

THE SAINT JOSEPH'S
Chronicle

"We write frankly and fearlessly but then we 'modify' before we print". - Mark Twain



LET'S TALK
PAINTING!

By Antoinette Ellis page 14

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Photo by Larry Martel

MEET THE PRESS



SAVANNAH ANDRESON

"I do sports. I play Golf and Bocce Ball. I like to hang with my friends. I like to take care of my Mom. I grew up in Santa Maria. I have cousins that live in Orcutt. I like working at Oak Creek Farm with my friends. I like to open the door for people when they need help."



ANTOINETTE ELLIS

"I was born in California. I like to cook and I like to make things. I like to learn new things. I like goats and chickens and cats. My favorite goat is named Hans. I have nice friends. I like to do things with my friends and family. My best friend is funny. My favorite food is pizza."



JACOB DOLAN

"I grew up in Santa Maria. I am very hardworking and I get the job done! I enjoy working with my hands. I am going to work on my old truck, it is a working project that I want to go to school to learn more about. I definitely love to cook. I am also a nice and kind person."



OSCAR MAYER

"I am 11 years old and I was born some where in California. I live with my mama on the Central Coast. I like to eat, sunbathe, go gopher hunting. Chasing things. Car rides, playing at the park and most of all sleeping."



KEVIN DONAGHEY

" I am 55 and 2 month. I have general education requiremets completed. I am pursuing a major in language and arithmetic. My hobbies are horticulture and animal care. I am single. I like to keep busy with my schedule, work is a big benefit in my opinion. I am a Lompoc native. I choose to commute for environmental benefits. I appreciate renewing the arts. I keep entertained."



PJ ARADANAS

"PJ enjoys listening to classic rock music, and collecting brochures from car dealers. PJ is writing a column about the freeways we travel on and what attractions you can visit!"



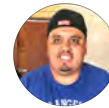
CORY CULMER

"My name is Cory Culmer. I was born here in Santa Maria. I am a red belt in Taekwondo. I like to help my classmates at Taekdondo. I like going different places. My wife and I go together to the movies. I enjoy getting out and meeting new people in our community."



JEANNIE MATTER

"My name is Jeannie. I grew up in Santa Maria. I am hardworking. I recently retired and now have more time to be an Explorer. I am a good friend and I like animals. I have always been The Chronicle's #1 Fan."



STEVE SALUTAN

"My name is Steve. One of the things that I like to do is run the sound system at my church. I am a friendly guy with a good attitude. I have family in Guadalupe, Santa Maria, and Lompoc. I enjoy BBQ'ing with my family, occasionally we cook a pig. I love to ride my bike. I ride it anywhere! I really like working on cars. I am a Chevy guy. I have a Camaro that is a Father/Son project with my Dad. I am handy and like to fix things. I like using power tools. My favorite power tool is...all of them!"



ROBERT BOBB

"I play golf. I can hit up to 55 yards on the driving range. I am pretty good at golf. I made four birdies in a row! I am a wrestling fan, I have all the movies at home. I have met Stone Cold Steve Austin. He gave me a t-shirt with his autograph, but I won't wear it at Oak Creek Farm because I don't want it to get dirty. I am a good guy and I like to help people. I do a lot of things with my church. I enjoy volunteering. When I was in ROTC in school, I shook President Reagan's hand and we played golf together. He had his own golf course. I like coming out to Oak Creek Farm, and I keep an eye out for everyone there. I want everyone to read my article and get a kick out of it."



