

Orcutt PIONEER

HAPPY Thanksgiving

FREE

Orcutt News for Orcutt Folks • Orcutt, California • November 2019 • www.OrcuttPioneer.com • Circulation 17,000+

Deadline: December 7

Deck the Homes for This Year's Fa La La Awards



2018 Griswold Award of Excellence winner.

"The Orcutt Fa La La Awards" launch their sixth year of holiday cheer!

The Orcutt Pioneer is looking for our community's best Christmas and holiday lights. If you think your house or a neighbor's house should win an award, e-mail us at OrcuttFaLaLa@gmail.com. In the e-mail include the homeowner's name and address. Only Orcutt residents will be considered and submissions must be received by Saturday, December 7 at 4pm.

On Saturday, December 7 and Sunday, December 8, between the hours of 5PM and 9PM our judges will drive by to evaluate

entries. Winners' names and addresses will be published in the December edition of the Pioneer.

Some of the honors will include: The Clark Griswold Award of Excellence, Best Lawn Display, Best Animated/Musical Display, and more. Prizes will be awarded with gifts from FaLaLa Award sponsors Back Porch Flowers and Gifts, State Farm-Donna Randolph, CORE Winery and more! If your business would like to sponsor an award, email info@orcuttpioneer.com

Be safe, and get busy hanging those lights!
Michael Shaw reporting

Hi-Way Drive-In For Sale Grassroots Group Forms to "Save the Hi-Way Drive-In"



The iconic marquee awaits the next feature. Schedules still show movies through November; no closing has been announced.

The drive in, which opened in 1959, has been a source of nostalgia and continuing entertainment for many who grew up in the area. The only other operating drive-in left on the Central Coast is San Luis Obispo's Sunset Drive-In.

Even though the fate of the Santa Maria Hi-Way Drive-In is unknown, community members are fighting to keep it open. When news broke, residents of Orcutt and Santa

Maria started circulating petitions, forming groups, and coming up with countless ideas to prevent its closure.

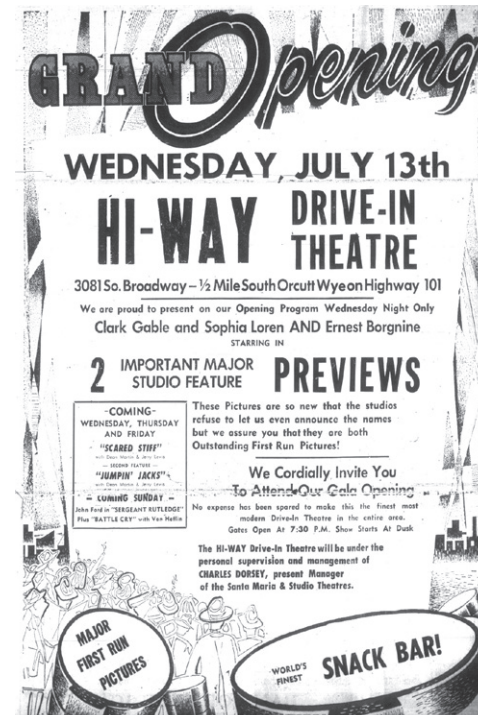
Monique Rubio, of Santa Maria, created a petition to the city on Change.org which has since garnered thousands of signatures. "It is the last and only good thing left that's part of our city," she wrote. "So many of us have memories growing up going to the drive in. Let's keep this place open and keep this drive in alive and up and running."

Christopher Weddle started a Facebook Group, Save the SM Hi-Way Drive-In, to bring supporters together and brainstorm ways to help keep it open. Weddle, who lives in Orcutt, has been visiting the theater since his family moved to the area in 1988. "I was almost 9-years-old when we started watching movies in the back seat of my parents station wagon facing out the back," he said. "I've now been taking my family, friends and all our kids to the same location for many years. We all love the Drive-In."

Members have since been flooding the group with ideas, from everything to reasoning with the owners to investing in the property as a group. "This area is losing its hometown feeling, so we need to save as much of it as we can," Weddle said.

The owners could not be reached by press time.

