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## Federally Funded Lighting for Athletic Fields at Community Park

Thanks to federal monies, the spacious athletic fields at Orcutt Community Park will receive over a half million dollars in lighting for the baseball and soccer fields. Aaron Hanke, Chief of Staff for County Supervisor Bob Nelson, says the added lighting, "will extend the time the different leagues can schedule

and play. Supply doesn't meet demand and the added lighting will really help."

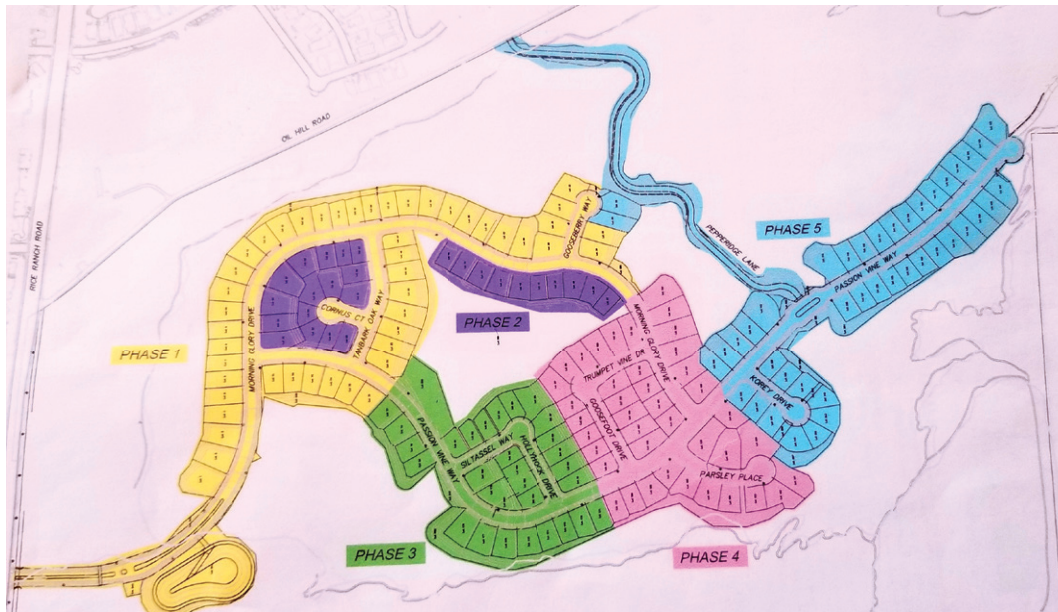
Santa Barbara County is receiving \$86.2 million from the Federal American Rescue Plan Act designed to help cities, counties, and states deal with pandemic issues. The money for the lighting comes from

this fund. Santa Barbara County held hearings earlier this month to determine how the money would be spent, and the Supervisors allocated 9 million dollars countywide and will hold further hearings on the balance.

*Steve Southwick reporting*



## Construction Beginning on 184-Home Valley View Development



Development is beginning in phases one, two and four in the Valley View Project. Phase one is denoted in yellow; phase two (in white) in the center with a neighborhood park and open space; phase four is pink.

Another phase in the Rice Ranch development is underway with grading and construction fences now in place for the Valley View component of the seven neighborhoods of the Rice Ranch Master Planned Development. Trails in those hills, many used daily by walkers and hikers will still be available, "however some may be temporarily closed due to safety concerns from construction," according to an e-mail to the Orcutt Pioneer from Shannon Reece of County Planning and Development.

One of the main trails is in the open space of the planned Valley View development.

The Valley View neighborhood will house 184 homes south of Rice Ranch Road and east of Orcutt Hill Road.

In 2003, the County initially approved the entire Rice Ranch development with 725 units on approximately 560 acres in the Orcutt Hills south of Rice Ranch Road. The Oaks (152 units) and Pine Creek single family developments (43 units) are fully constructed. Pine Creek duplexes (114 units), Grove (77 units) and Meadows North (103 units) are under construction.

