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Photo courtesy PW Robinson

Left to right; Veronica Sanchez, Barbara and PW Robinson. A simple act of compassion sparked a growing movement to help elderly homeless women in Ventura County.

Friends of Barbara Gives Hope to Elderly Homeless Women

By PW Robinson

Veronica Sanchez, well-known local animal activist with Legacy of Love, was driving through Midtown one afternoon when she saw an elderly homeless woman struggling with her cart. Veronica pulled over and approached her. She quickly realized the woman was injured, exhausted, and in deteriorating condition. She decided to do something about it.

She loaded the woman's belongings into her vehicle, brought her to a nearby motel, and paid for several nights so she could rest safely indoors. To protect her identity, Veronica later wrote about her on NextDoor using the name "Barbara." Within hours, neighbors were offering help - financially, materially, and spiritually.

I saw Veronica's posts and reached out. As a former homeless person myself, I hoped I might offer perspective on what
Continued on page 3

Ventura College Launches Loreto Study Abroad Trip



Photo courtesy Ventura College.

Kammy Algiers, Ventura College biology professor; artist Lizette Inzunza, who painted the whale mural; and Mark Urwick, Ventura Sister City Association vice-chair, in Loreto, Mexico.

Students explored culture, science, and community in Ventura's sister city during the college's first international program.

Ventura College made history this spring break when eleven students participated in the college's inaugural study abroad program, traveling to Loreto, Mexico – Ventura's sister city – for a week-long immersive, cross-disciplinary experience. Led by Professor of Sociology Daniella Graves and Professor of Biology Kammy Algiers, the program marked a milestone year in the making.

"This trip has been such an enriching experi
Continued on page 4

The Future of McGrath State Beach

By Patricia Schallert

Nestled along the scenic coastline of McGrath State Beach, summers there were once filled with adventure, sunshine, and family fun. Campers woke to the sound of crashing waves and cool ocean breezes, while visitors spent their days swimming, kayaking through calm waterways, surfing Pacific waves, and exploring the nearby estuary. Whether roasting marshmallows at a campsite, watching sunsets over the ocean, or paddling along the shore, McGrath State Beach offered a unique blend of relaxation and outdoor recreation that brought families and beach lovers back year after year.

Unfortunately, McGrath State Beach has faced repeated closures since 2014 due to chronic flooding tied to the nearby Santa Clara River Estuary.
Continued on page 6



Photo by Patricia Schallert.

McGrath State Beach, once a popular coastal campground, is undergoing long-term planning efforts as agencies address recurring flooding, estuary restoration, and climate resilience along the Santa Clara River Estuary.

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“Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life.”
— Pablo Picasso

City News

TENNIS / PICKLEBALL DESIGNATED HOURS

SUMMER SCHEDULE
MAY 22 - AUGUST 9, 2026

JUANAMARIA PARK

N. Kimball Rd. & Loma Vista Rd.

TENNIS ONLY

TUESDAYS:

3 p.m. - Dusk

SATURDAYS:

8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

SUNDAYS:

2 p.m. - Dusk

PICKLEBALL ONLY

THURSDAYS:

3 p.m. - Dusk

SUNDAYS:

8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

HARRY A. LYON PARK

150 De Anza Dr.

TENNIS ONLY

MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS:

3 p.m. - Dusk

SUNDAYS:

8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

PICKLEBALL ONLY

TUESDAYS & THURSDAYS:

3 p.m. - Dusk

SATURDAYS:

8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

SUNDAYS:

2 p.m. - Dusk

All other times are subject to a first-come, first-served basis.

Phone:
805-658-4726

CITY OF
VENTURA

PG 5-0021 REV 05-26

Camino Real Tennis Courts Update

Following a recent inspection, the tennis courts at Camino Real Park, originally built in 1972, have been closed. The inspection determined that the courts have reached the end of their usable lifespan. Resurfacing or sealing the cracks is no longer a viable or cost-effective solution. A full rebuild is required. The most recent estimate, completed in July 2025, projected rebuild costs of more than \$3.8 million.

Grant Funding Update

In August 2025, the City applied for grant funding through the State Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) program to support reconstruction of the tennis courts and the addition of eight pickleball courts.

On May 8, 2026, the City received formal notification that the project was not selected for funding during this grant cycle. This marks the second time the City has applied for LWCF funding for the improvements at Camino Real Park and was not awarded grant funding.

City staff will continue pursuing future grant opportunities to help advance the project.

Next Steps

The City has identified funding to initiate the design phase for the Camino Real Park tennis court reconstruction project.

The design services component of the project will move through a formal public bidding process in accordance with public procurement requirements. All bidding opportunities will be publicly advertised, and interested firms will have the opportunity to submit proposals through the official solicitation process.

To ensure a fair and competitive process, the City cannot engage in discussions with potential bidders prior to the release of the formal solicitation.

Summer Classes & Camps

Staff are working on relocating summer tennis camps and classes to an alternate location. Participants will be notified with updates as soon as possible.

Additional Tennis Courts

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



Community Wildfire Preparedness & Safety Evening

Join Ventura Land Trust, Ventura Regional Fire Safe Council, and Ventura Fire Department for an informative evening focused on community wildfire preparedness and safety. This interactive presentation will gather community feedback on VLT's 2023 Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) in advance of updates.

As part of Ventura City & County requirements, fuel clearance must be completed by June 1st each year - this session will help you understand VLT's approach to fuels management and practical actions for Ventura residents to reduce wildfire risk and improve community safety.

- June 10, 2026
- 6:30 pm - 8 pm
- Ventura Land Trust, 353 Sanjon Rd.
- Free dinner
- On-site childcare provided by VLT educators
- Please RSVP no later than June 5 so we can plan for food and childcare needs. <https://venturafiresafe.org/event/community-wildfire-preparedness-plan-cwpp-presentation>.

Mailbox

Hello,

My name is Angela Carradine, I am a homeowner and current voluntary board member at Peppertree Condos. Last Oct. I applied for a grant with Monarch Watch (monarchwatch.org), for free milkweed plugs to plant around the property, to hopefully have Peppertree become a point for Monarchs to lay their eggs; and help in the efforts to increase their severely declining population.

In April, Monarch Watch informed me that the complex was awarded one of the grants and we received 64 starter milkweeds, which I have planted in 11 different areas along the back of the complex. I have seen 2 early signs of promise, which I have included and thought might be a nice little story to share with readers.

In addition, one of my projects while on the board has been to plant wildflowers to augment and improve the landscape of the property, in hope of creating a more inviting habitat for wildlife and beautiful landscape for residents and the local community.

Thank you for taking the time to read my message!
Sunny Days,
Angela Carradine



**Friends of Barbara
Continued from page 1**

to expect. I cautioned her to protect her warm heart; people surviving on the streets often struggle to trust anyone, even those trying to help them.

I had recently attended a meeting of the faith-based Ventura County Safe and Stable Task Force, where the focus was the rapidly growing number of elderly unhoused residents. The trends paint a frightening picture: more people are aging into homelessness, while others are being pushed from housing and onto the streets for the first time late in life.

Veronica and I decided to create a NextDoor group called Friends of Barbara, with the long-term goal of growing it into a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Our mission is simple: provide bridge-shelter solutions for elderly homeless women while they work toward permanent housing.

Our first Barbara is a small, sweet 73-year-old woman left bent and disabled by an automobile accident years ago. She is bright, funny, fiercely independent, and deeply grateful for the help she's receiving from the community. When we met her, she had nothing - no identification, no benefits, no social services support after her purse had been stolen. Since then, she has done everything asked of her and has now been presented to the Continuum of Care for housing waitlist consideration. We also received invaluable assistance from Betty Garcia in Homeless Services throughout the process.

What we discovered was a system full of caring, hardworking people constrained by severe shortages of housing, shelter beds, and resources. The process just to be considered for housing can be exhausting, and movement through the system often happens painfully slowly. Barbara's Medi-Cal and Gold Coast application, for example, was discovered sitting untouched on a desk for weeks. In another instance, she was mistakenly categorized as "at-risk" instead of "homeless," delaying services further.

I asked Veronica why she stopped to help Barbara that day - why she acted when so many others simply drove by.

She told me about her friend Bryan Brahn, a 70-year-old homeless man who lived on the streets with his two beloved dogs. Veronica had befriended Bryan and helped care for the animals. One day, Bryan was struck and killed in an intersection, with one of his dogs dying beside him. The surviving dog, Bridget,

was badly injured and later rescued and rehabilitated by volunteers, including Veronica.

That tragedy permanently impressed upon her the dangers of life outdoors.

There is no place where homeless people are truly safe living outside. When Veronica found Barbara, she was only trying to get off the sidewalk long enough to rest her painfully swollen feet and ankles. She had learned not to fall asleep outside at night and was simply searching for a little shade and relief from the heat.

The dangers are constant. Homeless people may face risks from one another, but we have also witnessed horrific violence inflicted by housed individuals against the unhoused. In Ventura County alone, elderly homeless people have been beaten, kicked, spat upon, and terrorized beneath overpasses and on public streets. Homeless man Dave Pichel was brutally beaten to death on the steps of a church in Oxnard. At the Oxnard train station, two unhoused individuals were murdered execution-style. Countless other incidents go unreported.

People simply must be sheltered and kept safe - especially when they are elderly.

As for Barbara, it took only a single day indoors for her to begin coming back to life. She organized her belongings, washed her clothes, fixed her hair, and put on makeup—all the ordinary things most people take for granted. When Veronica checked on her two days later, she looked like a different person.

A motel room is not a home, and a microwave is not a kitchen, but even temporary shelter offers something immeasurably valuable: safety, rest, privacy, and dignity. Having a bathroom to use is priceless.

Barbara still lives with the uncertainty of homelessness and the fear that she could return to the streets at any moment. But now, at least, she has some measure of stability and dignity again - two things homelessness strips away almost immediately.

There is currently a modest GoFundMe helping support this effort while we organize our nonprofit initiative. Anyone who believes elderly people deserve safety, dignity, and shelter is invited to join us through the Friends of Barbara NextDoor group. No elderly woman should spend her final years trying to survive on a sidewalk. <https://nextdoor.com/g/rep82di5u>. <https://gofund.me/b8e257225>

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Friends of Barbara News

In the coming days, the Friends of Barbara NextDoor group is expected to reach 50 members - an incredible show of support for a grassroots effort focused on elderly homeless care. We have been deeply humbled by the compassion this community has shown.

