

# CENTRAL COAST

## A STUDENT'S VIEW

### News of the day as we see it

High school is often thought of as a transition period in which students start paying attention to what is going on in the world. They are stuck between childhood, where ignorance really is bliss, and adulthood, where real life begins.

With the eventful weeks that have recently passed, various news items are perpetually on the forefront of everyone's mind, including students, whose voices typically go unheard in the midst of opinions constantly flying around.

Because students are the upcoming generation of world leaders, it is important for them to have a voice. As such, I asked high school students of various ages and from various local high schools to discuss their views about the most important topic in the current news cycle.

Some students believe the most pressing issue in society today is the various forms of violence that are becoming more prevalent around the country.

"I think that terrorism is the most important problem," said Kyle Caramato, a sophomore at Righetti High School. Similarly, Pioneer Valley sophomore Gizle Melero said that the "most important thing in the news right now are shootings that keep happening in cities."

Agreeing with Melero was Elijah Cavazos, who believes the most important story on the news right now is the mass shooting in Texas.

"I believe that this will affect society by raising awareness for the mentally disabled, and being aware that something like this could happen in any community," said the St. Joseph High School freshman.

The sad fact is that violent acts "make" the news much more so than positive news. However it is not the norm, or even close to it. In fact, according to FBI Uniform Crime Reporting, about .004 percent of Americans experience a violent crime each year.

What we see is what we perceive, so it is not surprising that so many are concerned with their safety and the safety of others. Some students are more concerned about social issues as they often feel they are more directly affected by them.

"The most important thing right now is the lack of education on [women's issues]," said Righetti senior Kendall Bagby. Bagby explained that it can be difficult for adults to fully comprehend the complexity of growing up in this era, which sometimes leads to the lack of empathy between generations.

Similarly, Orcutt Academy senior Shelby Mohler said "the biggest topic in the news right now has to do with the gender equality."

Referring to the Harvey Weinstein scandal, Laurel Porter, a senior at St. Joseph, said "the recent scandal is a big omen to our society that there are still differentiations between the equality of sexes. It is wrong for anyone to tolerate the fact that this belittling treatment occurs. The fact that it happens to women who we believe are some of the most powerful and highly regarded lets us know that we are not moving forward as we should be."

But not everyone is focused on such serious news. There are always big things happening in entertainment, sports and music because the industries are so fast-paced. For this reason, some students chose pop culture items as the highlight of current events.

"The most important news is that the Dodgers lost the World Series!" said Halli Hunter, a junior at St. Joseph. Echoing this sports theme, Gina Rigali, a sophomore at St. Joseph and a Fighting Irish fan, said that the



LEN WOOD, STAFF

Karen Paaske, president of the Lompoc Valley Historical Society, left, Lisa Renken, director of the Lompoc Museum, and Don Adams, board member for the Lompoc Museum, research local World War I history at the Fabing-McKay-Spanne House.

## Diving into local history: Lompoc Museum to kick off series on Veterans Day

12-part program commemorates 100th anniversary of end of World War I

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What began as an effort to restore one of the Lompoc Valley's oldest war monuments quickly evolved over the past few months into one of the more ambitious endeavors ever undertaken by the Lompoc Museum.

The administrators of the museum will kick off a 12-part program Saturday, Nov. 11, which is Veterans Day, that will explore several facets of World War I in a variety of different ways. The monthly events of the yearlong program will feature a range of presentations that are planned to culminate with a special ceremony to commemorate what organizers hope is a newly restored World War I monument on Nov. 11, 2018, which will be the 100th anniversary of the final day of the war, also known as Armistice Day, the precursor to Veterans Day.

Lisa Renken, the director of the Lompoc Museum, has spent many hours leading up to Saturday's first program working with members of the Lompoc Valley Historical Society to uncover as many Lompoc connections to World War I as possible.

"It's turned into a much bigger project than we thought, but we thought it really has to be done," she said. "It's been 100 years, and somebody made a point which I hadn't thought about: One of the reasons World War I hasn't gotten as much notice is that before its 50th anniversary, or even 25th, there was already World War II. But now at 100 years, people are focusing on it."

The 12-part series will kick off at 7 p.m. Saturday at Stone Pine Hall, 210 South H St., with a presentation led by Joe White, the emeritus chair of the philosophy department at Santa Barbara City College.

White is slated to open the program with a brief discussion of the significance of World War I to 20th-century politics. That will be followed by a screening of "On the Idle Hill of Summer,"



LOMPOC VALLEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Soldiers sent to guard the Lompoc bean warehouses during World War I gather at Surf station after getting off a train.

the first episode in a 26-part series on the war produced in 1964 by the BBC.

After the screening — the episode is about 50 minutes long — White will lead a question-and-answer session among attendees. Drinks and refreshments will be provided.

In next month's program, slated for Dec. 11, the organizers plan to show the 2005 film "Joyeux Noël," a fictionalized account of the WWI Christmas truce of December 1914.

