

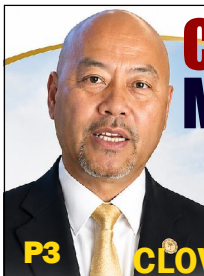
CITYBEAT
IMPROVING
OUR OLDER
NEIGHBORHOODS
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CLOVIS:
Councilmember
DREW BESSINGER



**VETERANS
MEMORIAL**
Lorenzo serves
the Veteran **P9**
community as a
proud US combat
service veteran.
LORENZO RIOS



**OLD
TOWN
CLOVIS**
Has a great
deal to offer
P8
HEATHER FRANTZICH



**CITY
MATTERS**
P3 **CLOVIS MAYOR**
VONG MOUANOUTOUA



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See Miss Clovis Rodeo
2026 **PAGE 11**



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

BEHIND
the
HEADLINES



**SEE
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**SPORTS
LORENZO NEAL**



**WREATHS
—across—
AMERICA**
P7 Support
Clovis
Veterans
Wreath
Laying
Ceremony
**By Stella
C. Leue'**

ENTERTAINMENT



**STEVEN
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FUN-FILLED WEEK-
END: Y2K FEST &
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IN MY OPINION:
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Overview**
**DIANE
PEARCE**
CLOVIS
MAYOR PRO
TEM **P6**

Beyond the Barracks Expands:



BRANDI ASACKER

A New Chapter of Healing for Veterans & Families

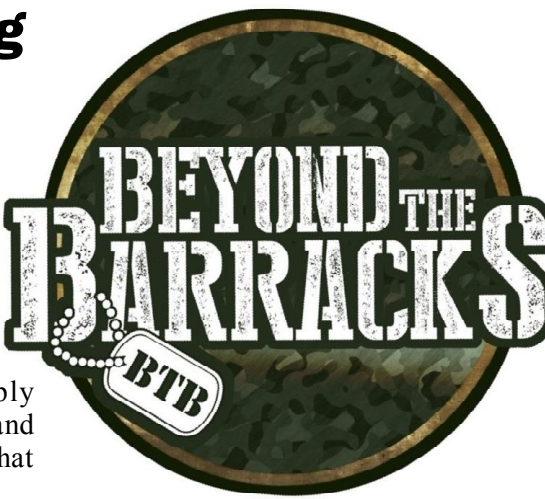
Beyond The Barracks is proud to announce the expansion of our Veteran Community Center with the opening of the Beyond The Barracks Veteran & Family Wellness Center, a space created to provide Veterans and their families with additional opportunities for healing, connection, support, and personal growth right here in the Central Valley.

What began as a vision to create a place where Veterans could walk through the doors and immediately feel understood has continued to grow into something greater than we could have imagined.

Our Veteran Community Center has become a place for connection, a place where Veterans can share coffee, attend peer support groups, participate in faith-based fellowship, join recreational activities, attend Post-Traumatic Growth programs, share meals, and simply spend time with people who understand military service and the transition that follows.

But we knew there was more we could do.

The opening of our new Veteran & Family Wellness Center allows Beyond The Barracks to expand beyond community connection and provide additional resources focused on the overall wellness of Veterans and their immediate families.



The new center will offer Veteran-led clinician-based therapy, along with restorative yoga, mindfulness and meditation, somatic movement, nervous-system-focused wellness opportunities, family support, and additional programming designed to address the many different ways Veterans and their families may need support. **SEE PAGE 4**

Obituaries: Clovis Mourns four of its dearest loved ones — we will miss them



Mary Rigsbee
1921 - 2026



Cora Shipley
1943-2026



John Somerville
1943-2026



Thelma Jean
"Jeanne" Staneart
19?? - 2026

SEE OBITUARIES ON PAGE 14



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CLOVIS
Times
COLUMNISTS



P6

John Weisenberger
THE COWBOY POET



A Tale of
Two Cities

This describes our current time of history with the dark becoming darker and the light becoming lighter.

FRED VANDERHOOF P16



FINDING
ANCESTORS

Finding Your Ancestors...
The power of the internet

GEORGIA WILD P6



American
History

Part 1 August
October issue

P16

BILL SCOTT

What is everyone talking about and looking for!

