

STREET SMARTS

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COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARDS

Community Impact award winners have been announced for the Central Coast and will be feted at a gala dinner at Monarch Club in Nipomo on Dec. 1. The awards are presented by two nonprofit radio stations, K-LIFE 89.3 FM and 890 AM. This year's winners include Jack's Helping Hand, community volunteer Beverly Aho, Sierra Vista Medical Center and philanthropist Jim Sargen.

Just so you know, Sargen and his family led the fundraising effort to build the north campus of Cuesta College.

NAVY SEC. DRAWS CROWD

The Oct. 22 guest appearance of Navy Secretary Ray Mabus at a Navy League event in Santa Barbara brought out a number of business types to the Dreier building. Spottings: Chad Dreier, Steve Hicks, Doug Crawford, David Hardee, Capt. Jim McHugh, Sharon Siegel, Janet Wolf, Sandy Vanocur and Anne Towbes.

EVERYONE'S FORECASTING

Economic forecast events are popping up all along the Central Coast.

The UCSB Economic Forecast Project presents its San Luis Obispo County forecast and breakfast on Nov. 6 at Embassy Suites Hotel. The program will include a forecast

by Beacon Economics' Chris Thornberg and John Myers, Sacramento bureau chief for KQED will give an update based on his popular "California Report" news features. For more information check out slochamber.org.

Meanwhile, Kathy Staples and the Santa Maria Valley Chamber of Commerce are organizing the North Santa Barbara County Outlook conference slated for Nov. 17 at the Santa Maria Fairpark. Economist Mark Schniepp and Natalie Orta from the U.S. Small Business Administration will present. For sponsorship and ticket information please contact the California Economic Forecast (805) 692-2498.

COW POLY

From the laughing cow department comes word that Cal Poly has put on hold its plan to reduce the size of its dairy herd. Supporters, presumably of the two-legged variety, have come forward with a plan to keep the 400 animals alive and healthy through a milk price collapse that's made it a losing proposition to keep that many animals alive.

Only about 150 of the cows actually are milking at any time.

FINAL SCENES:

- ENTER STAGE LEFT: Longtime Democratic Party stalwart Tim Allison tosses his hat into the ring to challenge incumbent Elton Gallegly, R-Simi Valley, in the 24th Congressional District.