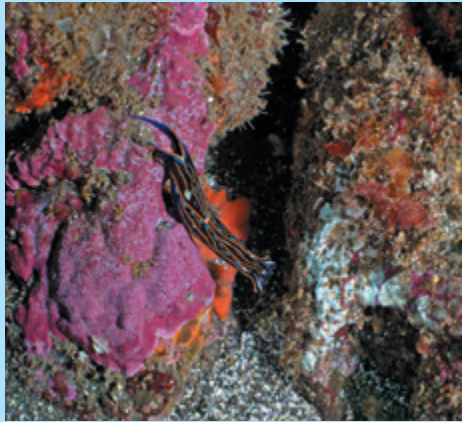




VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

Vol. 17, No. 17 Published Every Other Wednesday Established 2007 May 15 to May 28, 2024



California Aglaja (*Navanax inermis*) – a predatory sea slug we found in Santa Barbara Island State Marine Reserve. Photo by Oceana/Blancpain.

Oceana and Blancpain Launch Ocean Expedition to Explore and Document Ocean Biodiversity

Beginning April 29, Oceana - in partnership with prestigious Swiss watchmaker, Blancpain - embarked on a five-day ocean expedition around the Northern Channel Islands off California to explore and document biodiversity that makes ocean waters off the state globally important. The expedition will further Oceana's campaigns to restore ocean abundance and Blancpain's commitment to ocean exploration and conservation.

Southern California boasts undersea geology unlike any other off the U.S. West Coast, marked by a series of faults, banks, and underwater mountains (seamounts). This geology, combined with cold nutrient-rich waters that upwell from the deep make this region a global biological hotspot supporting

Continued on page 15

Ventura River Trail Earmarked for \$5 Million of Improvements

Ventura Mayor Joe Schroeder, Councilmembers, key stakeholders, and agency representatives gathered at the Westpark Community Center on Thursday, May 2, to celebrate the groundbreaking of the Ventura River Trail Improvements Project.

The first groundbreaking event in several years, the project is made possible by a \$5 million grant from Caltrans as part of the Clean California program.

"Cal Trans is a proud partner with the City of Ventura by providing nearly \$5 million through the Clean California local grant program in an effort to enhance the community to improve space for walking and recreation," noted Caltrans Senior

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Pictured left to right: Amisha DeYoung-Dominguez, Michelle Sevilla, Liz Campos, Vathana Chy, Joe Schroeder, Bill Ayub, Angelica Cisneros, Charlie Ebeling)

Empowering Ventura County Youth: Workforce Development Board Launches Revitalized Youth Program

Ventura County NextGen, The Workforce Development Board of Ventura County's new youth-focused program, is helping local youth and young adults overcome barriers to employment and embark on successful careers.

The most recently available numbers show that only 88.1% of Ventura County high school seniors graduated in 2022; while this is slightly higher than California's average graduation rate, it still leaves nearly 12% of Ventura County youth exiting school without their high school diploma. Those with lower household incomes have significantly lower graduation rates than those with higher incomes. This demographic already deals with the difficulties of entering the workforce at a young age. However, their participation in the workforce is down nearly 3% nationally when comparing February 2024 to February 2020 (Bureau of Labor Statistics).



Recognizing this critical need in Ventura County, the Workforce Development Board of Ventura County (WDBVC) is seeking to pave the way for youth and young adults as they

Continued on page 4

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

PUBLISHER-EDITOR

Mark Brown
editor@venturabreeze.com

PUBLISHER EMERITUS

Sheldon Brown

Assistant to the PUBLISHER

Ana Baker

Student Intern

Juliette Nasarenko

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Shirley Lorraine · Richard Lieberman
Sheli Ellsworth · Carol Leish
Cindy Summers · Pam Baumgardner
Elizabeth Rodeno · Mira Reverente
Amy Brown · Richard Senate
Patricia Schallert · Ross Williams
Mary Olson · Leslie Sokol
Joseph Seemayer · Tracy Marcynzsyn

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

Richard Lieberman · Michael Gordon
Patricia Schallert · Yana Khyod
Joseph Seemayer

In Memoriam Breezy Gledhill

ADVERTISING ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Janie Tran
janie@venturabreeze.com

DISTRIBUTION

Mary Thompson · Alfred J. Lewis
John Murchison

WEB/ONLINE ADVISOR

Cindy Summers

EXHIBITION COORDINATOR

Jaime Baker

PRINTING

CA Web Print, Inc. (626)281-8989

CONTACT US:

EVENTS & HAPPENINGS
events@venturabreeze.com

OPINIONS
opinions@venturabreeze.com

ARTICLES AND PHOTOS
editor@venturabreeze.com

THE PET PAGE
scampclub@venturabreeze.com

ADVERTISING
advertising@venturabreeze.com

Ventura Breeze

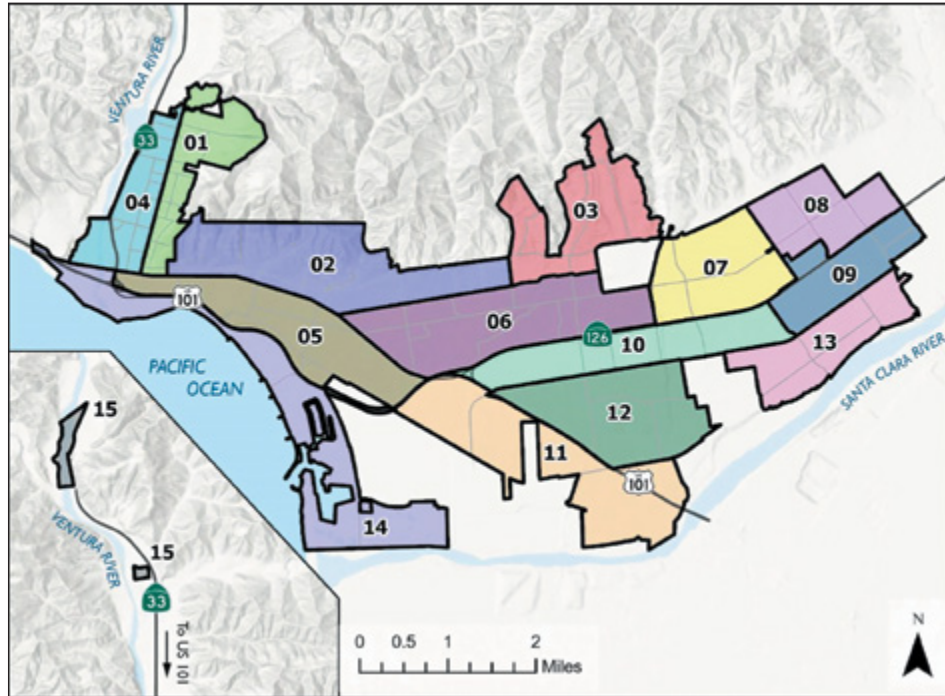
PO Box 832, Ventura, CA 93002
Phone 805.653.0791



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The beautiful spring came, and when nature resumes her loveliness, the human soul is apt to revive also.
— Harriet Ann Jacobs

City News



Know Your Zone: City of Ventura hosts community workshop to educate residents on new Evacuation Plan

With a firm commitment to saving lives, the City of Ventura is spearheading efforts to ensure residents are well-informed about local evacuation procedures. Recognizing the complexity of the various hazards that could prompt evacuations in Ventura, the City has meticulously divided Ventura into 15 evacuation zones, considering factors such as hazard vulnerability areas, population density, and major thoroughfares.

To educate residents on the new evacuation plan, evacuation zones, shelter locations, and transportation

assembly points, community members and business owners are invited to join Emergency Services Manager Mack Douglass for a community workshop on Saturday, May 18, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. at the Ventura Police Department, located at 1425 Dowell Drive in Ventura.

The workshop will cover information about the 15 designated evacuation zones, potential shelter locations and transportation assembly points.

“With Ventura’s unique geography, location, and limited ingress and egress



routes, it is crucial for residents to be aware of their designated evacuation zones in case of an emergency,” said Police Chief Darin Schindler. “By empowering residents with the knowledge and resources needed to respond effectively, we can streamline evacuation processes and save lives.”

The workshop is just one part of the outreach efforts. Additional presentations will be made at neighborhood community councils, ensuring accessibility to all residents. These presentations will cover essential details and provide opportunities for questions and feedback.

Residents are invited to attend the following meetings:

East Ventura Community Council: Thursday, May 16 at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom
Downtown Ventura Partners: Thursday, June 27, at 9:00 a.m. at the Crowne Plaza

The Evacuation Plan was developed based on feedback from over 900 residents who completed the Emergency Preparedness Community Survey in 2023. Survey responses provided diverse insights on all-hazards evacuation preparedness, including familiarity with current evacuation routes, emergency shelters, transportation options, preferred communication methods, and overall readiness.

The completed Emergency Evacuation Plan is inclusive of diverse populations, recognizing the needs of individuals with visual or hearing impairments, chronic medical conditions, language barriers, disabilities, access, and functional needs.

For more information, please visit CityofVentura.ca.gov/EvacuationPlan.

Mailbox



Sheldon...Say It Aint True...

Sheldon,

Well, a belated congratulations! I'm glad you have found capable hands to pass the torch to. We so appreciate all you have done with the Breeze and for the community. You have been a great support to CAPS and KPPQ for these many years.

Elizabeth Rodeno
KPPQ 104.1FM Radio Station Manager
CAPS Project Manager

Breeze:

As a relatively new Venturan (I moved here in 2017, weeks before the Thomas Fire!), I've really enjoyed the Breeze as a way to understand my new home, learn about what's going on and to connect to

the community here. Although sad to see Sheldon go, I'm very happy for him and sure his retirement is well deserved. Thank you so much for your service to our community! I look forward to continue picking up The Breeze downtown, where I live.

Best,
Ed Terpening
EdTerpening.com

Sheldon:

Congratulations, Sheldon. Glad to know that The Breeze will continue—and that you will still be involved to some extent. Your experience and connections will assure the continued success of the enterprise.

Lots to be proud of—I don't think there has ever been a Ventura publication quite like your newspaper. Here's to many more years of success!
Mike Tracy

Oh Sheldon! Thank you for letting me know and Congratulations on your retirement! Although it sounds like you will still be very busy!

I want to thank you for being so dedicated to telling the story of Ventura and weathering all the good and bad times. You are right the Breeze is loved by so many in our community so thank you for all you have given!

Marieanne Quiroz, Director of Communications and Public Information Officer (PIO) Ventura Unified School District

Big Hugs, Sheldon

Congratulations on 17 years with VENTURA BREEZE, Sheldon Brown! You are an amazing person. In the many years you believed in my writings with the rock music scene (local and national). You let me run through many ideas. I always believed that in a local rock scene; it's okay to push boundaries and try different areas of writing.

When there was music news that I could blend in with local news together, we covered lots of ground. Featuring some high profile rock interviews. My favorite one was ROB HALFORD.

We featured Rob Halford in the Ventura Breeze back in 2010. Rob's band had just won their first Grammy after 30 years of recording music and was inducted into the Rock N Roll Hall of Fame in 2022. And as of this writing, they are currently on tour supporting their 19th studio album.

In addition, Rob Halford is also featured on a duet with Dolly Parton on her new rock album. Wonderful track called, “Bygones.”

Thank you for giving me the opportunity, Ventura Breeze, to interview him in July 2010. And, thanks for the hard

Continued on page 15

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



Adventure, Lore & More Await Visitors.

A Majestic Sight To See, Tall Ship Mystic Whaler Sails Into Ventura Harbor Village

Make your Memorial Day plans to venture seaside to Ventura Harbor Village as the majestic Tall Ship Mystic Whaler makes its voyage into Ventura.

Made possible by Central Coast Ocean Adventures Foundation (CCOAF), the 110-foot schooner will make its journey up the Santa Barbara Channel along the California coast.

