

Have a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season!



VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

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Ventura Police Community Academy open for applications

The Ventura Police Department is now accepting applications for the annual Community Academy open to Ventura residents and business owners. The academy can accommodate 30 participants, and the application deadline is Sunday, December 31, 2023.

The Community Academy is part of the Department's ongoing efforts to strengthen community partnerships and increase transparency. This free program will take participants on a patrol ride-along, provide interactive training, showcase hands-on activities that provide an inside look at local policing, and much more. Each night features a new topic with different speakers, demonstrations, and discussions.

"My time spent in the VPD Community Academy classes was informative, educational, and highly enjoyable," said Charles Clark, a 32-year Ventura resident and 2023 Community Academy graduate. "During my ride along, I saw many examples of quality officer training and community policing in action. Completing this program was a rewarding and eye-opening experience that every resident should consider. We truly have the best of the best at VPD, and I was able to see that first hand."

The Community Academy is set to begin on March 6, 2024, and will be held on 10 consecutive Wednesday nights from 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m., with a final class and graduation on May 8, 2024. Eight classes will be held at the Ventura Police Department, with the sessions on March 27 and April 10, hosted at the Ventura County Criminal Justice Training Center and the Ventura County Jail.

Continued on page 3

Big boats, little boats, fat boats, skinny boats, row boats, sail boats, pleasure boats and fishing boats

by Patricia Schallert

There are boats, and then there are the fishing boats in the Ventura Harbor that can't be missed when strolling along the promenade in the Harbor Village. Ventura as a coastal town has a bustling squid industry that has long been a cornerstone of the Ventura economic and cultural community.

With its prime location along the central coast of California, Ventura has become a hub for squid fishing. The harbor continues to be the premier landing port for the California squid

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Ventura has become a hub for squid fishing.

The funds were announced to cheers from Rubicon's opening night audience



Ventura County Supervisor Matt LaVere, Ventura City Councilmember and Rubicon Board President Doug Halter, State Senator Monique Limón, Rubicon Co-Founder and Artistic Director Karyl Lynn Burns and State Assemblymember Steve Bennett with a big check. Photo by Lauren Haar.

On Saturday, December 9, California State Senator Monique Limón and Assemblymember Steve Bennett presented a check for \$1.5 million to Rubicon Theatre Company.

"The arts are an essential part of our lives," said Senator Limón, "and Rubicon Theatre has been dedicated to providing access to the performing arts and educational opportunities in Ventura County for 25 years."

"I've had the pleasure of being a season ticket holder to the Rubicon Theatre for nearly two decades," said Assemblymember Bennett. "The contributions the theatre makes to our community are enormous, and this investment will allow the Rubicon to expand their impact."

"This gift is the most significant in Rubicon's history, and we could never fully express our gratitude to Senator Monique Limón, Assemblymember Steve Bennett, Governor Newsom and the State of California," says Rubicon Co-Founder and Producing

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Happy Holidays
from the
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VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

Member, Ventura Chamber of Commerce

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If you've been
naughty, it's
time to be nice,
as Santa Claus
will be here
shortly.
— Santa

City News



Pier Into the Future has successfully raised over \$1.5 million over the years.

City of Ventura receives \$40,000 donation from Pier Into the Future

The City of Ventura is thrilled to announce a significant milestone in the restoration efforts of the Historic Ventura Pier. Pier Into the Future, a local nonprofit organization committed to the preservation of this coastal landmark, has generously awarded a \$40,000 donation to the city to support some of the much-needed repairs at the City Council Meeting on Monday, December 4.

"Once the longest wooden pier in California, the Historic Ventura Pier is a cherished symbol of our community's rich history. Despite recent challeng-

es, we're committed to ensuring its enjoyment for generations," Mayor Joe Schroeder remarked. "This donation will help address infrastructure needs, enhance safety, and preserve its historical significance."

Since its closure to the public in January 2023 due to safety concerns, ongoing maintenance and emergency repairs have been in progress. These include planned critical corrosion repairs to the steel framing and structure of the pier, with an anticipated reopening in spring 2024.

"This funding will assist in repairing

As I See It by Sheldon Brown

Glad to see that Downtown Ventura's Limón y Sal restaurant has opened after a brief closure.

Speaker of the House, Mike Johnson recently said: "Someone asked me today in the media, 'People are curious, what does Mike Johnson think about any issue under the sun?' I said, 'Well, go pick up a Bible off your shelf and read it. That's my worldview."

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

The First Amendment.

"They want to call you a dictator," Hannity said referring to the media reports. "To be clear, do you in any way have any plans whatsoever, if reelected president, to abuse power, to break the law, to use the government to go after people?" "You mean like they're using right now," Trump initially responded, before pivoting to speaking about the criminal indictments he faces.

Hannity again revisited the question just before a commercial break, asking: "Under no circumstances — you are promising America tonight. You would never abuse power as retribution against anybody?"

"Except for day one," Trump responded.

That's what Mussolini said (you youngsters can look him up).

Two vigils are planned this month to remember the 126 homeless Ventura County residents who died during the past year. Called the Longest Night memorial service, the Ventura vigil is scheduled in downtown Ventura at 3:30 p.m. on Dec. 16 at Plaza Park, 651 E. Thompson Blvd. Friends and family members are encouraged to display photos and other items

to honor people they lost between Dec. 1, 2022, and Nov. 30 of this year.

The event also coincides with the start of the city's foul weather program. The initiative puts the local homeless population in hotel and motel rooms when temperatures drop below 40 degrees or when projected rainfall exceeds a half inch.

Many of the homeless are also mentally ill and have nowhere to stay which is why the following is so important. There is a huge lack of facilities for the mentally ill. Especially for those that are too ill to understand and accept help.

A Ventura County board agreed to continue blocking Vista Del Mar hospital from admitting involuntary patients but is considering the authorization to be reinstated.

Voting unanimously, the Board of Supervisors approved the extension for Vista del Mar Hospital to give county officials time to evaluate whether the Ventura hospital has made sufficient progress in correcting serious deficiencies in patient care.

Vista del Mar remains licensed and can still admit voluntary patients but not those that are involuntary.

The hospital's authorization was suspended two months ago. A 43-bed unit at Ventura County Medical Center is now the only facility where patients can be treated involuntarily in the county.

The U.S. has broken its previous record for most mass shootings in single year. The country has had 38 mass shootings (in which at least 203 people have died) so far this year, passing the previous high of 36.

An ad for a washer-dryer manufacturer explains how they made school so much better for students by installing washer-dryers in schools. I always wondered what kids kept in their backpacks - now I know, it's dirty clothes.

"How did you do this semester?"



the damage caused by winter storms to our iconic pier," stated Ronda Holden, President of Pier Into the Future. "Ensuring the pier's ongoing contribution to our community is essential. Our aim is to safeguard this iconic structure and its integral role in shaping Ventura's character."

Originally constructed in 1872, the Ventura Pier has a broad history with contributions to agricultural, construction, and oil trades and is the oldest wooden pier in the state. A cornerstone for commerce and tourism, the pier features appearances in films, art, and photography, highlighting its significance to Ventura's character.

Founded in 1993 by a dedicated group of community leaders, Pier Into the Future has successfully raised over \$1.5 million in endowment funds and enhancements to protect and preserve our Historic Ventura Pier. The funds help assist comprehensive repair and maintenance plans, covering structural improvements, corrosion prevention measures, and necessary aesthetic enhancements to maintain the pier's unique charm.

Learn more about current repair projects, funding information, and construction schedules at www.cityofventura.ca.gov/VenturaPier.

"Great, I got an A in clean clothes."

Ten Wisconsin Republicans who posed as electors for Donald Trump in 2020 - despite the former president's election loss - have acknowledged their actions were part of an attempt to overturn an election. If this doesn't worry you, you just don't get it.

A Texas judge had granted an emergency order allowing a pregnant woman whose fetus has a fatal diagnosis to get an abortion in the state. Late last month, Kate Cox, a 31-year-old Dallas-area mother of two who is about 20 weeks pregnant, found out that her developing fetus has trisomy 18, a rare chromosomal disorder likely to cause stillbirth or the death of the baby shortly after it's born. Then, the Texas Supreme Court temporarily blocked the historic lower court ruling on Friday. The state's attorney general asked the high court to reverse the judge's decision.

The Texas Supreme Court has paused a judge's decision to temporarily block the state from enforcing its strict abortion ban in the case of a woman who is seeking to terminate a pregnancy in which her fetus has a fatal diagnosis. How sad this is.

Even more sad Kate Cox has left the state after the Texas Supreme Court paused the decision that would allow her to have the procedure, lawyers for the Center for Reproductive Rights stated.

"With our client's life on the line, the State of Texas is playing despicable political games. This fight is not over," stated the Center for Reproductive Rights, which is representing Cox.

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



Community members invited to donate supplies for City of Ventura's Foul Weather Shelter

The City of Ventura is gearing up to support its most vulnerable residents through its annual Foul Weather Shelter Program, which provides temporary shelter and essential stay-warm packs during harsh weather circumstances, including severe rain, wind, or low temperatures.

Last season's Foul Weather Shelter Program stood as a beacon of aid, being activated 25 times over a span of 45 nights. It successfully assisted over 250 individuals and families, serving more than 3,000 meals and distributing 150 stay warm packs.

Leona Rollins, the Housing Services Manager, emphasized the importance of community collaboration, stating "Ventura thrives on an active network of local social service providers and non-profits working collectively to cater to the needs of our most vulnerable population. This program stands as a crucial need, especially during these challenging times."

The City invites contributions from

the community to assemble warm packs for individuals unable to secure motel rooms during severe weather events. Essential donations include rain ponchos, blankets, jackets, hand-warmers, socks, toiletries, soft snacks, tarps, and carrying bags for items.

Community members can actively participate in this effort through various means:

Volunteer Sign-Up: Offer your time on evenings when the shelter is activated. Sign up online at Foul Weather Shelter Program.

Amazon Wishlist: Purchase and donate needed items through our Amazon Wishlist. All supplies will be directly shipped to the River Community Church. Visit <https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/2I46R6HC9NQ07> to contribute.

In-Person Donations: Bring materials to the River Community Church at 859 E. Santa Clara Street.

Monetary Contributions: Send donations by mail (checks labeled "Foul Weather") to 859 E. Santa Clara Street, Ventura, CA, 93001.

The Foul Weather Shelter Program is set to run through March 31, 2024. It will be activated when temperatures drop below 40 degrees and if there's a prediction of 1/2 inch of rain or more.

To volunteer, donate through the Amazon Wishlist or learn more about the Foul Weather Shelter program visit the City's website at www.CityofVentura.ca.gov/FoulWeatherShelter or contact Leona Rollins, Housing Services Manager, at lrollins@cityofventura.ca.gov.



The academy can accommodate 30 participants.

Next Ventura Police Academy Continued from page 1

To be eligible for the Ventura Police Community Academy, applicants must:

Be a minimum of 18 years old

Live or own a business in the City of Ventura

Pass a criminal background check with no misdemeanor convictions in the past two years and no felony convictions

Participate in an in-person interview process

Commit to attending all sessions

Interviews are expected to occur in late January and those accepted will be notified in February.

To learn more or apply for the 2024 Ventura Police Community Academy, visit CityofVentura.ca.gov/CommunityAcademy.

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Business Profile



The Ventura Chamber held a ribbon cutting at Ambitious Beauty on December 9.

Local entrepreneur transforms passion into thriving beauty business



In 2019, Kimberly Ramos embarked on a journey that transformed her passion into a successful beauty business. Initially working a 9-5 job, Kimberly's pivotal moment occurred during a trip to Mexico, where a less experienced beautician sparked her interest in nail art. Inspired, she began practicing on herself, later extending her skills to friends and family.

Frustration with her corporate job reached a tipping point, leading Kimberly to resign and take a leap of faith. Armed with determination, she initiated her beauty venture with a humble cardboard box as a makeshift table, leveraging social media for marketing. Soon after, she caught the attention of a local business, securing her first professional opportunity. Following that success, Kimberly

dedicated time to honing her skills, earning her licenses and certifications.

Kimberly specializes in lash extensions, facials, and body contouring, utilizing a noninvasive slim massage method to eliminate stubborn fat and tone the body without resorting to surgery or downtime. Beyond her clientele, Kimberly is dedicated to empowering other women by imparting the artistry of lash extensions, body sculpting, and nails through her teaching initiatives.

Amidst her busy schedule, Kimberly finds solace in taking long walks on the beach with her faithful companions, Kobe and Canela. Her story serves as an inspiring testament to the possibilities that unfold when passion meets determination in the pursuit of one's dreams.

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Shop early, save money, stress less this Holiday! Get \$7 off any holiday meal or \$7 off any bone-in half ham when you prepay and pick up in-store on dates valid for your location with Gold Pickup Day coupons. Not valid on shipped orders. These coupons may not be combined with other offers nor applied to the purchase of any item other than the item specified on the coupon.