VENTURA COUNTY
 PJ LIKES TO ATTEND VENTURA OXNARD
 AND PORT HUENEME BEACHES WHERE
 THE TELEVISION LOCAL NEWS NEWS AND
 HORERS DOES LIKES TO WALK AROUND
 THE BEACH A LOT ALSO THE NEW CAR-
 BIDE SAW REPLACE THE OLD PJ MARKET
 USE TO BE BEFORE AND ALSO OUR 3 UNCL
 HOUSE USE TO BE BEFORE AND ALSO THE
 NEW CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY RE-
 PLACE THE OLD CAMARILLO STATE HOSP-
 ITAL USE TO BE BEFORE PASSED AWAY
 ON JUNE 9TH 1997 PJ ALSO LIKES TO AT-
 TEND NEWBURY PARK AND THOUSAND OAKS
 AND YES WE HAVE FREEWAY TRAFFIC JAMS
 AND REPORTS ALSO YES PJ LIKES TO MAKE
 FREEWAY NOISES A LOT AND ALSO YES
 PJ LIKES TO KEEP ON ROCKING THE FREE-
 WAY AND THEY HAVE LA TELEVISION STA-
 TIONS WHICH ARE LA2 KCBS LA4 KNBC
 LA5 KTLA LA7 KABC LA9 KCAL LA11 KTTV
 LA13 KCOP LA28 KCET AND LA34 KMEX AND
 LOTS OF CABLE CHANNELS AND LA RADIO
 STATIONS WHICH ARE KABC TALK RADIO 790 AM
 KNX NEWS RADIO 1070 AM KNBC NEWS RADIO 640 AM
 KHS RADIO 102.7 FM KLOS RADIO 95.5 FM AND KRTH RADIO
 101.1 FM



PJ Aradanas
 Columnist



The Great OUTDOORS with Jake

We had a choice to make, go left or stay straight on the trail. We made a choice to go straight on the trail. Josiah went ahead and went left to see if there was another trail to take. Yes, there was another trail to take. I held some of the branches so the Explorers could get through. We took a break in between spots. I would help Jeannie and Antoinette because they have height issues and we were up pretty high. We saw the longhorn on our way down. The trail we went on was new to the Explorers. I would actually like to try this hike again, just as long as it is not on a hot day!



Jacob Dolan
Santa Maria Explorer
& Columnist



Photo by Larry Martel



Photo by Larry Martel



Photo by Larry Martel

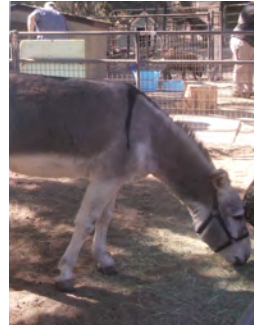


Photo by Larry Martel

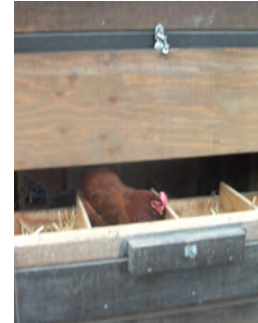


Life On The Farm

by Robert Bobb



"Thumper is eating hay."



"This chicken is laying her eggs."



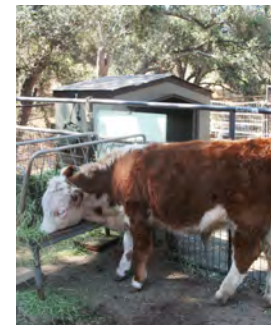
"Tilly is laying down in the sun. She is taking a nap."



"The chickens are being nosy. I like the chicken with the different colors. She is pretty."



"That is our compost. I will leave it like that, and not say anything else!"



"Duke runs fast when he plays with his basketball. Matt will throw the basketball to him and Duke will run after it."



Robert Bobb
Santa Maria Explorer
& Photographer



Now at Taekwondo I am a Red and Black Stripe. I am working on my black belt. Grand Master said that the black belt form is one of the toughest. Instructor Clara was a black belt. When you become a black belt, you have to go to a tournament. That is first degree black belt. After first degree is second degree black belt. It takes learning to do Taekwondo! You start at white belt. You have to stay focused when you do Taekwondo. My sister used to do Taekwondo in Lompoc. Grand Master has me leading the class with honoring the flag in Korean. I also help end Taekwondo after the class is done. Team Teakwondo!



