



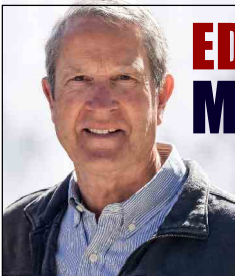
THE CITY BEAT

P7

CLOVIS: OUR SUCCESSES AND OUR CHALLENGES

Councilmember

DREW BESSINGER



EDUCATION MATTERS

VALLEY VIEWS:

The way I see it

P17

FRED VANDERHOOF



OLD TOWN CLOVIS

Has a great deal to offer

P10

HEATHER FRANTZICH



COUNTY MATTERS

JOHN ADAMS... the Spirit of Independence

P5

COUNTY SUPERVISOR

NATHAN MAGSIG



Letters TO THE Editor Page9



SeniorLifestyle p9

CLOVIS TIMES

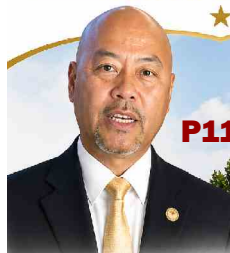


LOCAL NEWS ★ COMMUNITY EVENTS ★ SCHOOLS ★ SPORTS ★ BUSINESS ★ OPINION ★ AND MORE

BEHIND the HEADLINES

VONG MOUANOUTOUA

MAYOR OF CLOVIS



P11



BEYOND THE BARRACKS

BTB

PAGE 4

BEYOND THE BARRACKS: A Place Where Veterans and Their Families Belong

THE TINTWRAP AUDIO

GRAND OPENING

AUGUST 9TH

 611 Clovis Ave. Suite B Clovis CA 93612

 5559-281-2080

SEE PAGE 11

 WINDOW TINT

 CAR AUDIO

 SECURITY SYSTEMS

 CUSTOM WHEELS

 VINYL WRAPS

PREMIUM PRODUCTS. EXPERT INSTALLATION. UNBEATABLE SERVICE.

Discovering the Secret Gardens:



By Stella C. Leue', Contributor

What a terrific garden tour I experienced recently! Board President, John Pape strolled with me through a small portion of three acres belonging to the Clovis Botanical Gardens. It comprises mostly Mediterranean climate plants,trees and shrubs.

It is a volunteer-run oasis situated on the north end area of Dry Creek Park, 945 N. Clovis Avenue, Clovis. The acreage is owned by the City of Clovis, and is registered as a non-profit public garden and special event venue. As we walked, John pointed out a new demonstration space of low growing plants, thyme, mint and yarrow growing together and could substitute for home lawns.

These aromatic plants will eventually grow into green low growing ground cover of fragrance. Another visual point was two rows of crepe myrtles growing quite tall sheltering a path. These are called óAlleesô, and are commonly seen in European gardens. Another unusual plant is the óBurning Bushô. It has bright color in the fall. Milkweed can be found along several paths and attract Monarch Butterflies in the spring. Visitors can discover other appealing trees and plants with exotic names: Pacific Myrtle, Sugar Bush, Pindo Palm, **SEE PAGE 3**

Two Great Communities. One Trusted Source.

THE FRESNO TIMES

Your Community. Your Newspaper. Your Voice.

CLOVIS TIMES

Your Community. Your Newspaper. Your Voice.

NOW IN PRINT & ONLINE!

THE FRESNO COUNTY SPORTS REPORTING: "DREAM TEAM"

We're proud to introduce a new kind of sports reporting for Fresno County. Our **DREAM TEAM** combines celebrity, professional experience, and local knowledge to bring you the stories that inspire, inform, and unite our community!



LORENZO NEAL

OUR STAR. OUR LEADER.

★ 16-YEAR NFL VETERAN ★

ONE OF THE GREATEST BLOCKING BACKS IN NFL HISTORY

Fresno County's own national sports legend leading our team to cover what matters most to you!



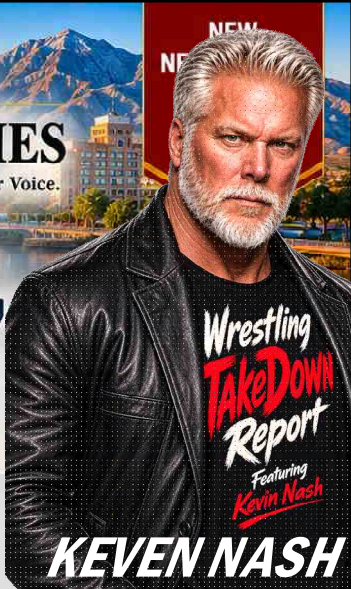
STEVEN SANCHEZ



ARMANDO NEGRETE



DAVID MENENDIAN



KEVEN NASH

Wrestling TakeDown Report

Featuring Kevin Nash

★ "Big Sexy" Sports Report ★

WWE Hall of Famer Kevin Nash gives us his Wrestling Take Down Report

GET READY FOR GREAT SPORTS REPORTING THIS SEASON!



Sassano's MEN'S WEAR

Oldest Family Business in Clovis Ca.

SINCE 1932

A family-oriented establishment that captures the charm of traditional mom-and-pop shops, that feels like home. www.sassanosmenswear.com

IF WE DON'T HAVE IT...WE WILL HELP YOU FIND IT!

★ WWW.SASSANOSMENSWEAR.COM ★

 448 Pollasky Clovis, CA 93612 |  559-299-4430

TUES - FRI : 9am - 6pm / SAT. 9am - 5:30pm Closed: SUN & MON

★ MEN'S WESTERN APPAREL

★ JEANS

★ WIDE CHOICE COWBOY HATS

★ WESTERN WORK BOOTS

★ LEATHER BELTS & WALLETs

★ OLD GUYS RULE

CLOVIS
Times
COLUMNISTS



FINDING
ANCESTORS

Finding Your
Ancestors...
The power of
the internet

P14

GEORGIA WILD



American
History

Part 1 August
(September
issue Part 2)

P6

BILL SCOTT



Brandi
Asacker
Founder
/ CEO

P4



P18

TED LAURENT:
GREAT AMERICAN
FREEDOM REVIVAL
www.RevivalUSA.net

BookTALK

Kings of Flesh
The Survival Guide P17
Father and son fought to
open Clovis' first tattoo shop.

Clovis Views

SUBSCRIBE
to
CLOVIS TIMES
The Clovis Way Of Life YOUR COMMUNITY. YOUR NEWSPAPER. YOUR VOICE.

and support your local community.

For only **\$12⁵⁰** per month

YOU WILL RECEIVE:

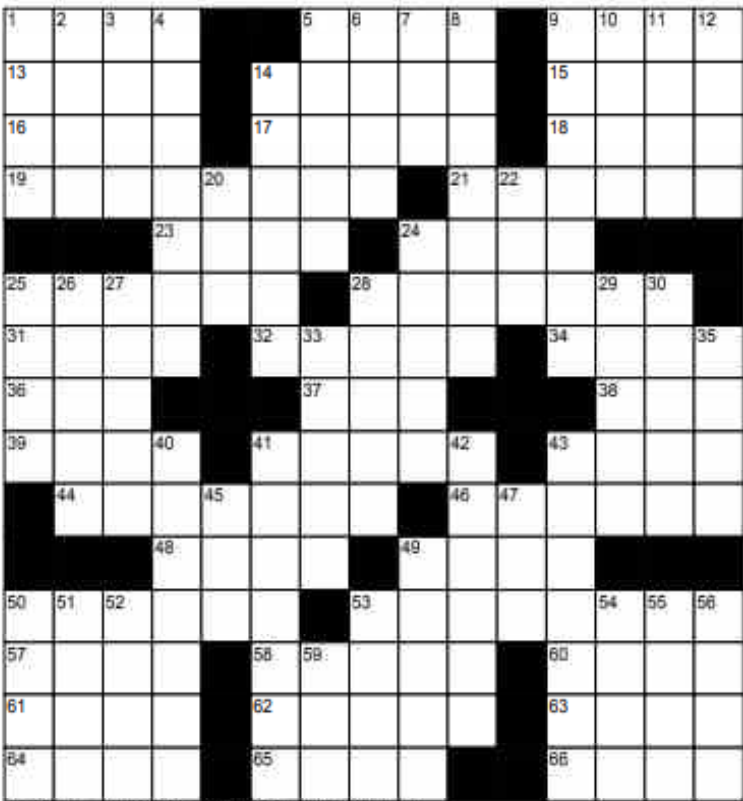
- A WEEKLY DIGITAL EDITION
- A MONTHLY PRINT EDITION

ALSO READ THE LATEST EDITION ONLINE
and get all the local news as it happens.

STAY INFORMED. STAY CONNECTED.
Support Local Journalism!

www.ClovisTimes.com 559-272-0581

Crossword Puzzle



Copyright © puzzletimepapa.com using Crossword Weaver(TM)

ACROSS

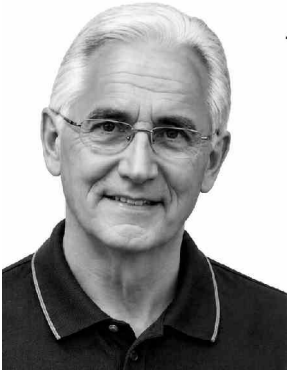
- 1 Collect leaves
- 5 Clothes
- 9 Take down
- 13 Swiss-like cheese
- 14 __ Lee (pie brand name)
- 15 Same cite as previous
- 16 Jewish scribe
- 17 Thin pancake
- 18 Peter, for short
- 19 __ da Vinci
- 21 Porcelain clay
- 23 Sailors "hey"
- 24 Cat cries
- 25 Relating to the mail
- 28 Erases
- 31 Parlay
- 32 Italian "dollars"
- 34 Native ruler
- 36 South southeast

- 37 Thief's hideout
- 38 Bullfight cheer
- 39 Relate
- 41 List of candidates
- 43 On top
- 44 Impure
- 46 Mother superior
- 48 Courtyard
- 49 Parent teacher groups
- 50 Be plentiful
- 53 Duress
- 57 Dirt road
- 58 Lazy person
- 60 Fringy
- 61 Skirt
- 62 Flawlessness
- 63 Single
- 64 Aroma
- 65 Charts
- 66 Sleigh

DOWN

- 1 Pull in a fish
- 2 Wood tool
- 3 Corn syrup brand
- 4 Come forth
- 5 Late
- 6 Brand of sandwich cookie
- 7 Breach
- 8 Money
- 9 Retort
- 10 Cain killed him
- 11 Type of pasta
- 12 Adam's garden
- 14 Coiled paper
- 20 Expression of surprise
- 22 Admiration
- 24 Intended
- 25 Then
- 26 Beginning
- 27 Inscribed stone
- 28 Horror
- 29 Show emotions
- 30 Grain storage towers
- 33 Lazed about
- 35 Representatives
- 40 Syrupy alcoholic drink
- 41 Arena
- 42 Diner
- 43 Inflamed area
- 45 Holy woman
- 47 Forbid
- 49 Writers
- 50 Singing voice
- 51 Data transmission rate
- 52 Upon
- 53 Prune
- 54 Teen hero
- 55 Leer at
- 56 Penury
- 59 Cell stuff

SEE SOLUTION PAGE 19



Terry Wild—Publisher

The Clovis Times has just published Issue Three, and something exciting is beginning to happen: we are starting to feel like the hometown newspaper.

After only three issues, we are learning, growing and working to improve every edition. Our goal is to produce a first-class local newspaper, community website and digital news service worthy of the people of Clovis. We are doing everything we can to make that happen.

But now we need your help.

After publishing our first three issues, we have reached the point where we need to begin building a strong subscription base that can provide the financial foundation necessary to expand our local reporting, improve our newspaper, strengthen our website and serve more of the community.

Our first goal is very specific:

WE NEED 500 SUBSCRIBERS.

Five hundred subscriptions will allow us to reach the first phase of our financial plan and begin building the kind of hometown newspaper we believe Clovis deserves.

When you subscribe to the Clovis Times, you are doing more than purchasing a newspaper. **You are helping build a local institution.** You are helping preserve independent community journalism. You are helping us tell the stories of the people who live here, work here, raise their families here and call Clovis home.

If you believe Clovis needs a strong hometown newspaper, **we are asking you to become one of our first 500 subscribers.**

Please visit ClovisTimes.com and subscribe today.

Together, we can build a newspaper that truly represents **God, Family, Community—and The Clovis Way of Life.**

Thank you for believing in the Clovis Times. We're just getting started.

