



VENTURA BREEZE

Your Hometown Paper

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Scientific diver Geoff Shester films red gorgonian corals and California golden gorgonian coral off Santa Cruz Island. Photo from Oceana, courtesy Jason Heaton.



Sand dollars off Santa Cruz Island. Photo from Oceana/Danny Ocampo.

Oceana Expedition – Part 2

Oceana and Blancpain Successfully Complete First of Three Ocean Expeditions in California’s Channel Islands

Research Supports Need for Additional Protections of Ocean Biodiversity
Oceana successfully completed its first of three ocean research expeditions in partnership with prestigious Swiss watchmaker Blancpain around the Channel Islands. From April 29 through May 3, aboard the 62-foot diving vessel, “Peace”, the expedition team explored and documented the biodiversity that makes these waters globally important. The expedition is in furtherance of Oceana’s campaigns to restore ocean abundance by addressing set gillnet

Continued on page 3

The Ventura Raceway hosts the Progressive American Flat Track Association



First place winner, Briar Bauman (#3) battles it out with 3rd Place Finisher, Jared Mees). Photo by Joseph Seemeyer.

by Joe Seemeyer

On Saturday, May 11th, the 2024 Progressive American Flat Track season, founded and sanctioned by the American Motorcyclist Association (AMA), continued with the Memphis Shades Ventura Short Track at Ventura Raceway in Ventura, California.

For those not familiar with the Ventura Raceway, the Raceway is a 1/5-mile, clay oval racetrack located at the Ventura County Fairgrounds. On a weekly basis the track is home to many types of dirt track racecars including motorcycles, wingless sprint cars, midgets, dwarf cars, stock cars, modifieds, sport compacts, and karts. The track is owned and operated by Jim Naylor.

The Progressive American Flat Track (AFT) is the world’s premier dirt track motorcycle racing series and one of the longest-running championships in the history of motorsports. Sanctioned by AMA Pro Racing in Daytona Beach, Fla., the series is highly regarded as the most competitive form of dirt track motorcycle racing on the globe. Progressive American Flat Track is

Continued on page 6

Main Street Moves – Keep Downtown Streets Open or Closed

by Patricia Shallert

During the Ventura City Council meeting on May 21, 2024, the City Council and community members discussed the future of Main Street Moves (MSM), an initiative that involved closing portions of Main Street and California Street to vehicular traffic. The Temporary Business Expansion Special Event Permit, which allowed for the closure, is set to expire soon, so the City Council introduced an agenda item to extend the closure by seven months. This would provide enough time for staff to conduct a thorough study of long-term options and present their recommendations to the Council. The Council acknowledged the importance of considering community feedback and have been carefully evaluating the potential impacts before making a decision.

There have been concerns raised by property and business owners about the possibility of a permanent closure for Main Street Moves. To address these concerns, the MSM staff plans to hold discussions with property owner representatives and conduct a survey to gather current opinions. The results of the survey will be presented to the City Council in a timely manner, ensuring that the perspectives of property and

Continued on page 2



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Your Hometown Paper

Member, Ventura Chamber of Commerce

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True wisdom comes to each of us when we realize how little we understand about life, ourselves, and the world around us.

— Socrates

City News

A collaborative approach to addressing homelessness

On March 26, 2024, the Ventura City Council approved a five-year plan to address homelessness. This plan, developed through collaboration with the County of Ventura, City of Oxnard, and City of Thousand Oaks, outlines a strategy tailored to Ventura's needs. LeSar Development Consultants played a crucial role by providing extensive research to inform the plan.

The Point in Time Count, mandated by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), serves as a crucial tool for communities seeking federal grants to address homelessness. Results from the 2024 Ventura County Homeless Point in Time Count, conducted by the Ventura County Continuum of Care, showed a significant change. The number of sheltered persons increased by 14.7% from 2023 to 2024, reaching 927 individuals, while the number of unsheltered persons decreased by 12.4% to 1,431.

Key action areas within Ventura highlight the need to create permanent housing and prevention solutions to break the cycle of homelessness. These efforts involve securing funding, integrating CalAIM's Enhanced Care Management (ECM) services, fostering partnerships, and enhancing data tracking capabilities.

Mayor Joe Schroeder commented, "The approval of Ventura's 5-year homelessness plan by the City Council is a testament to our City's dedication to creating positive change. Through partnership and community input, we're taking meaningful steps to support this important community issue."

Drawing insights from the Navigating Homelessness: A Community Engagement Survey, with over 1,100 responses, the City has initiated impactful programs. Among these is the Homeless Prevention and Diversion Program, launched on February 14, 2024, providing critical rental assistance. Strengthening its street outreach, the City partnered with the County of Ventura's Human Services Agency to

offer essential case management.

Insights from the Business Engagement Survey underscore the community's commitment to addressing homelessness. Close to 90% of local business owners affirmed their presence in the community, identifying key areas for intervention, including affordable housing, behavioral health services, and substance abuse programs.

Currently, City staff are actively pursuing funding opportunities, recently applying for grants, and exploring avenues to expand ECM services. The City Council approved the homelessness plan and directed staff to implement Planning Commission's suggestions, with updates to be provided quarterly. This approval fulfills a portion of the sixth cycle Housing Element. The City of Ventura aims to address homelessness with compassion and forward-thinking, with the County of Ventura's homelessness plan aiding in this mission. The City Council prioritizes tenant protections, doubling foul weather shelter capacity, ensuring ADA accessibility for all shelter beds, and establishing an achievement timetable.

For more information on the City of Ventura's Housing Services Division and its initiatives, visit cityofventura.ca.gov/HousingServices.

Main Street Moves

Continued from page 1

business owners are taken into account during the decision-making process.

To provide some background, in April 2022, the City Council instructed the staff to explore long-term options for Main Street Moves. To facilitate this process, a Temporary Business Expansion Special Event Permit was granted, allowing for the closure of six blocks of Main Street and one block of South California Street. Significant progress has been made since then, and the staff has regularly updated



the Council on the advancements in the MSM initiative. Notably, the City Council unanimously approved Citywide Sidewalk Design Guidelines and Standards, highlighting the ongoing progress.

Since the existing permit expires at the end of June, the City Council needs to take action to extend the closure before then if they wish to maintain the current status quo. The staff believes there is sufficient evidence to support the closure, considering the street has been closed for four years already. The proposed temporary closure would continue the existing situation.

In the previous MSM Ad Hoc Committee meeting on May 6, 2024, the importance of understanding the long-term commitment of property owners to the closure was emphasized. Previous attempts to gather feedback through surveys showed limited responses from them. However, business owners showed a higher response rate, with a clear majority advocating for a full closure. To achieve a higher overall response rate, the staff, in collaboration with Downtown Ventura Partners, will develop a survey for property and business owners. The individual responses will be kept confidential to protect participants and ensure the validity of the results. The staff intends to consult with property owner representatives and promptly present the survey findings to the City Council.

If the Council decides to extend the closure until the end of 2024, the staff will facilitate a smooth transition from the Downtown Ventura Organization permit to the City for all business expansion participants. This transition will involve a review of sidewalks to ensure compliance with the requirements of the business expansion area and readiness for the summer season. The requirements will largely remain the same, with only two differences: the addition of a Workers Compensation Waiver

As I See It by Sheldon Brown

• On May 14, the Ventura City Council presented me with a Proclamation celebrating my "retirement" from being the publisher of the Ventura Breeze and declared May 14 "Sheldon Brown day."

It was an amazing and emotional event for me. A special thanks to Mayor Schroeder for his introduction, and to member Mike Johnson for stating that an article I wrote several years ago inspired him to run for city council.

In accepting I stated, "Eighteen years ago, when daughter Staci and I decided to launch a Ventura newspaper two things were true. One, we had absolutely no idea of how to publish a newspaper. Neither of us had any knowledge of how to do it. And, we had no idea if Ventura would welcome a newspaper. After lots of study and research we did manage to launch the Ventura Breeze and Ventura has embraced the Breeze. I want to thank our loyal readers, our advertisers that make this possible, our great dedicated

staff, my wife Diane for putting up with me and son Mark who will be carrying on the family tradition."

• Very sad to see Steves Plumbing close. It has been a Ventura staple for many years.

The store opened in 1971 on the Avenue and moved to Thompson Blvd. in 1973. Denis Stanley purchased the business several years ago and sadly passed away last year.

• The summer of 2023 was Earth's hottest since instrumental records began in the 1800s and possibly making 2023 the hottest in more than two millennia.

I sure wish we would get some of that hot weather. I'm tired of being cold. The weather station that gives us current condition information is at the county government center off Victoria. The weather by the harbor where I live is usually colder and has more wind.

The primary cause of the exceptional heat was human-caused greenhouse gas emissions, (oh sure, blame

us). Other factors pushing up temperatures include El Niño, the natural climate pattern that warms the surface waters in the eastern Pacific Ocean.

The U.N.'s climate chief stated the world has only has two years to take action to avert far worse climate change. Scientists say halving climate-damaging greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 is crucial to stop a rise in temperatures that would unleash more extreme weather and heat.

• I heard a sports announcer say, "I don't dislike cats, but they aren't pets." He is correct, dogs are pets, cats are family members. You don't say "sit" and "rollover" to a family member.

• I bought a pair of pants that has a "hidden pocket" for my phone, and now I can't find it.

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



of Subrogation for insurance and the discontinuation of the \$250 fee collected by the Downtown Ventura Organization. Regarding the California Environment Quality Act process, (CEQA) the staff plans to issue a Notice of Preparation in early June, followed by the release of the Draft Environment Impact Report (EIR) in the fall and the Final EIR before the end of the year.

A lawsuit was filed on March 11 by a group called Open Main Street alleging city leaders violated California's Pedestrian Mall Law which governs permanent street closures. The lawsuit also claims the city's actions have caused economic damage to the property owners. The plaintiffs are seeking the immediate reopening of Main and California streets according to the lawsuit.

More information about Main-Street moves can be found on the city site <https://www.cityofventura.ca.gov/2165/Main-Street-Moves>.

**Oceana Expedition – Part 2
Continued from page 1**

fishing gear that is harmful to a suite of ocean life, and Blancpain's commitment to ocean exploration and conservation.

"Our expedition showcases the incredible diversity of marine life surrounding the Channel Islands, bolstering the area's reputation as the "Galapagos of North America," said expedition leader Dr. Geoff Shester, Oceana's California campaign director and senior scientist. "The beautiful habitats and special places we documented deserve additional protections from harmful gillnets – an indiscriminate fishing method which is still allowed in state waters around these amazing islands."

Blancpain and Oceana first began their partnership in 2020 ahead of Project Alacranes, an expedition initiated to explore the depths of two areas in the Gulf of Mexico, resulting in research that served as the basis for the Mexican government to enact the largest Natural Protected Area in the region. The success of this expedition led to the natural decision to continue the partnership between Oceana and Blancpain, as preparations to explore the Channel Islands were underway.

Over the five-day expedition, the team successfully accomplished the following:

Conducted visual scuba diving surveys to quantify and identify fish and invertebrate species and habitats – including gorgonian corals and kelp forests – at nine locations providing a glimpse into the biodiversity at risk. Oceana divers counted 830 fish, 1,837 mobile invertebrates (e.g., crabs, sea stars, lobsters), 1,156 large seaweeds (e.g. giant kelp), and 136 large gorgonian corals on 14 transects.

