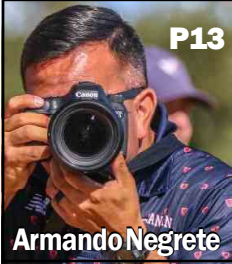


AMERICA 250 SPECIAL EDITION



P13 SPORTS
THE LOVE OF THE GAME...Armando Negrete photo-graphs & reports on Valley SPORTS!



VETERANS MEMORIAL
"WE THE PEOPLE"
Freedom and the responsibility to preserve it. **P4**



OLD TOWN CLOVIS
HEATHER FRANTZICH
Your going to love what Old Town Clovis has for You! **P10**



CLOVIS MAYOR UPDATE
VONG MOUANOUTOUA
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CLOVIS TIMES

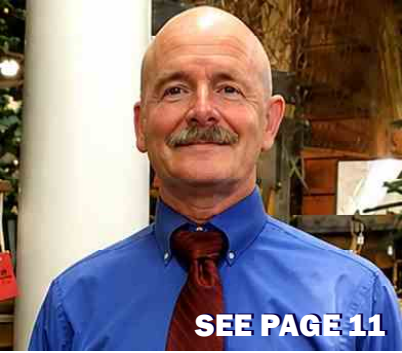


Volume 1 Issue 2

"Celebrating The Clovis Way Of Life"

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BEHIND the HEADLINES
A New Chapter Begins at Fifth Street Antiques



Eric Rollins: The new owner of Fifth Street Antiques.

OPINION OPED

Diane Pearce: Clovis Mayor Pro Tem



I remain steadfast in opposition to measure C
7.3 billion-dollar, Measure C renewal effort
SEE PAGE 14

FAITH FAMILY COUNTRY



TED LAURENT: Great American Freedom Revival

John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg or just Peter to those who knew him best, was carrying out the family tradition.
PAGE 18

AMERICA AT 250
A Nation Forged in Faith, Freedom and Sacrifice
From Independence Hall to Clovis: Celebrating 250 Years of the American Spirit

A quarter of a millennium ago, fifty-six courageous men signed a document that changed the course of human history.

On July 4, 1776, the Declaration of Independence announced to the world that the American colonies would no longer submit to tyranny, but would instead establish a nation founded upon the God-given rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. GOD BLESS THE USA!

STELLA GOES TO WASHINGTON:
A Journey to Washington D.C.
By Stella C. Leue

SEE PAGE 12

Honoring Our Heroes. Remembering Their Sacrifice. Forever Grateful.

IN MEMORY HONOR ROLL
HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED - REMEMBERED FOREVER

Captain David Ernest Leue
FORMALLY INDUCTED INTO THE
IN MEMORY HONOR ROLL
2026 IN MEMORY CEREMONY

★ Saturday, June 20, 2026 ★
Vietnam Veterans Memorial • Washington, DC

Captain David Ernest Leue was formally inducted into the IN MEMORY HONOR ROLL at the 2026 In Memory Ceremony on Saturday, June 20, 2026 on the grounds of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington DC.

DISTINGUISHED NAVAL CAREER

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- ★ Squadron Commander Attack Squadron 153
- ★ Captain of USS Canisteo AO-99, 650' armed replenishment ship
- ★ Chief of Staff Carrier Group 3
- ★ Chief of Staff, Light Attack Wing, Pacific at Naval Air Station Lemoore, California

After Dave's retirement, he continued to serve the Fresno-Clovis community in education at California State Fresno University for 15 years as a professor teaching Construction Management. After leaving CSUF, Dave was hired by Pacific Gas and Electric to design energy efficient systems for agriculture companies. He authored two books: "Korean Combat" and "Vietnam Combat."

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POLITICAL VIEWS
FRED VANDERHOOF
County Political News of the day
P4

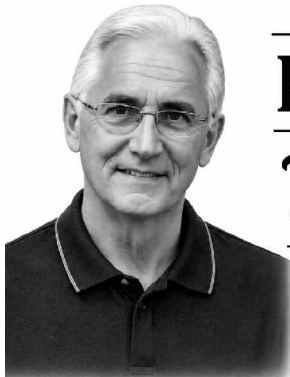
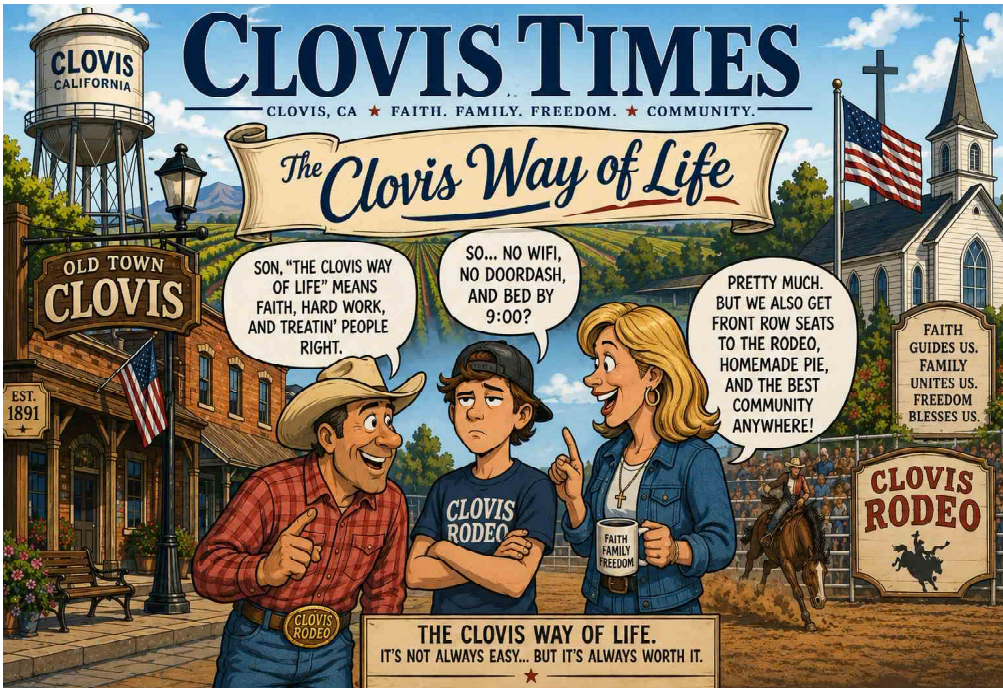


AG MATTERS
Agriculture Is Investing in the Future of Our Valley's Students
P5



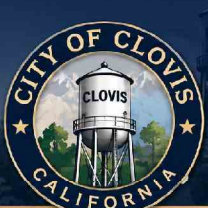
City VIEWS
The Signing of the Declaration of Independence: What you didn't know
BILL SCOTT
P16

County Views



FROM THE
PUBLISHER:
Terry Wild
CLOVIS TIMES
terry@ClovisTimes.com
559-272-0581

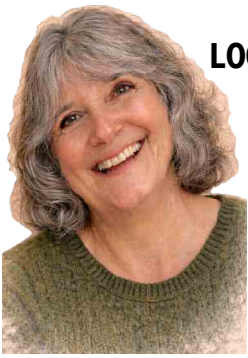
Well, it's July, and that means it's time for the second edition of the Clovis Times newspaper and community website. **PAGE 6**



CITY OF CLOVIS
ANNOUNCES
NEW FIRE CHIEF
Jason Ralls



BOOK REVIEW



LOCAL AUTHOR
GEORGIA WILD
"UNDER THE BIG W"
Finding Ancestors

Have you ever wondered where your family came from—or whether the stories whispered at holidays and bedtime were actually true? **Page 6**



The celebration was made possible through the dedication of volunteers from Post 3225 (Clovis) and Post 5845 (Biola) who joined forces to honor Jerry. Thank you, Jerry, for your service, sacrifice, and 103 years of inspiration.