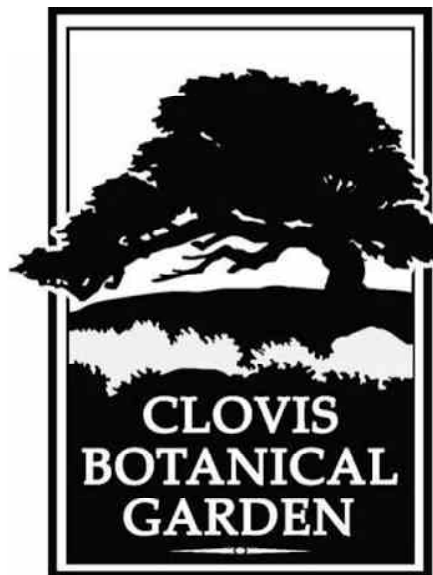
HOMEXperts
YOUR TOTAL HOME SOLUTION

FREE ESTIMATE!
CALL TODAY!

Inside & Out
We Handle
Any Project!

Call Today!
800-246-2160
www.HOMExperts.Services

ClovisHistory



CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE:

Fairy Duster along winding paths. All plants displayed can be used in Clovis yards.

At the Visitor Center, I asked John what sparked his interest in Horticulture? He started at 7 years helping his father in their backyard and

had his own small plot to grow vegetables. When he was a teen of 16 years, and in high school Biology in San Gabriel, he worked with a landscaping crew. Their assignment was cleaning and trimming the grounds of the Cloistered Carmelite Nuns of St. Teresa, in Alhambra, California. He admired the park-like setting, surrounding the convent and drawn to beauty of the gardens. This high school experience in the scientific world of Horticulture would eventually become his life work. He received his Bachelor of Science in Horticulture from Cal Poly, Pomona. His childhood interest and curiosity of growing things has served him well, especially, as he continued his studies in gardening and irrigation.

John was introduced to the Botanical Gardens in 1990 working alongside Gordon



Russell, a visionary of the Gardens. He started as a groundskeeper, a board member and recently, six months ago, elected as

Botanical Gardens Board President. In this capacity, he collaborates with master gardeners; other non-profit groups; and most importantly, interacts with the many volunteers who help keep the gardens alive and beautiful.

The “Gem” of the Garden is the Evert Family Center which opened last November 2025. The building was designed by Art Dyson, a nationally renown architect. Within the building is a gift shop, Marge Largent Gallery of local art; a small library on

gardening; and books for sale. Nearby, the Margil Vanderhoff Education Center is available for rent for family events and receptions, capacity 70 people. Ms. Vanderhoff, is a volunteer and a spry 100 year old, participates, as she is capable.

The Pavilion, an outdoor venue, 80 people capacity, is available for day use for parties, receptions and concerts. Weddings have taken place here, too. It would be a perfect setting in the fall or spring for entertaining. Parking is located walking distance to the venue.

I asked John, “What unusual living creatures have ventured on the grounds. His answer:

Foxes, non-venous snakes,
lizards and various birds.

The main rules for the public visiting the Gardens is to stay on the paths; be aware of the cactus gardens; and parents watch their children at all times!

Between donations, rental and the gift shop sales the facility is able to exist and remain open.

To this point, I asked, “What would you want for the Gardensö future. John’s reply, “Dedicated people who would like to volunteer. Younger persons who have administration and technical skills and the energy to interact with our visitors.”



THE BOTANICAL GARDENS MISSION STATEMENT

To promote water conservation in the California Central Valley landscape through excellent gardens, exhibits and programs that educate and inspire the public. Future plans will encompass completion indigenous ethno botany area and continue to maintain the garden for the public.

The Center welcomes school tours; offers scavenger hunts; Saturday Science Classes (\$5 charge/student).

Free docent tours are available, please call ahead.

Hours: Wednesday through Sunday, 9 a.m.- 4 p.m., closed Monday and Tuesday and certain holidays.

Admission is free for Adults and children. Dogs are allowed on a leash.

Phone: 559-298-3091

Website: www.clovisbotanicalgarden.org/

Email: admin@clovisbotanicalgarden.org

**Get inspired for your
next adventure.**

AAA Clovis Travel Fair

Saturday, September 19
10 AM - 2 PM | Free Admission

- Enjoy exclusive discounts
- Win exciting raffle prizes
- Meet with AAA Travel Partners

AAA Clovis Shaw Branch
1595 Shaw Ave.
Clovis, CA 93611
559-323-3061





Beyond The Barracks: A Place Where Veterans and Their Families Belong

Brandi Asacker
Founder / CEO

Hi, I'm Brandi Asacker, the founder and CEO of Beyond The Barracks.

My family heritage is deeply rooted in military service. My connection with the military runs through generations as my grandfathers, uncles, and father all dedicated their lives to serving our country. In fact, I came into this world on the Coast Guard base in Kodiak, Alaska.



Beyond The Barracks is a nonprofit Veteran Community Center dedicated to ensuring that no veteran has to face life's challenges alone. We proudly serve all generations of veterans, regardless of branch of service or era, by providing a welcoming place to connect, find resources, build friendships, and strengthen their overall well-being. Our doors are open Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. and Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., creating a consistent place where veterans know they are always welcome.

Throughout the week, we offer opportunities for veterans to gather and build meaningful relationships. Every Tuesday at 9:00 a.m., we host our popular Coffee & Donuts gathering. On the second and fourth Wednesday of each month, we provide a free veterans breakfast, with RSVPs requested by calling 559-420-8152 to help us prepare enough food for everyone. Every Friday at 9:00 a.m., veterans enjoy Coffee & Muffins, and on the last Friday of every month, we partner with Miss Winkles Pet Adoption Center to bring adoptable dogs to the center. Beyond The Barracks proudly covers each

adoption fee, helping veterans find loyal companions while giving deserving animals a forever home.

While veterans are always our first priority, we also recognize that military service impacts the entire family. We are committed to supporting spouses, partners, and military-dependent children because strong families create stronger veterans. Our programs are designed to foster connection, reduce isolation, and build a community where every military family member feels valued and supported.

Beyond The Barracks offers far more than social

gatherings. We provide peer support, resource navigation, support groups, wellness programming, family activities, community events, and opportunities for veterans to rediscover purpose through service and connection. We are proud to offer innovative programs that focus on post-traumatic growth, resilience, and suicide prevention while creating an environment where veterans can simply enjoy being surrounded by fellow Battle Brothers and Sisters in Arms who understand their experiences.

At Beyond The Barracks, our mission is simple: to

ensure that every veteran and their family knows they have a place to turn, a community that cares, and a team that will walk alongside them through every season of life. Whether someone is looking for support, friendship, resources, or simply a cup of coffee and conversation, they will always find a home at Beyond The Barracks.

Beyond The Barracks
325 Clovis Ave Ste 106
Clovis, Ca. 93612
(559) 420-8152
www.BeyondTheBarracks.org

MAKE A MONTHLY IMPACT. CHANGE A VETERAN'S LIFE.

YOUR RECURRING DONATION KEEPS OUR MISSION STRONG AND OUR BATTLE BROTHERS AND SISTERS IN ARMS SUPPORTED EVERY DAY.

\$10 /MONTH		EQUALS DONUTS FOR 20 Fuel connection. Start the conversation.
\$25 /MONTH		EQUALS LUNCH FOR 5 VETERANS A hot meal. A moment of relief. A reminder they're not alone.
\$50 /MONTH		COVERS 120 COFFEE PODS Keeping the coffee flowing and the conversations going.
\$100 /MONTH		COVERS BREAKFAST FOR 15 VETERANS Because nobody should face the day on an empty stomach.

SMALL MONTHLY GIFTS. BIG IMPACT. REAL CHANGE.

SCAN ME!

MAKE YOUR PLEDGE NOW!!

TOGETHER, WE CAN BUILD A STRONGER COMMUNITY AND A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR OUR VETERANS.

BEYOND THE BARRACKS

Golf TOURNAMENT

OCTOBER 9TH
-AIRWAYS GOLF CLUB-
5440 E AIRWAYS BLVD, FRESNO, CA 93727

★ PRIZE FOR BEST THEMED TEAM
★ PRIZE FOR WINNING TEAM
★ PRIZE FOR WORST TEAM
★ RAFFLE ITEMS!

SHOTGUN START 9AM

INCLUDES:
UNLIMITED BEER & SELTZERS
FREE FOOD AT 9 HOLES!
GOLF CART INCLUDED

SCAN ME

\$135 PER PLAYER
\$540 FOR TEAM OF 4

ENJOY 9 LOCAL BREWERIES & 9 LOCAL RESTAURANTS THROUGHOUT THE COURSE!

ONE STOP AT EVERY OTHER HOLE!

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE!	★ TITLE SPONSOR \$25,000 ★ PLATINUM SPONSOR \$15,000	★ GOLD SPONSOR \$10,000 ★ SILVER SPONSOR \$5,000 ★ TEE SPONSOR \$300	HOLE-IN-ONE SPONSORED BY BMW FRESNO
--------------------------------------	---	--	--

★ GREAT GOLF. LOCAL FLAVOR. BIGGER IMPACT. ★

★ ALL PROCEEDS BENEFIT BEYOND THE BARRACKS VETERAN COMMUNITY CENTER SUPPORTING VETERANS & THEIR FAMILIES. ★



Remembering John Adams... the Spirit of Independence



By Nathan Magsig

As our nation recently celebrated the 250th anniversary of American independence, we have an opportunity to reflect on the men and women whose courage and conviction made this great experiment in self-government possible. Among the roles of our founder, few played a more vital role than John Adams.

While history often remembers George Washington as the General of the Revolution and Thomas Jefferson as the author of the Declaration of Independence, **John Adams was the tireless advocate** who helped make independence a reality. At a time when breaking away from Great Britain seemed uncertain and dangerous, Adams stood firm in his belief that Americans were capable of governing themselves.

One of the most fascinating examples of Adams' influence came in 1776, when leaders from the newly independent states sought guidance on how to build their own governments. Adams responded by writing *Thoughts on Government*, a pamphlet written from the perspective of a "Letter from a Gentleman to his friend" that laid out his vision for representative democracy, checks and balances, and the separation of powers. Written in just a matter of weeks, the document became enormously influential and helped shape several state constitutions. **Many of the principles Adams outlined would later find their way into the United States Constitution itself.** While Jefferson penned the Declaration, Adams was helping design the framework that would allow a free people to govern themselves for generations to come.

He understood that freedom is never guaranteed. It must be defended, preserved, and passed on to future generations.

Adams dedicated his life not only to securing independence, but also to building a republic founded on the rule of law. He believed that liberty depended on an engaged citizenry, strong institutions, and leaders willing to place principle above personal ambition. Those ideas helped shape the nation we know today.

As we continue to celebrate America 250, I believe Adams' example remains remarkably relevant.

For 250 years, Americans have overcome extraordinary challenges. We have endured war, economic hardship, natural disasters, and periods of profound division. Through it all, the strength of our nation has come not from government alone, but from the character of our people. Farmers, business owners, veterans, teachers, and families have carried forward the promise of America through hard work, faith, and service to their communities.

As a County Supervisor, I see those values every day throughout the Central Valley. They are reflected in neighbors helping neighbors, parents investing in their children's future, and citizens who remain committed to improving the communities they call home.

John Adams once warned that liberty, once lost, is lost forever. His words serve as a reminder that freedom requires responsibility. Each generation inherits the blessings of American citizenship, but also the duty to protect them.

As we mark 250 years of independence, let us honor John Adams by renewing our commitment to the principles he championed: liberty, self-government, personal responsibility, and service to something greater than ourselves.

America's story did not end in 1776. It continues today, and it is up to us to ensure that the next 250 years are just as strong as the first.



Janette Loudon

Is your Gut talking to you? 7 reasons to Listen to your Gut

Published December 2021
Northwestern Medicine

Listening to your gut is about more than responding to your body when you feel uneasy or need to decide. The gut refers to your gastrointestinal (GI) system, the health of which is generally determined by the levels and types of bacteria in your digestive intestinal tract.

To understand the impact of gut health, it's important to understand how the gut works. When your GI tract digests food, it breaks it down to the most basic parts and the valuable nutrients are absorbed through the bloodstream.

To regulate this process the gut uses nerves, bacteria and hormones. The bacteria are of particular significance especially because bacteria tend to get a bad rap. Bacteria form a mucosal layer that strengthens the gut wall and good digestive health is the result of a balance of good and bad bacteria.

