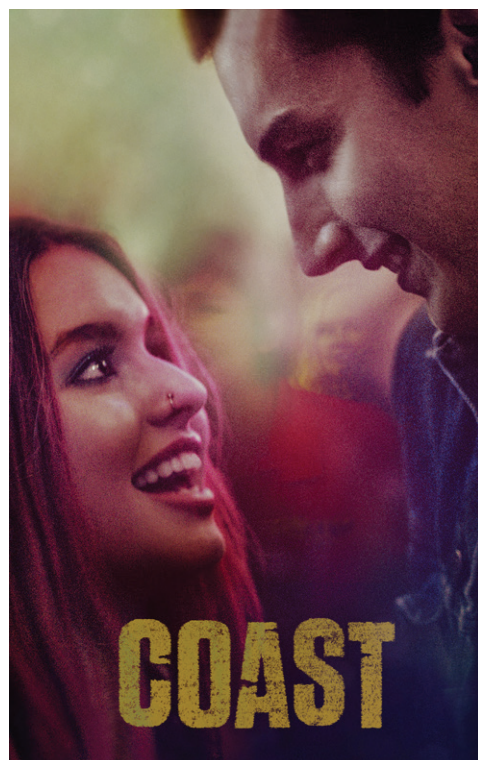


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RHS Graduate's Screenplay Becomes Major Motion Picture



Santa Maria-based coming of age drama COAST is currently in select theaters and video streaming. The locally produced movie premiered earlier this month in Los Angeles with screenings in New York and other selected US cities.

The movie was written by Righetti High School graduate Cindy Kitagawa. The cast features another Righetti alum, Kaylee Kamiya, and is anchored by several well known actors: Academy Award winner

Melissa Leo (The Fighter), Fatima Placek, the voice of Dora the Explorer in the American children's animated TV series, Cristela Alonzo, the voice of Cruz Ramirez in Cars 3 and creator of the ABC TV series "Cristela".

Filmed entirely in Santa Maria, Orcutt, Guadalupe and Oceano, COAST revolves around 16-year-old Abby, who is desperate to escape the trapping of small-town life. She falls in love with the lead singer of a touring rock band and must decide whether to leave her hometown and family. "Santa Maria was such a special place for me to grow up. I am so excited audiences around the world will see and experience a little part of it for themselves," explains Kitagawa.

Scenes were filmed at Paradise Trading Post and Record Store in Orcutt, Preisker Park, Santa Maria Fairpark, Oceano Dunes, Rancho Guadalupe Farms and the Guadalupe Police Department.

Executive producers from the Santa Maria area include Jeff Barnes, Chris Slaughter, Shelly and Nicholas Miller and Dave Machin.

Streaming options for COAST can be found at coastthefeature.com.

Steve Southwick reporting

Career Technical Education Center: Expanding Career Options for H.S. Students



Ryder Englert and Adrian Eisner, Righetti high school juniors, learn building skills as a part of the SMJUHSD CTE program.

"Whatever path these kids want to go down, our goal here is to open every door we can."

Paul Robinson is the principal at the new Career Technical Education Center east of Highway 101. Robinson is passionate about assisting every student, not just college bound, to become workforce familiar with trades that interest them.

Last fall, the Santa Maria Joint Union High School District dedicated the Mark Richardson Career Technical Education Center and Agricultural Farm. The CTE complex is located on 25 acres east of Highway 101 and north of the Santa Maria Elks Center.

The investment culminated in, according to Robinson, "facilities unmatched anywhere on the central coast."

When fully operational, the CTE center will

offer an in-depth curriculum in construction, machine work, diesel, agriculture, and culinary operation.

Robinson emphasizes his goal is to keep educational and career doors open for all students, "whether a college-bound or a trade-bound kid, my goal is to have every youth go through a career technical education in whatever field they have interest."

The principal emphasizes that the student can then make the choice of college, community college, the military, trade school, or choose to go straight to the workforce.

Two programs are currently offered: machining and construction.

Robinson says the agriculture, diesel and culinary programs will begin in the fall.

Students enrolled in construction get hands-on experience in the major trades including plumbing, electrical, HVAC, framing, and roofing. They make sheds, chicken coops and dog houses. This training culminates in construction of a small house with skills learned in many of the trades involved—electrical, insulation, roofing, and flooring.