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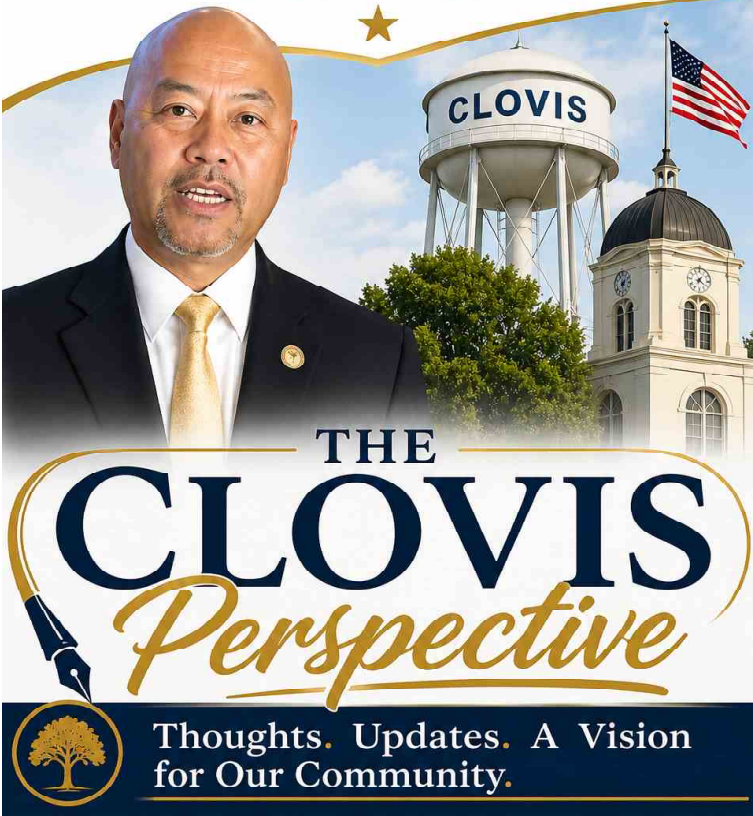
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VONG MOUANOUTOUA
MAYOR OF CLOVIS



By: Mayor Vong Mouanoutoua, City of Clovis

I am proud to share that the City of Clovis has embarked on one of our most important planning efforts in decades. Branded "Create Clovis: Planning for Our Future," our comprehensive General Plan Update is giving residents, business owners, and community

leaders a direct voice in shaping how our city grows, develops, and thrives over the next twenty years. Think of a General Plan as our city's blueprint. It is a long-range planning document that guides City Council and City Staff decisions on impor-

Create Clovis: Writing the Next Chapter of Our City's Story

tant issues including land use, housing, transportation, parks, economic development, and public safety. We last completed a comprehensive update in 2014, and a lot has changed since then. New neighborhoods have been built, business and industry needs have shifted, and state legislation around housing and environmental policy has evolved significantly.

The process officially kicked off in September 2024.

A key part of this effort is our General Plan Advisory Committee, or GPAC. The City Council appointed 16 community members to serve on the committee, selecting individuals who represent a true cross-section of Clovis. The GPAC includes residents, the business community, youth leaders, civic organizations, and housing and commercial developers.

The GPAC held its first meeting in September of 2025, and meets almost every month. Meetings are structured as open roundtable discussion. There are no formal votes. The public is welcome to attend and provide comments at every meeting.

The update is being led by De Novo Planning Group, a California-based land use planning firm with deep experience in comprehensive general plan updates, alongside specialty subconsultants covering traffic, economic development, infrastructure, urban design, noise, cultural resources, and public outreach. The entire effort is expected to be completed within a three-year timeframe, with City Council adoption of the new General Plan anticipated in late 2027.

This update is about making sure our plan reflects who we are today and where we want to go tomorrow. I want a General Plan that carries forward the values of Clovis including our commitment to safety, great schools, beautiful parks, and a high quality of life, all while positioning us for smart, sustainable growth. None of this happens without great people working behind the scenes. I am deeply grateful to our Planning and Development Services Director, Renee Mathis, and her entire team for the dedication and professionalism they have brought to this effort every

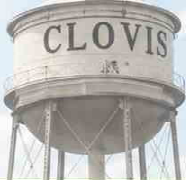
single step of the way. I have been impressed with the community's engagement so far. Clovis is a special place. Our residents care deeply about this community. The level of participation we have seen tells me that the people of Clovis are ready to roll up their sleeves and help write the next chapter of our city's story. I invite every resident to stay engaged, attend a GPAC meeting, and make your voice heard. This is your city. This is your plan. Let's build it together.

The next GPAC meeting takes place July 30 at 6pm in the Clovis Transit Center, 785 3rd Street in Clovis. Learn more at https://www.clovisca.gov/services/planning_development/planning/projects/general_plan_update/index.php Vong Mouanoutoua Mayor Office: 559-324-2010 VongM@clovisca.gov



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OUR MISSION
The mission of the Clovis Chamber of Commerce is to advocate and support a healthy business environment which improves the quality of life in Clovis.



OUR HISTORY
The Clovis Chamber of Commerce, founded in 1912 (the same year Clovis became a city), plays a vital role in supporting local businesses and community development.



The Chamber has been instrumental in shaping Clovis into one of California's most desirable places to live and work.



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BAD, BETTER, BEST POLITICAL NEWS OF THE DAY



FRED
VANDERHOOF

BAD NEWS – DEMOCRAT SOCIALISTS OF AMERICA (DSA)

First, the bad news. The Democratic Socialists of America, established in 1982, is a political organization which

builds coalitions with the Democrat Party. With more than 100,000 members nationwide, the DSA is now the leading force of the Democrats. The members are very open about their Leftist/Communist views. Consequently, this fast-growing organization is winning elections primarily in Blue and Swing states, even in some Red states. Currently there are 250 DSA members serving in public offices across 40 states, and 90% have been elected in the past six years.

Listed below are California cities and two major cities in other states with DSA leadership:

MEMBERS OF DSA:

- Former DSA Calif Mayors in Berkeley, Burbank, Oakland, Santa Cruz, South San Francisco, Ventura

- Current DSA Calif Mayors in Irvine, Richmond (Nithya Raman, DSA City Council member, is in a run-off with Karen Bass for Mayor of Los Angeles)

- Current DSA Calif City Council Members in Berkeley, Burbank, Los Angeles (4 members), Oakland, Richmond, Sacramento, San Francisco, Santa Barbara, Ventura

- Other Current DSA U.S. Mayors in New York, Seattle

BETTER NEWS – CONSERVATIVE LEADERS OF EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

All European countries have Conservative/Right political parties, but most have low support in usually 10% - 30% due to the high number of political parties. However, Poland, Italy and Serbia have recently elected conservative leaders.

Listed below are possible future leaders of parties in Europe (and one in Canada) which have made substantial gains in their last election:

England – Nigel Farage

France – Marie Le Pen

Netherlands – Gert Wilders

Canada – Pierre Poilievre

BEST NEWS - MAJOR CHANGES TAKING PLACE IN CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA!

There are twenty countries in Central and South America, and almost all of these countries have

been led by Leftwing rulers for decades. But things are changing rapidly. Ten of these countries have recently elected conservative leaders: Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Columbia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, Paraguay and Peru.

Argentina President, Javier Milei, elected in 2023, was one of the first leaders to run against Socialist policies. He has been the catalyst by transforming Argentina and by encouraging candidates in the other countries to run for office. The most recent conservative leader to win is Abelardo De La Espriella, who became President of Columbia just a few days ago on June 21st.

President Trump's endorsements also have been important in many of these victories. Part of Trump's strategy has been to limit China's influence in Latin America. So far, it has been working, especially in Venezuela, which is rebuilding after years of Communist Narco-Terrorist leadership which had a direct connection to China.

It is extremely encouraging to see all of these recent developments:

- The new international changes as numerous Conservative leaders have been elected in Europe and in Central and South America
- The recent Supreme Court ruling that many U.S. Congressional districts were drawn illegally (such as in Virginia)

- The SAVE ACT (requiring all voters in every state to show I.D.) possibly becoming law

- The rise in patriotism with the upcoming 250th celebration of America's founding

- The interest in the United States as tourists from around the world travel to FICA games and are enthralled with our American culture and friendliness

- The Gen Z generation and many others turning towards God as millions are worshipping together and turning to traditional values in they are the leaders of the future

The news of the day is that the world is changing rapidly. America is leading the way as a beacon of freedom. So many countries are fighting for this same freedom, and many are winning. With all these developments, victory in November looks much more possible!

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OPINIONS ARE WELCOME
in the Clovis Times.**
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tary on issues affecting
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nation.**

**Published opinions are
those of the individual
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sarily represent the views
of the Clovis Times or its
editorial staff.**



We the People

By Lorenzo Rios

always depended on the character of a free people.

The Declaration of Independence proclaimed that all are created equal, endowed by our Creator with unalienable rights, and that governments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed. The Constitution transformed those principles into a framework for self-government.

But the Constitution is more than a blueprint for government.

It is an invitation to self-government.

Its words come to life only through our actions. It cannot compel integrity, responsibility, courage, or respect. It creates the opportunity for a free people to choose them.

Our Founders challenged us to form a more perfect Union. Those words acknowledge something profoundly American: perfection is never our starting point, but improvement must

always be our pursuit. Every generation inherits both the opportunity and the responsibility to leave the Republic stronger than it found it.

America is unique in its enduring ability to unite people from every corner of the world around a common constitutional creed. I know this personally. America welcomed me as an immigrant and taught me that becoming an American is not defined by where we were born, but by the ideals we choose to embrace and the responsibilities we willingly accept.

