFD/AMR to assist a fall victim. AMR transported to hospital.

12:30pm, dispatched to an Ocean Rescue at Mandalay Beach. Officers responded in Rescue B19 and Rescue Watercraft. The victim made it to shore.

Wednes 5/17

3:45am, while on patrol in vehicle, officers observed several vehicles with persons camping at the launch ramp. Warnings were issued, some moved on.

4:05pm, received complaint from local transients sitting on a bench in the Portside promenade that their security removed them for no reason.

Thursday 5/18

3:55pm, observed children wading in water near a strong rip current near South Jetty. Officers contacting the waders and parents, advised of safer area to swim.

9:20pm, received report of an aggressive transient screaming and challenging people in the village parking lot. Officers contacted VPD to assist with the contact. He ran off screaming and diving into dumpsters, headed to the beach.

Saturday 5/20

12:16pm, received report of small vessel in violation of speed/wake ordinance in the main channel of the harbor. Officers responded in the Fireboat, found the violators, issued warnings. Safety inspection conducted, areas to speed shown.

3:25pm, received report of a dog trapped in a vehicle in the village. Officers responded, found the vehicle and the dog not in distress, windows down.

Sunday 5/21

8:31am, dispatched to unconscious person, Riverhaven encampment. Officers responded with VFD/AMR to assist, but the patient ultimately refused care.

Monday 5/22

7:00am, officers beginning training 3 new Marine Safety Officers at The Port District office and patrol docks. The new recruits will participate in 40hr class.

7:45pm, dispatched to a capsized sailboat in the A-basin of the harbor. Officers responded in Fireboat, found the boat righted, two persons back onboard.

Tuesday

7:03am, observed dense fog, activated signal. Officers hoping for sunnier days.

Ventura events

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

Wanna Play Bridge? Join us for ACBL sanctioned duplicate bridge games every Tues., Wed., and Thurs. at 12:30. 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.

June 3: Sespe Fly Fishers of Ventura will be conducting monthly “First Saturday” introductory Fly Rod Casting and Intro to Fly Fishing clinic. There is no charge and all are welcome. Whether you are an experienced fly fisher or a complete novice we want to help you improve your casting and learn to enjoy this great sport. If you don't yet have a fly rod, don't worry, just come and use one of ours. Chumash Park, Petit and Waco, 9:00 to 11:00 am, in East Ventura, off Telephone Rd.

For more information: Casting Program Coordinator Thomas Hall thomasfoleyhall@gmail.com (805) 377-5249

www.sespeflyfishers.org

June 10: World Ocean Day Ventura Saturday, 11 am - 5 pm. Harbor Cove Beach, Ventura. Make marine memories at a free, family-friendly beach event! World Ocean Day Ventura will be held at the Ventura Harbor during the Ventura Outrigger Challenge. The day-long event will feature live music, games, ocean-oriented non-profits, and an incredible view of the Challenge's exciting canoe races. Our partner event, the Ventura Outrigger Challenge, will also have food, a beer garden, and vendors' booths to explore.

June 11: Olivas Adobe 11am- 3 pm free. Weddings then and now. Explore weddings past and present. Historian, Glenda Jackson will be sharing some items from her vast collection of Victorian clothing as well as sharing etiquette from the past.

Her lectures are at 11:30 am or 1 pm and they are free. In the Rancho home wedding dresses will be displayed along with a little history about the bride and why they chose the Olivas Adobe for their special occasion. Our volunteer docent gift shop will be open as well as the small adobe housing a new art exhibit by local artist Bob Engel. www.cityofventura.ca.gov/OlivasAdobeEvents

June 11: Anyone interested in time-pieces, both antique and modern, can join the Ventura County chapter of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors for a watch/clock marketplace, lunch, and a presentation on a horological topic. Bring a watch or clock for a free evaluation. 11am, Campus Student Center of Ventura College, 4667 Telegraph Road, Ventura. nawcc-ch190.com. For Details contact:

Bob McClelland
Director, Public Information
(818) 225-8212
rjmcclel@pacbell.net

June 17: On Saturday the Ventura County Genealogical Society will present its monthly program online via Zoom, from 1:00 until 3:00 pm, featuring Curt Witcher, speaking on “Using Periodicals and PERSI (Periodical Source Index) to Take Your Research to the Next Level.” Participants will hear about the various types of genealogy and local history magazines and journals, and how PERSI can help one find articles to further their research. Non-members may request a Zoom invitation at <https://venturacogensoc.org/request-invitation-to-lecture/>.

June 24: the VCGS DNA Special Interest Group meets at 10:30 am via Zoom, with the challenge “Ask Me Anything,” by Angie Bush from the National Genealogical Society, chair of its Genetic Genealogy committee. Contact the webmaster at webmaster@venturacogensoc.org to request an invitation.

All VCGS workshops are free and open to members and the public.

For information about the society: <https://www.venturacogensoc.org>.

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



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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 22 mins.

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



Business Profile

A very young Spencer Garrett at the club ground breaking

Pierpont Racquet Club

When the Pierpont Racquet Club opened in 1977 it was one of the first multi-purpose athletic clubs in the nation. Tennis was increasing in popularity and racquetball was the fastest growing sport in the U.S. As fourth generation Venturans, brothers Scott and Spencer Garrett seized the opportunity to create a facility that would attract not only racquet enthusiasts but also cater to swimmers and fitness enthusiasts.

Over the past 46 years, the private athletic facility has continued to expand its facilities to meet emerging trends. When the Club first opened it offered 8 tennis courts and 4 racquetball courts. Within a few years 4 more tennis courts, 2 more racquetball courts and a second pool were added. Then, in the 1990s as interest in racquetball waned, the Garretts began converting some of their six racquetball courts to fitness areas. Today, the fastest growing sport in the nation is pickleball.

To meet the increasing demand for pickleball, the PRC is converting another of its tennis courts to pickleball. By this summer, the Club will offer 8 pickleball courts. Pickleball and tennis clinics are offered to non-members as well as members under the guidance of James Jensen. With

the addition of more courts, the PRC will begin league and interclub play as well as be able to host pickleball parties such as the one recently auctioned off to benefit Interface Children and Family Services.

Last October, the Pierpont Racquet Club celebrated its 45th Anniversary with a dance party on the tennis court that attracted 350 guests. PRC General Partner Spencer Garrett is already looking forward to celebrating 50 years in 2027. When the partnership was formed in 1975, the term of the agreement was 50 years. Not much thought was given to what the club would be like in 20 years let alone 50. Very few family owned and operated businesses last 50 years, but the PRC is still going strong.

What the hot new thing will be in 2027 is anyone's guess, but the PRC is betting that pickleball will still be going strong. Tennis has certainly stood the test of time and pickleball offers many of the desirable elements of tennis – plus it is easier to get started playing when in the company of friends. Making friends at the PRC has been one of the hallmarks of the Pierpont Racquet Club since its inception.