1. No One Likes Aches and Pains

Right off the bat, poor gut health is associated with minor but unpleasant effects on the body. Abdominal pain, bloating, acid are headaches, fatigue and joint pain.

2. Some Walls Are Worth Fortifying

Good bacteria in the gut — also called beneficial gut flora — strengthen the gut wall, which protects the rest of the body from potential pathogens by acting as a layer of cells and chemical barriers. Gut flora activates immune functions in the cells, thereby ensuring that physical barriers to infection are in place. Furthermore, flora affects the pH of the gut, keeping it relatively acidic and therefore hostile to invading bacteria.

3. Bacteria Regulates Inflammation

The bacteria in your gut either activate or suppress inflammation as a means of regulating the immune system. Some of these gut walls are related: when the wall is compromised, potential pathogens can enter the blood stream, which consequently activates inflammation. Inflammation — the go-to response of the gut's immune system to imbalance and general poor health — is the cornerstone of a range of conditions that affect the whole body, from allergies and asthma to Alzheimer's disease and neuropathy.

4. You'll Digest Better

A diverse composition of bacteria can strengthen and improve your digestion. Different bacteria have different functions. Inflammatory bowel diseases therefore affect the ability of your body to absorb vitamins and minerals. Good bacteria can also keep yeast and other fermentation at bay and prevent an overgrowth of fungus and other pathogens that can activate — you guessed it — inflammation.

5. It Can Prevent More Serious Digestive Disorders

Inflammatory bowel diseases are all associated with intestinal inflammation, which is a result of how gut health impacts the immune system. However, it's worth noting that the risk of these conditions is also considerably affected by genetics.

6. Your Gut is Central to your Nervous System

There are approximately 100 million nerve cells lining your gastrointestinal tract, making us the Enteric Nervous System and primarily governing digestion. The nerves in your gut communicate with the brain in your central nervous system, relaying the health of the gut and immune system. It can also produce neurochemicals, like dopamine and serotonin, which can impact mood and mental health. New research suggests there could be a link to memory and thinking skills. In fact, the Nervous system is so significant that many physicians refer to the gut as the second brain.

6. Your Gut Really Does Have Feelings

Gut feelings are totally real. In addition to dopamine and serotonin — 90 percent of which is produced in the gut — the gut releases other major neurotransmitters that are usually associated with the brain, such as glutamate, norepinephrine, nitric oxide and enkephalins, the body's natural opiates. Research also suggests that irritation in the gut can trigger mood changes and people with bowel disorders are more likely to suffer from mental health conditions, like depression and anxiety.

What Creates Imbalance and What Can You Do About it? To be continued:



GEORGIA WILD

Finding Your Ancestors...
The power of the internet

Do you really want to
KNOW THE TRUTH?

The decision everyone will deal with..

The truth. We talk about it, search for it, and sometimes even demand it. But what happens when the truth we discover is not the truth we expected?

As a genealogist, I have learned that searching for our ancestors is much more than collecting names, dates, photographs, and documents. We are uncovering real lives. **And real lives can be complicated.**

Every family has stories it proudly passes from one generation to another. But every family also has chapters that have been forgotten, hidden, misunderstood or deliberately left untold.

That presents every family historian with an important question: **Do I really want to know the truth?**

You may discover an ancestor who demonstrated extraordinary

courage, sacrificed for others, or overcame enormous hardship.

You may also discover broken relationships, poor decisions, abandoned families, failures, or secrets no one ever discussed. Once discovered, history cannot simply be rewritten because we don't like what we find.

The Internet has given us access to records our grandparents could never have imagined finding. Census records, newspapers, military files, immigration documents, photographs, marriage records, and family trees can sometimes reveal in minutes what once required years of searching.

But information is not always truth. Records can be wrong. Family stories can become distorted. Online family trees can repeat another researcher's mistakes.

So we must become investigators.

Follow the evidence. Ask questions. Verify your sources. And be willing to accept what you discover.

Knowing the truth about our ancestors does not mean condemning them. They lived in another time, faced circumstances we may never fully understand, and made decisions with consequences that became part of our family's story.

Perhaps that is one of genealogy's greatest lessons. We cannot change yesterday.

But by discovering the truth about yesterday, we can better understand who we are today and perhaps make wiser decisions about tomorrow.

Do you really want to know the truth?

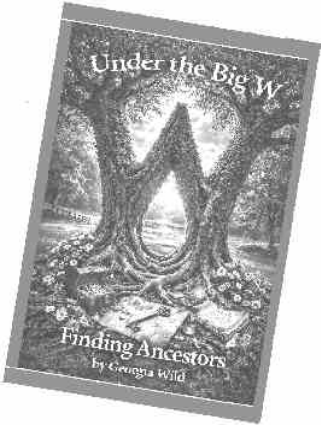
If you are searching for your family, sooner or later, that is a decision you will have to make.



FINDING ANCESTORS

Discovering our past
helps us understand our present
and embrace our future.

A GENEALOGY COLUMN
BY GEORGIA WILD



American History
Part 1 August
(September issue Part 2)

BILL SCOTT

This year we are celebrating 250 years of the Declaration of Independence. But we are too late, we should have started on April 18, 2025. To understand why the Declaration of Independence was written, we have to go back at least more than a year to understand the reasons. Actually, you should read the Magna Carta and understand why it was written. Also, the Mayflower Compact, the first American agreement among people who were on their own, with no civic authority. I am appalled that so few people know anything about these documents, except that they exist. They set the stage for our story, yet our government schools have no interest teaching that story. At the very least Americans should know about Lexington, Concord, Bunker Hill, King George's speech to parliament for approval to send the British

Army to America, Knox's Noble Train of Artillery, Thomas Paine's Common Sense, The Battle of Dorchester Heights, Lee's resolution, The Virginia Declaration of Rights, and what actually happened on the 4th of July 1776. Most Americans are only aware that SOME of these things happened, but NOT their importance. My prayer is that some of you who read this, will look into a few of those events, and build a better understanding of our country's founding.

Let's start with what actually happened on the 4th of July 1776. Asking any group of people, the most common answer, is that they signed Declaration of Independence. NO, they had nothing to sign. Only a paper with a lot of scribbles. In those days, you didn't just press a print, and out it came. It had to be hand printed. It's true they had printing presses and the first printing of 200 copies, called the Dunlap Broadside, was available the

next day. The Pennsylvania Evening Post, reprinted it for Saturday July 6th. On July 9th, George Washington read a copy, on the commons of New York City, to the Continental Army and local citizens, who celebrated by tearing down the statue of George III in Bowling Green. They cut off the head of the statue and mounted it on a spike in front of a tavern. The rest of the statue was melted down to make musket balls. On July 28, Lord Admiral Richard Howe of the British Navy, intercepted a copy and dispatched it to London.

A resolution passed on July 19, 1776; Resolved, That the declaration passed on the 4th, Be fairly engrossed on parchment, be signed by every member of Congress.

The Declaration of Independence, the one you imagine when you think about it, had to be hand written on parchment, so it took a while. Parchment is animal skins, usually sheep skin, that has been processed by cleaning, stretching, and scraping for the purpose of writing on them, for important documents. This process came from the Greek city of Pergamum around 200 BC. For most individuals, a diploma would be their most

important document. This is why diplomas are still referred to as **"My sheep skin"**. **Once a suitable piece was found,** the document had to be planned out. Today you just click on Justified Margins and voila, its done. Before computers every line, each letter, had to be planned and spaced, in order to have justified margins. Plus, once you started, you could not make a mistake. There was no way to erase, you would have to start all over. Each letter had to be put in its exact place; it was a meticulous skill. It took time.

On August 2, after the finished document arrived at Independence Hall, the delegates reassembled to sign their names. It was a somber quiet act, because they all knew they were signing their death warrant, if things didn't go their way. A few delegates had gone home, and harvest had started. It was November before all delegates had signed.

An unusual myth has come out of this signing. John Hancock's signature is by far the largest and most prominent signature. This tied his name to the word "signature", as in "put your John Hancock at the X". The reason his name is so big, was said to be, because he was tempting

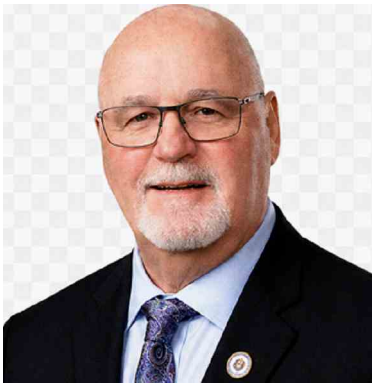
King George to come and get me. King George did not have good eyesight, and would have trouble seeing most signatures. He proudly made his bigger than the rest of them to make sure his would be seen. There are three reasons that could not be true. The Dunlap Broadside would have been the copy seen by the king. The only names on the Dunlap Broadside were John Hancock, listed as president of the of the continental congress, and Charles Thomson, attesting to its accuracy.

They were both printed, not signatures. Next, the original signed, Declaration of Independence, has never left American soil, therefore King George would never have seen his signature. And last, as president, he was the first to sign. If he intended to have the largest signature, he would have to wait till everyone else signed, to make sure his was the largest.

Of course, what is most important are the words. Especially the second paragraph. These are the words that astounded the world.

We hold these truths to be self-evident. That all men are created

Continued Next Month



Councilmember Drew Bessinger

Clovis is a great place to live, work, and raise a family. Here's a snapshot of how we're doing today: Clovis remains the safest city in the San Joaquin Valley. Nationally, we ranked 52nd in livability out of 2,000 cities.

Retirement Living placed Clovis 3rd statewide for retirees. Niche gave the city an overall A+ rating and awarded Clovis Unified School District an A+. Clovis was also ranked as the 20th safest city statewide and the only city in the valley to make the list.

CLOVIS: OUR SUCCESSES AND OUR CHALLENGES

These accomplishments reflect a well run city with safe neighborhoods, strong economic opportunities, reasonable housing options, access to varied health care, and one of the best school districts in the state. Clovis is also known for the Clovis Rodeo, Old Town Clovis with its seasonal farmers markets and events, and the Clovis Veterans Memorial District, which continues to serve our veterans and hosts important community functions.

Clovis has transformed dramatically over the years. When I moved here in 1984, we were a small agricultural community of roughly 35,000 residents. Today, our population exceeds 131,000, and city limits have grown from about 11 square miles to over 27. Many long time residents remember sheep grazing across from Jefferson Elementary, the horse stable on Tollhouse Road where Anlin Windows now stands, and Clovis and Herndon as a three way stop with farmland stretching north as far as the eye could see.

These successes didn't happen by accident. They came from decades of thoughtful planning, dedicated public servants, and engaged citizens. In city government, the decisions we make often take years to come to fruition much like

planting trees whose shade future generations will enjoy.

Why has Clovis been so successful? First, our citizens take pride in their neighborhoods, are involved in their schools, and care deeply about their community. Next, we hire exceptional employees. As someone who joined the Clovis Police Department in 1987, I witnessed firsthand the extra mile culture we built. I've worked in places where that's not my job was the response and Clovis has never operated that way.

Clovis also uses a city council model where members serve part time while holding full time professions doctors, attorneys, health care workers, tradespeople, and a handful of police chiefs, including myself. We run without party affiliation and serve at the pleasure of our citizens. Over the years, some councilmembers have pursued higher office, but our shared focus has always remained local service. Personally, while I briefly considered higher office, I would miss time away from my wife and my garden and hummingbirds need me.

Historically, Clovis elected councilmembers at large, meaning every councilmember represented the entire city. This allowed residents to reach out

to any councilmember for help and ensured we prioritized both neighborhood and city wide issues. This November, we will hold our first district based election, and I am running in District 5, which covers northwest Clovis. I am confident the council will continue focusing on what's best for the community as a whole, but we must stay vigilant and speak up if that guiding philosophy is ever threatened.

When I was a captain at Clovis PD in 2005, we had 113 sworn officers. The recession forced reductions across all departments, and by 2011 we were down to 93 a difficult period for our public safety teams. When I ran for office in 2017, one of my goals was to rebuild the police department. Thanks to the passage of Measure Y in 2024, we now have 141 officers. The Clovis Fire Department which holds the prestigious ISO Class 2 rating has also increased staffing, adding seven personnel to support our six fire stations. This matters. Families choose Clovis because they trust that when they call 9 1 1, help arrives quickly. Maintaining a five

minute emergency response time is one of the most vital services any city can provide.

