

Happy Independence Day!



VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

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Four years of art school to do this?

A playhouse like none ever

Photos by Patricia Schallert and Michael Gordon

On Saturday, June 24, Portside Ventura Harbor presented Playhouses by the Sea with Habitat for Humanity of Ventura Harbor (building homes, communities & hope) There was construction and painting of three beautiful playhouses for military and veteran families. A wonderful opportunity to give back to our community and make a positive impact. Each playhouse was pre-cut and took 4-5 hours to assemble and paint.

Portside, Habitat and Ventura volunteers joined together to make Gabby's Playhouse theme for the Feliciano Family, Pirate theme for the Munoz Family and Jungle Theme for the Blanding Family.

Playhouse Builds are special in that participants get to interact with military and veteran families who arrive at the end of the day to receive their playhouses. In many cases, the playhouses are a surprise to the children, and getting to see their reactions

Continued on page 3



Happy volunteers after 4-5 hours.

Pregnant sea lion found on the Portside Promenade returns to the water

On June 17, a pregnant sea lion decided she would rather spend time on the promenade at Portside Ventura Harbor. When it became obvious, she wasn't going back in the water the volunteer folks from the Channel Islands Marine & Wildlife Institute Rescue (CIMWI) came out to try to get her back into the water but she refused to budge.



Just doing what she's told and staying on the walkway.

Volunteer Seri McClendon, who was on-site, stated "Marine mammals are federally protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. Violations can result in a civil penalty up to \$11,000 as well as criminal penalties up to \$100,000 and imprisonment of up to a year or both. It is important to keep both people and pets away from stranded animals. If pets are around the area, make sure they are on a leash."

She went on "Not all animals that seem stranded need human intervention. It is normal for seals and sea lions to come out of the water to rest, digest and sun themselves and mothers often leave their pups onshore while they are foraging at sea. It is in the best interest of these wild animals to have the least amount of human interaction as possible."

19-year-old Venturan Kiana Casey hardly left for 2-days trying to get help for the sea lion.

After lots of people trying to get her back in the water she

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Ron Barrett tried to coax her back into the harbor.

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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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How old
would you be
if you didn't
know how
old you was?
— Satchel
Paige

Local Government News



Bikes, scooters, strollers, and wagons are welcome at the parade.

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

It's a celebration by the sea! The City of Ventura's annual 4th of July Street Fair and Pushem-Pullem Parade returns on Tuesday, July 4, 2023, from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. in Ventura's Downtown District.

The Pushem-Pullem Parade, presented by the Rotary Club of East Ventura, will begin at 10:00 a.m. on Main Street in front of Cemetery Memorial Park and continue into the Street Fair in Downtown Ventura. No registration is required.

This year's Street Fair features artisan vendors, a car exhibit, food trucks, live entertainment, a kids' activity area, and more. Attendees can also enjoy Downtown's local shops and outdoor dining as part of Main Street Moves.

Both events are free to attend.

Bikes, scooters, strollers, and wagons are welcome at the parade. Motorized vehicles are not allowed. A complimentary Bike Valet, courtesy of the City of Ventura Transportation Division and Bike Ventura, will be located at the corner of Main Street and South Chestnut Street from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

The Classic Car Exhibit will feature over 80 beautiful vehicles displayed on South Oak Street and South Palm Street from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Live entertainment, including local bands and community group performances, will take place at the intersection of California Street and Main Street.

Visit www.cityofventura.ca.gov/StreetFair for more details, including parking information and event maps.

For further event questions, contact Recreation Coordinator Allyson Desbaillets at adesbaillets@cityofventura.ca.gov or 805-654-7749.

Ventura acted within its rights in removing Serra

Several years ago the Ventura City Council voted unanimously 6-0 (with then Mayor LaVere recusing himself) to remove the Father Serra statue in front of City Hall and temporarily have it stored. At the time the City Council also approved the removal of the wooden statue of Father Serra from inside City Hall that was the



basis for the statue. The council voted on July 15, 2020, to remove the statue.

Critics felt the statue should be taken down because Serra committed atrocities against Native Americans, including the Chumash, while establishing California's Catholic mission system in the 18th century.

Less than a week later the Coalition for Historical Integrity filed a lawsuit against the city in Ventura County



This wooden statue was previously located at City Hall.

Superior Court. The coalition, a grassroots group of current and former Ventura residents, also filed for a temporary restraining order to stop the removal, but the request was denied in court.

Continued on page 7

As I See It by Sheldon Brown

We have an article in this issue regarding a sea lion that is doing just fine. As explained in the article, many sea animals are suffering from a neurotoxin and are dying. The brain damage is irreversible. So sad to see so many dying right here in Ventura. To report animals in need, call Channel Islands Marine & Wildlife Institute (CIMWI) 805-567-1506.

We also have an article about the removal of the Father Serra statue and the wooden sculpture that was the basis for it. This wooden sculpture was previously located at City Hall. It was the art piece of a Venturan, and I think should have remained at city hall.

Also, we have the third article featuring a homeless Venturan. We hope that these articles will help give a face to the homeless and an understanding of why they are in this predicament.

Research at UC San Francisco found that 82% of homeless report that they have experienced a serious mental health situation, 27% have been hospitalized for that condition and more than 60% report regularly using illicit drugs or heavy alcohol drinking.

Whatever happened to USA men's tennis domination? We finally have 2 men ranked in the top 10 after many years. The 2 finalists at the recently completed French Open came from countries with a combined population of 12 million. There are 10 million people in just LA County.

Business leaders and public figures are concerned about the threat of mass extinction posed by artificial intelligence (Ai) including Sam Altman of OpenAI, the company behind the

popular conversation bot ChatGPT. AI goes way beyond just creating articles. It could include phony photos with voices of leaders making statements such as, "The USA has dropped nuclear bombs on China."

It's started. A federal judge has imposed \$5,000 fines on two lawyers and a law firm in an unprecedented instance in which ChatGPT was blamed for their submission of fictitious legal research in an aviation injury claim.

For the last six years, Finland has ranked No. 1 as the happiest country in the world. A Finnish philosopher Frank Martela, PhD explained how to be happy:

1. Live for yourself, not someone else's expectations.
2. Become an expert and share your knowledge.
3. Practice random acts of kindness.
4. Be a good neighbor.
5. Embrace quiet time together.

An Idaho father killed a neighboring family because he was upset that the neighbor's 18-year-old son had reportedly exposed himself to the man's children. Majorjon Kaylor, 31, is charged with four counts of first-degree murder in the Father's Day shooting. It now takes 4 people killed to be considered a mass killing - how sad is that?

A man in South Florida shot at the car of two people who drove onto his property after they got lost trying to drop off an Instacart order.

An Illinois man using a leaf blower in his own yard was fatally shot by his 79-year-old neighbor during an argument, marking the latest incident in which people are gunned down while going

about their everyday lives.

"There's no question there's been a spike in violence," said Daniel Nagin, a professor of public policy and statistics at Carnegie Mellon University. "Some of these cases seem to be just disputes, often among adolescents, and those disputes are played out with firearms, not with fists."

Most gun killings are not by the "bad" guys, but just regular decent folks that bought guns to protect themselves. Will this madness ever stop?

The Ventura City Council has voted to hire a construction company to build a pipeline for an advanced water treatment plant for approximately \$50 million. This is about \$5 million more than another company with the lowest bid.

According to the city, the decision to hire Santa Barbara-based Aqueos Corp. over San Diego-based Pacific Marine Group Inc. was based on a technicality because Pacific Marine Group did not complete the necessary paperwork.

For \$5 million, it seems to me that Pacific Marine should have been given the opportunity to correct the paperwork and given an opportunity to be selected for the work.

The program will convert treated wastewater into safe drinking water and reduce discharges of effluent into the Santa Clara River estuary. Construction is expected to begin in September in the area of Marina Park.

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



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A playhouse like none other
Continued from page 1

was priceless.

The event also featured a captivating 4-hour live performance by Teresa Russell, along with a free breakfast and lunch of wonderful sandwiches and sides provided Portside's Harbor Mart

Playhouse Build team members also received a Habitat Ventura t-shirt.

Habitat stated "We're building a county where everyone has a safe, decent place to live. We build and sell affordable homes, offer critical health and safety repairs for low-income homeowners, offer financial education, and advocate for policies that create more housing for struggling families."

"Our Playhouse Build Days are a unique building opportunity for teams to work together to construct and decorate children's playhouses, which are then donated to military and veteran families in Ventura County. Proceeds raised by Playhouse Build Days provide direct support for our programs that help struggling families obtain safe, affordable housing."

How can you sign up to host a Playhouse Build day? Contact Crystal Star at crystal@habitatventura.org.



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Business Profile



Erick uses a team approach with his workforce.

Quality Windows and Doors

by Patricia Schallert

Erick Karlsen, is the owner of Quality Windows and Doors in Oxnard, Santa Barbara and Ventura. As he was living and growing up in Oxnard at 17 years old, he was looking for a way to occupy his free time. So, he joined the Navy Seabee Reserves in Port Hueneme. His father, knowing that Erick needed something more to do during the summer break, asked his neighbor if Erick could work with him. Erick's neighbor installed, repaired and replaced windows within their neighborhood and outlining community and Erick spent the summer of his 18th year learning the window and door trade out of

his neighbor's garage.

Erick's neighbor became his mentor and when the time came for his neighbor to sell his business, Erick was the first one on the list. With the support of his grandfather and father, Erick became the sole owner of Quality Windows and Doors.

Hard work paid off for Erick. He had a plan, vision, and commitment to what he believed his business and his employees would look like and what the business would be able to do within the Ventura community. He was able to articulate that plan by writing it down, and being clear so his support teams could understand it and make it happen. His plan shaped itself to reality, both the reality of success in the community and his own reality within. With hard work, patience and three storefronts later, he has become the sole owner of all three stores, with one in Oxnard, and Santa Barbara and his third store is in Ventura.

Erick uses a team approach with his workforce. His employees begin with training in installation for several months, window repair and replacement and then they will move into the sales force when they are ready. He provides an honorable service and works along with his team and his customers in completing final installations and inspections. Over the years, he has built positive relationships with his customers and employees as he continues to demonstrate expertise and commitment to his business. Quality Windows and Doors is a success and works not only because of Erick but because of the envisioned the business in its entirety.

As sole owner of Quality Windows and Doors he is also committed to the community where his stores are located.

He is a member of the Contractor's Association, sponsors local school sports teams and has banners on several sports fields. Hard work, long hours and commitment to service, quality and the homeowner have led to the success of Erick's business.

Quality Windows and Doors new design center featuring Marvin, Milgard, Fleetwood Windows, Entry doors and hardware is located at 4051 East Main Street in Ventura.



Marcus grapples with deep-seated fears.

A homeless man defies the odds and embraces entrepreneurship

by Ross Williams

Every morning, Marcus Aldrich wakes up at 5am and starts his day with a trip to the gym. Afterward, he manages

his various business ventures. From Kayak rentals, Vinyl sticker decals, party photo booths, Uber Eats and DoorDash, Marcus has carved out a niche for himself as a versatile entrepreneur. Marcus stands out for his kindhearted nature, quiet demeanor, quirky personality and for the fact that for the last few years he has lived out of his car.

During the pandemic, Marcus made a bold decision to come to California with his brother in search of better opportunities and to distance himself from the negative influences that had held him back at home in Peoria Illinois. Shortly after, circumstances took an unexpected turn when his brother decided to return home leaving Marcus alone in a new and unfamiliar environment. Despite this, Marcus chose to stay and persevere, determined to gain personal clarity and forge his own path towards a brighter future.

Marcus has demonstrated an unparalleled level of resourcefulness. With his creative talent and entrepreneurial mindset, he finds immense joy in the diverse range of ventures he engages in and the variety that they bring to his life. Whether he's playing the harmonica or cooking meals for his friends, Marcus enjoys all of his creative outlets and they bring him fulfillment. Yet, he also seeks validation. A sign or spark that reassures him that he is on the right path. The harmonica is an extension of his voice and can't be used for money and cooking is an expression of love, generosity and friendship. Marcus, like all of us yearns for a sign. Some signal that his efforts are resonating and hopes to make a meaningful impact in his own unique way.

An Unexpected Companion: Dale the Quail:

Amidst the challenges Marcus may



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face on a daily basis, a heartwarming tale unfolds with the presence of his pet quail, Dale. Marcus' compassionate nature led him to rescue Dale from an uncertain fate; becoming someone's dinner. The companionship they share adds another layer of depth and joy to Marcus' life as Dale hops around with his adorable feathery fluff bouncing this way and that.

Marcus' story serves as a powerful reminder of the indomitable human spirit and the potential that lies within each individual, regardless of their circumstances. While Marcus may be facing adversity, his spirit remains unyielding. His quest for personal growth serves as a reminder that circumstances do not define a person's potential. His unwavering determination and entrepreneurial endeavors deserve recognition and support from the community.

By embracing success and extending kindness, we can play a role in uplifting individuals like Marcus, who strive to overcome adversity and create a better future for themselves and those around them.

Despite Marcus being in a position where he can now afford a place to live, he grapples with deep-seated fears of not being able to sustain it and the looming possibility of eviction. As someone with Asperger's syndrome, Marcus faces unique challenges in making decisions, whether it pertains to choosing between different business opportunities or selecting a place to call home. The inherent nature of this condition can cause someone to overanalyze and experience anxiety over potential outcomes. These fears, combined with the inherent unpredictability of life, intensify his apprehension about securing a stable living situation.