Drop in and check out our amazing facilities, services, friends, and experience the PRC lifestyle!



Is this a map? Photo by Patricia Schallert.


Doorway is a map at Mission San Buenaventura

by Richard Senate

The side door of the church that leads into the courtyard has an interesting design that looks Moorish but it is, said to be, a map of sorts, to show Native Converts how to find their way back to the Mission if they should travel away from the Mission San Buenaventura.


The line at the top represent the flat topped hill, where the cross stands today, the lines on each side of the statue of the virgin are the two rivers on each side of the Mission, the Ventura and the Santa Clara River.

The statue represents the mission community. The simple map was to show how to get back to the Mission when they travel away. Yes, Native Converts were given vacation time and could leave for extended visits at other villages. This was done so they could encourage new converts to join. It also spread such things as corn cultivation and European ideas. Sadly, it also spread accidentally the European diseases that took many lives among those who refused to accept the new religion and new life style.



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Jacqueline Counter



Michelle DiGuilio

Ventura Botanical Gardens offers banquet for photographers

What an abundant smorgasbord of colorful blooms and resident fauna were discovered by visitors to the Ventura Botanical Gardens this spring. More than 90 photographers captured the ever-increasing variety of plants in the Mediterranean climate botanical collections found in the Gardens.

A panel of judges evaluated over 200 submissions and selected winning entries in five categories: Best Overall, Critters, Botanical Macro, Botanical Close-up and Garden Scenes. Winning entries were also chosen by “open voting” on the Ventura Botanical Gardens’ Facebook page.

The judges this year were Greg Montana, photographer and owner of Dexter’s Camera; Monica Furmanski, Assistant Professor of Photography at Ventura College; and Stephanie Hogue, Owner of Latitudes Gallery. Greg continues Dexter’s 70 years of excellent support to the photography community and still processes film. Monica exhibits work locally and nationally and operates the 643 Project Space, an artist run gallery on Ventura Avenue, with her husband Matthew. Stephanie’s work is well known locally for capturing the beauty of the ocean and natural elements of our area. Visitors find her work at Latitudes Gallery on Main Street in downtown Ventura.

The contest is open to photos from throughout the year but spring is a favorite season. This year the rains triggered an abundance of new growth, color, birdsong, and scenes captured by our entrants. Denise Dewire, a winner in both the Judges’ and Peoples’ Choice contests, said: “I love VBG and am a charter member. It’s amazing how the Gardens have evolved and how it has come back since the Thomas fire.” Tara Pinley, a winning newcomer to Ventura, is rediscovering her interest in photography. She said: “I’m amazed by the natural beauty in the area -- especially the Botanical Gardens where I enjoy gorgeous views of the ocean and gardens all at the same time. It really makes Ventura a wonderful place to live and share with nature.”

To view all the winning photos go to <https://venturabotanicalgardens.com/in-bloom/>

Winners in the Judges’ Choice by category were:

- Best Overall: Denise Dewire (1st and 2nd), Jacqueline Counter (3rd)
- Critters: Matthew Bear (1st), Tara Pinley (2nd), Michelle DiGuilio (3rd)
- Botanical Macro: Chuck Aghoian (1st), Alex Davis (2nd), Chuck Aghoian (3rd)
- Botanical Closeup: Lina Li (1st),

April Holmes (2nd), Leslie Leavens (3rd)
 Garden Scenes: Elisabeth Revenis (1st), Gannon Hutchison (2nd), Benjamin Mati (3rd)

Winners in the Peoples’ Choice were: Denise Dewire (1st, 3rd and 4th), Scott Geist (2nd) and Elisabeth Revenis (5th)

Ventura Botanical Gardens congratulates all the winners and hopes this visual smorgasbord will fuel an appetite for more visitors to experience the Gardens.



Our Ventura receives 2023 Wilbur Award of Merit.

Our Ventura TV Receives 2023 Wilbur Award of Merit from the Religion Communicators Council

Our Ventura TV, a weekly cable TV and online interview series, is pleased to announce that it has been honored with a from the Religion Communicators Council (founded in 1929). The Wilbur Awards, named after journalist Marvin C. Wilbur, recognize excellence in secular (non-religious) media for effectively communicating religious issues, values, and themes. These awards celebrate outstand-

ing work completed in 2022 across various fields, including print and online journalism, book publishing, television, and film.

The specific recognition for Our Ventura TV was for its faith-based series, which is part of its ongoing programming. The Religion Communicators Council, in acknowledging Our Ventura TV with this award, places it among other notable recipients such as NPR, the Associated Press, Sony Music Entertainment, and CBS News/60 Minutes, to name a few.

“Truly honored to receive the 2023 Wilbur Award of Merit,” said Sandra Siepak, one of the hosts of Our Ventura TV recognized for hosting. “This recognition is a testament to the dedication and passion of our entire team in promoting understanding and dialogue.”

Our Ventura TV actively showcases diverse voices and experiences, fostering meaningful discussions and promoting mutual respect. The Wilbur Award of Merit recognizes the platform’s impact in facilitating dialogue surrounding faith and spirituality while encouraging viewers to explore different religious perspectives.

George Alger, the producer of Our Ventura TV, expressed gratitude to the Religion Communicators Council, stating, “We are thankful for the Council’s recognition of our efforts and commitment to promoting religious and community understanding.”

Established in 2008, Our Ventura TV is a cable TV and online platform dedicated to sharing insightful interviews and stories that inform, inspire, and engage viewers.

Our Ventura TV is produced by George Alger and directed by Michelle Hoover. The hosting team includes Sandra Siepak, MB Hanrahan, Monique Nowlin, Bonnie Rose, and George Alger. Mary Christine Ballestero serves as the Floor Manager, and studio segments are filmed at CAPS Media.

To learn more about Our Ventura TV or to inquire about becoming a guest, please visit Ourventura.com.



On May 29, a Memorial Day celebration was held at Cemetery Memorial Park on E. Main St.

Memorial Day is an American holiday, observed on the last Monday of May, honoring the men and women who died while serving in the U.S. military.

Originally known as Decoration Day, it originated in the years following the Civil War and became an official federal holiday in 1971. Many Americans observe Memorial Day by visiting cemeteries or memorials, holding family gatherings and participating in parades.



A work out known as the "Murph."

Vets have been honored at The Vent on Memorial Day in Ventura

by Patricia Schallert

Every year on Memorial Day, athletes from around the world, gather at CrossFit affiliates, military bases, and local parks to do a work out known as the "Murph" and as they work out, they remember those who died while serving in the United States Armed Forces. This Memorial Day tradition found many local Ventura athletes joining for their 7th year, at the Vent, located in Ventura to honor and support the Vent's long-standing relationship with the military.

The tradition was born out of CrossFit's Hero workouts, which were created in honor of men and women who have died in the line

of action, or while serving their country or local community.