*Steve Southwick reporting*

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## Orcutt Pioneer Your Community Newspaper

### "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

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# Ag Commissioner Helps Tackle Gardening Challenges

There is that song "June is Busting Out All Over" from the Broadway musical Oklahoma. That is certainly the case with gardeners. With the planting season here, there is bound to be lots of questions about flowers, grass, and noxious weeds, anything popping up out of the ground.

Helping gardeners and would be gardeners identify and deal with weeds and pests harming fruit trees and plants is one of the services of the Santa Barbara County Agriculture Weights and Measures Department. Rudy Martel, the Assistant Agriculture Commissioner, says if you have questions, just take a photo or package up the varmint or plant and take it to the Agriculture Commissioner's Santa Maria Office at 624 West Foster Road Suite E. If the local biologists cannot help you, the Cooperative Extension lab at the University of California with offices in Santa Barbara will tackle the problem. Martel says if all else fails, the state agriculture department steps in.

Cooperative Extension also offers a

"Master Gardener" program. The website says the schedules for gardening classes will be available sometime this summer.

Martel says a high priority is pesticide regulation in agriculture fields and the protection of agriculture workers. During the COVID pandemic, the Agriculture Commissioner's office provided masks, gloves, and sanitizers to workers including housing for those quarantined.

Additionally, ag officers annually check every gas pump at service stations making sure you get the exact amount of gas you pay for, check devices and scanners in markets and retail stores and inspect FedEx, UPS, and USPS packages for exotic pests and vegetation.

Farmers markets are certified by the Agricultural Commissioner's office. The produce offered must be grown by the seller. The market in the Oak Knolls shopping center at Bradley and Clark in Orcutt has been certified for several years.

Martel says the annual crop report will be out in early July. Last year's

total production was \$1,600,146,484 with thirty-six percent coming from strawberries, wine grapes accounted for 7%. Other crops include nursery products, broccoli, celery, leaf lettuce, and cauliflower.

The Agriculture Commissioner Weights and Measures Department materially affects every Orcutt and Santa Barbara County resident. According to Agriculture Commissioner Cathy Fisher, the mission is to protect agriculture, natural resources, and the quality of life in Santa Barbara County. Fisher says the department provides the first line of defense against the introduction of injurious plant and animal pests.

Ms. Fisher promises the Agriculture Commissioner Weights and Measures Department will continue to strive to provide protections for consumers, the environment, and the agricultural and business community.

*Steve Southwick reporting*



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## OASIS Welcomes New Executive Director



*Michelle Southwick*

The OASIS Center, an enduring part of the Orcutt landscape, has a new Executive Director, Michelle Southwick. She is eager for the community to engage with the center as pandemic restrictions wane. "It has been a tough year for OASIS along with other businesses and nonprofits. We have great support from the community, but our special events,

facilities rentals, and membership revenue largely disappeared over the last year," said Southwick recently. Joining the OASIS team last July as Director of Development, Southwick facilitated a transition from one major in-person fundraising event to smaller, less lucrative community get-togethers. As pandemic restrictions have eased, Southwick is excited about opportunities for the Center to bring expanding services to the Orcutt Community.

An Orcutt native, Michelle Southwick's life journey took her many places around the world before returning to Orcutt. "Who could resist returning to year-round sunshine and ocean breezes?" she said. After living years in Oregon and successfully launching four children, she was able to complete a degree in Public Health with an emphasis on Health Promotion. "While at school I worked with refugee communities, leading to an internship in Washington

D.C.," Southwick said. Then she worked in Greece, India, and Texas, uniquely preparing her for this position at OASIS. "There are tremendous resources for seniors and their families at the OASIS Center. My goal is to help the community get involved early and often with exercise, travel, and other mental and physical wellness opportunities at the center."