The most updated tools and construction equipment, much secured through grants, is utilized by the students. In the two-hour daily construction class, students learn and operate heavy equipment such as the backhoe, skid steer and mini excavator. "When they graduate, they will be excellent entry level candidates and ready to pursue a myriad of construction options," says the principal.

Robinson emphasizes, "safety is critical. In every discipline, all students complete OSHA 10 safety training which not only keeps them

continued on page 2

BRIAN WILLIAMS GOPHER GUY

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CET continued from page 1

safe but gives them a huge advantage when interviewing for jobs in the technical industry."

Students enrolled in the Machine Shop at CTE design projects in advanced digital design programs like SolidWorks and MasterCam. On completion, they can earn the Hass machine operator certificate and SolidWorks certificate. According to Robinson, "These certifications give them a leg-up when applying for a position." One student was heard to say, "Now I know why I learned math."

The diesel heavy duty equipment features two grant funded John Deere tractors and a forklift the students learn to drive. Students will also be HVAC certified as most new tractors have cab air conditioning. There are electrical boards so students can work on circuitry. The mammoth portable lift the students operate can lift school buses.

Companies like Santa Maria Truck Center and Quinn Company offer assistance in online training and certificate programs so the students get a jumpstart on hiring. John Deere offers tours.

Next year the agriculture program will offer a farm management class with curriculum aligned with Hancock College and CalPoly. Students

will do ground prep, planting, pest control, harvesting and marketing their products.

For students who are interested in the hospitality industry, the culinary curriculum is designed for teaching food preparation for industrial operations, large hotels, catering, and commercial businesses. "The kitchen equipment at CTE is a far cry from what was in Home Economic classes when I was in high school," Robinson chuckles. The 1800 square foot fully equipped commercial teaching kitchen offers convection ovens, deep fryers, ovens, dishwashers, and refrigerators. The kitchen equipment is grant funded.

Three Hancock culinary courses are taught: Introduction to Hospitality, Safety and Sanitation so students can get a Food Handlers and Serv Safe certification. Cooking and Food Preparation classes follow. If a student wants to go the extra mile, a management level certificate is offered. "If a student applies with the management level certification, he has a huge advantage. That cert is mandated at large chain restaurants," says the principal. All these classes are transferable into the California State University system, the UC system or community education system. Students can also use the skills they learn to go directly into the workforce.

For those interested in agriculture, FFA students use the 16,000 square foot agriculture barn for their own animals. The Ag section of CTE offers fifteen steer pens, thirty-two pig pens, four sow pens, and eight goat/sheep pens and seven acres of livestock corrals. The one heifer, two steers and a few pigs, sheep and goats are all cared for by students who buy food

and bedding. "On their own, the students come to CTE to daily feed and clean their animals," emphasizes Robinson.

About 180 students are currently enrolled at CTE. Students are bused from Righetti, Delta, Santa Maria and Pioneer Valley high schools. The school day is divided into three blocks, each two hours long.

Jack Garvin, board president of the Santa Maria Joint Union High School District, recently said Superintendent Mark Richardson was the guiding force behind the Career Technical Educational Center.

"His crowning gift to Santa Maria was the recently dedicated center," commented Garvin following the untimely death of Richardson a few days following the dedication last fall. "Without his personal commitment and vision, this center would not have been developed."

Robinson passionately believes students who train at CTE learn life skills. "The idea that every kid is going to go to college is a great idea, but the data does not support that. Some kids don't want to go to college, some have life circumstances that are in the way. Some kids want to be trades people. Whatever path these kids want to go down, our goal here is to open every door we can."

Robinson says the district is extremely proud of the Career Technical Education Center. "The Santa Maria Valley community entrusted us with bond monies to help fund this program. We feel we have delivered on the vision we promised. They put their money where their mouth is, and we feel we have delivered."

Steve Southwick reporting



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Book Loving Brianna Collects 256 Books for Friends of the Orcutt Library

Eight-year-old Brianna Berg loves to read, and wanting to help others do the same, she devised a way to help the Friends of the Orcutt Library. A big task for someone so young, but Brianna succeeded in collecting 256 children's and teen's books for the organization to sell. A member of the American Heritage Girls organization, a faith-based girls group centering on service, Brianna will earn Community Service Stars for her efforts too. She started by taking leftover books from her home-school group's book swap event, then broadened her search by distributing flyers and asking anyone she knew to donate books that they no longer used or had outgrown. The project took about 14 hours of Brianna's time.