As we move toward establishing 501(c)(3) status, we will soon hold an introductory Zoom meeting to bring together volunteers, advisors, and community members interested in helping our most vulnerable neighbors. Anyone wishing to participate or join our mailing list can contact myself or Veronica Sanchez directly through NextDoor.

Our mission begins with bridge-sheltering elderly homeless women while helping connect them to housing, identification, benefits, and social services. Ventura County is filled with caring organizations and dedicated people—the greatest shortages remain housing and shelter beds.

Barbara herself still lives with uncertainty. Though safely sheltered for now through the generosity of supporters, she remains only days away from returning to the street. She is 73 years old, disabled from a serious automobile accident, and navigating a system that moves painfully slowly even for those doing everything right.

This community has already helped restore her dignity, safety, and hope. We are asking for continued support as we work toward lasting solutions for Barbara and others like her.

You can join the Friends of Barbara group here: <https://nextdoor.com/g/rep82di5u>

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Photo courtesy Ventura College.

Ventura College students with Conserva Loreto Program Director Dr. Sula Vanderplank at Mission San Francisco Javier in the Sierra de la Giganta mountain range. The olive tree behind the group is believed to be one of the oldest living trees in Baja California.

Loreto Study Abroad Trip Continued from page 1

ence. There couldn't have been a better fit for our Ventura College students," said Professor Graves. The program originated three years ago when Ventura Sister City Association board member Mark Urwick connected with Ventura College faculty about a potential collaboration. Ventura, California, and Loreto, Mexico, have been sister cities since 2015, sharing a rich mission heritage that gave students the opportunity to explore historical landmarks and reflect on their lasting cultural impact. Ventura College officially approved the program this year, bringing the vision to life.

A Week of Discovery: Culture, Nature, and Community

Students from Introduction to Sociology and Field Biology (Natural History of

California) engaged in a rich variety of activities throughout the week-long trip. They visited the historic Mission Nuestra Señora de Loreto (est. 1697) and Mission San Javier (est. 1699), exploring the history that illuminates the intersection of religious institutionalization, cultural transformation, and colonization. They snorkeled in the marine sanctuary, hiked in the Sierra de la Giganta desert range, explored Coronado and Carmen Islands in Loreto's Parque Nacional Bahía de Loreto a sister park to Ventura's Channel Islands National Park and recorded species biodiversity across land and sea.

Students gave back to the Loreto community by participating in a beach cleanup at Estero Las Garzas, visiting foster children, learning watercolor painting at Casa Cultura from local artist Lizette Inzunza, and supporting

local businesses.

"In the quiet of the sand, discovering new species and environments, I found more than knowledge—I found curiosity.

Loreto, Mexico, will always be the beginning of that journey." — Julie de Jesus, Ventura College Student

**Key Partners:
Eco-Alianza
de Loreto and
Conserva Loreto**

The trip was made possible through a partnership with Eco-Alianza

de Loreto, a non-profit founded in 2007 to address the overuse of Loreto's natural resources. Eco-Alianza organized excursions, island trips, transporta-

tion, and student housing, while also educating participants on local environmental challenges. Students also spent a day with Conserva Loreto, receiving a

guided desert tour from biologist Dr. Sula Vanderplank, who introduced them to the region's unique flora and fauna.

"Our vision is to bring students yearly to Loreto to study the social and environmental aspects of Ventura's sister

city," said Professor Algiers. "We hope to continue this program and build upon what we all learned in this first trip."

"The trip stuck with me in the way that I got to experience this vast difference in so many themes of life, alongside other students who were also navigating the same experience."

— Javier Razo,
Ventura College



Photo courtesy Ventura College.

Ventura College Students visiting Coronado Island in Loreto, Mexico, after visiting Santa Cruz Island in Ventura.

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Business Profile



Tiny homes, big ideas, free admission!

Ventura Home Improvement, Food & Wine Expo 2026

Home Improvement Show Returns to Ventura County Fairgrounds with Fresh Upgrade Ideas and Tiny Homes Village, June 12-14. Looking for a kitchen remodel, bath upgrade, or a fresh home makeover? Or maybe you're exploring ADUs for rental income, adding a granny unit, or even taking a tiny home on the road.

See what's new in decorating, remodeling, landscaping, and tiny homes. The expo also features daily wine and craft brew tastings and the AAA Travel Showcase. Admission is free.

The Tiny Homes Village will feature fully furnished tiny homes, backyard cabanas, casitas, homes on wheels, and the latest tiny-living technology. Meet with builders to explore sizes, designs, amenities, utilities, zoning, and learn about ADUs and the tiny house movement.

For kitchen & bath upgrades, experts will showcase today's cabinet styles, countertops, center-island designs, accessories, showers, vanities, fixtures, lighting, and walk-in tubs.

Remodeling offerings will range from room additions and second story expansions to new windows and doors, flooring, solar, HVAC, window coverings,

plumbing, electrical, and moving and storage services.

For backyard entertaining, see what's new in pools, spas, hot tubs, decks, BBQ islands, and patios. You'll also find roofing services, gutter systems, exterior siding solutions, paving stones, walkways, artificial turf, and more. Bring your plans to meet the experts.

Landscaping pros will be available with advice on irrigation, water-saving strategies, plant maintenance, and attracting birds, bees, and butterflies to your backyard.

Wine & craft brew tastings will feature selections from Napa Valley, the Santa Inez Valley, and Europe each day, from 11 am - 1:45 pm, while supplies last. The AAA Travel Showcase will highlight special savings on cruises and travel to Africa, Asia, Europe, Alaska, and other unforgettable destinations.

The Home Improvement, Food & Wine Expo will be June 12-14, 2026, at Ventura County Fairgrounds, 10 W Harbor Blvd. Show hours are Friday and Saturday, 10 am - 5 pm and Sunday 10 am - 4 pm. Admission is free. On-site parking is \$10. Produced by On The Edge Promotions. For more information visit www.VenturaHomeShows.com.



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- 1:00 pm - 1:45 pm:** Wines of Europe & craft brews



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Photo courtesy Jeff Young, Outreach Coordinator, VLT

A judge denied a request to close public access on Hall Canyon Road, allowing Ventura Hills Nature Preserve to remain open while litigation between Ventura Land Trust and Chevron/Aera Energy continues.

Court Upholds Public Access to Hall Canyon Road for Now

On May 12, Ventura Land Trust secured an important victory in its fight to keep Hall Canyon Road and Ventura Hills Nature Preserve open to the public. A judge denied Chevron and Aera Energy's motion for a preliminary injunction that sought to close public access to Hall Canyon Road and Ventura Land Trust's trailhead during ongoing litigation.

In the ruling, the Court cited Chevron's failure to present competent evidence supporting their request. This is a meaningful step forward and a powerful reminder that community voices matter. Ventura Hills Nature Preserve represents more than 25 years of community effort, public investment, and conservation work. Public access to this landscape has always been central to that vision.

Chevron and Aera's lawsuit against Ventura Land Trust remains ongoing, and the legal process ahead may be long, complex, and expensive. The ruling allows public access to remain open for now, but continued public engagement and community support will be critical in the months ahead.

Hall Canyon is located in the hills above Midtown Ventura, approximately 0.5 miles northeast of Ventura High School. It serves as the primary entrance to the Ventura Hills Nature Preserve, a 1,645-acre protected area that officially opened to the public in early 2026.

Ventura Land Trust remains fully committed to defending public access and protecting the future of Ventura Hills Nature Preserve for generations to come.

The Future of McGrath Beach Continued from page 1

According to Katharine Wilson, Chief Planner and Senior Parks & Recreation Specialist, the sandbar at the mouth of the Santa Clara River acts as a natural dam. When waves and ocean currents deposit sand at the river outlet, drainage from the river and estuary is blocked, causing water to back up into low-lying campground areas.

Wilson explained that even small increases in water levels can flood campsites, access roads, restrooms, and park infrastructure. During wet periods, runoff and river flow worsen flooding, while drought conditions can prevent the river from naturally breaking through the sandbar, trapping water for extended periods. Although park staff once manually breached the sandbar, officials must now balance flood management with protection of the environmentally sensitive estuary habitat.

In response to ongoing flooding and sea-level rise concerns, the California Coastal Commission and California State Parks are considering long-term plans to relocate portions of McGrath State Beach to higher ground. Officials say historical discharges of approximately 4.7 million gallons of treated wastewater per day into the estuary contributed to elevated water levels and flooding around the campground.

Wilson said the proposal could involve relocating campsites, roads, restrooms, and utilities away from flood-prone areas while restoring wetlands and natural habitat. The goal is to create a more sustainable and climate-resilient campground that supports public recreation, environmental education, and wildlife protection.

State Parks and environmental partners are studying restoration of between 15 and 35 acres of estuary, lagoon, wetland, and shoreline habitat while potentially relocating portions of the campground farther inland or onto higher ground. Agencies and organizations involved in restoration discussions include the California Department of Parks and Recreation, California State Coastal Conservancy, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, California Coastal Commission, California State Parks Foundation, and the

Surfrider Foundation.

The restoration effort aims to improve natural water flow through the estuary while expanding habitat for fish, birds, and other wildlife. Some roads and infrastructure may be redesigned or removed to allow water to move more naturally through the area. Officials also hope the project will create expanded opportunities for wildlife viewing, environmental education, and outdoor recreation.

Protecting sensitive riparian and estuary habitat near McGrath State Beach and the Santa Clara River Estuary remains a major priority. Species of concern include the tidewater goby, western snowy plover, and southern California steelhead. Officials say preserving wildlife habitat while maintaining public camping and beach access is central to the project's long-term goals.

The Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board is also shaping future planning efforts by requiring the City of Ventura to reduce treated wastewater discharges into the estuary. Those reductions are expected to significantly alter estuary conditions, including water levels, sandbar dynamics, habitat patterns, and flooding behavior.

Because the estuary may function more like a natural coastal lagoon following the wastewater reductions, California State Parks is delaying major redevelopment and restoration decisions until scientists better understand the changing environmental conditions. Researchers are conducting groundwater monitoring, flood modeling, habitat mapping, wildlife surveys, and water-quality testing to help guide future planning.

Officials say the updated scientific data will help avoid building infrastructure in vulnerable locations, reduce risks to wildlife habitat, and support a safer, more sustainable approach to campground relocation and wetland restoration. As McGrath State Beach continues to face evolving estuary conditions, flooding, and climate-related challenges, State Parks and partner agencies are taking a cautious approach aimed at balancing public recreation, environmental protection, and long-term coastal resilience.

