

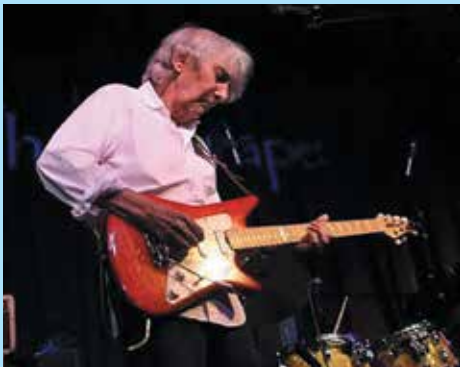


Photo by Chris Jensen - chrisjensen.com.

Legendary English guitarist Albert Lee performs at Ventura’s The Grape, a longtime home for live jazz and community music.

The Grape: The Little Jazz Club That Built a Community

By Leon Rousso

Some places offer food, drinks, and entertainment. Others become something much bigger. For thousands across Ventura County, The Grape is both—a listening room, a gathering place, and a second home where music and community meet.

Walk through the front door on almost any evening, and you’ll find an audience that spans generations. Some are lifelong jazz lovers. Others simply wandered in looking for a pleasant evening and discovered something unexpected: a room where everyone feels welcome. There are no strangers for long at The Grape.

The music is exceptional, but it is only part of the story. On any given night, internationally recognized performers may share the stage with local professionals, college students, or musicians making their first public appearance. The applause is equally sincere for all of them.

That spirit is perhaps best captured every Tuesday evening during the Gratitude Jam. What began as an open session has grown into one of Ventura’s

Continued on page 3

Ventura Music Festival Brings Five Nights of Music

The Ventura Music Festival (VMF) kicks off its 31st season with a landmark Summer Series running July 20th, and July 23 through 26, bringing five concerts to some of Ventura’s most beloved and distinctive performance spaces. From an intimate speakeasy-style gala to a powerhouse opera recital to a daring chamber music experience, the 2026 Summer Series showcases VMF’s commitment to musical diversity and local cultural vitality. The 31st season of the Ventura Music Festival is generously sponsored by the John & Glenda Hammer Family.

“This summer’s lineup is a testament

Continued on page 5



Photo courtesy VMF

Ventura County Posts Record Primary Turnout



Image by jenniepavl1 on Magnific

The June election had the highest Ventura County turnout for a midterm primary going back as far as 1990. County Clerk-Recorder and Registrar of Voters Michelle Ascencion announced the final certification of Ventura County’s results for the June 2, 2026 Gubernatorial Primary Election. The local results will be included in the California Secretary of State’s final certification of statewide election results on July 10, 2026.

Voting began May 4 with the mailing of vote-by-mail ballots to all active registered voters and the opening of early voting at the Ventura County Government Center. County-wide in-person voting began May 23

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PUBLISHER-EDITOR
Mark Brown
editor@venturabreeze.com

ADVERTISING
advertising@venturabreeze.com
805.827.2306

GRAPHIC DESIGN
Alfred J. Lewis

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

CONTRIBUTING PHOTOGRAPHERS
Richard Lieberman · Michael Gordon
Patricia Schallert · Joseph Seemayer

PUBLISHER EMERITUS
Sheldon Brown

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

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CONTACT US:
EVENTS & HAPPENINGS
events@venturabreeze.com
OPINIONS
opinions@venturabreeze.com
ARTICLES AND PHOTOS
editor@venturabreeze.com
THE PET PAGE
scampclub@venturabreeze.com
ADVERTISING
advertising@venturabreeze.com
805.653.0791

Ventura Breeze

PO Box 832, Ventura, CA 93002
Phone 805.653.0791



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“I enjoy living.
I’d like to do
it as long as I
can.”
— Mel Brooks

City News



Ventura Police to Crack Down on Speeding

The Ventura Police Department is joining the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) in a nationwide effort to reduce speeding through increased enforcement and public awareness. As part of the “Speeding catches up with you” campaign, officers will be actively looking for speeding and aggressive

driving behaviors that continue to contribute to serious and fatal traffic crashes.

Speeding remains one of the leading causes of traffic deaths nationwide. In 2023, 11,775 people were killed in speeding-related crashes, accounting for nearly one-third of all traffic fatalities in

the U.S. These crashes impact not only drivers, but also passengers, pedestrians, and bicyclists.

“Speeding is dangerous, illegal, and completely preventable,” said Sergeant Mark Knackstedt “When drivers choose to ignore speed limits, they put everyone around them at risk. Increased enforcement is focused on changing that behavior and preventing avoidable tragedies.”

Speed limits are set based on roadway design, visibility, and traffic conditions. Driving above those limits, or too fast for conditions, reduces reaction time and increases stopping distance. As speed increases, so does the force of impact, making injuries more severe and often fatal.

Officers will be watching for drivers exceeding posted speed limits, and other dangerous behaviors such as unsafe passing, tailgating, and reckless driving. Violations can result in citations, fines, points on a driver’s record, and increased insurance costs.

Additionally, certain groups face higher risks. Speeding was a factor in more than one-third of fatal crashes involving teenage male drivers and more than half of fatal crashes involving motorcyclists in their early 20s.

The Ventura Police Department urges all drivers to slow down, remain alert, and follow the rules of the road. Safer driving starts with individual choices behind the wheel.

For more information, visit www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/speeding.



Image courtesy Freepik

City Shifts Design Review Authority

The Ventura City Council has voted to dissolve the Design Review Committee (DRC) as part of a broader effort to streamline housing development approvals, reduce regulatory hurdles, and eliminate duplicative review processes.

Key aspects of this change include:

- Purpose of the Change: City officials cited lengthy permitting timelines and increased costs for both developers and the city as primary reasons for eliminating the DRC. Officials also noted that the committee had delayed or blocked housing projects needed to help Ventura meet state-mandated housing goals.
- Implementation of Objective Design Standards: The city is developing an Objective Design Review Standards

checklist that will establish clear, measurable criteria for project review. Once adopted - currently anticipated in early 2027 - staff will be able to process qualifying development applications more efficiently without review by an advisory committee.

- Interim Review Process: Until the new standards are finalized and implemented, design review responsibilities will be administered directly by the Planning Director or the Planning Commission.

Additional information and updates on Ventura’s housing initiatives and permitting reforms are available through the City of Ventura’s Community Development Department.

Suspect Arrested for Robbery and Being in Possession of a Hatchet

On June 26, 2026, at approximately 1822 hours, the victim called the Ventura Police Department Communication Center to report being a victim of a robbery near the Bus Depot, 3330 Telegraph Road. The victim reported the suspect was a black male, wearing a black beanie, black t-shirt and dark jeans. The suspect was later identified as Ventura resident Jackson Gaulding (19 years).

The victim was in the area of the Bus Depot when he was approached by Gaulding. Gaulding demanded the victim’s headphones. After the victim refused, Gaulding lifted the front of his shirt and exposed what appeared to be a silver colored revolver in his waistband. The victim was in fear for his life and handed Gaulding his headphones. Gaulding then walked away but was contacted and detained approximately 15 minutes later by responding officers near the Bus Depot. Gaulding was positively identified by the victim as the suspect and was in possession of the victim’s headphones. Gaulding was also in possession of a hatchet in his waistband when officers contacted him.

Officers, assisted by a K-9 unit, searched the area for the suspected revolver but were unable to locate a firearm.

Agriculture



Ventura County agriculture grew to a \$2.4 billion industry in 2025, with strawberries, avocados and nursery stock leading the county’s top commodities.

Ventura County Ag Industry Grows to \$2.4 Billion

The County of Ventura’s Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures presented the 2025 Crop and Livestock Report to the Ventura County Board of Supervisors during their regular meeting on Tuesday, June 23. The annual publication, which provides a snapshot of the county’s farming industry, reported the gross value of agriculture at \$2,409,748,000, a 4% increase from 2024.

In addition to production statistics, the 2025 Crop and Livestock Report examines the economic realities facing Ventura County’s agricultural community. Through its theme, “Making Cents of Agricultural Production,” the report explores rising costs across six key production categories - labor, land, inputs, plant care, services, and compliance - and highlights the resilience and innovation that continue to drive Ventura County agriculture.

“Agriculture remains one of Ventura County’s defining industries and an essential part of our economy, our environment, and our way of life,” said Chair of the Board Jeff Gorell. “The annual Crop and Livestock Report highlights not only the tremendous value of our agricultural sector, but also the resilience and innovation of the growers, farmworkers, and agricultural businesses that sustain our communities. We are grateful for their continued contributions and their commitment to feeding our region and the world.”

Strawberries remained Ventura County’s top crop in 2025, followed by avocados and nursery stock. The county’s top 10 agricultural commodities for 2025 were:

- Strawberries
- Avocados
- Nursery Stock
- Raspberries
- Lemons
- Celery
- Blackberries
- Peppers
- Blueberries
- Cilantro

Strawberries led all crops with a production value of \$807,846,000. Lemons posted one of the strongest gains among the top commodities, increasing 54% in value to \$181,692,000. Strong production helped Ventura County rise to second in California for lemon commodity value.

“This year’s theme, ‘Making

Cents of Agricultural Production,’ examines the growing costs associated with farming and the impact those expenses have on crop production,” said Agriculture Commissioner Korinne Bell. “While Ventura County agriculture continued to generate strong value in 2025, labor remains the largest cost factor across our top crops. We are proud to work alongside local growers and farmworkers every day to support a strong agricultural industry and identify innovative solutions that help ensure its long-term success.”

Ventura County continues to rank 10th among California’s leading agricultural counties and remains a top producer of avocados, cilantro, and raspberries. The county’s diverse farming sector includes fruit, vegetables, and nursery crops grown across approximately 98,470 acres of irrigated farmland, representing about 8.36% of the county’s total land area.

In addition to production statistics, the 2025 Crop and Livestock Report highlights the strength and resilience of local agriculture. It underscores the important role growers and farmworkers play in supporting the regional economy while showcasing the Department of Agriculture’s efforts in pest prevention, consumer protection, regulatory oversight, and environmental stewardship.

