

Serving the Community of Orcutt, California • June 2019 • www.OrcuttPioneer.com • Circulation 17,000 +

Opening the Door for Women Veterans



A Woodmere Road home for women veterans is the first of its kind on the Central Coast, according to the Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce.

The stability home was made possible by Operation WEBS (Women Empowered Build Strong) to assist with the transition from military service to civilian life. There are currently two residents, though the four-bedroom house can hold up to four.

"This is for our sisters who are going through what I went through when I separated from the Air Force," said Sandy Blair, founder of the nonprofit.

After serving 12 years in the U.S. Air Force, Blair's career ended prematurely when she was discharged. She struggled with unemployment, financial uncertainty, near-homelessness, suicidal thoughts, and an overwhelming range of emotions including depression, worthlessness and anger. Eventually, she moved to Central Coast and received her real estate license, but wanted to help other women like herself reintegrate into society.

In 2018, she founded Operation WEBS. The Woodmere home is part of the nonprofit's first phase—to provide immediate housing—of a three-step plan. The ultimate goal is to develop a farming community of tiny homes for displaced or homeless veterans and instill a sense of independence, empowerment and camaraderie within them. Blair has purchased 17 acres in Santa Barbara County to fulfill this.

She is looking forward to working towards her vision with locals' support.

"I just can't say enough about this community," Blair said. "I've lived around the world, and this community has been one of the best experiences in my entire life."

A ribbon cutting ceremony and open house was held on June 13.

There are several upcoming fundraisers for Operations WEBS, including the second annual Tiny House Gala on Sept. 7 at the Santa Maria County Club from 5 to 9 p.m. For more information, visit operationwebs.org.

Jamie Guista reporting

Tall Development in Old Orcutt to be Business Offices

If you've driven down Clark Avenue in Old Orcutt recently, you've probably noticed a building going up on the corner of Clark Avenue and First Street. In fact, at three-stories tall, it's pretty hard to miss. The lot is being developed as business offices by Teixeira Property Advisors with construction financing provided by Pacific Premier Bank.

Teixeira Capital Companies, which encompasses Teixeira Capital Ventures LLC, Teixeira Wealth Management LLC, Teixeira Insurance Services, and Teixeira Property Advisors is locally owned and was founded in 2007 by Kevin Teixeira. According to

their website, Kevin has developed and renovated over 150 units of real

The development at 155 E. Clark will be 7,516 square feet and include eight parking spaces and eight offices ranging in size from 480 square feet to 1,110 square feet. The façade has been designed to complement the existing buildings in Old Town Orcutt

For more information, visit www. teixeiracapital.com

Rebecca Ross reporting









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Orcutt News for Orcutt Folks

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Contact Phone:

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Postal Address:

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E-Mail address:

info@orcuttpioneer.com

Graphic Art Department

James Jepsen, Art Director pioneer@jamesjepsen.com

Webmaster: Archie Miller

w6alm@aol.com

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Arts Council Scholarship Empowered Local Student Artist Kaylee Kamiya



Kaylee Kamiya

Kaylee Kamiya always knew she wanted to be an artist, but was uncertain if she had the tools necessary to succeed.

"Being in a small town, it

wasn't something I thought could happen,"

But it did. At 19-years-old, the Orcutt native is already an accomplished creative on the Central Coast.

In May, she was awarded the Valley Art Gallery Scholarship by the Santa Maria Arts Council. She was granted \$1,000 and a twomonth long exhibit at the Santa Maria Public Airport beginning July 8. Her art will also be showcased at Orcutt's Valley Art Gallery for the next year.

"It's a super great opportunity," Kamiya said. "It's helping me cultivate my art more and further myself as an artist."

She used a portion of the funds to purchase pencils, pastels and ink, which has allowed

her to experiment with more colors. Vibrant colors, according to Kamiya, are an integral part of her work.

"Every piece I make is like an internal self-portrait," she explained. "I channel a lot of feelings through the colors I use. It's like a synesthesia type of thing."

Besides prints, Kamiya makes keychains, bookmarks and more. She is inspired by the local environment and women empowerment. An especially important aspect of her style, she explained, is focusing on projects as a whole rather than just minor details.