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Janette Louden

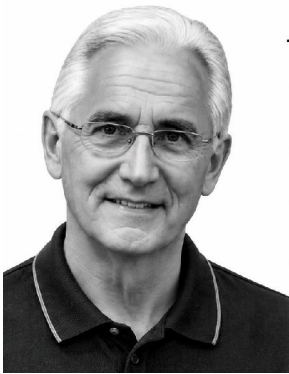
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Clovis Views



Terry Wild—Publisher

AN APPEAL TO OUR COMMUNITY: HELP US BUILD THE CLOVIS TIMES

The Clovis Times is now publishing our **fifth monthly print edition**, and we are encouraged by the response. Our digital edition is also developing well and producing good results. Our website still has a long way to go, but that is largely a matter of securing the financial resources necessary to build the entire project according to our original vision.

PEOPLE OFTEN ASK ME:

“Why would you start a newspaper today, when newspapers across America are struggling?”

My answer is pretty simple: After living in Clovis for the past seven years and having the privilege of working with so many wonderful, caring people, I became convinced that this community has something worth preserving. That is why we decided to do everything we can to support, strengthen and preserve what generations of Clovis residents have called the “CLOVIS WAY OF LIFE.”

That is how I feel about the Clovis Times.

We believe Clovis needs a strong, independent local newspaper devoted to the people, businesses, schools, churches, organizations, sports, history and events that make this community special. If we can produce a newspaper that people value—one that informs, connects and celebrates our community—we believe the community will help us sustain it.

HERE IS OUR GOAL

We want to grow the Clovis Times into a complete local information network:

- PRINT — Twice each month
- DIGITAL EDITION — Every week
- CLOVISTIMES.COM — Updated daily / Calendar of Events / More

But we cannot accomplish that vision without **community support**.

Every subscription helps us print another edition. Every advertiser helps us cover another story. Every local business that supports the newspaper helps us build a stronger community information resource.

So I am asking for your help.

If you like what we are doing, please support us.

SUBSCRIBE TO THE CLOVIS TIMES.

ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS WITH US.

ENCOURAGE YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS TO JOIN US.

Together, we can demonstrate that a truly local newspaper can still have an important place in a community like Clovis.

Help us preserve, promote and celebrate the CLOVIS WAY OF LIFE.

Terry Wild

Publisher, The Clovis Times



P18

TED LAURENT:
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FREEDOM REVIVAL
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THE CENTRAL
VALLEY HONOR
FLIGHT



PAUL LOEFFLER

Over 2,000 local veterans have been given a trip of a lifetime. Paul Loeffler is the contact for Central California Honor Flight, and he also has a weekly program on radio entitled Hometown Heroes. **NEXT FLIGHT OCTOBER 12-14**
www.hometownheroesradio.com/about



John Cline, for the past 4 1/2 years has moderated the Veterans Stories of Service class at Clovis Veterans Memorial District every Monday morning.

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TheCityBeat

Most of us do not think much about transportation until we need it.

VONG MOUANOUTOUA
MAYOR OF CLOVIS



THE
CLOVIS
Perspective

Thoughts. Updates. A Vision
for Our Community.

We get in a car, drive to work, take a child to school, head to an appointment, or run an errand. For thousands of people in our community, public transit fills that same everyday need.

In fiscal year 2024-25, our fixed-route system averaged 15,035 riders each month, or roughly 180,000 passenger trips over the year. That was more than double the average monthly ridership of 7,177 just three years earlier.

Students are an important part of that ridership. Our fixed routes connect riders to Clovis Unified schools, Clovis Community College, and Fresno State. For a student, that ride can mean getting to class, work, or an after-school activity without depending on someone else for every trip.

Transit serves other parts of our community just as directly. Older adults use the system to reach the Clovis Senior Activity Center and community programs. Round Up gives eligible riders with disabilities a way to reach medical appointments, work, and other essential destinations.

Our system also connects Clovis to the larger region. Riders can use Clovis Transit to reach regional transportation connections that extend access to jobs, healthcare, education, and other destinations throughout the Fresno-Clovis area and beyond.

Transit is also part of some of our favorite Clovis traditions. Each year, one of our best-known passengers, Santa Claus, rides the Clovis trolley as part of the community tree lighting and Christmas parade. In November 2025, the City completed a major redesign of its fixed-route network. Today, eight routes connect neighbor-



hoods with schools, public facilities, medical services, higher education, employment areas, and regional transportation connections.

Clovis Transit is operated by City of Clovis employees. Our trainers, drivers, dispatchers, vehicle washers, and small administrative team serve riders directly. We expect the same level of safety, professionalism, responsiveness, and quality service from transit that residents expect from every City service.

Operating fixed-route and paratransit service costs approximately \$12.7 million each year. Funding comes from a combination of federal, state, and local transportation revenues. Measure C provides approximately \$2.2 million annually toward those operations.