Brianna was attracted to this project because she is an avid reader and loves coming to the library for a new title. "I really like the Junie B. Jones books," she said, "and I just finished a book called

"Owl at Home." This spry second grader also loves drawing and dancing. Seeing her in her American Heritage Girls uniform to drop the books off at the library, you could not help but be amazed at what she accomplished. Friends of the Orcutt Library is very grateful for Brianna's donation. Way to go Brianna!

Brianna hopes that others will buy the books she collected at the Friends of the Orcutt Library "Friend's Marketplace" inside the library on the back wall, so that the Friends can continue to provide more books and other items in the library to keep readers like her growing and learning. Selling books at four paperback books for \$1.00, with larger books priced at \$1.00 each, the proceeds from these sales go to support library needs. Of course, more donations are always welcome, and can be dropped off on the cart just inside the library's entrance.

Juliann Hemphill reporting




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Construction Beginning on Clark Near Hwy 101



Facing west on the south side of Clark Avenue and next to the Orcutt Hills Shopping Center will be a market, fast-food restaurant and gas station/vehicle wash.

After court approval of the environmental analysis a couple of months ago and a final OK from the County Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors a couple of years ago, construction of a neighborhood shopping center is beginning on East Clark Avenue next to the Orcutt Hills Shopping Center.

The Orcutt Gateway Retail Commercial Center, with almost 43-thousand square feet of commercial space on six acres, is on what is dubbed as Key Site 2 in the Orcutt Community Plan.

Developer Taylor Judkins of G3 Real Estate in San Luis Obispo says an 18,000

square foot market will be behind a fast-food restaurant or coffee shop and a 12-pump gas station and car wash outlet adjacent to Clark Avenue.

In addition, between the fast food restaurant and the gas station/car wash, there will be a new road entering the center with a signal at Clark Avenue. The cost of the signalization is covered by the developer. That road will also be a main access for a commercial/residential project called "The Orcutt Marketplace" on Key Site 1 on the northside of Clark. That project is currently working through the county permitting process.

According to Santa Barbara County Planning, the existing roadway into Sunny Hills modular homes will remain. There will be a multi-purpose trail along Clark Avenue.

The project was approved by the county in 2019. Weeks later, a group called Residents for Sensible Growth asked a Santa Barbara County judge to nullify the approval on the grounds the county approved the project based on an addendum to the 1997 EIR of the Orcutt Community Plan. The main contention by the appellant was that a subsequent EIR should be completed.

The judge denied the appeal as did appellate judge James Rigali. This February, the 2nd District Court of Appeal ruled the county had adequately studied environmental impacts.

Judkins says lease arrangements are in progress and he hopes construction can begin within a few weeks with occupancy in about two years.

Steve Southwick reporting

Cookies 805 to be Renamed Dr. Greenthumb

Due to public concern about the word "cookies" associated with a cannabis retail store in Orcutt, architect Virginia Maggiori of RDC Architects told the five members of the County Board of Architectural Review that the dispensary would not have cookies in its name. Instead, the store in the Orcutt Hills Shopping Plaza on east Clark and Stillwell Road would be named Dr. Greenthumb. At the March 25th meeting, she said a substantial number of citizens were concerned the name cookies would attract children to the store.

Dr. Greenthumb was the last applicant standing after a year of competition from six applicants for the single dispensary allowed in Orcutt.

Steve Southwick reporting

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SM Chamber Trains Young Entrepreneurs



President of the Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce Glenn Morris and director Alex Castillo at the March 15th Business Kickoff of the Junior CEO program.

With support from the Santa Maria Chamber of Commerce, students from local elementary schools are learning to build a business from the ground up this month with the kick off of the Junior CEO program. Students in 5th and 6th grade from Orcutt and Santa Maria will practice skills like marketing, money management and customer service to name just a few. The Junior CEO program, adopted and licensed from the Visalia chamber of Commerce, is in its second year of operation. Last year 30 students participated. But this year the

goal is to reach up to 75.

According to Alex Castillo, strategic management director, the program's goal is to create a thriving business community connecting the students with training from local business professionals. The Chamber's role is to plant seeds of entrepreneurship. It's an investment in youth, influencing their education by creating a vibrant, small business sector in any community they live in. "It's not a fluffy program, it's real," says Castillo. "What they are doing is exactly what real business owners do."