These opportunities include classes in Tai Chi, Yoga, and Aerobics. There is a walking group meeting monthly exploring new locations with a guide, and another group that plans bigger travel worldwide. For 'craftier' folks, classes in beading, silversmithing, and other creative arts are offered, and all classes are a great way to socialize. A bereavement group with a licensed facilitator meets weekly, Al Anon uses the facility, and a new Health and Wellness class can meet other needs. "The Center is a resource that can help

with financial and food needs in these tough times, and we are equipped to connect people with other community resources too," said Southwick. But don't forget about the fun! As a grandmother of two with another three on the way, and a snorkeling enthusiast who has snorkeled in multiple seas and oceans, Michelle knows about fun. "There are great special events at OASIS, and The Center's facilities can also be rented for private parties and events," she said.

Finally, there's a fundraising concert coming up on July 31, 2021, with The Molly Ringwald Project at CMT Ranch. "I look forward to this being an all-community event with activities for any age. Good local foods and drinks, outdoor games like Giant Jenga and Cornhole, raffles and don't forget everyone's favorite 80's hits!"

Make your way down to OASIS to meet Michelle or check out [oasisorcutt.org](http://oasisorcutt.org) online to see how you can get involved.

*Juliann Hemphill reporting*

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## Letter to the Editor

### *Stillwell and Clark Avenue is the best location for retail cannabis*

Recent media reports indicate several locations are being considered in the Phase III applicant selection for the Orcutt Cannabis Retail Permit. Of the five current locations only the 1604 East Clark Avenue at Stillwell Road and Clark Avenue meets the needs of the greater Orcutt area for several reasons.

The other four locations present safety concerns that should not be ignored. The two locations on Orcutt Road (Medina Tire Shop and Diamond Nails) present significant traffic impacts to the Orcutt Road, Lakeview Avenue, Skyway Drive, and SR135 intersections in every direction. All ingress and egress is stressed from rising vehicular speeds and movements complicated by obscured lines of sight, several pedestrian crosswalks, and bike lanes or paths. Traffic controls are lacking causing significant uncertainty for

right of ways whether driving, walking, or biking. This vehicle vs. pedestrian dynamic greatly impairs response times and decreases the safety of every driver, biker, and pedestrian (student).

Both locations on Clark Avenue in Old Orcutt (plus the Orcutt Market site if eventually re-admitted) lack adequate on-site customer parking and American Disability Act requirements. Increasing traffic enforcement calls to Santa Barbara County Sheriff and California Highway Patrol highlight the concern for worsening Clark Avenue traffic conditions as commercial sites are being added to the Orcutt business development plan.

Only the 1604 East Clark Avenue location approaches reasonable and common-sense resolution to all of the aforementioned impacts. The site has access to US 101 with more current infrastructure to accommodate the anticipated increased traffic impacts

while limiting the exposure to Orcutt residents (particularly the youth).

Additionally, part of the merchandise mix of this retail operation will promote vaping pens, high-potency gummies, sodas, candies, waxes, and dabs placing our most vulnerable (youth) at risk. All of the merchandise and retail operations are pointed to increased consumption of products which can produce anxiety, agitation, paranoia, and psychosis.

Evidence suggests that even marginal adolescent consumption of cannabis can hamper productivity and motivation, cause behavioral impediments, mental delays, and lead to psychotic episodes. Chronic users (not necessarily abusers) frequently exhibit a decline in athletic and scholastic output, regression from community and networks for socialization, increased confusion with difficulty to cope or problem solve, and

frequently develop hostile attitudes towards their peers and families.

This community deserves to be protected from these dangerous realities.

In closing may I add a frequent sentiment: adolescents think legal means moral. When government makes laws – it often provides a new morality- which gives people the permission to do things they would not normally do. Orcutt may not be able to alter this decision by the County Board of Supervisors to permit a cannabis retailer in Orcutt. However, at this fork in the road we all can choose the better path for protection of our youth, the economic future of the greater Orcutt community and Santa Barbara County by choosing the 1604 East Clark Avenue location.

*Greggory Follett  
Concerned Orcutt Resident*




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## Orcutt Schools Update

# Measure G Making A Lasting Impact

*Dr. Holly Edds, Superintendent, OUSD*

From our northernmost site, Joe Nightingale School, to our Los Alamos campus approximately 15 miles to the south, schools in the Orcutt Union School District are being transformed by Measure G. This column will report on completed, current, and future facilities improvements made possible by the bond measure district voters approved in November 2016.

