

OASIS Capital Campaign for New Community Center Begins



Sign on Clark Avenue pointing to Orcutt Creek and future site of the OASIS Center.

On December 7, 2021, after over a decade of planning, the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved building of a new facility for the OASIS Center. Now the official launch of the capital campaign has begun. The objective is to begin construction of the 15,900 square foot community center by year's end.

The current OASIS Center is located in refurbished modular buildings on Orcutt Union School District property on Soares Avenue. Orcutt Union School District is developing the adjacent parcel and has notified OASIS that its lease will expire soon. OASIS Executive Director Michelle Southwick says that the more than forty-year-old buildings were always meant to be temporary. The location of the

new building will be at the intersection of Clark Avenue and Foxenwood Lane, and was donated by the LeBard family in 2014. Studies conducted by Santa Barbara County determined that OASIS activities will not have a measurable impact on traffic at the intersection.

Current OASIS board member Deloris Luis recalls, "In the early 1950's, a group of Orcutt ladies felt it would be nice to put together a Thanksgiving dinner at the Lions Den in Old Orcutt for those who didn't have a home or family." Deloris' husband Jerry's mother Anita Luis, with Alice Shaw and Luella Forbes (who was then the post mistress at the Orcutt Post Office) put together the Thanksgiving meal. "Those ladies began what we now know as OASIS," Deloris explains. "For years, we met in

homes until the Orcutt School District donated the modular building space in the mid-1980s."

Jerry and his brother Dick owned Iversen Motor Company on South Broadway in Santa Maria and spearheaded fundraisers and solicited donations to keep OASIS going.

The current chairperson of the OASIS board of directors, Olivia Bugal, began driving her elderly mother from Los Alamos to OASIS activities about eleven years ago. Before Olivia's mom passed away, she told her daughter, "Do me a favor. Make sure that building is built!"

When the project was unanimously approved by the County Board of Supervisors, Fourth District Supervisor Bob Nelson expressed his support. "I think the OASIS Center is the right project. I think it's going to be a great opportunity not only for seniors, but the community as a whole." At the same meeting Deloris Luis told the supervisors, "With your approval, the dream of my late husband and myself and many other Orcutt residents will be fulfilled."

Southwick says that the new OASIS building will have "many options to serve the whole Orcutt community, not just those considered 'senior.'" The center will offer two state-of-the-art classrooms for use by Hancock College and other organizations. There will be a 4563 square foot great room for receptions and exercise classes, and

for private and community events, family celebrations, health and fitness classes, arts and education classes, seminars and career training opportunities. The outdoor community recreation space will feature a one-half mile interactive fitness trail with open access for the community. A park adjacent to botanic gardens will offer native plant species from the Central Coast.

Cost of building is projected to be about five million dollars.

Southwick says that after construction is complete, hopefully by 2024, ongoing costs of the new building will be funded through grants and fundraisers.

She says there are many ways that people can get involved in the capital campaign effort, including volunteering with the capital campaign committee, making cash donations or pledges, donating stocks and bonds, bequests, and distributions from life insurance policies. Donations may be tax-deductible. If interested, call OASIS at 805-937-9750.

An auto-pay system can also be set up through the OASIS website at www.oasisorcutt.org/donate.

Southwick says, "Our job ahead is to raise money and turn the dirt. Orcutt deserves this long-awaited community center. With the community's help, we will make this happen."

Editors' note: Michelle Southwick is related to the editors of the Orcutt Pioneer.

Steve Southwick reporting

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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:

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Food Now to Be Recycled: Scraps Go Into Green Waste Bins

Before the end of the year Waste Management will be picking up curbside green wastes weekly instead of every two weeks at residences in Orcutt.

The reason: California Senate Bill 1383, passed five years ago and effective January 2022, mandates that statewide food waste must be recycled and not sent to landfills. So in unincorporated North County, food scraps will need to be placed in the green waste bin.

According to the State, food waste in landfills is a major source of greenhouse gasses affecting climate change. The statewide goal is to reduce food organics at landfills by 75 percent by 2025.

Earlier this month the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors unanimously approved the ordinance outlining the regulations. Leslie Robinson, Community



Programs Manager, told the Supervisors that residential collections bills will increase 20 to 22 percent.

