



Photo by @jseemayerphoto

A bull and rider are completely airborne during the PRCA Flying U Rodeo at Seaside Park, capturing the focus, skill and intensity of professional rodeo.

Flying U Rodeo Closes Out Ventura County Fair

By Joseph Seemayer

The 2026 Ventura County Fair closed its 12-day run with the PRCA Flying U Rodeo, bringing professional rodeo action to Seaside Park’s Grandstand Arena on Saturday and Sunday.

The 90-minute performances featured bull riding, barrel racing, Mutton Bustin’ and plenty of entertainment for the crowd. Returning PRCA rodeo announcer Steve Goedert kept the grandstands engaged throughout the weekend with his play-by-play and crowd interaction.

Behind the Chutes

Behind the bucking chutes, cowboys prepared for competition with a combination of focus, experience and tradition. Riders chalked their gloves, wrapped their wrists and studied the arena before taking their turns.

Continued on page 4

Harbor Seaside Movies Are Back - See Lineup on Page 3

Big Bear Bald Eagle Jackie Dies After Weeks of Treatment

Jackie, the beloved bald eagle from Big Bear Valley, died in the overnight hours of Aug. 9 while receiving intensive medical care at the Ojai Raptor Center. She had been undergoing treatment for more than three weeks after being found grounded on July 18.

Despite periods of temporary improvement and extensive efforts by wildlife rehabilitation experts and veterinarians, Jackie’s condition continued to deteriorate. In recent days, she developed additional complications, including a large blood clot in her wing and near one kidney, along with another decline in her blood values.

Jackie underwent extensive diagnostic testing, including a contrast CT scan, bone marrow biopsy and specialized testing for heavy metals. Veterinarians at the Ojai Raptor Center also worked with specialists around the country as they evaluated her condition and awaited additional test results. Despite the intensive treatment,

Continued on page 4



Jackie, the star from Big Bear Valley, became a worldwide symbol of wildlife conservation through a livestream that allowed viewers to follow her life, nest and eaglets for years.

2026 Ventura City Council Voter Guide



Data as of 8/15/26.

The City of Ventura has officially concluded the nomination period for candidates seeking election to the Ventura City Council in the November 3, 2026, General Municipal Election.

The nomination period for City Council Districts 1, 4, 5, and 6 closed at 5 pm on Friday, August 7. Because the incumbent in District 6 did not file for re-election, the nomination period for District 6 was extended for five days and closed today, Wednesday, August 12, at 5 pm, in accordance with the California Elections Code.

With the close of the extended filing period, candidate nominations are now complete for all City Council districts appearing on the November ballot: Districts 1, 4, 5, and 6.

“Running for public office is a significant commitment, and I want to thank

Continued on page 2



Smart Senior Care Protecting Your Legacy

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Aaron Ralstin
Ventura County Senior Transitions



🦽 🏠 🐾 LIC#565801810

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🍴 Lunch will be served

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Member, Ventura Chamber of Commerce

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“We will fail
when we fail
to try.”
– Rosa Parks



Photo courtesy City of Ventura

City Invites Public to Coastal Planning Workshop Aug. 29

The City of Ventura is inviting residents, business owners and property owners to learn more about its Local Coastal Program (LCP) update and share their input at a community workshop on Saturday, Aug. 29, from 10 a.m. to noon at the Museum of Ventura County, 100 E. Main St.

The free, open-house-style event will give community members an opportunity to learn about Ventura’s coastal planning efforts and provide feedback. Attendees can:

- View an overview of the Local Coastal Program update.
- Experience a virtual reality visualization of coastal flooding in Ventura.
- Visit interactive stations focused on sea level rise, coastal erosion, beach access and coastal flooding.

- Share input that will help shape the city’s coastal planning efforts.

Ventura’s coastline supports recreation, tourism, the local economy, marine ecosystems and the community’s quality of life. The Local Coastal Program guides how the city manages development, public access and natural resources along the coast.

The city is updating the program to address changing coastal conditions, including sea level rise and coastal hazards, while incorporating current science and community priorities.

Community members who cannot attend the workshop will have additional opportunities to learn about the LCP update and provide feedback as the process continues. More information is available at www.cityofventura.ca.gov/LCP.

2026 Ventura City Council Continued from page 1

every candidate who stepped forward to participate in our democratic process,” said City Clerk Michael MacDonald. “I also want to thank our City Clerk team for their professionalism and dedication throughout the nomination period.”

The City Clerk’s Office has completed its review of nomination documents and confirmed the candidates who have met the requirements to qualify for the ballot.

While the nomination period for candidates seeking to have their names printed on the ballot has closed, eligible individuals may still qualify as write-in candidates by filing the required documents with the City Clerk’s Office between September 7 and October 20, 2026, in accordance with the California Elections Code. www.cityofventura.ca.gov/2790/

November 3 2026 Election

District 1

2 candidates

- Liz Campos — incumbent
- Crawford Coates

District 4

4 candidates

- Jeannette Sánchez-Palacios — incumbent
- Scott Shoemake
- Kyle Clark
- Richard T. Rosin

District 5

2 candidates

- Bill McReynolds — incumbent
- Vernon Alstot

District 6

5 candidates

- Noe Aguilar Vega
- Kevin Daly
- James Loughrie
- Steven Almcrantz
- Karba Eckley

County of Ventura Career & Resource Expo

The County of Ventura invites the public to the Career & Resource Expo + Candidate Connect on Wednesday, August 26 from 11 am – 2 pm The event and parking are free. The expo will be held in the main courtyard of the Ventura County Government Center, located between the Hall of Administration and the Hall of Justice.

Attendees will have the opportunity to explore a wide range of career options in fields such as County administration and support, engineering, environmental protection, planning, agriculture, health care, law enforcement, public safety, public works, recreational services, technology, and more. Representatives from numerous County agencies and departments will be available to discuss career paths and the many advantages of joining the County workforce.

- When: Wednesday, August 26, 11 am – 2 pm
 - Where: County Government Center, Main Courtyard, 800 S. Victoria Ave.
 - Register: careerevents.venturacounty.gov
- New to the event this year, “Candidate Connect,” will provide attendees the opportunity to speak one-on-one with recruiters, ask questions, and gain valuable insights on the hiring process to help job seekers take the next step in their career journey.

More information about the event, preparation tools, and registration details is available at careerevents.venturacounty.gov.

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+ CANDIDATE CONNECT

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Photo by Patricia Schallert

The California Firefighters Memorial in Sacramento’s Capitol Park features the striking bronze statue titled “Fallen Brother”. It honors more than 1,500 California firefighters who have made the ultimate sacrifice and died in the line of duty or from duty-related illnesses since 1850.

Ventura 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb Set for Sept. 6

The Ventura 9/11 Memorial Stair Climb will be held Sunday, September 6 beginning at 8 am. at the Crowne Plaza Ventura Beach, 450 E. Harbor Blvd., Ventura.

Participants can climb up to 110 flights of stairs, representing the height of the World Trade Center towers. Climbers do not have to complete all 110 flights.

- Registration: \$50 per climber; limited to 150 participants

- Check-in: 8 am.
- Spectators: Welcome
- Parking: Valet parking is available at the hotel. A nearby city parking structure is also available, with hotel validation for up to five hours.

Registration and event information are available through the Ventura Fire Honor Guard Memorial Stair Climb page. www.venturafirehonorguard.org/memorialstairclimb.



Photo courtesy Ventura Harbo Village.

Ventura Harbor Village Seaside Movie Line-Up

- Saturday, August 22 – 40th Anniversary of Ferris Bueller’s Day Off
Celebrate a 1986 American teen comedy film written & directed by John Hughes. Preshow kicks off at 7:00 PM with fun trivia, DJ music, & giveaways with B 95.1 FM/ KHAY 101.7 FM / KRUZ 103.3 FM. Movie begins just after sunset around 7:45 pm.
- Saturday, September 19 – 25th Anniversary of Shrek
Sing along and enjoy antics of Shrek fantasy directed by Andrew Adamson / Vicky Jenson. Preshow at 6:30 PM with thrilling surprises & interactive fun. DJ music, & giveaways with B 95.1 FM/ KHAY 101.7 FM / KRUZ 103.3 FM. Movie begins just after sunset around 7:15 pm.
www.venturaharborvillage.com/event/seaside-movie-nights-2026.

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An Exclusive Halloween Fundraiser at the Bard Mansion

By Carol Leish, MA

“Only 30 tickets are left for this supernatural soiree in a historic and, some claim, ‘haunted’ mansion,” said Josh Carsman, marketing/fund development manager for Turning Point Foundation of Ventura County. “Get 15% off event tickets through September 15 by using code ‘venturabreeze.’”

The Halloween@Bard Mansion fundraiser will take place Oct. 24 from 5:30 to 10:30 p.m. at the Port Hueneme Naval Base. The exclusive evening will feature magic by Ron Saylor, a headliner at the Hollywood Magic Castle and producer of Celebrities of Magic.

Local comedian “Big Tom” McClain will provide the laughs, while Sonia and Rebecca will offer psychic readings. Guests can also enjoy ghost hunting, a silent auction and more.

Dinner choices include filet mignon, herb-encrusted salmon, or mushroom risotto with grilled vegetables topped with truffle oil. Dessert options are chocolate cake or New York cheesecake with strawberry drizzle. Dinner also includes wine, coffee, tea and water.