“Ventura County’s success as a leading agricultural region is made possible through strong partnerships among growers, farmworkers, agricultural organizations, residents, and public agencies,” said Dr. Sevet Johnson, County Executive Officer. “This year’s report highlights the dedication and hard work of our local growers that continue to sustain one of the county’s most important industries.”

Since 1895, under the direction of the Board of Supervisors, the Department of Agriculture/Weights and Measures has worked in cooperation with the California Departments of Food and Agriculture and Pesticide Regulation, agricultural community partners, residents and others to protect and promote agriculture through pesticide use enforcement, permitting, quality control, export certification and related services.

To read the 2025 Crop and Livestock Report, visit: awm.venturacounty.gov/crop-reports.



REASONS TO CHOOSE CREMATION

Cremation continues to grow in popularity. Here are the top reasons people pick cremation over burial:

1. **Saves Money** (often less expensive than traditional burials)
2. **Saves Space** (no need for cemetery space, though it’s an option)
3. **Saves Environment** (doesn’t require harmful chemicals)
4. **It’s Simple** (involves fewer steps)
5. **Offers Greater Service Flexibility** (allows for scattering, decorative urns, shared ownership of ashes, etc.)

For more information on cremation, visit us online and request our FREE cremation guide.



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The Grape: The Little Jazz Club Continued from page 1

most cherished weekly traditions, drawing musicians and listeners from across Southern California. It is not unusual to see seasoned touring artists playing alongside someone taking the stage for the very first time.

The Grape has quietly become one of the region’s most meaningful cultural gathering places, even if its beginnings were anything but certain.

Owners Adam Randall and Josh McNutt didn’t inherit a thriving business. They built one through perseverance, optimism, and an unwavering belief that Ventura deserved a first-class listening room dedicated to live music.

Their journey included financial uncertainty, permitting challenges, construction obstacles, the COVID-19 pandemic, and countless moments that might have ended the dream.

Instead, they kept going.

Today, musicians throughout California know The Grape as a place where artists are respected and audiences truly listen. Patrons know it as a place where birthdays are celebrated, friendships are formed, and memorable evenings happen with remarkable regularity.

For me, The Grape has been deeply personal.

As a musician, I’ve had the privilege of performing there often. More importantly, I’ve watched the club bring together people from every walk of life through a shared love of music. I’ve seen friendships

form, young musicians encouraged by veterans, and visitors become regulars after a single night.

Those experiences convinced me the story of The Grape deserved to be preserved.

Over the past year, I interviewed dozens of musicians, patrons, staff, and the club’s founders to document how an improbable idea grew into one of Ventura County’s most beloved destinations.

The result is my forthcoming book, The Grape. While it tells the story of Adam Randall and Josh McNutt’s determination to build something lasting, it is equally the story of the hundreds of people whose loyalty, encouragement, and love of live music transformed a venue into a community.

The Grape reminds us that success is not always measured in profits or expansion. Sometimes it is measured in handshakes, standing ovations, conversations between strangers, and the feeling that, for a few hours, the outside world can wait.

In a time when so much of our interaction happens through screens, The Grape offers something refreshingly real: people sharing live music in real time.

Ventura is fortunate to have places like this.

They don’t just entertain us. They remind us who we are.

Leon Rouso is a Ventura musician, Retired Financial Advisor and author. His upcoming book, The Grape, chronicles the remarkable story behind the jazz club and the community that grew around it over nearly two decades.



In Bloom Photo Contest



Alicia Barreto Ray



Alex Ayala



Ellie Enriquez



Samantha Warren



Robert Garven Jr.



Marney Villanueva



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VenturaBotanicalGardens.org

Photo by: Kayla Wilde

Ventura Botanical Gardens 2026 Winners

This year, the theme of the contest was Garden Stories. Submissions highlighted events and people engaged in activities in the Gardens. With the phrase “a picture is worth a thousand words” in mind, the goal of the photo contest this year was to expand the stories of the Gardens.

Peoples’ Choice winners were judged on social media. Judges’ Choice winners were selected by a panel of photography professionals.

Judges Choice

- 1st Place: Alex Ayala
“Solitude in the Gardens”
Senior man exploring vibrant Ventura Botanical Gardens with colorful flowers and lush greenery.
- 2nd Place: Ellie Enriquez
“Looking Back at Life”
Person making a heart shape with hands through a tree’s hollow.
- 3rd Place: Robert Garven Jr.
“We Love the Garden”
Three children sitting on a ledge overlooking Ventura Botanical Gardens and the ocean.
- Honorable Mention: Samantha Warren
“Where Childhood Meets the Coastline”

People’s Choice

- 1st Place: Marney Villanueva
Colorful flower garden at Ventura Botanical Gardens in full bloom.
- 2nd Place: Alicia Barreto Ray
Senior man exploring vibrant Ventura Botanical Gardens with colorful flowers and lush greenery.
- 3rd Place (tie): Ellie Enriquez
Visitor walking along a garden trail at Ventura Botanical Gardens with colorful plants and trees.
- 3rd Place (tie): Alex Ayala
View More Winners at <https://venturabotanicalgardens.org/in-bloom>.



CAPS Media Highlights Fire Academy Class 63

CAPS Media has collaborated with the Ventura County Fire Department for over 15 years! This past year was our first time experiencing the Training Academy’s 63rd Cohort. We want to congratulate all the graduating cadets that received their badges and station assignments this past June.

CAPS was tasked with creating a short film, highlighting all aspects of training that are involved in becoming a Ventura County Firefighter. Our crew began production in January of this year at the brand

new, ultramodern, fire training facilities located at the Camarillo Airport. The newly enrolled cadets started their first day at 0500 with a demonstration of the new facility by seasoned VCFD Firefighters.

Over the course of 6 months, the CAPS Crew documented the cadets receiving training in ladders, hoses, automobile extrication, hazardous materials, wild-land firefighting, combined operations, active shooter training with the Ventura County Sheriffs Department and much more. Our crew used the

latest in camera and drone technology to intimately capture the blood, sweat, and tears that go into becoming firefighters.

CAPS also wants to wish the community a Happy 250th Birthday and a Happy July 4th! The City of Ventura pulled out all the stops to celebrate our big birthday by organizing a week of fun free festivities for the whole family. CAPS Crews were on site to capture all the smiles, hot rods, pool parties, beach clean ups, fireworks and of course the Pushem-Pullem Parade

and Street Fair.

There is still space available in our annual Future Filmmakers program with the Live Action Video program beginning July 13 and the Stop-Action Animation program beginning July 27th for filmmakers ages 9-14. Go to capsmedia.org to register. Snacks, a cool T-shirt and a special screening for family and friends included.

Do not forget our monthly orientations for the CAPS Media Center and training for CAPS Radio- KPPQ 104.1fm on the first Monday and Tuesday of each month. Learn to share your story. We will show you how.

Aside from being an invaluable community resource CAPS also offers fee-for-service production services & rental of various spaces within our media center to all non-profits, businesses, and government organizations. Our highly trained and knowledgeable staff can work with any individual or group to craft a polished and well-delivered message or story. You can learn more about the work we do and find more details about our space rentals at our website www.capsmedia.org.

For Non-Profits & Businesses’s, event season is upon us! Make sure to reach out to us via phone (805) 658-0500 or write to us at info@capsmedia.org to inquire about hiring us for your next event. If you mention you read about us in the Ventura Breeze, we will offer you 15% off your first invoice (new clients only)! CAPS Media Center, supporting the Ventura County community for over 25 years, is here for you.

Ventura Music Festival Continued from page 1

to everything VMF stands for,” said Sonia Tower, Interim Executive Director. “In just one week, our audiences can experience Grammy-winning opera at Rancho Campana, the energy of Latin jazz at the Majestic Ventura Theater, cutting-edge chamber music at VC Performing Arts Center, and a one-of-a-kind opening gala featuring 1930’s French Jazz Manouche at The Palomino. Each venue shapes the experience uniquely, and we’re very excited to welcome the community to the Summer Series.”

Festival Gala Opening Monday, July 20 The Palomino, 6 PM

The Summer Series begins not with a curtain call, but with a speakeasy door. VMF’s Festival Gala Opening on July 20 invites guests into The Palomino for an evening evoking the spirit of a 1930s jazz club, complete with craft libations, elegant small bites, and the live music of the magnificque San Lyon ensemble. Guests are encouraged to dress the part. This signature event serves as both a celebration and a kick-off for the concert week ahead.

Beethoven’s Choice Thursday, July 23 Ventura College Performing Arts Center, 7 PM

VMF’s popular Classical Edge Concert format returns with “Beethoven’s Choice,” blending storytelling and live performance into an educational journey through one of classical music’s most enduring legacies. Artistic Director, classical violinist, and acclaimed musician Nuvi Mehta leads the evening, accompanied by celebrated pianist Greg Anderson of Anderson & Roe.

Angel Blue with Bryan Wagorn Friday, July 24 Rancho Campana Performing Arts Center, 7 PM

Grammy Award-winner Angel Blue, widely recognized as one of opera’s reigning superstars, takes the Rancho Campana stage for an evening of extraordinary vocal artistry. Known for her deeply affecting portrayals of roles including Aida, Tosca, Violetta in La Traviata, Bess in Porgy and Bess, Mimì in La bohème, and Liu in Turandot, Blue performs alongside celebrated pianist Bryan Wagorn.

A Celebration of Latin Music with Justo Almario and Jeremy Bosch Saturday, July 25 The Majestic Ventura Theater, 6 PM

Two masters of the Latin jazz tradition share the Majestic Ventura Theater stage on July 25th for a night that will be pure rhythm, soul, and fire. Colombian-born saxophone legend Justo Almario, a forerunner of the Latin jazz movement in the United States, brings his Afro-Colombian jazz ensemble and music from his newly released album Alegria. Rising Puerto Rican star Jeremy Bosch, one of the most electrifying young voices in salsa and Latin jazz today, fronts his own orchestra in a show built for dancing. Two distinct sounds, two separate orchestras, one extraordinary night: Almario’s deeply rooted Colombian jazz tradition meeting Bosch’s high-energy salsa fire. This event is ticketed through the Majestic Ventura Theater.