During its visit to Ventura Harbor Village, the ship will dock at Ventura Harbor Dock-C, (near Ventura Boat Rentals, in front of Brophy Bros and On the Alley restaurants) from May 23 - May 30, 2024, and coincides with Ventura Harbor Village's ongoing Spring seaside events/activities throughout May. <https://www.venturaharborvillage.com/events/>

Seeking some great outdoor ex-

citement? A tour of the boat is just the ticket! Get ready for a host of Instagram-worthy experiences with a step back in time with a Deck Tour of the vessel from 1 - 5 PM on May 25, 26 & 27, 2024. Sea lovers of all ages have the opportunity to get a detailed orientation of the boat and the CCOAF Foundation, while kids can enjoy fun activities. Upon boarding the schooner, adult visitors can make a suggested donation of \$5 (kids are free). Please note: All activities are weather pending and the schedule may be subject to change.

For information about the Tall Ship Mystic Whaler deck tour information visit www.centralcoastcoastadventures.org. Also please check VenturaHarborVillage.com for latest updates.

Ventura River Trail Continued from page 1

Landscape Architect Vathana Chy, adding that "Two of my favorite things to do are biking and hiking, so this is a great place!

"The Ventura River Trail Improvement Project is one of the many Clean California local grant programs and safety-related projects intended to clean up and bring beauty to underserved communities. The goal is to transform our public space into areas that we can be proud of and have a sense of place," noted Chy, who commended the audience for embracing the Clean California spirit and sharing a vision for an improved active transportation network in the city.

"We look forward to partnering on projects here in the future," he added.

Improvements to the Ventura River Trail, which travels along state route 33, connecting the westside of Ventura to Ojai and the ocean, include repaving the city's 1.8-mile stretch of the bike trail, adding solar lighting, and installing trash cans, bike maintenance stations, landscaping, art installations, and various trail user amenities.

"We are dedicated to sustainable recreation and fostering connection within our community," said Mayor Schroeder,

expressing appreciation and thanks to all involved with the project.

"It's a real pleasure to do the groundbreaking on a project first starting out," said Public Works Director Charlie Ebeling, just one month into his new position.

"The trail's an important part of the city's active transportation program. It provides facilities that connect communities in a healthier, more sustainable way," said Ebeling, noting that the Ventura River Trail was originally constructed as a Rails to Trails project in the late 1990s.

With an anticipated completion date this fall, the project promotes recreation by improving access and enhancing trail amenities.

"About 200 trees, 180 solar lights, a rest station, drinking fountains—all of these amenities are really going to help this trail and bring people out of their cars, riding their bikes, whether it's for recreation, for health, or to get back and forth to work," said Project Manager Jeff Hereford, Principal Civil Engineer in the Public Works Department. "We are excited about this project! Thanks to all involved!"

Learn more about the Ventura River Trail Improvement Project at cityofventura.ca.gov/VenturaRiverTrail.

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Business Profile

18th Annual Wine in the Pines 2024 In Pine Mountain Village Center

Calling all wine lovers, mark your calendars for Saturday, July 6th, for the 18th annual Pine Mountain Club Wine in the Pines, festival in the Pine Mountain Village Center. From 1pm to 4pm (noon to 4pm with a VIP ticket), you'll be able to taste exciting wines from the world's top wine-growing regions, with dozens of premiere wineries to choose from. If you need a break from too much fine wine, then stop by the beer garden to catch a cold one from the many different craft beers on tap. Then, there's the food from many of our favorite restaurants on hand serving everything from classic gourmet finger food to good-ole western barbeque. Continue strolling through the village visiting our artisan vendors. Then, take a break at the Gazebo to watch Wild Side performing live on the Lilac Stage. It's going to be a fabulous day of live music, artisan vendors and amazing food in this wonderful heavenly mountain setting.

You must be 21 or older to attend and purchase tickets. IDs will be checked at the front gate. General Admission tickets are \$70 in advance and \$80 at the door. VIP tickets allow for an intimate early noon entry and are only \$90 (must be purchased in advance as they are not sold on the day of the event). This event usually sells out, so buy your tickets early. Admission includes wine & beer

tasting from 1pm to 4pm (VIP entry at noon), a logo glass, and fabulous food.

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

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

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Empowering Ventura County Youth Continued from page 1

mitigate their unemployment or lack of career pathways; WDBVC has unveiled "Ventura County NextGen," a revitalized youth program aimed at preparing Ventura County's future workforce with essential skills and readiness.

Ventura County NextGen is a no-cost education and career development program specifically created for youth and young adults ages 14-24. Developed with input from local youth and young adults, the program offers a unique and relatable approach to career exploration and growth while helping them overcome employment barriers. Their supportive services include:

GED completion or assistance in obtaining a High School diploma

One-on-one career coaching and mentorship, with personalized guidance to help participants identify their strengths and set career goals

Resume writing and editing

Interview coaching, job search advice, and overall preparation for the hiring process

Internship and apprenticeship opportunities in relevant work fields

Credential or degree attainment and so much more!

Goodwill Industries of Ventura and Santa Barbara Counties is the current contracted service provider for the WDBVC's youth program, which goes beyond employment assistance. Alongside aiding in employment-specific areas, Goodwill also provides vital support for youth navigating unstable living situations, housing insecurity, teenage pregnancy, justice-involved pasts, language barriers, and transportation challenges. These comprehensive services are expertly managed through Goodwill, ensuring holistic support for all

participants.

"We understand the challenges youth and young adults face in today's job market, especially those experiencing barriers to employment," said Andrea Sanchez, Senior Manager, Workforce Development Board of Ventura County. "Ventura County NextGen extends beyond conventional job training. This wrap-around system prioritizes personalized coaching, assists participants in overcoming barriers to education and employment, and facilitates connections with opportunities that align closely with their aspirations."

This critical program is available to all local youth and young adults ages 14-24 and functions in conjunction with Ventura County WORKS, a similar program for adults - especially those with disabilities, justice-involved pasts, or housing insecurity. WDBVC hopes that its commitment and dedication to combating employment barriers through various supportive services and programs will help the most in-need in Ventura County in this post-pandemic economy.

If you or someone you know could benefit from this incredible no-cost program, visit VCNextGen.org or call 805-648-WORK to learn more and get started today.

Additionally, if you are a business in Ventura County seeking an eager employee, apprentice, or intern, you can reach out to WDBVC at <https://workforceventuracounty.org/employers/business-solutions/>, and they will help connect you with a worker who fits your business needs. Along with easily accessible help from real-life people, a multitude of resources are at your disposal, including a virtual hiring board that will help you find your next great employee.



Business Profile

Experience Spectacular Fun at Circus Vargas

Get ready to witness an extraordinary display of talent, excitement, and wonder under the Big Top at Circus Vargas with the all new 2024 production, 'Jubilé! An Epic World Celebration!' in Ventura at Ventura County Fairgrounds May 24 - June 3 and coming Santa Barbara June 17 - 27!

The show features Opera trained Ringmaster, Johnathan Lee Iverson, who guides the audience through an experience of different cultures and

nationalities, joining hand in hand, coming together through acrobatic and aerial artistry to entertain, laugh, live, love, and celebrate as one! Featuring the world's finest performers from 15 different countries!

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PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE:
Ventura - Ventura County Fairgrounds

Friday	24-May			7:30
Saturday	25-May	1:00	4:00	7:30
Sunday	26-May	12:30	3:30	7:00
Monday	27-May		2:00	5:30
Tuesday	28-May	No Performances		
Wednesday	29-May			7:00
Thursday	30-May			7:00
Friday	31-May			7:30
Saturday	1-Jun	1:00	4:00	7:30
Sunday	2-Jun	12:30	3:30	7:00
Monday	3-Jun			6:30



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Local Society Hosts “Super Bowl of Gem Shows”

The Ventura Gem & Mineral Society (VGMS) is hosting “Seaside Gems at Ventura,” the National Gem, Mineral, Fossil & Jewelry Show May 24-26 at the Ventura County Fairgrounds from 10am-5pm, Friday & Saturday and 10am-4pm, Sunday. The show is open to the public and features family-friendly events and exhibits. Admission is \$8, with children under 13 free with a paid adult. (Note: the Fairgrounds also charges a parking fee.)

VGMS is celebrating its 80th anniversary and was selected from 600 similar nonprofit educational societies to host a truly big national event, namely, the Annual Show & Convention of the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies. They hope to welcome over 3,000 “rockhounds” as they converge on the Ventura County Fairgrounds for what’s described as “the Super Bowl of gem shows.”

This year’s “Super Bowl” organizers invite the general public to enjoy educational displays, dealers and demonstrators, speakers, silent auctions, raffles, and kids activities. For instance, a beautiful gold specimen will be one of the featured displays. Discovered by a young girl in Placer County in 1871, the California Golden Bear nugget is normally housed at the Los Angeles County Museum of Natural History but will be on temporary display at the show alongside samples of our ultra-rare State Gemstone, sapphire-blue benitoite.

Nearly 100 additional educational exhibits are expected of hand-crafted jewelry and carvings, gemstones and crystals, minerals, fossils, and fluorescent rocks that glow in the dark. These exhibits have been assembled from private collections and crafters throughout California and the U.S. and should be exceptional, given that over half will be entered into refereed competition vying for trophies.

Displays will be augmented by dem-

onstrators illustrating how rough stones are crafted into gleaming gems. Watch lapidary artists at work and question them for tips to try yourself. They’ll demo lapidary arts like gemstone grinding, carving and polishing; jewelry-making techniques; bead stringing; silver work, and fossil prep.

Kids are sure to enjoy the Kids Booth. A variety of interactive activities are free or priced to match a child’s budget. These include a Dino Dig; coloring activities; a spinning wheel where every spin wins a prize; grab bags filled with rocks, minerals, and fossils; “create-your-own-collection” boxes; and a sand-sifting activity. A prospecting club - Valley Prospectors of San Bernardino - will show kids and adults alike how to pan for gold just like a Forty-Niner. Teachers will find free teacher resources, including rock samples and packets of educational materials at the show Welcome Booth.

To get a jump on Holiday shopping, 50+ vendors will be selling all manner of rock-related materials: rough agate, jasper, marble, and more to cut, carve, and polish; gemstone rough (amethyst, opal, emerald, sapphire, ruby, tourmaline, jade) to cab or to facet; cut and polished gemstones ready to be mounted into jewelry settings; lapidary and jewelry tools and equipment; minerals and gemstone crystals and meteorites for collectors, whether beginners or advanced; fossils and petrified wood from around the world; gem-, mineral-, and fossil-related publications; beads of all sorts; stone carvings, spheres, and other sculpted works for home decor; and fine custom jewelry ready to wear.

In addition to the professional vendors, hourly silent auctions will be held throughout the show for lapidary rocks and gemstones, minerals, geodes, petrified wood, and fossils. And don’t miss the raffle! Those purchasing winning tickets will take home great

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Due to the Memorial Day holiday on Monday, May 27, trash, recycling and yard/organic waste will be collected one day later than usual the week of May 26 - June 1 in the Cities of Ventura and Ojai and the unincorporated areas of Ventura County.

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**City of Ventura
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COMMUNITY WORKSHOP**

SATURDAY, MAY 18 Ventura Police Department
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Join the Ventura Police Department to learn about the City’s new emergency evacuation plan, evacuation zones, shelter locations, and transportation assembly points.

Spanish interpretation provided.

LEARN MORE: CityofVentura.ca.gov/EvacuationPlan

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prizes that include high quality jewelry; mineral and fossil specimens; and more—including a one hundred dollar bill.

A Speakers Series features non-technical lectures with talks on topics such as meteorites, amber, an Australian gold mine, the geology of the Channel Islands off-shore from Ventura, and beautifully banded Condor Agates from Patagonia by the man who introduced them into the U.S. market.

VGMS and the American Federation of Mineralogical Societies are dedicated to encouraging interest in geology, mineralogy, paleontology, the lapidary and jewelry arts through education, activities, and exhibitions, such as this nationwide show, which circulates around the US and comes to California only once every seven years. AFMS is composed of local societies and clubs from throughout the US. AFMS and its affiliated societies are 501(c)3 nonprofit, educational organizations. Proceeds from their shows go toward educational endeavors, such as scholarship funds for undergraduate and graduate college students and a free badge program for children. During an Awards Banquet Saturday night, not only will trophies be given for best competitive displays, but also scholarships will be awarded to college students working toward degrees in the earth sciences.