Those local dollars support the everyday cost of providing transit, including fuel, vehicle maintenance, fleet expenses, technology, and paratransit service. They also provide an important source of local funding that can help match eligible federal transportation grants and bring additional transportation dollars back to Clovis.

As Clovis continues to grow, so will the need to connect people to schools, jobs, healthcare, public services, and the larger region. Our responsibility is to use these resources carefully and keep the system safe, reliable, accessible, and responsive to the community.

More than 300,000 trips a year are not just a statistic. They are students getting to school, residents getting to work and medical care, older adults staying connected, and people taking part in the Clovis Way of Life.

And every so often, one of those passengers just happens to be Santa.



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Beyond the Barracks Expands: A New Chapter of Healing for Veterans & Families



BRANDI ASACKER

One of the most important parts of this expansion is the inclusion of the family.

Military service does not affect only the person who wears the uniform. Spouses, partners and children often walk alongside their Veteran through deployments, transition, loss, trauma and the challenges of building life after service. We wanted to create a space where they, too, know they are welcome and supported.

MADE POSSIBLE BY VETERANS WHO CONTINUE TO SERVE

This expansion would not have been possible without the extraordinary generosity of the Carl & Lulu Mitchell Foundation.

Their connection to this mission is especially meaningful

because both Carl and Lulu understand military service personally.

Carl Mitchell is a Vietnam Veteran who served in both the United States Navy and the United States Marine Corps, and Lulu Mitchell is a United States Army Veteran.

Their generosity helped Beyond The Barracks build far more than additional space. It helped us create another place where Veterans and their families can find community, connection, support and healing.

There is something incredibly powerful about Veterans continuing to take care of Veterans.

Carl and Lulu’s belief in our mission gave us the opportunity to take a vision we had carried for a long time and turn it into something tangible for our community. Every Veteran and family member who walks through these doors will be impacted by the generosity and heart behind their gift.

BUILT IN THE CENTRAL VALLEY, FOR THE CENTRAL VALLEY

We are incredibly grateful for the growth Beyond The Barracks has experienced and for the Central Valley community that has stood beside us.

Every step forward has reinforced what we believed from



the beginning: there is no single way to support a Veteran.

Sometimes support looks like sitting across from another Veteran over a cup of coffee. Sometimes it is a peer support group. Sometimes it is therapy. Sometimes it is learning how to quiet the nervous system, reconnect with your family, rediscover purpose, get outside, laugh again or simply find a place where you belong.

Our goal is to continue creating those opportunities.

This expansion represents the next chapter for Beyond The Barracks, but it is certainly not the last.

We cannot wait to continue growing, building partnerships and finding new ways to take

care of the Veterans and families who have given so much to our country and who deserve to know that their community is still here for them.

Above everything, we feel incredibly blessed by God for creating this opportunity and for placing the right people in our path at the right time.

From the Veterans who first trusted us enough to walk through our doors, to our volunteers, community partners, donors and supporters, to Carl and Lulu Mitchell believing in what this organization could become, we know we did not build this alone.

We are grateful for where we started.

We are humbled by how much we have grown.

And we are incredibly excited for what comes next.

Beyond The Barracks Veteran & Family Wellness Center is more than an expansion of our building. It is an expansion of our promise to the Veteran community: however you need us, we are going to keep finding ways to be there.

Healing minds. Strengthening families. Building community.

Beyond The Barracks
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www.BeyondTheBarracks.org

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STRONGER COMMUNITY

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7:00 AM – 10:00 AM

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



CLOVIS Councilmember Drew Bessinger
drewb@clovisca.gov

When I moved to Clovis in 1984, my young sons and I lived in an apartment near Letterman Park. Two years later, thanks to my GI Bill, I bought our first home near Gettysburg and Sunnyside. It was small, but it fit our needs. In 1997, I bought a new home and kept the first one as a rental until selling it in 2004. Today I live near Clovis and Alluvial, where I enjoy a great yard, easy access to our trail system, and two beautiful city parks right behind me.

IMPROVING OUR OLDER NEIGHBORHOODS

My wife’s parents moved to Clovis in 1961 and bought a home near Helm and Shaw, where my mother-in-law still lives. Back then, the neighborhood was filled with long-term homeowners who knew each other well. My wife, Yvonne, grew up with the freedom to roam the neighborhood with friends. Parks were uncommon in those days—your backyard was your playground.

Over the years, neighbors moved or passed away, and rentals gradually replaced owner-occupied homes. The foreclosure crisis hit older neighborhoods especially hard. Some owners simply walked away from homes that had lost significant value, leaving behind neglected properties and dying landscaping.

