



Vol. 19, No. 17 Published Every Other Wednesday Established 2007 May 13 to May 26, 2026



Photos courtesy Jim Duran

Ventura's long-running American flag display tradition continues through volunteers, community groups, and local donations supporting patriotic displays across the city.

Keeping Ventura's Flag Tradition Alive

By Jim Duran

If you've driven down Main Street, walked along the Promenade, or visited the pier during the summer months, you've likely seen them- rows of American flags lining our city.

For many, they're a familiar sight. But for Ventura, they represent something deeper; They represent a legacy. This tradition goes back generations. In the 1930s, Patrick Monahan made it a priority to ensure American flags were displayed at polling stations throughout Ventura County. That example shaped his son, Jim Monahan, who later carried that same commitment into our city.

Years ago, when the flags stopped appearing, it didn't sit right with him - or with many in our community. He stepped in, took action and brought the tradition back. For decades, he faithfully made sure Ventura showed its pride.

In 2023, he passed the baton to me. As a Ventura City Councilmember representing District 6, I've had the privilege of helping coordinate this effort alongside an incredible group of volunteers who make this happen year after year.

Continued on page 3



Photos by @joeseemayerphoto

A Jackalope vert skater launches high above the coping as spectators pack the venue along Ventura's waterfront during the action sports festival's Ventura debut.

Ventura Proves a Natural Home for Jackalope

By Joe Seemayer

There's something timeless about watching great skateboarding up close – the speed, the style, the commitment, and those moments when a rider launches high above the coping and seems to hang weightless for a split second before dropping back in. That energy was everywhere along Ventura's waterfront as Jackalope brought a towering full-size vert ramp built for professional-level riding, elite young talent, and a celebration of skate culture that felt right at home in Ventura.

Crowds packed in around the towering halfpipe throughout the weekend, drawn by riders performing maneuvers that blended amplitude, technical skill, and unmistakable style. Each athlete brought a different specialty, a different rhythm, and a different way

Continued on page 6

Lawsuit Threatens Public Access to Ventura Hills Preserve

Public access to Ventura Hills Nature Preserve is under threat following a lawsuit filed by Chevron and Aera Energy.

The companies claim that public use of Hall Canyon Road interferes with their asserted legal rights related to oil operations. They are asking the court to close Hall Canyon Road and the Ventura Land Trust trailhead to the public.

Ventura Land Trust is currently engaged in litigation to keep the preserve open. The organization says Ventura

Continued on page 3



Photo courtesy of Jeff Young/Ventura Land Trust

Community-supported Ventura Hills Nature Preserve faces a legal challenge that could impact long-term public access to its 1,645 acres and 12 miles of trails.



RFC 585801810



Ventura Townhouse invites you to Pianist Renée Hamaty in concert

A longtime Townhouse favorite, Renée Hamaty has delighted residents with performances spanning classics, Broadway, and the American songbook. Now, for the first time, she brings her internationally recognized talent to a Townhouse concert open to the public. Renée has performed worldwide, collaborated with legends like Leonard Bernstein and Stephen Sondheim, and continues to perform and teach from her Santa Barbara studio.



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Member, Ventura Chamber of Commerce

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

PUBLISHER-EDITOR

Mark Brown

editor@venturabreeze.com

ADVERTISING

advertising@venturabreeze.com

805.827.2306

GRAPHIC DESIGN

Alfred J. Lewis

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

Shirley Lorraine · Richard Lieberman
Sheli Ellsworth · Carol Leish
Pam Baumgardner · Elizabeth Rodeno
Mira Reverente · Amy Brown
Richard Senate · Patricia Schallert
Leslie Sokol · Joseph Seemayer

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS

Richard Lieberman · Michael Gordon
Patricia Schallert · Joseph Seemayer

PUBLISHER EMERITUS

Sheldon Brown

DISTRIBUTION

Mary Thompson · Alfred J. Lewis
Patricia Schallert · Debbie Lopez

EXHIBITION COORDINATOR

Jaime and Ana Baker

PRINTING

CA Web Print, Inc.

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CONTACT US:

EVENTS & HAPPENINGS
events@venturabreeze.com

OPINIONS

opinions@venturabreeze.com

ARTICLES AND PHOTOS

editor@venturabreeze.com

THE PET PAGE

scampclub@venturabreeze.com

ADVERTISING

advertising@venturabreeze.com

805.653.0791

Ventura Breeze

PO Box 832, Ventura, CA 93002

Phone 805.653.0791



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“I’m at an age when my back goes out more than I do.”
— Phyllis Diller

City News



Photo by Sheldon Brown

Camino Real Tennis Courts Closed

The eight tennis courts at Camino Real Park have been closed until further notice following a city inspection. According to the City of Ventura, the courts have reached the end of their useful lifespan and require a full rebuild. The city is currently applying for grant funding to support improvements and is also exploring long-term options to restore the facility.

Additional information will be provided to the Breeze next week.

Other public tennis courts are available throughout the city. Pickleball is also offered at designated times at select locations. Schedules can be found at www.cityofventura.ca.gov/1774/Tennis-Pickleball.

- Juanamaria Park
N Kimball Rd & Loma Vista Rd
Ventura, CA 93004
- Harry A. Lyon Park
150 De Anza Dr
Ventura, CA 93001



Scholarships for Central Coast Students

By Steve Bennett, Assemblymember

As a former high school teacher, I know firsthand the incredible potential of our local students and the realities of financial

barriers that often stand between them and their college degrees. That is why I am proud to share an opportunity that helps close that gap for some of our local students.

The California Legislative Central Coast Caucus Foundation (which I am a member of alongside my colleagues representing the coast) has officially opened applications for the Central Coast Impact Scholarship. This program is providing \$4,000 scholarships to students right here in our region.

We established this foundation because we wanted to make a tangible difference for the communities we represent. Hearing how past recipients have used this funding to stay focused on their studies, rather than worrying about how to pay for textbooks or housing, reaffirms the importance of our annual scholarship.

If you have a child, grandchild, or neighbor who considers the Central Coast their home and is pursuing higher education, I highly encourage them to apply.

The Award: \$4,000 per student to help

Ventura Housing Connections Workshops

The City of Ventura’s workshop series designed to support tenants, property owners, and property managers in building strong, informed, and successful rental relationships.

These workshops provide clear, practical guidance on rental rights and responsibilities, housing standards, communication tools, and resources available through the City’s Housing Services and community partners.

Whether you’re new to renting or experienced, these sessions offer valuable information with conflict resolution, improve communication, and support stable housing in Ventura.

Presented in partnership with the Ventura County Coastal Association of Realtors and the Housing Rights Center, bringing together both property owner and tenant perspectives to support informed, collaborative housing conversations.

These workshops are designed for:

- Anyone that lives in the City of Ventura
- Tenants
- Property owners (small and large)
- Property managers
- Realtors
- Anyone interested in understanding Ventura’s rental housing landscape
- Next Workshop:
May 28: Pay, Post, Return: Financial Compliance for Landlords & Tenants
- Time: 6 pm - 8 pm
- Location:
Ventura City Hall,
501 Poli St, Community Meeting Room
- Language: English and Spanish (interpretation provided- must register)
- Cost: Free and open to the public
- www.cityofventura.ca.gov/2752/Ventura-Housing-Connections-Series

fund their educational journey. Multiple scholarships will be awarded.

Who Can Apply: Students from Ventura, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, Monterey, and Santa Cruz counties.

The Deadline: May 31, 2026, 11:59 PM.

You can find the full eligibility details and the application form directly at CLCCCF.org.



Steve Bennett



Photos courtesy Jim Duran

From left to right; Jim Monahan, Jeff Bode from IBEW, and Jim Duran.

Ventura's Flag Tradition Continued from page 1

And that's the part I want our community to see clearly: This is not a city program - it's a community effort.

The Ventura American Flag Program is a volunteer-driven community effort dedicated to displaying American flags throughout the city during key patriotic seasons. Supported by local organizations, businesses, and residents, the program reflects Ventura's commitment to honoring the nation, its service members, and shared civic pride.

For decades, the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers has led the charge, installing flags in the middle of the night so that by morning, our city is transformed. Today, that work continues through leaders like Erik Estrada, Evan Marrufo, and Omar Almaguer.

But the impact stretches far beyond one group.

- Ken Cozzens and the Ventura Lions Club care for the Promenade.
- Dan Roundtree takes responsibility for Seaward Avenue.
- Pete Freeman and the Westside Community Council maintain Ventura Avenue.
- The pier community ensures the flags proudly line the pier.

• And behind the scenes, Mary Joyce Ivers from Ventura Public Works works closely with me to help coordinate it all.

This is Ventura at its best - people stepping up, not because they have to, but because they care. But traditions like this don't continue on their own.

Right now, we are in need of replacing approximately 60 flags and several wooden poles along Main Street and Poli Street. Over time, the elements take their toll - but that doesn't have to be the end of the story. It's simply an opportunity. An opportunity for the next person, the next family, the next business to step in and say, "I'll carry this forward." This tradition has been passed down - from a father to a son, to a community.

Now it's our turn. Ventura has always been a city that shows up. Let's continue to be that kind of city.

Each Made in America flag costs \$25.

If you've ever appreciated what these flags represent...

If you've ever felt a sense of pride driving through our city...

If you believe in honoring those who have served and sacrificed...

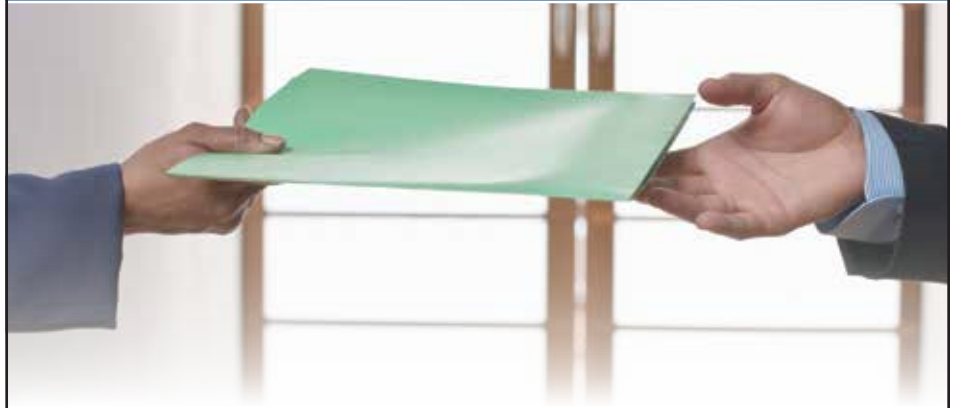
...then I would simply ask you to consider sponsoring a flag. You can do so by visiting www.therivercommunity.org.



Photos courtesy Jim Duran

Ventura's flag displays are made possible by dedicated community volunteers. From left to right; Jose Tejada, Ken Wilson, Mike Cormode, Noe Aquilar Vega, Angel Aldana, Ted Merewether, Shawn Smith, Mary Joyce Ivers, Ralph Shankle, Tom Wilson, Ken Cozzens, Mike Shoop and Adrian Luna.

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Lawsuit Threatens Access Continued from page 1

Hills Nature Preserve represents more than 25 years of community effort and public investment to protect and preserve the land for public use.

The preserve includes 1,645 acres of open space and 12 miles of publicly accessible trails, offering recreation and connection to the natural landscape for current

and future generations.

Supporters say the outcome of the case could impact long-term public access to one of Ventura's significant open space resources.

Community members are encouraged to stay informed, learn more about the case, and support efforts to keep the preserve open at Ventura Land Trust Access Page. www.venturalandtrust.org/access.

Ventura Land Trust Wins Grant to Connect Youth to Coast

Ventura Land Trust (VLT) has received a competitive grant from the California Coastal Commission's Whale Tail Grant Program to expand coastal education opportunities for Santa Paula youth.

The funding is part of a \$2 million statewide investment announced April 17, 2026, supporting coastal education, conservation, and public access. The Coastal Commission selected 47 projects from a record 434 applications.

The \$25,544 grant will support El mar nos conecta ("The ocean connects us"), a new VLT education program that connects Santa Paula elementary students to Ventura County's coastal and watershed environments through hands-on learning.

Approximately 150 students from Title I schools will participate in three field trips during the 2026-2027 school year. These experiences will take place across beaches, estuaries, and inland watersheds, with an emphasis on repeated exposure to build comfort, confidence, and long-term connection to the outdoors.

The program removes key barriers to access by covering transportation, materials, and instruction. Curriculum is bilingual, aligned with California Next Generation Science Standards, and incorporates Indigenous perspectives in partnership with Chumash elder and cultural practitioner Julie Tumamait-Stenslie.

"This program is about more than just visiting the coast," said Education Manager Sarah "Trudy" Trudeau. "It's about ensuring that every child has equitable access to the outdoors and feels welcomed and empowered in these spaces."

Students will engage in hands-on exploration, journaling, and lessons on coastal ecosystems, including biodiversity, food webs, and stewardship.

By program completion, 2nd-5th grade students will have:

Participated in 9 hours of outdoor, place-based education

Completed stewardship projects such as habitat restoration, beach cleanups, and migratory bird counts

Contributed to citizen science efforts supporting broader environmental understanding



Ventura Short Track Delivers Big Crowd, Big Racing



Photo by @jseemayerphoto

A packed Ventura Raceway crowd filled the grandstands Saturday night as Progressive American Flat Track returned to Ventura County.

