

Wind: SW 15-25 knots
Swell: Comb. 12-15 feet
Period: 15 sec. Temp: 58°F
Tide: High: 8:29 a.m. Low: 3:45 p.m.
High: 10:18 p.m. Low: 2:51 a.m.



**Mo. Sunny,
Windy Early**
72°
Sunrise: 7:05 a.m.
Sunset: 5:10 p.m.

INSIDE



Tavern seeks historic status

Another bid began yesterday to have Santa Barbara County declare the 124-year-old Mattei's Tavern in Los Olivos as an historic landmark.

Officials look for theft victims

Santa Barbara sheriff's detectives arrested a Lompoc woman suspected of stealing more than \$10,000 from an elderly Goleta woman and are looking for others who have been targeted.

SBBT trouble hurts tax firm

The second-largest tax preparer in the country is losing stock value, partly because Santa Barbara Bank & Trust won't be able to provide once-lucrative refund anticipation loans starting this week.

Theater workers to strike

BY ERIC LINDBERG
DAILY SOUND STAFF WRITER

Unhappy with attempts to renegotiate a contract with theater management, a local stagehand union announced a strike against the Arlington Theater and asked community members to boycott all live shows at the venue.

Since the contract between Metropolitan Theatres Corporation and the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees, Moving Picture Technicians and Allied Crafts of the United States (IATSE) Local 442 expired in February of last year, the two sides have struggled to reach common ground.

Union leaders are blaming the theater group of bargaining in bad faith and trying to circumvent the union

while Metro Theatres management said they offered a fair deal that includes pay increases despite the poor economic climate.

While the contract might have been agreeable on its own, union officials said a secondary clause became too problematic.

"The big killer was the side letter that they insisted upon including," said Erik Moore, vice president of Local 442. "It would allow them to hire random people at a lesser wage and hire them ahead of the hiring hall. If there is a bad manager, they could hire all their buddies first and then call the hiring hall."

In addition, Moore said the contract would create a new "utility" position that had no specific definition. He said the union members were

concerned that the theater could use that clause to hire a few experienced hands and fill in the remaining positions with cheaper workers.

Allen Gilbert, executive vice president for Metro Theatres, did not return a call for comment but issued a prepared statement that painted a different picture of the ongoing labor dispute.

He said the union brought in two international representatives during negotiations and both agreed that the final proposal was "mutually acceptable."

"We believe that our proposal is fair and reasonable for both sides, and the local's representatives do as well," according to the statement. "We are particularly hopeful that those members who have actually

worked at the Arlington Theatre will conclude that the offer is fair."

While the statement didn't discuss the proposed contract in detail, it noted that the offer includes pay raises for all classifications in addition to creating the new "stage utility" classification.

Metro Theatres management said the new classification will "enable a broad range of people to work live shows at the Arlington," according to the statement, which also noted that the proposal continues to pay at the same level into the union's benefits pool.

The union includes 65 card-carrying members and 100 so-called casuals — workers who are brought on for

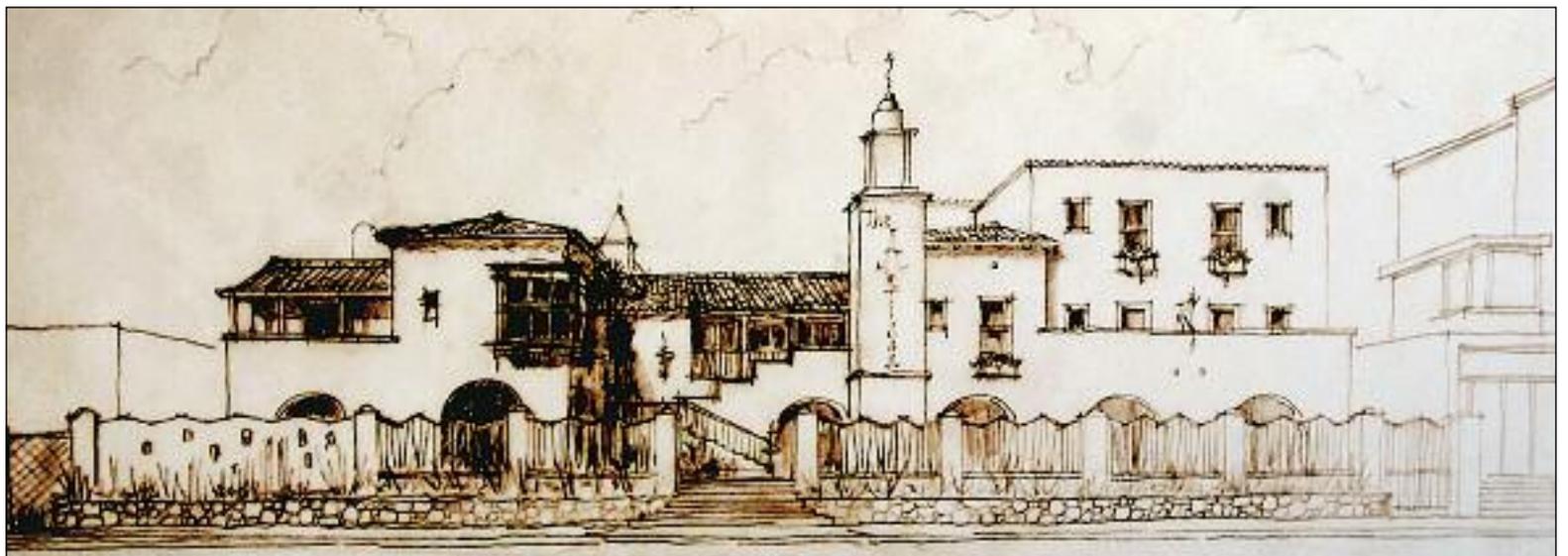
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DAILY SOUND / Victor Macchroli

Construction begins on youth housing project

See story on page 3



City of Santa Barbara artist rendering

Housing Authority director Robert Pearson (top left), Mayor Helene Schneider and Housing Authority Chair Barbara Allen speak at the ground breaking of Artisan Court (seen in a rendering above), a new housing project on East Cota Street in Santa Barbara that will benefit children leaving the foster system and emancipated minors, as well as low-income residents. When completed, the project will offer 55 studio apartments.