There’s a concept known as the “Broken Windows Theory”: visible neglect—such as a broken window, graffiti, dead landscaping, or abandoned

furniture—signals that no one cares. That invites more problems. If someone needs to dump old furniture, they pick that spot. If someone doesn’t want their fast-food bag in the car, they toss it out the window. Blight attracts more blight, and over time it spreads until people forget the neighborhood ever looked nice.

Clovis has worked hard to stop blight early. Through code enforcement and community cleanups, we’ve been able to protect neighborhoods by addressing problems quickly. We actively try to fill vacant commercial spaces with responsible businesses. We’ve declined alcohol permits when an area already has nearby off-premises ABC licensees, and we apply similar standards to tobacco uses and 24-hour businesses.

We also put Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) to work by improving at-risk areas—repairing alley-

ways, helping seniors fix up their homes, and making sure struggling neighborhoods don’t fall behind. And to help residents report issues like junk, graffiti, and blight, we created the Go Clovis App. You simply take a picture, the app geolocates it, and city staff are assigned to address the problem. You’ll receive follow-up emails as the issue is resolved.

We recently launched a new effort with the Fresno Irrigation District: developing trails along irrigation canals in southwest Clovis. This part of our city lacks the park space found in newer planned neighborhoods. We built our first canal trail at Peach and Ashlan, and just held the ribbon cutting for the Letterman Trail—right behind Letterman Park and not far from my first Clovis home. This trail connects several neighborhoods and multi-family complexes, giving kids, families, and

especially seniors an easier way to reach the park and dog park. Seniors living in apartments or nearby trailer parks now have a safer, more pleasant place to walk, exercise, and enjoy fresh air.

Looking ahead, we plan to continue building canal trails throughout southwest Clovis. Our long-term goal is to strengthen these neighborhoods, so they become places where families want to put down roots and buy their first home. As a city, we are only as strong as our most struggling neighborhood. These improvements may be small steps, but that’s how momentum starts—once it builds, progress accelerates.



FUN-FILLED WEEKEND: Y2K FEST & SADDLE UP N’ SI

By Steven Sanchez

Madera, Calif. – It was an action-packed day on Saturday, August 29th in Madera. Two events with different themes: one celebrated the millennial spirit while the other was all about partying the country way. They shared a common ground other than being in the same 8-mile radius of each other...they both provided the Central Valley with good times.

Starting with the first ever Y2k Fest at ApCal Rock N’ Ranch. It was hosted by promoter Art Silva and his promotion company The Artourage. The popular venue is known for bringing tribute bands throughout the summer...this time it brought out the kid in all of us adults that grew up in a time of video rentals and CD playlists.

The event brought a solid turnout for those that wanted to relive nostalgic memories of the late 90s and early 2000s. There were different stages setup throughout the outdoor venue so there was no shortage of variety from the twenty artists that performed. On the main stage the headliners consisted of the bands Dave’s Not Here (a tribute to the Foo Fighters) and blink 180True (a tribute to Blink

182). On-Air personality, **Hammer, from New Rock 104.1** was introducing the bands and entertaining the crowd between each set. Some of the highlights included the free ice cream provided by Lee’s Air ice cream truck that was a big with attendees. There was a video game section where you could play childhood classics, one of them being the popular title Guitar Hero, that brought smiles to those that participated.

It was the “American Pie” edition and the guests of honor were two cast members of the raunchy teen comedy that defined a generation. There was Thomas Ian Nicholas (“Rookie of the Year” and “Halloween: Resurrection”) who portrayed Kevin and Tara Reid (“The Big Lebowski” and

“Van Wilder”) who portrayed Vicky in the film. They were captivated by the event’s theme and the passion the attendees showed to relive an era that remains close to their hearts. “I think it’s great. Nostalgia is something that makes us feel warm and fuzzy. I’m all here for it,” said Nicholas.

They got involved in the party. Nicholas judged the air guitar competition and later he and

Tara judged the best dressed competition from those that looked the most millennial. Later they would take photos and meet with the fans.

Nicholas also performed with his band, the Thomas Nicholas Band with his son and also played an emo DJ set.

Getting adults together to reminisce of a time that remains endearing to them and some brought their kids to share that feeling with them is what defined the event.

Reid encapsulated what made that time special, “I think at that time we were all just happy. We just went out, we lived our best lives, we loved music, we loved to dress, we were just fun. I don’t think we’re ever going to get that freedom back. Those were the best days of my life.”