Perhaps the most well-known CrossFit hero work out is the "Murph workout", named after Lieutenant Michael Murphy, who died in Afghanistan, in 2005, while serving his country. The work out is long and grueling, but you won't hear athletes complain. Instead, the athletes show up to pay their respects and honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. Joe Saenz is a 72 local athlete Veteran, a grandfather and great grandfather who honors his friends lost in the Viet Nam

war. He commented that "this workout on Memorial Day is his way of remembering them and keeping them in his heart."

Shelly Hurguy believes that the "Murph" workout is like "a wave and about the community." When she thinks about what Memorial Day is all about, she feels "motivated and then pushes herself harder without complaining".

The "Murph"work out specifies that athletes can "partition the pull ups, push-ups, and squats as needed". This presents a rare element in a CrossFit workout as most athletes are required to finish all repetition of an exercise before moving onto the next one. In "Murph", the run portions must be done as a sandwich around the reps, and athletes may break up the pull ups, push-ups, and squats, however they like.

Spending a bit of time thinking through a rep scheme, helps both the newbie athlete and veteran athlete succeed in this workout. For a beginner athlete, this workout helps them feel confident as they attempt a work out that on paper, looks intimidating, but

when broken down can be quite manageable. For the veteran athlete, it can help them learn about pacing and strategy to get the best possible times.

For seven years, Ventura Community Athletes of all ages have come together on Memorial Day to the Vent, to participate in one of Michael Murphy's favorite workouts, known as "Body Armor". With the sole purpose to honor this focused warrior, and great American, who wanted nothing more in life that serve this great country and the beautiful people who make it what it is.

Bree Cochran the sole owner of the Vent comments that she "supports the older athletes who need some modifications and younger athletes who need challenges that hard workouts bring. She is committed to the workouts for all, especially on Memorial Day where the community can come together as a group and spend time honoring the men and women who have died in the line of action or while serving their county or local community.

Additional information <http://www.Sugarwod.com>



The Rose Hotel finally opened after 21 years.

The Rose Hotel was built for about \$80,000

The Hotel Rose was a Victorian building that stood at 597 East Main, Northwest corner of Chestnut.

A wealthy Pasadena landowner, Leonard J. Rose invested heavily in Ventura, including the Gas Works and the Street Railway.

The Rose Hotel was built for about \$80,000. In 1888, the foundations were poured for the pressed-brick and terra cotta Rose.

The Rose had generous gingerbread detail and stained glass. There were 58 suites including a parlor and a dormitory. The floors were polished oak and walnut, with expensive rugs, chairs and lounges in every room.

The Rose Hotel finally opened in February, 1890. After 21 years Mr. Rose applied for a dissolution of the Hotel Rose on January 13, 1911, and the building then became the Hotel 'de Leon in 1912. The Hotel Rose was purchased on August 23, 1912, for \$15,000 from Leonard J. Rose.

The new owners were E.R. Dunn and J.M. De' Leon from San Francisco. They completely remodeled the de' Leon Hotel, adding private baths in each room. They also moved the entrance that had been on Chestnut Street to Main Street.

The Hotel de' Leon was torn down in 1934.

Later in 1948, the Jack Rose Department Store was built on the hotel's site. The Jack Rose building then became Ventura County

Public Works offices. Later the location became County Stationers.

Then in 1997 most of the block, the Jack Rose building, the old Wards building and other businesses were demolished for the downtown redevelopment project, to include a theater and restaurants.

Life Stories Volunteer Program

Livingston Memorial Visiting Nurse Association & Hospice is bringing back its beloved Life Story program. This program is designed to provide both community members and hospice patients the opportunity to record their personal memoirs. Helping one share their personal story, which might be lost if not passed along to the next generation, is a valuable gift that our Life Story volunteer provides.

Volunteers will get the opportunity to record and edit these stories that members of our community can share for years to come.

Volunteer training will take place at our Camarillo Grief & Bereavement Center on June 14th, from 6 - 7 p.m. To register, visit lmvna.org/lifestoriesform or call (805) 389-6870.

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.



The Club and its members have a rich history of civic service and of service to the community

by Patrick D. Pothier
President, Ventura Downtown Lions

The Ventura Downtown Lions Club is celebrating its 100th Birthday this year. It was chartered on April 27, 1923, by 51 outstanding local businesses and community leaders. One of them was Fred W Smith who went on to become President of Lions Clubs International for 1947 - 1948, and another was Charles Rea, the then Mayor of Ventura. Another was Erle Stanley Gardner, an attorney who became famous as the author of Perry Mason detective stories.

Our Club and its members have a rich history of civic service and of service to the community and beyond. There have been 10 Members over the years who have been the mayor of Ventura, and at least 20 who were city council members. Many have served as public officials on various public boards and commissions, on private boards and nonprofits, and as public officials in a wide variety of capacities.

While our history is rich, and our present is just as rich. We are dedicated to providing assistance to individuals and community organizations that are in need and support. These efforts include, but are not limited to, providing camperships for deaf children, free eye exams for

those in need, scholarships for local students, Thanksgiving baskets for families that are food insecure, as well as supporting the Salvation Army food pantries. We participate in both community and beach clean-up days and we recognize America's heroes - the Military Veterans and First Responders. We support those suffering from diabetes and the researchers seeking a cure, efforts to help and assist those dealing with mental health issues, and an active participant of the Rose Parade sharing the word to the world about giving back through Service, a wide range of other worthy matters.

While our past and present is exciting, our future looks even brighter. As we celebrate the past 100 Years of Service, we also begin to look forward to the next 100 years, and we are excited about what the future holds for us and the rest of the Lions around the world.

We would be honored if you wished to join us. If you want to become a Member of this great Service Organization, or would like more information about the services we provide, you can get more information at venturalions.org



Sponsored by:

- *Swan Retirement Planning
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**Drive Through COVID-19 Safe
Document Shredding Fundraiser 2023
\$10.00 Per Box Suggested Donation
Saturday June 10th 10am-2pm
Neighborhood Car Care Parking Lot
1838 E. Thompson Blvd.
Ventura, CA 93001**

Help us raise money for community services and get a great deal on shredding your unwanted documents

Please call Ed for more information at (805) 279-8424



The morning crew Steve Shaw, Patrick D. Pothier, Stan Yates, Joe Siddens and Charlie Burnham setting up flags.

Jim Monahan, Former City Councilman started the tradition of honoring America back in the late 1990s by having the American Flag displayed in the Downtown Ventura area including the Ventura Pier, the Promenade, Ventura Avenue, Main Street, California, Poli, and Thompson.

One of the groups responsible for the flags along the Ventura Promenade is the Ventura Downtown Lions Club, and they started the tradition with Past President Ken Cozzens in 2009 when he was asked personally by Mr. Monahan if he would be interested in this honor. The Club places 88 American Flags from the pier to surfers point on 3 major holidays: Memorial Day, July 4th and Veterans Day.



The evening crew Lou Vigorita, Rosemary Vigorita, Steve Shaw, Charlie Burnham, Cathy Mayeda and Tim Mayeda, HJ Johnson and Mica Johnson.