Generations of Clovis residents — maybe one day we'll settle on a name, perhaps Clovisians built the community we enjoy today. But we do face future challenges. We must manage growth in population, business, and housing while navigating state housing mandates, loss of local control to Sacramento, and rising municipal costs. Requirements such as transitioning to fully electric fleets, including buses and heavy duty vehicles, present significant financial hurdles. Rising retirement system costs, driven by investment performance and politically motivated investment strategies and restrictions, also impact long term planning. We are currently engaged in a comprehensive General Plan update, and public participation is still welcome. Details are available on the City website.

I am confident that if we stay focused on the present and maintain a shared vision for the future, Clovis in 2050 will be everything it is today and even more.

CONTACT US
www.ClovisTimes.com

MUSEUM

OF CLOVIS & BIG DRY CREEK

Discover the Past.
CELEBRATE OUR HERITAGE.

401 Pollasky Avenue
Clovis, CA 93612

(559) 297-8033

info@clovisbigdrycreekmuseum.com

https://clovisbigdrycreekmuseum.com

ABOUT US

The Museum of Clovis & Big Dry Creek preserves and celebrates the rich history of Clovis and the surrounding Big Dry Creek area. Through engaging exhibits, historic artifacts, and community events, we honor the stories, people, and places that shaped our heritage—and inspire future generations to value where we come from.

OPEN TUESDAY THRU SATURDAY
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM

We can't wait to welcome you!

HISTORY LIVES HERE!

May Case

The story is handed down through generations

Born in Clovis Early 1900s

Arrival in Clovis Pioneer who settled the Big Dry Creek area

Family Heirlooms from the May Family

Edison Phonograph c. 1900

PROUDLY SERVING CLOVIS FOR 35+ YEARS!

CLOVIS DROP SHOP

& COMPLETE AUTO CARE

The owner, **Mr. Harold Blanchard**, has been in the automotive repair business for over 35 years.

"We take all cars from grandma's car to the complete modern and hot rod."

WE SPECIALIZE IN **BRAKES** AND ALL OTHER AUTOMOTIVE NEEDS!

• BRAKE SERVICE

• SUSPENSION

• DIAGNOSTICS

• MAINTENANCE

• GENERAL REPAIR

• MODERN CARS & HOT RODS

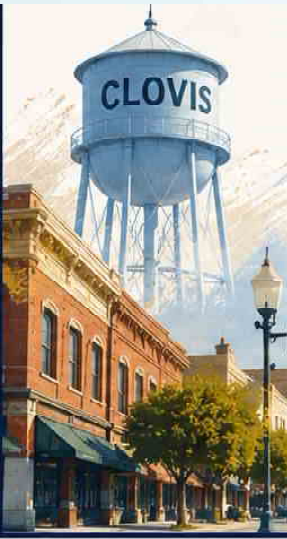
EXTRA PRECAUTIONS TAKEN
READY TO SERVICE YOUR CAR!

COME SEE US!

972 Barstow Ave., Ste E
Clovis, CA 93612

(559) 299-5049

YOUR LOCAL COMPLETE AUTO CARE SPECIALISTS
QUALITY SERVICE FOR EVERY DRIVER IN CLOVIS



Town Talk, Clovis...

www.ClovisTimes.com

CHECK OUT THE BUZZ AROUND TOWN

The CLOVIS TIMES

YOUR COMMUNITY • YOUR NEWS • YOUR VOICE

www.ClovisTimes.com

POST YOUR: TOWN TALK CLOVIS COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Submission

Post Your event, announcement, etc.. Let's keep Clovis connected!

PARIS BAGUETTE CAFÉ

AT SHAW & LEONARD AVE





CITY of CLOVIS

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

AROUND TOWN

www.clovisca.gov

To post a FREE! Event or Announcement go to: www.ClovisTimes.com TOWN TALK / CALENDAR.

- CATEGORIES:
- Church Events
 - City Meetings
 - School Events
 - Sports
 - Concerts
 - Rodeo
 - Nonprofits
 - Seniors
 - Kids
 - Political Community
 - Forums
 - Business Networking

COMING TO CLOVIS

Paris Baguette is your neighborhood bakery cafe bringing expertly crafted baked and brewed goods to the Clovis community. Stop by and cozy up with a warm pastry or cool down with a gourmet iced latte. We look forward to bringing joy to your day! Sweeten your experience with PB Rewards, where you can enjoy exclusive offers on pastries, coffee, and more.

Hi, my name is Armando Negrete, and together with David Menendian, both longtime local sports photographers and sports writers, we are proud to partner with The Clovis Times to bring you outstanding local sports coverage. From high school athletics to community sports, our goal is to keep you informed, connected, and engaged with the teams and athletes that make Clovis proud.

HEATHER FRANTZICH

B.O.O.T

OLD TOWN CLOVIS FARMERS MARKET

Keep up with all of the great things happening in Old Town Clovis.

Read my Clovis Times article on page 10 and visit us at our website below.

FOLLOW US AT: www.OldTownClovis.org

VIEW ALL NEWS

A WAY OF LIFE

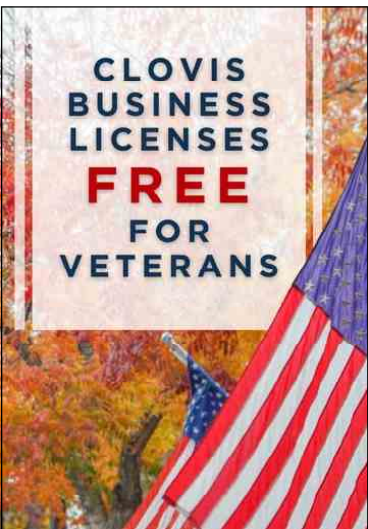
- GOVERNMENT
- SERVICES
- COMMUNITY
- HOW DO I
- TOURISM
- BUSINESS

VIEW COMPLETE CALENDAR

READ ALL ABOUT IT

www.clovisca.gov

CLOVIS BUSINESS LICENSES FREE FOR VETERANS



Earlier this year, the City Council approved an ordinance to exempt Honorably Discharged or Honorably Relieved Business Owners, as well as Active Duty or Reservist Military Personnel Business Owners, from payments associated with business registration or license fees if the veteran is the sole proprietor of the business. In other words, Clovis business licenses are free for active duty service members and veterans! For more information, visit ClovisCA.gov/services/finance/business_licenses.php or call (559) 324-2112

A BOOK BARN

A Book Lover's Paradise IN OLD TOWN CLOVIS

Discover an extensive collection of books spanning every genre and interest at our bookstore. Our dedicated team ensures a seamless shopping experience, providing expert recommendations to guide your next great read.

We Buy Books

- We purchase books by appointment only. Give the store a call with the authors, genres, and how much (how many boxes) you have.
- Books need to be in good condition; no torn pages, no mold, no broken spines, etc.
- We are looking for different things all the time.

NEW FINDS EVERY DAY! Stop in and explore!

MOSTLY WE ARE LOOKING FOR:

Children's books, California, some Science Fiction/Fantasy, Classics, current Young Adult, philosophy, Harry Potter, Twilight and popular authors such as Stephen King, Sarah J Maas, Colleen Hoover, Tolkien, Agatha Christie, Rich Riordan, CS Lewis, Dean Koontz, Frank Herbert, Clive Barker, Joe Hill, Jane Austen, Edgar Allan Poe, Lovecraft, Dr Seuss, Mary Shelly, Lee Child, Louis L'Amour, CJ Box.

WE ARE NOT TAKING: Magazines, Encyclopedias, or Textbooks.

640 Clovis Ave, Clovis, CA 93612 | clovisbookbarn@sbcglobal.net | 559-297-9052

SeniorLifestyleOptions.com

FOR SENIORS

EVENTS CALENDAR: www.clovisca.gov/services/senior_services/senior_center/index.php



CLOVIS SENIOR CENTER

Discover The World of “SeniorLifestyleOptions” unites seniors with resources and activities in their local community.

We feature professionals like doctors, attorneys, financial planners, and many other local experts to enlighten our readers with a host of topics. We give our senior readers information needed to experience Fresno County to its fullest.

We start with local Clovis senior news, lifestyles, businesses, editorial, letters to the editor, and various columns and feature articles. Find information on the local business scene, the best senior friendly places to dine, the real estate market, the local buzz, the senior job network, local bargains, auto guide, senior health and fitness, and profiles of people who shape the region.

This is the local newspaper section for seniors with a need to know. Visit us online under: Senior Lifestyles Options for more resources and interesting things to do. Also see our resource guide at: www.SeniorLifestyleOptions.com



Welcome

— TO THE —

CLOVIS SENIOR
ACTIVITY CENTER!



The Clovis Senior Activity Center: A Smittcamp Family Legacy

offers many programs and services to help older adults maintain an energetic and independent lifestyle. However, the Senior Activity Center is not an adult day care and all participants must be able to care for their personal needs. Many programs offered such as:



Educational Opportunities



In-Center Nutrition



Volunteer Opportunities



Technology Assistance



Health Insurance Assistance (HICAP)



Measure C Senior Taxi Scrip Program



Programs and Events



Trip Excursions



Programs and services are available to all older adults ages 50 and better.



The Nutrition program is available to those ages 60 and better.

Living Well.
Aging Well.

CELEBRATING LIFE. COMMUNITY. CONNECTION.



Letters
TO THE
Editor

SEND US YOU LETTER: wwwClovisTimes.com

WHAT IS A LETTER TO THE EDITOR?

You feel strongly about an issue, and you want to let people know what you think. You believe you can even influence people to take some action if you speak your mind. But, you want to reach an audience larger than just your friends or your group membership. Letters to the editor can be an effective way to get the word out.

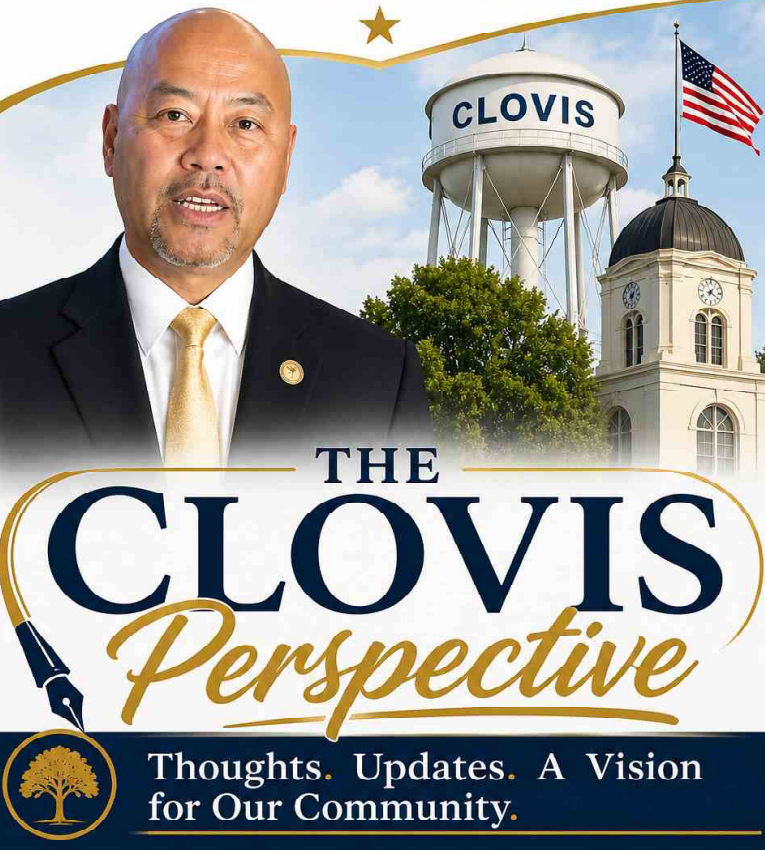
A letter to the editor is a written way of talking to a newspaper, magazine, or other regularly printed publication.

Connect With Us: www.OldTownClovis.org

TheCityBeat

Measure Y – The People’s Measure

VONG MOUANOUTOUA
MAYOR OF CLOVIS



When Clovis residents voted yes on Measure Y in November 2024, with nearly 67% approval, you made a bold statement about the kind of city you want to live in.

You said you believe in Clovis, and you were willing to invest in keeping it safe and clean. I'm here to tell you that the investment is paying off in real, tangible ways.

