

Please Help Find Our Cows

Several Orcutt Cows Stolen



Top: Sheila's cow at InSPArations, painted by her father. Bottom: Post Office Cow, Pink Cupcake Calf from Jack's Restaurant, 3D Checkered Cow from Union Mercantile Building.

These are the colorful painted variety, mascots of many businesses and homes in the Orcutt community. Orcutt Cows started anonymously arriving in December 2017.

Now, besides making surprising appearances at unsuspecting businesses, people can order their own painted cows, and several have been donated for fundraisers held for Orcutt non-profit organizations. The whimsical cows have become part of a local herd recognizing Orcutt's farming/cattle roots.

But lately, the cows have started to disappear from their locations throughout the Orcutt community. The Orcutt Post Office cow was stolen about a year ago, but they received a calf named Happy, number 30, with colorful polkadots.

Perhaps most upset is Sheila Gibilisco, owner of InSPArations, 130 Clark Ave. Sheila's father Bill Gault, an artist, wanted her to have a cow and wanted to paint it himself. They managed to get a cut out and together picked the colors. Gault painted sunflowers on one side and spots on the other. "He was really excited about doing it for me, the community and the arts," said Sheila. It had graced the porch of InSPArations since 2018. After her dad passed in August of 2019, "The cow made me think of him often and all our moments together. I still miss him horribly."

Unfortunately due to COVID, Sheila's spa was closed but the extra time she had gave her an opportunity to search for her cow. She called the police but emphasizes

that "if someone anonymously returns it, I won't pursue criminal charges." There is videotape from a nearby business which might offer clues if the cow is not returned.

Richard Albrecht, architect with an office in the Union Mercantile Building at 125 Union Ave, also had his cow stolen. "About two years ago a cow arrived in front of the building one day; There was a note that said 'in honor of the building being constructed.' It was nice to have a cow. They're cool." This cow, designed with a slick 3-d grey, black and white checked design, went missing in early September.

Jack's Restaurant and Bakery, 156 S Broadway, used to have two cows. The baby was taken earlier this year. It was pink and covered with cupcakes. Two employees spoke about missing their calf and that both cows were covered in desserts, which represented the restaurant.

A cow is chained to an Orcutt antique store, Deja Vu, 315 S Broadway. Owner, Wendy Steller, advises other cow owners to do the same. "Attach your cow to the front of your building or to something that can't move."

Stellar explained that it was the artist's hobby at first "to bring art and fun to Orcutt" and now that the town has embraced the cows, the artist is creating them full time. A sign at Deja Vu tells people how to order a cow by emailing orcutt cows85@gmail.com. "Have a Cow. You inspire the design or let the artist surprise you," it says.

The anonymous artist sent the following quote regarding the thefts; "I am heartbroken that something that brings smiles to so many faces has been stolen."

If you have any information please send to info@orcutt pioneer.com.

Katy Jacobson reporting

Three Local Boards Have Candidates on the November Ballot

The Allan Hancock College Board, Santa Maria High School District and the Santa Maria Airport District, Division 5, have contested races on the ballot in the November 3rd Presidential Primary. The Orcutt Pioneer asked each candidate to answer two open-ended questions including "Why are you running for office?" and "What are your qualifications?" Each candidate was given 250 words to respond. Beginning on page 2 are their responses in their own words.

In the Orcutt Union School District, only the incumbents, Liz Phillips and Lisa Moranini, filed candidacy paperwork and since there were no challengers, they will be sworn into office in January. Same situation happened in the Santa Maria Public Airport District, Division 3; incumbent Steven Brown was the only candidate, and therefore, he will take office.

Each statement appears in the same order the candidates' names will appear on the ballot.

Please remember to vote on November 3; for information regarding the election, to see where your polling place is or for any other questions regarding your vote status, visit the Santa Barbara County Elections office's website at www.sbcvotecom.