THE HONEY BAKED Ham^{co}

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Scan QR Code In-Store



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THE HONEY BAKED Ham^{co}

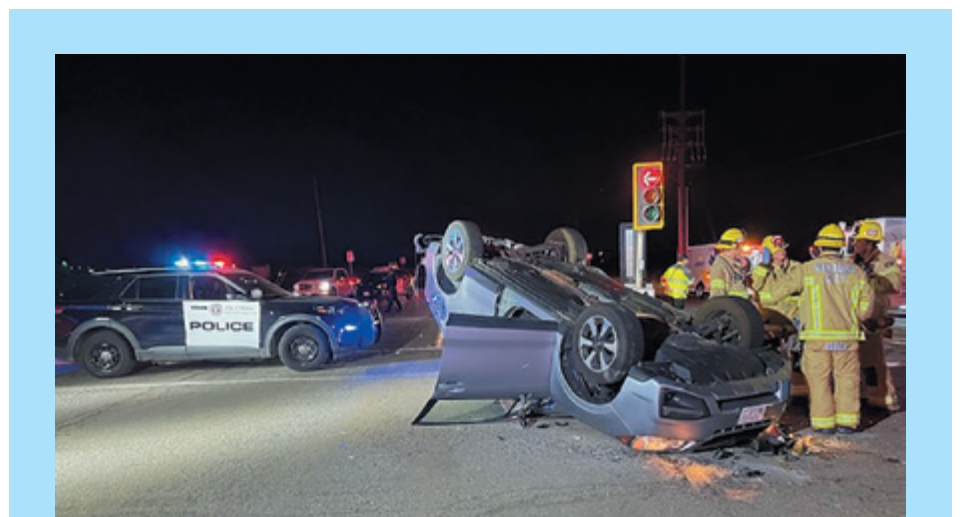
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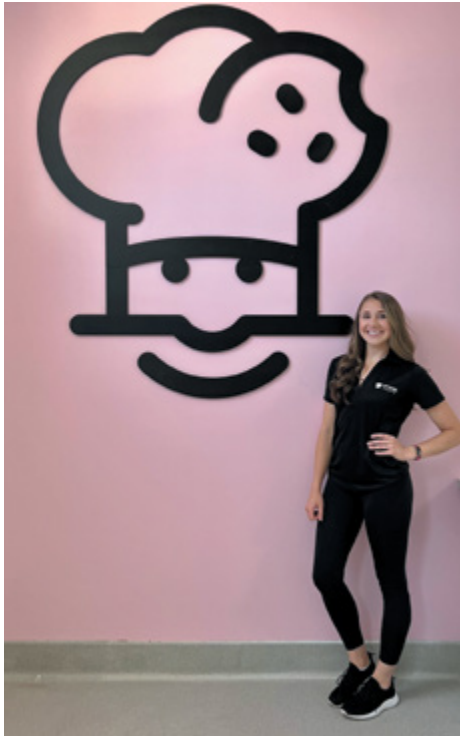
...EST. 1957... THE HONEY BAKED Ham^{co}



On December 1, the Ventura County Fire Communication Center received multiple calls regarding a traffic collision. Ventura Police units quickly arrived on scene and determined a person was trapped in the vehicle. Fire personnel arrived within minutes of the initial call and found a single passenger trapped in a vehicle with major damage. The vehicle was stabilized, and extrication was deployed to remove the victim and transport the victim to the Emergency Room via ambulance. The cause of the incident remains under investigation and the Ventura City Fire Department would like to remind the public that seatbelts save lives.



Business Profile



1708-C S Victoria Ave
Ventura, CA 93003
805-666-2233
Ca.ventura@crumbl.com
Crumbl Oxnard
365 W Esplanade Dr
Oxnard, CA 93036
805-307-0060
Caoxnard@crumbl.com
Monday-Thursday 8am-10pm
Friday & Saturday 8am-12am
Sundays closed



Zins has taken her love and passion for baking and turned it into a career.

Crumbl Cookies opens in Ventura

Crumbl Cookies, a gourmet cookie store, has been serving Oxnard since 2022 and is now open in Ventura! With their iconic pink boxes and unique rotating menu, Crumbl is sure to have a flavor for everyone.

Local Crumbl franchise owner and operator Michelle Zins has taken her love and passion for baking and turned it into a career. Michelle, who is originally from Camarillo, left for Arizona to pursue a Bachelor's Degree in Hotel and Restaurant Management at Northern Arizona University in 2013. After working many jobs in the hospitality field, from 5-diamond resorts to the conference and wedding industry, Michelle found that her passion lies in the restaurant business. During the pandemic, Michelle was furloughed from her job and ended up relocating back to her hometown of Ventura County. The one place she missed the most after moving back to California was Crumbl Cookies. Since there was not a Crumbl Cookies location within a 50-mile radius, Michelle knew that Crumbl was just what Ventura County needed! She is now the franchise owner of both the Oxnard and Ventura locations and has loved serving up fresh cookies to the community over the past few years. Crumbl Cookies is a locally owned and operated gourmet cookie shop. It was founded in 2017 by two cousins. After developing a recipe for the perfect chocolate chip cookie, they opened their first location in Logan, Utah. As Crumbl continued to grow, they expanded their menu to include new flavors. They eventually began franchising their stores and now have over 800 stores nationwide! Crumbl specializes in weekly rotating cookie flavors that vary from raspberry cheesecake and Oreo crumb cake to lemon poppy and much more! Their award-winning chocolate chip cookies are always on the menu, along with an additional 5 flavors to make sure to satisfy any sweet tooth. Planning a holiday party, baby shower or wedding? Crumbl also offers catering in both regular sized and mini cookies! We offer in-store ordering, curbside, and delivery! Order on the Crumbl app or at www.crumblcookies.com today! Visit us!

Crumbl Ventura

Nearly a thousand people gathered to revel in the festivities.

Mission Church's Christmas Party Extravaganza Illuminates Hearts and Sparks Holiday Giving

On December 1, as festivities adorned Downtown Ventura with the annual tree lighting event, an enchanting celebration unfolded on the opposite side of town – Mission Church's Christmas Party Extravaganza! This heartwarming spectacle left hearts aglow amid the magic of the season.

Nearly a thousand people gathered to revel in the festivities, surrounded by bounce houses, face painting, (temporary) tattoos, popcorn, hot cocoa, cotton candy, giveaways, Christmas candy, and the joyous sight of Santa posing for pictures under snow falls. Adding to the festive ambiance, the classic Elf movie played in the parking lot amidst laughter and cheer.

Beyond the glitz, Mission Church had a deeper mission at heart. The event served as a beacon for a noble cause – the collection of new toys for the Holiday Toy Store, offering hope to foster families in our county during the Holiday season.

In collaboration with James Storehouse, Mission Church is on a heartfelt mission to gather new toys for the Holiday Toy Store. This unique store provides a free holiday shopping experience for families affiliated with Children and Family Services in the County. The grand finale will be hosted at Mission Church, turning the lobby into a haven for caregivers to shop for the Christmas wishes of the children under their care in a joyous and dignified manner on December 15 and 16.



TASTE WEEKLY

CRUMBL — VENTURA

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Holiday Cruises
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Harbor Lights Cruises

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Dec. 14, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, & 23
6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
Adults \$ 20, Seniors (55+) \$ 18, Children \$ 14 (12 and under)

Photo by Dan Harding

Watch the Boat Parade *Parade of Lights*

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Dec. 16 6:00 to 8:30 p.m.
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Children \$ 28 (12 and under)

Photo by Dan Harding

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At the center of it all is the Zoppé family.

Zoppé: An Italian Family Circus Transports Ventura Families to Venice with Carnevale di Venezia

The Ventura County Fairgrounds is set to be transformed into a spectacle of wonder and awe as Zoppé: An Italian Family Circus brings Carnevale di Venezia to life from December 15-January 1, 2024. The entire family will travel on an exquisite journey through time, delving deep into intrigue, extravagance and celebration of life and art that is the essence of Venetian Carnevale. Co-produced by Luca Colferi, esteemed director of Campagnie de Calza—one of the world's oldest theater companies hailing from Venice—this show promises an

unparalleled experience of wonder, artistry and family-friendly entertainment. Zoppé Family Circus brings the spirit of Venice to life with meticulously crafted costumes and masks handmade in the heart of the city. Traditional Venetian music sets the stage for a 500-year-old commedia preshow that takes place in front of the Big Top, offering a glimpse into the rich cultural tapestry of this historic carnival. At the conclusion of the commedia preshow, guests are immersed in Carnevale as they walk across a bridge and through the Zoppe passport office, getting

their Zoppe passport stamped for Venice. Performances large and small captivate audiences with incredible human talent. The Zoppé Acrobatic Troupe performs on the Chinese Poles, a staggering demonstration of strength and balance where acrobats climb and jump between tall poles. Canine capers bring humor, jugglers display dexterity and timing, and two majestic horses thunder around the ring, ultimately joining the dogs for a unique horse and dog act. Performers hail from around the world, including a dynamic acrobatic limbo and dance act from Kenya and a touching father-daughter act from Mexico.

At the center of it all is the Zoppé family, with Giovanni Zoppé performing with his son and a special audience member, and his daughters wowing audiences with their aerial lyra artistry. The evening culminates in a dance procession to old world music that brings a feeling of nostalgia for simpler times. Representing 7 generations of circus artists, the Zoppé family invites you into their Big Top home to experience the true meaning of circus—family, support and community.

While in Ventura, the Zoppe Family Circus will host two special events: Circus Camp and a New Year's Eve Under the Big Top. Circus Camp teaches the circus arts to children right in the ring, and more importantly teaches the art of self confidence. Camp takes place December 26-29 for children from 7-15 years old and culminates in a family show the final hour of camp.

New Year's Eve Under the Big Top is the perfect family tradition with the entertaining Carnevale di Venezia performance plus party favors and a countdown to a balloon drop at the finale of the show. The whole family can ring in the New Year together early!



The Museum of Ventura County is excited to present a new exhibit, "Winter," featuring figures from the popular George Stuart Historical Figures® Collection. The exhibit includes miniature depictions of life through six cultures from around the world and throughout time including Russia, Norse Scandinavia, Qing Dynasty China, Winter at Valley Forge, Victorian England, and the native Chumash and examines the rich history of their winter symbols, customs, and celebrations. Each of the figures in this exhibit demonstrates the comprehensive historical research and artistic details essential to their creation.

Elena Brokaw, The Barbara Barnard Smith Executive Director, "We are fortunate and grateful to be surrounded by such talented artists."

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Photos by Patricia Schallert.

Big boats, little boats, fat boats
Continued from page 1
market.

An interesting fact is that there are a total of 64 Squid Seiner Permits issued for all of California. Ventura Harbor Marina can accommodate 54 Squid Seiner Vessels at any given time. (“Seiner fishing is a method of fishing that uses a surrounding net, that hangs vertically in the water with its bottom edge held down with weights and top edge buoyed by floats.”) It has also been called “dragnet fishing”.

In 2022, the squid catch in Ventura was roughly 36,164,420 pounds or 19582.21 short tons. “680 tons of squid were brought into the Ventura Harbor during the last three weeks.” Captain Vic from Pillar Bay stated.

There is no other single marina on the west coast south of Alaska that can accommodate as many seiners fishing boats at one time as Ventura Harbor. It is currently a permanent home to 44 squid seiners with a total of 103 wet slips and 88 dry storage spaces.

Fishermen are attracted to the Ventura coast from as far away as Alaska and Nova Scotia in pursuit of the squid delicacy. These fishermen are equipped with specialized boats and fishing gear as they venture into the water searching for the elusive squid. (Scientific name: cephalopod).

Using powerful lights to attract squid to the surface, the fisherman carefully lower their nets and with precise movements, they haul in their catch, being careful not to damage the delicate squid.

Their expertise in handling these creatures ensures that the squid are brought aboard unharmed and of the highest quality. Once the squid are safely on board, the boats return to the harbor, where the hustle of the squid industry comes to life.

The industry has become a way of life, woven into the fabric of Ventura’s identity with residents, restaurateurs, and our many visitors.

In California, the Fish and Game Commission works with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to actively manage the fishing guidelines and to ensure there is not overfishing or environmental impacts to the ocean.

There are seasonal catch limits, and programs that are designed to evaluate the impact of the fishing on ocean resources. Time and season closure, including weekend closure provides period of uninterrupted spawning, along with limitations on using lights to attract squid around several of the Channel Islands to protect nesting seabirds.

In 2022, commercial landings of market squid totaled 147 million pounds and were valued at \$88 million, according to the NOAA Fisheries.

2022, 36,164,420 lbs. 18,082 tons
28% of CA total catch

CA catch roughly spread across:
Northern CA/Monterey, Ventura, Port Hueneme, San Pedro.

Packaging plants located in Oxnard, Port Hueneme and Wilmington, near the Long Beach harbor play a crucial role in the squid industry. These plants ensure that the squid is processed and packaged efficiently for distribution to consumers worldwide. Cleaned squid is sorted based on weight and size before being cooked or frozen, depending on market demands. Quick freezing techniques are used to maintain freshness during transportation.

These packing plants also contribute significantly towards sustainability efforts by minimizing waste through responsible disposal practices.

After being packaged, squid products have various destination depending on the market. One common route are the overseas markets where the packaged squid is exported to different countries around the world. Both Japan and China high demands for California squid, caught along the Ventura coast is significant as they import large quantities of squid due to their domestic consumption needs.

The cost of packaged squid being returned to the United States can vary depending on quality, weight, distance traveled, shipping methods and applicable fees or taxes. Furthermore, there may be import duties or custom fees imposed by the US authorities. The proximity of the West coast of the United States to these Asian markets makes it convenient to export and import California squid also known as “Calamari”.



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The California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE) program is funded by California utility customers and administered by SoCalGas under the auspices of the California Public Utilities Commission. N23E231A



Before.



After.

River Haven is now gone forever

The City of Ventura and Turning Point Foundation decided to close the River Haven Transitional Housing Program on Oct 1, 2023. Turning Point Foundation managed this transitional housing program for over 17 years.

River Haven allowed clients to stay for 24 months while working on a transition to permanent housing,

River Haven was located on Harbor Blvd. near Spinnaker Dr. A curved dirt road led to the site which made passage very difficult after heavy rains.

The community was funded partly by the city of Ventura and Turning Point Foundation's donors.

The city provided Turning Point with financial support to hire and retain a case manager and operating costs using federal Community Development Block Grant funding and Measure O dollars.

Ventura provided \$25,000-\$30,000 in grants and \$40,000-\$60,000 from Measure O to River Haven.. Measure O, passed by voters in 2016, authorized a half-cent tax sales to help pay for infrastructure repairs and city services.

River Haven residents paid about \$300 a month.