And just a few miles away...another party was taking place, Saddle Up N’ Sip. While the other event was a celebration of the past, this one was all about celebrating the now and doing it the American way. Trading in the denim and cargo pants for a pair of boots and a cowboy hat to enjoy the night.

The annual summer party, originally titled Boots N’ Booze, has been going on the last



few years. Evanelle Vineyards, a venue that specializes in weddings and outdoor movie nights, turns into a honky tonk bash twice during the season. This was the last one of the summer and it went out with a bang.

There was plenty of boot scootin boogie’n going on outdoors and indoors. DJ Garrett Gaynor was playing the hits on the main stage outside ranging from country to rock to hip hop. GTE Event Group was keeping the party alive inside. Corey Dain and Joe Peters brought the house down with their performances.

Everybody took turns riding the mechanical bull, it’s always favorite. There was a variety of food trucks and some vendors were selling western attire for those that wanted to get their cowboy on.

The main highlight of all the events is when the ladies and the fellas take the main stage and dance the night way. Whether if it’s between sets or at the end of the night, the people love getting on the stage under the lights to keep the party going. Each year the events gets bigger and bigger and there’s a lot to look forward to next year.



OPINION



By: Diane Pearce, Clovis Mayor Pro Tem

As the calendar turns to October, that means ballots for the midterm election on November 3 will start hitting mailboxes any day. So, what will we see on that ballot and how do we decipher the truth to know how to vote on the 14 statewide ballot measures? Reading the measures for ourselves is always a great place to start. But many of these measures are complex and some require in depth understanding of issues to grasp the real implications of your vote. On top of that, we know the titles can be rewritten to manipulate voters' ability to recognize which side they are truly on. Let's take a look at some of the most important measures you will see on your ballot for November.

Prop 39 is a Constitutional Amendment Initiative that will implement common sense,

bipartisan voter ID protections for our state elections. Many of us worked hard to gather the signatures required to get this measure on the ballot. We see polls across the country show overwhelming support for the enhanced levels of trust voter ID provides in our elections and their outcomes. Specifically, here in California we know there is bipartisan support for proof of US citizenship for voting with nearly 70% of this deep-blue state's Democrats supporting it! Our sacred right to vote deserves the utmost in safeguards and Californians deserve a system that inspires full confidence.

While some want to dismiss voter fraud as rare or inconsequential in California, we have seen more and more evidence that it is indeed happening. Besides, once we know a dog was successfully registered to vote here and cast multiple ballots - and still received a ballot in the mail after passing away - no valid argument remains that our system is not in desperate need of a security upgrade!

And there are really only two options as to the state of our elections in California...either there really is fraud happening at unacceptable levels - I personally argue any fraud at all in something as fundamental to the integrity of our Constitutional Republic is unacceptable - in which case Prop 39 will fix a severe problem...OR...fraud is not happening at unacceptable levels, in which case Prop 39 will simply serve to

strengthen our trust in our elections and their outcomes. Neither of those options is worthy of opposition.

Security...integrity...confidence...we get all of that with Prop 39 to fortify trust in our election process. It truly is a win-win and I hope you will all join me in voting YES on Prop 39.

There are quite a few measures on our ballot that will raise taxes. Prop 3 takes a "temporary" increase in our state income tax from 2012 and makes it permanent. Prop 40 is getting the lion's share of the attention. Mostly known as the "billionaire's tax" or the "wealth tax," the devil is in the details as explained by Reform California's "Plain English" Voter Guide, "Prop 40 contains a provision allowing state politicians to expand the Wealth Tax to everyone without another vote of the public. Prop 40 allows government to tax the value of your savings, checking account, 401k, stock portfolio, and current equity in your home." Just the threat of this proposition caused billions of dollars of tax revenue to flee California as companies and their vilified billionaire owners moved to friendlier states.

While voting Prop 40 down is critical, there are a couple additional ways we can defeat the "wealth tax" concept on November's ballot. Props 41 and 42 both have provisions that negate or nullify Prop 40. Prop 41 institutes audits on special taxes to en-

sure our tax dollars are being spent as intended and the programs receiving funds are not falling prey to waste or fraud and eliminates the ability of politicians to divert funds to other projects. If both Prop 40 and Prop 41 pass, if Prop 41 gets more votes, it cancels Prop 40 out entirely. That is also the case with Prop 42 which simply prohibits politicians from instituting a "wealth tax" or a "savings tax" as Reform California Chairman Carl DeMaio likes to refer to it. The bottom line is politicians already tax your income, what you spend (sales tax), your property, even the gasoline you buy, and more. This is their attempt to come after and tax your unrealized gains or wealth you are building but do not actually have as cash in the bank. Good examples are the equity in your home and investment accounts.