Akropolis Reed Quintet Sunday, July 26 Ventura College Performing Arts Center, 3 PM

The Summer Series closes with Akropolis Reed Quintet, an ensemble BBC Music Magazine has described as “sonically daring” with “charisma and integrity.” True pioneers of the reed quintet as a modern

chamber genre, Akropolis has commissioned and premiered more than 200 works by living composers, bringing an adventurous and vital spirit to every stage they inhabit.

Tickets and Information

Tickets for VMF-presented Summer Series concerts are available at venturamusicalfestival.org or by calling (805) 648-3146. The July 25th Latin Music Celebration is ticketed directly through the Majestic Ventura Theater. The John and Glenda Hammer Family are the 2026 Impresario

Ventura County Post Record Continued from page 1

with the opening of 11 vote centers, including the Elections Office at the Ventura County Government Center. An additional 42 vote centers opened May 30.

Prior to certification and during the post-election canvass, reports, results, and activities were carried out according to California Elections Code including conducting the One Percent Manual Tally from June 11 to 16. A mandatory audit that confirms the accuracy of tabulated results, the One Percent Manual Tally is the post-Election Day counterpart to the Pre-Election Logic and Accuracy testing (Pre-LAT), as both processes work together to ensure accurate performance of the ballot counting equipment.

The contests in the Primary Election were comprised of three Federal, twelve State, and eight County seats. The top-two finishers in each Federal and State contest will advance to the November 3, 2026 General Election. For County contests, a candidate receiving at least 50%-plus-one vote wins the election outright, otherwise the top-two candidates advance to the General Election. Seven Ventura County seats were

Season Sponsors.

About the Ventura Music Festival

Now in its 31st season, the Ventura Music Festival is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to presenting world-class musical experiences while expanding access to the arts for all. VMF reaches more than 10,100 people annually through its concert series, free community events, and music education programs serving 1,600+ students. The festival is located at 701 E. Santa Clara Street, Ventura, CA 93001.

decided in the primary election, with only the County Superintendent of Schools race advancing to the run-off in November.

Ventura County’s turnout of 44.21% was the highest Gubernatorial Primary turnout dating back to 1990 and higher than the current total state turnout of 40.8%. A total of 232,223 ballots were cast in Ventura County of the 525,292 voters registered as of the 15-Day Report of Registration on May 18, 2026. Of that turnout, 91.5%, or 212,406 voters, utilized their vote by mail ballot while 8.5%, or 19,817, voted in-person.

“This election, as with every election, I am so proud of the hard working and dedicated group that makes it all happen: the full-time Elections team, the Clerk and Recorder division staff who always contribute to the effort, the temporary workers we hire from the community, and our fellow County employees from other agencies who step up to help. Everyone puts in long days back to back for weeks on end, both before and after Election Day, in service to our community and democracy,” said Registrar Ascencion.

The certified final results are posted on the County Elections website at vote.venturacounty.gov.



Library News

The Bookmark

About Libraries and Friends

By Mary Olson

Ventura Friends of the Library continue our Pop-up Book Sales Saturdays, July 11 & August 8, 8:30 am to Noon at the Ventura Certified Farmers’ Market.

Look for us on Main Street, near the Mission.

Next large book sale at the Vons at Telegraph & Victoria will be on Saturday, August 15

Summer Reading Program at Ventura County Library.

This year’s theme is “Plant a Seed – Read”. You can register at <https://ventura.readsquared.com/> Read, Complete Activities, Earn Points and Prizes!

Lunch at the Library

Avenue Library will participate in the Lunch at the Library program, a project of the California State Library.

July 6 through July 30, Monday

through Thursday, noon to 1:00 pm Children up to 18 years old are invited to eat lunch while learning about planting and the science of growing food. Lunches are limited and served on a first come, first served basis.

Hill Road Library Summer Snow Day

Cool down with icy crafts, a screening of Frozen II, and soft-serve ice-cream from Mister Softee for Summer Reading Program participants! Dress-up and costumes encouraged! Space is limited. Hill Road Library Thursday, July 9, 2:30 to 4:30 pm

Family Game Day

Enjoy an epic day of fun with Gamez on Wheelz—a mobile gaming experience for kids and teens! Kids and teens also get FREE Kona Ice to enjoy before or after their gaming session!

Saticoy Library Thursday, July 9, 2:00 to 4:00 pm Avenue Library Monday, July 20, 2:30 to 4:30 pm

Saving Wildlife International

Discover the natural world through a unique interactive live animal presentation featuring mammals, birds, reptiles, and amphibians. Saving Wildlife International’s purpose is to assist people of all ages and cultures in developing an awareness of and commitment to nature

that will result in constructive actions concerning wildlife and our environment.

Avenue Library, Monday, July 13, 2:30 to 3:30 pm

Hill Road Library, Tuesday, July 21 There will be a morning show and an afternoon show at Hill Road. Please choose one to attend with your group or family. Morning: 10:30 to 11:30 am Afternoon: 3:00 to 4:00 pm

Movie Mondays at Hill Road Library 3:00 to 5:00 pm

Enjoy a family-friendly movie on Mondays during July. Come cool off and enjoy the show!

Movie selection for July 13: Elio; selection for July 20th is The Super Mario Bros. Movie; selection for July 27th is The SpongeBob Movie: The Search for SquarePants

Saticoy STEAM Craft Wednesdays 2:00 to 4:00 pm

Visit Saticoy Library on Wednesdays from 2 – 5 pm for STEAM crafting fun! Instruction and supplies provided!

Hill Road Library Chess Club

Saturdays, 11:00 am to noon July 11, 18 & 25

Teen volunteers help you learn, practice, and improve your game. Players of all skill levels are welcome! Hill Road

Chess Club is for children and teens ages 5-17.

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

Making Art at the library

Connect, create, and share your art with fellow collage enthusiasts. Materials welcome, but not required.

Adult Collage Lab at Saticoy Library Every fourth Saturday of the month, 2:30 to 5:00 pm

Adult Collage Sunday at Hill Road Library Sundays, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm

Avenue Collage Guild Avenue Library Meeting Room Saturday, July 18, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm

Master Gardeners Learning Series continues with Gardening Tools: Tool School – Basic to Brilliant

Hill Road Library Tuesday, July 14, 4:30 to 5:30 pm

Everything you need to know about gardening tools—from the essential must haves to advanced options. You’ll discover the tools every gardener needs, explore high quality options, and even learn how to create your own gardening wish list with tools that match your unique needs. Taught by Certified Master Gardener, Gary Bednor.



Image courtesy UWCD

UWCD Saticoy Groundwater Recharge Basins.

United Water Seeks Voter Approval for \$350M Water Bond

The United Water Conservation District Board of Directors voted unanimously June 10, 2026, to place a \$350 million General Obligation Bond Measure before voters on the November 3, 2026 ballot, taking the first formal step toward funding its capital plan focused on three priority

projects critical to the region’s long-term water supply.

“The projects this bond would fund are not optional,” said General Manager Mauricio Guardado. “They are required by regulators, driven by court obligations, and essential to protecting the groundwater

our communities depend on.”

The Santa Felicia Dam Safety Improvement Project addresses seismic and flood capacity upgrades required by the California Division of Safety of Dams and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, protecting the approximately 237,000 residents downstream. The Freeman Diversion Improvement Project fulfills a binding federal court judgment requiring fish passage upgrades, with the added benefit of increasing annual groundwater recharge by 5,000 to 8,000 acre-feet per year. The Extraction Barrier and Brackish Water Treatment Project would help halt advancing seawater intrusion into the Oxnard Plain groundwater basin and is a cornerstone of the region’s state-mandated Groundwater Sustainability Plan.

United Water has pursued every available outside funding source, including grants, low-interest federal loans through the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act, and State Revolving Fund financing, securing \$31.5 million in grants and up to \$83 million in low-interest federal financing. The bond would close the gap that secured funding sources cannot cover, without moving to rate increases.

“There is a great deal hanging in the balance, and it was important to this Board that voters have their say in how

we move forward,” said Board President Lynn Maulhardt.

Voters can learn more about the measure, read the Bond Report, and submit questions at unitedwater.org/bond.

About United Water Conservation District

Since 1927, United Water Conservation District (District) has served as a leader among water agencies by managing, protecting, enhancing and securing the water resources of the Santa Clara River and Oxnard Coastal Plain. United Water works to protect the environment’s natural attributes and conserves runoff from all major tributaries of the Santa Clara River, including Piru, Hopper, Sespe, and Santa Paula Creeks. Committed to managing the area’s water supplies through groundwater replenishment and the construction and operation of efficient water supply and delivery systems, United Water serves as the conservator of groundwater resources that are utilized by the cities of Oxnard, Port Hueneme, Ventura, Santa Paula, and Fillmore, as well as Naval Base Ventura County and several mutual water districts, farms, and individual pumpers. United Water also provides surface water for agricultural irrigation and treated drinking water to the cities of Oxnard and Port Hueneme. www.unitedwater.org

Have you planned for your family’s future?



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Competitive rates. Call for an appointment.

Do you have a will? **You should!** If you do have a will, is it up to date? **It should be!**
Do you know the benefits of a trust? **You should!** If you do have a trust, is it up to date? **It should be!**
What about powers of attorney? Health care powers of attorney? **You need to be prepared!**

Changes in the federal estate tax law may permit simplifying estate plans already in place.

Thomas E. Olson, APLC
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(805) 628-9256 teo-law.com



University of California Davis School of Law, 1978
University of California Davis, BA 1972

Senior Living



Image by The Yuri Arcurs Collection on Magnific.com

Exercise is the key to improving your fitness and taking in some sun will boost your vitamin D production, which is critical for good health.

Summer Fitness Fun

By Leslie Sokol

Summertime is an amazing time to set goals and instill new routines. If you feel like you’ve been hibernating indoors, now is a great time to get outside, exercise, and enjoy a little sunshine. Exercise is the key to improving your fitness. Taking in some sun will boost your vitamin D production, which is critical for good health. Exercising outdoors can put you in a happy mood and is a key piece of the puzzle for a healthy lifestyle, especially for seniors.