5/29/23 - Ending of Memorial Day weekend display: Claudia Navarro, Bill Dunlevy, Charlie Burnham, Margaret Dunlevy, Lisa Morris, Janie Tran, Tyler Tran.



by Pam Baumgardner
VenturaRocks.com

The Wild Oaks Country Music Festival is Saturday, June 3, with Craig Morgan, Cam, Chayce Beckham, Justin Honsinger, Chris Johnson and the Hollywood Hillbillies. This one will be held at Conejo Creek Park South in Thousand Oaks and it's presented by the Rotary Club of Westlake Village with 100% of net proceeds going to support non-profit organizations locally and globally including the U.S. Military Veterans, First Responders, Human Trafficking, and community needs. Advance tickets available at WildOaksCMF.com.

The Ojai Blues Fest returns to the Ojai Art Center for a day of blues and roots music on Saturday, June 3, featuring Shawn Jones, Celso Salim & Darryl Carriere, Chuck Strong, TD Lind & the Aviators, Smokey & Friends, and the Brothers Marsh. Tickets may, or may not still be available the day of the show, so it's encouraged to secure your tickets via EventBrite.com.

Ojai Music Festival takes place June 8 – June 11 at a couple of different venues, but mostly the Libbey Bowl. A number of events are free and a number of ticketed events are already sold out. The best way to plot your week is to visit the official website at OjaiFestival.org and again, don't expect tickets to be available the day of, purchase your tickets now.

The Ventura County Concert Band will perform a free concert at the Ventura High School Auditorium on Sunday, June 4 at 3 pm offering "pop" tunes including selections from Stevie Wonder, Henry Mancini, The Beatles, Aladdin and more.

New dates at our local venues: Bob Marley's son, Julian Marley, has been added to the Libbey Bowl's concert line up for June 16 with the Bad Seeds opening; Daughtry was also added for Sunday, September 17. Speaking of Bob Marley, the Original Wailers will play the Ventura Music Hall on Wednesday, October 11 and Sun Room was added for November 19 at Majestic Ventura Theater.

All Kinds Studios continues to provide live music to all ages in a sober space in Zander Alley downtown Ventura. Saturday, June 3, they have The Illegal Aliens out of Santa Fe, New Mexico, along with How to Live with Robots, and Spacey. If you'd like to keep up on their schedule, it's best to follow them on Instagram.

Quick Notes:

Leashless Brewing will be trying out singer/songwriter open mics with the first one Thursday, June 1; Michael Henszey will perform in support of his new EP release of Fly Away at Namba on Saturday, June 3; Shane Alexander, Renee & Jeremy, and Kat Sophia play Ojai Greater Goods on Sunday, June 4; The Local Love Project fundraiser is Sunday, June 6 with Kelly's Lot, Scott Detweiler and Bobby Hart at the Portside Ventura Harbor Clubhouse; Michael Falcone does Sinatra at the Manhattan in Camarillo on Thursday, June 8; and there will be a

Burch Studios Showcase at the Ventura Theater on Saturday, June 10.

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

Music Calendar

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

All Kinds Studios

433 E. Main St, Ventura

Sat 6/3: Illegal Aliens, How to Live with Robots, Spacey

Angry Ferret Brewing

11990 Hertz St., Moorpark

Mon 6/5: Gypsy Jazz Jam

Boatyard Pub

1583 Spinnaker Dr., Ventura

Wednesdays: Frank Barajas

Thursdays: Jim Friery; Bluegrass Jam

Fri 6/2: Teresa Russell & Stephen Geyer

Café Fiore

66 S. California St., Ventura

Wed 5/31: Donna Greene

Cantara Cellars

126 N. Wood Rd., Camarillo

Fri 6/2: Paulie Cerra

Fri 6/9: What the Funk

Sat 6/10: Vinyl Answer Band

Copa Cubana

Ventura Harbor Village

Tuesdays: Blues Tuesdays

Thursdays: Glenn Bennet

Sun 6/4: Freddie & Friends

Sun 6/11: The House Arrest Band

Copper Blues

591 Collection Blvd., Oxnard

Fri 6/2: Brandon Ragan Project

Sat 6/3: Pull the Trigger (11 am); NDR CVR (7 pm)

Deer Lodge

2261 Maricopa Hwy., Ojai

Wed 5/31: Waylon Payne

Fri 6/9: Jolon Station Band

Sat 6/10: Cliff Beach

El Rey Cantina

2302 Ventura Blvd., Camarillo

Sun 6/11: CRV Four Brix

2290 Eastman Ave., Ventura

(Fridays 6-8:30; Sundays 1-3:30)

Sun 6/4: Moxey Raven

Fri 6/9: Caught Red Handed

Sun 6/11: Strummed Down

Garage

1091 Scandia Ave., Ventura

Sat 6/3: What the Funk

Fri 6/9: Sin Chonies

Sat 6/10: No Biggie

Sat 6/17: The Renegades

Fri 6/23: Jahlos & the Rebels

The Grape

2733 E. Main St., Ventura

Tues: The Gratitude Jazz Jam

Thurs Happy Hour: Tom Etchart & Friends

Friday Happy Hour: Fred Kaplan

Wed 5/31: Jim Fox Trio

Thurs 6/1: SicNarf

Fri 6/2: Brad Rabuchin & Allen Hinds

Sat 6/3: Jimmy Calire (2 pm); Josh Brown Sextet (8 pm)

Wed 6/7: Charles Ruggiero Quartet

Thurs 6/8: The Sean Riddle Quartet

Fri 6/9: The Eric G Project Feat. Lenny Castro
Sat 6/10: TD Lind & the Aviators (2 pm); Grant Geissman (8 pm)

Keynote Lounge

10245 Telephone Rd., Ventura

Thursdays: Open Mic

Fri 6/2: The Jumper Cables

Sat 6/3: The Blue Moon boys

Fri 6/9: Heart & Soul

Leashless Brewing

585 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

Thurs 6/1: Singer/Songwriter Open Mic Night

Fri 6/2: The Salty Suites

Sat 6/3: The Lucky Ones

Sun 6/4: Daniella Cardillo

Thur 6/8: Jacob Marquez & the Good Vibes

Fri 6/9: Blown Over band

Sat 6/10: Tribe Devine

Sun 6/11: Kimo Moya

Libbey Bowl

210 S. Signal St., Ojai

June 8 – June 11: Ojai Music Festival

Local Love Project Fundraiser

Portside Vta Harbor Clubhouse

1196 Portside Dr., Ventura

Sun 6/4: Kelly's Lot, Scott Detweiler, Bobby Hart

Majestic Ventura Theater

26 S. Chestnut St., Ventura

Sat 6/10: Aaron Burch Studios Showcase

Manhattan

5800 Santa Rosa Rd., Camarillo

Wed 5/31: Warren Takahashi

Fri 6/2: Pam and Hollywood

Sat 6/3: Jeanne Tatum Trio

Wed 6/7: Robert Van

Thurs 6/8: Michael Falcone (Sinatra)