Protect all Californians by voting NO on Prop 40 and YES on Props 41 and 42.

Prop 43 restores the two-thirds threshold for passing local taxes. This is important as we saw in 2018 with Measure P in the City of Fresno. As a special tax it required two-thirds approval to pass. After failing to meet that mark, the proponents sued arguing that since it was a citizens' initiative - meaning it was on the ballot because citizens gathered signatures to support it - it should just be a simple majority threshold. Unfortunately, they were successful, but Prop 43 closes that loophole. Vote YES on Prop 43.

We have seen that play out locally with Measure S now as well with its proponents fearing the passage of Prop 43 driving them to get the liberals in the state legislature and Governor Newsom to force it on this November's ballot. Measure S is full of promises to fix our roads, but it is so restrictive in how local jurisdictions can go about it that it prevents itself from any ability to meaningfully deliver on that promise. What it will deliver is more traffic and more congestion on our roads as its true intent is to force people out of their cars and onto bikes or buses. This is exposed in how Measure S doesn't allow for additional lanes to be added for cars, only bike lanes or dedicated bus lanes. Measure S is a progressive wishlist of failed policies. Don't doom Fresno County to a thirty-year scam...vote NO on Measure S!

For more information on the other propositions and measures on your ballot, check with trusted individuals or organizations whose positions you trust. I recommend Reform California and their "Plain English" Voter Guide to get straightforward information on each proposition and avoid being fooled by manipulated, biased ballot titles and deceptive campaigns. Voting may be a right as an American citizen, but being an informed voter is a choice. Choose wisely and help save California!

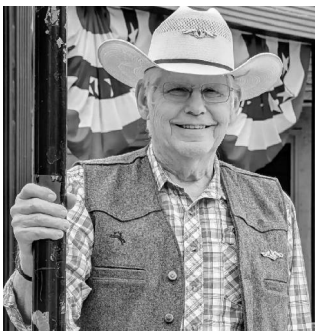
THE COWBOY POET

Beacon of Light

10/3/2026 Clovis, CA JLW [790T]

by John Weisenberger

TheCowboyPoet.com; "along for the ride"
[website now up - do visit our campfire]



John Weisenberger

Hot fresh coffee with the dawn
outside my window
in the newness of this Blessed day
my pen is spreading words all across this page
as I watch and wonder
what words and ideas are coming
as the sun rises yet again
all across this land that I love
"Stand beside her, and guide her,
through the night with a light from above"
wandered into my mind
and out through my magic pen
reminding me again
of our God Given Rights
of "Life and Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness"
with those six words
that no other nation on this earth has
we have become the light of Freedom
in all the world
that Divine and magical
Beacon of Light
has become that Lighted City
"on the Hill of American Exceptionalism"
for all the world to see

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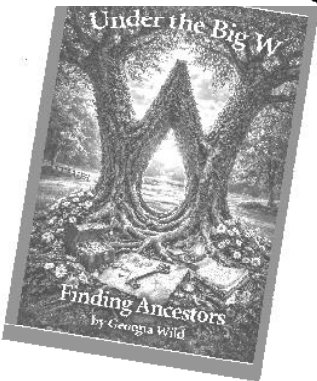
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BY: GEORGIA WILD
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REMEMBER—HONOR—TEACH

I love telling the stories of the great people and organizations in Clovis, like Wreaths Across America, and others who support “The Clovis Way of Life.” If you would like me to tell your story, contact me at the email below.



By Stella C. Leue’
Stella@ClovisTimes.com.

WREATHS —across— AMERICA

Is a non-profit organization dedicated to honoring and showing appreciation to our deceased Veterans for their service and personal sacrifices. How is this accomplished? By local volunteers giving their time, talent and treasure and sponsoring a special Remembrance wreath; placing it on a veterans’ headstone and saying his/her name. A commemorative ceremony is held around Christmas time since many families will have an empty chair at their holiday table. A loved one may be deployed, or made the ultimate sacrifice in protecting our nation. The Clovis community will have a unique opportunity to participate in laying a wreath on **Saturday, December 19, 2026** after a special military ceremony at 8:30 a.m. at Clovis Cemetery, 305 North Villa Avenue, Clovis.

Our local cemetery, has **4,000** veterans interred dating back to the Civil War. Abraham James Weldon (1839-1918) served in Company 1 of Clark’s Infantry, Missouri, Confederate Army and Selby’s Cavalry; also, several World War I veterans are located here. Included in receiving wreaths are Hmong Veterans who honorably served in the Vietnam War.

