



# VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

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Surf Rodeo float riders waving to the crowd. Photo by Brendan Daly/WhizCom Marketing

## Join the parade, on March 16!

If you'd like to roll down Main Street in the 2024 County Ventura St. Patrick's Day Parade, the time to sign up is now. Entry deadline is Thursday, March 7.

Presented annually by Ventura Elks Lodge No. 1430, the parade will commence this year at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 16, along a three-quarter-mile route in the heart of Ventura. To enter, visit [venturastpatricksdaysparade.com](http://venturastpatricksdaysparade.com). Entry fee is \$50.

This year's parade theme, "Shamrocks & Shenanigans," gives entrants an invitation to embrace their inner leprechauns with whimsy and mischief in their creations.

One of the county's most popular community events, the St. Patrick's Day parade draws thousands each year to a route lined with happy families all dressed up in green. The 2024 parade will run the same midtown route it debuted in 2022, downhill along Main, from Lincoln Drive to Fir Street.

Parade entries are coming in strong this year and again include a solid musical contingent. Always a great entertainment, the parade last year drew more bands and other musicians than any previous year in the history of the decades-old event.

Parade entrants compete for awards presented by a panel of judges led by St.

**Continued on page 3**

## City of Ventura names Rachel Dimond as new Community Development Director



Dimond joined the City of Ventura in May 2023

Following an extensive recruitment process, Rachel Dimond has been appointed as the Community Development Director, effective February 17, 2024. Dimond has been serving in the interim director role since the end of 2023.

Ms. Dimond joined the City of Ventura in May 2023 as the Interim Assistant Community Development Director and has since demonstrated exceptional leadership, overseeing various planning projects including major hotel, mixed-use, and residential developments.

"Drawing from a diverse planning background that extends from the State of Colorado to Southern California, Rachel brings over 20 years of industry insight and a wealth of knowledge to the role," stated Ventura City Manager Bill Ayub. "Her expertise in urban planning, addressing both long-term strategies and immediate objectives, will be instrumental in fulfilling the

**Continued on page 3**

## The Power of Love

On Saturday, February 10th, over 150 guests both young and old were carried back-in-time to the decade of the boom box, the mix-tape, the Walkman, and totally awesome dance music at Kids & Families Together's fifth annual fundraising event. This year's theme, The Power of Love ~ an 80's themed FUN-raising dance, truly captured the essence that is at the heart of K&FT as an organization and the critical work they provide to families in our communities. As the 1985 song by Huey Lewis & The News states, love truly is "the power that makes the world go 'round".

Guests that gathered at Poinsettia Pavilion enjoyed a fantastic evening including a fun and nostalgic 80's-themed menu prepared by Food Affairs

**Continued on page 19**



Founders, the Friedlanders.

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# VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

Member, Ventura Chamber of Commerce

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**It is easier to  
build strong  
children than  
to repair  
broken men.**  
— Fredrick  
Douglass

## City News

### Applications open for Community Partnerships and Cultural Funding Grants

Applications are now being accepted for the City of Ventura's Community Partnerships Granting Program (CPGP) and Cultural Funding Granting Program (CFGFP). Both grant programs were developed to support nonprofit organizations that provide services to Ventura residents.

"These grants, administered by the Parks and Recreation Department, support our local social service, arts, and cultural nonprofit groups who work hard to serve the many unique needs of Ventura residents," said Recreation Manager Emily Fox.

The Community Partnerships Granting Program, developed in 1998, is available to 501(c)(3) social service organizations located in Ventura County. \$140,000 is awarded on a competitive basis, with project-based grants ranging in size from \$1,000 to \$20,000 in a two-year cycle during the 2024-2025 and 2025-2026 fiscal years.

The Cultural Funding Grant Program, developed in 1993, is available to Ventura-based nonprofit arts and cultural organizations with 501(c)(3) status or that have a Ventura County fiscal agent with 501(c)(3) status. \$90,000 will be awarded

on a competitive basis, with grants supporting projects, initiatives, and general operating expenses ranging in size from \$1,000 to \$20,000 in a one-year cycle during the 2024-2025 fiscal year.

Applications for both grants are due by 5:00 p.m. (PST) on Tuesday, February 27, 2024. For more information including grant guidelines, eligibility requirements, and applications, visit [www.cityofventura.ca.gov/Grants](http://www.cityofventura.ca.gov/Grants).

Additionally, the City of Ventura's Special Event Grant Program (SEGP) will be opening in early Spring 2024. This year's SEGP will include an additional \$150,000 in one-time funding to support free and affordable community events in the City of Ventura. This grant will be available to nonprofit organizations with 501(c)(3) status or that have a Ventura County fiscal agent with 501(c)(3) status, including recipients of grant funding from the Community Partnerships and Cultural Funding Grant Programs. More information will be available on the City's website in early March 2024.

## Ventura Fire to host public Wildfire Preparedness Town Hall

The Ventura Fire Department, in partnership with the Ventura County Wildfire Collaborative, will host a free,



public town hall to discuss wildfire preparedness on Thursday, March 7, from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. in the Community Meeting Room at City Hall, located at 501 Poli Street in Ventura.

The town hall will cover a wide variety of preparedness topics, including wildfire risk in the City of Ventura, Fire Hazard Reduction Program guidelines, defensible space and home hardening tips, home ignition zone assessments, wildfire home insurance, and information about the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) Firewise community certification process.

"Fire safety is a shared responsibility, and an engaged and prepared community is our strongest defense against the threat of wildfires. We are thrilled to partner with the Wildfire Collaborative in providing a town hall for a two-way dialogue with our residents," said Fire Chief David Endaya. "We want to work together to strengthen our community's resilience and protect what matters most."

Agencies presenting at the event will include the Ventura Fire Department, Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council, Southern California Edison, and the California Department of Insurance.

"Collaboration is at the heart of effective wildfire preparedness. By working together with organizations like the Ventura Fire Department, we amplify our impact and empower communities to take meaningful action," said Mason Thurmond, Program Lead

## As I See It by Sheldon Brown

Buenaventura Golf Course future remains questionable for an opening date. City officials said parts of the course could possibly reopen to regain some of the revenue lost during the closure. It's not exactly clear when such a reopening could come.

In January 2023, the huge rainfall turned the course into a giant lake, while also flooding the pro shop and snack bar. Most of the sand traps, and several greens were destroyed in the flood as well.

The course is in a flood plain, so future flooding and how to correct it must be planned to prevent recurring damage every year.

The city gained approval for funding from FEMA but the exact amount remains unknown. The city's insurance carrier also needs to validate the funding claim.

Mayor Schroeder said he has been told FEMA will cover 75% of the costs and 15% or more will be covered by other sources, leaving the balance for the city to pay.

The opening could come in stages, from 9 holes to 12 holes to the full 18. Golfers still have 1 ½ other courses on which to play.

Police said at least one person was killed and over 20 people were wounded in a shooting in Kansas City, Missouri shortly after a Super Bowl victory parade for the Chiefs. Guns, guns, guns.

Florida veterinarian Shawna Green lost more than \$14,000 to a scammer who called from what appeared to be a legitimate Chase Bank customer service number. They told her that her debit card number had been stolen and tricked her

into providing her PIN. Dr. Green was informed by Chase that a new card was in the mail, but the company sent it to the thieves, who used it to buy alcohol and withdraw extra cash with each purchase.

In a claim that is central to the Republican impeachment inquiry in Congress, an FBI informant has been charged with fabricating a multimillion-dollar bribery scheme involving President Joe Biden, his son Hunter and a Ukrainian energy company.

Alexander Smirnov falsely reported to the FBI in June 2020 that executives associated with the Ukrainian energy company Burisma paid Hunter and Joe Biden \$5 million each in 2015 or 2016, prosecutors said in an indictment. Smirnov told his handler that an executive claimed to have hired Hunter Biden to "protect us, through his dad, from all kinds of problems," according to court documents.

Prosecutors say Smirnov in fact had only routine business dealings with the company in 2017 and made the bribery allegations after he "expressed bias" against Joe Biden while he was a presidential candidate.

Perhaps impeachment shouldn't be based on the words of one individual.

Recently U.S. stocks set another record. The S&P 500 rose 29.11 points, or 0.6%, to 5,029.73 and squeaked by its prior all-time high set several weeks ago.

I watched the NFL championship football game, and even though the finish was exciting I refuse to call it super. It was a terrible game in my opinion. The main interest for me was seeing what Taylor Swift looked like - they showed

her every 5-minutes.

What? Yes, I've never heard her sing or watched her perform. Just not my genre of music.

What is beyond my comprehension is that according to a recent poll, nearly one in five Americans believe a false conspiracy theory that Taylor Swift is part of a plot to boost President Joe Biden as he seeks another term in office. So goes Taylor goes the country.

Are voters in this country so stupid they would let an entertainer decide who they should vote for? Maybe they are. Donald Trump used a rally in South Carolina to attack rival Nikki Haley in her home state and to mock the absence of her husband, who is deployed overseas in the military.

"Where's her husband? Oh, he's away. ... What happened to her husband? Where is he? He's gone."

Michael Haley is deployed in Africa with the South Carolina Army National Guard in support of the United States Africa Command, his second active-duty deployment overseas.

Nikki Haley fired back at Trump's comments later Saturday, saying, "If you mock the service of a combat veteran, you don't deserve a driver's license, let alone being president of the United States."

Too bad Trump isn't married so we can ask why his wife isn't at any of his speeches or supporting him at his court appearances. Oh, he is married!

We encourage you to send your opinions to [opinions@venturabreeze.com](mailto:opinions@venturabreeze.com). Please limit them to about 300 words





for the Ventura County Wildfire Collaborative. "The Ventura County Resource Conservation District is proud to play a role in fostering a resilient and well-informed community through the work of the Ventura County Wildfire Collaborative."

In addition to speakers, a variety of booths and community outreach materials will be provided by the California Office of Emergency Services, American Red Cross, and the Ventura Land Trust.

Live streaming and Spanish interpretation will also be available.

For all event information, please visit [CityofVentura.ca.gov/FireTownHall](http://CityofVentura.ca.gov/FireTownHall). To learn more about emergency preparedness in the City of Ventura, visit [CityofVentura.ca.gov/Emergency-Preparedness](http://CityofVentura.ca.gov/Emergency-Preparedness).

#### Rachel Dimond

##### Continued from page 1

City's developmental requirements for residents, businesses, and community collaborators."

Prior to joining the City, Ms. Dimond held the position of Assistant City Manager for the City of Compton and played senior planning roles in the City of West Hollywood. Dimond holds a Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs from The George Washington University and a Master of Urban Planning degree from New York University.

Over the past three years, the Community Development Department has made significant contributions to several important City Council goals. This includes drafting the 2021-2029 Housing Element, updating the Accessory Dwelling Unit ordinance, establishing an expanded Permit Services Division and Housing Services Division, supporting commercial cannabis applications, enhancing the historic preservation process, and initiating the General Plan Update process.

The Community Development Department is responsible for planning and zoning, building and safety, code enforcement, housing, and redevelopment for the City of Ventura. It ensures that new construction and additions to existing structures meet the policies and guidelines established for public safety, zoning, and development.

With 45 full-time employees and an annual operating budget of over \$15.4 million, the department also works closely with various City commissions and committees that help guide and advise the City Council regarding development in Ventura.

For more information about the City's Community Development Department, visit [www.cityofventura.ca.gov/CD](http://www.cityofventura.ca.gov/CD).

#### Join the parade on March 16!

##### Continued from page 1

Patrick's Day Parade Committee member James Lockwood. Joining Lockwood on the panel will be Clint Garman from the office of Ventura County Supervisor Matt LaVere; Richard Rush, former president of California State University Channel Islands; Celina Zacarias, CSUCI's director of community and government relations; and Elks Lodge representative Rhonda Catron.

Primary parade sponsors include California State University Channel Islands, Citizens Business Bank, E.J. Harrison & Sons, Rolls Scaffold, Runnin' to Bunnin Chevrolet, and Union Bank. Major sponsors donating their time and services include CAPS Media, the Gaston Group, Ventura Rental Center, and WhizCom

Marketing. Among the scores of others who contributed are a dozen media sponsors.

The parade grand marshal this year is the wonderful Elena Brokaw! Executive director of the Museum of Ventura County, Elena is a perennial Ventura County civic leader who before heading up the museum worked with the city of Ventura for 13 years, including as its community services director. In 2019, she was named Citizen of the Year, earning the top honor bestowed by the Ventura Chamber of Commerce in its annual prestigious Poinsettia Awards.

Elena grew up in Ventura County, the youngest of five. She lived in East Ventura till her family moved to an avocado ranch in Santa Paula when she was 8. Elena naturally gravitated toward arts and culture, spending her youth writing, singing and acting and going on to earn a degree in fine arts from Harvard. After short, post-college stints in Boulder, Colorado, and Los Angeles, Elena returned home to Ventura County for good.

She lives in Santa Paula with her husband, former Ventura Police Chief Pat Miller, and her son, Charlie – who turns 13 the day after St. Patrick's Day!

The County Ventura St. Patrick's Day Parade is co-chaired by an esteemed group of former Ventura mayors and councilmembers – former grand marshals Jim Monahan and Nan Drake; and longtime event coordinator Brian Brennan – working in cooperation with a hardworking committee including members from Ventura Elks Lodge No. 1430, which has presented the parade since its beginnings in the 1980s.

For answers to parade entry questions, call Brennan at 805-746-5955 or committee member Aaron Gaston at 805-340-8217. For other parade info, call Monahan at 805-340-1356.

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Happy 7th Birthday KPPQ Radio!

## The vibrant radio division of CAPS Media has grown steadily

CAPS Media's KPPQ-LP Radio station celebrated a major milestone in February: 7 years of delivering non-stop, award-winning original and specially curated programming and entertainment to local Ventura and worldwide listeners.

KPPQ-LP FM 104.1 is Ventura's only non-commercial, community radio station. The CAPS Media station belongs to the public and reaches more than 100,000 people in Ventura and thousands more worldwide.

Launched in 2017 the vibrant radio division of CAPS Media has grown steadily year after year becoming one of the most engaging and go-to sites in Ventura. KPPQ broadcasts 24/7 at 104.1 FM, and streams worldwide on myTuner radio and capsmedia.org.

Week in and week out KPPQ-LP ever-growing cast of creative DJs produce innovative and engaging programs in the state-of-the-art radio studio in the CAPS

Media center. KPPQ programming includes interviews and stories with local artists, leaders, and organizations, plus a wide variety of music programs and much more.

KPPQ DJs include Kathy Good, Mark of the Pure Rock Show, Pam Baumgardner, Doc Ventura, Kevin Wallace, Tom Gardner, Marie Labrie, Lily Carnaghe, Dr. Cole & Dr. Q, Craig Rosen, and Nadine Piche consistently deliver an eclectic and entertaining mix of programming to KPPQ-LP enthusiastic and growing audience of listeners.

The ever-evolving KPPQ radio operation was envisioned, masterminded, and founded by CAPS Media's Elizabeth Rodeno. Elizabeth has been the KPPQ driving force and station manager since its inception.

"As one of the founders and station manager of KPPQ I am thrilled to be part of Ventura's Community radio station as we celebrate its 7th year on the air. Since 2017 when we flipped the switch on the only

non-commercial community radio station in Ventura, producers have sat behind a microphone and shared their voice and the voices of Ventura County with listeners across the globe. The KPPQ community looks forward to the next 7 years. " , Elizabeth Rodeno, KPPQ Station Manager,

KPPQ airs 7 days a week, 24 hours a day on 104.1fm radio and streams worldwide on myTurner Radio and on capsmedia.org. Everyone interested in learning more about KPPQ-LP including how to become a Host or DJ are encouraged to attend a CAPS Radio Orientation are on the first Thursday of the month, or contact Elizabeth Rodeno, at [radio@capsmedia.org](mailto:radio@capsmedia.org).

Everyone at CAPS Media and throughout Ventura congratulates the KPPQ-LP crew on its momentous 7th birthday. We all look forward to many more years of creative, informative, and entertaining programming and services to the Ventura community and the world.

CAPS, Community Access Partners of San Buenaventura, is an independent non-profit organization, with a mission to create an engaged and informed community through participation in electronic media. The CAPS staff manages the CAPS Media Center, programs cable channels 6 (Public) and 15 (Education and Government), and CAPS Radio KPPQ. The CAPS Media Center, located on the Ventura College campus at 65 Day Road is Open Tuesday – Thursday, 12p–8pm.