Fri 6/9: Tour Support

Sat 6/10: Jeanne Tatum Trio

Margarita Villa

1567 Spinnaker Dr., Ventura

Fri 6/2: Vinyl Gypsies

Sat 6/3: Red Rhythm

Sun 6/4: Doc Rogers Band

Fri 6/9: Colette Lovejoy Band

Sat 6/10: Cinnamon Whiskey

Sun 6/11: Corsican Brothers

Mrs. Olson's

2800 Harbor Blvd., Oxnard

Sun 6/4: Teresa Russell

Sun 6/11: Bad Chemistry

Namba Arts

47 S. Oak St., Ventura

Sat 6/3: Michael Henszey

Sun 6/11: The Listening Room Redux

Oceanview Pavilion Performing Arts

Theater

575 E. Surfside Dr., Port Hueneme

Sat 6/3: The Mighty Cash Cats, Zen Zeppelin,

Dr. T and the Blues Criminals

Ojai Blues Fest

Ojai Art Center, Ojai

Sat 6/3: Shawn Jones, Celso Salim & Darryl

Carriere, Chuck Strong, TD Lind & the Aviators,

Smokey & Friends, the Brothers Marsh

Ojai Greater Goods

114 N. Padre Juan Ave., Ojai

Sun 6/4: Renee & Jeremy, Shane Alexander, Kat

Sophia

Ojai Underground

616 Pearl St., Ojai

Sat 6/3: Max Gomez

Ojai Valley Brewing

307 Bryant St., Ojai

Fri 6/2: Kyle Swan

Sat 6/3: The Mercers

Fri 6/9: TD Lind

Sat 6/10: The Chillz

Poinsettia Pavilion

3451 Foothill Rd., Ventura

Sun 6/4: Old-Time Country Bluegrass Gospel

band

The Raven Tavern

1651 S. Victoria Ave., Oxnard

Fri 6/2: Doc Rogers Band

Sat 6/3: Vinyl Gypsies

Sun 6/4: Vinny Berty

Fri 6/9: Vanise Terry Band

Sat 6/10: Teresa Russell

Sun 6/11: Karen Eden

The Shores

1031 Harbor Blvd., Oxnard

Sat 6/10: CRV

Sun 6/11: Tommy Foytek Band

Strey Cellars

951 N. Rice Ave., Oxnard

Sat 6/3: Barrelhouse Wailers

Sun 6/4: Michelle Tyler & Cuppa Joe

Sat 6/10: The Renegades 805

Sun 6/11: Whiskey Business

Tony's Pizzeria

186 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

Thurs 6/1: Rising Son

Sun 6/4: 80's Invasion

Wed 6/7: Whiskey Business

Thurs 6/8: The Stone Flys

Sun 6/11: Mimi Driver

Topa Topa Brewing

104 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

Thurs: Davey Miller Jazz

Topa Topa Brewing

2024 Ventura Blvd. Camarillo

Wed 5/31: Giana Bella

Fri 6/9: Teresa Russell

The Twist

454 E. Main St., Ventura

Fri 6/2: Breaking Bored

Sat 6/3: Coque Ross (4 pm); Live Band

Karaoke (8 pm)

Sun 6/4: Ken Devoe (12 pm); TD Lind

Fri 6/9: Operation 90s

Sat 6/10: Bella Lucarelli (4 pm);

Crosscut 805 (8 pm)

Sun 6/11: Steve and Sally Williams (12

pm); Shawn Jones (4 pm)

Vaquero y Mar

435 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

Sundays: Mariachi

Tuesdays: The Sea Hunter

Wednesdays: Tribal Me

Ventura Harbor Village

1559 Spinnaker Dr., Ventura

Sat 6/3: Vanise Terry Band

Sun 6/4: Morrison Drive

Sat 6/10: Colin Kyffin

Sun 6/11: The Coconut

Ventura High School Auditorium

2 N. Catalina St., Ventura

Sun 6/4: Ventura County Concert Band

Ventura Music Hall

1888 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

Thurs 6/1: Ohgeesy, AG Club

Sat 6/3: The Mother Hips

Sun 6/4: KT Turnstall

Wild Oaks Country Music Festival

Conejo Creek Park, Thousand Oaks

Sat 6/3: Craig Morgan, Cam, Chayce

Beckham, Justin Honsinger, Chris Johnson &

the Hollywood Hillbillies

Winchesters

632 E. Main St., Ventura

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

Thurs 6/1: Will Breman

Fri 6/2: Dave & Barry

Sat 6/3: The James Broz Band

Sun 6/4: Karen Eden & the Bad Apples

Tues 6/6: Open mic with Jenna Rose

Thurs 6/8: Brandon Ragan

Fri 6/9: Karyn 805

Sat 6/10: Heft & Wilson

Sun 6/11: Heart & Soul Band

1901 Speakeasy

740 S. B St., Oxnard

Sat 6/3: RJ Mischo

Ventura Music Scene



Carter Walters

Sedona Engle

Photos by Patricia Schallert.

Student Art Show at Vita Art Center



This exhibit (May 25-May 29) was the 4th annual Student Art Show. It was the culmination of many years of investment into Arts Education by the Ventura community, students and families, Ventura Unified School District, incredible teachers, and supportive partner organizations, like the City of Ventura and Vita Art Center.

The art show highlighted incredibly talented high school, middle school and elementary school student artists. A total of over 100 works by student artists were selected from hundreds of submitted pieces, including watercolors, photography, digital art, acrylic paintings, mixed media, ceramics and pencil drawings and for the first time, textile arts.

Inspired by her grandfather, Sierra Engel, 11th grader at Buena High School, is a character illustrator, watercolor painter and storyteller. She loves drawing whatever “fantastical adventures come to her mind”. Her inspiration comes from simple things, like “listening to music or random doodles and also from her grandfather who is also an artist”.



Claire Hansen’s Culinary Arts and Hospitality Class

at Pierpont Elementary School and said he is “inspired by nature and art makes him happy”.

Ambrogio Thompson, a 12th grader at Foothill Technology High School. It is a digital and acrylic-based art piece. He is influenced by Italian and Irish folklore and culture, using modern pop, culture influences like cartoons and horror movies.

Along with the art show was Claire Hansen’s Culinary Arts and Hospitality class from Buena High School. These students made up the menu and cooked the tasty Hors d’oeuvres for the guests and students viewing the art show.

Sabrina Rodriguez, Board President of the Ventura Unified School District, who believes that “art is central to life”, along with the Ventura Education Partnership, Vita Art Center and Ventura Unified School District are grateful for all of the Art teachers who participated in this joint project.