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"Orcutt News for Orcutt Folks"

Published on or about the fourth
Wednesday of each month

Distribution 17,000+ :

15,091 in mail

1,998 delivered to businesses in
the Orcutt area

Publisher: Stephanie Southwick Hull

Editors: Steve Southwick

& Stephanie Southwick Hull

Reporters & Photographers:

Steve Southwick, Stephanie Southwick Hull,

James Jepsen, Michael Shaw,

Katy Jacobson

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Allan Hancock College Has Two Candidates



Suzanne Levy

Retired Education Administrator



Keri Common

School District Administrator

Suzanne Levy

Retired Education Administrator

For over 30 years I have been involved in Hancock College and the community. I have been a student, have taught at the college, have served on auxiliary boards for the college and worked with Hancock student internships. I have been on multiple non-profit boards including the Discovery Museum, Orcutt Children's Arts Foundation, PCPA and the Women's Fund and through these have interacted with many different segments of the community. It is time for me to put these skills together to give back to both the college and community.

I have a Bachelor's Degree in Math Education and a Doctorate in Educational Leadership and Change with an emphasis on Online Distance Learning in the California Community Colleges I taught computer science at the college level for 20 years and was the director for several grants ranging from \$100,000 to \$5,000,000 while at Hancock that helped traditionally marginalized students, so I have experience with being fiscally responsible. Working with college students, staff, and faculty is something I have always done. In addition, I was elected to a K-6 School Board in Santa Barbara and have been on multiple school-district wide committees, so serving school districts and students is also something I have always done. With my vast range of educational and community experience, I am perfectly qualified and committed to providing excellent and accountable leadership.

Keri Common

School District Administrator

Being a resident of Santa Maria Valley, I have been involved with Hancock for over thirty years. I understand education from the inside out, and will act on behalf of the students, and for the benefit of the community. I will commit my time and efforts to provide attentive governance between staff and administration, while shaping consensus among groups and individuals. As a recent employee of Hancock College, I am knowledgeable of the processes, procedures, the strategic plan, and campus climate. I served on the Facilities Council and co-chaired the Sustainability Committee, where I contributed to the future of Hancock through community collaboration. My current position, Payroll Manager of SBUSD, keeps me current on all the regulations of a fiscally responsible educational institution, and my background in finance and payroll allows me to assess all angles fairly and equitably when weighing a decision. Alongside a team of Hancock individuals, we implemented electric vehicle chargers, hydration stations, weather-based irrigation, and a solar energy project that will offset district energy consumption by 85% and help save the district in PG&E costs — and no bond funds were used for the project. As a student at Hancock, both in the classroom and online, I have earned four degrees: Business Management, Marketing, Administration and Liberal Arts. I am a parent of both a graduate, and future student. Hancock needs a trustee who knows the college from within, and I will bring my keen perspectives to the Board, speaking for the student, employee, parent, and community.



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Two Incumbents, Four Challengers in High School Race

Santa Maria Joint Union High School District, Vote For No More Than Two



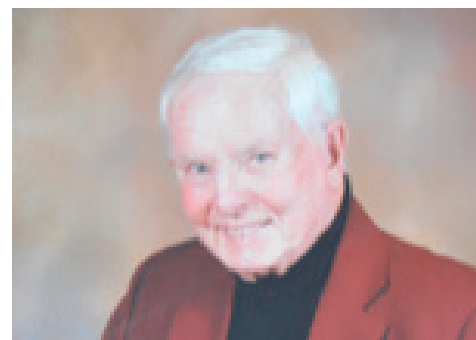
David Basket
Aviation Business Owner



Angie Marie Bolden
Community Volunteer



Amy Lopez
Incumbent



Jack Garvin
Incumbent

David Basket

Aviation Business Owner

Despite the efforts of good and dedicated professionals, our local high schools have recently been rated in the bottom half of California schools. I would like to see a re-balance between the investments in "administration" costs vs. the teachers in the classroom where the actual teaching is done. The growth of rules, regulations and paperwork do not always add to a better educated student. Those need to be examined and rolled back, if not adding to the effective transfer of knowledge and wisdom in the classroom. I do fully support the coming return of "technical skills training" for those who aspire to keep the tools and machinery of civilization running and less emphasis on the "college track" but have excellent classes for those who want the additional degrees and careers in STEM. Music, theater and the arts add quality to life and students should have those opportunities, perhaps a Santa Maria High School Opera and Junior Philharmonic?