The CAPS team invites everyone in town to join one of CAPS' orientation sessions held on the first week of each month at 6pm; Monday – general orientation, Tuesday – studio/soundstage tour, Wednesday – videography and editing, Thursday – KPPQ Radio. The CAPS Media Center and staff provide unlimited creative resources and expertise for everyone in Ventura. Drop by, see what CAPS has to offer you, and consider joining the CAPS Creative Community.





Students hosted a celebration of learning and fundraising for Friends of Field. Photos By Michael Gordon.

# 5th-graders learned over 40,000 people are involved in the ag food business in Ventura

Two 5th-grade classes at Ventura Charter School just finished a unit focused on the novel *Esperanza Rising* where they learned about agriculture and farm worker rights. The entire 5th grade took a field trip to

tour local produce storage coolers in Oxnard. They also saw a presentation and interviewed these food workers and immigration officers who deal mostly with pests/insects who sneak into palettes and the food supply. Students then did a very interesting tour at the Port of Hueneme to learn about the imported and exported food in our community.

Next, students interviewed local experts on food and food workers who presented to our school. Former reporter and ag worker John Krist presented the annual crop report. A representative from the local nonprofit "Friends of Field Workers" also presented. Students were inspired to share all they learned from this project and to fundraise and donate to Friends of Field Workers. This

money can go towards doing laundry for field worker families which is a huge need.

On February 14th, they hosted a celebration of learning and fundraising for a local nonprofit called Friends of Field Workers. Students created a ZINE (mini magazine) about local crops, art prints inspired by the novel and 130 clay bowls for the event.

Local CSUCI Art Director and ceramics teacher Marianne Mc Grath is a 5th grade parent and ceramics teacher who spearheaded all this incredible bowl making.

They learned over 40,000 people are involved in the ag food business here in Ventura County. Cultivating an appreciation for this is critical. Empowering students to give is also key.

## Business Profile



# Greg Rents Opens Second Location in Ventura

Since 1999, Greg Rents has proudly called Oak View, California, home. In 2024, they expanded with a second location in Ventura, California. As a family-owned and operated business, Greg Rents offers a range of services, including small and large equipment rentals, equipment repairs and sales, bulk landscaping materials, propane, firewood, and basic party rentals.

As a 6th generation Ventura County businessman, Greg pursued Diesel Mechanics at Reedley College after graduating from Ventura High. Actively involved in the community, he has served as both Honorary Mayor and President of the Oak View Civic Council. Greg is also associated with the Oak View Beautification Committee, Ojai Chamber of Commerce, Oak View Moose Lodge, Ventura Chamber Young Professionals Group, Ventura Chamber of Commerce, and various community outreach events.

Greg's dedication has been recognized with the "Business of the Year"

award in 2007 and 2009 from the Oak View Civic Council. Notable nominations include "Best New Chamber Member 2012," "Spirit of the Ojai Valley 2013," and "Small Business of the Year 2015." He was honored with the Carla Bard Community Service Award in 2022.

Actively engaged in professional associations, Greg serves as a board member of the California Rental Association (CRA) and holds various roles within the Ojai Chamber of Commerce, Ventura Chamber of Commerce, and Rotary Club of Ojai.

To celebrate the opening of the Ventura location, Ventura Chamber of Commerce hosted the Ribbon Cutting ceremony on February 10, attended by colleagues, family, friends, and members of the Ventura Chamber. In his leisure time, Greg, a professional motorcycle hillclimber, cherishes moments with his family, including his 5-year-old son and 3-year-old daughter, as well as friends.

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The Ventura Chamber held a ribbon cutting at Greg Rents.





Currently, significant progress is being made on the milestones of the project.

## Ventura WaterPure Project Update

by Patricia Schallert

The main outfall pipe from Marina Park is now installed underneath the Ventura Harbor and also installed out to sea (about 4,500 feet offshore),

though there is still a lot more to do from now until Memorial Day. Trenching has already begun on Anchors Way from the Water's Edge

restaurant area.

However, there is still work to be done to finalize connections at Marina Park, which is expected to be completed by Memorial Day. Trenching has commenced on Anchors Way, starting from the Water's Edge restaurant area. The trenching process is led by Blois Construction, who are responsible for installing the outfall pipe on Anchors Way, Schooner Drive, then on Harbor Blvd.

The pipe segments will be fused/welded together in 500-ft long sections along the street. Construction progresses in 500-foot increments, with each 500-foot segment taking several days to dig and shore up. Once the pipe is pulled into place, it is welded at the far end, connecting it to the already installed pipeline. Then, the trench is backfilled and paved. This process will be repeated several times on Anchors Way, and again on Schooner, with each 500-foot section taking approximately two to three weeks for completion.

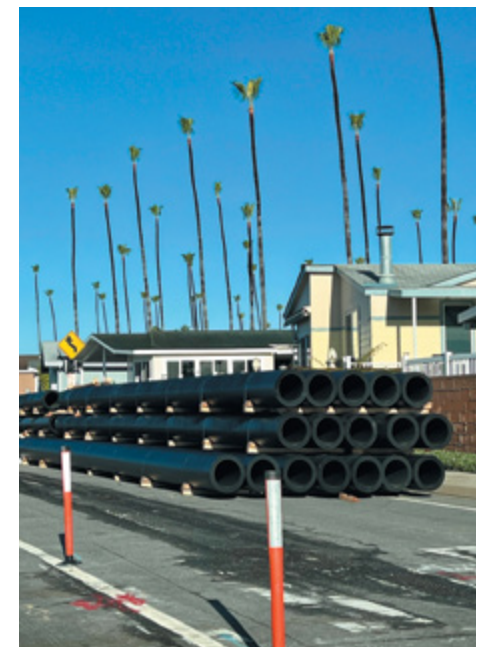
According to Steve Mimiaga, the City's construction manager, two 500-foot sections will be worked on along the eastbound (outbound) side of Schooner Dr., with an expected completion date of late April to early May. Then, trenching will begin on the southbound side of Harbor Blvd, close to the median, continuing under Spinnaker Dr. then turning into the City's water reclamation facility (VWRF) about 800 ft south of the Spinnaker intersection. Throughout this process, traffic will remain open, although occasional and

temporary lane closures may occur with the guidance of flagmen.

Construction is currently progressing according to the planned timeline, and it is anticipated that work in Marina Park will be completed before the Memorial Day weekend. The 24-foot tall soundwall within Marina Park is anticipated to be dismantled in March and replaced by contractor fencing. The area will be restored to its original appearance, with new mounds, grass, and an underground irrigation system completed, all scheduled to hopefully wrap up by Memorial Day weekend.

Learn more at the project website at [www.cityofventura.ca.gov/OceanOutfall](http://www.cityofventura.ca.gov/OceanOutfall)

Hotline for questions 805-500-8103



The 20th Anniversary David Mann Chopperfest was held on Sunday February 11 at the Ventura County Fairgrounds. Photo by Ken Karagozian.



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# Portside Ventura Harbor Celebrates Milestones and Memorable Events

Portside Ventura Harbor celebrated a remarkable year in 2023, marked by significant milestones, community engagement, and memorable events that solidified its position as a vibrant hub in the Ventura area.

Portside Ventura Harbor celebrated their ribbon cutting ceremony with the Chamber of Commerce, symbolizing the dawn of a new era for Portside Ventura Harbor. Two of its esteemed retail businesses, Harbor Mart and Crave Gelato Kofi Bar, also joined the celebrations in 2023 with their own ribbon cuttings.

Harbor Mart, a beloved local favorite, boasts an impressive array of offerings, including an extensive wine collection, global snacks, and a mouthwatering Mediterranean deli. Additionally, they provide last-minute items, sundries, and necessities, catering to the diverse needs of their local patrons.

Meanwhile, Crave Gelato Kofi Bar emerged as a modern, artisanal haven, delighting patrons with house-made gelato crafted from organic, sustainable ingredients, complemented by delectable handmade focaccia and pastries.

The harbor also saw the rise of Vision Ventura Electric Boat Rentals, which made waves with its eco-friendly electric boats, prominently featured in the Parade of Lights 2023 parade. Offering the perfect backdrop for memorable outings with friends and family, their rentals added a unique charm to the Ventura Harbor.

Throughout the year, Portside Ventura Harbor welcomed over 1000 guests at more than 20 events, showcasing its commitment to fostering community spirit and engagement. From the Pink Party supporting the American Cancer Society to the Playhouse Build for Habitat for Humanity, and the monthly Movie Night Under the Stars, the harbor buzzed with excitement and camaraderie.

In addition to its remarkable retail and culinary offerings, Portside Ventura Harbor is also home to an array of incredible small businesses, enhancing the vibrant atmosphere of its beautiful Plaza. Residents and visitors alike can explore an eclectic mix of services and shops, including Nourished Nails, Live N Dye Hair Salon, Portside Yoga, Vasquez Float Reiki, Focus SUP Hawaii Ventura, Mystic Relics Crystals and Jewelry, Q Studios, Inner Soulstice Wellness Pilates, Art is Passion, Tail of Success, Ambitious Beauty Studio, Mind Body Spirit Studios, Heart Theory Inc., and more coming soon! Whether you're in need of pampering, spiritual healing, fitness, or a unique shopping experience, the Plaza at Portside Ventura Harbor offers something for everyone.

As 2024 unfolds, Portside Ventura Harbor continues its legacy of growth and innovation. The addition of NeuroBoxing, an organization dedicated to non-contact boxing exercises, further enriches the community's offerings.

Looking ahead, Portside Ventura Harbor is gearing up for the Egg Hunt Festival on Saturday, March 30th, and is already collaborating with Habitat for Humanity for an expanded and enhanced Playhouse Build event on Saturday, August 24th.

With 2023 setting a high bar for success, Portside Ventura Harbor eagerly anticipates the opportunities and achievements that lie ahead in 2024. Stay tuned for another year of excitement, growth, and community at Portside Ventura Harbor.

Autumn Wassel | Lifestyle Director







# PORTSIDE VENTURA HARBOR *Events Calendar*

EVERY **SUN** **LIVE JAZZ AT CRAVE**  
12PM - 3PM

MAR **02** **THE POP-UP MARKET**  
10AM - 4PM

MAR **15** **MOVIE UNDER THE STARS**  
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Why are squid such an important pursuit?

## When Squid Season Is Upon Us

by Nella Nelson

The chugging and clanging of massive metallic vessels loaded with heavy equipment and lights are making a presence in our harbor. You may recognize that they are squid boats, making their annual voyage, some from as far as Alaska, and returning with bounteous catches of market squid. Let's take a closer look into the life of a squid boat and the creature they are catching.

Two types of boats are used in this

harvest, which takes place from October through April or May in Southern California. One is a squid seiner. The seiner is a vessel that works alongside light boats (smaller boats with high powered lights pointed from various angles). Purse seines are long vertical nets that draw and purse the bottom closed to capture fish. The lights used by the second boat are aimed to attract groups of spawning squid to the surface. When the squid emerge to the

surface, the light boat signals the seiner to deploy the net, encircling the light boat, in order to make the catch. Hence, the bright lights of this season can be seen from our shores at night or in the darkness of early mornings.

Why are squid such an important pursuit? California market squid are a major source of bait for the recreational fishing industry, although more than 80% is exported to China. According to a UCSD study, 82% of the 2001 catch was exported for secondary processing and human consumption while the remainder was domestically for consumption, pet food and bait. In 2022, 18,082 tons of squid was caught in Ventura alone, equaling 28% of California's total catch.

Ventura Harbor continues to be the premier landing port for California Market Squid. Our Ventura Harbor Village Marina can accommodate 54 squid seine vessels at any given time and is currently permanent home to 44 squid seiners. No other single marina on the west coast south of Alaska can accommodate as many seiners at one time as our harbor.

There's more to it. According to manager of commercial fisheries and technology at Ventura Harbor Village Marina, Frank Locklear, "Fishing is the lifeblood of this harbor and squid is the key." Locklear also stressed that squid fishing is crucial to both local fishing companies and the harbor as a whole. The harbor uses part of the revenue it receives to send representation to Washington DC to get funding

it needs for dredging, which removes sand and sediment from the harbor's entrance. This is necessary for the vessels occupying the marinas to get in and out of the harbor. Without regular dredging, boats cannot enter or exit."

Ensuring that fishermen capture squid that have already spawned is key to the production of the next generation and the future health of the population. Since squid have a short lifespan (6-9 months), fishermen target spawning squid because they die shortly after they reproduce. Even without fishing, the entire population replaces itself annually.

Market squid live in depths of up to 2,600 ft. and to the surface. They prefer salty ocean and are rarely found in estuaries or river mouths. They are of the mollusk family known as cephalopods, which means "foot-on-head". They have eight arms and two tentacles which extend from the ends of their bodies where their mouths are located. Females produce about 20 egg cases, each containing 200 individual eggs. Market squid, therefore, are an abundant source of food for humans as well as rockfish, sea birds and marine mammals of our local coast.

Sources:

NOAA fisheries - fisheries.noaa.gov

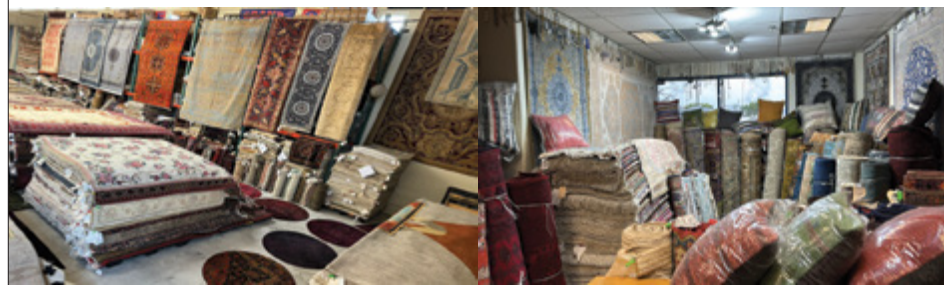
Ventura Port District - venturaharbor.com

Hersko, Tyler. Ventura County Star. Several Hundred Tons of Squid Offloaded in Ventura Nov 7, 2017

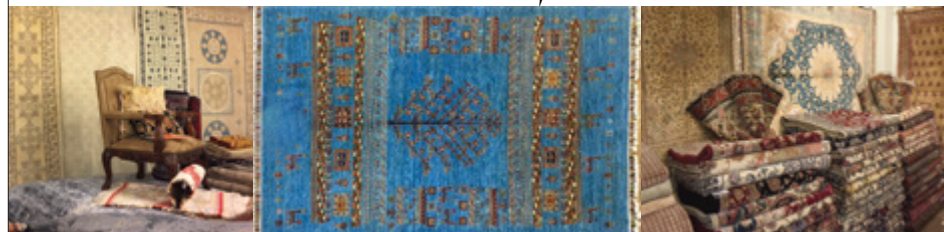
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Did Don Raymundo take the Frenchman back to his adobe home?

## The French Architect at the Olivas Adobe

by Richard Senate

Family stories and legends may well hold more knowledge than we think and provide insights into the past. One such legend is that of the young French architect who may well have designed the Olivas Adobe. The story tells how Raymundo, his sons and Vaqueros drove their herds of cattle north to the Gold Camps in the Sierra Nevada Mountains selling them for gold to the hungry miners. It was a cold hard journey but highly profitable.

As they road back they chanced upon a sick Frenchman seeking a warmer climate. Feeling sorry for the man Don Raymundo took him back to his adobe home to recover his health. The family helped to nurse him back to health. Having no money, the Frenchman, who had been trained as an architect in France, offered to help in the expansion of the adobe home.

So the story goes, the kitchen was roofed in curved roof tiles. These were removed and replaced by wooden

shingles. The young man helped, lifting the tiles and talking to Raymundo's daughters, and blowing them kisses as they giggled. Their mother, Teodora, wisely did her best to keep them away from the Frenchman. When the house was done, the Frenchman returned to the gold camps to make his fortune.

It is not known if Raymundo gave him any money to help his prospecting, but it would be like him. He never returned to visit the hacienda. Did he die in the camps? Did he return back to France? It is unknown. We do not even have a name for the young man. Is the story even true? Clearly, something happened to inspire the tale. It does hint that Raymundo could speak French. We know that the house was remodeled with a second floor in 1855. Could that be the year that the Frenchman visited? Maybe we shall never know what happened, but we have this charming story of a scene from the Gold Rush.