By Joseph Seemayer

Ventura Raceway lit up Saturday night as packed grandstands, bar-to-bar racing, and freestyle motocross energy turned the Ventura Short Track into one of the biggest live sports events on Ventura County's spring calendar.

With the stands appearing sold out and fans lining the rails around the track, American Flat Track returned to Southern California with a high-energy showcase that blended championship motorcycle racing, freestyle entertainment, and Ventura's distinct coastal sports culture into one unforgettable evening.

Hours before the green flag, Ventura Raceway's pit area was already buzzing with quiet intensity. Mechanics made final adjustments, checked tire pressures, dialed in suspension settings, and prepared machines built to handle the unforgiving demands of short-track racing. Fans of all ages lined pit fences for an up-close look at the machines and personalities that define American Flat Track — from young children seeing race bikes up close for the first time to longtime motorsports fans who have followed the sport for decades.

Behind every lap turned on race night is a team effort in the pits, where preparation, precision, and countless

small adjustments can make the difference between standing on the podium and finishing mid-pack. That behind-the-scenes craftsmanship is part of what makes race day compelling — fans aren't simply watching riders compete, they're witnessing the combined work of athletes, mechanics, engineers, and support crews all working toward a single goal.

Flat track racing remains one of motorsport's purest forms of competition — raw speed, split-second precision, and fearless riders pushing purpose-built race machines sideways into tight corners while battling wheel-to-wheel for position on Ventura Raceway's compact clay oval. The tight confines magnified every pass, every slide, and every mistake, keeping fans engaged from opening ceremonies through the final checkered flag.

Saturday's Mission AFT SuperTwins main event belonged to Briar Bauman, who powered his Harley-Davidson XG750R to victory over Kody Kopp in second and Dallas Daniels in third. The win was Bauman's three straight victory at Ventura's oceanside venue, reinforcing why the two-time premier-class champion remains one of the sport's elite competitors. Bauman's continued success also carries significance for

Harley-Davidson, one of America's most iconic motorcycle brands, whose deep racing heritage remains closely tied to flat track competition and the roots of American motorcycling culture.

The KICKER AFT Singles final delivered one of the night's biggest moments as California rider Kage Tadman captured another Ventura victory, holding off defending class champion Tom Drane in a thrilling finish, with Trevor Brunner rounding out the podium. At just 18 years old, the Salinas native continues to establish himself as one of American Flat Track's brightest young talents and one of the West Coast's emerging stars. Tadman's rapid rise, fearless riding style, and ability to perform under pressure have quickly made him one of the series' most exciting young riders — and a natural favorite among California racing fans looking for the sport's next breakout name.

One of the loudest crowd reactions of the night came during the freestyle motocross exhibition headlined by Tyler Bereman alongside Patrick Evans and Dustin Nowack. Their performance

Ventura County, where surfing, skateboarding, cycling, motorsports, and outdoor lifestyle events all share a strong cultural presence and passionate local following.

The evening's full program also featured support classes and specialty events that added depth to an already packed night of entertainment, giving fans nearly nonstop action from start to finish.

For Ventura County, hosting an event of this scale delivers benefits well beyond race night.

A packed venue means hotel bookings, restaurant traffic, retail spending, and increased tourism exposure for the region. National television coverage through FOX Sports and global streaming coverage on FloSports placed Ventura in front of a broad audience, reinforcing the city's reputation as a destination capable of hosting premier sporting events.

Events like Ventura Short Track also strengthen the county's identity as a home for action sports, motorsports, and outdoor lifestyle events — where racing, surfing, cycling, and coastal culture



Photo by @jseemayerphoto

Defending champion Dallas Daniels (#1) races into turn one during Mission AFT SuperTwins action Saturday night at Ventura Raceway.

delivered X Games-level tricks, huge amplitude, and technical combinations, including backflips that brought fans to their feet. The exhibition closed with all three riders launching consecutively while each performed a different aerial maneuver — a high-energy finale that quickly became one of the evening's crowd favorites.

Freestyle motocross also broadened the event's appeal, drawing attention from action-sports fans who may not have previously followed flat track racing. That crossover energy fits naturally in

naturally intersect. That crossover appeal makes Ventura uniquely positioned to host events that resonate with longtime enthusiasts while also drawing new generations of fans.

Saturday night proved exactly that. From championship-caliber racing to freestyle spectacle and a full grandstand energized from start to finish, Ventura Raceway delivered one of Ventura County's strongest live sports nights of the spring — and a reminder that when major events come to town, Ventura shows up.



Photo by @jseemayerphoto

Kage Tadman (#28) battles for position during KICKER AFT Singles competition Saturday night at Ventura Raceway. Tadman went on to capture the class victory before a packed hometown-state crowd.



Photo by @jseemayerphoto

Mission AFT SuperTwins winner Briar Bauman (#3) powers through Ventura Raceway on his way to victory Saturday night.



Spring Productions, Summer Youth Offerings & Community Radio Update

CAPS Media recently celebrated 25 years of serving the community at your Community Media Center. The event featured long-time community producers, city dignitaries, and many new faces that were curious & excited about what CAPS has to offer. Station and production truck tours,

music by Doc Ventura, video production by ECTV students and tasty food rounded out the event. Thank you to all who attended. The celebration continues as we embark on an exciting year full of productions & programs like our famous summertime Future Filmmakers Youth

Digital Storytelling program.

This spring CAPS Staff have been busy at work producing many videos for our City and County partners. The City of Ventura is considering a 1% (one percent) general sales tax increase for the November 2026 ballot, projected to generate approximately \$36 million annually for services like infrastructure, public safety, and neighborhood improvements. CAPS Crews interviewed over 10 City Employees who offered a glimpse of how this sales tax increase could improve their respective departments. These videos are being distributed online and over social media and encourage citizens to fill out a brief survey to prioritize how additional revenue could be spent.

Other City productions included covering six in-person workshops for tenants & landlords that have been hosted in collaboration with the Ventura County Coastal Association of Realtors. These workshops offered clear, practical guidance on rental rights & responsibilities, housing standards, communication tools, and resources available through the City's Housing Services & community partners.

In support of the County of Ventura CAPS Crews have been documenting Ventura County Fire Department's 63rd Training Cadre that began earlier this year. The cadre facilitates specialized instruction, including wildland firefighting, EMS & officer development. The cadre spans the course of six months, and all the footage will be edited into a

highlight reel to be shown to officers, families, and friends when they graduate in June.

Registration is open for the 2026 Future Filmmakers Workshops to be held in July. Live Action workshop begins July 13th when students ages 9-14 will script, storyboard, learn video and editing techniques as they roll the camera on their short films. They host a screening for family and friends at the end of the week. The Stop Motion Animation workshop begins on July 27. Students will produce their own stop motion videos with expert guidance from seasoned filmmakers and animators. All videos air on CAPS Channel 6 and stream on the CAPS website. This program is generously sponsored by the Jack Oakie and Victoria Horne Oakie Charitable Foundation. For registration information go to CAPSMedia.org.

KPPQ CAPS Radio, broadcasting at 104.1fm and streaming online, has monthly orientations. The staff at KPPQ offers training on radio show and podcast production with two production studios and editing rooms available. Always wanted to host your own show? We have slots available for music, spoken word or interview shows.

CAPS Media Center offer monthly orientations as well as by appointment. Do you have an event or program promote? Contact us at info@capsmedia.org to learn how to announce your event on TV and the radio. CAPS is your community media resource. Check it out.

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Photo by @joeseemayerphoto

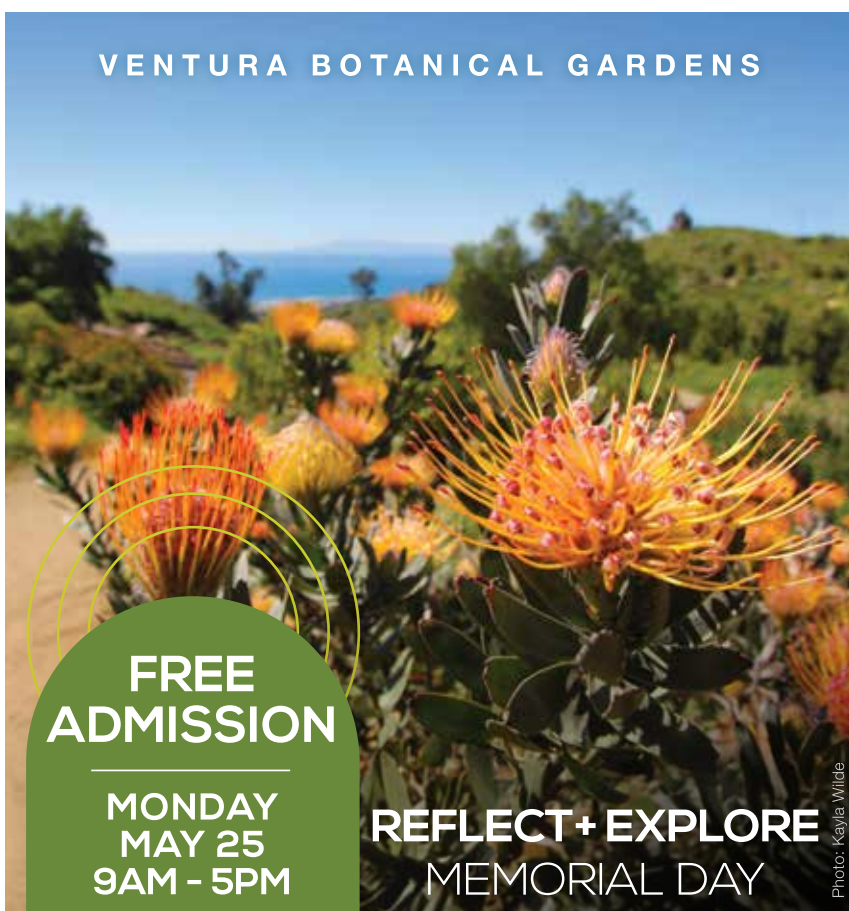
Elite vert skating was on full display at Jackalope, where riders combined amplitude, technical skill, and complete commitment on the event's full-size halfpipe.



Photo by @joeseemayerphoto

From young groms in the sport to elite athletes pushing skateboarding forward, Jackalope celebrated every level of skate culture.

VENTURA BOTANICAL GARDENS



**FREE
ADMISSION**

**MONDAY
MAY 25
9AM - 5PM**

**REFLECT+EXPLORE
MEMORIAL DAY**

Photo: Kayla Wilde

This Memorial Day, enjoy **free admission** to the Gardens where you can take in sweeping coastal views and discover colorful plant collections. Make it a day outdoors with family and take home a plant from our Courtyard Gift Shop.

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Natural Home for Jackalope Continued from page 1

of attacking the ramp. Some relied on height, others on technical precision, others on complete commitment, but together they delivered the kind of riding that stops even casual spectators in their tracks.

Some riders attacked the ramp with raw amplitude, launching high above the coping and floating weightless for a split second before dropping back in. Others leaned into technical precision, linking clean grabs, smooth transitions, and difficult combinations with effortless style. A few rode with complete commitment — pushing speed, trusting instinct, and charging each run with the kind of confidence that only comes from years of dedication to the craft. Together, they showcased not only elite talent, but the individuality and progression that make vert skating one of skateboarding's purest forms of expression.

What made Jackalope work, though, went well beyond what happened above the coping.

The event celebrated skateboarding in its fullest form — from young groms finding their way in the sport to highly skilled athletes pushing skateboarding forward — creating an atmosphere that felt inclusive, authentic, and deeply rooted in skate culture.

Skateboarding has always been more than competition — it's culture, lifestyle, creativity, individuality, and community — and Jackalope tapped into that spirit from the opening session through the final run. That connection is exactly what made Ventura such a natural fit.

"I think there were two commonalities that really stood out to make this partnership special: Ventura and Jacka-

lope's shared love for the outdoors and that authentic skateboarding culture," said Julie Madsen of Visit Ventura. "It's no secret that Ventura has had a long skateboarding community and, paired with its rich surfing heritage, Jackalope was just the perfect fit for us."

Madsen said another key piece of the event's success was accessibility and community connection.

"We loved that the Jackalope event also embraced the local community," Madsen said. "Making sure that all the high energy was accessible to everyone was key. The fact that it was completely free to attend was a huge plus for us too in getting that community feel."

Families, young athletes, longtime skate fans, and action sports enthusiasts from across the region came to experience a world-class skate event on Ventura's waterfront. Free admission helped make the event accessible to everyone, giving Jackalope the broad community feel organizers had hoped for while creating an atmosphere that welcomed both core skaters and first-time spectators alike.

Beyond the ramp itself, Jackalope's footprint could be felt throughout the community. Local businesses welcomed visitors, community leaders publicly embraced the event, and student-created skateboard deck art added a creative hometown touch that reflected Ventura's deep connection to skateboarding's artistic side as well as its athletic roots.

Visit Ventura also worked hard to bridge connections between the event and the local community, helping create a true hometown feel throughout the weekend.

"We are beyond thrilled about the turnout and all the love and excitement we received from fans, staff, athletes,

and locals,” Madsen said. “Our team worked hard to bridge the connection between our local businesses and the event. From seeing all of the welcome Jackalope videos posted from local businesses and community leaders, to Powell’s street skate session packed every day of the weekend, to the stellar local student skateboard deck display in partnership with Vita Art Center – we’re so proud of the way our local community showed up and leaned in to this event.”

“Words truly cannot describe the hometown pride we’re feeling,” she added.