Collected water samples at 18 sites (nine shallow water samples collected via scuba and nine deep

water samples collected via a Niskin bottle) for environmental (e) DNA analysis. The samples will be analyzed in a lab for DNA sequencing, which will allow us to identify virtually all ocean life (all plants, animals, and fungi) inhabiting and traversing these waters. By analyzing the DNA "footprint" left behind in the water column, they will get a comprehensive view of the area's biodiversity at a range of depths.

Used state-of-the-art low-light cameras to capture high-resolution images and videos of unique, rare, and unusual species and habitats in need of protection.

Demonstrated the use of a compact Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) Geneinno to document cold water corals at 100 feet depth off Santa Barbara Island.

Captured 360-degree video footage at all nine scuba diving locations to provide an interactive, immersive experience of being in the middle of a giant kelp forest. Some examples of the 360-degree footage can be viewed here. [Tips: on a desktop PC, use the mouse to pan and look around. On a mobile device, either use your finger to pan and look around or directly point the device to where you want to look. For a full 360 immersive experience, use VR goggles or download the Google Cardboard app from the Apple Store or Android Play Store or use Google cardboard glasses to navigate as if immersed in the water seeing the environment firsthand].

Collected water samples at mid-water depths (from 60 meters/196 feet to over 100 meters/328 feet) to detect and quantify potential microplastics in the water column.

Piloted and successfully demonstrated that a hybrid underwater robot manufactured by Strategic Robotic Systems used to support Department of Defense missions globally – can produce high resolution side-scan sonar maps of rocky reefs and identify precise GPS locations of lost fishing gear. The expedition demonstrated the promise of this technology to provide meaningful intelligence for ocean conservation.

The groups plan to utilize the imagery and scientific information gathered 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 target California halibut and white seabass can be 20 football fields long and are known for their high bycatch rates and adverse wildlife impacts. 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 continue working to reduce bycatch in the set gillnet fishery.

To learn more about ocean biodiversity at risk from set gillnets visit www.oceana.org/KeepCAOceansThriving

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Sheldon Brown (right) with Mayor Joe Schroeder at the May 14 ceremony.

City Proclamation signed by Mayor Joe Schroeder.

Ventura Breeze founder recognized with city proclamation

On May 14, the city of San Buenaventura honored Sheldon Brown, publisher emeritus of the Ventura Breeze, with a city proclamation. Signed by Joe Schroeder, mayor of Ventura, the proclamation recognized Brown's outstanding contributions and remarkable achievements as founder and leader of the Ventura Breeze newspaper. The proclamation also designated May 14 as "Sheldon Brown Day" in recognition of Brown's "exemplary service, outstanding leadership, and enduring legacy that will continue to inspire generations to come."

Correction: We neglected to add Tracy Marcynzyn's writer byline to the Ventura River Trail cover story in our last issue.



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**Thanks to a
Ventura Legend**



CAPS Media Congratulates Sheldon and Summer Activities

Everyone at CAPS Media joins in congratulating and thanking Sheldon Brown for creating and publishing the Ventura Breeze for nearly two decades. The legendary, ever present and always smiling Sheldon, has been entertaining and informing our community with Ventura's true Hometown Newspaper since October 24, 2007. "Neither snow (in Ventura

... surf) nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays Sheldon and his loyal Breeze crew from completion of their appointed rounds." Week after week, month after month, year after year, weathering economic hardships, pandemics and more, Sheldon has inspired and guided a dedicated crew of family members, friends, reporters, photographers, and other

supporters to keep the presses and online publications rolling. "Sheldon - best wishes on your retirement from a true labor of love. We are certain the Breeze is in very capable hands, but we are equally certain there is only one Sheldon Brown."

Additional kudos go out to CAPS producers for winning awards from the Alliance for Community Media. ACM recognized CAPS/KPPQ DJ Nadine Piche for "Ventura Vibe! Pride Ventura County 2023" as the Best of Community Events - Activism/Rallies Community Radio Program of the year. And high school students in the CAPS/ECTV program were honored for "Best of Informational Talk Show Series" with the team's in-depth and engaging interview with Ventura County DA, Erik Nasarenko, hosted by Shayan Barati, recorded by an all-ECTV crew guided by their mentor Phil Taggart.

At this year's WAVE Awards, Taggart's "Arts in Exile" crew won a WAVE Award for Outstanding News/Documentary/Magazine Show - Community Production. WAVE, the Western Access Video Excellence, is a national network of TV and radio stations whose mission is to promote free speech and greater civic engagement through community media.

Currently CAPS crews are very busy covering graduation ceremonies for Ventura College and all VUSD high schools. The ceremonies are live streamed and then rebroadcast on CAPS channel 15 in the days that follow.

This summer the CAPS Digital Storytelling program is back in action for students ages 10-14 on July 15-19 and July 29-August 2. Guided by CAPS professional videographers and storytellers, the fast paced and engaging creative program features hands-on experiential learning in all aspects of media storytelling including story development, scripting, casting, staging, directing, camera operation, remote and in-studio production, graphic design, editing and more. Each week-long session runs Monday through Friday from 8:30am to 1:00pm at the CAPS Media Center at 65 Day Road. The \$250 fee includes five, 4-hour sessions, a one-year CAPS membership, CAPS Crew Member shirt, graduation certificate and a special Friday film festival for friends and family. Registration is open now at capsmedia.org.

Everyone is invited to visit the CAPS Media Center on the first Monday of each month at 6pm for an informal tour, info on CAPS membership benefits, and an overview of the creative resources including cameras, edit suites and production studio that are available at CAPS. Drop by and discover what CAPS has to offer.

CAPS Media manages and programs cable channels 6 (Public) and 15 (Education and Government), and CAPS Radio KPPQ, and manages the CAPS Media Center, at 65 Day Road, which is open Tuesday through Thursday from 12 noon to 8pm. All CAPS programming and schedules can be seen on CAPS' newly updated website at capsmedia.org.



Jose Drizzo public works supervisor oversees the sand removal project. Photo by Patricia Shallert.

Sand Removal project Pierpont Beach

by Patricia Shallert

Starting on May 13th, 2024, the City of Ventura has proactively taken action to address the bi-annual sand removal on Pierpont Beach. Jose Drizzo, the Public Works Supervisor overseeing the project, explained "this ongoing project serves to replenish eroded areas, redistribute excess sand, and promote dune restoration practices, which play a vital role in stabilizing the ecosystem and reducing sand migration."

The city also employs beach grooming techniques to manage the accumulation of sand in specific areas, particularly the lanes and end of the alleyways. Ventura holds community input in high regard and consistently engages with residents to explore effective and environmentally friendly methods for tackling sand removal on Pierpont Beach.

In 2011, after a lengthy legal dispute, an agreement was reached between the city and homeowners in the Pierpont neighborhood concerning the maintenance of the beach and sand. According to the settlement, bulldozers and trucks remove sand twice a year in front of participating households, with the homeowners sharing the associated costs.

As per the agreed terms, the city clears a stretch of the beach extending from San Pedro St. to Weymouth Ln. This process involves collecting the excess sand and transporting it to a designated facility on Stanley Ave., where it is appropriately stored and managed.

By implementing this meticulous approach, the City of Ventura ensures that Pierpont Beach remains easily accessible and safe for visitors while effectively managing the accumulation of sand. The city's unwavering dedication to efficient sand removal and storage practices is vital in sustaining the beach's beauty and functionality.

The beach work was anticipated to be completed by Friday, May 17th and any residual sand on the lanes and end of the streets will be removed by Tuesday, May 21st.

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The boat's name "Congrio" translates to a Chilean fish. Photos by Nella Nelson

A Surprise Peek Aboard the Congrio

Meet the most incredibly disguised boat in our marina, the Congrio. How is it disguised? What you see on the outside is not what you see on the inside. But that's not all. The highly engineered process of building this vessel is a story in itself. Owner and designer, Eric Bradley and his wife, Patty, began their project in 2016.

The couple hired a naval architect in Florida to draw up the plans of their unique design. From the ground up, the Congrio was then built by Gulf Stream

Ship Building in Florida, in the style of a steel navy vessel. From the stern, it also resembles a fishing trawler. The purpose of this design, as Bradley explained, is that "we didn't want to get picked on while traveling through foreign countries." The couple, both being master-licensed, journeyed through several national and international waters.

The boat's name "Congrio" (a Chilean fish) is visible above "Valparaiso" which would make one assume it is a fishing vessel from Chile, yet a

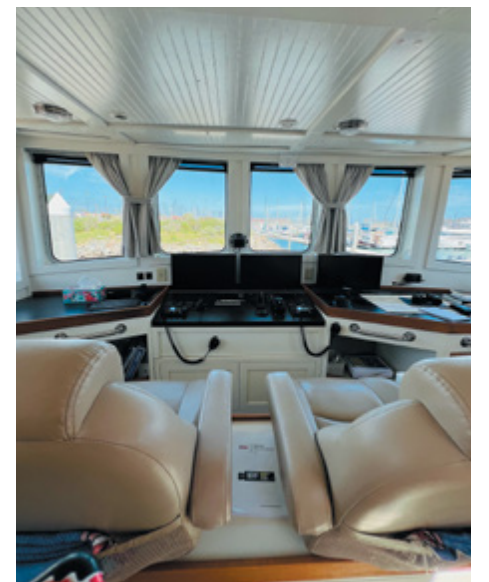
Valparaiso exists as a hailing port in Florida. But that is not the only trick of perception. Once you step inside, the cozy charm of a home welcomes you in. Besides hiring a home cabinet builder rather than a boat one, Eric and Patty Bradley created their own hands-on interior, complete with curtains and couches. A custom kitchen is fitted with an induction cook top, convection oven, stone countertops, three refrigerators, three freezers, as well as two heads. Bradley used AutoCAD and his engineering background to create the Congrio's entire inside space. He and Patty then installed moldings and handled most of the work with their own tools.

Most impressive to all visitors aboard the Congrio is its immaculate engine room. "I started the design with this engine," said Bradley, "then created the accessible walk-around space." He included six fuel tanks and transfer pumps for the filters, which polish the fuel. Included is a boiler for instant hot water as well as air handlers. The fuel capacity can hold 3,100 gallons and the boat can make a round trip to Hawaii without refueling. Congrio's range is 4,500 miles. Both heating and air conditioning keep the boat comfortable, as well as straight rather than spiral stairs. "This makes for better passage and bigger rooms," Bradley added.

The Congrio's home is currently in Portside Ventura Harbor as Patty passed away one year ago and it was her wish to dock it there in the place she called home and where their daughter resides. Bradley and his family members are enjoying their beautiful Ventura days complete with fishing, barbecuing and taking in the beauty of our coast.



Owner and designer, Eric Bradley. Photo by Nella Nelson.



Congrio's wheelhouse. By Nella Nelson.

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About Libraries and Friends

by Mary Olson

Ventura County Library launched its Read, Renew, Repeat summer reading program on May 15.