Whether you’re a golfer, swimmer, hiker, runner, tennis, or pickleball player, you need to take precautions to make sure you are prepared for the heat and elements that come along with this time of year. Here are a few healthy tips for summertime workouts:

Stay hydrated. You should have a bottle of water on hand, especially as the temperatures rise this summer. Drink before, during and after you exercise. Over seventy percent of our body is made up of water. Not allowing yourself to get dehydrated is the key. Fruits and other foods that contain water can also be a good choice to keep you hydrated.

Prepare for the heat and sun. Always apply sunscreen and try to exercise earlier in the day or in the evening when temperatures are not as intense. Dress in lightweight clothing and wear proper footwear. Visors and hats are also a good idea.

Include all the elements of fitness. Your workouts should include aerobics, stretching, and strengthening exercises. Warmup and cool down movements are important to prepare and calm our muscles. Pace yourself and do not get overheated.

As you age, it is natural for your body processes to slow down a little. For instance, your body will take a little longer to adjust to changes in temperature. You’ll also want to try and mix up your workouts and activities to better take advantage of the good weather.

Try taking a different route on your usual walk or hike. Go to the beach, a trail, or somewhere new in your community or neighborhood. This can be even more fun with family and friends.

Do an aqua swim class or just swim laps in a pool. Even wading in water and moving your arms and legs is good exercise.

Take a day trip to a nearby hiking spot or scenic area with beautiful views and environment. Soak in the sun and positive vibes of nature.

Join a group dance or fitness class. Find one that works your whole body and fits your needs. Try out different class types and stick with the one you enjoy most.

Spend time with family, friends, and grandkids. Try and do activities that make you all feel good and energized.

Join an athletic club, senior community center or organization that promotes physical fitness and has a variety of classes, equipment, and a positive environment.

Take on new hobbies or activities that you have always wanted to try. You’re never too old to start something new or continue with something that you truly love and enjoy.

This summer, make it your goal to get fit and active! Be sure to take the necessary precautions to stay hydrated and safe in the warm weather. Variety is the spice of life and hopefully you are ready to get outside and take advantage of all that this season has to offer!

About the Author

Leslie Sokol is the creator and founder of For the Young at Heart, an adult dance and fitness program designed to support healthy, joyful aging. She has been teaching dance and fitness to adults and children for more than forty-five years and currently teaches in retirement communities throughout Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties.

Leslie’s For the Young at Heart program can be seen on Cox YurView, TVSB, and her YouTube channel, with program times and additional information available on her website at www.LeslieSokolsDance.com. She also offers online classes for adults seeking accessible, engaging movement at home.

For more information, Leslie can be reached at leslie@lesliesokolsdance.com or by phone at 408-836-8559.

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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A HEALTHIER YOU. A WEALTHIER LIFE.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15TH
11 AM - 1 PM
CYPRESS PLACE SENIOR LIVING
1200 Cypress Point Lane
Ventura, CA 93003

Join us at Cypress Place Senior Living for a vibrant Health & Wellness Expo designed especially for older adults. Explore 30+ trusted vendors offering resources, screenings, and insights to support your well-being. It's a wonderful opportunity to connect, learn, and take a proactive step toward a healthier, more fulfilling lifestyle.

Connect. Learn. Thrive!

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Senior Living



Image by Shurkin_son on Freepik

Many older adults bring valuable expertise, reliability and diverse perspectives, making them important contributors to the modern workplace.

County of Ventura Offers Employment Support for Seniors

From the Human Services Agency on Aging
Older adults are increasingly returning to the workforce, driven by a combination of personal and financial reasons. Some seek employment to stay active, maintain social connections or pursue

a sense of purpose after retirement. Others face economic pressures, such as rising living costs, insufficient retirement savings or the need to support family members. However, re-entering the workforce can present challenges. Older workers

may encounter age discrimination, difficulties in adapting to new technologies or a lack of opportunities matching their skills and experience. Additionally, physical limitations or health concerns can complicate their ability to meet the demands of certain jobs.

Despite these obstacles, many older adults bring valuable expertise, reliability and diverse perspectives, making them important contributors to the modern workplace. Here are some resources that might assist individuals seeking employment:

Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP)

The Title V Senior Community Services Employment Training Program (SCSEP) provides limited employment training and wages for low-income persons aged 55 and older. This program helps older adults seeking employment to gain the skills needed in today’s job market. SCSEP is funded by the U.S. Department of Labor and focuses on the needs of mature workers, the community, and employers.

Discover what SCSEP can offer you:

- Services tailored to each individual

- Second career training opportunities
- Training at community-based organizations
- Training with flexible schedules
- Receive on-the-job training
- Receive a paid stipend while participating

Ventura County Works

The Workforce Development Board of Ventura County and America’s Job Center of California provide assistance through Ventura County Works. Individuals can find career coaching, job training or assistance with job searches, all at no cost. Call 805.648.9675 or 833-810-9675 or visit www.venturacountyworks.net.

Services include:

- Assistance finding a job
 - Education and training opportunities
 - Work-based learning and on-the-job training programs
 - Assistance with supportive services
 - One-on-one career counseling
 - Career workshops
- For more information on County of Ventura’s employment services for seniors, visit www.vcaa.org

Theater

A View from House Seats

Nora Returns – Questions Remain

By Shirley Lorraine

Henrik Ibsen’s well known play from 1879, A Doll’s House, undergoes an update in A Doll’s House, Part 2 written by Lucas Hnath. The play features Nora, a stifled housewife who wants more out of life that she is able to get due to myriad restrictions for women at the time.

In this dramedy, A Doll’s House, Part 2, Nora returns after a 15 year absence during which she has apparently been able to realize some of her dreams of independence. However, restrictions still apply as her husband Torvald never followed through with the divorce she requested. What results are a series of possible scenarios that could have taken place, all of them affecting not only Nora herself, but those around her as well.

This production, mounted by Santa Paula theater Center, is directed by Kathleen Bosworth. The setting is still pre-1900. Many responsibilities and opportunities still elude women, challenging any female wishing for autonomy. Perceptions of male vs female roles in society are given deep exploration. Although progress took place, numerous restrictions still remained for women of that time, not to be resolved for a great many years.

The strong cast features four characters. SPTC regular Cindy McKay leads the way as Anne Marie, the family housekeeper who stayed on to raise Nora’s children. McKay offers a solid characterization of authority. The key role of Nora is portrayed by Sarah Kei Brooks with strength, conviction, and a rapid-fire pace. Her husband, Torvald, is brought to life by Derek Petropolis in fine fashion.

Their now-grown daughter Emmy is played with assurance by Rhiannon Tircuit. The four construct a tight quadrangle of acting ability.

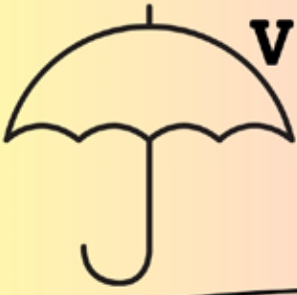
The 90 minute offering has no intermission, enabling the actors to build their characters without losing momentum. As in any male-female confrontation, arguments are frequent, emotions run high and although in the end Nora gets what she has requested, neither party seems happy with the results. Real life once again prevails without resolution.

The setting by Donnie Stroud is minimally dressed in functional pieces of furniture, no distracting wall adornment and beige walls allow the actors to remain the focus throughout. Period costuming by Barbara Pedziwiatr is lovely, especially on the power couple Nora and Torvald.

There are a few incongruities. Specifically, a cardboard tissue box and a plastic decanter next to the crystal water glasses. A purposeful directorial nod to the universal non-time limited theme surrounding the continuing inequalities of gender roles?

The play provides a continuation of the age-old dilemma wherein women’s roles are minimized and discounted. Of note is that the story is led by three women and yet the one man’s perspective is still the focal point. Times have changed, but the fight for equality continues.

A Doll’s House, Part 2 continues through July 19 with performances Fridays at 8 p.m., Saturdays at 4 p.m. and Sundays at 2:30 p.m. Tickets at santapaulatheatercenter.org or 805-525-4645. 125 S. 7th Street, Santa Paula.



Ventura County Senior Transitions

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To RSVP or for a FREE consultation call
805.746.4218

DRE: 01400922 VCSeniorTransitions.com

Events

Ventura:

NAMBA Performing Art Space Art & Poetry Events:

Sun, Jul 12 at 3 pm: Iona Fyfe: Two-time winner of Scots Singer of the Year, returns to the stage once again with her unique style and distinctive songwriting.

Friday, Aug 7 at 7 pm: Roots-rock road warrior Shawn Jones, armed with gritty guitar fireworks and honey-smoked vocals, shares the spotlight with indie-folk storyteller Shane Alexander's cinematic melodies and intimate tenor. For a full list of shows visit www.nambaarts.com.

Walk to End Alzheimer's: Sat., Jul 15. Registration at 9 am. Ventura Harbor Village Main Lawn, 1591 Spinnaker Dr.

All funds raised through Walk to End Alzheimer's further the care, support and research efforts of the Alzheimer's Association. The Alzheimer's Association is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization. All donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law. There is no registration fee for Walk. However, we ask every participant to make a personal donation and commit to raising funds in the fight against Alzheimer's. Every registered participant who achieves the fundraising minimum of \$100 will receive an official Walk to End Alzheimer's T-shirt via USPS. To receive a shirt in time for Walk day, participants must raise the T-shirt minimum at least four weeks prior to the event. Route Length: 2 miles. To learn more and register, visit https://act.alz.org/site/TR?fr_id=19453&pg=entry.

Gardening Series Class - Healthy Soil: Sat., July 18, 10 am.-11:30 am. City Maintenance Building, 336 Sanjon Rd.

Healthy Soil is the foundation of every thriving garden and understanding it changes everything. A certified Ventura County Master Gardener will inform on soil biology, composting, and vegetable selection tailored to our coastal climate. Whether you're just starting out or looking to level up your food garden, come ready to dig into the science beneath your feet! Register to attend this free class here. www.cityofventura.ca.gov/544/Free-Gardening-Classes.