Jackalope also tipped its hat to skateboarding’s roots, with Powell Peralta street sessions and film presentations helping connect skateboarding’s rich history to the next generation of riders finding their way in the sport.

With strong crowds, broad community support, and a world-class vert showcase at its center, Jackalope’s Ventura debut felt less like a one-time event and more like the beginning of a tradition Ventura would gladly welcome back. Madsen hinted that conversation about the event’s future is already underway. “We’re excited to continue post-event conversations with the Jackalope team and see what comes next,” she said.

More than anything, Jackalope felt authentic – not manufactured or over-produced but rooted in the same spirit that has defined skateboarding for generations: progression, individuality, creativity, and community. In Ventura, that spirit felt right at home.



The Ventura County Mental Wellness Festival returns to Ventura Harbor Village on June 6 with art, music, wellness activities and community support.

A Day of Hope and Healing at Ventura Harbor in June

By Carol Leish, MA

“Just when the caterpillar thought that the world was ending, he turned into a butterfly.” – Proverb

The 4th Annual Ventura County Mental Wellness Festival on June 6 at Ventura Harbor will celebrate the completion of May’s Mental Health Awareness Month. “It’s a grass-roots mental health and wellness festival where everyone is welcome,” according to Josh Carsman, Leadership Team Member at Turning Point Foundation.

Turning Point Foundation is a local nonprofit with the mission to improve the quality of life for adults experiencing serious mental illness, addiction, lack of housing and inadequate physical health care. “They do this by providing health navigation services, rehabilitation, wellness and recovery programs, temporary housing, transitional housing, and permanent supported housing in Ventura County.”

This festival is a fun, infor-


mative and interactive event that offers: 1) a unique mental health art exhibit (client submitted); 2) a ‘Growing Works’ horticultural garden exhibit (client cultivated); 3) live music by Orchard Bluegrass Band; 4) meditation sessions from Two Moon Child; and 5) a blend of related cultural, holistic, therapeutic and spiritual wellness vendors, community service organizations, and program booths.

People will be able to share their messages of hope on the “Mental Wellness Means to Me” wall. Event admission is free and family-friendly. Select Ventura Harbor restaurants and stores will provide a 10% discount to event visitors that day as they shop and dine. Visit the event website for a list of participating businesses.

“Our objective is to continue to raise awareness about mental health and continue to share mental wellness pathways in our community that support, maintain and/or improve our mental health,” said Josh Carsman.

The festival takes place at Ventura Harbor Village on the large grass area and runs from 10:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Come support this event and its participants, view unique art and garden exhibits, shop, relax your mind, and enjoy a beautiful day at Ventura Harbor. Pets are welcome.

To see a list of sponsors and learn more about the event, visit www.mentalwellnessfest.com or www.venturaharborvillage.com/event/mental-wellness-festival-2026.



Ventura Harbor Village



COME SEA THE TALL SHIP

Mystic Whaler Schooner  May 20 – June 1st

Deck Tour Schedule

THURSDAY, MAY 21
DECK TOUR AT 2:00PM-6PM

FRI. MAY 22 - MON. MAY 25
DECK TOUR AT NOON - 6PM

THURSDAY, MAY 28
DECK TOUR AT 2:00PM-6PM

FRI. MAY 29 - MON. MAY 31
DECK TOUR AT NOON - 6PM

Special Family Activities

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“PLANKTON PALS” (SCIENCE BASED)
10:00 - 11:00AM

SUN. MAY 24TH & 31ST
“SHIP IN A BAG” (NAUTICAL ACTIVITY)
10:00 - 11:00AM

KIDS FREE, ADULTS \$5 SUGGESTED DONATION FOR TOURS & ACTIVITIES



Scan for Details

VENTURA HARBOR VILLAGE

Ship Schedule Can Change Due To Weather & Unforeseen Circumstances



Library News

The Bookmark

About Libraries and Friends

by Mary Olson

Ventura Friends of the Library are holding a Book Sale on Saturday, May 30, 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at the Vons grocery at Telegraph & Victoria (6040 Telegraph Road), Ventura.

Fiction, Non-Fiction, Young Adult; Children's Fiction & Non-Fiction, Board Books, Picture Books; Graphic Novels & Manga; Vintage & Collectibles; Puzzles, DVDs, CDs, Sheet Music; Pocket-size Fiction Special Sale. Proceeds benefit Ventura's libraries.

With the temporary closure of E.P. Foster Library for much needed renovations, Ventura Friends of the Library can no longer accept donations of books at that location. Book donations can be made at Avenue, Saticoy and Hill Road libraries during open hours and at our warehouse (11251 Riverbank Drive, in the Ventura County Saticoy Operations Yard) Monday through Friday from 9 to 11 am.

Ventura County Library Foundation hosts "Books, Birds, and Blooms: Outdoor Sanctuaries" Fundraiser in Ventura on June 6, from Noon to 4:00 pm

Set against the backdrop of beautifully curated gardens and natural spaces, Books, Birds, and Blooms invites guests

to explore a series of inspiring outdoor sanctuaries while celebrating the vital role libraries play in enriching lives. Attendees will experience a setting with 280-degree ocean views, artist and pottery studios, native plants, nesting birds, the mobile library, a book giveaway, refreshments, and opportunities to connect with fellow supporters of literacy and lifelong learning.

Ventura Friends of the Library will have books for sale on related topics in the parking lot at Community Presbyterian Church, 1555 Poli Street during the event.

Proceeds from the event will directly benefit the Ventura County Library System, helping to fund essential programs and services.

Tickets are priced at \$40. For more information or to purchase a ticket, please visit <https://vclibraryfoundation.org/>

Ventura County Library invites the community to take part in One Book, One Coast

One Book, One Coast connects libraries across California, Oregon, and Washington in a shared reading experience with the book *They Called Us Enemy*, a powerful graphic memoir by George Takei, reflecting on civil liberties, democracy, and what it means to be American. You can pick up a copy at any Ventura County Library branch.

To close the program, George Takei will appear for a special author talk and book signing on Sunday, May 31 at 2 p.m. at East Los Angeles Library. The event will be livestreamed on YouTube, allowing readers across the region to participate together. You can register for this event at <https://library-lacounty.gov>.

zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_Ek6Fa2kxSjq1vs_BvlyHRg#/registration

Ventura County Library, in collaboration with the Blanchard Community Library and the Museum of Ventura County, will also host a community talk with Dr. Lily Tamai, Asst Professor of Asian American Studies at CSUCI

Enduring Voices: A Free Community Event Exploring the Local Impacts of the Japanese American Incarceration of World War II Wednesday, May 20, 6:00 pm at the Agriculture Museum in Santa Paula (926 Railroad Avenue).

Master Gardeners Learning Series continues with Amazing Succulents Hill Road Library Tuesday, June 2, 4:30 to 5:30 pm

Learn everything you need to know for happy cacti, indoors or out, and meet fellow garden enthusiasts in the area.

This event is free and open to the public. No registration required; walk-ins welcome!

Beat the Heat: Summer Vegetables You Can Still Plant. Avenue Library, Wednesday, June 3, 6:00 to 7:00 pm

Learn which warm-season vegetables thrive when planted in June in our Mediterranean climate and discover varieties that can handle our summer conditions. Link to register: <https://surveys.ucanr.edu/survey.cfm?surveynumber=48916>

Walk ins welcome! As the library is closed at the event time, please enter through the side door entrance on Simpson St.

Make Art at the Library Avenue Collage Guild Avenue Library Meeting Room Saturday, May 16, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm

Every third Saturday of the month. All skill levels welcome—bring your imagination and enjoy a relaxed, friendly atmosphere. Connect, create, and share your art with fellow collage enthusiasts. Materials welcome, but not required.

Adult Collage Lab at Saticoy Library Saturday, May 23, 2:30 to 5:00 pm

Every fourth Saturday of the month, Saticoy Library opens its doors to collage enthusiasts of all skill levels. Supplies are provided; however, you may bring your own.

Ventura County Library Foundation

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BIRDS
&
BLOOMS**

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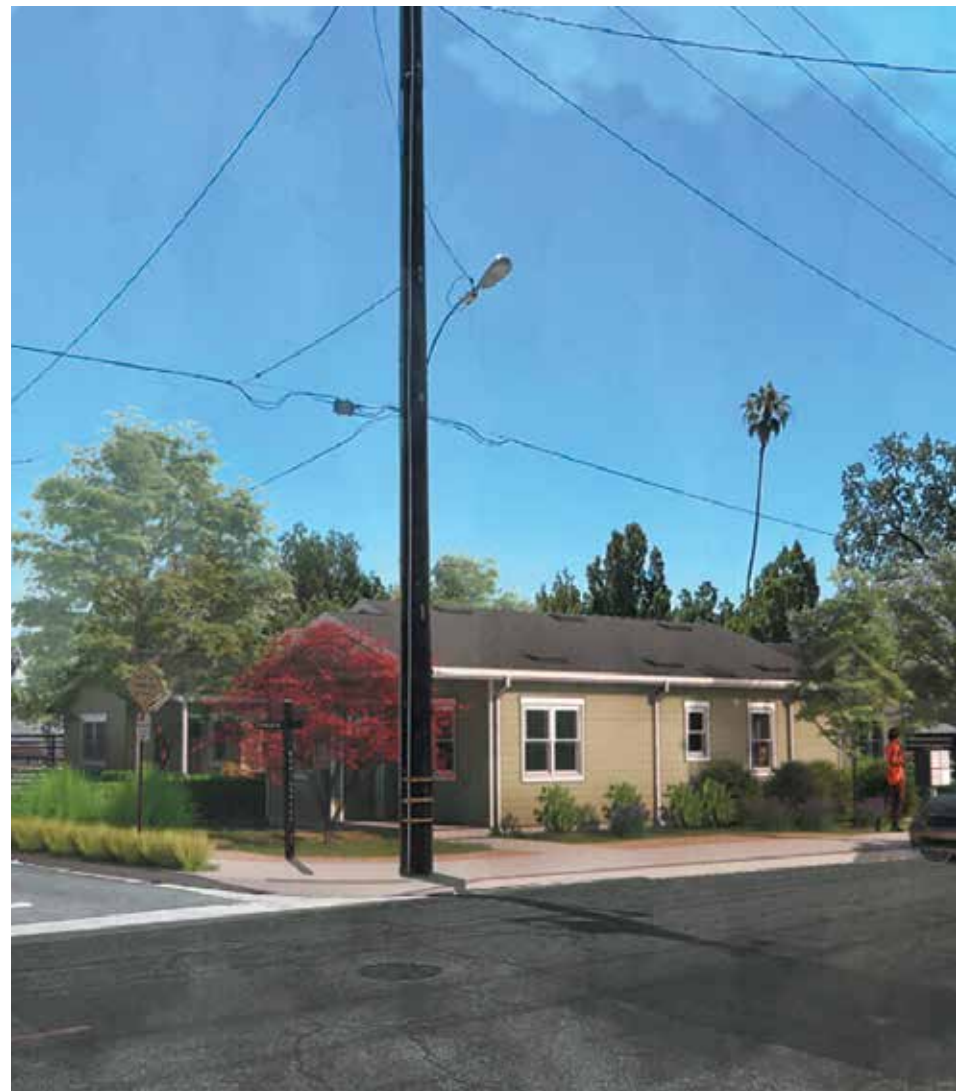


Photo courtesy Habitat For Humanity

Habitat for Humanity of Ventura County plans to build five affordable tiny homes in Ojai, with construction expected to begin in summer 2026.

Habitat Ventura Plans Ojai Tiny Homes

Habitat for Humanity of Ventura County is planning a new affordable housing development in Ojai that will bring five tiny homes to local families priced out of the traditional housing market.

The Montgomery Street Tiny Homes project, expected to break ground in summer 2026, will include two tiny home duplexes and one single-family home designed to fit the character of the neighborhood while expanding affordable homeownership opportunities.

"We're proving that affordable homeownership doesn't require massive developments," said Habitat Ventura CEO

Darcy Taylor. "These five tiny homes will create real opportunities for Ojai families who work here and contribute here."

The project was developed in partnership with RRM Design Group and the City of Ojai. Additional details on eligibility and how to apply will be shared as the groundbreaking approaches. Women Build encourages women to give back to their community while supporting Habitat Ventura County in creating strength, stability, and self-reliance for local families. To learn more or to support Women Build 2026, visit <https://habitatventura.org/womenbuild-2026>.



Senior Living



Image by Freepik

Keeping Seniors with Dementia S.A.F.E. from Scams and Fraud

Alzheimer's Foundation of America Offers S.A.F.E. Tips as Part of National Senior Fraud Awareness Day on May 15

By the Alzheimer's Foundation of America

With scammers stealing an estimated \$7 billion from senior citizens each year according to the FBI, the Alzheimer's Foundation of America (AFA) is offering S.A.F.E. tips as part of National Senior Fraud Awareness Day on May 15 to help family caregivers protect loved ones living with dementia from scams, fraud, and identity theft.

"Senior citizens are a top target for scammers, and seniors living with dementia are at even greater risk due to the way dementia affects the brain," said Charles J. Fuschillo, Jr., AFA President and CEO and a former New York State Senator who authored laws to protect people against identity theft. "Caregivers need to know about steps and resources they can utilize to help protect their loved ones with dementia from being

victimised. Being proactive and alert are the two best defenses."

