

Orcutt News for Orcutt Folks • Orcutt, California • November 2023 • Circulation 17,000+

## Graduates from Delta High School Often Say Best School Ever

*"At risk" students are proud of their alma mater*



Delta High School robotics team, left to right: Coach Fraser, Selena Olivas, Micheala Trujillo, Zia Perez, Emily Barrios, Connor Oliver, Adrian Lopez, Coach Cooper, Leilani Gaoshua Mendoza, Adan Roldan, Maria Navarro, Coach Gamora.

The principal at Delta High School, Nathaniel Maas, has a problem; he is disturbed with the perception of "at risk" often associated with students at the Orcutt continuation high school. "Lots of people say our students are 'at risk'. That carries a lot of negative connotations. How did the impression evolve and how could it be so wrong?" he asks.

The three-year principal points out that students 'at risk' are simply not on track for graduation. "They may have not passed a class and for some reason are not meeting State of California standards for graduation at their high school. So the Delta continuation school objective is to help students meet those standards by accelerating a student in math or reading, economics or whatever and challenging them so they can get caught up."

Delta High School's graduation rate hovers around 90 percent. That statistic is comparable to a comprehensive school. The diploma a student receives at Delta indicates the student has met the same graduation requirements as any accredited high school in the state.

The school has been honored as a California Model Continuation High School for the past 14 years.

The enrollment at Delta is not static; it's calculated differently than at a comprehensive school. As soon as the student earns 205 credits, he or she

graduates, and another incoming student takes his or her place.

The graduation ceremony of 500 to 800 students over the course of a year takes place at a local high school. Last year the celebration was at Righetti. Maas says the festivities always include "caps, gowns, balloons and crying grandmas."

The curriculum at Delta is based on three metrics: academics, attendance and behavior. The principal says almost all students do much better with these metrics than in their previous schools.

"Our teaching staff of 13 tries to find areas students are good at and build on those areas. Once students see success, we encourage them to engage in an area where they have struggled. They become confident in their ability to learn. We teach them there is not a discipline that they cannot master," Maas explains.

As an example of Delta student success, Maas reflects on the school's robotics 12-person team which recently won eight consecutive matches to place third among 34 statewide teams. The team has built three robots this school season.

Their instructor, Jeff Cooper, also teaches economics and history. Before teaching at Delta, he taught accelerated and college prep students at a comprehensive school in the Santa Maria Joint Union High School District.

*continued on page 6*

## Deadline: Saturday, December 2 at noon Deck Your Home with Lights for This Year's Fa La La Awards



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"The Orcutt Fa La La Awards" celebrates its ELEVENTH year of holiday cheer! This year's prize sponsors include Spencer's Fresh Markets, One Capital Financial Management Samantha Bakke, Kay's Country Kitchen/R Bar, State Farm Donna Randolph Insurance, Orcutt 76, Oak Knoll Hardware, Valley Hills Real Estate Gerry Corona, and Company's Coming.

We are looking for our community's best home holiday light displays. If you would like to nominate your home or a neighbor's home, e-mail us at [OrcuttFaLaLa@gmail.com](mailto:OrcuttFaLaLa@gmail.com).

In the e-mail, please include the homeowner's name, address and photographs of the display. The photographs should be the highest resolution possible since they may be printed in the December issue of the Orcutt Pioneer. Send 3-4 photos total, 1-2 of different aspects of the display, and 1-2 showing the overall effect. Photos taken at sunset when there is still some light outside print best.

Only Orcutt homes, defined as having a 93455 zip code, are eligible, and submissions must be received by Saturday, December 2 at noon.

The judges will consider two main categories of entries: Classic, those entries that have been consistent winners throughout the years, and Newcomers.

Our judges will be making the rounds on Saturday, December 2 and Sunday, December 3, between the hours of 5PM and 10PM to evaluate entries. The judges consider creative themes, amount of lights, unique features (e.g. music or homemade displays) and/or interactive elements when evaluating. The judges strive to be fair and select homes that give a range of unique and special sights.

Winners' names and addresses will be included in our December issue.

If your business would like to sponsor an award, please email [info@orcuttpioneer.com](mailto:info@orcuttpioneer.com)

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

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## Orcutt Pioneer Your Community Newspaper

### Orcutt News for Orcutt Folks

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**Editors:** Steve Southwick  
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**Reporters & Photographers:**

Steve Southwick

Stephanie Southwick Hull

James Jepsen

Michael Shaw

John Chamberlain

Juliann Hemphill

Katy Jacobson

Archie Miller

**Contact Phone:**

Business & Advertising: (805) 714-6584

**Postal Address:**

P.O. Box 2545, Orcutt CA 93457

**E-Mail address:**

info@orcuttpioneer.com

**Graphic Art Department**

James Jepsen, Art Director

pioneer@jamesjepsen.com

# Preparations in Gear for Orcutt's Holiday Festivities



Family and friends will have plenty to do in Old Orcutt on the first two weekends in December. On Friday, December 1, businesses in Old Orcutt will be open late from 5-9PM for the annual Christmas Stroll. Stores will offer activities, treats, and many will have discounts for shoppers looking for the perfect gifts for friends and family. At 7PM Orcutt's Christmas tree in front of the Lions Den will light up, along with caroling,

hot chocolate and cookies. "It's an evening not to be missed," says OOMA president April Huckabey.

Then on Saturday, December 9, Orcutt's Annual Christmas Parade will wend its way down Clark Avenue with the American Legion Color Guard leading the way. For the last 61 years, the excitement of the annual Orcutt Christmas Parade has entertained and delighted families from throughout

the Santa Maria Valley. The parade, weather permitting, will begin at noon.

This year's event will feature seventy-five to ninety entrants including local school bands, floats, families, service clubs, classic cars, and businesses decked out in their holiday best. Jolly old Santa Claus makes his sixty-first appearance.

The Ransome family, Karen, Jim, John A. and his wife, Carrie, is being honored as Grand Marshal. John R. Ransome, who recently passed away, served as Santa Claus's biggest helper in the parade for many years.

The Orcutt Volunteer Fire Department initiated the annual Christmas parade in 1961. Eventually, a group of citizens formed the Orcutt Community Foundation and with the support of the Orcutt Lions Club and with donors and volunteers, the parade has become a highlight of the Orcutt Christmas season.

If you or your organization would like to enter the parade, download the application at [OrcuttChristmasParade.org](http://OrcuttChristmasParade.org). Deadline is Friday, November 24th.