I support the building of an ice-hockey rink where future Olympic "Ice Dancers" and hockey players can train. Important: Why not require all students to stand quietly in respect when the teacher enters the room?

Qualifications: An Old Soldier with an education from the battlefields of Viet Nam to the politics of the "military industrial complex" in DC. Three successful kids who graduated from Santa Maria public schools.

Angie Marie Bolden

Community Volunteer

I have been very involved in the community for the past 20+ years. As an African American female, I represent a whole demographic that has not been represented on our school board in the past. I have worked and continue to work with students in our district and want to be able to have a voice in their educational futures. As a former

employee of Santa Maria Joint Union High School District, I am aware of the relationship between staff, teachers and students. It is my goal to serve a liaison and build stronger ties and better communication between these groups. It is important to me to help improve the quality of our school system and the education of our students.

I have worked in the community for 20+ years and have a great relationship with many community members and organizations. I am involved in the National and local NAACP where I serve as Youth and Community Coordinator. I continue to work with our students of

color through the UBSUC (United Black Student Union of California) where I serve as both the state and regional 1st Vice President. I work well with others including those who have different viewpoints from my own. I am skilled in conflict resolution which has greatly improved my communication skill and allows me to get along with everyone. I am willing and able to share my life experiences to better our school board and the community which in turn will better our students and their futures.

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Continued from page 3

Amy Lopez
Incumbent

I am honored to be the current President of the Board of Trustees for Santa Maria Joint Union High School District. I was first appointed to the Board in January of 2016, and later that same year I was officially elected to the position. It has been an honor to serve on the board and to serve the entire school district and community of Santa Maria for the past 5 years.

I am a proud Santa Maria native. I have dedicated my entire career to Public Service working in different capacities for the County of Santa Barbara in Public Health, Social Services and Behavioral Wellness. I am familiar with the unique and diverse populations of the Santa Maria Valley; I have experience working directly with families and community-based organizations on addressing barriers to education and employment, identifying gaps in public services, and implementing unique programming for targeted populations in need. My educational qualifications include a Bachelor's Degree in Health Science – Community Health and a Master's



Jennifer Melena
Athletic Trainer/Professor

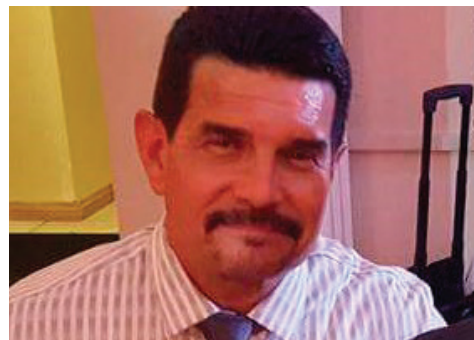
Degree in Business Administration.

With a passion to serve, dedication to community and quality experience, I am running for re-election to continue working on the many projects the District has in place including the CTE site and school site upgrades, to continue addressing deficiencies and ensuring the district has high standards for fair and equitable access to education, to represent the community in the decision-making process, and to highlight and continue to build on the many successes of the district. Thank you for your support.

Jack C. Garvin
Incumbent

Education is my profession. Education is my passion.

My formal education began in the State of Washington at the age of 6 and



Gabriel Amaro Morales
Social Services Administrator

culminated in the State of Utah where I received my Doctorate at the age of 37 from Brigham Young University..