Ribbon Cuttings



The Chamber held a ribbon-cutting at Wildflower Winery, 4517 Market St., Ste 7. "We have created beautiful wines which highlight the terroir of the vineyards in Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo Counties."



The Ventura Chamber held a ribbon-cutting at Ventura Fit Body Boot Camp. "The key to your fat loss success is our signature Afterburn workouts, support and motivation from our world class coaches, and easy to follow nutrition program to help you keep the fat off." 4255 E. Main St. (805) 363-6037 Photo by Michael Gordon.



The Ventura Chamber held a ribbon-cutting at Jellyfish Vintage Boutique. Jellyfish combines new and vintage home décor to enhance the beauty of your home every season of the year. They offer everything to bring coastal cottage loveliness to your home. 309 E Main St. 805-667-8299

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ECTV students Saadiya Islam, Sarah Briggs, Daryan Barati, Arslans Barati, Shayan Barati and graduate Luca Falco, CAPS staff Gary Roll, Elizabeth Rodeno, ECTV mentor Phil Taggart and Manny Reynoso covering the 2023 high school graduations.

CAPS congratulates 2023 graduates

CAPS crew members, including students in the CAPS/ECTV program (El Camino high school program) were very busy the week of June 12 recording and live-streaming graduation ceremonies for Buena, El Camino, Foothill, Pacific, Ventura and VACE. Everyone at CAPS congratulates all of the 2023 graduates.

CAPS is also extremely appreciative of the tremendous support received from the Ventura City Council and members of the community at a recent council meeting. On Monday, June 12

the City Council voted unanimously to continue funding CAPS for the foreseeable future.

CAPS, which stands for Community Access Partners of San Buenaventura, is a non-profit agency that is funded primarily by fees paid by local cable subscribers. The franchise fees are collected by the cable company, passed along to the City, where a portion of the revenue is earmarked specifically for CAPS.

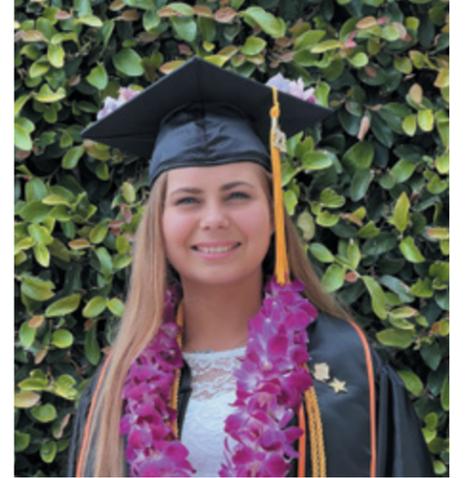
At the City Council meeting CAPS executive director Patrick Davidson's

spoke on behalf of the CAPS board of directors, community members and the CAPS staff requesting continued funding by the city. The presentation included a brief summary of many of CAPS' services to the community including programming, broadcasting, and streaming Ventura's public programs on channel 6 which include faith-based programs, talk shows, educational programs and more, recording and live streaming City Council and other City meetings on channel 15 and online, producing dozens of video productions for the city, county and nonprofit agencies, and training members of the public in the use of media tools including cameras, editing programs and more. Among the many informative facts Davidson included in the presentation to the council members was that the CAPS staff members - Donald McConnell, Manny Reynoso, Elizabeth Rodeno, Gary Roll, Phil Taggart and Alex Uvari, individually average more than fifteen years of continuous service to the Ventura community.

CAPS is the educational center for ECTV - the student internship and career pathways program at El Camino high school, where teenagers receive hundreds of hours of hands-on training in the award-winning media and communications program.

CAPS is also the home of CAPS Radio - KPPQ at 104.1fm, where CAPS staff members have trained more than 100 local DJs and produced hundreds of hours of original programming. KPPQ Producer of the month Craig Rosen is the producer of Teen Centric and a longtime member of CAPS Media and KPPQ. He is the Interim Executive Director at the Ventura County Arts Council and manager of the Arts & Youth Justice program which is funded primarily through a grant from the California Arts Council that supports arts instruction for at-risk youth from juvenile hall, foster homes, county reporting centers, and continuation high schools including under-represented youth that are marginalized due to their undocumented status. Teen Centric offers youth a platform for their voices to be heard through discussion and poetry. Craig and his students share their stories and poems and interview other teens, like our county's first three youth poet laureates, and while several are not system-engaged they all bring a lived-experience that involves some adversity. This program also seeks to celebrate youth and their successes.

He trains the students in the KPPQ studio located at the CAPS Media Center as well as on-location in Juvenile Hall and at other centers. Listeners are impressed with the compelling stories that the youth share. You too can listen to Teen Centric Tuesdays at 8a, Thursdays at 1p, Fridays at 9a and Saturdays at 2p at 104.1fm, on myTuner and on the KPPQ podcast network.



Kampton has had a history of challenging herself from a very early age.

Teen earns four AA degrees a month before graduating from high school at 17

Kampton Carter graduated from Ventura College on May 19, 2023, earning four Associate of Art degrees. She's acquired an Associate of Art degree in Liberal Studies, Associate of Art degree in Arts and Humanities, Associate of Art degree in Social and Behavioral Sciences, and an Associate of Art degree in Natural Sciences and Mathematics along with an Intersegmental General Education Transfer Curriculum (IGETC) Certification.

She attained Highest Honors with a 4.0 GPA after completing a total of 76 college credits as a part-time college student over the last four years while attending high school full-time. What makes this so unique is that she did this at the young age of 17 years old and before ever graduating from high school! On June 16, 2023, she completed her studies at El Camino High School with a 4.4 GPA and graduated summa cum laude as well.

Kampton has had a history of challenging herself from a very early age. Her second-grade year at Oliveland's Elementary School, she began competing in spelling bees and placed third without studying the word list. It was then she discovered her orthographic skills and developed a love for words. In her pastime she would enjoy studying word origins, definitions and their parts of speech. By fourth grade she won her school's spelling bee and advanced to the SAGE Ventura County Spelling Bee for the first time. For five consecutive years she was undefeated at the school level. During her 8th grade year, Kampton won the 2019 SAGE Ventura County Spelling Bee at the age of 13 for her final year of competition and advanced to the Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. where she competed

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with other finalists. Two weeks after the competition Kampton graduated from Briggs School as a valedictorian.

Kampton attended El Camino High School (ECHS) for all four years. ECHS has had a humble reputation for their exceptional independent studies program. The program enables students a dual-enrollment opportunity by allowing students to take a maximum of 11 units per semester at local community colleges while concurrently attending high school.

She has enjoyed many extracurricular activities throughout high school despite the restrictions of the pandemic and rigorous schedule. She competed in Poetry Out Loud, Ventura County Poetry Project, Optimist Club Essay Contests, Lions Club Speech Contests, Knowledge Bowl Competitions, Geo Challenge Competitions, completed a Pre-Engineering Program at the Port Hueneme Naval Base, participated in Journalism Club as well as Political Discourse Club at ECHS, took equestrian lessons, violin lessons, played soccer for AYSO for the first time her senior year, and interned at Community Access Partners of San Buenaventura (CAPS Media) where she learned the skills to conduct interviews, use video editing software, and operate camera/studio equipment. In fact, Kampton along with her peers and mentor Phil Taggart recently won four Western Access Video Excellence (WAVE) awards for interviews at Ventura's only local broadcasting station.

Kampton will be attending Pepperdine University in the fall and plans to double major for Bachelor of Arts degrees in Communications as well as International Studies. She will be part of Pepperdine's selective Regent Scholars Program.

Ventura County.

The store became a popular place to visit for residents of the local area and the surrounding counties. Customers would refer to us as "the nut house in Somis" which led us to change our store name to The Somis Nut House. Two of Stephen's three children, Jeremy Resnik and Rebecca Pecsok are third generation co-owners of the store and are proud to carry on the traditions learned from their father and grandparents.

The store stocks a full array of nuts, including almonds, walnuts, cashews, peanuts, Brazil nuts, filberts, and pistachios. There is also a wide selection of dried fruits, including apricots, peaches, pears, papaya, mango, pineapple, apples, dates, and figs. Many delicious chocolate candies are available, including nut clusters, chocolate creams, honeycomb, malt balls, and more! In addition, there is a wide variety of old fashion candies, jams and jellies, salsas, olives, local honey, soup mixes and novelty items. make Gift boxes and gift baskets of many sizes are perfect for birthdays, graduations, teacher gifts, Mother's Day and Father's Day, Christmas, client gifts and employee gifts. Gifts and other products can be shipped directly anywhere within the USA.

We are open from 9:00am to 5:00pm seven days a week (closed on Easter, 4th of July, Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years Day).

Website: www.somisnuthouse.com
 Email: somisnuthouse@gmail.com
 Phone: 805-386-1211

Business Profile Somis Nut House

The Somis Nut House opened in 1959 as the Ventura Walnut Shelling Co., a walnut processing plant. Morris and Annette Resnik, and their son, Stephen Resnik, arrived in the area from Los Angeles and quickly made connections with local walnut farmers. They hand built the machinery required to crack, sort and pack them for sale to wholesale nut distributors all over the USA.

Soon after the walnut business began, they opened a small retail store in front of the plant and sold freshly cracked walnuts to the public. The retail store grew as more products were added at the request of family and friends. The expansion included all types of nuts, dried fruit, and candy. In the mid 1980's most of the walnut orchards were replaced with lemons, avocados, row crops and housing development. This led to the gradual fading out of the walnut processing business here in

Ventura acted within its rights Continued from page 2

A state appeals court has ruled Ventura acted within its legal rights when removing the statue. The Second District Court of Appeal, Division 6, upheld a previous ruling on the city's removal of the statue.

Presiding Justice Arthur Gilbert wrote "This case illustrates the obvious; attitudes and values change. The city of San Buenaventura removed a statue of Father Junípero Serra because it is now offensive to significant members of the community. We do not judge the wisdom or the action of the city's legislative enactments. We affirm because the city acted within its legislative prerogative."

Ventura City Attorney Andy Heglund said the city is "pleased to see the merits" of the City Council's decision upheld by the appeals court. In 2020, the statue was peacefully and collaboratively relocated to a non-public location, reflecting the city's commitment to listen to the voices of the community through a public process."

The wooden statue previously located at City Hall has been relocated to the Padre Serra Parish in Camarillo. The bronze statue is secured safely in storage until it can be relocated and installed at a permanent location.

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Pregnant sea lion found Continued from page 1

just decided it was time to get back in so she just got up and went back in. A happy ending.

CIMWI is a part of the Marine Mammal Health and Stranding Response Program under the direction of NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service. Dedicated to positively impacting conservation through marine mammal rescue, rehabilitation, research and education to promote ocean and human health. CIMWI serves Santa Barbara & Ventura counties in Southern California.

CIMWI has responded to over 500 live sea lions exhibiting signs of domoic acid and over 100 dead sea lions in Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. There have been over 20 live common dolphin strandings which succumb quickly to the neuro toxin. The toll for dead dolphins is up to 100. The numbers for live and dead stranded marine mammals suspected of

having domoic acid rises by the hour.

It is important to keep both people and pets away from the stranded animal. If pets are around the area, make sure they are on a leash. These animals are easily stressed by humans and pets.

Do not touch, feed, harass, cover, pour water on, coax/drag/push into the water or out of the surf zone, allow dogs near or take selfies with the animal. These are wild animals and they may bite!

Observe the animal from a minimum of 50 feet (the length of a school bus). Keep people and pets away from the stranded animal. Note the animal's physical characteristics and condition.

Determine the exact location of the animal. Be as accurate as possible and note any landmarks so CIMWI's rescue team can easily find the animal.

Call the CIMWI Rescue Hotline at (805) 567-1505. Provide your name, phone number, specific information about the animal and its location.



Marine mammals are federally protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. Violations can result in a civil penalty up to \$11,000 as well as criminal penalties up to \$100,000 and imprisonment of up to a year or both.

Please consider volunteering or donating to CIMWI to help with the rescue program.

<https://www.cimwi.org/>

marks its 30th Anniversary in 2023!

Rob Van Nieuwburg, longtime Rotarian and past president shares, "We began the event in 1994 after the City had stopped hosting a fireworks event in order to provide a safe, patriotic and family-focused July 4th celebration. Back then we never really envisioned that we'd be doing this 30 years later, but we sure are proud and excited to do so."

Funding challenges nearly put a stop to the event. Ken Leandro, the Rotary event chairperson, explains, "Costs to hold the event have skyrocketed over 38% since pre-covid years, and we are committed to keeping ticket prices affordable while also hiring the finest pyrotechnic company for a world-class fireworks show. This means corporate sponsors are critical to the event. We really can't do it without them."

This year's major sponsors include the Ventura Auto Center, Hofer Properties, Community Memorial Healthcare, and the Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas).

"When we approached SoCalGas about the event, they really appreciated that it's community and family focused," says Leandro. Maria Ventura, SoCalGas Senior Public Affairs Manager, adds, "SoCalGas is proud to partner with the Ventura Rotary in support of the 4th of July event where we celebrate our Independence Day. We believe in the power of community and the Ventura Rotary embodies a deep commitment to Ventura which is why we are so excited to be a part of the festivities this year."

As in past years, the event will have a Kids Zone featuring bounce houses and organized games like potato sack races and three-legged races, plus fun surprises like temporary tattoos in patriotic designs.

Families can bring a picnic, a blanket and soft low back folding chairs, and there will also be delicious food available from several Food Trucks. (No glass. No alcohol. No pets.)

"This year we have increased the number of food trucks, based on feedback received last year," says Leandro. The main stage will welcome back live music from Soul Infusion, a Ventura/LA-based band.

