Orcutt FREE

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Supervisors Approve Orcutt Hills Plaza Cannabis Dispensary

On August 10th, the County Planning Commission approved a cannabis dispensary retail outlet in the Orcutt Hills Plaza at 1604 East Clark despite neighborhood concerns. The Commission had approved the land use permit in April, but an appeal was filed by Cimarron Estates Homeowners citing traffic, parking and land use inconsistencies.

Several homeowners in Cimmaron Estates told the Commissioners they were concerned about off-site parking in their neighborhood, illegal entrances to the shopping center from Stillwell Road, and security issues. In the appeal, the homeowners also asserted the owners of the dispensary, known as Dr. Greenthumb, should have gone through another application process because of the name change from Cookies 805 to Dr. Greenthumb. The County response was the dispensary applicant was the same; only the name was changed. County staff said parking and traffic issues were not significant.

Spokesperson for Dr. Greenthumb, Brandon Gesicki, said the applicant complied with parking requirements. He argued that with the approved commercial development on adjacent Key Site 2,

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including a gas station, market and fastfood establishment, "parking is definitely not an issue." He also said customers generally have short visits averaging about seven minutes and said that security personnel would be present inside the outlet.

Fourth District Commissioner Larry Ferini, in whose district the dispensary is located, said traffic issues, including illegal turns off Stillwell Road, should be handled through the Public Works Department and CHP. He, along with Commissioners John Parke, Laura Bridley, and Michael Cooney, voted to deny the appeal. Fifth District Commissioner Vincent Martinez supported the appeal arguing he had not seen appropriate parking documents.

County Supervisors have allowed six dispensaries in unincorporated areas, one of them in Orcutt. The Orcutt Hills Plaza location was favored by the County over five other applicants. All applicants were ranked according to various criteria including location, business plan and neighborhood compatibility.

The City of Santa Maria prohibits retail dispensaries. They are allowed in Guadalupe and Lompoc.

Steve Southwick reporting



Santa Maria Olive Co. Producing Award Winning Oils in Orcutt



Michael and Matthew Clayton, owners of Santa Maria Olive Co.

The Santa Maria Valley has been known for years for its world class wines, farm production, and... olive oil?

Well, it is time to get to know Santa Maria Olive Co. located just east of Orcutt off Clark Avenue near the Lake Marie housing development.

Although Michael B. Clayton was born and raised in Fort Smith Arkansas, he has called Santa Maria his home since 1989. Clayton is known for his involvement in many civic events in our community and he is no stranger when it comes to supporting our veterans.

In 2002, Clayton and his family fell in love with and purchased the property. Then in 2009, the Claytons were approached with a crazy idea of "saving" a twenty-year old olive orchard located in the California Central

Valley. The Claytons had no knowledge about olive trees or their care but felt compelled to save such beautiful trees and immediately began transplanting roughly 900 Mission-Manzanillo olive trees to their Santa Maria Valley property. The next 2 years, other varietals were introduced such as Arbequina, Picudo, Koroneiki, Arbosana, Leccino, and Pendolino with a final count of 1600 trees encompassing roughly 6.5 acres of land.

With hard work, trial and error and lots of dedication, in 2014, the trees finally "took" and in early spring of 2015, one olive was found throughout the entire orchard and the "singular" Santa Maria Olive Co. name

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Candidates to be Featured In September Edition

On Tuesday, November 8, elections will be held for several offices affecting the Orcutt community. In September's edition, candidates for the Santa Maria Joint Union High School District, Areas 4 and 5, as well as the Santa Maria Valley Airport District, Areas 2 and 4, will be interviewed.

In the Orcutt Union School District, only the incumbents filed candidacy papers, therefore no election is required.





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Contact Phone:

Business & Advertising: (805) 714-6584

Postal Address:

P.O. Box 2545, Orcutt CA 93457

E-Mail address:

info@orcuttpioneer.com

Graphic Art Department

James Jepsen, Art Director pioneer@jamesjepsen.com

Webmaster: Archie Miller

w6alm@aol.com www.OrcuttPioneer.com

OCAF Plans Chalk Festival for September 24



Orcutt Children's Arts Foundation (OCAF) is busily preparing for its tenth annual Chalk Festival planned for Saturday September 24th from 10AM to 3:30PM on South Broadway in Old Orcutt.

The OCAF Chalk Festival embodies the spirit of 16th century Italian street painting. "At the festival you will see children, emerging student artists, amateur and professional artists working side by side creating unique artistic street masterpieces.

It is a free, family-oriented art filled fun day that celebrates creativity and the importance of art in our daily lives," says OCAF's Executive Director LeeAnn Luongo. For children, PasspART tickets can be purchased for \$10 which includes a box of pastel sidewalk chalk and a place to create their own art masterpiece.

In addition to chalk drawings, there will be regional crafts and artwork of numerous vendors, live music and a wide selection of food offerings from local food trucks and restaurants.

OCAF is looking for business and individual event sponsors. Sponsorships range from a chalk square, artist sponsor, culinary artist, vendors, and corporate sponsorships and will be recognized at the event. "Sponsors can provide their own artist of any age or experience level or have OCAF provide an artist who will have free reign to create their own masterpiece," explains Luongo.