For more email info@vgms.org or call 805-312-8467 or visit the show website at 2024CFMS-AFMS.com and the local Ventura society website at vgms.org.



Founder, Laurie Ann Meyer.

Happy 15th Anniversary to The Ventura Ladies Luncheon

by Carol Leish, MA

Founder, Laurie Ann Meyer said, “I saw a need for a venue where women could gather at lunch time without interrupting their evening or morning schedules to come relax for a nice meal and be served.” That is why I started the group in June 2009 in which ladies’ network and gather without annual/monthly dues, have no minimum on categories, and pay only for the months that they can attend.

“We first met at My Florist and Bakery, which was in downtown Ventura, with 5

women. The next month we decided to do it again and had 15 women. We moved the third meeting to the Pierpont with 25 women. And, at the fourth luncheon we had over 40 women! That is when I realized that we had something special going!”

Besides having met at the Pierpont, before they went through some changes, The Ladies Luncheon also met at the French Bakery in the Ventura Harbor for a few months before going back to meeting at the Pierpont. After the Pierpont started remodeling, the group met for lunches at the Poinsettia Pavilion for many years. “Then, in March, 2020, when COVID hit, the group met over Zoom, which was a challenging and interesting time” according to Meyer. “We made it through that time! Then, in 2022, post COVID; or, as it was winding down, we started meeting at The Greek Mediterranean Steak & Seafood, at the Ventura Harbor. They have been a great venue with incredible owners and staff.”

Meyer mentioned how important it has been/continues to be to build relationships first and business second. She said, “When an unlimited number of people in the same profession attend our luncheons, they end up collaborating instead of colliding. It is the theory of, “When 2 or more are gathered.”

Besides having the monthly luncheons, the group gathers for evening wine mixers in locally owned women businesses. In March of 2020, the Ladies Luncheon Ventura had their first all-day event: “Radiant You”. Meyer said, “We hope to be able to repeat this event soon, since it was very successful with over 100 attendees. Hopefully in May, 2025. In December, we substitute our monthly luncheon for a Holiday Boutique with holiday vendors, food, etc. We also

invite men, including spouses, and friends.”

Meyer stressed how the group is, “Now about ‘Community, Connection and Support.’ While we support each other, and refer each other for our businesses, the LOVE that has been created is exponential. And, after 15 years, we have been through many ups and downs with each other, including adversities and successes. The bond continues to be strong, and we are not going anywhere, except growing larger now that, since the pandemic, ladies have more of a desire to be able to connect in person.”

Sponsoring the monthly luncheon, “Gives ladies an opportunity to highlight their business through all our various marketing platforms, such as social media and our website. By being able to present at the luncheon event exclusively, they have a great way of exposing what and how they do in their businesses. Visit the sponsorship tab on our website for more information.”

Meyer emphasized that, “We are known for the best RAFFLE in town! Because, in most cases for the monthly luncheon, EVERYONE leaves with a gift. In addition, we all leave with a Gift of Love and a hug! I am so grateful for all the love women have brought and continue to bring to each other at the Ladies Luncheon. We meet on the first Thursday of every month. Thank you, Ladies! Happy 15 Year Anniversary to YOU!”

Please register on the website www.the-ladiesluncheon.com for the upcoming June 6, 15th Anniversary Luncheon Meeting at the Greek Mediterranean Steak & Seafood: 1583 Spinnaker Dr. #101; Ventura, CA 93001. For more information call Laurie at (805) 223-0154. Come celebrate and gather with a wonderful group of ladies while eating delicious food!

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The Bookmark

About Libraries and Friends

by Mary Olson

Local Ojai author Catherine Ann Jones visits Ojai Library on Saturday, May 25, 2 to 3 pm to give a talk on her book East & West: Stories of India.

She is the award-winning author of eight books including Heal Your Self with Writing. Her latest, East & West, is described as a captivating book in which contrasting and complementary aspects of Indian culture are explored through stories of seekers, ordinary Indians, heroes, frauds, and victims.

Catherine Ann Jones has played major roles in over fifty productions on and off-Broadway, later becoming an award-winning playwright. She has authored eleven plays produced in and out of NYC and films including Unlikely Angel (Dolly Parton), The Christmas Wife, and the popular television series, Touched by an Angel. A Fulbright Scholar to India studying shamanism, she has taught for several years at The New School University in NYC and USC Film School in LA, as well writing workshops globally. To learn more, visit wayofstory.com.

Ventura County Library launches its Read, Renew, Repeat summer reading program on May 15, 2024. During the next few months, the library will host a range of free activities for children and teens to encourage and support a love of reading. Participants can win prizes for reaching their reading goals.

“We’ve planned a wonderful program for children and teens that make the library a great place to read, learn, and discover what’s available,” said Molly Krill, Youth Services Manager. The benefits of summer reading extend far beyond academic goals. Reading also promotes empathy, critical thinking, and creativity, nurturing essential skills and experiences that will serve our community.

From STEAM activities and storytimes to craft workshops and book clubs, there’s always something happening at the library. Participants may register at vencolibrary.beanstack.org and record their reading with opportunities to win prizes for reaching reading goals. Each branch has a set of 4 Disneyland tickets to give away as a grand prize. Youth may visit their local branch to choose a free new book to add to their personal collection when signing up, a special sustainable prize for completing 500 minutes of reading and another free book for completing 1000 minutes.

Get a Vehicle Day Use Pass for California State Parks at your library.

In partnership with California State Parks and the California State Library,

free State Parks vehicle-day use passes are available for circulation to help Californians access beautiful parks, lakes, beaches, and monuments in the State Parks system free. The Library Parks Pass is valid for vehicle day use at 200+ participating state park units of the California State Park System operated by State Parks. Passes circulate for 21 days and are renewable if no other customers are waiting. For more information, go to <https://www.vencolibrary.org/library-things/parks-pass> or call 805 626-READ.

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.

Find your beach books, jigsaw puzzles and more summer reading for kids! 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.

The Museum of Ventura County Announces New Events and Museum Closure in May

Wednesday, May 29th, 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. (doors open at 6 for beer and wine bar), The Museum of Ventura County - Ivor Davis: Up Close and Personal on The Devil in My Friend - Ivor Davis will be in the “hot seat,” facing probing questions from Paul Bishop, a top interrogator from the Los Angeles Police Department. Get ready for a gripping tale as Davis shares the shocking revelation about a friend and neighbor who committed an unthinkable crime. Tickets are FREE for members at the Individual/Family level or higher, \$10 for non-members, and \$5 for non-members tuning in via Zoom. Tickets can be purchased at <https://venturamuseum.org/events/> Monday, May 13th - Friday, June 7th, The Museum of Ventura County galleries will be CLOSED - New exhibitions are coming to the Museum of Ventura County, Ventura Campus. The last day to view current exhibitions is Sunday, May 12 and doors will open to showcase two new exhibitions at an Opening on Saturday, June 8, 6-8 pm. The Agriculture Museum in Santa Paula will remain open with normal operating hours.

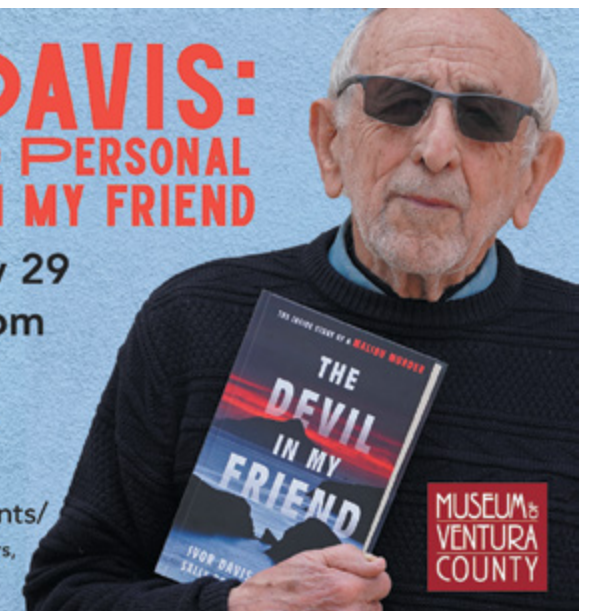
IVOR DAVIS:

UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL ON THE DEVIL IN MY FRIEND

Wednesday, May 29
6:30 pm – 8:00 pm

*Doors Open At 6 pm
for Beer and Wine Bar*

Purchase Tickets at
venturamuseum.org/events/
Free for members, \$10 non-members,
\$5 on zoom





Senior Living



Ombudsman of Ventura County hires new Executive Director

by Carol Leish, MA

With the percentage of elderly people in Ventura County forecasted to grow to 30% of the population within the next several years, preserving the high quality of advocacy that the Ombudsman of Ventura County has been providing since 1981 is even more critical. “We are very excited to have Keith Gosselin transition into the position of Executive Director,” stated Sylvia Taylor-Stein, current Executive Director, who will transition into a new role and continue to serve the volunteers, long-term care residents, and the community that she loves. She said that, “He has effectively expanded the capabilities of several nonprofit organizations during his professional career.

Gosselin, who has a BA in Management from Loyola Marymount University, in Los Angeles, and an MBA from the College of William & Mary, in Williamsburg, Virginia, has been a tenured Associate Professor at Mount Saint Mary’s University, along with having been an adjunct faculty member at Cal State University, Northridge, California Lutheran

University, and University of CA Los Angeles and UCLA.

During his 20+ years of college instruction, he taught mostly marketing classes, such as Principles of Marketing, Advertising Sales Management, Market Research, Social Media Marketing the Nonprofit, and International Marketing. And, with his MBA in Finance, along with a high-tech background, he taught Principles of Finance, along with Management of Information Systems at Mount Saint Mary’s University, every year.

Gosselin’s most recent position was as the Executive Director for His Hands on Africa, a nonprofit that provides free dental services in Rwanda. He was tasked with increasing U.S. donations to finance expansive efforts, which he did by growing the annual fundraising from \$350,000 to over \$850,000 in just one year. As a result, the number of Rwandans receiving free oral health care will continue to increase significantly over the next decade.

Long Term Care Services of Ventura County, Inc. is a 501c 3 nonprofit that advocates for the higher quality of life and care possible for all our disabled and elderly living in long term care facilities. The Ombudsman staff & volunteers make unannounced and unscheduled visits to long term care facilities to help ensure the quality of care and the quality of life for the elderly and disabled residents. Gosselin said, “I am honored to be a part of a best-in-class organization that represents the needs of two of the often-overlooked populations in our communities: the elderly and the disabled.”

In terms of goals, Gosselin said, “My priority at Long Term Care is to retain the incredibly high level of quality of services that the program has provided the community for the last 25+ years (courtesy of Sylvia Taylor-Stein)), through our staff and incredible volunteers. Secondly, I plan on increasing and diversifying our funding to reduce our reliance on government grants and to expand upon our services into the areas of the community that we would like to better serve.

For more information about the Ombudsman of Ventura County program, please visit www.ombudsmanventura.org.



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Senior Living



Image by gpointstudio on Freepik

Free Food Programs for Seniors

Today's soaring food prices are deeply problematic for countless Venturans, but they're particularly stressful for those on a fixed income. For many seniors, regular access to nutritious food can be challenging, but there is help available in the form of local and statewide programs designed to combat food insecurity.

Food Share Ventura County

Since 1978, Food Share has been feeding the hungry in Ventura County. According to Food Share, one in four people in Ventura County lives in a household that experiences food insecurity. Today, staff and volunteers distribute nearly 19 million pounds of food, providing 16 million meals annually to

people in Ventura County through its hunger programs and 190 pantry and program partners. As Ventura County's regional food bank, Food Share provides food for over 250,000 hungry friends and neighbors annually. Food Share is a member of Feeding America, the nation's largest hunger-relief network of food banks, as well as the California Association of Food Banks.