Seniors are frequent targets of financial scams because they are more likely to have savings, own a home, and have good credit, according to the FBI. The FBI also notes that seniors tend to be trusting and polite and less likely to report fraud. Seniors living with dementia are especially vulnerable because dementia affects memory, judgment, decision-making, and the ability to recognize suspicious activity. Scammers will exploit whatever they can to manipulate victims into sharing personal information or sending money.

AFA recommends that caregivers follow the S.A.F.E. tips to protect loved ones with dementia:

Solidify good security practices

Keep written reminders near the phone or computer, such as: "Do not give out your social security or bank account number" or "do not click on links in emails" to help the person with dementia remember how to protect themselves. Regularly reinforce these proper safety practices with the person.

Apply blocking tools

Use blocking tools on the person's phones to help prevent suspicious calls and text messages. Ensure computers have anti-virus software installed to block malicious content and look into safety controls which can block unknown apps and websites. Place a "no solicitation" sign on the front door to reduce the chances of unwanted visits from salespeople or scammers.

Find someone to help monitor financial activity

Identify someone (i.e., family member, financial professional, etc.) who can help the person to review their bank and credit card statements regularly for unusual activity and to watch for warning signs of financial exploitation. Someone with dementia may miss small or repeated unauthorized transactions. Immediately report any suspicious or fraudulent activity.

Establish stronger financial safeguards

Add a trusted family member onto the person's accounts to monitor transactions and to be alerted about purchase or withdrawals. Many banks and credit card companies offer free alert services that send text or email notifications about suspicious activity or key account changes; ask the person's financial institutions about these services. Federal law also allows consumers to set up a security freeze on their credit, which can help prevent scammers from fraudulently opening new accounts under their name. Learn more about this free service by visiting the Federal Trade Commission's (FTC) website.

The Alzheimer's Foundation of America is a non-profit organization whose mission is to provide support, services and education to individuals, families and caregivers affected by Alzheimer's disease and related dementias nationwide and to fund research for better treatment and a cure. Its services include a National Toll-Free Helpline (866-232-8484) staffed by licensed social workers, the National Memory Screening Program, educational conferences and materials, and dementia care training for healthcare professionals.

For more information about AFA, call 866-232-8484 or visit www.alzfdn.org.

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Senior Living



Image by Jannissimo on Freepik

The Beauty of Aging

By Leslie Sokol

Aging is one of life's greatest gifts, bringing with it a wealth of experiences, opportunities, and wisdom. As we enter our golden years, we find ourselves in a new phase filled with potential and strength. Over the years, we've learned resilience, patience, and determination, and we gain a deeper sense of acceptance and awareness.

Our accomplishments throughout life shape who we are, and with age comes a sense of calm and wisdom. We discover that aging opens up new choices and opportunities to live our best lives, especially when we stay active and engaged.

Being mindful about aging positively

impacts our physical, mental, and emotional health. Staying connected to our inner selves fosters contentment, confidence, and happiness. Aging is a beautiful process, and there are countless reasons to embrace it with optimism and hope.

Here are just a few reasons to celebrate getting older:

- We have more choices
- Our relationships are richer
- We receive more discounts
- We're now the grown-ups with answers
- We worry less
- We have more free time

No matter our age, our bodies are designed to move. It's never too late to improve your health. Staying active and exercising are essential as we age, offering endless benefits. The best advice for healthy aging includes physical activity, eating well, and maintaining strong connections with friends and family. Your chronological age doesn't define how old you really are. For example, I have students in their 70s, 80s, and 90s—some of whom, in their 90s, are in the best shape of all my students, proving that everyone ages differently.

Exercise can help us age gracefully. Aerobic activity improves heart health, circulation, strengthens the immune system, burns calories, and releases natural feel-good endorphins. Weight-bearing exercises strengthen muscles and joints, help prevent bone loss, and promote the creation of new tissue.

So, how do we let our inner beauty shine through as we age? We embrace self-acceptance, nurture our physical and mental

well-being, commit to lifelong learning, and maintain a positive outlook despite challenges. We treat others with kindness, explore new passions, practice gratitude, and reflect on what truly matters in life.

The goal of optimal aging is to achieve a higher level of function and slow the rate of decline as we age. We all strive to live longer while maintaining independence and quality of life in our later years. That's the true beauty of aging—being healthy, happy, and thriving.

About the Author

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

For more information, contact Leslie at leslie@lesliesokolsdance.com, call 805-312-8089, or visit her website: www.LeslieSokolsDance.com.



Photo courtesy Ventura Harbor Village

The tall ship **Mystic Whaler** arrives at **Ventura Harbor Village** in May, offering free dockside tours, family activities and a chance for visitors to explore life aboard a historic two-masted schooner.

Tall Ship Mystic Whaler Sails Into Ventura Harbor

Hoist the sails and step back in time aboard the **Mystic Whaler**, a 110-foot, two-masted schooner modeled after a 19th-century coastal vessel. The historic tall ship sets sail on May 20, traveling up the Santa Barbara Channel along the California coast before arriving at Ventura Harbor.

The vessel is expected to drop anchor in the early afternoon at Ventura Harbor Village C Dock, near Ventura Boat Rentals and in front of Brophy Bros. and On the Alley restaurants.

Dockside tours at Ventura Harbor Village will give visitors the opportunity to step aboard, explore the ship, meet the crew, and learn about life at sea on a traditional schooner. Guests can also hear maritime stories and discover how the **Mystic Whaler** helps preserve sailing traditions while enjoying the harbor's waterfront atmosphere.

Visits aboard the tall ship are free, with a suggested donation of \$5 for adults (children are free). All activities are weather dependent and subject to change.

Public Dockside Tours — Ventura Harbor Village "C" Dock

Wednesday, May 20 — Arrival at C Dock (early afternoon)

Thursday, May 21 — 2 to 6 p.m.

Friday, May 22 — 12 to 6 p.m.

Saturday, May 23 — 12 to 6 p.m.

Sunday, May 24 — 12 to 6 p.m.

Monday, May 25 — 12 to 6 p.m.

Thursday, May 28 — 2 to 6 p.m.

Friday, May 29 — 12 to 6 p.m.

Saturday, May 30 — 12 to 6 p.m.

Sunday, May 31 — 12 to 6 p.m.

Monday, June 1 — Departure from C Dock (8:30 a.m.)

The tall ship also offers family-friendly educational activities on select days from 10 to 11 a.m., blending maritime history with hands-on learning. Programs include "Plankton Pals" (May 23 and May 30), a science-based activity, and "Ship in a Bag" (May 24 and May 31), a nautical-themed workshop. Reservations are required for these special activities.

Operated by the nonprofit **Mystic Ocean Adventures**, the **Mystic Whaler** serves as both a floating classroom and environmental education platform. Its mission is to use sailing experiences to promote STEM learning, environmental stewardship, teamwork, self-confidence, and nautical skills for communities in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties, with a focus on youth ages 10–18.

For more information about dockside tours, visit www.mysticoceanadventures.org. For updates on this and other spring events, visit www.venturaharborvillage.com/events.

About Mystic Ocean Adventures / Tall Ship Mystic Whaler

Rich in maritime history, the **Mystic Whaler** was designed by V.B. Crockett and built in 1967 in Tarpon Springs, Florida, as a replica of a late 19th-century two-masted cargo schooner. After a major overhaul in 1995, it operated for 26 years on the East Coast, offering educational programs and charters throughout Long Island Sound, Connecticut, and the Chesapeake Bay.

In October 2021, the schooner made a three-month voyage to California and was donated to the Central Coast Ocean Adventures Foundation in January 2022. Today, it continues its educational mission across the Central Coast.

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Events

Ventura:

NAMBA Performing Art Space: May Events: 47 S Oak St.

Saturday, May 16 at 2:30pm: Jodi Farrell is back with her popular Live Performers' MasterClass, designed to elevate performers to the next level!

Saturday, May 23 at 7pm: George & Michael Band is a Southern California Rock group shaped by storytelling and driven by a friendship that shows up in every note they play!

Saturday, May 30 at 2pm & 7pm and Sunday, May 31 at 2pm: The Decameron Project - Hollywood's One Minute Play Festival continues to gain momentum as a must-see theatrical experience. www.nambaarts.com.

Rubicon Theatre "Eleanor": May 13 - May 31. 1006 E Main St.

In this tour-de-force solo performance described as "brilliant and emotionally relevant" by the Wall Street Journal, Kandis Chappell brings First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt to vivid life. Candid and commanding, vulnerable and visionary, from the shadows of the White House to the global stage, Eleanor finds her purpose at life's greatest crossroads, shaping a legacy that continues to inspire. <https://rubicontheatre.org/events/eleanor>.

Ventura High School Concerto Concert: Sat., May 15, 7 pm - 9 pm. Ventura High School Auditorium, 2 N Catalina St.

The Call of the Wild - Saxophone concerto by John Pasathas, performed by Niccolo Boccali, Fingal's Cave by Felix Mendelssohn both with the VHS Symphony Orchestra. The second half of the concert will be the Gods of Olympus by Oscar Navarro. The VHS auditorium recently received new lighting equipment that will be used extensively for the second half. www.venturahsmusic.org/about-us.

The California Strawberry Festival: Sat & Sun, May 16 - 17, 10 am - 6:30 pm.

Ventura County Fairgrounds. The ultimate summer kickoff while supporting the community in a BIG way. Indulge in your favorite strawberry treats like build-your-own shortcakes, chocolate-covered delights, and refreshing strawberry beer. With over 40 food vendors, live music, and a plethora of arts and crafts booths, there's something for everyone. <https://castrawberryfestival.org>.

200 Musicians Unite for Two Free Rossini Concerts: Sat., May 16, 2 pm, Trinity Episcopal Church, Santa Barbara and Sun, May 17, 7 pm, t Oxnard Performing Arts Center.

Nearly 200 students, faculty, and professional musicians from Ventura College, Moorpark College, and University of California, Santa Barbara will present two free performances of Petite Messe Solennelle by Gioachino Rossini this May. More than 100 singers will perform alongside the Ventura College Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Brent Wilson as part of Ventura College's centennial celebration.

Habitat For Humanity - 40th Year Celebration: Sat, May 16, 5 pm. Museum of Ventura County, 100 E Main St.

The event will feature the premiere of Habitat Ventura's 40th Anniversary documentary, sharing the stories of staff, families, volunteers, and partners who have shaped our work. <https://habitat-ventura.org/40-years>.

National Association of Watch and

Clock Collectors Meeting: Sun, May 17, 11 am. Campus Student Center of Ventura College, 4667 Telegraph Rd.

Anyone with an interest in timepieces - whether antique or modern - is invited. The event features a watch and clock marketplace followed by lunch. Afterward, Richard Lamoreaux will give an engaging presentation on grandmother clocks. Attendees are also welcome to bring a watch or clock for a complimentary evaluation. nawcc-ch190.com. Bob McClelland Director, Public Information. (818) 225-8212, rjmcclel@pacbell.net.

Ventura Harbor Village - Tall Ship Mystic Whaler: Wed, May 20 - Jun 1.

Visitors are able to climb aboard the Tall Ship Mystic Whaler, a seafaring beauty making waves along the California coast through Memorial Day Weekend. This iconic schooner invites people of all ages to experience this 83-foot ship for themselves. www.venturaharborvillage.com/events.

Dudley House Museum Plant & Collectibles Sale: Sat, May 23, 8 am - 2 pm. Corner of Loma Vista and Ashwood Streets (197 N. Ashwood)

Featuring garden plants, gifts and jewelry. Call Charlie at 805/746-4317 for vendor details. Free. Open House Tours: Sunday, June 7, 1 pm - 4 pm in celebration of Flag Day and upcoming July 4. The Attic Bebes doll collectors return with a patriotic display of dolls and Teddy bears. Admission is free. (805) 642-3345 or www.dudleyhouseventura.org

Laugh For Good - Nate's Place Fundraiser: Sat, May 23, 6-8 pm.

The Bunker Theater, 2750 E. Main St. A fun night of comedy, community, and connection at Laugh For Good Comedy Night and Silent Auction benefiting Nate's Place and hosted by JEST Improv. Enjoy some laughs, bid in the silent auction, and help support Ventura County teens and young adults through free mental health and recovery support services. \$20-\$30 at the door; early bird and online specials available. Featured performers include T\$, Lauryl Kuntzman, Carly Olsen, The Bunkeristas, and more. <https://bit.ly/NatesPlaceComedyBenefit>.

Free Tutor Training for Adults (18 and over): Sat, May 23, 8:30 am - 3:30 pm. 1500 Palma Dr.

Tutor adults who want to learn or improve their English and learn about American culture. Laubach Literacy of Ventura County provides free tutoring and tutor training to adults for English as a second language. No prior teaching experience is required, and you don't have to speak a foreign language. All materials provided for free to both the tutor and the adult learners. You will be trained on cultural awareness and tutoring techniques for all levels of ability. Laubach Literacy has been teaching English for free for over 40 years in Ventura County. Registration is required for the training. Email your name, city, phone, and email address to laubachventura@gmail.com. You will receive a return email confirming your successful registration or call (805) 385-9584 and leave a message. www.laubachventura@gmail.com.

Channel Islands PC User Group (CIPCUG): Sat, May 23. Event begins at 9:30 am. Online AND Live at our temporary location Ventura County Computers, 2175 Goodyear Ave. Unit 117.

Discussion, Tutorial, and Q&A sessions centered around Computers, email, the Internet, AI, and social media brokers such as X, Facebook, and Google. To

receive connection instructions, sign up at <http://www.cipcug.org>. (805) 289-3960.