There is, or will be soon, other permanent supportive housing as a former hotel is being converted into housing for the homeless.

River Haven started during the El Nino in 2006. Clients/residents of River Haven received case management services that followed up with service plan goals and their well-being to promote and create action plans for clients that helped them to become more successful and to maintain service connections obtained.

Through support and housing both Turning Point Foundation and River Haven have given people the opportunity and the tools to start truly living happier and healthier lives.

All of River Haven residents were provided with mental health services, physical health services, addiction services, career assistance, income assistance, and medical assistance. Important life skills such as opening bank accounts, learning about budgeting, and learning how to live as part of a community to the River Haven residents.

Turning Point will continue its commitment to providing quality housing,

mental health, and wellness services to this population in the City of Ventura and countywide through their variety of other program.

To learn more about the programs and services Turning Point offers please visit turningpointfoundation.org.



Flores attributed his success to his hometown Ventura.

Ventura celebrates as local fighter Zachary Flores claims National Muay Thai Championship

Ventura rings in the cheer with a stellar victory by local fighter and city's pride - Zachary Flores. Fighting under the Ventura-based Pu'u Muay Thai Academy.

Flores has rightfully claimed his National Muay Thai Championship

Title in the 165 lbs. weight division at the prestigious US Muay Thai Open Fall National Tournament 2023.

The event took place from December 1st through December 3rd at the acclaimed Embassy Suites by Hilton in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Guiding him into glory was Kru Edward Gonzalez, the Chief Instructor of Pu'u Muay Thai Ventura.

Displaying extraordinary valor and skill, Flores battled the hardest seed in the bracket over three grueling days and against stiff competition in a sport defined by weight classes.

Speaking of his struggles and triumphs, Flores attributed his success to his hometown, "When it came to fighting, I wasn't aware of many fighters from Ventura, and I always wanted to stay put.

So, I worked hard to ensure Ventura had another fighter representing the city. I am that guy, and I'm committed to represent Pu'u Muay Thai and the City of Ventura for as long as I can fight. I am living proof that Ventura can produce fighters as good as any other larger city."

The journey wasn't without its trials. His second-round opponent had the luxury of a "buy" in the first round, leading to Flores being knocked down in the second round. However, Flores turned the tables by knocking down his adversary with knee strikes in the third round, securing a crucial victory.

Flores demonstrated his mettle once more in the final bout, facing another competitor with a "buy".

In reflection, Kru Edward Gonzalez proudly commented on Zach's performance, "Zach stuck to the game plan, demonstrating positivity and belief that helped overcome any challenge. Given that he had the hardest road in his bracket, where all his opponents got a buy and were fresh, his gold is a real testament of his willpower."

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On November 30, at 10:49am, fire units were dispatched to a reported explosion inside of a residence at Ventura Avenue and Dakota Dr. Firefighters arrived within 7 minutes of dispatch and found a 2 story/multi-family home that had sustained an explosion with resulting damage to the kitchen area and multiple windows. Firefighters investigated the involved unit to ensure there was no remaining fire by using thermal imaging cameras, then confirmed utilities were shut off to the residence. An adult was inside the home at the time of the explosion, but thankfully was not hurt. The cause of the explosion was found to be pest control foggers in use, too close to a water heater. Ventura Building and Safety was requested to ensure the safety of the surrounding units and residents.

The Ventura Fire Department would like to make all citizens aware of the flammable and explosive nature of these pest control foggers and remind them to remain diligent when they are in use.



Partners celebrated at the Channel Islands National Park visitor center.

Celebrating the delisting of two island plant species on the Channel Islands

Partners from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, U.S. Geological Survey, The Nature Conservancy, California, Santa Barbara Botanic Garden, and Naval Base Ventura County came together to celebrate the delisting of two island plant species on the Channel Islands due to committed, collaborative conservation efforts of many.

At a celebration at the Channel Islands National Park visitor center in Ventura, Kaylee Allen, senior advisor for resources with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Pacific Southwest Region said, "Today's celebration is the culmination of decades of work to restore the health of the Channel Islands natural landscape. The delisting of the Santa Cruz Island dudleya and Island bedstraw, two plants known only to exist on Santa Cruz Island and San Miguel Islands, comes as we also celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Endangered Species Act. This landmark legislation has helped prevent the extinction of 99 percent of the species under its protection and has provided the mechanism for agencies, organizations and individuals to forge a path towards recovery of more than 100 species so far. The accomplishment being recognized here today is the culmination of everyone's collective passion, partnership and problem-solving skills, and I am very proud of what has been achieved."

Island bedstraw (*Galium buxifolium*) is a long-lived woody shrub with small flowers that lives on coastal bluffs, steep rocky slopes, sea-cliffs, and occasionally pine forests, of Santa Cruz and San Miguel Islands. At the time of listing, population estimates were in the hundreds. Helicopter surveys from 2017 estimate more than 15,000 individual plants now occur on the islands. San Miguel Island is owned by the U.S. Navy and managed by the National Park Service.

The Santa Cruz Island Dudleya (*Dudleya nesiotica*) is a flowering succulent perennial that lives on the marine terraces of Santa Cruz Island. Scientists say after its initial recovery the population has remained relatively stable over the last 25 years, with current estimates around 120,000 individuals.

Santa Cruz Island is collaboratively managed by The Nature Conservancy and Channel Islands National Park as a single biological unit.

Established in 1987, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Ventura field office works to conserve and protect threatened and endangered fish, wildlife and plants across the southern and central California coast, collaborating with communities and conservation partners to build a future that supports both people and our unique and diverse natural landscapes. To stay up-to-date on the conservation work of our staff like us on Facebook.



The annual Holiday Tree Lighting returned to Downtown Ventura on Friday, December 1.

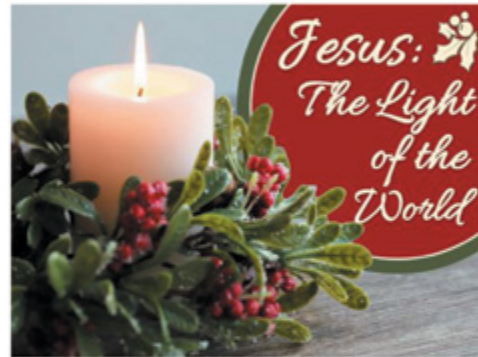
The festive night included: Choir performances, Visit from Santa, Snow in Downtown and Holiday Tree Lighting.

Photo by Patricia Schallert.



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Christmas Eve Candlelight

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Senior Living



Tai Chi can help prevent falls.

Fall prevention classes resume in January

Sign-ups are now available for a new series of Fall Prevention classes that will begin in January. These award-winning classes are put on by the Ventura County Elderly Fall Prevention Coalition and the Ventura County Area Agency on Aging, a division of the Human Services Agency.

Four classes, with 12 sessions to choose from, will be offered in five Ventura County cities. The January offerings include:

Bingocize (Fillmore Active Adult Center)

A Matter of Balance (Simi Valley Senior Center, VCAAA office in Ventura)

Tai Chi: Moving for Better Balance (HELP of Ojai, Oxnard Public Library, County of Ventura California Room in Ventura, Community Presbyterian Church in Ventura, Ventura Church of Christ, Buenaventura Mobile Home Estates in Ventura)

Walk With Ease (Fillmore Active Adult Center)

Adults that are 60 or older that are concerned about falls, have recently experienced a fall, or who are just interested in improving balance, flexibility, and strength, are encouraged to participate. Nationally recognized research shows that one in four adults over the age of 65, and half of the population over the age of 75, fall each year. One out of every five falls results in a serious injury, and about three million older people are treated at emergency departments for fall injuries each year.

Bingocize is an evidence-based health education program that incorporates exercise, nutrition, and fall prevention within the popular game of bingo. Participants will have fun and meet new

people while learning about techniques to reduce falls and increase cognition. Bingocize — which can be done seated or standing — is a 10-week program that is exercise for your body, mind, and spirit.

A Matter of Balance is designed for people who are inactive with poor balance, who have fallen, and who may have developed a fear of falling. Participants should expect to begin an easy-to-do regimen to improve balance, strength, flexibility and self-confidence. This class is held once a week for eight weeks and includes chair-based exercises.

Tai Chi: Moving for Better Balance is an exercise program developed especially for older adults using modified practices designed to improve and strengthen balance and mobility. Classes are intended for beginners. Canes and walkers are welcome. This class has been proven to reduce falls by 55 percent.

Walk With Ease is an exercise program that can reduce pain and improve overall health. This is a six-week program developed by the Arthritis Foundation that helps participants create a customized walking plan to stay motivated, manage pain, and exercise safely to stay strong, boost energy, and control weight. Participants walk together three times a week, starting slow and building up to walking for a total of 30 minutes.

For more information about the Fall Prevention Program, call (805) 477-7300 (option 6), or visit vcaaa.org/falls.

The Ventura County Area Agency on Aging, a division of the County of Ventura's Human Services Agency, is charged with the responsibility to promote the development and imple-

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mentation of a comprehensive coordinated system of care that enables older individuals, children and adults with disabilities, and their caregivers to live in a community-based setting. The VCAAA advocates for the needs of those 60 years and older in the county, providing leadership and promoting citizen involvement in the planning process as well as in the delivery of services.

Daily low-dose aspirin has little impact on stroke risk and spikes risk of brain bleeding from falls

Low-dose daily aspirin does not provide significant protection against stroke resulting from blood clots and may increase risk of bleeding in the brain or skull after head trauma, according to an NIA-funded study. The findings, published in JAMA Network Open, provide new evidence countering past conventional wisdom recommending a daily low-dose or baby aspirin for healthy older adults.

In this study, an international team led by Australian researchers analyzed data from the ASPirin in Reducing Events in the Elderly (ASPREE) trial. ASPREE includes about 19,000 healthy older adult volunteers from Australia and the United States who were randomly assigned to take a daily 100 milligram aspirin or a placebo

pill and were monitored for approximately five years.

The research team found no statistically significant difference in stroke incidence between those who took aspirin and those on the placebo. While a relatively small overall number of brain bleeds occurred in participants during the study period — 187 total, with 108 from the aspirin group and 79 from the placebo one — bleeding events were 38% higher among participants who were taking aspirin daily, regardless of their gender, age, or cardiovascular risk. Bleeding into the brain or onto its surface are common and serious results of fall-related head injuries in older adults. In this study, nearly half of these bleeding events were due to trauma.

In a related recent study, the ASPREE team also found that daily aspirin could increase anemia risk in older adults. In 2022, in part due to ASPREE findings, the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force updated its past recommendations to state that healthy adults age 60 or older should not start taking low-dose aspirin as a primary prevention strategy for cardiovascular disease. These recommendations do not apply to individuals taking aspirin for a known cardiovascular condition.

The ASPREE investigators view these recent results as further evidence that healthy older adults with no history of stroke or cardiovascular disease should talk with their doctors about the potential risks and benefits when considering taking aspirin daily. They further note that older adults who have had past strokes or are in higher risk groups for cardiovascular disease may still benefit from aspirin's blood thinning effects, so these individuals should also ask about the benefits of aspirin versus other drugs such as statins.

This research was supported in part by NIA grants AG029824 and AG062682.



Senior Living



Leslie and her students at Regency Palms Oxnard are getting in the active holiday spirit!

Make this an active holiday season

by Leslie Sokol

During the busy holiday season, there is so much to do and so many places to be – it can really feel like our days are more than a little crazy! However, it's important to keep our fitness goals on track during this time of year. We can all get lost in the chaos of shopping, attending parties and other fun social events. As hectic as this time of year can be, staying active is still well worth the time and effort. Exercise is about the closest we'll get to a "miracle drug" when it comes to boosting our mood and energy levels. Making time for exercise will ensure we don't wear ourselves out amidst the hustle and bustle.

You might feel overwhelmed during this time of year, which means you need to be organized and efficient with your workouts. Setting expectations too high can be challenging and could backfire. You need to be kind and patient with yourself and do your best to fit in a workout without making it overly stressful. Just thirty minutes a day can keep your body feeling good, your mind alert, and ward off some of those unwanted extra holiday pounds from all the sweets. Try and make your exercise routines joyful and festive (maybe try working out to some uplifting holiday music). Doing some form of exercise daily will keep you motivated and on the right path for being healthy and fit as you move into the New Year!

Healthy Active Tips:

1. Choose exercises and activities that you enjoy most.

2. Make your workouts convenient and easy to do.

3. Join a group dance and fitness class at your Retirement community or local community center.

4. Get a friend or family member to join you for a hike, walk or sightseeing adventure.

5. Enjoy some quality time with your grandchildren - play catch, ride a bike, take a nature walk, have a dance party, or enjoy a sports activity together.

6. If you're traveling and staying with family or at a hotel, find a spot in the house or hotel room where you can work out or try and see if there is a local gym or community center you can visit.

7. Go on a walk after each meal – try for a morning beach stroll or a hike around the neighborhood or on a nearby trail.

A common pitfall is the belief that health and fitness goals must all or nothing. Do not fall into the trap of believing you have failed if you don't stick to your game plan perfectly. When this happens, you may end up forgoing your goals altogether and then later regret your decision. A healthier mindset focuses on long term, sustainable health. This doesn't mean perfection - this means making adjustments as seasons and holidays come upon us.

Take a moment this holiday season to be mindful and reflect on all the accomplishments and tasks that you achieved this year. It is imperative to make time for self-care and self-love. Pamper yourself, be intensive, joyful and

have fun!

Have a healthy and happy holiday season!

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

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

Alzheimer's Disease

Scientists found both potentially new and previously discovered Alzheimer's disease genetic risk factors by analyzing the genomes of a relatively small group of people who were identified as being of Ashkenazi Jewish ancestry. The results from the NIA-funded study, published in *Alzheimer's & Dementia*, suggest that genomic studies of Ashkenazi Jewish people and other closely related "genetic founder" groups may help clarify the genetic basis for Alzheimer's.