Kamiya is also an actress and is beginning to direct. She graduated from Orcutt Academy High School during her junior year in 2017 to star as Laura in "COAST," a film that explores the lives of different women growing up in

Currently, she is a student at Allan Hancock College and is hoping to transfer to UC Irvine next fall. Her ultimate goal is to teach art education as a college professor while also continuing to act, direct and create art.

Kamiya sells her pieces on Etsy and at



Festive Nesting Handmade Gifts on South Bradley Road. She will be at the Halcyon Store in Arroyo Grande on July 6 and 7.

Kamiya is open for commissions and may be reached at kayleekamiya@gmail.com.

Jamie Guista reporting

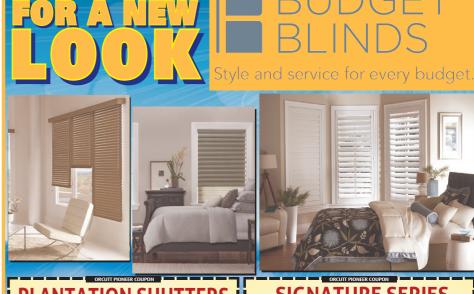




Are your kitchen cabinets looking dated, tired or worn from all the hand touching? Their are contractors that specialize in refinishing and will bring your woodwork back to life but have you thought about painting your woodwork? The possibilities are up to you in terms of colors in your kitchen. If your kitchen is smaller, paint the woodwork white and the light reflecting off the cabinets will give the impression of a larger area. Call us for advice, it's always free.

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Cats at

School

Orcutt Author Uses Analogy to Bring Empathy to Those with Autism

"I think most people would agree that cats and dogs are both valuable, that neither is better than the other," writes Nancy Jensen in her new book Cats at School.

"They both bring great gifts to our lives [and] we recognize and manage the needs and characteristic of both."

Jensen wrote Cats at School, a slim, 30-page volume that uses cats and dogs as a fun analogy in an effort to help people understand and recognize some of the ways students with autism (cats) perceive and respond to the world around them that may be different from students who are not on the autism spectrum (dogs).

"I started as a regular education teacher," Jensen says of the beginning of her career. "But i encountered more and more students with special learning needs and became active in the field of learning disabilities. When the opportunity arose to go back to UCSB for my master's degree, I chose special education as my focus, fully intending to go back to a regular ed classroom better prepared to meet the needs of those students."

However, Jensen soon found herself applying for special education positions

and was hired by the Orcutt Union School District to teach a primary grade Special Day Class at Alice Shaw.

"I loved it from the first day to the last," she says. "It was both challenging and rewarding beyond all my expectations."

"I don't remember how or when the idea first came to me," she says of the cat/dog analogy in Cats at School, "It was after I had already retired. I pictured cats at a dog park and realized that perhaps this is what recess

is like for students with autism. I thought of cats' preference for watching from a high perch, removed rather than interacting, and the way students with autism are often more comfortable on their own than with a group. I thought about how inner-directed cats are compared to dogs with their desire to please their master and follow commands. Once I made the comparison, I could see it on so many levels. The more I thought about it, the

more correlation I could see. It just seemed to make sense."

Once everything clicked, she mentioned the idea to her friend and former special education director at OUSD, the late Lana

"She immediately saw it as valuable and encouraged me to develop the idea into a format that could be shared," says Jensen. "I let the idea percolate for quite a while, but each time I shared it with someone, I got the same enthusiastic response."

Once she found the right publishing channel, she was excited to share her perspective. "I think it could be very helpful for parents, siblings, various school staff members, youth leaders, and even the general

As she writes in her introduction, "The thoughts and ideas here reflect the understanding I developed from experiences with many individual students over the years. As they say, if you've met one student with autism, you've met one student with autism. Each child is wonderfully unique."

Cats at School provides detailed insights, an optimistic viewpoint, and practical suggestions. Chapter titles include Cats and Dogs and Kids, Fun at the Dog Park, Shake It Off, and We Can Do Hard Things, the last one based on one of Jensen's favorite

classroom mottos. Readers will learn that while dogs may not mind a busy classroom, cats prefer the predictability of a calm, structured environment and that while dogs can be trained to obey authority, cats often struggle with the concept. Sensory overload, motivation, the social aspects of school - it's all covered in a way that sheds a tremendous amount of light on the subject of autism simply because it is so simple. By the time you reach the poem at the end, you really feel as though you have been given a peek into the world that students with autism live in.