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VenturaBotanicalGardens.org

Photo by: Kayla Wilde



Photo courtesy California State Parks.

Coastal change is redefining McGrath State Beach, where recreation, ecology, and infrastructure are now competing priorities in a landscape that no longer stays still.



Gold Coast Gem Show Returns to Ventura County Fairgrounds

Rockhounds, collectors, and families are invited to the Gold Coast Gem Show on Saturday and Sunday, June 6 and 7, at the Ventura County Fairgrounds in San Miguel Hall.

The show will be open from 10 am - 5 pm on Saturday and 10 am - 4 pm on Sunday. Both days will feature a wide variety of vendors offering minerals, gemstones, fossils, jewelry, crystals, lapidary supplies, and unique gifts from around the world.

Attendees can explore demonstrators in wire wrapping, carving, silver clay, and more. Shop for one-of-a-kind treasures

and enjoy booths by local gem and mineral clubs. A special children's activity area will offer hands-on fun for younger visitors, making this a great event for the whole family.

The Gold Coast Gem Show brings together all three local gem clubs – the Ventura Gem & Mineral Society, Oxnard Gem & Mineral Society, and Conejo Gem Club – and offers an opportunity for the public to learn more about geology, collecting, and lapidary arts. Admission is free. Parking at the Fairgrounds is additional. For additional information, visit <https://goldcoastgemshow.com>.

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GoldCoastGemShow.com



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 am - 3 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. Ventura Friends of the Library have been holding pop-up sales at the Downtown Ventura Farmers Market. Look for our booth there on June 13 and July 11.

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

The Summer Reading Program at Ventura County Library begins on June 1. This year's theme is "Plant a Seed - Read". Beginning June 1, you can register at ventura.readsquared.com and then Read, Complete Activities, Earn Points and Prizes.

Summer Reading Program event on Monday, June 8 -- The Mobile Library will make an appearance on Main Street, in front of E.P. Foster Library, at 10:00 am for storytime and to register summer readers. At 1:00 pm, the Gamez on Wheelz game truck and Kona Ice will appear for a Family Gaming event!

Nathalia - Bilingual Music for Families

This popular bilingual children's musician returns for this year's Summer Reading Program with an interactive musical adventure filled with songs, movement, and fun in both English and Spanish! Perfect for young children and their caregivers.

Avenue Library, Monday, June 15, 2:30

to 3:30 pm

Saticoy Library, Tuesday, June 16, 3:00 to 4:00 pm

To see more upcoming summer reading events, go to <https://www.library.venturacounty.gov/events/upcoming>.

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 Med-

iterranean 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.

Introduction to Hydroponics Saticoy Library, Saturday, June 6, 11:00 am to 12:00 pm

Discover the basics of hydroponic gardening in this 90 minute class designed for beginners with limited growing space. Learn about both commercial and DIY hydroponic systems. Taught by Certified Master Gardeners Terry Garman and Susan Gooden. Register ahead at the link: <https://surveys.ucanr.edu/survey.cfm?surveynumber=48972>

Walk ins welcome!



Volunteers of all ages are invited to join Food Forward's Zest Fest in Somis for a morning citrus harvest that connects community, fresh air, and local hunger relief efforts.

Food Forward Hosts Zest Fest in Somis

Food Forward, Inc., a local community organization that recovers surplus fresh produce and shares it at no cost with communities experiencing food insecurity, will host Zest Fest, a welcoming community harvest event in Somis on Saturday morning, June 6.

The harvest will bring together new and returning volunteers to harvest fresh citrus, connect over locally roasted coffee, and support local hunger relief partners across Ventura County. Citrus season in Ventura County offers a beautiful opportunity for community members to get outside, spend meaningful time with family and friends, and feel good about the direct impact they are making in their local community.

Set against the backdrop of a Somis citrus orchard, the morning harvest is designed to be an uplifting and accessible volunteer experience where participants can enjoy the outdoors, build community, and start the day feeling accomplished, all before noon!

This volunteer-centered morning will give community members a hands-on opportunity to take part in vital produce recovery efforts during peak season. This intergenerationally family-owned and managed orchard is one of Food Forward's most prolific and longstanding fruit donor sites.

All fruit harvested during the event will be distributed to local Ventura County hunger relief partners, including partner Saticoy Food Hub, supporting families and community members without consistent access to fresh fruits

and vegetables in meeting their nutritional needs, instead of leaving fruit to rot on the ground.

Food Forward's work addresses two urgent and deeply connected issues: the twin crises of food insecurity and food waste. Every day, the organization distributes enough fresh produce to help meet the recommended daily intake of fruits and vegetables for more than 300,000 people across Southern California.

- Date: Saturday, June 6, 2026
- Time: 9 am - 11am
- Location: Somis, Ventura County, CA; Exact location available upon RSVP.
- Event Format: Welcome gathering and volunteer harvest.
- Expected Attendance: Approximately 20-40 volunteers.

Volunteer Eligibility: Open to volunteers ages 5 and older. Children under 16 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

On-Site Hospitality: Local coffee and welcoming morning gathering space.

Volunteer Information: Volunteers will spend the morning harvesting citrus for local Ventura County hunger relief partners like Saticoy Food Hub. Participants should be comfortable harvesting and carrying boxes of fruit that may weigh up to 20 pounds. Volunteers do not need to bring any equipment or assist with transporting fruit.


Event registration: Volunteer section of <https://community.foodforward.org/events/35835>

Book Sale

Warehouse Inventory Sale Saturday, May 30th Vons Grocery Store Telegraph & Victoria (6040 Telegraph Road, Ventura) 10am-3pm

Great Bargains on Used Books Shop Selected Categories

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fiction and Non-Fiction Books Vintage & Collectibles Graphic Novels & Manga Puzzles, DVDs, CDs Sheet Music Pocket-size Fiction Special Sale 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Young Adult Children's Fiction and Non-Fiction Books Board & Picture Books
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All proceeds benefit Ventura libraries

Visit Our Pop-up Booths for More Bargains
Sponsored by Ventura Friends of the Library

June 6th Ventura County Library Foundation Garden Tour
"Books, Birds, Blooms" 12pm-4pm, parking lot at 1555 Poli St., Ventura
June 8th VC Library Family Game Day on Main St., Ventura 11am-2pm
June 13th & July 11th Ventura Saturday Farmer's Market 9am-12pm

Books Donations can be received at these locations
Avenue, Hill Road, & Saticoy Libraries (check www.library.venturacounty.gov/) for library hours also at the Ventura Friends of the Library warehouse, Monday - Friday 9am-11am
Map to warehouse is located at venturafriendsofthelibrary.org

Visit our eBay store for unique and vintage books





Senior Living



Image by Magnific

Many yoga, Ayurveda and tai chi practitioners believe that nerves from various organs are linked to points in the hands, feet, ears and tongue.

Hands-On Wellness: Gentle Hand Exercises for Better Internal Health

By Keya Murthy, M.S., C.Ht.

Have you ever been told that exercise is essential for good health? It's true, but there's something just as important your health-care provider or a fitness guru may not have mentioned. In truth, there are two aspects of physical wellness, and one of them rarely gets attention. The often-overlooked aspect is physiological health—the wellness of your internal organs.

Why Exercise Your Organs?

Each organ in your body contains muscle tissue and benefits from exercise, too. Just as your biceps, triceps, hamstrings and quadriceps should be strong, so should your heart, lungs, kidneys, liver and other internal organs. These organs all need support and movement to stay strong and healthy. Many organs have muscle and need gentle movement to help prevent disease.

Physical activities like walking, weightlifting and swimming strengthen your muscles and support your body. In the same way, the muscles in your organs need exercise so your body can function well. When your organs are weak, chronic conditions can arise that often require medication.

The good news is you can strengthen your organs at any age. Even if you already take medication, you can still help your organs. And if you aren't on medication yet, taking care of your internal health now may help you avoid it in the future.

How to Exercise Your Organs

Traditional practices like yoga, Ayurveda and tai chi emphasize the connection between mind and body. Practitioners believe that nerves from various organs are linked to points in the hands, feet, ears and tongue. By stimulating these areas, you may improve organ function. Reflexologists, for example, map dozens of organs to hundreds of pressure points in the hands.

You don't need to be a doctor to help your organs. To make it easy, try these three simple hand exercises:

Finger Flexes. Slowly close your fingers into a fist and then open and spread them wide. Repeat this flexing motion at your own pace at least 10 times (you can always do more).

Clasp and Wave. Interlock your fingers and hold them in front of you. Move your clasped hands in a gentle, wave-like motion 10 times. Then extend your arms in front of you with your fingers interlocked and palms facing outward. Breathe mindfully and smile.

Palm and Finger Massage. Using your opposite hand, massage the palm and fingers of each hand:

Hold your left hand with your right fingers supporting the back of your left wrist, while your right thumb presses into the palm of your left hand. Gently massage the palm and work up each finger.

Switch hands: hold your right hand with your left fingers supporting the back of your right wrist, and massage the palm of your right hand with your left thumb.

End each hand's massage by gently squeezing from the wrist to the fingertips. Remember to breathe slowly and smile throughout these gentle movements.

You just gave your body a gentle internal massage with these simple exercises. Taking five to 10 minutes a day can help your organs function better—and you'll feel healthier and happier as a result. When you're healthy, you can do everything you love. But when you aren't feeling well, your body will remind you to pay attention and get healthier.

Take care of your health—it's the only body you have. Remember, your health truly is in your hands.

Love, peace and blessings,
Namaste!

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Image by Magnific

Attendees can meet with experts and learn about Medicare coverage, assisted living, mobility solutions, independent living, veterans' benefits, and much more.

Ventura County Senior Expo

- Tuesday, June 9, 2026
- 10 a.m.-1 p.m.
- Ventura County Fairgrounds

Connect with dozens of local organizations dedicated to supporting seniors and their families throughout Ventura County and surrounding communities. Attendees can meet with experts and learn about Medicare coverage, assisted living, mobility solutions, independent living, veterans benefits, audiology, senior travel, health insurance, home care, medical equipment, hospice care, financial planning, legal assis-

tance, aging-in-place home improvements, eye care, physical therapy and more.

Highlights include:

- Free admission
 - Free health screenings
 - Free refreshments
 - Prizes and giveaways
 - Valuable information and resources
 - Opportunities to connect with local experts
 - Help navigating senior services and care options
- Visit www.seniorexposusa.com to learn more.




