

THE SAINT JOSEPH'S
Chronicle

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

EXPLORING THE WORLD IN FEBRUARY



Let's Talk Painting!

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MEET THE PRESS



SAVANNAH ANDERSON

"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."



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."



CORY CULMER

"My name is Cory Culmer. I was born here in Santa Maria. I am a red/black stripe belt in Taekwondo. I like to help my classmates at Taekwondo. 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."



KEVIN DONAGHY

“I am 56 years old. I have general education requirements 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.”



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.”



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.”



ALBERTO OLMEDO

I like working out at the Farm. I like to do things the right way. I like to help out around the house and work hard. I go to the mall to see scary movies. I am from Santa Maria and enjoy spending time with my family. I like to help out my family by taking care of their cars and helping around the house. I have one sister, four brothers, and I just became an Uncle. I really liked playing flag football for Special Olympics last year and I want to play again this year. My favorite football team is the Dallas Cowboys.



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!”



Photography by Robert Bobb, Kelly Clayton, Matt Pettersson, and Larry Martel

Graphic Designer Nancy Gerrity

Creative Coordinator Alessandro Yorba

Editor & Chief Vinita Waddell

Hill-Blazing

With Alberto



We had a new adventure on the trail. We explored a new trail that we hadn't been on before. All of us were together to make sure we were a safe Explorer group. As we were going up the hill, we saw "pig root". The wild piggies use their nose to push where they are going to. I think there are a lot of wild piggies out at the Farm. Larry and I were in the front leading to the right trail. It was really different for me to see a rat nest. I had never seen one before. It was fun for me to see it. It was interesting because an animal lived in there. I really wanted to see how big the pack rat was, but he wasn't at his house.