Participants -- kids, teens and adults -- 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 com-

pleting 1000 minutes. During the next few months, the library will host a range of free activities for children and teens to support a love of reading.

Saving Wildlife International is the featured performer this summer, showcasing a commitment to wildlife conservation, which ties in with the Summer Reading theme: Read, Renew, Repeat.

Saving Wildlife International brings its unique live animal presentation to

- Avenue Library, Saturday, June 15, 11am to noon
- Saticoy Library, Saturday, June 15, 2 to 3 pm
- E.P. Foster Library, Tuesday, June 18, 11am to noon
- Hill Road Library, Tuesday, June 18, 3 to 4 pm

Storytimes for children birth to 5 years are held at E.P. Foster Library MONDAYS at 10:30 am on the 2nd Floor; At Avenue Library, TUESDAYS at 4 pm in English and Spanish, in the children's area and at Hill Road Library, Wednesdays at 10:30 am.

Maker Lab is open at Hill Road Library on Thursdays at 3:30 pm. Participate in a Lego Challenge on May 30 and June 20; create California native wildflower seed bombs and garden fairy wands to beautify your outdoor space on June 6; arrive no later than 3:35 pm for Slime Time on June 13 (space limited to 30 participants).

Movie Mondays! Family Film Fest and Coloring begins at Hill Road Library on Monday, June 10, 3:30 pm with Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles Mutant Mayhem. Hill Road Library offers Game On! Board Games for all ages on Sundays, 11 am to 1 pm. Drop by and choose from over 35 games to play! For all ages. Fun for families or a great reason to meet with friends.

Avenue Library invites all to Stay and Play. Families are welcome to free coloring pages for all ages. Crayons and colored pencils are provided for in-house use. Board games, card games, puzzles and more are available during open hours.

For additional information about the summer reading program, contact Molly Krill, Ventura County Library Youth Services Manager at (805) 677-7170. For questions about what's happening at individual branches, 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 extended hours, the library 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.

Ventura Raceway hosts Flat Track Continued from page 1

televised on FOX Sports and streams live via FloRacing.

The Progressive American Flat Track season continued with the contenders from the Mission AFT SuperTwins and Parts Unlimited AFT Singles presented by KICKER championships. The Mission AFT SuperTwins is the pinnacle of dirt track motorcycle racing globally and the professional ranks were formalized in 1954. Riders in this class represents elite teams and skilled athletes who compete at every round of the competition. Each will race on custom-built, twin-cylinder motorcycles generating 90+horsepower race bar-to-

bar at speeds in excess of 140 mph.

Starting off the nail-biting excitement of the Mission AFT SuperTwins race, a red flag flew due to a terrifying incident that saw Johnny Lewis (No. 10 Moto Anatomy X Powered by Royal Enfield 650) carom off the wall and crash back into the pack. Also included in this incident were Ben Lowe (No. 25 Rackley Racing/Mission Foods KTM 790 Duke), Declan Bender (No. 70 GOMR/BriggsAuto.com/Martin Trucking Indian FTR750), and Morgen Mischler (No. 13 Big Red Super Twins/Al Lamb's Dallas Honda Transalp), who completed a full forward flip in the air after contacting the downed Lewis and his machine. Fortunately, all four returned to their feet with Lowe managing to return for the restart (AFT).

Just as quickly as the first red flag was a second flag because of a spill



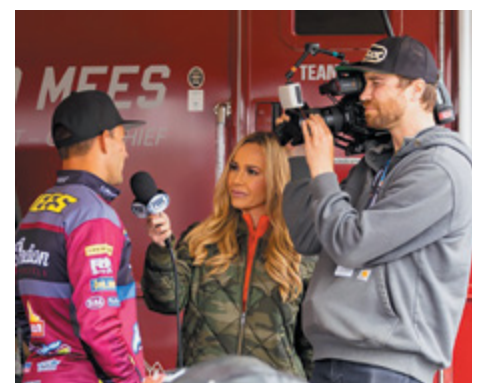
Second place finisher Dallas Daniels (#32).

by Ventura, CA hometown hero Kayl Kolkman (No. 98 Yamaha MT-07), who would return for the subsequent restart.

Finally, a third red flag was narrowly avoided when Davis Fisher (No. 67 Rackley Racing/Bob Lanphere's BMC Racing Indian FTR750) bounced back up from a crash and immediately remounted, allowing the race to continue and at last (AFT).

In the end, Twenty-nine-year-old Californian and two-time Grand National Champion Briar Bauman (No. 3 Rick Ware Racing/KTM/Parts Plus KTM 790 Duke), who was never challenged on his way to a 4.613-second margin of victory who claimed his first Mission AFT SuperTwins win of the year and his first podium of any kind.

Following Briar Bauman in second was title hopeful and Estenson Racing



Fox interviewing Jared Mees (#1). Finishing on the podium in third place was reigning Mission SuperTwins king Jared Mees. Photos by Joseph Seemeyer.

Yamaha superstar, Dallas Daniels (No. 32 Estenson Racing Yamaha MT-07 DT) who had pushed his way up from fifth place.

Finishing on the podium in third place was reigning Mission SuperTwins king Jared Mees (No. 1 Rogers Racing/SDI Racing/Indian Motorcycle FTR750), from Sebastian, FL.

Completing the Mission AFT SuperTwins top five was Jarod Vanderkooi (No. 20 JMC Motorsports/Fairway Ford Ohio

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Photos by Patricia Shallert and Yana Khiyod



Strawberry Festival

On Saturday the 18th and 19th of May, the Strawberry Festival came to the Ventura Fairgrounds. It was an exciting and vibrant event that showcased the area's rich agricultural heritage as it celebrated the delicious and juicy fruit that has become synonymous with this beautiful coastal city. This festival, which takes place annually brings together locals and visitors from all around to revel in the tastiest treats, lively entertainment, and an overall sense of community.

At the heart of the festival were the delectable strawberries, freshly picked and bursting with flavor. Local farmers proudly displayed their pride and joy, offering crates of these succulent red berries, perfect for indulging on their own or incorporating into various delightful culinary creations. From strawberry shortcakes to strawberry smoothies, and strawberry beer, the options were endless, and the taste sweet and satisfying. One of the highlights of the Strawberry Festival was undoubtedly the Strawberry Shortcake with volunteers from Pacifica Culinary Academy from Oxnard adding to the excitement as guests built their own shortcake tower.

The Strawberry Festival offered more than just strawberries. It boasted

a diverse range of entertainment and activities suitable for all ages. The air was filled with the sounds of live music throughout the festival, courtesy of talented local bands and performers. Oxnard High School's award-winning marching "Swarm" band set the mood as guests arrived. Arts and crafts booths delighted visitors as they perused the talents of local artists, while a dedicated family fun section entertained children with thrilling carnival rides, face painting, and interactive games.

While strawberries were the star of the show, the Strawberry Festival ultimately celebrated the community, local farmers, and the vibrant spirit of Ventura and Oxnard. It fostered a sense of togetherness and appreciation for the area's unique cultural heritage. Whether you're a strawberry enthusiast or simply seeking a fun-filled weekend getaway, make sure to mark the Strawberry Festival at the Ventura Fairgrounds as a must-attend event on your calendar.



Pacifica Culinary Academy

Indian FTR750) in fourth and Brandon Robinson (No. 44 Mission Roof Systems Indian FTR750) in fifth (AFT).

"The Parts Unlimited AFT Singles presented by KICKER class is geared for cultivating young dirt track talent as riders hone their skills enroute to the AFT Twins ranks. Up-and-coming athletes make their mark aboard production-based 450cc single-cylinder motorcycles offering upwards of 60 horsepower. Racing at speeds faster than 115 mph, the stars of tomorrow battle it out on motorcycles produced by Honda, Husqvarna, Kawasaki, KTM, Suzuki, Yamaha and Zaeta."

The Parts Unlimited AFT Singles podium consisted of Tom Drane (No. 59 Estenson Racing Yamaha YZ450F) in first, Dalton Gauthier (No. 79 D&D Racing/Certified KTM 450 SX-F) in second, followed by Trent Lowe (No. 48 American Honda/Mission Foods CRF450R) in third (AFT).

The next Flat Track Motorcycle event at the Ventura Speedway is on September 7th. Motorcycle riders and non-riders are encouraged to attend the event. The

Progressive American Flat Track race is a phenomenal event for all age groups.

For more information on Progressive American Flat Track, visit www.americanflattrack.com, or on Facebook, X and check them out on Instagram (AFT).



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Housing Land Trust Ventura County receives grant to turn donated land into permanently affordable housing

Housing Land Trust Ventura County (Housing Land Trust VC) has been awarded the U.S. Bank Foundation's Community Possible grant. The nonprofit will receive \$25,000 in support of its mission to provide permanently affordable housing opportunities on donated land for those who contribute to the fabric of Ventura County's economy and community. U.S. Bank created the Community Possible grant with the belief that all people deserve the opportunity to dream, believe, and achieve.

"This grant highlights the impact that private businesses can have on affordable housing," said Linda Braunschweiger, CEO of Housing Land Trust Ventura County. Linda also serves as CEO for Housing Trust Fund Ventura County, her guidance of which has helped to fund and commit to loans totaling \$40 million since 2013, paving the way for 1,669 affordable units in Ventura County. "These funds help support Housing Land Trust VC's mission, ensuring that affordable housing within Ventura County is accessible for all."

The grant will provide resources to Housing Land Trust VC which will

advance the organization, positioning it to acquire more land donations that will then become affordable homes. Land donations managed by Housing Land Trust VC have continued in their development including Casa de Carmen at the Oxnard Navigation Center being developed by Community Development Partners and Mercy House, which will provide 55 permanent housing units, 110 shelter beds and 24-hour supportive services for our community's homeless population. In Thousand Oaks, a donated parcel will become Hillcrest Homes developed by People's Self-Help Housing into nearly 80 affordable for-sale townhomes, creating an opportunity for home ownership for our community's low-income to moderate-income individuals and families. The project is set to begin construction this year.

Housing Land Trust Ventura County is a Community Land Trust that seeks to identify and secure, through donation, undeveloped and surplus land to bring down the costs to develop affordable housing for low- and moderate-income residents in Ventura County. The organization is governed by an 11-member all-volunteer Board of Directors led

by Chair Alex Russell, CEO of Homes and Hope, Vice Chair Peter Lyons, Community Development Consultant, Treasurer Marni Brook of Women's Economic Ventures, and Secretary Tracy McAulay with the County of Ventura. The Board also includes Bertha Garcia with VC Community Development Corporation, Retired City Planner MaryAnn Krause, AICP, Anthony Mireles with Laborer's International Union Local 585, Maria Navarro of CAUSE, Stratis Perros from City of Simi Valley Environmental Services Department, Architect Mark Petit of Lauterbach & Associates, Architects, and Derrick Wada of Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation. Visit www.housinglandtrustvc.org to learn more about Housing Land

Trust Ventura County and how donated land can help to bring more affordable housing to Ventura County.