Jamie Guista reporting



1959 newspaper ad announces grand opening of the Hi-Way Drive-In.

The Santa Maria Way property that sits on 8.89 acres of land is listed for \$3.33 million by Lee & Associates. According to the listing, the city is encouraging residential development, but there's also potential for a commercial or mixed-use project.

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Orcutt News for Orcutt Folks

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Make the Season Bright for Those in Need



With the season of giving upon us, there are a couple of ways to help the less fortunate celebrate the holidays in our community.

The Foodbank of Santa Barbara County is seeking donations of 3,000 turkeys and chickens to provide holiday meals to local families who cannot afford them.

"Naturally, we see a huge increase in need for turkeys and whole chickens at this time of year," explained Paul Wilkins, Foodbank Director of Operations. "While the Foodbank continues regular operations to meet the day-to-day needs of families and individuals facing hunger, we look to the community to step up to meet this particular demand by helping local families have the holiday meal they deserve."

The 2019 Turkey Drive kicked off Oct. 28. Birds must be dropped off at the 490 W. Foster Road warehouse by Nov. 24 to ensure delivery in time for Thanksgiving. However, donations for other holidays can be made at the warehouse through Dec. 13.

Community members also have the option of sponsoring holiday meals online. A turkey is \$35 and vegetables are \$25, while an entire meal is \$75. As of press time, 33 percent of the \$5,000 goal had been reached. To

sponsor a meal, visit donate.foodbanksbc.org/mealsponsor.

Toys for Tots, a national program run by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, has also started its annual campaign for donations. New, unwrapped toys are being collected for children in need at several drop-off locations, including the fire department at 335 Union Ave. Toys must be dropped off by Dec. 16, according to coordinator Soledad Kennedy. In 2018, the program collected more than 6,000 toys that were distributed to nearly 4,000 kids.

"Toys for Tots brings the community together by giving to those whom are less fortunate, and ensuring that a child has a gift for Christmas," Kennedy said.

The fire department is also accepting non-perishable food items until Dec. 13. Some needed items are: peanut butter, baked beans, oatmeal, canned fruits, soups, pasta and vegetables.

Jamie Guista reporting.

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Old Orcutt Christmas Parade December 14

Participant Applications Available

A long standing tradition of Orcutt's holiday celebration, the Old Orcutt Christmas Parade is scheduled for Saturday, December 14 beginning at noon down Clark Avenue in Old Orcutt. Community groups, school groups, businesses and citizens are encouraged to decorate a float, sing carols, deck the streets and participate! Entry applications are available at Old Town Orcutt Market, 405 East Clark, Old Orcutt, or by visiting orcuttchristmasparade.org and are due by November 30. "The website includes all the information groups need to either enter the parade," says Kat Scott, one of the parade's volunteer organizers. Completed applications may be returned to Old Town Market.

This year, the parade will honor Friends of the Orcutt Library as the grand marshal. "The Friends are all volunteers, and they do a great job of raising the funds that keep the Orcutt Library open an accessible to all of us," says Scott. "The Friends commitment to Orcutt makes them the perfect honoree this year."

The parade is a fun small town event with bands, dancers, floats, and Santa has made a guest appearance every year since the parades inception in 1961 and this year is no exception.

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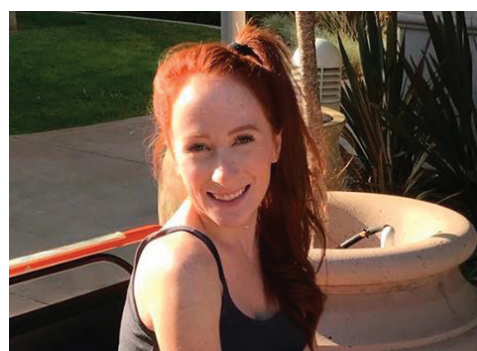
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Orcutt Caregiver Injured in Shooting in Santa Maria



A 26-year-old Orcutt woman continues to recover after being injured in a shooting on Aug. 27.