People of Ashkenazi ancestry descend from a population of Jewish people who founded communities in Central and Eastern Europe during the Middle Ages. For many centuries, Ashkenazi Jewish communities in Europe were culturally isolated from non-Jewish Europeans, and as a result, the population is genetically distinct from non-Jewish Europeans. Due to this reduction in genetic variation, or "founder effect," several hereditary diseases and types of cancer are found predominantly or more frequently in people of Ashkenazi Jewish descent. In this study, the researchers hypothesized that Alzheimer's disease genetic risk factors may appear more frequently – and thus be easier to identify – than in broader, more genomically diverse European populations.

Led by scientists at Boston University, the researchers used genomic information about the Ashkenazi Jewish population to analyze data of three different large genomic and genetic Alzheimer's disease studies involving more than 80,000 participants of European descent. More than 6,500 individuals appeared to be of Ashkenazi Jewish descent. Approximately 2,800 of these people were diagnosed with Alzheimer's and about 3,700 were not.

By comparing those who had Alzheimer's with those who did not, the researchers found previously identified risk factors such as variants of genes called APOE and TREM2. The APOE associations were relatively strong given the small sample size. They also found several potential new risk factors that had borderline levels of association with Alzheimer's. For example, one was found linked to a gene called RAB3B, which is involved in the release of dopamine, an important chemical signal in the brain.

Experiments on autopsied brain tissue provided further support for the idea that the variants identified by this analysis are Alzheimer's disease genetic risk factors. The researchers note that studying a population with very similar genetics enabled them to uncover new genes that would have been hard to identify in a genetically

heterogeneous population.

Further studies are needed to confirm these findings and potentially identify other genetic changes associated with Alzheimer's in people of Ashkenazi Jewish descent or in other historically isolated populations.

This research was supported in part by NIA grants.

Free Ventura County Parkinson's Support Group meetings

Ventura County Parkinson's Support Group gets together every month with skilled, experienced professionals who present significant breakthroughs, strategies and related issues surrounding Parkinson's. The group's mission is for participants to better understand and talk about how this information impacts their own lives and affects immediate family members. In addition to those diagnosed with PD, caregivers, family members and friends are all welcome to attend free of charge.

More than just a meeting, all discussions/presentations offer interactive, compassionate, relevant education on PD. Topics range from "How to get up off the floor when you've fallen," to "Nutrition and Parkinson's" to "The benefits of deep brain stimulation and assessing if you're a good candidate for DBS" to the importance of laughter in life and for healing.

Jon Everhart, retired accountant, US Marine and regular group attendee said, "It's nice comparing treatments, symptoms, and the challenges we all face living with Parkinson's." This caring group empowers people like Jon to be more proactive and to participate in deciding the direction of his treatment, complemented by his team of doctors' suggestions.

This unique group gives everyone a great opportunity to learn more about current PD research, to gain more awareness about local help and resources, to share relevant experiences with others – and to have fun along the way.

The Ventura County Parkinson's Support Group was recently resurrected (post-Covid) by Dr. Vanessa White, owner of Ventura County Neurofitness (a local fitness program designed specifically for those with Parkinson's and other neurological degenerative diseases). The impetus for her assuming this responsibility was after her mother-in-law, Toy White, was diagnosed several years ago with PD. This important, special group was born upon her passing.

Meetings are held monthly on the third Tuesday, 10-11am, at Crosspointe Church (5415 Ralston Ave.)

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, December 19th and it will be a holiday social (sponsored by the Parkinson's Foundation) with lots of fun, good food, games, and fabulous prizes. And, it's all free—please RSVP by Dec. 12th if you plan to attend Vanessa at 805.300.7749.

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Senior Living

Tips for coping with sundowning

by National Institute on Aging

Late afternoon and early evening can be difficult for some people with Alzheimer's disease. They may experience sundowning—restlessness, agitation, irritability, or confusion that can begin or worsen as daylight begins to fade—often just when tired caregivers need a break. Woman with Alzheimer's experiencing sundowning

Sundowning can continue into the night, making it hard for people with Alzheimer's to fall asleep and stay in bed. As a result, they and their caregivers may have trouble getting enough sleep and functioning well during the day.

Possible causes

The causes of sundowning are not well understood. One possibility is that Alzheimer's-related brain changes can affect a person's "biological clock," leading to confused sleep-wake cycles. This may result in agitation and other sundowning behaviors.

Other possible causes of sundowning include:

- Being overly tired
- Unmet needs such as hunger or thirst
- Depression
- Pain
- Boredom

Coping with sundowning

Do's and Don'ts: Communicating with a Person Who Has Alzheimer's Disease infographic. Click to open page with infographic.

Read and share this infographic about how to communicate with a person who has

Alzheimer's disease.

Look for signs of sundowning in the late afternoon and early evening. These signs may include increased confusion or anxiety and behaviors such as pacing, wandering, or yelling. If you can, try to find the cause of the person's behavior.

If the person with Alzheimer's becomes agitated, listen calmly to his or her concerns and frustrations. Try to reassure the person that everything is OK and distract him or her from stressful or upsetting events.

You can also try these tips:

Reduce noise, clutter, or the number of people in the room.

Try to distract the person with a favorite snack, object, or activity. For example, offer a drink, suggest a simple task like folding towels, or turn on a familiar TV show (but not the news or other shows that might be upsetting).

Make early evening a quiet time of day. You might play soothing music, read, or go for a walk. You could also have a family member or friend call during this time.

Adjust lighting, letting in natural light during the day, if possible, and try softer room lighting in the evening.

Preventing sundowning

Being too tired can increase late-afternoon and early-evening restlessness. Try to avoid this situation by helping the person:

Go outside or at least sit by the window—exposure to bright light can help reset the person's body clock

Get physical activity or exercise each day
Get daytime rest if needed, but keep naps short and not too late in the day

Get enough rest at night

Avoid things that seem to make sundowning worse:

Do not serve coffee, cola, or other drinks with caffeine late in the day.

Do not serve alcoholic drinks. They may add to confusion and anxiety.

Do not plan too many activities during the day. A full schedule can be tiring. If problems persist

If sundowning continues to be a problem, seek medical advice. A medical exam may identify the cause of sundowning, such as

pain, a sleep disorder or other illness, or a medication side effect.

If medication is prescribed to help the person relax and sleep better at night, be sure to find out about possible side effects. Some medications can increase the chances of dizziness, falls, and confusion. Doctors recommend using them only for short periods of time.



Beth Baumer and Vanessa White are on stage at Ventura County Fairgrounds at last April's Parkinson's Foundation moving day Ventura County. Beth was the MC of the event and Vanessa a presenter. They raised money for the foundation.



Visit Ventura Team wishes you and yours a very Happy Holiday Season.

Happy Holidays from Visit Ventura

2023 has been our year. Stronger than ever, with our community at the forefront, we have a lot to be proud of. Visitation and economic development through tourism are thriving... and we couldn't do it without you. This year we did what we do best: support our local businesses, lift up local artists and community members' voices, and collaborate to make Ventura the best it can be. We've welcomed visitors from all over the state, country, and globe together, continuing to put Ventura on the map as the beautiful beach destination we know it is. Our Visitor Center volunteers welcomed over 20,000 visitors who walked through the Visitor Center doors this year from Canada and Thailand to New York and Arizona. Some find us as they travel through California and see our name on the sign, while others have been waiting years to visit our slice of the

beautiful coast.

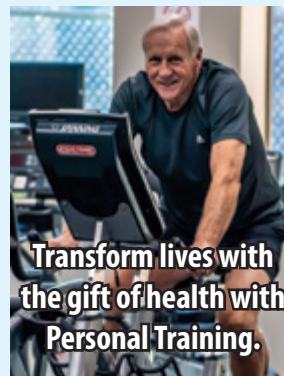
We saw our beaches, our beautiful Ventura sunsets — our home on the big screen this year. The Journey to X Games California 2023 was a long one and we did it together. X Games 2023 saw so many firsts and broke so many records: 5 billion media impressions, the first time XG tickets and merch sold out, a traditional Chumash blessing performed in front of XG athletes and media for the first time, and a sustainable transportation plan and a city-wide collaboration to create beer, cocktails, and other fun treats unlike we've ever experienced in our town before. We saw X Games athletes soar over our heads and break records themselves, all while saying into the camera that Ventura's welcome wagon has made the 2023 games unforgettable. All thanks to teamwork. All

Continued on page 17

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volunteers**

More than 70 dogs available for adoption through All for Love Animal Rescue (AFLAR) and Canine Adoption and Rescue League (C.A.R.L.) received homemade Thanksgiving meals, complete with turkey, mashed potatoes, vegetables and canine-appropriate pumpkin pie this Thanksgiving.

"I wanted to give something back to these organizations and the dogs they have rescued and provided care and shelter to. I thought to myself, 'Let's make Thanksgiving dinner for our pups.' Thankfully, several of my fellow volunteers went along with the idea and gathered at my house the evening before Thanksgiving," said AFLAR volunteer, Lupe Flores.

"We are very grateful for these meals that our volunteers cooked and assembled for all the dogs," stated AFLAR Founder and President



Lucky dogs received homemade Thanksgiving meals.

Maripat Davis. "Volunteers are the heart of AFLAR, and we are always in need of new volunteers and fosters and donations to help us continue our life-saving work."

Both AFLAR and C.A.R.L. are counting on other community members to support their organizations this holiday giving season.

"As a boarding facility that rescues hundreds of dogs each year, we're always in need of assistance, whether it's through giving monetary donations, fundraising, volunteering or donating food and supplies through Amazon Smile," said Clark.

Shelters nationwide are overcrowded as many Americans cannot afford to own their pets. A recent report highlights that public and private shelters across the nation are expected to reach a three-year high in euthanasia rates in 2023. For example, around 51,000 dogs were euthanized during the first half of the year representing a nearly 40% increase from that same period in 2022.

In addition, pet-friendly affordable housing seems to be one of the most common issues when people surrender their dogs, particularly large dogs, followed by the cost of vet-

erinary care.

"Our organizations relentlessly work to find long-term foster and forever homes for our dogs in addition to providing them with necessary medical care and training," Clark said.

AFLAR boards its rescued dogs at the C.A.R.L. facility in Santa Paula and also has several adoptable dogs in foster homes. Davis says she constantly receives emails and phone calls from pet owners who can no longer care for their dogs but want to rehome them.

"There is a crisis in our nation with regard to shelter overcrowding. We work non-stop to save as many lives as we can," said Davis. "That's why we need ongoing support!"

Please consider giving your support to C.A.R.L. and AFLAR this holiday season. You can donate to C.A.R.L. and AFLAR or reach out to these organizations and sign up to volunteer. Both organizations rely on volunteers and donations and do not receive government, state or city funding.

All For Love Animal Rescue, Inc. (AFLAR) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit all-volunteer animal rescue group, dedicated to saving abandoned animals from shelters in Southern California. We are an all-breed rescue but focus on dogs in the most need, primarily Pit Bulls, followed by seniors, Chihuahuas, pregnant dogs and those needing medical care or surgery. We rescue, rehabilitate, and find forever homes through adoption events, networking, and community outreach.

Canine Adoption and Rescue League (C.A.R.L.) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit all breed, no-kill dog rescue and adoption organization. Since 1996, C.A.R.L. has rescued and placed thousands of unwanted, sick, abandoned and homeless dogs. Dogs in our adoption program are placed in pre-screened, loving and secure homes. We make a lifetime commitment to all of our dogs.

Trainer shares the secret to getting your dog to ignore other dogs and focus on you — and it's so simple!

by Kathryn Williams

Want your dog to learn that you're the most important thing in their environment? This trainer's clever tip will do it...

We've all been there — you let your dog off leash thinking they'll stick close to your side, and before you know it they've sprinted off into the distance to greet another pup!

If you try to call your fur friend back in these situations and aren't successful, there could be many reasons why your dog's recall isn't reliable.

But rather than trying to fight to get your dog to come back to you, it's best to arm yourself with the best puppy toys and treats and use these as your secret weapon to prevent them from running off in the first place.

"It's not difficult to teach your dog not to run over to other dogs," says Spivey.

"The mistake people make is they take the dog out and because it's friendly they let it off the leash and then it just runs over to the other dog."

Spivey says that in that moment the dog learns not only that you can't stop it, but that the other dog

Scamp Club

(Scampclub pets are not for adoption.)

They are labradoodle litter mate brothers Rich and Norm and are 10 years old. Besides liking to party, they enjoy going anywhere but they especially like Marina Park and Arroyo Verde.



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.

or person it's running over to may be more exciting than you.

Mila starts to position her body in the direction of her potential new friend, but Spivey gently waves a tug toy in front of her face and she quickly moves back towards him to play.

"By not allowing the dog to make those bad choices and having something positive for the dog to play with, very quickly the dog doesn't care

about other dogs," explains Spivey.

This simple method of replacing what's captured your dog's attention with something that's even more high-value will teach them that you are more interesting than anything else in their environment.

So next time your dog shows an interest in another dog or person, why not try bringing their focus back to you with a toy or treat?

Forever homes wanted



Hi: I'm Nellie, an affectionate and loving 1 1/2 year old Chow that loves to play with my 3 foster siblings. I came to CARL as a very fearful and not socialized puppy, but my foster family took the time to gain my trust and teach me new things. I am currently living with

3 other dogs, and we get along. I am definitely looking to be the alpha, which doesn't always agree with other alphas in the house. I am both crate trained at night and potty trained. I love long walks and I've been doing good with a gentle leader, but I still have some room for improvement on my walks. Please go slow and take your time when coming up to me. Once I get to know you, I become a loving girl who wants to play with my toys, roll around being silly and chase lizards, but I also love to curl up on the couch. If you're ready and able to give me a lifetime of love and wonderful memories, please fill out an application to meet me. Canine Adoption and Rescue League C.A.R.L.