The most recent completed project is the Innovation Center located on the grounds of Orcutt Junior High School, just across Dyer Street from the district office. The center will house the district's enrollment office and technology department. It also contains classrooms that will house Career and Technical Education (CTE) classes, e-sports, technology training, parent education nights, and district meetings.

Other completed projects include the following:

- Gates and perimeter fencing for four

elementary schools (Alice Shaw, Patterson Road, Pine Grove, and Ralph Dunlap), the K-8 schools in Los Alamos, Lakeview Junior High School, and Orcutt Academy High School;

- A new parking lot at Pine Grove School;
- Modernization of the cafeteria and kitchen in Los Alamos;

- Modernization of restrooms at Orcutt Academy High School; and

- Construction of a kindergarten wing at Joe Nightingale School (paid for with both Measure G funding and Developer Fees).

- Under way now are three projects:

- Construction of a new administration building at Orcutt Junior High School and completion of the school's perimeter fencing;

- Construction of a new administration building at Joe Nightingale School and completion of the school's perimeter fencing; and

- Improvements to the electrical and technology cabling at Olga Reed School and

the Orcutt Academy in Los Alamos as the first phase of modernizing that school site.

"The board is very happy with the progress that is being made," says Melanie Waffle, president of the district's board of trustees. "Every year, we do a facilities tour, and I already am looking forward to the next one."

As for the future, the district has three Measure G initiatives scheduled to start in Summer 2022:

- Construction of a new multi-use room/gymnasium at Orcutt Academy High School;
- Upgrading science rooms at Lakeview and Orcutt junior high schools; and
- Remodeling and upgrading two wings of older classrooms on the Los Alamos campus.

The multi-use room/gym at OAHS figures to be a signature project for Measure G. The yet-to-be-named building will include a full-size gym for basketball and volleyball, a stage for performances, a lobby with restrooms, an additional classroom, and an outdoor stage for assemblies and performances.

"There is still much work to be accomplished before the multi-use room/gym project breaks ground," says Assistant Superintendent of Business Services Dr. Nick Taylor, "but we are hopeful that it can be ready for the 2024-2025 school year."

Monitoring the district's implementation of Measure G is a citizens' oversight committee comprised of a cross-section of community representatives. The committee receives regular updates and has found projects and expenditures to be in compliance with state requirements for school bond measures.

"I feel like there's so much progress and positive energy coming from what's happening with Measure G," says Orcutt Area Seniors in Service (OASIS) Executive Director Michelle Southwick, a member of the oversight committee. "Many of our facilities are older, and the bond is fixing them for the years to come. I also believe the district is being frugal and careful, and spending money the way it is intended to be spent."

We in the Orcutt Union School District are enormously grateful for the way Measure G is making our campuses better places for students. I look forward to sharing more about the positive impact of Measure G in future editions of the Pioneer.

Here's wishing all of you a wonderful summer!

*Superintendent Dr. Holly Edds can be contacted by phone at 938-8900 or by e-mail at heds@orcutt-schools.net. She can be followed on Twitter at @hce101.*



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# Orcutt Couple Said, “Let’s Quit Our Jobs and Go Sailing”



Soon and Bill George on their trip at sea.

“On May 31, 1996, we took a left at the Golden Gate Bridge,” says Orcutt resident Bill Gloege, “and never went back.” After quitting their jobs with the city of San Jose, Bill and Soon Gloege, sailed out of San Francisco in a 38’ boat, without a plan. Bill, who had been a senior research analyst for 20 years, received a copy of Latitude 38, a sailing magazine, where he got an idea that he could not shake...a life at sea would be exciting. Bill’s knowledge of sailing was thin. Soon knew nothing and couldn’t even swim. “I had to tell

her it would be one big shopping trip to all these different countries,” teases Bill. Reluctantly she joined Bill’s sailing lessons.