ALBERTO OLMEDO

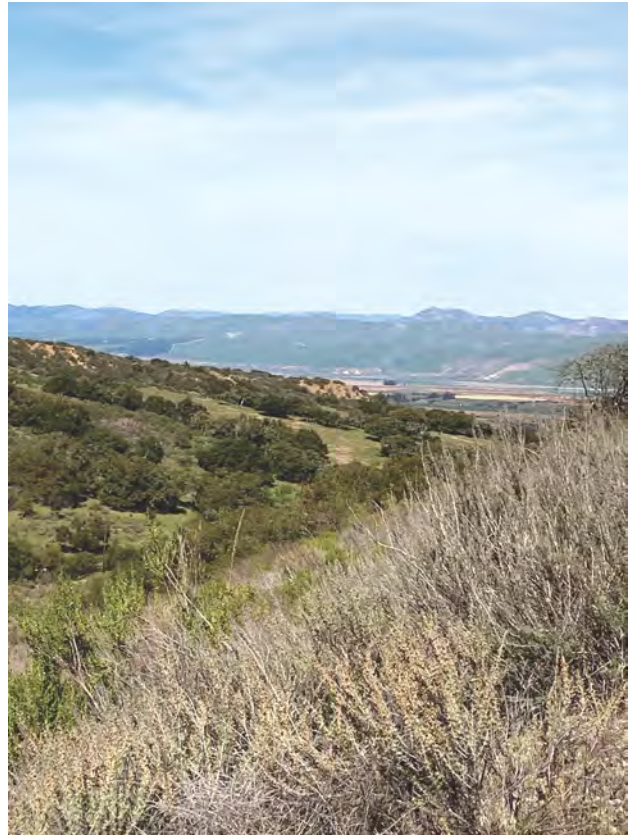


Pig Root Trail

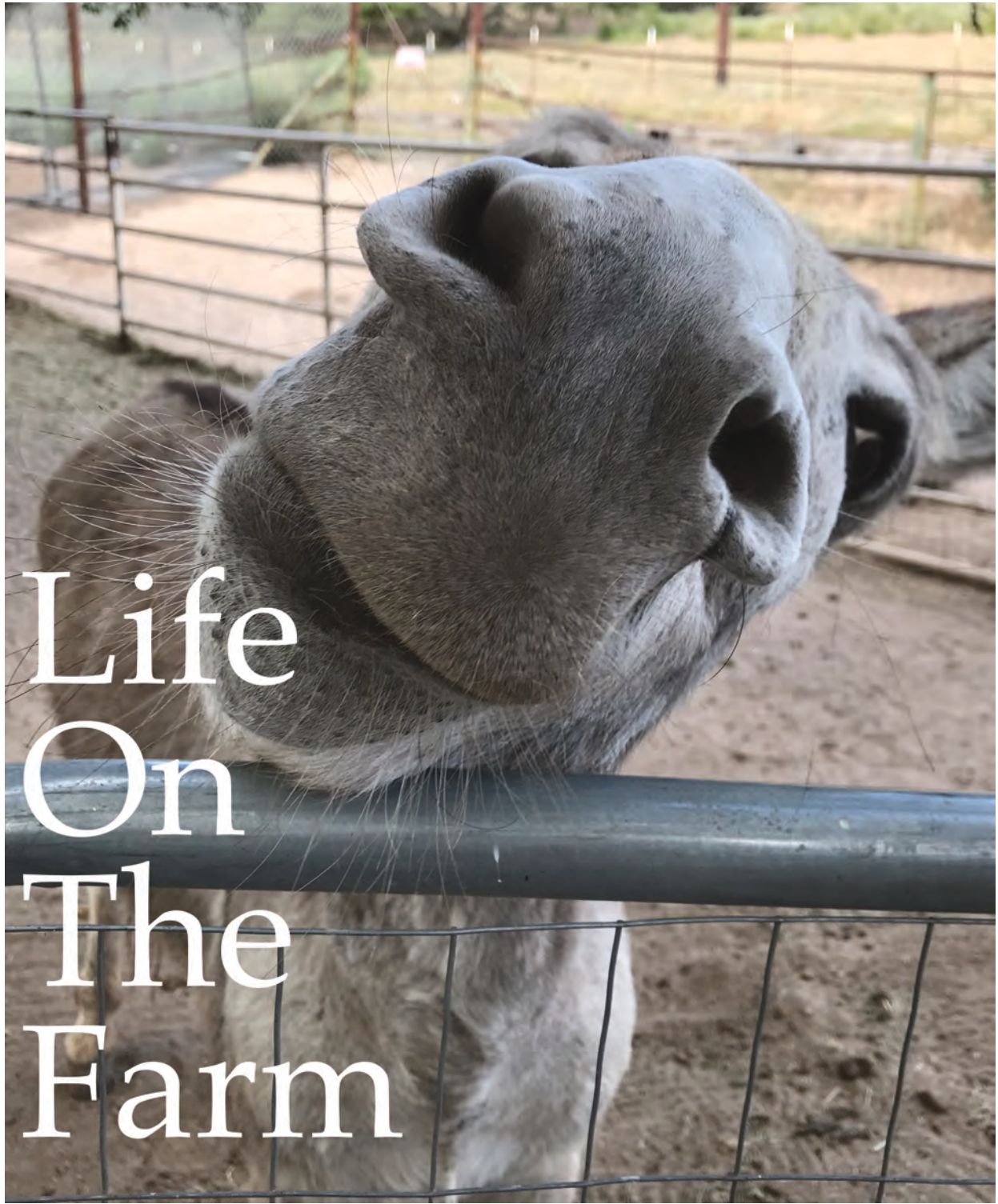


Pack Rat Nest









Life On The Farm



ROBERT BOBB



"This picture is on 'Overall Wednesday!' Everybody wears overalls. I need to get myself a pair."



"Kim is hugging her chicken, Miss. Stella."



"We are pushing the dirt back to clean Duke's pen because it rained."



"Ted moved some stuff off the Farm for us with the tractor."



"The baby cow is drinking milk from its mom."

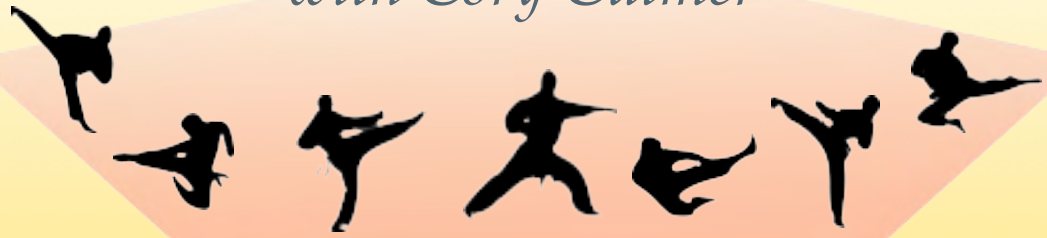


"Hans is trying to be the star of this picture."