The parade is funded by sponsorships and donations. If you or your business would like to be a sponsor, visit the website or contact Elf Kat at (805) 863-2842 or [kat@krse.biz](mailto:kat@krse.biz). Your sponsorships and donations help make the Orcutt Christmas Parade an exciting holiday event for the Orcutt community.

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# County Animal Services Offering “Name Your Price” for November Adoptions



"Buddy", a husky, shown by volunteer Ann McMurray is available for adoption at Animal Services on Foster Road.

Sarah Aguilar herds cats...and dogs, and ducks. Even pythons. And that's for openers. Sarah Aguilar is the Director of Animal Services for Santa Barbara County. The flagship for County Animal Services is on 3 acres at 548 W. Foster Road with satellite facilities in Lompoc and Santa

Barbara. At last count the shelter had 65 dogs, 114 cats, four rabbits, six birds, a python and a chameleon. Aguilar also supervises all three County shelters. The shelters are facing a critical situation with the volume of animals in need of homes and are reaching out to the community for support. Animal Services has announced an expansion of operating hours to Tuesday through Sunday, between 10:00AM and 6PM, closed on Monday and holidays. In an effort to find homes for the approximately 1000 animals at the shelters or in foster homes, Animal Services is featuring a "Name Your Price" adoption option in November. The license fee for dogs is \$13 for a year. After you have paid for the license, "just name the price you are comfortable with," says Annie Funes, Marketing and Events Coordinator. This includes vaccinations, spay or neuter and a microchip. "If you get a dog from Craigslist, a breeder or even a friend, you will have additional costs for vaccinations and microchips. When you adopt from County Animal Services, all of these are included," Aguilar explains. All three shelters in the County are "no kill" facilities. The acceptable

benchmark for a "no kill" designation is 90% placement of animals. "We have exceeded that for several years. We treat each animal as an individual and identify each animal's needs to find placement for as many pets as possible." There are nine animal control officers who are assigned to the three offices. Also available are seven contract veterinarians who work when they are available. For animals with broken bones, major diseases or behavioral issues, outside contract help is used and often paid for by non-profit partners. The biggest partner is the Santa Maria based Animal Care Foundation of Santa Barbara County. Non-emergency Animal Services assistance for barking, fights, lost and found is available by calling (833) 422-8413. Aguilar emphasizes that for emergency incidents such as biting, chasing, aggressive behavior, or an animal attacking a pet, you should call 911. Complaints about barking dogs are tough to handle. "You need documentation, and you must go to court with a civil complaint. The best first step is to talk to your neighbor. They might not know their dog is barking when they

are not at home." "We always need volunteers," Aguilar says. "Volunteers help with marketing, writing press releases, sterilizing surgical packs, helping with laundry, taking photos, fundraising. Anybody with any talent, we can use!" If you are interested in volunteering or in creating a foster home for an animal until a permanent home can be found, please visit the Foster Road facility directly or call (833) 422 8413. Recently, Aguilar says she walked into a cat room and four cats climbed into her lap and went to sleep. "The animals are isolated, away from people twenty plus hours a day. Volunteers coming to spend time with them is so important to the animals' well being." Aguilar says if you want information about animal services, "we don't have enough people to answer phones, and because we don't know a lot about stray pets or which pets might be good fit for your family, we encourage folks to come into the shelter. Please use the website SBCAnimalServices.org. It has all the information about what we do and how you can adopt or volunteer." Steve Southwick reporting

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# Volunteers with Heat Seeking Drone Help Find Lost Pets



"Willow" (right) happily reunited after 10 days to Allen and Holly Johnson and sibling "Harley."

Willow, a seven-year-old German Shepherd, had been missing for three days when her owners, Allen, Holly and Aden Johnson solicited help from Orcutt resident Geoff Clinton, a volunteer who uses a high tech, infrared heat drone to help find lost pets. Clinton was an animal control officer for over 20 years and still spends his spare time helping to find lost pets.

Also on board to help find Willow is Debbie Warren, creator of the local FaceBook page called Orcutt/Santa Maria Lost And Found Pets. Warren, an Orcutt resident since 1988, is a lifelong pet rescuer. She will often be found barefoot "because

it's easier to run," and is known to spend nights in drainage ditches coaxing a lost pet to trust her.

Willow's search team meets one evening at the IHOP Resturant in Santa Maria and then moves to a nearby parking lot based on a reported sighting of a loose German Shepherd in the area.

Sightings help determine where to locate the drone. Clinton sets the drone off from a fold-up landing pad; it hovers with red and green lights flashing, before gliding away. Holding a seven-inch screen, he designated the search temperature to be 85 to 101°.

Immediately Clinton saw cats, "clear as if

I was viewing them on a TV; these cats are usually feral," he said. The drone performs best at night but is functional in daylight and in fog. It searches two square miles in 15 minutes with a 40 minute battery life and can zoom in on a mouse from 400 feet," Clinton adds.

No sign of Willow and the team moves to East Jones and Suey Roads. Clinton likes to set up away from busy roads because drivers get distracted when seeing the drone.

Still no Willow, so the team moves to near Pioneer High School. Unfortunately after three hours of searching, the team must give up, but only for the night. Clinton and Warren suggest that the Johnsons make posters using a bright colored background and an 8 x 10 photo of Willow. "Put them on fence posts, lamp-posts and places with lots of traffic like shopping centers where they will be easily seen," said Warren.

After spending the evening trying to find Willow, Warren headed to Waller Park by herself to look for a lost husky.

Warren explains the shelter on Foster Road is over-full, probably because of a tough economy. People are not having pets fixed and not picking up lost pets after they are found by others and brought to the shelter. Her FaceBook page, Orcutt/

Santa Maria Lost and Found Pets, has over 12,000 members who use the page to help find lost pets.

She says she is excited to have Clinton's infrared drone as an additional tool to help reunite lost pets with their owners.

Warren and Clinton are working on getting non-profit status and corporate sponsorships which would help them continue to offer services for free. Clinton hopes to have other people train to get a remote pilot's certificate license for drones and join him in helping people find their pets.

**Willow and the Johnson family have a happy ending.**

After ten long days and nights, Willow is found. After a reported sighting at the Betteravia Road Chevron

truck stop, Clinton's drone found a "heat signature" in a nearby field. A relieved and exuberant Willow is welcomed home to her family!

To see the reunion video, go to FaceBook with search words "Debbie Warren after 10 days."

To learn about becoming a drone pilot to help with pet rescues like Willow's, call Clinton at 805-458-5812 and join his group "Thermal Paws."