After a series of 5 video lessons, students will design their own brands using readily available local strawberries as their main ingredient. Students will then open their doors to the public and promote their creations at the Santa Maria Town Center Mall in May.

The kickoff, held March 14 at Toyota of Santa Maria was well attended and provided students with a chance to meet

and greet and receive their materials.

The business launch day and awards ceremony take place April 30th at 10:45am at the Santa Maria Town Center Mall next to the RPX theater and Red Robin. In this grand opening event, students will share their strawberry creations with the public.

Participants are chosen as the chamber reached out to local school districts who pushed it out to students. There are about 80 students signed up on a wait list for this spring session. No recommendation

is needed. There is a minimal \$25.00 sign-up fee for being involved with Junior CEO for the materials provided for the students.

Financial sponsors are the California Strawberry Commission who also offer a scholarship to participants. Community bank of Santa Maria is also a sponsor of the Junior CEO program since its beginning.

John Chamberlain reporting

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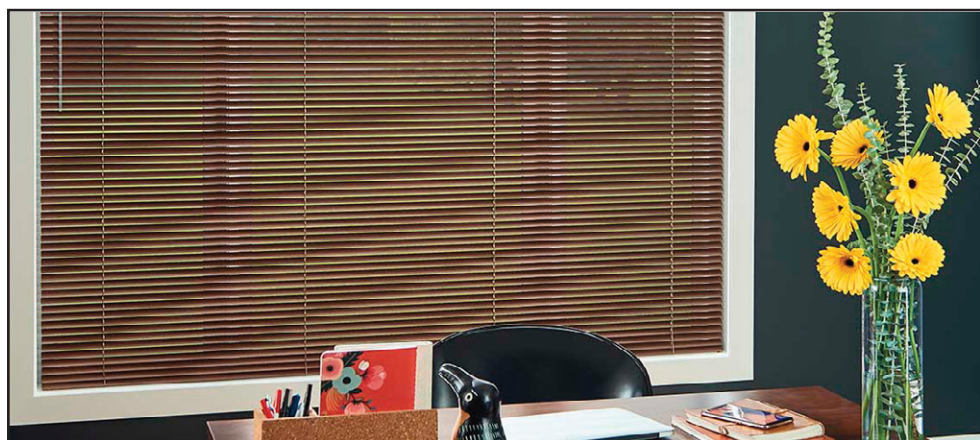
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Orcutt Schools Update Orcutt Academy HS is On a Roll

Dr. Holly Edds, Superintendent, OUSD

From robotics to college requirements to band, Orcutt Academy High School students are shining.

At a pair of recent regional competitions, the school's Robotics Team performed so well that it qualified for the FIRST Robotics World Championships in Houston April 20-23.

In the Ventura Regional March 11-12, the team was a finalist and earned the tournament's Excellence in Engineering Award. In the Central Valley Regional in Fresno April 1-2, the Spartatroniks squad came away with the competition's highest honor, the Chairman's Award. Both performances were sufficient to earn OAHS a trip to Houston.

"Having a robot for my senior year that qualifies us for worlds – it's just very exciting," says OAHS student Trey Elliott, the

team's mechanical lead. "Everyone pulled together."

"I'm so excited the students will be able to experience the world championship event," says Rick Soto, who has been the team's coach for the past six years. "This means that we are one of the top 600 teams worldwide."

Spartatroniks students will be raising funds to pay for its 27 students to travel to Houston. Those who would like to help may go to the website, www.spartatroniks.com.

"I feel really proud of our team," says OAHS junior Nic Camacho, the robot captain. "We have learned so much and been growing so much. I've never been to worlds and I cannot wait to go."

Meanwhile, California Department of Education (CDE) data released in March show that 73.9 percent of students in OAHS'

Class of 2021 accomplished the University of California's A-G course requirements – the highest mark of all school districts and charter schools in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties. OAHS also was the only educational entity in either county to qualify for a UC A-G Completion Success Grant from the state.

A deeper look at the data shows that student subgroups at OAHS also performed well, as 71.1 percent of Hispanic students and 65.7 percent of low-income students accomplished the UC A-G requirements. The school's overall completion rate and the rates for the Hispanic and low-income subgroups all improved from 2019, the last time CDE compiled these statistics.

"We are proud to have one of the highest A-G completion rates in the area," says OAHS Principal Rhett Carter. "It is a testament to hard work done by our students, our staff, and our families."