## Business Profile



Cazita Backyard Cabana on display at the Fairgrounds

# Home Improvement & Outdoor Living Expo: Free Admission at Ventura County Fairgrounds

Looking for a tiny house, kitchen remodel or total home makeover? Find these and much more at the Ventura Home Improvement & Outdoor Living Expo, taking place Friday, Saturday and Sunday, February 23, 24 and 25 at Ventura Fairgrounds. Admission is free for this fun and informative expo, which highlights the latest in decorating, remodeling and landscaping.

Ready to downsize, add rental income or take your home on the road? The Tiny House Showcase offers future homebuyers a chance to experience full-size tiny homes, accessory dwelling units (ADUs), casitas, homes on wheels, guest rooms and backyard cabanas. Meet with tiny home builders for specials and to learn more. Considering a kitchen or bath remodel? Local experts will be at the show to present renovation ideas from cabinets, countertops and center islands to tubs, vanities, shower doors, fixtures and accessories. Roofing, room additions, windows, doors, skylights, blinds/shutters and flooring/carpeting will also be available. Bring your plans and get ready to meet the pros.

For outdoor entertaining, see what's new in pools, hot tubs, BBQ islands, patios, decks, outdoor furniture and artificial turf. Other products and services include gutter protection, home siding, concrete, paving stones, painting and coating solutions. Gardening enthusiasts can check out garden tools, soil additives, treatments, biochar and sustainable cooking units. Get advice

from garden and landscape experts on plant care, soil health, pest control, composting and attracting birds, bees and butterflies to your backyard oasis. Energy and security products include heating/AC, solar, generators, alarms, security solutions and water filtration. Home decorating pros will also be on hand to help transform your space with storage, moving, organizing, kitchen accessories, bedding, mattresses and home décor products. For active aging and personal care, see what's new in stairlifts, scooters, ramps, grab bars and self-defense products. Stay-at-home assessments for seniors will also be provided. Arts, crafts, gifts, sports apparel, collectibles, gourmet items and bakery products will also be on be available.

Attendees can learn about income property, homes for sale, managing rental units, and more from members of the Apartment Association of Greater Los Angeles and Ventura County Coastal Association of Realtors. Show highlights will also include how-to demos, home improvement bingo and daily giveaways throughout the weekend.

The Home Improvement & Outdoor Living Expo - February 23-25, 2024, at Ventura County Fairgrounds, 10 W Harbor Blvd, Ventura, CA 93001. Show hours: Friday and Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. and Sunday 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. Admission is free. On-site parking: \$10.00. For information visit [www.venturahomeshows.com](http://www.venturahomeshows.com).

## A Night to Remember

Mission Church is hosting the ninth annual A Night to Remember, a free prom for students with disabilities, to be held at the Ventura County Fairgrounds Friday, March 8th beginning at 6:30 p.m. Night to Remember was started in 2012 and after a brief pause during the Covid pandemic is finally back!

"There is nothing quite like this night and experience for both our guests and volunteers. It's like a picture of heaven on earth," explained Mike Hickerson, Lead Pastor at Mission Church. "When everyone is out on the dance floor together, we all recognize that we're not that different from each other, and it just feels like something is

right in the world."

The night includes dresses and tuxedos, hairstyling, makeup and corsages or boutonnieres, limo rides and a walk down a red carpet cheered on by paparazzi. Each guest is accompanied by a student host from the community, given a formal photo, special food and treats and a night of dancing with a professional DJ.

"This event is not just a special night, but a night that has impacted our community all year long; we have watched our guests make friends with other students in their high schools and continue those friendships for years to come," said Taylor Hunt, NTR's Event Director. "It's amazing what can happen when a community gathers to celebrate people who are often overlooked and under celebrated. We are so excited to bring Night to Remember back!"



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Students had to brainstorm ways to determine the number of boxes they wanted to use. Photo by Michael Gordon.

## Mound Elementary STEM Project Benefits Food Share of Ventura County

Mound's fifth-grade class traditionally leads an outreach project, in which they learn something about themselves while giving back to the community. The students are responsible for planning and following through with various tasks, including cost analysis, publicity, and coordination with larger organizations. Last year, students and staff were inspired by a video of an elementary school that created a "domino run" with cereal boxes. They decided to do their own version of a domino run, as it would allow students to have a STEM project, practice their leadership skills, and, most importantly, do something meaningful for their com-

munity—a perfect fit for their Science and Global Citizenship magnet.

Students had to brainstorm ways to determine the number of boxes they wanted to use and then decide what to do with all the boxes when the domino run was completed. They immediately thought of donating the boxes to Food Share of Ventura County. They reached out to a dietician to ask about the nutritional value of cereal, and subsequently decided their "dominos" should be more satiating and nutrient dense. They also thought a whole family could eat Mac 'N' Cheese. That is how the Mac 'N' Cheese domino run began.

This year's students loved what last year's students did and wanted to build on it, hoping they could reach even more families in need. Last year's class raised 4,250 boxes, so the students set a goal of 5,000 this year. They surpassed the goal, ultimately raising over six thousand boxes. Groups of students presented their ideas to the Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) and asked for matching donations to help them reach their box goal. They then presented to other classes throughout the school, explaining what they were doing and why. They asked students in those other classes if they could bring in boxes that could be used for their project and then donated to Food Share. Students also created fliers and posters. The focus this year was learning how to publicize. This culminated in their second annual "Stuff the Trailer with Mac 'N' Cheese" drive. Students collected 3,521 boxes. PTO matched many of those boxes, helping students get to over 5,000. With even more boxes arriving daily, they reached over 6,000 boxes.

"Throughout this STEM and outreach project, 93 students will have worked together on math concepts such as volume, area, estimation, multiplication strategies, and grouping," explained Tracie Fickenscher, fifth grade teacher at Mound Elementary. "Leadership, teamwork, and communication skills have all been used and refined. They've learned perseverance and grit, how to keep Mac 'N' Cheese from falling over, and how to regroup and revise strategies when it does. Most importantly, the kids are excited to take care of others in our community by providing satiating meals that kids enjoy eating."

### The Bookmark

## About Libraries and Friends

by Mary Olson

Author J. Andre Boles will visit the Ojai Library at 2 pm on Saturday, March 2, to talk about his books **Monster on Gypsy Hill** and **Piercing the Lion Heart**.

Monster on Gypsy Hill is the true crime tale of the search for the killer or killers of six pretty, young, middle-class women randomly slaughtered by the Gypsy Hill Slasher. Victim number seven, a mental patient, spent thirty-five years in prison for one of the Slasher's crimes. This soon to be released book tells how good cops and lawyers righted the wrongs of bad cops and lawyers.

Ex-cop, ex-lawyer, and award-winning true crime author J. Andre Boles lives in the mountains in California's coastal range where he writes about cops, crime, and the justice system. Autographed books will be available for purchase following this talk. This event is free and open to the public. For additional information, contact Ron Solórzano, Regional Librarian, at (805) 218-9146 or ron.solorzano@ventura.org.

**Discover Science** on Saturday, February 24, 11:00 am to noon at Hill Road Library. The Discover Science team leads an exploration of surface tension and molecular bonds by creating various bubble formulas.

The Hill Road Library Book Club meets **Tuesday, February 27 at a new time for 2024: 4:00 to 5:00 pm. The February Club Selection is:** Lessons in Chemistry by **Bonnie Garmus**. Pick up the latest Book Club selection at Hill Road Library. To join the mailing list, please email Linda.Cherry@Ventura.org

**Game on Board** –Board games for all ages at Hill Road Library-- Every Sunday, 11 am to 1 pm. Drop by and choose from over

35 games to play! Fun for families or a great reason to meet with friends.

Families and children are invited to visit the Hill Road Library at 3:14 pm on Thursday, March 14, to celebrate **Pi Day**. Pi Day -- for the love of math ... and pie. Pi Day is an annual celebration of math and learning, and it also happens to be Einstein's birthday, so come and celebrate -- make circle art, print ☺ symbol cookie cutters on our 3D printer, and other fun Pi Day activities.

The Ventura Friends of the Library Bookstore in E.P. Foster Library 2nd Look Books is now open 7 days a week, **Monday through Saturday, 11:00 am to 4:00 pm and Sundays, 1:00 to 4:00 pm.**

**New donations arrive every week and the stock in our store is regularly refreshed.**

**With our extended hours, we could use more volunteers to staff the store. If you would like to help, please stop by the store and speak to a volunteer or email bookstore@venturafriendsofthelibrary.org.**

**We also invite you to visit our online bookstore for local sales for unique items, including Manga, Vintage, Art and Architecture. Find the link at our website: <https://venturafriendsofthelibrary.org>. Orders are picked up at our bookstore in E.P. Foster Library.**



## "The British are coming! The British are coming!"

On March 23, at 1pm, Ventura "historian" and author Ivor Davis will introduce his new 60th anniversary "Beatles and Me on Tour" book—and promises to reveal all-- despite the consequences. The true story behind the story.

Sixty years ago an unlikely quartet from England—Liverpool to be precise—invaded America—and conquered the nation in what turned out to be a bloodless revolution.

We are talking, of course, about 1964, the historic year that John Paul George and Ringo showed up in America—and without spilling a drop of blood were triumphant as they re-wrote rock and roll history. And in doing so, thousands of young women—from sea to shining sea-- fell at their feet as the Beatles offered to hold their hand!

Ivor Davis had an exclusive front row seat as this invasion exploded. Embedded with the raiders, he will reveal behind the scenes details of this astonishing coup at Portside Ventura Harbor located at 1196 Portside and Schooner Dr. His presentation is free.

How the USA surrendered to these four lads from Britain, without a single shot being fired!

Breeze publisher Sheldon will be the moderator for the presentation and would love to have you attend. There will be a Q&A after.



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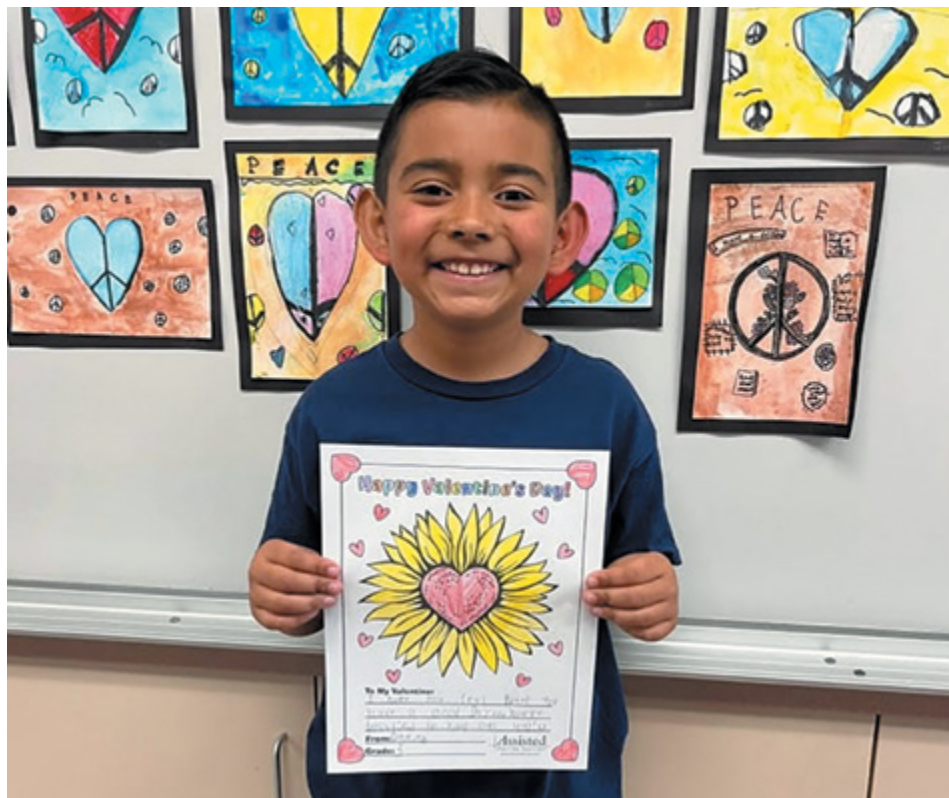
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# Senior Living



Children will be seeing the positive impact that they had on seniors.

## Project Love event for seniors

by Carol Leish, MA

“Since elementary school students last year wrote such heartwarming messages to seniors, we at Assisted Home Health & Hospice decided to continue our Project Love on an annual basis,” according to Natalie Uribe, the HospiceCare Specialist at Assisted Home Health & Hospice. This year, Ventura Elementary Schools, Portola, EP Foster, Will Rogers, Montalvo, Poinsettia, and Elmhurst Elementary Schools have participated again. New schools in Oxnard and Camarillo also participated in the Project Love Event this year.

‘We supplied 4-5 different color

sheets, to give the children options of what to color. The cards said things, such as, ‘You are wonderful; and, ‘You are special,’ as well as a spot for their own message The Valentine’s Day Cards were delivered to various senior residential facilities in Ventura: Cypress Place Senior Living; Aegis Living; Cal Vet; The Palms of Buenaventura; Victoria Care Center; Ventura Post Acute; and, Coastal View. Some seniors were moved to tears of joy, after seeing the cards. They reminisced about when their children were going to elementary school.”

Children will be seeing the positive

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impact that they had on seniors since Assisted Home Health & Hospice took videos of the kids coloring and of the seniors receiving the heartwarming messages, which they will be sending to the schools in March for teachers to show to the children who participated.

“We look forward to this event growing each year so it can touch more lives,” according to Uribe. “The event

has grown by 25% with more schools participating each year. With all that is going on in the world, we need to realize the importance of loving one another. This event has created more caring within children by making them more aware of thinking about others, such as seniors, especially since some of them have grandparents.”

Let us continue to spread love and joy to others throughout the year.



Doris Mendel and Clara Dunwoody enjoying the mural.

A captivating mural, “Memories of Ojai”, unfolds with a burst of color, rich and vibrant hues at the Artesian of Ojai, 203 E. El Roblar Dr., Ojai.

Many thanks and appreciation to Gayel Childress, Member of Ojai Studio Artist as she inspired Artesian residents on this project for 6 months.

This 4 by 8 wooden canvas brought tears to some of the residents as they felt a tremendous pride for their work. Standing before their creation with family and friends, brought a profound sense of accomplishment and fulfillment as they recalled the effort poured into bringing their vision to life on a canvas.





## Senior Living



Ask friends or family to help with cooking.

### Taking care of yourself if you have dementia

Ask friends or family to help with needs like cooking, paying bills, transportation, or shopping.

If you live alone, find people you trust who can visit often.

Consider letting trusted neighbors know of your diagnosis so they can help if needed.

Use social service agencies, local nonprofits, and Area Agencies on Aging to connect with in-home help, transportation, meals, and other services.

Learn more about support and services. Safety Tips for People Living With Dementia

Carry identification with you in case you get lost or need help. If you drive, talk with your doctor about changes in your driving and take seriously family and friends who express concerns. Make minor changes in the home to create a safer environment to prevent falls and injuries. Good balance, a habit of standing up slowly, and non-skid shoes can also help prevent falls.

Home-safety tips:

Simplify the amount and layout of furniture and remove small rugs. Have a sturdy handrail on stairways. Make sure smoke and carbon monoxide

detectors are installed in or near the kitchen and in all bedrooms.

Install an automatic shut-off switch on the stove and set the water heater temperature limit to

120 F to avoid burns.

Consider safety devices, like fall monitors and emergency call buttons.

As much as you might want to put off difficult decisions about the future, now is the time to think about health and finances to make sure you have a say and are prepared. Start discussions early with your family members while everyone can still help make decisions together. There are several areas you will want to consider, including legal and financial matters, and options for in-home care, long-term care, and funeral and burial arrangements.

### Bingo night for the Parkinson's Foundation

It's time to mark your calendars! The Parkinson's Foundation and the Ventura County Neurofitness Center are hosting

a Bingo/Talent Show to support fundraising efforts for the Parkinson's Foundation. The event will be held Friday, March 15th from 7-9pm at the Ventura Marina Community Clubhouse located at 1215 Anchors Way in Ventura. The event will include 5 regular games of bingo, a talent show, desserts, coffee and water.

Doors open at 6:00pm with regular bingo games starting promptly at 7pm. Entry fee is \$10 per person plus \$5 buy-in for bingo. Every game has a minimum \$100 prize value (Amazon, Wood Ranch gift cards). Talent show starts at 8pm immediately following the bingo games and will feature the many talents of our local community.