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Senior Living



Joan Virginia Allen reflects on the experiences that led her to embrace aging.

Ojai Author Joan Virginia Allen to Present Memoir on Aging With Purpose

Local author Joan Virginia Allen will visit the Ojai Library at 2 p.m. Saturday, June 13, 2026, to discuss her book, *Navigating Dynamic Aging*.

Navigating Dynamic Aging is the memoir of Allen, who reflects on the experiences that led her to embrace aging as a way of life shaped by curiosity, courage and commitment. Now 88, Allen challenges outdated assumptions about growing older — including her decision to train for a demanding Yosemite hike in her 80s — and reimagines later life as an ongoing adventure.

A retired elder law and estate planning attorney, Allen is also a memoirist, speaker, movement advocate and publisher of the online *Dynamic Aging 4 Life Magazine*. She co-authored *Dynamic Aging* with biomechanist Katy Bowman. Allen is the mother of four, grandmother

of eight and a new great-grandmother. She lives with her husband of more than 50 years on a ranch in Upper Ojai, where she continues to pursue life with intention and curiosity.

The program will include a memoir talk, selected readings, a question-and-answer session and a book signing. Attendees will be invited to reflect on what “dynamic aging” may mean in their own lives and explore new perspectives on aging at every stage of life.

The event is free and open to the public. For more information, contact Regional Librarian Ron Solórzano at (805) 218-9146 or ron.solorzano@venturacounty.gov.

The Ojai Library, located at 111 E. Ojai Ave., is open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday and noon to 5 p.m. Friday through Sunday.

Senior Resources

Ventura County Area Agency on Aging (VCAAA)

Looking for information on resources and support available for seniors? Visit www.VCAAA.org or call 805-477-7300 to learn more about the resources, meal services, and support available for seniors in Ventura County.

City of Ventura: Home Delivered Meal Program

The Home Delivered Meal Program is designed for homebound individuals 60 years and older who live in Ventura. To learn more about the program or to register, call: 805-648-3035

Westside Cafe

The Westside Cafe is open for congregate meals.

Ventura Avenue Adult Center

Location: 550 N. Ventura Avenue
Hours: Monday - Friday, 11:30 am - 12:30 pm

To learn more about the program:
Call 805-648-3035

Food Share of Ventura County

Are you in need of food? Food Share of Ventura County is hosting Pop Up Pantries throughout our County for residents in need. Learn more by visiting www.FoodShare.com or call 805-983-7100

Senior Support Line

Feeling lonely or isolated? Call the Senior Support Line at 1-800-235-9980

2-1-1 Ventura County

211 is a free service that connects community members to information about critical health and human services available in their community. 211 is available 24-hours a day, 7- days a week and offers information and referrals in over 150 languages.

Connect with 211 by Phone (landline or cell phone in Ventura County)

- Dial: 2-1-1
- Toll Free: 1-800-339-9597
- By Text: Text your zip code to 898-211
- Online: Visit www.211.org

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30+ VENDORS!

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Connect. Learn. Thrive!

CONNECT Build meaningful connections
LEARN Gain valuable knowledge
THRIVE Embrace a healthier you
LIVE WELL Focus on what matters most

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Events

Ventura

NAMBA Performing Art Space: May Events: Sat, May 30, 2 pm & 7 pm, Sun, May 31, 2 pm. 47 S Oak St.

The Decameron Project - Hollywood's One Minute Play Festival continues to gain momentum as a must-see theatrical experience. For a full list of shows visit www.nambaarts.com.

Rubicon Theatre "Eleanor": Ends 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 Harbor Village - Tall Ship Mystic Whaler: Ends 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.

Ventura Friends of the Library Book Sale: Sat, May 30, 10 am - 3 pm, Vons, Telegraph & Victoria (6040 Telegraph Road).

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.

Ventura Sister City Fundraiser: Tues, Jun 2, 5 pm. Tony's Pizzeria, 186 Thompson Blvd.

Music Bingo. 20% of all food and beverages go to the Ventura Sister City Association. venturasistercity.com

Botanical Gardens - Summer Hummerz: Tue, 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/#>.

Books, Birds and Blooms Annual Fundraiser: Sat, Jun 6, 12 - 4 pm.

This unique outdoor experience brings together nature, literature, and community in support of the Ventura County Library System. Bird watching experiences will be enhanced with the guidance of the Ventura Audubon Society. Set against the backdrop of beautifully curated gardens and natural spaces, the event invites guests to explore 7 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, education, and lifelong learning. Tickets are \$40. www.eventbrite.com/e/books-birds-blooms-tickets-1984837220557?aff=oddtcreator.

Gold Coast Gem Show - Sat & Sun, Jun 6-7. Sat 10 am - 5 pm, Sun 10 am - 4 pm. Ventura County Fairgrounds, 10 W. Harbor Blvd.

See a variety of vendors/dealers who specialize in gems, minerals, fossils, jewelry, beads and lapidary supplies plus demonstrations and activities for the whole family. Free admission. <https://goldcoastgemshow.com>.

Ventura County Mental Wellness Festival: Sat, Jun 6, 10:30 am - 4:30 pm. Ventura Harbor lawn and promenade.

Celebrate mental health, community, creativity, and healing by the sea. A full day of uplifting activities, resources, music, art and experiences designed to support mental well-being. The festival aims to raise awareness and provide tools for maintaining and improving mental health for individuals and families alike. Free event. <https://mentalwellnessfest.com>.

Ventura Home Improvement, Food and Wine Expo: Jun 12 -14. Fri & Sat, 10 am - 5 pm, Sun 10 am - 4 pm. Ventura County Fairgrounds, 10 W. Harbor Blvd.

The event showcases the latest in decorating, remodeling, landscaping, and tiny homes. Plus, the AAA Travel Showcase and complimentary wine, craft beer, and food tastings. Admission is free. Explore backyard cottages, ADUs, homes on wheels, and newest tiny home models. Inside the exhibit hall, see what's new in-home improvement products & services. From D-I-Y projects to fresh makeovers, check out the latest in kitchens, baths, doors, floors, patios, pools, spas, BBQ islands, HVAC, solar, security, and more. Enjoy food and wine tastings, arts & crafts exhibitors, and special savings on travel to Asia, Africa, Europe, Alaska, and select cruises. Free admission - on-site parking \$10. www.venturahomeshows.com.

38th Annual Ojai Wine Festival: Sat, Jun 20, 12 - 4 pm. Lake Casitas, 11311 Santa Ana Rd.

Featuring an impressive lineup of wineries, breweries, and spirits companies, along with engaging activities such as silent auctions, live music and dancing along with a gourmet food vendor & artisan market, the event promises an unforgettable experience for all attendees. Since 1987, the Ojai Wine Festival has raised \$1.7 million for community service and international projects. The Rotary Club of Ojai West Foundation focuses on philanthropy, enhancing education, health-care, and youth activities locally. <https://ojaiwinefestival.com>.

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://venturacountyphilatelic-soc.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.

Camarillo

Ventura County Greek Festival: Fri - Sun, Jun 26 - 28. St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church, 5575 Santa Rosa Rd.

Come join us and be Greek for the day! From the delicious food to the lively music and dancing, it will be an experience worth remembering. Take a church tour, learn how to Greek dance, watch our dancers perform and visit our vendor area. Bring the whole family so the kids can enjoy our Kidz Zone. Most importantly, bring your appetite and indulge in our homemade Greek food and pastries. Free Parking & Shuttles will be available from VCOE at 5100 Adolfo Rd. <https://vcgreekfestival.org>.

Camarillo Quilters Association Meeting: Tues, Jun 9. Pleasant Valley Community Center, 1605 E. Burnley Dr. Meeting begins at 9:30.

This meeting will focus on over 200 quilts made for the Comfort Givers and distributed to various organizations. The non-profit groups will be there to explain their mission and receive the quilts. Light refreshments will be served. There will be NO charge for guests at this event. <https://camarilloquilters.com>.

Ojai

Cabrillo Music Department Benefit Concert & Dinner: May 30, 5 - 8 pm. Boccali's Restaurant, 3277 E. Ojai Ave.

The Award-Winning Cabrillo Middle School Music Department will be holding its annual Benefit Concert & Dinner at Boccali's Pizza & Pasta. Join us in celebrating the talented young musicians **Continued on page 13**

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— King Crossword —

Answers

Solution time: 21 mins.

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Photo courtesy Ventura County Public Works.

From composting and watershed models to heavy equipment demonstrations, Public Works Week 2026 turned environmental education into hands-on experiences for more than a thousand Ventura County students.

Ventura County Public Works Week in Action

By David Goldstein

On May 19, for National Public Works Week, the cities of Oxnard and Thousand Oaks, and the County of Ventura held events with informational booths, equipment displays, and activities for children. School groups visited on field trips, including over 1,200 children who came to the Ventura County Government Center on Tuesday, May 19, Ventura's major made a proclamation at City Council celebrating the local American Public Works Association Chapter's Project of the Year, the Westpark Skate Park.

The American Public Works Association's 2026 theme was "Rooted in Service Powered by Community." This phrase focused on the role the public plays in public works, and at events in Ventura County, staff of public agencies made interaction central to education efforts, particularly to motivate participation in programs related to environmental sustainability.

For example, at the booth run by my division, the Integrated Waste Management Division of the Ventura County Public Works Agency, kids

mixed compost-enhanced potting mix, made biodegradable pots, and planted pumpkin seeds to take home. Our 'Squash Food Waste' booth encouraged everyone to try home composting, gardening with compost, and sort their curbside materials correctly.

Other departments also focused on messages designed to motivate participation. The Ventura County Watershed Protection District taught children about how pollinators help plants and emphasized the importance of planting and maintaining butterfly compatible landscapes, ranging from milkweed (but not the tropical variety of milkweed) to "overwintering" trees.

Another branch of the Watershed Protection District provided a demonstration of pervious concrete, which allows water to percolate through paved surfaces into the underground water table. Convincing people to pave with pervious surfaces instead of conventional concrete and asphalt will increase subsurface storage of rain and stormwater for future use instead of losing it to the ocean.

Nearby, children gathered around the Watershed Simulation Model, which demonstrated how stormwater moves through a watershed into rivers, lakes, and eventually the ocean. The interactive model reinforced lessons about flood control, pollution prevention, and groundwater recharge. The Watershed Protection District also hosted educational games explaining sediment transport and fish migration.