Jensen says, "It is my hope that by sharing my perspective, I can advance a little understanding and make life just a little easier for at least one person."

Though she retired retired eight years ago, after thirty-five years of teaching, she says she still considers herself as both a student and a teacher and will always carry her students in her heart. That she would have the desire to write a book that could help students she may never meet speaks volumes about her character and is the perfect example of how those who go into the field of teaching often go above and beyond for their kids; how their dedication and tireless efforts often extend beyond the doors of their classrooms and the desks at which their students sit.

Rebecca Ross reporting











Steve, Bill, Dena, Mark, Chris have a combined 150+ years of experience in vehicle repair right here in Old Town Orcutt. Family owned and operated since the early 80's!















Orcutt Schools Update

School Year Successes in the Words of OUSD Stakeholders

Dr. Debbie Blow, Superintendent, OUSD

The 2018-2019 school year has been a successful time for the Orcutt Union School District. But, as the saying goes, don't take my word for it. In lieu of my describing the accomplishments of the past 10 months, here is a cross-section of district stakeholders describing the year's successes from their own perspectives:

Michelle Boyd, assistant principal, Orcutt Junior High School: "We kicked off our Mustang PRIDE this year. PRIDE is short for Prepared, Respectful, Inclusive, Determined, and Engaged. We are giving coupons to students when they exemplify these traits. We like it because we are focusing on the positive, setting expectations, and recognizing kids when they are doing the right thing."

Jennifer Kantorowski, parent and PTSA president, Ralph Dunlap School: "Our PTSA continued to enjoy strong parent support for our school events and fundraisers. We tried out a direct donation drive in the fall, and it exceeded our goals. The proceeds we will use to purchase a water filtration station for our Multi-Use Room."

Phyllis Jackson, office manager, Lakeview Junior High School: "It's been a good year. We had a new principal, Jonathan Dollahite, and a new assistant principal, Janinne Salinas, and they did a great job. Our graduation and eighthgrade awards night also went smoothly."

Julie Kozel, principal, Patterson Road School: "We achieved high academic gains while increasing music and arts instruction for all of our kids, K through sixth. Arts Attack has been very successful here. Jen Larrabee of our PTSA organized two family arts nights that were very well attended."

Shannon Lopez, Special Education inclusion teacher (grades TK, K, and 1), Joe Nightingale School: "The students in our Inclusion Program

made huge progress. They were reading in kindergarten, and most all of them met all of their goals. The families have been very supportive. They appreciate our advice just as we appreciate theirs. We have such a good partnership with our families."

Josh Mason, geometry teacher, Orcutt Academy High School: "A lot of times my successes are being able to run into former students around town who are in college and succeeding. It's great to find out their stories. It brings home why we do what we do."

Erik Pedersen, custodian, Alice Shaw School: "The Measure G project to install more fencing and a single entry to our school has changed our campus in a very positive way. During the school day, when all the gates are locked, it feels a lot more safe and secure."

Kathleen Stevenson, office manager, Olga Reed School: "Students from our ASBs have been working to bring the two schools on our campus (Olga Reed and Orcutt Academy K-8) closer together. They worked together on dances and some spirit days. It was good to see students taking the lead."

Elizabeth Tymn, grades K/1 teacher, Pine Grove School: "I love our new principal. Leslie Wagonseller is phenomenal. I also feel like the iPad Academy was very worthwhile. I didn't think that I needed it, but it turned out to be very helpful."

Thanks to everyone associated with our school district – students, parents, staff, and community – for a wonderful 2018-2019 school year. Here's wishing all of you a happy and restful summer.

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

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A Look at the Purpose of **SB** County Planning and **Development**

One of many important arms of local government, Santa Barbara County's Planning and Development Department works to "plan for and promote reasonable, productive, safe, and sustainable use of land to foster economic, social, and environmental vitality across the County by providing quality policy development, planning, permitting, and inspection services."

So what does that mean exactly? To find out, let's take a closer look at the five divisions of Planning and Development.

The Administration Division handles the Department's budgets, personnel, billing, accounting, and fees as well as hardware and software support and mapping services. Planner Dana Eady says, "One of their important job duties is [hearing support], which includes mailing notices out to surrounding property owners to let them know about upcoming decision-maker hearings for projects." If you want to know what's going on in your neck of the woods, the Administration Division will make sure that happens.

