

# Orcutt ★ Local Elections Issue ★ *FREE* **PIONEER**

Orcutt News for Orcutt Folks • Orcutt, California • September 2022 • [www.OrcuttPioneer.com](http://www.OrcuttPioneer.com) • Circulation 17,000+

## November 8th General Election Q&A for Orcutt Candidates Vying for Seats on Airport and School Boards

### Santa Maria Public Airport District Has Two Races, Four Candidates

*The Orcutt Pioneer asked each candidate to respond to the following questions: If elected, in the next four years what specific goals would be your plan to successfully complete? How would you complete that goal? What educational experience, academic or in the community, could you bring to the airport board?*

*Each statement appears in the same order the candidates' names will appear on the November 8 ballot.*

#### **SANTA MARIA PUBLIC AIRPORT BOARD – DISTRICT 2**



**Hugh Rafferty**  
*Incumbent*

My first goal would be to increase awareness of the various businesses that operate on the airport. We have one of the few aviation paint shops in the country, we are home to the tanker base for fire-fighting aircraft, Central Coast Jet Center services private and commercial aircraft, there is an on-site hotel, several restaurants, and a large farming land-lease portfolio as well as a mobile home park. Each of these businesses both give and receive benefit from the airport.

Second, I would propose an outreach program to let the public know why we do not have a lot of passenger flights. I'm often asked why the airport doesn't do something about this. The fact is that the management,

staff and board work diligently together to solve this problem by means of incentives and other benefits for airline companies. As you know, we did convince United Airlines to establish routes to Los Angeles, San Francisco and Denver a few years ago. Unfortunately, COVID caused United to cancel these flights, but they have assured us that we are still on their list when their COVID-related issues (lack of pilots and air crews) are resolved. In addition, we continue to communicate with other airlines (American, Southwest, etc.) to establish other routes.

I was part of the team that developed and integrated the first automated Air Route Traffic Control System for the FAA. During this process I worked in air traffic control centers in New York, Boston and Albuquerque. I also worked on digitizing inputs from FAA radar sites and towers and integrating these sites into the system.

Within the community I currently serve as a director of Coast Hills Credit Union, President of the Committee to Improve North County, President of the Santa Barbara County chapter of the California Special Districts Association and have recently been elected to serve on the CSDA Board in Sacramento. I've also served on the boards of the Chamber of Commerce, Leadership Santa Maria Valley, Oasis Senior Center, and other non-profits throughout the county.



**Ignacio "Nash" Moreno**  
*Pilot/Business Consultant*

My main goal for my service as an Airport Board member will be to bring more business and career opportunities to our airport community and expand our general aviation needs.

To complete this goal, I will be our airport's liaison, travel to aviation trade shows, and illustrate to established aviation businesses why Santa Maria should be their new home. To expand general aviation needs, we need a flight school to train aspiring pilots.

Additionally, there is currently a hefty waitlist for hangar space at our airport, and I will be advocating for the creation of more hangar space along with upkeep and maintenance of existing infrastructure.

I will bring 10+ years of project management, tech industry, and community service experience to the airport board. I bring a culmination of organizational skills and leadership principles from my time working as a point of contact to enterprise accounts for LinkedIn.com as well as in my efforts to assist in the establishment of a non-profit that provides medical resources to underprivileged communities.

As co-founder of BienestarCCC (formerly Bienestar Latinx) and most recently building and growing my own consulting business at NashMoreno.com, I have gained extensive

problem-solving and public relations expertise. And perhaps most importantly, as a private pilot, I look forward to helping grow my home airport to make it more productive and streamlined for future Santa Maria generations to fly.

#### **SANTA MARIA PUBLIC AIRPORT BOARD – DISTRICT 4**



**Carl Engel**  
*Incumbent*

If elected to the Santa Maria Public Airport Board my major goal would be to finalize the Airport Specific Plan. This would allow for the Airport Business Park to proceed. This development of Airport land would hopefully attract manufacturing and businesses to locate to Santa Maria and provide wages that would far exceed the existing retail wages, which are currently the norm. This would allow for the next generations to be able to live and work in this valley. A healthy business environment creates countless opportunities, not only new jobs, but also potential for new airline services.

I am an Orcutt pioneer, born and raised in Santa Maria. I attended Saint Mary's Grammar School, Santa Maria High School, and Cal Poly State University in San Luis Obispo, where I earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration with

*continued on page 2*

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## Why Districts?