OCAF's mission is to provide all children in the Orcutt Union School District with opportunities to experience and participate in the visual and performing arts by bringing together community resources. For information about the chalk festival or OCAE visit www.orcuttarts.com.



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⁽⁸⁰⁵⁾ **598-4052**

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Angel Bourbon Remembers Early Days at the Santa Maria Inn



On our sunny 4th of July afternoon, I was fortunate to find Angel Bourbon sitting on his wooden porch in Old Orcutt. As an acquaintance for many years, I knew he had stories to tell about working at the Santa Maria

Inn as a bartender for 52 years. I asked him if he would like to tell me some stories. "Stories? Yeah, I can tell you a few," he laughed softly as he adjusted his chair. A lifelong Santa Maria and Orcutt resident, he was born in 1934 as one of 13 children. They lived at 1126 West Church Street in Santa Maria.

"Most of us are gone now," he said stroking his whiskered chin. "But 6 of us boys all served in the military at various times." "Yeah, I started out in the Santa Maria Inn kitchen back in 1945. I had to go out to the fields to pick up the produce for the kitchen as soon as the sun was out. My friend Ira Gin and I had to stand out there in the cold, just waiting," he said shaking his head. "Damn cold."

"As soon as our last names were put together, Gin and Bourbon, it was decided that we would both work as bartenders."

"Did I serve famous people?" He chortled as he straightened proudly. "You bet I did! Ever heard of Doris Day?" When I assured him that I had, he continued. "She was so beautiful. So pretty and she had little freckles on her nose. She would sing to me. Now, what was the name of that song she sung?" When I mentioned Que Sera Sera, "That's it! That's the one. Oh, she was so beautiful. Sadly, when I saw a picture of her in her last days" his voice trailed off. "And she had all these dogs around her."

"James Arness, now he was tall! He wore this 10-gallon hat and he had to dip his head to fit through the frame of the bar door. He was really nice. Yul Brynner, nah, he said with a dismissive wave of his hand. When he finally gave me his autograph, I tossed it into the trash."

"Mary Pickford and Douglas Fairbanks were staying there once. They ordered room service from the bar. Now the rule was that orders for my bar patrons always came first, then we would fill the room service orders. But the two actors complained to the desk. The hostess calls me and says, "Do you know who they are?" I replied, "I don't give a damn who they are. Bar patrons come first."

"Then there was Tennessee Ernie Ford. He was always singing 'Sixteen Tons.' I asked him if that was the only song he knew. And he goes to me, no, but that was the one that made me famous."

"John Wayne was another one of my customers," he continued. Always ordered his bourbon and water. Very nice man. Did I tell you about Bette Davis?" When I told him he hadn't, Angel paused and threw his head back laughing. "A practical joke was played on her. The sugar and salt were switched around. I asked her if she wanted her tip back. She said no."

I asked him about any problems with the patrons. "Not really" he said. "They knew who I was and that I didn't put up with no crap in my bar or I would take them outside to see what they really had. I would tell them go across the street to Shaw's, and we don't need to go no further than this."

I asked him about the rumor of a ghost living at the Inn.

"Oh yes, everybody knows about the ghost," he said.

His daughter, Susie, who was with us, enthusiastically agreed.

"I'll tell you why," Angel continued. "There was a caretaker named Maria, and she was the only one who had custody of all the keys. "She heard a ruckus in one of the rooms, and she knew she had just locked it. And another time, it was the night before Thanksgiving and the cook was working overtime. From the kitchen he heard the piano play from a locked room. A Monsignor Father Murphy came eventually to check into this. The piano was never heard again."

I thanked him for a great afternoon, and I had learned many new stories. "Well, when you get old like me, all you have left are stories," he said thoughtfully.

Val Prancevic reporting



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20th All-Ford Car Show Sept. 10th

Over the last two decades, the All-Ford Car Show and Swap Meet, held yearly in Old Town Orcutt, has raised over seventy thousand dollars for Allan Hancock College Industrial Technology scholarships. This year, the event is Saturday, September 10th. According to organizer Jay McCord, 60 years of Shelby Ford performance will be honored. "We are expecting to attract lots of Shelby Fords from first to current models."

The swap meet, which brings people from all over California, offers old Ford car parts. It begins at 7AM and the car show runs from 9AM to 3PM.

McCord says there will be music, raffle prizes, 50/50 drawing, and craft vendors. Non-food vendors are welcome. The event will be held at the Orcutt Union Plaza on South Broadway. Any car "born a Ford," according to McCord, is welcome to enter.

Entry applications are available at www.santamariamodelaclub.com.



Orcutt Schools Update

Hoping for a Return to Normalcy for the New Year

Dr. Holly Edds, Superintendent, OUSD

Shortly after we launched a historic construction project (see separate article), the Orcutt Union School District broke ground on an exciting new school year. Here are some things to know about the coming year:

- We started 2022-2023 with 4,700 students enrolled in transitional kindergarten through 12th grade. We have 10 schools occupying nine campuses.
- Our transitional kindergarten and kindergarten classes continue to accept new students. If you have a four-year-old who turns five sometime prior to February 2, 2023, consider enrolling your child in our transitional kindergarten program. Additionally, all

of our elementary schools offer a full-day program for kindergartners. For information on registering students, go to www.orcuttschools.net/enroll.