Sascha Adams, a caregiver, was in a client's home on the 1100 block of West Main Street in Santa Maria around 10 p.m. when she was shot. The bullet went through her right pelvic bone and lodged into her muscle. When it happened, there was only one thing on Adams' mind — her two-year-old daughter, Scarlett. "I got my phone and called my mom and told her to tell Scarlett that I loved her because I didn't know if I was going to live or not," she said.


Adams was not the intended target, according to the Santa Maria Police Department. Several shots were fired at a vehicle and home. One of the bullets went

through a window, hitting Adams, who explained the shooting was gang-affiliated.

After arriving at the hospital, her room was filled with concerned doctors and nurses. A CT scan was performed where the bullet was seen an inch away from her main artery. It was a miracle: If it would've hit her main artery, she could've bled out at the scene, she was told. "I survived something that in that moment I thought I wasn't going to live through," she said.

Doctors decided against removing the bullet due to potential complications, Adams explained. She attends physical therapy three times a week and will have her blood tested annually for lead poisoning. Adams learned to not take life for granted and urges others to do the same. "Cherish every moment of life because you never know what can happen," she said.

Jamie Guista reporting



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Orcutt Stroll and Tree Lighting

Ring in the Holidays Dec. 6

An evening of fun for the whole family December 6th Stroll starts at 5PM and Christmas tree lighting at 7PM. The evening will include many opportunities to eat, drink, shop and sing Christmas carols. Many businesses are offering specials and refreshments with a vintage tractor hay ride to taxi the guests through town.

Vintage Veranda Antique Mall will once again be hosting Mr. & Mrs. Santa Claus plus a very special appearance just for the youngsters, so bring your kids, camera and your holiday shopping list. Refreshments

provided.

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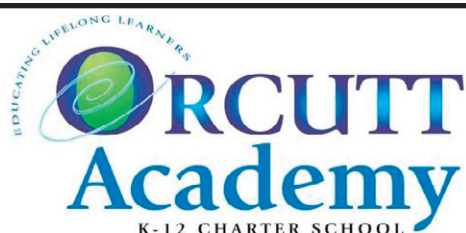
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Orcutt Academy Now Enrolling for 2020-2021

The Orcutt Academy is now accepting enrollment applications for the 2020-2021 school year. Enrollment applications for the Academy's K-8 and high school campuses are accessible online at www.orcuttacademycharter.net. The deadline for applications is 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 29, 2020.

All prospective parents are asked to attend a **public information night**. Additionally, all prospective students and parents are invited to attend a **campus tour** at the Academy site(s) in which they are interested. Following is a schedule of these events:

Weekday	Date	Location	Address	Time
Monday	November 18, 2019	Orcutt Academy High School Multi-use room	610 Pinal Avenue Old Orcutt	6:00-7:00 p.m. Information Night
Monday	December 2, 2019	Orcutt Academy High School Multi-use room	610 Pinal Avenue Old Orcutt	6:00-7:00 p.m. Information Night
Thursday	December 5, 2019	Olga Reed School Library	480 Centennial Street Los Alamos	9:15-9:45 a.m. Information Meeting
Monday	December 9, 2019	Santa Maria Public Library Shepard Hall	110 E. Cook Street Santa Maria	6:00-7:00 p.m. Information Night
Monday	January 13, 2020	Orcutt Academy High School Multi-use Room	610 Pinal Avenue Old Orcutt	6:00-7:00 p.m. Information Night
Tuesday	January 14, 2020	Santa Maria Public Library Shepard Hall	110 E. Cook Street Santa Maria	6:00-7:00 p.m. Information Night
Wednesday	January 22, 2020	OA Independent Study Program Multi-use room	3491 Point Sal Road Casmalia	9:15-10:15 a.m. OAIS Campus Tour
Thursday	January 23, 2020	Orcutt Academy K-8 Campus Gym	480 Centennial Road Los Alamos	9:15-10:15 a.m. OAK-8 Campus Tour
Friday	January 24, 2020	Orcutt Academy High School Multi-use Room	610 Pinal Avenue Old Orcutt	7:30-8:30 a.m. OAHS Campus Tour

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Renovation Makes Railroad History Marker a Showpiece of Old Orcutt



"In 1872, a narrow-gauge horse-drawn tramway was constructed connecting San Luis Obispo to the Hartford Pier at Port San Luis to transfer passengers and freight from the Pacific Coast Steamships which ran between San Diego and San Francisco," Orcutt Lion Marie Thompson told the crowd gathered on Clark Avenue for the rededication of the Pacific Railway Monument on October 19th in Old Orcutt.