The distance between America's ideals and America's reality is measured by the choices we make, the example we set, and the standards we refuse to abandon.

Children become the citizens they watch us become.

Strong families, strong communities, and a strong Republic are not built by



accident. They are built by citizens who choose to live the values they hope to pass on.

Leadership is stewardship. We are temporary stewards of permanent ideals. The blessings of liberty were never entrusted to us alone. They belong equally to those who came before us and to those who will follow.

One day, another generation will inherit the America we leave behind.

May they find that we did more than celebrate our nation's founding. May they find that we accepted the invitation to live its ideals, strengthened our communities through our example, and passed forward a Republic stronger than the one we inherited.

Because in the end, the Constitution comes to life not through ink on parchment, but through the daily choices of **We the People**.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Lorenzo Rios is the Chief Executive Officer of the Clovis Veterans Memorial District and a retired U.S. Army lieutenant colonel whose career has been defined by service—in uniform, in the classroom, and in the community. He has dedicated his life to honoring service, educating citizens, inspiring leadership, and helping leave the next generation an America stronger than the one we inherited.

Agriculture Is Investing in the Future of Our Valley’s Students



By Nathan Magsig

For generations, farming has sustained our families and powered local jobs. But today, agriculture is also investing directly in education, workforce development, and opportunity for young people across our region.

From farm fields to classrooms, ag is helping open doors.

Across the Valley, agricultural companies partner with local school districts to support FFA programs, fund career technical education pathways, and provide hands-on training in everything from ag mechanics to food science and water technology. These programs give students real-world skills that translate directly into high-paying careers, whether they choose to attend college or enter the workforce after graduation.

We see powerful examples of this commitment right here at home. The Wonderful Company has invested millions of dollars into education initiatives in the Central Valley, including scholarship programs that help

In the Central Valley, agriculture is more than an industry, it is the backbone of our economy, our communities, and increasingly, the future of our students.

local students become the first in their families to attend college. Through its Wonderful College Prep Academy and scholarship efforts, students from farming communities are receiving life-changing opportunities to pursue higher education and return home with the skills to strengthen our region.

This is not charity, it is partnership. Agriculture understands that its long-term success depends on an educated, skilled local workforce.

Major dairy operators collaborate with community colleges to train future veterinarians, mechanics, and plant managers. Tree nut processors fund STEM programs that expose students to cutting-edge agricultural technology, including precision irrigation and drone mapping. Family farms sponsor 4-H and FFA chapters that teach leadership, responsibility, and entrepreneurship.

And the benefits extend far beyond those directly employed in agriculture.

When agriculture thrives, local tax revenues support our schools. When farms invest in infrastructure, entire communities benefit. When ag

businesses fund scholarships and internships, they help break cycles of poverty and expand opportunity.

In a region often overlooked by Sacramento policymakers, agriculture consistently steps up.

As someone who has served on the Fresno County Board of Supervisors and worked closely with school districts, I have seen firsthand how critical these partnerships are. Our Valley’s students deserve pathways to success that reflect the strengths of our region. Agriculture provides those pathways, whether through four-year degrees, technical certifications, or skilled trades.

At a time when California faces serious economic challenges and rising costs that strain families, we should be championing industries that invest locally and lift up the next generation.

If we want strong schools, strong families, and strong communities, we must ensure that agriculture remains strong as well. That means fighting for sensible water policy, reducing unnecessary regulatory burdens, and protecting the industry that feeds the nation.

Our kids are the future of the Central Valley, and agriculture is helping them grow.

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Have you ever wondered where your family came from—or whether the stories whispered at holidays and bedtime were actually true?

If you’re a curious soul like me, that question can become an irresistible invitation. An invitation to follow the paths your ancestors walked and uncover the truth waiting just beneath the surface. Whether sparked by simple curiosity or a deep need to know, the answers are often closer than you think.

My journey began long before computers made research easy. In those days, uncovering family history meant traveling to distant courthouses, digging through dusty records, writing letters, and waiting months—sometimes longer—for replies. It was slow, frustrating, and thrilling all at once. Today, that same journey can begin from your couch, coffee in hand, with a few clicks of a mouse. You start with what you know—your parents’ names, where they were born. Even if you were adopted, the journey begins the same way: with the facts you have and the courage to ask questions.

I chose Ancestry.com because it offered the most accessible way to build a family tree. Creating the tree is free; the real adventure begins when you start attaching documents that breathe life into names and dates. Birth records, marriage licenses, census reports—each one is a doorway into another time.

For years, I moved carefully and deliberately, verifying every document before adding it to my tree. What I discovered felt like stepping into a living history book. I followed my ancestors across countries and continents, learned how they earned their livings, and imagined the risks they took to survive. More than once, I felt like I had climbed into a time machine.

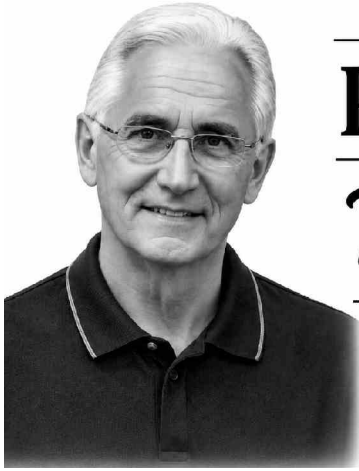
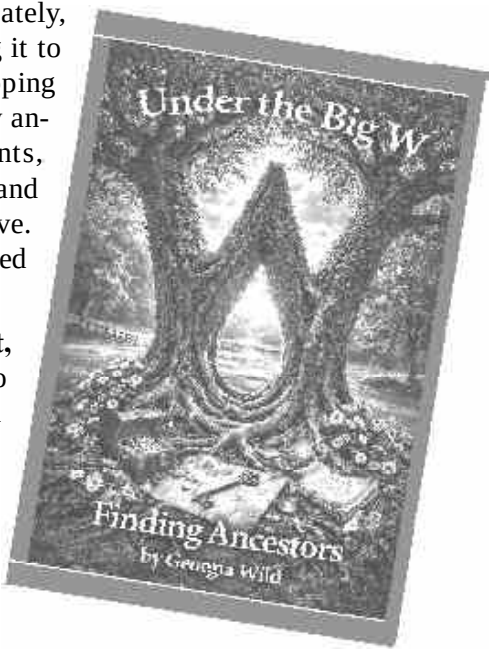
Then came DNA testing—and with it, an entirely new chapter. I expected to learn how much English or Irish blood flowed through my veins. What I didn’t expect was to be matched with strangers who were, in fact, family. Some names were familiar. Others were not—names that appeared nowhere in my meticulously researched tree.

That’s when the story took a turn I never saw coming. I discovered my father had been adopted. I learned I had a half-brother I never knew existed. The truth unfolded piece by piece, each revelation more astonishing than the last. Alongside the surprise came something unexpected: relief. At last, I understood who I was and where I truly came from.

This journey isn’t for everyone. It isn’t always comfortable, and it isn’t meant for those who prefer the past to remain untouched. Some people don’t want the truth—and that’s their choice. I am someone who needs it, no matter where it leads.

If you feel that same pull—if you sense there’s more to your story waiting to be discovered—and you have questions about how to begin your own journey back in time, I invite you to reach out. Send your questions to ancestors@thefresnotimes.com, and let the adventure begin.

You can find Georgia Wild’s latest book: “Under the Big W” on Amazon or www.UnderTheBigW.com



FROM THE PUBLISHER:

Terry Wild

CLOVIS TIMES

terry@ClovisTimes.com

559-272-0581

Well, it’s July, and that means it’s time for the second edition of the Clovis Times. My name is Terry Wild, and my wife, Georgia, and I are excited and grateful for the opportunity to bring Clovis a community newspaper and website dedicated to the people who make this city such a special place. Our goal is simple: to produce a publication that informs, encourages, and celebrates the community we call home. We know we have a lot to learn, but we are committed to working hard to make the Clovis Times a newspaper you will be proud of.

When I celebrated my 80th birthday this past January, I certainly wasn’t expecting to launch two new newspapers. But when this opportunity presented itself, I knew I had to take it. Sometimes life opens a door when you least expect it, and you simply have to walk through it.

Georgia and I have lived in Clovis for the past seven years, and we truly love this community and its people. This is actually our third time living here. We first lived in Clovis during the 1980s and again in the 1990s, but career opportunities took us elsewhere. This time feels different. This time, Clovis feels like home.



There is something unique about this city. It has a rich history and a strong sense of identity often described as “The Clovis Way of Life.” For many residents, those values can be summed up in three simple words: **God, Family, and Country.** That spirit is one of the reasons we wanted to become part of this community in a meaningful way.