Launched as a 501c3 nonprofit corporation in 2020 Housing Land Trust VC is helping to facilitate the development of affordable housing for low- and moderate-income residents of Ventura County by creating and maintaining permanently affordable single-family or multi-family residences through a community land trust. Housing Land Trust VC was created to address one of the County's most common barriers to affordable housing – the high cost of land. As of September 2023, Housing Land Trust VC has received two parcels of land set to create 135 affordable apartments and homes in Ventura County.



Ventura Port District receives \$200,000 grant from National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF)

The Ventura Port District (District) Board of Port Commissioners (Board) announced that a funding agreement has been signed with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to receive a grant of \$200,000 for the improvements of restrooms and shower facilities at Harbor Cove Beach, Surfers Knoll Beach, and the District's public launch ramp.

This grant is the second awarded to the District by NFWF under the "Refugio Beach Oil Spill Settlement: South Coast Shoreline Parks and Outdoor Recreation Grants Program" (Program), the first of which was a grant of \$93,301 provided in 2022. Those funds were fully expended to improve beach accessibility, install three new light poles for Harbor Cove Beach parking lot, and the purchase of public safety communications equipment.

The District competed for the second grant, and was successful in securing \$200,000 from the Program for projects to compensate the public for loss of use and enjoyment of public beaches, parks, and other public or natural resources in Ventura County. The Program is administered by NFWF with oversight by state natural resource Trustee agencies for the oil spill near Refugio State Beach in 2015 - the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, the California State Lands Commission, the California Department of Parks and Recreation, and the Regents of the University of California.

The District's application was supported by key community leaders, including Congressman Salud Carbajal, Assemblymember Steve Bennett, State Senator Monique Limón, and County Supervisor Matt LaVere.

Congressman Carbajal offered comment on the grant award: "Ventura's harbor and nearby beaches are a perfect place for Central Coast families to enjoy

our little slice of paradise, and with public facility improvements from this grant, we can ensure these areas are ready to serve the thousands of Ventura residents and others who enjoy our port district for years to come. Joining my colleagues in pushing for the approval of this funding was a no-brainer – I know how many will benefit from these facilities after a morning at Surfer's Knoll or a weekend at Harbor Cove Beach – and I'm proud to have been a part of bringing this important funding to Ventura."

Letters of support were also received from Ventura Visitors & Convention Bureau and Los Angeles Volleyball Academy.

District General Manager Brian Pendleton stated, "We really could not have been so successful with our grant pursuits without the continued support of our elected representatives. We are so very grateful that they are invested in ongoing improvements in Ventura Harbor."

Planning has already begun for the exterior improvements at both Harbor Cove and Surfers Knoll beaches, which will include regrading the pavement (to meet ADA accessibility requirements), installation of new shower units, and repair work to some of the adjacent hardscape. In addition, the restrooms at both beach lots as well as at the District's public launch ramp, will receive interior improvements and new exterior doors.

Board Chair, Michael Blumenberg stated, "These enhancements will improve the aesthetics, functionality, and accessibility for these public facilities. I'm very proud of the continued improvements the District has been able to implement in Ventura Harbor, especially as they relate to improving accessibility and an equitable experience for all."

The District anticipates completing these improvements by the end of 2024. The Ventura Port District is an independent special district of the City of Ventura and is the owner and operator of the Ventura Harbor. The Ventura Port District is committed to providing a safe harbor that is an inviting inclusive seaside destination, with exceptional facilities for fishers, boaters, residents, and visitors.

For more information on the Ventura Port District, Ventura Harbor amenities, and its programs visit VenturaHarbor.com.

On Vacation – Scotland



While visiting family in Scotland, Nancy Brace-Thompson treated grandson Lukas to a birthday trip by train to Whitby, England. She read the Breeze while Lukas played among the ruins of St. Hilda's Whitby Abbey, where Bram Stoker drew inspiration to write Dracula. Let's hope young Lukas enjoyed more light-hearted inspiration (and reading the Breeze), especially when they hit the beach to search for fossils.



Senior Living



Retired Fire Chief, David Hanson, 85, enjoying the moment. Photo Credit: Janie Tran.

Making Memories! Flight of a Lifetime!

by Janie Tran

It was a privilege to sit down with four residents of The Palms as they recounted their incredible experience with Dream Flights on May 15, 2024. Don Renner (87), Bill Hughes (93), Les McCormick (81), and David Hanson (85) were still giddy and full of smiles as they shared their experience of a lifetime.

Don Renner enjoyed sitting at the front of the plane. It was his first time

on a biplane, checking off a bucket list item. He hopes to check off parachuting and sailing next. The feeling of getting off the ground was magical for Don. He served in the Navy as a Petty Officer for six years, served in the Police Force for 20 years, and was married to his wife, Dee, for 68 years before her recent passing. Don is also a past Resident Council

Continued on page 10

Alzheimer's Association Announces New Executive Director

Jill Shaffer of Ventura, California has been named executive director of the Alzheimer's Association, California Central Coast Chapter. The Alzheimer's Association is a worldwide voluntary health organization dedicated to Alzheimer's care, support and research. Its mission is to lead the way to end Alzheimer's and all other dementia – by accelerating global research, driving risk reduction and early detection, and maximizing quality care and support.

In her role, Shaffer will be responsible for the overall strategic and

operational functions for the chapter, including program delivery, fundraising, community engagement, government and private grant funding, media relations and growth and delivery of the Association's mission.

"I'm excited to embark on this critical new path with the Alzheimer's Association. After my Mom passed away from the disease, I felt helpless. My daughter and I honored her legacy by joining Walk to End Alzheimer's and I was inspired to continue this fight. I'm thrilled for this opportunity to bring my expertise to the team and to contribute to our vision to end Alzheimer's for good."

Shaffer most recently served as a Director of Resource Development and Marketing for the United Way of Ventura County. Prior to that role, she was a California Central Coast Community Engagement Manager for Unite Us and spent four years as the Executive Director of the Ventura County Leadership Academy. A significant part of

Continued on page 10



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Senior Living



Former Navy Petty Officer and Policeman, Don Renner, 87, getting ready to fly. Photos by Janie Tran.

Making Memories!

Continued from page 9

Chairman and a talented artist.

Bill Hughes, a First Class Navy flight engineer who served for 20 years, including in Vietnam, is considered a "big ball of sunshine" at The Palms. He was very excited about this Dream Flight!

Les McCormick, a 3rd Class Petty Officer who served for four years in the Navy/United Nations Command in Korea, is new to The Palms but is social and enjoys their outings. He started their Man Cave Monday social gathering and loves meeting new friends. This was his first time on a biplane, checking off another bucket list item. The next item

on his list is parachuting.

David Hanson, an 85-year-old retired Fire Chief of 30 years, is one of the Ambassadors at The Palms, where he lives with his wife, Nancy, and their Pug, Bella. For David, the flight was a flashback to the past.

It was heartwarming to see these four seniors thanked for their service with an experience of a lifetime. Thanks to Dream Flights, a nonprofit that takes military veterans and seniors up in a biplane once used to train WWII pilots. Staff from The Palms cheered them on as they took to the skies in Dream Flights' Boeing Stearman biplane at Camarillo Airport.

The highlight for these residents was



Back Row - Left to Right: Andrea Maclean, Don Renner (87), David Hanson (85), Les McCormick (81), and Bill Hughes (93). Front row left to right is Front Row - Left to Right: Clint Cawly, John White, Brandy McCauly, Marilyn Chaffee.

the care and compassion of the volunteers and staff. They all agreed that the flawless takeoff and landing made the experience memorable. Despite the cloudy day, once the flights took off, the skies cleared for great visibility. For a moment, all aches and limitations were forgotten, replaced

by giddiness and freedom.

This experience was more than a memory; it was a reminder of their younger days, a connection to the past, and perhaps one of their last great adventures. Dream Flights makes dreams come true, one flight at a time.

First Annual Government and Disability Summit in Ventura

by Carol Leish, MA

Ventura County will host the first annual Government and Disability Summit from Sept. 24-27, 2024. This conference presents a unique opportunity for representatives from various levels of government, nonprofit organizations, and companies from across California to increase their involvement in building bridges and breaking barriers in the realm of disability awareness. This is the first step toward creating a more inclusive and accessible community for people with disabilities or issues related to disabilities.

Dani Anderson, disability access manager for Ventura County, says, "As a lifelong Ventura County resident with a

disability, it makes me so proud to lead this effort to create change within the state!"

Attendees will engage in collaborative dialogues with diverse stakeholders to co-create a more inclusive future for communities throughout California. Topics covered will include emergency preparedness, transportation, voting, accessibility, and technology. The summit will also address health, recreation employment, and collaboration. It aims to empower individuals with disabilities to share their experiences and educate others, championing accessibility at the government level.

Anderson explained that sponsors of this groundbreaking event will gain brand exposure while advocating for a more inclusive and accessible California. "The deadline to become a sponsor is Aug. 23; however, the earlier the better to get all of the sponsorship benefits!"

To register for the event or join the email list, visit www.govdisabilitysummit.org or contact Dani Anderson, disability access manager for Ventura County, at Dani.Anderson@ventura.org.

Headline copy here

Continued from page 9

her career was spent with the YMCA in a variety of leadership roles. Shaffer is a graduate of California State University, Northridge and holds a Bachelor's degree in Kinesiology.

Nearly 7 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's disease, according to the Alzheimer's Association 2024 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures report, including nearly 720,000 in California.


An estimated 1,373,000 California residents provide unpaid care to a family member living with dementia. Alzheimer's is a leading cause of death in the United States and one in three Americans age 65 and older dies with Alzheimer's or another dementia. The Alzheimer's Association California Central Coast Chapter provides free education programs, support



services and care consultations across Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo and Ventura Counties while also supporting critical research toward new treatments.

The Alzheimer's Association is the largest Alzheimer's advocacy organization in the world. It advocates for the needs and rights of people facing Alzheimer's disease and all other dementia. The Association is driving policymakers in Washington, D.C. and across the country to take historic steps to address the growing Alzheimer's public health crisis. The Association's efforts have secured robust increases for Alzheimer's and dementia research funding at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) and critical legislation, such as the National Alzheimer's Project Act to make a positive and meaningful impact on people living with Alzheimer's and their caregivers.

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Ventura Events:

Spring 2024 Patchwork Show: Saturday, June 1, 11am- 5pm. Downtown.

The palm tree-lined downtown streets of Ventura features over 50 vendors at California and Main. <https://dearhandmadelife.com/patchwork-show/ventura/>

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

2nd Annual Mental Wellness Festival Event. Art Show, Native Plant Exhibit, Live Music, Yoga & Meditation, Vendors & Info Booths. mentalwellnessfest.com

1892 Dudley Museum Open House Tours: Sunday, June 2, 1 - 4pm

We will also have a drop-in, drop-out "Plumerias 101" demonstration under the pergola given by professional plumeria grower Charlie Uvari. Admission is free. The museum is located at the corner of Loma Vista and Ashwood Streets (197 N. Ashwood) in Ventura. For information call (805) 642-3345 or visit dudleyhouse.org.

Olivas Adobe House Tours: Sunday, June 2, 11am - 3pm.