Before Measure Y, the City was facing a very real financial challenge. Our forecasts showed projected deficits that would have forced difficult cuts to the very services you count on most, including 9-1-1 emergency response, police patrols, fire protection, and park maintenance.

The passage of Measure Y provided a much-needed solution. This one-cent local sales tax began generating revenue on April 1, 2025, bringing in approximately \$31 million annually. As a result, we have been able to stabilize our General Fund for fiscal year 2025-26. Rather than facing a deficit, this funding ensures we are maintaining essential City services, restoring previous service cuts, and continuing to invest in the programs and

infrastructure that make Clovis a great place to live.

So where is your money going? The vast majority is going straight to public safety, exactly as promised. The five-year plan targets 50 new public safety positions in total.

On the police side, Measure Y has so far funded five new **Police Officer/Recruit positions, two Community Service Officers, and an Animal Control Officer in the first year alone.** Nine new patrol vehicles were ordered for incoming officers, and if you spot one around town, look for the Measure Y decal on the back bumper, a small reminder that this is your community's investment at work. We also added two dedicated Homeless Liaison Officers to address homelessness with compassion and purpose, building bridges between our police department and social services.

For Fire, the first year of Measure Y has delivered unprecedented improvements in service delivery. Measure Y funded the staffing of a new engine company at Fire Station 1, including the promotion of three Fire Captains, three Fire Engineers, and the hiring of three new Firefighters. Engine 41 (E41) was placed into service in March 2026.

On May 1, 2026, Squad 42 was placed into service at Fire Station 2 through funding from Measure Y and a FEMA grant. This new unit added

three Fire Captains and three Fire Engineers and provides an innovative resource that enhances emergency response capabilities while improving operational coverage throughout the City.

With these additions to frontline staffing, the Fire Department reached a total of 83 sworn firefighters and police is up to 139 officers – the highest staffing level in 20 years. As a result, measurable improvements in emergency response times are already being realized, strengthening the Department's ability to provide timely and effective service to the community.

And yes, Measure Y is also helping to improve the parks and trails that make Clovis such a wonderful place to call home. We added a dedicated tree crew and a new specialized tree truck to keep our urban forest healthy and our trails safe and beautiful. Measure Y also funded a bathroom roof replacement at Gettysburg Park and capital investments in parks facilities across the city.

Clovis, you made all of this possible. This is what it looks like when a community believes in itself and takes action to protect what matters most. We are deeply grateful for your support. Because of you, we are able to protect the services our residents rely on today while building a stronger financial foundation for the years ahead.

Thank you.

The Clovis Times

SPORTS

Wrestling

Take Down

Report

Featuring Kevin Nash

WWE Hall of Famer Kevin Nash gives us his Wrestling Take Down Report in print & online



By Armando Negrete, Instagram @etergen_sports

After the Final Bull Ride: How the Clovis Rodeo Association Prepares Year-Round for Championship Competition

By Armando Negrete

When the final bull ride ends and the arena lights dim each April, fans leave with memories of thrilling rides, lightning-fast barrel racing and championship performances. For the Clovis Rodeo Association, however, the finish line is also the starting gate. Long before the first cowboy nods for the gate or the first bronc leaves the chute, months of planning, facility preparation and volunteer work are already underway to

ensure one of California’s premier rodeos returns each spring. “It does slow down compared to rodeo weekend,” said Clovis Rodeo Association President Danny Swenson. “But we still meet every month to prepare for the next one.” Once the dust settles, the association shifts its attention to wrapping up finances, evaluating the event and managing its year-round operations, including the banquet hall that regularly hosts community and nonprofit organizations. Planning for the next rodeo begins in earnest each December when association leaders attend the National Finals Rodeo Convention in Las Vegas. There, they renew agreements with major sponsors while continuing to build relationships that help attract top competitors and deliver a first-class rodeo experience. By January, the focus moves to the rodeo grounds as the association begins maintenance projects and workdays to prepare the arena and facilities for another successful season. While many fans think of the Clovis Rodeo as a three-day sporting event, Swenson said

April is filled with competition long before opening night. “The whole month of April is packed,” he said. The association hosts its annual Ranch Rodeo, showcasing the skills of local cowboys, along with a major roping competition and activities surrounding Clovis Big Hat Days. Together, the events celebrate western heritage while building excitement for the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association competition that follows. Although no major construction is scheduled before the 2027 rodeo, Swenson said the association has begun early planning for what could become its most ambitious capital improvement project, the eventual replacement of the historic concrete grandstands. The work extends well beyond the arena. Throughout the year, the Clovis Rodeo Association hosts fundraising and charitable events, including a clay shoot benefiting Valley Children’s Hospital, the Cowgirl Up Barbecue supporting local nonprofits, the President’s State Rodeo each November and a holiday blood drive in December.



Partnerships with organizations such as Kiwanis and the Boy Scouts also provide hundreds of volunteer hours that help make rodeo week possible. As preparations continue, Swenson said the goal remains unchanged: to deliver one of the West’s premier rodeo experiences while preserving a tradition that has defined Clovis for generations. “The wheels are definitely in motion for this coming rodeo,” Swenson said. “We’ll continue bringing the best animal stock and the best cowboys and cowgirls to Clovis. It’s a great family-friendly event, and we look forward to seeing everyone back next spring.” For spectators, the Clovis Rodeo may last only a few days. But behind every ride, every run and every championship buckle is a dedicated team working year-round to make one of the region’s signature sporting events possible.



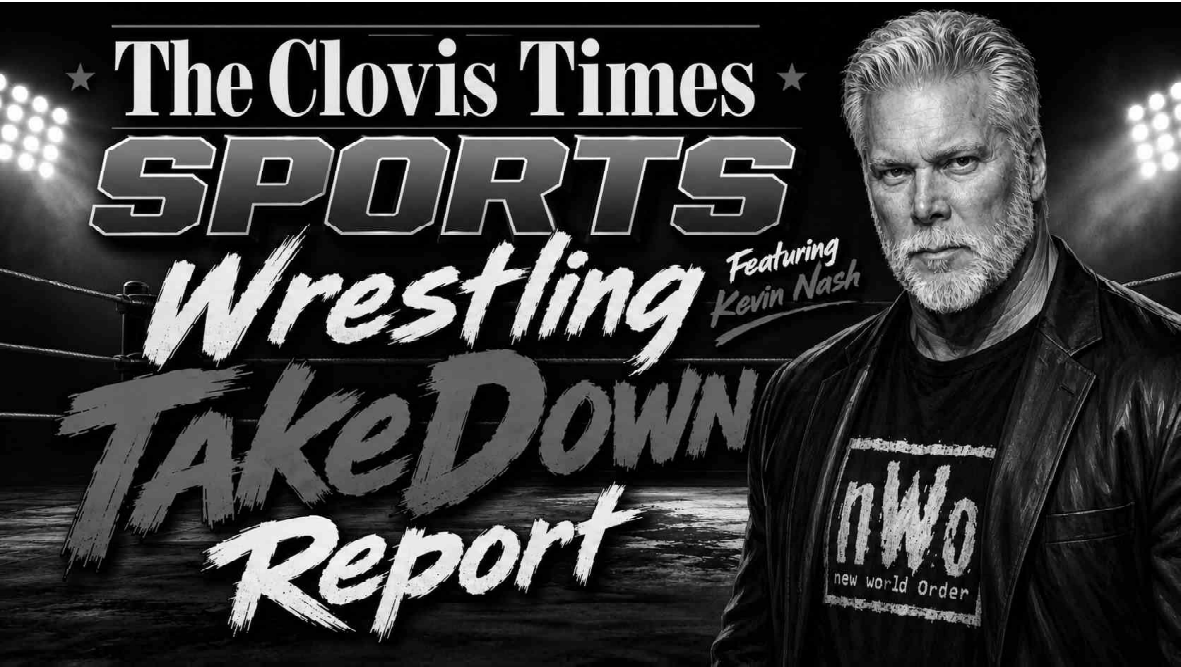
STEVEN SANCHEZ
SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHER
Action. Emotion. Excellence.
Capturing the biggest moments in sports.

By: Steven Sanchez

Fresno, Calif. – Nostalgic memories of body slams and choke holds permeated through Chukchansi Park on Pro Wrestling Night with WWE and WCW legend Kevin Nash on Saturday, Aug. 8. The Fresno Grizzlies brought the two-time WWE Hall-of-Famer and actor to the ball game to sign autographs and take photographs with fans. Nash was meeting and greeting fans inside the Grizzlies Team Store. A huge line was stretched outside the store with people waiting to interact with their in-ring hero. The former superstar signed

PRO WRESTLING NIGHT WITH KEVIN NASH AT CHUKCHANSI PARK

everything ranging from action figures, title belts, shirts, and the list goes on. The fans shared their memories of watching him on their screens that included his stint as the character Diesel; his time with The Kliq; being one half of the duo The Outsiders; and of course, there was the popular group the New World Order (nWo) that comprised of him, Scott Hall, and Hulk Hogan. The former heavyweight champion also has a stellar acting resume. His credits include films like “Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles II: The Secret of the Ooze,” “The Punisher,” “The Longest Yard,” and “Magic Mike.” Fresno wrestling fan Daniel Perez attended the game with his wife, Gina, to revisit an era of professional wrestling that had a lasting impact on him and other fans. “It was great to meet him,” Perez says excitedly. “What a legend. A guy who has a career like that. Seeing so



many things and who has done so many things, and still was excited to meet me was cool.” Wrestling themed games have been a popular promotion for the Grizzlies organization. In the past few years they’ve brought legends like Kurt Angle, Mark Henry, and Eric Bischoff to Chukchansi

Park to put more people in the stands. “That’s amazing. This is our town, our team, to have a guest like this is incredible. That’s nice that they’re putting on stuff. Kevin Nash coming out and helping out with that is amazing,” says Perez. The night was a win for the organization and fans but not the

baseball team. The Grizzlies fell to the Visalia Rawhide 4-1 in the Highway 99 Rivalry Series. They currently have a 59-48 record. The evening was not about wins and losses. The combination of baseball and wrestling was the perfect tag team. And it left a “finisher” on those that attended.

Inside & Out We Handle Any Project!

Call Today!
800-246-2160
www.HOMEExperts.Services



County

SPORTS

www.ClovisTimes.com



Two Great Communities. *One Trusted Source.*

THE FRESNO TIMES

Your Community. Your Newspaper. Your Voice.

CLOVIS TIMES

Your Community. Your Newspaper. Your Voice.

NEW NEWSPAPERS
NEW ERA
NEW WAY
TO INFORM

NOW IN PRINT & ONLINE!

THE FRESNO COUNTY SPORTS REPORTING:
“DREAM TEAM”?

We're proud to introduce a new kind of sports reporting for Fresno County. Our **DREAM TEAM** combines celebrity, professional experience, and local knowledge to bring you the stories that inspire, inform, and unite our community!

LORENZO NEAL

OUR STAR. OUR LEADER.

★ 16-YEAR NFL VETERAN ★
ONE OF THE GREATEST
BLOCKING BACKS IN NFL HISTORY

Fresno County's own national sports legend
leading our team to cover what matters
most to you!

STEVEN SANCHEZ

SPORTS PHOTOGRAPHER

Action. Emotion. Excellence.
Capturing the biggest
moments in sports.

ARMANDO NEGRETE

SPORTS REPORTER

On the field, in the stands,
and in the community –
we've got it covered!

DAVID MENENDIAN

PHOTOGRAPHER

Insightful analysis.
Thought-provoking
sports images & commentary.

READ THE eEDITION

Browse the full print edition
online—anytime, anywhere!

FRESNO TIMES

CLOVIS TIMES

MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER—
A COMMUNITY CONNECTION!

Local News & In-depth Reporting

Schools, Sports & Youth News

Community Events & Calendar

Opinion, Columns & Community Voices

Business & Economic Updates

And So Much More!

All Local.
All the Time.
All for You!

1 DON'T MISS OUT!

Get your **FREE** weekly Fresno Times
and Clovis Times **UPDATE** delivered
straight to your inbox.

OPT IN NOW
& STAY CONNECTED!

WEEKLY
UPDATES
DELIVERED
TO YOU!

PRINT

DIGITAL

ONLINE

WEBTV
/ RADIO

★ Print. ★ Online. ★ All Local. ★ All for You.

Your Community. Your Newspapers. Your Voice.