The Building and Safety Division "administers and enforces State and County building, grading, electrical, plumbing, and mechanical codes by issuing building permits, inspecting ongoing construction projects, and investigating building complaints." If you've seen Key Site 4 (the lot at the corner of Clark

and Stillwell) being graded, then you've seen one of the earliest stages at which the Building and Safety Division inspects a construction project.

The Development Review Division performs environmental reviews and "reviews private development projects for consistency with State and local planning laws, ordinances, and the comprehensive plan policies." Projects currently listed under Development Review include OASIS, Key Site 3, Key Site 1 (Orcutt Marketplace), and Key Site 21 (The Neighborhoods of Willow Creek & Hidden Canyon).

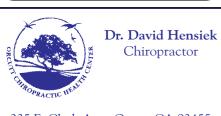
The Long Range Planning Division is "responsible for drafting new land use ordinances and presenting them to the Board of Supervisors for adoption" and preparing updates to community plans like our Orcutt Community Plan that encompasses all Key Sites in Orcutt.

The Energy, Minerals, and Compliance Division oversees oil and gas activities offshore, as well as the onshore facilities that support them, onshore oil and gas development, surface mining, and renewable energy projects. For example, they permit oil fields like Orcutt Hill and are working on the ERG revitalization project.

To find out more, visit http://www. countyofsb.org/plndev/home.sbc

Rebecca Ross reporting





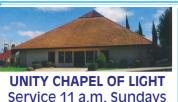
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SUMMER ART CAMPS at Alice Shaw Elementary June 24-28 1st-2nd grade; July 8-12 3rd-4th grade; July 15-19 4th-6th grade; July 22-26 6th-8th grade. Mon-Fri 9:00-12:00 \$140 ALL supplies & portfolio included. Contact Janet Bertoldi 805-938-8931 or jbertoldi@orcutt-schools.net.

Wanted: Model A Ford Cars, Parts, Projects. Let me help clean out your garage. Jay Mc-Cord 805-598-8133

Shadowsfund, Senior and Pit Bull Rescue in Lompoc is looking for volunteers and dog walkers. Shadowsfund@gmail.com

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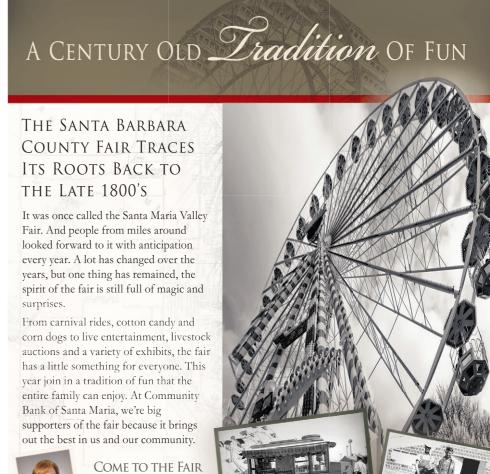
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Community Events

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

SPECIAL EVENTS

SUMMER ART CAMPS at Alice Shaw Elementary June 24-28 1st-2nd grade; July 8-12 3rd-4th grade; July 15-19 4th-6th grade; July 22-26 6th-8th grade. Mon-Fri 9:00-12:00 \$140 ALL supplies & portfolio included. Contact Janet Bertoldi 805-938-8931 or jbertoldi@orcutt-schools.net.

IAN M. HASSETT FOUNDATION ARTIST RECEPTION at CORE Winery on Saturday, June 29, 7-9PM featuring local artists. Some of the work is for sale, with all the proceeds going directly back to the artists. The Foundation is also planning a concert festival fundraiser, Form Over Function 7, on Saturday, August 10th at Presqu'ile Winery on Telephone Road. This annual fundraiser funds arts programs throughout the year. General admission is \$25 (includes \$2 towards any Foundation merchandise purchase or raffle ticket or our VIP tickets are \$45 (includes early entrance, exclusive use of the VIP room & patio, light appetizers, a complimentary glass of wine or beer and our event tote).

FRIENDS OF THE ORCUTT LIBRARY BOOK SALE, August 3, 10AM-1:30PM at the library. Subsequent book sale will be held on November 2. Friends of the Orcutt Library is a not-for-profit organization an all proceeds go to the library.