OAHS staff can list multiple reasons for their students' success with UC A-G completion. The school's 240-unit graduation requirement compels students to take more core courses. Most of the school's available courses are UC A-G approved. Many students capitalize on College Now courses at Allan Hancock College to meet UC A-G requirements. OAHS counselors emphasize UC A-G fulfillment as a desired outcome for students, monitor students' progress toward this goal, and report on this progress in conferences with students and

parents/guardians.

In the 2022-2023 school year, OAHS will utilize its \$115,687 UC A-G Success Grant from the state for development of a comprehensive advising plan for students in underrepresented subgroups and more frequent monitoring of student progress toward UC A-G completion.

"We are aiming to have our UC A-G completion rate go even higher in the years to come," says Carter. "It's all about helping students give themselves opportunities for the future."

Finally, the OAHS Band joined in the school's successful run, garnering first place and the prestigious Esprit de Corps Award in a Music in the Parks festival held March 25-26 at Knott's Berry Farm. Under the direction of Josie Coburn, concert pieces performed by the school's 55 musicians allowed OAHS to best many other Southern California high schools in the competition.

"It's the first time we've gotten that award," says Logan Kerns, a junior who is the band's drum major. "We know our band is growing, and this shows we also are certainly getting better."

On behalf of the Orcutt Union School District, I congratulate Orcutt Academy High School for all of its recent triumphs. Keep up the great work, Spartans!!

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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Rosie Guana Retires After 50 Years



Rosie Guana, a member of Righetti High's staff, recently retired after 50 years with the district. "The time went by so quickly," said Rosie who graduated from Santa

Maria High School in 1968. "It didn't seem like 50 years. I consider myself blessed and proud to have worked with so many fine and wonderful students and dedicated staff I encountered throughout the years."

Rosie began work with the Santa Maria Joint Union High School District when she was 21 years old. For most of her time at RHS, she was an Instructional Assistant in the classroom but also held positions as a community liaison and most recently as an attendance technician.

"I felt like every class was having a different job," said Rosie, adding she also worked at Delta High School for one year. "I loved working with the kids. I learned as much from them as they did from me. I guess you could say my heart will always be in the classroom, seeing the students learn and grow."

The staff described Rosie as an "inspiration" and an example of a "true warrior".

"The way Rosie shares her stories of Righetti shows how much she genuinely cares about the students and staff," said Warrior Student Body Bookkeeper Rikki Rodriguez. "Fifty years of dedication to our district does not go unnoticed. She has made history!"

"She loved helping the students and interacting with parents and teachers," said Warrior Attendance Technician Felicitas Gutierrez. "She taught me that her work ethic is to GO GO GO and DO DO DO. She would uplift your spirits and talk about a better way to tackle life and not give up; she would always say, "look forward and don't go back".

Rosie's favorite hobby is cake decorating. She belongs to several organizations including the Vietnam Veterans of America, American Veterans United, American Legion, and Midcoast Veterans Alliance. She's been married to her husband Jessie for 47 years, has two sons, and six grandchildren.

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Wheelchair/scooter trailer, left ramp—left side ramp, 2" hitch. 500 lb limit. Harbor Freight model 67599. \$125 obo. 805-863-6633

Transport Chairs. All fold. 1st is 6-in wheels, 2nd is 12-in back wheels, 3rd folds into a duffle bag. Excellent condition. \$250 for all. 805-264-0347

Craftsman sabre saw, electric; 120V, 60 Hz, model 135.17241. With case and manual. \$25. (805) 937-3582

Craftsman mouse sander/polisher, model 900.11680. With case and manual. \$25. (805) 937-3582

Craftsman impact screwdriver, cordless, model 900.11458, with manual. \$25. (805) 937-3582

Drillmaster cordless drill, 18V, model 66965, with manual. \$25. (805) 937-3582

Mini sander kit for crafts, 3.6V, cordless; in original case. Never used. \$25. (805) 937-3582

Back Seat - Good Condition - \$50 RC 805-406-4499

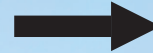
Day bed-\$60; Queen Mattress Frame-\$15; 35"W,19"D, TV Cabinet with TV- \$25; Skeet Thrower, \$20. 805-332-3027

Bring your buckets, shovel and gloves. Free lava rocks and lots of it. Leave a message for Leah (7074860446) with name and phone number. I will call you back.

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