Currently, **Linda Branum**, is the local coordinator for Wreaths Across America—Clovis. She and her co-assistant, **Julie Lundholm** have organized this event for the past 14 years. Previous coordinators, Dan Tristan and his wife, Cheryl, U.S. Marines, Ret. entrusted this important program to Linda upon the family’s move in 2013. Linda’s husband, Lt. Col. Larry Branum, U.S. Army, Ret. supports his wife’s tireless efforts to honor local heroes. Linda and Julie, are dedicated women devoted to the goal: “Placing a wreath on *each* veteran’s grave site.” They are supported by the Clovis Cemetery Group (CA0060) and other local organizations and friends.

The core mission of WAA is to remember the fallen, honor those who serve and teach the next generation the value of Freedom.

These wreaths are made and provided to U.S. cemeteries from the Worcester Wreath Company located in Columbia Falls, Maine, a for profit company. Morrill Worcester started the tradition on 1992. He and his wife, Karen established Wreaths Across America as a non-profit organization 2007. Morrill had a surplus of wreaths (1991) and contacted Arlington National

Cemetery. His employees drove his trucks to D.C and distributed the extra wreaths on tombs.

Why do I support this organization? My husband, Captain David Leue’, is buried at Arlington N. C. He was laid to rest on July 30, 2015, and has received a wreath for the past 11 years. Someone, somewhere has sponsored his wreath. I am extremely appreciative of this gift and it is my turn to pay it back, not once, but eight times at Clovis Cemetery.

Right now, the drive for wreaths for **ALL** veterans is considerably short of its goal. To date, only **600** sponsored wreaths (2026) have been registered for the Clovis Cemetery. This is way behind the 4,000 wreaths needed for all local grave sites. Recently, Linda said she considers “it a failure, physically and emotionally not reaching the goal.” It is up to the Clovis Community to step up and continue this tradition. Unless a imminent change happens, *our veteran-heroes will not be honored this year!* How can you make a difference?

Donations can be made online at **www.wreathsacrossamerica.org**, **ID CACCCV**, group ID **CA0060**, *otherwise the donation will not be credited to Clovis Cemetery Group.* Or by check payable to:

“Wreaths Across America”,
mailed to: **WAA Clovis, PO Box 2302, Clovis CA 93613**

Each wreath costs \$17 and every dollar raised goes directly toward wreaths for local veterans’ grave sites.

Please join other community members in remembering, honoring and teaching. Together we can ensure every veteran receives the dignity and gratitude they deserve.



LINDA BRANUM

The following organizations have supported WAA: Clovis Veterans Memorial District; American Legion VFW 3225 & Auxiliary; Clovis Truck Center; Lyons Trucking; 144th Fighter Wing; Wawona Foods; Fresno State Ag Students, Dr. Gayle O’Bannon; Clovis East ROTC Air Force; Clovis Cemetery District; Clovis Cemetery Group; Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association (33-5); Clovis High School Choir; Buchanan High School and many more sponsors.

REMEMBERHONORTEACH

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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.

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

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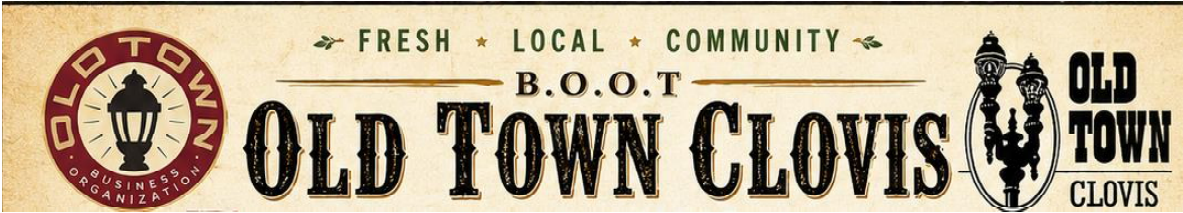
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BusinessMatters



BY: HEATHER FRANTZICH

But before we look ahead to all the excitement, we want to take a moment to remember someone who helped make Old Town Clovis the special place it is today.

Remembering an Old Town Clovis Icon – Cora Shipley

It is with incredibly heavy hearts that we share the passing of our beloved Cora Shipley, owner of Scoops and Soups and a true icon of Old Town Clovis.

For those who had the privilege of knowing Cora, you know she was so much more than a business owner. She was a friend, mentor, advocate, and one of the strongest supporters our community could ever ask for. Her dedication to Old Town Clovis was unwavering, and her passion for seeing our businesses and community thrive was evident in everything she did.