Tickets are available for online purchase via Eventbrite, linked at www.VenturaFireworks.com. Adults tickets are \$10 each (age 13+), Childs ticket \$5 (ages 4-12), and kids 3 and under are free. A special "Family-of-4" ticket is \$28 and sold online only. Tickets can be purchased at the event gates. (Cash only at the gates.)

For more information, please visit www.VenturaFireworks.com where details are updated regularly.



Funding challenges nearly put a stop to the event. Photo by Michael Gordon.

Ventura Rotary's 4th of July Fireworks is back

The Rotary Club of Ventura is proud to once again host the 4th of July Fireworks Show and Family Picnic at the Ventura College athletic fields. The event will be held on Tuesday, July 4th with gates opening at 5 pm and the fireworks show beginning at approximately 9 pm. Begun in 1994, the Ventura Rotary Fireworks event

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Due to the Independence Day holiday on Tuesday, July 4, trash, recyclables and yard/organic waste will be collected one day later than usual for Tuesday through Friday customers the week of July 2-8 in the Cities of Ventura, Ojai and the surrounding areas.

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Thanks to the winter rains and the hard work of docents, the Rose Garden at the Olivas Adobe is in full bloom! Be sure to stop by the historic park and smell the roses! Located at 4200 Olivas Park Drive in Ventura.

On Vacation



Bill and Diana Kelley keeping track on what's going on at home from the Colosseum in Rome!

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Have a Wet Wednesday in the Harbor.

Ventura Yacht Club celebrated the Summer Solstice

What better way to welcome summer than another great week of Wet Wednesday racing? The summer solstice, on Wednesday, June 21, marked the first day of summer. On that day, the sun reached its highest point in the sky on the longest day of the year. That day, Ventura Yacht Club also ended their Wave 1 and the counters reset for another wave of racing. It was a super fun evening on the water and a great night of racing! 11 more weeks of Wet Wednesdays to come!

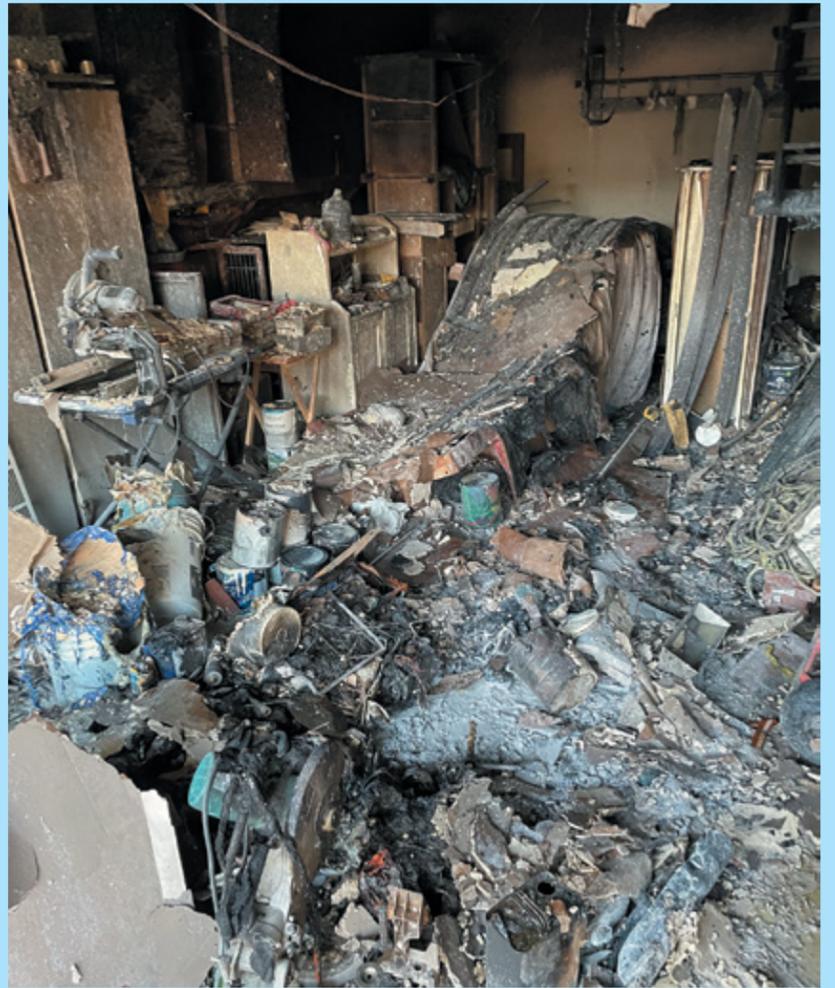
Currently, Wet Wednesdays at the Ventura Yacht Club have about 15 boats registered and racing even though not everyone races every week. After each race

there's a dinner and trophy presentation at Ventura Yacht Club and all skippers, crew, and guests are welcome.

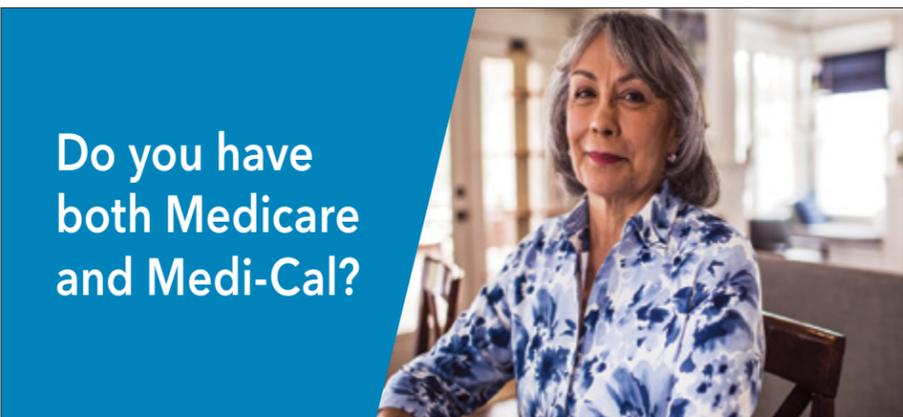
Ventura Yacht Club is a full-service facility located on the west side of Ventura Harbor. Their mission: To support and promote the safe enjoyment of recreational boating, and teach boating skills to the young people in our community.

Summer sailing camp is in full swing for the next 8 weeks and anyone's welcome. You do not need to be a member. The junior program also runs a Sunday Funday for kids around sailing and games.

1755 Spinnaker Dr. (805) 642-0426



On June 26, at 6:30pm, the Ventura County Fire Communication Center received multiple calls of a residential structure fire in the 1300 block of Rugby Ave.. Firefighters arrived on scene within minutes of the initial call and found a single-story single-family structure with smoke coming from an attached garage. Firefighters knocked down and extinguished the fire within 25 minutes of the initial 911.



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¹Every year, Medicare evaluates plans based on a 5-star rating system. ²Dental benefits provided by DeltaCare[®] USA Dental HMO Program. ³The Silver&Fit program is provided by American Specialty Health Fitness, Inc., a subsidiary of American Specialty Health Incorporated (ASH). Silver&Fit is a trademark of ASH and used with permission herein. Kaiser Permanente is an HMO D-SNP plan with a Medicare contract and a contract with the Medi-Cal program. Enrollment in Kaiser Permanente depends on contract renewal.

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The Ventura Veterans Home celebrated the 248th U.S. Army Birthday. Cake cutting was performed by our senior U.S. Army Veteran First Sergeant Mack Edwards, US Army (WW2 Veteran) and our youngest Army Veteran Samuel Tussey (US Army 2017 - 2019), Ventura Veterans Home staff member.

The Ventura Downtown Lions Club provided a scrumptious BBQ with cowboy burgers and side dishes for the residents and staff. Colonel Julian Bond, US Army (Retired), Ventura Veterans Home Administrator was the master of ceremonies for the annual event.



Senior Living



"I have more time to pursue time with my wife and hobbies."

Seniors Among Us

by Patricia Schallert

I met Robert Warnagieris, Ed.D at the Ventura Retired Men's Group. This is what he has to say about his life as a retired senior.

"I was born in Chicago but came to California at the age of 6 months. Therefore, I am a California product who grew up on the West Coast and received early schooling in San Luis Obispo County. I ended up in Ventura in 1970 because I like what the VC county seat of Ventura had to offer in terms of cultural, educational, youth/senior programs, medical facilities, shopping and climate opportunities for me and my family. I had put in 38 ½ years in with the US Navy as a civilian and was able to retire with 40 years of credit. It was time for me to move on. I am happy being retired from full time employment, but I really didn't retire from an active life, I just don't get paid. I have been retired for 28 years."

"I have more time to pursue time with my wife, hobbies, home maintenance/landscaping and community activities. I don't have to meet any special schedule nor travel for business purposes. I am free to stay home and scratch the dog's ears if I please. I can do most anything I desire, and I do. I am a versatile person and often say I have expertise in many fields but master of none. I have been

able to use all my experience, knowledge, and skills in many different venues."

"When I retired, I expected to be able to switch from government service to an educational teaching or leadership position easily. It was not so easy; however, I was able to continue my graduate level teaching on a part-time basis."

"There were unexpected changes in my marital status and the eventual stability I achieved in that regard. As an 88-year-old retired person I spend time taking care of my wife and myself, pursuing physical fitness, hunting, fishing, golfing, community activities, various forms of entertainment, gardening/landscaping, watercolor painting, writing, time with my family, visiting friends, reading, walking the dog daily, cooking, maintaining my home, financial activities, and, of course, visits with multiple doctors. Since the pandemic and aging, my long-distance traveling has been limited. I tend to be an extreme do-it-yourselfer."

"My parents encouraged me to graduate from high school in 3 years and then enroll for college. I graduated at the age of 17 and enrolled in an engineering major at Cal Poly (SLO). The continued pursuance of education to advance in many fields has been a

major factor in my life."

"In my 20's I didn't realize what I could achieve with perseverance. I'm no genius but I set goals and achieved them. I wrote an Ethical Will for my family and listed 48 values that guide my life, ranging from education to having a dog. They are in no particular order, however, high on the list are family matters, education, physical fitness, citizenship, career, professionalism, integrity, long term friends, and spiritual matters."

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

Less myelin content in the brain linked to faster cognitive decline

People whose brains have less myelin – the fatty tissue that insulates nerve cells – experience steeper declines in cognition over time, according to an NIA study published in *Alzheimer's & Dementia*. The findings show the impact of myelin content as healthy people age and underscore myelin as a potential therapeutic target for neurodegenerative diseases, such as Alzheimer's and mild cognitive impairment.

Myelin is an insulating layer that forms around nerves, including those

in the brain. It helps neurons communicate more efficiently, maintain a healthy water balance, and respond to signals involved in memory formation and other cognitive functions. Previous studies have shown that myelin production slows as people age, but whether changes in myelin are linked to age-related changes in cognition remained unknown. However, some animal study evidence suggests changes in myelin may be responsible for cognitive deficits in neurodegenerative diseases.

For this study, the team of NIA scientists gathered data from 123 cognitively unimpaired adults enrolled in the Baltimore Longitudinal Study of Aging and from the Genetic and Epigenetic Signatures of Translational Aging Laboratory Testing study. The researchers tested several different types of cognition and used magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) brain scans to measure myelin content in the brain. They looked at two different MRI-based measurements to estimate the amount of myelin: myelin water fraction (MWF) and longitudinal relaxation rate (R1).

For both measurements, lower myelin was linked to greater cognitive decline over time. Lower myelin, as measured with MWF, was associated with a steeper decline in executive function, which includes skills such as planning, problem-solving, organization, and multitasking. Lower myelin as measured with R1 was associated with a faster decline in verbal fluency, which measures the ability to retrieve information from memory. These findings contribute to a foundation for further

Continued on page 13



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Senior Living



Leslie and her student's getting some great exercise at the GranVida Senior Living Memory Care in Carpinteria.

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.

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!

Did you know that over 70% 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

Increasing access to Alzheimer's treatments

Alzheimer's disease is a national crisis. While there is currently no cure for the fatal disease that affects over 6.7 million Americans, treatments are being discovered to change the disease progression and offer more time to families.

In June 2021, Lecanemab received accelerated approval as a treatment for Alzheimer's disease from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). This was the first therapy that actually targeted one of the disease hallmarks instead of simply treating the symptoms, demonstrating that removing beta-amyloid from the brain reduces cognitive and functional decline in people living with early-stage Alzheimer's.

Since then, additional anti-amyloid treatments have shown positive results to slow down the disease progression. Lecanemab received accelerated FDA approval in January this year, and last month.

While these treatments have shown a glimmer of hope for the future of Alzheimer's, that hope was severely diminished by an unfortunate reality: lack of access.

In April 2022, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) issued an unprecedented decision to block Medicare coverage of all FDA-approved treatments that target amyloid for Alzheimer's disease, severely limiting access by forcing people to join a clinical trial or pay out-of-pocket at the high cost of over \$26,000-\$28,000 per year.

Fourteen months later, after continuous efforts from the Alzheimer's Association and advocates nationwide to change this decision, CMS announced on June 1, 2023 that it will cover Alzheimer's treatments that receive traditional FDA-approval if physicians register and enter data in a registry.

"While registries are important, posing this condition of coverage on people living with early-stage Alzheimer's still creates an additional and unnecessary barrier," said Meg Barron, Alzheimer's Association Region 3 Leader and Executive Director of the California Southland Chapter. "These families don't have time to wait for a registry or search for a doctor who participates in one."

Setting this requirement for registries is yet another unprecedented decision made by CMS towards this class of FDA-approved drugs.