Using activities focused on the

proposed removal of Matilija Dam, staff taught how dams interrupt natural sediment movement, contributing to beach erosion while blocking steelhead trout migration. The demonstrations connected watershed management directly to coastal health.

The Water and Sanitation Department demonstrated methods used to test drinking water and treated wastewater. Children observed chlorine testing procedures and learned how laboratory monitoring protects public health and water quality. Staff also explained how wastewater treatment allows recycled water and biosolids to be beneficially reused rather than wasted.

Heavy equipment remained one of the biggest attractions. Students crowded around excavators, loaders, rollers, graders, vactor trucks, and other specialized equipment used to maintain roads, waterways, and utility systems.

Operators explained how these machines are used for flood control, road maintenance, sewer cleaning, and storm response. Demonstrations emphasized environmental protection often depends on infrastructure maintenance and rapid emergency response capabilities.

Public Works Week served as a reminder that infrastructure and environmental protection are closely connected. Clean water, flood control, waste reduction, transportation systems, and habitat protection all depend on a partnership between public works professionals and a participating public.



California Lutheran University

Fifty and Better

Lifelong Learning Lectures & Activity Classes for People Age 50+

Summer topics include how musical conductors transform notes on a page into powerful, unified musical performances; artificial intelligence in the next decade; the ancient Maya and climate change; the influence of Giverny on Monet's art; a free lecture on the Artemis II mission; and many more!

Over half of the lectures can be attended in-person; all can be attended virtually & are recorded! Flexible bundle deals offered. Activity classes including Zumba Gold & Watercolor are also scheduled this summer.

Learn more and register today!
www.callutheran.edu/fab
 Contact us at fab@callutheran.edu
 or (805) 493-3290



On Vacation – Oregon



Carol Leish on a fun trip visiting friends near Portland, Oregon.

Heading out of town? Take The Breeze with you and send us a snapshot from your adventure! Editor@venturabreeze.com.

Ventura College Foundation Sets Scholarship Record



Photo courtesy Ventura College Foundation

With more than \$1 million in scholarships awarded, the Ventura College Foundation continues to expand access to higher education and career pathways for hundreds of Ventura College students across diverse fields of study.

For the fourth consecutive year, the Ventura College Foundation distributed a record amount of scholarship funding to students. A total of \$1,037,741 in

scholarships was awarded to students during the Foundation's 37th Annual Scholarship Awards ceremony, May 16, at the Ventura College Sportsplex Field.

Established in 1983, the Ventura College Foundation transforms students' lives through education by providing innovative and vital resources and financial support. The Foundation collaborates with Ventura College to enhance human potential, civic engagement, careers, and academic success of students, enabling their effective impact and legacy on the college, local workforce, and our community. The Foundation also hosts the Ventura College Foundation Marketplace; an outdoor shopping experience held every weekend on the Ventura College campus.

The Foundation presented 537 scholarships for the 2026-27 academic year. Of the amount awarded, \$932,860 went toward general scholarships, \$42,313 supported career education and \$10,068 went for paramedic training. Other scholarships included \$42,500 from the Port of Hueneme Workforce Development and \$10,000 for Courage to Dream students. The scholarship funds benefited 393 student recipients, many of whom received multiple awards.

"Scholarships can remove the financial barriers that prevent students from attending a community college and beyond," said Nicole Kreutz, chair of the Ventura College Foundation board of directors. "Our students excel in school with the type of determination and focus that is just amazing."

Engineering and Nursing were the top majors among students applying for scholarships, followed by Psychology, Business Administration,

and Automotive Career Education. The majority of the scholarship applications came from students in Oxnard (34.7 percent), Ventura (34.5 percent) and the Santa Clara River Valley (14 percent).

Heather Omelas is a Phoenix scholarship recipient. Phoenix scholarships are awarded to re-entering students who have taken a break in their educational endeavors due to various life circumstances but have returned to Ventura College to earn an education or learn new occupational skills.

"As a single mom returning to school, support like this makes it possible for me to continue my education and work toward my goals," says Omelas. "Receiving two scholarships through the Ventura College Foundation has been life-changing, and I'm deeply thankful to the donors who made that possible. Their support goes further than they may ever realize."

The Foundation received and reviewed 1,287 scholarship applications, a 16 percent increase from 2025. The Foundation's Scholarship Review Committee enlisted the help of 120 volunteer readers who evaluated applications using a specific scoring scale. Those who met all the application requirements and had the highest scores were selected to receive scholarships.

Scholarship applications for the next academic year will be accepted beginning in the fall. For more about the Ventura College Foundation and donation opportunities, visit <https://venturacollegefoundation.org>.

Events Continued from page 11

in our community while enjoying fresh, local food and live jazz performances by Cabrillo Middle and Ventura High Jazz Bands. All proceeds go to supporting the CMS Music Department. Tickets: \$38 presale, \$42 at the door. Includes musical performances and all-you-can eat buffet. www.CabrilloMSMusic.org.

Chamber On The Mountain Presents - Hui Wu, Pianist with Guest Artist Joo Kim: Sun, Jun 7, 3 - 5 pm, Logan House (at the Beatrice Wood Center for the Arts), 8585 Ojai-Santa Paula Rd.

Chamber On The Mountain presents Pianist Hui Wu, with guest artist, Joo Kim for an extraordinary musical experience in a setting of extraordinary beauty. To open the program, Hui Wu will perform Philip Glass's composition of "Wichita Vortex Sutra," with the poem by Allen Ginsberg recited by Guest Artist, Veteran Joo Kim. Pianist Hui Wu then juxtaposes two cornerstones of the piano repertoire: the complete Op. 25 Etudes of Frédéric Chopin and the 10 Etudes of Philip Glass (Book I). Tickets: \$40. www.ChamberOnTheMountain.com. (805) 646-3381

Ojai Art Center Presents Shadows & Secrets: A Film Noir Series: Sundays, though 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.

Port Hueneme

Pickleball For a Purpose - Nate's Place Fundraiser: Sat, Jun 20, 8 am - 6 pm. Miranda Park, 200 Moranda Pkwy.

2nd Annual Pickleball Tournament Fundraiser. Come together for a day of connection, laughter, and community fun supporting the future Nate's Place Recovery Campus. Whether you're competitive or just coming for fun, all are welcome. Early bird: \$50/person through Jun 5. \$60/person after Jun 5. Want to be a tournament sponsor? Packages from \$100-\$1,000 include signage, recognition, and more!

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://etscb.org/production/every-brilliant-thing>. 805-965-5400.

Westlake

Monthly Bonsai Club Meeting: Jun 18. Westlake Village City Hall, 312 Oak Crest Dr. Doors open at 7:30 pm.

We will be hosting a house workshop. Bring your bonsai trees to clip and style. www.cvbs-bonsai.org.

The Beatrice Wood Center for the Arts Presents

Chamber On The Mountain

An extraordinary musical experience in a setting of extraordinary beauty



Photo by Himmo Studio, China

Hui Wu Pianist



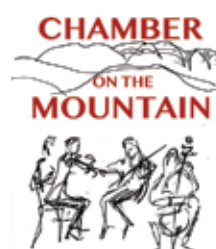
With Special Guest Artist Veteran Joo Kim

Program

Philip Glass - Wichita Vortex Sutra with Allen Ginsberg's poem recited by Guest Artist, Veteran Joo Kim
Philip Glass - 10 Etudes, Book I
Frédéric Chopin - 12 Etudes, Op. 25

Sunday, June 7, 2026 / 3 pm

**Logan House, at the Beatrice Wood Center for the Arts
 8585 Ojai-Santa Paula Rd., Ojai, CA 93023**



Tickets \$40

ChamberOnTheMountain.com

Meet the Artists! Reception follows the performance.

Chamber On The Mountain
 8585 Ojai-Santa Paula Rd | Ojai, CA 93023 | 805-646-3381



The Pet Page



Designed by Magnific

A pet's constant scratching can cause permanent hair loss or other skin problems.

Safe Use of Flea and Tick Products in Pets

From FDA.gov

Flea bites may be more than an itchy annoyance to some dogs and cats. They can cause flea allergy dermatitis — an allergic reaction to proteins in flea saliva. And a pet's constant scratching can cause permanent hair loss or other skin problems. In severe infestations, fleas feasting on your pet's blood can lead to anemia and, in rare cases, death.

Ticks can also harm your pet, transmitting tick-borne infections such as Lyme disease, Ehrlichiosis, Anaplasmosis, Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, Babesiosis, and Bartonellosis. And pets can bring ticks into the home, exposing you and your family to illness from a tick bite.

Hundreds of pesticides, repellents, and growth inhibitors are available to protect your pet from flea and tick bites. Some of these products are available only from a veterinarian; others can be bought over the counter.

Flea and tick products range from pills and chews given by mouth to collars, sprays, dips, shampoos, powders, and "spot-ons," liquid products squeezed onto the dog's or cat's skin usually between the shoulder blades or down the back. A few spot-on products are available for flea control in ferrets, and fly and tick control in horses.

Although flea and tick products on the market have been used in millions of pets, side effects or adverse events may and sometimes do occur. It's strongly recommended that you involve your veterinarian when choosing a flea and tick product, especially if your pet has any health conditions. You should also carefully read the label, the package insert, and any accompanying literature to make sure you're using the product correctly. You should also save the packaging for the product in case a problem does occur and you need to report it.

When to Treat

Your veterinarian can help you determine the best time frame for treating your pet. Generally speaking, it's best to

start treating your pet at the beginning of flea season if you're trying to prevent a flea infestation. The length of the flea season, which peaks during warm weather months, varies depending on where you live. If you live in a colder climate, it might only last four months or so. In other places, like Florida, fleas can live all year long. Fleas can live inside a warm house year-round no matter where you live.

Ticks are found in some places year-round. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report that in most parts of the U.S., the greatest chance of being bitten by a tick is in spring and summer, with another spike in the fall.

Tips for Using Topical Flea and Tick Products

There are many different types of flea and tick products that can be applied to your pet, and different chemicals work in different ways. That's why it's always important to:

Choose the right product

Work with your veterinarian to select the right product for your pet and your needs.

Make sure the product matches your pet's species, life stage and weight class. If the product is for use on dogs, don't use it on cats. If using the product on a puppy or kitten, make sure it is labeled for that life stage and that your pet is at least the minimum weight specified on the label.