Holistic Health Fair: Sat, July 18: Binkley Healing Center, 961 E. Main St.

Binkley Healing Center Presents the 4th annual fair featuring sixteen of the most caring, proficient holistic professionals in Ventura County. This is a free community event open to all interested in taking responsibility or improving their own health. It will feature practitioners of Yoga, Reiki, Hip Hop dance, NLP Hypnotherapy, Functional Medicine, personal trainers, Chiropractic, Holistic Dentistry, Acupuncture and many others. Reserve your spot at venturaholistichealthfair.eventbrite.com

Watch and Clock Collectors Meeting: July 19, 11am. Campus Student Center of Ventura College, 4667 Telegraph Rd.

Anyone interested in timepieces, both antique and modern, can attend the meeting. Watch/clock marketplace and lunch. There will be a talk by Dave Coatsworth on the June 2026 NAWCC Nation Convention. Bring a watch or clock for a free evaluation. nawcc-ch190.com. Bob McClelland, Director, Public Information, (818) 225-8212. rjmcclel@pacbell.net

College Area Community Council Meerting: Wed, Jul 22: In-person & Zoom, 6 pm. CAPS Media, 65 Day Rd.

Community council meetings include speakers and discussion on topics of neighborhood and community interest, including public safety and economic development. CACC represents citizens in the area bounded by Mills Road on the west, Hill Road on the east, city limits in the hillsides on the north, and the 126 Freeway on the south. <https://caccventura.com> for more information - a Zoom link to the meeting or to be added to the mailing list.

Botanical Gardens – Summer Hummerz: Through 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/#>.

Channel Islands PC User Group (CIPCUG): Sat, Jul 25, 9:30 am.

Online and Live. Ventura County Computers, 2175 Goodyear Avenue, Unit 117 Discussion, Tutorial, and Q&A sessions centered around Computers, email, the Internet, AI, and social media brokers such as X, Facebook, and Google. Details for connecting to online events are emailed prior to the event. To receive connection instructions, sign up at www.cipcug.org.

Museum of Ventura County's Japanese Summer Festival: Sat., Aug 1, 12:30 pm - 2:30 pm. 100 E Main St.

An Introduction to Obon: A Japanese Summer Festival, a family-friendly celebration presented in partnership with the Oxnard Buddhist Temple. Learn about the Japanese tradition of Obon, a festival that honors ancestors through music, dance, and community gatherings. Enjoy paper lantern decorating, traditional Japanese drumming by Togen Daiko, and Bon Odori, a traditional Japanese festival dance. This is a free event. Advance registration is recommended. <https://venturamuseum.org/event/an-introduction-to-obon-a-japanese-summer-festival-2>.

Summerfest at Salvation Army of Ventura: Sat, Aug 1, 10 am – 4 pm. Salvation Army, 650 S. Petit.

Summerfest, held in different cities throughout Ventura County, is designed to connect families with free resources, support, and encouragement in a fun and welcoming environment. A variety of organizations will be present to provide help in areas such as groceries, job and training opportunities, housing referrals, living assistance, utility bill support, behavioral health services, and sober living resources, just to name a few. We'll also be offering 1,000+ backpacks, school supplies, haircuts, shoes, live music, food, carnival games, arts and crafts, face painting, huge inflatables, rock climbing for all ages, a petting zoo, a pie-eating contest, a dunk tank, and so much more! Everything is completely free. www.dbdfamily.com.

Walk to End Alzheimer's: Sat, Oct 3. Ventura Harbor Village Main Lawn

Every participant needs to sign a standard waiver through their official registration.

There is no registration fee for the Walk. However, they ask every participant to make a personal donation and commit to raising funds in the fight against Alzheimer's. All funds raised further the care, support and research efforts of the Alzheimer's Association. The Alzheimer's Association is a nonprofit 501(c)3 organization. All donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law. Register a team as well. alz.org/VenturaWalk.

The Dudley Museum Open House Tours: Sun, Aug 2, 1 – 4 pm. 197 N. Ashwood.

Visit the 1892 Dudley Historic House Museum. For information call (805) 642-3345 or visit dudleyhouse.org. Admission is free.

Ongoing:

LPSC Social Club General Meeting: Monthly, every 1st Thursday, 6:30 pm (except Aug).

1363 Spinnaker Dr., Ventura LPSC (formerly Los Padres Ski Club) is a social community of active members with many social activities such as barbecues, happy hour, educational outings, hiking, camping, and ski trips. They look to establish a sense of community for young and old who appreciate an active life. "We continue in the tradition of the ski club and create vibrant activities to build community and most of all we want to have a good time." <https://lpsc.club>.

Toastmaster Club 24 Meetings: Every Monday, 6:30 - 8:00 pm.

Cypress Place Assisted Living, 1220 Cypress Point Ln, 3rd Fl. Hey, are you not talk well? Come learn how talk good. In front of people! No more word stumble! Seriously speaking, we'd love to have you at our fun Toastmasters meetings. Everyone is welcome. <https://venturatoastmasters.toastmastersclubs.org>.

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

Continued on page 11

Moving In?
Moving Up?
Moving Out?

I can help you with that!

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Weekly SUDOKU

Answer

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King Crossword

Answers

Solution time: 22 mins.

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The Pet Page

(Shelter Pet Spotlight on page 13)



Image by Magnific.com

Adopting from a shelter or rescue isn't just a personal choice—it's a direct, powerful way to save multiple lives through a ripple effect that eases system-wide pressure.

Why Adopting a Shelter Animal Saves More Lives Than You Think

By the National Humane Society

Every year, millions of dogs, cats, puppies, and kittens enter U.S. shelters and rescues, hoping for safety and love. According to Shelter Animals Count's 2025 Annual Data Report (released February 2026), approximately 5.8 million companion animals entered shelters nationwide—a 2% decrease from 2024, showing some progress amid economic pressures and awareness efforts. Yet, of those, only about 4.2 million were adopted (a modest 0.7–1% increase), while roughly 597,000 were euthanized and 757,000 experienced non-live outcomes overall. The national save rate holds at around 82%, with two out of three shelters achieving no-kill status (90%+ live release), per Best Friends Animal Society data.

At the National Humane Society, we raise donations to support animals in crisis and provide vital assistance to shelters struggling with overcrowding, medical needs, and limited resources. Adopting from a shelter or rescue isn't just a personal choice—it's a direct, powerful way to save multiple lives through a ripple effect that eases system-wide pressure.

The Ripple Effect Explained: How One Adoption Multiplies Lifesaving

Shelters function as a network with finite capacity—kennels, foster spots, staff time, and budgets. When full, incoming animals (strays, surrenders, cruelty cases) face delays in care or difficult decisions. Adoption empties a space, allowing immediate intake and treatment for the next in line.

Consider Luna, a gentle 3-year-old mixed-breed dog who arrived emaciated and fearful after abandonment. Donations funded her nutrition, vet exams, and parasite treatment. When adopted by a loving family, her spot opened for a mother cat and litter rescued from neglect. Those kittens received bottle-feeding and socialization—leading to successful adoptions. Luna's rescue story saved her and enabled five more lives.

Another: Max, a senior Labrador with treatable heartworm. Donor-supported treatment succeeded; his adoption freed capacity for an injured stray puppy needing surgery. The puppy recovered and found a home too.

Or Bella, a shy cat from a hoarding case. Foster care (supported by donations) helped her trust humans; adoption followed, opening space for neonatal kittens who might otherwise have been lost.

Nationally, even small adoption increases prevent thousands of euthanasias. Best Friends reports the save rate rose 11 points since 2016, saving nearly 5 million more animals. Your adoption directly contributes to this momentum by reducing overcrowding and allowing shelters to focus resources.

Debunking Myths That Deter Adoptions

Myth: Shelter animals have behavior issues. Most enter due to owner circumstances (housing loss, allergies, finances)—not aggression. We support temperament evaluations and training resources.

Myth: They're unhealthy or carry hidden problems. Adoptables get vaccines, spay/neuter, microchips, and exams—issues disclosed upfront.

Myth: No puppies/kittens or breeds available. Seasonal litters and surrenders provide young animals and purebreds/mixes.

Myth: Buying from breeders ensures better health. Mixed breeds often enjoy hybrid vigor—fewer genetic issues, longer lifespans.

Practical Steps to Adopt Successfully

- Search adoptable pets via our partner listings or national databases. Arrange meet-and-greets (in-person/virtual).
- Home prep: Secure fencing, pet-proof rooms, gather food/bedding. Post-adoption: Use training guides, vet discounts, community support.
- Adoption is affordable (fees cover vetting) and rewarding—many report deeper bonds due to gratitude.

FAQ: Common Adoption Questions

- Cost? \$50–\$300, covering spay/neuter/vaccines.
- Renters welcome? Yes, many allow pets-verify lease.
- Trial period? Most offer returns if it doesn't fit.
- Age/breed preferences? Flexible—seniors often calmer, mixes healthier.

Your adoption creates a chain of rescues. For more information or to donate to the National Humane Society, visit www.nationalhumanesociety.org.

Forever homes wanted



I'm Izzy, a 4-year-old Chihuahua mix. I may be a little shy at first, but I just need a little time to warm up to new people and new surroundings. Once I feel comfortable, my playful and affectionate personality shines through! I'm good with older children and get along well with other dogs. I'm an active girl who loves daily walks and outdoor adventures. One of my favorite things is being held and showering my people with affection. I'm also house-trained and will let you know when I need to go outside. I know basic commands like "come" and "sit," and I walk nicely on a leash, making me a wonderful companion for strolls through the park or around the neighborhood. If you're looking for a loyal, loving companion, I may be the perfect match for you!



I'm Scooby-Dooby-Doo, a fun-loving and enthusiastic 3-year-old Mastiff mix. I'm a loyal companion with a heart of gold and a playful spirit—I just can't contain my excitement when it comes to people! I may need a little help polishing my manners, and that's exactly why I'm here. After being rescued from a shelter, my new friends knew I deserved another chance to find my forever home. I even completed a special board-and-train program to help channel my enthusiasm, and I'm proud to say I'm making great progress. Come meet me, and let's start our own mystery-solving adventures together!