I taught in the classroom, served as a building principal, District level school administrator, and in 1976 was employed as the Associate Superintendent by the Orcutt Union School District. A few years later I was appointed Superintendent a position I held for 19 years, retiring in 1998. As the district matured into an outstanding school system, recognized both statewide and nationally for our excellent schools, I too was honored by the California State PTA, and the State Administrator Association. In 2000 I was presented with the prestigious Ferd Kiesel award for educational leadership, an annual award given to one administrator in California. I consulted School Districts and served as one of

the Adjunct professors at Chapman University before being elected in 2004 to serve on the High School Board of Trustees.

My number one priority has always been; Student safety, law enforcement officers stationed on every closed campus. Years of experience, the standards and practices learned and implemented in Orcutt has guided me in making decisions for all students to maintain and continue academic standards, reduced “drop out” rate, developing safety nets—especially during the current Pandemic we implemented safety protocols to keep our students and staff safe and someday soon our students and staff will be back in school.

Jennifer Melena
Athletic Trainer/Professor

I am running for a position on the SMJUHSD Board because I would like to contribute to the enrichment of our community. Being born and raised in Santa Maria, I feel as though I am naturally invested in the future of this community. The current board has laid down a great foundation for academic standards and I would enjoy the opportunity to create an environment for success and upward mobility in the community. I take pride in family, community and education

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SMJUHSD

Continued from page 4

and would flourish in the opportunity to give that back to the community that has provided for me.

This would be my first term serving on a school board. I do not bring a well-versed history of board service but I do bring a well-educated, equality-minded and professional demeanor. I have experience with administrative leadership as well as an affinity for teamwork. I believe my experience as a college professor has allowed me to refine skills in communication, connection, and discipline, all of which

will be useful as a board member.

Gabriel Amaro Morales

Social Services Administrator

I am running for this office to bring back a balance of power and decision making that should include not only Board members, but parents, students, teachers, the business community, and civic leadership. This will assure that every child in our school district receives a first-class education that will support their career choice and ensure that they will make a living wage regardless of any academic challenges as a student they may face. We need to bring more attention & support to our high school district on the positive impact it should have our local workforce an economy, and with my vast community relationships - I will be able to do that.

I have over 25 years' experience as an educator: 15 yrs. as a vocational school administrator, 10 years as High School District Employee, 4 Year as a consultant for the Dept. of Education, and 10 years' as Santa Barbara County Workforce Development Board member. Additionally, he was a finalist for the State of California Re-Districting Commission. If elected- I would be the only educator who has worked in the classroom that would be sitting on the school district board.

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Calendar

To submit your community event, email 50 words or less to info@orcuttpioneer.com by the second Wednesday of the month. Be sure to include, in this order, the name of the event, location, time, a short description and contact information.

All events are subject to change. Please contact the event or club sponsor to find out details about the organization/event and the meeting times.

SPECIAL EVENTS

ANGELS FOSTER CARE is looking for families in Santa Maria and Orcutt who want to make a difference in the life of a local foster baby or toddler. There are approximately 350 children in foster care in Santa Barbara County. About 40% of those children are under the age of six and roughly 75% live in and around Santa Maria. We want to ensure there is a stable family ready for every infant and toddler who needs a home.

To learn more about becoming an Angels Foster Care parent, please visit www.angelsfostercare.org or call 805-884-0012.

TRANSITIONS MENTAL HEALTH is offering a free and short eight week zoom class that educates family members about different mental illnesses, provides coping suggestions and how to communicate effectively with ill loved ones. Most of all, you know you are not alone in this daily challenge. Call or email Maria at mperez@t-mha.org (805) 441-3325

RIGHETTI HIGH SCHOOL BAND BOOSTERS is seeking sponsorship from local businesses. This will help support the dedicated students

in the Righetti Bands with their continued efforts in field shows and performances. We are looking for donations and would be more than happy to perform in exchange. <https://www.rhswarriorbands.org/>