*Katy Jacobson reporting*



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Orcutt Academy High School and the Orcutt Academy K-8 Campus have begun taking online enrollment applications for the 2024-2025 school year. Four virtual information nights and two campus tours have been planned; please refer to schedule below. The Enrollment Lottery for 2024-2025 will be on February 7, 2024; the deadline for applications to be included in the lottery is January 31, 2024.

For the online enrollment application and links to the information nights, please go to the following link: <https://www.orcuttschools.net/oahs/academy-admissions/>

Weekday	Date	Time	Event
Thursday	November 9, 2023	6:00-7:00 p.m.	Virtual Information Night
Monday	December 4, 2023	6:00-7:00 p.m.	Virtual Information Night
Tuesday	January 9, 2024	6:00-7:00 p.m.	Virtual Information Night
Friday	January 19, 2024	7:30-8:30 a.m.	OAHS Campus Tour 610 Pinal Avenue, Old Orcutt
Friday	January 19, 2024	10:30-11:30 a.m.	OAK-8 Campus Tour 480 Centennial Street, Los Alamos
Monday	January 22, 2024	6:00-7:00 p.m.	Virtual Information Night
Wednesday	February 7, 2024	6:00 p.m.	Enrollment Lottery

For information, contact OAHS Principal Rhett Carter, [rcarter@orcutt-schools.net](mailto:rcarter@orcutt-schools.net) or 805-938-8590, or OAK-8 Principal Jared Banks, [jbanks@orcutt-schools.net](mailto:jbanks@orcutt-schools.net) or 805-960-5536.





### Orcutt Schools Update

## Investing Time, Training in Student Safety

*Dr. Holly Edds, Superintendent, OUSD*

For employees of the Orcutt Union School District, nothing is more important than the safety, health, and wellbeing of the 4,800 students we are proud to serve. Student safety truly is our No. 1 priority.

This school year, in concert with other school districts, law enforcement, and first responders from around the county, we have chosen to make safety training a focus. We have brought on a safety expert to train staff, refreshed our emergency plans, engaged all employees in discussions about how to respond to various crisis scenarios, and implemented physical security measures. Following is a report on our progress.

Orcutt's efforts come as part of a countywide emphasis on school safety. With support from law enforcement and fire departments, school districts have adopted the Standard Response Protocol (SRP) for reacting to emergency situations. Developed by the I Love U Guys Foundation, a national organization devoted to school and community safety, the SRP gives schools common practices and a common vocabulary for handling

emergencies.

The SRP consists of five separate protocols. "Hold" means teachers and students remain in their rooms or area and is used when hallways or a section of the campus need to be kept clear. "Secure" means everyone on campus needs to get inside and lock outside doors and is used to safeguard classroom occupants when there is a threat or hazard outside the school building. A "Lockdown" is called when there is an active assailant on campus and is used to secure and barricade individual rooms and keep occupants quiet and in place. "Shelter" is initiated for group and self protection during a weather emergency, earthquake, or Hazmat spill or release. "Evacuate" is called when there is a need to move people from one location to another for safety reasons.

Our employees were trained in the Standard Response Protocol by law enforcement veteran and nationally recognized security expert Jeff Solomon during the morning portion of the district's September 5 professional development

day. Solomon's presentation was followed in the afternoon by site sessions in which principals guided their staffs through a review of site emergency teams and their responsibilities, district emergency plans, and school safety plans.

Solomon returned at our most recent professional development day on November 1 to present on how to respond to active assailants. He emphasized the importance of physical measures such as keeping classroom and building doors locked during the school day, and we have implemented that practice. In the afternoon, staffs reviewed the SRP, discussed how to communicate with each other during emergencies, and completed the initial portion of Stop the Bleed training.

"Emergencies can and do happen, and this training is helping all of us to be ready for a lot of different possibilities," says Cheri Palin, office manager of Alice Shaw School. "The staff dialogue has been very valuable."

"I love the consistency across the district in terms of responses and terminology,"

says Molly Johnston, vice-principal of Orcutt Junior High School. "This has been a huge step forward."

"The training on Stop the Bleed was fantastic," says Orcutt Academy K-8 teacher Shauna Wilson. "I feel confident now that given that situation I could respond appropriately."

Our work on school safety is multifaceted in that it includes planning, training, physical security, and actual practice. It also will be ongoing, as we will continually revisit our plans and practice the components of the Standard Response Protocol. We regard our work so far this year as a critically important investment in student safety and will keep you posted on our efforts.

Here's wishing all of you a wonderful Thanksgiving!

*Superintendent Dr. Holly Edds can be contacted by phone at 938-8900 or by e-mail at [hedds@orcutt-schools.net](mailto:hedds@orcutt-schools.net). She can be followed on Twitter at @hce101.*

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# Delta High School

continued from page 1

Maas says teachers at Delta also may teach art, drama, web design or whatever will help a student succeed.

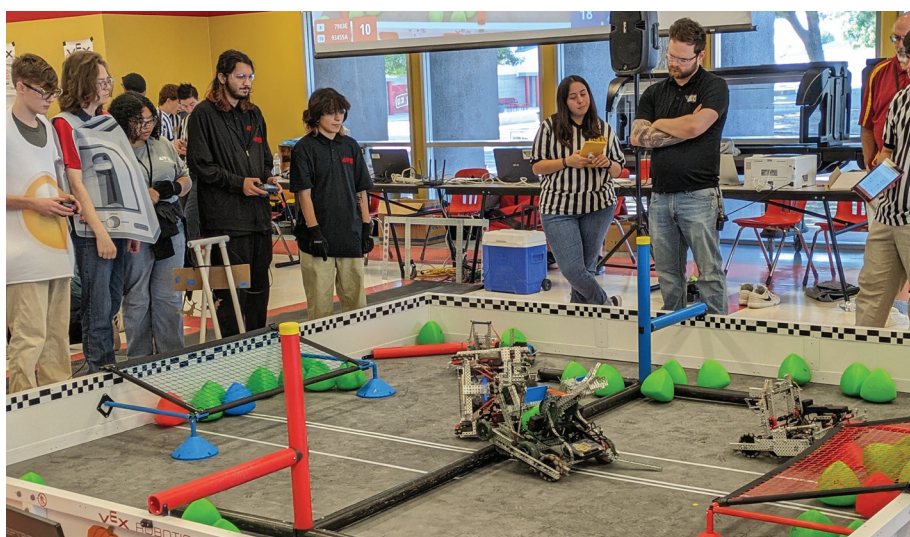
Heather Ortiz teaches sewing. Her students learn the basics of fabrics, using the sewing machine and stitching. One of her students, 16-year-old Elena, while making pajamas says, "I like Delta, I feel comfortable here. At my previous school I felt like I was being pushed through the system. Nobody really cared."

