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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Festival of Trees at Performing Arts Center Benefits Youth Arts Program

SAN LUIS OBISPO -- The Performing Arts Center is now hosting its annual Festival of Trees benefit for YOPAC.

The Rossi Grand Lobby of the Performing Arts Center will be filled with beautifully decorated Christmas trees, each sponsored by local businesses and performing groups through Dec. 18.

The trees will be featured in a silent auction for patrons to bid on while they attend events during early December. Winning bidders will receive their decorated tree a week before Christmas.

Proceeds from the silent auction benefit Youth Outreach for the Performing Arts Center, also known as YOPAC. The program makes it possible for school children to attend matinee performances at the center for free. YOPAC funding also allows local middle school and high school student bands and choirs to perform on stage in the Center's main hall.

In 2004, some 15,000 local students attended school performances, and 4,500 children performed in Harman Hall as a direct result of this program.

This year's Festival of Trees sponsors include First Bank of San Luis Obispo; Mr. and Mrs. Gerry Peterson; the San Luis Obispo Symphony Guild; the Civic Ballet of San Luis Obispo; the Madonna Inn; Friends of the PAC; Farm Supply; Cal Poly Alumni Association and El Corral Bookstore; the San Luis Obispo Vocal Arts Ensemble; The Grapeline Wine Country Shuttle; and Tolosa Winery.

The press is invited to come take pictures Friday December 9th at 7-10 pm.

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Editors Note: The decorated trees make excellent holiday art. Contact Kris Rose at the PAC at 756-7223 to set up a photo/video shoot.

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