Botanical Gardens - Summer Hummerz: Jun 2 - Aug 31. 567 Poli St.

This summer, we're celebrating one of California's most dazzling little visitors. The Gardens will transform into a colorful hummingbird-inspired experience with the debut of Summer Hummerz - an immersive exhibit where nature meets imagination. Wander scenic walkways, enjoy fragrant wildflowers. Find yourself enchanted by the tiny birds that bring the landscape to life. Designed for visitors of all ages. Admission: \$15 per adult. Free for members and children under 18 when accompanied by an adult. special event only. <https://venturabotanicalgardens.com/summer-hummerz/#>.

Ongoing:

Ventura Gem & Mineral Society: Fourth Wednesday (second Wednesday in Nov/Dec), 7:30 - 9:30, Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Rd.

Join amateur enthusiasts interested in minerals, fossils, and jewelry making. We welcome individual and family members. We participate in Science Nights at schools and - in conjunction with the County Parks System at Camp Comfort - run a two-room museum open by appointment for school groups, homeschoolers and others. We have a youth group which meets regularly for activities. Enjoy field trips, lapidary classes to craft polished stones, speakers and refreshments at our meetings. Email info@vgms.org or visit www.vgms.org.

Free Grief Support Groups Livingston's Grief & Bereavement Program offers multiple support groups that focus on restorative activities, seeking meaning and purpose, identifying changes to self, and receiving support in making life good again. Livingston's Grief & Bereavement offers free grief support groups that cater to specific bereavement needs. General Bereavement Support Group on Wednesdays from 6:30 - 8 pm (Ventura in-person). Thursdays from

10:30 am - Noon (Ventura in-person). For registration and locations, contact 805-389-6870 or online at lmvna.org/grief. Space is limited.

Ventura Senior Men's Group: 11:30 am - 1:30 pm, first and third Tuesdays. Poinsettia Pavilion, 3451 Foothill Rd.

Ventura Senior Men's Group lunch meetings - first and third Tuesday of the month. 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+ and living in Ventura County. Call Bob at 805-857-0055 or visit VSMG.net.

Country Lovers Line Dancing: Ventura Moose Lodge. Tuesdays 7 - 9 pm, 10269 Telephone Rd.

Easy dances, first time free. Any questions, leave message at 805-889-3132.

Ventura VFW Post 1679 - Sunday Brunches/Dinners: 3801 Market St. Help support your local Ventura County Veterans: "Open to the Public Brunches and Dinners." Sunday Brunch 10 am - 1 pm every Sunday. Prices from \$8 - \$15. Friday Night Dinners: 5:30 pm - 7 pm every Friday night. Prices depend on the menu for that night. \$15 - \$25. 805-642-2674. <https://vfw1679.org>.

Ventura County Philatelic Society: First and third Mon each month - 7:30 pm. Church of the Foothills, 6279 Foothill Rd. <https://ventura-countyphilatelic.org>.

Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA) Ventura County: 6:30 - 8pm, every Tuesday. Ralston St.

At DBSA support group meetings, we share experiences, personal feelings, information, and strategies for living successfully. Groups are free, confidential, and open to people living with or who believe they may have depression, bipolar disorder, or another mood disorder. Join our community of hope, reassurance, and encouragement. Call (805) 665-3326 or Email DBSAventura@gmail.com for more details and information.

Continued on page 15



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Answers

Solution time: 25 mins.

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Ladies Luncheon Ventura members celebrate friendship, networking and community support during one of the group's monthly gatherings. The organization marks its 17th anniversary June 4 in Ventura.

Ladies Luncheon Ventura Celebrates 17 Years of Community

By Carol Leish, MA

"Find something that you're passionate about and keep tremendously interested in it." — Julia Child

How does the passion and interest of one person create a place to share love of each

other, along with love of community each month for 17 years?

The Ladies Luncheon Ventura was started in June 2009 by Laurie Ann Meyer, Broker Associate/CEO of Lifestyle

Listings Real Estate/Realty One Group Summit in Ventura. She said, "Over the past 17 years we've shared laughter, tears, wisdom and countless stories that have inspired us all. We have built friendships, created memories, and supported one another through life's many ups and downs, losses and gains. Our Ladies Luncheon has become more than just an event. It is a testament to the power of community and the strength of sisterhood."

The Ladies Luncheon was started because women wanted a venue to meet at lunchtime and break away from their busy days in order to concentrate on community, connection and support. Women wear many hats, and at Ladies Luncheon, they discuss and share about themselves. There is no limit in categories and no membership fees. Members can attend every month or whenever it's convenient.

According to Meyer, "At the heart of our success is one simple yet profound element: 'Love.' It is love that has been the foundation of the Ladies Luncheon.

This includes: love for each other, love for our community, and love for the shared experiences that bind us all together."

Elaine O'Malia, with Laine Designs, has been an integral part of Ladies Luncheon by maintaining marketing and the website, theladiesluncheon.com. She said, "We not only honor our past journey but also look forward to the future with hope and excitement. This will include continuing to uplift each other, celebrating our successes, and facing new challenges together. Here's to many more years of love, laughter, and unforgettable moments! We have been starting to attract the younger generation, besides the Baby Boomers — Generation X, Millennials and Generation Z. We are looking forward to continuing on as long as women show a need for the connection and support that we offer."

Come join the fun and celebrate the Ladies Luncheon's 17th anniversary June 4 at Greek Mediterranean Steak & Seafood from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. To find out more information and register, visit theladiesluncheon.com.



The Ladies Luncheon Ventura was started in June 2009 by Laurie Ann Meyer.



PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD APRIL 20, 2026 – MAY 18, 2026

We welcome your comments on two proposed plans:

Behavioral Health Services Act (BHSA) Integrated Plan 2026–2029
View at bh.venturacounty.gov/bhsa

Mental Health Services Act (MHSA) Annual Update 2025–2026 (Final Year)
View at bh.venturacounty.gov/mhsa

Join us at the Public Hearing

MONDAY, MAY 18, 2026 • 1:00–3:30PM
In-person: Ventura County Behavioral Health
1911 Williams Drive, Oxnard, 93036
or online via Zoom

For meeting information, go to: bh.venturacounty.gov/general-meeting

For more information, contact: mhsa@venturacounty.gov
Spanish translation is available and ASL upon request.



Funding is made possible through Ventura County Behavioral Health, Mental Health Services Act.



Photo courtesy Liz Kohlberg

Members of the De Anza Data Middle School Builders Club present handmade quilts to Ventura County Medical Center's Oncology and Chemotherapy Clinic during the group's annual community service project.

Liz De Anza Students Donate Quilts to VCMC Oncology Clinic

By Liz Kohlberg

On Thursday May 8th, The Builders Club of DeAnza Data Middle School, with the support of the Ventura Kiwanis Club, continued their twenty-year tradition of presenting homemade quilts to the nursing staff of the Ventura County Medical Center Oncology and Chemotherapy Clinic to share with those in need.

During the presentation Nurse Lucas Harmon spoke of the work of VCMC Oncology program and expressed gratitude for the gift of quilts and the work of the students. VCMC administra-

tor Fallon Wallace accepted the quilts as they were handed out by the students and their School Supervisor Chelsea Fahl.

The quilt making began early in the school year when a team of Kiwanis members started teaching the Builders Club how to make knots and stitches. The clubs meet two times per month. In addition, they worked on other projects that included personalized cards of gratitude to the First Responders of Ventura County. The mission of the Builders Club is to "Build Community".



Photo courtesy City Impact

The City Impact Beachfront Run returns May 30 to the Ventura Promenade, with strong early registration and proceeds supporting local youth and families.

Beachfront Run Approaches Race Day with Strong Turnout

Final Registration Push Underway for May 30 Coastal Race Benefiting At-Promise Youth and Families in Ventura County

With less than four weeks until race day, regional nonprofit City Impact Inc. reports strong momentum for its 16th Annual Beachfront Run, scheduled

for Saturday, May 30, 2026, along the Ventura Promenade.

As of press time, 762 runners are registered - well ahead of the same point in previous years - with participation expected to continue growing across all four race options: Half Marathon, 10K, 5K, and Kids 1K Run. All proceeds

benefit City Impact programs serving at-promise youth and families throughout Ventura County.

“Every step taken and every dollar raised stays right here in Ventura County—elevating education, bolstering mental health resources, and strengthening families,” said Executive Director Cynthia Torres. “Together We Change Lives” is the theme of this year’s event.

Race sponsor Advanced Structural Technologies (AST) highlighted the organization’s long-term community impact. “City Impact has spent three decades investing in youth and families across Ventura County, delivering culturally grounded support that drives real, measurable change,” said CEO Rob Melsness. “We are proud to support their mission.”

Race Day Details

The Beachfront Run takes place along the Ventura Promenade, with the start and finish near the Ventura Pier at 668 E. Harbor Blvd., Ventura. The flat, scenic courses showcase Ventura’s coastline and include oceanfront paths and portions of the Pacific Coast Highway.

Events include a Half Marathon, 10K, 5K, and Kids 1K Run. Half marathon runners should note a possible brief delay at the train crossing; in 14 prior events, no train has impacted race results.

Packet pickup will be available the day before the race and on race morning. Race-day registration opens approximately 40 minutes before each start time. Registration remains open at City Impact Beach-

front Run Registration.

Participants receive a custom event shirt and finisher medal. Awards will be presented to the top three finishers in each 10-year age division.

Community Experience

Beyond the race, the event serves as a community celebration along the Ventura waterfront. Activities include a vendor marketplace featuring local businesses, live music, and a youth art showcase highlighting City Impact programs.

An awards ceremony will recognize top finishers in each age group, and live race updates will be provided by Vendurance, the event’s official timing company. Executive Director Cynthia Torres will serve as master of ceremonies.

Since its launch in 2011, the Beachfront Run has become one of Ventura County’s signature community events, drawing runners, families, volunteers, and supporters to the coast each year. <https://runsignup.com/Race/CA/Ventura/CIBeachfrontRun>.

About City Impact

City Impact Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that has served at-promise children, youth, and families in Ventura County for more than 30 years. The organization provides counseling, mentorship, and outreach programs, serving more than 500 individuals annually with a focus on culturally responsive support. For more information about the Beachfront Run, sponsorship opportunities, or City Impact’s programs, visit www.cityimpact.com, email info@cityimpact.com, or call (805) 983-3636.



Photo courtesy Consortium Media & PR.

Representatives of the Workforce Development Board of Ventura County were honored with the 2026 WIOA Trailblazer Award, a national recognition for workforce leadership and community collaboration.

Ventura County Workforce Board Receives National Honor

The Workforce Development Board of Ventura County (WDBVC) has received the 2026 WIOA Trailblazer Award from the National Association of Workforce Boards, recognizing the agency’s leadership, innovation, and regional partnerships in workforce development.

The national award honors one workforce board each year for excellence in strategic planning and labor market forecasting. WDBVC was selected from more than 570 workforce development boards across the country.

The WDBVC partners with employers, educational institutions, labor organizations, and nonprofit agencies to provide workforce solutions throughout Ventura County. These efforts include job training, career pathway programs,

youth workforce services, and employer support initiatives designed to strengthen the region’s economy.

“Our community shows every day what is possible when employers, educators, nonprofit partners, and local leaders come together with a shared commitment to lifting people up,” said Rebecca Evans, Executive Director of the Workforce Development Board of Ventura County. “We are honored to play a part in creating pathways that change lives and strengthen the fabric of our county.”

Workforce Development Board of Ventura County connects job seekers with local employers while helping businesses address workforce and labor market needs through training, resources, and regional collaboration.

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The Pet Page



Image by Jannissimo on Freepik

Understanding Pet Body Language: What Your Pet is Trying to Tell You

By the National Humane Society

Our pets may not speak our language, but they communicate with us all the time through their body language. Understanding these signals is key to building a stronger bond with your furry, feathered, or scaly friend.

Dogs: The Tail Wag is Just the Beginning

Wagging Tail: A wagging tail doesn't always mean happiness. A fast, stiff wag may indicate tension or nervousness, while a slow wag typically signals relaxation.

Ears: Forward ears suggest curiosity or alertness, while pinned-back ears can indicate fear or submission.

Posture: A playful bow (front legs stretched forward, tail up) invites interaction, while a stiff body signals discomfort or aggression.

Yawning or Licking Lips: In dogs, these can be signs of stress or uncertainty.

Cats: Masters of Subtlety

Tail Position: A tail held high usually means your cat is feeling confident and friendly. A puffed-up tail, however, is a clear sign of fear or agitation.

Eyes: Slow blinking is a sign of trust and affection, while dilated pupils can indicate excitement, fear, or aggression.

Ears: Forward ears show interest, while flattened ears indicate fear or anger.

Kneading: This behavior often stems from kittenhood and signifies contentment or affection.

Other Pets: Birds, Rabbits, and More

Birds: Fluffed feathers can mean relaxation but may also indicate illness if persistent. Tail bobbing while breathing is often a sign of respiratory distress.

Rabbits: A bunny "binky" (jumping and twisting mid-air) is a clear sign of joy, while thumping their hind legs can signal danger or irritation.

Reptiles: Head bobbing in lizards is often a territorial display, while prolonged hiding may indicate stress.

By paying attention to your pet's unique cues, you can better understand their needs and emotions, ensuring they feel safe and loved.

Visit www.nationalhumane.org for more pet news and informational articles

Shelter Pet Spotlight



Bhodi is a 5-year-old pit bull-type dog, who's been at the shelter since April 2025. In overwhelming environments like the shelter, Bhodi can become tense, but with the right person, he becomes the life of the party. He leans in for pets and loves walks with a little chaos — splashing in puddles, rolling in mud and enjoying anything water-related.