In addition to the Clovis Times, we are also publishing The Fresno Times because we believe the two communities naturally complement one another. Yes, I have been told I have a tendency to overextend myself—but I’ve always believed that worthwhile things are worth pursuing with everything you’ve got.

The newspaper industry has changed dramatically over the past several years as digital media continues to reshape how people receive news and information. Rather than seeing that as a problem, I see it as an opportunity. Our vision is to create a modern local media organization that combines the strengths of print, digital publications, online news, streaming video, and daily newscasts—all working together to keep our communities informed.

Our new website will be launching in the next couple of weeks, and we’re excited about what lies ahead. If everything develops according to plan—and I’ll admit that some of this is educated guesswork—we hope to offer a printed newspaper twice each month, a weekly digital edition, daily Clovis Times and The Fresno Times video newscasts, and affordable subscription options that allow you to receive local news on the platform you prefer.

The response so far has been incredibly encouraging. Thank you to everyone who has welcomed us, shared ideas, and offered support. We promise to remain faithful to a simple news philosophy: **We report—you decide.** Opinion belongs on the Opinion pages, where differing viewpoints can be respectfully expressed. Our news reporting will remain committed to fairness, accuracy, and balance.

We’re just getting started, but by this time next year we expect to be operating on all cylinders. We invite your letters, your story ideas, your opinions, and yes—even a little constructive criticism. After all, this is your community newspaper.

Please visit us online at www.ClovisTimes.com and www.TheFresnoTimes.com.

On behalf of Georgia and myself, thank you for allowing us to serve this wonderful community.

Sincerely,

Terry and Georgia Wild

Publishers



THERE IS A LOT GOING ON AT CLOVIS CITY HALL
STAY INFORMED AT: www.clovisca.gov

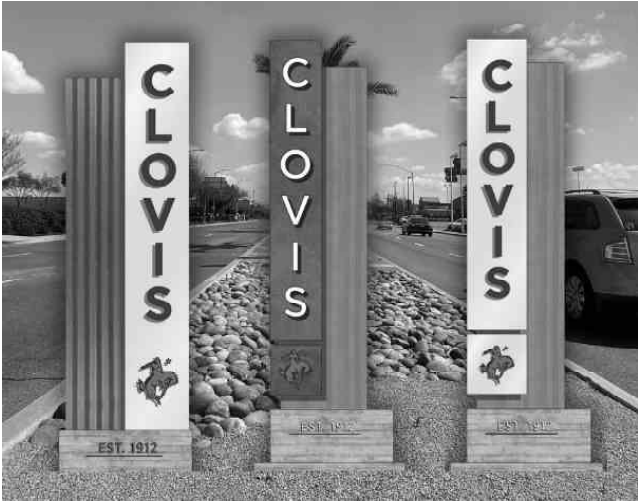


**SIERRA VISTA MALL TO
SERVE AS 2026 COOLING
CENTER**

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.



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**SURVEY: MONUMENT SIGNS
& TRAIL FEATURES**

The City of Clovis is currently seeking public input on a variety of community investments, including a future monument sign and trail features! Our next monument sign will play an important role in establishing the overall look and feel of the City’s signage going forward, including future wayfinding signs along our trail system. Because this is something residents have expressed interest in over the years, we want to ensure that this signage reflects our community’s vision. As we explore options, we’re also eager to learn more about what you enjoy about our trails, what amenities you find most valuable, and what ideas you may have for future improvements. **With this in mind, we’ve developed a short survey for our community**, and we welcome your thoughts. This is an opportunity to help shape the visual identity and amenities of Clovis. Your feedback is important to us, and we appreciate you taking the time to share your input!



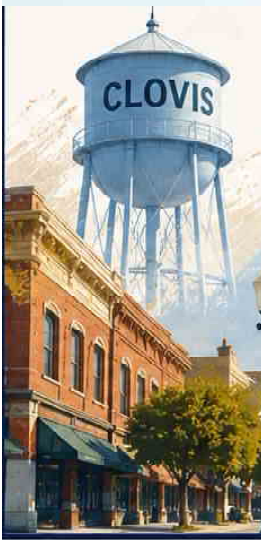
**CITY OF CLOVIS ANNOUNCES
2025 ANNUAL WATER
QUALITY REPORT**

Clovis, CA, June 24, 2026 – The City of Clovis Water Division is pleased to announce that the Annual Water Quality Report for 2025 has been completed and made available to the community. The report provides important details about the quality of water supplied in the City of Clovis and Tarpey Village. **The Annual Water Quality Report, also called the Consumer Confidence Report**, is a snapshot of last year’s water quality covering all testing performed between January 1 and December 31, 2025. The constant goal of the City of Clovis Water Division is to provide a dependable supply that meets safe drinking water standards, and the division provides this report in an effort to keep the community informed and to help city utility customers understand the efforts made to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. **Hard copies have been mailed to all city utility customers** and can also be requested by calling the Public Utilities Department at (559) 324-2600. You can also view the report online here.



NEW TRASH PICK-UP DAYS FOR SOME CLOVIS RESIDENTS

June 2026 - Keep an eye on your mailbox! If you have residential trash service through the City of Clovis, you may receive a notice that your pick-up day is changing! As part of our ongoing efforts to keep your trash pick-up efficient and timely, residential trash routes (including trash, organics, and recycling services) are being reorganized, and the new routes will take effect on July 13, 2026. This update will mean new service days for a small percentage of residents, and we’re working hard to ensure all those impacted are notified. If your service day is changing, you will receive a letter from the City informing you of your new service day. If you do NOT receive a letter, your service day will remain the same as it is currently! **For more information please contact the Solid Waste Division at (559) 324-2604.**



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

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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

USED BOOKS • NEW ADVENTURES

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.

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

ClovisHistory



John Walker/Clovis-Big Dry Creek Museum Historical Society Board Member

In the heart of Old Town Clovis, stands a building dedicated to the preservation of the rich local history of the city and region, the Clovis-Big Dry Creek Museum. It was built in 1912 as the First State Bank, at the southeast corner of Pollasky and Fourth streets.

Richard Norrish, a native of England, came to Clovis in 1903, and established the town’s original bank, the First State Bank of Clovis, on Fourth Street (a half a block east of the present museum building). The small bank thrived serving the growing community. So much that in 1912, Norrish funded the construction of a new brick bank building, on a slight rise to give a more imposing allure. The large granite columns flanking the entrance were locally quarried at Academy, and hauled down to Clovis.

The bank continued to become the center of financial activity in the area. But the bank’s fortunes turned one quiet February day in 1924, when it was robbed. Bank robberies were fairly rare in the days, and this one was headlined in the nation’s newspapers. The bandits made off with nearly \$32,000 (in today’s dollars around \$600,000). The robbers were eventually apprehended, tried and convicted. The money was never recovered- a mystery to this day.

The money, privately insured and paid back in a day, didn’t stop the bank’s misfortunes. A nationwide depression coupled with failing crop prices, a prior robbery at First State 10-months earlier, meant that the deposits all but dried up. The bank dissolved for good the next year in early 1925.

The city bought the stately building and used it as the city’s Municipal Court and City Hall. The county bought the building in 1954, when it became the Fresno County Justice Court until 1978, when it became a branch of the Fresno Municipal Court, until 1982. The city reacquired the building in the mid-1980s, with the new Clovis-Big Dry Creek Historical Society opening it as a museum in 1987. Renovations by volunteers included peeling back linoleum flooring, revealing the original octagonal tile work, taking off wall coverings exposing the original brick. One centerpiece remaining from its glory days is the original vault, now a resource room for visitors looking into local history.

Today, visitors from across the United States (37 states so far), and from 6 continents, as well as those with heritage in local history, drop in to take in the history that has been carefully preserved and curated over the decades.

Highlights include: A display honoring the first inhabitants of the region, the Native Americans of the Yokuts tribe. The stories of two men who played prominently in the development of Clovis, the city’s namesake, Clovis Cole, the young “Wheat King of the United States,” on whose land much of Clovis of today stands, and Marcus Pollasky, the smooth-talking attorney/railroad speculator, who put

Clovis on the map with his railroad, and who remains a controversial figure to this day. Playing prominently is the intriguing story of the 1924 robbery of the First State Bank. The saga behind the late 1800s Shaver sawmill its 42-mile flume which carried lumber down to the city, helping fueling growth in the West, becoming a major force in giving birth to the city of Clovis along the way. Other highlights: a tribute to a famous Clovis resident, television and movie star, Ken Curtis, better known as “Festus” in the legendary TV show “Gunsmoke.”

Another long-time resident is honored as well: colorful journalist May Case, who with her husband, Spurgeon Case, founded the Clovis Independent newspaper. She was nationally honored in 1964 as the oldest active newspaper woman in the world, at age 75. Also, a room is dedicated to the service paid by local military veterans. The history of the Clovis Rodeo is also featured in a special presentation. A popular attraction are the dozens of class photos from Clovis High School over many decades.

