

SANTA MARIA TIMES

WEDNESDAY, MAY 27, 2020 A3

# CENTRAL COAST



LEE WOOD, STAFF

Every night, 89-year-old Carvel Boardman turns on his outdoor lights, steps out into his Santa Maria driveway with his saxophone and begins to play.

## Santa Maria saxman serenades the night

Lifelong musician plays for God, neighborhood

MIKE HODGON  
mhodgon@santamariatimes.com

Every night as twilight slides toward darkness, the exterior lights glow off at a house on a quiet street in northwest Santa Maria, the front door opens and a man walks into the driveway. A moment later, the sweet sounds of a saxophone float through the air — the melody of “Amazing Grace.”

That night he followed by “How Great Thou Art,” “The Old Rugged Cross” or “God Bless America.”

“I turn the lights off because I don’t like being the spotlight,” Carvel Boardman, 89, told a visitor who stopped to listen.

His granddaughter, Andrea Castaneda, said he plays as his contribution to the fight against COVID-19, and Boardman admits that might be true.

“Maybe if somewhere in the neighborhood, somebody got something out of it, I’ve made a few moments of happiness for them,” he said.

Boardman first blew through sax next when he was in the fifth grade at Cook Street Elementary School.

“When I was in seventh and eighth grade, I’d strap my saxophone to the back of my bicycle and ride from the 900 block of South Lincoln (Street) over to East Central (Avenue) for less



CONTRIBUTOR PHOTO

A photo from 1950 shows Carvel Boardman playing saxophone with the K Swingers — that’s him seated on the left in the front row. “Our theme song was ‘Moonlight Serenade,’” Boardman recalled.

“Then it came to me.” Boardman didn’t play when he was a student at Santa Maria High School, where he was too busy playing football, basketball and baseball, counting track, being involved in Future Farmers of America and breaking bones.

After graduating in 1948, he attended Santa Maria Junior College, which would become Hanover College, and played sax with a band called the K Swingers.

During the Korean War, Boardman enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and was sent to Randolph Air Force Base in Texas. There, he met his wife, Elizabeth, when a buddy who was being shipped out asked him to take her place on a double date.

“I hooked my wife that I played in L.A.,” he said, grinning. “Later I told her ‘L.A.’ was Los Angeles.” Returning to Santa Maria, he worked for Knudsen Dairy Products for 20 years, then in the maintenance department for Santa Maria-Bonita School District, where his wife was a special education teacher for 32 years.

“One day, Walter Sear called me and said, ‘You still got your horns?’” Boardman said. “I hadn’t read music since 1951.”

Photo by KAMRIN, Page A3

Photo by KAMRIN, Page A3

Photo by KAMRIN, Page A3

Photo by KAMRIN, Page A3

Photo by KAMRIN, Page A3

Photo by KAMRIN, Page A3

Photo by KAMRIN, Page A3

Photo by KAMRIN, Page A3

Photo by KAMRIN, Page A3

Photo by KAMRIN, Page A3

Photo by KAMRIN, Page A3

Photo by KAMRIN, Page A3

Photo by KAMRIN, Page A3

Photo by KAMRIN, Page A3

Photo by KAMRIN, Page A3

Photo by KAMRIN, Page A3

Photo by KAMRIN, Page A3

Photo by KAMRIN, Page A3

## County clears path for wineries

LEWIS RECORD STAFF REPORT

Santa Barbara County has temporarily suspended regulations that prohibit cellars, wineries and tasting rooms from serving food, clearing the way for such businesses to begin serving meals as soon as they are able as part of Stage 2 of Gov. Gavin Newsom’s four-stage reopening plan.

The move was part of Emergency Rule No. 2 that was declared Monday by Maria Mendoza. Santa Barbara County’s executive officer and director of emergency services. It authorizes wineries and wine tasting rooms to serve food during the COVID-19 pandemic, as long as the businesses are compliant with state laws regulating retail food, alcohol, alcohol licensing and all local directives regarding reopening during the pandemic, including certification and attainment of a COVID-19 protection plan.

The emergency rule went into effect immediately. It is set to remain in place until whichever of the following occurs first: Dec. 16, 2020; the county’s COVID-19 emergency proclamation is terminated; or the rule is superseded by the adoption of amendments to the county’s emergency ordinance by the Board of Supervisors.