Maas explains the staff is not concerned that every student is on the same page. "The emphasis on personal, individual success counters the loss of esteem that comes from repeated negative consequences. This may cause depression and may stimulate negative behavior."

Security at Delta is under the direction of Sebastian Perez. He says the atmosphere at Delta is significantly different than on the campus of a comprehensive school. "We try to be proactive; if we see tensions between students, we solve disagreements before they escalate."

However, Maas also says Sebastian can control almost any situation, "he has a black belt in jujitsu."

A typical day at Delta is divided into two sessions. The morning session runs from



Delta High School's robotics team recently won eight consecutive matches to place third among 34 statewide teams. The local team built three robots for the season.

8:30 to 11:30 AM; the afternoon from 12:30 to 3:30 PM.

The lunch hour between sessions is usually filled with students who voluntarily come for sports or robotics or whatever other activity they are interested in. Each session has about 200 students. The entire student body convenes on Friday mornings. Afternoon staff development concludes the state mandates that the students be in class 15 hours a week.

Maas says many students come from home situations that are not ideal. "Several students are sleeping on mats. Sometimes the home environment is not conducive

to maximum learning." Many students have employment to help to support their families.

Statewide research says that Delta grads attend college or trade schools at lower numbers than students from comprehensive schools. However, Steve Molina, current director of Student Services for the high school district and former Righetti principal, says research shows college or trade school enrollments from Delta are low for the first couple of years after graduation. However, after three or four years, the numbers jump. Many former Delta students enroll in universities in Texas, Colorado and California.

A few days after accepting the principal position, Maas was invited to visit the Element Christian Church across the street from the Delta campus on Bethany Lane. The congregation had built a storage shed full of clothes and school supplies that the school has access to 24/7. He was told it would always be available and is full of necessities for students and their families.

Members of the church support the school in other various ways; they have provided holiday dinners, prom dresses, Halloween and Valentine activities. Maas says the "kindness they have for our students is amazing."

"No, we don't offer all the enrichment classes that comprehensive schools can offer; but our students feel the love and support they need at whatever academic stage they are at. Delta students meet the same standards as every high school student in California. I am proud of the work we see here. Whatever label a student has coming into Delta becomes history. Often, I hear parents say, 'I have my kid back.'"

Glynda Maddaleno is the Dean of Students at Delta. As her principal is leaving her office, we ask how she feels about her job. She yells, "best school ever."

She should know. Glynda, a certificated teacher, graduated from Delta High School.

Steve Southwick reporting

**BIG Holiday WISHES**

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# Birdwatching in Orcutt and the Central Coast of California



The Central Coast of California (Santa Barbara to Morro Bay) is one of the premier birdwatching locations in the United States, if not the world. While the Orcutt/ Santa Maria area doesn't have the birding reputation of Santa Barbara or Morro Bay, it is still an incredible location for diverse and rare birds. In the future I will highlight rarities, migrants, backyard birds and

California specialties.

A few weeks ago, a really cool rare bird showed up in the northwest portion of the Santa Maria Cemetery. A male bird called a vermilion flycatcher, common in Arizona and Texas but quite rare here, has been reported numerous times. This little flycatcher (sparrow sized) is one of the most striking birds found in the United States. The male is bright red with dark wings. He is relatively easy to identify. He likes to perch in open locations (power lines and on exposed tree limbs). From there, he hunts insects. He will swoop down to catch his prey and then return to his exposed hunting perch.

While vermilion flycatchers are somewhat rare for our area, when they do show up in the winter, they usually stick around until spring. Another vermilion flycatcher has been reported at Jack O'Connell Park in Guadalupe, and has returned to this location for the last few years. He can be found near the parking lot.

Watch for future articles on our wonderful birding opportunities.

*John Deacon has been birding in Orcutt and vicinity for over 40 years. He can be reached at [iseekbirds@verizon.net](mailto:iseekbirds@verizon.net).*

# Meet Shy



Shy is a 1-year-old cat, and one of the 114 cats and kittens available for adoption at Santa Barbara County Animal Services. It's so overcrowded that many are living in cages in the hallway. She may be shy at first but is actually very affectionate. Visit the shelter at 548 W Foster Road and in the spirit of November and gratitude, Santa Barbara County Animal Services is running a special promotion where adopters get to set their own adoption fee. Adopting Shy or any other lovable animal not only gives them a second chance but also supports a great organization.

## Classified Ads

Sell items for free. Free ads can only be accepted via email to [info@orcuttpioneer.com](mailto:info@orcuttpioneer.com) with "classified" in the subject line. 25 word limit. All ads must be received by the first Monday of the month. Business ads only \$25/25 words. Mail payments for business ads to Orcutt Pioneer, PO Box 2545, Orcutt CA 93457.

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Lawn Care. Liability insured, bi-monthly residential & commercial, one-time cleanup, miscellaneous jobs. weed clearing, free estimates. Jim Reid 805-938-1402 Lic #36524

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Shadowsfund, Senior and Pit Bull Rescue in Lompoc is looking for volunteers and dog walkers. [Shadowsfund@gmail.com](mailto:Shadowsfund@gmail.com)

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## "We Love Orcutt" Signs Available at Steller Home



People keep asking where they can get the "We Love Orcutt" signs that have been popping up throughout Orcutt neighborhoods. The signs are available for \$10 (cash only) at Steller Home, 255 S. Union, Old Town Orcutt.

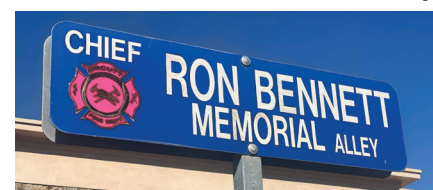
Earlier this year, developer Michael Stoltey proposed that 43.75 acres on four parcels of land at the corner of Union Valley Parkway and Orcutt Road be annexed to the

City of Santa Maria. The annexation, he said, is necessary because under County and State requirements, the only way that the development can receive water for commercial development is by way of annexation to the City.

The proposal is currently being reviewed by the City's planning department.

Steve LeBard spearheaded the drive to make the signs available as a show of opposition to the proposed annexation. "I am opposed to it, and I think that most of the residents in Orcutt are opposed to it," he said.

## Fire Station Story Correction



Ron Bennett memorial sign on Pacific Street in Old Town Orcutt.

In our October story regarding Orcutt's fire station history, we said, "the consolidation of the fire district with the County in 2008 was initiated by Firefighter Ron Bennett with Brett Pickett serving as interim chief until the consolidation was complete."