This event is open to the public and 100% of the proceeds go directly to support the Parkinson's Foundation and its mission to improve care and advance research toward a cure.

"We are partnering with the Parkinson's Foundation to raise money for our relentless pursuit of a cure for Parkinson's," said Dr. Vanessa White, owner/founder of the Ventura County Neurofitness Center and Director of the Ventura County Parkinson's Support Group. Dr. White added that she "would love for you to be a part of this fun-filled night you won't want to miss," and, she "hopes to make this an annual event" held in conjunction with the Foundation's Moving Day event (scheduled for Saturday, April 13th this year from 9-11am at the Ventura County Fairgrounds).

Seats are limited to 200 attendees and this exciting event will fill up fast—please arrive early with your friends and family and the bingo fun will start promptly at 7pm—all for a good time and an even better cause. For those unable to attend this event, but would still like to support the Parkinson's Foundation, please visit the A-Team page (on the Parkinson's Foundation website—Ventura County Moving Day—[http://www3.parkinson.org/goto/ATeam\\_2024](http://www3.parkinson.org/goto/ATeam_2024)) to make donations directly through the Parkinson's Foundation website.

For more information, please visit [vcneurofitness.com](http://vcneurofitness.com) or contact Dr. Vanessa White (cell: 805.300.7749 or email: [vcneurofitness@hotmail.com](mailto:vcneurofitness@hotmail.com)).

### Next Dementia Friendly Ventura County One-Stop Shop is March 6

Dementia Friendly Ventura County's next one-stop workshop to help people living with a dementia-related disease and their caregivers is scheduled for Wednesday, March 6, at the Ventura County Area Agency on Aging.

The public is encouraged to stop by anytime during the "Living Well, Caring Well" event and meet with many local providers who can assist with dementia-related issues, including adult day centers, adult protective services, the Alzheimer's Association, caregiver resources, financial resources, in-home care, health insurance counseling and advocacy, legal and advanced planning, long-term care ombudsman, neurology, and public benefit programs.

The March 6 workshop will be held from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the VCAA office, which is located at 646 County

Square Drive in Ventura.

For more information, email [lois.vcaaa@ventura.org](mailto:lois.vcaaa@ventura.org) or call (805) 477-7300.

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 implementation 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 VCAA 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.

### Eating healthy

by the National Institute on Aging

Eating healthfully and having an active lifestyle can support healthy aging. Use the resources below to learn about different patterns of healthy eating and ways to create a nutritious meal plan.

Simple adjustments can go a long way toward building a healthier eating pattern. Follow these tips to get the most out of foods and beverages while meeting your nutrient needs and reducing the risk of disease:

Enjoy a variety of foods from each food group to help reduce the risk of developing diseases such as high blood pressure, diabetes, and heart disease. Choose foods with little to no added sugar, saturated fats, and sodium.

To get enough protein throughout the day and maintain muscle, try adding seafood, dairy, or fortified soy products along with beans, peas, and lentils to your meals. Learn more about protein and other important nutrients.

Add sliced or chopped fruits and vegetables to meals and snacks. Look for pre-cut varieties if slicing and chopping are a challenge for you.

Try foods fortified with vitamin B12, such as some cereals, or talk to your doctor about taking a B12 supplement. Learn more about key vitamins and minerals.

Reduce sodium intake by seasoning foods with herbs and citrus such as lemon juice.

Drink plenty of water throughout the day to help stay hydrated and aid in the digestion of food and absorption of nutrients. Avoid sugary drinks.

It can be hard for some people to follow through on smart food choices. Read about common roadblocks and how to overcome them and check out the USDA's tips for older adults.

Answering the question "what should I eat?" doesn't need to leave you feeling baffled and frustrated. In fact, when you have the right information and motivation, you can feel good about making healthy choices. Use these tips to plan healthy and delicious meals:

Plan in advance. Meal planning takes the guesswork out of eating and can help ensure you eat a variety of nutritious foods throughout the day.

Find budget-friendly foods. Create a shopping list in advance to help stick to a budget and follow these SNAP-friendly recipes.

Consider preparation time. Some meals can be made in as little as five minutes. If you love cooking, or if you're preparing a meal with or for friends or family, you may want to try something a little more challenging.

Keep calories in mind. The number of calories people need each day varies by individual. Always discuss your weight and fitness goals with your health care provider before making big changes. Read about calorie goals and healthy food swaps.

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# Senior Living



“A diagnosis is not the end,” says Stewart.

## Vern Stewart: Living Life On His Own Terms

by Mira Reverente

Vern Stewart is used to the dizzying twists and turns of life.

He majored in art but ended up working as a fund manager, catering to over 400 investors and making multi-million dollar deals. He spent a majority of his career working in the Bay Area but he’s now living in Ventura.

He was working out five to six times a week when he received his Parkinson’s disease (PD) diagnosis 10 years ago and his life came to a brief halt, at the age of 62.

Determined to overcome and continue living life on his terms, he immersed himself in countless doctors’ appointments, physical therapy and endless research.

“A diagnosis is not the end,” says Stewart, 72. “Some medical professionals deliver the diagnosis and think maybe that their work is done and that’s it because they haven’t found a cure for it.”

One of his first questions to his neurologist was “Will I live 10 to 15 more years?” The answer was a resounding “yes” and since then he has vowed to live life to the fullest, stopped seeking money as a reward and focused on friendships and family, which includes two adult children.

There are medications, surgery, clinical trials, support groups, classes and lifestyle modifications one can do in dealing with PD. The symptoms are so diverse but with a good support system and medical team, one can find medications and treatment that can work for them. Stewart underwent surgery called deep brain stimulation (DBS) where electrodes were implanted in his brain to reduce debilitating movement symptoms of PD.

Among the lifestyle modifications that Stewart undertook was a plant-based diet and taking supplements. “I cook more now. It’s just one more thing I can control - what

I put in my body,” he says. A physical therapist also helped him re-train his body and re-learn everyday tasks like bathing and walking.

Before a femur injury he was also pedaling away on his e-bike. He also learned how to paddle board to work on his balance, to take advantage of one of the many offerings of his waterfront community. “My instructor was the sweetest thing but she was a bit hesitant to teach me given my condition but I persevered,” he says. He supplemented the lessons by immersing himself in YouTube videos and learning everything there is to know about paddle boarding.

He also signed up for boxing classes in his community called Neuroboxing Fight Camp, a program geared towards people overcoming PD and other neurological diseases. He finds the camaraderie and the positivity in class contagious and invigorating. He explains, “Other people’s stories inspire me and I hope mine does the same thing for them.”

He also enjoys the solitude that living in a coastal town can sometimes bring. “You have to be at peace with solitude,” Stewart says of his current state of mind. “I read a lot and spend a lot of time in the kitchen.”

The power of solitude as espoused by Buddha and John Muir, propels Stewart on most days, as well as the need for self-reliance. He wants to reach more people and encourage them through their Parkinson’s journey. “It is so tempting to shut yourself out and withdraw from your social circles, but there is help out there,” he says.

\*Vern can be reached by email: vernl-stewart@gmail.com. He lives at Portside Ventura Harbor where Neuroboxing is located so walks to the sessions.

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



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## The Pet Page



**Dedicated to Scamp**

• **By Dr. Doug Mader**

February is designated by the American Veterinary Medical Association as National Pet Dental Health Month. As I do every year, I want to spend some time discussing this very important subject. The American Veterinary Dental Society (AVDS) reports that 80% of dogs and 70% of cats show signs of oral disease by the time they are only three years old! In fact, disease of the teeth and gums are the most common health problems seen in small animal veterinary hospitals (statistics provided by the pet health insurance industry).

“Doggie breath” is the first stage of dental disease in pets. This results from an accumulation of tartar and plaque near the gums, a condition called gingivitis. Red lines along the edges of the teeth instead of the normal, healthy bright pink color, signifies the beginning of gingivitis.

When diagnosed early, gingivitis, which is a bacterial infection of the pet’s gums, can be treated. If left untreated, the bacteria begin to move under the gum line, where they infect the teeth at their roots. This can lead to pyorrhea, or periodontitis. At this advanced stage, there is gum recession and loosening of the teeth. A thorough dental exam and cleaning is the cornerstone of properly treating gingivitis in the early stages.



“How come I don’t get to go outside, I could catch a mouse.”

Treatment of advanced or severe periodontal disease may involve extractions of teeth that have become infected, antibiotics as needed to help control the infection and pain medication (dental disease can be extremely painful). If left untreated, the bacterial infection can spread to the bone where it causes osteomyelitis (bone infection) in the jaw. Ultimately, the infection can enter the bloodstream where the bacteria may cause damage to the liver, heart and kidneys.

Veterinarians use an ultrasonic scaler to clean your pet’s teeth, a process very similar to that done in humans. As in people, dental X-rays are the gold standard and should be taken whenever a pet dental cleaning is performed. X-rays are needed to evaluate the crowns and the tooth roots. It is necessary to put the patient under a general anesthetic for a proper dental procedure to allow cleaning and X-rays. With proper health screening, anesthesia is safe, and any potential risks far outweigh the danger of leaving a diseased mouth untreated.

As important as the cleaning, the

teeth need to be polished after the cleaning process. Polishing removes micro scratches in the enamel that predisposes the teeth to future dental tartar and plaque build up. Make sure to ask your veterinarian if he or she polishes the teeth with every dental cleaning. If not, find a veterinarian that does.

Of course, prevention is always better than treatment. You can avoid dental procedures if you make a regular practice of brushing your pet’s teeth at home. Though not as effective as a periodic professional cleaning, keeping your pet’s teeth cleaned by brushing will greatly improve the health of their teeth and gums. Brushing the teeth is simple and takes only a few minutes. Your veterinarian can teach you how to train your pet to allow brushing – including cats! There are also several great videos on YouTube that demonstrate how to brush your pet’s teeth.

5 sweet signs your dog feels safe with you

### 1. Initiating Physical Contact

If you’re wondering if your dog feels secure when he’s with you, and he’s resting his head on your lap while you read this, he feels safe and sound—it’s that simple.

According to Dr. Lopez, “Dogs that actively seek physical contact by leaning against you, nudging you or placing a paw on your lap are expressing a desire for closeness and connection.”

### 2. Playfulness and Excitement

While you may be annoyed by the incessant squeaking of that infernal rubber chicken toy you bought for Buster, if he’s playing with it in your presence, it’s a good thing.

“A dog that engages in playful behavior, such as bounding around, play-bowing, and bringing you toys, is demonstrating a sense of comfort and happiness in its owner’s presence,” Dr. Lopez explains.

### 3. Eating Comfortably

“Dogs that feel safe will eat their meals without hesitation or anxiety,” she continues. “A relaxed mealtime indicates trust in the environment and assurance that their owners will provide for their needs.”

### 4. Wags Its Tail Around You

We already mentioned that dogs and humans don’t share a common language, but that doesn’t mean dogs can’t communicate with us. They can and do!

“Dogs communicate through body language, and a wagging tail is a clear indicator of joy and comfort,” Dr. Lopez says. “It’s essential to recognize the nuances in tail wagging, as the speed and height of the wag can convey different emotions. A very friendly dog may wag his tail more freely and even wiggle his hips at the same time. This joyful and relaxed tail wag signifies a positive association, indicating that your dog feels secure and happy in your presence.”

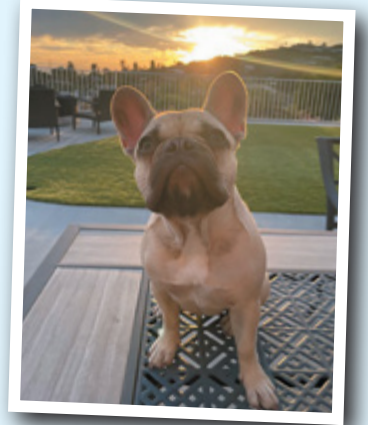
### 5. The Sounds They Make

If you’re a first-time dog owner, you’re probably painfully aware of the loudest way a dog communicates, and you might already be trying to train yours to lower the volume a notch or ten.

“Dogs communicate through barking, and a lack of barking in your presence suggests a sense of ease and security,” Dr. Lopez explains. “Happy

## Scamp Club

(Scampclub pets are not for adoption.)



Her name is Tatum aka Tatiebuggie aka Tatertot. She has two big sisters, Piper the Rottweiler and Cali the Cane Corso/Rottweiler. They weigh over four times as much as Tatum, only in size though. She is queen of the household. And she definitely puts them in their place.

## Join Scamp Club

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

**Lost pet? Go to [LostCatVenturaCounty.com](http://LostCatVenturaCounty.com) or [LostDogVenturaCounty.com](http://LostDogVenturaCounty.com) - free websites for finding and posting when you’ve lost or found a cat or dog.**

dogs may have higher-pitched barks and bark for shorter durations than agitated dogs. Some dogs vocalize with a soft, contented whine when they feel safe. However, it’s important to note that this gentle vocalization is different from anxious or distressed whining.”

In the end, Dr. Lopez emphasizes

that it’s not enough for us simply to listen to our dogs to assess whether they feel safe or not.

“It’s crucial not to judge your dog solely by their vocalizations,” she says. “Consider other signs, such as their overall body language, to accurately gauge their emotional state before assuming everything is well.”

## Forever homes wanted



Hi: I’m Anubis, named after the Egyptian God, a beautiful 6-year-old female Pit Bull X. I’m a very sweet and social dog with people. Volunteers say I am a good walker, I do not pull and love to sniff the walking route. I also love to go after lizards. I know commands of sit, paw, and lay down. I would love an active home where I can be your one and only. Please consider adopting me. If you’re interested in

meeting me, please fill out an online application to meet me. Canine Adoption and Rescue League.

Friendly, goofy senior pittie available for adoption. Champ is 9 years young and a huge fan of people, belly rubs, and treats. He knows sit and down and has lots of playful energy. We think he’d probably be most comfortable as the only dog in the home.

Pet Link: [www.vcas.us/vi-ewan-2/?ida=A840341](http://www.vcas.us/vi-ewan-2/?ida=A840341)

If you’d like to meet Champ, schedule an appointment at <https://www.vcas.us/adopt> or come down to the shelter during normal Adoption Hours of 1:00pm - 6:00pm Tuesday - Sunday. If you have questions, please contact us at (805) 388-4341 or [info@vcas.us](mailto:info@vcas.us).







# 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.

## Robbery with Arrests

On February 8, at 3:00 pm, the Ventura Police Department received a call of a robbery that had just occurred in the 700 block of Olive Street. The victim said he was walking in a residential alleyway when several subjects approached him, beat him, and took his belongings before fleeing into a nearby residence.

Responding officers located and arrested all four suspects, 26-year-old Ventura resident Isaac Patterson, 32-year-old Ventura resident Angelica Cacho, 30-year-old Ventura resident Brett Marquez, and 26-year-old Ventura resident Caleb Wiggins, at the residence and recovered the stolen property.

The victim had minor injuries as a result of the attack. The four suspects were booked at the Ventura County Jail for Robbery and Conspiracy to Commit a Crime.

## Stabbing

The Ventura Police Department Command Center received several 911 calls reporting someone was stabbed at the Chopper Fest Motorcycle Show at the Ventura County Fairgrounds.

Several officers responded and located two stabbing victims. Officers immediately rendered aid, and the victims were transported via ambulance to the Ventura County Medical Center. Moments later, a third victim walked

himself into the Ventura County Medical Center with minor stab wounds from the event.

Currently, all three male victims (ages 33, 43 and 53) are in stable condition. During the course of the investigation, it was determined that a large fight took place between several attendees of the event, which resulted in three involved parties being stabbed.

This investigation is ongoing. Anyone with information about this incident is encouraged to contact Detective Sergeant Pat Lindsay at 805-339-4498.

## First Ventura homicide of 2024

The Ventura Police Department received reports of shots fired around 2 a.m. Sunday, February 11, near Oak and Main streets.

Officers arrived to find a man with gunshot wounds. The victim was transported to Ventura County Medical Center where he later died. He was Anthony Castanon, 20, of Santa Paula.

Two other males a 24-year-old from Oxnard and a 17-year-old from Santa

Paula went on their own to Community Memorial Hospital for treatment of gunshot wounds, investigation stated the incidents were related.

Officers were notified there were additional parties with gunshot wounds that were dropped off at the Community Memorial Hospital Emergency Room (CMH). Officers contacted Jordan Lee and an additional male juvenile with life-threatening gunshot wounds. Both parties were later transported to

VCMC and remain in critical but stable condition. At this time, this investigation is ongoing, and investigators believe this incident may be gang related.