The Olivas Adobe historic site features the original two-story adobe home of Don Raymundo Olivas built in 1847. Celebrating Ventura's Rancho and Latino heritage. Tours are \$5 for Adults and \$3 for children and Seniors. Located at 4200 Olivas Park Drive, Ventura. More Information is available www.cityofventura.ca.gov/648/Olivas-Adobe-Historical-Park.

Olivas Adobe Brides & Bell Towers: Sunday, June 9, 11am - 3pm.

View wedding dresses through the ages! From Victorian to mid-century modern to 1970s, many donated by Ventura brides of all ages! Also an artist exhibit featuring our own Olivas Adobe Bell Tower. Visitors can enjoy historic tours of the Olivas Adobe grounds and browse the site's unique gift shop. More information is available www.cityofventura.ca.gov/648/Olivas-Adobe-Historical-Park.

Old-Time Country Bluegrass Gospel Music Assoc: Sunday June 2, 2:00 - 4:00 pm. Poinsettia Pavilion.

Live Music on stage. Jamming in the Canada Room. Free Admission. Free parking Open to the Public. 3451 Foothill Rd, Ventura, CA 93003. For more information call 805-517-1131 or visit Facebook: OTCBGMA

Kayaking and Protecting the

Channel Islands Talk: Saturday, June 6th, 6:30pm. Pierpont Bay Yacht Club.

Los Padres Ski and Social Club will host a noted author, Chuck Graham, who will give a talk on kayaking the Channel Islands and conservation efforts to protect the island. The general public is invited as the Club's guests. Pierpont Bay Yacht Club, 1363 Spinnaker Dr. Starts with a free BBQ followed by the presentation at 7:30pm. Guests are encouraged to bring a dish to share. You can learn more about Chuck Graham at www.chuckgrahamphoto.com and Instagram @chuckgrahamphoto.

The Los Padres Ski Club is a four-season sport and social club that plans snow ski trips and many year-round activities including happy hours, outings to local attractions, nature walks/hikes and other parties. Learn more about the Club at <https://lospadresskiclub.net>

Girl Scouts of California's Central Coast Annual Food, Wine & Beer Festival: Saturday June 8th, 3:00 - 7:00pm. Camp Arnaz.

An evening of culinary delights, exquisite wines, and craft beers. Nestled in the heart of nature, Camp Arnaz provides the perfect backdrop for an evening of indulgence. Immerse yourself in a world of flavors as you sample gourmet dishes, sip on fine wines, and savor craft beers. With a capacity for 300 people, this event promises an intimate and delightful experience for all. Girl Scouts of California's Central Coast is partnering with Rotary Club of Ventura-East to host the third annual event to aid the Monarch butterfly population. Proceeds of this festival will aid in the establishment of the Monarch Breeding and Research Institute at Camp Arnaz which will promote the replenishment of the monarch population. 155 Sulphur Canyon Rd. www.girlscoutsgcc.org/en/discover/activities/special-events.html

"Arbol de la Vida": Saturday, June 15th, 1, 1:25, 3 and 3:25 pm. Downtown Ventura.

Follow dancers through new pathways and engage with the rich history of Ventura. This traveling performance will take the audience on a short walk through several iconic landmarks of Ventura. Free all-ages event. Donations are strongly encouraged to support the artists. Wear comfortable walking shoes. Mission Park, 211 E Main St. Meet by the tile mural on Main Street in front of the San Buenaventura Mission. Please leave your furry friends at home. RSVP and Donate: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/>

arbol-de-la-vida-dance-performance-tickets-894686460287

Ongoing:

Ventura Senior Men's Group - First and Third Tuesdays each month: 11:30am - 1:30pm - 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 - 12:30pm.

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 buckley-rose357@gmail.com.

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

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

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

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.

Out & About

Ojai:

Forestwatch's 16th Annual Ojai WILD! Benefit: Sunday, June 2, 4 - 7:30pm. Thacher School's beautiful Pavilion Lawn.

The benefit event celebrates the 20th Anniversary of Los Padres ForestWatch and raises critical funds for the protection of wild lands and wildlife in the Los Padres National Forest. Ojai WILD! is Ventura County's longest-running fundraiser for land and wildlife conservation. Open to the public. 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 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.

Ventura County Pottery Guild's Annual Ojai Pottery Market: Saturday June 8, 10am - 6pm and Sunday, June 9, 10am - 5pm. Libbey Park.

The Ventura County Potters' Guild invites the public to its annual Ojai Pottery

Market at Libbey Park. This marks the 66th year of the event along with the incredible Ojai Music Festival. Over 30 local potters will display handmade functional and decorative work. The Pottery Market is family friendly and free to the public. The Guild is a non-profit organization, and this is a major fundraiser, supporting ceramic education and venues for local artists. Work can also be seen year-round at the gallery store in Ventura Harbor at 1567 Spinnaker Drive, Suite 105, or online at www.venturapottery-online.com. More information can be found at www.vcpg.org.

37th Annual Ojai Wine Festival: Saturday, June 15th, 12 - 4 pm. Lake Casitas.

Organized by the Rotary Club of Ojai West Foundation, Inc., this event has grown to become a cornerstone fundraiser, attracting over 2,000 attendees from across Southern California each year. Lake Casitas Recreation Area, 11311 Santa Ana Rd, Ventura. <https://ojaiwinefestival.com>.

Oxnard:

Redbird's 2024 Children of Many Colors Native American Powwow: Friday - Sunday, June 7 - 9, 2024. Oxnard College Gymnasium Field (outdoors, on the grass).

Friday evening 6 PM Open flute circle and vendor preview (All wind instruments and their players welcome, open mic, all experience levels welcome).

Free admission, free parking, everyone welcome. Native American singing, dancing, arts, crafts and food. Saturday 11am - 8pm Native American Powwow. Sunday 11am - 6pm Native American Powwow. (Veteran's Honoring Sunday 11:30 AM approximate, all Veterans welcome). Visit www.Redbirds-Visions.org.

Santa Barbara:

Ensemble Theatre Company of Santa Barbara (ETC): Thursday, May 30 - Sunday, June 16.

Santa Barbara's only professional theatre company is proud to announce the capstone production of its 45th season, the world premiere musical, ALICE, FORMERLY OF WONDERLAND, written by seven-time Emmy Award winning writer Mark Saltzman (Romeo and Bernadette) and directed by Jim Fall (Trick), with musical arrangements by Jack Lipson. This enchanting new musical tells the true story of the secret romance between the real-life Alice, and Prince Leopold, son of Queen Victoria and great-granduncle of Prince Harry. As a child, Alice was Lewis Carroll's inspiration for the girl who fell down the rabbit hole, but now Alice is falling in love, despite the furious objections of the Queen. To honor the a cappella traditions at Oxford, the music of ALICE, FORMERLY OF WONDERLAND is performed without accompaniment. The New Vic Theatre, 33 W. Victoria Street. www.Ensembletheatre.com

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Ensemble Theatre's Alice, Formerly of Wonderland Cast: Sam O'Byrne, Bree Murphy, and Margie Mays. Photo Credit: Zach Mendez.



The Pet Page



Dedicated to Scamp

• 14 Warning Signs Your Pet May Be Sick (and What to Do)

Some symptoms are more serious than others. So how can you tell if your dog or cat needs to go

to the vet? Experts explain. by Jennifer Billock

As all pet owners know, our four-legged furries are more than friends — they're family members. So when they seem sick, it can be easy to decide to drop everything and run to the vet. The good news is, that's not always necessary. Some issues are better off being monitored at home, and some require a vet visit. Here's how to tell the difference.

Wait-and-See Symptoms

No one wants to see Boots or Mittens in pain or ill, but observing your pet for a few days is often the only way to determine if there's really a problem. Like us, animals can suffer from passing aches and sniffles. If you notice your pet drooling, limping, whining, dealing with an upset tummy, coughing, itching or wiping away eye or nose discharge, keep a close eye on them. Believe it or not, these symptoms could be a cry for attention (hello to my dearly departed Boston terrier who pretended to limp when he wanted snacks) or simply a 24-hour bug.

Other subtle signs to note during observation days are changes in eating and drinking habits and in activity level. "This could look like the water bowl being emptied more quickly; hesitancy jumping up or taking stairs; or not wanting to go on walks that are as long as usual," says Rena Carlson, D.V.M., president of the American Veterinary Medical Association. If these behaviors continue, consider a call or trip to the vet.

It's also important to note that animals deal with pain differently than we do. If you haven't noticed any drooling, wincing or whining but have seen a new fear or an outsize reaction to something typical, it could mean they're in pain. Give it a couple of days and see if the fear or overreaction resolves. If not, head to the vet.

Ultimately, you know your pet better than anyone else, so watch for changes in their normal patterns and routines. If it's just a onetime thing, they're probably fine. But changes over a longer period of time might be reason for concern.

"Remember that animals can be good at hiding symptoms of illness or injury, and that even subtle changes may be a sign that something is wrong," Carlson says.

Signs You Should Take Them In

Pets like to hide when they're sick, so sometimes it can be difficult to notice an emergency situation right away. But even if they're hiding, check on them every now and then to be sure nothing is seriously wrong.

Specifically for cats, Carlson advises watching for open-mouthed breathing. "Open-mouthed breathing is almost always an emergency situation for cats," she says. "Any cat exhibiting this behavior should be brought to the veterinarian immediately for emergency care." That said, some cats will keep their mouths open for a moment after smelling or seeing something unusual for them. If yours leaves theirs open longer, call your vet.

Also, while you may not think of this, pets can get sunburn — if you see any sign of severe burns or heatstroke, you'll need a vet visit.

More Serious Signals

Diabetes and heart problems are difficult conditions to spot in pets. Luckily, some warning signs can show up long before things get really bad. Be concerned about diabetes if your furry friend is:

- Drinking and peeing more
- Losing weight (with or without an increased appetite)
- Eating less
- Enduring chronic or recurring infections, including skin or urinary infections
- Has cloudy eyes (particularly in dogs)

Search Dog Foundation Named One of the Best Nonprofits to Work For 2024

The National Disaster Search Dog Foundation announced it was recently selected as one of the 2024 Best Nonprofits to Work For. The NonProfit Times, the leading national business publication for nonprofit managers, has

Scamp Club

(Scampclub pets are not for adoption.)



I'm Mitten a 5-year-old Tortoise Shell. I like flowers of all kinds and dogs.

Join Scamp Club

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

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

partnered with Best Companies Group to identify nonprofit organizations where leaders have excelled in creating quality workplaces.

Founded in 1996, Search Dog Foundation (SDF) is a nonprofit, non-governmental organization based in Santa Paula, CA. Its mission is to strengthen disaster response in America by rescuing and recruiting dogs and partnering them with firefighters and other first responders to find people buried alive in the wreckage of disasters. SDF pledges to support each of these teams through training and medical coverage for the entire life of each

canine, all provided at no cost to their task forces and departments. The organization was founded by Wilma Melville, a retired schoolteacher who was deployed to the Oklahoma City bombing in 1995 with her FEMA-certified search dog, Murphy. Returning from the deployment, she was determined to do something about America's severe shortage of canine disaster search teams and created SDF to address this problem. Since then, SDF has recruited hundreds of rescued dogs and trained over 180 certified search teams deployed to over 260 disasters and missing person searches.