This is Ginger a 3 year old male Pomeranian. He will brighten your life with his charm and good looks.
City Found: Oxnard
Animal ID: A779429
VCAS Camarillo Animal Shelter VCAS





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.

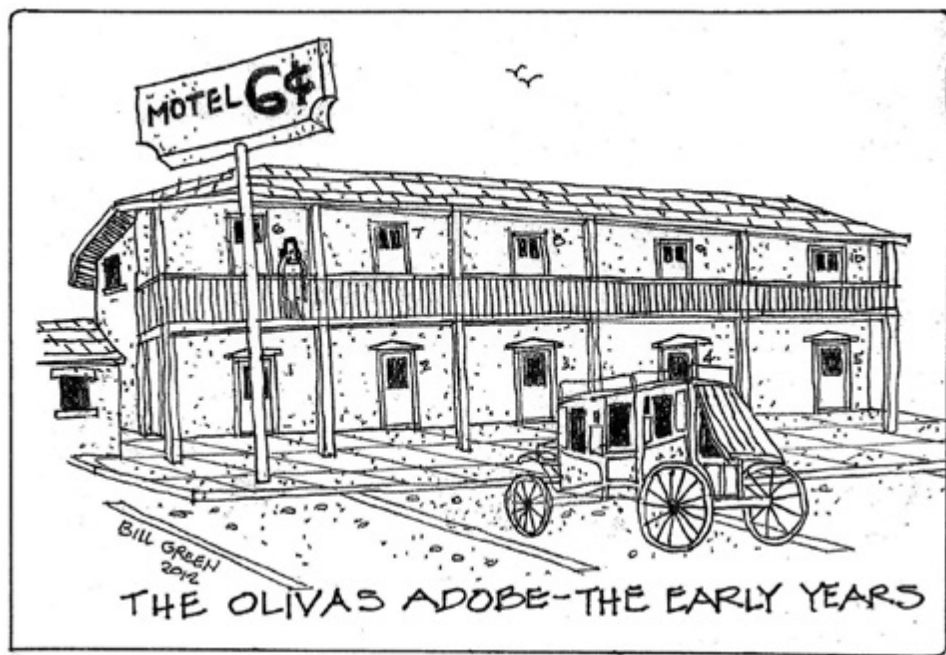
Residential Burglary, Conspiracy to Commit Residential Burglary and Firearms Possession

On December 19, at 4:45, the Ventura Police Command Center received a 911 call reference subjects who had entered the caller's locked garage in the 500 block of Valley View Way. Arriving officers conducted a traffic stop on a vehicle leaving the area. During the stop, officers detained three subjects, Shane Dumas Jr., Cy Segovia Jr., and a male juvenile. During the investigation, officers

discovered the subjects to be in possession of loaded firearms, ammunition, and various property taken during the burglary.

Dumas, Segovia, and the male juvenile were arrested for multiple charges including Residential Burglary, Conspiracy to Commit Residential Burglary and Firearms Possession. Dumas and

Segovia were booked into custody at the Ventura County Jail. The male juvenile was booked into custody at the Ventura County Juvenile Detention.



What was the Olivas Adobe like long ago?

The main house and small adobe still exists

by Richard Senate

The main house and small adobe still exists, as does the wall but little more still stands. Letters and news stories give some hints as do census reports of what it was like. It was clearly a complex of structures, as were most ranches and farms of the era. Being prosperous it may well have had the look of a small town or village. Outside of the few references made, we can only speculate on the look of the Olivas Rancho. But as a fun project I set to work attempt to reconstruct what it might have been like in say 1865.

The known sites:

There was a large, impressive barn. This was mentioned in several sources. Some say it rivaled the size of the house. One account said it was part adobe and part wood. (such a barn stands at the Reyes Adobe in Agoura Hills). One "psychic" account said it had a wooden lantern on top where a powerful lantern was placed on foggy nights. Such a folly would have been impressive and might appeal to man wishing to impress visitors—like Don Raymundo Olivas. Such barns are susceptible to termites and it didn't survive.

There was another House. This was mentioned in the US Census report beyond the small adobe and main house but its location was not listed. It must have been close.

There was a small adobe by the Santa Clara River where Candelaria the cook lived. This was in the Bookman letters and Oral Histories. It must not have been far as the Olivas Children would go

down and visit her. She made them huge flour tortillas that impressed them. But where was this house located? I believe it was not far from the well, just south of the house.

The Olivas Dance Hall and Saloon. A painting exists of this structure and the painting seems to indicate a bank behind it so it may have been closer to the Santa Clara River. It was perhaps swept away in a storm. Its location is unknown but, to an enterprising man like Don Raymundo such a place might make good business sense. It would be a place to sell his home made "Tinto" wine and apricot Brandy. This seems to indicate a new side to Raymundo. It may have been close to Main Street, then El Camino Real to attract thirsty travelers--and far from the house.

Another speculated site that may or may not have existed:

The Olivas Carriage House. Psychic Archaeology is an inexact and disputed science at best and a pseudo science at worst. But findings from such a team "found" a carriage house foundations in the Memorial Grove, near the road. They said it was a two story adobe and wood structure that held two fancy carriages and place for the driver and his family as well as a fancy team of matched gray horses. The driver was a tall, half Chumash, half Irish man, who stood six feet tall and his wife who came it at five feet. Possible? Yes. They would want a tall impressive coachman to drive them to church on Sunday.

Harbor Patrol Blotter

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

Wednes 11/22

1:24am, dispatched to breathing problems in the Ventura Marina Community. Officers responded and assisted VFD/AMR with the patient.

5:39am, dispatched to a fall victim in the Ventura Marina Community. Officers assisted VFD/AMR with the patient.

Thursday 11/23

8:13am, dispatched to a boat fire at VWM A-dock. Officers responded in the Fireboat to a 55ft motor vessel with a fire in the engine room. Once on scene, officers boarded the vessel and were able to extinguish the fire. The boat owner was able to turn off the power dockside and on the vessel which helped save it.

Friday 11/24

12:50pm, observed a small sabot sailboat in distress near the launch ramp docks. Officers attempted several times to coach then catch the vessel, until eventually the skipper was able to get close enough so they could grab and secure the boat.

Saturday 11/25

8:41pm, received report of a distressed vessel near the detached breakwall. Officers responded in Fireboat, found vessel being assisted by a Good Samaritan

Sunday 11/26

9:15am, received report from the mother of an individual who had their vehicle stolen in Village lot, but was able to retrieve it. Advised to contact Ventura PD but the caller refused. Further advised Harbor Patrol not the agency to call for stolen vehicles or major crimes but apparently the victim was on his way to our office. The victim never arrived at Port District, so assuming everything was ok.

Monday 11/27

11:30am, while on patrol in Fireboat, observed an unmanned single kayak caught in east winds eventually caught on the North Jetty. Searched the area, no persons in the water found, placed the green kayak into lost and found locker.

Wednes 11/29

8:45am, raised flags to half mast in honor of Rosalynn Carter

Thursday 11/30

6:40pm, observed distress flares near Surfers Knoll, offshore. Officers responded and found several hand &

aerial flares in the area, but unable to locate vessels in distress after searching the area. Received several reports of flares.

Friday 12/1

4:05pm, dispatched to swimmer in distress at VHV G-dock. Officers responded in Fireboat to assist VPD with a fleeing subject. Eventually, the subject was caught with a boat hook, pulled from the water then arrested by Ventura PD.

6:43pm, officers on patrol in Fireboat with Fish & Wildlife wardens to enforce fishing at the breakwall. Several vessels boarded, wardens educated and warned fishermen of violations of state, federal and local ordinances / laws.

Saturday 12/2

10:57am, received a call concerning the recent earthquake in the Philippines, specifically if there was a tsunami threat for Ventura Harbor. Officers advised that tsunami warning center had not issued a warning or threat of tsunami for the west coast. Also relayed website for tsunami warnings info: tsunami.gov.

Sunday 12/3

8:08am, dispatched to swimmer in distress near Seward Ave. Officers responded in the Fireboat and Rescue watercraft to assist with Ocean Rescue. The victim was suffering from behavioral issues and detained by Ventura PD.

1:52pm, observed an individual locked in a vehicle, frantically using a key fob to escape. Officers were able to coach the victim to use the manual door unlock button and removed person from vehicle. The car battery was dead, officers jump started the vehicle, the individual was able to drive away, get to work.

5:50pm, dispatched to gas odor near the firepit in the village. Officers responded with VFD, found the firepit extinguished, no gas odor in the area.

Monday 12/4

10:15am, dispatched to seizure patient at 1080 Navigator. Officers responded and assisted VFD/AMR with the patient, who was transported to hospital.

12:51pm, received request to remove homeless from the L/R restrooms so that maintenance can clean them. Removed several transients without incident.

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

I can help you with that!

ADELA TRAINOR

DRE 01985025

805.701.7694

TEAMTRAINOR12@GMAIL.COM

BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY | California Properties HomeServices

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 26 mins.

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



Business Profile



ABC Rugs Kilims is more than just rugs.

ABC Rugs Kilims: Weaving Stories of Tradition and Elegance in Oxnard

Located in Oxnard, ABC Rugs Kilims is not just a store but a testament to the rich tapestry of life, culture, and art. Founded by Mano Zandi in 1975, the journey began in Spain, where his love for art and rugs took root. Since then, ABC Rugs Kilims has evolved into a global destination, with branches in Canada and LA before finding its current home in Oxnard in 2022.

Mano and several partners / investors behind ABC Rugs Kilims bring not only a diverse cultural background but also a commitment to excellence. With a collection curated over decades, their one-

of-a-kind rugs are personally chosen for quality, colors, designs, and various sizes. Setting themselves apart, they proudly match prices and offer an additional 20% discount against competitors, ensuring unparalleled value.

What truly distinguishes ABC Rugs Kilims is the personalized touch. From lifetime warranties to 6 months of interest-free payments, Mano Zandi goes above and beyond to cater to his customers' needs. Specialized orders, whether it's a unique size, color, or design, are crafted with precision, attracting a diverse clientele, including notable figures like Beau Bridges, Bob Safari and family of Michael Jackson along with many more other celebrities.

But ABC Rugs Kilims is more than just rugs; it's a haven for home decor enthusiasts. The store boasts a captivating collection of famous oil paintings from Spain, France, Italy, and alongside Persian Miniature fine art handmade paintings. Antique enthusiasts can find treasures like authentic Art Antique Persian engraved brass vases and timeless antique furniture.

One of the partners will soon be retiring. As the dynamic duo and some other partners embark on this journey, ABC Rugs Kilims invites you to partake in their grand retirement sale.

With over 35,000 items to choose from, this is a rare opportunity to own a piece of art, culture, and history. Whether you're a homeowner, a fellow rug store, or an interior designer, ABC Rugs Kilims welcomes you to experience the allure of tradition and elegance in the vibrant city of Oxnard.

Come and explore the world woven into every rug, kilim and discover the great opportunity that awaits you.



SEEAG's Mary Maranville and Seth Wilmoth, and Mary Jarvis and Dr. Liz Diaz Querol of Kaiser Permanente.

Kaiser Permanente donates \$10,000 To SEEAG's Ag-Education Programs

Kaiser Permanente presented Students for Eco-Education and Agriculture (SEEAG) a \$10,000 community health grant during SEEAG's annual Ventura County Farm Day on November 4. The donation will help fund SEEAG's Ventura County Youth Wellness Initiative.

SEEAG's Youth Wellness Initiative addresses the nutrition knowledge gaps and food insecurity among a diverse socioeconomic demographic of students in Ventura County, with a focus on Title 1 elementary schools. SEEAG's program is designed to inspire and empower students to increase the amount of locally-grown fruits and vegetables they eat while improving overall healthy eating habits and increasing physical activity. Since the program began in 2020, SEEAG has reached 15,500 third graders who participated in hands-on nutrition education during in-class learning and monthly Farm Fresh Wellness Fairs.

Each participating student receives a Wellness Swag Bag filled with nutrition information, a jump rope and fruit and vegetable samples that they can share with their families.

"Nearly 20 percent of children are obese in America," says Mary Maranville, SEEAG's founder and CEO. "It's critical

that we teach kids at a young age about the importance of healthy eating and exercise so they can apply this knowledge throughout their lives. SEEAG's Youth Wellness Initiative is possible with the generous support from organizations such as Kaiser Permanente."

To learn more about SEEAG, go to www.SEEAG.org or contact Maranville at mary@seeag.org, 805-892-8155.

Founded in 2008, Students for Eco-Education and Agriculture (SEEAG) is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that aims to help young students understand the origins of their food by bridging the gap between agriculture and consumption through its agricultural education programming. SEEAG's "The Farm Lab" program teaches schoolchildren about the origins of their food and the importance of local farmland by providing schools with classroom agricultural education and free field trips to farms. Through this and other SEEAG programs, over 100,000 elementary school students in Central and Southern California have increased their understanding of the food journey. For more information, visit www.seeag.org or email Mary Maranville at mary@seeag.org.



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NO REASONABLE OFFERS TO BE REFUSED



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Happy Holidays

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

Since both Christmas and New Year's Day fall on Monday this holiday season, there will be a one day delay in the pick up of trash, recyclables and yard/organic waste the weeks of Dec. 25-30 and Jan. 1-6 in Ventura, Ojai and the surrounding areas.

For two weeks after Christmas, from Tuesday, Dec. 26, through Saturday, Jan. 6, residents may put out extra holiday waste curbside on collection day - up to two 50-gallon bags - free of charge. Customers in the unincorporated areas of Ventura County will have extra trash pickup through Saturday, Jan. 13.

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

Thank you and Happy Holidays

Connect with us! @ejharrisoninc

E. J. Harrison & Sons
805-647-1414

Order services & pay bills online at
www.ejharrison.com



These young athletes demonstrate unwavering dedication to their sport.