Prior to 2022, many governing board members were elected at-large, meaning that each board member was elected by voters of the entire district. Districts that hold elections at-large face the risk of a costly legal challenge under the California Voting Rights Act (CVRA). As a result, most districts in California have transitioned to by-trustee area elections, where each board member must reside within a specific trustee area, and each board member is elected only by the voters residing within that particular trustee area. For the first time, this change affects the Santa Maria Airport District, Santa Barbara County Board of Education, Santa Maria High School and Orcutt Boards of Education, all of whom have members whose 4-year terms are scheduled to appear on the November ballot.

In the case of the Orcutt School District, only the incumbents, Shaun Henderson, Mark Steller, and Melanie Waffle, filed candidacy papers, therefore, no election is required.

## Airport Board

*continued from page 1*

a concentration in Economics. My wife, Norma (Johnstone) Engel, and I have been married for fifty-five years. My brother, Bob Engel, and I are second generation owners of Engel & Gray, Inc., a local trucking and construction company, which has been in business in Santa Maria for the past 75 years.

I am a past President of the Santa Maria Economic Development Association. I served on the City's Community Development Block Grant Advisory Committee for eight years. I am a member of the Rotary Club of Santa Maria, Santa Maria Contractors Association, and Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce. I would appreciate your vote.



**Michael B. Clayton**

*Attorney/Businessman*

I, Michael B. Clayton, am a local attorney in practice for over 33 years. I am now running for the Santa

Maria Airport Board, 4th District. I secured my undergraduate degree in 1984 and Juris Doctorate in 1988 from the University of Arkansas. I began my legal career in Santa Maria, California in 1989 and established my own office in 1996.

I have been involved in the Santa Maria community for years: hosting the 22nd annual Veterans BBQ this November; hosting Christmas events at my office (Santa Claus, 24 years); Grand Marshall of the Elks rodeo parade (2013) and participated in regional parade events for years ("Lady Justice") float 60th parade voyage 12/2022.

I believe that the Santa Maria airport has been in a holding pattern and seems stagnated. The Santa Maria Airport was previously an International Airport for a period of roughly six months when the S.M.

Board abandoned the International Airport status in 2009.

Santa Maria airport is the 2nd largest public airport (by size) in the state of California. Santa Maria Airport being only second to Los Angeles International Airport, affords it the possibility for growth that Santa Maria and the Central Coast deserve. As director I would vote to make Santa Maria Airport international again. As an International Airport Santa Maria and surrounding communities will thrive.

The sky is the limit! Thank you!

**Please remember to vote on November 8.**  
**For information regarding the election, to see where your polling place is or for any other questions regarding your vote status, visit the Santa Barbara County Elections Office's website at [www.sbcvot.com](http://www.sbcvot.com).**



**Samantha Bakke**

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# School Districts Have Three Orcutt Races, Six Candidates

The Orcutt Pioneer asked each candidate to explore the following questions: If elected, in the next four years, what specific goals do you plan to successfully complete? How? And what educational experience, academic or in the community, could you bring to a governing school board?

Here are their responses in their own words. Each statement appears in the same order the candidates' names will appear on the ballot.

## SANTA MARIA JOINT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT - AREA 4



**Diana Perez**  
Incumbent

After earning a BA in Political Science and MA in Education, I was hired to work at Santa Barbara City College and UC Santa Barbara as a counselor. Subsequently, I was hired to work at Allan Hancock College in 2000 as a counselor and became an administrator in 2001. Since then, as the Director of Cal-SOAP Project and in the past 25 years, my expertise included assisting students with college enrollment, navigating the financial aid process and supporting students with higher educational goals. This year, I will be running for my third term and the last eight years have provided me with an in-depth understanding of the governing responsibilities of a school board. I have fully supported numerous improvements for the entire school district including the building of the Career Technical

Education High School with outstanding vocational programs. For the next term, our community needs a new comprehensive high school. We have over 9,000 students and all four high schools are full beyond capacity. We must lower the numbers of students at each site and be proactive should the population continue to grow in the future. By reducing class sizes, we improve the quality of education for students and support our teachers and district staff. I will be a strong advocate and work collaboratively with city leaders to find the best location for a new high school and continue to support students and parents with the best educational opportunities.



**Raymond Acosta**  
Sales Representative

In the next four years, I would like to improve the students' life skills, second of all I would prepare them for the workforce, third, build a rapport with parents and invite them to be part of the process of decision making in the future of their children.

I will improve the students' life skills by making classes available such as: teaching students how to generate an income, including saving and spending. Mentorship classes that teach family, marriage and parental skills. A class that offers public service skills like volunteering and collaborating with different age groups in society. I believe as students learn skills

this will in turn help prepare and equip them for the workforce. I would invite people from various job fields to impart their knowledge and experience. Also teaching hard work ethics. Last of all, inviting parents to be a part of the process of decision making, I would invite parents to allow them to freely address their concerns or input on a regular basis.