Forever homes wanted



Hi: I'm Sadie, a beautiful 8 year old Chow in need of a new home as my owner sadly passed away. I'm thankful to my sponsor so I could come into CARL's adoption program. I'm gentle, affectionate and confident. I'm good with other dogs and older children. It's unknown how I would do with cats or younger children. I may wander if a door is left open. I enjoy going for walks and I walk well on a leash. If you have room in your heart and home for me, please fill out an online application to meet me. Canine Adoption and Rescue League C.A.R.L.

Hi: I'm A847483 so you will get to name me. I'm a 3 Years female French Bulldog. We are the number one dog. City Found: Ventura Shelter: Camarillo Animal Shelter Kennel: 506 Ventura County Animal Services



CANINE ADOPTION AND RESCUE LEAGUE






VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

- 🐾 DOG WALKING
- 🐾 TRANSPORTATION
- 🐾 ADOPTION EVENTS
- 🐾 OUTREACH
- 🐾 FACILITIES
- 🐾 THRIFT STORE



VISIT CARLDOGS.ORG TO APPLY



Harbor Patrol Blotter

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



Tuesday, 5/14

12:26pm - Briefing with Fish & Wildlife officers regarding their vessel at the patrol dock. The vessel is taking on water, working to mitigate the source.

Wednesday, 5/15

3:27pm - Officers checking in on Rescue Boat 19 at the Ventura Boatyard. The vessel was taken out of service because of a strong odor of gasoline in the bilges. A new gas tank was recently put in and mechanics were inspecting the work.

Thursday, 5/16

4:00pm - Dispatched to an Ocean Rescue, a kite surfer in distress at Surfers point. Officers responded in the Fireboat to the call. Once on scene, officers assisted two State Parks Lifeguards with transporting the victim to the shore.

4:55pm - Picked up Rescue Boat 19 at the boatyard. While conducting a sea trial the engines stalled. Officers responded in the Fireboat to tow the vessel at the Harbor Entrance, but the problem was corrected, and the vessel continued.

9:00pm - City and Ventura Pure Water construction will do major work at the intersection of Schooner/Anchors Way to repair a broken water main.

11:55pm - While on patrol in the truck, observed a 15ft broken pier piling that was erected near the shore at Harbor Cove. Officers removed the hazard.

Friday, 5/17

8:00am - Observed a brown Suburban that normally parks in Surfers Knoll and is the cause of daily complaints, driving erratically and dangerously on Spinnaker Drive. Officers relayed information to Ventura PD dispatch.

2:58pm - Dispatched to an assault at Anchors Way/Schooner intersection. Officers responded with VPD, patient refused assistance, VPD took over call.

5:26pm - Dispatched to chest pain in the Ventura Marina Community. Officers responded with VFD/AMR to assist the patient with assessment.

Saturday, 5/18

7:46am - Dispatched to difficulty breathing at the Harbortown timeshare. Officers responded on foot to the room. Treatment was provided to the patient.

8:33am - Officers creating temporary launch ramp parking permits for the United States coast guard auxiliary to hand out to skippers willing to let them conduct an informational safety inspection of their vessel before they depart.

9:52am - Dispatched to cardiac arrest initially in the water near VWM. Officers responded in the truck and Fireboat. After arriving on scene, the victim had fallen off their boat last night, and unfortunately resuscitation was not possible.

1:51pm - Observed a "boat club" vessel speeding/waking in the main channel of the harbor. Contacted via VHF16, gained compliance for the violation.

2:05pm - Received request for a tow from a disabled motor vessel near the #4 buoy outside the harbor. Officers responded in Rescue B19, passed tow line and towed the vessel into the harbor, where TowBoat US took over in a side-tie.

Sunday, 5/19

8:10am - Received request to open gate at end of Spinnaker for canoe club.

1:21pm - Dispatched to an unconscious person in the Ventura Marina Community. Officers responded with VFD/AMR to assist with the patient.

Monday, 5/20

7:00am - Contracted company conducting sand removal at Harbor Cove after Coastal Commission permit approved for the work.

Community Memorial Healthcare Earns Specialty Pharmacy Designation

Community Memorial Healthcare is proud to announce that Community Memorial Pharmacy has received accreditation as a "Specialty Pharmacy"

from the Accreditation Commission for Health Care (ACHC). This accreditation demonstrates that the pharmacy consistently meets high standards for providing comprehensive, high-quality care to patients who take complex, specialty medications.

"I am incredibly proud of the work our pharmacy does to support the patients in our community who are managing chronic or life-threatening illnesses," said Mick Zdeblick, President & Chief Executive Officer of Community Memorial Healthcare. "This Specialty Pharmacy accreditation is another example of how our patients can expect more from the services we provide at Community Memorial."

Specialty pharmacy accreditation is a voluntary process in which pharmacies are evaluated by the ACHC on their ability to meet rigorous standards in patient management, drug quality management, and regulatory compliance. Accreditation recognizes the pharmacy for being committed to delivering safe, effective, and coordinated care.

Specialty pharmacies dispense injectable, intravenous, or oral medications to patients' homes, physicians' offices, or clinics, and offer disease-specific clinical monitoring and help make sure patients take their medications as directed. Accredited specialty pharmacies must have organizational infrastructure in place to

support these services, provide clinical management and benefits coordination, and implement continuous quality improvement.

"Obtaining our specialty pharmacy accreditation means we have access to limited-distribution medications that other pharmacies can't get but that are vital for many patients," said Jack Tretko, Pharm.D, Director of Outpatient Pharmacy & Pharmacy Purchasing at Community Memorial Healthcare. "It also gives us the ability to work with more insurance companies. These benefits of accreditation mean our patients have better access to a higher level of care."

Community Memorial's outpatient pharmacy is conveniently located at 2790 Loma Vista Road in Ventura. The pharmacy fills and refills retail and specialty medication prescriptions, and patients have the option to pick up their medications in person or have them delivered. Same-day delivery service is available in the cities of Camarillo, Carpinteria, Fillmore, Port Hueneme, Newbury Park, Ojai, Oak View, Oxnard, Thousand Oaks, Santa Paula, Simi Valley, and Ventura. Delivery is free of charge to patients of the Community Memorial Health Centers of Community Memorial Hospitals in Ventura or Ojai. For more information, visit mycmh.org/pharmacy.

Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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

King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 26 mins.

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

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Ventura Skate Jam Ramp fabricated by local Buena High School Students

In an exciting collaboration with Visit Ventura, students from Buena High School are building a skate ramp for the Ventura Skate Jam, a free all-ages community event to celebrate X Games Ventura on Thursday, June 27, 2024.

This ramp, commissioned by Visit Ventura, designed by Buena High School's Cabinet Millwork Technologies Capstone class and painted by Buena Art students, will later transform into a community art display after

the X Games. "Working with local student talent to help celebrate the X Games coming to Ventura stemmed from the overwhelming success and electric energy of last year's Skate Jam," according to Marlyss Auster, President & CEO of Visit Ventura. "Involving local students in the project where they can have a lasting legacy in X Games Ventura 2024 is what the games are all about." "It's been awesome to see the students build something of this caliber that pro-

fessional skateboarders could potentially skate on," said Visit Ventura Director of Marketing and Buena High School alumni Mike Laan, who led the project with Communications & PR Manager Julie Madsen.

"The ramp is gnarly – we can't wait to see all their hard work showcased at the Skate Jam." Mr. Scott Manninen, Woodshop Teacher at Buena High School, expressed his enthusiasm about the project. "I was thrilled when Visit Ventura asked if our students would be interested in designing a skateboard ramp for the Ventura Skate Jam," Manninen said.

The ramp will be showcased downtown before being moved to the Fairgrounds for the X Games. Manninen collaborated with a team of eight students, some experienced skaters, to design and refine the ramp. Tickets to the X Games will be given to the students involved. One main feature was split in two to become the bow and stern of a boat, turning the ramp into a boat sculpture complete with a bench for

photos. The team started with sketches, built a model, proposed a budget, and involved Ms. Nicole Rapattoni and her art class to finalize the design.

Mason Carter, a key student in the project who designed the quarter pipe curve, shared his excitement. "I grew up skating; it's super cool to be a part of something that beginners and insane skaters will use. It gives me chills to think that a pro may skate something I helped build." The project provided valuable lessons beyond skating. Logan Torres, aspiring to be an engineer, found it a great introduction to his future field. John Maida highlighted the teamwork and problem-solving involved, stating, "We learned that some tasks are very difficult, and we had to be precise. We needed to find creative ways to solve issues as they came up and fix them together as a team."

For more information about community events and X Games Ventura, please reach out to Julie Madsen, Visit Ventura Communications & PR Manager at Julie@visitventuraca.com.

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CALIFORNIA FIRE FOUNDATION



Fire Foundation is launching a limited-edition Memorial Expansion Challenge Coin.

The California Fire Foundation helps Californians prepare for wildfires, supports fire victims and honors firefighters for May Wildfire Preparedness Month

To mark May Wildfire Preparedness Month, the California Fire Foundation (www.cafirefoundation.org), the California-based non-profit that assists families of fallen firefighters, firefighters, and the communities they protect, is helping Californians prepare for fire season, supporting fire victims, and honoring fallen firefighters across California.

To help Californians stay ready for a wildfire at any time, the California Fire Foundation has just relaunched its Firefighters on Your Side community preparedness program in multiple languages. The program aims to help Californians prepare their homes with defensible space, make a 5-minute evacuation plan, pre-pack essentials, and print a master checklist to ensure all family members are ready for an emergency.

While it has been a rainy winter in California, that does not necessarily mean fewer wildfires. The California Fire Foundation responds in real-time during any fire or disaster emergency to fund and offer Disaster Relief cards to support survivors. The Disaster Relief program brings immediate, short-term relief to victims of wildfires and natural disasters throughout California with a \$250 gift card that allows survivors to purchase necessities. In 2023, the Foundation helped over 7,700 Californians by distributing DISASTER RELIEF CARDS worth over \$595,000.

“Our typical wildfire season used to be

July to October, but Californians need to stay prepared year-round,” said Brian Rice, Chair of the California Fire Foundation and President of California Professional Firefighters. “Community preparedness and raising funds are critical to our mission to support both residents and our firefighters and their families.”

In addition, to honor fallen firefighters and raise funds for the California Firefighters Memorial Wall Expansion project in Sacramento, since the wall has no more space to list the names of our fallen firefighters, the California Fire Foundation is launching a limited-edition Memorial Expansion Challenge Coin available to all donors who give a \$125 or greater donation to benefit the Memorial Expansion. These memorial coins will be numbered 1-10,000 and available to honor any member of the fire service, past or present. You can select at checkout if you want your coin planted on-site at the Memorial in Capitol Park in Sacramento or saved as a keepsake. To preserve the memories of fallen firefighters, the California Fire Foundation also recently launched its Oral History Project to gather stories from families, friends, and colleagues.