The Pioneer received information from the family of Ron Bennett that Ron worked his

way to Assistant Chief under acting Chief Kirk Mang. When Chief Mang retired, he selected Ron to be the next chief. Ron served in that capacity from June 2003 until his passing in November 2007.

Ron's father, Jerry Bennett asks, "Please give our son credit for making all the transitions from a volunteer fire department to a County department. The stress of the decisions he had to make greatly affected him."

As an added note, the Orcutt Pioneer requested that all sources for the story verify the information before publication. In addition, we left several messages to Public Information Officers of the County Fire Department for verification. We received no response.

We apologize for the incorrect information.

## Trenkle Honored with Dedication at Orcutt Community Park



Tim Trenkle relaxes on the newly installed bench dedicated in his honor.

The Orcutt United Soccer League (OUSL) honored long time league president, Tim Trenkle earlier this month with the dedication of a park bench at the Rice

Ranch soccer fields in Orcutt Community Park.

Tim has spent endless hours at these fields coaching soccer and was president of OUSL from 2002 to 2022. In addition to his service to the soccer league, Tim also coached and was on the board of Orcutt Babe Ruth and Orcutt National Little League baseball and coached football and baseball at Valley Christian Academy. Tim has worked with the Boy Scout organization and as a youth leader at First Christian Church in Orcutt.

Interestingly, OUSL adopted its purple and white colors because purple was Tim's daughter's favorite color.

In his spare time, Tim works as an engineering consultant for NASA managing ground operations. He is a Navy veteran, and Veterans' Day was chosen for the park bench dedication to further honor Tim's and all veterans' service to our community.

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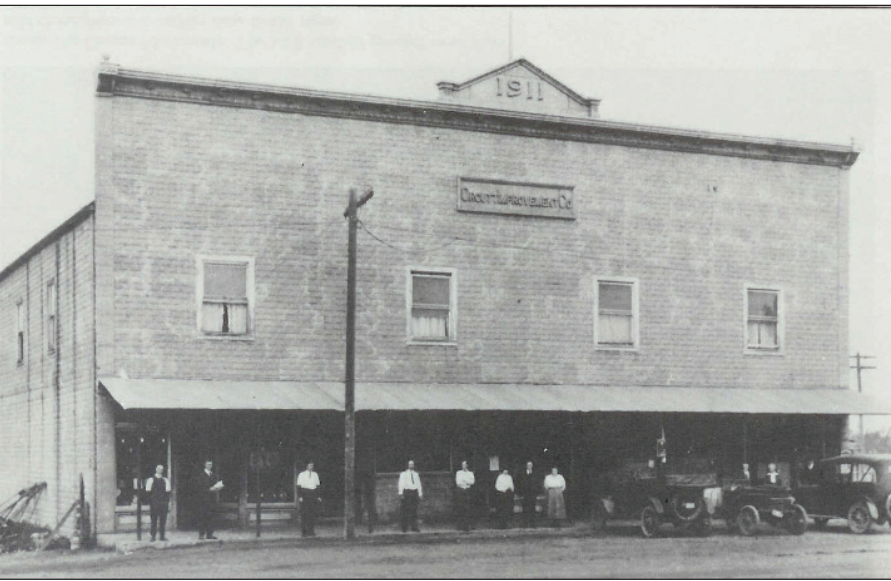
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# Orcutt's Heyday at the Turn of the Last Century



Orcutt experienced its heyday between 1904 and 1920, becoming a larger trading center than Santa Maria. By 1906, the town had two general stores, a furnishing store, a millinery shop, a vegetable and fruit market, a meat market, an ice cream parlor, two restaurants, a hotel, three saloons, two barber shops, a livery stable, a blacksmith shop, a post office, a shoe store, three oil well supply companies, a railway depot and siding, the Union Oil Company headquarters and the offices of the local Standard Oil Company operations. James F. Forbes built the first store in Orcutt, part of which consisted of the old Graciosa School, which he had moved from the southwest corner of Clark Avenue and Marcum Street to his property on the southwest corner of Clark Avenue and Broadway. The entire

structure, however, was destroyed by fire in 1910. In fact, most of the commercial structures constructed during Orcutt's initial period of development were in later years destroyed by fire or torn down. According to Adelina Phillips, descendant of the pioneer Marcum family and longtime Orcutt area resident, the only commercial building remaining is the Commercial Hotel. It was built in 1905 and operated by members of the Marcum family. During the early development period, the town's residential area also grew. Twitchell's Addition was laid out north of the original town; that is, on the north side of Clark Avenue. Gray's Division was just east of First Street. Longtime Orcutt residents maintain that some of the original homes built in these sections of town are still in use. By 1921, the town

had grown to include a hospital, a bank, a reading room and branch library, a church, a school, three garages and filling stations, and two dance halls. The locally prominent Orcutt Mercantile was built in 1911 on the southwest corner of Clark Avenue and Broadway, after James F. Forbes' first store was destroyed. A landmark in Orcutt for many years, it too burned down in 1959. The first official Orcutt School, a two-room, wooden structure, was located on the north side of the 300 block of Clark Avenue. It was torn down in the early 1920s. However, the hospital, church, and bank buildings are still standing. While many people lived and worked in the town, a large population center also developed in the hills to the south. Oil workers' camps were established among the derricks on the hillsides. Workers and their families lived there for years, first in "tent cities" and later in cottages. Many of the houses were built by the Union Oil Company employees. The population in the hills was large enough to require the formation of three additional school districts between 1904 and 1908. Bicknell and Careaga districts, established in 1904, were south of the Graciosa Ridge. The Newlove School District, established in 1908, was located on Union Oil Company property on Newlove Hill (now called Orcutt Hill) just southeast of Old Town Orcutt. The school constructed by the district is the only early

school building remaining in the Orcutt area. A large, two-room structure, it is used today for community gatherings. Public services in the Orcutt area were primitive in the boom years. There was no public sewer, electricity, or fire protection in the town until the 1920s. Roads were unpaved for many years. The main oiled County Road, laid out in 1861, came up from Santa Barbara, passed through Los Alamos, ran westward, down the San Antonio Valley and turned northward through the Graciosa Pass. The road veered right to turn into Orcutt (where it was called Clark Avenue), proceeded through the heart of town, and then turned left to continue running northward toward Santa Maria. It was taken into the state highway system in 1909 and renumbered Route 2, but no improvements were made until 1915. The road was also a segment of the main San Francisco-to-San Diego coastal highway. Travelers stopped to eat and rest in Orcutt; their patronage was important to the local economy for many years. *This column is taken from, From Boom Town to Bedroom Community: A History of Orcutt, California, 1904-1982, by Sally L. Simon. Unfortunately, the book is currently out of print.*

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## Community Events

Do you have a special event, fundraiser, or community activity you would like our readers to know about? Whether it's a one-time event or an monthly or weekly happening, we want to help you get the word out. Email 50 words or less to [info@orcuttpioneer.com](mailto:info@orcuttpioneer.com) by the first Monday 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 meeting times.