I'm Twix, a loving and protective 8-year-old German Shepherd-Labrador mix. My original adopter said I'm a herding dog who's comfortable around large animals, and my protective nature means I'll always look out for my family. I can be a little unsure around new people, but once I get to know you, I'm an absolute sweetheart who loves giving and receiving affection. I've likely been through a lot, but I still have so much love and loyalty to share with my forever family. Could you be the one to give me the stable, loving home I've been waiting for?



Hi, I'm Whiskey, an active and affectionate 4-year-old Yorkshire Terrier mix looking for my forever home. I do great with other dogs at the dog park. I've never been around cats, but my friends think I'd probably be afraid of them. I'm crate-trained, paper-trained, and will happily sit on command for a treat. While I'm good with children, I'd do best in a home with older kids because I can growl if someone takes something away from me, although I've never bitten. I love going everywhere with my people, whether it's to a restaurant, the dog park, or on a road trip. I also walk well on a leash, making me the perfect companion for all your adventures. Could you be the one to open your heart and home to me?

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.

Events
Continued from page 9
Rd. <https://venturacountyphilatelicsoc.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:

Dreams of the Future Bead Workshop: Sat, July 11, 1 pm -4 pm. Studio Channel Islands Art Center, 2222 Ventura Blvd.

The afternoon will begin with an Artist Talk by Alicia Piller at 1pm, exploring her unique art practice that is rooted in anthropology and fashion. The workshop at 2pm will be offered in collaboration with our Center for Literary Arts, to inspire connections across art forms. Open to all levels. Participants are encouraged to bring optional “memory materials” such as old letters, newspapers, maps, receipts, photocopies, book pages, or fabric scraps that hold personal or historical significance. These materials can be embedded directly into the bead-making process, creating wearable archives of memory and reflection. Tickets: <https://events.humanitix.com/dreams-of-the-future-bead-workshop?c=web>. <https://studiochannelislands.org/> Introduction to Handmade Paper with Leah Mata Fragua: In this introductory workshop, participants will learn the basic process of making handmade paper using prepared plant-based pulp. The workshop will introduce the steps of sheet formation, couching, pressing, and drying, while giving participants time to experiment with texture, fiber, and surface. This beginner-friendly workshop is designed for people with little or no prior paper-making experience. Participants will learn how paper can function as both a practical material and an artistic medium, and will leave with a basic understanding of the process along with handmade paper sheets they create during the workshop. Thu, July 23 1 pm - 4:30 pm. Tickets: <https://events.humanitix.com/leah-mata-fragua-workshop?c=web>.

The Camarillo Quilters Association Meeting: Tue, Jul 14. Doors open at 9 am and the meeting begins at 9:30. Pleasant Valley Community Center, 1605 E. Burnley Dr.

Susan from the Fabric Shoppe in Camarillo will be the speaker. Bring a picnic lunch to enjoy in the park after the meeting and presentation. \$5 charge for guests. <https://camarilloquilters.com>.

Old Town Camarillo’s Heritage Days Fiesta: Wed, Jul 15 - Sun, Jul 19. Camarillo Old Town

Get into summer festivities at one of Old Town Camarillo’s most popular festivals. Experience Camarillo with local food vendors and trucks, live music, art, car show, and carnival rides. Beer gardens are open to ages 21 and over. Relax on your journey by taking the Metrolink that stops right in Old Town Camarillo. www.camarilloheritagedays.org.

Ojai:

Second Saturday Ojai Studio Artists

Tour: Sat, Jul 11, 10 am – 5 pm.
Second Saturday includes 13 studios across the lovely and busy Downtown area - within walking distance of the best local restaurants and fun spots. Unlike OSA’s main October Fall Tour event in which all 70+ OSA artists open their spaces in a single weekend, Second Saturdays focus on specific areas, offering visitors a more manageable list of studios to visit. The event is free. You can find participating artists and samples of each artist’s work below, to help plan your “choose-your-own adventure” tour. Register to get the FREE tickets and a tour map delivered to your inbox. www.ojai-studioartists.org/all-tours/july-second-saturday-studio-tour.

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

Community Memorial Hospital – Ojai at “Endless Summer Lakeside”: Sat, Aug. 15. Lake Casitas.

The Ojai Valley Hospital Foundation Guild presents its annual summer fundraiser. The public is invited to support this fun event by buying tickets or sponsorship packages and enjoy a beautiful lakeside evening with friends, family, and fellow supporters of Community Memorial Hospital – Ojai. Funds raised will go toward “Powering the Future,” an initiative to modernize the infrastructure at Community Memorial Hospital – Ojai. The estimated overall cost for this initiative is \$3.5 million; \$925,000 is still needed to close the funding gap. All funds raised in Ojai stay in Ojai. Kicks off at 5 pm with cocktails, a lakeside carnival and a 50/50 Cash Raffle. Guests will enjoy adult carnival games like Squirrel Throwing, Bigfoot Hunt, and The Dump Truck, complete with classic plush prizes, including 30-inch carnival stuffies for the night’s big winners. Dinner is at 6:30 p.m., followed by dessert, live music, and dancing. The menu features a Santa Maria-style barbecue of tri-tip and grilled chicken, grilled and roasted vegetables, seasonal side dishes and warm fruit cobbler à la mode. Guests are encouraged to wear Hawaiian shirts, shorts, sundresses, flip-flops, and flat shoes. Valet parking is included. Tickets and sponsorships must be purchased in advance and can be purchased at mycmh.org/endlesssummer or by calling the Foundation office at 805-948-2317.

Oxnard:

U. S. Coast Guard Auxiliary’s Boat America Course: July, Sat 18, 9 am – 4:30 pm. Coast Guard Recruiting Building, 4202 S. Victoria Ave.

An introductory boater certificate course designed for the novice boater. The 1-day course consists of seven core lessons, providing up-to-date knowledge for boating safety. Coast Guard Auxiliary instructors are experienced recreational boaters with in-depth knowledge of boating safety and skills. Topics include Introduction to Boating, Boating Law, Safety Equipment, Safe Operation and Navigation, Boating Emergencies, Trailering, Sports and Boating tips. This Boat

America course is certified to obtain a California Boater Card. The Boater Card, issued from the California State Division of Boating and Waterways, is required for all persons operating a boat. Cost: \$35.00.. Contact: Auxiliarist Robert Hamming, rhamming@sbcglobal.net, (805) 701-7216. RSVP by email.

Rock the Collection: See date/times below. All concerts take place from 6:30 p.m. - 8 p.m. The Collection
Ventura County’s favorite annual outdoor summer concert series is returning this summer. Gather your lawn chairs, family, and friends for a perfect summer evening at Collection Park, where live music sets the mood and memories are made. Band lineups will be announced soon. Be the first to know - sign up for The Collection’s e-newsletter at thecollectionrp.com/visit.

Port Hueneme:

Hueneme Beach Festival: Sat, Jul 11 – Sun, Jul 12. Hueneme Beach Park, 550 E Surfside Dr.

Annual two-day celebration held at one of Ventura County Coast’s most gorgeous venues -a picture-perfect beachside paradise and one of the region’s hidden gems. Free. <https://www.ci.port-hueneme.ca.us/1422/Hueneme-Beach-Festival>.

Santa Paula:

Guided Wildlife Tracking Walk - Explore Life Along the Santa Clara River: Sat, Jul 11, 9 am -1 pm. Santa Clara River Preserve, 1368 Mission Rock Rd.

Los Padres ForestWatch invites the community to discover wildlife tracks

and behavior at the Santa Clara River Preserve. Tracks in the mud can reveal far more than what animal passed through. They can tell stories of movement, behavior, feeding, territory, and the hidden rhythms of life along the river. Led by certified trackers Martyn LeNoble and Wyatt Harris. Participants will learn how to identify tracks and signs left behind by wildlife native to the greater Los Padres National Forest region and interpret what they reveal about the ecosystem surrounding the Santa Clara River. During a recent scouting visit, LeNoble and Harris documented tracks and signs from deer, coyote, kangaroo rat, bobcat, gray fox, raccoon, striped skunk, deer mouse, roadrunner, California quail, brown pelican, great blue heron, turkey vulture, mallard, toad, lizard, and more. Registration is \$40 for ForestWatch members and \$50 for non-members, which includes a ForestWatch membership. Additional event details, directions, and suggested reading materials will be provided to registered participants. Tickets & Information <https://forestwatch.org/event/animal-tracking-adventure>.

Santa Barbara:

Music Academy of the West - Jennifer Koh: Bach & Beyond: Sat, Jul 25, 7:30 pm. Lobero Theatre, 33 E Canon Perdido St.

A tour de force recital – the Bach Sonatas and Partitas will be performed side by side with Philip Glass’s “Sarabande in Common Time” written for Mosher Guest Artist Jennifer Koh in 2016. <https://musicacademy.org/event/jennifer-koh-recital-2026>.

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GOLD SPONSORS- \$5,000

- 6 tickets to the event
- PLUS all of the Silver Level benefits**

SILVER SPONSORS- \$2,500

- 4 tickets to the event
- Name/logo included on all pre & post event promotions
- Name recognition on event signage
- Verbal recognition during the event program

LIVE MUSIC- \$1,000

BARS- \$500

GAMES- \$500

ACTIVITY SPONSORS RECEIVE

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- Signage at activity
- Verbal recognition at event

ATMORE RANCH

FRIDAY, JULY 24

5-8PM

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Ventura PAC

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE

FPPC# 911222

NOW IS THE TIME TO RALLY FOR A STRONGER VENTURA!



By Pam Baumgardner
VenturaRocks.com

The 2026 Music Under the Stars summer concert series kicks off on Saturday, July 11 with a tribute to the 60s, My Generation, and the following weekend on the 18th, it's a tribute to the Eagles with Dark Desert. All shows this summer are already sold out (told you they would), but you can join a waitlist on the City of Ventura's website (CityofVentura.ca.gov/1738/Music-Under-the-Stars).