The museum is staffed by volunteer docents, open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. and open during the Farmer’s Market season, 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. And for the dedicated volunteers, the rewarding mission of preserving local history is never-ending, and is appreciated by visitors of all ages.

CLOVIS TIMES

CLOVIS, CA ★ FAITH. FAMILY. FREEDOM. ★ COMMUNITY. ★

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Our History. Our Heritage. The Clovis Way of Life.

Historic Old Town Clovis

Clovis Rodeo Since 1914

Clovis was once a major stop on the Santa Fe Railroad.

Clovis, California was founded in 1891 and named after Clovis Cole, a local rancher and postmaster. From our Old Town roots to the world-famous Clovis Rodeo, Clovis continues to grow while holding on to faith, family, and community.

Clovis Cole (1851-1924)
Rancher, Postmaster, Community Leader

Agriculture has always been the heart of Clovis.

Parks, schools, and community make Clovis a great place to live!

ACROSS

- The year Clovis was founded.
- Clovis was originally a stop on this railroad line.
- The annual professional rodeo first held in 1914.
- The historic district in the heart of Clovis.
- The person Clovis was named after.
- Clovis is known as the “_____ Capital of the World.”

DOWN

- The type of land that shaped Clovis in its early days.
- Clovis became an official city in 1912.
- A core value celebrated in Clovis families.
- The school district serving most of Clovis.
- What brings Clovis residents together.
- A popular community event held every Independence Day.

CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ANSWERS SEE PAGE 19

Proud of our past. Focused on our future. ★ That’s The Clovis Way of Life.

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

May Case

This story is handed down through generations.

Born in Clovis Early 1900s

Arrival in Clovis Pioneer who settled the Big Dry Creek area

Family History from the May Family

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.

Edison Phonograph c. 1900

OPEN TUESDAY THRU SATURDAY
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM
We can’t wait to welcome you! ♥

HISTORY LIVES HERE!

BusinessMatters

Old Town Clovis... We have a lot to Celebrate!



BY: HEATHER FRANTZICH

Farmers Market highlights, upcoming fall events, and opportunities for community sponsorship and B.O.O.T. membership.

Farmers Market

It is hard to believe that we are already almost halfway through the Farmers Market season in Old Town Clovis. We want to thank our amazing community for coming out every week to support our market, local merchants, and Old Town Clovis. We are proud to offer a safe, family-friendly environment for everyone to enjoy. This season, we feature various theme nights and an exciting live band line-up, both of which can be found on our website at oldtownclovis.org. We are especially excited to celebrate America at our upcoming market on July 3rd from 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM. We encourage everyone to dress in red, white, and blue, stay local, and support local! We will also host the ever-popular Peach Party hosted by Wawona Foods at our Friday Farmers Market on July 17th.

Summer Promotions

Look out for fun summer promotions we will be having throughout the summer. We encourage everyone to explore the shops, restaurants, services and community events that make Old Town Clovis such a treasured part of our city. Supporting local businesses strengthens our economy, creates local jobs and preserves the unique character that makes Clovis special. Fall Events in Old Town Clovis We are already preparing for our fall events, which include Military Appreciation Night, Fall Glorious Junk Days, WalktoberFest, Trunk or Treat, Old Town Harvest Festival, Old Town Harvest Car Show, One Enchanted Evening and the Horse Carriage Rides. We have a fun-packed

schedule lined up for all to enjoy. To view the full calendar of our upcoming events, as well as everything else happening in Clovis, please visit our website at oldtownclovis.org.

Sponsorship Opportunities

We are always looking for businesses to sponsor our events throughout the year. Sponsorship allows us to broaden our scope to make every event both highly

successful and memorable. The promotional assets and community support gained through sponsorship will help your business stand out against the competition. If you are interested in these opportunities, please email me at heather@oldtownclovis.org.

What is B.O.O.T.? Become a member

The Business Organization of Old Town Clovis (B.O.O.T.) is a vibrant non-profit organization that provides its members and the community at-large with proactive leadership to improve our regional quality of life. Through collaborative efforts with our membership and the City of Clovis, B.O.O.T. is dedicated to

promoting Old Town Clovis as a major destination point by offering members a unique and comprehensive package of business development and support services.

Our organization is supported primarily by the dedication of merchant members and the revenues earned from hosting several Signature Events throughout the year. B.O.O.T. believes in providing substantial value to its members at a minimal cost. Membership and core community values are what make this the most effective business organization for local business owners.

Members receive a wide range of benefits, including a

profile in the directory on the B.O.O.T. website with a direct link to their business website and social media pages. We provide direct representation in matters of vital importance to Old Town, distribute monthly E-Blasts with valuable information, and host monthly membership meetings designed to keep members informed and provide a forum for pertinent discussions. Furthermore, we run targeted advertising year-round designed specifically to remind people to shop local in Old Town Clovis, alongside effective advertising for all Signature Events using local and regional media outlets.

CONTACT US
www.OldTownClovis.org

FRESH * LOCAL * COMMUNITY

B.O.O.T.

OLD TOWN CLOVIS FARMERS MARKET

Where Fresh Meets Community in the Heart of Clovis

Located in the heart of the agriculturally rich Central Valley, the Old Town Farmers Market is home to some pretty amazing produce and local products.

Because our growers are basically in our own backyard, you'll always enjoy produce that is super fresh and at peak flavor.

The Old Town Market vibe is as fresh as the produce, featuring incredible food selections, artisan vendors, and live music from talented local artists and food creators.

MARKET FEATURES

- FARM-FRESH PRODUCE
- LOCAL GROWERS & VENDORS
- ARTISAN FOODS & CRAFTS
- LIVE MUSIC WEEKLY
- FAMILY-FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE

SUMMER MARKET SCHEDULE

FRIDAYS | 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM

★ MAY THROUGH SEPTEMBER ★

Located on Pollasky Avenue
OLD TOWN CLOVIS

Support Local * Eat Fresh * Shop Clovis

Good for You. Good for Our Community.

FOLLOW US FOR WEEKLY UPDATES & VENDOR INFO!

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Connect With Us: www.OldTownClovis.org

A New Chapter Begins at Fifth Street Antiques

For years, Fifth Street Antiques has been a favorite destination for collectors, decorators, and treasure hunters exploring the charm of Old Town Clovis.



Eric Rollins is the owner of Fifth Street Antiques. He has had the good fortune to grow up around the antique business and has been shopping at antique stores and swap meets since he was a small child. Learning about antiques was like learning to talk. He specializes in toys, signs, advertising tins, photographs and American Indian items. He loves meeting new customers, so stop on in and say hello!

Now, the beloved antique store is beginning an exciting new chapter as local entrepreneur Eric Rollins takes ownership of the historic business, preserving one of Old Town's most recognizable landmarks while bringing fresh energy and vision for the future.

Located in the heart of Old Town Clovis, Fifth Street Antiques offers more than 4,000 square feet of carefully curated discoveries. Visitors will find an impressive collection of authentic antiques, highly sought-after collectibles, vintage vinyl LPs, mid-century furniture and décor, rare books, fine artwork, Native American artifacts, estate jewelry, and countless one-of-a-kind pieces waiting to be rediscovered.

For Eric, purchasing Fifth Street Antiques was more than a business opportunity—it was a chance to continue a tradition of preserving history while creating a welcoming destination where every visit becomes an adventure. Whether you're an experienced collector searching for a rare treasure or simply enjoy browsing the stories hidden within objects from another era, Fifth Street Antiques offers an experience unlike any other.

The store is also part of what makes Old Town Clovis one of California's premier antique shopping destinations. With more than a dozen antique and vintage shops, specialty boutiques, outstanding restaurants, coffee houses, and year-round community events, Old Town Clovis continues to attract visitors from throughout the Central Valley and beyond.

As Eric begins this exciting new journey, Fifth Street Antiques remains committed to the same quality, authenticity, and friendly customer service that have made it a treasured part of the Clovis community—while looking forward to creating new memories for generations of shoppers to come.



A TREASURE TROVE IN OLD TOWN CLOVIS

Over 4,000 sq. ft. of quality true antiques
and highly sought after collectibles.

- Antiques
- Collectibles
- Vinyl LP's
- Mid Century Furniture & Accessories
- Books
- Art
- Native American Artifacts
- Estate Jewelry & More!



MEET ERIC ROLLINS – OWNER

Eric has had the good fortune to grow up around the antique business and has been shopping at antique stores and swap meets since he was a small child... learning about antiques was like learning to talk. He specializes in toys, signs, advertising tins, photographs and American Indian items. He loves meeting new customers, so stop on in and say hello!