Proceeds will benefit the Turning Point Foundation of Ventura County, whose mission is to improve the quality of life for adults ages 18 and older experiencing serious mental illness, addiction, homelessness and inadequate physical health care. The foundation provides health navigation services, rehabilitation, wellness and recovery programs, as well as temporary, transitional and permanent supported housing throughout Ventura County.

Carsman said proceeds from Halloween @ Bard Mansion will specifically support local programs including Vince St. Vet, which provides veteran transitional housing, and Our Place Safe Haven, a 24/7 emergency walk-in shelter.

“Special thanks to our top sponsors, SSA Marine and the Port of Hueneme,” Carsman said.

Tickets and additional information are available at www.turningpointfoundation.org. For more information, contact Josh Carsman at jcarsman@turningpointfoundation.org.



Photo by @jseemayerphoto

Rider and her horse make a tight turn around a barrel during the Flying U Rodeo at the Ventura County Fair.

Flying U Rodeo Continued from page 1

Professional rodeo requires precise timing and quick reactions from both contestants and arena crews. With competitors and livestock traveling from event to event, every performance brings its own set of challenges and unpredictability.

Bull Riding

Bull riding provided some of the weekend's most dramatic action. Riders attempted to stay aboard powerful bulls for eight seconds, producing spectacular moments as the animals bucked, twisted and occasionally launched all four feet off the ground.

For photographers, the combination of rider, bull and flying dirt created some of the most striking images of the weekend.

Barrel Racing

Barrel racing brought a different kind of speed and precision to the arena. Competitors raced their horses around three barrels in a tight clover-leaf pattern, with every turn measured in fractions of a second.

The event offered both action and quieter moments, including images of the connection between riders and their

horses before they entered the arena.

Crowd-Pleasing Mutton Bustin'

Mutton Bustin' once again proved to be a crowd favorite. Young competitors, ages 4 to 7, held on as sheep raced across the arena, often producing some of the weekend's biggest cheers and smiles.

Entertainment Between Events

The entertainment continued between competitions, with Goedert engaging the audience throughout the performances. At one point, three audience members were invited into the arena for an impromptu dance contest with the announcer.

Flying U rodeo clowns and bullfighters also played an important role, moving quickly to distract bulls and protect riders following a fall.

Golden Hour at Seaside Park

Sunday evening's 7 p.m. performance provided a fitting final scene for the fair. As the sun dropped toward the Pacific, golden light filled the Grandstand Arena, creating silhouettes of horses, riders and cowboys against the coastal sky. The Flying U Rodeo closed out another Ventura County Fair with a weekend of competition, entertainment and plenty of memorable moments.

Big Bear Bald Eagle Dies Continued from page 1

her prognosis became increasingly poor.

"Throughout Jackie's time at Ojai Raptor Center, every decision was guided by the available medical evidence, her welfare, and our responsibility to do what was in her best interest," said Chris Eksteen, executive director of the center. "Though our team is heartbroken, it has been an extraordinary privilege to care for her."

Jackie was admitted to the Ojai Raptor Center on July 18 after being found grounded. An initial examination showed that she was thin and dehydrated and suffering from severe anemia, low blood protein, and kidney and lung abnormalities. She received fluids, oxygen therapy, nutritional support and round-the-clock monitoring.

On July 22, Jackie received a blood transfusion using donor blood from Spirit, an ambassador bald eagle at the California Living Museum (CALM) Zoo in Bakersfield. Although she initially improved, her packed cell volume declined again by Aug. 3.

Following a necropsy by veterinary pathologists at the San Diego Zoo Wildlife Alliance, Jackie's remains were transported to the National Eagle Repository, a U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service facility that receives, evaluates, stores and distributes eagle remains, parts and feathers to enrolled members of federally recognized tribes for religious, cultural and ceremonial purposes.

"California mourns Jackie, the Big Bear bald eagle who reminded us of the beauty

and wonder of California's wildlife, and our shared responsibility to protect the habitats that sustain it," said Gov. Gavin Newsom. "We're grateful to the Ojai Raptor Center and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, who partnered with our California Department of Fish and Wildlife to help Jackie in her time of need."

CDFW Director Meghan Hertel said Jackie's story reached millions of people who watched her and her mate, Shadow, raise eaglets, survive extreme weather and defend their nest.

"While this eagle's story has ended, the inspiration and the lessons she gave so many people won't be forgotten," Hertel said. "Our hope is that they inspire greater efforts to protect the wild places eagles and other species need to live out their lives."

Jackie became the first documented bald eagle chick hatched in Big Bear Valley in summer 2012. In October 2015, the Friends of Big Bear Valley installed a live-stream camera at the nest, giving viewers around the world an intimate look at the lives of wild bald eagles.

Beginning in 2018, viewers watched as Jackie and Shadow successfully hatched and raised eaglets. For several years, they were the only year-round bald eagle residents at Big Bear Lake.

Jackie's death marks the end of a remarkable chapter for an eagle whose life became a source of connection, fascination and inspiration for people far beyond Big Bear Valley.

<https://friendsofbigbearvalley.org/live-stream>.

Sports



Photos courtesy Brystal Taminich

The championship team includes Camilla Duran (#00), Kylee Martinez (#1), Madisyn Taminich (#11), Ellie Vorburger (#14), Amilia Celedon (#17), Nataly Gonzales (#18), Ryan Tillman (#22), Aiyana Kohler (#23), Valerie DuZan (#25), Olivia Pimentel (#31), Brooklyn Sheff (#50) and Aurora Padilla (#99).

Ventura Girls Fastpitch 10U Gold Wins Western National Championship

The Ventura Girls Fastpitch 10U Gold All-Stars are bringing home a national championship after completing an undefeated run at the Western National Tournament in Salem, Oregon.

The team played eight games over seven days and went 8-0, outscoring its opponents 96-22 to capture the Western National Championship - the first time in 50 years that the title has returned to Ventura.

The championship capped an outstanding all-star season for the team, which finished with an overall record of 44-6, while outscoring opponents 424-114 and averaging nine runs per game.

Along the way, the team also earned several tournament titles and top

finishes, including:

- Western National Champions — undefeated
- Third place at the state tournament out of 54 teams
- Western District Champions — undefeated
- Rancho Trabuco Shootout Champions — undefeated
- Ventura Breeze Champions — undefeated
- ESO Summer Slammer Champions — undefeated
- WAGS Summer Slam finalists
- Moorpark Tune Up finalists.

The team is managed by Gene Taminich, with assistant coaches Brandon Sheff, Junior Martinez, Tisha Duran and Dane DuZan. www.vgfp.org.

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After the swim, Lila Lundgren-Bush and Athena Devemark both wanted their picture taken with The Breeze.

300 Junior Lifeguards Swim Around Ventura Pier

By Patricia Schallert

Nearly 300 young participants in the Ventura Junior Lifeguard Program took on the exciting challenge of swimming around the Ventura Pier on August 7th. The annual event tested the swimmers' endurance, confidence, and ocean safety skills as they navigated the waters under the watchful eyes of lifeguards and instructors. Family members and spectators cheered from the beach and pier, celebrating the accomplishments of the young swimmers. The swim is a highlight of the Junior Lifeguard Program, helping participants build teamwork, resilience, and respect for the ocean. www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=26958.



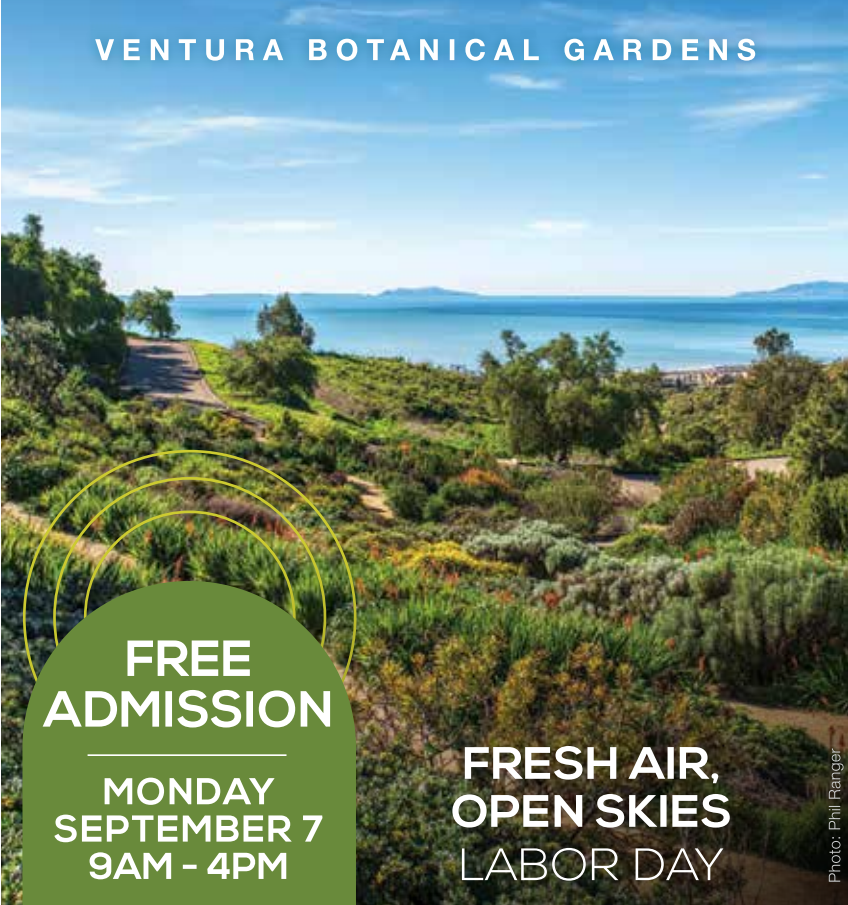
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Library News

The Bookmark

About Libraries and Friends

By Mary Olson

Ghost Hunter’s Club: An Evening with Richard Senate
Avenue Library, Thursday, August 27, 5:30 to 6:30 pm

Join Richard Senate, a world-renowned paranormal investigator, historian, author, and storyteller, for an unforgettable evening of local history and paranormal tales. You’ll hear stories from places you may know- including historic adobes, missions, theaters, and other local locations rumored to be haunted. Free admission!