Another Brick in the Stairway returns to KJ's on Thursday, July 9th featuring Stephen Perkins of Jane's Addiction, Scott Page and Roberta Freeman performed with Pink Floyd, Norwood Fisher of Fishbone and more. This ticketed event (\$30 day of) features a fusion of Pink Floyd and Led Zeppelin.

Hueneme Beach Festival falls over the weekend of Saturday, July 11 through Sunday, July 12 with performances by Morie and the Heavy Hitters, Led Zepagain, Outlaw Mariachi and more. This family-friendly free event comes with free parking as well! Find out more at HuenemeBeachFestival.org.

The Channel Islands free Concert by the Sea series kicks off on Saturday, July 11 with the Colette Lovejoy Band, followed by Nautical Thrust on Saturday, July 18.

Camarillo's popular Heritage Days Fiesta runs July 15 - 19 with carnival rides, bingo, beer & wine zones, a cornhole tournament, food vendors, a car show plus of course lots of live music starting Friday evening with Hindsite and Versa Band LA; Saturday has Caught Red Handed, John Surge & the Haymakers and rising star, Jayden Secor; and Sunday's line-up includes Mariachi, Los Calicubanos, Red Cholo Peppers and Heavy Rotation. Parking could be tricky, so I recommend having a game plan; CamarilloHeritage-Days.org lists options to consider.

The Collection finally released their calendar for the Rock the Collection summer concert series of tribute bands which starts with The K-Tel All Stars on July 29, DSB tribute to Journey on August 12, Twisted Gypsy's tribute to Fleetwood Mac on August 26 and they wrap it up with That's What I Like, a tribute to Bruno Mars on September 9. All shows are free and run 6:30 - 8 pm on Wednesday evenings.

Quick Notes: Tickets on sale now for Grammy award winning, Turnstile along with Pennywise and Die Spitz for October 14 at the Ventura County Fairgrounds; Sorry to report the Oxnard Levity Live and Copper Blues final days are counting down as they'll be closing permanently in August; Camarillo's Constitution Park free summer concert series continues with Savor on Saturday, July 11; Downtown Ventura will host a 60s Block Party on Wednesday, July 15 featuring Psychedelic Summer (300 block of Main Street); and the Grape returns to business as usual on Tuesday, July 8, after a brief vacation break.

In the next issue of the Ventura Breeze I'll cover the Ventura County Fair which opens on Wednesday, July 29.

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
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 7/10: Karen Eden & the Bad Apples

Sat 7/11: Dave Blanchard Band

Sun 7/12: Ken Devoe

Fri 7/17: Teresa Russell & Stephen Geyer

Sat 7/18: Déjà vu Three

Sun 7/19: Two's Company

Café Fiore

66 California St., Ventura

Wed 7/8: Fabulous Hangovers

Fri 7/10: Left of the Dial

Sat 7/11: Brandon Ragan Project

Sun 7/12: Intent

Wed 7/15: Wide Awakes

Fri 7/17: Vinyl Gypsies

Sun 7/19: Forbidden Fruit

Camarillo Barrel Works (Cantara Cellars)

126 Wood Rd., Camarillo

Fri 7/10: Holger's Hereos

Sat 7/11: Heathers on Fire

Fri 7/17: The Renegades

Sat 7/18: Ignition

Channel Islands Concerts by the Sea

3600 Harbor Blvd., Oxnard

Sat 7/11: Colette Lovejoy Band

Sat 7/18: Nautical Thrust

Constitution Park

601 Carmen Dr., Camarillo

Sat 7/11: Savor

Crowne Plaza Hotel (Aqua Bar Pool)

450 E. Harbor Blvd., Ventura

Sat 7/11: The Great Divide

Sun 7/12: Mark Masson Jam Grass

Sat 7/18: Cubensis, Blu Egyptian

Sun 7/19: Cubensis, Token Rhyme

Deer Lodge

2261 Maricopa Hwy., Ojai

Wednesdays: Open Mic

Thurs 7/9: Pearl Charles & Carson

Mchone

Sat 7/11: Dylan LeBlance

Tues 7/14: White Denim, Arc Iris

Sat 7/18: LA River Rats, Salty Strings

Tues 7/21: Friendship

Downtown Ventura

300 Block Main St., Ventura

Wed 7/15: 60s Block Party with Psyche-

delic Summer

Duke's Beach Grill

1124 S. Seaward Ave., Ventura

Fri 7/10: DNA

Sat 7/11: Raging Arb and Friends

Sat 7/18: Hellerhighwater

Feros Ferio Winery

310 E. Ojai Ave., Ojai

Sat 7/11: Noble Creatures duo

Sun 7/12: Ashford Gordon & Eric

Monteith

Sat 7/18: Jimmi Fengshui

Sun 7/19: Frank Barajas

Garage

1091 Scandia Ave., Ventura

Fri 7/10: Buena Onda

Sat 7/11: What the Funk

Fri 7/17: The 7th Son

Sat 7/18: The Country

The Grape

2733 E. Main St., Ventura

Tuesdays: Gratitude Jazz Jams

Wed 7/8: RJ Mischo

Thurs 7/9: Michael Rivers Jazz Combo

Fri 7/10: Phatback, Earl & Me

Sat 7/11: Bulldawg Blues Band (2p); Joel

Taylors Roux Live Crew (8p)

Wed 7/15: Bobby West Trio

Thurs 7/16: TD Lind & the Aviators

Fri 7/17: Nick Mancini - John Storie Quartet

Sat 7/18: Sean Riddle's Grape Allstars

Harbor Cove Café

1867 Spinnaker Dr., Ventura

Music Saturdays 5-8 pm

Saturdays 10 am: Ukulele Jams

Sat 7/11: Corey and the Folk Boys

Sun 7/12: Tiny Tal (10a); Tommy

Quayle's Petty Round the Campfire (2p)

Sat 7/18: Traveling Nobodies

Sun 7/19: Tomy K (10a); Nick Hames (2p)

Heritage Days

Old Towne Camarillo

Fri 7/17: Hindsite, Versa Band LA

Sat 7/18: Caught Red Handed, John

Surge & The Haymakers, Jayden Secor

Sun 7/19: Mariachi, Los Calicubanos,

Red Cholo Pepers, Heavy Rotation

Heritage Square

731 S. A St., Oxnard

Fri 7/10: Impulse Too

Fri 7/17: The Company Band

Huneme Beach Fest

550 E. Surfside Dr.,

Port Hueneme

Sat 7/11: Morie and the Heavy Hitters,

Elis Bryant, Outlaw Mariachi

Sun 7/12: Instone, Led Zepagain,

Corazon de ManaBanda la Veneosa,

Halcones del Bajio

The Keynote Lounge

10245 Telephone Rd., Ventura

Thursdays: Open mic

Fri 7/10: Pull the Trigger

Sat 7/11: Skeleton Keys

Fri 7/17: Senile Denial

Sat 7/18: The Beta Macks

KJ's

454 E. Main St., Ventura

Thurs 7/9: Another Brick in the Staircase, the Wendolls

Sun 7/12: Spam, Gerbil, Cherry Circuit

Thurs 7/16: We Roll

Leashless Brewing

585 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

Fri 7/10: 40oz

Sat 7/11: Anne Hall & the Remarkables

Sun 7/12: Dead 'n' Kickin'

Fri 7/17: Boom Duo

Lester Wineries/Trois le Fou

4522 Market St., Ventura

Sun 7/12: Karen Eden w/ Joe Hamilton

Majestic Ventura Theater

26 Chestnut St., Ventura

Sun 7/12: Molly Tuttle

Sun 7/19: Cali Maiden, Forever

Sevenfold, Elote, Everything Zen

Manhattan

5800 Santa Rosa Rd., Camarillo

Wed 7/8: Mary White

Fri 7/10: Jeanne Taum Trio

Sat 7/11: Otis Hayes Trio

Fri 7/17: Tour Support

Sat 7/18: Little Fish Duo

Margarita Villa

1567 Spinnaker Dr., Ventura

Fri 7/10: Colette Lovejoy Band

Sat 7/11: Brittney and the Bsidies

Sun 7/12: James Bros. Band

Tues 7/14: Mack and D

Fri 7/17: Freddy & Friends

Sat 7/18: Irie Smile

Sun 7/19: Smokey & Friends

Tues 7/21: Joe Delia

Music Under the Stars

4200 Olivas Park Dr., Ventura

Sat 7/11: My Generation

Sat 7/18: Dark Desert

Namba Arts

47 S. Oak St., Ventura

Sun 7/12: Iona Fyfe (3p); Open Mic (7p)

Sat 7/18: Barrelhouse Wailers

Ojai Underground Exchange

616 Pearl St., Ojai

Thurs 7/9: Destinie Lyn & Cecilia James

Sun 7/19: Drew Lawrence's Artist Showcase

Ojai Valley Brewing

307 Bryant St., Ojai

Wednesdays: Ojai Valley Bluegrass

Pickers/Open Jam

Sat 7/11: The Maclovias Sin

Sat 7/18: Cliff Beach

Sun 7/19: Matterform

Sam's Place

308 E. Ojai Ave., Ojai

Sundays: Robin and the Love Letters & Friends

Fri 7/10: Fretboard Zen

Sat 7/11: Erik Lemaire

Fri 7/17: Drea Van Allen

Sat 7/18: Noah Batelie

The Shores

1031 Harbor Blvd., Oxnard

Wed 7/8: Pat Boales

Fri 7/10: Vinyl Gypsies

Sat 7/11: Crosscut 805

Sun 7/12: Pull the Trigger

Wed 7/15: Ben Garcia

Fri 7/17: CRV

Sat 7/18: Lil Bit of Everything

Sun 7/19: Doc Rogers Band

Strey Cellars

951 N. Rice Rd., Oxnard

Sat 7/11: Duke Fame

Sun 7/12: Brandon Ragan Project

Sat 7/18: Heathers on Fire

Sun 7/19: Vinyl Gypsies

Tony's Pizzeria

186 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

Thurs 7/9: Bombafiya

Fri 7/10: Shaky Feelin'

Sat 7/11: DNA

Sun 7/12: Holger's Heroes (2p); House Arrest (7p)

Thurs 7/16: Firestick

Fri 7/17: Psychedelic Summer

Sat 7/18: The Balance (2p); Ventu Park (7p)

Sun 7/19: Los Amigos

Vaquero y Mar

435 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

Tuesdays: The Sea Hunters

Wed 7/15: Up Country

Sat 7/18: The Doc Strange Band, Kyle Lonesome

Ventura Music Hall

1888 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

Thurs 7/9: Nation of Language

Sat 7/18: Kota the Friend

Mon 7/20: DakhaBrakha, Brainstory

Winchesters

632 E. Main St., Ventura

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

Thursdays: Ventura Dead Night

Fri 7/10: Sin Chonies

Sat 7/11: Mack and D

Sun 7/12: Surge du Monde

Fri 7/17: CRV

Sat 7/18: Dianne Miller Trio

Sun 7/19: Brittney and the Bsidies



Laura Walter Featured at Harbor Village Gallery & Gifts

Artist Laura Walter is the Featured Artist for August at Harbor Village Gallery & Gifts in Ventura Harbor Village.