The rule will be recommended to the Board of Supervisors for confirmation on June 2, according to county officials. Additionally, the county’s Planning and Development Department is slated to present recommendations on code amendments to the Planning Commission and Board of Supervisors in June.

For more information on the county’s reopening plans and regulations, visit <https://recovery.org/>.

## MS-13 trial moved to August

DAVE MCKEY  
dmckey@santamariatimes.com

A Santa Barbara County Superior Court judge has concluded the MS-13 murder trial for August after the case was set on hold in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

During a hearing Friday in Santa Maria, Judge John McGregor set a jury selection date of Aug. 24 in the trial of five suspected MS-13 gang members.

Additionally, a readiness and settlement hearing was set for June 10, and a hearing for potential motions was scheduled for July 6.

Prosecutors Robbin Morales, Juan Carlos Urbina Serrano, Marco Manuel Sanchez Torres, Luis German Mejia Ornelana and Juan Carlos Lozano Mendez are the first five of 10 defendants accused of nearly a dozen murders and gang-related crimes in the Santa Maria Valley from 2013 to 2016.

In December, McGregor split the group of 10 into two separate trials with five defendants each. The trials are to run consecutively and each is expected to last a year.

The 10 are part of a larger group of 17 who are allegedly part of MS-13, a transnational criminal organization, and were arrested in March 2016 following Operation Malabar. All others have either pleaded out or were charged with lower-level crimes.

Photo by TRAIL, Page A6

## OUR NEIGHBORS LIVING THROUGH A PANDEMIC

In taking up the saxophone, Boardman was carrying on a family tradition. His grandfather, who was a band leader, played the saxophone. His father, a projectionist at the Santa Maria Theater, also played sax as well as an accordion. “I still have my grandfather’s saxophone,” Boardman said. “He passed it down to my father, and

normally rolls through the downtown streets of Solvang and is watched by thousands of spectators.

“We are still planning to do a parade of some sort whether scaled-down or in full, depending on what is allowed at the time,” said Solvang Rotary Club members and longtime Fourth of July parade announcer Allan Jones. “We should know more toward the middle of June.”

All profits from the Fourth of July Fireworks Show and Festival go to help fund local charitable causes supported by the Santa Ynez Valley Rotary.

Santa Barbara County firefighters extinguished a small vegetation fire that broke out this morning near the Tanglewood neighborhood west of

Santa Maria. The fire was reported shortly before 11 a.m. behind Arifanes Junior High School near Sandalwood and Sherwood drives, according to Santa Barbara County Fire Capt. Daniel Bertocci.

The fire grew to approximately a quarter of an acre before it was contained shortly after 11:30 a.m. by fire crews, who remained on scene to monitor

hot spots. No injuries and no damaged structures were reported.

Even though a downed power line was reported near the scene and most likely started the fire, according to Bertocci, an investigator arrived on scene to determine the official cause.

Units from both Santa Maria and Santa Barbara County fire departments responded to the fire.

Photo by KAMRIN, Page A3

Photo by KAMRIN, Page A3

Photo by KAMRIN, Page A3

Photo by KAMRIN, Page A3

Photo by KAMRIN, Page A3

Photo by KAMRIN, Page A3

Photo by KAMRIN, Page A3

Photo by KAMRIN, Page A3

Photo by KAMRIN, Page A3

Photo by KAMRIN, Page A3

# Saxman

From A3

But with Boardman's experience and talent, that wasn't an issue, and he started a 28-year stint playing with the Hancock College Concert Band.

Now his sax playing is limited to his solo serenades from the darkness of his driveway, where he said he "plays for God."

"God has been good to us ... it's by his grace that I'm standing here talking to you," he said. "He's a good

God, and he's been good to me. I was born in 1930. I've been married 66 years. We've got four kids, 10 grandkids, 18 great-grandkids and one great-great-grandkid. If I live to July 1, I'll be 90 years old."

The series "Our neighbors: Living through a pandemic" is a collection of short vignettes highlighting the struggle and the hope of residents quarantined on the Central Coast. Through their stories it becomes clear that we really are facing the coronavirus together.