BENT AXLE CAR CLUB is welcoming new members! Do you have a pre-1973 American-made car and would like to socialize with us (cruising, eating and having fun)? We also put on a car show the 3rd week end of July. Ann McKindley 805-714-6111

MONTHLY OR WEEKLY EVENTS

AMERICAN LEGION POST 534 Is located at 145 W. Clark Avenue in Old Town Orcutt. The Post will be hosting an outdoor BBQ that will be open to the public every 1st and 3rd weekends of the month; Friday 5-8PM and Saturday 1-8PM. Proceeds to support the Post and local veteran outreach. COVID-19 restrictions will apply for the safety of all members and the public. Come support Orcutt veterans. Post 534 will be prepared to fully open once legally allowed to do so.

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	Sally Smith Entrepreneur/Business Owner

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Airport Board to Fill One Spot, Two Candidates

Santa Maria Public Airport District, Director Division 5, Vote for One



*David Basket
Aviation Business Owner*



*Debbie L. Morawski
Businesswoman/Attorney*

David Basket
Director, Santa Maria Public Airport District

We have a large airport that should grow more aviation business with added high paying jobs.

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- A re-opened US Customs office which allows planes from other countries to land here without stopping somewhere else first.
- Becoming a renewable energy "island," not dependent on the troubled PG&E grid and able to supply Santa Maria with electricity if needed.
- Develop systems to protect the airport

and aircraft against dangerous drones that can cause aircraft to crash.

- Development of the research park to attract high end aviation and related technology centers.
- Introduce "green" aviation fuels.
- Establish flight schools for airplanes, helicopters, commercial drones, search and rescue, firefighting, and other special aircraft operations with the technical training to support them.
- Expansion of the US Forest Service fire base and better facilities for the emergency helicopters.
- Restoration of decaying, historical buildings.

Qualifications:

- An Aviation Professional
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- War Time Aviation operations
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- FAA Commercial, Airline Pilot and Instructor licenses.
- Licensed aircraft mechanic and inspector
- Strong international aviation ties
- Pilots' license in Peru and Germany

Debbie L. Morawski

Businesswoman/Attorney

Debbie Morawski is fourth-generation born and raised in Santa Barbara County. Her family history and future are deeply rooted in this community. Debbie is a local attorney and business woman. She has served in many roles from volunteer to board member with organizations such as Santa Barbara County Fair, Northern Santa Barbara County Athletic Roundtable, and Golden Circle of

Champions in collaboration with the Elks Rodeo.

Debbie's interest in the airport board began while working with her mentor and eventual business partner, Joni Gray, following the various development projects of the airport district. Debbie believes the airport is an unrefined gem of this community. As a board member, she will encourage business opportunities, work to continue expanding air service, and enhance community outreach and programming. As a lawyer, she looks forward to being an asset to the board by assisting with negotiations and working directly with airport tenants and neighbors to address their needs for business growth. "I want to be actively involved in the marketing of our airport to bring added airline services back for our residents and expand business opportunities inside and around the airport complex. I will bring positive energy in hopes of rebuilding a collaborative and cohesive working relationship with the other board members." Community outreach is very important to her, looking at events and educational programs for local youth to learn about aviation. The biggest event is the CentralCoast AirFest which she wants to see grow and for the board to expand with other events.



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Orcutt Schools Update

Busy Fall for District, Schools

Dr. Holly Edds, Superintendent, OUSD

In my most recent column, I detailed the Orcutt Union School District's plan for re-opening our schools to students. As an update, I can report that we are not yet ready to implement the plan. Although Santa Barbara County's rating for the spread of COVID-19 has as of this writing improved from "purple" (widespread) to "red" (substantial), we have made the decision to wait until December to consider when to re-open. Hopefully we will be ready to return to in-person learning following Winter Break.

Meanwhile, our district and schools have been exceptionally busy. What follows are news and notes from around the district.