Cory Culmer
 Santa Maria Explorer
 & Columnist





Let's Talk Painting!

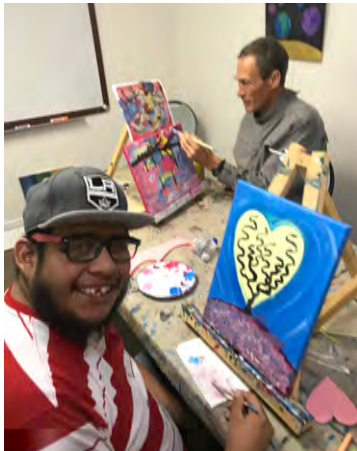
by Antoinette Ellis



My favorite part was the heart. I painted a heart tree. I used the color pink, I mixed the colors red and white to make pink. The background is blue, with a yellow heart shaped moon. Matt and Josiah helped me with my painting. Matt was funny and made me laugh. I am going to give my painting to my friend Pam.



Antoinette Ellis
Santa Maria Explorer
& Columnist



Let's Chisel This Out With Steve

We started to make our boxes for our checker pieces. We sanded the sides to take off the rough edges and started to put the boxes together. After it's all put together we did more sanding. We used a nail gun to put it together and glue too. The boxes don't have any hardware on them, but a slide door to open and close. We are using tile pieces with felt on the bottom to use as the checker pieces. This is what is going inside the boxes. We will get to paint them. I am going to paint my box with Raider's colors!



Steve Salutan
Santa Maria Explorer
& Columnist



FARM COOKING

with Jeannie



The turkey leg was big! It was good too. It was my favorite part. Cydney BBQ'd them and Steve helped. I mixed everything together. It was cold outside that day. The salad was sweet. We put oil on our sweet potatoes and wrapped them in foil. We gave our sweet potatoes to Cydney and she put them on the grill. My potato was hot and I put butter on it.



Jeannie Matter
Santa Maria Explorer
& Columnist

Spinach Salad with Cranberry Vinaigrette, BBQ Turkey Leg, and Sweet Potato

Cranberry Vinaigrette

Makes 1 Cup of Dressing

Ingredients:

- 1 Shallot, peeled, cored and quartered
 - ½ Cup fresh cranberries
 - ½ Cup extra-virgin olive oil
 - 2 Teaspoons red wine vinegar
 - 1 Teaspoon chopped fresh thyme
 - 1 Teaspoon honey
 - ½ Teaspoon salt
 - ¼ Teaspoon freshly ground pepper
-
- 1 Bunch Spinach
 - 1 Package of Dried Cranberries
 - 1 Package of Sliced Almonds

Directions:

Shake all ingredients together in a mason jar. Serve dressing over fresh spinach topped with dried cranberries and sliced almonds.

BBQ Turkey Leg

Ingredients:

- Turkey Leg
- Seasoning
- Olive Oil

Directions:

Preheat grill to medium-high heat. Rub drumsticks with seasoning of your choice. Sear drumsticks on the grill for approximately 3 minutes per quarter turn. After searing all sides, move drumsticks to a part of the grill where they can cook by indirect heat. Cook drumsticks via indirect heat for an additional 50–60 minutes. Turn drumsticks 1/4 turn every 10 minutes until they have reached an internal temperature of 180°F. Baste drumsticks with olive oil toward the end of their cook time, about the last 20 minutes or so. Reapply as necessary.

Sweet Potato

Ingredients:

- Sweet Potato
- Olive Oil

Directions:

Preheat an outdoor grill for medium-high heat, and lightly oil the grate. Divide the sweet potato cubes in half, and place each half in the center of a rectangle of aluminum foil. Cook on the preheated grill, turning pouches every 10 minutes, until the potatoes are tender and cooked through, 20 to 30 minutes.



Just Ask Oscar?

The Dog who can give you advice on your life and will answer your questions!