Ventura County's Total Futbol Academy Youth Soccer Team: A force to be reckoned with

In the heart of Ventura County, an unassuming youth soccer team is quietly making waves on the national stage. These young athletes, representing the club team TFA (Total Futbol Academy), are between the ages of 9 and 10 years old, yet they have already demonstrated exceptional skill, unwavering dedication, and a passion for the sport that rivals their more seasoned counterparts.

At the helm of this remarkable team is head coach Jose (Pepe) Ibarra, a local business owner and soccer enthusiast who has been guiding the team since 2022. With his infectious enthusiasm and deep knowledge of the game, Coach Ibarra has instilled in his players a winning mentality, a deep appreciation for sportsmanship, and a love for the beautiful game.

Alongside him is Assistant Coach Arturo Zaragoza, a soccer expert and Director of Financial Equity Programs at Ventura County Credit Union. Coach Zaragoza brings his vast soccer experience and commitment to equitable opportunities to the team, ensuring that every player, regardless of background, has the chance to excel.

Both coaches volunteer their time and effort, driven by a shared passion for soccer and a belief in the power of sports to transform lives. Their dedication has allowed the team to compete at the highest level without compromising their principles of fairness and accessibility.

Coach Ibarra's philosophy revolves around treating his players as soccer players, not children. He challenges them with advanced concepts, believing that their young minds are capable of absorbing and applying complex strategies. This approach has proven highly effective, leading to impressive results on the field.

The TFA team competes as a flight 1 team in southern California, consistently securing victories in major tournaments across Nevada, California, and most recently, a second-place finish in Arizona. They strategically select only the top tournaments in different states, competing against the best teams in their age group. This commitment to facing the toughest competition has undoubtedly fueled their growth and success.

These young athletes demonstrate

unwavering dedication to their sport, committing to rigorous training schedules of 3-4 times a week, coupled with weekend tournaments that often require extensive travel. They embrace the challenges and sacrifices, driven by a shared passion for soccer and a desire to compete at the highest level. Their hard work and determination are evident in their impressive performances on the field.

Who are these athletes??? Adrian Torres, Angel Garcia, Alexander Zaragoza, Carlos Esquivel, Enrique Cristales, Giovanni Ruiz, Isaac Meza, Maximiliano Ibarra, Pedro Rodriguez, and Gael Thiago Munguia.

The TFA team of Ventura County serves as an inspiration to young athletes everywhere, demonstrating that with hard work, dedication, and the guidance of passionate coaches, anything is possible. Their success on the field is a testament to their talent, determination, and the unwavering support of their coaches and families. The TFA team's story is a reminder that even in the face of adversity, with hard work, dedication, and the support of a community, anything is possible. They serve as an inspiration to young athletes everywhere, demonstrating that with passion, perseverance, and the guidance of committed coaches, dreams can become a reality.

Happy Holidays from Visit Ventura Continued from page 13

thanks to you and our community. We showed the world what our small beach town on the coast of California is made of and what we can do. We made history together and it feels amazing.

Though we will change from writing 2023 in our letters and emails to 2024, our unwavering gratitude for you hasn't changed. Working together to share our unique and local Ventura story wouldn't be possible without our ongoing conversations, projects, and relationship with you. And truly, many of our partnerships have turned into friendships, too.

So, from the bottom of our hearts, the Visit Ventura Team wishes you and yours a very Happy Holiday Season and a Wonderful New Year. We can't wait to see what 2024 has in store!

With Excitement and Gratitude,
The Visit Ventura Team



Former Ventura County Youth in Care & Resource Parent

Happy HOLIDAYS WITH HEART!

Give the priceless gift of guidance and a safe, stable home for one of our older youth in care as they embark on their journey to adulthood. With a little space in your home and a lot of love in your heart, you can make a world of difference.

Learn more about becoming a Resource Family and supporting Older Youth at StrengtheningVCFamilies.org/helping-teens

VENTURA BOTANICAL GARDENS

Photo: Phil Reinger

Create New Memories AT THE GARDENS

Free Admission on Christmas and New Year's Day

Discover the joy of the holidays amidst nature's beauty. Bring your loved ones and let Ventura Botanical Gardens be the backdrop to your cherished moments. Leashed dogs are welcome. Be sure to stop into our Courtyard garden shop, browse our plants and pottery, and ask about our plant sponsorships. See you at the Gardens!

JOIN US
Monday, Dec. 25
Monday, Jan. 1

HOURS
9am-4pm

SUPPORT THE VENTURA BOTANICAL GARDENS, BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

567 S. Poli St. | 805.232.3113 | VenturaBotanicalGardens.com



Ventura events

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

Wanna Play Bridge? Join us for ACBL sanctioned duplicate bridge games every Tues., Wed., and Thurs. at 12:30. All levels of play and we will guarantee to have a partner for you if you need one. Lessons are available. Contact: Richard 805-850-8011 or Rose 805-

659-9223 or buckleyrose357@gmail.com. All Welcome.

The Ventura County Philatelic Society's 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>

Monthly Beach Cleanup First Saturday of every month! Come meet your neighbors and help keep our beach looking fresh. Hosted by Pierpont Beach Community Council in partnership with Surfrider. Meet up at the end of Seward near the beach. (1140 S

Seward St) 8:30-10:30am. Arrive any time during the timeframe. Fun for the whole family! Supplies provided BYO water.

Paws for Reading brings together young readers and affectionate, canine listeners to help boost the confidence of beginning readers.

Hill Road Library, Wednesdays,

3:30 to 5 pm

E.P. Foster Library, Thursdays,

4 to 5:30 pm

Join PAWS dogs for one-on-one reading sessions. Arrive at the library early to choose a book and get in line to read to a special pooch. Children of all ages welcome!

Dec. 17: Head over to Ventura Harbor Village for the Santa Paddle. Santa himself will ditch his reindeer and hop on a paddleboard, and you can be a part of the adventure. Participants are encouraged to get into the holiday spirit by dressing up as Santa, Mrs. Claus, elves, reindeer, or any other holiday character!

Santa is scheduled to make his appearance around 2pm.

Dec. 17: 1:00 PM to 3:30 PM The Phoenix Big Band will play to your dancing pleasure. Donations: Members \$10.00 Non-Members \$15.00. 3007 Bunsen Ave, Ventura, Website: <https://channelcitiesjazzclub.com/>

January 27: Channel Islands PC User Group (CIPCUG) Location: Online and live at Ventura County Computers 2175 Goodyear Avenue, Unit 117 (805) 289-3960.

Discussion, Tutorial, and Q&A sessions centered around Computers, email, the Internet, AI, and social media brokers such as X, Facebook, and Google. 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. To receive connection instructions, please sign up on our website at: www.cipcug.org

The Bookmark

About Libraries and Friends

by Mary Olson

Ventura Friends of the Library Bookstore, 2nd Look Books, in E.P. Foster Library is ready to welcome

Christmas shoppers Tuesday through Saturday, 11:00 am to 4:00 pm and Sundays, 1:00 to 4:00 pm. You can find great bargains in gently used children's books, cooking and craft books, audio books and books with a seasonal theme. The items in our store are definitely worth a second look, from current novels to jigsaw puzzles to older books and vintage books to fill you with the nostalgia appropriate to the season!

We also invite you to visit our online bookstore for local sales <https://venturafol-107753.square.site/s/shop>. You can find unique items in categories such as Art, Architecture & Photography and Performing Arts. The Collectible & Vintage offerings will pique your nostalgia for old comics, classic cars or classic literature. The puzzle section includes Pomegranate, Ravensburger and Dowdle puzzles. When you make a purchase at the online store, you will receive an email letting you know when your order will be ready for pickup (in as few as 2 days) at the bookstore in E.P. Foster.

E.P. Foster Library hosts **Crafty Little Fox Club** on Wednesdays from 3:30 to 5:00 pm. Kids can drop in every Wednesday afternoon for self-guided arts, crafts and coloring. A special, structured craft will be provided every 4th Wednesday of the month. On Fridays, 2:00 to 4:00 pm, kids of all ages can drop in to E.P. Foster for **Lego Play**.

Hill Road Library is hosting a special **Willy Wonka Maker Lab and Film Screening** on Thursday, December 14, 3:00 to 5:00 pm. Watch the original Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory before you see the prequel, and craft your own candy prototype!

On Saturday, December 16, 11:am to noon at Hill Road Library, the **Discover Science Team** will explore concepts of energy and motion through the creation of Snowball Catapults!

Tuesdays in December 3:00 to 5:00 pm, Hill Road Library continues its **Winter Wonderland Simple Crafts and Seasonal Films**. On **December 19**, watch **Rise of the Guardians**: Santa Claus, Jack Frost, the Sandman, the Easter Bunny and the Tooth Fairy team up to fight a phantom who steals children's

VENTURA HARBOR'S ANNUAL
Santa Paddle
Paddle or Pedal in Festive Holiday Attire!
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DEC 17
SUNDAY
2-3 PM

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Recruitment Opens Jan 22nd through Jan 29th

Candidate Requirements

- ▣ Valid California driver's license
- ▣ Must be 21 years of age
- ▣ High School Diploma or equivalent
- ▣ We are looking for diverse candidates
- ▣ Bilingual applicants are highly desired



Join our team today!

Apply and find candidate resources at vcfd.org



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BECOME A FIREFIGHTER TRAINEE



COUNTY of VENTURA





dreams. And create your own **DIY Wrapping Paper.**

On December 26, watch **The Muppet Christmas Carol:** The Muppets' version of the Dickens holiday classic. And craft Ornaments.

Game On! Board Games for All Ages continues at Hill Road Library

on Sundays, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm.

Drop by and choose from over 35 games to play! For all ages. Fun for families or a great reason to meet with friends.

All these activities at the library are free and open to the public. For more information on library activities, call 805 626-READ.



On December 3, fire units were dispatched to a reported brush fire that was quickly determined to be a structure fire in the 2000 block of Cayuse Lane. Firefighters arrived within 8 minutes of dispatch and found a single story/single family home with fire and smoke showing from the attic. Firefighters extinguished the fire with a coordinated effort of vertical and horizontal ventilation to keep the fire from spreading throughout the structure. The aerial device proved crucial to stop the spread of the fire throughout the attic. Salvage efforts were immediately deployed to reduce the damage from a working attic fire. The fire was controlled 20 minutes after units arrived on scene and the house was confirmed to have no victims inside but, a cat was rescued inside the home. Ventura City Fire units were assisted by Ventura County Fire Department, Oxnard Fire Department, as well as Ventura Police Department



Express Car Wash

Area Manger–Manage 2 car washes & supervise 100 workers (mgrs, crew, cashiers, etc). Req. master's in management or rlted. or equiv. Travel in Ventura County req.

Resume to: Waterdrops Express Car Wash:
Bob@waterdropscarwash.com.
Location: Camarillo, CA.



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ROYAL DUTCH
Gazelle

Accessories Make Great Holiday Gifts!

As the holidays are approaching, now is a good time to start thinking about stocking up on accessories. We've added a few new accessories to our collection over the last several months, which make great gifts and add-ons to those bike purchases.



Holiday Gifting:
ACCESSORIES

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www.facebook.com/VenturaBikeDepot/

We want to hear from you!

Join us on December 14, 2023 at 6PM for a Virtual Community Meeting!

atplan.vcpublicworks.org

OR



**VENTURA COUNTY
ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN**





by Pam Baumgardner
VenturaRocks.com

I hope you are enjoying the holiday season, there are a few more opportunities to catch live music if you need a boost. On one end of the spectrum, the Rubicon Theater will host a Saturday afternoon Tiny Tots Christmas Concert on December 23 (2-4 pm) featuring enchanting songs of the season that will tug at your holiday heartstrings.

And then on the other end of the spectrum, if you appreciate a wicked sense of humor that is, then you won't want to miss loveable punk rockers, The Vandals, when they play the Majestic Ventura Theater on Friday, December 22. This is the band's 28th Annual Christmas Formal where they're sure to play such punk holiday favorites as "My First Christmas as a Woman," "Oi to the World," "Grandpa's Last X-mas" and "I Don't Believe in Santa Claus."

Non-holiday events include a fundraiser to help get Red Headed Stepchild to the International Blues Challenge in Memphis next month. The event will be held at Bombay's on Saturday December 16 from 2-6 pm with performances from Ray Jaurique Trio, Hot Roux, American Standard and Red Headed Stepchild.

Singer/songwriter Amanda McBroom plays Beatrice Wood Center for the Arts in Ojai on Sunday December 17. So many of her songs have been recorded by a wide variety of artists such as Barry Manilow, Judy Collins, Anne Murray, Harry Belafonte, Kurt Cobain and of course Bette Midler who hit a number one hit with her tune, "The Rose".

Albert Lee will be celebrating his 80th birthday at the Twist on Main with Hot Roux supporting the phenomenal Grammy award winning guitarist. Lee has worked with the likes of the Everly Brothers, Eric Clapton, Emmylou Harris and more. This ticketed event falls on Friday, December 22 with tickets available on the HiHatEntertainment.com website.

Keep in mind, you should firm up your New Year's Eve party plans sooner than later. My next column will highlight some of the bigger parties, but meanwhile, go to VenturaRocks.com and on the calendar, just search "NYE" for parties throughout Ventura County.

Quick Notes: Rey Fresco opens for Ozomatli at the Ventura Music Hall on Thursday, December 14; Simon Phillips returns to the Grape for another sure-to-sell-out performance on Friday, December 15; Red Hot Cholo Peppers play Copper Blues on Friday December 15; Brendon Willing James plays the Farmer and the Cook in Ojai on Sunday December 17; and Tribal Me has reformed and renamed the group, The Jelly Band.

Though I've placed the Pam Baumgardner Music Hour on hiatus

after 200 shows, I'd like to invite you to start your very own radio show on CAPS Media's KPPQ local non-profit radio station. You can do a talk/podcast type show, or play music of any genre. Reach out to the program director at radio@capsmedia.org.