Food Share's Senior Food Box program works to improve the health of low-income seniors by providing monthly, nutritious, shelf-stable food packages to income-eligible seniors aged 60 and over. Currently, Food Share has close to 40 Senior Food Box distribution sites throughout Ventura County that

cater to the needs of seniors living on a fixed income. Visit FoodShare.com to learn about eligibility requirements or contact Angela Aparicio at seniorkits@foodshare.com or call 805-983-7100.

Ventura County Area Agency on Aging

The Senior Nutrition Program (SNP) from the Ventura County Area Agency on Aging (VCAAA) provides nutritious meals for older adults and people with disabilities within Ventura County, including Congregate and Home-Delivered Meal (HDM) services. These meal programs provide seniors with nutritious meals and contribute to maintaining their health, safety, dignity, and quality of life. Since the COVID-19 crisis began in March 2020, the VCAAA has served more than eight million meals to Ventura County's older adults, people with disabilities, and caregivers.

All SNP meals are approved by a Registered Dietitian to meet U.S. Dietary Guidelines for Americans and are geared toward the Dietary Reference Intake (DRI) and Adequate Intake for vitamins and elements for older, frail adults. These meals provide a minimum of one-third of the DRI and accommodate diabetic and low-sodium diets.

The Senior Nutrition Program is not income-based. There's a suggested donation of \$3 per meal; however, no eligible individual (60 years and over) will be denied participation because of failure or inability to contribute. This valuable service is sustained with the help of contributions.

To find a local dining site or home-delivered meal program near you, visit vcaa.org. For general information about Senior Nutrition, contact VCAAA at 805-477-7300 or email LOIS.VCAAA@ventura.org.

to promote the health, well-being, dignity, and independence of frail, homebound elders through one-on-one relationships with trusted volunteers. CAREGIVERS provides non-medical, in-home support services and transportation with a goal of preventing premature placement into board and care facilities and making it possible for elders to continue to live in the comfort and security of their own homes. Examples of assistance that volunteers may provide include cleaning up around the house, such as washing windows, vacuuming, dusting, mopping, yard maintenance, home organization, and much more.

CAREGIVERS programs are carried out by over 300 giving, caring volunteers who are recruited and trained from our local community. Kayla Meza, a student at California State University, Channel Islands, plans to go into the healthcare field and recently completed a semester with CAREGIVERS as part of her service-learning course. "Throughout the semester, I have had the privilege of assisting three seniors, one of whom I have built a great friendship with. One of my seniors has some health conditions that prevent her from doing everyday tasks such as sweeping, mopping, vacuuming, laundry, and cooking. The little help — an hour per week for each of them — that I provide goes a long way for my seniors, and they are always very appreciative of the time I dedicate to them."

Currently, CAREGIVERS is in great need of additional volunteers. They make every effort to match a carefully screened and trained volunteer to a homebound elder who needs basic assistance and companionship in order to foster a long-term, one-on-one relationship between them. "The organization only asks about 1.5 hours of help per week," explained Meza. "As of today, Ventura County CAREGIVERS really needs volunteers in Oxnard, Thousand Oaks, and Camarillo. They also have opportunities to serve as Team Leaders to high school volunteers throughout Ventura County. There are many homebound seniors who need assistance, and unfortunately, the number of volunteers cannot keep up with the number of seniors needing help. If you decide to volunteer for Ventura County CAREGIVERS, I promise you will not regret it."

All Adult Volunteers and Youth Leaders must pass a LiveSCAN background check, which is paid for by CAREGIVERS. To learn more, visit www.vccaregivers.org, email volunteer@vccaregivers.org, or call 805.658.8530.

CAREGIVERS Nonprofit Seeking Volunteers

Founded in 1984, CAREGIVERS serves hundreds of seniors throughout Ventura County — one of the largest aging populations in the nation. The local nonprofit, a public benefit organization, has a mission

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Kirby Subaru is honored to treat each Volunteer Caregiver with a free car wash as a thank you for their service to seniors throughout Ventura County.





California Strawberry Festival Parking: Saturday and Sunday, May 18 & 19, Ventura County Fairgrounds

LOCATIONS:

- San Buenaventura State Beach (\$10 Parking) Parking Lot at 901 San Pedro Street, Ventura
- Ventura County Government Center (Free Parking) 800 South Victoria Avenue, Parking Lot F on the Hill Street side
- Pacific View Mall (Free Parking) 3301 E. Main Street, Ventura, Parking and pickup behind the vacant Sears building
- Oxnard High School (Free Parking) 3400 W Gonzales Rd, Oxnard
- De Anza DATA Middle School (Free Parking) 2060 Cameron Street, Ventura
- Seaward & Harbor (Free Parking) 955 S Seaward Ave, Ventura CA 93001



California Strawberry Festival
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Saturday & Sunday • May 18 & 19, 2024
 Refreshment Stand • Refreshment • Entertainment • Photo Booth & Crafts
 Ventura County Fairgrounds, 10000 Van Ness Avenue, Ventura, CA 93003

STRAWBERRY EXPRESS SHUTTLE SERVICE

Avoid traffic delays and parking fees by utilizing the free park 'n' ride Strawberry Express Shuttle Service from convenient locations throughout Ventura and Oxnard.

Shuttles run on surface streets and have direct access to get you to the Festival fast and help you save on parking. Pick-up and drop-offs run approximately every 15-20 minutes. The first shuttle picks up at 9:00 a.m. Shuttles will operate until 8:30 p.m. on Saturday and 7:30 p.m. on Sunday. Handicapped accessible shuttles are available.



Photo: Phil Ranger

Bring your family and friends to enjoy the Ventura Botanical Gardens on Memorial Day. Leashed dogs are welcome.

Be sure to stop into our Courtyard garden shop, browse our plants and pottery, and ask about our plant sponsorships. See you at the Gardens!

SUPPORT THE VENTURA BOTANICAL GARDENS, BECOME A MEMBER TODAY!

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The Pet Page



Dedicated to Scamp

• Volunteers from All For Love Animal Rescue (AFLAR), a local animal rescue organization, spearheaded a project to make 50 brand new, custom-made beds for rescue dogs who are in

boarding, waiting to be adopted. The issue arose when rescue volunteers discovered that the nighttime hutches, essential for the dogs' shelter and protection from wind and rain, were not big enough to accommodate the bigger size dog beds. That left bigger dogs, like AFLAR dog Chevi, without a proper bed inside.

Recognizing the urgency of the situation, AFLAR volunteers embarked on a mission to address this pressing concern. Volunteers Mandy Rodriguez and Kirstin Rizk identified the challenge presented by Chevi's need for a suitable bed. Realizing that the problem extended far beyond Chevi's individual needs, Lupe Flores, an AFLAR volunteer known for her passion and problem-solving prowess, spearheaded efforts to design and construct custom-made beds that would fit the unique dimensions of every single hutch at CARL, a local rescue and boarding facility which houses many rescue dogs.

This ambitious project quickly gained momentum as volunteers from AFLAR and CARL rallied together, determined to make a difference. Through a remarkable display of community support and fundraising efforts, the necessary resources were swiftly secured. Within a day, donations poured in, surpassing expectations and enabling the project to commence without delay. Additionally, donors had the opportunity to sponsor a bed and include a special message of their own, further personalizing their support for the cause.

Over the course of three intensive weeks, a dedicated team of 14 volunteers generously contributed their time to bring the vision to life. Special thanks to all the volunteers who worked weekdays and weekends, and meticulously measured, cut, and assembled 50 custom beds, ensuring that every dog in need would receive the comfort and warmth they deserve. The impact of this project extends far beyond providing comfortable bedding... It also alleviates the burden of constant laundry caused by wet blankets during the rainy season.

"This special project embodies the spirit of compassion and collaboration that defines our rescue community," remarked Maripat Davis, President/Founder of AFLAR. "We want to give sincere thanks to our volunteers for their incredible dedication, and we're also very grateful for the support of our community."

To continue making a difference in the lives of abandoned animals, AFLAR invites

community members to consider volunteering. From walking dogs to participating in projects like this one, there are countless ways individuals can contribute to the well-being of animals in need.

For more information about AFLAR and how you can support their mission, please visit them at www.allforloveanimalrescue.org or email Info@AllForLoveAnimalRescue.org.

• Commercially prepared pet food and treats can provide nutritious diets and delicious rewards for pets, but it's important to handle them with health and safety in mind. That's because—just like people food—they sometimes may be contaminated with bacteria like Salmonella or Listeria, which can cause serious illness in both the pets that eat them and the people who handle the food and treats.

Animals that become infected after eating contaminated food also may pose a risk to the people with whom they come in contact. The people most at risk from these infections are the young, elderly, pregnant, and immune-compromised.

Contamination is especially a concern when it comes to raw food products, but can happen with cooked/processed products as well. Fortunately, there are simple precautions pet owners can take to minimize the risk of illness from contaminated pet food and treats in both their pets and themselves.

Purchase only products that are in good condition at the time of sale. Avoid packages that are damaged, such as dented cans or ripped and torn bags.

Wash hands for at least 20 seconds with clean running water and soap after handling pet food and treats. Use hand sanitizer when handwashing isn't an option.

Wash pet food and water bowls, scoops, feeding mats, and other items used in feeding your pet frequently. Use hot, soapy water.

Use a dedicated spoon or scoop to place pet food in the bowl. To avoid contaminating the pet food do NOT use the unwashed bowl as a scoop.

Promptly seal and refrigerate any unused or leftover wet or moist pet food or treats in a refrigerator set at 40°F or below, or discard it.

Use leftover, refrigerated wet/moist food and treats as soon as possible and according to label directions.

Store dry pet food and treats in a cool, dry place at less than 80°F.

If possible, store dry pet food in its original bag inside a clean, dedicated, airtight container. If the original bag is not used, save the part of the bag with the complete product name, date of manufacture, lot number, and expiration date or best-by date. This information is helpful in an investigation where contaminated pet food is suspected. It also can help you avoid feeding out-of-date food.



Volunteers from All For Love Animal Rescue making custom-made beds for rescue dogs.

Scamp Club

(Scampclub pets are not for adoption.)

This is Toby, a mix between a Shih Tzu and Lhasa Apso. Toby was a rescue dog from Amarillo, Texas, crossing the plains to Texarkana, Texas. Toby guards the home and loves to cuddle up on laps. Photo by Michael



Join Scamp Club

Animals of all sorts can join the Scamp Club. Email me your picture and a little about yourself to Scampclub@venturabreeze.com. You will be in the Breeze and become world famous.

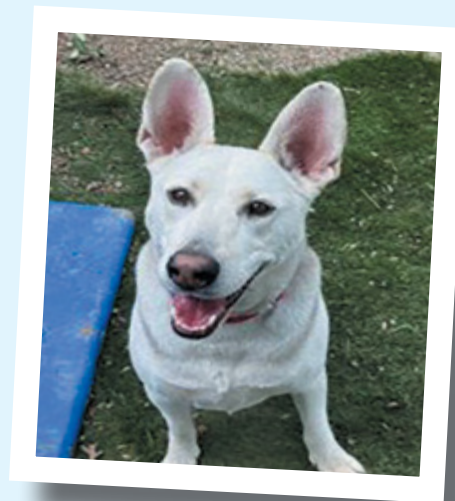
Lost pet? Go to LostCatVenturaCounty.com or LostDogVenturaCounty.com - free websites for finding and posting when you've lost or found a cat or dog.

Keep all pet food out of reach of very young children, who may be tempted to put it in their mouths.

Dispose of spoiled or old pet food by putting it in a securely tied plastic bag, inside a covered trash receptacle. This is to keep other pets and wildlife from getting hold of the food.

Canine Adoption and Rescue League - CARL is looking for volunteers to enrich the lives of our rescue dogs at our kennel in Santa Paula until we can find a caring and loving home. Volunteers assist with walking, transportation, outreach, events, etc. To learn more and apply, visit cardogs.org/how-to-help/volunteer.