Some larger restaurants, wholesalers, larger hotels and larger health facilities also must comply, but regulations differ.

In unincorporated north county, green wastes are collected by Waste Management and are processed into compost by Engel and Gray Waste Management Service in Santa Maria.

Enforcement of the regulations will not begin for a couple of years to allow for educating and implementing the ordinance.

The City Council of Santa Maria approved the ordinance implementing Senate Bill 1383 in December of 2021.

Steve Southwick reporting

Lakeview Gas Station Before County Supervisors

On Tuesday, March 8th, the Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors will consider the appeal of the approval of a gas station and convenience store at Lakeview Road and Highway 135.

Last fall the County Planning Commission unanimously approved the gas station and suggested several traffic circulation changes at that intersection.

The request to deny the approval has been submitted by Far Western Liquors in the Evergreen Shopping Center (PR Investments LLC) arguing the traffic mitigations will affect their business operations. The appellants also argue provisions of the Orcutt Community Plan are not being followed.

If approved, the corner will be the home of a 5000 square foot convenience store and four gas dispensers.

The meeting will be held at the Santa Barbara County Betteravia Center at 511 East Lakeside Parkway. The meeting begins at 9:00am and public testimony will be accepted.

Steve Southwick reporting

CLARIFICATION

The Museum of Flight would like the public to know that entry to the museum is by donation.



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Santa Maria Valley Quilt Guild: Not Your Grandmothers' Quilts



Some SMVQG members in horse shoe from left: Terra Nichols, Terrie Eskew, Diane Pirman, Sandy Clutter, June Hollister, Sue Hope, Charlene Odencrans, Sharon Pedersen.

For a return to old fashioned traditions with modern artistic twists, the Santa Maria Valley Quilt Guild is open for new members. "It's not your grandmothers' quilts," describes Guild president and Orcutt resident, June Hollister. "We have one artist who paints them and another who hand dyes, all members bring their artistic ideas to their quilts..." Membership

in the Guild, created in 1991, has been up to 200. Now, post-COVID, there are 73, with more expected to return. New participants don't need to know anything to join! The Guild is a venue that teaches, includes cooperative quilt making, creative experiments, and hosts nationally

respected guest speakers who teach the latest techniques.

Getting together to share projects, help each other with quilting and other sewing crafts, members also appreciate social time and support. There is a "Sit and Sew" twice a month in their "clubhouse" behind The Old Town Orcutt Quilt Shop on Clark

Avenue, as well as private get togethers. "Group sewing and talk can be a lifesaver, especially through COVID. It's so important to have communication and friendships," says local Orcutt resident and certified quilt teacher, Sharon Pedersen.

The group steam of the Guild derives from its many philanthropic endeavors. Every year it donates quilts to each child at CASA, a charity that advocates for abused or neglected youth. "Every child gets a quilt, something that belongs to the child, theirs to keep," explains Hollister. "Veterans get quilts too. The VA decides who needs them, and the veterans can keep the quilt when they leave."

Other organizations the Guild donates

to, via quilt raffles, are Altrusa, 4H, and the neonatal intensive care unit of the hospital. A recent project was the addition of two "themed" quilts for the wall of the juvenile courtroom in Orcutt. Judge Arthur Garcia asked for the redecoration project depicting hope. "If someone (or an organization) asks, we will usually come through," says Hollister, adding that, "the guild sewed and donated 1500 masks during the COVID mask shortage."

The annual Orcutt Quilt Show, planned for September 10th at Old Town Quilt Shop, will showcase the Guild's artistic projects. Craft shows and fairs abound this year as well. Funds for club expenses comes from

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Samantha Bakke

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Students at OJHS Raise Funds For Water System for Vietnam School

For the next month, students at Orcutt Junior High School will be holding several fundraisers, on- and off-campus, to raise \$2,500 dollars to fund a clean water project at a Vietnam sister school. School counselor Sienna Robertson is coordinating the project to supply a clean water system at C'oc Ly Secondary School in the village of B'ac-Ha', Vietnam.

The school is located in one of the poorest provinces of Vietnam and must buy drinking water daily or rely on rainwater and unfiltered spring water which it shares with a neighboring school. Because of the problems of traveling through surrounding mountains, during the school year many of the 275 students live on site.