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 Brewery

11990 Hertz St., Moorpark

Sat 12/16: Delta by the Beach

Fri 12/22: Whole Hog

Aqua Beachfront Bar (Crowne Plaza) 450 E. Harbor Blvd., Ventura

Wednesdays: Déjà vu Too

Beatrice Wood Center for the Arts 8585 N. Ojai Rd., Ojai

Sun 12/17: Amanda McBroom

Boatyard Pub

1583 Spinnaker Dr., Ventura

Music 6-9; except Sundays 4-7 Tuesdays:

Noah Thoresen

Wednesdays: Frank Barajas Thursdays:

Jim Friery (4 pm); Bluegrass Jam (6:30 pm)

Fri 12/15: Teresa Russell & Stephen

Geyer

Sat 12/16: Déjà vu Too

Fri 12/22: Mac & D

Sat 12/23: Bill Macpherson & Karen

Eden

Bombay Bar and Grill

143 S. California St., Ventura

Wednesdays: Blues Night

Sat 12/16: Ray Jaurique Trio, Hot Roux,

American Standard, Red Headed

Stepchild

Bright Spark Brewing

4561 Market St., Ventura

Fri 12/15: Katie Leigh & Friends

Café Fiore

66 S. California St., Ventura

Tues 12/26: Open Mic and Jam

Cantara Cellars

126 N. Wood Rd., Camarillo

Sat 12/16: Ignition

The Cave

4435 McGrath St., Ventura

Wed & Thurs: Bobby Apostol

Fri & Sat: Warren Takahashi

Copa Cubana

Ventura Harbor Village

Tuesdays: Blues Tuesdays

Copper Blues

591 Collection Blvd., Oxnard

Fri 12/15: Red Hot Cholo Peppers

Fri 12/22: Side Tracces

Sat 12/23: Los Amigos

Deer Lodge

2261 Maricopa Hwy., Ojai

Fri 12/15: Jeffrey Martin, Anna Tivel

Sat 12/16: Movie Club

Sat 12/23: Rey Fresco

The Farmer and the Cook

339 W. Roblar Dr., Ojai

Sun 12/17: Brendan Willing James

Feros Ferio Winery

310 E. Ojai Ave., Ojai

Sun 12/17: Déjà vu Too, Frank Barajas

Garage

1091 Scandia Ave., Ventura

Fri 12/15: Led Tasso

Sat 12/16: Steph's Rockin' Road Show,

Monsters of Pop

Fri 12/22: ClassX

Sat 12/23: Doc Rogers

The Grape

2733 E. Main St., Ventura

Tues: The Gratitude Jazz Jam

Wed 12/13: Blanket of Clouds

Thurs 12/14: 6 Beats Apart

Fri 12/15: Simon Philips

Sat 12/16: Shawn Jones Trio (2 pm);

Barrelhouse Wailers (8 pm)

Wed 12/20: Vinny Golia Quintet

Thurs 12/21: Brad Rabuchin's Far West

Quartet

Fri 12/22: Ginger & the Hoosier Daddys

Sat 12/23: Dr. T & the Blues Criminals

(2 pm)

Institution Ale Company

3841 Mission Oaks Blvd., Camarillo

Thurs 12/14: Katie Leigh Band

Keynote Lounge

10245 Telephone Rd., Ventura

Thursdays: Open Mic

Fri 12/15: Pull the Trigger

Sat 12/16: Ventu Park Band

Sat 12/23: The Way

Leashless Brewing

585 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

Thurs 12/14: Kris Simeon

Fri 12/15: Hippy Cholo

Sat 12/16: Rising Son (2 pm); Bo Jangles

(6 pm)

Sun 12/17: Dakota Lotus

Thurs 12/21: Atral Weather

Fri 12/22: Keyth G and the Universouls

Sat 12/23: Heavy Hitters

Majestic Ventura Theater

26 S. Chestnut St., Ventura

Sat 12/16: Burch Studios Presents

Fri 12/22: The Vandals

Manhattan

5800 Santa Rosa Rd., Camarillo

Wed 12/13: Robert Van

Thurs 12/14: Tom McMorran

Fri 12/15: Tour Support

Sat 12/16: Lisa Ritner Duo

Wed 12/20: Warren Takahashi

Thurs 12/21: Tom McMorran

Fri 12/22: Jeanne Tatum

Sat 12/23: Lisa Ritner Duo

Moofish Café (inside Crowne Plaza)

450 E. Harbor Blvd., Ventura

Thurs 12/21: Seth Andre Oster &

Michael Velasquez

Mrs. Olson's

2800 Harbor Blvd., Oxnard

Sat 12/16: Sunnie Daze

Sun 12/17: Teresa Russell (Noon); Spider

Baby, Addalemon, Checked Out...(4 pm)

Namba Arts

47 S. Oak St., Ventura

Sat 12/16: Dani Hagan

Fri 12/22: Listening room Redux Open

Mic

Ojai Underground Exchange

616 Pearl St., Ojai

Sat 12/16: Expandards

Onyx Bistro

2390 Las Posas Rd., Camarillo

Fri 12/15: Natalie Wattre Sat 12/16:

George Krikes

Fri 12/22: The Fabulous Hangovers

Sat 12/23: Ashun

Orozoco's de Ventura

839 E. Front St., Ventura

Fridays: Soul 4 II

Poseidon Brewing Co.

5777 Olivas Park Dr., Ventura

Sat 12/16: Morrison Drive

Fri 12/22: Natalie Wattre

Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar

2209 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

Tuesdays: Danny D

The Raven Tavern

1651 S. Victoria Ave., Oxnard

Fri & Sat 7 pm; Sunday 2 pm

Fri 12/15: Holgers Heroes

Sat 12/16: The Dirty Lowdown

Fri 12/22: Vinyl Gypsies

Sat 12/23: Jayden Secor Band

Ric's Restaurant Sports Lounge

2500 Las Posas Rd., Camarillo

Tuesdays: Tour Support w/ Kurt & Bob

Rincon Brewery

4100 Telegraph Rd., Ventura

Fri 12/22: Vanise Terry Band

Rubicon Theater

1006 E. Main St., Ventura

Sat 12/23: Tiny Tots Christmas Concert

Sam's Place

308 E. Ojai Ave., Ojai

Sat 12/16: Whole Hog

The Shores

1031 Harbor Blvd., Oxnard

Fri 12/15: Joe Delia (4 pm); Robert Heft

Band (9 pm)

Sat 12/16: CheckPoint

Fri 12/22: Jake McClelland (4 pm);

Nuestro (8:30 pm)

Sat 12/23: Sin Chonies

The Six

419 E. Main St., Ventura

Sat 12/23: The Shaky Trio

The Sportsman

4426 Central Ave., Camarillo

Sun 12/17: Swing Shift

Strey Cellars

951 N. Rice Ave., Oxnard

Fri 12/15: 805 Social Club

Sat 12/16: Bar Fly

Taqueria Jalisco

4275 Tierra Rejada Rd., Moorpark

Tuesdays & Fridays: Jim Friery

Topa Topa Brewing

4880 Colt St., Ventura

Tues 12/26: Friendly Jam

The Twist on Main

454 E. Main St., Ventura

Sat 12/16: Joe Delia (noon); Ray Jaurique

Trio (4 pm); JetLemons (8 pm)

Sun 12/17: JetLemons (1 pm); Mark

Masson's Jamgrass (4 pm)

Wed 12/20: Dueling Pianos

Fri 12/22: Albert Lee w/ Hot Roux

Sat 12/23: Dive Bar Brio (noon); Adam

Lenhard (4 pm); Brobots (8 pm)

Sun 12/24: Bella Lucarelli

Vaquero y Mar

435 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

Sundays: Mariachi

Tuesdays: The Sea Hunter, Lowered

Expectations

Wednesdays: The Jelly Band

Fri 12/15: Conjunto Zacamandu

Sat 12/23: The Missing 23rd, Shim

Come Quick

Ventura Music Hall

1888 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

Thurs 12/14: Ozomatli, Rey Fresco

Sat 12/23: Parliament Funkadelic feat.

George Clinton

Waterside

3500 Harbor Blvd., Oxnard

Sat 12/23 Guy Thomas & Dave

Blanchard

Winchesters

632 E. Main St., Ventura Music

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

pm

Thurs 12/14: Brandon Ragan

Fri 12/15: Déjà vu Three

Sat 12/16: Rick & Jenny

Sun 12/17: Karen Eden & the Bad Apples

Thurs 12/21: George & Michael

Fri 12/22: Meg & Alex

Sat 12/23: Chelsea Sanchez

Sun 12/24: Teresa Russell



Become another Rembrandt.

BAA presents Art Studio Live!

Weekly Life Drawing Sessions & Monthly Workshops beginning in 2024.

Buenaventura Art Association is excited to share some good news with our patrons, friends, collectors and fellow artists!

We are adding a fourth BAA location — joining Studio 99 @ The Bell Arts Factory, Harbor Village Gallery & Gifts, and SpiceTopia — at H Gallery & Studios, 1793 E. Main St. in midtown Ventura!

We will continue to have art exhibits at our other three locations but now we can forge ahead with our mission of connecting artists with each other, the community with artists, and learning and growing as artists ourselves, by launching art education programs for the public.

To start, we will be hosting weekly Life Drawing Sessions with live models on Tuesday mornings and Wednesday evenings starting Tuesday, January 9th for \$20 each session (pre-registered). But you can preview these sessions in December for the low cost of \$15 each session (pre-registered)!

H Gallery + Studios is a 10,000 square foot vintage 1930's building completely dedicated to creatives and entrepreneurs. It includes a 2000 square foot contemporary art gallery, a 2700 cubic foot suspended installation area and 22 work studios for individuals to nurture their creative endeavors. We will hold our sessions in Studio #14, just inside the building entrance on the right.

Ventura
Art
Scene

Friday, January 12, 2024 is the deadline to enter and submit artwork for the 38th Annual California Strawberry Festival Artwork Contest. The artist with the winning strawberry-themed design will receive \$2,000 and VIP tickets to the Festival, which takes place May 18-19, 2024 at the Ventura County Fairgrounds.

Entries will be evaluated by a judging panel looking for creativity and the best use of a strawberry design. The winning design may be used in printed and digital advertising collateral as well as on souvenir merchandise. Artists should keep in mind that judges may give preference to artwork that will print well on promotional items like t-shirts.

Artists can create their designs in a variety of mediums--digital, oils, watercolors, inks, pencil, photograph, and mixed media. Entries must be 16-1/2 inches wide by 17 inches high. Artwork should be scanned or photographed and submitted digitally through the Festival website. Uploaded files should be of the highest quality possible in jpg or png format. Artists may be contacted by the Festival for access to the original work. Multiple entries by a single artist will be accepted. There is no fee to enter.

The winner will be notified around the second week of February and will be the guest of honor at a March luncheon when the design will be revealed to media, dignitaries, and festival sponsors. The winning original design and all rights of the winning design will become the property of the California Strawberry Festival.

Visit www.castrawberryfestival.org (click on Interactive Events) for artwork contest rules and entry form.



“We could not do what we do without the support of our dedicated volunteers.”

River Community Church in Ventura: A Beacon of Hope in Thanksgiving and Beyond

In the heart of Ventura, California, the River Community Church stands as a testament to the power of community and compassion. Led by Pastor Jim Duran, this church has been a steadfast source of support for the under-resourced community for many years. In the face of challenges, including the recent unprecedented times, the church has continued its mission with unwavering dedication.

This past Thanksgiving, The River Community Church went above and beyond to make a meaningful impact on the lives of those in need. Despite the trials of the past year, the church's commitment to serving the community remained unshaken. Over 200 turkeys, pies,

and essential food items were distributed to families facing economic hardships. This act of generosity not only provided a festive meal for many but also served as a reminder that even in difficult times, the community stands together.

Pastor Jim Duran, the lead pastor of The River Community Church, has been a guiding force behind the church's initiatives. His vision for a church that actively engages with and uplifts the local community has shaped the institution into a beacon of hope. Under his leadership, the church has consistently sought innovative ways to address the evolving needs of the underprivileged by not just giving a hand out, but more importantly, a hand up.

Beyond the annual Thanksgiving outreach, The River engages in various ongoing initiatives to support the community. These include food drives, educational programs, and outreach events aimed at fostering a sense of unity and shared responsibility. The church's commitment extends to providing emotional and spiritual support, recognizing the holistic needs of individuals and families.

The impact of The River Community Church goes beyond the tangible goods distributed; it's about building connections and creating a sense of belonging. The church acts as a catalyst for positive change, inspiring individuals and other organizations to join hands in making a difference.

In the face of uncertainty, Pastor Jim Duran and River Community Church continue to be a source of strength and compassion for the Ventura community. Their dedication to serving the under-resourced

is not just a seasonal endeavor but a year-round commitment to creating a better, more inclusive society. The River's food distribution is ran by dedicated volunteers that provide groceries to approximately 700 people a week.