The first night, the boat anchored in Half Moon Bay. The second day was foggy, but they saw “Big Sur and San Simeon,” Soon describes. “It was so foggy that we sailed all night.” Finally in Port San Luis, the fog broke and they could safely land. After hitchhiking to Avilla for some shopping and after reading that Pt Conception was pleasant, they set sail in the afternoon. Turns out that Bill had misread that information. Pt Conception can be quite treacherous. The wind picked up, the waves were high, the sails tangled, the boat did some 360s, and the inexperienced sailors got quite an initiation.

The first long stop, 6 months, was Ensenada, Mexico. There they got repairs done, added solar panels and a wind generator. Cabo San Lucas, Mazatlán and Puerto Vallarta were next. A year in Puerto Vallarta included art lessons and lots of parties with other cruisers and the many

Americans that lived there. Bill warmly recalls, “having breakfast every morning overlooking the ocean, the palm trees, the birds.”

In the spring of '99, with new sailing friends, they proceeded south. Soon describes how they had to say goodbye to some of their new friends who were headed to the South Pacific, a commitment which demands sailing around the world. They decided to do Plan B: Mexico, Central America, across the Panama Canal to the eastern side of South America, Central America, Mexico, the Caribbean Islands, Cuba and Florida. “A lot of times we left the boat to explore the country,” says Soon describing their adventure taking buses all over Guatemala.

With smiles, they recalled a major celebration on December 31, 1999. In the midst of a 3-month stay living in a marina inside a lock of the Panama Canal, the US handed over final ownership of the Canal to Panama. The whole country had quite a party, so the cruisers partied with them.

Once through the canal, the Gloeges

continued their explorations as far south as Trinidad and, for one year, as far north as Virginia. They anchored at many of the 7000 islands of the Caribbean with fond memories and stories at each. Soon taught herself to swim in these warm waters, and then snorkel and then scuba dive.

While on a trip back to the US to visit family in 2006, they decided to move into an investment rental they owned in Orcutt because they liked the weather on the Central Coast. They stopped sailing in 2019. Soon began golf lessons and fell in love with golf. Bill now engages himself with an issue he takes quite seriously: global warming. He created a group which hopes to mitigate global warming with the help of nuclear energy. The sea still calls him though, and he’d like a sailor friend to go with. You must have “a good personality, be capable of living in a small space, and know something about sailing.” You would be taking off from Florida and go...who knows where? If interested, call Bill at 805-332-2610.

*Katy Jacobson reporting*

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# Plantel Nurseries Supplies the Nation's Farmers with Vegetable Transplants

*All from Orcutt's Backyard*



*Seeds in the hand of Plantel Sales & Service Manager Chris Waldron*

Santa Maria Valley is a major contributor to California's legacy as a significant source of the world's food production. Our surrounding vegetable, grape and strawberry fields provide spectacular views. All of what we see begins with small seeds that become transplants, many of which are produced at Plantel Nurseries, a significant western provider of vegetable transplants located in Orcutt with outlying productions in Garey and on Telephone Road in Santa

Maria.

Chris Waldron is the sales and service manager of the Plantel Nurseries on Clark Road just east of Lake Marie Estates. He says last year Plantel produced 1.8 billion plants with distributions from Monterey through Ventura Counties with customers in the San Joaquin Valley, in several western states, and even Wisconsin. Celery is the biggest seller with broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, peppers, and lettuce close behind.

Waldron, who has been on the job for about twenty-five years, explains, "Once we provide the transplants for the grower, we are done. The grower does the harvesting and arranges for marketing."

Waldron explains that the growing process is complex and highly automated. Nutrient soil is brought in from a supplier in Guadalupe. The soil is then impacted into trays that include two and half inch cells, each cell grows

one plant. Seeds are dropped into the cells from rotating cylinders with seeds in small pockets. The approximately one-foot square trays with the seeds are then moistened in a water tunnel on their way into the germination chamber.

The plants then germinate in a mammoth building with controlled humidity and temperature. One employee monitors the plants for hydration health. "Too little water, the plant dies; too much water, the plant dies," explains Mr. Waldron.

As soon as the seed breaks open, the trays go into a greenhouse which has a sunroof for summer cooling. At the appropriate time, the small plants are loaded and prepped for transportation.