A juvenile, Santa Paula Resident Male Juvenile (17), has been arrested in connection with the shooting death of Castanon.

Anyone with information about this incident is encouraged to contact Detective Alberto Tovar at 805-339-4462.

# Harbor Patrol Blotter

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

Saturday 2/3

9:40am, officers preparing for the storm, placing dewatering pumps in all vessels and vehicles for flooding from the predicted heavy rains and inclement weather.

12:20pm, strong South Winds beset a small bird that was blown into the Port District Building. Officers were able to convince the bird to fly out of building.

7:35pm, received request to dewater a fishing seiners skiff in commercial docks. Officers responded and dewatered the vessel with electric pumps.

Sunday 2/4

11:35am, dispatched to a vessel taking on water in VIM. Officers responded in the Fireboat, were able to dewater the vessel in its slip. Bilge pump disabled.

9:38pm, dispatched to a fire in the Harbor Cove Restrooms. Officers responded with VFD, found a transient with a warming fire in one of the restrooms.

Tuesday 2/6

4:45pm, officers inspecting the temporary work keeping the Marina Park Dock from floating away. The dock was still intact, light surge conditions present.

Wednes 2/7

8:16pm, while securing restrooms at Harbor Cove, officers found a 40 y/o female reporting she was abandoned, no here to go. Officers contacted VPD for homeless care, but the warming center was closed. Provided kit with warm clothes/blankets, also allowed her to stay in restroom due to inclement weather.

Thursday 2/8

6:05am, dispatched to traffic accident near VIM parking lot. Officers responded with VPD/VFD, found the vehicle high-centered on median. No

injuries or intoxication issues involved. Patrol was able to tow the vehicle off the median.

Friday 2/9

9:33am, while on patrol in the Fireboat, officers observed considerable Hazards to Navigation including large logs and all sorts of flotsam outside the harbor.

12:58pm, dispatched to a wellness check of a person living in their vehicle near the boatyard. Officers responded with VFD/AMR, eventually were able to contact the individual who was barricaded in their vehicle, no medical observed.

5:01pm, received report one of the commercial fishing vessels is taking on water and needs an emergency haul out. Contacted TowBoat US, they assisted.

Saturday 2/10

10:35pm, received request for assistance with Fish & Wildlife warden investigating illegal catch at the breakwall. Officers assisted, escorted in the Fireboat to the breakwall to release an undersized lobster that was kept.

Sunday 2/11

7:12am, dispatched to a missing swimmer at Greenock Lane jetty. Officers responded in Fireboat and Rescue WaterCraft to assist in the search. Victim was found, resuscitation efforts begun, but unfortunately the patient was not revived.

Monday 2/12

9:55am, officers aboard the Fireboat removing swim area buoys from Harbor Cove, towing to the launch ramp to clean growth off.

6:44pm, received report of a transient setting up camp near Village restaurant. Officers responded, contacted individual, he was organizing his belongings.

D A Y L I G H T

# AUDINOMETRY

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<p><b>WHAT IT IS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advanced meditative program of inner development</li> <li>System of high energy techniques</li> <li>First-hand spiritual experience and adventure</li> <li>Path to self-improvement and spiritual growth</li> <li>Rocket ride to positive reality and comprehension</li> </ul>	<p><b>WHAT IT IS NOT</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Philosophy or religion</li> <li>New age phenomena</li> <li>Dogma or doctrine</li> <li>Mental or neuro programming</li> <li>Belief or opinion</li> </ul>
--	---

## FREE LECTURE

**DATE** Wednesday February 28 & Wednesday March 5

**TIME** Lecture: 6 pm to 7 pm Q&A: Afterwards

**PLACE** 291 E. Thompson Blvd, Ventura (next to Channel Island Juice)

To all those who know in their hearts and spirits that there is supposed to be much more here than what our world would have us believe ... if you are genuinely looking for a better, and more meaningful and positive way into your own tomorrows ...

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### Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

### King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

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





## Business Profile



The Ventura Gem Show has been a fun family event for six decades.

### The Ventura Gem Show is the society's major fundraising event

The Ventura Gem Show is taking place March 2 & 3 (10am-5pm, Saturday; 10am-4pm, Sunday) at the Ventura County Fairgrounds (10 W. Harbor Blvd., Ventura). The show is open to the public and admission is free (note: the Fairgrounds charges a parking fee if using the Fairgrounds lot).

The Ventura Gem Show has been a fun family event for six decades and counting with its focus on gemstone cutting and jewelry-making, rocks and fossils, and kids and education. At the show, we'll announce the recipient of

our \$1,000 Scholarship Award given annually to a local college student. Upon entering the show, kids are given a free polished stone at our Welcome Booth, where teachers receive free rock samples and educational packets. At the Kids Booth, children enjoy activities offering an assortment of rocky prizes. A nearby display provides info about the society's two-room museum in Ojai, where teachers, home-schoolers, and youth groups can arrange tours by appointment.

There's gold in the California hills,

and you can learn how to pan for it at the show. At one booth, expert prospectors will guide you through the basics, and you can purchase "pay dirt" to pan for real gold nuggets and flakes at the show or in your own backyard. In addition, this free show will feature displays of gems, minerals, fossils, and award-winning handcrafted jewelry. These include educational exhibits of fossils collected locally in and around Ventura County, as well as a display of our State Rock, Mineral, Fossil, and Gemstone (including a gold nugget, an Ice Age saber-tooth cat, and "Auggie", the California State Dinosaur). Still other displays will show how stones collected locally have been crafted into jewelry. Demonstrations give visitors up-close looks at artists pursuing their crafts: gemstone cutting and carving, silver work and jewelry making, beading, and other arts and crafts made from nature. Raffle prizes include a \$100 bill, fine jewelry, mineral and fossil specimens, and more. In addition, enjoy hourly silent auctions for rocks, minerals, and fossils, as well as a "Country Store" white elephant sale, a plant sale, and over 15 dealers selling beads, opals, jade, gemstones, crystals, fossils, jewelry and jewelry-making supplies, and gift items. It's a 61-year Ventura tradition the whole family will enjoy.

VGMS was founded in 1944 to encourage interest in rocks, minerals, fossils, lapidary arts and jewelry-making, and related areas through education, activities, and exhibitions such as this annual show, which is open to the community. The society is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, educational organization and welcomes individual and family members. VGMS hosts monthly talks on earth science topics and jewelry arts, maintains a lapidary arts studio in Ojai, makes presentations to area schools, and conducts field trips for members and guests to collect rocks, minerals, and fossils in southern California and neighboring states.

The Ventura Gem Show is the society's major fund-raising event helping to underwrite educational activities, including the annual college scholarship and school visits and donations. For further details, call (805) 312-8467, email [info@vgms.org](mailto:info@vgms.org), or visit our web site at [www.vgms.org](http://www.vgms.org).

the service providers on the frontlines of this crisis have the resources they need," said HUD Secretary Marcia L. Fudge. "At HUD, we have served or permanently housed 1.2 million people experiencing homelessness in the last three years alone, building on President Biden's efforts to keep Americans housed. The historic awards we are announcing today will expand community capacity to assist more people in obtaining the safety and stability of a home, along with the supports they need to achieve their life goals."

When HUD announced the availability of these grants, the agency encouraged communities to use proven solutions to address homelessness, such as approaches that first connect people to housing, often with supportive services, rather than requiring people experiencing homelessness to first complete a treatment program or achieve sobriety as a condition to accessing housing. HUD also expanded the Continuum of Care program's eligible activities to support protections available through the Violence Against Women Act Reauthorization Act of 2022 and to address the unique challenges Continuums of Care face when serving people experiencing homelessness in rural areas. The new eligible activities will allow for greater support for underserved populations.

HUD remains committed to policy priorities of ending homelessness for all persons, placing emphasis on racial equity and anti-discrimination policies for LGBTQ+ individuals, engaging persons with lived experiences of homelessness in decision-making, and increasing the supply of affordable housing. Turning Point Foundation Our Place Safe Haven 2023 \$168,977  
Turning Point Foundation Rapid Re-Housing 2023 \$172,132  
Turning Point Foundation Stephenson Place Permanent Housing 2023 \$37,905  
Turning Point Foundation Wooley House I Permanent Housing 2023 \$46,726  
Turning Point Foundation Wooley House II Permanent Housing 2023 \$39,857

## A Valentine's Card

by Jeffrey Russell

Dearest Ventura....  
You're our coastal beloved,  
Romantic Pacific view,  
A Valentine's Hug.

where....

Sand crabs applaud,  
Starfish embrace with a squeeze,  
Seals giggle and clap,  
Your love is deeper than the ocean.

for....

Between the tides....  
There's a beachfront city,  
Natures holiday hug  
A Happy Valentine's Day.

Your secret Admirer....

I have found the one I love...  
.

## Turning Point Foundation receives HUD awards

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) announced nearly \$3.16 billion in Continuum of Care program awards for over 7,000 projects that provide housing assistance and/or supportive services to people experiencing homelessness, as well as costs related to planning and data collection. HUD Secretary Marcia L. Fudge made the announcement today with the Chatham-Savannah Interagency Council on Homelessness in Savannah, Georgia. The Chatham-Savannah Continuum of Care was awarded \$4,104,782.

"Now, more than ever, we are doing all we can to get people off the street and into permanent homes with access to services. That is why we are making sure

### VENTURA GEM & MINERAL SOCIETY

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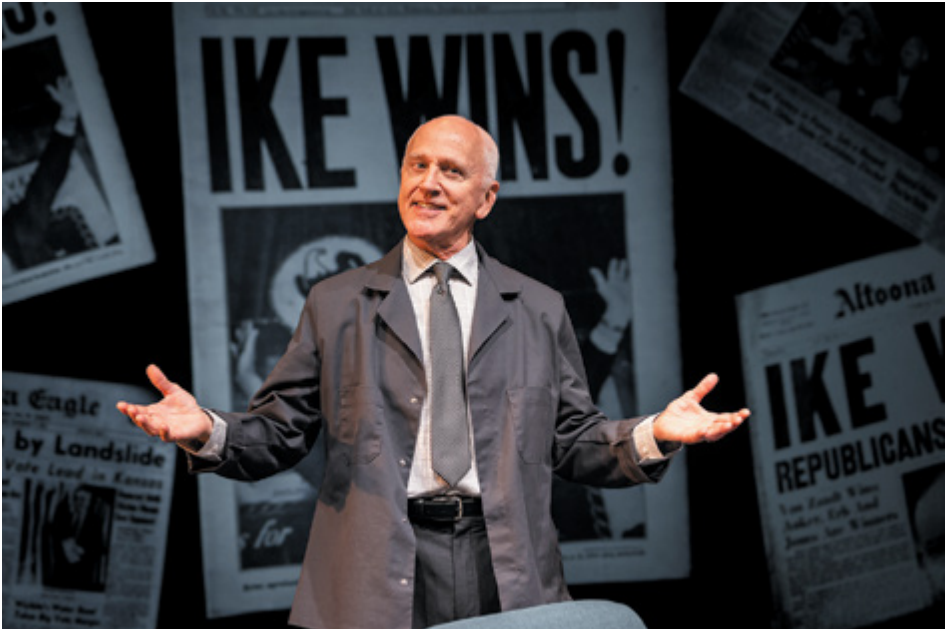
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John Rubinstein as Eisenhower at the Rubicon.

## Ventura's Rubicon Theatre Company Presents Eisenhower: This Piece of Ground

As part of its 25th Anniversary Season, Rubicon Theatre, the region's award-winning not-for-profit professional theatre company, announces Eisenhower: This Piece of Ground, a riveting, one-person play starring Tony Award-winner John Rubinstein (Pippin, Children of a Lesser God). The production is set to open the week of President's Day and runs from February 21 through March 10, 2024, at The Karyn Jackson Theatre in Ventura's Downtown Cultural District.

Fresh from his acclaimed off-Broadway run, Rubinstein delves deeply into the role of President Dwight D. Eisenhower in this fascinating tour-de-force written by Richard Helleesen and directed by Peter Ellenstein. Entertainment Today hails the production as a masterpiece and praises Rubinstein's brilliant portrayal, stating, "Not since Give 'em Hell Harry has a show offered such insight into an American President. Moral courage radiates through Rubinstein's powerful presence."

Eisenhower: This Piece of Ground

is based on the speeches and letters of our 34th president. Set in 1962 at his Pennsylvania farm, Dwight D. Eisenhower looks at his place in history – and the price of leadership – looking back at his Kansas upbringing, decorated Army career, victories in World War II, and the legacy of his presidency. The play offers an inspiring glimpse into the heart and mind of an extraordinary leader.

Eisenhower: This Piece of Ground opens Saturday, February 24, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., with low-priced previews February 21 through 23. The run continues through March 10, with performances Wednesdays at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. (talkback following), Thursdays and Fridays at 7 p.m., Saturdays at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. Ticket prices range from \$30 - \$79.50, with discounts available for subscribers, students, veterans, active military and Equity members. To purchase single tickets, or to subscribe to Rubicon's 25th Anniversary Silver Season, call Guest Services at (805) 667-2900 or visit [www.rubicontheatre.org](http://www.rubicontheatre.org).

## On Vacation – Arizona



Jill Forman is in Sierra Vista Arizona for her granddaughter Jocelyn's graduation from army tech school while sharing the Breeze with the army.



The statues to be installed will honor the loss and sacrifice made by families and members of the military.

## General Services Agency to accept donation of memorial statues at County Veterans Memorial

Following a vote at the April 25th Board meeting, the Board of Supervisors authorized the General Services Agency to work in partnership with the Vietnam Veterans of Ventura County and other Veterans' organizations to install the statues at the Ventura County Veterans Memorial.

The two statues slated to be installed will honor the loss and sacrifice made by families and members of the military. The "Gold Star" statue is a life size rendition of a mother/wife kneeling holding her

sons', daughters' or husbands' folded casket flag. The "Remembering" statue is a life size rendition of a kneeling soldier reaching out and remembering their fallen brothers and sisters.

"It is powerful to be in the presence of monuments in Washington DC like the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall," said Chair of the Board of Supervisors Matt LaVere. "Now we do not have to travel across the country, we're going to have something almost as powerful right

**Continued on page 19**

*Rubicon Theatre Company Presents*  
*A New American Play*

**EISENHOWER**

THIS PIECE OF GROUND

by **RICHARD HELLESEN**  
Directed by **PETER ELLENSTEIN**  
A New Los Angeles Repertory Company/Off-Broadway Production

**FEBRUARY 21 - MARCH 10, 2024**

**RUBICON THEATRE COMPANY**  
25<sup>TH</sup> SILVER ANNIVERSARY





## Ventura events

by Ana Baker

**Wanna Play Bridge? Join us for ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge games. Every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday at 12:30 p.m.** All levels of play, and we will guarantee to have a partner for you if you need one. Lessons are available. Contact: Richard 805-850-8011, 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 7:30 p.m. A 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) 8:30-10:30 a.m. 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.** 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. Located at Hill Road Library, Wednesdays, 3:30 to 5 p.m., and E.P. Foster Library, Thursdays, 4 to 5:30

p.m. Children of all ages are welcome!

**February 24: Channel Islands PC User Group (CIPCUG) The location will be online and live at our temporary location, 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 Saturday at 9:30 a.m. 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 <http://www.cipcug.org> cipcug club website

**Feb. 28th: The College Area Community Council in Ventura will hold a Zoom meeting on Wednesday at 7 p.m. Ventura Mayor Joe Schroeder will discuss city goal setting and plans.** An invitation and link to the meeting will be sent to everyone on the CACC mailing list. CACC represents citizens in the area bounded by Mills Road on the west, Hill Road on the east, city limits on the hillsides on the north, and the 126 Freeway on the south. Visit the College Area Community Council website @ <https://caccventura.com> to learn more, to be added to the mailing list, or to access a link to the Zoom meeting."

**March 3: Old-Time Country Bluegrass Gospel Music Assoc. Sunday, 2:00-4:00 pm Poinsettia Pavilion 3451 Foothill Rd, Ventura.** Live Music on stage. Jamming in the Canada Room. Free Admission. Free

parking Open to the Public. For more information call 805-517-1131 or visit Facebook: OTCBGMA

**March 6: The speaker for our BCNN meeting will be Jaclyn DeSantis, Education Program Manager for The Ojai Raptor Center.** The Ojai Raptor Center is a wildlife rehabilitation center specializing in birds of prey. animal care, transport, help with events, and never-ending center maintenance. Most of the animal patients they receive are brought in directly from the public. Their injured bird hotline is: 805-649-6884 Beach City Neighbors and Newcomers (BCNN) is a women's social organization serving women in Oxnard, Ventura, and Port Hueneme. 9:30-11:15 a.m. at Ventura Yacht Club. 1755 Spinnaker Dr. Ventura.