Storytime at the Library
Saticoy Library Tuesdays, 10:00 to 10:30 am
Hill Road Library Wednesdays, 10:30 to 11:00 am
Avenue Library Tuesdays, 4:00 to 4:30

At Avenue Library, children are welcome to enjoy storytelling, nursery rhymes, and finger play in both English and Spanish.

The Ventura County Mobile Library invites the Ventura community to enjoy library services at a weekly stop during the closure of the E.P. Foster Library, Mondays, 10:00 am to 1:00 pm on Main Street in front of the library.

Storytime at 10:30 am! Get a library card, Pick up holds, Check out and return

library materials, Free Wifi, Wireless printing service, Hourly laptop lending service. Weekly activities for children to enjoy - Arts & Crafts - STEAM - Games

Paws for Reading

Join PAWS dogs for one-on-one reading sessions. Arrive at the library early to choose a book and get in line to read to a special pooch. Children of all ages are welcome!

Hill Road Library, Wednesdays, 3:30 to 5:00 pm
Avenue Library, Thursdays, 3:30 to 5:00 pm

Maker Lab Hill Road Library, Thursdays, 3:30 to 4:30 pm
August 6, 13, 20 & 27, September 3 & 10: Lego Challenge
Little Lab Hill Road Library Patio Tuesday, September 1, 10:30 to 11:30 am

Little Lab occurs the first Tuesday of the month from September through May.

Children will have the opportunity to create, explore and experiment with sensory activities, process art, constructive play, and more! May involve water, paint, and other messes, so please dress appropriately! Designed for children aged 3-7.

Children’s Craft Corner
Avenue Library Saturday, September 5, 1:00 to 3:00 pm

Children and teens are welcome to get creative at Avenue Library’s Craft Corner every first Saturday of the month.

Minecraft Club at Hill Road Library Monday, August 24, 3:30 to 5:00 pm

Play Minecraft in-person at the Hill Road Library! Children will be able to play cooperatively on a library server and participate in challenges or free creative

play. Laptops are limited and children will be able to participate on a first-come, first-served basis. Sign-up begins at 3:15 and gameplay begins at 3:30.

Hill Road Library Chess Club
Saturdays, 11:00 am to noon, August 22 & 29, September 5

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.

Hill Road Library Book Club meets on the last Tuesday of the month at 4:00 pm. The selection for August is: Meet the Neighbors:Animal Minds and Lives in a More-than-Human World, a nonfiction work by Brandon Keim.

Tuesday, August 25, 4:00 to 5:00 pm.

Visit Hill Road Library to pick up the latest book club selections.

Uno for All Hill Road Library Sundays, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm

Hill Road Library breaks out the UNO decks! Bring your friends, family, favorite opponents, and GAME ON!

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, August 22, September 26, 2:30 to 5:00 pm
Adult Collage Sundays at Hill Road Library Sundays, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm
Avenue Collage Guild Avenue Library Meeting Room Third Saturdays, September 19, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm



Photo by Patricia Schallert

The MV Golden Gate, a passenger-only fast ferry operated by Golden Gate Ferries, was recently in Ventura Harbor on its way to San Diego for a retrofit. The vessel was purchased from Washington State Ferries by the Golden Gate Bridge, Highway and Transportation District and entered service in May 2011 following a complete refit.

AUG. 22

MATTHEW BRODERICK
FERRIS BUELLER'S DAY OFF

Seaside

MOVIE NIGHTS

FREE FILM SERIES AT VENTURA HARBOR VILLAGE

7:00 PM Pre-Show Fun
Radio DJ + facepaint + popcorn + prizes!

7:45 PM Movie Begins
Film starts on the lawn after sunset!

SEPT. 19

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Senior Living



A lively crowd of senior guests arrived for Senior Day at the Ventura County Fair.

Seniors Celebrate Life at the Ventura County Fair

By Patricia Schallert

On July 29, hundreds of eager attendees streamed through the fair’s gates at noon, kicking off opening day of the 2026 Ventura County Fair. Despite the long lines outside the entrance, the crowds moved swiftly, heightening anticipation for the festivities ahead. Families, friends and community members gathered to enjoy a day filled with fun, laughter and plenty of entertainment.

Senior Day kicked off August 4 at 11 a.m., welcoming a lively crowd of senior guests eager to participate in the festivities. Many checked the event schedules and made plans to enjoy the carnival rides, explore the vendor markets and visit the adorable new piglets in Uncle Leo’s Barn. Excitement filled the air as attendees checked for blue ribbons in the exhibit buildings and celebrated the accomplishments of fellow fairgoers.

Laughter filled the air around picnic tables as visitors shared delicious fair treats, including funnel cakes, corndogs, Beef Birria Ramen made with slow-cooked birria beef and Cream Cheese on a Stick. A giant cinnamon roll topped with mascarpone-style frosting and cocoa and coffee flavors was another tempting choice. Cinnamon-covered pretzels were also a favorite among dessert lovers.

For many seniors, the joyful atmosphere mirrored the ups and downs of life, surrounded by cherished friends and family. Martha reflected on the fair as a meaningful celebration filled with laughter and connection. Refreshing drinks such as boba tea and matcha lattes were also popular, especially on a warm afternoon.

Seniors from across the county gathered to enjoy nostalgic activities, dance to classic hits from the 1950s through the 1970s, and participate in hands-on workshops featuring skills such as quilting, painting, woodworking and needle arts. Local artisans led the engaging sessions, emphasizing the importance of trying new experiences while also cherishing memories. The vibrant atmosphere fostered connections, laughter

and a sense of community among attendees.

At this year’s Ventura County Fair, music created an electrifying atmosphere that captivated attendees of all ages. Live bands covering classic hits and contemporary tunes kept crowds energized. Couples swayed to the rhythm while friends gathered to sing along, creating a lively sense of community and celebration.

For many fairgoers, Marshmello was a main attraction, thanks to his international fame. Other highly anticipated performers included Bush, Jake Owen, and Ashanti with Bow Wow. On Senior Day, Switchfoot headlined the concert, joined by special guest Hoobastank. Both bands, beloved in Southern California, are known for their alternative rock hits.

As the day came to a close, couples such as Colleen and Jerry fondly recalled summers spent at the fair during their teenage years 35 years ago, embracing the nostalgia of their shared history. Meanwhile, 94-year-old Fred discovered a wonderful opportunity for conversation and connection, relishing every moment.

Younger attendees, including 8-year-old Brody and 15-year-old Landon, eagerly dove into the carnival rides and pig races at the Piggy Boutique. They also enjoyed seeing their friends resting, brushing and grooming their animals, highlighting the fair’s intergenerational appeal. The fair provided unforgettable moments, emphasizing the importance of community, joy and the special memories created among seniors and families alike.

Attendees left with beaming smiles, cherishing the community spirit and the importance of staying active and connected. The vibrant atmosphere, filled with live music and activities, transformed the fair into a joyful celebration for all ages, especially seniors who found opportunities to reminisce, make connections and create new memories. As the sun set, the promise of more memories lingered, underscoring that the Ventura County Fair is truly a celebration of life.



Visitors shared delicious fair treats, including funnel cakes, corndogs, Beef Birria Ramen made with slow-cooked birria beef and Cream Cheese on a Stick.



The fun, vibrant atmosphere transformed the fair into a joyful celebration for all ages.



Senior Living



Photo courtesy of Dave Ramser

My white hair may have stood out, but by then I wasn't thinking about it.

The Other Side of the Wall

By Dave Ramser

On July 30, I went to the Ventura County Fair and bounced around to Marshmello.

We were invited by a friend I'll call Goldie. We met at our house, couldn't find street parking and eventually paid a queen's ransom to park a few blocks away.

Once inside the fairgrounds, we headed through the bright lights of what I call Food Alley toward the concert. We thought we were on our way in when the popo stopped us. No wristbands. They sent us back toward the exit through another gift-shop alley full of food.

Goldie had been to the Surf Rodeo bar on a previous night and said it was almost as good as being on the main dance floor. So we went inside, ordered drinks, and

moved toward the middle of the bar.

The floor was covered in astroturf, probably left over from last year's Dallas Cowboys training camp. It even had the hash marks to prove it.