Each day, the Alzheimer's Association estimates that 2,000 people living with early-stage Alzheimer's progress beyond the point where current treatments can help them.

On June 20, Alzheimer's advocates from Ventura County and Southern California met in Los Angeles to rally at the Wilshire Federal Building, urging CMS to change its policy and expand access to FDA-approved Alzheimer's treatments.

To get involved as an advocate or learn more about Alzheimer's treatments and free support services, visit the Alzheimer's Association online at alz.org/cacentral. Their Ventura office is located at 2580 E Main Street #201, and their 24/7 Helpline is 800.272.3900 for around-the-clock support and information in English and Spanish.

How is dementia diagnosed and treated?

To diagnose dementia, a doctor will complete a medical history, physical exam, and neurological tests that assess balance, sensory response, reflexes, and memory and thinking skills. In addition, a doctor may order brain scans, blood tests, genetic tests, a spinal tap, and a mental health evaluation to help determine a diagnosis.

Because different types of dementia can share similar symptoms, providing an accurate diagnosis can be difficult. In addition, dementia may be difficult to diagnose as a single disease given that a person could have more than one type.

Visiting a primary care doctor is often the first step for people who are experiencing symptoms of dementia. Your doctor may refer you to a neurologist, which is a specialist in disorders of the brain and nervous system. Neurologists generally have the expertise needed to diagnose dementia.

While there is currently no cure for Alzheimer's or related dementias, medicines are emerging to treat disease progression. There are also medications that may temporarily improve or stabilize memory and thinking skills in some people and may help manage certain symptoms and behavioral problems. A team of specialists - doctors, nurses, and therapists - can help with maintaining mobility; addressing speech and swallowing problems; and learning new ways to handle loss of skills with everyday tasks, such as feeding oneself.

Through substantial investments

from the U.S. federal government and others, researchers continue to advance scientific growth and discovery to improve the diagnosis, treatment, and care of those living with dementia.

If you are concerned about memory problems or other symptoms of dementia, call your doctor. If you or someone you know has recently been diagnosed, explore the resources on this website and referenced below to find out more about dementia care, support, and research. It is important to educate family, friends, and caregivers about a loved one's diagnosis. In-person and online support groups offered by nonprofit organizations can provide families and caregivers with additional resources and opportunities to share experiences and express concerns. You may also consider participating in a clinical trial or study.

Could a viral illness increase chances of developing Alzheimer's or other neurodegenerative disease?

Some viral illnesses may increase a person's chances of later developing Alzheimer's disease or another neurodegenerative disorder. Though a causal link cannot be confirmed, an NIH study in which researchers mined the medical records of hundreds of thousands of people in Finland and the United Kingdom found significant associations.

NIH scientists used biobank data to estimate the chances that some viral infections, including influenzas (see picture), may lead to a neurodegenerative disorder diagnosis. Credit NIAID/NIH.

As published in *Neuron*, the researchers found there may be at least 22 pairings between a neurodegenerative disorder diagnosis and a previous viral infection that led to a hospital visit. The strongest risk association was between viral encephalitis - an inflammation of the brain caused by a virus - and Alzheimer's disease. Meanwhile, hospitalizations due to pneumonia-causing flu viruses were linked to the diagnoses of several disorders, including dementia, Parkinson's disease, and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS). The study results also raised the possibility that existing vaccinations may help some people reduce the chances of experiencing these disorders.

Neurodegenerative disorders damage different parts of the nervous system. Typically, this happens later in life and produces a variety of problems, including with thinking, remembering, and moving. Several previous studies have suggested that certain viruses may play a role in each of these disorders. For example, a 1991 study of autopsied brain tissue suggested there may be link between herpes simplex virus and Alzheimer's



Senior Living

disease. More recently, scientists found evidence for a link between the Epstein Barr virus and multiple sclerosis by analyzing patient blood samples and medical records. The latter study sparked the CARD team to conduct this new study.

“After reading the Epstein Barr virus study we realized that for years scientists had been searching, one-by-one, for links between an individual neurodegenerative disorder and a specific virus,” said Michael Nalls, Ph.D., leader of the NIH CARD Advanced Analytics Expert Group and study senior author.

Led by Kristin S. Levine, M.S. and Hampton L. Leonard, M.S., two NIH CARD data scientists, the researchers mined the medical records of 300,000 individuals stored in FinnGen, a nationwide Finnish biobank. Specifically, they searched for individuals who had one of six neurodegenerative disorder diagnoses: Alzheimer’s disease, ALS, generalized dementia, multiple sclerosis, Parkinson’s disease, or vascular dementia; and then checked to see if a viral infection caused those individuals to make a prior visit to the hospital. Hospitalizations due to COVID-19 were not included in the study.

Initially, they found 45 significant associations between a neurodegenerative disease diagnosis and a previous viral infection. That number narrowed to 22 associations after the scientists performed a second search of UKBiobank, which contains the records of 500,000 individuals from the United Kingdom.

Of all the neurodegenerative disorders, generalized dementia had the most associations, with links to six different virus exposures. These exposures were categorized as viral encephalitis, viral warts, other viral diseases, all influenza, influenza and pneumonia, and viral pneumonia. Individuals who had viral encephalitis were at least 20 times more likely to be diagnosed with Alzheimer’s than those who did not experience that virus.

Severe cases of influenza were linked to the widest range of risks. Influenza and pneumonia exposures were associated with all the neurodegenerative disorder diagnoses except multiple sclerosis.

This study was funded by the Intramural Research Program at NIA (ZIAAG000535).

Less myelin content Continued from page 11

studies that explore how age-related changes in myelin are different in people who develop neurodegenerative diseases.

While, overall, this study establishes a meaningful relationship between myelin content and cognition, the authors noted some limitations, mainly that the cohort size was relatively small and included a higher proportion of men and White participants. Future research should reexamine the link in a larger, more diverse study cohort; explore the link between myelin and cognition in people with neurodegenerative diseases; and test whether promoting myelin production could be an effective strategy to prevent disease.



The sun may not have been in attendance, but the Palms at Bonaventure residents braved the cool temps and attended their first outdoor BBQ of 2023. Luckily, the tri tip, wings and burgers grilled up by the culinary team provided the warmth the June weather could not!

The Palms at Bonaventure provides residents with a unique lifestyle that is coupled with exceptional, personalized and compassionate care. The residents have tailored, award-winning social programs so they can live their lives with vibrancy and dignity.

The Palms is located at 111 N.Wells Rd., 805-647-0616.



A combination of factors added to the problem over many years. Photos by Joseph Seemayer @jseemayerphoto.

Ventura receives grant to improve Surfers Point

The city will receive \$16.2 million to complete an old project to relocate the parking lot and crumbling bike path farther inland at Surfers Point. The California Coastal Conservancy approved the \$16.2 million for the work. It is the second phase of a project that started well over a decade ago.

Surfrider started advocating for the project in the 1990’s. Paul Jenkin, Ventura campaign coordinator at the Surfrider Foundation stated “We are really happy to see that we are finally going to see it constructed.”

The project moves the publicly owned bike path and parking lot around 70 feet inland to prevent even more erosion.

A combination of factors added to the problem over many years. The project will go out for bidding later this year with construction expected to start in fall 2024.



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The Pet Page



Dedicated to Scamp

Dual-County Pet Adoption Event

Ventura and Santa Barbara County, Calif: Ventura County Animal Services and Santa Barbara Animal Services are thrilled to announce a groundbreaking partnership aimed at finding loving homes for animals in need. In an unprecedented move, both organizations have joined forces to organize a fee-waived pet adoption event that will take place simultaneously across all five (5) shelters along the south coast. This occasion marks the first of its kind, showcasing the dedication and commitment of both organizations to the welfare of animals.

This fee-waived pet adoption event will take place on Saturday, July 1st, 2023, and applies to all animals over one (1) year of age. It is important to note that while there will be no adoption fee for these animals, there may be a nominal license fee depending on the city in which the adopter resides. This fee will help ensure that each adopted pet receives the appropriate licensing, vaccinations, and identification, in compliance with local regulations. All interested parties must participate in the full adoption process to ensure the best possible matches are made. All animals leave the shelter spayed or neuter, vaccinated, flea-treated, and microchipped. The collaboration between VCAS and SBCAS aims to ensure that every eligible individual or family can find their perfect companion without the financial burden of an adoption fee.

Both Ventura County Animal Services and Santa Barbara County Animal Services are renowned for their tireless efforts in animal welfare and have consistently strived to promote responsible pet ownership. This joint initiative serves as a testament to their shared vision of finding forever homes for as many animals as possible. By collaborating and pooling their resources, both organizations aim to maximize the impact of this event and make a significant difference in the lives of countless animals and their future families.

For more information about the pet adoption event, including adoption hours, adoption process, and shelter locations, please visit the websites of Ventura County Animal Services (www.vcas.us) and Santa Barbara Animal Services (www.sbcphd.org/animal-services).

■ Dog bites more common on hot, hazy days by Cara Murez

When it's hot and air pollution levels are high, dogs are more apt to bite, new research shows.

The findings, which need to be confirmed in further research, dovetail with links between human aggression and elevated heat and pollution levels.

Hot, polluted days have also been linked to increased aggression in rats, mice and some monkeys.

Just like their humans, dogs get cranky when temperatures and air pollution levels surge.

Heat and air pollution have previously been linked to human aggression. Now, researchers say it also appears that there are more dog bites on hot, polluted days.

More research is needed to confirm these findings, according to study author Tanujit Dey, of the department of surgery at the Center for Surgery and Public Health at Brigham and Women's Hospital, in Boston, and colleagues.

For the new study, the investigators

used dog bite data from 2009 to 2018 in eight U.S. cities: Dallas, Houston, Baltimore, Baton Rouge, Chicago, Louisville, Los Angeles and New York City.

The data included more than 69,000 reported dog bites, an average of three per day over 10 years.

When the researchers compared this bite information with daily levels of fine particulate matter (PM2.5), ozone, temperature, UV light and precipitation, they found that dog bites rose 11% on days with higher UV levels; 4% on higher temperature days; and 3% on days with increased ozone levels.

Dog bites decreased slightly, by 1%, on days with higher levels of rainfall. No changes were seen in dog bites on days with higher levels of PM2.5 air pollution.

These records did not include information about other factors that could have affected an individual dog's risk of biting. This can include breed, sex, and whether the dog had been neutered or spayed. The data also didn't include information about prior interactions between the dog and the bite victim, the researchers pointed out in a journal news release.

Hot, polluted days have also been linked to increased aggression in Rhesus monkeys, rats and mice in past research, the study authors noted.

Be aware that dogs may be more likely to bite on days when pollution levels and temperatures are high.

The American Veterinary Medical Association has more on preventing dog bites.

■ LIFE By Christa Lesté-Lasserre

When 3D animated balls on a computer screen defy certain laws of physics, dogs act in a way that suggests they feel like their eyes are deceiving them.

Pet dogs stare for longer and their pupils widen if virtual balls start rolling on their own rather than being set in motion by a collision with another ball. This suggests that the animals are surprised that the balls didn't move the way they had expected them to, says Christoph Völter at the University of Veterinary Medicine, Vienna.

Human infants, starting at around 6 months old, and chimpanzees stare longer during these kinds of "violation of expectation" tests concerning their physical environments, he says.

Studies in humans have also shown that pupils dilate more in reaction to increased mental efforts, like calculating, or stronger emotions such as excitement or surprise - known as the psychosensory pupil response. And previous research in dogs has hinted that they dilate their pupils more when looking at angry human faces compared with happy human faces.

In one video, a ball rolls towards a second, stationary ball and then runs into it. The first ball stops and the second one starts moving - just as Newton's laws of motion describe. In another video, however, the first ball rolls toward the second ball, but stops suddenly before reaching it. And then, the second ball suddenly starts rolling away by itself - contrary to basic physical principles.

Like human infants and chimpanzees, dogs fixed their eyes longer on the balls that didn't move in a logical way, Völter says. Even more convincing, though, was the reaction in their pupils: they consistently viewed the "wrong" scenarios with more enlarged pupils, suggesting this was contrary to their expectations.

This doesn't mean dogs necessarily understand physics, with its complex calculations, says Völter. But it does suggest that dogs have an implicit understanding of their physical environment.

Scamp Club

(Scampclub pets are not for adoption.)



Lucky Missy is 15-years-old a Chocolate Labrador. She likes walks treats and naps. She was a VCAS rescue in 2018.

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.



Congratulations to SDF's Six Newest Search Teams!

Forever homes wanted

Hi: I'm Luna, a sweet 11/2-year-old Maltipoo in need of a new home as unfortunately one of the people in the home is highly allergic to me. I'm gentle and affectionate and enjoy attention. I'm good with other dogs and children, but I would do best in an adult only home or a home with older children. I know basic commands and I'm house and crate trained. I enjoy going for walks, playing with a ball and cuddling. If you're interested in meeting me, please fill out an online application.

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



Meet Lovey, a 2-year-old indoor shelter bunny looking for a family! Lovey is so sweet, and she has the most adorable fluffy fur and boopable nose. If you'd like to meet Lovey, email VCASBunnyBrigade@gmail.com and one of our VCAS Bunny Brigade volunteers will reach out to you soon!

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.

Ventura Police Patrol, School Resource Officers

On June 14, at approximately 12:45 pm, Officers responded to the 500 Block of Mills Rd. regarding a stolen vehicle sighted in the area. A Patrol Officer located the vehicle parked in the Pacific View Mall parking structure with two occupants, later identified as 34-year-old Oxnard resident Andrew Rodriguez and 24-year-old Oxnard resident Adriana Romero. The driver, Rodriguez, immediately fled on foot. A School Resource Officer who was working at an event at Anacapa Middle School, located Rodriguez running onto the campus, and took Rodriguez into custody without incident. The school was briefly placed on a lockdown during the apprehension.