By: David
Menendian

Sharing a spot on the podium among the best track athletes in California may be an accomplishment of a lifetime, reserved for the few who have the talent and specialized skills to reach that level. Two of Clovis High School’s track athletes fulfilled that goal in the most competitive of environments May 29-30 at the California Interscholastic Federation’s State Track and Field meet at Buchanan’s Memorial Stadium.

CHS’s Ella Merrihew and Kayden Lewis-Burnley each stood on the podium Saturday afternoon May 30, as their dream became a reality. Both had qualified for last year’s state meet, but neither qualified for Saturday’s finals.

This time around, Merrihew finished eighth in the discus competition while Lewis-Burnley took fourth in the long jump, performances that rank them among California’s best.

The Cougars’ 4x800 girls relay team also qualified for the state meet. While the team of Chandler Cox, Jordan Cazano, Colby Hubbard and Bryana Ford didn’t make the podium, its 13th place finish earned them a spot among the top relay teams in the state. The girls’ time of 9:17.2 set a school record for the event and marked the first time in Clovis High’s track history that the Cougars ran in this event at the state level.

Shot putter Caden Arsenault’s showing at the Masters Central Section qualifying meet May 23 earned him

a spot at the state meet. Arsenault, a two-sport star athlete for the Cougars (track and football) finished his senior year in 15th place at the state with a throw of 52’46”.

Merrihew’s path to state prominence began in the fourth grade, when her family, and especially her older brother Aiden, encouraged her to participate in track and field as she made her way through Mickey Cox Elementary and Clark Intermediate schools.

“I just got good at it and didn’t stop,” Merrihew said, as she also credits track coach Mark Prandini in teaching her the fine points in discus when she was in seventh and eighth grade.

“[Coach Prandini] helped me grow in discus,” Merrihew said. “He taught me how to do it and he helped me tweak all of my stuff.”

Even while honing her skills in discus, Merrihew also made a name for herself in shot put.

Her high school ledger includes wins in both events at the Bobbie Bass Carnival, and

the Clovis East Carnival. She won the Sanger Metric and Tri-River Athletic Conference championships in shot put, as

well as the Red Estes Central Valley Classic and West Coast Relays in discus. **CONTINUED ON PAGE 16**

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/120077561361868/posts/25963775983232005/>

CHS ALL CLASS REUNION



CAR SHOW

Cruising for Scholarships

RAISING MONEY FOR FUTURE CHS STUDENTS



SUNDAY

OCTOBER 11, 2026



9:00 AM –

2:00 PM



VETERANS PARKWAY

OLD TOWN CLOVIS



COUGARS FOR LIFE





TOP 10 AWARDS



BEST OF SHOW



FOOD TRUCKS



LIVE MUSIC



MERCHANT AWARDS



SCAN TO REGISTER

Every classic car helps drive the future.

All proceeds benefit scholarships for Clovis High School students.

CHECKS PAYABLE TO:

COUGAR FOUNDATION

CHS ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

ONCE A

COUGAR

ALWAYS A COUGAR

QUESTIONS?

Johnny Gonzalez

(559) 287-9515

SUPPORT • INSPIRE • INVEST • EMPOWER

Clovis Times Community Feature



A Decade in the Making: Clovis High Alumni Prepare for Historic All-Class Reunion While Building Scholarships for Future Cougars

By: Christine Arbuckle, All-Class Reunion Chairperson

Every ten years, something special happens in Clovis.

Thousands of Clovis High School graduates—from the earliest graduating classes to the newest alumni—return home to reconnect with lifelong friends, relive cherished memories, and celebrate the school that helped shape generations of Cougars.

This October, that tradition returns.

From October 8–11, 2026, the Clovis High School Alumni Association (CHSAA) will host its All-Class Reunion, a four-day celebration expected to draw alumni from across California and throughout the United States. More than simply a reunion, organizers say the event celebrates Clovis High’s enduring legacy while investing in its future.

Four Days of Cougar Pride

The reunion weekend begins Thursday, October 8, with a golf tournament at Dragonfly Golf Club, where alumni will enjoy friendly competition. On Friday, alumni will gather for a spirited Cougar Rally, rekindling school traditions, reconnecting classmates with music for dancing by John Pemberton, and plenty of food trucks.

The celebration reaches its peak on Saturday, October 10, with the All-Class Reunion at the Veterans Memorial Building in Old Town Clovis, featuring entertainment, recognition of alumni, special presentations, and memories spanning more than a century of Clovis High history.

The weekend concludes Sunday with a classic Car Show, showcasing vintage automobiles while providing another opportunity for families and alumni to enjoy the festivities together. Including a

tribute to Clovis High School veterans and distinguished CHS staff and alumni.

More Than a Reunion

While the reunion promises plenty of nostalgia, its purpose reaches far beyond looking back. Every dollar of net proceeds from the event will help fund two \$1,000 Clovis High Legacy Scholarships each year for the next ten years—one awarded to a graduating young man and one to a graduating young woman who embody the values of Clovis High School. “Our alumni understand that the greatest way to honor the past is by investing in the future,” organizers said.

The Competition That Would Make Doc Buchanan Smile

Adding an exciting new element to this year’s reunion is the inaugural Doc Buchanan Clovis High Cougar Class Challenge. The campaign was inspired by the competitive philosophy of legendary Clovis Unified

Superintendent Dr. Floyd “Doc” Buchanan, whose leadership helped transform Clovis Unified into one of California’s most respected school districts. As new high schools opened throughout the district, people often asked Doc whether he worried about Clovis schools competing against one another. His famous reply became one of the defining principles of the Clovis Way: “I love it when two Clovis schools compete.”

When asked why, Doc would smile and answer: “Because I always win!”

His point was simple. When students compete with integrity, everyone improves. That philosophy continues today through academics, athletics, music, agriculture, leadership, and now... fundraising.

Cougar Classes Competing for the Future

The Cougar Class Challenge invites every graduating class in Clovis High history to compete against one another to see which class can raise the most scholarship money before October 10.

The goal is ambitious:

Raise \$50,000 to establish a permanent scholarship endowment. Once fully funded, the endowment can continue supporting Clovis High students for generations, transforming today’s donations into a lasting legacy.

Weekly leaderboard updates have quickly generated excitement as alumni rally classmates through social media, phone calls, reunions, and friendly rivalries. Every contribution—large or small—helps move a class higher in the standings while bringing the scholarship endowment closer to reality.

Following the Race

Supporters can watch the competition unfold through an online leaderboard that is updated every week.

A donation page, QR code, and live rankings allow alumni to see:

• Which graduating class is currently leading

• How much each class has raised

• Overall progress toward the \$50,000 goal

• Which classes are making late surges before Reunion Weekend

The competition culminates during the Saturday reunion, when the winning class will be recognized before hundreds of alumni gathered for the celebration.

Everyone Can Help

Organizers emphasize that donations are not limited to Clovis High graduates. Families, local businesses, former teachers, community members, and friends of Clovis High are all invited to participate in building a scholarship that will benefit future generations of students. Whether someone graduated in 1956 or simply believes in supporting local education, every gift helps strengthen the legacy of Clovis High School. As Doc Buchanan often demonstrated, healthy competition doesn’t divide a community—it inspires it to achieve something greater together.

This October, Cougar pride won’t simply be measured by attendance. It will be measured by the opportunities today’s alumni create for tomorrow’s students.

Event Information

Clovis High School Alumni Association All-Class Reunion October 8–11, 2026

Thursday: Golf Tournament – Dragonfly Golf Club

Friday: Cougar Rally – Veterans Memorial Building, Old Town Clovis

Saturday: All-Class Reunion – Veterans Memorial Building

Sunday: Classic Car Show – Veterans Memorial Building

Support the Cougar Class Challenge

Help your graduating class climb the leaderboard by making a tax-deductible contribution toward the \$50,000 permanent scholarship endowment. Every donation brings Clovis High one step closer to creating scholarships that will continue benefiting future Cougars for generations.

SUBSCRIBE

to

Clovis Times

YOUR COMMUNITY. YOUR NEWSPAPER. YOUR VOICE.

and support your local community.

For only

\$12⁵⁰

per month

YOU WILL RECEIVE:

A WEEKLY DIGITAL EDITION

A MONTHLY PRINT EDITION

ALSO READ THE LATEST EDITION ONLINE and get all the local news as it happens.

STAY INFORMED. STAY CONNECTED. Support Local Journalism!

www.ClovisTimes.com

559-272-0581

DOC BUCHANAN'S

CLOVIS HIGH

18 CLOVIS 88

COUGAR CLASS CHALLENGE

ALL CLASSES. ONE GOAL. A LEGACY THAT LASTS FOREVER.

COMPETING WITH CHARACTER, FUNDING THE FUTURE.

TOGETHER, WE CAN DO BIG THINGS!

The Cougar Class Challenge supports Clovis High students in meaningful ways. **\$50,000** in community scholarships empowers today and provides perpetual scholarships and lasting impact for future students.

\$50,000

OUR GOAL TO ESTABLISH A PERMANENT SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT

FOLLOW THE PROGRESS!

See how every class is making a difference. Watch the momentum grow. Be part of the story.

EVERY COLLAR. EVERY CLASS. EVERY STUDENT.

TOGETHER, WE BUILD SOMETHING PERMANENT.

YOU GET TODAY. CLOVIS GETS A LEGACY THAT LASTS FOREVER.

SCAN TO DONATE!

Give today. Make an impact.

clovishsfoundation.net/cougar-class-challenge

HONOR THE PAST. INVEST IN THE FUTURE. LEAVE A LEGACY.

JOIN THE CHALLENGE!

TOGETHER, WE BUILD SOMETHING PERMANENT, POWERFUL, AND DEEPLY CLOVIS.

COMPETE FOR GOOD

GIVE WITH PURPOSE

LEAD BY EXAMPLE

#THECLOVISWAY



By: David Menendian

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

But discus became her primary focus her senior year, which paid off with a state appearance, her second time participating at that level.

“I had improved on my technique, and my distance since [last year],” Merrihew said. “I was a lot more confident in myself.”

And when the best discus throwers in the state lined up for their turns in Saturday’s finals, the girls, even as competitors, were encouraging each other and cheering each other’s efforts.

“In throwing, you obviously compete with each other,” Merrihew said, “but mostly, you’re competing with yourself. And you can see a great mark and recognize it’s a great mark and celebrate that while still competing against them. It’s mutual respect.”

E.J. Jackson, in his 10th year as coaching track at CHS, and eighth as head coach, was gratified to see Merrihew reach the podium in her final high school efforts.

“She enjoys being out there and chatting with the rest of the team, and just makes sure everybody’s having a good time,” Jackson said of Merrihew’s work and practice ethic. “It’s not always serious for her. But that’s a good thing. She’s more relaxed and not so tough on herself about other things.”

So when Merrihew’s best ef-

fort landed at 145 feet, 2 inches on Saturday, a lifelong ambition had been realized. “If you get on the podium in the state of California for anything, you’re one of the best athletes around the nation,” Jackson said.

“I was shocked,” Merrihew said when she found herself standing on the podium late Saturday afternoon at Buchanan. “It was actually happening, because that’s the thing I’ve dreamed about.”

Lewis-Burnley’s performance in the long jump reflected his capacity to overcome injuries that may have sidelined him as the state meet approached. He injured his hamstring in Clovis High’s loss at Oakland Tech in the Northern

California basketball regionals on March 5. But intense physical therapy, rehab, and his commitment to getting ready for track’s biggest stage gave the CHS the junior the chance he needed and earned. “I came back,” Lewis-Burnley said, “but I needed a lot of recovery time for me to feel better.”

Lewis-Burnley has had plenty of support through the years from his coaches as well as his family. He says his interest in track, in fact, began when he was five years old when his family nudged him in that direction. “All my aunts, my dad, my grandpa, everybody did track,” Lewis-Burnley said. “So my whole family is all about track.”

Lewis-Burnley transferred to Clark Intermediate for seventh and eighth grade, spent a year at San Joaquin Memorial High School, and then settled at Clovis High as a sophomore.

Coch Jackson believes the gifted athlete can excel at any sport, and LewisBurnley is no exception. “He’s a phenomenal athlete,” coach Jackson said of his junior star. “He can play football, he plays basketball, he’s a great track star but could probably play tennis if he wanted to. He can go out there and pick things up right away because he’s so athletic.”

Both Jackson and Lewis-Burnley emphasized the distinction between the sixstep and the eight-step approach in long jump. The six-step approach puts less stress on Lewis-Burnley’s hamstring injury, which helped him qualify for the state meet at the Masters May 23. “He made the state meet,” Jackson said. “That’s all we wanted.”