Taekwondo... A Way of Life

with Cory Culmer



We have two new students at Taekwondo. I am helping them learn what to do when they get to the Dojong, like where to put their stuff, how to bow when you first enter the mat, and how to say good morning to Grand Master Hong. I know they will do well at testing. If they need help, I am always there. It takes practice and patience to be able to do what I do at Taekwondo. I wish them good luck. Right now I am still trying to work on my black belt. The forms are not very easy. I am working hard with the turns. I am not going to give up trying.



CORY CULMER







Let's Talk Painting!

By Antoinette Ellis



I used the color blue. My bird is sitting on a tree. I painted feathers on my bird. There is fruit on the tree in case my bird gets hungry. I really like the blue color in my painting. I hung my bird painting in my living room.



ANTOINETTE ELLIS









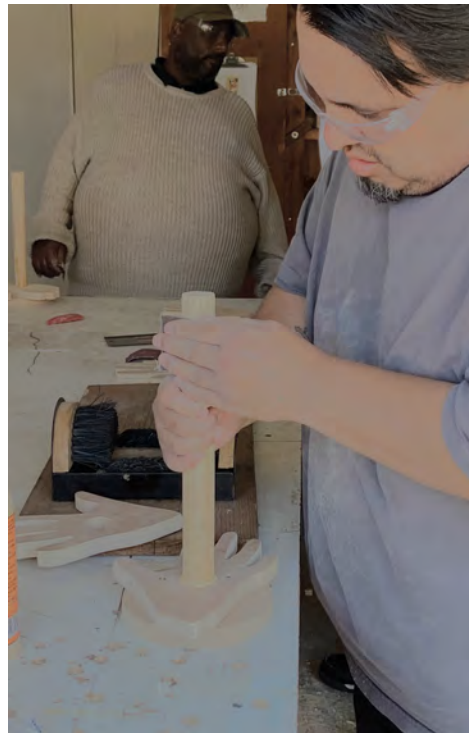
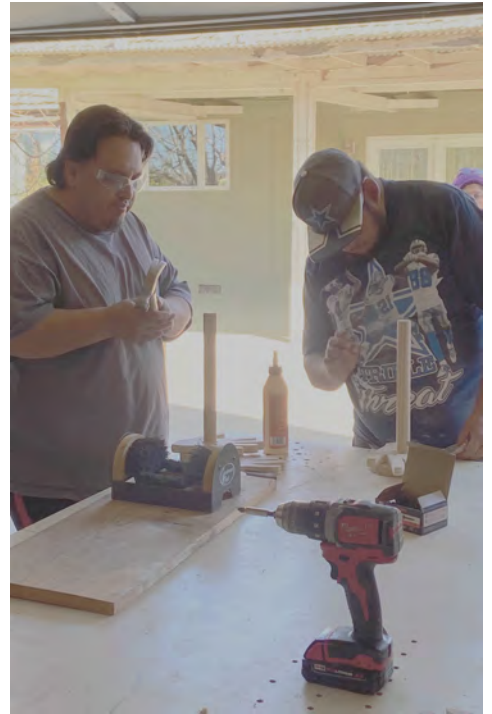
Paper Towel Holders

We are making paper towel holders. The design is our hands! We traced our hands on a piece of wood and we cut them out. Everyone's hands are different sizes because it is actually their hands. It is going to look really cool having the hands hold the paper towels together. Larry helped us to cut them out on an electric saw. Kevin is doing his differently by using a hand saw to cut his out. Kevin is really detailed and likes to do things a little different. He is doing a really good job with his project. We are sanding them and starting to put them together. We are putting the rest together with glue and our next step is to paint them.