"I've got to say, Bhodi Boy is one of the easiest, sweetest and goofiest dogs I've ever taken out in my three years of volunteering," said VCAS volunteer Erika Schroeter. "He's great on walks, friendly when meeting others, enjoys pets, loves rolling in the grass and zooming around the yard, and is a big fan of stuffies. Overall, he's a very chill boy."

Bhodi is available for adoption at Ventura County Animal Services, 600 Aviation Drive in Camarillo. To learn more about Bhodi and other shelter pets, visit vcas.us, email info@vcas.us, or call 805-388-4341.

Forever homes wanted



Hi, I'm Chili, a 3-year-old Shepherd/Cattle Dog mix with lots of love and energy to share. I was surrendered by my previous owners because they no longer had a place to keep me. I'm an active girl who loves nothing more than a game of fetch or a run around the park. I'm also gentle and good with children. I'm a quick learner and already know a few commands, including "sit," and I walk nicely on a leash. I'm both house- and crate-trained, so I'll fit right into your daily routine. Did I mention I'm a social butterfly? I get along great with other dogs and would love some furry siblings to play with. I haven't been around cats yet, so it's unknown how I would do with them.



Hi, we're Petunia and Posie, sweet 5-year-old Chihuahua mixes searching for our forever family. With gentle spirits and loving personalities, we're hoping to find a home where we can feel safe, cherished and loved. We're good with other dogs — especially each other — but we do not need to be adopted together. We may be a little timid at first, but with patience and love, we'll blossom into loyal and devoted companions. If you're looking for faithful friends to cuddle with and shower with affection, we could be the perfect match.



Hi, I'm Sadie, a calm, friendly and resilient 2-year-old Border Collie mix with a story of strength and a heart full of hope. I was rescued from Animal Services after arriving with my nine newborn puppies. During my recovery from valley fever and pneumonia, my foster family discovered I had a limp and a damaged wrist, but I'm now on the road to recovery. I appear to do well with other dogs and have even made friends with the resident cat in my foster home, showing my easygoing and adaptable nature. I'm currently on medication to support my health and manage discomfort in my wrist, and I'll have a follow-up X-ray in four months to monitor my progress.

All of these amazing pets are being cared for by the Canine Adoption and Rescue League (CARL). Could you provide a forever home for one of these wonderful animals? To read full pet bios and submit an application, visit www.CARLDogs.org or call 805-644-7387.

Dedicated
to Scamp



Scamp Club

(Scamp Club pets are not for adoption.)

Hi, I'm Timmy — a very lucky dog. My human, Linda, adopted me nine years ago, and she thinks I'm about 11 years old. I'm a mix of Papillon, corgi and dachshund. I came from an Ojai no-kill rescue after being saved from a high-kill shelter.

Linda named me Timmy because I was very timid when we first met. We now live at Cypress Place, but for nine years we lived on a boat in Ventura Harbor. She knows how much I love the beach, so she takes me there every day — I told you I was lucky.

Linda also rescues birds, and when I spot an injured one, I lie down beside it until she can help care for it.



Join Scamp Club

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



Ventura County officials announce the start of voting for the June 2, 2026 Gubernatorial Primary Election, with ballots mailed and early voting now underway.

Voting Begins for June 2 Primary

Michelle Ascencion, the Ventura County Clerk-Recorder & Registrar of Voters, announced the May 4th commencement of voting activities for the June 2, 2026 Gubernatorial

Primary Election.

Ballots Mailed. Throughout the State of California, counties will begin mailing vote by mail ballots to all active registered voters on May

4. Voters should expect to receive their ballot by May 14; anyone who hasn't received their ballot or State/County Voter Information Guide in the mail by then should contact the Elections Office.

Track Your Ballot. Voters are encouraged to sign up for BallotTrax to receive notifications by email, text, or telephone when their ballot is both sent to them and received and counted by the Elections Office. This free service is available through the California Secretary of State's Office by registering at wheresmyballot.sos.ca.gov.

Postmark Deadline Warning. Voters are reminded that USPS does not date stamp mail until it reaches a regional processing center, which could take several days after it is mailed. It is recommended that voters returning their ballot through the mail send it no later than 7-10 days before Election Day to ensure a timely postmark and arrival. Ballots returned by USPS must be postmarked no later than Election Day and received within 7 days to be counted.

Returning Ballots via Drop Box or Vote Center. Besides the USPS return option, vote by mail ballots

can be safely deposited at any of the 40 official ballot drop boxes or 53 vote centers located throughout Ventura County. The ballot must be in the signed return envelope and deposited no later than 8 PM on Election Day, June 2. Lists and maps of all official ballot drop boxes and vote center locations are available at Vote.VenturaCounty.gov.

In-Person Voting. Those who prefer to vote in person can take advantage of early voting at the Elections Office beginning May 4. Early in-person voting is available Monday through Friday, 8 AM to 5 PM, in the Elections Division at the Ventura County Government Center (Hall of Administration, Lower Plaza), 800 S. Victoria Ave., Ventura. ADA assistance is available. Early voting at the Elections Office provides an easily accessible in-person option for voters who will be out of town when the vote centers begin opening May 23.

To contact the Elections Office for assistance call 805-654-2664 or email Elections@VenturaCounty.gov. Stay up to date on the latest election info by following @VCClerkRecorder on various social media channels.

Events Continued from page 11

Ojai:

Ojai Art Center Presents Shadows & Secrets: A Film Noir Series: Sundays, May 3 - July 26, 7 pm.

Ojai Art Center Theater, 113 South Montgomery St.

Twelve Rare and Restored Classics Illuminate the Screen in Ojai. The Ojai Art Center invites film lovers to step into the dark, seductive world of classic cinema with "Shadows & Secrets: A Film Noir Series," a twelve-week celebration of one of Hollywood's most enduring genres. Curated and presented by film historian Steve Grumette. Admission: \$10 per screening; \$75 full-series pass (12 films). www.ojaiartcenter.org.

Ojai Herbal Retreat: Roots of Renewal: Sat, May 30, 9 am.

Krotona Institute of Theosophy, 46 Krotona St.

A full-day immersive event. This retreat is mindfully curated to offer a total departure from digital saturation and daily stressors. Set within the peaceful, forested surroundings of Krotona's 118-acre campus, the retreat features a sequence of workshops, a Chumash blessing, and catered vegetarian lunch options designed to provide a comprehensive experience of relaxation and rejuvenation. Tickets for the Retreat include vegetarian lunch options. Advance Price discount is available until May 23. Due to the intimate nature of the workshops, space is limited. For more information or to register, visit OjaiHerbal.org or email info@ojaiherbal.org. www.krotonainstitute.org.

Oxnard:

Art, Identity, and the Global Game Converge in "Once Miradas, Un Balón": May 14 - September 4.

Gallery hours, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm. Consulado de México en Oxnard, 3151 W 5th St.

As the 2026 FIFA World Cup approaches, a new exhibition in Oxnard invites

the community to explore the game of soccer through a local perspective. The Oxnard Performing Arts Center Corporation (OPAC), in partnership with the Consulado de México en Oxnard, presents Once Miradas, Un Balón (Eleven Gazes, One Ball) - a group exhibition that looks at fútbol as both a cultural presence and a source of artistic inspiration. Admission is free.

Channel Islands Harbor - 16th Annual Safe Boating Expo: Sat, May 16, 9 am - 3 pm. Harbor East Park.

Boaters, paddlers, and ocean enthusiasts are invited to kick off National Safe Boating Week at the 16th Annual Safe Boating Expo. The free event is designed for both experienced boaters and those new to the water. Offering hands-on safety demonstrations, expert instruction, and live rescue simulations that highlight the importance of preparedness while enjoying Ventura County's waterways and the Channel Islands. www.channelislandsharbor.org.

Santa Barbara:

Ensemble Theatre - About Every Brilliant Thing: Wed., Jun 3 - Jun 21. Vic, 33 West Victoria St.

What makes life worth living? A child starts a list of every brilliant thing in the world, hoping to help their mother through depression. As the list grows—ice cream, the color yellow, the sound of laughter—the audience is invited on a heartwarming, interactive journey through life's highs and lows, discovering joy in the simplest things. 90 minutes without intermission. Recommended for ages 13 and up. <https://etcbs.org/production/every-brilliant-thing>. 805-965-5400.

Virtual Meet the Doctor Event Early Detection Could Save Your Life: The Importance of Colon Cancer Prevention and Screenings: Tue, May 19, 4 pm - 5 pm.

Cottage Surgical Clinics is hosting a free virtual event focused on colon cancer prevention and screening. The presentation will be led by Dr. Lexine Yurcho, a board-certified general and colorectal surgeon. Colon cancer is one of the most preventable and treatable cancers when detected early. Dr. Yurcho

will discuss the importance of screening and what individuals need to know to protect their health. Participants will learn about: When to begin screening and why guidelines now recommend starting earlier; Symptoms and warning signs that should not be ignored; Risk factors, including family history; Prevention strategies and available

treatment options; The differences between colonoscopy and at-home screening tests. The event will also feature a Q&A session, providing participants the opportunity to have their questions answered directly by Dr. Yurcho in a confidential setting. To register for this free virtual event, visit cottagehealth.org/surgicalMTD.



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Photo by Diane Edmonds

Anacapa Island Shoreline Cruises

Photo by Doug Mangum

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By Pam Baumgardner VenturaRocks.com

The California Strawberry Festival runs over the weekend of May 16 and 17 at the Ventura County Fairgrounds. This family friendly event offers over 40 food vendors, arts & crafts booths and of course live music entertainment across several stages. Saturday highlights to include performances by Hot Southerhn Nights, Twisted Gypsy, Adam Lasher and more, and then on Sunday, it's the Kings of Queen, The Long Run, Jayden Secor and Bonnie Boy. For rules and admission go to CaStrawberryFestival.org.

Music Under the Stars concert tickets went on sale Tuesday, May 12. All the information for tickets can be found at www.cityofventura.ca.gov/1738/Music-Under-the-Stars.

The Ventura Music Festival lineup was announced on May 8; (<https://www.venturamusicfestival.org/>). Do note early bird ticket sales run through the end of May with standard ticket window on June 1. And now, the lineup:

- Classical Edge: Beethoven's Choice, July 23 at Ventura College Performing Arts Center
- Angel Blue with Bryan Wagorn, July 24 at Rancho Campana High School
- Akropolis Reed Quintet, July 26 at Ventura College Performing Arts Center
- Classical Edge: The Birth of Impressionism, October 15 at Museum of Ventura County
- Michael Cleveland & Jason Carter, October 17 at Mission Park, Ventura
- Pacific Jazz Orchestra: a Tribute to Quincy Jones, October 18 at Rancho Campana High School

The City of Thousand Oaks gets it right with their Pop Up Arts & Music Festival which runs Friday and Saturday evenings through the month of June. The concerts series is FREE bringing mostly original artists to eight different parks. The series offers everyone the opportunity to gather with friends and neighbors in a beautiful, relaxed outdoor space. As the name suggests, the festival will feature "pop-up" public performances and activities at a variety of locations throughout Thousand Oaks. The primary goal of the festival is to provide residents and visitors with an opportunity to actively participate in and enjoy the arts in unexpected and distinctive locations throughout the community. Get artist lineup and dates and locations at <https://bapacthousandaks.com/popup>.

Press has started on the 7th Annual Oxnard Jazz Festival. 2024 saw this event cancelled just days before opening day due to "unexpected challenges," but they're back for scheduled dates September 10-13 at Olol'koy Beach Park in Oxnard. Artists on tap include Louie Cruz Beltran, Brasscals, B.I.G., The Whispers and more. Ticket information at OxnardJazzFestival.com.

Quick Notes:

Tickets for Scott Bradlee's Post-

modern Jukebox are on sale now for their concert at the Majestic Ventura Theater for December 3.

The listing for the Psychedelic Furs at the Ojai Libbey Bowl for Sunday, May 31 has disappeared from the website, however ticket vendors are still selling tickets (do with that what you may);

Fri, May 15, Carlos y Charlos plays the Paolomazo Music Series in Oxnard.

And sorry to report Onyx is closing their doors with their last day of business being Sunday, May 31. Their new chapter is Olilve & Quince, a catering & personal chef business.

Do you have any music-related news or upcoming shows that you would like help publicizing? Please send all information, short or long, to Pam@VenturaRocks.com. For updated music listings daily, visit www.VenturaRocks.com.

Live Music

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

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

Sun 5/17: Teka & Friends

Boatyard Pub

1583 Spinnaker Dr., Ventura

Mondays: Katie Shorey

Wednesdays: Frank Barajas

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

Fri 5/15: Teresa Russell & Stephen Geyer

Sat 5/16: Déjà vu Three

Sun 5/17: Alphabet Astronauts

Tues 5/19: Karen Eden & Bill Macpherson

Fri 5/22: Big Ben

Sat 5/23: Ken Devoe

Sun 5/24: Smokey & Friends

Tues 5/26: Ken Devoe

Bombay Bar and Grill

143 S. California St., Ventura

Fri 5/15: Frank Barajas and Joe Hamilton

Sat 5/16: One Hundred Paces, Darjeeling Photo Club

Café Fiore

66 California St., Ventura

Wed 5/13: Fabulous Hangovers

Fri 5/15: Instone

Wed 5/20: Donna Butler

Fri 5/22: Othis Hayes

Cantara Cellars

126 Wood Rd., Camarillo

Fri 5/15: Brandon Ragan Project

Sat 5/16: 805 Social Club

Fri 5/22: Caliente 805

Sat 5/23: Bad Habit

Deer Lodge

2261 Maricopa Hwy., Ojai

Wed 4/29: Open mic

Thurs 5/14: Tropa Magica w/ the Crystal Tears

Fri 5/15: Dylan Cunningham

Sat 5/16: Fever Dog, Cinema Stereo

Sun 5/17: Rev Russ Brunelli, Duane Bartels, Traveling Nobodies...