FIFTH STREET ANTIQUES IS PROUD TO BE PART OF HISTORIC OLD TOWN CLOVIS!



HISTORIC OLD TOWN CLOVIS – SHOP, DINE & EXPLORE!

Join us and 10+ other antique and vintage shops, specialty boutiques, fabulous restaurants and coffee houses.
It's a destination worthy of your time!

 460 Pollasky Avenue
Clovis, California 93612

 (559) 324-8312

 fifthstreetantiques@gmail.com

 Follow us on Facebook!

 LOCATED IN THE HEART OF OLD TOWN CLOVIS! PLENTY OF PARKING & EASY TO FIND!

www.FifthStreetAntiques.com



STELLA

= ★★ GOES TO ★★ =

WASHINGTON:

A Journey to Washington D.C.

By Stella C. Leue

★★ IN MEMORY HONOR ROLL

HONORING THOSE WHO SERVED • REMEMBERED FOREVER

Captain David Ernest Leue

FORMALLY INDUCTED INTO THE
IN MEMORY HONOR ROLL
2026 IN MEMORY CEREMONY

★★ Saturday, June 20, 2026 ★★

Vietnam Veterans Memorial • Washington, DC

Captain David Ernest Leue was formally inducted into the *IN MEMORY HONOR ROLL* at the 2026 In Memory Ceremony on Saturday, June 20, 2026 on the grounds of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington DC.



A LIFE OF SERVICE.
A LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP.
A HEART FOR COMMUNITY.

★★★

★ *Honoring Our Heroes. Remembering Their Sacrifice. Forever Grateful.* ★

A Journey to Washington D.C.

By Stella C. Leue



'The In Memory program has been honoring Vietnam War Veterans since 1999. Its goal is to honor and remember thousands of veterans that returned after the Vietnam War and later died due to chemical exposure, PTSD and other related illnesses, as a result of their service.

This little known program enables veteran's families and friends the opportunity to have their loved ones for ever memorialized. A plaque is situated near the Vietnam Veterans Memorial site in D.C. that honor these veterans. It reads: "In Memory of the men and women who served in the Vietnam War and later died as a result of their service."

We honor and remember their sacrifice." Presently, over 8,000 veteran shave been added to the In Memory Honor Roll since the program began in 1993. Last October 2025, I became aware of this memorial when my grandson, Andrew Overstreet and I visited the traveling Vietnam Wall at a Clovis park near Miss Wrinkles Shelter.

As we observed a video display of deceased Vietnam patriots, I realized that my husband, David Leue was a perfect candidate for this memorial. Captain David Leue served 32 years in the U.S. Navy, as a combat attack pilot both in Korea and Vietnam War. Because of his active service in props and jets, 13 aircraft carriers he was constantly exposed to asbestos causing malignant mesothelioma illness to his left lung years later. He never was a smoker, but had direct contact to other nasty chemicals during his Naval career. Dave was diagnosed with this illness in February 2014, and underwent six chemotherapy treatments to improve his quality of life. Dave did live to see his 87th birthday, but passed on January 25, 2015, in Clovis.

Because of his remarkable service record, he was buried at Arlington National Cemetery, July 30, 2015. *In Memory Remembrance Day, July 20, 2026 Andrew and myself began our special day at 6:00 a.m. with breakfast at our hotel. Shortly after, we walked

to the Crystal Gateway Marriott Hotel, Arlington, Virginia to meet up with hundreds of other family members lined up for shuttle buses. These transported us to a gathering site close to the Vietnam Wall memorial. As each bus arrived we were greeted by ambassadors of InMemory program.

They directed us to a large white tent erected on a huge lawn area surrounded by hundreds of white folding chairs, where guests would be seated. At this tent, I picked up a packet which included David's framed photo and citation inducting him into In Memory roster forever. Also, included in the packet a lawn banner, lapel pin, and second copy of the certificate, a handbook with over 765 inductees for 2026.

After selecting our seats, in the third row, we were soon joined by other family members who flew in from South Carolina to honor their father: Son, Paul Leue, daughter, Emily Williams, and son-in-law, Spencer Williams. Since only two family members were allowed at the podium, due to the small space available, Paul and I were elected to make the announcement.

The other three members were seated nearby. By now, the program was into the second hour and still many inductees to be introduced, it was getting hot and very humid. I was feeling very uncomfortable, even though I wore a large hat and constantly spraying my heated face. Did I mention I brought a small hand held fan? I prayed to God I would hang on until it was our turn. As I was teetering, and overheating, Andrew came over and asked us to move from our seats. My wonderful grandson, also a registered



nurse, knew my discomfort and arranged to have me and Paul moved to another area with a faster line, bless him.

What was I feeling beside warm temperatures? Personally, I was feeling anxiety since I was once again experiencing grief even after Dave's death, eleven years ago. Here I was remembering this wonderful man and warrior who was my husband for 25 years! I knew we were close to Arlington National Cemetery and many old memories were creeping into my mind and heart. Grief can be controlled, but deep down it never leaves you.

All around us, people present were grieving and remembering their loved ones. Finally, after 2 ½ hours, Paul and I stepped up to the podium and microphone and announced: "In memory of my husband, David Ernest Leue, United States Navy." Paul holding Dave's picture and certificate said, "For Papa, five combat cruises." Then it was over. I am glad I participated, even though it was challenging. I will always

remember this short moment in time sharing my darling Dave with hundreds of people who understood. We were in solidarity due to the circumstance of losing a loved one, who suffered years after the Vietnam War. May God grant these families peace and comfort for honoring their loved ones.

Thanks to In Memory.com for providing this special program to all Vietnam Veterans families. (If you have a family member who qualifies for this program, contact WWW.VVMF.org to learn more.) * Captain David E. Leue, 32 years service, 1945 to 1977 > 329 combat missions > Chief of Staff, Light Attack Wing, Pacific, NAS Lemoore > Captain of USS Canisteo AO-99, 6506 replenishment ship > Chief of Staff Carrier Group 3 > Four Distinguished Flying Crosses; Bronze Star; Three Navy Commendations (2 stars); National Defense Service Medal, 2 stars; Korean Service Medal; Republic of Korea Citation; Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross; UN Service Medal; and Vietnam Campaign Medal



County
SPORTS



By: David Menendian



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QUALITY SERVICE FOR EVERY DRIVER IN CLOVIS



I remain steadfast in my opposition to Measure C

By Diane Pearce
Clovis Mayor Pro Tem

In last month’s issue of The Clovis Times, Clovis Mayor Vong Mouanoutoua pitched a 30-year, 7.3 billion-dollar, Measure C renewal effort.

I have been vocal and remain steadfast in my opposition to this measure.

When the original Measure C was passed in 1986, it was in response to a state government that was leaving Fresno County behind when it came to road dollars. It was a needed measure that created and extended Highways 168 & 180, widened Friant Road and Willow Avenue, and completed Veterans Boulevard, among many other projects. The original measure also offered the ability to leverage matching funds that vastly increased the number and scope of

projects while reducing the burden on our county’s taxpayers. But we are not living in a 1986 world anymore. In the past 40 years, reasonable voices have been squeezed out as weak politicians increasingly bow to social justice activists. While promising “better roads” and “safe streets,” this current renewal effort actually reads like a progressive wish list with road “diets” (decreased driving lanes) creating more congestion, 120 miles of new bike lanes destroying roadways and causing frustration for drivers, nearly one in every five dollars being paid by

residents of the entire county going to Fresno’s city buses, and more—all with the goal of getting you out of your car and on to a bus, bike, or scooter. It also does away with the requirement to utilize matching funds and relies solely on Fresno County taxpayers to fund it all.

The Fresno County Board of Supervisors refused to put this monstrosity on the ballot because it would hurt the County and its residents. Chairman of the Board Garry Bredefeld stated, “he [Vong] joined social justice warriors and environmental wackos on a THIRTY-YEAR transportation tax scam that will not fix roads as promised but attempt to force people to ride public transportation rather than use their cars.” Mohammad Alimi, a highly respected, 24-year veteran of the County’s Public Works and Planning Department,

described language in the measure as “absurd,” “makes no sense,” “not fair,” and made it clear “we strongly oppose.”

In his Clovis Times article Vong dismissed legitimate concerns such as these as “nothing more than rhetoric and noise.” Others making “noise” against this measure include Michael Der Manouel Jr. and Brooke Ashjian of the Lincoln Club, former County Supervisor Henry Perea, common sense mayors in Kingsburg, Reedley, Sanger, and Selma, among many others. When the standard renewal process failed and the Board of Supervisors declined to put this renewal before the voters, Vong and the social justice activists took to gathering signatures to get their measure on the November ballot.