Most of the crowd looked like they were in their twenties. I felt a little awkward. I wasn't feeling the dance craze yet, and one drink hadn't made me stupid enough to make a fool of myself.

Yet.

We swayed around, trying to find the rhythm, while groups of people danced in little circles around us. It reminded me of hacky sack, only with a lot more bouncing.

Behind us was a big Surf Rodeo mural and some TV screens showing weird

clips from Blazing Saddles. I'm sure the references were lost on most of the kids. Embarrassingly, I knew the scene all too well—the cowboys trying to teach the railroad workers to sing and dance to "Camptown Races."

Above the bar, we could see the concert lights and hear the crowd cheering. We couldn't really hear the music, but every roar reminded us that we were missing something really fun on the other side of the wall.

I sipped my Jack and Sprite.

Just the one.

Even inside the saloon, there were little reminders that the fair was still going on around us. The colored lights of the Ferris wheel barely peeked over the walls. Every so often, the arm of a ride I'll call the Double Helix swung into view, flipping its passengers head over heels about 200 feet in the air before disappearing again.

Eventually, we decided to move on. But as we were leaving, Goldie pushed us to try the concert entrance one more time. She was working on some kind of distraction in her head that might let us squeeze past the police.

That definitely didn't happen.

But the officers again told us we needed wristbands, almost as if they were suggesting we might find some on the ground—or get them from people who were leaving.

And then it happened.

A few kids heading out took off their wristbands and handed them to us. Maybe somebody had done the same thing for them at another show. Whatever the reason, we happily took them.

I tucked mine underneath my watchband to make it look presentable. The police didn't seem to care very much, and this time we got in.

We pushed past a horde of people heading out, and then the stadium opened up in front of us.

Beyond a sea of ravers, lasers cut through the fake fog, ocean air, and dust kicked up by thousands of people dancing. Giant screens showed liquid psychedelia. Fireballs blasted up from the stage.

And in the middle of everything was

Marshmello, wearing — no surprise — a giant marshmallow head that completely hid his identity. He waved his arms, and thousands of people waved theirs right back.

We headed toward the lights.

We weren't behind the Surf Rodeo wall anymore.

We were in it.

My energy shot up. Goldie, my wife, and I started bouncing and waving our hands, following Marshmello and everyone around us. It was total madness.

My white hair must have stood out, but by then I wasn't thinking about it. I danced like I was 40 years younger and loved every minute of it.

The last song was "Happier." The words came through: "I want to raise your spirits. I want to see you smile."

And we did.

When the show ended, we joined thousands of other people walking past the animal pens and back through Food Alley. We were genuinely smiling and happy. It was one of those nights that surprises you with how much fun you're still capable of having.

Thanks, Goldie, for making us try the gate one more time. And thanks, Marshmello, for reminding me to dance and have a blast.

Sometimes you find yourself on the wrong side of the wall.

Sometimes a kid hands you a wristband.

AUTHOR

Dave Ramser is a Ventura resident learning to pay closer attention to life, community, and the unexpected pleasures of his second act. Dave's contact information is available upon request.





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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



The Pet Page



Image by Autoclubilovecar on Magnific.com

Pet trainers use a number of different titles, such as “behavior counselor,” “pet psychologist” and “pet therapist.”

Behavioral Help for Your Pet

From the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals® (ASPCA)

Many behaviors that are completely natural for dogs and cats—like barking or meowing, scratching, biting, digging, chewing, escaping and running away—can prove to be challenging for some pet parents. Although advice abounds in the form of popular TV shows, books and well-meaning friends and family, often the best and most efficient way to resolve your pet’s behavior problems is to seek assistance from a qualified professional. Professionals in the pet-behavior field fall into four main categories:

- Trainers
- Certified Professional Dog Trainers (CPDTs)
- Applied Animal Behaviorists, Certified Applied Animal Behaviorists (CAABs) and Associate Certified Applied Animal Behaviorists (ACAABs)
- Diplomats of the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists (Dip ACVBs)

Here are some frequently asked questions from pet parents who are seeking professional behavioral help for their pet:

What are the differences between pet-behavior professionals? Trainers

Pet trainers use a number of different titles, such as “behavior counselor,” “pet psychologist” and “pet therapist.” The level of education and experience among this group of professionals varies greatly. Most learn how to work with animals through apprenticeships with established trainers, volunteering at animal shelters, attending seminars on training and behavior and training their own animals. And some are certified by specialized training schools.

Certified Professional Dog Trainers (CPDTs)

The Certification Council for Professional Dog Trainers (CCPDT), an independent organization created by the Association of Professional Dog Trainers (APDT), offers an international certification program. To earn the designation of Certified Professional Dog Trainer (CPDT), an individual must accrue a requisite number of working hours as a dog trainer, provide letters of recommendation and pass a standardized test that evaluates her or his knowledge of canine ethology, basic learning theory, canine husbandry and teaching skill. A CPDT must abide by a code of ethics and earn

continuing education credits to maintain certification.

Applied Animal Behaviorists, Certified Applied Animal Behaviorists (CAABs) and Associate Certified Applied Animal Behaviorists (ACAABs)

An applied animal behaviorist has earned an MS, MA or PhD in animal behavior. They are experts in dog and cat behavior and often in the behavior of other companion animal species as well, like horses and birds. Certified Applied Animal Behaviorists (CAABs, those with a doctoral degree) and Associate Certified Applied Animal Behaviorists (ACAABs, those with a master’s degree) received supervised graduate or post-graduate training in animal behavior, biology, zoology and learning theory at accredited universities.

Effective applied animal behaviorists will have expertise in (a) behavior modification, so they know the techniques that produce changes in behavior, (b) the normal behavior of the species they’re treating, so they can recognize how and why your pet’s behavior is abnormal, and (c) teaching and counseling people, so they can effectively teach you how to understand and work with your pet. Most CAABs work through veterinary referrals, and they work closely with veterinarians to select the best behavioral medications for pets.

Veterinary Behaviorists

Knowledge of animal behavior isn’t required to earn a veterinary degree, and animal behavior isn’t comprehensively taught in most veterinary training programs. However, some veterinarians seek specialized education in animal behavior and earn certification through the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists. To become a Diplomat of the American College of Veterinary Behaviorists (Dip ACVB), veterinarians must complete a residency in behavior and pass a qualifying examination.

In addition to having knowledge of domestic animal behavior and experience treating pet behavior problems, veterinary behaviorists can prescribe medications that can help with your pet’s treatment. Issues that often require the use of medication include separation anxiety, phobias, compulsive behaviors and fear of people,

Forever homes wanted



Hi, I’m Buttons, a loving 9-year-old Chihuahua mix with a heart of gold and a cute little snaggletooth. I’m a resilient and friendly gal who gets along well with other small dogs and am curious and gentle with everyone I meet. I’m a true lady, and despite my age, I still have a lot of love and life left to give. I’m hoping to find a family that will give me the second chance I deserve and provide me with a warm, comfortable home where I can spend my golden years. Could you be the one to offer me a fresh start and a place in your heart?



Hi, I’m Maverick, a handsome 4 1/2-year-old German Shepherd mix waiting for my forever home. I’m an indoor dog at heart, and I enjoy the simple pleasures in life: peaceful walks in the park, relaxing in the shade and playing with my favorite toys. I’m also a fan of the beach and ocean, and I especially love a good splash in a kiddie pool to cool off. I’m a toy enthusiast with a talent for agility tunnels, too! I enjoy treats, especially jerky. Although I once lived in a home with three children, the youngest being 6 years old, my ideal home would be with an experienced dog owner and as the only pet.



Hi, I’m Peaches, a gentle, sweet and shy 4-year-old Chihuahua mix who is ready to find my forever home! Although I may be a little timid at first, I warm up quickly and get along well with other dogs, especially smaller companions. I’m the perfect size to snuggle on your lap and will be a calm and loving presence in your home. If you’re looking for a quiet, affectionate companion to add to your family, I’m the girl for you. I’m eager to leave my past behind and start a new chapter filled with love and happiness.



Hi, I’m Mona, a beautiful 5-year-old Chow rescued from Animal Services. I’m looking for a fresh start and a chance to show someone how loyal and loving I can be. I may be a bit of a mystery, but isn’t that part of the fun? I could be the perfect addition to your family, offering a world of potential and a heart full of hope. I’m ready to leave my past behind and embark on a new adventure with you. Could you be the one to give me that chance?

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.

objects or other animals.

What kind of training does my pet need?

Once you’ve determined that you and your pet need some professional help to keep your household harmonious, consider what kind of training or treatment you need.

Group Class

If your pet needs to learn some basic manners and skills, like sit, down and come when called, you might benefit

most from group obedience classes. Group classes are also ideal for young puppies who need socialization.

Private Sessions

If your dog or cat has a specific behavior problem, seeing a professional outside of a classroom context would be best. Problems like resource guarding, handling issues, separation anxiety and aggression toward people or other animals require custom treatment plans

Continued on page 14



Events

Continued from page 9
family, adventure and culture, including a standout short featuring prominent American chef and cultural storyteller David Chang chasing permit in Mexico. Doors open at 3 pm and the films begin at 4 pm with a 90 minute intermission for dinner and beverages. Phil Freidman is the guest MC with Guy Jeans (Kern River Fly Shop) and Fish the West providing a pre-screening discussion of local waters. Hosted by Sespe Fly Fishers. Tickets are \$25 for general admission and \$15 for students. Get tickets at <https://flyfilmfest.com/venturaca>.