Sedona Engle, a 5th grader at Mound Elementary School, commented on her own drawing and felt “it was her best drawing.” She likes creating art because

it’s calming, relaxing and time consuming and makes her feel like she’s “in the Zone” “Worries disappear” when she paints. Carters Walters is a 5th graders



Destin (AKA Des) Starchile is a local artist who enjoys painting pictures of animals and landscapes. “I’m always willing to paint someone’s pet for donations to cover supplies.” You can meet him on the promenade.

Editor’s note: See page 6 for more about Des and his life.

Instructor Michele Foster has enlisted 180 art students to help thousands of tiny friends. They’ve worked for weeks on The Hive Collaborative in the Garden, making ceramic “bee cups” to provide water for the vital, threatened pollinators.

The 350 or so hydration stations they created can be viewed at the South African Garden portion of Ventura Botanical Gardens. After June 2, the students will reclaim their ceramic flowers, shallow bowls they can refill for the bees.

Three adult volunteers helped in producing the bee cups out of glazed and fired clay. Participating students are from Mesa Union School, Pierpont Elementary School, Girl Scout Troop 65004 and the Bell Arts Factory Youth Program.

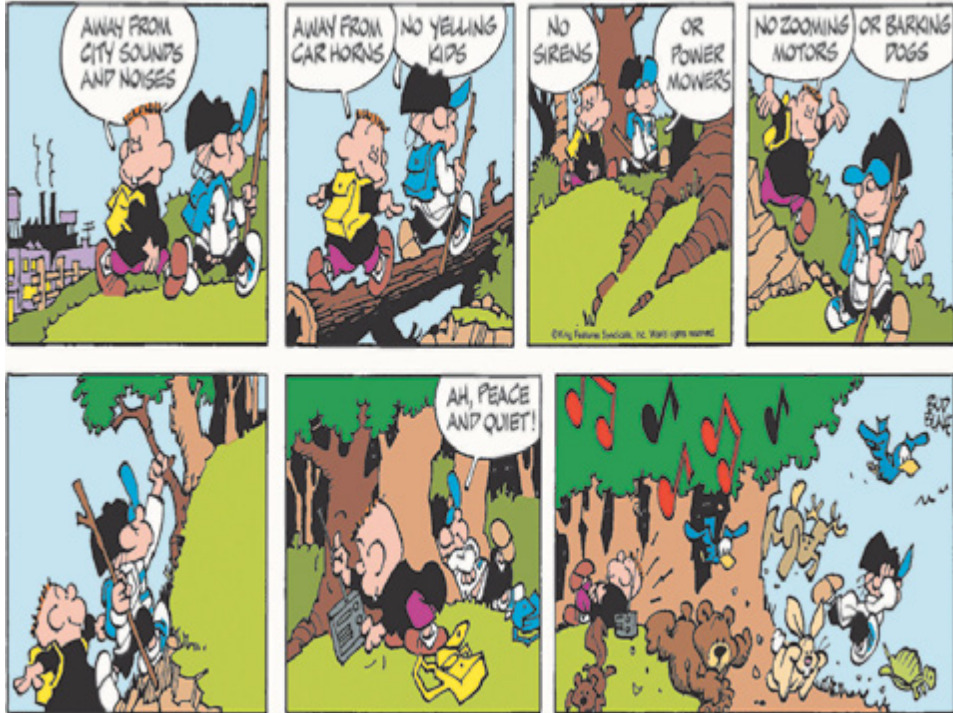


Ventura Art Scene

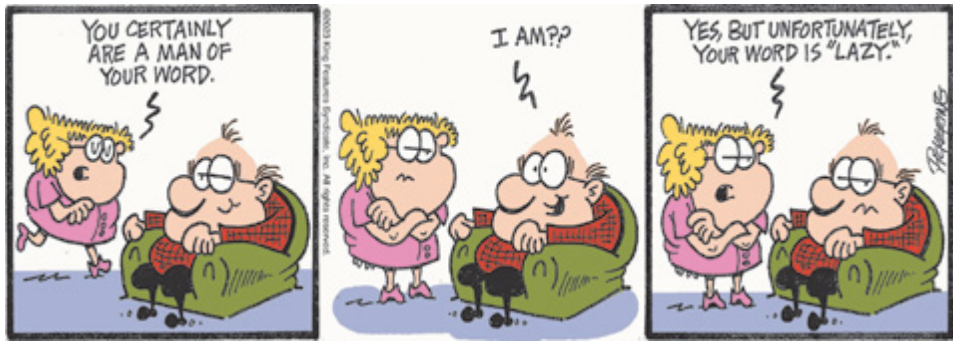


Lighter Breeze

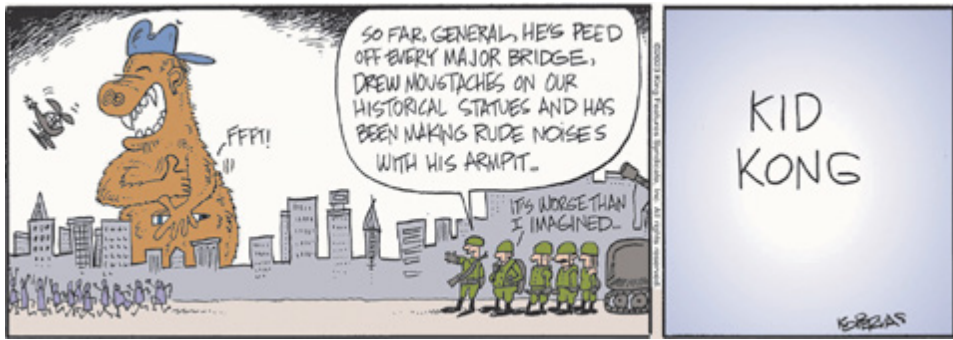
Tiger



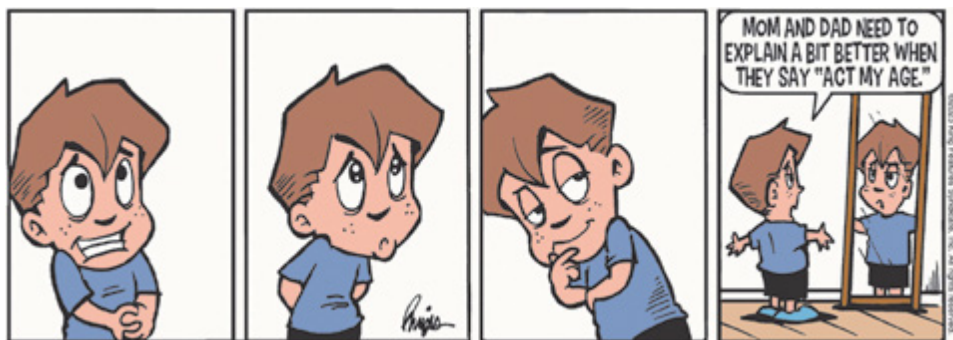
The Spats



Out on a Limb



Amber Waves



Stan Smith's Tennis Class



Solutions on page 15

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

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

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

Solutions on page 15

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Beer ingredi-ent
- 5 Adj. modifier
- 8 Taverns
- 12 "The Middle" actress Heaton
- 14 Donny's rival
- 15 Susan of "Dead Man Walking"
- 16 Donated
- 17 Business mag
- 18 Rose and fell on the sea
- 20 Chicago cagers
- 23 Scotch
- 24 God of war
- 25 Adirondack lake
- 28 Martini ingredi-ent
- 29 "Star Wars" baddie
- 30 Pirate's chart
- 32 Arabian nomad
- 34 Minus
- 35 Melodies
- 36 Blitzen's boss
- 37 Two-piece suit
- 40 Jazzy style
- 41 Greek vowels
- 42 Revolutionary War battle
- 47 Hamlet, e.g.
- 48 Stumble on