During the investigation, it was discovered that Rodriguez had caused deliberate damage to the vehicle at a cost of approximately \$15,000. Rodriguez was arrested and booked into Ventura County Jail for Possession of a Stolen Vehicle, Felony Vandalism, and Resisting/delaying/obstructing an Officer.

Romero was arrested and booked at Ventura County Jail for Possession of a Controlled Substance.

Assault with a Deadly Weapon (knife), Hit & Run, and Resist, Delay Arrest

On June 18, at approximately 2:00 am, the Ventura Police Department Communications Center received a 911 call that a stabbing had just occurred in the 6500 block of Telephone Rd. The suspect, later identified as Pedro Hernandez, fled in his vehicle, striking two parked cars while driving away at high speed. Officers arrived in the area and found the victim, who was transported to VCMC and treated for non-life-threatening injuries. Additional officers attempted to locate the suspect.

During the investigation, it was discovered that the victim and Hernandez were in a verbal altercation outside of a bar when Hernandez pulled a knife and began stabbing the victim, hitting him once in the shoulder. The victim escaped the attack, and Hernandez ran to his vehicle and fled the scene.

Officers were able to locate a possible residence and found Hernandez's car. Hernandez was inside his home and refused to come outside. Ventura Police Department Detectives responded to assist with the investigation. In the afternoon of June 18, detectives took Hernandez into custody without incident outside his residence.

Hernandez was arrested and booked at the Ventura County Jail for Assault with a Deadly Weapon, misdemeanor Hit & Run, and Resist, Delay a Peace Officer.

Child Abandonment

On June 23, at approximately 1:00 am, employees of a business in the 4200 block of Transport Street heard a female screaming in the rear alley way. They approached the female and saw her remove her pants and immediately give birth to an infant. She placed the infant on the ground, severed the umbilical cord, and quickly ran away from the area. The witness employees called 9-1-1, picked up the infant, and cared for it until paramedics arrived. The infant appeared healthy and was transported to a local hospital for treatment. As of this writing, the

infant is in stable condition. Officers conducted an extensive search for the female but were unable to locate her. She is described as a white female with short dark hair who appeared to be unhoused. Anyone with information about her whereabouts is encouraged to call 9-1-1 or 805-650-8010 to report it, as she may be in need of medical care.

The Ventura Police Department would like to remind the community that the State of California has a "Safe Surrender" program in which a parent or person with lawful custody can safely surrender a baby confidentially, and without fear of prosecution, within 72 hours of birth, at various locations, including hospitals and fire stations. For further information and additional Safe Surrender locations, refer to the State's website at <https://www.cdss.ca.gov/inforesources/safely-surrendered-baby/surrender-sites>.

Pursuit of a Stolen Electric Bicycle

On June 23, at approximately 8:00 am, Officers attempted to stop the suspect, Belmontes for riding an electric bicycle (E-bike) against on-coming traffic near the intersection of Olive St. and Main Street. The suspect refused to stop and actively tried to evade the officers. The suspect dumped the E-bike and fled on foot to the rear of a business at the intersection of Main St. and Ventura Avenue.

A motor officer in the area deployed a drone and located the suspect in a rear fenced yard to a nearby art studio, armed with pruning shears. Officers set a perimeter and evacuated the occupants of the studio. Once confined, the suspect threatened to kill officers if they approached and brandished the shears. Officers began negotiations with the suspect to seek a peaceful surrender.

After approximately 1 hour, the suspect agreed to surrender, and officers took him into custody. As officer were searching the suspect, they found a small pair of pointed scissors concealed in his clothing in a manner that made the weapon easily accessible. The ensuing investigation revealed the suspect tried to enter the art studio through a sliding glass door while being pursued by officers. No one was injured during this arrest.

Criminal Threats, Resist/Delay Peace Officer Arrest

On June 24, at about 9pm, the Ventura Police Department Communications Center received a 911 call that Uzyel Carrasco, 24-year-old Ventura resident, was disturbing inside a home in the 2800 block of Sherwin Ave. and had threatened to shoot his family members. Fearing for their safety, the family fled the residence and met officers away from the home. When officers arrived in front of the house, Carrasco jumped out of a back window and hid in a rear shipping container. Officers briefly established contact with Carrasco, who refused to come out and surrender. He then stopped communicating.

Based on the circumstances and the chance for violence, the police department went into a Tactical Alert, and the Ventura Police SWAT Team was activated to assist at the scene. Ventura Police Detectives continued the investigation, and after obtaining a search warrant, the SWAT Team entered the shipping container and took Carrasco into custody. Officers also located and seized two firearms.

Carrasco was arrested and booked at the Ventura County Jail for Criminal Threats, a felony, and misdemeanor Resist, Delay a Peace Officer. No one was injured during the incident



Linda Peters

Diane Edmonds

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June through October 2023

FARES:

\$18 Adult
\$16 Senior (55+)
\$12 Child (12 & under)

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Diane Edmonds

Doug Mangum

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or call 805-642-1393

Harbor Patrol Blotter

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

Wednes 6/07

8:00am, removed a local transient woman from the Launch Ramp restrooms. The subject went on a crazy rant, blaming everyone in ear-shot for her situation. Officers offered assistance with local charities, but she refused and ran off.

1:05pm, dispatched to a stingray strike at Harbor Cove. Officers responded with hot water to aid treatment of the puncture wound. Assisted State Parks with call.

Thursday 6/08

10:15am, dispatched to a stingray strike at Harbor Cove. Officers responded with State Parks to assist patient near Tower 3 with hot water.

4:40pm, received report of a sick/injured sealion near the Santa Clara Rivermouth from a beach comber. Officers responded, found sea lion and contacted Channel Islands Marine Wildlife Inst. (CIMWI) 805 567-1505.

Friday 6/09

4:05pm, observed two homeless persons

setting up camp near Surfers Knoll, advised of no camping ordinance, they moved further back into Arundo.

Saturday 6/10

8:26am, officers taking Rescue B19 and Fireboat to assist with boating traffic control for Hokolua outrigger canoe race(s) near Harbor Cove Beach.

Sunday 6/11

9:07am, received report of a sick/injured sealion on the rip rap near the Greek Restaurant. Officers responded, found sealion suffering from demoic poisoning.

10:05am, receiving multiple reports of sick sealions through out the harbor. Relayed CIMWI contact info to notify them of the growing numbers.

Monday 6/12

6:30pm, receiving multiple reports of sick injured sea lions. Advising that a lot of sea lions have been coming ashore with symptoms of demoic poisoning.

Weekly SUDOKU Answer

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

King Crossword Answers

Solution time: 26 mins.

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



Lars successfully completed the Scooter Cannonball from San Clemente California to Hilton head South Carolina.

Lars Yahr rode the Cannonball

The 2023 Scooter Cannonball began in San Clemente on June 18, 2023, and conclude eight days later at Hilton Head Island, South Carolina on June 25th. The total distance of the recommended riding course is estimated to be approximately 3,170 miles.

The route is planned by the event's organizers and is preferred, but riders are not required to strictly follow it. Each day's route has a total of five control checkpoints, including a starting control checkpoint, three interim control checkpoints, and a final finish control checkpoint. The control checkpoints together create a total of four route segments.

Lars Yahr stated " I have lived in Ventura for the past 22 years. I currently work at Patagonia.

I got my first Vespa scooter when I was 15. (35 years ago and I still own and ride it) I'm currently a member of the Ventura Vespa Club and the Ventura Vesparado's. I rode on a 2010 Vespa 300 Grand Turismo Sport."

"I registered for the scooter can-

nonball soon after a major motorcycle crash in which I was badly injured and thought I was done riding. I wasn't ready to hang up the helmet yet. I figured I could continue to ride my scooter with permission of my loved ones and luckily, they gave me the green light! I know some day I'll have to quit scootering but I have more life to live and many miles to go."

Ventura events

The Ventura County Philatelic Societys meetings are held every first and third Monday of the month at the Church of the Foothills, Ventura. Meetings start at 7:30pm. Website with more information can be found at <https://venturacountyphilatelicsoc.org>

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.

Livingston Memorial - Healing Grief Through Poetry. This group will provide an opportunity for those seeking a creative and inspirational way to express feelings of grief through poetry. This grief support group meets every Monday from 6:00 to 7:00 PM and will start on July 10th and end on July 31st. Registration is required. All support groups are free for the community. For reservations contact 805-389-6870 or online at lmvna.org/grief.

June 28: Updates on the improvements to the Ventura River Parkway Trail will be provided at the next meeting of The College Area Community Council. The meeting will be held on Zoom at 7pm. An invitation and link to the meeting will be sent to everyone on the CACC mailing list. Visit the College Area Community Council website @ <https://caccventura.com> to learn more, to be added to the mailing list or to access a link to the Zoom meeting.

July 1: Plant & collectibles sale at the Dudley House Museum, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Orchids and succulents will be on sale along with a variety of collectibles. Vendors please call Charlie at 805/746-4317 for details. At the corner of Loma Vista and Ashwood Streets (197 N. Ashwood).

July 2: Open house tours of the 1892 Dudley Historic House Museum will take place on Sunday, from 1 to 4 p.m. including a special visit by "Mrs. Dudley". Admission is free. For information please call (805) 642-3345 or visit the website at dudleyhouse.org.

July 2: Old-Time Country Bluegrass Gospel Music Assoc. 2:00-4:00 pm. Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Rd. Live Music on stage. Jamming in the Canada Room. Free Admission. Free parking Open to the Public. For more information call 805-517-1131 or visit Facebook: OTCBGMA

July 8: 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 experi-

enced 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, Petaluma and Waco, 9:00 to 11:00 am. For more information: Casting Program Coordinator Thomas Hall thomasfoley-hall@gmail.com (805) 377-5249 www.sespeflyfishers.org

July 8:10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. Ventura Friends of the Library will hold a Book Sale at the Vons at Telegraph and Victoria (6040 Telegraph Rd.) Books priced from \$.25 to \$5.00. Large selection of children's books, CD's and DVD's!

July 9: Sunday, 11am-3 pm Olivas Adobe Historic Park ~ 4200 Olivas Park Drive-Ventura Free Join us as we Salute our Veterans, representatives from every military branch will be on hand. At noon, a welcome speech commemorating all our Veterans will take place, followed by a color guard and the singing of the national anthem. The Rancho home is open for tours as well as the grounds and small adobe art gallery. www.cityofventura.ca.gov/Events

July 13, 25,: Wildlife Presentation with Saving Wildlife International Thursday, July 13th at Saticoy Library, 1:30 pm

Thursday, July 13th at Avenue Library, 4:00 pm

Tuesday, July 25th at Hill Road Library, 2:00 pm

Tuesday, July 25th at E.P. Foster Library, 11:00 am

Saving Wildlife International brings their special wildlife presentation to Ventura County Libraries Explore, discover, and learn about the natural world through Saving Wildlife International's unique live animal presentation. This free event is sponsored by the Ventura Friends of the Library and is open to the public. For additional information, contact Sienna Sydlaske, Youth Librarian Specialist, at (805) 648-2716.

July 22: Channel Islands PC User Group (CIPCUG) Location: Online and Live at Ventura County Computers 2175 Goodyear Avenue, Unit 117 Ventura, CA 93003 (805) 289-3960 Discussion, Tutorial, and Q&A sessions centered around Computers, email and the Internet, social media brokers such as Facebook, LinkedIn, Google, and Yahoo. Events begin at 9:30AM. All CIPCUG events may be attended online. Due to limited space live attendance is reserved for members. Details for connecting to online events are emailed prior to the event.



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The Bookmark About Libraries and Friends

by Mary Olson

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

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.

This summer, Ventura County Library hosts Lunch at the Library Farm to Summer Program at 3 locations Avenue, Saticoy, and Albert H. Soliz libraries for children and teens 18 years and under. Local youth will be served healthy meals and are invited to participate in a series of Summer Reading Program activities, including daily fun activities, book giveaways, and performers. Lunch is offered Monday through Thursday, noon to 1:00 pm, June 20 through August 10. Speakers will visit each location and encourage youth to learn about local agriculture and the food cycle, how to garden at home and practice healthy eating, as well as share information on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) careers in agriculture.

This program is made possible in collaboration with the Ventura Unified School District and the Ventura County Library Foundation. VCL is an equal opportunity provider. The summer Food Service Program is a program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, administered in California by the California Department of Education.

Lunch at the Library is a project of the California State Library, supported with funds from the State of California.

Summer Reading Program Special Event: **Wildlife Presentation** with Saving Wildlife International

Explore, discover, and learn about the natural world through Saving Wildlife International's unique live animal presentation. This exciting presentation is sure to entertain and educate! This free event is sponsored by the Ventura Friends of the Library

Thursday, July 13th at Saticoy Library, 1:30 pm Thursday, July 13th at Avenue Library, 4:00 pm

Tuesday, July 25th at Hill Road Library, 2:00 pm Tuesday, July 25th at E.P. Foster Library, 11:00 am

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

offers fun family musicals, drawing, and coloring for all ages. Tuesday, July 11, 3:00 to 5:00 pm Soul Tuesday, July 18, 3:00 to 5:00 pm : Trolls World Tour

Foster Library's Young Readers Book Club

Saturday, July 22 @ 1:00 to 2:00 pm: Discuss **Amulet: The Stonekeeper** by Kazu Kibuishi & create a graphic novel character.