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. VenturaWalk.

Ventura Music Festival Tea & Trumpets: Sun., Oct 11., 3 -5 pm. The Historic Pierpont Inn, 550 Sanjon Rd.
A lively local favorite returns to the beautiful and historic Pierpont Inn for an afternoon of tradition. Guests are welcomed with a full afternoon tea: warm scones, delicate finger sandwiches, and a tempting array of pastries, served in one of Ventura’s most gracious settings. The music comes courtesy of a spirited brass quintet, whose program moves easily between classical favorites and jazz standards. /www.venturamusicfestival.org/events/tea-trumpets-2026.

Ongoing:
LPSC Social Club General Meeting: Monthly, every 1st Thursday, 6:30 pm (except Aug). 1363 Spinnaker Dr., Ventura, CA
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 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:
Camarillo Quilters Association Meeting: Tue, Sep 8. Pleasant Valley Community Center, 1605 Burnley St.
Yvonne Phenicie is a certified teacher for “Sew Kind of Wonderful” products which include their “Quick Curve Ruler.” She will share tips and tricks. The doors open at 9 am and the meeting begins at 9:30. There is a \$5 charge for guests. <https://camarilloquilters.com>.

Brain Injury Center of Ventura County - Celebration of Survival: Sat, Sep 12, 12 pm – 3 pm. Harley’s Camarillo Bowl, 305 Arneill Rd.
9 Pin No-Tap Bowling Fundraising Event. Celebrating 18 Years of Survival for Stephanie Copping. \$25 per person (brain injury survivors bowl for free). Enjoy 3 Hours of 9 Pin No-Tap Bowling Fun. Shoe

Rental Included. Music, Raffle Prizes. Opportunity 50/50 Drawings, Pizza and Beverages will be provided. more info or to sign-up, contact Laurel Householder at (805) 415-3702 or email lcop0112@hotmail.com

Evening of Magical Memories Gala - The 23rd Annual Fundraiser: Sat, Oct 10, 5 pm. Las Posas Country Club, 955 Fairway Dr.
Supporting the Programs of the Brain Injury Center of Ventura County. The evening includes a champagne reception, silent and live auction, gourmet dinner, award presentations and entertainment. The gala annually honors brain injury survivors, professionals, and family/caregivers for their hard work and dedication. This year we are honoring Carol Leish, Graal Diaz, and Dotti Oliver as Above & Beyond Award recipients. The funds raised by this event will provide support for our programs including individualized support, education, Care Transitions, Trabajador(a) de Salud, support groups, advocacy, and care coordination for brain injury survivors and their families. Your donation will enable the Brain Injury Center to continue to offer these critical services at no cost to the survivor or family. <https://braininjurycenter.org/eomm>.

Ojai:
Libbey Bowl 2026 Concert Series: Sun, Aug 30. Libbey Bowl, Edward Libbey Park.
10th year anniversary of FREE community concerts. Sponsored by Music 4 Kids. Beginning this year all proceeds from each and every concert will be used for music scholarships for music students in need. Our first concert will feature the Ojai Pops Orchestra. www.libbeybowl.org/events/all.

Ojai Raptor Center Moonlit Nights - Charity Benefit: Sat, Sep 12, 5 pm – 9 pm.
An extraordinary evening in support of raptor rehabilitation and environmental stewardship. This elegant event will bring together community leaders, philanthropists, and wildlife supporters for an evening of dining under the stars, live music, a silent auction, and inspiring stories of wildlife rescue, rehabilitation, and education. www.ojauraptorcenter.org/orc-events.

Oxnard:
Concerts By The Sea: Sat, 4-6 pm, Harbor View Park, 3600 Harbor Blvd. Seven free concerts through Sept 5. www.channelislandsharbor.org/events-festivals.
Rock the Collection Summer Concert Series: See date/times below. 6:30 pm - 8 pm. The Collection, Collective Park. All concerts are FREE. Gather your lawn chairs, family, and friends for a perfect summer evening at Collection Park Aug. 12, DSB: A Tribute to Journey; Aug. 26, Twisted Gypsy - A Tribute to Fleetwood Mac; Sept. 9, That’s What I Like - A Tribute to Bruno Mars. <https://thecollectionrp.com/portfolio/rock-the-collection-2026>.

Panteón Fest Fourth Annual Día de los Muertos Celebration: Sat, Oct 17. 1 pm – 9 pm. Heritage Square, 715 S A St.
This year’s festival pays homage to Che-spírito, the beloved Mexican comedian and creator of El Chavo del Ocho and El Chapulín Colorado. Live music, dance, theater, community altars, local art and more. Tickets; Pre-Sale, August-September: \$15. General Admission, October: \$25.

VIP Tables: Premium experience available. www.puebloandco.com.

Food Share of Ventura County New Home Groundbreaking Celebration: Fri, Sep 11, 3 pm - 5 pm. 1425 Mariner Dr.
Food Share is breaking ground on its new 85,000-square-foot food bank - a transformational project that will expand its capacity to serve Ventura County for generations to come. Whether you’ve volunteered your time, made a gift, partnered with them, attended an event, or simply cheered them on, this milestone belongs to all of us. Join us as we celebrate this exciting next chapter with Food Share leadership, community partners, donors, elected officials, and neighbors from across Ventura County. www.foodshare.com.

Oxnard Film Society: Sept 21, screenings at 3:30 and 6:30. Plaza 14 Cinema, 255 West 5th St.
THE MARCHING BAND 2025. France 1hr 42 minutes. Comedy/Drama NR. In French with English subtitles. A world-famous orchestra conductor discovers the brother he never knew he had -- a school cafeteria worker who plays trombone in a local marching band. Detecting his brother’s exceptional musical talent, he takes it upon himself to rectify the injustice of fate. An equally hilarious and affecting crowd-pleaser that premiered at Cannes and became a French box office sensation starring Benjamin Lavernhe (My Donkey, My Lover & I) and Pierre Lottin (The Stranger).

HEROES OF THE COAST - FREE SCREENING 2025 - USA 52 minutes; This 52-minute documentary tells the story of how the people of California organized to save the coast in response to the Santa Barbara oil spill in 1969. Written, produced and directed by Janet Bridgers, the President of EarthAlert!, Heroes of the Coast - The Documentary tells the story of some of the Californians who invested their time, money and, sometimes, their careers, in supporting the passage of Proposition 20, The California Coastal Protection Act. Post Screening Q/A with Director. www.oxnardfilmsociety.org.

Santa Barbara:
Ensemble Theatre Season Opener - BUYER & CELLAR: Oct 7 – 25. 33 West Victoria St.
Drama Desk Winner for Best Play by Jonathan Tolins. Directed by Jamie Torcellini. Brian McDonald reprises his award-winning performance as Alex, an out-of-work actor who lands the strangest gig of his life: working in the private shopping mall that Barbra Streisand built in the basement of her Malibu estate. As he tends to the antique doll shop, gift wrapping station, and frozen yogurt counter in the deserted mall, his only customer is Barbra herself. What begins as a surreal job becomes an unexpected friendship as Alex navigates the absurd reality of playing shopkeeper to one of the world’s biggest stars. Jonathan Tolins’ solo comedy is a witty, warm, and wonderfully theatrical meditation on celebrity, consumerism, and the price of living in someone else’s fantasy. <https://etcbsb.org>.

1000 Oaks:
Conejo Players Theatre - Steel Magnolias: Performs August 7 – 29. 351 S. Moorpark Rd.
This play is a timeless celebration of friendship, family, and resilience. www.conejoplayers.org.



By Pam Baumgardner
VenturaRocks.com

School is already back in session and Labor Day is just around the corner, meanwhile on the live music front: The Throw Down Cornhole Festival which now includes a MMA fight night, axe throwing and two days of live music (Friday features DJs) will be held at the Ventura County Fairgrounds August 21 – 23. Many thanks to John Karayan and Spencer Makenzie’s for making this the largest cornhole festival in the world. Saturday’s music features Mandex, Camo Cali and the return of New Liberty. Sunday’s headliner is Pato Banton, along with Just a Girl, Kiona Tiger and the 805 Band, Morie and the Heavy Hitters and Nautical Thrust. Find the link for more information at SpencerMakenzies.com.

The Rubicon Theatre Company’s annual concerts series currently includes The Folk Legacy for September 4-5, Mike Beck, The Ponies for September 10 and Brush Arbor for September 11.

Mark your calendar now for the Aloha Beach Festival which falls over the weekend of September 5 – 6 at Promenade Park in Ventura. With any luck at all, their website will show their entertainment line up by the next issue of the Breeze.

Another upcoming event to note is the Oxnard Jazz Festival to be held September 10-13 at College Park in Oxnard. For line-up and tickets go to OxnardJazzFestival.com.

The city of Ojai has been fortunate to be the home of the Ojai Pops Orchestra which is celebrating its 10-year anniversary offering free concerts to the community. This year all proceeds received by donations will be used for music scholarships for music students in need. Their first concert be held on Sunday, August 30 at the Libbey Bowl.