### SPECIAL EVENTS

**Orthodox Church of the Annunciation Ethnic Food Fair.** Saturday, 12/2/23, 10AM to 2 PM. Featuring homemade foods and baked goods from Greece, Ukraine, Romania, Syria. 877 Francine Lane, Santa Maria. Info: Luci Fetzko (805)264-2128.

**FREE LUNCHES FOR SENIORS AT OASIS CENTER** provided by the Central Coast Commission for Senior Citizens and will be served four days a week. RSVP by calling (805) 925-9554, option 1 or e-mail meals@CentralCoastSeniors.org.

### MONTHLY OR WEEKLY EVENTS

**50+ CLUB Meeting/Luncheon** at Giavanni's Pizza, 1108 E. Clark Ave. at 11:30AM on the second Thursday of the month, purchase our own lunch, meet & share ideas and support local charities. New members welcome. Pam Cosma 805-896-6045.

**AA (Alcoholics Anonymous).** If you want to drink, that's your business. If you want to stop, that's ours. Meetings Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 6:30PM Orcutt Presbyterian Church. General information and other meeting times and places, 805-925-3782.

**ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS AND DYSFUNCTIONAL FAMILIES** ([www.adultchildren.org](http://www.adultchildren.org)) meets on Thur, Fri, Sat, and Sun. Contact Kim at (805) 714-6908.

**AGAPE School of Christion Education** now enrolling K-12 sliding scale (805) 614-9292.

**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](mailto:aacquilts@gmail.com) or 805.448.6276.

**ALTRUSA OF THE CENTRAL COAST** meets at 6PM 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 805 478-9243 or go to our website: [www.altrusaofthecentralcoast.org](http://www.altrusaofthecentralcoast.org).

**BREAKFAST** at The OASIS Center, 420 Soares Ave, Old Orcutt on the second Saturday of each month, 7:45-10am. Adult members: \$7.00, Non-members: \$8.00, Children under 10: \$5.00.

**AMERICAN LEGION POST 534** is now open to all members Thursday 3-9, Friday 3-10PM, Saturday noon-8PM, Sunday noon-6PM, Monday 3-8PM, Closed Tuesday and Wednesdays.

**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](http://www.angelsfostercare.org) or call 805-884-0012.

**ATTENTION ALL MAGICIANS!** Please join our local magic club. Meet once a month. All ages and skill levels welcome. Text Tom Becker (805) 720-1164

**BEADING** at The OASIS Center, 420 Soares Ave, Old Orcutt on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays each month, 9:00-12:00pm.

**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)? MaAnn McKindley 805-714-6111

**BSA Troop 87** in Orcutt. Enjoy outdoors camping, hiking, fishing, snow & water sports, etc. Scouting provides an opportunity to try new things, build self-confidence, provide service to others, and reinforce ethical standards that improve relationships, family lives, and values. [ronterry4543@gmail.com](mailto:ronterry4543@gmail.com)

**BSA Orcutt Scout Troop 91**—Inviting interested families and children ages 10-17. Intrigued about the natural world? Like to learn about camping, hiking, backpacking? Build self-esteem, make new friends and learn leadership skills? Meetings are every Tuesday 7pm at The Hut, in Pioneer Park. Contact Scoutmaster Jim at [Calahane@aol.com](mailto:Calahane@aol.com) or 805-698-8665.

**BILINGUAL WORSHIP SERVICES** at Christian Life Church every Sunday at 1PM, Oasis Senior Center located at 420 Soares Ave., Old Town Orcutt, CA. 93455. Pastor Sam & Sylvia Orozco, 719-660-9789. Looking forward to meeting you!

**CAMPING LOVE OF ADVENTURE** is a nonprofit single adult camping club. We meet the second week of each month on Wednesday. Information: Elaine 805-937-5357

**CENTRAL COAST BEACH BOARDWALKERS WALKING CLUB.** Call Club President Ty Fredriks at 805-714-1552 for information.

**CENTRAL COAST CONJURERS**, local Magicians Club, looking for those interested in learning magic. Contact Tom Becker, send text message to (805) 720-1164. We meet one evening a month.

**CENTRAL COAST CHORDSMEN** invite those who would like to sing or would like to learn to participate with them. Call 937-7960 for information.

**CENTRAL COAST CORVETTE CLUB** open to Corvette Owners and Enthusiasts. meetings at 7PM on the first Thursday of the month @ Home Motors, showroom lobby at 1313 E. Main St., Santa Maria. Info: call Mike @ 805-934-3948 or Mike @ 805-709-6221

**CENTRAL COAST COMPUTER CLUB** meets at OASIS Center Main Hall, 420 Soares Ave., on the third Tuesday of the month at 6PM with Q&A workshop session, coffee and cookies. Main program presentation begins at 7PM. Information: Mark Green 602-326-6828.

**CENTRAL COAST CRUISE NIGHTS** invites all car collectors to join us on the 4th Saturday of the month. We meet at the Golden Donut in Orcutt, depart at 6pm, and drive into Old Orcutt. Afterwards, grab a bite to eat and support our local businesses.

**CENTRAL COAST SAMS RV GROUP** meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month for a 3 day "campout". We enjoy planned tours, good food and fellowship at local campgrounds within 100 miles of the Central Coast.


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## Community Events

We welcome new members. Contact Faye Cardoza 805-481-1047.

CENTRAL COAST SUDOKU CLUB – Ready to take your SUDOKU solving skills to the next level? Monthly “step-by-step” solutions to “Tough” puzzles in a “Skype” game format. Email BobG at stepbystepsudoku@verizon.net for more information. For examples, search YouTube for SUBingDOKU.

COASTAL VALLEYS MARINE CORPS LEAGUE 1340 monthly meeting on the fourth Tuesday of the month held at Veteran's Memorial Bldg at 313 W Tunnell in Santa Maria at 7PM.

COASTAL VOICES is looking for singers to join us! Rehearsals are held Mondays, 6:30PM, at St. Andrew United Methodist Church, 3945 S. Bradley Rd., Santa Maria. All participants must be fully vaccinated against COVID. A love of singing and the willingness to work hard and learn beautiful music is the only requirement. Check our website at <http://www.coastalvoices.info/>. Singers can contact us at [coastalvoices@gmail.com](mailto:coastalvoices@gmail.com) or call 937-5827 for additional information.