- Three veteran principals have new assignments. Kelly Osborne is the new principal of Lakeview Junior High School, Joe Schmidt is now at Orcutt Junior High School, and Jonathan Dollahite leads Ralph Dunlap School. Meantime, Cher Manich starts her first year as principal of the Orcutt School for Independent Study.
- We have some changes at our district office. Sandy Knight is our new assistant superintendent for business services, and Mary Andrade succeeds Sandy as director of fiscal services.

• The Orcutt School for Independent Study has moved to the campus of Ralph Dunlap School. OSIS offers multiple learning options; for information, contact Principal Cher Manich at cmanich@ orcutt-schools.net.

• Orcutt Academy High School now has a Virtual Learning Academy that offers home study and hybrid learning options and welcomes new students in grades 9-12. For information, contact Vice-Principal Josh Ostini at jostini@ orcutt-schools.net.

After being so heavily impacted by COVID-19 these past three school years, we all are hoping that 2022-2023 allows us to return to a more normal routine. Here's wishing our students, families, and staff a fantastic school year!

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.

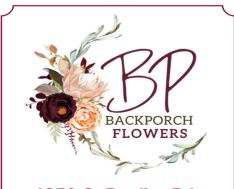


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A Place of Their Own: Orcutt Academy High School Breaks Ground



Groundbreaking for Orcutt Academy multi-purpose facility. From right to left: Superintendent Holly Edds and school board members Shawn Henderson, Mark Steller, Liz Phillips, Lisa Morinini and Melanie Waffle.

Since Orcutt Academy High School welcomed students for the first time in 2008, basketball and volleyball activities, choir, band, and theater presentations have been held at borrowed locations at various schools in Orcutt.

The former May Grisham Elementary School had few resources for high school sports or art programs.

Monday, August 1st was the beginning of the fulfillment of a long-time dream of students and faculty with groundbreaking ceremonies at the future site of a gymnasium and performing facilities on the east side of the campus.

"Playing basketball and doing drama

productions at borrowed schools really sucks," said Associated Student Body President Elizabeth O'Leary. "We have had to share space," she complained as the afternoon crowd laughed and applauded her remarks.

Principal Rhett Carter, standing next to the gigantic hole and huge pile of dirt, said he had prepared remarks for the occasion but, "I am just going to speak from my heart. For the first time, students will be able to increase the level of their learning and performance with the tools they have been waiting for. Right now it doesn't look beautiful, but I know it will be."

The single story, almost 14,000 square foot building will include the gym, a stage for drama productions, classrooms, and an outdoor stage for assemblies.

Orcutt Union School District Holly Edds told the gathering of students, faculty current and former school board members, "It's going to be a place Spartans will be able to have their athletic competitions and performing arts in a place they can call their own."

Measure G funds, passed by Orcutt voters in 2016, is funding the facility. The district hopes the new facility will be completed by Spring 2024.

Steve Southwick reporting









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Olive Oil

continued from page 1 was born.

The following 2015-16 harvest resulted in over 25,000 pounds of harvested fruit! Surprisingly, the harvest was met with amazing lab results and the varietals created some of the best Ultra Premium Extra Virgin Olive Oil blends in the region.

In 2017, the Claytons submitted their 2015 oils to its first competion, the 2017 Los Angeles International Wine Competition. The Santa Maria Oil Co. won a Bronze Medal for the Arbequina varietal in the Northern Hemisphere Extra Virgin division. At the same competition, in the Northern Hemisphere Extra Virgin division, the Santa Maria Olive Co.'s Pendolino Special Blend,

Leccino Special Blend and the Mission Manzanillo Special Blend each won Silver Medals.

This fall, the Santa Maria Olive Co. will be open to the public for tasting in its sunroom nestled among the olive orchard and surrounded with flower beds and water fountains. Hours of operation will be available on its website. As always, a percentage of the proceeds will be used towards supporting our veterans.

You can also purchase olive oil directly from the Santa Maria Olive Co. at www. santamariaolive.com.

Santa Maria Olive Co. has offices at 400 East Orange Street in Santa Maria, and the ranch is located at 2610 East Clark Road.

Steve Southwick reporting

Classified Ads

Sell items for free. Free ads can only be accepted via email to info@orcuttpioneer.com with "classified" in the subject line. 25 word limit. All ads must be received by the second Thursday of the month and will appear on the fourth Thursday of the month. Business ads only \$25/25 words. Mail payments for business ads to Orcutt Pioneer, PO Box 2545, Orcutt CA 93457.

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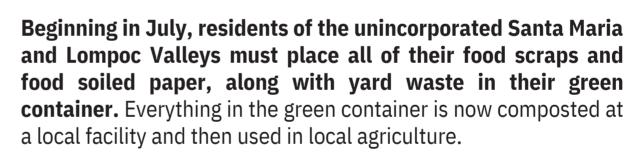






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