Forever homes wanted



Hi: I'm Ruger, a handsome 5 1/2-year-old Husky / Shepherd X in need of a new home as sadly my owner can no longer care for me due to medical reasons and having to move to an assisted living facility. I enjoy being with people, going on walks or going to the dog park. I'm sweet, lovable and very active. I love to cuddle, receive belly rubs and I think I'm a lap dog. I need a home with no cats and with a fence at least 6 feet tall. I'm choosy with other dogs, so if you have a fur baby in the home

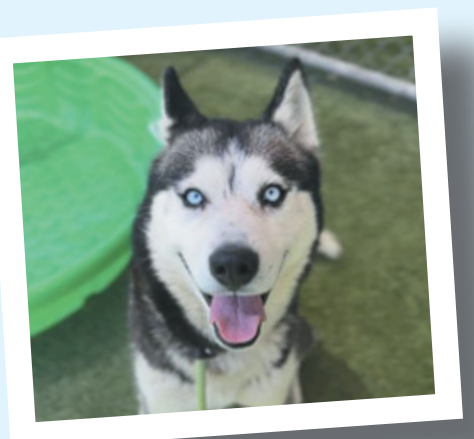
already, please bring him/her along so we can do a meet and greet. I've lived my life with a retired adult, but I am great with children and adults. I'm used to sleeping on the bed with my owner or on the sofa. If you're interested in meeting me, please fill out an online application to meet me. Canine Adoption and Rescue League C.A.R.L.

Gulliver is an affectionate 3-year-old husky who has both a laid-back and playful side. He's just as happy with his head in your lap as he is popping around the yard. We think he'd make a great addition to any family!

Pet Link: <https://www.vcas.us/viewan-2/?ida=A845380>

If you'd like to meet Gulliver, 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.





Harbor Patrol Blotter

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



Wednesday 4/24

6:50am, officers assisting Ventura PD with cleanup and removal of transient items: tents/popups/everything-under-the-sun in the Arundo near Surfers Knoll.

Thursday 4/25

9:50am, observed a section of dock adrift near the breakwall. Determined it came from the dock renovation at Ventura Yacht Club, workers retrieved it.

3:30pm, received report of Island Packers vessel "Island Adventure" inbound disabled with one engine. Officers aboard Fireboat 1 provided escort to slip.

Friday 4/26

5:30am, observed Gale Warning issued by NWS, raised warning pennants.

11:00am, officers on patrol assisted CIMWI with capturing an injured pelican near the Santa Clara Rivermouth. The bird was taken to be rehabilitated.

1:20pm, received a severe weather warning call from NWS. They advised Gale force winds near the Harbor Entrance of gusts at 45 knots, wind waves 8 feet.

2:00pm, officers giving a presentation of Patrol Vessels and Vehicle to a large group of children from the Boys and Girls club.

Saturday 4/27

1:25am, dispatched to a fall patient at Ventura Marina Community. Officers responded with AMR/VFD to assist with the patient.

6:40am, observed NWS issued a Gale Warning, raised warning pennants.

12:25pm, received a report of a man with a gun by the Harbor Mart in the Portside complex. Officers contacted VPD and advised, they were UTL.

Sunday 4/28

6:18am, observed NWS issued Small Craft Advisory, raised pennant.

11:40am, received a request for a tow from a disabled 35ft sailboat adrift in the A-Basin of the Harbor. Officers aboard the Fireboat took the vessel into a side-tie at the Entrance to the A-Basin. Vessel towed to its slip in VWM B-dock.

1:15pm, observed pleasant conditions

through all the Harbor Beaches while on patrol in the Fireboat. Also observed heavy boating traffic throughout Harbor. Monday 4/29

6:29am, observed NWS issued Small Craft Advisory for strong winds western portion of the channel. The last few days have been pleasant around the harbor.

4:10pm, observed a loud verbal argument occurring in the Port District parking lot. Officers responded and intervened with the pair arguing about a parking space. Officers advised that a tow truck was enroute, the DP left in his vehicle.

11:04pm, received a report of an overdue passenger. The caller had very limited information, only he received a text earlier, contacted USCG and advised.

Tuesday 4/30

6:36am, again NWS issues a Small Craft Advisory but the weather is wonderful.

4:20pm, received request to tow a disabled center consul motor vessel. Officers responded in Rescue B-19, took the vessel en tow to the launch ramp.

5:00pm, received report of a 48ft vessel taking on water in their slip at VWM B-dock. Officers responded in Rescue B-19 to assist TowBoat US with dewatering. After an hour of dewatering with several electric and Boat 19's dewatering pump, most of the water was removed and the investigation into the source began. Tow Boat US captain's discovered water intrusion at trim tab.



Ventura Police Department solves 33-year-old cold case homicide

After over three decades, the Ventura Police Department (VPD) has made a significant breakthrough in the

1991 murder case of Danielle Clause. Using advanced forensic genetic genealogy techniques, law enforcement has identified Larry Devon Welch as the perpetrator, which is a pivotal moment in resolving this long-standing mystery.

"Through extensive collaboration with local and national law enforcement agencies and nonprofits, it's with great pride that I share this success story," said Ventura Police Chief Darin Schindler. "From the initial investigation in 1991 to recent advancements in forensic techniques, I'm honored to highlight the perseverance of detectives as they continued to seek justice for the victim and her family."

On July 16, 1991, the body of 42-year-old Clause was found on the hillside located at the top of Tioga Drive near downtown Ventura. The autopsy showed that she had been sexually assaulted and had died due to multiple blunt-force injuries to her head. Once investigators at the time explored every avenue, the case was suspended and considered cold.

In 2021, Ventura Police detectives and forensic specialists retested crime scene evidence for DNA. Forensic genetic genealogy was pursued, and a family tree was developed. Phenotyping was used to verify distinct characteristics of the suspect, and after collecting family DNA samples, Larry Welch was positively identified.

Welch passed away in 1999. There was no known connection between Welch and Clause at the time of her murder.

"My sister was so much more than a victim of a brutal murder. She was artist, a daughter, a sister, a mother, and a wife. She was a good person with a mighty soul, and she was taken way too young," shared Marcie Forte, Danielle's sister. "I didn't really believe that the police were going to solve this, because there are other crimes being committed all the time. I was proven wrong because the Ventura Police and everyone associated with this cold case did a phenomenal job and I am so grateful. I'm so grateful that I lived to see at least a meter of justice and that they found out who did this."

The Ventura Police Department's unwavering commitment to securing justice for victims and their families endures, regardless of the elapsed time. Presently, VPD has over 25 cold cases, spanning homicides, missing persons, and unidentified deceased individuals.

The Ventura Police Department has released a storytelling video outlining details of this case from the original investigators, current detectives, and family of the victim. To watch the video and learn more about existing cold cases, visit CityofVentura.ca.gov/ColdCases. If you have any new information, please email coldcase@venturapd.org.

Weekly SUDOKU Answer

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

King Crossword Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

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

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Ventura Events

Mental Wellness Festival Ventura Event: Saturday, June, 1st, 10:30 am - 4:30 pm - Ventura Harbor Village

Art Show, Native Plant Exhibit, Live Music, Yoga & Meditation, Vendors & Info Booths. mentalwellnessfest.com

Seaside Marathon. Sunday: May 19, 7 am

Course starts at Solimar Beach at 7AM. 29808 Pacific Coast Highway, Ventura. Full & Half Marathon, www.seasidemarathon.com.

Ventura Senior Men's Group - First and Third Tuesdays each month: 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. - Poinsettia Pavilion.

Any man who considers himself in the "senior" category (and many who don't) might benefit from a visit to the Ventura Senior Men's Group. Buffet luncheon with interesting speakers and good friends. Your first lunch is free. We talk about everything except religion and politics. Eligible to all men 50 plus. Call Tom at 805-657-1071 for more information or visit VSMG.net to find out who our speakers will be.

Play Bridge: Every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday - 12:30 pm

ACBL-sanctioned duplicate bridge games. All levels of play, and we will guarantee to have a partner for you if you need one. Lessons are available. Tuesday, Wed and Thursday games are held at Temple Beth Torah, Foothill & Kimball Rd, Ventura. Every Saturday at the Ventura Townhouse. For additional info visit our website at www.vcbridge.org. Contact Rose at buckleyrose357@gmail.com.

[gmail.com](mailto:buckleyrose357@gmail.com).

Ventura County Philatelic Society: First and third Monday's each month - 7:30 pm

Church of the Foothills, Ventura. For more information, visit <https://venturacountyphilatelic.org>.

Beach Cleanup: First Saturday of every month - 8:30-10:30 am

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). Arrive any time during the timeframe. Fun for the whole family! Supplies provided - BYO water.

Paws for Reading (see times below)

Brings together young readers and affectionate canine listeners to help boost the confidence of beginning readers. Hill Road Library, Wednesdays, 3:30 - 5 p.m. and E.P. Foster Library, Thursdays, 4 - 5:30 p.m. Join PAWS dogs for one-on-one reading sessions. Arrive at the library early to choose a book and get in line to read to a special pooch. Children of all ages are welcome.

Ventura County Chapter of the National Association of Watch and Clock Collectors : May 19, 11 am

Anyone interested in timepieces, both antique and modern, can join for a watch/clock marketplace, lunch, and a presentation on a horological topic. Bring a watch or clock for a free evaluation. 11am at the Campus Student Center of Ventura College, 4667 Telegraph Road, Ventura. nawcc-ch190.com. For Details contact, Bob McClelland, Director, Public Information. (818) 225-8212. rjmcclell@pacbell.net.

Other Events Around Town

2024 Point Mugu Surf Contest: Saturday, May 25 and Sunday, May 26 - 8:00 am - 6:00 pm NBVC Point Mugu (Naval Base Point Magu), Surfer's Beach. The contest will feature four categories including: Military, Open, Women's, and Juniors. Free Admission & Parking.

Ventura Audubon Society's free beach naturalist training workshop: Saturday, May 25th from 9:00 am - 2:00 pm.

Interested in helping nesting shorebirds and participating in community science in Ventura County? Please join Ventura Audubon for a free Beach Naturalist workshop. With a combination of classroom and field training, you will learn how to become a volunteer Beach Naturalist for the Shorebird Recovery Program. Our biologists will give you valuable information about the snowy plover and least tern life history, survival challenges, beach ecology, how to engage with beach goers about shorebird conservation, and the effects of climate change on our local birds. After completing the training, you will be able to share your new knowledge and skills by signing up for two 2-hour outreach opportunities per month from June through September. Refreshments and lunch will be provided for the workshop. Space is limited. So, register by May 21st. For more information, including location and to sign-up, go to www.venturaaudubon.org/beach-naturalists or email volunteer@venturaaudubon.org. Funding for this workshop is provided by the State of California "Whale Tail" and

Federal National Coastal Wetlands Conservation grants.

Ojai Events

FORESTWATCH ANNOUNCES 16th ANNUAL OJAI WILD! BENEFIT ON JUNE 2, 2024 from 4-7:30 pm Celebrate our region's wildlife and wild places at the 16th Annual Ojai WILD! The event is a benefit for Los Padres ForestWatch and raises critical funds for the protection of wild lands and wildlife in the Los Padres National Forest. The event will also celebrate the 20th Anniversary of Los Padres ForestWatch.

Ojai WILD! is Ventura County's longest-running fundraiser for land and wildlife conservation. It is open to the public and takes place at The Thatcher School's beautiful Pavilion Lawn, with panoramic views of the Ojai Valley and the Topatopa Mountains. More than 300 conservationists, outdoor enthusiasts, and community leaders will enjoy a fun afternoon with local wines, craft brews, delicious dinner and dessert, and exciting silent and live auctions.

Tickets for the afternoon are \$200, and tables for eight can be reserved for \$1,600. Reservations may be made at OjaiWild.org, or call Camden at 805-617-4610 ext 4.