I can bring over 30 years of public service, communicating with the public on a one-on-one basis and learning from them. Many of my relationships working as a public servant have given me the life skills that have made me into the person I am today. It has made me a great listener, problem solver, negotiator, initiator, and leader. It has also given me a desire to want to serve my community.

*continued on page 4*

## Orcutt Pioneer Your Community Newspaper

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# School Races

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## SANTA MARIA JOINT UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT – AREA 5



**Dominick Palera**  
Incumbent

As I seek a third term with the SMJUHSD Board, I am proud to look back at many of the board accomplishments and my contributions to bring our district into a new era of learning. We opened the state-of-the-art Performing Arts Center at Pioneer Valley HS; opened the Career Technical Education center, the first of its kind in the county; added 35 new

classrooms at Ernest Righetti HS; and are in the construction phase of building 55 new classrooms at Santa Maria HS.

After our long-term superintendent retired, I was tasked as the board president with leading the search effort to find a replacement. Just as we had hired a replacement, the pandemic shut down our schools and brought new challenges to the classroom. The board had to navigate through the many regulations imposed by both state and county health officials. My goal during those unprecedented two years was to make sure we offered students the best services available while keeping everyone safe and healthy.

I believe my experience as a retired Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Commander, past member of the county's Child Welfare

Task Force, and past member and chair of the Juvenile Justice Prevention Task Force has brought a different perspective to the board. I would like to continue my service as a board member as the district gets back to focusing on students' education and improving the eligibility of students to attend 4-year colleges and universities.



**David E. Baskett**  
Aviation Professional

I am not running against any individual but believe I can add some perhaps useful views to the board based on the following:

I was born in California, grew up in the Philippines, educated in Texas and other places, became a pilot in the Amazon jungles of Peru, then a soldier in Germany, a pilot in Vietnam and served in Defense Research and Development organizations to help prepare for a war with Russia. I then worked in Russia (mostly in Siberia) during their recovery from 70 years "Scientific Socialism". They built a wall to keep people in.

I currently serve on the Santa Maria Airport Board, the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Posse (501c3) and am a long-term member of the Kiwanis and have served on their board.

My two sons and daughter graduated from Righetti and have moved "up".

The goal of any school should be to develop strong, independent, self-reliant, citizens with a wide knowledge of history, technology, science, math, who care for their fellow classmates and citizens.

I think that diversion of classroom time away from those basics into current social issues, is not as productive as being able to develop and handle the survival and advanced skills that are needed in our country. We are competing in a complex world.

In Santa Maria, we are fortunate to have water, food, and energy. Let us keep our classrooms safe so the next generation can focus on further wise development and use of those wonderful gifts.

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# School Races

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## SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION – AREA 5



**Judy Frost**

*Trustee, Santa Barbara County Board Of Education, Trustee Area 5*

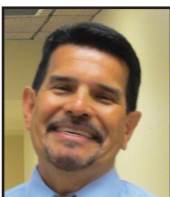
I am seeking re-election as your Santa Barbara County School Board Trustee. I've been on the board since 2018 and currently serve as Chair.

Our most significant educational goal is to ensure all students successfully complete grades PK - 12, acquiring the tools and skills they need in life. To achieve this, I will: support implementation of innovative tools for teaching and learning; form partnerships with organizations that advocate for our students, staff and teachers; steward resources (fiscal and personnel) by being an active and engaged board member; and work with our partners to have safe and secure campuses by staying

current with best practices and training.

Since I moved to Santa Maria 33 years ago, I have worked as an advocate for quality local education. My husband had a 37-year career in education at the high school and community college level. I served for 10 years on the Santa Barbara Foundation Student Aid Committee. Each year since 1995 I have participated in interviewing and selecting high school seniors to receive scholarships from the Scholarship Foundation of Santa Barbara, where I am an Honorary Board member. I worked as PCPA Managing Director at Allan Hancock College for 17 years. Currently I am a board member on both the Allan Hancock College and PCPA Foundations.

I am committed to the success of all our students!



**Gabriel A. Morales**

*Parent/Healthcare Provider*

As a County Board member, I will focus on every student achieving college readiness through

the basics of math, reading, and writing. Along with the option of vocational trades, and career development. This will prepare our students to earn a livable wage in the career of their choice. Additionally, do the research and to find the best practicing teaching methods State-wide; in support of our teachers, and the challenges they face in a diverse classroom. Address and provide academic support for those students whose academic performance was impacted by COVID-19.