Recently, the Fresno County Registrar of Voters announced their random sample of signatures for this measure has failed. The alternative for qualifying at this point is a full review of all signatures which will be a race against time to get done for the November ballot. Hopefully, this stumble has dealt a fatal blow to this ill-advised effort. We are better off taking a breather on this whole debate than locking ourselves into a bad deal for 30 years (10 years longer than the original Measure C and its 2006 renewal). Clovis voters rejected a 2022 renewal attempt by ten points, and this version is much worse.

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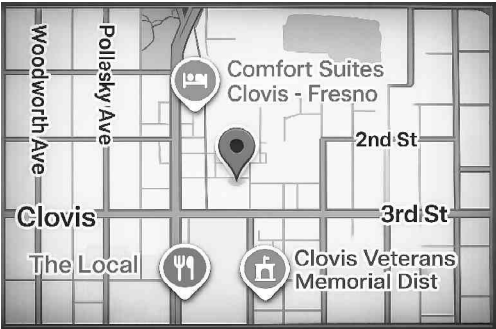
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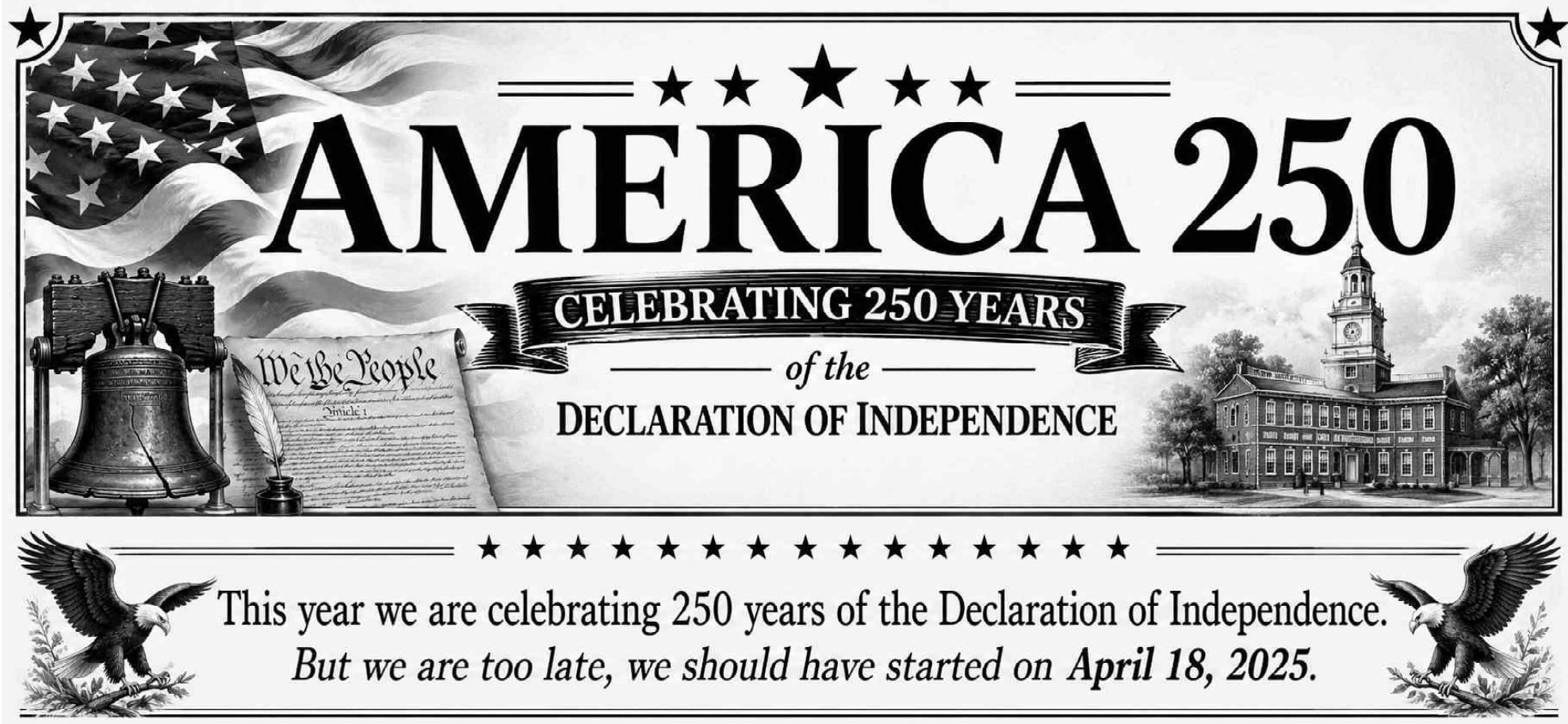


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WHAT IS A LETTER TO THE EDITOR?

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.



BY BILL SCOTT

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 “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 equal. That they are endowed with certain unalienable rights. That among these are, Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Most Americans, may not be able to quote those words, but are familiar with them. However most American’s don’t understand the ideas they were meant to convey to the rest of the world.

“We hold these truths to be self-evident”. At that time the entire world was run by kings. They could be called a king, a Pharaoh, a Shaw, a Khan, or any number of other titles. But, almost every bit of land on earth was claimed by one of these rulers, and everything on it belonged to them. Their “self-evident truth”, was The Divine Right of Kings. which basically said, if God didn’t want you to be king, he would have stopped you. Since you made it, God MUST want you to be king. Then to back that up, the highest-ranking religious official, would place the crown on the new king’s head. So, everyone would understand, God approves this man as your ruler, obey him. We told the world, we would be following a new paradigm, with a new self-evident truth.

“That all men are created equal”. That wasn’t meant as a racial statement. It referred to aristocrats and commoners. In the new self-evident truth, instead of being born as a commoner, and never having the chance of enjoying a better life. All men would be born equal with the ability to improve your

life any way you wanted. However John Adams remarked, You can’t say that, and support slavery. “

They are endowed, by their Creator, with certain unalienable rights. Basic rights come from God, not the government, and the government can NOT take them away. They become part of you, at your creation, before the government is even aware of you. Then, only through due process, can the government interfere with your rights.

“Among these are, Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness”. The word **Among** suggests there are more rights beyond the three listed. As the Constitution was being written, there was a loud call for a bill of rights. Some delegates insisted they would not approve a constitution that did not include a Bill of Rights. The argument against that was; the Constitution was written to limit what the government COULD do, ANYTHING not listed, was beyond its powers. If a bill of rights was included, that said what the government COULD NOT do, and something was found that was not on the list, then the government could say it DOESN’T say we can’t do that. The compromise was to approve the constitution as written, then when the first Congress is formed, they could use the amendment process to create a Bill of Rights.

The next line is rarely repeated; few people are even aware of it. I believe that is intentional. Those in control of our government, don’t want any limits on their ability to grab and wield power. “To secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed”. Our new self-evident truth is, our rights AND our duties are first to God. If we were to live by this truth, we would not need a powerful government to direct our lives. Your, and my rights are sacrosanct, the government is there to protect you from my interference in your rights, and



me from your interference. That’s all, it was not meant to interfere in our lives. James Madison described the essence of our constitution as, the rights of the people are many, the powers of the government are few.

The next misconception, is why we declared independence. Most people would say something about, taxation without representation. But let’s look at the reasons in the declaration itself. I’m including these reasons for separating from “the present King of Great Britain”, not expecting you to read them all (it would be great if you did), but so you can see the order of “injuries and usurpations”.

- 1 - He has refused his assent to laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.
- 2 - He has forbidden his Governors to pass laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.
- 3 - He has refused to pass other laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of representation in the legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.
- 4 - He has called together legislative bodies at places unusual, uncomfortable and distant from the depository of their public records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

- 5 - He has dissolved representative houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness his invasions on the rights of the people.
- 6 - He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected, whereby the legislative powers, incapable of annihilation, have returned to the people at large for their exercise; the state remaining in the meantime exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.
- 7 - He has endeavored to prevent the population of these states; for that purpose obstructing the laws for naturalization of foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new appropriations of lands.
- 8 - He has obstructed the administration of justice by refusing his assent to laws for establishing judiciary powers.
- 9 - He has made judges dependent on his will alone for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.
- 10 - He has erected a multitude of new offices, and sent hither swarms of officers to harass our people and eat out their substance.
- 11 - He has kept among us, in times of peace, standing armies without the consent of our legislatures.
- 12 - He has affected to render the military independent of and superior to the civil power.
- 13 - He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his assent to their acts of pretended legislation.
- 14 - For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us.
- 15 - For protecting them, by a mock trial from punishment for any murders which they commit on the inhabitants of these states.
- 16 - For cutting off our trade with all parts of the world.