Lewis-Burnley’s 22’10 1/4” mark put him at fifth place on Friday at the state meet, easily placing him among the top 12 qualifiers for Saturday. And Saturday’s long jump final provided some intense drama as the event played out.

Lewis-Burnley’s 23’11.5” jump had him in third place while De LaSalle’s Damari Dean had a decisive lead in the event at 24’6 1/2. Clovis West’s Julius Sanders, however, had one more jump as the event concluded. Sanders, in fourth place, landed at 24’5 1/4 inches, eclipsing all the competitors in front of him, and winning the state long jump championship.

Lewis-Burnley, who knows Sanders well and has competed with the Clovis West junior for two years now, was thrilled for his competitor and friend. He found Sanders after the stunning finish and embraced him.

As Lewis-Burnley watched Sanders line up for the final try, he could tell that his Clovis Unified rival was about to make the jump of his life.

“I saw it in his face,” Lewis Burnley said. “He just looked like he was going to win it. I was very proud of him when he did that. It’s incredible. I told him, ‘You did it. Great job. I’m proud of you.’”

Jackson was especially pleased with the girls’ relay team all season, as it set, and reset the school record in the event three times in one year. “It was a great accomplishment,” Jackson said of the relay team’s showing Saturday night in an event that’s only been around in California’s state meet for four years. And each of the members played a

pivotal role in the team’s success. Cox, who starts the relay for CHS is equally skilled in the 800 and 1600 meter races and has proven herself in overcoming any obstacles.

“She’s a hard-working athlete,” Jackson said of the CHS sophomore. “I know she had some health issues in the past couple of years, but she’s fought through it to get where she is today. She’s just gonna get better and better.” “Jordan Canzano” a tough one too,” Jackson said. “She just goes out there and runs her heart out and just gives it everything.”

Jackson pointed out that Canzano’s health issues included some scary moments such as passing out after some races, an issue that the CHS junior has managed to overcome. “We finally figured out how to manage it,” Jackson said, “so it’s been great.”

Hubbard owns four school track records, including the open 400 meters, and three relays, the 4x100, the 4x400 and the 4x800. “Hibbird” a tough athlete so the [third leg] is appropriate for her,” Jackson said. “We see how tough she is, her mentality and she’s perfect for that.”

Ford, who anchors the 4x800 relay team, is the only senior in the group, and excels in soccer as well as track, and manages to balance the two sports. Ford will be going to Fresno Pacific on a soccer scholarship, but she finished final track season on a high note.

“She’ll run hard and then go to soccer practice,” Jackson said, as he also noted her skills at the anchor position. “She’ll go down and chase anybody down. She’s tough. I’ll ask her, ‘Hey, did you start your kick too early?’ And she’ll say, ‘No, coach, I start kicking at the last 300 meters.’”

Assistant track coach Eloy Quintana, a former Clovis High track and cross country athlete, trains the relay teams and appreciates the value of what it takes to reach the state’s highest level.

“Everyone wants to make it to state,” Quintana said, “but no one talks about the process that it takes to get there. And our girls really focused on the process. We took things one day at a time. They believed in themselves, and more importantly they believed in each other and they held each other accountable. They’re easy to coach.

They were just so focused, and they believed in what the program was about, from the training to the culture. They came together and sacrificed for one another.” Quintana, who will be looking to replace Ford at the anchor position next season, is proud of his team’s accomplishment as the season and the school year came to an end.

“When you make it to the state meet in California, first, that’s a huge achievement,” Quintana said. “Second is when you’re actually in the thick of things for medal. Which we were, I can’t ask more from our girls.”

Arsenault’s efficiency has served him well in football as well as track without demanding much attention for himself. “He’s a very quiet athlete,” Jackson said of his premier men’s shot putter. “He’ll go to practice and not say much but throw the heck out that shot put and discus.”

Arsenault improved enough from last year to advance further at the state level. “This year, he really focused on getting a lot stronger,” Jackson said. “He’s one of the strongest kids on campus.”

Arsenault placed second at the Masters qualifying meet. Not making Saturday’s finals did not take away from his accomplishments in football as well as track.

“The Masters was a huge throw for him,” Jackson said. “And [at state] he’s competing with some of the best athletes in California. Even the TRAC is considered one of the best leagues in the state, and maybe the country. It’s like we have a state meet every week.”

GRAND OPENING

AUGUST 9TH

611 Clovis Ave. Suite B Clovis CA 93612 / 5559-281-2080 / SEE PAGE 11



**Mr. Dudley –
Teacher and Coach
Extraordinaire**

As summer draws to a close far too quickly, and the first day of school beckons just around the corner, my thoughts turn to the many teachers and coaches who influenced my life. One, in particular, was Mr. Dan Dudley. During my junior high years in 1968 – 1969, at Woodlake Junior High, he truly stood out!

Mr. Dudley wore many hats serving as P.E. teacher as well as coaching several sports including basketball. He was about 20 years older than us, which would put him in the age range of about 34 or 35 years old at that time. He was unique. Mr. Dudley came from the school of a coach teaches best by getting in the game himself. Every day would find him at recess or basketball practice, not on the sidelines, but on the court playing with us! Boy, did he play. He could and would block, steal, pass and shoot better than the rest of us. And we learned and got better as a result. In the process of hands on teaching, he had a constant big smile. He also entertained us with a steady stream of funny quips when one of us made a mistake, such as “Hey Fred, why are you taking a nap?” when I tripped and fell trying to defend Mr. Dudley’s extra-quick layup. But we all loved it, in fact, we became better players just trying to keep up with him and we definitely enjoyed his competitiveness and humor.

Then there were the games once the season began. I don’t remember how many of us were on the team, probably eight to ten 7th and 8th graders, the starting five plus a few subs. For away games Coach Dudley always crammed us into his old Volkswagen bus. Sometimes I even got to sit in the front seat. He always hunched over the steering wheel as he drove us to the other small schools in nearby towns. Come to think of it, he was pretty quiet during those drives. While we were goofing off like normal Jr. High boys, he was unusually somber – probably working a game plan in his mind. Eventually, we took our cues from him and settled down, concentrating on the game and our individual assignments. At game time Mr. Dudley continued to be super focused, with no funny comments like at practice, just constant encouragement and reminders as he sat on the bench. When a ref made a bad call, he quickly registered his opinion very forcefully, yet respectfully. We knew he always had our back!

Mr. Dudley also went above and beyond when he showed extra care for us as individuals. One time he invited my cousin, Tim, and me to join him and his two younger sons on a camping trip near Sequoia National Park – our first time camping. We hiked, explored and enjoyed the mountain trails. As typical starving junior high boys, Tim and I were impressed with his excellent outdoor culinary skills!

Too soon we found ourselves in High School and we rarely saw Mr. Dudley again. Life went on – college, marriage, jobs, having kids, and now grandkids and retirement. Tim and I both chose teaching for our careers. He ended up in Visalia, teaching and coaching at Golden West High School and I landed in Clovis at Nelson Elementary teaching and, wait for it – coaching elementary boys in basketball!

I know Mr. Dudley greatly influenced me because his example is still fresh in my mind almost 60 years later.

So, here’s to all dedicated coaches and teachers. Your hard work and encouragement with a little fun thrown in will impact your students for a lifetime – just like Mr. Dudley!

Book **TALK**

Rudy Acosta III is the owner of Clovis Ink Tattoo and the author of Kings of Flesh: The Survival Guide. In 2007, Rudy and his father, Rudy Acosta Sr., fought to open what became the first tattoo shop in Clovis. Nearly 19 years later, Clovis Ink is still operating and serving the Central Valley. Rudy wrote Kings of Flesh to pass down the real lessons artists and apprentices often learn the hard way, including safety, sanitation, client care, ethics, mentorship, burnout, business survival, and responsibility behind the art.

Kings of Flesh: The Tattoo Shop Survival Guide

60 lessons every tattoo artist and apprentice needs to know.

This is not a theory book. This was written by a working artist, shop owner, and mentor who has spent decades inside the industry. It covers the real things client emergencies, sanitation, licensing, shop politics, money, taxes, aftercare, mental health, burnout, and the conversations nobody else is having.

If you are just starting out, this book will save you years of hard lessons. If you have been tattooing for a while, this book will make sure you actually know what you think you know.

60 lessons. No fluff. No filler. Just the standard.

Book: <https://inkclovis.gumroad.com/l/kingsofflesh>

<https://fresyes.com/fresno/the-shop-thats-been-making-memories-permanent-clovis-ink-tattoo/>



Kings of Flesh

The Survival Guide

Father and son fought to open Clovis’ first tattoo shop.

Nearly 19 years later, Clovis Ink is still here.

Rudy Acosta turned nearly two decades inside a working tattoo shop into a practical education book for apprentices, artists, mentors, and shop owners.

Inside the book

- Safety and sanitation
- Client care and trust
- Ethics and mentorship
- Business survival and burnout
- Responsibility behind the art

Tattooing is art, but a real shop survives on responsibility.

Covered by Fresno Bee/Yahoo: Clovis tattoo artist comes out with a guide to surviving the business.

Get the book / book Rudy

<https://inkclovis.gumroad.com/l/kingsofflesh>

Text is best: 559-906-0407

Rudy Acosta · Clovis Ink Tattoo



See our online Church Directory

FAITH ★ FAMILY ★ COUNTRY

www.ClovisTimes.com | www.TheFresnoTimes.com

FAITH

COMMUNITY

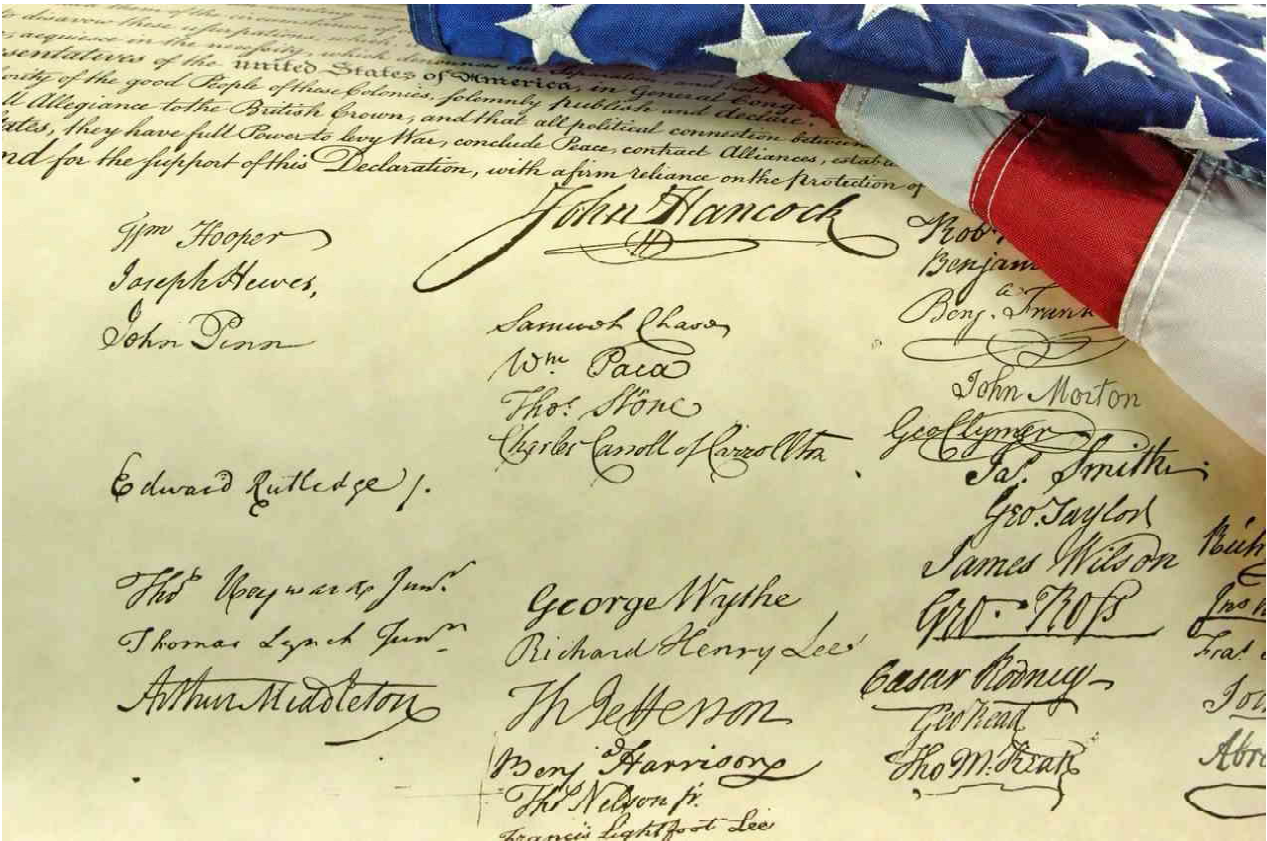
INSPIRATION

TRUTH

Treat others as you want to be treated



TED LAURENT:
GREAT AMERICAN
FREEDOM REVIVAL
www.RevivalUSA.net



That Great Day

John Hancock would call out the delegates by name. One by one each man would rise, make his way to the table and sign his name. No conversations, only silence. This was the hour of their testing. The very moment they would lay it all on the line; the defining moment of their pledge.