As you know I've been staying home a lot because my mama hasn't been going out. I'm inside a lot because of the rain. I sure don't like the rain. I think it's because I don't like to get my feet wet. I also don't like the rain because the rain pours on my head and it gets me all wet. My mama doesn't like it either. She says it too cold for her and she also doesn't like to get wet. I try to stay in as much as possible. When I do stay in I want to sleep so I make my bed. My mama thinks I make it like a cat. Oh well she can think that but she is wrong.

Q Hello Oscar, Do you enjoy watching cartoons? I sure do! I was so excited to find out that *A Secret Life of Pets* was making another movie. I was wondering what your top five, all time, cartoon animal characters are?

Buttercup

A Dear Buttercup, I don't watch cartoons but I did watch *A Secret Life of Pets* and I liked it. My mama told me when she was a kid she read the funnies in the newspapers when she was a kid and she liked *Marmaduke*, but she watched tv more and her favorite tv shows were *The Brady Bunch*, *Mary Tyler Moore Show*, *Apple's Way*, and *All in the Family*. She really liked *All in the Family*.

Your Friend,
Oscar



Send your questions to "Just Ask Oscar"
TheChronicle@StJosephSLS.com

Q Oscar, I need help! I was out with my Mom and Dad the other day and a stranger approached me. It scared me really bad, I got very nervous, and I growled at them. I felt really bad because I was so rude. Do you have any advice on how strangers can approach new animals to help them feel comfortable and not scared or threatened?

Arthur

A Dear Arthur, I love people so I just go up to them so they can pet me. If they don't want to pet me, I just let me smell them. It's fun to smell people so I can see if my friends have been around their mama or daddy. If you are scared of them let your mama and daddy tell them to hold out their hand so you make sure it is alright. That is the only thing I can think of, but if your mama and daddy want to learn more about it, they can search it on the internet. If they don't have a computer she can go to the Library and search it there.

Your Friend,
Oscar



Oscar Mayer Jose Quarvo Robinson
Columnist



The Inside Scoop

with Kevin Donaghey

Interview with: **Dorothy Mogavero** from **Showers of Blessing**



Hi Dorothy...Can you tell me what Showers of Blessing is?

Showers of Blessing is a service to our homeless and at-risk community, those who may be coming out of a shelter situation, in their cars, perhaps even at their home where their water has been turned off temporarily. It is a free service to provide showers for these people.



Who are the people that you have Showers of Blessing for?

The showers are for the homeless and at-risk population. What we do is we reach out to them through our community through businesses, agencies, and organizations. We put up posters throughout the city so they know we are there and can use the service.





Do you know about how many people Showers of Blessing assists on a weekly basis?

We are open Mondays from 8 am to Noon and have two showers, so the maximum that we can serve on a weekly basis is about 36 people each Monday.



Can you tell me who thought of Showers of Blessing and how it began?

The story is a beautiful thing! My husband Denise and I have a church and in that church, we were looking at ways to help our community where we weren't duplicating services. What we found when we reached out to the homeless and started to bring them to the church to help them was that they could not find a shower. If they weren't at the shelter itself, then there wasn't a place in the community that would allow them to come in and shower. We realized there was a big hole in helping them to find some health and dignity. So, my husband and I decided that we would try to set up a place for free showers. We looked at converting places, but as we reached out to churches, organizations, and businesses to see whom we could partner with, we happened to come across a friend who went to First United Methodist Church. That friend mentioned that they have showers! We made an appointment with the pastor at the time, and we sat with him and spoke about our vision and that we wanted to do a partnership to use their space, and they agreed! We started right away.



How did the different church communities come together to offer Showers of Blessing?

We have three major churches now which include First United Methodist, The Korean Methodist, and Crestwood Christian. These three churches came together as partners to start the program. We put out all the finances, all the marketing, and the first volunteers. As we continued to reach out and find donors and sponsors, we found that there were several other churches that wanted to get involved. So now we have the Baha'i Church, the Mormon Church, and the Santa Maria Foursquare Church. We are still looking for more partners, but that is who we have involved now.