Don't apply a product to kittens or puppies unless the label specifically allows this treatment. Use flea combs to remove fleas and flea eggs, and a tick remover to take off ticks from puppies and kittens that are too young for flea and tick products.

Talk to your veterinarian before using a product on weak, old, medicated, sick, pregnant, or nursing pets, even if they have been fine with previous uses of the product. The same goes for pets that have previously shown signs of sensitivity to flea or tick products. Tell your veterinarian about any other products you might be using or giving to your pet, because it could make a

difference in their recommendations.

Use the product properly.

Read the label carefully before use. Even if you've used the product many times before, read the label because the directions or warnings may have changed. If you don't understand the wording, ask your veterinarian or call the manufacturer.

Follow the directions exactly. If the label says use weekly, don't use it daily. If the product is for use in the house or yard, don't put it directly on your pet.

If you have multiple pets and are using spray or "spot-on," products, apply to one pet at a time and keep the treated animal separated from the other(s) until the product dries. This is to prevent one animal from grooming another and potentially ingesting the drug or pesticide. This is especially important if the product is only for use in dogs and you have a cat in your household.

Wash your hands immediately with soap and water after applying a product or use protective gloves while applying.

Store products away from food or things that could come into contact with a person's mouth, like baby pacifiers, inhalers, and cigarettes.

Keep products out of the reach of children and pets.

Pay attention after using the product.

Monitor your pet for side effects or adverse events after applying the product, particularly when using the product on your pet for the first time. Side effects might occur immediately or could happen sometime later.

If your pet experiences a bad reaction from a flea and tick collar, remove the collar immediately.

If your pet experiences a bad reaction from any flea or tick product (spot-on, shampoo, dip, or collar), call your veterinarian right away. Depending on the product used, your veterinarian may recommend that you immediately bathe the pet, if it's safe to do so, using mild dish soap and rinsing with large amounts of water.

Call your veterinarian if your pet shows symptoms of illness after using a product. Look for dizziness, wobbliness, incoordination, poor appetite, depression, vomiting, diarrhea, or excessive salivation. Some animals have had seizures and/or died.

For more information, visit www.FDA.gov

Forever homes wanted



Hi, I'm Brownie, a sweet and playful 6-year-old German Shepherd looking for my forever home. I'm a loving companion full of life who adores children. I'm house-trained, come when called, and walk well on a leash, making me the perfect partner for adventures. I'm active and always up for a game or a long walk, but I also enjoy relaxing and spending quiet time with my favorite people. With my affectionate nature, I'll be a loyal and loving addition to any family.



Hi, I'm Cookie, a sweet 7-year-old Miniature Pinscher-Chihuahua mix eager to leave my shelter days behind and start making wonderful memories in a loving forever home. I'm a true companion, always ready to lend an ear — or a paw — and stay by your side. I'm good with children and would make a wonderful addition to a caring family. Could you be the one I've been waiting for?



Hi, I'm Fawn, an adorable 4-year-old Chihuahua mix ready to find my forever home. I may be a little reserved at first, but that's only because I'm longing to be loved. I get along well with other dogs, especially small ones, so I'd make a great playmate for your current pup and a wonderful addition to a patient, loving family. I promise to bring joy, laughter and endless love to the family willing to open their hearts and home to me.



Hi, I'm Frankie, a loving and friendly 4-year-old Chihuahua mix. I'm a sweet boy who wants nothing more than to be loved and cared for, and I promise to return that love tenfold. I get along well with other dogs and would make a wonderful addition to a patient and caring family. I'm ready to leave my past behind and begin a new chapter filled with tail wags and belly rubs. Could you be the one to show me what a loving home feels like?

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.



Photo by Patricia Schallert

Whether you were a strawberry fanatic or just there for the fun, the festival delivered a “berry” good time for all ages with strawberry shortcake, eating contest, gifts, rides, live music and more.

Ventura’s Strawberry Festival Delivers a Sweet Start to Summer

By Patricia Schallert

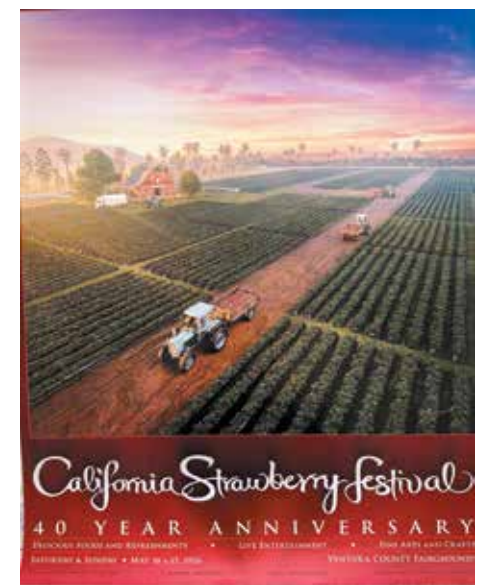
Whether you were a strawberry fanatic or just looking for a sweet time, the Strawberry festival had something for everyone - from strawberry shortcake eating contests to live music and entertainment. The best part? It is “berry delightful” for all ages! The 40th annual Strawberry Festival returned to the Ventura County Fairgrounds on May 16-17, bringing thousands of visitors together for one of Ventura County’s most popular community celebrations.

Known for its strawberry-inspired foods, family activities, arts and crafts booths, carnival rides, and oceanfront atmosphere, the festival has become a longtime tradition celebrating the region’s rich agricultural heritage and strawberry industry. Organizers described the 2026 event as the “ultimate summer kickoff,” with proceeds helping support local nonprofit organizations and scholarship programs throughout the community.

One of the biggest highlights this year was the exciting live entertainment lineup featuring tribute bands, soul, reggae, country, Latin music, and classic rock performances across the festival stages. Festival goers enjoyed acts including Twisted Gypsy, a high-energy Fleetwood Mac tribute band, Kings of Queen, Corazón De Maná, The Long Run Eagles Experience, Hot Southern Nights, Blue Breeze Band, and the Brandon

Ragan Project. The festival’s mix of music created an upbeat atmosphere throughout the weekend, giving visitors plenty of opportunities to dance, relax, and enjoy Ventura’s coastal setting.

In addition to the music, visitors enjoyed strawberry shortcake, chocolate-covered strawberries, strawberry beverages, strawberry beer and dozens of specialty food booths. With live entertainment, community spirit, and family-friendly fun, the California Strawberry Festival continues to be one of Ventura’s signature annual events.



Ventura County Potters’ Guild 68th Annual

OJAI POTTERY MARKET

Libbey Park, Ojai

SATURDAY
JUNE 13
10 am - 6 pm



SUNDAY
JUNE 14
10 am - 5 pm




VCPG.org | VenturaPotteryOnline.com

Dedicated to Scamp



Scamp Club

(Scamp Club pets are not for adoption.)

Meet Cakebatter! She loves yoga and long walks on the beach with her humans.




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.



By Pam Baumgardner VenturaRocks.com

Deadheads rejoice with the inaugural Maybe It was the Roses music festival to be held at the Crowne Plaza running Friday, May 29 through Sunday, May 31. The ticketed event promotes music, spirit and connection, inspired by the legacy of the Grateful Dead (Golden-RoadFestival.com). Typically, concerts are either held upstairs in the ballroom, or along the beachfront promenade, but this three-day festival will take over the Crowne Plaza's parking lot. I highly recommend using a rideshare service or park downtown as the City's parking structure will fill up quickly. Some of the highlights to look forward to include special performances with artists sitting in with several bands such as the legendary Don Was, Kanika Moore, Jeffrey Brown (Blue Man Group sans blue make up), Zoe Ellis (Phil Lesh and Friends) and more.

The final week of May also offers the Ojai Blues Fest at the Ojai Art Center which runs Friday and Saturday with several local blues artists including Ray Jaurique, TD Lind and the Aviators, Ashford Gordon, Tommy Marsh (who returns from Nashville to produce the event) and several other artists. For ticket information go to OjaiArtcenter.org/special-events. But if you're in town, and low on cash, then you can check out two extra side shows for free: Eric Lemaire will be at Sam's Place on Friday and Milo Sledge at Feros Ferio on Saturday.

With two months to go, the Ventura County Fair has finally started rolling out this year's Grandstand Stage concerts. By my press deadline, the lineup includes Bush on Wednesday, July 29, Iration on Friday, July 31, Jake Owen on Saturday, August 1, Ashanti featuring Bow Wow on Monday, August 3, Switchfoot & Hoobastank on Tuesday, August 4 and Nate Smith on Wednesday, August 5. Don't forget, all concerts are included in the price of admission to the fair, however if you want VIP to get closer to the stage, you'll need to pay an additional fee which is available starting Wednesday, May 27 (VCfair.org)

The Boots & Brews Country Music Festival will be held at Plaza Park this year on June 13 with Cole Swindell, Gretchen Wilson, Lanco, Jayden Secor and Caiden Wallace. Get your tickets at BootsandBrews.com.

Quick Notes: OakHeart Music Festival is being held Saturday, May 30 in Thousand Oaks with Tyler Hubbard, Uncle Kracker and more; Downtown Ventura hosts line dancing on Wednesdays with Jayden Secor and the Ventucky Stompers; Palomazo Music Series continues with LaOx on Friday, May 29, downtown Oxnard; and Santa Paula Cruise night hosts the Red Rock Road Band on Friday, June 5.