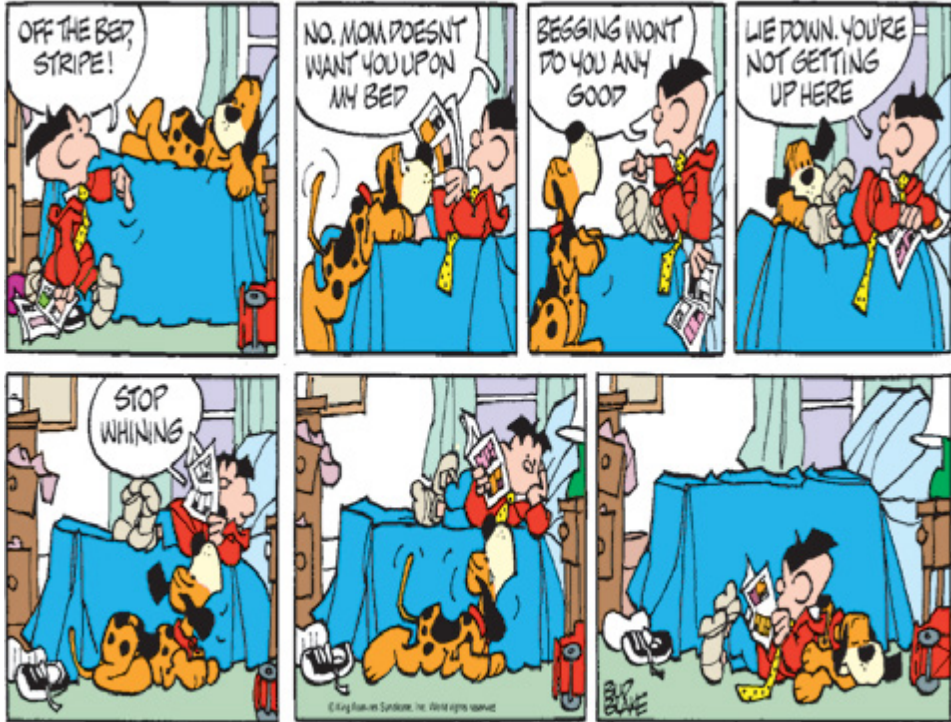
“We could not do what we do without the support of our dedicated volunteers, our donors, local social service agencies, local congregations, and our business partnerships. This is truly a collaborative effort. We can do more as a team and we are better together. I am truly blessed to serve in a city where people want to work together for the greater cause,” says Pastor Jim Duran.

As we reflect on the past year, let River Community Church in Ventura serve as a reminder that, even in challenging times, the power of community and kindness can illuminate the path forward. The River Community Church - 889 E. Santa Clara St. Ventura, CA 93001 - www.therivercommunity.org

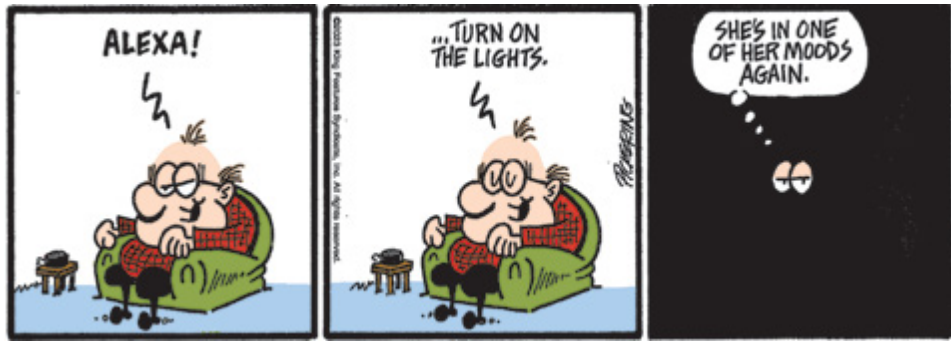


Lighter Breeze

Tiger



The Spats



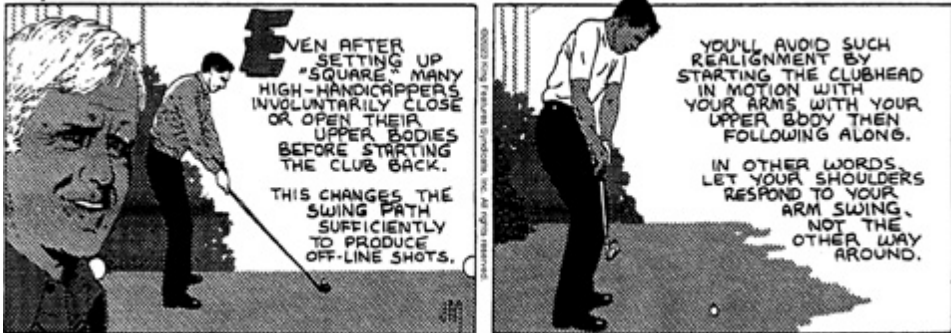
Out on a Limb



Amber Waves



Play better golf with Jack Nicklaus



Solutions on page 15

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

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

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 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 "Kapow!"
- 4 British ref. work
- 7 Holler
- 12 Director Spike
- 13 Chemical suffix
- 14 Fall sign
- 15 Nest egg acronym
- 16 Large, luxurious car
- 18 Brooch
- 19 Range
- 20 Collections
- 22 - tear (ragging)
- 23 First lady of scat
- 27 Earth Day mo.
- 29 transparent
- 31 Dolphins' home
- 34 Traces of smoke
- 35 Agile
- 37 Obtained
- 38 Bygone Peruvian
- 39 Flamenco cheer
- 41 Vacillate
- 45 Quick trip
- 47 Shoe width
- 48 Pungent cheese
- 52 Aachen article

1	2	3		4	5	6		7	8	9	10	11
12				13				14				
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				45				46		47		
48	49	50	51								52	
53							54				55	
56							57				58	

- 53 Sports figures?
- 54 Zsa Zsa's sister
- 55 Speck
- 56 Dunkable treat
- 57 River blocker
- 58 Actor Brynner

- 7 Pivot
- 8 That guy's
- 9 Kimono sash
- 10 Samovar
- 11 - kwon do
- 17 Ellipse
- 21 Ballroom dance
- 23 Radiates
- 24 Vinyl records
- 25 Back talk
- 26 Billboards
- 28 Picnic dessert
- 30 - Jima
- 31 Roman 1051
- 32 "There's no - team!"
- 33 "Better Call Saul" network

- 36 Bellow
- 37 Swiss metropolis
- 40 Sledged in the Winter Olympics
- 42 Like a neglected garden
- 43 Vowel group
- 44 Streisand title role
- 45 Equitable
- 46 Streetcar
- 48 Leary's drug
- 49 Jurist Lance
- 50 Fortify
- 51 A/C meas.

DOWN

- 1 Radar dots
- 2 High nest
- 3 Signified
- 4 Fixes a squeak
- 5 Newspaper chief
- 6 Fiend

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On Vacation - New York



While waiting on 34th St, NYC for the Macy's parade Eugene Peck found time to read the Breeze.

Show Time



Two great events at the Rubicon.

A View from House Seats

Rubicon Strikes Gold in Silver Year

by Shirley Lorraine

Twenty -Five years ago the Rubicon theater began as a dream. It has grown, evolved, and become a shining light in the arts community, proving that dreams can come true. In this 2023-2024 season of must-see, “real” theater, the Rubicon continues to be a shining beacon.

Opening night of *The World Goes ‘Round*, a musical revue of the over 40-year collaboration of the highly successful songwriting duo John Kander and Fred Ebb, held a huge surprise.

Former Senator Hannah Beth Jackson, as well as Senator Monique Limon and Assemblyman Steve Bennett were on hand to make a special presentation. Their heartfelt, passionate presentations highlighted many ways the Rubicon has enriched our community over the last 25 years by providing high quality artistic opportunities to the citizens of our beloved community, as well as continuing to thrive and grow during the extraordinary experience of the pandemic.

Karyl Lynn Burns, Rubicon Executive Director, was presented with a \$1.5 Million governmental investment to recognize their importance as a professional regional theater of note (see separate article).

Burns and her husband James O’Neill have been on this journey for the last 25 years, becoming champions of the arts in the Ventura area and cultivating community support.

A recent production of *In the Heights* was taken to schools throughout the area, introducing over 52,000 students to the magic that involvement in the arts can provide. That’s quite an impressive outreach, especially in a time when arts budgets in the schools are cut routinely. The concept of arts as a whole being a necessary component to well-rounded living was soundly applauded.

Following the presentation, the audience was treated to another extraordinary theatrical experience with *The World Goes ‘Round*, featuring songs of Kander and Ebb who penned such familiar classics as the scores to *Chicago*, *Cabaret*, *Zorba*, *70*, *Girls*, *70* and many more.

The Drama Desk Award-winning musical revue exuded high energy, humor and complexity. Many of the songs will be familiar -some less so. Each one is given treatment apart from the usual contextual rendering of its original use. In every case however, the lyrics beautifully illustrate the timeless-

ness and impact of the sentiments..

The Revue has been around since the early 1990’s. I vividly recall owning a vinyl copy of the original cast album and playing it often. It was, and continues to be, inspiring. This performance simply stunned me with its depth, triggering so many memories, tears and laughter.

Powerhouse vocals by each cast member shook the rafters. Each shone individually and collectively with some impressive pieces weaving several songs sung simultaneously. Once again, the Rubicon has given our community a priceless gift with extraordinary talent. This is a holiday gift not to be missed.

Performances run through December 23. with multiple opportunities to catch this stirring compilation of well known and not-so-well-known (but equally moving) songs by the duo of John Kander and Fred Ebb. Performances are Wednesdays at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. (talkback with cast following the 7 p.m. show), Thursdays and Fridays at 7 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Go. Enjoy.

Streaming Spotlight by Cindy Summers

Leave the World Behind

- Netflix & Theaters



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

In “Leave the World Behind” Amanda (Julia Roberts) and Clay (Ethan Hawke) Sanford were living a busy working life in New York City, so decided to take an unplanned vacation up north on the coast with their two children Archie (Charles Evans) and Rose (Farrah Mackenzie). They booked a vacation rental with the title “Leave the World Behind” that appeared the perfect location, though something seemed off when while they were at the beach later that day a huge oil tanker that was out of control ran up on the beach though no ports were anywhere near. The other troubling matter was that not only was the home WiFi not working, neither were any cell phones or tablets.

Back at the house the Sanford family shared a quiet night and after the kids had gone to bed Amanda and Clay shared some wine and time playing Jenga, when they heard a knock on the door. This immediately concerned Amanda due to the remote location of the rental, but Clay answered the door to find a finely dress man and young woman who apologized for the intrusion and shared it was their home. The man introduced himself as G.H. Scott (Mahershala Ali) and his daughter Ruth (Myha’la Herrold) and said that they went to spend time in the city, but that there was a blackout and chose to return to their house.

The Scotts said that they needed to stay at their home, but would refund the Sanfords their money and that there was an apartment downstairs they could stay the night until morning when they could find out what was going on in the city. Amanda did not want to agree to them being in the house together, but Clay was more easy going and compassionate about the Scotts situation so agreed to work out everything in the morning. Amanda only agreed to let the Scotts stay because of Clay and felt the G.H was withholding information, though he said he shared all he knew.

Due to the television, internet and phones still being down, the next day they decided to venture out to see if anyone had any information. G.H. headed to the closest neighbors home, Clay left for town and Amanda stayed back at the house with everyone else. This is when they began to discover something very serious had happened.

Clay got lost without GPS and was chased back to the house by a huge drone dropping thousands of flyers with Arabic text which Archie was able to decipher said “Death to America”.

When G.H. arrived at the neighbors house, there was metal debris, luggage and other forms of wreckage on the front lawn and throughout the house which was right on the coast. Out back he discovered plane wreckage and dead bodies on the beach, and hearing another plane approaching, rushed back to the house for cover as another plane crashed onto the coastline. He returned to the house covered in water and wet sand, but had difficulty explaining what happened as his wife was on a return flight and concerned her plane had suffered the same fate.

Though in different locations, they then all heard several sonic booms and then an ear-piercing sound coming from everywhere that made them drop to their knees in pain that lasted for a while. Other strange things were happening with the wildlife including hundreds of deer surrounding the house and flamingos landing in the pool. With each new situation, G.H. seemed to grow more uneasy, as if he knew something about what was happening, some of which he shared with his daughter but was not sharing with the Sanfords. G.H. later shared that in his line of work as an analyst he dealt with clients in the defense industry and had been privy to some hypothetical scenarios on destroying a country and believed unfortunately that this was what had begun.

Runtime: 2h 20m

“...a spiritually satiating homage to the man in black.”

Maggie Yates, THE INDEPENDENT

“FANTASTIC! INFECTIOUS!”

Jesse Caverly, VOICE MAGAZINE

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12th Annual CAN-tree Food Drive

Food Share's 12th Annual CAN-tree Food Drive returned to transform Figueroa Plaza in the heart of Downtown Ventura. Over 300 magnificent trees, contributed by a diverse array of 100 businesses and groups, adorn the plaza.

The Ventura Breeze was there putting up their tree. Mary Thompson and Janie Tran led the group and publisher Sheldon was there, providing emotional help only.



The annual holiday event features tuba and euphonium musicians playing seasonal tunes. Fun for the whole family.

Photo by Jill Forman.

Rubicon's opening night Continued from page 1

Artistic Director Karyl Lynn Burns. "It comes at the perfect time as we celebrate our Silver Anniversary and begin to plan for ways Rubicon as an institution can serve future generations of Ventura and California residents."

"The funds provided will help us create an accessibility plan, upgrade our technical equipment and complete a kitchen renovation which will enable us to expand and diversify our programming and encourage new audiences and participants to 'cross the Rubicon.'"

"This is an incredible endorsement from the State of California of Rubicon's 25-year impact on the cultural, artistic and educational life of our region and bodes well for the future," says Board President Doug Halter.

I am moved not only by the professional work on stage, but also by Rubicon's commitment to providing opportunities for young people that didn't exist before the company came into existence. We gratefully accept this incredible gift and we want to thank you, Monique, for heroically leading the charge, and you, Steve, for being a part of the Rubicon family since the beginning."

Because of this support the Rubicon will be able to complete a commercial kitchen downstairs, which means that in the spring, they will have cabaret, comedy and music on off-nights and events in the Rose Room downstairs.

This funding will also allow the buying of lights, sounds and projection equipment and save the company hundreds of thousands of dollars in rentals.

And finally, funds are available to create the plans and start a campaign for an outdoor terrace, accessible restrooms and parking.

Rubicon Theatre Company is located at The Karyn Jackson Theatre, located at 1006 E. Main Street in Ventura's Downtown Cultural District.