Walter's watercolor paintings celebrate the beauty of flowers and local beaches. Her collection also includes hand-painted bookmarks, greeting cards, prints, potholders, and colorful tie-dyed clothing.

Harbor Village Gallery & Gifts is home to a dozen local artists who showcase and sell their original, locally made artwork. A new Featured Artist is highlighted each month, and the gallery regularly hosts special events including patio art demonstrations, face painting, children's activities, and pirate- and mermaid-themed festivities.

The gallery is located at 1559 Spinnaker Drive, Ventura, and is open daily from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information about the nonprofit Buena Ventura Art Association, visit www.buenaventuraartassociation.org. Information about Ventura Harbor Village is available at www.venturaharborvillage.com, or call (805) 644-2750.

Ojai Studio Artists Downtown Groups Tour

Spend a summer Saturday exploring the work of 15 exceptional Ojai artists - all within walking distance in the heart of downtown. From painting and ceramics to mosaic, sculpture, and mixed media, this free self-guided tour offers an intimate look at the creative community that makes Ojai one of California's most vibrant art destinations. Pick up a map and follow your curiosity. Free event. Saturday, July 11, 10 am - 5 pm. www.ojaistudioartists.org.



Ventura Art Scene



Shelter Pet Spotlight

Bugs is a 2-year-old sweetheart with an affectionate personality! With his fabulous curly ears and charming demeanor, Bugs may be an American Curl mix. He loves being scooped up into your arms and will happily meow for pets and attention.

Bugs is currently being treated for ringworm, a common fungal infection that is highly treatable but can spread to both animals and people. At the shelter, he must remain in a quarantine area, where he has limited contact with staff and volunteers to help prevent the infection from spreading. In a home environment, however, ringworm is typically much easier to manage with a few weeks of treatment, temporary confinement, and diligent cleaning.

Bugs is available for adoption at Ventura County Animal Services, 600 Aviation Drive in Camarillo - ID No. A883098. The VCAS veterinary team will be happy to explain the treatment process in more detail and answer any questions you may have. To learn more about Bugs and other shelter pets, visit vcas.us, email info@vcas.us, or call 805-388-4341.

Discover
Special Summer Trips

Whale Watch Trip
Adult \$ 90 Child \$ 74
6 Hour Trip
Search for Humpbacks, Blues & other marine life

Photo by Bob Forbes

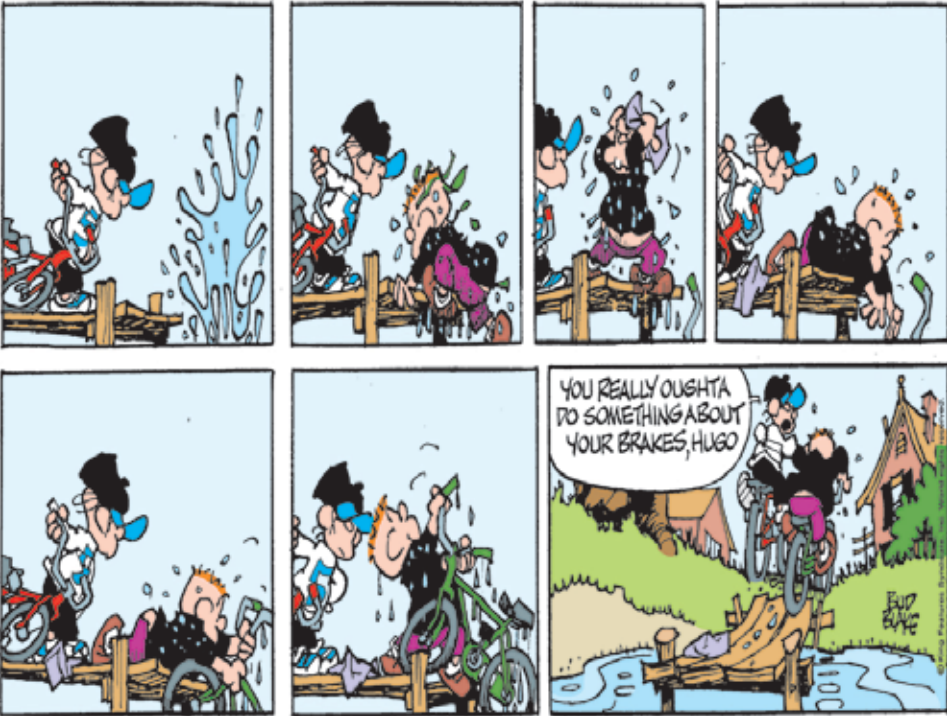
Anacapa Island Shoreline Cruise
Adult \$ 49 Child \$ 36
3.5 Hour Trip
Cruise the north shore of the island, view lighthouse, arch rock, sea lion rookery, birds & other marine life.

Photo by Steve Munch

Book Online ISLANDPACKERS.com
or Call 805-642-1393

Lighter Breeze

Tiger



The Spats



Out on a Limb



Amber Waves



Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



Solution on page 9

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

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

Weekly SUDOKU

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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Solution on page 9

King Crossword

ACROSS

1 Gas station fixture
5 Doo follower
8 Rabbit's tail
12 Pantene's business
14 Peddled item
15 Figure out
16 "Das Lied von der —"
17 Indian lentil stew
18 iPod accessory
20 Cool veggies
23 1504, in old Rome
24 Fr. holy women
25 Evening affairs
28 Bit of ink
29 "SNL" segments
30 Wager
32 Stockings
34 Ham's dad
35 Resort near Snowbird
36 Tubular pasta
37 As a whole
40 Duo's pronoun
41 Hoopster Malone
42 Strongman of myth
47 Needle case
48 Implanted
49 Lavish affection (on)

DOWN

1 Third degree?
2 Dubai's country, for short
3 Amp plug-in
4 Lion packs
5 Wonka's creator
6 "— you awake?"
7 Geneticist's study
8 Veer
9 Sugar or starch, for short
10 Language of Pakistan
11 Ticked (off)
13 Tax prep pros
19 Broadcasts
20 Chicago winter hrs.
21 Beehive State
22 High-fat diet
23 Kelly of "One Tree Hill"
25 Courtroom artist
26 Black, in verse
27 Penn or Astin
29 Missile shelter
31 Chance — Rapper

33 — Mae (loan offerer)
34 Poet Pablo
36 Brownish purple
37 Scratched (out)
38 Post-WWII alliance
39 Very dry
40 Spheres
43 911 responder
44 "Bad" cholesterol
45 Sushi fish
46 Radical '60s gp.

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Schwab

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VC PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
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July 10, 11, 17 – 5:00 PM
CHAMBER MUSIC SERIES

Saturday, July 18 – 5:00 PM
SCHWAB SUMMER ORCHESTRA

NEW WORLD SYMPHONY / DVOŘÁK
MONTGOMERY VARIATIONS / BONDS
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OPERA SUPERSTAR

ANGEL BLUE

JULY
24 LIVE IN
CONCERT

Fresh from her “expressively radiant” performance in Turandot at The Metropolitan Opera, Angel Blue takes the VMF stage for one night only with pianist Bryan Wagorn. *Performance Details Below.*



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WITH PIANIST **BRYAN WAGORN**
ANGEL BLUE
Rancho Campana Performing Arts Center
7 PM
One of opera’s most celebrated sopranos today, recognized worldwide for her deeply affecting performances of beloved roles including Aida, Tosca, Violetta in La Traviata, Bess in Porgy and Bess, Mimi in La bohème, and Liu in Turandot.



VENTURA MUSIC FESTIVAL
FESTIVAL GALA OPENING
Palomino
6 PM
Step through the speakeasy doors and into an evening in the spirit of a 1930s jazz club - feel free to dress the part! Join us for craft libations, elegant small bites, and the live music of the magnifque ensemble, San Lyon. Cheers to the Summer Series!



JUSTO ALMARIO • JEREMY BOSCH
LATIN MUSIC CELEBRATION
The Majestic Ventura Theater
6 PM
Two masters of the Latin jazz tradition co-headline, bringing distinct sounds, separate orchestras, and one extraordinary night: Almario’s deeply rooted Colombian jazz tradition meeting Bosch’s high-energy salsa fire. Ticketed by Majestic Ventura Theater.



A CLASSICAL EDGE CONCERT
BEETHOVEN’S CHOICE
Ventura College Performing Arts Center
7 PM
A meeting between the music and the story behind the notes... an educational journey featuring the music of Beethoven, from renowned music educator and classical violinist Nuvi Mehta, joined by celebrated pianist Greg Anderson of Anderson & Roe.



CLASSICAL MUSIC TRAILBLAZERS
AKROPOLIS REED QUINTET
Ventura College Performing Arts Center
3 PM
Described as “a sonically daring ensemble with charisma and integrity” by BBC Music Magazine, they have commissioned and premiered more than 200 works by living composers and are true pioneers of the reed quintet as a modern genre.



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Neil "The Feel of Neil" a tribute to the music of Diamond

Featuring
Steve Waddington



Ventura Townehouse invites you to our
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Saturday  July 25 at 5:30 p.m.



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