"In 1882, the rail line extended to Santa Maria Valley and Orcutt," she said. "In 1904, William Warren Orcutt, who worked for the Union Oil Company was asked to create a town site due to the influx of families coming to work for the oil company. The town of Orcutt was laid out due to this site of the Pacific Coast Railway siding that was in place."

One hundred years later, in November of 1982, the Orcutt Lions Club dedicated a plaque at the original location of the Pacific Coast Railway right of way. It reads, in part: This railroad served as a major influence from 1876-1942 in the development of agriculture and commerce on California's Central Coast.

Fast forward to 2019 and Orcutt Lions Club President Mike Carroll wanted to clean up

the area around the plaque, which sits just to the left of the Old Town Quilt Shop. The area had become overgrown and the plaque barely visible.

"People had heard of it but didn't really know where it was because it was so overgrown with weeds and such," says Carroll. "Another thing, it is at ground level and hard to find. It was decided that we needed to draw more attention to it."

What started as a general clean-up (an effort to stop people from parking on top of the plaque!), turned into a full renovation. A railroad tie border was added to the concrete pad the plaque sits on, as were railroad tie plates and bedrock granite. A railroad crossing sign was installed in one corner, as was a map of the train's original route. To top it all off, a small corrugated metal roof was added with decorative metalwork announcing it as "Orcutt Station."

What was once a footnote of Orcutt history is now a showpiece.

"I've seen passer-bys actually stop and take a look now," says Carroll. "All the work has paid off. It is a small way of letting everyone know a bit of Orcutt history."

Rebecca Ross reporting

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Orcutt Schools Update

Next for Measure G: Campus Safety, Innovation Center

Dr. Debbie Blow, Superintendent, OUSD

Three years ago this month, Orcutt Union School District voters approved a bond measure, Measure G, that would fund facilities improvements districtwide. Measure G's implementation is now well under way, and I am pleased to report on projects we have planned for later this school year and the summer.

Work will be starting over Winter Break on a large-scale renovation of the cafeteria, kitchen, and adjoining restrooms on our Los Alamos campus. Because the project will run through the summer, we are making arrangements for interim kitchen and eating facilities that can be used by Olga Reed and Orcutt Academy K-8 students.

"When everything is done we will be able to do a better job with meals for our students," says Denise Stowe, head cook in Los Alamos.

In the weeks to come we will break ground on a district Innovation Center. To be constructed on the Orcutt Junior High School site just across Dyer Street from the district office, the center will be a 21st Century learning venue for staff and students.

"Our new Innovation Center will provide wonderful 'hands-on' learning opportunities for our students, teachers, and staff," says Kirby Fell, the district's chief technology officer. "The facility also will house our new data center, ensuring that our technology infrastructure is secure and

future-ready."

This summer, the district will continue its efforts to improve safety and security on our school sites. Pine Grove School, Lakeview and Orcutt junior high schools, and Orcutt Academy High School will receive perimeter fencing and gates and redesigned school office entry/reception areas. Additional security cameras will be installed at the secondary schools, and restrooms at OAHS will be upgraded. Pine Grove will benefit from the addition of a new parking lot south of the campus that will include a drop-off/pick-up area for parents.

"Site safety and security for our students and staff continues to be a focus as we launch the next round of projects," says Bill Young, the district's assistant superintendent of business services.

As we have done with past Measure G work, each project will be preceded by a town hall meeting to which school stakeholders are invited. At these meetings we outline the specific plans and timeline, share visuals of what the finished project will look like, and answer any questions that arise.