RUN FOR GOD 5K Challenge. FREE training program for completing a 5K (running/walking) race while maintaining a Christian focus (twelve-week training program for beginners and advanced runners/walkers). Begins August 10th, 2019. Sponsored by The Harbor Church. For information, contact David Dantzer at (805) 937-0213. (NO TEXTS)

MONTHLY OR WEEKLY EVENTS

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

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

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

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

ALTRUSA OF THE CENTRAL COAST meets at Noon on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month. Altrusa is an international non-profit organization of men and women that strives to make our local communities better through leadership, partnership and service. For more information and meeting location call our president at 805.835.7627 or go to our website: www.altrusaofthecentralcoast.org.

AMERICAN LEGION POST 534 Breakfast 8-11AM on the first Sunday of each month. Public invited. 145 W. Clark Ave.

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

ALL YOU CAN EAT BREAKFAST at OASIS Senior Center, 420 East Soares, Old Orcutt on the second

Saturday of each month 8-10AM: Adult members \$5, Non members \$7, Children under 10: \$3.

BIBLE STUDY on I & II Corinthians at St. Louis de Montfort. Monday nights 7-8:30PM. For more info contact Steve Stanley 937-1353; Trent Benedetti 937-9625.

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. ron@enginetech-ca.com

Bilingual worship services at Christian Life every Sunday at 2PM, Unity Chapel of Life church located at 1165 Stubblefield Rd, Santa Maria, CA 93455. 719-660-9789.

CA 0295 TOPS (Take Off Pounds Sensibly) meets at the Foster Road Church of Christ every Monday evening. Weigh-ins @ 5:30 meeting @ 6PM. (805)2681480

CAMPING LOVE OF ADVENTURE is a nonprofit single adult camping club. We meet the second week of each month on Wednesday for up to six night or less. For more information contact Elaine 805-937-5357

CAREGIVER'S SUPPORT GROUP. Learn coping strategies and gain support from a professional social worker. For those who care for people that are home bound or suffering from Alzheimer's, dementia or senility. Class is free and meets on the first Wednesday of each month at the OASIS Senior Center.

CENTRAL COAST BEACH BOARDWALKERS WALKING CLUB meets at Giovanni's Pizza in Orcutt (next to Albertson's) on the fourth Thursday of each month from 6-7:30PM. Anyone interested in joining the CCBB is invited to meet Thursday, August 23rd for the next club meeting, Details can be found at www.beachboardwalkers.org, or call Club President Ty Fredriks at 805-714-1552.

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 @ Merrill Gardens, Wellness Center, 1350 N. Suey Road, Santa Maria. Info: call Mike @ 805-934-3948 or Tawnya @

805-260-6090.

CENTRAL COAST COMPUTER CLUB Knollwood Village Clubhouse 4012 S. Bradley

Meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 5:45PM. with Q&A session, coffee and cookies, followed by a 7PM. brief business meeting. Information: Bill 934 0775 or

www. Central Coast Computer Club. com

Central Coast Gardeners meet at the Luis OASIS Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., on the third Tuesday of the month at 6:30PM. from September through May. Guests are welcome. Info: Dorothy 934-8325.

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, 7 PM, at St. Andrew United Methodist Church, 3945 S. Bradley Rd., Santa Maria. 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.





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The Summit Club coming soon!

The Meadows is our newest community and we invite you to view the beautifully designed models. In addition, we are also taking reservations for The Groves at Rice Ranch and those models will be open in the fall. Please stop by the model complex and choose your new home today! 4 models are open daily from 10-5 on South Bradley at Sage Crest in Orcutt, in Northern Santa Barbara County. You can reach The Meadows sales office at (805) 623-5607 and The Groves sales office at (805) 623-5119.

In the heart of scenic wine county is the locally loved, Rice Ranch master planned community. Experience luxury homes with layouts crafted for elegance and comfort. Spacious floor plans, parks, walking trails, panoramic views and features suited for

The Summit Club with indoor and outdoor amenities is coming soon as a luxury









AT RICE RANCH IN ORCUTT OFF S. BRADLEY RD AT SAGE CREST DR / SALES@CCB1.NET / 805-623-5607