COMMUNITY BIBLE STUDY, an international non-denominational Bible study, runs through May 1, 2024. Meets weekly on Wednesday mornings from 10:10am to 12pm, at Grace Baptist Church in the Ed Building. <https://santamaria.cbssclass.org/>

CRESTWOOD CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP (Non-Denominational) 1265 W. McCoy Lane, Ste A, Santa Maria, CA 93455, 925-7500. An All Volunteer Church concentrating on teaching the word of God and using our resources to help the poor in love thru service. Come find out what it is like to "Do Church Differently."

CRIBBAGE ANYONE? The Santa Maria Cribbage Club is looking for new members. We meet every Monday@IHOP@noon. We play 9 games against different opponents. If you love cribbage, please join us. Contact: Debbie @ (805)598-1867

CUB SCOUT PACK 91 welcomes boys and girls, grades K-5 to join us. Scouting teaches children about their community, citizenship, service to others, and outdoor adventure. To learn more about us visit [www.pack91orcutt.org](http://www.pack91orcutt.org) or call us at 253-CUBS. DEMOCRATIC CLUB OF SMVALLEY meets every 3rd Thursday at IHOP, 202 Nicholson Ave, Santa Maria. Social at 6:00 PM, guest speakers at 7:00. Business meeting for members follows. Call 805-349-2708 or visit [www.santamariademocrats.info](http://www.santamariademocrats.info) for more information.

EVANGELISTIC SERVICE 105 S. Broadway, Santa Maria, CA 93455 (Old Orcutt), Sundays at 6:30PM, Worship with us. Pastor Jesse Pinheiro (805)937-6536.

EXCITING BIBLE STUDY at Revival Tabernacle, 105 S. Broadway, Santa Maria, CA 93455 (Old Orcutt) Wednesdays at 7PM Join us as we explore God's word. Pastor Jesse Pinheiro

FREE EXERCISE GROUP 9AM Saturday mornings throughout June and July. Emphasis on walking and/ or running the 1/4-mile-long Harbor Church Trail at 751 E. Foster Road. Ages 4 - 94 welcome. Questions? David Dantzer at (805) 937-0213.

FAMILY FUN NIGHT 6-8PM. Last Friday of the month @ Unity Church, 1165 Stubblefield, Orcutt. Bring games and food to share. (805) 937-3025.

FIRST FRIDAY BURGER NIGHT at Orcutt Lions Den, 126 South Broadway Street in Old Orcutt, 6-8 p.m. Orcutt Lions Club is serving hamburgers and fries, plus homemade pie, on the first Friday of the month. Bar will be open. Call 805-934-1246 for more information.

FOUR-PART BARBERSHOP HARMONY FOR WOMEN who love to sing. For additional information, call 805-736-7572. We love to sing for special occasions. Rehearsals on Thursday nights, 6:45PM, Lutheran Church of Our Savior, 4725 S. Bradley Rd.

GROWING GROUNDS FARM STAND open Thursdays from 12-6PM. Come and enjoy fresh vegetables, flowers and plants. Located on the corner of Foster Rd and California. For more information call 934-2182.

GUIDE DOGS FOR THE BLIND PUPPY RAISERS. Raise a puppy and change someone's life. Meet once a month. For more information contact Jack Brey at 805-598-9397

HEARTHSTONE EDUCATORS Christian support group for home educators. Meeting for those considering homeschooling on the second Thursday of each month at 7PM. Call Cheryl Kliewer for more information (937-7099)

HEALING GRIEF CLASS an 8 week support class for the newly bereaved held 5 times a year (Tues 10AM-Noon at Marian Residence) and a Grief Recovery Support Group every Tues. 3-4:30PM at Marian West, 505 E. Plaza Drive in Santa Maria. Info on either group: Marian Hospice at 739-3830

INTERESTED in attending in-depth healing groups? Led by Pastor and Holy Spirit. Celebrated in members' homes. Info: Pastor Victor at (805) 878-1033 or Carl Buck at (805) 478-6198

INVESTMENT GROUP at The OASIS Center, 420 Soares Ave, Old Orcutt on the 1st and 3rd Mondays each month, 9:30-10:30pm. Educational group, no fees.

JOIN THE CUB SCOUTS. Pack 93 of Orcutt Camping, hiking, lots of outdoor activities. Family oriented pack. Siblings are invited! Join the fun of the most exciting Cub Scout pack around. Contact Cubmaster Paul Rodarte at 478-3538 or for more information check out Pack 93's website: [www.lospadrespack93.com](http://www.lospadrespack93.com)

JOIN US FOR THE EPIC: A JOURNEY THROUGH CHURCH HISTORY in Room 2-Parish Community Center, Monday evening, 7:30-9PM. For more information contact Trent Benedetti, 922-4881, [trentb@benedettcpa.com](mailto:trentb@benedettcpa.com) or Steve Stanley, 937 1353, [ssvs@verizon.net](mailto:ssvs@verizon.net).

LIFE IN FOCUS, 105 S. Broadway, Santa Maria, CA 93455 (Old Orcutt), Every Wednesday from 6-7PM. An evidence-based free program helping to rebuild our communities one person at a time. Changing lives. One family at a time. Julie Fernandez (805)704-2646

Want to learn more about Magic? Join the local Magicians Club, Central Coast Conjurers. Contact Tom Becker, send text message to (805) 720-1164. We meet one evening a month.

MOMS CLUB OF ORCUTT is a chapter of the MOMS Club International and is dedicated to supporting moms who are looking for exciting and fun things to do with their small children. Find us on Facebook at MOMS Club of Orcutt or email [orcuttmomsclub@gmail.com](mailto:orcuttmomsclub@gmail.com)

NEWCOMERS CLUB - Santa Maria Valley women's group meets monthly for lunch, coffee, special events and to have fun. Join us! Call Barbara Chappell 614-6800.

ORCUTT AREA ADVISORY GROUP. Mid-State Bank and Trust, 1110 East Clark Avenue on the fourth Monday of each month at 7:30PM. Guests are always welcome. Info: 805-937-1861

ORCUTT CHRISTIAN CHURCH offers a FREE class on the Fundamentals of the Christian faith on

the 2nd and 4th Mondays from 2-3PM, 204 Patterson Rd. ORCUTT DONUT DERELICTS is an informal car club that meets every Sunday, rain or shine, in the parking lot outside the Golden Donut from 8-10AM. Everyone is welcome.