Thurs 5/21: Swimming Bell, Minor Gold, Breezers

Fri 5/22: Youngtones

Sat 5/23: Deadset 805

Feros Ferio Winery

310 E. Ojai Ave., Ojai

Sat 5/16: Fretboard Zen

Sun 5/17: Frank Barajas & John Fincham

Sat 5/23: Cheeky Gits

Sun 5/24: Emerald Thundercats

Garage

1091 Scandia Ave., Ventura

Fri 5/15: Valley Sons

Sat 5/16: What the Funk

Fri 5/22: Power On

Sat 5/23: Sin Chonies

The Grape

2733 E. Main St., Ventura

Tuesdays: Gratitude Jazz Jams

Wed 5/13: Hot Roux

Thurs 5/14: 6 Beats Apart

Fri 5/15: One Shot Deal Plays Zappa

Sat 5/16: Rick Homstrom Band feat. RJ Mischo (2p)

Wed 5/20: Lyle Workman

Thurs 5/21: TD Lind & the Aviators

Harbor Cove Café

1867 Spinnaker Dr., Ventura

Music Saturdays 5-8 pm

Saturdays 10 am: Ukulele Jams

Fri 5/16: Goletasound

Sun 5/17: Tommy Quale (10a); Flip-Flop Revival (2p)

Sat 5/23: Cinnamon Whiskey

Sun 5/24: Warren Takahashi (10a); Blue Pacific Trio (2p)

The Keynote Lounge

10245 Telephone Rd., Ventura

Fri 5/15: CRV

Fri 5/22: Skeleton Keys

Sat 5/23: Freddy and Friends

KJ's

454 E. Main St., Ventura

Sat 5/16: Another Brick in the Stairway

Sun 5/17: Corey and the Folk Boys (noon); A Rock

Legend, Lucifuge (3p)

Sat 5/23: The Deal

Sun 5/24: Corey and the Folk Boys (noon)

Leashless Brewing

585 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

Sat 5/16: JWADI

Sun 5/17: Mark Masson & Phriends

Sun 5/24: OnePeople

Lucky Fool's Pub

75 E. High St., Moorpark

Fri 5/15: 24 Strings

Sat 5/16: Teresa Russell

Fri 5/22: Mark Blasquez

Sat 5/23: Mack and D

Majestic Ventura Theater

26 S. Chestnut St., Ventura

Thurs 5/14: Whitey Morgan and the 78s

Fri 5/22: Circle Jerks (sold out)

Sat 5/23: Circle Jerks

Manhattan

5800 Santa Rosa Rd., Camarillo

Wed 5/13: Mary White

Fri 5/15: Jeanne Tatum Trio

Sat 5/16: Otis Hayes Trio

Fri 5/22: Little Fish Duo

Sat 5/23: Lisa Ritner Jones and the Musical Suspects

Margarita Villa

1567 Spinnaker Dr., Ventura

Fri 5/15: Mack and D

Sat 5/16: Smokey & Friends

Sun 5/17: CRV

Tues 5/19: Big Adventure

Fri 5/22: Cinnamon Whiskey

Sat 5/23: Crosscut 805

Sun 5/24: James Bros Band

Mon 5/25: Back Track

Tues 5/26: Mark Masson

Ojai Underground Exchange

616 Pearl St., Ojai

Fri 5/15: Sisy

Sat 1/16: Abby Posner, Kristen Ford, Donna Lynn Caskey

Tues 5/19: Larry & Joe

Mrs. Olson's Coffee Hut

2800 Harbor Blvd., Oxnard

Sat 5/16: HR, Swingin' Johnny, Irie Nature

Fri 5/22: Vulgar Display, 2L

Ojai Valley Brewing

307 Bryant St., Ojai

Wednesdays: Ojai Valley Bluegrass Pickers/Open Jam

Fri 5/15: Cindy Kalmenson & Lucky Neighbors

Sat 5/16: Casual Business, Human Collective

Sun 5/17: Van Allen Twins

Fri 5/22: Bleech the Broms, The Clone

Sat 5/23: Ashford Gordon's Bop City Band

Sun 5/24: Dang Tiger

Onyx

2390 Las Posas Rd., Camarillo

Fri 5/15: Vinny Berry

Sat 5/16: George Kirkes

Fri 5/22: Jockey Jord

Sat 5/23: Aryk Crown

Sam's Place

308 E. Ojai Ave., Ojai

Fri 5/15: Adrea

Sat 5/16: Hot Roux

Fri 5/22: Maclovia

Sat 5/23: TD Lind & the Aviators

The Shores

1031 Harbor Blvd., Oxnard

Wed 5/13: Pat Boales

Fri 5/15: Pull the Trigger

Sat 5/16: Checkpoint

Sun 5/17: Karen Eden & the Bad Apples

Wed 5/20: Doc & Lisa

Fri 5/22: Rhythm 805

Sat 5/23: Lil Bit of Everything

Strawberry Festival

10 W. Harbor Blvd., Ventura Fairgrounds

Sat 5/16: Adam Lasher, Hot Southern Nights, Twisted Gypsy, more...

Sun 5/17: The Long Run, Bonnie Boy, Kings of Queen, Jayden Secor, more...

Strey Cellars

951 N. Rice Ave., Oxnard

Sat 5/16: Vinyl Gypsies

Sat 5/23: Heathers on Fire

Sun 5/24: The Dirty Lowdown

Tony's Pizzeria

186 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

Thurs 5/14: Wisdom Tree

Fri 5/15: DNA

Sat 5/16: Red Rhythm (2p); Ignition (7p)

Sun 5/17: In Stone (2p); 80s Invasion (7p)

Thurs 5/21: Ska Daddyz

Fri 5/22: Spencer the Gardener, Turning Trees

Sat 5/23: Rhythm 805 (2p); The Bomb (7p)

Sun 5/24: Back Track (2p); New Vibe (7p)

Mon 5/25: Heathers on Fire

Topa Topa Brewing Downtown

104 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

Sat 5/16: Duane Bartels

Tues 5/19: Jared Nels

Sat 5/23: Natalie Wattré

Tues 5/26: Elliott Callaway

Trois le Fou/Lester Wineries

4522 Market St., Ventura

Gabby Hamma Duo

Twisted Oak Tavern

2433 Ventura Blvd., Camarillo

Fri 5/15: Mark Masson

Sat 5/16: Vinny Berry

Vaquero y Mar

435 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

Tuesdays: The Sea Hunters

Wed 5/20: Up Country

Ventura Music Hall

1888 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

Wed 5/13: Stanley Simmons

Thurs 5/14: Steely Dead

Fri 5/15: Mickey Avalon

Sat 5/16: Son Rompe Pera

Tues 5/19: Unknown Mortal Orchestra

Thurs 5/21: Straight Tequila

Fri 5/22: Yellowman

Sat 5/23: The Movement, Bedouin Soundclash, Bikini Trill

Sun 5/24: Granddaddy

Winchesters

632 E. Main St., Ventura

Music Fridays 7-10; Sat and Sun 3-6

Fri 5/15: Robert Heft Band

Sat 5/16: Johnny Knows No One

Sun 5/17: Doron & Friends

Thurs 5/21: Grateful Dead Jams

Fri 5/22: CRV

Sat 5/23: Dianne Miller Trio

Sun 5/24: Burnout

FOTM Archive & Library Presents: Where Art Begins

Enjoy studio visits with three renowned FOTM documented artists; Paul Lindhard, Joe Adams and Karen Kitchel. These artists will open their studios to art lovers for a special visit to benefit the Focus on the Masters Arts Archive & Library education outreach. The tour will begin at the Art City Sculpture Studios, a renowned artist enclave and studio complex, known as Ventura's oldest artists' collective. Guests will visit

with sculptor and Art City founder, Paul Lindhard, and one of the many fellow sculptors on site, Joe Adams. Both artists are renowned for their large-scale, site-specific installations.

A short distance from Art City is the spacious studio of renowned realist painter Karen Kitchel. Visit with Karen as she shares her latest projects and the diverse work displayed in the studio. Describing her work, the Karen

states, "My mixed media paintings extend landscape painting traditions and propose new relationships to the locations we inhabit. Instead of illustrating distant views of generic scenery, this work places the viewer in the center of vivid sensations of the natural world. Whether a precisely rendered fragment or a dramatically enlarged specimen, I provide intimate, urgently specific encounters between human and botanical

realms." The visit with Karen will wrap with wine and light refreshments. Event is limited to 25 guests.

Sunday, May 31, 10 am - 1 pm

FOTM Members - \$50

Non-members - \$75

RSVP: www.FocusOnTheMasters.com or 805.653.2501

To learn more about these artists, visit www.ArtCity.com, www.JoeAdamsArt.com www.KarenKitchel.com.



Five-sided Prayer Stone by Paul Lindhard, Picasso marble.

Sun Stone, Ventana Inn, Big Sur by Joe Adams.



Photos courtesy FOTM

Curbside by Karen Kitchel oil on wood.

Ventura Art Scene



Photos courtesy Ventura College Performing Arts

Audiences will experience the power of nearly 200 musicians onstage. And more than 100 singers drawn from the three campuses will perform alongside the Ventura College Symphony Orchestra and professional soloists Anastasia Malliaras, Christina Pezzarossi, Benjamin Brecher, and Brian Hotchkin. The event will be conducted by VC's Music Department Chair, Brent Wilson.

200 Central Coast Musicians Unite for Free Rossini Concerts

Nearly 200 students, faculty, and professional musicians from Ventura College, Moorpark College, and University of California, Santa Barbara will unite this May for two free performances of Petite Messe Solennelle by Gioachino Rossini.

The concerts will be held Saturday, May 16 at 2 p.m. at Trinity Episcopal Church and Sunday, May 17 at 7 p.m. at Oxnard Performing Arts Center. Both performances are free and open to the public.

More than 100 singers from the three campuses will perform alongside the Ventura College Symphony Orchestra and professional soloists under the direction of Brent Wilson, chair of Ventura College's Performing Arts Department and Director of Choral Activities at UC Santa Barbara.

The performances mark the first major collaboration between the three institutions and were conceived as part of Ventura College's centennial celebration,

highlighting 100 years of service to the Ventura County community.

Composed in 1863, Rossini's Petite Messe Solennelle was written more than 30 years after the composer had largely retired from writing operas. Though labeled "petite," the work is known for its dramatic scale, emotional depth, and powerful choral writing.

Brent Wilson, chair of performing arts at Ventura college and director of Choral activities at UCSB said, "It has been such a pleasure to bring all these amazing musical forces together: our talented students from all three colleges, our wonderful Ventura College Symphony Orchestra and our four noteworthy soloists. I think our audiences in Oxnard and Santa Barbara will very much respond to Rossini's sumptuous, expressive writing... We have all been so moved and charmed by this music in our rehearsal process and we can't wait to bring these emotions to our community."

David Castillo, director of Choral activities at Moorpark College said, "It has been a thrill to collaborate with our sister college in Ventura, and for all of our students to get to work with their peers from UCSB. This collaboration has been very inspiring for us all and we look forward to bringing more collaborations like this to our community in the future!"

In addition to their impressive regional and national performing credits, the soloists have deep ties to the Ventura County Community College District and to the University of California, Santa

Barbara. Mezzo-soprano Christina Pezzarossi Ramsey is a faculty member at both Oxnard and Ventura Colleges and doctoral candidate at UC Santa Barbara. Baritone Brian Hotchkin is a member of the Ventura College faculty and frequent presence on area stages. Tenor Benjamin Brecher is a Professor of Voice at UC Santa Barbara. Guest artist Soprano Anastasia Malliaras's frequent local credits include the role of Cleopatra in Opera Santa Barbara's production of Handel's Giulio Cesare as well as several performances as soloist with the Ventura College Choirs.