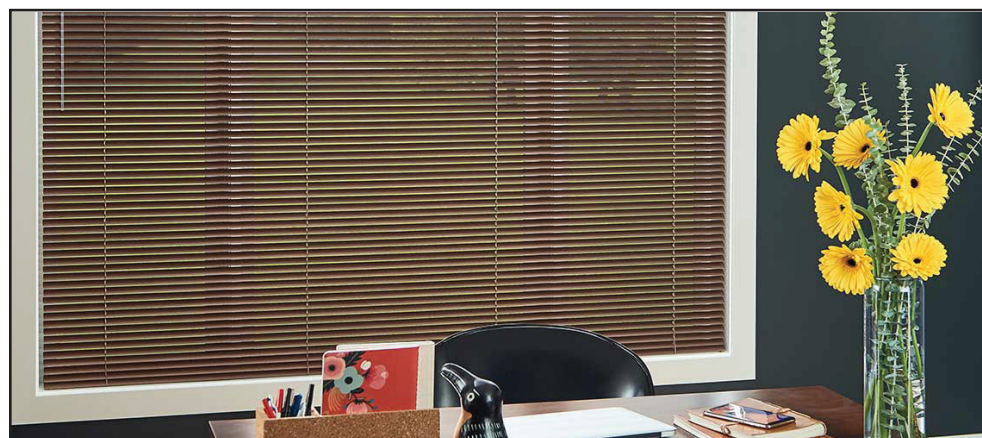
The educational experience I would bring the Santa Barbara County Board Of Education is the following:

- 4 years as a consultant for State Department of Education
- Providing curriculum development

for 15 High School Districts through-out California

- 10 years as a Program Coordinator for Santa Maria High School District
- Providing direct academic & support services to at-risk students and their parents
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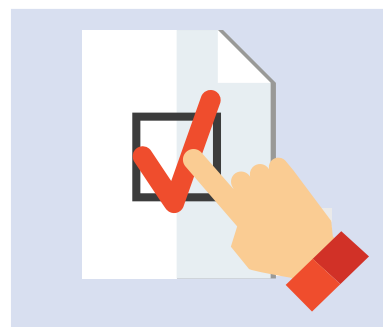
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## Orcutt Schools Update

### OCAF Chalk Festival a Celebration of the Arts, Orcutt Community

**Dr. Holly Edds, Superintendent, OUSD**

If you have visited the Orcutt Children's Arts Foundation (OCAF) Chalk Festival before, then you will know why people in the Orcutt Union School District and our community are looking forward to the 10th edition of the event on September 24. If you have not been to the Festival but are planning to go this time, you are in for a treat!

The Chalk Festival, quite simply, is a celebration of the arts and our community. Held on a Saturday from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., the Festival attracts thousands of visitors to Old Orcutt who delight in seeing hundreds of colorful chalk art masterpieces, some

done by professional artists and many more created by children, that decorate the roadway and sidewalks of South Broadway in Old Orcutt. The event also includes live music, arts and craft booths, food vendors, and children's activities.

With so many opportunities for art admiration and people watching, visitors of all ages will appreciate a stroll through the Festival area. For just \$10, families can purchase a box of street chalk and a marked square for their child or children to beautify. Proceeds benefit OCAF, a nonprofit foundation with the mission of providing financial support for arts education in district classrooms.

"The Chalk Festival brings our community together," says Melanie Waffle, a district trustee who is OCAF's board president this school year. "It doesn't cost anything to come, and when everyone gets together to enjoy the arts it just makes Orcutt stronger."

"This is a super fun event for kids," says Jeremy Rich, an OCAF board member who brings his four children to the Festival each year. "The kids love to draw on the street, which is not something they usually are allowed to do. It's very exciting."

The public is invited to help with or sponsor the Chalk Festival. To volunteer, to sponsor a square, or to be an event sponsor, please go to [www.orcuttarts.com/2022chalkfest](http://www.orcuttarts.com/2022chalkfest).

The Festival serves as an important connection between the organization and the families it serves.

"We really want to get back out into our

community to access more support for the arts," says Waffle. "The Chalk Festival is a great way to do that."

"OCAF does important work," adds Michelle Boyd, an OCAF board member who also is principal of Pine Grove School. "The arts help our kids express themselves in different ways, and for many of them an introduction to the arts in elementary school can lead to more involved participation in junior high school and high school."

For more information on OCAF, please go to [www.orcuttarts.com](http://www.orcuttarts.com). We all can be grateful to have this organization working so hard to keep music, visual arts, drama, and dance not just alive, but thriving, on the campuses of the Orcutt Union School District.