Summer 2020 figures to be a busy time in our district, as we are planning some other, non-Measure G initiatives. Three of our schools – Alice Shaw, Lakeview, and Orcutt – will receive a fresh coat of paint. (Other schools will be painted in the coming years.) Additional classrooms will

be installed to support our move to a full-day kindergarten schedule.

Finally, in this month of Thanksgiving it is appropriate to express gratitude for the progress made possible by Measure G. Five of our schools – Alice Shaw, Patterson Road, Ralph Dunlap, and Olga Reed and Orcutt Academy in Los Alamos – now feature new fencing, gates, and entrances that enable their campuses to be secured

when students and staff are at school. That is a noteworthy accomplishment, and we look forward to continuing Measure G's important mission in the months and years to come.

Happy Thanksgiving to everyone in our community!

Superintendent Dr. Debbie Blow can be contacted by phone at 938-8900 or by e-mail at dblow@orcutt-schools.net. Follow her on Twitter at @debblow.

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Community Events

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.

SPECIAL EVENTS

FUND RAISING CAR WASH Tuesday November 23, 9am-4pm to support medical expenses for 20 year old Cierra Rose diagnosed with leukemia. Quick & Clean Car Wash: 2544 S Broadway, SM & 25 W Hwy 246, Buellton.

ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION ETHNIC FOOD FAIR, Saturday, December 7, 10AM-2PM. Featuring foods from Greece, Russia, Romania, Syria, 877 Francine Lane, Corner of Bradley Rd. & Francine Lane. For more information call Luci Fetzko 805-264-2128

HOLIDAY CRAFT & VENDOR FAIR. Old Town Market parking lot. Shop before, during & after the Orcutt Christmas Parade on December 14. Last minute gifts for all. Info: Wendy Knapp (805) 260-2954.

AWARD WINNING TRI CITY SOUND CHORUS, a chapter of Sweet Adelines International, Christmas concert will be held at 7PM on Dec.12, with donations earmarked for the student scholarship program. Info: www.tricitysound.org or call 805-736-7572.

The musical "Annie" presented by Orcutt Community Theater will be performed at the KDA Studios in the Skyway Center, 3546 Skyway Drive, November 29th through December 22. 7 PM Fridays and Saturdays, 2 PM Sundays. This family-friendly play, with a Christmas theme, has been delighting audiences for over 30 years.

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/>

MONTHLY OR WEEKLY EVENTS

50+ CLUB LUNCHEON, at St Louis De Montfort Church Hall at 11:30AM on the second Thursday of the month. Event is catered with nominal charge. For reservations call Irene at 934-2511.

ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLIC AND DYSFUNCTIONAL FAMILY SYSTEMS meets 1) Sun at 4PM in the conference room of the Marian Extended Care Facility at 1530 Cypress Way and 2) Thur at 6PM in the Casa Del Rio Mobile Estates at 1124 N. Suey Rd. Contact Kim at (805) 714-6908 with questions.

AA (or Alcoholics Anonymous). If you want to drink, that's your business. If you want to stop, that's ours. Meetings Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 6:30PM Orcutt Presbyterian Church. General information and other meeting times and places, 925-3782.

ALL AMERICA CITY QUILT GUILD meets at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 4380 Orcutt Rd. on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm except March and July. Info: aacquilts@gmail.com or 805-937-4024.

ALTRUSA OF THE CENTRAL COAST meets at Noon on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month. Altrusa is an international non-profit organization of men and women that strives to make our local communities better through leadership, partnership

and service. For more information and meeting location call our president at 805.835.7627 or go to our website: www.altrusaofthecentralcoast.org.

AMERICAN LEGION POST 534 Breakfast 9-NOON on the first Sunday of each month. Public invited. 145 W. Clark Ave.

AMERICAN LEGION POST Veterans BBQ in Orcutt, 145 W. Clark Ave. 11AM-3PM or until sold out on the third Saturday of each month.

ALL YOU CAN EAT BREAKFAST at OASIS Senior Center, 420 East Soares, Old Orcutt on the second Saturday of each month 8-10AM: Adult members \$5, Non members \$7, Children under 10: \$3.



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