Finally, I'm sorry to report Onyx is closing their doors with their last day of business being Sunday, May 31. Their new chapter is Olive & 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 6/7: Hui Wu, Joo Kim

Boatyard Pub

1583 Spinnaker Dr., Ventura

Mondays: Katie Shorey

Tuesdays: Ken Devoe

Wednesdays: Frank Barajas

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

Fri 5/29: Strummed Down

Sat 5/30: Crosscut 805

Sun 5/31: Smokey & Friends

Fri 6/5: Teresa Russell & Stephen Geyer

Sat 6/6: Epitome of Dreams

Sun 6/7: Joe Delia

Bombay Bar and Grill

143 S. California St., Ventura

Sat 5/30: Medicine Hat, Eddie Austin & the Walkers

Café Fiore

66 California St., Ventura

Wed 5/27: Donna Greene

Fri 5/29: Betta Macks

Sat 5/30: Brandon Ragan Project

Sun 6/7: Kainoa tiger & Aloha 805

Cantara Cellars

126 Wood Rd., Camarillo

Fri 5/29: Vinyl Gypsies

Sat 5/30: The Renegades

Fri 6/5: Vanise Terry Band

Sat 6/6: We are the 80s

Crowne Plaza Hotel

450 E. Harbor Blvd., Ventura

Maybe it was the Roses Festival

Fri 5/29: Stu Allen w/ Mars Hotel, Bone

Diggers, Lebo & Friends, Jax Plays Dead

Sat 5/30: Daniel Donato's Cosmic

Country, Jerry & Dawg, Ventura All Stars,

The McCrees

Sun 5/31: Dead Aces, Spaga Plays Dead,

No Simple Highway, Joe Marcinek's Dead

Funk Summit

Deer Lodge

2261 Maricopa Hwy., Ojai

Wed 4/29: Open mic

Thurs 5/28: Ny Oh & Mia Wilson

Fri 5/29: Dani Stacy, Jayden Secor, Jess

Bush

Sat 5/30: East Valley Road, Burnout and

Antonio Barret

Sun 5/31: Nate Hunnicutt Quintet

Sat 6/6: SLO County Stumblers, David

Burden

Duke's Beach Grill

1124 S. Seaward Ave., Ventura

Sat 5/30: Vinny Berry

Sat 6/6: Ska Daddyz

Feros Ferio Winery

310 E. Ojai Ave., Ojai

Sat 5/30: Milo Sledge

Sun 5/31: Jerry Breiner w/ Bob Nichols &

Bill Flores

Sat 6/6: Cindy Kalmenson

Sun 6/7: Natalie Gelman

Garage

1091 Scandia Ave., Ventura

Sat 5/30: The Blue Gypsies

Fri 6/5: One Man Gone

Sat 6/6: Soul Revival

The Grape

2733 E. Main St., Ventura

Tuesdays: Gratitude Jazz Jams

Wed 5/27: Justin Chart & the Jazz

Emissaries

Fri 5/29: Matterform

Sat 5/30: Phoenix Big Band

Wed 6/3: RJ Mischo

Thurs 6/4: Laurence Juber with Christena

Rich

Sat 6/6: Shawn Jones Big Band

Harbor Cove Café

1867 Spinnaker Dr., Ventura

Music Saturdays 5-8 pm

Saturdays 10 am: Ukulele Jams

Sat 5/30: The Gamble

Sun 5/31: Tommy Quayle (10a); Tommy

K (2p)

Sat 6/6: Brittney and the Bsides

Sun 6/7: Tommy Quayle (10a); Tommy

K (2p)

The Keynote Lounge

10245 Telephone Rd., Ventura

Thursdays: Open mic

Fri 5/29: Steph's Rockin' Roadshow

KJ's

454 E. Main St., Ventura

Sundays: Corey and the Folk Boys (noon)

Sat 6/6: Live Band EMO Karaoke

Leashless Brewing

585 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

Fri 5/29: Brandywine Buskers

Sat 5/30: Ventura Irietes Posse

Sun 5/31: Man Like Devin & the Relatives

Fri 6/5: Top Shelf

Sat 6/6: The Akoustics

Sun 6/7: Dead 'n' Kickin'

Lucky Fool's Pub

75 E. High St., Moorpark

Fri 5/29: Steven & Scarlett

Sat 5/30: Doc & Pete

Fri 6/5: Strummed Down

Sat 6/6: Natalie Wattre

Magnavino Cellars

961 Rice Ave., Oxnard

Fri 5/29: Robert Heft Band

Sat 5/30: Heart & Soul

Sun 5/31: Mary White Duo

Fri 6/5: Dueling Pianos

Sat 6/6: Ventu Park

Sun 6/7: Adam G.

Manhattan

5800 Santa Rosa Rd., Camarillo

Wed 5/27: Mary White

Fri 5/29: Tour Support

Sat 5/30: Jeanne Tatum Trio

Margarita Villa

1567 Spinnaker Dr., Ventura

Fri 5/29: Irie Smile

Sat 5/30: Soul Riders

Sun 5/31: Freddy & Friends

Tues 6/2: Brittney Duo

Fri 6/5: Soul Funk Revue

Sat 6/6: Vinyl Gypsies

Sun 6/7: James Bros. Band

Tues 6/9: Joe Delia

Ojai Art Center

113 S. Montgomery St., Ojai

Ojai Blues Fest

Fri 5/29: Guy Martin, Smokey & Friends

Sat 5/30: Jen Staves, TD Lind & the

Aviators, Rae Gordon, Ray Jaurique

Ashford Gordon, Toni Dodd, Crooked

Eye Tommy

Ojai Underground Exchange

616 Pearl St., Ojai

Thurs 5/28: Cubensis

Sat 5/30: SeeTrees

Thurs 6/4: Nigel Wearne

Fri 6/5: Déjà vu (CSNY Covers)

Sat 6/6: James Lee Stanley

Ojai Valley Brewing

307 Bryant St., Ojai

Wednesdays: Ojai Valley Bluegrass

Pickers/Open Jam

Fri 5/29: Eliot Eidelman

Sat 5/30: Art of Funk

Sun 5/31: Damaged Goods

Sat 6/6: Nautical Thrust

Sun 6/7: The Channels

Onyx

2390 Las Posas Rd., Camarillo

Fri 5/29: Katie Shorey

Sat 5/30: Laurel Park Trio

Rincon Brewery

4100 Telegraph Rd., Ventura

Sat 5/30: Nautical Thrust

Sat 6/6: Milo Sledge Trio

Sam's Place

308 E. Ojai Ave., Ojai

Thurs 5/28: Open mic

Fri 5/29: Eric Lemaire

Fri 6/5: Jesse Rifkin and Benjamin

Buttner

Sat 6/6: Tom Cantillon

Sans Souci

21 S. Chestnut St., Ventura

Fri 5/29: Too Sick to Pray, Black Lament,

Fathers of One

The Shores

1031 Harbor Blvd., Oxnard

Wed 5/27: Sara Healy

Fri 5/29: Ventu Park

Sun 5/31: Steph's Rockin' Roadshow

Strey Cellars

951 N. Rice Ave., Oxnard

Sat 5/30: Beta Macks

Sun 5/31: Brandon Ragan Project

Sat 6/6: The Way

Sun 6/7: Caught Red Handed

Tony's Pizzeria

186 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

Wed 5/27: Burnout, Looking West

Thurs 5/28: Morie & the Heavy Hitters

Fri 5/29: Mighty Cash Cats, Linda

Ronstadt Experience

Sat 5/30: UND CVR SPR GRP

Sun 5/31: Heart & Soul

Thurs 6/4: Kainoa Tiger & Aloha 805

Fri 6/5: Delta by the Beach

Sat 6/6: Neon Blonde

Sun 6/7: Brandon Ragan Project

Topa Topa Brewing Downtown

2024 Ventura Blvd., Camarillo

Sun 5/31: James Broz Band

Sun 6/7: Elliott Callaway

Vaquero y Mar

435 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

Tuesdays: The Sea Hunters

Wed 5/27: Ventura Gypsy Jazz Jam

Ventura Music Hall

1888 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

Wed 5/27: Collie Buddz

Fri 5/29: Third World

Sat 5/30: Sun Kil Moon

Tues 6/2: Thievery Corporation

Wed 6/3: Juvenile's Boiling Point

Fri 6/5: The Lagoons

Sat 6/6: Allah-Las, Sam Blasucci

Sun 6/7: Ambrosia

Winchesters

632 E. Main St., Ventura

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

Fri 5/29: Wow Band

Sat 5/30: Teresa Russell

Sun 5/31: Caught Red Handed

Fri 6/5: The Blues Gypsies

Sat 6/6: Colette Lovejoy Band

Sun 6/7: Pull the Trigger



BAA's 37th Annual Open Competition Winners

The BAA's Annual Open Competition is a juried exhibition running from May 2 through May 28 at the Ojai Art Center. It features original 2D and 3D artwork from both amateur and professional regional artists across California. Ojai Art Center (113 S. Montgomery St., Ojai, CA). www.ojaiartcenter.org. www.buenaventuraartassociation.org/collections/228932.



First Place: Hope 3, collage by Nancy Michali



President's Award: Topa Topa Ojai, acrylic by Laura Jespersen



People's Choice Award: Untitled, acrylic on canvas by Fredrick Dale



Second Place: Taft Gardens, oil on canvas by Kathy Bodycombe



Third Place: Loop Mobius, alabaster on Belgian limestone by Duane Dammeyer



Honorable Mention: Finding Peace, photography by Melissa Knapp



Honorable Mention: Summer Fun, oil by Beverly Lazor



Honorable Mention: Otani's, an Oxnard Jewel, oil on linen panel by Erin Dertner

68th Annual Ojai Pottery Market at Libbey Park



Visitors can explore unique handmade ceramics while supporting local artists and arts education at the annual Ojai Pottery Market. Photo courtesy Ventura County Potters' Guild.

Ventura County Potters' Guild invites the community to celebrate creativity, craftsmanship, and community at the 68th Annual Ojai Pottery Market, held Saturday, June 13 (10 am - 6 pm)

& Sunday, June 14 (10 am - 5 pm) in the beautiful setting of Libbey Park.

Set beneath shady trees and summer breezes, this beloved annual event features more than 30 talented

ceramic artists presenting a diverse range of handcrafted work—from functional pottery to one-of-a-kind sculptural pieces. Visitors can stroll through booths, meet the artists, and gain insight into the techniques and inspiration behind each piece.

The Ojai Pottery Market is the Guild's primary annual fundraiser, supporting its mission-driven work throughout the community. The Ventura County Potters' Guild (VCPG) is dedicated to supporting and promoting ceramic arts in the region. Through its Outreach Program, the Guild partners with local schools to enrich arts education with hands-on ceramics experiences, classroom demonstrations, and artist mentorship. By sharing materials and expertise, the Guild helps foster creativity, build skills, and connect students with the local arts community.

The Guild is also proud to continue its collaboration with students from the ceramics program at California State University Channel Islands and Ventura College, offering them valuable exposure and experi-

ence by their participation in selling at the market.

Attendees can discover an exceptional variety of handmade ceramics, including bowls, mugs, platters, planters, jewelry, and more—each piece uniquely crafted from clay into art. Whether searching for a meaningful gift or a personal treasure, visitors will find work that reflects both skill and imagination. The ceramics are priced from \$25.

Unable to attend the market or looking to explore pottery year-round? Visit Ventura Pottery Gallery, located in Ventura Harbor Village. The gallery features work from over 40 local artists and is open daily from 11 am - 6 pm or visit the Guild's online store at venturapotteryonline.com.