**March 6: Ventura Senior Men's Group presents speaker Leila Thayer Malone on options for senior care.** We welcome new members, so feel free to visit during the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays for lunch. Your first lunch is free. Members \$25 for lunch; \$25 annual membership We talk about everything except religion and politics. Stress free, no arguments. Just friendship. No other fundraising. We are an Equal Opportunity group and welcome all men age 55 plus. Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Rd.

## Ojai news and events

Author J. Andre Boles will visit the Ojai Library at 2pm on Saturday, March 2, 2024, to talk about his books *Monster on Gypsy Hill* and *Piercing the Lion*

Heart.

*Monster on Gypsy Hill* is the true crime tale of the search for the killer or killers of six pretty, young, middle-class women randomly slaughtered by the Gypsy Hill Slasher. Victim number seven, a mental patient, spent thirty-five years in prison for one of the Slasher's crimes. This soon to be released book tells how good cops and lawyers righted the wrongs of bad cops and lawyers.

Ex-cop, ex-lawyer, and award-winning true crime author J. Andre Boles seeks new readers and listeners to entertain with his tales of chasing bad guys, exonerating the innocent, and calling out those who abuse power. The former oilfield roughneck, ranch hand, US Army tank commander, bus driver, amateur boxer, cop, and lawyer published his first true crime book in 2017. A second book followed in 2019. He lives in the mountains in California's coastal range where he writes about cops, crime, and the justice system.

Autographed books will be available for purchase following this talk.

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

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

Digital Pop: Moving Lightly is the newest exhibition at the Ojai Valley Museum. It showcases contemporary art made with light, digital video,

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## Business Profile



late 2021, Kristina worked toward the intention to acquire the license for a new franchise in Santa Barbara but unexpectedly had the opportunity to purchase the Ventura location due to the previous owner's financial constraints. Kristina successfully turned around Ventura store's finances, exceeding expectations and paving the way for an additional Santa Barbara location within the next 9 months to a year.

Kristina finds joy in transforming clients' negative moments into positive outlooks, viewing her profession as an extension of positivity in today's world. Frenchies unique team-based pay structure fosters camaraderie, as everyone works toward common goals, sharing gratuities, and utilizing company's provided tools. This provides consistencies in quality of services and care. This collaborative approach also distinguishes Frenchies, allowing the team to function like a family, avoiding individual competition.

Despite the industry norm of commission-based work, Frenchies team-oriented model promotes collective success, aligning interests, and fostering a supportive environment. Services are competitively priced, delivering top-notch quality and relaxation for clients.

It's not a surprise that Frenchies won Ventura County Best of nail salons reader recommended two years in a row - 2022 and 2023! For more information, check out Frenchies Modern Nail Care at 1583 Spinnaker Dr. #105, Ventura, CA 93001, 805-200-3883.

## Frenchies Nail Salon

Kristina Johnsen grew up in Iowa and obtained her cosmetology license in Minnesota in 2011. She has always loved doing hair and makeup since she was a little girl. Despite initially entering the corporate world, the passion for the beauty industry persisted. Kristina opted for a cosmetology license, mainly due to encouragement by her boyfriend at the time now husband, providing versatility in hair, nails, and esthetics.

Kristina joined Frenchies in March 2020 as lead concierge, drawn to its emphasis on cleanliness, mindfulness of natural nails, and environmental consciousness. In

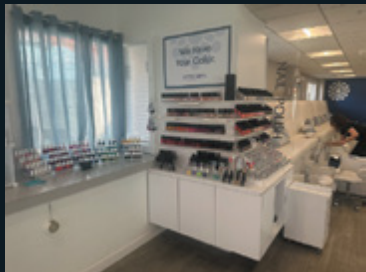
### STUDIO HOURS

- Monday 10am-6pm
- Tuesday 10am-6pm
- Wednesday 10am-7pm
- Thursday 10am-7pm
- Friday 10am-7pm
- Saturday 10am-6pm
- Sunday 10am-6pm

**First Time Guests:  
25% off signature or deluxe  
service  
Offer Code: BREEZEFR25**

**FRENCHIES**  
modern nail care

**1583 Spinnaker Dr. #105  
Ventura, CA 93001  
805.200.3883**







Charles, the K&FT therapy dog

**The Power of Love**  
Continued from page 1

by Stacey, live music and dancing, silent auction featuring 60 different items, a game zone showcasing some of the popular table and hand-held games of the 1980's, along with two arcade machines that were part of the evening's live auction. Prior to the opening of the event's program, winners of the 80's Trivia Game were included in a drawing for items such as a Walkman-style tape player and a boombox! Raffle tickets were also sold for the chance to win a diamond and rose gold bracelet valued at \$2,000 which was generously donated by Fox Fine Jewelry.

Live music at the event was provided by We Are The 80's Band. Steve Roth Founder/C.E.O. (Chief Entertainment Officer)/drummer stated "We were proud to support the fantastic work that K&FT provides to the families in Ventura County, and the critical services that they offer to foster and adopted children. It's always a privilege for us to contribute our talents to a worthwhile cause."

Founded in January 2000, Kids & Families Together serves foster, adoptive, kinship, and birth families throughout Ventura County. For over two decades has been the leader in providing critical services and support to children who have experienced trauma, abuse, neglect, loss, and multiple placements. K&FT is unique in that we provide education, support, and strategies to connect caregivers and parents to the children in their care. We wrap our arms around the entire family allowing them to use the strategies they have learned, along with "The Power of Love", to raise healthy, nurtured children who thrive!

Kids & Families Together's mission is to strengthen relationships by providing safe, supportive help that keeps family members emotionally connected to one another. K&FT's programs help families by building relationships, strengthening families, and enhancing attachments.

K&FT provides families with much needed mental health counseling, support, and education that brings direct and meaningful results right into the home. Here is what one kinship caregiver said about their experience working with K&FT.

"I can't tell you how much I appreciate working with Kids & Families Together. My therapist helped me explain the current situation more fully and thoughtfully to my 7-year old grandson. This has completely altered the dynamics within our home and my relationship with my grandson. Thank You!"

Both sponsors and guests of this event were integral parts of K&FT's annual celebration supporting Ventura County foster/resource, kinship and adoptive families. K&FT needs this support in order to continue to offer these types of one-on-one connections, supporting children and their families who often find themselves in crisis situations.

K&FT would like to express gratitude to event sponsors: Aqua~Flo Supply, Generous Anonymous Donor, Marianne Bloom, Sharon Watts Woolley, Controlled Elements, Community Memorial Health Care, US Bank, Robert & Jean Bonar, The Gene Haas Foundation, Ventura Pet Barn, Mary Galvin, Vivian Mullett, Damascus Gear, Anne Paul King, and Kyle & Crystal Cummings.

To learn more about K&FT visit ... <https://www.kidsandfamilies.org/>

**General Services Agency accepts statues**  
Continued from page 17

here in Ventura to go pay our respects to, which are so important."

In a special partnership with high school students from Architecture Construction and Engineering (ACE) Charter High School, measurements and design of the statues have been created. ACE students Haley Driscoll and Corbin Alonso presented their work and CAD drawings to the Board of Supervisors.

"Memorials are built by those whose freedoms were protected by our veterans, and it is important for our students to feel that connection," stated John Middleton, ACE Charter Principal.

Both statues are the emotionally stirring works of Sutton Betti, the son of the late David Betti, former VVVC president and former Commander of Ventura VFW Post 1679.

"I am pleased our Board has voted to partner with the Vietnam Veterans of Ventura County and other Veterans groups in the county to give our Veterans Memorial the

addition of two new statues honoring our Gold Star Wives and Mothers and another to honor "service Members who still mourn the loss of their comrades," added Supervisors Kelly Long. "This will be a nice facelift to the Memorial that was originally put in place in 1985 and will provide a place of healing for Ventura County residents who have lost a loved one in a military conflict."

The exact date of the installation is not yet determined. The creation and installation of the statues are dependent upon the fundraising efforts of the various veterans' groups, fraternal organizations & public and private donations.

If you would like more information about this project or how to contribute to support it, please contact:

Ron Fitzgarrald, [publicaffairs@vvvc.org](mailto:publicaffairs@vvvc.org) or Richard Camacho, [camacho4@roadrunner.com](mailto:camacho4@roadrunner.com)

Brian Miller, Chief of Staff for Supervisor Kelly Long at (805) 654-2276 or Maruja Clensay, Chief of Staff for Chair of the Board Matt LaVere at (805) 654-2703.



Recently, Pacific High School (VUSD) students visited City Hall to discuss their class project on the alarming impact of Fentanyl. They met with Councilmembers and Parks and Police Department staff to share insights and brainstorm solutions. Together, they explored ways to raise awareness about the opioid crisis and prevent overdoses in our community.

## Unlock Success

Don't Let Perfection be the Enemy of Good  
Jennifer Caldwell, Influential U Co-Founder & Chairman  
Officer of FoodShare of Ventura County

### Work, Career, and Money

Answering the question "What do you do?" may sound simple, but it can be tricky when it comes to understanding **Work, Career, and Money**. Many people think these words address similar things, but they actually have very different meanings and can affect your life in unique ways.

In this **Ventura Chamber of Commerce** workshop, we'll help you understand their true differences and show you **how to unlock your success**.

**Facilitators**

Kirkland Tibbels  
Influential U  
Co-Founder & Chairman

Josh Damigo  
Influential U  
Faculty & Consultant

**Details**

Thurs, 21 March, 2024  
9:00 am - 12:00 pm  
Breakfast at 8:00 am  
Crowne Plaza

Tickets \$55

Influential U

For sponsorship opportunities, e-mail [Ashley@Ventura-chamber.org](mailto:Ashley@Ventura-chamber.org)





by Pam Baumgardner  
VenturaRocks.com

The rescheduled River Bottom Sessions' Inaugural Bluegrass Festival is set for Saturday, March 2, noon to 7 pm, at Las Palmas de Ojai with performances by Tarantula Banjo, Ellie Rollins Band, The Van Allen Twins and Chris Murphy, and headlining the event is Mark Masson's Jam Grass and Moonsville. Tickets can be found on EventBrite.

Jon Gindick has put together an acoustic blues night at Greater Goods in Meiners Oaks with fellow musicians, Ralph Carter, RJ Mischo, Bill Flores, TD Lind and Vaughn Montgomery. The show starts at 7 pm with donations accepted at the door.

Punk rockers John Doe and Exene are back at it taking X out on the road with a date at the Oxnard Performing Arts Center on Sunday, March 24. It worth mentioning that Doe and Exene will be the special guests for the Psychedelic Furs when they play the Ventura Theater on Tuesday, May 14.

Ventura Music Hall has several great acts coming up in the next two weeks including The White Buffalo on Thursday February 22; Health, an American noise rock/industrial band on Saturday March 2; and East LA legends, Los Lobos, on Sunday, March 3.

Taking a break from playing huge arenas and festivals this past year including two shows at Crypto.com Arena in LA this month and with more tour dates continuing through June in Europe, Danny Carrey, drummer for Tool, returns for a spirited night of jazz playing with The Doug Webb Group. If you're a fan of Tool, or just enjoy some pretty hardcore jazz, then do yourself a favor and secure tickets now for Saturday, March 30 at TheGrape-Ventura.com.

You might want to snag your tickets for Forever Motown returning to the Rubicon with six performances June 6 - June 9. Performers include members of the Marvelettes, the Temptations, The Spinners and more. Find out more at RubiconTheatre.org.

Quick Notes: Limon y Sal has In Stone upstairs every Sunday afternoon 1-4 pm; Duke's Beach Grill is offering up live music early Saturday evenings with Mark Cross on February 24 and The Zepp Heads on March 2; Margarita Villa in the Ventura Harbor is back to live music on the weekend starting Saturday February 24 with 805 Crosscut; a Tribute to Leonard Bernstein, American Songbook will be held at the Ojai Underground on Sunday February 25; Shawn Jones has a vinyl release party for his latest offering, "In my Blood," at the Grape on Friday, March 1; Tierra Rejada Golf Club in Moorpark has more live music with 805 Social Club on Friday, February 23, and Recharged on Saturday March 2; and 311 has two dates at the Majestic Ventura Theater on Tuesday, March 5, and Wednesday March 6 with Sitting on Stacy to warm up the crowd.

Do you have any music-related news

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

## Music Calendar

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

### Aqua Beachfront Bar (Crowne Plaza)

450 E. Harbor Blvd., Ventura

Wed 2/21: Déjà vu Too

Wed 2/28: Big Adventure Band

Sat 3/2: Colette Lovejoy Band

### Boatyard Pub

1583 Spinnaker Dr., Ventura

Music 6-9; except Thurs 4-9

Wednesdays: Frank Barajas

Thursdays: Jim Friery (4 pm); Bluegrass

Jam (6:30 pm)

Fri 2/23: Mack and D

Sat 2/24: Bill Macpherson & Karen Eden

Tues 2/27: Noah & Julia

Fri 3/1: Teresa Russell & Stephen Geyer

### Bombay Bar and Grill

143 S. California St., Ventura

Thursdays: Ventura Blues Night

Sat 3/2: Lowered Expectations

### Café Fiore

66 S. California St., Ventura

Wed 2/21: Donna Greene & the

Roadside Daddies

Fri 2/23: Heathers on Fire

### Cantara Cellars

126 N. Wood Rd., Camarillo

Fri 2/23: The Jukes

Sat 2/24: Caliente 805

Fri 3/1: NDR CVR SRP GRP

### The Cave

4435 McGrath St., Ventura

Wed & Thurs: Bobby Apostol

Fri & Sat: Warren Takahashi

### Copper Blues

591 Collection Blvd., Oxnard

Fri 2/23: Nowhere Fast

Sat 2/24: No Duh

### Deer Lodge

2261 Maricopa Hwy., Ojai

Fri 2/23: Dave Burden, Lee Gallagher &

the Hallelujah

Sat 2/24: Rachel Sedacca

Fri 3/1: Mount Eerie

Sat 3/2: Nate Wood, Jordan Hook

### Duke's Beach Grill

1124 S. Seaward Ave., Ventura

Sat 2/24: Mark Cross

Sat 3/2: Zepp Heads

### Four Brix

2290 Eastman Ave., Ventura

Fri 2/23: Ray Jaurique Band

Sun 2/24: Moxey Raven

Fri 3/1: Ignition

Sun 3/3: Teresa Russell & Stephen Geyer

### Garage

1091 Scandia Ave., Ventura

Fri 2/23: Medicine Hat

Sat 3/2: 805 Social Club

### The Grape

2733 E. Main St., Ventura

Tues: The Gratitude Jazz Jam

Wed 2/21: TD Lind & the Aviators

Thurs 2/22: Hannah Marks Quartet

Fri 2/23: Brian Bromberg's Unapologetically Funky Big Bombastic Band

Sat 2/24: Lenny Lacroix (2 pm);

Alphonso Johnson All Star Band (8 pm)

Wed 2/28: Jim Fox Guitar Hang

Thurs 2/29: Marina Pacowski

Fri 3/1: Shawn Jones Vinyl Release Party

Sat 3/2: Dr. T and the Blues Criminals (2

pm); Tony Ybarra (8 pm)

### Greater Goods

114 N. Padre Juan Ave., Ojai

Sat 2/24: RJ Mischo, Jon Gindick, TD

Lind

### The Hangar Bar and Grill

824 E. Santa Maria St., Santa Paula

Sat 3/2: 805 Rockin' Oldies Band

### Keynote Lounge

10245 Telephone Rd., Ventura

Thursdays: Open Mic

Fri 2/23: Reign

### Leashless Brewing

585 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

Thurs 2/22: Charlie and the Chieftain

Fri 2/23: Maclovio

Sat 2/24: Keyth G & the Universouls 2

pm); I-Koustic (7 pm)

Thurs 2/29: Braden Walters

### Limon y Sal

598 E. Main St., Ventura

Music 1-4 pm

Sundays: In Stone

### Lucas Sellers Wine

300 Zachary St., Moorpark

Sat 2/24: Jayden Secor

### Lucky Fool's Pub

75 E. High St., Moorpark

Fri 2/23: Doc Rogers Band

Sat 2/24: 24 Strings

### Majestic Ventura Theater

26 S. Chestnut St., Ventura

Sat 2/24: You Should be Dancing

Tues 3/5 & 3/6: 311, Sitting on Stacy

### Manhattan

5800 Santa Rosa Rd., Camarillo

Thursdays: Tom McMorran

Wed 2/21: Robert Van

Fri 2/23: Tour Support

Sat 2/24: Jeanne Tatum Trio

Wed 2/28: Warren Takahashi

### Margarita Villa

1567 Spinnaker Dr., Ventura

Sat 2/24: Crosscut 805

Sun 2/25: Karen Eden & Bill Macpher-

son

Fri 3/1: Joe Delia

Sat 3/2: Vinyl Gypsies

Sun 3/3: Doc Rogers Band

### Moofish Café (inside Crowne Plaza)

450 E. Harbor Blvd., Ventura

Thursdays: Seth Andre Oster & Michael

Velasquez

### Mrs. Olson's

2800 Harbor Blvd., Oxnard

Sat 2/24: Shaky Feelin'

Sun 2/25: Teresa Russell

### Namba Arts

47 S. Oak St., Ventura

Fri 2/23: The Listening Room

Sun 3/3: Countercurrent

### Ojai Bluegrass Festival

Las Palmas; 1250 Meyer Rd., Ojai

Sat 3/2: Tarantula Banjo, Ellie Rollins

Band, the Van Allen Twins & Chris

Murphy, Mark Masson's Jam Grass and

Moonsville

### Ojai Underground Exchange

616 Pearl St., Ojai

Fri 2/23: Tom Heyman with Scott

Hirsch

Sun 2/25: American Songbook: Tribute

to Leonard Bernstein

### Onyx Bistro

2390 Las Posas Rd., Camarillo

Fri 2/23: Erinn Alissa

Sat 2/24: Brenda Carsey

### Poinsettia Pavilion

3451 Foothill Rd., Ventura

Sun 3/2: Old-Time Country Bluegrass

Gospel Music Assoc.