Dr. Nick Taylor has been selected as the district's new assistant superintendent of business services. Dr. Taylor comes from the Kingsburg Charter School District, where he has been chief business official for the past six years. He previously taught in the Clovis Unified School District and served as a principal and director in the Sanger Unified School District. He will start in Orcutt on November 9, right after he is honored as the 2020 Association of California School Administrators (ACSA) Business Services Administrator of the Year. Welcome, Dr. Taylor! ...

Helena Avedikian has been selected as Alice Shaw School's new principal.

Avedikian comes from the Santa Maria-Bonita School District, where she has been a principal, assistant principal, and coordinator of human resources. She previously taught in the San Diego area. Welcome, Ms. Avedikian! ...

Avedikian replaces Jenee Severance, a longtime Orcutt principal who now will provide administrative support in our Special Education Department before retiring at the end of the school year. Students, families, and staff organized a drive-through celebration of Mrs. Severance on September 29. Thank you for your hard work over the years, Mrs. Severance! ...

Meanwhile, two Orcutt administrators have earned promotions. Leslie Wagoner moves from the Pine Grove School principalship to the position of executive director of technology and educational services. Michelle Boyd goes from being assistant principal of Orcutt Junior High School to succeeding Wagoner as principal at Pine Grove. Congratulations, Mrs. Wagoner and Mrs. Boyd! ...

Kudos to hourly teacher Jennifer Larrabee, who is making visual arts instruction exciting for district students in grades K-6. Each week Larrabee films video lessons based on the district's Arts Attack visual arts curriculum and

posts them on her web page, which she has entitled "The Art Room." She also contributes enterprise work such as a video interview with local painter Katy Smith and accompanying online gallery of Smith's artistry. By all accounts students are enjoying Mrs. Larrabee's art instruction - well done! ...

Continuing praise to the district's Child Nutrition Department, which continues to look for ways to support students and families in challenging times. The department's most recent innovation is a multi-meal pack distributed on Fridays to make sure students have food to eat on non-school days. Compliments to Director Bethany Markee and her staff! ...

Our schools' Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA) units have adapted to the restrictions of the pandemic. PTAs and PTSAs are meeting virtually via Zoom, enrolling members using online platforms, and organizing fund-raisers such as virtual auctions. Alice

Shaw School's PTA even organized a virtual fund-raiser where students and staff danced to a music remix together. Nothing will stop our PTAs and PTSAs! ...

Let's end with happy news on a small group of children who have returned to our campuses. On October 6 we resumed in-person instruction for Special Day Class (SDC) students on those sites that host these classes. The students were delighted to be at school once again, and SDC teachers and support staff can be thanked for giving their classes a warm welcome and for providing a comfortable transition back to a regular school routine. ...

In the months to come we will keep you posted on our progress toward re-opening our schools for all of our students. In the meantime, here's wishing all of you a wonderful October.

Superintendent Dr. Holly Edds can be contacted by phone at 938-8900 or by e-mail at hedds@orcutt-schools.net. She can be followed on Twitter at @hce101.

Classified Ads

Sell items for free. Free ads can only be accepted via email to info@orcuttpioneer.com with "classified" in the subject line. 25 word limit. Business ads only \$25/25 words. Mail payments to Orcutt Pioneer, PO Box 2545, Orcutt CA 93457.

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when we clean. Great References. Ann and Sue. 805-714-6111

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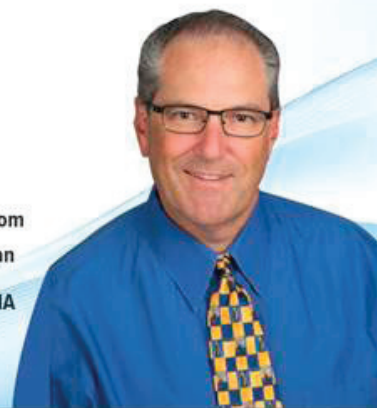
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