Method Machine Lab's Witch by Jenn Silverman May 17- May 26 Friday-Sunday at 7:00P \$10, \$15 & \$20 In Witch, a charming devil arrives in the quiet village of Edmonton to bargain for the souls of its residents in exchange for their darkest wishes. Method Machine Lab @Kim Maxwell Studio 226 W Ojai Ave Suite 201 Ojai, CA 93023 www.methodmachinelab.org for more information and tickets.

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As I See It by Sheldon Brown

• Ventura Councilmember Liz Campos accused a former city executive of bullying her. The City Council voted to accept a city-led investigation that found she wasn't bullied.

Campos accused former acting City Manager Akbar Alikhan of bullying her during a closed-session meeting in May 2023 when he allegedly didn't let her leave the room until she took a certain position on an issue.

The City Council voted on April 9 to accept the results of a city-led investigation into Campos' allegations, which determined she was not harassed or bullied. The probe was headed by a consultant hired by the city and not by the city.

Alikhan, who left Ventura last year and is now the deputy city manager in Thousand Oaks, denies Campos' accusations. "The results of the investigation clearly shows any such allegations were patently false," Alikhan said.

The council voted 5-1 to receive and file the report. Councilmember

Mike Johnson voted no because he said he wasn't given the full investigative report and felt the investigation was incomplete and should continue.

• Ventura and Oxnard colleges will each get new presidents in July after Ventura County Community College District trustees unanimously approved contracts for the top roles during a Tuesday night board meeting.

Claudia Lourido-Habib, currently the president of Porterville College will take over as president of the 11,700-student Ventura College from the retiring Kimberly Hoffmans on July 8. She'll earn \$288,660 in salary and \$94,610 in benefits annually during a three-year contract.

• "Three years ago, we were a great nation," Trump said at a rally in Michigan. Biden was president three years ago (oops).

In an interview with the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Trump said of the upcoming presidential showdown, "If everything's honest, I'll gladly accept

the results. I don't change on that. If it's not, you have to fight for the right of the country." If this doesn't scare you, you just don't get it.

Trump has claimed that because his jury is 95% Democrats it is just another witch hunt. That means that 11.4 jurists are Democrats and one is 40% Democrat and 60% Republican, so maybe it will be a hung jury.

• Jeff Asher is a New Orleans-based crime data analyst who has worked at the CIA and Department of Defense. As early data showed murders declining nationwide, he wrote that the U.S. was experiencing a major drop in killings.

"Murder plummeted in the United States in 2023, likely at one of the fastest rates of decline ever recorded. The decrease in murders is "potentially historically large," USA TODAY was told, and it's not just killings that are declining. Preliminary 2023 FBI data "paint the picture" of a big decrease in overall crime.

• An LA Times survey asked should

LeBron James return next season, or should he and the Lakers part ways? The results: Part ways 59.2%. Remain 40.8%.

I'm 100% for him leaving. He is like a petulant spoiled 10-year-old who always needs to get his way. Often on defense the Laker's only have 4 players because he is still at the other end of the court arguing about not getting a foul call.

He is much more concerned about his huge ego than anything else. And how can he be the GOAT having won just 4 NBA championships in 20-years?

• A TV ad stated that their product has "30-years of clinical research." Of course, they didn't say what the researched showed. Truth in advertising "30-years of clinical research showed that our product doesn't work."

• I had a tooth extracted and part of the instructions was; "No smoking for the first 24 hours." So, after 24 hours I started smoking and remembered I never smoked. Very bad instructions.



Red gorgonian coral and black rockfish, Santa Cruz Island. Photo by Oceana/Blancpain.

Oceana and Blancpain Continued from page 1

diverse ocean life and habitats. These ocean waters include migratory routes for large whales - including endangered humpback whales - nurseries for great white shark pups, breeding and foraging habitat for California sea lions and giant seabass, gardens for colorful deep sea corals, and canopies of giant kelp forests to name a few.

Oceana and Blancpain intend to undertake a variety of research elements that include:

Partnering with a San Diego-based company that uses a Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) for military purposes, that for the first time will be used for ocean conservation. We will be using the ROVs

side-scan sonar technology to map the seafloor and explore how this technology may be able to help detect the presence of deep-sea corals in addition to seafloor substrate data, and lost fishing gear.

Collecting environmental DNA (eDNA) water samples that will be later analyzed in a lab to detect what ocean animals inhabit and traverse these waters by the DNA "footprint" they leave behind in the water column.

Conducting scuba dive surveys documenting the diversity of ocean fish and their habitats to provide a comprehensive glimpse into the biodiversity at risk.

Identifying individual giant seabass and their aggregation sites - a fish that can weigh more than 500 pounds and once reigned over California's kelp forests until

it was overfished in the 1900's. Individual fish are identified by their unique spots - like a fingerprint - and documenting them can provide new insights into their movements and conservation. We are partnering with the scientists at UCSB to advance their "Spotting Giant Seabass" research project.

The groups plan to utilize the imagery and scientific information gathered at sea in support of protecting ocean biodiversity by reducing entanglement of ocean animals - including whales, sea lions, sharks, and other fish - in set gillnet fishing gear. These fishing nets used to catch California halibut and white seabass can be 20 football fields long. Despite action by California voters more than 30 years ago, set gillnets are still allowed in federal waters (3-200 miles from shore) off Southern California's mainland, offshore banks, and in state waters around California's Channel Islands. Oceana is urging the California Fish and Game Commission and the state legislature to reduce bycatch in the set gillnet fishery.

This scientific expedition is the first of three voyages Oceana and Blancpain have planned in partnership to explore ocean biodiversity off California through 2025.

Oceana is the largest international advocacy organization dedicated solely to ocean conservation. Oceana is rebuilding abundant and biodiverse oceans by winning science-based policies in countries that control one-quarter of the world's wild fish catch. With more than 300 victories that stop overfishing, habitat destruction, oil and plastic pollution, and the killing of threatened species like turtles, whales, and sharks, Oceana's campaigns are delivering results. A restored ocean means that 1 billion people can enjoy a healthy seafood meal, every day, forever. Together, we can save the oceans and help feed the world. Visit Oceana.org to learn more.

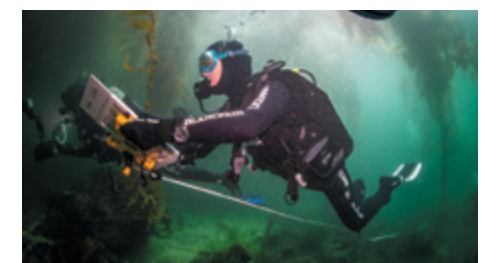
Founded in 1735 in the Swiss Jura, Blancpain is known as the world's oldest watch brand. Loyal to its tradition of innovation and confirmed by countless horological complications invented over the years, the Manufacture is constantly pushing the boundaries of watchmaking to take this art to places where it has never been before.

Exploration and preservation of the world's oceans is at the core to Blancpain.

With its legacy of the Fifty Fathoms - the first true diver's watch - extending over 70 years, Blancpain has become close to the explorers, photographers, scientists and environmentalists who treasure the precious underwater resource. With that affinity has come a determination to support important activities and initiatives dedicated to the oceans.

To date, Blancpain has co-financed dozens of major scientific expeditions, celebrated its role in significantly extending the surface area of marine protected areas around the world, and presented several award-winning documentary films, underwater photography exhibitions and publications. This dedication to supporting ocean exploration and preservation is called Blancpain Ocean Commitment.

For more information about the expedition visit Southern California Expedition 2024 - Oceana USA. To learn more about ocean biodiversity at risk from set gillnets visit www.oceana.org/KeepCA-OceansThriving



Oceana diver conducting research. Photo by Oceana/Blancpain.

Mailbox

Continued from page 2

work you put in, Sheldon. And hugs to Pam @Venturarocks.com for keeping our scene going in marketing, radio and publishing.

Big hugs, Sheldon. Thank you for being you and everything you have done in every way!

Michael Kohli (aka DJ KOHLI ROCKS)

Sheldon,

I see that you are retiring from your position and want to say thanks for all the time and effort you have devoted to promoting what is a valuable news resource for Venturans. Having been retired for over ten years now, I can highly recommend it! And, I'm sure you, as I have, will find others ways to support our beloved Ventura.

Thanks,
Russell Richardson



by Pam Baumgardner
VenturaRocks.com

The Strawberry Festival returns to the Ventura Fairgrounds for the second year in a row. Enjoy live music which is included in the price of admission from Drew Dolan, Smooth Sound of Santana, Surf City All-Stars, Petty or Not, Conner Cherland, Will Breman, Rey Fresco and more. Tickets for Saturday, May 18 and Sunday May 19 can be found at CaStrawberry-Festival.org.

The Rubicon concert series, Ventura Live, continues with a special event coming up on May 26 called The Palomino Nights Country and Rhythm Revue benefit concert. There will be performances by Mark Masson & Jam Grass, Beau Ted & Tailor Maide, the Van Allen Twins, Buck Moon, Josephoenix and Jay Ponti. The evening is sure to get your toes tapping and your heart racing to the sounds of bluegrass and true-blue country standards. Proceeds support Rubicon's leadership and acting programs to empower economically challenged young people. Find out more at RubiconTheatre.org.

I kept waiting to find out what the music would be for X Games hailed as sports & music festival last summer to no avail, but I'm pumped to announce there will be live music included in the price of admission for X Games Ventura 2024. As a press time, Grammy and Golden Globe nominated rap artist Wiz Khalifa will perform on Friday, June 28 and eight-time Grammy nominated Kaskade will offer up electronic dance music on Saturday, June 29. More to come as they roll the artists out.

Shout Outs: Firstly, congratulations to local musician Jayden Secor for graduating Magna Cum Laude with both a music production degree and a business administration degree from Cal Lutheran; and secondly, I couldn't be more proud of Gaby Montiel for being selected by Successfully, a global outlet, which highlights a handful of people for 2024 from around the world from all different walks of life who inspire. I hope you take a moment to look up Successfully.World to read her story.

Quick Notes: Angry Ferret in Moorpark is celebrating their 3rd anniversary with DVR on Saturday, May 18; Gigi's has a free show with Popperz and Dogsled out of Houston, TX, on Thursday, May 16; locals Romper open for Stiff Little Fingers and Ricky Warwick at the Majestic Ventura Theater on Thursday, May 23; and reggae legends, Burning Spear

play the Ventura Music Hall on Tuesday, May 28.

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

The Angry Ferret Brewery
11990 Hertz St., Moorpark
Sat 5/18: DVR

Aqua Beachfront Bar (Crowne Plaza)

450 E. Harbor Blvd., Ventura
Wed 5/15: Jerry Breiner & Bobby Campbell

Wed 5/22: Déjà vu Too

Boatyard Pub

1583 Spinnaker Dr., Ventura
Music 6-9; except Thurs 4-9;
Sundays 4-7

Wednesdays: Frank Barajas
Thursdays: Jim Friery (4 pm);
Bluegrass Jam (6:30 pm)