ORCUTT LIONS CLUB meets the 1st Wednesday of the month at the Orcutt Lions Den, 126 South Broadway, at Clark Avenue in Old Orcutt. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for socializing; the meeting starts at 7PM. Meetings are open to the public. Call 805-934-1246 for more information.

ORCUTT SCOUT TROOP 91 Invites interested families and children ages 10-17. Intrigued about the natural world? Like to learn about camping, hiking, backpacking? Build self-esteem, make new friends and learn leadership skills? Meetings are every Tuesday 7pm at The Hut, in Pioneer Park. Contact Scoutmaster Jim at [Calahane@aol.com](mailto:Calahane@aol.com) or 805-698-8665.

PATHWAY FAMILY SERVICES is a faith based foster family agency that places children in certified homes and offers support to those who want to become foster parents. We offer free training and monetary compensation for qualified families. For more information call 805-739-1111.

PATH POINT, a non-profit organization that has provided services for individuals with disabilities and disadvantages since 1964, is currently seeking donations of vinyl or leather chairs and/or couches for the day program. Contact Gail @ 934-3537 ex. 110 for questions or donations.

PATHWAY FAMILY SERVICES seeks families willing to open their homes to foster growth, love and stability within the life of a foster child. Pathway is a non-profit agency will a full team of social work staff, who provide support in home to our resource parents 24/7 and is looking to expand countywide. In-home training, assistance with the certification process are included in the process. To learn more, call 805-739-1111 or go to [www.pfsffa.org](http://www.pfsffa.org).

PUGS IN THE PARK, meet every second Sunday of the month, 2-4PM, Orcutt Community Small Dog Park, 5800 S. Bradley Rd., Orcutt, CA.

ROTARY CLUB of SANTA MARIA-SOUTH, Santa Maria Inn 801 S. Broadway (Kent Room), Meetings held on the 1st three Mondays of each month from 6-7:30PM. New members welcome! Join us for dinner and discover what our Rotary Club is all about. "Service above Self" Contact Joe Gruba: [joegruba56@yahoo.com](mailto:joegruba56@yahoo.com)

RPEA (Retired Public Employees' Association) invites anyone who is a public employee to come to a meeting the 3rd Tuesday of the month at noon, Santa Maria Terrace, 1405 E Main St. Come see what you can do to help save your retirement and other benefits RPEA has to offer.

SANTA MARIA COIN CLUB holds its monthly meeting at the Elwin Mussell Senior Center located at 510 East Park Ave. Santa Maria at 7 PM every third Wednesday of the month. Coin Collectors of all ages and casino chip collectors are all invited. We have a very active numismatic group which makes this a family meeting. Bring coins for free appraisals. 937-3158

SANTA MARIA FAMILY HISTORY CENTER offers FREE services to help everyone find their ancestors. OPEN TO THE PUBLIC Tuesday - Thursday 10AM-2PM, and 6:30-8:30PM Tuesday and Wednesday evenings. 805 928-4722. Trained volunteers can help you access billions of records and premium websites such as Ancestry.com, Fold3, Newspapers.

com, and others, all for FREE. Location is 908 Sierra Madre Avenue, Santa Maria, inside the southwest entrance of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The LDS Church owns the largest collection of genealogical records in the world and never charges for its service in helping others to connect with their ancestors.

SANTA MARIA FLYERS AIRCRAFT DISPLAY DAY at Santa Maria Airport on the second weened of each month, both Saturday and Sunday from 10 to 2. Hangar doors open to display aircraft and enjoy community with SMX pilots and their authorized guests.

SANTA MARIA INCLUSIVE LEARNERS (SMILe) is a fee-free inclusive homeschooling group that meets every Monday from 10-11:30AM in Santa Maria for academic enrichment, social interaction and fun. All home and alternative learners welcome. Call 934-9857 for location. Past activities have included: "Fun with Math" Club; Sign Language; Game Days; French. We are currently planting seeds for a book club, science club, backyard farm. Join us, and see what we grow.

SANTA MARIA LAWN BOWLING CLUB Low impact exercise in the fresh air. Join us Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday at 9:30 AM across the street from the city library. Free lessons available. Call Don Yee at (805) 980-8673

SANTA MARIA MENS CLUB: A great way to spend a couple of hours with a great bunch of guys. For more details, call 937-1499 or 937-0355

SANTA MARIA MODEL A CLUB meets monthly on the second Thursday of the month, 6:30PM, at the Elwin Mussell Center. Visitors and guests are welcome. Info: Jay McCord 805-598-8133.

SANTA MARIA VALLEY GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY meets every 3rd Thursday from 2:15 pm to 4:00 pm except Jun, Jul, Aug & Dec. Visitors welcome. Contact [smvgs.org](http://smvgs.org) for program and location info.

SANTA MARIA WOMEN'S NETWORK meets the first Wednesday of every month from 11:30 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. at the Santa Maria County Club, 505 West Waller Lane, Santa Maria. Please email [smwn.reservation@gmail.com](mailto:smwn.reservation@gmail.com) or check out our webpage at [smwn.net](http://smwn.net) for more information.

SENIOR SOFTBALL: boys and girls over 50 who like to play softball, Monday & Thursday mornings at Hagerman Softball Complex. A player pays \$1 each day to help purchase new balls and sponsor a picnic once a month. [rgrgreen1467@hotmail.com](mailto:rgrgreen1467@hotmail.com)

SPECIAL NEEDS NETWORK meets the second Tuesday of the month at 12 noon at A Street Cafe, 2445 A Street Santa Maria. For more information, call 805-264-2434

STAR OF BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH welcomes all to attend Bible study every Thursday @10AM. 4465 S. Blosser Rd., 805 937-0339 Sunday School, 105 S. Broadway, Santa Maria, CA 93455 (Old Orcutt), Sundays at 10AM, Worship with us. Pastor Jesse Pinheiro (805)937-6536

TEMPLE BETH EL, a reformed congregation invites those of the Jewish faith to attend our services every Friday night at 7:30 pm. The Temple is at 1501 East Alvin Ave., Santa Maria. [thesantamaria@gmail.com](mailto:thesantamaria@gmail.com)

TRI CITY COUND CHORUS/SWEET ADELINES INTERNATIONAL invites women who like to sing to come join the chorus 6:45PM Thursdays at Lutheran Church of Our Savior 4725

WOMEN'S EXERCISE CLASS Cornerstone Church (Family Center) Mon/Wed/Fri 10-11AM. FREE. Bring mat. All Levels. 1026 E. Sierra Madre (next to Hancock College) Office: (805) 922-1919



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