Quick Notes: The September 20th Boots & Brews Country Music Festival has added Rodney Atkins to the lineup; Nathan McEuen will hold an album release party/show for his most recent project, “Time To Go Home” at the Ojai Arts Center on Friday, August 21; Rock the Collection free summer concert on Wednesday, August 26, with Twisted Gypsy’s tribute to Fleetwood Mac; Jimmy Dale & Surf Trio (Dale is the son of surf pop legend Dick Dale) will perform at Mrs. Olson’s on Friday, August 21 with Par Avion and Hana and the Sisters; The final summer concert at Heritage Square will be held on August 21 with Los Cools Arrows; Music Under the Stars wraps for their final concerts at the historic Olivas Adobe has the Wilbury Super Group on Saturday, August

22 and Stone Soul on August 29; Grammy-nominated and Songwriters Hall of Fame inductee, Beth Nielsen Chapman performs at the Ojai Underground on Saturday, August 29; and finally, Doug Webb’s All-Star group returns to the Grape featuring Danny Carey of Tool on Saturday, August 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 8/21: Teresa Russell & Stephen Geyer
- Sat 8/22: Big Ben
- Fri 8/28: Mack and D
- Sat 8/29: 805 Crosscut
- Sun 8/30: Smokey & Friends

Café Fiore

66 California St., Ventura

- Wed 8/19: Donna Greene
- Fri 8/21: Beta Macks
- Sat 8/22: Brandon Ragan Project
- Sun 8/23: Jangala Roots
- Wed 8/26: Donna Butler
- Fri 8/28: Cinnamon Whiskey
- Sun 8/30: OnePeople

Camarillo Barrel Works (Cantara Cellars)

126 Wood Rd., Camarillo

- Fri 8/21: Vinyl Gypsies
- Sat 8/22: Ignition
- Fri 8/28: Brandon Ragan Project
- Sat 8/29: Clinton Cody & the Freedom Collective

C-Note Bar & Lounge (formerly Keynote Lounge)

10245 Telephone Rd., Ventura

- Fri 8/21: CRV
- Sat 8/22: Soul Revival
- Fri 8/28: Rhythm 805

Deer Lodge

2261 Maricopa Hwy., Ojai

- Wednesdays: Open Mic
- Thurs 8/20: Looking West
- Fri 8/21: Beau Red & the Tailor Maide
- Sat 8/22: Katie Leigh, Lizzy Passion
- Thur 8/27: Kyle McNeill

Duke’s Beach Grill

1124 S. Seaward Ave., Ventura

- Sat 8/22: Erik Lemaire
- Sat 8/29: Zepp Heads

Feros Ferio Winery

310 E. Ojai Ave., Ojai

- Sat 8/22: Ashford Gordon & Eric Monteith
- Sun 8/23: Alan Thornhill
- Sat 8/29: Tom Cantillon
- Sun 8/30: Christopher Hawley

Garage

1091 Scandia Ave., Ventura

- Fri 8/21: Allie & the Swamp Hawks

- Sat 8/22: GrooveTown
- Fri 8/28: Dadbod Confessional
- Sat 8/29: Nick Hames
- Sun 8/30: Skeleton Keys

The Grape

2733 E. Main St., Ventura

- Tuesdays: Gratitude Jazz Jams
- Wed 8/19: 7th Unit Jazz Project
- Thurs 8/20: S’Narf
- Fri 8/21: TD Lind & the Aviators
- Sat 8/22: Barrelhouse Wailers
- Wed 8/26: Idiomatiques
- Thurs 8/27: Rory Glassford Quartet
- Fri 8/28: Trueschool Allstars
- Sat 8/29: Flattop Tom (2p); Doug Well All stars w/ Danny Carey (8p)

Harbor Cove Café

1867 Spinnaker Dr., Ventura

Music Saturdays 5-8 pm

- Saturdays 10 am: Ukulele Jams
- Sat 8/22: Brittney and the Bsides
- Sun 8/23: Unkle Monkey (10a); Warren Takahaski (2p)
- Sat 8/29: The Sea Hunters
- Sun 8/30: Jared Nels (10a); Tiny Tal (2p)

Heritage Square

731 S. A St., Oxnard

- Fri 8/21: Los Cool Arrows

KJ’s

454 E. Main St., Ventura

- Thursdays: We Roll
- Fri 8/21: Brothers from Other Mothers

Leashless Brewing

585 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

- Fri 8/21: Surge de Monde
- Sat 8/22: Anne Hall & the Remarkables
- Sun 8/23: Chris Murray
- Fri 8/28: Jacob & the Good Vibes
- Sun 8/30: Dead and Kickin’

Libbey Bowl

210 S. Signal St., Ojai

- Sat 8/29: Mavis Staples
- Sun 8/30: Ojai Pops Orchestra

Lucky Fool’s Pub

75 E. High St., Moorpark

- Fri 8/21: Tom Buenger
- Sat 8/22: Teresa Russell
- Fri 8/28: Jared Nels
- Sat 8/29: Will Bremar

Magnavino Cellars/Public Realm Brewery

961 Rice Ave., Oxnard

- Sun 8/23: Karen Eden & Joe 2.0
- Fri 8/28: Faultline
- Sun 8/30: Mary White

Majestic Ventura Theater

26 Chestnut St., Ventura

- Fri 8/21: Maldita Vecindad
- Sat 8/28: Molchat Doma, Kitz

Manhattan

5800 Santa Rosa Rd., Camarillo

- Wed 8/19: Mary White
- Thurs 8/20: Frank Sinatra tribute with Michael Falcone
- Fri 8/21: Jeanne Tatum Trio
- Sat 8/22: Otis Hayes Trio
- Fri 8/28: Lisa Ritner & the Musical Suspects
- Sat 8/29: Tour Support

Margarita Villa

1567 Spinnaker Dr., Ventura

- Fri 8/21: Cinnamon Whiskey
- Sat 8/22: Crosscut 805
- Sun 8/23: Smokey & Friends
- Tues 8/25: Karen Eden & Joe 2.0
- Fri 8/28: Karen Eden & the Bad Apples
- Sat 8/29: Jen Staves & the Bluzfish
- Sun 8/30: CRV

Mrs. Olson

2800 Harbor Blvd., Oxnard

- Fri 8/21: Jimmy Dale & Surf Trio, Par Avion, Hanna and the Sisters

Music Under the Stars

(Olivas Adobe)

4200 Olivas Park Dr., Ventura

- Sat 8/22: Wilbury Super Group

- Sat 8/29: Stone Soul

Namba Arts

47 S. Oak St., Ventura

- Sat 8/22: Donna Lynn Caskey
- Fri 8/28: The Listening Room open mic
- Sat 8/29: Hello Jerry, Jerry Herman Tribute

Ojai Art Center

113 S. Montgomery St., Ojai

- Fri 8/21: Nathan McEuen

Ojai Underground Exchange

616 Pearl St., Ojai

- Sat 8/29: Beth Nielsen Chapman

Ojai Pub

914 E. Ojai Ave., Ojai

- Sundays: Open mic
- Mondays: Beau Red
- Fri 8/21: Duncan & the Dragonslayers
- Sat 8/22: Josephoenix
- Sat 8/30: Katie Leigh & the Backyard Boys

Ojai Valley Brewing

307 Bryant St., Ojai

- Wednesdays: Ojai Bluegrass Pickers/Open Jam
- Sat 8/22: Beau Red & the Tailor Maide
- Sat 8/29: The Harlequins

Rock the Collection

2751 Park View Court, Oxnard

- Wed 8/26: Twisted Gypsy

Sans Souci

21 S. Chestnut St., Ventura

- Sat 8/29: So Orwell, The Denim Emperor, Duncan & the Dragonslayers

The Shores

1031 Harbor Blvd., Oxnard

- Wed 8/19: Ben Garcia
- Fri 8/21: Two Dollar Reward
- Sat 8/22: Sin Chonies
- Sun 8/23: Doc Rogers, Lil Bit of Everything
- Wed 8/26: Sara Healy
- Sat 8/29: The Balance
- Sun 8/30: Brandon Ragan

Strey Cellars

951 N. Rice Rd., Oxnard

- Sat 8/22: The Renegades
- Sun 8/23: Brandon Ragan Project
- Sat 8/29: Holger’s Heroes
- Sun 8/30: The Dirty Lowdown

The Throw Down at the Ventura Fairgrounds

10 W. Harbor Blvd., Ventura

- Sat 8/22: Mandex, Camo Cali, New Liberty, Standard Band
- Sun 8/23: Pato Banton, Just a Girl, Kiona Tiger & the 805 Band...

Tony’s Pizzeria

186 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

- Thurs 8/20: Irie Smile
- Fri 8/21: Psychedelic Summer
- Sat 8/22: The Balance
- Thurs 8/27: The Heavy Hitters
- Fri 8/28: Neon Blonde

Vaquero y Mar

435 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

- Tuesdays: The Sea Hunters
- Wed 8/19: Up Country
- Wed 8/26: Ventura Gypsy Jazz Jam
- Fri 8/28: Fantasy Lane, Excamate, Killing Regime, Crazy D & the Nutz...