Robertson says Orcutt Jr. High will be holding weekly fundraisers working with local businesses and raffling off donated

goods. She says she hopes the money will be raised by the first day of April.

The school is partnering with the international non-profit humanitarian organization, Gravity Water, whose primary mission is to supply water to developing countries with a permanent source of safe drinking water.

Once the fundraiser is completed, Gravity Water will build the clean water system and hold an Orcutt school rally to show the impact the school and the Orcutt community has made in the lives of the Vietnam village.

Robertson hopes "the Orcutt community will join us in turning this project into a reality." For more information you can contact Sienna Robertson at (805)938-8744.

Steve Southwick reporting

Righetti FFA Fruit Tree Pruning Team State Champions



Righetti FFA's fruit tree pruning team earned state champion honors during the Mid-Winter State Finals at Fresno State University. The team members include Yasmine Hernandez, Erin Trathen, Isaiah Calderon, Samantha McDonald and Mr. Miguel Guerra (advisor).

The fruit tree pruning program prepares students to learn agriculture pomology practices and procedures used in today's industry. Students considering careers in

agriculture management must not only develop a high degree of knowledge and skill, but they must also develop the ability to solve difficult problems. This event blends the testing of manipulative skills and knowledge required for careers in agriculture production. Team members were evaluated individually on their ability to prune several fruit trees as well as their skill in preparing and presenting an oral evaluation of their efforts.

"This is really an accomplishment because we don't have thousands of orchards to practice with like the FFA students in the Central Valley," said Mr. Guerra. "My students are a teacher's dream team."

Righetti FFA also took top honors in the same category in 2019.

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Orcutt Schools Update Good News from Around the District

Dr. Holly Edds, Superintendent, OUSD

With many good things happening or in the works, this month's column will share uplifting news from all around the Orcutt Union School District:

Congratulations to Ralph Dunlap School Principal Joe Schmidt! His professional association, the Association of California School Administrators, recently named him this region's Elementary School Principal of the Year. Well deserved, Mr. Schmidt! ...

The district's newest school, the Orcutt School for Independent Study, now has a nickname. After brainstorming several options and narrowing them to a few finalists, students and staff at the Casmalia-based school unanimously selected the Rockets as their nickname. "We felt that Rockets will be inspiring and motivate us to reach higher, and it also goes well with our

proximity to Vandenberg Space Force Base," says OSIS Principal Josh Ostini. ...

On the topic of rockets, classes from around the district took time on February 2 to go outside at the noon hour and view the SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket launch from Vandenberg. Space launches are meaningful in our district because so many of our students have parents who work at the Space Force Base. ...

If you love pets, you will appreciate Orcutt Junior High School's latest incentive for students. On the last day of each quarter, the school brings in therapy dogs for students' enjoyment. "It's really calming for students," says Principal Kelly Osborne. "It's quite palpable how realized and happy the kids get to be around the dogs." The dogs visit OJHS thanks to a partnership with the Alliance of Therapy Dogs. ...

We are happy to report that students at our elementary schools once again have the opportunity to attend Outdoor School. Sixth graders at our elementary schools have a four-day, three-night experience at Camp Whittier near Lake Cachuma. Joe Nightingale School students delighted in their stay at Outdoor School February 8-11. ...

Thanks to a grant, Olga Reed School and the Orcutt Academy K-8 campus are sending 66 sixth and seventh graders to Science Camp at the Catalina Island Marine Institute. "The kids are super excited to go," says Olga Reed/Orcutt Academy K-8 Principal Jared Banks. "And the work we have done to fund-raise and prepare for the trip has helped unify our students and families even more than before." ...