How do you make people in our community aware that Showers of Blessing is here for them?

We started off by putting up posters. Huge, beautiful posters all over the city in strategic places where we know the homeless frequent or businesses that are concerned about the homeless being at their location. The posters allowed the homeless to know that there is somewhere to go to take better care of themselves and be a part of the community. So, our biggest thing was also agencies that are like-minded, whether it is churches, The United Way, Behavioral Wellness, and all those agencies out there that care for, and address issues with the homeless community.





What are your days and hours of operation?

Mondays, including Federal holidays. We are open every single Monday! Showers of Blessing open at 8:00 am and close at 12:00 pm. We take our last person in for a shower at 11:45 am because of timing. Showers of Blessing is looking at having another day of operation, but we don't have another day planned currently.



Does a person need to make an appointment to come?

Our Showers of Blessing is a walk-in basis. It is first come, first serve. So, what happens is they put their name down, and they will hang out inside or outside the church and mingle. Sometimes they will need to take off to go to an appointment, they may have a court appearance, or they may have a job interview, so they may not wait with how long that it takes to get a shower, they might leave. If that happens, we simply move on and call the next person.



Dennis Mogavero, Program Founder
Dorothy Mogavero, Program Founder
Gary Grieb, Head Program
Kevin Donaghey, Inside Scoop



What happens when a person comes to Showers of Blessing for the first time?

When someone comes to the showers first, they are met by several of our people that volunteer there. We like to pray with them when they enter the doorway as a group. Once they get inside, we like to find out what are their basic needs. Whether it is a shower, and or a haircut; we then offer them whatever basics we have that day. Often we have beverages like coffee or hot chocolate, sometimes we may have an additional item like a piece of fruit. People can mingle and fellowship with each other, and speak with our volunteers about other resources. We like to put out information on the tables about other ways that they can get assistance in the community.



You mentioned that there are other resources available to people that come into Showers of Blessing, can you please share with us some of the other resources that are available?

Yes! We like to ensure that people know what help is available to them. One resource is laundry. We offer a free laundry day every Tuesday from 8 am to 12 pm at Lucky Laundry located at 809 N Broadway # G in Santa Maria. Lucky Laundry has been a great partner and has opened their doors to allow us to have the homeless come there and do their laundry. Once a month, we allow them to bring their blankets and sleeping bag to be washed. It's especially important in in-climate weather, where blankets get soiled quickly. So, bedding and clothing was important to us. We were cleaning bodies, but then everything else was soiled. So, that is how the laundry program started.

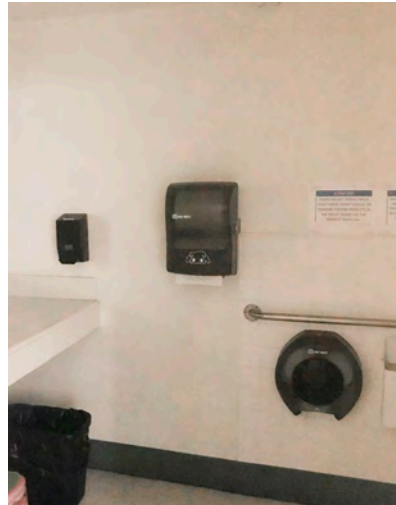
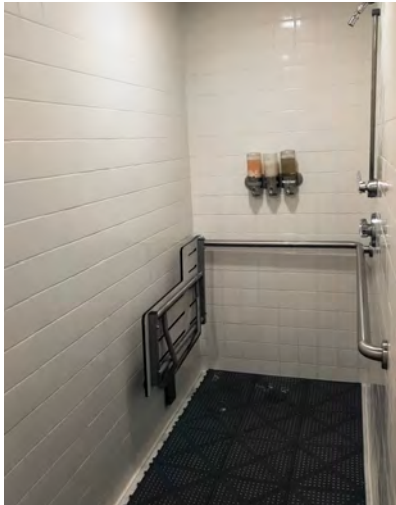