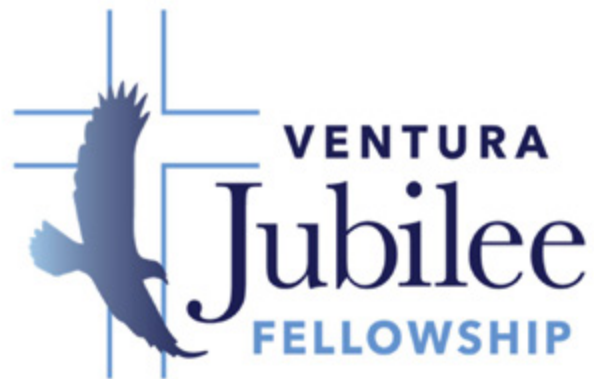
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13				14			
15								16			
			17				18	19			
20	21	22				23					
24					25				26	27	
28					29				30	31	
		32		33					34		
				35				36			
37	38	39				40					
41					42	43			44	45	46
47					48						
49					50				51		

DOWN

- 9 Melville cap-tain
- 10 Peregrinate
- 11 Raced
- 13 Hostels
- 19 Sharif of "Funny Girl"
- 20 Purse
- 21 "Topaz" author
- 22 Sultry Horne
- 23 Loses color
- 25 Clerics' rob- ing room
- 26 "So be it"
- 27 Group of actors
- 29 Futile
- 31 Unpaid TV ad
- 33 Elevated
- 34 Portable PC
- 36 Daytime drama
- 37 Hotel furniture
- 38 Slanted type (Abbr.)
- 39 Welles role
- 40 Edge
- 43 Coach
- 44 Eggs
- 45 Berlin's coun- try (Abbr.)
- 46 Museum dis- play

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YOU ARE INVITED!



1956 Palma Drive, Suite A, Ventura, CA
805-535-4325

We **Gather** to have fun, study and worship!
We strive to **Glorify** God in all that we do!
We **Grow** in our faith and knowledge of Jesus!
We **Give** of our time, talent and treasures!
We are Ventura Jubilee Fellowship!

Church Services –
10:00 AM and 11:30 AM

Bible Alive –
(Adult Sunday School)
8:45 AM

Website: vjf.church



Dr. Leonard and Lesley DeWitt
Senior Pastor



Show Time

A View from House Seats

Calendar Girls Bloom on Conejo Stage

by Shirley Lorraine

To usher in Spring, Conejo Players in Thousand Oaks bursts forth with humor, pathos and the solidarity of friendship in their current production of "Calendar Girls."

A delightful lightweight romp based on a real event, Calendar Girls centers around a stalwart and staid British women's organization, the Women's Institute Association, referred to as the WI.

Their fundraising goal for the present year is to raise money to purchase a settee for the currently dismal waiting area in a hospital cancer wing in honor of one of the members' husbands who recently succumbed to the disease.

As members of the WI of Knapely Village in Yorkshire, the ladies are less invested in the traditional than they are in finding new ways to achieve the same ends, having more fun in the process. When the subject of their annual calendar comes up, members of the group opt to stray from the usual fare of churches, bridges and other landscapes. Instead, a handful of forward-thinkers decide to take a chance on a more intimate layout using themselves as models with props representative of the group's standard focus of baking, knitting and gardening. Cleverly framed behind these items, the ladies bare "most" to the delight of all.

With the encouragement of a specific cause, the ladies engage a young photographer (David White) to make the project a reality. The success of the project ultimately surpasses their wildest dreams.

Although the action is set in England, director Deidre Parmenter opted to forego the accents which worked well for this ensemble. The cast delivers a spun-candy froth with

emotional undertones that periodically bring the audience back to terra firma and the task at hand. The meaning behind the effort struck a chord with many in the audience.

Cast members include Lynn Thorne, Dana Weisman, Joanne Zahorsky-Reeves, Rita McCaffrey, Carla Ames, Mary Alice Brady as the "calendar girls". Erin Fagundes, Robin Russell, Jeff Ash, Daniel Krause, Elena Mills and Katie Gordon fill in the rest of the story, each adding flair to their roles.

All the participants embrace their characters with enthusiasm and spice that emphasize the realism they are portraying. The cast works as an ensemble, providing unique skills and body language, and each one adding to the storyline in both minor and major ways. Every character has at least one moment to shine in the spotlight, securing the feeling of unity and friendly rivalry that belonging to a women's group can elicit. The staging employs a complicated wheeled setting change involving a church meeting room interior and an outdoor garden with a view, a plethora of props and myriad costume changes which keep the actors and crew on their toes throughout.

This staging has added value in the contribution of original music by Kyle deTarnowsky which accents the scenes and mood changes nicely, filling in otherwise blank pauses providing a nice finishing touch to a solid and endearing production.

Calendar Girls runs through June 17 with performances Friday and Saturday at 8:00 p.m. and Sundays at 2:00 p.m. www.ConejoPlayers.org or (805) 495-3715.

Streaming Spotlight by Cindy Summers

Missing

- Netflix



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

When her mother Grace (Nia Long) went on a vacation with her new boyfriend Kevin (Ken Leung) to Columbia, June (Storm Reid) did as many teenagers would do and had a great time partying with her friends, but when she went to pick her mom and boyfriend up from the airport they never arrived. June contacted the hotel where they had been staying and was told that they left but had left everything including all their luggage and belongings at the hotel, so she contacted her mom's friend Heather (Amy Landecker). They contacted the U.S. Embassy in Columbia and spoke with FBI Agent Park (Daniel Henney) who told them that unfortunately the issue was not within their jurisdiction, but that they would try to help in any ways they could to locate June's mother.

Stuck in a sea of bureaucratic red

tape, June used her tech savvy skills and set out to find her mother. She was able to locate images of the hotel online, which showed security cameras, but the manager said the tapes were overwritten every 48 hours and would have to be looked through in person. This was obviously impossible with June in L.A., so she used the TaskRabbit app and hired a Columbian local named Javier (Joaquim de Almeida) to be her boots on the ground in her search. Javier found out that Grace and Kevin were seen in a hardware store nearby purchasing a padlock, and when June searched nearby tourist sites, she found a place called the Walled City Love Lock Bridge.

