

What to know ahead of 45th annual Air Show

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VENTURA COUNTY STAR

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Tehran says deal with Oman is in ‘final stages’

Tehran sets conditions for reopening Hormuz

Nayera Abdallah, Steve Holland and Enas Alashray

REUTERS

DUBAI – Iran said on Aug. 9 that a deal with Oman defining new shipping lanes in the Strait of Hormuz was in its final stages but reiterated that the waterway would only reopen once the

United States met other conditions.

A U.S. official told Reuters on Aug. 7 that an agreement between Iran and Oman was close and could soon reopen the waterway, which carried a fifth of global oil and liquefied natural gas shipments before Iran blocked it in response to U.S. and Israeli attacks.

Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas

Araghchi said on Aug. 9 that an agreement on the strait that lies between the two countries was in the “final stages” but repeated comments made the previous day that it would not reopen it unless other conditions were met.

The agreement would set out the new

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Ultimate decision-making in Iran rests with the Supreme Leader Mojtaba Khamenei, who has not been seen in public for months.

MURAD SEZER/REUTERS FILE



Andy Torres of Briggs 4H in Santa Paula shows his grand champion lamb on his 18th birthday at the Ventura County Fair's junior livestock auction on Aug. 7. PHOTOS BY TOM KISKEN/THE STAR

Youth sell livestock in annual Ventura County Fair auction

Ernesto Centeno Araujo

Ventura County Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

Amid the rings of cowbells, cheers and near-incoherent babbling of the auctioneer was something almost anyone can understand: dollar signs.

Just an hour into the 2026 Ventura County Fair's junior livestock auction on Aug. 7, chickens, rabbits and lambs had sold for over \$50,000 combined, with more still to come as cows, pigs, goats and turkeys were yet to be sold.

For many school-age children participating as part of their local 4-H, Future Farmers of America or other agriculture-centered club, the competition is more than just about raising money for college or other purposes.

Lucia LaVere, 12, of Ventura, joined the Briggs 4-H Club with little agriculture experience. “I came to the fair since I was a baby and always liked seeing the animals, so I wanted to try it myself,” she said.

Lucia entered the fair's auction for the second year in a row, with her pig Uno, she said.

Breanna Cole, agriculture teacher at

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Kahrlee Long of Bardsdale 4H in the Fillmore area auctions off her steer at the Ventura County Fair on Aug. 7.

Thousand Oaks D-Day veteran dies at age 102

Tom Kisken

Ventura County Star
USA TODAY NETWORK

Len Zerlin manned a machine gun in the fuselage of a twin-engine bomber over the beaches of Normandy in World War II, and later made it his mission to talk about the war, mortality and freedom in presentations at schools, air shows and anywhere else people would listen.

The Thousand Oaks resident who welcomed visitors to what he called his small World War II museum in a guest bedroom died on July 23 at Los Robles Regional Medical Center. He was 102. His family said the primary cause was pneumonia from COVID-19.

“The passing of my dad marks an end of an era,” said Dr. Gary Zerlin in his eulogy at the military funeral held at Eden Memorial Park in Mission Hills on July 26. “He epitomized the ‘Great-est Generation.’”

In Ventura County, he was the face of that generation and driven by the realization that many people had forgotten or never knew the importance of the war and the Normandy invasion

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Resting whales regulate buoyancy with bubbles

Marta Serafinko

REUTERS

Anyone who has tried to keep a cork underwater knows it takes effort. Yet sperm whales can rest suspended beneath the ocean surface despite having massive heads filled with oil, wax and air that would seem to send them drifting upward – a feat scientists think is made possible by blowing bubbles.

Sperm whales are the only whales known to rest vertically in the water, with their heads pointing upward. Scientists believe this position helps protect them from the movement of surface waves without requiring the energy needed to dive deeper, but exactly how they remain submerged had remained unclear.

Now, researchers have found that the whales use bubble releases to regulate their buoyancy. Researchers refer to the behavior as “resting” rather than “sleeping” because sleep is typically

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