After the trays are used, they are sanitized for the next go-around.

All water goes into a pond and is sanitized and re-used. No water from the planting operation goes offsite.



*Transplant ready for delivery.*

Waldron explains that says that Plantel Nurseries struggles with the availability of workers in the field, so the company is in the process of purchasing robots built in Italy and Spain. "Normally it takes about twenty-five employees to harvest. With a robot, we only need three or four employees. The problem is finding experienced people to service

*continues on page 10*



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# RHS Ag Teacher Receives Outstanding Young Teacher Award



Amy Guerra

The California Agriculture Teachers' Association recently recognized Righetti agriculture teacher, Amy Guerra with the Outstanding Teacher Award.

"I have truly enjoyed being an Ag teacher and overcoming constant obstacles as a young teacher," Guerra said. "I love my career choice and the ability to educate our youth, and to make a positive impact on their lives. It's an amazing feeling to see

their growth as leaders and to watch them pursue their passions after high school. I am very thankful to be recognized for my past achievements and I look forward to continue educating future generations."

The award recognizes an outstanding young teacher (up to 5 years teaching) for their exceptional teaching, participation, civic and community service, and professional activities.

Guerra has been instrumental in developing and expanding the Agriculture Department's course offerings, leadership opportunities, and community involvement. She's also developed Agriculture Chemistry, Agriculture sciences, and leadership classes beyond the classroom.

Guerra coached the State Champion Poultry Career Development Event (CDE) Team, Marketing Plan CDE Team (3rd in the state), Ag Sales CDE (6th place), Advanced Parliamentary

Procedure Team (1st place in the South Coast Region) and the Novice Parli Pro Team (5th place in the state). The FFA Chapter website was in the top 4 in the state and the program had a state finalist Extemporaneous Public Speaker.

She continues to expand student involvement in Supervised Agriculture Experience (SAE's) opportunities, which are a component of Agriculture Education's 3 circle model of classroom/lab, leadership, and hands-on application.

"Amy Guerra exemplifies the Outstanding Young Agriculture Teacher Award," said fellow Warrior Ag Teacher Guillermo Guerra.

The California Agriculture Teachers' Association is a professional education association representing more than 800 teachers throughout the state.

## 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 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.

California King waterbed. Dark oak frame with mirrored headboard. Captains pedestal with drawers, padded rails. Complete, ready to set up and fill. \$150 OBO 805-878-1739

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

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

Nautilus E614 Elliptical for sale. Very good condition. \$325.00 OBO. Call 805-441-4349

SKIL circular saw, 5580-01, 13 Amp. \$60.00. (805) 937-3582. Pls lv msg.

Remington electric chain saw, model 108526-01, 120V 60Hz; \$25.00. (805) 937-3582. Pls lv msg.

Chicago Electric Heavy Duty Reciprocating Saw; 120v, 7A. \$25.00. (805) 937-3582. Pls leave msg

Electric smoker. Luhr Jensen Little Chief w/booklet. \$25.00. (805) 937-3582. Pls leave msg

Couch, 82 in. wide; pinstripe with jewel tone colors. \$115.00. Table lamp, 26 in. tall with bell shape shade. \$12.00. (805) 268-1629

Pierre Cardin suitcase; lge, red canvas, wheels. \$10.00. (805) 937-3582. Lv msg.

Folding camp chairs, 2, blue w/cup holder; \$5.00 for both. (805) 937-3582. Lv msg.

2 boxes of Lincoln Logs \$25 each, box of Legos (thousands of them) \$50, bin of other toys \$25, 805-937-5440

Schoolhouse clock, chimes Westminster on the hour, battery operated, great condition, meas, 2ftx18" 805-937-6017 : \$24.00

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## Orcutt Music Teacher Josie Coburn chosen as 2022 Performing Arts Teacher of the Year



*Josie Coburn*

Josie Coburn has been selected as the 2022 Santa Barbara Bowl Performing Arts Teacher of the Year by the Santa Barbara County Education Office (SBCEO). Coburn is a music and band teacher in the Orcutt Union School District, where she has taught for over eight years. She was chosen for her passion for music education and her significant impact throughout the District, teaching at five different schools, serving elementary to

high school students.