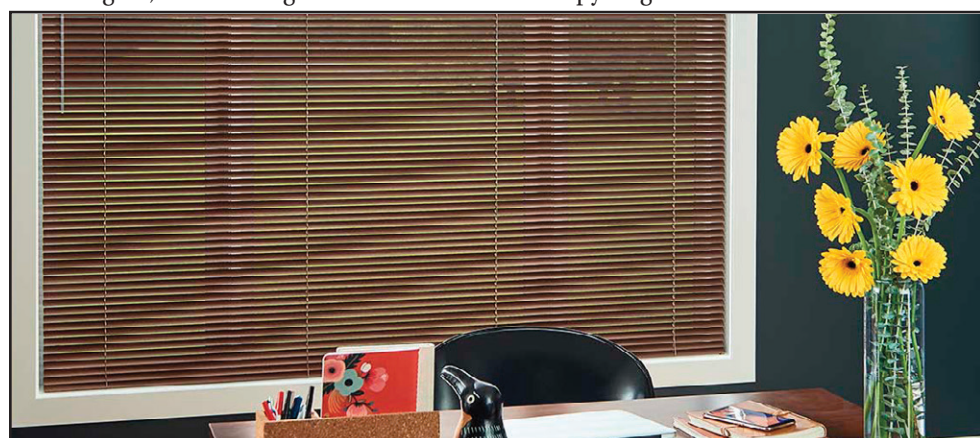
Orcutt Academy High School was happy to host an evening meeting of the Old Orcutt Merchants Association on January 25. The highlight for OOMA members was a tour of the OAHS Robotics Team's build room. Members of the Spartatroniks squad demonstrated how they design and test a robot to meet this season's challenge. ...

On February 2 the Orcutt Academy held a

successful enrollment lottery for the 2022-2023 school year. The high school still has some open seats in grades 10, 11, and 12; interested families can go to the district website, www.orcutt-schools.net, to access the Academy's post-lottery enrollment application. ...

Since we just brought up enrollment for the coming school year, families in our communities should know that we begin accepting enrollment for kindergarten and transitional kindergarten in March. Our full-day kindergarten program has so much to offer students academically and socially. Meanwhile, the age eligibility for transitional kindergarten has expanded, so for 2022-2023 we will be able to register children who were born anytime between September 2, 2017, through February 2, 2018. Watch for details on our district website ... we look forward to serving a bumper crop of TK and K students! ...

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.



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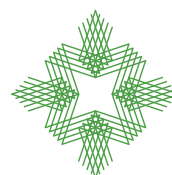
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Quilts

continued from page 3

crafts sold at local fairs. The next fair will be April 30th in Buellton. Hollister's message in a recent newsletter asks members to "commit to making five items, big, small and in-between or donating your time by volunteering." The list of suggestions include more than quilts: "a dog or cat themed blanket for a pet bed, bowl cozies, quilted table runners and napkins, smaller lap and baby quilts, larger aprons or pot holders for big hands."

For more information or to join please contact Katie Perez, membership chairman, at katesplace050s@gmail.com.

Katy Jacobson reporting

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. All ads must be received by the second Thursday of the month and will appear on the fourth Thursday 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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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.

All events are subject to change during COVID 19. Please contact the event or club sponsor to find out details about the organization/ event and meeting times.

SPECIAL EVENTS

SAVE THE DATE!! 9TH ANNUAL ST PATRICKS DAY CAR SHOW AT ST LOUIS DE MONTFORT CHURCH IN ORCUTT Saturday, March 12, 2022. We're still looking for exhibitors, food, vendors, and sponsors for this amazing family event. Enjoy live music with Unfinished Business, a vendor faire, and of course cars, cars and more cars! Just added—the Back to the Future DeLorean Time Machine and Paul "Doc" Nigh! For more information call James at 805-878-1739 or visit kofccarshow.com.

American Legion – Orcutt Post 534 Sons of the American Legion Benefit Barbecue & Summer Concert returns 3rd Saturday of April, May, June, July, August & September, Local Bands, Barbecue Fund Raiser, and excellent Community camaraderie 145 W. Clark Ave. Old Orcutt.

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.

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.

AA (or 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, 925-3782.

ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS AND DISFUNCTIONAL FAMILIES (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: aacquilters@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.

ALL YOU CAN EAT 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 Mondays 4:00-8:00PM Darts at 7PM Fridays 3:00-10:00PM Saturdays 12:00PM – 8:00PM Sundays 10:00AM-6:00PM

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.

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)? We also put on a car show the 3rd weekend of July. Ann 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

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 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 Tawnya @805-260-6090.

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

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 or call 937-5827 for additional information.

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."




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