Wise Owls Book Club, a quarterly book club for adults who enjoy reading children's literature.

Hill Road Library, Tuesday, July 11, 5 to 6 pm Summer selection: Frankie & Bug by Gayle Forman.

To join the mailing list for this Book Club please email Linda.Cherry@ventura.org.

Ventura County Library reading and lunch

This summer, Ventura County Library (VCL) will host Lunch at the Library Farm to Summer Program at 3 locations for children and teens 18 years and under. Local youth will be served healthy meals and are invited to participate in a series of Summer Reading Program activities. These will include daily fun activities, book giveaways, and performers.

Speakers will visit each location and encourage youth to learn about local agriculture and the food cycle, how to garden at home and practice healthy eating, as well as share information on Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) careers in agriculture.

VCL's Lunch at the Library Farm to Summer Program focuses on developing young stewards of the land through composting, planting, and learning about the science behind growing food. Weekly Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) activities about insect science, plants, recipes, soil, and water will provide hands on opportunities for youth to grow their own crops and hopefully taste the fruits of their labor by the end of summer.

This program is made possible in collaboration with the Ventura Unified School District and the Ventura County Library Foundation. VCL is an equal opportunity provider. The summer Food Service Program is a program of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, administered in California by the Cali-

fornia Department of Education. Lunch at the Library is a project of the California State Library, supported with funds from the State of California.

Lunch at the Library locations until Thursday, August 10, 2023:

Albert H. Soliz Library, 2820 Jourdan Street Oxnard, CA 93036

Avenue Library 606 North Ventura Avenue Ventura, CA 93001 Saticoy Library 1292 Los Angeles Avenue, Ventura, CA 93004

For more information on library programs and services, visit vencolibrary.org.



The non-competitive, segmented run started at Ventura City Hall.

Ventura police officers carry the torch for the Ventura County Special Olympics

by Joseph Seemayer @jseemayerphoto

On Thursday, June 8, Ventura Police officers and staff participated in the Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run held from 7:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

The non-competitive, segmented run started at the steps of the Ventura City Hall located at 501 Poli St. Runners carried the Special Olympics' Torch, also known as the "Flame of Hope," through the streets of Ventura, passing it off to the Oxnard Police Department to continue the run throughout Ventura County.

"The Flame of Hope symbolizes a celebration of diversity and the spirit of Special Olympics athletes who remain committed to putting in the work to compete and represent their communities," said Sergeant Ryan Reynosa, Special Olympics Liaison with the Ventura Police Department. "I am so thankful to be part of Team Ventura PD, working together to raise funds and increase awareness and acceptance for these incredible athletes locally."

The Law Enforcement Torch Run is the largest awareness and grassroots fundraiser for Special Olympics. In Southern California, it consists of nine different legs, spanning from San Luis Obispo to San Diego. Legs are completed in conjunction with Special Olympics athletes and various members of law enforcement agencies from throughout the region.

Community members can support financially by making a donation to "Team Ventura PD" at www.CityofVentura.ca.gov/LETR.

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Ventura College PAC, Ventura
*Rancho Campana PAC, Camarillo

7/28 Caleb Teicher/
Conrad Tao Duo

7/29 Dianne Reeves

7/30 Mark & Maggie
O'Connor

8/4 Ana Vidovic

*8/5 Special EFX All-Stars
featuring Chieli Minucci

8/6 The Moanin' Frogs



Alan Salazar: Chumash Tribal Elder; Mike Murray: Deputy Superintendent for Programs Channel Islands; Robert Schwemmer: Maritime Heritage Program Regional Coordinator; Harry Rabin: Field Advisor "Heal the Ocean".



Patagonia held event to build community awareness to build Tomals

by Patricia Schallert

A free event was presented at Patagonia on June 15. Patagonia served food and drinks and their main focus was on building community awareness with a plan to build two Tomal canoes, and what that means to the Tataviam and Chumash Communities in Ventura. Patagonia also held a screening of the documentary "Chumash Powered" along with a fundraiser around the Tomol canoe builds.

Chumash tribal Elder Alan Salazar presented his life as a storyteller. As a Chumash Elder Alan Salazar,

Mission around 1803 and he presented a lively explanation on the close extension of Indian tribes and Tomol paddlers crossing the channel to Santa Cruz Island.

In his stories about the Tomol paddlers he reflects: "The Tomol comes to life in the dark of night and she helps connect her paddlers to one another, sensing energy even in pitch black waters as it crosses the channel to Santa Cruz Island." A Tomol canoe is a "Plank Ocean canoe" and two will be built in Ventura. The Tomol is traditionally made of



Alan Salazar Chumash Tribal Elder blessing the audience



Tomol Paddlers

redwood logs, large enough to build a canoe. Using traditional tools, it will be hollowed out carefully by removing the inner wood, leaving the outer layers intact to form the canoe. The exterior of the hull will be carved into a shape that will be streamlined and seaworthy with the crossbeams providing support and strength. Finishing touches of smooth sanding on the Tomol canoe surfaces will seal it and make it waterproof for crossing the channel. Traditionally Chumash people used natural materials like tar and pine pitch to seal the canoe and make it watertight.

Hundreds of years ago, the native island Chumash traveled these ancient waters for hunting, fishing, and trading.

tells stories about his Chumash and Tataviam ancestors to anyone who will listen. He spoke about traditional plank boat building techniques to guests of Patagonia.

In his stories, Salazar, echoes words spoken by his Native American ancestors: tales of a grandmother oak, and the Sky Coyote, a rainbow bridge and how his Chumash and Tataviam tribes came to be. He presented his family story of the Tataviam and Chumash families who were brought to the San Fernando

Heroes needed now: Give blood or platelets

The American Red Cross wants everyone to enjoy a safe and fun Fourth of July, which includes ensuring a strong blood supply for patients in hospitals across the country. There has been a concerning shortfall in blood donations in recent weeks, and the upcoming holiday could put a further strain on donations, as millions celebrate with family vacations and other seasonal activities. Donors of all blood types, especially those with type B negative or O negative blood as well as platelet donors, are needed to make an appointment to give now to ensure blood remains available for patients this summer.

To encourage blood donations, the Red Cross is offering the following to those who come to give in the coming weeks:

All who come to give blood, platelets or plasma through June 30 will receive a \$10 gift card by email to a merchant of their choice. Those who come to give in June will also be automatically entered

for a chance to win a backyard theater package. Details for both offers can be found at RedCrossBlood.org/June.

All who come to give blood, platelets or plasma July 1-11 will receive an exclusive Red Cross dry bag, while supplies last. Details are available at RedCrossBlood.org/gifts.

By scheduling and keeping appointments right now, donors can help ensure patients relying on blood donations also get to enjoy their summer. To schedule an appointment to donate, download the Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org or call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767).

To make an appointment, simply download the American Red Cross Blood Donor App, visit RedCrossBlood.org, call 1-800-RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or enable the Blood Donor Skill on any Alexa Echo device to make an appointment or for more information. A blood donor card or driver's license or two other forms of identification are required at check-in. Individuals who are 17 years of age in most states (16 with parental consent where allowed by state law), weigh at least 110 pounds and are in generally good health may be eligible to donate blood. High school students

Wine in



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July 8th

2023

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Village Center

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For Tickets & Information

www.wineinthepines.com

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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.



Rains have resulted in heavy damage but robust growth of all plants.

Ventura Land Trust awarded \$1.3 million FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant

Ventura Land Trust (VLT) has been awarded a \$1.3 million grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for fuel load reduction and erosion mitigation in Harmon Canyon Preserve. The funded proposal is designed to mitigate wildfire risk between Harmon Canyon Preserve and the residential neighborhood of Clearpoint.

While winter rains have resulted in robust growth of waist-high lupine, perennial bunchgrasses, California peony, and coast live oaks, invasive plant species have also had a record year.

VLT has until May 2024 to reduce fuel loads primarily made up of invasive annual grasses, thistles, tumbleweed, and mustards, while minding the structural integrity of erosive slopes and the ecological conservation of the Preserve.

Stewardship Director Dan Hulst says, "Fuel load reduction in Harmon Canyon Preserve is something that VLT tackles every year as a wildfire mitigation strategy. The grant award from FEMA gives us a huge boost in resources to reduce the dense, herbaceous cover and shore up eroded areas."

VLT has contracted with Wildscape Restoration to line trim key areas of vegetation and manually remove invasive plants around desirable native species. Goats and sheep from Ventura Brush Goats will graze zones dominated by one specific species to both reduce fuel loads and create areas where native plants can

take root.

"We have a short period of time to address what are sometimes contradictory variables," says Conservation Director Laura Pavliscak. "Reducing fuel loads while protecting steep slopes can be challenging."

"We want to leverage the ecological benefits of this once-in-a-decade native plant growth to support the goal of the project, and that takes a lot of detailed resource monitoring and strategy. We're focusing on the removal of Mediterranean annual grasses, which are the most dangerous fuels, the least protective against erosion on slopes, and most prohibitive to native biodiversity."

Heavy rains brought about significant damage in Harmon Canyon Preserve's upper canyon, which has been closed since January of this year. Creek washouts, sinkholes, and major hillsides that completely covered sections of road still await repairs.

"In some cases, the roads are simply gone," says Hulst. They're buried under 20 feet of soil and vegetation. We have a lot of work ahead of us to restore the roadways, but we are hopeful that the upper canyon will be open by summertime."

The \$1.3 million FEMA grant award does not cover storm-related repairs. VLT is raising funds for repairs from the community through its Repair & Restore Fund. More information can be found at www.venturalandtrust.org.

and other donors 18 years of age and younger also have to meet certain height and weight requirements.

A stable blood and platelet supply is critical to national preparedness. Additionally, as we approach the beginning of what is expected to be another active hurricane season, the Red Cross urges everyone to get ready now and consider becoming a volunteer to help people affected by the growing number of cli-

mate-driven disasters.

Support impacted communities by assisting at Red Cross shelters, using your professional skills as a licensed health care provider or becoming a member of the Red Cross Disaster Action Team. To learn more, visit redcross.org/volunteertoday.

To find blood drives in Ventura, visit RedCrossBlood.org and type in the zip code.

All fireworks are illegal in the City of Ventura

Ventura's public safety agencies remind residents there is no safe way to use fireworks. While Independence Day embodies the spirit of community pride and celebration, the Ventura Police and Fire Departments urge community members to embrace a safe and sane approach to the cherished national tradition. Residents are encouraged to do their part to help prevent fires and injuries caused by illegal fireworks and attend an authorized fireworks display hosted by trained professionals.

"Fireworks are a wonderful part of the Independence Day tradition but pose a serious threat to public safety," said Commander Matt Cain. "Fireworks are illegal, unpredictable, and are of immense concern to those with post-traumatic stress disorder, anxiety, and sensory issues. Let's come together to protect all residents."

City of Ventura public safety officials encourage families to attend festivities sponsored by local community groups

or attend public fireworks show. This year, the City's Fourth of July Street Fair and Pushem-Pullem Parade returns on July 4 with events happening in Downtown Ventura from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. To learn more, visit CityofVentura.ca.gov/StreetFair.

Additionally, the Ventura Rotary Club will host a fireworks show on July 4 at 9:00 p.m. For more information, visit www.VenturaFireworks.com.

During the Fourth of July holiday weekend, the Ventura Police Department will deploy additional resources to help respond to and enforce reports of illegal fireworks. If you see a neighbor lighting fireworks, call 9-1-1 if the activity is in-progress. If there is no immediate threat, please call the 24/7 non-emergency line at 805-650-8010. Be prepared to provide a location of the activity and a description of those involved.

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

Ventura Police officials also encourage community members to stay off the road after consuming alcohol, marijuana, or prescription medications.

For more information on staying safe this Fourth of July, visit CityofVentura.ca.gov/Fireworks.



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 – Pastor Leonard DeWitt

Sundays:
 Bible Alive Classes @ 8:45 AM
 Worship Celebration @ 10 and 11:30 AM



by Pam Baumgardner
VenturaRocks.com

Independence Day falls on a Tuesday this year with live music being offered at several venues including Ojai Valley Brewing with Blues Bullet immediately following the city's annual parade downtown; Raging Arb and the Redheads along with the return of Jackass will rock Bombay's during the afternoon (2-5); you'll find the Corsican Brothers at Winchesters from 6-9; and Los Amigos play Margarita Villa in the Harbor from 7 to 10 pm. If you plan your day just right, you could possibly cover all venues and still see the fireworks show at Ventura College.

Ventura Music Hall added a few dates to take note of including this year's American Idol winner, Ian Tongi on July 22, Then, there's the Kottonmouth Kings who play August 18, and another show I wouldn't want you to miss is Henry Rollins on November 7; it's his "Good to See You," spoken word tour which is a seated event.

If you're in the mood for aggressive rock/punk, then you won't want to miss Nardfest over the weekend of July 7 and 8 at the Oceanview Pavilion in Port Hueneme. Both days feature some of the greatest bands coming out of the Nardcore scene with Hirax, Downpresser, Dr. Know, Section H8, False Confession, Total Resistance, Burning Dog, Romper and Boilerman playing on Saturday; then it's JFA, Stalag 13, Punk Rock Karaoke, Grim, iDecline, Crucial Thought, Char-Man, No Remorse, The Robot Uprising and Indignants on Sunday. This is an all ages show with tickets through EventBrite, or pay no fees at the venue's box office.

Libbey Bowl concerts over the next two weeks include The Long Run (Eagles tribute) on Friday, June 30, Gin Blossoms on Saturday, July 1, Toad the Wet Sprocket on Wednesday, July 5; Lyle Lovett & his Large Band on Friday July 7, and the Smithereens with Marshall Crenshaw and Dishwalla on Saturday, July 8.