Fri 5/17: Teresa Russell &
Stephen Geyer

Sat 5/18: Déjà vu Three
Sun 5/19: Epitome of Dreams

Fri 5/24: Mack and D
Sat 5/25: Karen Eden and the
Bad Apples

Sun 5/26: Ken Devoe

Bombay Bar and Grill

143 S. California St., Ventura
Thursdays: Ventura Blues Night

Café Fiore

66 California St., Ventura

Wed 5/15: Donna Greene

Fri 5/17: Instone

Sat 5/18: The Dirty Lowdown

Tues 5/21: Open Mic and Jam

Wed 5/22: Donna Butler

Fri 5/24: Little Alice

Tues 5/28: Karen Eden & the Bad
Apples

Cantara Cellars

126 N. Wood Rd., Camarillo
Fri 5/17: Ray Jarique and the Big
Band

Fri 5/24: NDR CVR SPR GRP
Sat 5/25: Ignition

Copper Blues

591 Collection Blvd., Oxnard

Fri 5/17: Funk n' Soul

Sat 5/18: Mirage

Fri 5/24: Recharged

Sat 5/25: Electrico

Deer Lodge

2261 Maricopa Hwy., Ojai

Sat 5/18: Allison De Groot &
Tatiana Hargreaves

Thurs 5/23: Omar Velasco, Will
Worden

Sat 5/24: New Pleasures

Duke's Beach Grill

1124 S. Seaward Ave., Ventura

Sat 5/18: Vinny Berry

Sat 5/25: Red Rhythm

Four Brix

2290 Eastman Ave., Ventura

Fri 5/24: Mid Life Crisis

Sun 5/26: Jayden Secor

Garage

1091 Scandia Ave., Ventura

Fri 5/17: Faultline, the Rawn Side
of Town

Sat 5/18: Doc Rogers Band

Fri 5/24: Operation 90s

Sat 5/25: Robert Heft

Gigi's Cocktails

2493 Grand Ave., Ventura

Thurs 5/16: Popperz, Dogsled,
The Hajj

The Grape

2733 E. Main St., Ventura

Tues: The Gratitude Jazz Jam

Wed 5/15: Native Vibe

Thurs 5/16: Sabine Pothier Trio

Fri 5/17: The Pickle Mafia

Sat 5/18: The Pickle Mafia (2p);
Poncho Sanchez

Wed 5/22: TD
Lind and the Aviators

Thurs 5/23: The Hollywood Jazz
Orchestra

Fri 5/24: Barrelhouse Wailers

Sat 5/25: Debbie Davies (2p);
Derek Frank (8p)

Keynote Lounge

10245 Telephone Rd., Ventura

Thursdays: Open Mic

Fri 5/17: Pull the Trigger

Sat 5/18: Vinyl Gypsies

Sat 5/25: Jumper Cables

Leashless Brewing

**585 E. Thompson Blvd.,
Ventura**

Thurs 5/16: Drea Van Allen

Sat 5/18: The Sweet Lillies

Sun 5/19: Mark Masson &
Friends

Thurs 5/23: Jacob Marquez

Sat 5/25: Van Allen Trio (2p);
Keyth G & the Universouls (6p)

Lucky Fool's Pub

75 E. High St., Moorpark

Fri 5/17: Natalie Wattre

Sat 5/18: Jager Malone

Sat 5/25: Doc Rogers Band

Majestic Ventura Theater

26 S. Chestnut St., Ventura

Tues 5/21: Gogol Bordello

Wed 5/22: St. Vincent, Momma

Thurs 5/23: Stiff Little Fingers,
Ricky Warwick, Romper

Fri 5/24: Sky Ferreira

Manhattan

**5800 Santa Rosa Rd.,
Camarillo**

Wed 5/15: Robert Van

Thurs 5/16: Tom McMorran

Fri 5/17: Tour Support

Sat 5/18: Jeanne Tatum Trio

Wed 5/22: Warren Takahashi

Thurs 5/23: Tom McMorran

Fri 5/24: Tour Support

Sat 5/25: Sound Effect

Margarita Villa

1567 Spinnaker Dr., Ventura

Fri 5/17: Operation 90s

Sun 5/19: James Brothers

Fri 5/24: CRV

Sat 5/25: Crosscut 805

Sun 5/26: Brittney & the B-sides

Mon 5/27: Los Amigos

Moofish Café (Crowne Plaza)

450 E. Harbor Blvd., Ventura

Fridays & Saturdays 8-10:
Dueling Pianos

Mrs. Olson's

2800 Harbor Blvd., Oxnard

Wed 5/15: MDC, Neurotics, War
Tomorrow, iDecline

Sun 5/19: Teresa Russell

Sat 5/25: Doc Strange Band,
Sunnie Daze

Namba Arts

47 S. Oak St., Ventura

Fri 5/24: The Listening Room

Ojai Underground Exchange

616 Pearl St., Ojai

Fri 5/17: Mariee Siou

Sat 5/18: Chris Pierce

Fri 5/24: Brendon Willing James'

Sat 5/25: Alan Thornhill, Bud
Foster, Bernie Larsen

Sun 5/26: Nathan McEuen

Ojai Valley Brewing

307 Bryant St., Ojai

Sat 5/18: Dan Grimm Band

Sat 5/25: Top Shelf Brass Band

Onyx

**2390 Las Posas Rd.,
Camarillo**

Fri 5/17: George Krikes

Sat 5/18: Jake Needham

Fri 5/24: Ray Jaurique Trio

Sat 5/25: Vinny Berry

Sun 5/26: Dave Cipriani

**Oxnard Performing Arts
Center**

800 Hobson Way, Oxnard

Thurs 5/16: Gipsy Kings

Poseidon Brewing

5777 Olivas Park Dr., Ventura

Fri 5/24: Ronda Ray

The Raven Tavern

1651 S. Victoria Ave., Oxnard

Fri & Sat 8 pm; Sundays 2 pm

Fri 5/17: NDR CVR SPR GRP

Sat 5/18: Teresa Russell

Sun 5/19: Doc Rogers

Fri 5/24: Holgers Heroes

Sat 5/25: All Access

**Ric's Restaurant Sports
Lounge**

2500 Las Posas Rd., Camarillo

Tuesdays: Tour Support

Wed 5/15: The Electric Love-in

Rubicon Theatre

1006 E. Main St., Ventura

Fri 5/17: The Folk Legacy Trio

Sat 5/18: The3 Folk Legacy Trio

Sun 5/26: Palomino Nights

The Showroom

550 N. A St., Oxnard

Fri 5/17: Mitchell Brown, Slurred
Oath, Ian Macphee, Foreign Body
Sensation...

Fri 5/24: Take and Take, God-
lesszilla, Grudgebot, Fox and
Gear, Groind

The Six

419 E. Main St., Ventura

Thurs 5/16: Medicine Hat

The Sportsman

4426 Central Ave., Camarillo

Fri 5/24: Messy

Sun 5/26: Swing Shift

Strawberry Festival

Ventura County Fairgrounds

10 W. Harbor Blvd., Ventura

Sat 5/18: Los So Lows, Past
Action Heroes, Surf city All
Stars, Conner Cherland...

Sun 5/19: Petty or Not, Twisted
Gypsy, Upstream, Will Breman,
Rey Fresco...

Strey Cellars

951 N. Rice Ave., Oxnard

Sat 5/18: Ignition

Sun 5/19: Brandon Ragan Project

Sun 5/25: Vinyl Gypsies

Sun 5/26: Caught Red Handed

Tony's Pizzeria

**186 E. Thompson Blvd.,
Ventura**

Thurs 5/16: OnePeople

Fri 5/17: Lowered Expectations,
The Sea Hunters, Frank Barajas

Sat 5/18: Spencer the Gardener

Sun 5/19: The Renegades

Thurs 5/23: Urban Dread

Sat 5/25: The CocoKnots

Sun 5/26: Heart & Soul

Mon 5/27: Heathers on Fire

Topa Topa Brewing

4880 Colt St., Ventura

Fri 5/17: Looking West



Finding Your Voice Series From The BAA Painting Light Demo with Anette Power

The Buenaventura Art Association invites the public to learn one of **Anette Power's** secrets to success as she reveals her approach to painting light filled subjects. Watch her skillfully paint areas of light and shadow grouped and separate to create the most dynamic image. Anette will then guide YOU through an exercise using sharpies, acetate and provided images, so you can learn firsthand how to apply it to your artwork. Saturday, May 18, 2024, from 9:30 am to 11:30 am. Pacific & Main Creative Workspace (formerly Midtown or H Gallery) - 1793 E Main St, Ventura, CA. Members of Buenaventura Art Assoc.: \$25. Non-Members of Buenaventura Art Assoc.: \$30. www.buenaventuraartassociation.org

Award-winning artist Anette Power credits her mom, who also paints, and growing up on an island off the Swedish coast for providing a childhood full of creative exploration and a love for the outdoors. After immigrating to the U.S., Power spent more than a decade working in animation, fine-tuning her sense of light, color, and mood as a background painter for studios like Disney, Warner Bros., Cartoon Network and Universal. She now paints full-time and is an artist member of the California Art Club and has been an active board member of the Westlake Village Art Guild for eight years. She maintains a working studio in Newbury Park, CA. www.anettepower.com



COUNTY OF VENTURA'S OLDER AMERICANS MONTH ART SHOW BEGINS NEXT WEEK

The County of Ventura's Older Americans Month art exhibit will be unveiled next week. The exhibit, which will feature artwork produced by older adults in the county, is a collaboration between the Ventura County Area Agency on Aging (VCAAA), the Optimal Aging committee of the VCAAA's Advisory Council, the Ventura County Arts Council (VCAC), and County of Ventura Arts & Culture. Approximately 50 residents from across the county registered their artwork for the show.

The exhibit will open next Monday (May 13) at the County of Ventura's Hall of Administration Atrium Gallery (800 S. Victoria Ave. in Ventura). The Hall of Administration is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. The artwork will be displayed through the end of June.

The opening reception will be at the Hall of Administration next Wednesday (May 15) from 5-7 p.m. In addition to viewing the works of art and the potential opportunity to meet some of the artists involved, there are plans for an intergenerational poetry reading. Light refreshments will be provided.

Ventura Art Scene

Fri 5/24: Jayden Secor Band
Sun 5/26: The Trivle Omdobble
Tues 5/28: Ventura Music Jams
Topa Topa Brewing
2024 Ventura Blvd., Camarillo
Sat 5/25: Katie Shorey
The Twist on Main
454 E. Main St., Ventura
Tuesdays: Tuesday Blues Day w/ Hot Roux & Wed 5/15: Dueling Pianos
Sat 5/18: Cyamak Ashtiani (1p); Joe Delia (4p)
Sun 5/19: Gabby Hanna (1p); Victoria Ave Band Sat 5/25: Kris Simeon (1p); Looking West (3:pm); Adam Lenhard (6p); Mark Masson (8p)
Sun 5/26: Adam and Sam (1p); Jack Keough (5p)
Vaquero y Mar
435 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura
Sundays: Mariachi
Tuesdays: The Sea Hunter, Lowered Expectations
Wed 5/15: Tribal Me
Sat 5/18: VIP
Wed 5/22: Up Country, Django Djam
Sat 5/25: Whole Hog
Ventura Harbor Village stage
1559 Spinnaker Dr., Ventura
Sat 5/18: Jayden Secor

Sun 5/19: Lynnzee Fraye Band
Sat 5/25: Morrison Drive
Sun 5/26: Looking West
Ventura Music Hall
1888 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura
Thurs 5/16: Frenship, The Ivy
Fri 5/17: J Boog
Wed 5/22: Living Legends
Thurs 5/23: Fortunate Youth, Dubbest. Nick Sefakis
Fri 5/24: Krooked Kings
Sun 5/26: Xavier Rudd, Bobby Alu
Tues 5/28: Burning Spear, Kabaka Pyraid
Winchesters
632 E. Main St., Ventura
Music Thurs 5:30; Fri 7 pm; Sat 3 pm; Sun 3 pm
Thurs 5/16: Karyn 805
Fri 5/17: Nautical Thrust
Sat 5/18: Whole Hog
Sun 5/19: Karen Eden & the Bad Apples
Thurs 5/23: Matthew Clark
Fri 5/24: Dianne Miller Trio
Sata 5/25: Ellis Bryant Trio
Sun 5/26: Mark Masson's Jam Grass
1901 Speakeasy
740 S. B Street, Oxnard
Sat 5/18: Debbie Davis
Fri 5/24: Teresa Russell, Stephen Geyer

Ventura Music Scene

OPENING RECEPTION



JUNE 8
6-8PM

FREE, please register at
VenturaMuseum.org

TWO EXCITING EXHIBITIONS:
InnoVision: Ventura County Artists to Watch
and
Masters from the Museum of Ventura County Collection