*Superintendent Dr. Holly Edds can be contacted by phone at 938-8900 or by e-mail at [hedds@orcutt-schools.net](mailto:hedds@orcutt-schools.net). She can be followed on Twitter at @hce101.*

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The P-38 was designed to fly as high as bombers with the same range. Used in both WWII theaters, many a bomber pilot saw his chances of returning to base increased when escorted by a P-38. And many of those pilots were trained right here in Santa Maria.



*Second Lieutenant James K. Kunkle who went through P-38 training in Santa Maria was awarded The Distinguished Service Cross during WWII.*



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**November 12, 2022**  
**11:00 am on Saturday**

*Celebrating young local musicians*  
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# Orcutt Community Theater



Cast of OTC's production of *Deliver Us from Mama*

Orcutt Community Theater's (OTC) comedy *Deliver Us From Mama* plays Thursday, Friday, Saturday, October 7 through 23rd at Kleindance Studio across

from Spencers Market at 3558 Skyway Drive, Studio 1 in Orcutt. Tickets and information at [OrcuttCommunityTheater.org](http://OrcuttCommunityTheater.org), My805Tix, or call 805-268-5969.

## 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.

Lawn Care. Liability insured, bi-monthly residential & commercial, one time cleanup, miscellaneous jobs, weed clearing, free estimates. Jim Reid 805-938-1402 Lic #36524

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)

Labradoodle puppy. Available near Thanksgiving...more info 8058786806, text only please.

For Sale: Epson ET-4700 Eco-tank printer. Includes some ink. Nothing wrong with it, just upgrading. Paid \$342 two years ago. Sell for \$125 OBO. Text to (805) 775-3162.

CSA Auto Bike Classic 6-speed. Automatic transmission. New front tire and tube. They currently sell for \$250 + dollars. Sell for \$125 OBO. Text to (805) 775-3162.

Selling 2 China dinnerware sets. 1st set - 5 piece 3 settings Nikko "Precious", never used. 2nd set has over 80 pieces. Est. 70+ years old. Best offer. Call 934-0360.

Wham-O Pro model moonlighter frisbee glows in the dark vintage 70's model excellent condition \$10 805-720 2127

Free: Dining table with 4 chairs. Table expands to seat six. Good condition. Call 805 934-5064.

Hand-held vacuum, Black & Decker Platinum series 18V. Model SPV1800. \$20.00. (Needs slide pack battery). (805) 937-3582

Free: 3-volume "Famous Artists Course." Teaches composition, perspective, anatomy, animals, layout, etc. (805) 937-3582

University of Arkansas items: red "hog hat," red razorback statuette, red razorback coffee cup, all in excellent condition. \$10.00 each. (805) 937-3582

Wedding Officiant/DeeJay/Emcee 35+ years exp. Weddings, car shows, parties, dances, corporate events. James Jepsen's Borrowed Time Entertainment 805-878-1739

Volunteer Needed: Read books to preschoolers at Orcutt Library's Mousetales Storytime one hour each week plus prep. Call Carol Gregor 805-937-7820

## MEETING NOTICE



COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA PUBLIC WORKS TRANSPORTATION DIVISION

## Bonita School Road Bridge Replacement Project

### Community Information Meeting and Open House

You are invited to receive an update on the project development, view progress of design plans, and provide input.

**September 29, 2022 • 6:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

Presentation at 6:50 p.m. Spanish Interpretation Provided.

### Bonita Elementary School

2715 West Main Street, Santa Maria, CA 93458

**PROJECT:** Includes the removal of the existing Bonita School Road Bridge and embankment fill over and through the Santa Maria River and replacing them with a new bridge; construction of roadway approaches to the new bridge; and dedicated pedestrian and bicycle facilities on the new bridge. The Project runs parallel to and approximately 3.5 miles east of State Route 1 and approximately 5 miles west of U.S. 101 in the unincorporated area of the Santa Maria Valley.

**FUNDING:** Highway Bridge Program (88.53%) and Bridge Toll Credits (11.47%) Program

**More information:** [www.countyofsb.org/2724/Planned-Projects](http://www.countyofsb.org/2724/Planned-Projects)

**Contact:** Steven Manuel, P.E., Project Manager, (805) 803-8762, [smanuel@countyofsb.org](mailto:smanuel@countyofsb.org)



## Dave Baskett For Santa Maria Joint Union High School District - TA 4

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- Combat Pilot
- International Business Developer
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  - A Fireman
  - A Teacher
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