There's a new music studio called Creativity Through Music at Portside Ventura where they plan to offer ticketed events for a smaller intimate audience. Their first concert on Sunday, July 2 features Nicole Taylor, soprano and Natsha Marin on piano. Songs being performed will be Brahms, Rachmaninov, R. Strauss, Chausson and Hahn. You can find tickets on EventBrite.

Quick Notes: The Brite Room in Camarillo is offering an "adult" open mic on Wednesday, June 28; Heritage Square Summer Concert Series has the Brandon Ragan Project on Friday, July 7; Music Under the Stars kicks off the summer concert series with British Beat on Saturday, July 8 at the Olivas Adobe; Leashless Brewing celebrates their 6th anniversary with Morie & the Heavy Hitters and Kat Hall on Saturday, July 8; And Tommy Quayle returns for another night of his original music at Namba on Saturday, July 8.

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

Angry Ferret

11990 Hertz St., Moorpark

Fri 6/30: Whole Hog

Boatyard Pub

1583 Spinnaker Dr., Ventura

Music 6-9; except Sundays 4-7

Wednesdays: Frank Barajas

Thursdays: Jim Friery; Bluegrass Jam

Fridays: Teresa Russell & Stephen Geyer

Bombay Bar and Grill

143 California St., Ventura

Tues 7/4: Raging Arb and the Redheads, Jackass

The Brite Room

2258 Pickwick Dr., Camarillo

Wed 6/28: Adult Open Mic

Café Fiore

66 S. California St., Ventura

Wed 6/28: Donna Butler

Fri 6/30: Heathers on Fire

Cantara Cellars

126 N. Wood Rd., Camarillo

Fri 6/30: Ray Jaurique Band

Sat 7/1: Under Cover Super Group

Fri 6/7: Caliente 805

Sat 6/8: Ignition

Casa Agria Specialty Ales

701 N. Del Norte Blvd., Oxnard

Fri 7/7: The Robot Uprising, Neurotics, Out of Trust, Zipangu, Crazy D & the Nutz

of Trust, Zipangu, Crazy D & the Nutz

Constitution Park

601 Carmen Dr., Camarillo

Sat 7/8: The Kings of 88

Copa Cubana

Ventura Harbor Village

Mondays: Glenn Bennett

Tuesdays: Blues Tuesdays

Sun 7/2: Freddie and Friends

Sun 7/9: The House Arrest Band

Copper Blues

591 Collection Blvd., Oxnard

Fri 6/30: Brittany and the B Side

Creativity Through Music

Portside Ventura Harbor; 947

Schooner Dr., Ventura

Sun 7/2: Nicole Taylor, Natasha Marin

Deer Lodge

2261 Maricopa Hwy., Ojai

Fri 6/30: Billy Wylder

Sun 7/2: Arielle Moire-Selvage

Fri 7/7: Luke Sweeney

Four Brix

2290 Eastman Ave., Ventura

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

Fri 6/30: Kelly's Lot

Sat 7/2: Déjà vu Three

Sun 7/9: The Hollywood Rocker Fellas

The Grape

2733 E. Main St., Ventura

Tues: The Gratitude Jazz Jam

Thurs Happy Hour: Tom Etchart & Friends

Friday Happy Hour: Fred Kaplan

Thurs 6/29: Gregg Karukas GK

Fri 6/30: Jeff Babko Trio

Sat 7/1: Dr. T. & the Blues Criminasl (2 pm);

Doug Webb (8 pm)

Wed 7/5: Adam Moezinia's Folk Element

Trio

Thur 7/6: SicNarf

Sat 7/8: RJ Mischo (2 pm); Barrelhouse

Wailers (8 pm)

Harbor Cove Café

1867 Spinnaker Dr., Ventura

Saturdays 10 am: The Cool Hand Ukles

Fri 6/30: The Rincons

Fri 7/7: Brittney Burchett & Friends

Heritage Square Summer Concert Series

715 S. A St., Oxnard

Fri 6/30: The Chico Band

Fri 7/7: Brandon Ragan Project

Institutional Ale Company

3841 Mission Oaks Blvd., Camarillo

Thurs 6/29: Ventura Irie-Ites Posse

Keynote Lounge

10245 Telephone Rd., Ventura

Thursdays: Open Mic

Fri 6/30: Ventu Park Band

Leashless Brewing

585 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

Thurs 6/29: Singer/Songwriter Open Mic

Night

Fri 6/30: Jayden Secor

Sat 7/1: Brian D'Entremont (3 pm); Adam

Lenhard (7 pm)

Thurs 7/6: Erez Barnea

Fri 7/7: Boom Duo

Sat 7/8: Morie & the Heavy Hitters, Kat Hall

Libbey Bowl

210 S. Signal St., Ojai

Fri 6/30: The Long Run

Sat 7/1: Gin Blossoms

Wed 7/5: Toad the Wet Sprocket

Fri 7/7: Lyle Lovett & his Large Band

Sat 7/8: The Smithereens w/ Marshall

Crenshaw & Dishwalla

Lucky Fool's Pub

75 E. High St., Moorpark

Fri 7/7: Milo Sledge Trio

M on High Restaurant

255 E. High St., Moorpark

Thurs 6/29: Strummed Down

Majestic Ventura Theater

26 S. Chestnut St., Ventura

Sat 7/1: Sweet, Cosmic Ocean, Evolution

Eden

Manhattan

5800 Santa Rosa Rd., Camarillo

Wed 6/28: Warren Takahashi

Fri 6/30: Lisa Ritner

Margarita Villa

1567 Spinnaker Dr., Ventura

Fri 6/30: Joe Delia

Sat 7/1: Vinyl Gypsies

Sun 7/2: Doc Rogers Band

Tues 7/4: Los Amigos

Fri 7/7: Dive Bar Messiahs

Sat 7/8: Cinnamon Whiskey

Sun 7/9: Déjà vu Too

Mrs. Olson's

2800 Harbor Blvd., Oxnard

Sat 7/1: Bombafiya, Magnificent Bastards,

Cinnamon Whiskey, Keyth G & the

Universouls

Sun 7/2: Teresa Russell

Fri 7/7: Kyle Smith Band, Rising Son

Music Under the Stars

Olivas Adobe, 4200 Olvias Park Dr.,

Ventura

Sat 7/8: British Beat

Namba Arts

47 S. Oak St., Ventura

Fri 6/30: Miss Bix

Sat 7/8: Tommy Quayle

Sun 7/9: The Listening Room Redux

Oceanview Pavilion Performing Arts

Theater

575 E. Surfside Dr., Port Hueneme

Sat 7/8: Hirax, Downpresser, Dr. Know,

Torena, False Confessions, more..

Sun 7/9: JFA, Stalag 13, Grim, iDecline,

Crucial Thought, The Robot Uprising,

more...

Ojai Valley Brewing

307 Bryant St., Ojai

Fri 6/30: Kris Simeon

Sat 7/1: Manuel the Band

Tues 7/4: Blues Bullet

Fri 7/7: Zydeco Zippers

Sat 7/8: The Hand me Down Band

Onyx

2390 Las Posas Rd., Camarillo

Fri 6/30: Matthew Grant

Sat 7/1: Smokey & Friends

Oxnard Performing Arts Center

800 Hobson Way, Oxnard

Sat 7/1: Higher Ground

Poinsettia Pavilion

3451 Foothill Rd., Ventura

Sun 7/2: Old-Time Country Bluegrass

Gospel Music

The Raven Tavern

1651 S. Victoria Ave., Oxnard

Fri & Sat 8 pm; Sunday 2 pm

Fri 6/30: Blown Over

Sat 7/8: Teresa Russell

Sam's Place

308 E. Ojai Ave., Ojai

Sat 7/1: Duncan and the Dragonslayers

Sat 7/8: Smitty & Julija & Friends

The Shores

1031 Harbor Blvd., Oxnard

Fri 6/30: Doc Ventura (5 pm); Soul Machine

(8 pm)

Fri 7/7: CRV

Strey Cellars

951 N. Rice Ave., Oxnard

Sat 7/1: Barrelhouse Wailers

Sun 7/2: Ignition

Sun 7/9: Alissa Selkis

Tony's Pizzeria

186 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

Wed 6/28: Caught Red Handed

Thurs 6/29: Ska Jah Standards

Thurs 7/6: Ska Daddyz, Keyth G.

& Friends

Topa Topa Brewing

104 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

Thurs: Davey Miller Jazz

Sat 7/1: Teresa Russell (2 pm); Katie Leigh

(7 pm)

Topa Topa Brewing

2024 Ventura Blvd. Camarillo

Fri 6/30: Steve and Sally Williams

Sat 7/8: Milo Sledge Trio

The Twist

454 E. Main St., Ventura

Sat 7/1: Coque Ross, Lynzee Fraye, Live

Band Karaoke

Vaquero y Mar

435 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

Sundays: Mariachi

Tuesdays: The Sea Hunter

Wednesdays: Tribal Me

Fridays: Noche de Paranda

Ventura Music Hall

1888 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

Sat 7/8: The Buttertones

Sun 7/9: The Green, Cas Haley, Etana

Winchesters

632 E. Main St., Ventura

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

3 pm

Thurs 6/29: Cats on the Bandstand

Fri 6/30: Déjà vu Three

Sat 7/1: Steve and Sally Williams

Sun 7/2: Karen Eden & the Bad Apples

Mon 7/3: DVR Band

Tues 7/4: The Corsican Brothers

Thurs 7/6: Jayden Secor

Fri 7/7: Medicine Hat

Sat 7/8: Mack & D

Sun 7/9: CRV Band

1901 Speakeasy

740 S. B St., Oxnard

Wed 6/28: D.on Darox

Ventura Music Scene



The Channel Islands Harbor Art Festival will return for its 17th year on July 8 - 9.

The art festival hosts both local and regional artists displaying their own original artwork in all mediums of fine art and fine craft. The artwork that will be presented includes ceramics, glass, jewelry, mixed media, paintings, etc.

The hours are from 10:00 am until 5:00 pm on both Saturday and Sunday. Admission and parking are free. Harbor Landing, 2800 Harbor Blvd., at the corner of Channel Islands Blvd., in Oxnard.

Presented by West Coast Artists. For more information visit WestCoas-



This amazing drawing was done by Jaime Baker. It was a commission of Jack Skellington and Family from the Nightmare Before Christmas. You can contact Jaime at tygertailz2@aol.com or follow him at Way Outta Line Caricatures on Instagram and Facebook. He is ready for your commission.

Ventura Art Scene



On June 23, 24 & 25 the Ventura County Greek Festival celebrated its 44th year. The Ventura County Greek Festival is one of the longest-running cultural festivals in Ventura County. The Festival attracts thousands of guests from Ventura, Santa Barbara, and Los Angeles Counties showcasing the Greek culture through food, music, dance, and storytelling.



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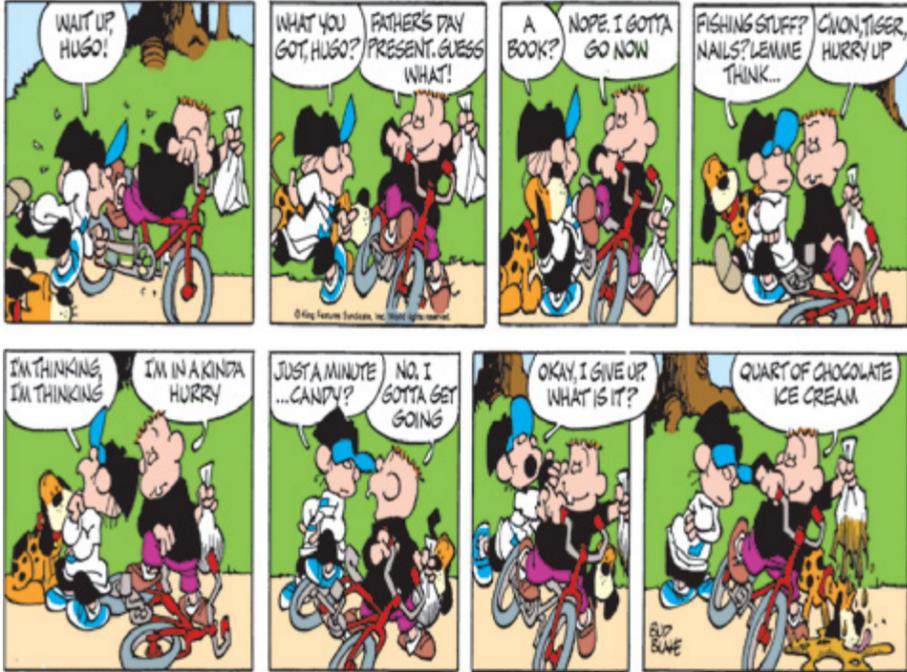
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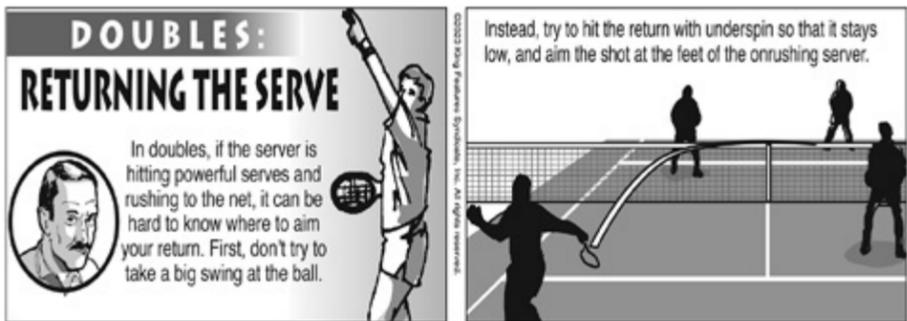
Out on a Limb



Amber Waves



Stan Smith's Tennis Class



Solutions on page 15

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

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

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

Solutions on page 15

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Fireplace residue
- 4 Height of fashion?
- 7 "Serpico" director
- 12 Scary cry
- 13 Oklahoma city
- 14 Sports venue
- 15 Takes too much, briefly
- 16 First-rate
- 18 Mafia boss
- 19 "Once upon —"
- 20 Send forth
- 22 Author Umberto
- 23 Hardly hirsute
- 27 Do sums
- 29 Composer Prokofiev
- 31 New Zealand native
- 34 Daydreamer Walter
- 35 Hansel's sister
- 37 Center
- 38 Round Table titles
- 39 Jargon suffix
- 41 Winds up
- 45 Michelangelo masterpiece
- 47 Have the flu
- 48 First-rate
- 52 Bikini top
- 53 Worth
- 54 Samovar

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							52		
53						54				55		
56						57				58		

- 55 Slugger Mel
- 56 Brownstone feature
- 57 "The Bells" author
- 58 "See ya!"
- 10 Em halves
- 11 Prof's helpers
- 17 Med. plan options
- 21 Small fruit pies
- 23 Illegal payment
- 24 Literary rep
- 25 Allow
- 26 Hobbyist's abbr.
- 28 Conk out
- 30 Outback bird
- 31 Brit. sports cars
- 32 Onassis nickname
- 33 Not 'neath
- 36 "Star Wars" royal
- 37 Straight, for short
- 40 Clinch
- 42 Mogul
- 43 Begrimed
- 44 Roofing material
- 45 Get ready, briefly
- 46 "Rule, Britannia!" composer
- 48 Den sets
- 49 Feedbag bit
- 50 Mideast org.
- 51 Pair with an air

© 2023 King Features Synd., Inc.