The showers and laundry site are outreach areas where the community knows that there are outreach people who help the homeless. They can always come here and meet some of the homeless. As the businesses and agencies that were coming here to get involved; starting to house the homeless, we realized that they were receiving a home or a room, but they had nothing. They have been out on the street or living in their cars, so we realized that there was another gap. We started a program called My Home. My Home provides furnishings to the homeless through the different agencies that are doing the housing. So they contact us, gives us a list of the needs, we let them know what we have available at that time, they pick up, and people can furnish their new home.



We like to keep all the different resources available at the showers, for instance: the food bank has a flyer that tells you where you can pick up food from pantries, how to contact behavioral wellness to look at your mental health, where in the community you can get free checkups from CHC for physical health. We try to put out as much information as we can on those areas that they may be looking for. That also includes education. Hancock College has a program to help homeless students and Laurus College does as well.





If people have household items that they want to donate, do you accept donations for the My Home program?

Well, donations are actually a combination of different areas. One is that the community may call us directly, or the community may call Catholic Charities or The Salvation Army or Rescue Mission, and they will refer the donation to us. We will make contact with the person that wants to donate and we will take a look at what they are wanting to donate. Besides contacting us directly, we also work with a budget that the church itself likes to invest in for furnishings. We will also go out and purchase items from our funds or donations from people in the community. One of our big purchases tends to be new mattresses for our people. So, we are always looking for donations! We want them to be as clean and nice as possible, like what we would want to use ourselves.



Can Showers of Blessing use donations? What kind of items can be donated to Shower of Blessings?

Showers of Blessing started in 2012, and we have done well on being able to keep our head above water. You can imagine the cost of electricity, water, cleaning the area, and other overhead. There are a few people in the community and churches that offer us a check at times. We also have others that do straight donations. Showers of Blessing receive clothing, shoes, and toiletries for donation. Toiletries are a big thing! We like to give toiletries as something that people can walk away with to use for the rest of the week. So, we are always looking for partners for financial support, and we are always looking for partners that want that face to face experience with some of our homeless to see how they can help them.





Showers of Blessing is located at the corner of Broadway and Cook at 311 S. Broadway. If you would like more information on how to donate or volunteer please contact Nancy Bixby of Crestwood Christian Church at 805-925-7500.



What do you think is most special about Showers of Blessing?

For us, who founded and started Showers of Blessing, I think the most beautiful thing is the opportunity for our community to think about and experience what it is that other people go through. When our volunteers come, and get to see those faces, and get to hear the stories of where people came from and what they have experienced and why they are where they are now. I think it opens their eyes. Some of our volunteers have gone on to other agencies for more volunteer work. For the homeless themselves, it is an area where they finally get to clean up their appearance so that they have dignity, and they have some pride and some hope and we see them out there in the community being around the balance of the community and not feeling so rejected in a sense, because they look better, smell better, they get new clothing, and it gives them the opportunity to believe that there is something more for them and that there are people out there that care for them and that are thinking about how do I make a difference for you.





Can you think of a personal story that touched you very much at Showers of Blessing?

Yes! We had a young man that came into Showers of Blessing and he was awkwardly shy, he did not look up when he asked for a shower, he did not look up when he asked for a haircut. Soon, after coming he announced that he was starting school. He was really excited! We also look at how to help our people financially, we have partners including our church Crestwood. Crestwood Christian is an all-volunteer church, so we can afford to provide financial assistance. So, we could help him get the cost of his books taken care of, his schooling, and he also received priority when he came to get a shower because he had to be at school. It wasn't, but the first semester that someone at school that he met and started to bond with, decided to take him in until he could find a part-time job and pay his way in the household. Before we knew it, he didn't need our assistance anymore!





THE SAINT JOSEPH'S

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