Ventura Music Hall

1888 E. Thompson Blvd., Ventura

- Thurs 8/20: Willie Watson & Erin Rae
- Fri 8/21: Cheekface, Catbite
- Sat 8/22: Duane Betts, & Palmetto Motel
- Thurs 8/27: Built to Spill, Playdead
- Fri 8/28: Dave Blunts
- Sat 8/29: Stinkfoot Orchestra
- Tues 9/1: Stephen Malkmus

Winchesters

632 E. Main St., Ventura

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

- Thursdays: Ventura Dead Night
- Fri 8/21: Vanise Terry Band
- Sat 8/22: Karen Eden & the Bad Apples
- Sun 8/23: Brittney & the Bsides
- Fri 8/28: Caught Red Handed
- Sat 8/29: The James Bros. Band
- Sun 8/30: Dianne Miller Trio



Garden Party by Nancy Whitman, acrylic on paper.

Photo courtesy FOTM

2025 Artist Spotlight Interview, Namba Performing Arts Center

Focus on the Masters Benefit Brunch for Arts Education

Point Broadcasting and the Ruth & Joseph C. Reed Foundation for the Arts present Focus on the Masters, A Seat at the Table For the Love of Art Benefit Brunch for the Arts Education on Sunday, September 13, from 11 am to 2 pm, at the Four Points by Sheraton Ventura Harbor Resort located at 1050 Schooner Drive.

Focus on the Masters Arts Archive & Library (FOTM) is celebrating its 32nd Anniversary with our annual For the Love of Art Fundraising Gathering. This year's theme, A Seat

at the Table, celebrates representation and the importance of diverse voices and perspectives that enrich our collective experience. Community members are invited to come together in support of Focus on the Masters' award-winning arts education and cultural preservation programs.

Proceeds from the event benefit FOTM's celebrated educational initiatives, including the Learning to See Outreach Program – a sequential in-school and community outreach program serving at-risk youth and

Title 1 schools throughout Ventura County – as well as the continuation of the beloved Artist Spotlight Interviews. Now entering her second year with Focus on the Masters, interviewer and arts advocate Betsy Zuck continues the tradition of engaging conversations that celebrate the lives, creative journeys, and lasting contributions of remarkable regional artists. All community programming is inspired by the artwork and life stories of extraordinary FOTM documented artists.

Among the highlights this year, eight celebrated FOTM documented artists have each painted a chair to contribute to the fundraising efforts that will be auctioned live at the event. From elegant to whimsical, each chair will likely become a treasured heirloom to the winning bidder. Click on the following links to learn more about each of these renowned artists:

- Carmen Abellera www.facebook.com/carmen.abelleira.9
- Gayel Childress www.ojaistudioartists.org/artist/gayel-childress
- Susan Cook <https://susancook.com/bio/>

- Beverly Decker <https://ciapps.csuci.edu/FacultyBios/FacultyBiography/beverly.decker>
- Richard Franklin www.ojaistudioartists.org/artist/richard-franklin
- Karen Kitchel <https://karenkitchel.com/>
- Gail Pidduck www.gailpidduck.com/
- John Robertson www.johnrobertsoncredibleart.com

The FUNdraising Benefit Brunch will be full of “art for all” including FOTM's famed \$30 Mystery Boxes filled with all kinds of art-related treasures worth at least \$50. Everyone will enjoy the great camaraderie, delicious food, and music by David (Kavika) Gorospe while enjoying fun activities including a scavenger hunt, silent auction, a photo booth (honoring the work of FOTM Documented Artist Nancy Whitman (1929-2025)), and a fine art raffle for a rare original painting by Nancy Whitman, all For the Love of Art in support of FOTM's community outreach! Tickets for the event are available at www.FocusOnTheMasters.com or by calling 805.653.2501.



Photo courtesy FOTM

Featured Artist Steven Edwards (L) and FOTM's Betsy Zuck (R)



Photo courtesy County of Ventura

Artwork from the acclaimed Moon Ditch Mural Project is currently on display at the Atrium, showcasing the work of the artists and community volunteers who helped create the massive Ventura County mural.

Moon Ditch Exhibit at Atrium Gallery

The Atrium Gallery, located at the County Government Center in the Hall of Administration, is currently presenting an exhibit celebrating the completion of the Moon Ditch Mural, a landmark public art project that transformed a flood control channel into one of the largest murals in the United States, spanning over two-thirds of a mile.

Designed by Oxnard-based

artist Elisa Torres and brought to life by a team of local artists, the mural is a vibrant tribute to Ventura County's living watershed, featuring native plants, wildlife, and waterways: tule reeds, monarch butterflies, dragonflies, egrets, and great blue herons. The mural explores the connection between healthy, clean waterways, public art, and our collective

wellbeing and mental health.

The exhibit offers gallery visitors an up-close look at the artistry and community effort behind the mural, including the story of the roughly 200 volunteers – families, students, seniors, and justice-involved youth – who joined community paint days and helped bring the artwork to life alongside the artist team.

It's a chance to see how a piece of flood control infrastructure became a vibrant community landmark, and to explore the con-

nections between art, environmental stewardship, and community wellbeing at the heart of the project.

The Moon Ditch Mural is part of VibeWell Ventura County, a countywide initiative using arts and culture to support mental health and community wellbeing.

The exhibition is on display until September 30, Monday through Friday, 8 am – 5 pm at the Ventura County Government Center, Hall of Administration Atrium Gallery, 800 S. Victoria Ave.

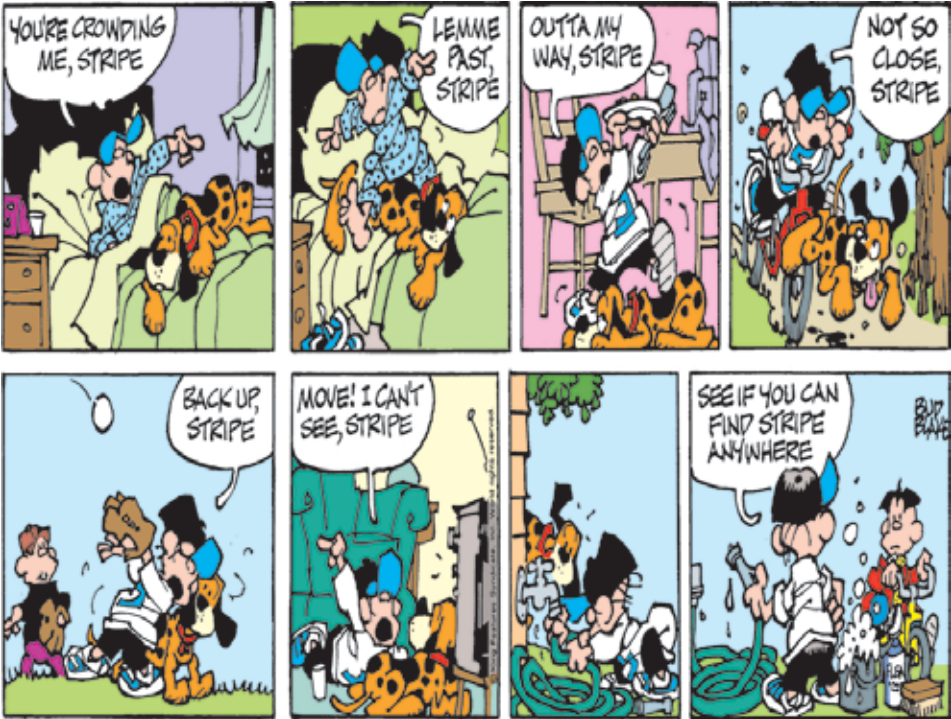


Photo courtesy County of Ventura

A section of the Moon Ditch Mural showcases the colorful artwork celebrating Ventura County's natural environment.

Lighter Breeze

Tiger



The Spats



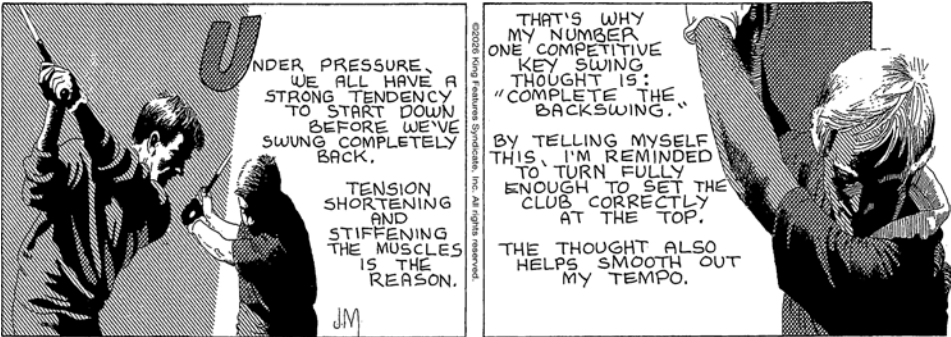
Out on a Limb



Amber Waves



Play Better Golf with JACK NICKLAUS



Solution on page 9

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

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

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 Layer
4 Radiant
9 Soup legume
12 Dubai's country, for short
13 Kin of "Presto!"
14 Online chats, briefly
15 Keyboard piece for two
17 Impose
18 Pained sounds
19 Nobel-winning Mother
21 "Hooray!"
24 Story lines
25 Hollywood's Gabor
26 Genetic stuff
28 Nasser's successor
31 Stinging insect
33 Pop
35 Arias for one
36 Animal's nose
38 Mexican Mrs.
40 Teeny
41 "Phooey!"
43 Disney exec Michael
45 1912 Olympic legend
47 MGM motto start
48 Tease
49 Teen's formalwear
54 Under the weather
55 Perfume compound
56 To and —
57 Flamenco cheer
58 Belittle
59 Box office buys, slangily
7 "Get Here" singer Adams
8 Tends the lawn
9 Stops talking
10 Flightless birds
11 Hammett pooch
16 M-Q connection
20 Some HDTVs
21 Evergreen trees
22 Nobelist Pavlov
23 Latin ballroom dance
27 Small batteries
29 Sheltered
30 Wedding cake layer
32 Kitten's sound
34 Visionary
37 Designated
39 Put on a clothesline
42 Succinct
44 Lith., once
45 Small combo
46 Mound
50 Non-Rx
51 Newt
52 — Lanka
53 Boston squad, for short

DOWN

1 Young dog
2 Chou En- —
3 Pro vote
4 Acknowledged
5 Blessing
6 Actress Lucy

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Behavioral Help for Your Pet Continued from page 11

and individual attention from a qualified behaviorist. Other less serious behavior issues that trainers and behaviorists can't usually address in a group class include house training problems, excessive barking and destructive chewing.