### Prime Steakhouse & Wine Bar

2209 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

Tuesdays: Danny D

### The Raven Tavern

1651 S. Victoria Ave., Oxnard

Fri & Sat 7 pm; Sundays 2 pm

Fri 2/23: Holger's Heroes

Sat 2/24: Duke Fame Band

Sun 2/25: Katie Shorey

### Ric's Restaurant Sports Lounge

2500 Las Posas Rd., Camarillo

Tuesdays: Tour Support

Wed 2/28: Adam & Sam

### Sam's Place

308 E. Ojai Ave., Ojai

Fri 2/23: Tommy Quayle

Sun 2/25: Damaged Goods

The Shores

1031 Harbor Blvd., Oxnard

Fri & Sat: 9 pm; Sundays 1 pm

Fri 2/23: Nuestro

Sat 2/24: CheckPoint

Sun 2/25: Doc Rogers Band

### The Six

419 E. Main St., Ventura

Fri 2/23: Colette Lovejoy Band

Sat 2/24: Bum Roots

Fri 3/1: Brittney & the B-Sides

Sat 3/2: Doah's Daydream

### The Sportsman Restaurant

4426 Central Ave., Camarillo

Sun 2/25: Swing Shift

### Strey Cellars

951 N. Rice Ave., Oxnard

Sun 2/25: The Dirty Lowdown

Sun 3/3: Vinyl Gypsies

### Taqueria Jalisco

4275 Tierra Rejada Rd., Moorpark

Tuesdays & Fridays: Jim Friery

### Tierra Rejada Golf Club

15187 Tierra Rejada Rd., Moorpark

Fri 2/23: 805 Social Club

Sat 3/2: Recharged

### Topa Topa Brewing Co.

2024 Ventura Blvd., Camarillo

Thurs 2/29: Teresa Russell

### Topa Topa Brewing Co.

104 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

Fri 3/1: Windows, Dielectric

### The Twist on Main

454 E. Main St., Ventura

Tuesdays: Tuesday Blues Day w/ Hot

Roux & guests

Sat 2/24: Keyth G (noon); Katie Skene (4

pm); CRV (8 pm)

Sun 2/25: Mark Masson (2 pm); The

Mighty Cash Cats (5 pm)

### Vaquero y Mar

435 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

Sundays: Mariachi

Tuesdays: The Sea Hunter, Lowered

Expectations

Wednesdays: The Jelly Jam Band

Sat 2/24: Spider Baby, FSKD, Toledo

Panic, Pro Am

Fri 3/1: Head Cut, Rival Cults, Pink

Depression

### Ventura Music Hall

1888 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

Thurs 2/22: The White Buffalo

Fri 2/23: The Frights, Mustard Services

Sat 2/24: The Moss

Sun 2/25: Collie Buddz, Kash'd Out,

DMP

Thurs 2/29: The California Honeydrops

Sat 3/2: Health, Pixel Grip, King Yosef

Sun 3/3: Los Lobos

### Winchesters

632 E. Main St., Ventura

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

Sun 3 pm

Thurs 2/22: Dave Parsonage

Fri 2/23: Rick & the Souls

Sat 2/24: Teresa Russell

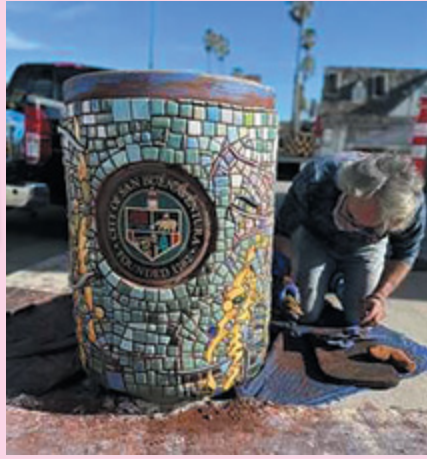
Sun 2/25: Sage & Austin





The Museum of Ventura County is pleased to announce the opening of its newest George Stuart Historical Figures® exhibition, Napoleon: Revolution, Romance, and Rivalries. The exhibition opens Thursday, February 22, 2024, and will be on display through September 15, 2024, inviting visitors to delve into the multifaceted life of Napoleon Bonaparte.

The exhibition invites visitors to explore the captivating story of Napoleon Bonaparte, from his rise to power in the aftermath of the French Revolution to his entangled relationships with other global leaders. Through meticulously crafted figures by George Stuart, including Napoleon Bonaparte, Marie Antoinette, Maximilien Robespierre, Empress Josephine, and more, visitors will witness the significant impact of Napoleon on the course of history.



A pilot beautification project was recently launched, transforming city trash cans on Seaward Ave. into functional art pieces. Funded by the Pierpont Community Council, this colorful mosaic design by Ventura artist Frank Bauer reflects the beauty of our coastal environment.

A March 1-April 27 exhibition in Studio 99, Buenaventura Art Association's gallery and headquarters at Bell Arts Factory in Ventura, will feature two artists' viewpoints on the wonder—and increasing volatility—of humanity's relationship to our world.

**Eva Montealegre** will present oil paintings on canvas.

**Carrie Bezler**, who signs her work **REY**, will display selected pastel drawings in "Returned to the Sea."

Art lovers can meet and talk with the artists during First Friday open gallery receptions from 6-9 p.m. March 1 and April 5.

More about Montealegre and examples of her artwork can be found at [www.evamontealegre.com](http://www.evamontealegre.com).

For more about Bezler and her pastel paintings, visit [www.reysart-space.com](http://www.reysart-space.com).

Buenaventura Art Association, founded in 1954, operates Studio 99 at 432 N. Ventura Ave., which is open noon-4 p.m. Fridays and Saturdays, and has an outlet at Harbor Village Gallery & Gifts, Harbor Village Gallery & Gifts, at 1559 Spinnaker Drive, Suite 106, in Ventura Harbor, is open 11 a.m.-6 p.m. seven days a week. SpiceTopia, at 576 E. Main St., is also open daily, but the hours vary.

To learn more about BAA and its programs, call 805-648-1235 during gallery hours or visit [buenaventuraartassociation.org](http://buenaventuraartassociation.org).



Ancient Asteroid Tracker, Oil on canvas, by Eva Montealegre



Sunny, Pastels, by Carrie Bezler

## Ventura Awarded \$640,000 Grant for Homelessness Prevention Program

The City of Ventura has received a significant boost in its efforts to combat homelessness with the recent allocation of a homeless housing, assistance, and prevention-round four state grant from the California Interagency Council on Homelessness. The grant, totaling \$640,000, includes \$96,000 earmarked to assist transitional-age youth between 18-24 years old.

"The City has made strategic investments in various areas to create meaningful outcomes for individuals facing homelessness," said Ventura Mayor Joe Schroeder. "We've bolstered our affordable housing inventory by 250 units and allocated over \$1.5 million to combat homelessness. This grant funding will amplify our endeavors, empowering us to extend crucial assistance to our community's most vulnerable populations, thereby ensuring they possess the necessary resources to obtain and sustain secure housing."

The funding will be utilized to establish a robust homeless prevention and diversion program aimed at providing vital rental and utility assistance to individuals and families. By supporting these households, the program aims to help people maintain their permanent housing and ultimately reduce the number of people experienc-

ing homelessness in the community.

The urgency of this initiative is underscored by recent data indicating an increase in homelessness within Ventura. According to the 2023 Point-in-Time Count, there are 644 individuals experiencing homelessness in the City of Ventura, though this figure represents only a portion of the total affected population over the course of a year.

Ventura County 2-1-1, a key resource for housing assistance, has reported a significant rise in calls for aid, with over 380 calls originating from residents within the City of Ventura in 2022 alone. This upward trend highlights the critical need for proactive measures to address homelessness in the City.

"Effectively addressing homelessness demands a comprehensive strategy that integrates supportive services with tailored interventions," expressed Leona Rollins, Housing Services Manager at the City of Ventura. "Through collaborative efforts with the County and numerous community partners, we allocate resources to fund a range of initiatives and programs, encompassing case management, housing navigation services, street outreach, and our vital emergency shelter program."

With the grant funding secured, the City is poised to launch a comprehensive two-year pilot program under the Homeless Prevention and Diversion initiative. The program aims to serve at least 100 eligible households, providing up to \$4,000 in financial assistance to each household to help them maintain their permanent housing.

For more information on the City of Ventura's Housing Services Division and its initiatives, please visit: [www.cityofventura.ca.gov/HousingServices](http://www.cityofventura.ca.gov/HousingServices)

## SBA offering disaster assistance to Ventura businesses and residents affected by Dec. 2023 storm and flooding

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) announced it is offering disaster assistance to Ventura businesses and residents affected by the Dec. 2023 storm and flooding.

Low-interest federal disaster loans are available to California businesses and residents affected by the December 2023 Storm and Flooding that occurred Dec. 21 - 23, 2023, announced Administrator Isabella Casillas Guzman of the U.S. Small Business Administration. SBA acted under its own authority to declare a disaster in response to a request SBA received from Gov. Gavin Newsom's authorized representative, Director Nancy Ward, of the California Office of Emergency Services, on Jan. 9, 2024.

The disaster declaration makes SBA assistance available in Kern, Los Angeles, Santa Barbara and Ventura counties.

"SBA's mission-driven team stands ready to help California's small businesses and residents impacted by the storm and flooding," said Administrator Guzman. "We're committed to providing federal disaster loans swiftly

and efficiently, with a customer-centric approach to help businesses and communities recover and rebuild."

"Low-interest federal disaster loans are available to businesses of all sizes, most private nonprofit organizations, homeowners and renters whose property was damaged or destroyed by this disaster," said Associate Administrator Francisco Sánchez of the U.S. Small Business Administration's Office of Disaster Recovery & Resilience. "Beginning Saturday, Jan. 13, SBA customer service representatives will be on hand at the following Disaster Loan Outreach Center to answer questions about SBA's disaster loan program, explain the application process and help each individual complete their application," Sánchez continued. The center will be open on the days and times indicated below until further notice. No appointment is necessary.

Disaster Loan Outreach Center  
South Oxnard Branch Library  
4300 Saviers Rd.  
Oxnard,

Businesses of all sizes and private nonprofit organizations may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory and other business assets. SBA can also lend additional funds to help with the cost of improvements to protect, prevent or minimize disaster damage from occurring in the future.

For small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture and most private nonprofit organizations of any size, SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. Economic

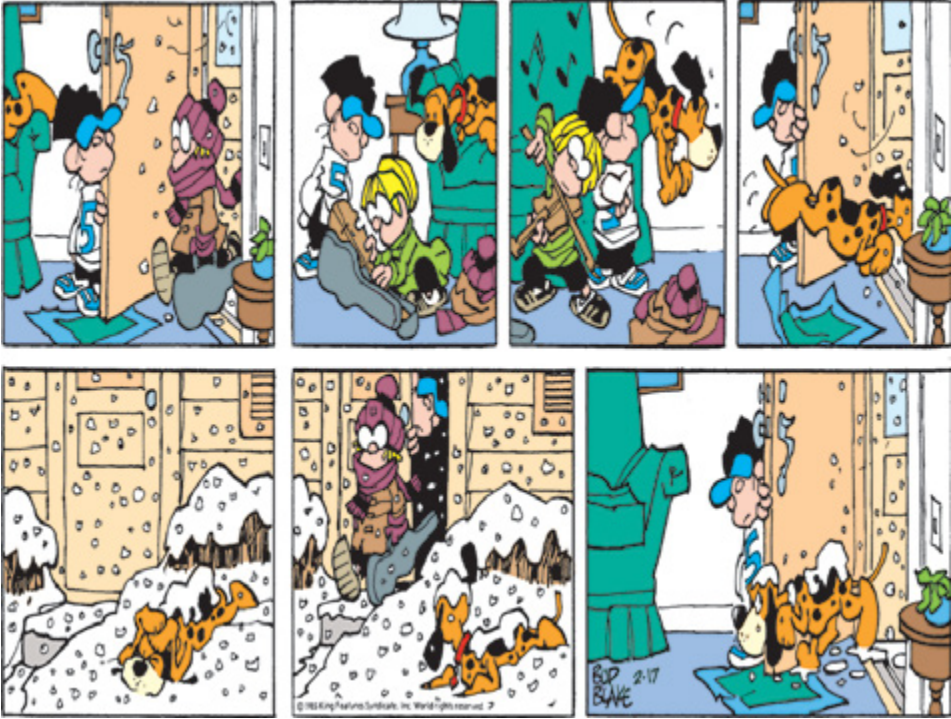
**Continued on page 24**





# Lighter Breeze

## Tiger



## The Spats



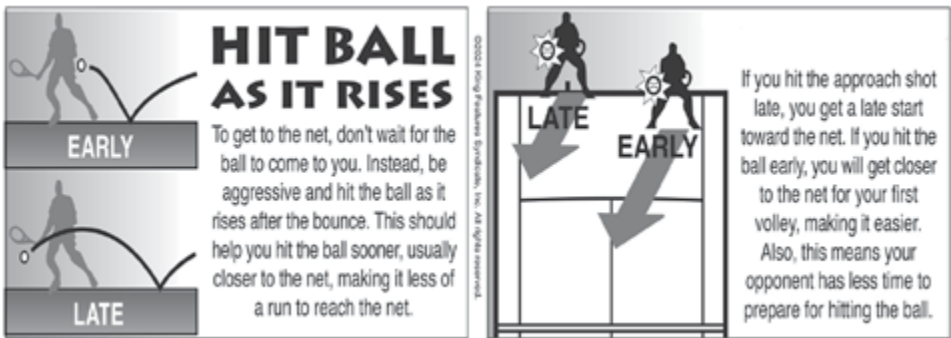
## Out on a Limb



## Amber Waves



## Stan Smith's Tennis Class



Solutions on page 15

(For a beginners guide to playing Sudoku go to [venturabreeze.com](http://venturabreeze.com))

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

## 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 React in horror
- 8 Pitcher Nolan
- 12 Flamenco cheer
- 13 Genesis shepherd
- 14 Spanish greeting
- 15 Squacalor
- 16 Drive -- window
- 17 "-- the picture!"
- 18 2014 biopic about actress Kelly
- 21 Rowing tool
- 22 Expert
- 23 Japanese

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13						14		
15				16					17			
18			19					20				
			21				22					
23	24	25				26				27	28	29
30					31				32			
33				34					35			
				36				37				
38	39	40				41				42	43	44
45						46				47		
48						49				50		
51						52				53		

- 26 Jamaica
- 26 Glutton
- 27 Ultramodernist
- 30 Rhine feeder
- 31 Golf prop
- 32 Basketball tactic
- 33 Tibetan beast
- 34 4, on a phone
- 35 Dollar divisions
- 36 Observe
- 37 Texter's chuckle
- 38 Where something is created
- 45 QB Tony
- 46 Ocho --
- Jamaica
- 47 Hollywood's Thuman
- 48 Country singer Jackson
- 49 Gaelic
- 50 Fuel stat
- 51 Partner
- 52 Bump into
- 53 Sound from a hot wok
- 6 Lowly worker
- 7 Fruit-filled dessert
- 8 Horned beast
- 9 Meditative practice
- 10 Mr. Guinness
- 11 Post-WWII alliance
- 19 Pepsi rival
- 20 URL ending
- 23 Stable diet?
- 24 Small battery
- 25 Annoy
- 26 JFK Library architect
- 27 Convent resident
- 28 Tolkien creature
- 29 Approves
- 31 Math statement
- 32 Sub shop
- 34 'My word!'
- 35 Waist-cinching garment
- 36 Tea biscuit
- 37 Unfettered
- 38 Baby carriage
- 39 'Damn
- 40 "Yankees" role
- 40 Latin 101 word
- 41 Blaze
- 42 Periodontist's concern
- 43 Rapscoallions
- 44 Kvetches

### DOWN

- 1 McEnroe's rival
- 2 Winged
- 3 Transcending (Pref.)
- 4 Fancy cake
- 5 Loathe

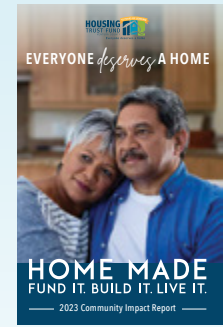
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## 2024 ANNUAL MEETING

Thursday, February 29th  
8:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.  
CSU Channel Islands Grand Salon

We'll present our 2023 Community Impact Report, share current and new affordable housing developer loan programs, and join the important discussion, "A Home for Education," making the case for housing solutions on educational properties.