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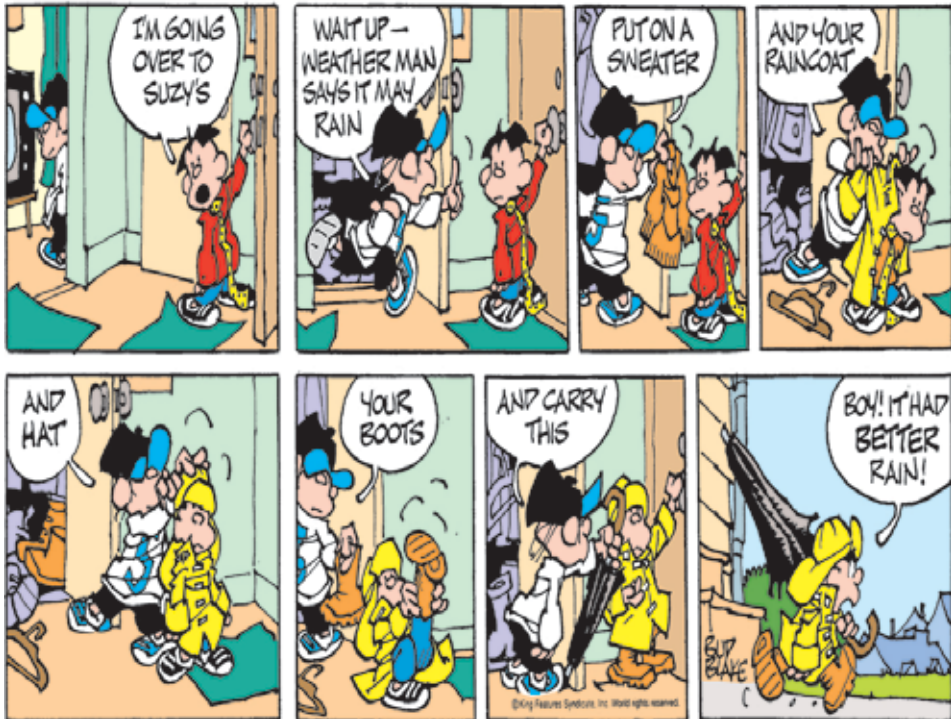
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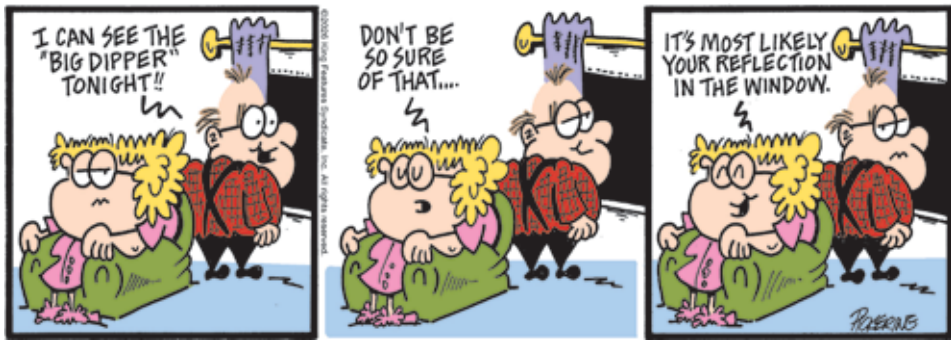


Lighter Breeze

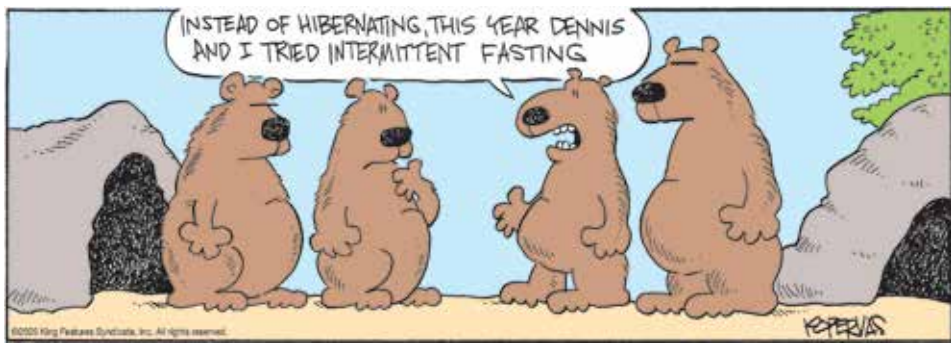
Tiger



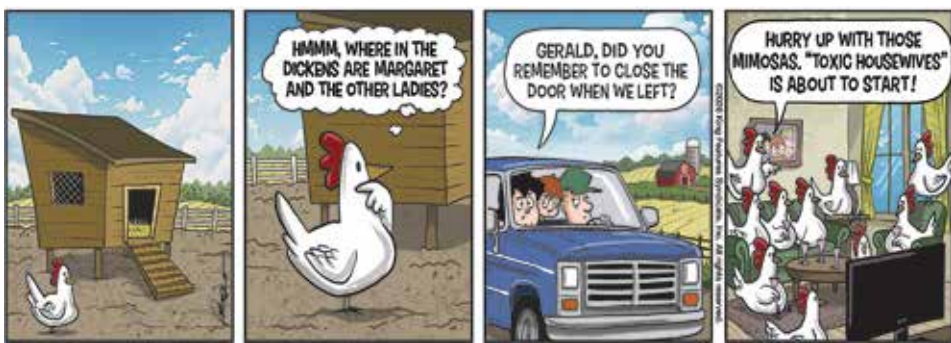
The Spats



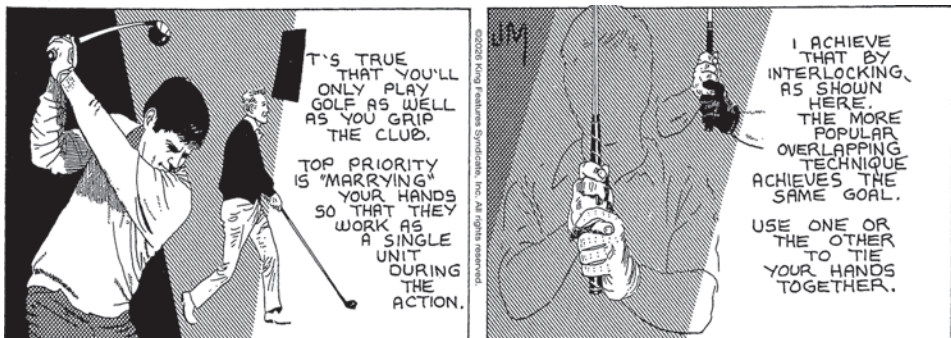
Out on a Limb



Amber Waves



Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



Solutions on page 11

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

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

Weekly SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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Solutions on page 11

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Supergirl's first name
- 5 Platter
- 9 Author Tolstoy
- 12 Lay — the line
- 13 Cold War initials
- 14 Days of yore
- 15 Citrus producer
- 17 Avril follower
- 18 At hand
- 19 Unmanned plane
- 21 Apt. cooler
- 22 Rid of wool
- 24 Coconut juice
- 27 "Nova" subj.
- 28 Feed the piggy bank
- 31 Hearty quaff
- 32 Klutz
- 33 Actor Patel
- 34 Mater lead-in
- 36 Roman 1051
- 37 Big party
- 38 Chose
- 40 Undergrad deg.
- 41 Ford or Hudson
- 43 Parlor piece
- 47 PC key
- 48 Tangy, custard-like spread
- 51 Employ

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | | 9 | 10 | 11 |
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| 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 | | |

- 52 "Zounds!"
- 53 Novelist Bronte
- 54 Grazing tract
- 55 Activist Parks
- 56 Adolescent
- 8 Words to live by
- 9 Picnic drink
- 10 Panache
- 11 Garfield's pal
- 16 "The Wall" network
- 20 B&O and others (Abbr.)
- 22 Burn with steam
- 23 LP player
- 24 Goat's cry
- 25 Under the weather
- 26 Throat-soothing drink
- 27 Not all
- 29 Bird doc
- 30 Cain's mom
- 35 Earth Day mo.
- 37 Nabob
- 39 10th U.S. president
- 40 "Gandhi" star
- 41 Move, as freight
- 42 Otherwise
- 43 Pop
- 44 Melody
- 45 Sea eagle
- 46 Paradise
- 49 Id counterpart
- 50 Pas' mates

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ON STAGE JUNE 3-21

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Photo courtesy SEEAG

High school finalists present water-focused agriculture research at CSUCI.

SEEAG Honors Student Innovators

Winners of the first Students for Eco-Education and Agriculture (SEEAG) “Fields of Innovation in Agriculture Research Competition” were selected on May 2.

High schoolers in grades 10 through 12 from 6 different schools interested in applying STEM solutions to agricultural problems participated in the six-week, guided online competition. The competition culminated in an in-person final showcase at CSU Channel Islands,

held alongside the 18th Annual CSUCI Student Research Conference.

“By bringing SEEAG’s student finalists to CSUCI, we connected them directly to the college research environment while giving them a platform to present their own work,” says Caitlin Paulus Case, SEEAG executive director. “It’s an experience that builds confidence and strengthens real-world communication skills.”

This year’s theme was “Water in

Agriculture.” Students were tasked with researching and developing creative solutions to pressing agricultural issues. They were required to research local and statewide water challenges, explore creative solutions to a chosen problem, identify STEM-related careers needed to implement their solution, create a research abstract, and present in front of a panel of industry judges.

The first-place winner is Jayden Hua, a 10th-grader from Thousand Oaks High School (\$2,000 scholarship). Second-place winner is Aurora Arellano, a 12th-grader from Rio Mesa High School (\$1,000 scholarship). Third-place winner is Nandhitha Bashyaramanujam, an 11th-grader from Westlake High School (\$500).

Hua’s project investigated the impact of Santa Ana Winds on crop health and yields through increased evapotranspiration. Arellano focused on groundwater overdraft in California’s Central Valley and explored the use of injection wells. Bashyaramanujam addressed modern irrigation practices and above-ground water loss by applying principles of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK).

“When students from diverse disciplines and interests tackle pressing

agricultural challenges like water, we’re showing that the future of our food system depends on many perspectives and ideas working together,” says Camille Graham, SEEAG’s STEM CPA program coordinator. “Through this experience, students begin to see themselves as innovators and problem solvers who can drive meaningful change locally on the Central Coast and far beyond.”

Competition judges were Kali Fennell-Lyman, production coordinator, Brokaw Nursery, Dr. Ann De Lay, agricultural professor, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, Dr. Ruben Alarcon, biology professor, CSU Channel Islands, Pal Halstead, irrigation specialist, Coast Water Solutions, Sophia Avalos, applied research technician, Driscoll’s, Soledad Camacho, agronomy technician, Driscoll’s and Jacob Pecenka, research entomologist and agroecologist, Rodale Institute.

“SEEAG is thankful to our sponsors and program supporters who made this competition possible,” says Paulus Case. “Special thanks to Coast Water Solutions and Travis Ag for their generous contributions, their support played a vital role in creating this meaningful opportunity for students.”

Trash, Recycling and Yard/Organics Waste Pick Up DELAY Due to the Memorial Day Holiday

Due to the Memorial Day holiday on Monday, May 25, trash, recycling and yard/organics waste will be collected one day later than usual the week of May 24-30 in the Cities of Ventura and Ojai and the unincorporated areas of Ventura County.

Thank you and Happy Holiday
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Harbor Blotter

Tuesday 4/28

9:30am, officers training with Rescue B-19, very close quarter maneuvering in the Fish offloading pier elevator lift slip. Goal is to turn around in the slip.

11:03pm, while closing Harbor Cove beach lot, contacted by an individual looking for a place to “camp” for the night. Advised no overnight parking or camping in the harbor. Advised individual areas for possible overnight parking.

Wednesday 4/29

11:55pm, dispatched to a fall patient in the Ventura Marina Community. Officers responded with VFD/AMR to assist with patient treatment.

Thursday 4/30

7:07am, observed NOAA issued a Small Craft Advisory for Northwest winds to 30kts in the western portion of the Santa Barbara channel, raised warning flag.

8:54am, received compliment for removing Hazards to Navigation, multiple logs that were adrift in the Harbor entrance last week.

11:30am, dispatched to a “paddleboarder” in distress at Faria point. Officers responded in Harborwatch 5 to the call, staging at the pier. After investigation it was determined that the paddler was not in distress, just doing a downwinder.

3:30pm, officers working with maintenance to repair the autolock(s) on the launch ramp restroom doors that have been malfunctioning due to vandals.

Friday 5/1

7:07am, observed SCA taken down, lowered warning flag, raised colors.

2:30pm, received a float plan from an individual conducting a downwinder on a foilboard from top of the point to Pierpont.

5:15pm, received a report of an injured seabird near the Santa Clara Rivermouth. Officers were able to capture the bird for rescue volunteers for rehabilitation.

Saturday 5/2

6:25am, dispatched to a beach fire near Surfers Knoll. Officers responded with VFD and were able to extinguish the 10ft x 10ft blaze with approximately 500 gallons from Ventura Fires engine stationed at Surfers Knoll lot.

9:15am, received complaint of a dinghy impeding fairway, sticking 5 ft out of the slip. Officers responded in truck, resecured the vessel into the slip.

1:24pm, dispatched to traumatic injury at South Jetty, head laceration while surfing. Officers responded with VFD/AMR to assist with patient treatment.

7:08pm, received report of a transient digging a hole and yelling on the side of Harbor Blvd. Advised to contact Ventura PD if something illegal is happening.

Sunday 5/3

6:00am, officers assisting State Parks and Triathlon officials with swimming portion of the race. Fireboat 1 and Rescue Boat 19 responded with rescue swimmers to assist with lifeguarding the event.

1:45pm, while on patrol in Rescue Boat 19, officers observed a sailboat in Portside marina with a parted bow line. They were able to re-secure the boat.

Monday 5/4

7:23am, observed NOAA issued a Small Craft Advisory, raised warning pennant

12:30pm, observed Rescue watercraft alarm activated, hauled the ski out of the water to investigate. Able to secure the alarm, still investigating the issue.

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PETITE MESSE SOLENNELLE
 BY GIOACHINO ROSSINI

**SUNDAY
 MAY 17
 7:00 PM
 OXNARD**

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 MOORPARK COLLEGE
 UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA,
 SANTA BARBARA
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 TRINITY EPISCOPAL / 1500 ST. STREET**

**OXNARD: SUN. MAY 17 / 7PM
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