About Ventura County Potters' Guild:

Ventura County Potters' Guild is a nonprofit organization committed to stimulating public interest in the ceramic arts by providing education, exhibition opportunities, and a supportive network for artists of all levels. For more information, visit www.vcp.org.

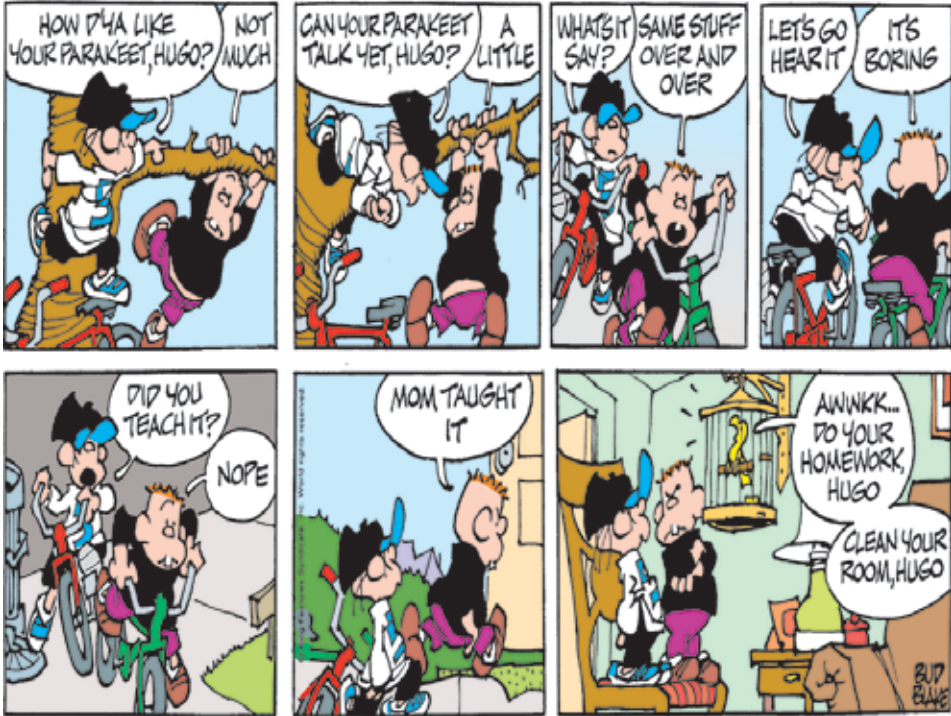
Ventura Art Scene

More Art Scene on page 19

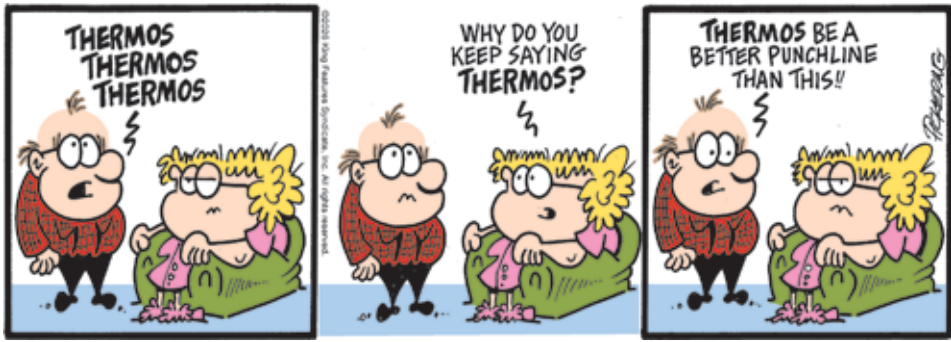


Lighter Breeze

Tiger



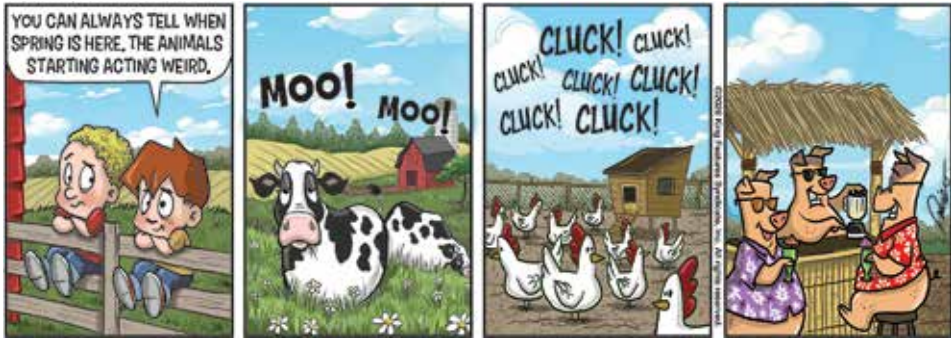
The Spats



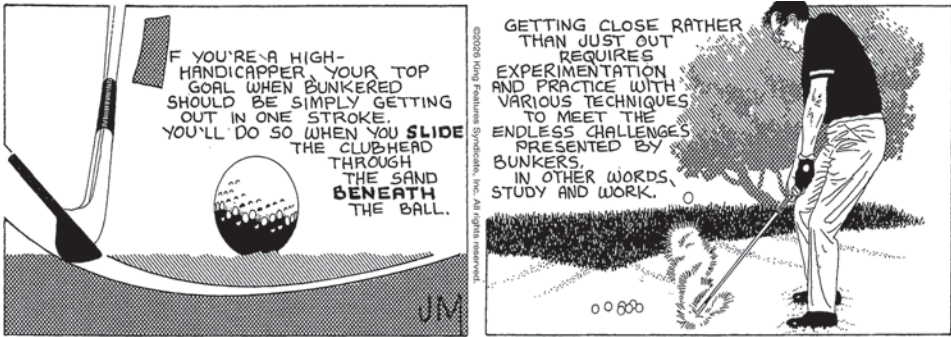
Out on a Limb



Amber Waves



Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



Solutions on page 11

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

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

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 Detox center
- 6 Gives up
- 12 Swiss metropolis
- 13 Unexpected
- 14 Ingratiate
- 15 Stahl of "60 Minutes"
- 16 Disposition
- 17 "La — Bonita"
- 19 Casual shirt
- 20 Third son
- 22 Capote nickname
- 24 Canine greeting
- 27 Furnace fuel
- 29 Branches
- 32 President of South Africa, 1994-1999
- 35 Pronto
- 36 Monumental
- 37 Half dozen
- 38 Fannie —
- 40 Former Laker Lamar
- 42 Sashimi fish
- 44 Neatnik's nightmare
- 46 Jazzy James
- 50 Legislative group
- 52 Camelot king
- 54 Aerie newborn
- 55 Organize an art show

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

- 9 Birds of prey
- 10 Duel tool
- 11 Ocular woe
- 12 Tiara jewel
- 18 Rug cleaner
- 21 — -friendly
- 23 "Awesome, dude!"
- 24 Navarro of "The View"
- 25 Scale members
- 26 Pink wading bird
- 28 Relaxed
- 30 Roman 1051
- 31 Coltrane's instrument
- 33 Aromatherapy spot
- 34 Sgt., e.g.
- 39 Lauder of cosmetics
- 41 Paris subway
- 42 Cruising
- 43 Lettuce unit
- 45 Reply to "Shall we?"
- 47 Spring meltdown
- 48 Mild rebukes
- 49 "How — you?"
- 51 Cleric's tunic
- 53 Scamper

DOWN

- 1 Nevada city
- 2 Within (Pref.)
- 3 Obeyes
- 4 "Selma" director DuVernay
- 5 Male singing voice
- 6 Humpty's perch
- 7 Skip — (flutter)
- 8 Tax-collecting org.

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Summer Education Series

Join Ventura County Senior Transitions for the Summer Senior Education Encore Series hosted by Ventura Townhouse.

Ventura County Senior Transitions is a local business dedicated to helping seniors and their families navigate transitions into independent living, assisted living, memory care, and board & care communities. Their team provides placement assistance, moving and downsizing support, and real estate services, while also educating seniors and families about the many options available to them. Knowledge is power, and their

mission is to support seniors on every level throughout the transition process.

This Encore Series is a continuation of the original presentation series held earlier this year. Topics include Senior Community Options, Moving Management and Financial options. The upcoming series will take place in June, July, and August on the 4th Friday of each month at 12:00 PM at Ventura Townhouse. Complimentary lunch will be served. <https://venturacountyseiniortransitions.com>.

RSVP: 1-805-746-4218.

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Focus on the Masters Arts Archive & Library

A Conversation with Lori Cozen-Geller

Lori Cozen-Geller is a minimalist sculptor working in metal, wood and laminate overlaid with automotive paint. As a minimalist, Lori focuses on creating geometric shapes that stand alone and as wall sculptures with cutouts. The incised pieces create an interplay between positive and negative space. Cozen-Geller's career as an artist was born from the intense grief of losing her father. The work is driven by emotion and intuition. She explains her

process as "a journey that begins with a feeling" and develops into a piece of art by "...freezing emotions and placing them into concrete form."

The work is highly crafted and reminiscent of the Finish Fetish School utilizing high gloss surfaces. "Although my art is an expression of my own personal feelings, these emotions are universal to all mankind. Human beings share the same emotional palette even though each of us has a differing set of life circumstances. The energy of life is the fuel that ignites my passion to express."

Sunday, June 7, 3 pm - 4:30 pm
Namba Performing Art Center - 47 S. Oak Street, Ventura

Lori Cozen-Geller's work is currently on display at Imago Galleries, Palm Desert, CA. FREE to FOTM members, \$20 for the public; \$15 for seniors. Reservations required. Visit www.FocusOnTheMasters.com or call (805)653-2501. Sunday, June 7, 3 pm - 4:30 pm

Namba Performing Art Center - 47 S. Oak Street. To learn more about Lori Cozen-Geller, visit www.loricozengeller.com

AfterGlow Fundraising Event

The public is welcome to join the artist for a celebratory fundraising dinner at the Ventura home and garden of Teri Willison, immediately following the program.

Paid reservations are required before May 29, 2026. Maps will be provided to paid guests at the interview. Space is limited. We expect this AfterGlow to sell out.

\$40 FOTM members
 \$50 Non-members.



Chatterboxes by Lori Cozen-Geller, 2016, polished stainless steel, 4"x4"x4" each, set of 12

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University of California Davis School of Law, 1978
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