June searched through live cam footage in the area, and saw her mom's new boyfriend propose to her on the bridge, but unfortunately a short time later as she followed them on webcams throughout the city she saw them both abducted by several men who grabbed them and drove away in a white van. June knew she needed to find out more about her mom's relationship with her new boyfriend and after hacking both their email accounts discovered that several years ago Kevin had gone to prison for several years in Texas for conning women while using multiple fake names. June immediately contacted Agent Park, but he said he was already aware of that information and that Kevin served his time

and was currently using his real name.

As June dug deeper into Kevin's information, she found out that he had actually contacted another woman who looked similar to her mother just prior to the trip and assumed they were having an affair. When June shared the information with Agent Park, he told her that legally they could not use any information June got from Kevin's hacked email and asked that she just be patient and let them handle the situation. Agent Park said they was much more going on than June was aware of that he was not able to share, but asked June if she knew if her mother had ever gone by any other name. June said she didn't know anything about that, but told him she had tried to reach out to the other woman and discovered she had also been missing for two weeks.

June kept digging through emails, credit card accounts, uber tracking and the online dating app where Grace and Kevin met which all raised more answers than questions. June also had to contend with an international media frenzy over her mom's disappearance when the video of them being abducted went viral. The whole story blew up around the world when it was discovered that her mom had other identities than Grace Allen, and appeared to at some point in her past had disappeared to start a new life. This was news to June who only knew her life to be that her father passed away when she was young and her mom raised her as a single parent.

This would not be the last thing to surprise June in this ever changing story which would result in her learning her mom's friend Heather was more than just

a friend and that it seemed a possibility through the evidence they discovered that Grace may not have even been in Columbia, that she may never have left L.A. and that June's own life may be in danger from the past.

Rated: PG-13

Runtime: 1h 51m

Have a proud and Happy Juneteenth!

Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States.

From its Galveston, Texas origin in 1865, the observance of June 19th as the African American Emancipation Day has spread across the United States and beyond.

Today Juneteenth commemorates African American freedom and emphasizes education and achievement. It is a day, a week, and in some areas, a month marked with celebrations, guest speakers, picnics and family gatherings. It is a time for reflection and rejoicing. It is a time for assessment, self-improvement and for planning the future.

In cities across the country, people of all races, nationalities and religions are joining hands to truthfully acknowledge a period in our history that shaped and continues to influence our society today. Sensitized to the conditions and experiences of others, only then can we make significant and lasting improvements in our society.

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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.



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Weddings Then & Now

Sunday, June 11, 2023 • 11 am - 3 pm

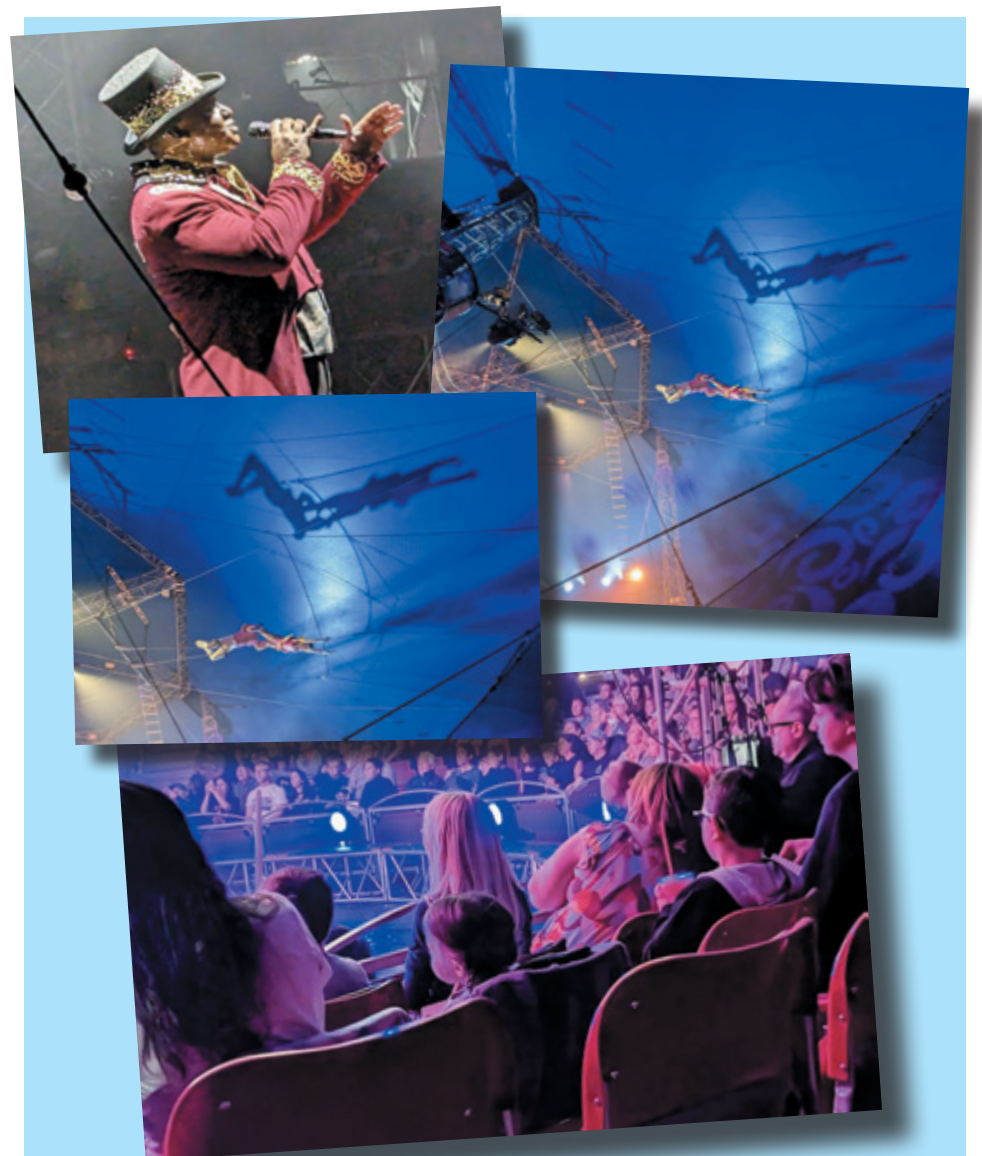
Join us as historian Glenda Jackson shares her Victorian wedding fashion collection & etiquette from the times. Lectures start at 11:30 am or 1:00 pm. Modern wedding dresses will be on display in the rancho home.



Admission is FREE!
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www.cityofventura.ca.gov/OlivasAdobeEvents



The big one is back Circus Vargas is at the Fairgrounds until June 5. Children of all ages are enjoying the circus.

In the all new 2023 production, Circus Vargas channels the "City of Lights" in their latest, greatest production, Bonjour Paris! This all-new high-energy, action-packed extravaganza delivers the ultimate live family entertainment experience.

Photos by Patricia Schallert.