- 17 - For imposing taxes on us without our consent.
- 18 - For depriving us in many cases, of the benefit of trial by jury.
- 19 - For transporting us beyond seas to be tried for pretended offenses.
- 20 - For abolishing the free system of English laws in a neighboring province, establishing therein an arbitrary government, and enlarging its boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these colonies.
- 21 - For taking away our charters, abolishing our most valuable laws and altering fundamentally the forms of our governments.
- 22 - For suspending our own legislatures and declaring themselves invested with power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.
- 23 - He has abdicated government here, by declaring us out of his protection and waging war against us.
- 24 - He has plundered our seas, ravaged our coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.
- 25 - He is at this time transporting large armies of foreign mercenaries to complete the works of death, desolation, and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy the head of a civilized nation.
- 26 - He has constrained our fellow citizens taken captive on the high seas to bear arms against their country, to become the executioners of their friends and brethren, or to fall themselves by their hands.
- 27 - He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian savages whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

- 28 - In every stage of these oppressions we have petitioned for redress in the most humble terms: our repeated petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.
- Notice that out of 28 listed grievances, “For imposing taxes on us without our consent”, is number 17.**
- Grievances, numbers 1 to 13, are examples of how King George took away the colonies ability to self-govern, and impose his powers.
- To show what the colonist actually thought was the reason to separate, I am including an exchange I found in the book “The AMERICAN REVOLUTION, First-Person Accounts by the Men Who shaped Our Nation, Collected and Edited by T.J. Stiles
- In 1842, Mellen Chamberlain, who would go on to become an important historian of the American Revolution, interviewed 91-year-old, Levi Preston. Preston had turned out with other Minute Men, on April 19, 1776, to harass the red coats sent to seize their munitions, at Concord.
- Preston was asked why he would do that, was it the oppression, the stamp act, the tea tax, or the writings about the principals of liberty. Preston responded; he wasn’t oppressed, never saw one of those stamps, didn’t drink tea, and the only thing he read, was the Bible.
- Chamberlain: “Well, then, what made you go to the fight?”
- Preston: “Young man, we always had governed ourselves, and we always meant to. They didn’t mean we should.”
- This declaration we have revered for a quarter of a millennium, is so unique in all of human history. It is not a national secret. Anyone who has led a people’s army to overthrow a King or a tyrant, could simply hold up our Declaration of Independence and our

Constitution and say, “let’s do this”, sadly, no one has. Why? Because they want to keep power for themselves. We are going down that road now. We have lost the ability to self-govern. Today we look to government to solve our problems.

Government has never accomplished that and never will, it can only make things worse. Taking property from one person, in order to give it to another, gives government power over both. To do that requires a bureaucracy that will take money from the treasury and give it to those in need. However, those in need will only receive a small portion of what came out of the treasury.

The bureaucracy will pay itself handsomely. It will sing its praises in order to grow bigger next year. And, of course a large portion of that money, will end up in the campaigns of those who champion the program, so they can amass more power. The rights of the people are many, the powers of the government are few, WAS the essence of the United States of America, it should be again.



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TED LAURENT:
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He approached the podium slowly this morning. With two hands he gripped the sides; he wasn't steadying himself, as he was young and strong. It was however different and out of the norm. The congregation noticed and stared back. He had not yet spoken a word, just maintained a steely glare out over the congregation.

As he began to speak, slowly at first, intentional, dramatic as if for effect; he had everyone's attention and he knew it. Now was the time. All eyes and ears forward. Not a pin drop could be heard between the pauses.

John Peter Gabriel Muhlenberg or just Peter to those who knew him best, was carrying out the family tradition. His brother Frederick was also a Lutheran pastor as they both followed their father, Henry Muhlenberg who went

on to become the founder father of Lutheranism in the United States.

Peter was ordained in 1771, assigned to lead the church in Woodstock Virginia. 1774 He began developing relationships with other patriots and the Sons of Liberty. He was there when Patrick Henry gave his infamous "give me liberty or give me death" speech. So, now here he is in 1776 drawing a deep breath as he prepared to exhort his people in the reading of

Ecclesiastes.

Slowly, deliberately, the Reverend walked through chapter 3, "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven" "At the end of verse 8, he read, "a time for war, and a time for peace," then dramatic pause, "and this is the time for war."

The good Reverend tore open his black clerical robe, revealing his Continental Army officer uniform. He called on the men to face the challenge

and to fight for the American cause. Reverend Muhlenberg would go on to recruit over 300 men that afternoon, most from his own congregation.

Later he would become a Brigadier General and trusted confidant of George Washington, but in the meantime, he would get a letter from his dear brother. "Peter, "he would say, "you have become too involved with matters as a preacher you have nothing whatsoever to do."

Where have we heard this before? Today, it would sound like, "you need to stay in your lane." Even back then, there were those who felt a pastor's role was to remain within the four walls. Peter wrote back to his brother though and accused him of being a "tory" sympathizer. "Tories" was the nickname given to those loyal to the Crown.

Two brothers in the Lord and brothers in nature, arguing amongst themselves. The problem with "arguments" is

that there cannot be two right people. Either one is right and the other wrong, or they're both wrong. At best there might be good points offered by each but without humility and discernment, how does one break through. How does one maintain the fellowship all the while arguing or debating a difficult issue. Perhaps that's why we have so many denominations today.

Frederick once again chastised his brother in that he felt he was trying to serve two masters and it wasn't going to work. Peter just kept following his convictions.

Are Pastors supposed to keep the Jesus stuff between the four walls? Is there truly a "separation of church and state," in that the church needs to stay out of politics or heaven forbid, take up arms and lead a militia?

For the complete article you can find it at: [Revival USA](http://RevivalUSA) Or ClovisTimes.com

AMERICA AT 250
A Nation Forged in Faith, Freedom and Sacrifice

BY: TED LAURENT

As we celebrate the 250th anniversary of pushing back against the King of England, we must be reminded of the very spirit that got us here. It was our founding fathers, who asserted their faith and principled lifestyle to carve out communities and ultimately a nation.

The very government they created was to be so completely unusual that it had never been tried before. A government that is actually serving the people. No more kings, emperors, high priests or war lords. A representative Republic based on a constitution was so unique to humanity, yet here we are, now 250 years from our official inception.

If there was one great lesson to learn, it would be that we must return to our first love. The love of freedom and the liberties it affords. The ability to worship without any hierarchical imposition, and perhaps more importantly, the ability to protect that God given right. What makes America special is that Bible believing Christians put their faith to work. They were as involved in church work and charity as they were in politics.

John Jay said it best, "Providence has given to our people the choice of their rulers, and it is the duty, as well as the privilege and interest of our Christian nation to select and prefer Christians for their rulers."

This is why the political arena is the public forum for the moral debate. There is no greater authority on any moral argument than the teachings and principles of the Lord Jesus Christ. As His hands and feet, we must reassert ourselves into the public discourse. Not because it is pleasant, but because it is the surest way to secure the posterity of our children and grandchildren, and we must not fail them.

John Jay says it best again; "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."

Let us truly celebrate our 250th anniversary by returning to the roots that established year 1. Know our history; teach it to the younger generations; get involved in political matters; humble ourselves before Almighty God; confessing our complacency and apathy. Trust God to heal our land.

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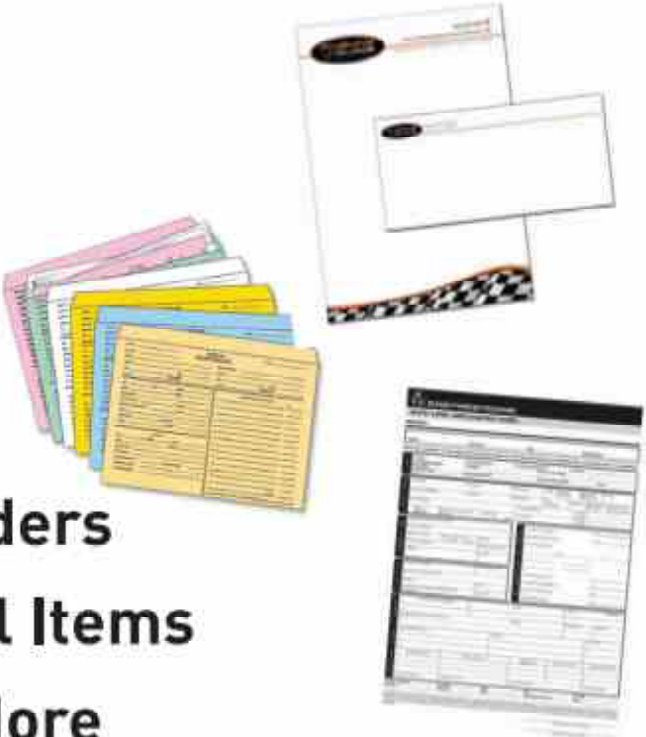
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