STEVE SALUTAN









The Inside Scoop

With Kevin Donaghy

Interview with: Frank Rivera
Central Coast & Valley Shoe and Boot Repair
709 E Main St Suite C, Santa Maria, CA 93454



Hello Frank, I understand that you are the new owner here at Central Coast and Valley Shoe and Boot Repair. How long have you been operating in the Williams Brothers Shopping Center, here at 709 E. Main St.?

I have been here for about a year and five months now. I was formerly working for Carr's Boot Shop.



How did you learn to repair shoes?

My father taught me the trade. Not only was my father a shoe repairman but so were my mother and sister.



How long has cobbling been a talent for you?

I have been doing it for 35 to 40 years.



Did you ever learn the trade of *cordwainer*? Have you ever made a pair of shoes from scratch?

No, I have never, and I don't think I will ever try! My father didn't either. We both only strictly knew shoe repair.





What are your days and hours of operation, here at Central Coast Valley Shoe and Boot Repair?

Monday, I am open 12 pm to 6 pm. Tuesday through Thursday, I am open 9 am to 5:30 pm. Fridays, I am open 9 am to 6 pm. Saturdays, I am open 9 am to 1 pm. Sundays, I am closed. My daughter comes in once in awhile to help out with customers and some of the elastic sewing, but I am the only shoe repairman here. That is why my hours are a little different.



What types of items are you able to repair at your shop?

I do purse handles, zipper sliders, work boot soles, work boot heels, cowboy boot soles, cowboy boot heels, and we also do a lot of rebuilding the bottom of fireman boots.





Do you offer any other services other than repairs at your shop. For example, can you change a shoe's color?

We do dying. I don't do as much anymore because I don't have a big fan for ventilation when spraying and airbrushing. I just offer strictly brown and black now because I can just use a dye.



At this shop, are you accustomed to service needs required for orthopedic footwear?

Yes, we do orthopedic build-ups. We can do 1/8 of an inch up to 4 inches for a shoe build-up.





Patcher. This machine can sew patch onto thick leather.



Is it more affordable to repair shoes than to buy a new pair?

The way they make shoes now, you can buy a cheap pair of shoes to match everything. But, if you want something that is going to last you a long time and still look good, I would suggest buying a more expensive, better brand shoe that is repairable. There are lots of quality brands. I like working on Allen Edmond shoes. They are a really nice quality men's dress shoe that is repairable. Allen Edmond, Cole Haan, and Florsheim are all very repairable brands.



How long do repairs generally take?

It all depends on the work. Half soles or heels could take about an hour to get done. Fireman boots, I like to take the entire day to work on. It is important that the job is done right. The sole of the boot has to be able to withstand heat and have really good traction. Timing just really depends on the specific job.





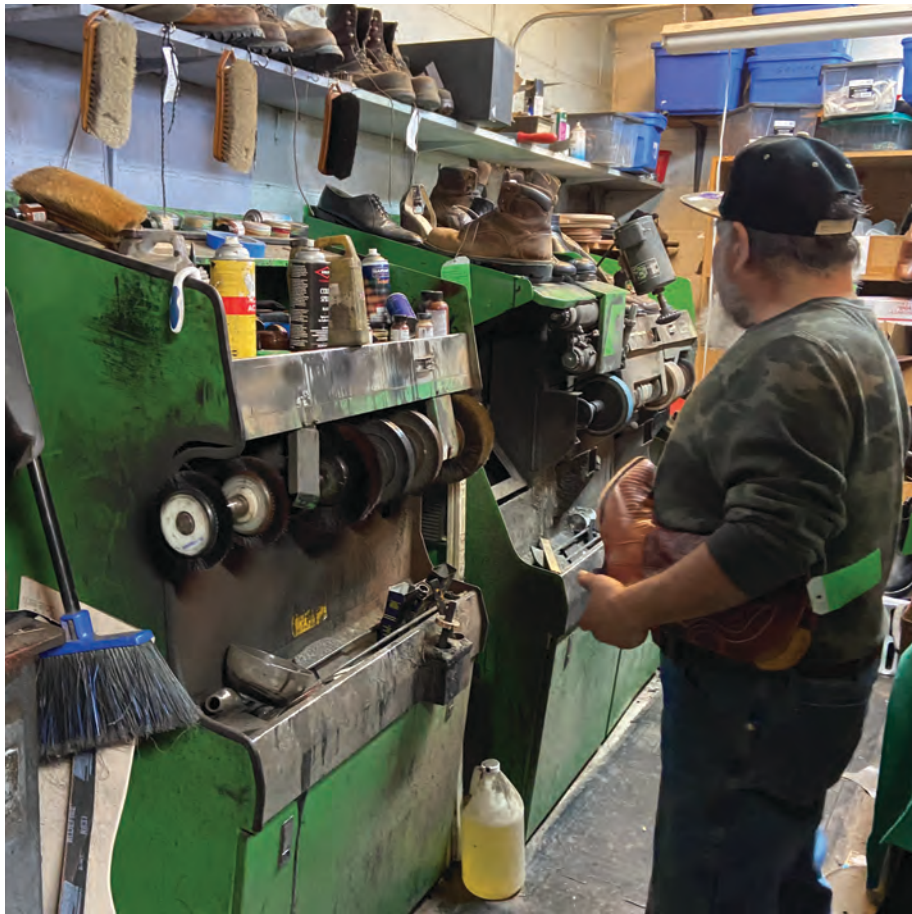
Shoe Stitcher. The most important machine in the shop, stitches sole edging all the way around the shoe by inserting the shoe upside down.