Residents and businesses can PREPARE for fire season, SUPPORT victims, and HONOR California firefighters by:

PREPARING for #WildfirePreparednessMonth! Are you ready? Visit Firefighters on Your Side (<https://firefightersonyourside.org/>) to view and download multilingual

tools and resources to get prepared:
Prepare your home with Defensible Space (Link)
Make a 5 Minute Plan (Link)
Pre-Pack Essentials (Link)
Print your Preparedness Checklist (Link)

SUPPORTING victims of California fires by helping to fund DISASTER RELIEF CARDS which provides fire victims \$250 cash cards to buy necessities immediately after a fire or natural disaster.

HONORING firefighters with a new limited-edition Memorial Expansion Challenge Coin available to all donors who give a \$125 or greater donation to help expand the California Firefighters Memorial.

SHARING stories of fallen firefighters across California to help their legacy live on through the California Fire Foundation’s new Oral History Project. To share your story, leave a voicemail of your favorite memory at 916-883-3580.

Learn how to prepare for Fire Season & Natural Disasters at FirefightersOnYourSide.org. Learn more about the Memorial Wall Expansion and how to support at CA-FireFoundation.org.

How the bats saved Mission San Buenaventura

by Richard Senate

Fr. Rubio was the rector of the old Mission in Ventura in the mid 19th Century. He saw it as his goal to modernize the church and

make it up to date. There was even talk of demolishing the Mission Church and replacing it with a wooden Gothic monstrosity so beloved by Victorians. Fortunately for history, there wasn’t enough money for such an ambitious project.

So, Fr. Rubio, did his best to disguise the historic nature of the church. He took out the small windows in the chapel and replaced them with long stainedglass windows that did little to illuminate the interior. Then, he installed a wooded floor over the tiles put in by the Chumash and painted out the designs the Native Converts used on the walls. The high ceiling was hidden by a false ceiling (to better heat the chapel). In all ways he tried to eliminate the humble beginnings of the church. When he demolished the fountain, some in Ventura protested that it should be preserved. The good father said, “Why? We have older things in Spain.”

The “modernized church” stood for many years in this way until a grant from the Hearst Foundation in 1952 permitted the church to be restored to something like the way it was in the days of Imperial Spain. When the wooden floors were removed, the old tiles were preserved where the Chumash prayed long ago. The stainedglass window removed and the spaces filled in. The renovation of the paintings of the Stations of the Cross, used all the allotted cash. They could do no more. But they did start to removed the false ceiling so that visitors could at least see the powerful beams that hold the roof. When they did, they discovered that bats had been roosting in the space! The false ceiling was filled with piles of bat droppings! As you may know, Guano, bat poop, is one of the richest of all fertilizers. The good ladies of the church made little cotton bags, stuffed in the guano and sold it! They made enough money to finish the restoration of the Mission Chapel. So, in a humble way, the bats help to restore the Mission.

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Image: Sacred Spring, Delphi by Gerd Koch
Courtesy of BAA

Venerable Ventura arts group marks milestone

A free, four-day exhibition at the Museum of Ventura County next month will celebrate seven colorful decades of cultural contributions by members of the Buena Ventura Art Association.

Visitors can enjoy “Retrospective: BAA’s 70th Anniversary Celebration” from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. June 13-16 in the Martin V. and Martha K. Smith Pavilion. A reception from 1-3 p.m. Saturday, June 15 will feature awarding an Honorary Lifetime Membership to a couple of current members for service to the group and the area arts community, plus a presentation about recent BAA accomplishments.

Distinguished top-tier BAA artists, both current and past, and their collectors are lending pieces for the show, which will include artworks by Gerd Koch, Norman Kirk, Dorothy Hunter, Hiroko Yoshimoto, Gail Pidduck, Len Poteshman, Rex Kochel, Don Fay, Margy Gates, Carlos Grasso and more than 20 others, many of them BAA Honorary Lifetime Members.

The association’s roots date to the April 1954 founding with city help of the Ventura Arts and Crafts Association to promote interest in and participation by schoolchildren, adults, and professional and amateur artists. The group arranged art classes, exhibits and an annual Ventura arts festival. Initial endeavors also included drama, dance, literature, minerals and rocks, and science as well as painting, sculpture, ceramics, photography and weaving.

A formal meeting a month later at the Pierpont Inn set the association’s structure, leadership and goals, and work began on bylaws and articles of incorporation. The first general meeting was Sept. 24, 1954, and that year 76 people paid dues to join. Charter members paid \$5 that first year, then general memberships were \$3 a year. Students paid \$1, and a lifetime membership cost \$100.

The association currently operates Studio 99 in Bell Arts Factory, 432 N. Ventura Ave., downtown Ventura, and Harbor Village Gallery & Gifts, 1559 Spinnaker Drive, Suite 106, in Ventura Harbor. For more about BAA and its programs, phone the gallery at 805-648-1235 or visit buenaventuraartassociation.org.

County of Ventura Arts & Culture Division to receive \$75,000 Our Town Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts

The County of Ventura’s Arts & Culture Division has received a \$75,000 Our Town award from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to support the Channeling Murals project, a public art and

workforce development initiative. This is one of 68 grants nationwide, totaling \$5 million, that the NEA has approved in the Our Town category. These creative placemaking grants support projects that integrate arts, culture, and design activities into local efforts to strengthen and authentically engage communities, center equity, advance artful lives, and lay the groundwork for long-term systems change.

“Projects like Channeling Murals exemplify the creativity and care with which communities are telling their stories, creating connection, and responding to challenges and opportunities in their communities—all through the arts,” said NEA Chair Maria Rosario Jackson, PhD. “So many aspects of our communities such as cultural vitality, health and wellbeing, infrastructure, and the economy are advanced and improved through investments in art and design, and the National Endowment



Rotary Presents Awards for Peace Perspectives

by Shirley Lorraine

Showcasing extraordinary works of art by high school seniors, the Downtown Rotary Club of Ventura awarded the 6th annual Perspectives on Peace Scholarship Awards on May 22.

A full house of Rotarians, awardees and family members, and guests attended the Poinsettia Pavilion to laud the stunning accomplishments of six Artists of Distinction. Sifting through 35 exemplary entries, judges admitted it was a challenge to single out just six outstanding works.

Now in its 6th year, the awards are given in memory of Rotarian Sarah Johnson Ingram, and are the only merit-based scholarships available for VUSD students. The works come in all forms of artistic expression, allowing students to present their feelings on what peace means to them in ways that are meaningful to them personally and will resonate with others.

Rotary International has always been a world peace focused organization. As moderator Ken Leandro stated, “Rotary creates environments where peace can happen. “Through this art-based initiative, students can use creative expressions to bring their messages to life.

Wylde Brandt, a senior at Ventura High School, was awarded for his digital art creation titled “The Abyss” featuring people bridging the gap to come together in peace. Wylde plans to pursue a career in film and animation.

A painting titled “Eyes of Peace” garnered an award for Jami Chambers of El Camino High. Her work was a visual compendium of perspectives from several views. Jami plans to go on to Fullerton College.

An illustrated, animated short video submitted by Sierra Engel from Buena High School earned her the title of Artist of Distinction. Her work was a means to convey “the feeling of serenity that can be found in nature.” Sierra will be attending UC Davis in the Fall.

Moia Kingsley’s mixed media piece titled “Peaceful Words, Peaceful Heart,” using photography layered with written words showed her views on achieving inner peace, acceptance and forgiveness for a better, more peaceful world. After graduating from Foothill Technology High School, Moia plans to attend college in Illinois.

Also from Buena High School, Kendall Nagaoka was awarded for her palette painting self-portrait. It featured myriad colors indicating the many moods one can experience in the ongoing journey to find peace. She, too, will be heading to UC Davis in the Fall.

All five of these students were given a \$1000 scholarship to aid in their educational pursuits. The Grand Prize of a \$5000 scholarship was presented to Emily Sehati of Ventura High School. Titled “The Promise,” her art piece was a combination of digital art and poetry. She plans to attend Stanford majoring in International Relations.

Ventura Unified School District Superintendent Dr. Antonio Castro congratulated all the Artists of Distinction, stating “the common themes we see through this artistic expression are those we need to focus on – peace, acceptance and more. Through this art you change us, and you change the world.”

for the Arts is committed to ensuring people across the country benefit.”

Channeling Murals is a collaborative project that involves the County Supervisorial District 1 Office, Ventura County Public Works Agency – Watershed Protection, Ventura County Probation

Agency, County Arts and Culture Division, and the Ventura County Arts Council.

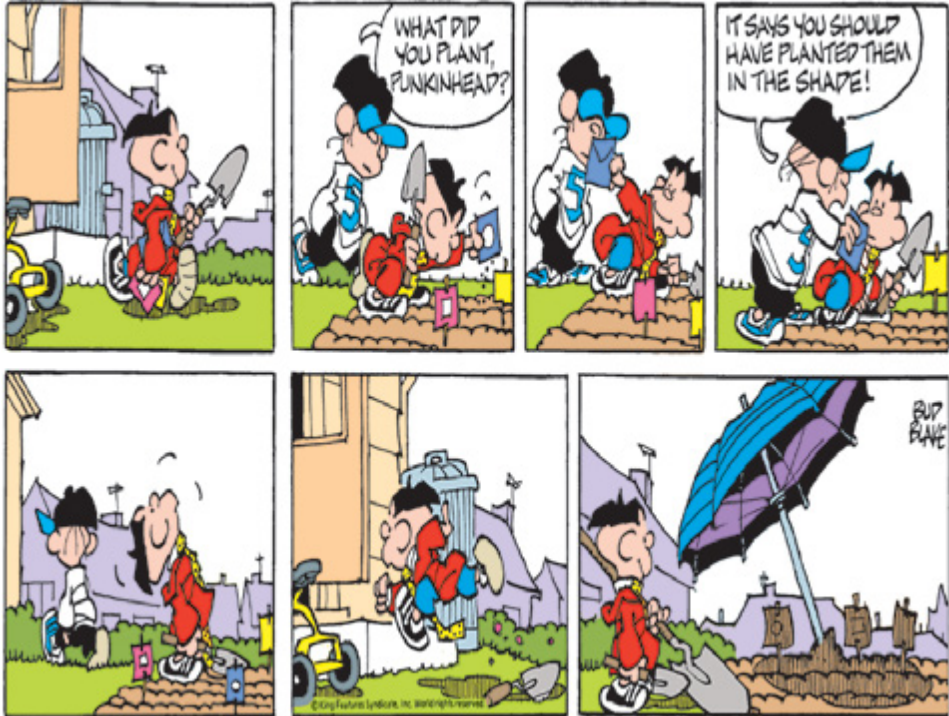
“Receiving this prestigious grant from the NEA is an exciting moment not only for District 1, but for all of Ventura County,” said Matt LaVere, 1st District Supervisor.