## A Home for Education

Housing solutions on educational properties.



### "Affordable Housing Development on School Lands"

Presented by Al Grazioli  
Director of Real Estate and Business Development, Los Angeles Unified School District



Scan for free tickets

"A Home for Education" symposium presented by:



<https://AHomeForEducation.eventbrite.com>





# Show Time

A View from House Seats

## Santa Paula Lets it Rip!

by Shirley Lorraine

Santa Paula Theater Center has opened its 2024 season of all comedies with Ripcord by David Lindsay-Abaire. Directed by Taylor Kasch, the play takes place in Bristol Place, a senior living facility. If you have had any contact with people in such a setting, you will immediately see the humor and the pathos in familiar situations.

Abby (Cynthia Killion) has been living at the facility for some time and is quite set in her ways and preferences. For reasons that later become apparent, she has trouble making peace with having to have a roommate. Marilyn (Sindy McKay) is the newest assignee to the second bed in Abby's domain. Abby's grumpy, pessimistic nature clashes with Marilyn's continually sunshine-esque countenance. The two are as different as oil and water.

Scott Blanchard plays the role of Scotty, the incredibly patient attendant, who tries to placate the two women, and still maintain facility standards.

The ladies eventually agree to disagree and make a bet of sorts. Marilyn attempts to get a smile out of Abby to "win" the right to stay in the room and move into the bed by the window. At the same time, Abby asserts that she can make Marilyn lose her cool, thus maintaining her coveted view and possibly gaining the room all to herself. It is a battle of wits and actions as the two try their best to force each other to concede. They both go to extraordinary lengths to gain the upper hand, to the utter exasperation of Scotty and others.

Ron Feltner and Karen Denny embody the roles of Derek and Colleen,

Marilyn's son-in-law and daughter, who assist in some of the shenanigans until they have just had enough and beg them to call a truce. Brooks Hope makes an appearance as Abby's estranged son, adding another insight into her deeply rooted downer demeanor.

The play certainly has many moments of humor as the two ladies grapple with much more than the often-frustrating challenges of aging. There are also sentimental moments and realities of facility living that cause one to evaluate one's own outlook.

The SPTC cast is a solid blend of talent and proficiency. However, I couldn't help wondering if perhaps the material might be more humorous to persons with no personal contact with facility living. Because some of the irritations and complaints are all too real (personal experience with facility settings), I found it challenging to sympathize with both leading characters at times. Abby seemed to be not just grumpy, but mean, which did not win her any empathy points. The relentless positivity of McKay's Marilyn was wearing as well.

There are countless areas of daily humor when dealing with foibles of the elderly. They can be inadvertently funny in mundane situations. Apparently, the author felt being outrageous in how the two ladies try to one-up each other would be funnier. I agree to disagree, and all bets are off.

Ripcord continues Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 2:30 p.m. through March 3, 2024. [www.santapaulatheatercenter.org](http://www.santapaulatheatercenter.org)

injured his shoulder in the gym, requiring Hunham to take him to the hospital. Hunham was concerned for his job, but to his surprise Angus covered for him and they kept the situation just between the two "Barton men".

Hunham had a heart-felt moment at their shared Christmas dinner and offered to do whatever he could to make Angus' or Mary's holiday break better. Angus asked to go to Boston and Hunham initially said no, but eventually agreed after clearing it as a field trip with the headmaster. Angus had always told everyone his father died, but he was actually in a mental hospital in Boston, which unknown to Hunham was the true reason for his request. They traveled to Boston and went to a theater where Angus tried to sneak out during the

movie, but when Hunham caught him and discovered the truth, he agreed to go with Angus to visit his father. Neither knew what major future implications this would create, putting their credo of "Barton men" to the test again.

The perfectly timed, clever, comedic dialog between the main characters keeps viewers laughing throughout the film, while also at other times brilliantly lightens the burden of some difficult scenarios. The film has won two awards for Supporting Actress Da'Vine Joy Randolph at the Golden Globe and British Academy Film Awards. For the 96th Academy Awards, "The Holdovers" received five nominations including Best Picture, Best Actor and Best Supporting Actress. Runtime: 2h 13m

Streaming Spotlight by Cindy Summers

## The Holdovers

- Peacock & Rent or Buy



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

The Holdovers is set in winter 1970 at Barton Academy, an exclusive all-boys boarding school in New England where classics professor Paul Hunham (Palu Giamatti) was saddled with the responsibility of looking after the few students that have nowhere to go during the Christmas break. Originally Hunham thought he would be there with the school's cafeteria manager and four boys, but as Angus Tully (Dominic Sessa) waited on the steps with his bags packed ready to go he received a call from his mother that she and her new husband were taking their overdue honeymoon during the holidays and that he would have to remain at school during the break.

The other four boys didn't know each other and were from various ages and backgrounds, but included Teddy Kountze (Brady Hepner), Angus's enemy that he had just belittled about being left behind before finding himself in the same situation. Though the boys all thought they would be having a

kick-back vacation, Hunham had other plans including regularly studying and exercising as if school was still in session. Also staying for the break was cafeteria manager Mary Lamb (Da'Vine Joy Randolph) who recently lost her son Curtis who attended Barton and joined the military to pay for college, but was killed in the Vietnam War.

Hunham's general attitude was that the students at Barton were very spoiled and entitled, and felt it was his responsibility to not only educate them, but to help shape their moral character to help them grow up to be men of worth in the world. Due to the fact that many of the boys came from rich families with few boundaries, this was a huge task Hunham sought to accomplish through a strict attitude, causing him to not be liked by basically everyone in the school. Though Angus did well with his grades in Hunham's class, he was constantly trying Hunham's will and patience and this bad attitude only grew now that Angus unexpectedly had to spend the break with Hunham.

After six days, the father of one of the boys arrived in his private helicopter, inviting the other four boys to join them on a ski trip for the break. Hunham contacted the headmaster for authorization and then contacted the parents for permission, but unfortunately he was unable to reach Angus' parents. This left just Hunham, Mary and Angus at the school until after the new year which made Angus even more angry and rebellious. During an act of defiance, Angus

**Ventura Wildfire Preparedness Town Hall**

VENTURA COUNTY RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT

VENTURA FIRE DEPT

**March 7th, 6:00pm - 8:00pm**  
**Community Meeting Room, City Hall**  
**501 Poli St. 2nd Floor**

With presentations from Ventura Fire Department, Southern CA Edison, and more

FREE EVENT - Spanish interpretation & livestream available

CityofVentura.ca.gov/  
 FireTownHall

ON STAGE **APRIL 4-21**

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 ADAPTED BY **Ben Power**  
 DIRECTED BY **Oánh Nguyễn**

Tickets starting @ \$40!

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SANTA BARBARA'S PROFESSIONAL THEATER COMPANY





## Much free mulch and the most compost available

by David Goldstein

Among other benefits, mulch and compost can help prevent erosion from heavy rain. Mulch on soil surface works immediately after being applied correctly, reducing the impact of rain and slowing the flow of runoff. Compost, incorporated into soil, works long after being applied by promoting the growth of soil-holding roots.

Although cost varies, specified varieties of mulch and compost can be obtained free in some parts of Ventura County, and in rare cases, funds are also available for transportation and spreading costs.

For those who live in Ventura County's unincorporated areas - areas such as Saticoy and parts of Montalvo, which are outside the city of Ventura - mulch and compost are offered through companies providing recycling service. Unincorporated area customers served by Harrison Industries may pick up material at Agromin free of charge, or they may pay a fee for delivery. The maximum available per customer is 75 cubic yards of compost and 100 cubic yards of mulch per year. Instructions and order forms are at <https://ejharrison.com/free-compost-mulch-program/>.

Athens Services' free program for

residential customers outside cities offers free compost at Athens' Santa Paula yard, or customers may pay a fee for home delivery of up to ten bags or ten cubic yards of compost. For more information and to schedule a pickup or delivery, customers outside cities should call (805) 856-0113.

The City of Ventura's program, in partnership with Harrison Industries, offers mulch and compost from Agromin with a delivery charge of \$135 per order, through December 15, 2024. Alternatively, compost can be collected free from Cornucopia Community Gardens, and compost or mulch is free to city residents with a reservation at Agromin's office. See the city's website, at <https://www.cityofventura.ca.gov/2524/Free-Compost-Mulch-Program>, for instructions and coupon codes.

Just north of Ventura, the Ojai Valley Sanitary District offers free compost made from wood chips and Class A biosolids, passing tests for elimination of pathogenic organisms and heavy metals. Request an appointment for pickup at <https://www.ojaisan.org/residential/compost.php>.

The County and some cities have special programs for schools, including a subsidy for the cost of delivery. Schools outside cities may contact the Ventura County Public Works Agency, at 805/658-4319, to request compost or mulch.

For those without access to free material, and for more product options, mulch and compost are available for sale at garden stores, home improvement stores, some equipment rental yards, and from recyclers of yard trimmings. This

latter category of companies making and selling both mulch and compost includes Agromin's sites at Ormond Beach and the company's office in Oxnard.

Sometimes you can get lucky and receive free mulch from public, private, or utility tree trimming crews working in your area. If you see tree trimmers feeding branches into a grinder, shooting mulch into the back of a truck, you can carefully approach and ask them to dump their load on your front yard. Ask also to ensure the tree being removed is not diseased.

Mulch and compost available at processing facilities come from many sources, but concerns about pathogens and metals are addressed by regulatory requirements for heat, time, and testing. David Goldstein, Environmental Resource Analyst with the Ventura County Public Works Agency, may be reached at (805) 658-4312 or [david.goldstein@ventura.org](mailto:david.goldstein@ventura.org)

### Events

#### Continued from page 18

animation, and motion graphics. This group exhibition electrifies the museum gallery.

Over the past year and a half the museum has hosted two one-night BYOB (Bring Your Own Beamer/Projector) events. Local creators were invited to participate by projecting their work on the blank walls of the museum. Those popular happenings illuminated a group of new media artists working in our community.

Digital Pop was born from a desire to extend the energy brought to the museum by the BYOB events. Content creator Jennifer Jordan Day curated the exhibition. The local artists included in Digital Pop responded to an open call. They are Emily Allard, Jennifer Jordan Day, John Delaney, Joel Fox, Tilman Egel Karapandzic, Ben Grace, Cassandra C. Jones, Amun Levy, Douglas Lochner, Joe Manfredi, Rebecca Odes, Jamie Stratford, and Jules Weissman.

Each artist provides a diverse perspective on art and technology. Par-

ticipants play with a mix of sculptural and electronic components. They break expectations of moving imagery, and push display boundaries with interactive works.

The Ojai Valley Museum is located at 130 W. Ojai Avenue in Ojai. Free parking is available behind the museum, enter the lot from Blanche Street. The Museum is open Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday from 10 am to 4 pm. Suggested admission is \$5 per adult, and \$1 for children 5-18.

### SBA offering disaster assistance Continued from page 21

injury assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered any property damage.

Disaster loans up to \$500,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for up to \$100,000 to repair or replace damaged or destroyed personal property, including personal vehicles.

Interest rates can be as low as 4 percent for businesses, 3.25 percent for private nonprofit organizations and 2.688 percent for homeowners and renters with terms up to 30 years. Loan amounts and terms are set by SBA and are based on each applicant's financial condition.

Interest does not begin to accrue until 12 months from the date of the first disaster loan disbursement. SBA disaster loan repayment begins 12 months from the date of the first disbursement.

Applicants may apply online and receive additional disaster assistance information at [SBA.gov/disaster](https://www.sba.gov/disaster). Applicants may also call SBA's Customer Service Center at 800-659-2955 or email [disastercustomerservice@sba.gov](mailto:disastercustomerservice@sba.gov) for more information on SBA disaster assistance. For people who are deaf, hard of hearing, or have a speech disability, please dial 7-1-1 to access telecommunications relay services.

The deadline to apply for property damage is March 11, 2024. The deadline to apply for economic injury is Oct. 10, 2024.

*Ambitious Beauty*  
AMB  
Studio

**BODY SCULPTING**

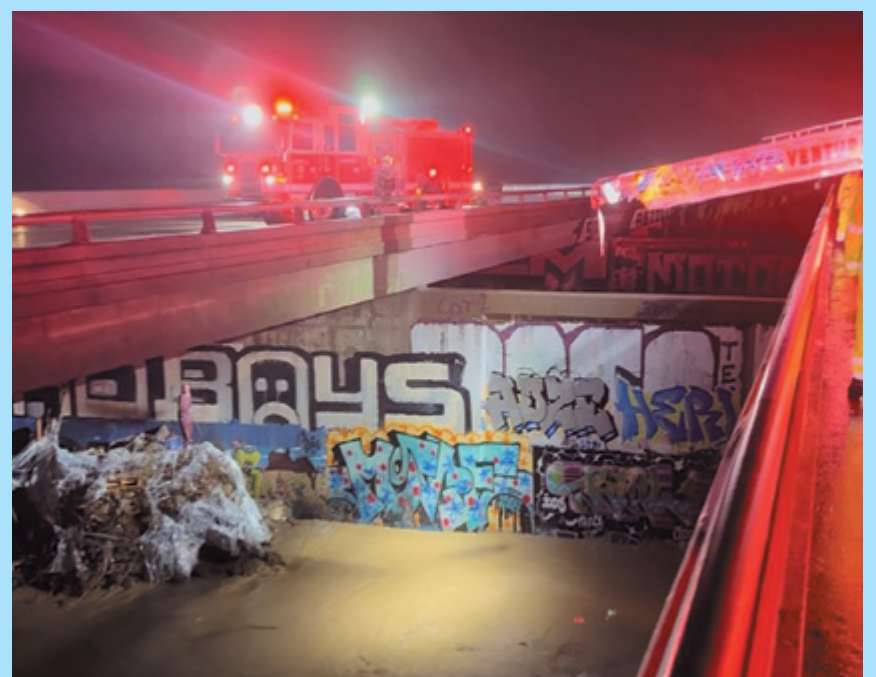
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**LASH EXTENSIONS**

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947 SCHOONER DRIVE SUITE 204  
VENTURA CA 93001



On February 4, at 6pm, fire units were dispatched to a reported person trapped in the river bottom with rising water on both sides. Firefighters located the victim under the freeway and shut down the northbound 101 freeway to perform a rescue using the aerial ladder truck. The victim was rescued 58 minutes after units arrived on scene. Ventura City Fire units were assisted by Oxnard Fire Department, Ventura County Fire Department, and CHP.