Boot Horns. These stitch boots from the inside out.



Heel Wheel. This machine presses nails up into the boot heel. A wire heel nailer pushes wire into a rubber heel so you don't have to use nails.



Shoe Shine Buffer and Sander/Finisher machines



*A **Lip Knife** is used in shoe repair to cut excess leather.*



*This is a **Work Horn**.*



What is the most popular shoe color that comes to your shop for repairs?

I would say black, light brown, and a few tans.



Frank, may I ask if boots are a more popular item to be repaired than a svelte shoe?

Living here at the coast, we do a lot of work boots and cowboy boots. When I first moved here, I was really surprised. I grew up in LA and worked in Santa Monica; we did a lot of dress shoes. A lot of prime dress shoes!

I left LA and moved to a little town called Exeter, CA, and it was all cowboy boots. That is when I learned to work on boots. John Carr got me a job here, in Santa Maria, at Carr's Boots and Western Wear. I worked on mostly work boots and cowboy boots. Now, I seem to be starting to get more dressier shoes, like women's heels. I would say 80% of my business is boots.

We typically charge customers \$75 to \$85 to resole. I tell customers that if they buy a pair of boots for \$100 and they really like them, and they are broke in, then they are worth getting repaired once. Typically, by the time you need that second repair, the tops aren't worth repairing in a cheaper pair of boots. But, I have guys that just keep bringing the same pair of boots back and I have repaired them three or four times. Danner boots are a really good work boot. Georgia and Ariat boots are also good boots that have really good wear to them.





Kevin is using a “5 in 1” machine to cut out a leather insole.



What is the all time most unique repair which you have made?

I actually did a unique pair of boots a few months ago! To me, the boots looked like they had fish scales on them. The boots were so worn out that I could put my fist through the bottom of the sole of the shoe. That is how bad it was! I had to tear it all apart because it was a leather boot. The customer and I talked about putting on rubber soles, but I got so into the work of fixing it up that I ended up putting on a leather sole. Then I had to tear it all down because I put the wrong sole on! The customer was a young man that wore a size 14 and he loved his boots.

If there is any way to fix shoes, I will. There is some work that I take on sometimes and probably shouldn't because it takes more time trying to fix it than it is worth. There are times when I catch myself just taking too long doing patchwork. I love my job! I do, however, plan on semi-retiring from doing patchwork next year. But soles and heels I will continue to do. I will have to stick around to work on the big machines. If these machines break down, you really have to know how to put them back together. Few people know how to fix the big stitchers. I think the only other shoe repair shop like this in the area, is Paso Robles or Santa Barbara.

It is a dying trade, but a good trade, if you find a location where a shop has already been established. I get a lot of customers from Lompoc, San Luis Obispo, and obviously Santa Maria. I am hoping to get one of my boys in here. If I semi-retire, then I can start showing them the trade.



Thank you for your time today, Frank. I appreciate you showing us your shop.

You are welcome. Thanks for stopping by.





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