

Theater construction progressing quickly

By DYLAN KYLE
Staff Writer

Despite the weather and the return of students, construction crews have maintained their schedule on the new Performing Arts Theater.

The theater is due to open in fall of 2009. The state-of-the-art building has seen no on-site injuries or loss of time.

The heavy rains earlier this winter caused some delays, but no setbacks for the crew of roughly 35 construction workers. Terry Reece, Physical Plant supervisor said gravel was brought in to create a path over the mud for the transportation of vehicles and equipment. During the wet weather, a crew of six to eight workers remained on site in order to keep construction moving.

Once the exterior of the building is complete, the second phase of construction will take place inside. Installation of seating, lights, and scene shop materials are the final steps toward theater completion.

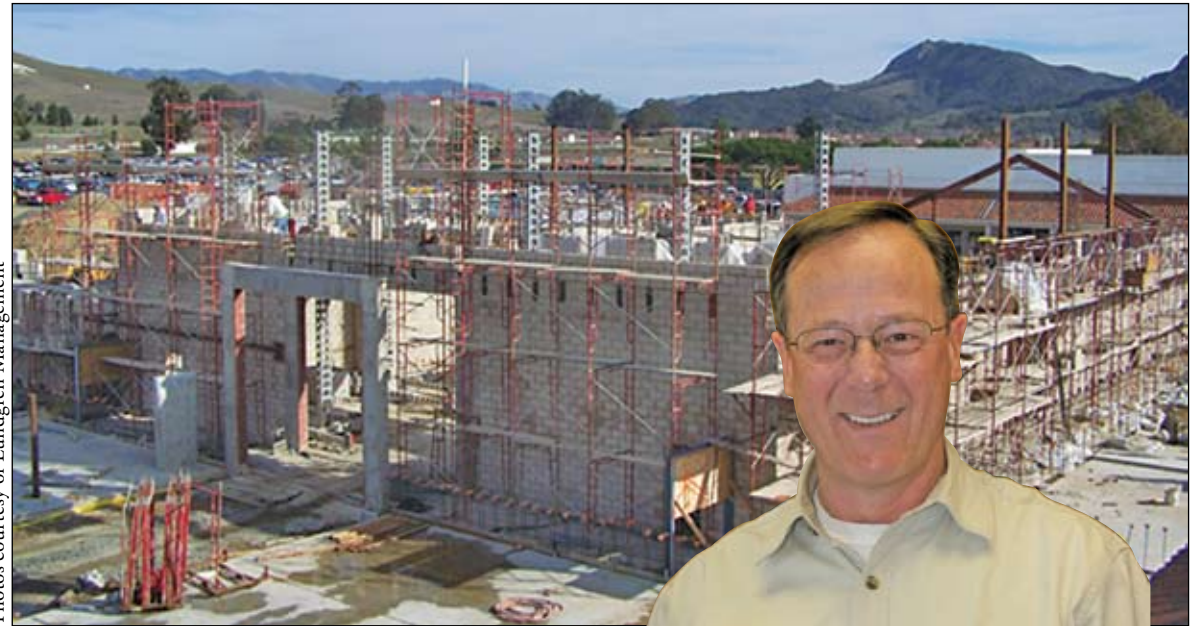
Ted Fox, regional director for Lundgren Management, said that over the next year, thousands of pieces of material will be brought on site to bring construction to an end. If there isn't enough room for all of the steel beams, concrete, and nuts and bolts inside the fences, then a few more parking spots may be taken up, but that doesn't seem likely. "We hope to fit everything inside our site now," said Fox.

Physical construction started in December 2006, and with over 20 prime contractors working together, everything seems to be flowing smoothly. "It looks like it's going fast. Compared to all the other construction around SLO, it looks like it's making progress," said Cuesta College student Jadon Hicks.

The new parking lot will be laid down over the summer of 2009 with approximately 200 spaces. Landscaping around the building will be the last and final touches.



Construction on the new Performing Arts Theater has shown progress over the last nine months. Ted Fox, regional director for Lundgren Management, has a tight schedule and looks forward to building completion in summer 2009.



Photos courtesy of Lundgren Management



Nathan inspects the camera.



Annabelle smiles for her friends.

Play leads to learning at Children's Center

Student and faculty parents given enrollment priority

By CHARLIE CULY AND
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Staff Writers

The Children's Center is a perfect opportunity for students to work with children and achieve their goals.

After six units, early childhood education students can work as an assistant with 17 faculty members on staff. The double program trains college students to teach young children the traits and skills necessary for their future.

Students and faculty follow a "Statement of philosophy," that "Play is the greatest avenue for learning in early education."

Children learn creative expression through art, social relationships, group activities

and communication skills such as reading aloud and sharing about their day. Students and staff also encourage literacy, math, discovery and motor skills in the classroom. "We are a community of learners," said Haila Hafley-Kluser, the center's director.

Faculty members teach classes alongside college students mostly over the age of 18. Classes generally range between 10-15 children, 2 to 5-years old.

Megan Souza has been working in the early childhood education and human development office for two semesters. After recently visiting a local children's center off-campus, Souza said, "We have an extraordinary pro-

gram with better sources, and the teachers are amazing."

There are a number of children's centers throughout the county, but the large teacher-to-child ratio at Cuesta's Children Center excels in this aspect. Children are able to have all the one-on-one interaction they want and need with so many Cuesta students eager to help.

The center gives priority to students and faculty with children but is also open to the community at large. The program offers discounts to qualifying families and encourages parent involvement.

The waiting list for all children is one to two semesters. For details or to enroll a child, contact the Children's Center at 546-3285.



Ian focuses on slipping and sliding. Swinging on the giant circle swing and water play are also popular activities.



Photos by Dan Williams/Cuestonian

News Briefs

Wine, Dine & Jazz to support European tour

The Wine, Dine and Jazz tapas fundraiser and concert hosted by Castoro Cellars and the Performing Arts Division, will be held Sunday Feb. 24 from 1 to 4 p.m.

The event is part of the Europe for a Song effort to help send the Cuesta Chamber Singers and Voce group on their European tour this summer.

Both groups will perform throughout Spain and France on a two-week tour, which will include performances at the prestigious San Sebastian Jazz Festival and the Festival Polyphonique.

Wine, Dine and Jazz will feature performances by the choirs, live jazz entertainment, and an auction run by Interim Dean of Humanities Gil Stork while attendees enjoy tapas and wine.

Tickets are \$25 per person or \$40 per couple. Castoro Cellars Winery is at 1315 N. Bethel Road in Templeton.

Call Performing Arts at 546-3195 to purchase tickets.

Stress management counseling begins

Walk-in stress management counseling will be offered for students Mondays at the North County Campus and Tuesdays and Wednesdays until April 2 at the San Luis Obispo campus.

Tonya Hardiman, MFTI, will be available in the counseling office, room 3110 in building 3100, on Tuesdays from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., and Wednesdays from 1 to 2 p.m. on the San Luis Obispo campus. Contact the Student Health Center for details.