Coburn has inspired her students in many ways, including fostering their desire to pursue music instruction as a career. Trenton Kozel, 2018-2019 OAHS drum major, plans to be a band teacher. He said, "She is so willing to work harder than anyone, stay longer than anyone, and go the extra mile, and when you see her do that, it makes you want to be better and be like her. She is one of the best examples I've ever had."

"SBCEO is honored to recognize Coburn for inspiring her students through music and band. The arts are essential, and Coburn and her students prove that every day through music," said Santa Barbara County Superintendent of Schools Dr. Susan Salcido. "We are grateful for our partnership with the Santa Barbara Bowl, which continues to prioritize education through sponsorships like the Performing Arts Teacher of the Year Award."

The PATOY is a partnership between the Santa Barbara County Education Office and the Santa Barbara Bowl through the Santa Barbara Bowl Foundation Education Outreach, which is dedicated to supporting performing arts education in the community.

"The Santa Barbara Bowl works hand in hand with many organizations to help enrich the lives of our community," added Rick Boller, the Bowl Foundation's Executive Director. "We are thrilled to honor incredible teachers like Josie Coburn with support programs like the Instrument Fund, Community Ticket Subsidy's and annual grants, which provide access for all to the amazing world of performing arts."

"Josie encourages creativity and is regarded by her students as someone willing to brainstorm ideas with them for new and exciting solos, riffs, and performances," said Dr. Holly Edds, Superintendent of Orcutt Union School District. "Under Josie's direction, the

Orcutt Union School District (OUSD) band program has tripled in size, and the Orcutt Academy High School Band (OAHS) has quadrupled in size, and both have become points of pride in our community."

"Santa Barbara Bowl Outreach is dedicated to ensuring all students have access to the arts. Josie's continued dedication to the future artists of the world is inspiring for the entire Santa Barbara community," said Karen Kerns, Chair of the Outreach Committee.

Coburn teaches band at Orcutt Academy High School, Orcutt Junior High School, and Lakeview Junior High School. She also teaches classroom music and band at Joe Nightingale Elementary School and Patterson Road Elementary School.

Coburn will be formally recognized at the November 6 at "A Salute to Teachers" event along with other award-winning educators from Santa Barbara County.



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Sunday 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM

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# Legal Action Delays Cannabis Retail Permit Process

It's quiet on the cannabis front as legal action has stopped the process of determining which retailer and location will be selected to receive the one allowed retail permit available in the Orcutt area. Natural Healing Center (NHC), which is trying to secure a permit to sell at the current Old Town Market location, did not make the cut in the "business plan" phase of the Santa Barbara County process. NHC received 84 out of 100 possible points in the matrix, one point shy of the 85 passing grade. As a result, the County determined that NHC was not eligible to proceed along with the five other Orcutt applicants to the "neighborhood compatibility" phase. Owner Helios Dayspring and his attorneys filed a Writ of Mandate arguing he should have received more points in the various categories.

A judge will determine the validity of his claims at a hearing on July 23 which

had been continued from its original March 24 date. Brittany Heaton of the County Executive Office said that the action prevents the County from further consideration of the five remaining applicants for the single cannabis permit.

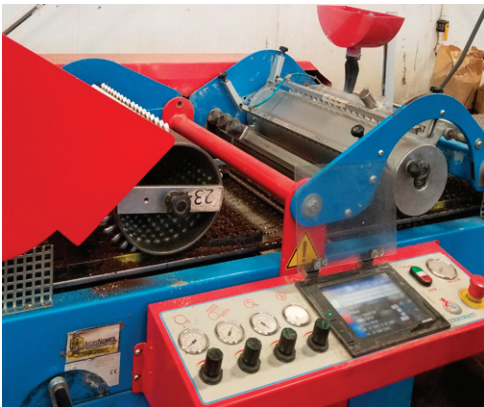
The other potential cannabis retail sites are: 155 East Clark Ave. (empty building next door to Kay's Country Kitchen), 235 East Clark Ave. (Orcutt Chiropractic Health Center), 3596 Orcutt Road (Medina Tire Shop in front of Spencer's Market), 3550 Orcutt Road (Diamond Nails behind Spencer's Market, and 1604 East Clark Ave. Building B, Suite 1 (new shopping center at Stillwell and Clark Ave near Hwy 101).