Flys buzzing about, and the echoing sound of hardened souled shoes treading across the hard-wood flooring. **Then a dip of the quill pen with a tap upon the ink jars side,** and the scratching of pen and parchment. John would call out another name. It was methodical and deeply solemn; eerily silent in between the calling out of names, but the sweating and beating anxious hearts carried a dialogue all its own.

Each delegate alone in his thoughts. **Ben Franklin had dreamed of this for over thirty years,** and it must have been difficult to steady his mind and take in the magnitude of the occasion. It was tedious and momentous, like a NASA countdown ahead of the next Apollo flight. These men have hammered out a declaration so bold and courageous, the weight of their decision was choking, yet liberating.

In the back of their mind, they recalled Britains resolution demonstrated on Bunker Hill. They were fully aware of the vast armada of ships and troops that recently landed in New York. Each name called breaking the silence more firmly cemented the colonists resolve. No one believed it would be easy; they signed anyways.

Ben Franklin quipped that they all must hang together or they will most certainly hang separately. The last line of the declaration pledged their lives, their fortune and their sacred honor. It was a pledge they would keep and pay a great price for.

New Jersey delegate and co-signer **Abraham Clark gives us an important historical example of the sacrifice** our founding fathers endured. Two of his sons would be captured and tortured; offered to be returned if Abraham would abandon the American cause. He did not. One son died shortly after his release due to injuries and illness from captivity and the other never fully mentally recovered.

Little did Richard Stockton know that he would soon be captured and lose his health upon a British prisoner ship and die soon thereafter. Four others would be captured and tortured before they died.

Little did the wealthy John Hancock know that he would end up penniless.

Some delegates lost their wives, their children, and most a piece of their soul. Their sacrifice was great. It was the greatest of all sacrifices. The commitment to birth a Christian nation; to live freely and justly; to worship God without government control. Some did lose their lives, many lost their fortunes, but no one lost their sacred honor.

What a foundation they have laid for us? What a moment in world history being played out in the middle of 1776? What an example for us today. Their story and the price paid for our freedom, is beyond comprehension. We must not and simply cannot be the generation that lets it all slip away.

John Jay once said; *Every member of the State ought diligently to read and to study the constitution of his country and teach the rising generation to be free. By knowing their rights, they will sooner perceive when they are violated and be the better prepared to defend and assert them.*

Holding truths to be self-evident requires a deep familiarity with them. John Jay’s advice still rings true today.

For more historical insights and inspirational articles, visit revivalusa.net



PROUDLY SERVING CLOVIS FOR 35+ YEARS!

The Owner, Mr. Harold Blanchard Has Over 35 years of Auto Experience

EXTRA PRECAUTIONS TAKEN
READY TO SERVICE YOUR CAR!

COME SEE US!

972 Barstow Ave., Ste E
Clovis, CA 93612

(559) 299-5049

★★★ **YOUR LOCAL COMPLETE AUTO CARE SPECIALISTS** ★★★
QUALITY SERVICE FOR EVERY DRIVER IN CLOVIS



SIERRA VISTA MALL TO SERVE AS 2026 COOLING CENTER

Clovis, CA, 2026 – With temperatures climbing, Sierra Vista Mall has partnered with the City of Clovis and the Clovis Fire Department once again to serve residents during periods of extreme heat. Residents are welcome to stay cool at Sierra Vista Mall Monday through Saturday from 11:00 AM to 8:00 PM and Sunday from 12:00 PM to 6:00 PM on any day when the National Weather Service predicts Clovis temperatures to be 105 degrees or greater.



- Building – (559) 324-2390
- City Attorney – (559) 324-2060
- City Clerk – (559) 324-2060
- City Hall Information – (559) 324-2000
- City Manager – (559) 324-2060
- Construction Management – (559) 324-2350
- Development Review –..... (559) 324-2350
- Engineering – (559) 324-2350
- Finance – (559) 324-2130
- Fire Dep. – (Non Emergency) (559) 324-2200
- Personnel/Risk Mgt. – (559) 324-2725
- Planning and Development – (559) 324-2340
- Police (Non Emergency) – (559) 324-2400
- Public Utilities – (559) 324-2600
- Recreation – (559) 324-2780
- Senior Activity Center – (559) 324-2750
- Solid Waste – (559) 324-2604
- Streets, Parks and Water – (559) 324-2600
- Transit – (559) 324-2770
- Utility Billing – (559) 324-2130

MEET THE CITY MANAGER



City Manager Andrew Haussler

The City Manager is an appointed office established by the Clovis Municipal Code and under the laws of the state of California. The City Manager is appointed by the City Council to serve as the chief administrative officer of the City. The City Manager is responsible for administering all operations, finances, activities, and projects consistent with City Council policy directives and applicable municipal, state, and federal laws. The City Manager appoints and removes all employees on the recommendation of the various department heads, with confirmation of appointment or dismissal of department heads by the City Council.

Administration

The Administration Department is made up of the City Council, City Manager, City Clerk, Economic Development and City Attorney. As the elected legislative body of the City of Clovis, the five City Council members have overall responsibility for the scope, direction, and financing of city services. The council is also responsible for establishing land use policies through the General Plan and zoning regulations. Under the Council-Manager form of government, the City Council provides policy direction to the City Manager, who is responsible for administering city operations. In setting policy, the council works closely with citizen advisory commissions and committees, considers staff information and recommendations, and receives comments from the general public.

The City Attorney

The City Attorney is an appointed office established under the laws of the state of California and the Clovis Municipal Code. Professional legal services for City Attorney are presently obtained by contract as determined by the City Council. The City Attorney is the city’s chief legal advisor and represents the city in civil actions; prosecutes violations of the Municipal Code; drafts ordinances, resolutions, contracts, leases, deeds, covenants, bond and other financial documents, and other legal documents required by the City Council, City Manager, city commissions, and city departments; and pursues right-of-way acquisitions.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE SOLUTION



R	A	K	E			T	O	G	S		R	A	Z	E	
E	D	A	M			S	A	R	A	H		I	B	I	D
E	Z	R	A			C	R	E	P	E		P	E	T	E
L	E	O	N	A	R	D	O			K	A	O	L	I	N
				A	H	O	Y			M	E	W	S		
P	O	S	T	A	L			D	E	L	E	T	E	S	
A	N	T	E			L	I	R	A	S		E	M	I	R
S	S	E						D	E	N			O	L	E
T	E	L		S	L	A	T	E			A	T	O	P	
			T	A	I	N	T	E	D		A	B	B	E	S
						Q	U	A	D		P	T	A	S	
A	B	O	U	N	D			C	O	E	R	C	I	O	N
L	A	N	E			I	D	L	E	R		E	D	G	E
T	U	T	U			U	N	I	T	Y		S	O	L	E
O	D	O	R			M	A	P	S			S	L	E	D

VOTE

MAKE IT TOO BIG TO RIG

BY: ELECT JIM POLSGROVE
for STATE ASSEMBLY DIST 31

Voting is the fundamental way to make your voice heard, especially in a state as diverse as California. Even if it sometimes feels like one party tends to dominate the conversation, every vote matters more than people often realize. Your vote is your voice, and using it means you still have a say.

Secondly, Republicans in California have a unique opportunity to shape policy at the local level. Whether it's city council, county boards, or school districts, showing up at the polls can influence local leadership and ensure a more balanced representation. Your vote can actually help shape those decisions.

When Republicans participate actively in the voting process, it sends a signal that all perspectives are valued. It helps keep the political conversation dynamic and responsive to the needs of all citizens, which can lead to more effective governance overall.

The eligibility requirements for voting in California are detailed in the California Elections Code Division 2, Chapter 1, Section 2101. Specifically, the code requires that voters must be United States citizens, residents of California, and at least 18 years old by Election Day.

In addition, individuals cannot be serving a state or federal prison term for a felony and must not have been found mentally incompetent to vote by a court.

The relevant sections of the California Elections Code outline these disqualifications. For example, the code notes that anyone currently serving a felony sentence is ineligible to vote. It also disqualifies individuals convicted of certain felonies involving bribery, embezzlement, or perjury from holding office, which indirectly influences eligibility to vote in some cases.

When it comes to paying people to vote or register, California has strict restrictions. It's illegal to offer money or anything of value to someone to get them to vote or register. A law called SB-398 sets penalties of up to \$10,000 in fines or even imprisonment for up to three years for anyone who breaks this law. In short, you can't pay someone to vote or even pay them just to register, and violators face serious consequences

There have indeed been a number of state and federal elections that came down to incredibly tight margins. For example, a report from the Center for American Progress noted that from 1976 to 2021, over 85 U.S. Senate elections were decided by less than 3% of the vote. Similarly, more than 410 U.S. House elections since 1976 were also decided by similarly slim margins.

In fact, some elections have been even closer. In 2016, over 340 state office elections were decided by fewer than 500 votes, and out of those, more than 85 were decided by fewer than 100 votes. These razor-thin outcomes highlight just how critical each vote can be in determining the direction of policy and leadership.

In the 2024 showdown between John Duarte and Adam Gray in California's 13th congressional district, the margin was incredibly tight. We're talking about just 187 votes difference, which is razor-thin. This race wasn't called until weeks after Election Day because they had to count every last vote.

Here are 10 races that were nail-biters, each decided by fewer than 100 votes:

1. Virginia House of Delegates (2017): Decided by literally a single vote, and it even ended in a tie that got resolved by pulling a name out of a bowl.
2. Kentucky State House (2018): One district came down to a 1-vote margin as well.
3. Alaska State House (2018): This one was decided by just one or two votes and had a recount drama.
4. Wyoming House District 35 (2020): Ended with a difference of only 6 votes.
5. Iowa's 2nd Congressional District (2020): Was decided by only 6 votes after an intense recount.
6. Massachusetts State House (2020): A race came down to an 11-vote difference.
7. Connecticut State House (2018): One race wrapped up with a 13-vote margin.
8. Vermont State House (2016): Decided by 20 votes.
9. New Mexico State House (2018): Another super close call with a 30-vote margin.
10. Minnesota State House (2016): One race was decided by just 12 votes.

Again, these razor-thin outcomes highlight just how critical each vote can be in determining the direction of policy and leadership.

With all the questionable shenanigans going on with voting in California, too many people are thinking their vote doesn't matter and are not voting. Voter integrity is only a part of the problem.

California voters not voting is the far bigger problem. I completely understand that a large portion of the population wants in-person voting with voter identification and one day elections, but for the time being we have mail in voting over several weeks. Since we have this, why not use it to our benefit. There is NO EXCUSE to have less than 80 to 90% voter turnout.

Do you worry about the problems in California? Do you complain about the problems in California? Do all your friends and family know how you feel about these problems? BUT DO YOU VOTE? If you do not participate in the simplest part of the solution, how can you complain? If you are going to just roll over and not vote, maybe you should just roll over and accept what Democratic policies are doing to this great state.

I completely believe what is going on is far greater than Democrats manipulating election results. I believe this is psychological warfare designed, by Democrats, to get the Republican voter to believe their vote doesn't count. To turn the Republican voter back into a member of the SILENT MAJORITY.

EVERY VOTE COUNTS!! MAKE IT TOO BIG TO RIG!! VOTE!!

Elect



 [www.Polsgrove\\$calif.com](http://www.Polsgrove$calif.com)

 polsgrove4calif@gmail.com

 Polsgrove4Calif

 Polsgrove4Calif

 Polsgrove4Calif

JIM

POLSGROVE

for STATE ASSEMBLY DIST 31