The value of these trees ranges from \$95,000 to \$130,000 for all four.

Have you noticed a change in our skyline?

The four dramatic Canary Island palms piercing the horizon at the Ventura Botanical Gardens (VBG) were recently moved from Ventura College to the skyline at Grant Park. These large specimens were donated by the college, which is in the process of new construction and had to remove the trees. Rather than destroy these two-story specimens, they were given to the Gardens. Laurence Nicklin and his team at Plantasia Landscaping and Design dug, transported, and planted them.

Nancy Kettner chose the location along the ridge line of the upper gardens. This location chosen is the highest point in the Gardens and provides a perfect silhouette on the hillside. The trees can be seen from Hwy 33 and many other locations around Ventura. The VBG staff will be caring and maintaining them.

The Canary Islands are one of the four locations in the Mediterranean floristic region with an exact climate match to Ventura. At some point, VBG will have a Canary Islands plant collection and this is the beginning of that. The market value of the four trees, if they were to be purchased through a commercial nursery, ranges from about \$95,000 to \$130,000 for all four. Acquiring these large trees provides a unique opportunity; Canary Island palms can carry diseases and because of that, it is illegal to transport them across county lines in California, creating an even greater challenge in acquiring large specimens.



Show Time

A View from House Seats

Drawn down the Rabbit Hole

by Shirley Lorraine

Everyone deals with grief in their own way and in their own time. How one family handles a particularly affecting death is the center of the Santa Paula Theater Center's current production of "Rabbit Hole" by David Lindsay-Abaire. This sensitive work garnered a Pulitzer Prize in 2007.

Lindsay-Abaire's characters are instantly recognizable as members of one's own family. Each carries their own perspective ranging from anger to introspection to humor. It all works to highlight humanities 'coping methods and how disparate they can be in effectiveness.

There is no right or wrong in dealing with loss. There is only the reality of how each individual processes their grief.

Skillfully directed by Taylor Kasch, the ensemble of highly capable actors takes the audience on a journey into a dark subject that is not often brought to the forefront.

Becca (Jessi May Stevenson) and Howie (Ron Feltner) have lost their four-year old son in an unfortunate accident. Any loss is devastating and this one threatens to shatter everyone involved. Stevenson is adept at the emotional changes required of her character and imbues her with an immediately likeable, sympathetic persona. Feltner gives the masculine counterpoint solid footing in his retreat from acceptance.

Becca's sister Izzy (Rosie Gordon) brings her own life-changing issues to the table, further complicating Becca and Howie's ability to cope. Gordon adds just the right touch of lightness to balance her sister's negativity.

The girls' mother Nat (Cynthia

Killion) brings an earthy, if somewhat skewed, framework to her interactions, as she is still grieving over the loss of her son some 11 years ago. Grief has no timeline and for some, no end. Although Becca finds the constant comparison to her own loss a relentless source of irritation, she also recognizes that the feeling of loss is one that becomes an integral part of a person. Killion provides not only comic relief, but also a useful, pragmatic viewpoint.

Attempting to cope in his own way is Jason (Ryan Garces), a young man caught up in the drama by unfortunate and unavoidable circumstance. He blames himself for the accident and is reluctant to be absolved, although not for lack of trying.

Each scene brings forth another element of the grieving process and how one person's viewpoint affects those of the others in the circle. This play will directly affect anyone who has suffered loss of a loved one in its stark approach to the arc of the grieving process. Elizabeth Kubler-Ross introduced the stages of grief years ago. It is not uncommon for these stages to occur in random order as outside influences are present.

This extraordinary cast weaves the delicate story in ways that are all-encompassing. They take us down the rabbit hole of grief, up to the top, and once again plunge to the depths. It is quite a journey and one that everyone will take at some point. This production is not to be missed. Adult themes and language.

Rabbit Hole continues through July 30 at the Santa Paula Theater Center. www.santapaulatheatercenter.org or (805) 525-4645.

Streaming Spotlight by Cindy Summers

To Leslie

- Netflix



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

When West Texas single mother Leslie "Lee" Rowland (Andrea Riseborough) won a \$190,000 lottery using her son James' (Owen Teague) birthdate as her lucky number picks, she thought it would be a chance at a good life for her and her son. Unfortunately, six years later she would find herself being evicted from the local motel and estranged from her son, who she ended up leaving with her friends Nancy and Dutch (Allison Janney, Stephen Root) when she squandered it all and was penniless.

Leslie was also challenged with being an alcoholic, which was where most of her money went buying rounds of drinks for everyone in town at the local bar. To support her need for alcohol, she started hitting on strangers that visited the bar in hopes of free drinks, but this was a dangerous game as she was assaulted and had no shelter to go for protection so she reached out to her son James for help.

James was now 20 years old living in

a city nearby and working in construction. When his mom Leslie got off the bus, she looked as though she hadn't showered for weeks and was wearing dirty, tattered clothing. James took her to get some new clothes and told her that she could temporarily stay with him and his roommate, but she had to come up with a plan for a job, her own place, and absolutely no drinking was allowed, though he told her it was alright to smoke marijuana.

Leslie ended up stealing money from James' roommate and after finding her drunk with empty alcohol bottles under the bed, he put her on a bus back to Dutch and Nancy, who reluctantly took her in with the same rule of no drinking. Unable to manage her alcoholism, Leslie got drunk and found herself locked out of Dutch and Nancy's who left her suitcase on the porch to insure she knew she was no longer welcome.

Leslie found a spot outside a local motel to sleep that night, but in the morning the motel manager Sweeney (Marc Maron) found her outside the motel and told her to leave, but when she ran off she forgot her suitcase. She slept in an abandoned ice cream shop that night and returned for her suitcase and Sweeney felt the need to help her, so offered her a job cleaning rooms at the motel in exchange for a small wage and room at the motel.

Leslie was not ready for that level of responsibility and showed up for work late the first two days and was not doing

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Miriam Schwab's \$10 million gift created the Academy named in her honor.

This season has an exciting lineup of concerts

The Schwab Academy of Music returns with three weekends of performances at Ventura College running from July 8-23. Going into third season, the Academy offers high-level orchestra and chamber music concerts performed by student musicians in Ventura County and beyond. Featuring professional musicians playing alongside their student mentees, and low-ticket prices ranging from \$5-15 (and with kids under 10 free!), The Academy is a justly beloved part of Ventura's music scene and well on its way to becoming one of the premiere music festivals on the West Coast.

Miriam Schwab's \$10 million gift created the Academy named in her

honor, and allows Ventura residents easy access to the power of music as both concertgoers and as participants. Many of the area's student musicians of all ages have performed in the ensembles. Violinists Carlos Ozuna and Susan Philbrick describe the student experience in glowing terms: "It's very friendly, very motivational - it's just a good vibe." says Carlos. Susan adds "It doesn't matter how old you are, what your background is; we're all together in the communal pleasure of music."

This season has an exciting lineup of concerts beginning Saturday, July 8 when the Academy Orchestra gets things

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Schwab

Miriam & Henry Schwab
ACADEMY OF MUSIC

SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

JULY 8: Orchestra
Music by Verdi and Brahms,
plus Ravel's *Bolero*

JULY 14: Chamber Music

JULY 15: Orchestra
Music by Rimsky-Korsakov,
Grieg, & Sibelius's *Finlandia*

JULY 21: Chamber Music

JULY 22: Violin Competition
Music by Mozart, Schubert
& Mendelssohn

JULY 23: Violin Competition
Music by Saint-Saëns & Dvorák

Friday & Saturday Concerts at 7:30pm,
Sunday Concerts at 2:30pm.
VC Performing Arts Center,
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Tickets \$5-15
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JULY 8-23, 2023

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On June 23, a kickoff event was held at the Museum of Ventura County to celebrate Ventura County's 150th anniversary. In 1873, Ventura County separated from Santa Barbara County creating a unique community in charge of its own destiny. In the 150 years since, Ventura County has become known for its agriculture, industry and innovation all the while cultivating a charming and laid-back cultural atmosphere.

As this year marks the significant distinction of celebrating 150 years, five groups have come together to honor our community, history and diversity. County of Ventura, Museum of Ventura County, Ventura County Community Foundation, Pacific Coast Business Times and Economic Development Collaborative present 150 days of celebration.

Visitors enjoyed 3 exciting new exhibits, food trucks, live music, guest speakers, a specially crafted 150th cocktail and more!

Please stay tuned for many more exciting events, programs, festivals and interactive experiences over the following 150 days.

The museum is located at 100 E Main Street.

Justice For All Ventura County Awards Essay Finalists

Justice For all Ventura County was proud to offer an inaugural Young Activists Essay contest this spring, handing out three awards totaling \$600 at Ventura High School's graduation ceremony on Monday, June 5, 2023. The contest was open to all Ventura High School and Fillmore High School seniors. The three winners personified activism, volunteerism and community service.

Ava H. was awarded first place for her efforts in environmental justice. Abigail B, who received second place, wrote passionately about the need for immigration

reform. Brooke R, was awarded the third place prize. She focused her essay on her volunteer work on behalf of the Key



The three winners personified activism.

Club's sponsored charity, the Pediatric Trauma Program.

Abigail's summarization of her motivation, "By actively supporting efforts to create a more just and equitable immigration system, I hope to contribute to a more compassionate, inclusive, and equitable society," perfectly embodies the spirit of Justice For All Ventura County.

The mission of Justice For All Ventura County is to motivate, educate, connect, and mobilize people to actively engage in their government and future in support of social justice. <https://justiceforallvc.org/>

This season has an exciting lineup Continued from page 23

started with a program that includes Verdi's Nabucco Overture, plus music by Brahms and Ravel's popular, passionate Bolero. The weekend of July 14-15 will feature the chamber music performers, and an orchestral concert featuring Rimsky-Korsakov's Spanish infused Capriccio Espagnol, Grieg's Pyr Gynt Suite and Sibelius's emotional, majestic Finlandia.

The final weekend will feature the 13th annual Violin & Viola Competition in which area string players compete for the annual concerto competition's \$2000 top prize. Noted violinists Mark Kashper (LA Philharmonic) and Melissa Phelps (who has appeared with artists including Itzhak Perlman, Yo-Yo Ma, Andrea Bocelli, and Diana Ross) serve as guest judges.

This year's talented finalists are Kyler Chu (Camarillo), Carlos Ozuna (Ventura College), and Leonora Vukovitz (Thousand Oaks), performing Saturday July 22 and Karl Baumgartner (West Ranch High School), Beatrice Jiang (Westlake High School), and Skyler Lee (Newbury Park High School), performing on Sunday July 23. All performances in the final round will be accompanied by the full Schwab Academy Orchestra.

Academy Music Director and conductor Ashley Walters encourages the Ventura community to come enjoy these concerts and support the community's home-grown talent, "We're only in our third year on the ground, and I already see Schwab Academy becoming one of the top music festivals of the west coast."

To Leslie Continued from page 23

a good job cleaning, which frustrated Sweeney. She asked for a pay advance and ended up getting drunk, then broke into the home where she used to live with her son and scared the family that was living there. They called Sweeney who brought her back to the motel, but decided that was enough and planned to fire her in the morning.

Leslie knew she screwed up and pleaded with Sweeney for a second chance, which he did decide to give her. She also gave up drinking, cold turkey, and Sweeney was there to help her through it having dealt with an alcoholic wife in the past. With Sweeney's help she completely turned her life around and asked Sweeney to help her with her lifelong dream and turn the old ice shop into a diner, but would the town turn their back on her or also give her another chance.

Rated: R
Runtime: 1h 59m



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Youth Activities at the YMCA

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