The applicant with the highest score will be entitled to file for the retail selling permit.

Steve Southwick reporting

# Plantel Nurseries

continued from page 7



Production machine that puts seeds into the cells holding the nutrient-rich soil.

the robots."

Two of the three Plantel operations have solar systems; the third is in the works. "Our operation is carbon neutral," Waldron explains.

Waldren says Plantel is noted for its service to schools and various non-profits. "I could not even count how many community gardens Plantel


Nurseries has donated plants. And when you include Orcutt and Santa Maria elementary schools, OASIS, Mussell Senior Centers, and Cal Poly San Luis Obispo, we have helped thousands."


"The celery seedlings in production today are already sold to a grower and will be on your Thanksgiving table in November. The transplants must be ready and delivered to the grower and eventually to the retailer on the date requested. The retailer cannot accept late deliveries. You cannot predict the weather or marketing conditions. We have to produce the produce on time." Mr. Waldron concludes, "We are in a very fragile business. That's what makes my job so challenging and fun."

Upcoming on Saturday, September 18th, is Santa Barbara County Farm Day. Waldron hopes you will mark your calendar when Plantel Nurseries and farms, ranches and agricultural organizations host free agricultural tours and activities.


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## Community Events

To submit your community event, email 50 words or less to [info@orcuttpioneer.com](mailto: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

**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 June 5th. Sponsored by The Harbor Church. For information, contact David Dantzer – 805-714-9235 (Call or text)

**ART SHOW - FREE ADMISSION** Shepard Hall, Santa Maria Main Library 5 June through 28 July 2021 Monday-Saturday 10:00 a.m. until 6 p.m. Local Artist, Marilyn Dover Benson will be displaying over 20 paintings in a solo show titled 'REALISM OR ABSTRACT...WHAT'S YOUR PASSION'

Experience the love of God and the warmth and welcoming fellowship of St. Andrew United Methodist Church, 3945 S. Bradley Road in Orcutt. Sunday worship is 9:00 and 10:30 AM. Contact us at 805-937-2470 or [saumscm.org](http://saumscm.org). We welcome the community to join us in person.

**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.

**STAGE WRITE** playwriting group meets monthly via Zoom to discuss and prepare our works for production. **ORCUTT COMMUNITY THEATER** is committed to present two original plays by local writers per season. We welcome fellow writers to join us. For more information call 805-937-3738.

Pathway Family Services is seeking 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 with 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.pfsff.org](http://www.pfsff.org). We are open to Zoom sessions by RSVP to [dlangston@pfsff.org](mailto:dlangston@pfsff.org).

**RIGHETTI HIGH SCHOOL BAND BOOSTERS** is seeking sponsorship from local businesses. This will help support the dedicated students in the Righetti Bands with their continued efforts in field shows and performances. We are looking for donations and would be more than happy to perform in exchange. <https://www.rhswarriorbands.org/>

**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

### 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](http://www.adultchildren.org)) meets on Thur, Fri, Sat, and Sun. Contact Kim at (805) 714-6908 for more information!

**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](mailto:aacquilters@gmail.com) or 805-937-4024.

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

**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 the Book of Joshua at St. Louis de Montfort. Monday Nights 7-8 PM. For more info contact Trent Benedetti 922-4881.

**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)

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.

**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 CCBW is invited to meet Thursday, August 23rd for the next club meeting. Details can be found at [www.beachboardwalkers.org](http://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, 7PM. computer presentation. Information: Don at 805-862-9124 or <https://sites.google.com/site/smcacccc>

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](mailto:coastalvoices@gmail.com) or call 937-5827 for additional information.



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