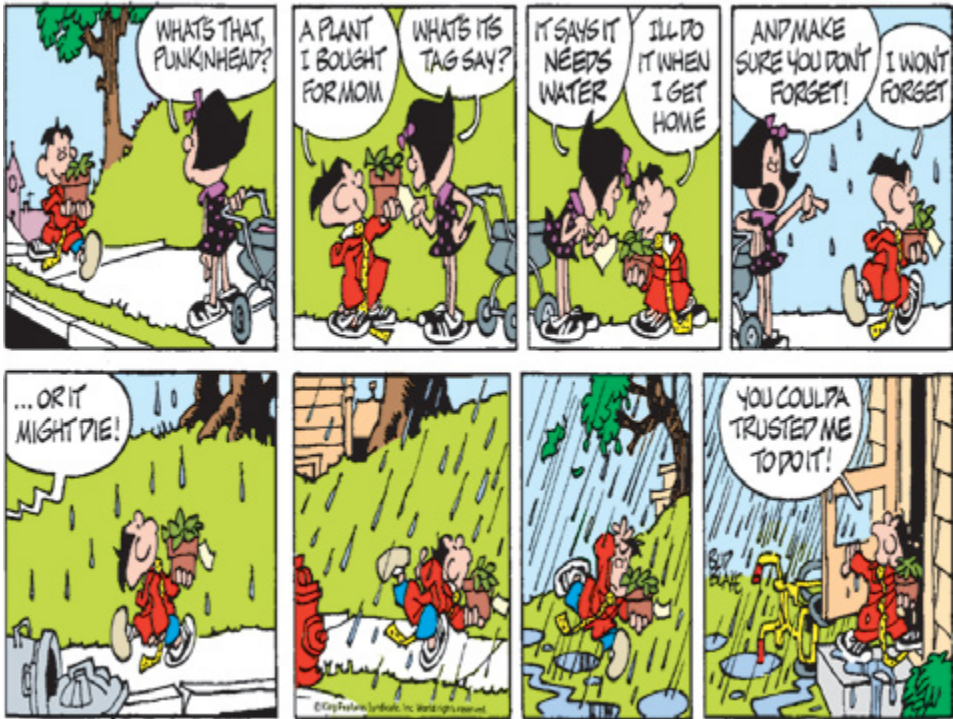


Exhibitions made possible in part by Bonita C. McFarland Fund, City of Ventura, County of Ventura, John Hammer Family, Thomas and Esther Wachtell Family, CAPS Media, and Whatako Productions



Lighter Breeze

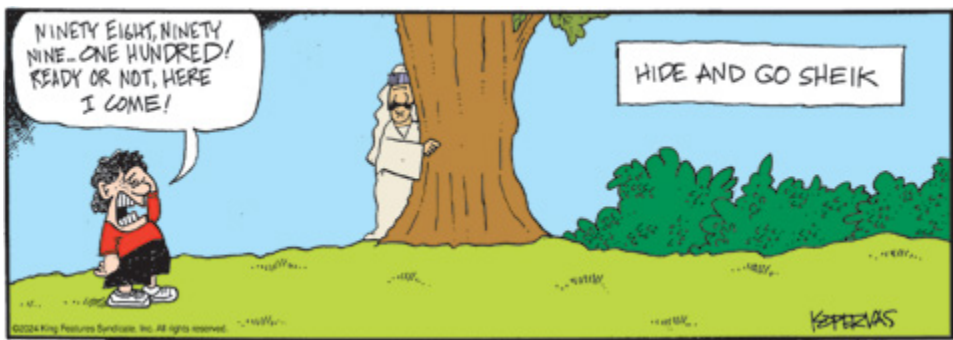
Tiger



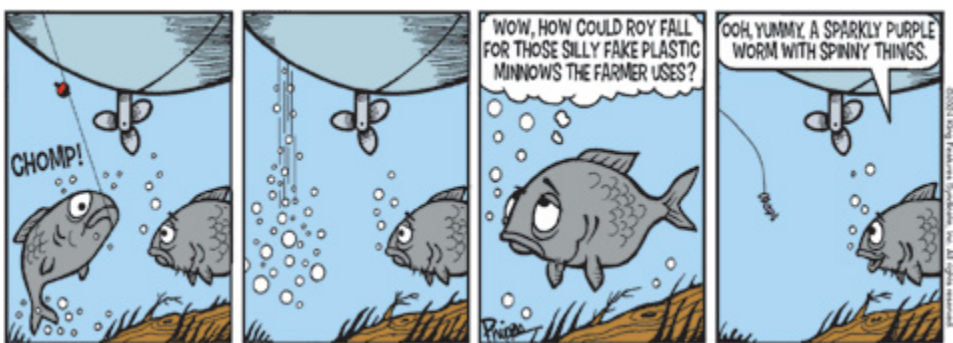
The Spats



Out on a Limb



Amber Waves



Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



Solutions on page 13

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

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

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

Solutions on page 13

King Crossword

	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		Crook		29		30	31	
32			33					34				
35						36				37		
		38		39		40			41			
42	43			44	45				46	47	48	49
50			51					52	53			
54								55				
56								57				

ACROSS

1 Volume-based
6 Outcome
12 Spud
13 Key in again
14 Chalkboard accessory
15 Vineyard harvest
16 Classic soda brand
17 "Excuse me ..."
19 Tolkien creature
20 First lady of scat
22 Lith., once
24 Six-pack muscles
27 "Carmen" solo
29 Staffer
32 Employer's directive
35 Hideaway
36 Coutuner Christian
37 Science guru
38 Small tablet
40 Iowa city
42 Top card
44 Hotel chain
46 "Casablanca" role
50 Tomorrow, in Tijuana
52 Witty retort
54 Billie Eilish hit song

DOWN

1 Apple center
2 Beehive State
3 Count with an orchestra
4 Mineral suffix
5 Lipstick shade
6 Incite
7 Salon jobs
8 Depot (Abbr.)
9 Father of Helios

10 Serving customers
11 Try out
12 Stock holder
18 Hispaniola resident
21 Trail the pack
23 Cutting tool
24 100%
25 "Don't — stranger!"
26 Allowances
28 Perfume dispenser
30 Parched
31 Scrape (out)
33 Span. lady
34 Raw mineral

39 Dunkable treat
41 Egyptian peninsula
42 Both (Pref.)
43 "Misery" star James
45 Baseball legend Willie
47 Pride parade initialism
48 Actress Ward
49 "How — you?"
51 Mature
53 — jiffy

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MAY 30-JUNE 16

Alice

formerly of Wonderland

BY Mark Saltzman
DIRECTED BY Jim Fall

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Prizes, maps, free fares, and training highlight Bicycle Month. Photo by Darrin Peschka, Ventura County Transportation Commission

May is National Bike Month

by David Goldstein

May is National Bike Month, and the Ventura County, the Ventura County Transportation Commission and the Ventura-based non-profit Bike Ventura County offer prizes, maps and training.

Bike to Work Week, May 15-21, and Bike to Work Day, May 17. Adults, over 18 years old, who make the pledge at goventura.org/pledge by May 31 will be entered for a chance to win

one of six \$250 Amazon gift cards.

The Transportation Commission's new guide, "Biking Ventura County: Routes & Tips for Beginners & Families" features shared-use paths and separated bike lanes across Ventura County, and the commission's "Go Ventura Bikeways Map," outlines bicycle routes across Ventura County. Both the guide and the map are available on VCTC's website at goventura.org.

[org/getting-around/bike](https://goventura.org/getting-around/bike). Printed copies are available at bike shops across the county or by sending an email to bike@goventura.org.

Bike Ventura County, a non-profit organization based in Ventura, is coordinating several events this month. "Community Wrench" workshops are offered every Tuesday evening in May. "Empowering cyclists with basic maintenance knowledge is key to a thriving cycling community," said Larry Abele, President of the Board of Directors. These and future workshops are sponsored by Kaiser Permanente and the Channel Islands Bike Club, with registration at Bike Ventura County Community Wrench Workshop.

A "Brew Ride" takes place on the second Sunday of each month (May 12th) from 1:00 to 4:30pm, starting at 490 N Ventura Ave. This social ride celebrates Ventura's outstanding, award-winning breweries, but safety is paramount. "There's no excessive drinking and riding," Abele assured. "Riders enjoy tastings and... chat with local brewers." The casual ride starts after lunch, and participants will have just time for one drink at each of two brewery visits. "Remember, on the road, cyclists are vehicles subject to all traffic laws, including those against drunk driving," Abele emphasized.

The next event, a RideReady Adult Class, will be on Saturday, May 25, 8:45am to 1:00pm, at Trek Bicycle Ventura, 4060 E Main St, in

Ventura. Registration is required at the Bike Ventura County website, <https://bikeventura.org/rideready/>. The class is funded by a grant from the State Office of Traffic Safety to the city and Trek Bikes of Ventura is offering store discounts and donating water bottles to each participant and will award a prize of a free Trek Bicycle to one lucky winner who completes the class. The four-hour session covers bike fit, safety inspection, traffic safety, emergency maneuvers, and responsibilities of the road.

The same grant from the State Office of Traffic Safety to the city of Ventura funds Bike Ventura County's bicycle safety education programs in all four Ventura middle schools and 10 elementary schools this year. So far, over 2,500 students have enjoyed a week-long bike education program, which includes on-bike safety drills and fun "bicycle safety rodeos," for the younger students. The program will cover every Ventura Unified elementary school next year.

One final tip: All Ventura County bus operators are offering free fares to anyone who boards the bus with a bike on Bike to Work Day, Friday, May 17. For more information, see <https://www.goventura.org/vctc-transit/free-fare-programs/>

Bicycling instead of driving is a great way to reduce traffic, cut pollution, and save energy while contributing to California's climate goals.

Show Time

Streaming Spotlight by Cindy Summers

Billy & Molly: An Otter Love Story

- Hulu



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

Billy's wife Susan felt he was lost for a while until beauty found him. Billy and Susan moved to the Scottish Shetland Islands, Britain's last outpost before the Arctic, for a better life. It was where Billy was born and said he felt he had been away from for too long. They moved to an old house by the sea and started fixing it up, but before they knew it routine life caught up with them again.

One morning after a storm a starving young otter showed up on the pier. Otters were generally shy around humans, signaling she must have been very desperate. They had recently seen a mother otter killed on the road near their house, so assumed it was hers. She seemed vulnerable and alone, reminding Billy of a time in his life he felt that way so sought to help Molly.

Molly got stronger and began to spend more time with Billy greeting him on the pier and climbing into his boat. He made Molly a home under the rowboat where she could stay around and have appropriate shelter. Molly was a river otter that needed to regularly wash the sea water from her fur so Billy set up freshwater tubs and Molly liked to dry off by

rolling around inside Billy's coat.

That spring, Billy spent much of his free time fishing for Molly, though his wife Susan expressed wanting to get some haddock too. Molly was getting stronger by the day, though it was costing them a fortune. Billy knew Molly had to learn to fend for and feed herself, so he began spending time with her fishing in the seaweed just off shore.

Billy said it seemed like Molly had a switch in her head that all of a sudden she would just be off away to places unknown. While Billy was off at work, his wife Susan would follow Molly down the coast on her morning walks and knew Molly had a whole other life of her own, but kept that from Billy, who seemed to want to think Molly was dependent upon him. Susan understood that they were just a small part of Molly's life, but kept that from Billy.

Billy seemed to be getting back to working on their house, but his wife discovered he actually built a house for Molly, complete with pics of Billy, his wife and dog and a camera feed with alerts when Molly was inside. With winter on the way, Billy knew had to stop feeding Molly for her to adjust to the normal life of an otter. They went on one last morning boat ride where Molly climbed into the boat to greet Billy before she jumped out and swam away upriver.

Molly visited a few more times over the next couple of weeks, and then she disappeared for over 2 months. One stormy night Billy got an alert from the Molly Cam. When Billy went out to greet Molly she rolled in the snow like it was water, so happy to see Billy. Molly had a surprise for them all as she was pregnant and the little house made a perfect home for her to give birth to her baby.

Molly raised her cub in the tiny home for several months, and when it was time for them to leave, Billy

got a wetsuit and snorkel and experienced Molly's world with her. Billy realized through Molly that there was a whole other world to discover and connect to. This heartwarming documentary not only shares

the unique relationship between a human and otter but also contains beautiful aerial footage of Molly in her natural environment and the breathtaking surrounding areas.

Runtime: 1h 17m



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