Day Training & Board-and-Train

Day training is a great service for busy pet parents. The trainer comes to your house while you're at work, or alternatively, some train your dog in their home or facility. The trainer teaches your dog the specific obedience behaviors you want, for example recalls (coming when called), wait, stay, walk on-leash without pulling and greeting people and pets politely. If the trainer is qualified as a behaviorist, she can also treat issues like resource guarding, handling issues, some other types of aggression, some types of excessive barking or meowing and some fears.

Board-and-train services involve leaving your pet in the trainer's kennels for a specified period of time. Be sure that you know and agree with the methods that your board-and-train or day training professional plans to use, since you will not be there to supervise. This method should also provide a training package with instruction for you. Board-and-train and day training programs are only effective if the trainer teaches you some skills so that you can maintain your pet's new behaviors after her training is done.

How Do I Decide Which Professional to Choose?

After you've decided between group classes, one-on-one private help and board-and-train, how do you figure out which professional is right for you and your pet? Your decision will be based on a number of factors, including the type of problem your pet has, the professional's education and experience and the availability of behaviorists and trainers in your area.

Ask the right questions.

We advise contacting more than one professional in your area so that you can compare their methods, credentials and experience before making a choice. Don't hire any professional without first thoroughly interviewing her or him and asking for a couple of references from former clients or veterinarians. A good behaviorist or trainer will be happy to speak with you about her or his qualifications, background and treatment or training methods.

Consider the nature of your pet's behavioral problem.

If your pet has a serious behavior problem that puts him, people or other animals at risk, or if he's developed a problem that causes him significant stress, seek an expert with both academic training (either a master's or doctoral degree) and practical experience. Although some CAABs, ACAABs and Dip ACVBs charge more per session than trainers, it's because they've acquired a great deal of knowledge through years of study and research.

Rule out physical problems.

If your pet has a behavior problem, contacting a trainer or a behaviorist is a great first step on the road to resolution. However, some behavior problems can be caused or exacerbated by physical problems. For example, if your nine-week-old puppy urinates indoors when you're not supervising him, he probably simply needs house training, but if your five-year-old dog who hasn't made a mistake in the house for years suddenly starts urinating indoors, you might have a medical condition on your hands.

Trainers and behaviorists specialize in pet behavior problems. Only licensed veterinarians can diagnose medical conditions. If you think that your pet is sick, injured or experiencing any kind of physical distress, please contact your veterinarian immediately.

Visit www.aspc.org for more information.

Theater

A View from House Seats

Conejo Players Present Steel Magnolias

By Shirley Lorraine

It is 1987 in Chinquapin, Louisiana. Spring. Six Southern ladies gather in Truvy Jones’ hair salon, where they share laughs, life lessons, gossip, disappointments and grief.

The play, by Robert Harling, began as a short story, capturing a sad time when Harling’s sister became ill and passed away. Telling the story was cathartic for Harling. The story grew as the characters became integral to the myriad feelings swirling about and around the situation. Since then, it has been published as a book and became a popular film in 1989 with a star-studded cast.

Harling’s characters are sweet and sassy, displaying charm, heart and the true sanctity of close friendships. They are based in part on Harling’s actual mother and her friends who were crucial in her time of need.

The play is filled with wit and good old Southern wisdom throughout. The cast offers an excellent study in individual characterizations, diction and professionalism. Guided by the experienced directorial hand of Jolyn Johnson, the pace is nearly perfect. Many productions that offer the quantity of memorable wit-ticisms this one does seem rushed, with lines overlapping laughs. Not so here. Pacing and delivery timing is impeccable. Each line gets its deserved response before moving on. Well done.

Shop owner and hair stylist extraordinaire Truvy Jones is played with confidence and flair by Claudia Stone-Shepard. Truvy’s warmth, which she shares freely, is evident. Taking on a newcomer to town, Annelle (Luca Nicoletti), Truvy and the others are ultimately able to give Annelle a new lease on life.

Victoria McGee plays Clairee, a long-time patron and member of the Saturday morning regulars. A recent widow, Clairee relies on the circle of friends for moral support.

M’Lynn (Dana Marley-Kolb) is abuzz as her daughter Shelby (Mars Fuller) is in the salon today for her wedding coiffure. Shelby has Type I diabetes, which causes M’Lynn a great deal of concern as they discuss the couple’s future.

Theresa Secor brings a solid characterization to the role of Ouiser Boudreaux, a colorful, bold and outspoken stalwart of the community. She delivers periodic biting zingers of truth with impunity.

Each of the characters are delightful to watch as they weave their stories, pulling the audience into the bigger picture with ease.

Act I introduces each ladies’ personality, just enough background to add color, and the kind of lives they lead. Act II, 18 months after the wedding, culminates in showing the closeness they share as they navigate through troubled times.

The story is handled with care, compas-

On Vacation: Switzerland



Priscilla Holmes and Rob Schleef with The Breeze at Lake Lugano in Switzerland after visiting Belgium and Amsterdam.

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

sion and comedy, to highlight the positive aspects of each ladies’ existence. Many in the audience exited the theater with a tear in their eyes and a smile on their lips.

This production of Steel Magnolias is extraordinary. Try and catch it.

Steel Magnolias runs through Saturday, August 29 with performances Friday and Saturdays at 8 p.m., Sundays at 2 p.m., and two 2 p.m. matinees on Saturday, August 22 and 29. www.ConejoPlayers.org or 805-495-3715.

Bush Ignites Opening Night at Ventura County Fair

By Joseph Seemayer

Opening night of the 2026 Ventura County Fair kicked off with loud alternative rock as British rock icons Bush took over the Grandstand Stage, delivering a hit-packed, high-energy performance that set the tone for the fair.

Frontman Gavin Rossdale led the band through a sweat-soaked set that blended 1990s nostalgia with timeless rock-and-roll grit. From the opening chords, Rossdale commanded the stage, pouring passion into every lyric while feeding off the roar of the packed crowd. His magnetic stage presence – from explosive leaps to intimate moments at the mic – kept fans on their feet throughout the night.

The band’s tight, powerful sound was on full display. Lead guitarist Chris Traynor traded heavy, distorted riffs with Rossdale, while bassist Corey Britz and drummer Nik Hughes locked into a driving rhythm section that reverberated across the fairgrounds.

Bush powered through iconic songs including “Glycerine,” “Machinehead” and “Comedown,” alongside heavier modern tracks that showed the band remains a formidable live act.

The crowd stayed on its feet as Bush delivered a tight, energetic performance that proved the enduring power of the band’s catalog. Opening night set a high bar for the 2026 Ventura County Fair, delivering exactly what fans came for: loud, authentic alternative rock.



Photo by @jseemayerphoto

Airborne Rock: Reminiscent of AC/DC’s Angus Young, Gavin Rossdale leaps across the Grandstand Stage during a fiery guitar solo.

16th Annual
Aloha Beach
Festival!

Saturday & Sunday
Sept. 5th & 6th
10am-8pm

Celebrate Ventura’s beach culture, community, and aloha spirit! What began as the Fall Frisbee Classic in 2000 has grown into one of Ventura’s favorite annual traditions.

This Free, Family friendly event features the 39th Annual C Street Longboard Classic, outrigger canoe demonstrations, Hawaiian cultural performances, live local music, arts & crafts vendors, delicious food, a beer garden and more.

Proudly supporting Ventura County nonprofits, the festival has raised more than \$100,000 for local organizations.

alohabeachfestival.us



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Welcome to the Ventura Townhouse—a refined coastal retreat set on 12 acres of beautifully landscaped, park-like grounds, offering elevated living across independent living, assisted living, and memory care.

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Lunch & LEARN
SENIOR EDUCATION ENCORE

Smart Senior Care

Protecting Your Legacy



Friday, August 28 | 12:00 p.m.
Ventura Townhouse | Penthouse Vista Room

R.S.V.P. **805-919-8312**

 Lunch will be served

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Aaron Ralstin

Ventura County Senior Transitions



Ventura County Senior Transitions
One Umbrella
Every Senior Solution

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