Ventura Art Scene



Lighter Breeze

Tiger



The Spats



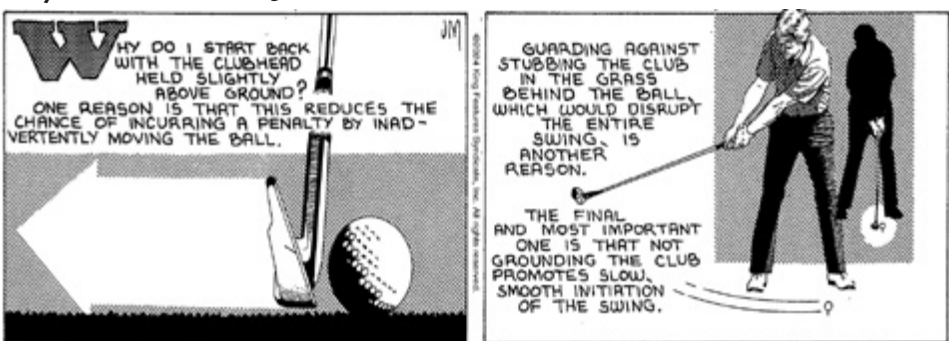
Out on a Limb



Amber Waves



Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



Solutions on page 13

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

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

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

Solutions on page 13

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Annoyed state
- 6 Suitable
- 9 TV schedule abbr.
- 12 Road reversal
- 13 Cornfield noise
- 14 " — the Walrus"
- 15 Idaho's capital
- 16 Minor complaint
- 18 Vehicle's capacity
- 20 Intends
- 21 German pronoun
- 23 "... — quit!"
- 24 Unravels
- 25 Second in command
- 27 Fighting
- 29 "Already?"
- 31 Unparalleled
- 35 Track horse
- 37 Continental currency
- 38 Nepal's neighbor
- 41 D-Day vessel
- 43 — -de-France
- 44 Sole
- 45 Litter container
- 47 Without a sound
- 49 Aromas
- 52 Ornate vase
- 53 Bit of physics

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12					13			14			
15					16			17			
		18			19			20			
21	22			23			24				
25			26		27		28				
29				30			31		32	33	34
			35			36			37		
38	39	40			41		42		43		
44					45			46			
47				48				49		50	51
52				53				54			
55				56				57			

DOWN

- 1 Tavern
- 2 Jurist Lance
- 3 Savory
- 4 Celestial bear
- 5 January, to Juana
- 6 Find not guilty
- 7 Painter
- 8 Prefix with night or light
- 9 Leg bone
- 10 Pleasantly warm
- 11 Make — of (bungle)
- 17 "Peter Pan" author
- 19 Swiss money
- 21 Hosp. hook-ups
- 22 Corp. boss
- 24 Summer cooler
- 26 Spinach-eating sailor
- 28 German sausage
- 30 Granola grain
- 32 Man of La Mancha
- 33 Web address
- 34 Fair hirer, in ads
- 36 Booster of comedy
- 38 Chef's hat
- 39 Accustom
- 40 Lose a starting contest
- 42 Letter-shaped hardware
- 45 Coagulate
- 46 "Garfield" dog
- 48 Cravat
- 50 Ske-daddle
- 51 CIA operative

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ON STAGE
MAY 30-JUNE 16

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Show Time

A View from House Seats

Exploring history from the inside out

by Shirley Lorraine

The Elite Theater Company in Oxnard is now presenting an original work on its South Stage. She, tightly written by Kimberly Demmary and skillfully directed by Jolyn Johnson, is a thoughtful exploration into various inhabitants of an old Victorian home in San Francisco. As do the people inside, the building itself thrives, endures, and diminishes as it ages.

Built on the old saying "If these walls could talk," the house itself becomes a staple character in this series of vignettes. Paris De La Huerta portrays the symbolic She, reminding the audience throughout to pay attention to what has transpired within its walls and how those involved have changed it throughout decades. The house itself reveals some secrets left behind.

Each of the four vignettes allows the Victorian to be, in turn, revered, cloistering, ignored and finally shuttered as the stories are told.

Elizabeth Rose reflects the role of Maddy, who is grieving the loss of her husband. In a loving gesture of homage to their shortened life together, she encourages Trish (Aubrey De La Huerta)

and Robert (Steven Silvers) to take their own leap into love. The three play well off each other with Silvers providing much of the humor. This opening scene clearly envelopes the feelings of security and hope which imbues the walls of the structure with warmth.

Next, a glimpse into inner turmoil is provided by Hayley Silvers (Adora) and Lauren Rachel (Toni). Both are slightly confused, conflicted and challenged by the collision of old and new feelings. Christine Adams as Adora's grandmother Babette is delightful as she adds wisdom and guidance in a surprising way.

After intermission, an aura of darkness descends. Emily Redman Hall as the character Nadine takes on the scenes monologue vigorously, building from each obstacle thrown her way. Ultimately a few dark truths come to light. The subject matter is sensitive and managed well by the writer, the actress and the director.

The final scene takes an unusual and unexpected turn. Slickly played by Lea Roman, one can almost hear the

team could help get his life back on track with his wife and daughter, so headed to Rome with the rest of the team.

The 20th Homeless World Cup in Rome had teams from Mexico, Nigeria, Sweden, Germany, Kenya, Argentina, Austria, Greece, Brazil, Pakistan, Ukraine, Afghanistan, Japan, USA, England, South Africa and Italy. Players could only play one year and were not only there to represent their individual countries, but to represent homeless people around the world and bring awareness to the global issue of homelessness and how hope can transform lives.

Due to South Africa not arriving by the start of the tournament, they had to forfeit giving England three points and putting them in the lead. The next team that England faced was Portugal and Mal reminded the team to play with dignity, sportsmanship and discipline, though Mal himself was quite hot tempered with the ref and ended up getting a red card, resulting in him having to leave the game and have Vinny coach. England ended up winning against Portugal, but graciously allowed South Africa back in the tournament and was beaten by them.

England's next opponent was Japan, but they had to win by eight points or more to get into the quarterfinals, which they did, where they would face Mexico, then Italy. If England won both those matches, they would get a rematch with South Africa in the finals. Between matches all the team members were given opportunities to explore Rome's famous tourist destinations, something that would normally have been impossible due to the extreme limitations of homeless life.

The 2024 Homeless World Cup will be held September 21-28 in Seoul, first time in an Asian country, and will include 50 countries and over 500 participants. For more information about the actual Homeless World Cup visit www.homeless-worldcup.org
Runtime: 2h 4m



walls shudder as the action unfolds.

This overall mélange of thoughts and feelings, given recognition by the stately structure that is the home, is a complex and fascinating whirlwind of emotion. There is quite a bit packed into this play. The audience will find some parts uncomfortable, some humorous, some poetic and all well thought out. Helpful resources are provided in the lobby for those who wish to explore further how

to cope with some questions that the play and life have a way of throwing in our direction. The effort of providing resources is an excellent touch.

She continues through June 16. Reservations are highly recommended as the seating is limited. Catch it if you can. Performances are Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., and Sundays at 2 p.m. One performance Thursday, June 13 at 8 p.m. www.theElite.org or 805-483-5118.

Streaming Spotlight by Cindy Summers

The Beautiful Game

- Netflix



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

"The Beautiful Game" is based on true events involving the Homeless World Cup, where homeless teams from around the world compete annually in a global street soccer tournament. Retired legendary professional football scout Mal Bradley (Bill Nighy) was the manager of England's homeless football team for the twelve season and was training a group of five men to go to this year's tournament in Rome, all expenses paid.

Through a chance encounter at a public park, Mal found ex-pro footballer Vinny Walker (Michael Ward) and hoped he could encourage Vinny to join the team. Vinny didn't recognize Mal, but Mal recognized Vinny and had a connection to his past as well as knowing about his current life situation creating an ideal scenario for Vinny to join the team. Mal said it wasn't about winning, that everyone cheered for everyone and that it was mainly about the individuals' stories and second chances in life.

Mal invited Vinny to join them for some food and though a bit hesitant Vinny followed along. Mal was somewhat of a father figure to the five team members he chose to represent England, spending time with them eating at a local shelter and reminding them of basic things to keep their lives on track. Vinny felt joining the



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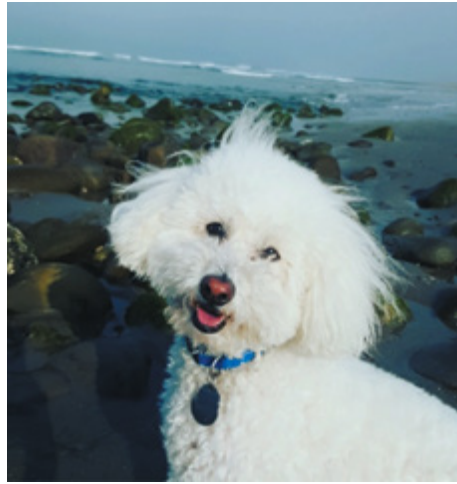
InnoVision: Ventura County Artists to Watch
and

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

Business Profile



Adela Trainor

Meet Adela Trainor, a proud member of our Ventura community, a seasoned residential Realtor, and a devoted supporter of the Ventura Breeze. Adela, alongside her husband Ken, recently celebrated 36 wonderful years of marriage. Together, they've raised three children and cherish moments spent with their three lovely grandchildren: Ariella, Sladen, and Juniper.

Before embracing the joys of parenthood, Adela explored various career

paths, from senior care to energy conservation. She even dabbled in entrepreneurship, owning a couple of businesses and partnering in a delightful chocolate shop! As her children grew, Adela found her calling in volunteering, actively contributing to Ventura Schools, Ventura Education Partnership, Rubicon Theatre, the Ventura Chamber of Commerce, and other community initiatives. Her dedication has earned her numerous accolades over the years.

In her role as a Realtor, Adela is renowned for her integrity, reliability, and warm personality. She genuinely cares about her clients, bringing a unique blend of enthusiasm and expertise to every transaction. Adela stays up to date with housing legislation, local policies, and economic developments, ensuring she provides top-notch service. Whether you're a first-time homebuyer or selling your property, Adela is committed to making the process seamless and stress-free, guiding you every step of the way.

Outside of work, you'll often find Adela and Ken soaking up the beauty of our Ventura community, taking leisurely walks with their dog Tucker, or hosting gatherings for friends and family. Hello Ventura!

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Ventura County Grand Jury Announces Release of its Report “Linking First Responders: Ventura County Regional Radio System”

The Grand Jury learned that significant improvements have been made in the ability of first responders to communicate with each other. This report highlights those improvements as well as the remaining challenges.

The 2023-2024 Grand Jury researched the readiness, interoperability and use of the radio communication systems first responders employ in the event of emergencies affecting Ventura County.

The Grand Jury finds that:

Portions of some systems currently in use lack upgraded features, cannot penetrate some buildings, have reception issues in some areas and are not able to provide encryption as needed.

Without integrated training, inaccurate or incomplete information could be transmitted.

Two cities have not completed nor presented a Memorandum of Understanding to their city councils to adopt the Ventura County Regional Radio System.

One city can only communicate with other Ventura County agencies' dispatch using a "patching" system, rather than by direct communication.

All county and city fire departments have adopted common technology, providing interoperability regardless of city boundaries. The Ventura County Regional Radio System can communicate with all fire departments.

The Grand Jury makes recommendations to remedy these deficiencies and to continue the work toward optimal implementation of the Ventura County Regional Radio System.

To read the entire report, please go to <https://www.ventura.org/grand-jury/fiscal-year-2023-2024/>

The Ventura County Civil Grand Jury is a panel of 19 local citizens established to investigate public complaints about county, city or special districts management, policies, practices and processes. More information about the Grand Jury can be found at: <https://www.ventura.org/grand-jury/>