The schedule for the ensuing 10 months hasn't yet been finalized, but there are plans for guest speakers, poetry readings and musical performances. The program came about as a way to not only educate and celebrate the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day but, also, to generate interest and raise funds for the restoration of Lompoc's World War I monument, which is located just to the right of the main entrance of the Lompoc Museum at 200 South H St.

The monument was originally erected in the middle of the intersection of Ocean Avenue and H Street in 1925 in honor of the local World War I servicemen. It was later moved to the museum property in 1941, in part because its location in the intersection was problematic for big trucks and other vehicles that were navigating the area during the lead-up to World War II.

The monument initially had a flagpole inserted into it, but that was removed about 10 years ago after it was discovered that the base was cracked — likely from the constant movement of the waving flag — and could no longer support the pole. A small metal eagle sculpture now rests

where the flagpole once was.

The Lompoc Museum has explored ways to beautify the monument, according to museum leaders, who said they are still researching the possibility of it being the only surviving World War I monument in Santa Barbara County.

That effort was jump-started recently when the Rancho Purisima Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), a service group that also recently helped refurbish Lompoc's oft-vandalized Vietnam War Memorial, decided to take on the restoration as a service project.

While the DAR works to fund the rehabilitation of the actual structure, the Lompoc Museum is attempting to raise about \$15,000 to clean up the landscaping around the monument and to purchase and install benches and planters to create a reflective plaza area.

The museum will have a tip jar at each of the upcoming World War I events to raise funds, and the leaders are also soliciting donations from organizations and community members. Anyone who would like to donate can do so by visiting the Lompoc Museum or finding more information by calling 736-3888 or visiting [www.lompocmuseum.org](http://www.lompocmuseum.org).

Those involved at the Lompoc Museum say they're looking forward to the 12-part program, which will be the first of its kind put on by the museum.

"It's really fun and it's exciting because it's all around one theme," Renken said of the upcoming series. "We're trying to see just how many different things we can do around this one theme of World War I."

### Veterans Day events in Santa Maria

Staff report

#### VFW Post 2521 to host memorial

The Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2521 will host a Veterans Day ceremony at the Santa Maria Cemetery, 1501 S. College Drive, at 11:11 a.m. Saturday.

The event will honor the soldiers buried there who fought in wars dating back to the Civil War.

The salute to Armistice Day commemorates the agreement between the Allies of World War I and Germany at Compiègne, France, which took effect at the 11th hour on the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918.

Guest speaker will be Col. Gregory E. Wood, vice commander of the 30th Space Wing and Western Range at Vandenberg Air Force Base.

#### Free annual barbecue lunch

The 17th annual Veterans Day barbecue lunch, spearheaded by Santa Maria attorney Michael B. Clayton, will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday at the Veterans Memorial Hall, 313 W. Tunnel St.

A patriotic parade will march up to the doors of the hall, followed by a flag ceremony conducted by the local Boots and Chutes All Airborne Association.

The barbecue is free for all veterans, reserve, active military and their immediate families. For everyone else, a \$5 donation per plate is requested. All proceeds will be donated to a local non-profit veteran organization.

#### Valley Speaks presentation

Saturday's Valley Speaks Veterans Day presentation, hosted by the Santa Maria Valley Historical Society, will feature the history of Camp Cooke.

Cary Gray will be the featured speaker at the event at 11 a.m. at Shepard Hall in the Santa Maria Public Library, 421 S. McClelland St.

Maj. Gen. Philip St. George Cooke served more than 40 years in the U.S. Army. When a new training base was built in 1941, it was named Camp Cooke. It later became Cooke Air Force Base, then Vandenberg Air Force Base.

Gina Kim covers crime and courts for Santa Maria Times. Follow her on Twitter @gina\_k210

## COUNTY LINES

### STAFF REPORT

#### Santa Maria

### Two men arrested during traffic stop

Two men were arrested for possession of drugs and firearms during a traffic stop in Santa Maria on Friday afternoon.

At about 2 p.m., Santa Maria Police, with the help of a California Highway Patrol unit, found parolee Michael Casias, 29, inside a vehicle with three others in the 1200 block of West Cook

Street. A high-risk traffic stop was conducted, and Casias was taken into custody without incident, officials said.

Casias was arrested for felony parole violation, possession of drugs for transportation and sale, and possession of a loaded firearm.

Ivan Peralta, 21, was cited and ticketed for drug-related charges.

Two females in the vehicle were released from the scene

without charges, police said.

#### Santa Maria

### Tree planting day planned at Los Flores Ranch Park

A tree planting day will be held from 9 a.m. to noon Nov. 18 at Los Flores Ranch Park. Participants will meet at the Visitors Center, located at 6271 Dominion Road.

The goal is to plant 100 coast live oak trees, according to the

Santa Maria Recreation and Parks Department. Tools will be supplied. Volunteers should bring water and wear appropriate work clothes, including closed-toed shoes, pants, hat and gloves.

Conservation is a main priority at the park, a city spokesman said. More than 500 oak trees, sprouted from seed in the Los Flores Ranch Park nursery, have been planted by volunteer members of the community.

For more information, call 925-0951, ext. 2260, or visit the Recreation and Parks Department's administrative office at 615 S. McClelland St.