Cora had a personality that could fill a room, a heart that cared deeply for others, and a determination that helped shape Old Town Clovis into what it is today. Whether she was supporting an event, encouraging a fellow business owner, volunteering her time, or simply sharing her wisdom, Cora always showed up for her community.

Her impact goes far beyond the walls of Scoops and Soups. She helped build relationships, create traditions, and remind us all of the importance of supporting one another. She believed in Old Town Clovis, its people, and its future.

While her passing leaves an enormous void in our hearts and throughout our community, her legacy will continue through the friendships she built, the lives she touched, and the traditions she helped create.

Old Town Clovis will never quite be the same without Cora, but we will continue to honor her by doing what she loved most — bringing our community together.

As the temperatures begin to cool and the fall season settles into Old Town Clovis, our historic downtown is preparing for some of the most anticipated events of the year. From festive celebrations and community traditions to classic cars and the magic of the holiday season, there is so much to look forward to in the heart of our community.

Walktoberfest Returns Saturday, October 17!

Get ready to raise a glass and enjoy an unforgettable evening in the heart of Old Town Clovis!

Our annual Walktoberfest returns on Saturday, October 17, from 5:00 to 8:30 p.m., bringing together an incredible selection of breweries, wineries, local businesses, and community members for one of our favorite fall traditions.

This year’s event will feature 25 tasting stops throughout Old Town Clovis, offering guests the opportunity to sample a variety of beers and wines while exploring our charming downtown.

Walktoberfest is about much more than tastings. It’s an opportunity to gather with friends, discover new favorites, visit local businesses, and experience the welcoming atmosphere that makes Old Town Clovis such a wonderful destination.

Our merchants look forward to opening their doors and welcoming visitors for an evening filled with great conversations, laughter, and community spirit.

Whether you’re a longtime Walktoberfest attendee or joining us for the first time, we encourage you to make a night of it. Enjoy dinner at one of our local restaurants, explore our unique shops, and experience everything Old Town Clovis has to offer.

Tickets are on sale now at OldTownClovis.org (<https://oldtownclovis.org>)⁶. Don’t miss your chance to be part of this popular fall event!

Family Fun Takes Center Stage October 23 — Trunk or Treat and Old Town Harvest Festival

October wouldn’t be complete without a little Halloween fun, and Old Town Clovis is ready to celebrate!

On Friday, October 23, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., B.O.O.T. is excited to partner with Cross City Church for our Trunk or Treat celebration, alongside our Old Town Harvest Festival.

This special evening brings together families, businesses, and community members for a

festive fall celebration in the heart of Old Town Clovis.

Trunk or Treat offers a fun opportunity for children to dress up in their favorite costumes, enjoy Halloween festivities, and make wonderful memories with their families.

Along with Trunk or Treat, our Old Town Harvest Festival will add to the seasonal atmosphere, celebrating everything we love about fall and our downtown community.

One of the greatest things about Old Town Clovis is seeing generations of families come together at our events. From little ones experiencing their first Halloween celebrations to parents and grandparents enjoying the festivities, these are the moments that make our community so special.

We are grateful for our partnership with Cross City Church and for the continued support of our local businesses and volunteers who help make these community celebrations possible.

Bring the family, invite your friends, and join us for an evening of fall fun!

Classic Cars, Community Pride, and Big Awards – October 25!

Just two days later, the streets of Old Town Clovis will come alive with the sights and sounds of classic cars, custom builds, and automotive excellence!

Our annual Old Town Harvest Car Show returns on Sunday, October 25, from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., in the heart of Old Town Clovis.

This event has become a favorite tradition for car enthusiasts, families, and visitors alike. Each year, we welcome an impressive collection of vehicles, from beautifully restored classics and vintage favorites to custom creations that showcase countless hours of hard work and dedication.

The car show is more than an opportunity to admire incredible vehicles. It’s a celebration of craftsmanship, creativity, and the passion that brings the automotive community together.

This year’s show will feature numerous awards recognizing outstanding vehicles in a variety of categories.

One of the biggest highlights will be our Best Build Award, sponsored by Sanger Chevrolet GMC, featuring an incredible \$1,000 prize and a custom belt buckle for the winning build!

We are excited to recognize the talent, dedication, and creativity of the individuals who put so much pride into their vehicles.

Registration is open, and we encourage participants to take advantage of our early bird pricing.

Early bird registration: \$25

Day-of-event registration: \$30

Event hours: 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

We invite everyone to spend the day strolling through Old Town Clovis, admiring the vehicles, shopping with our local merchants, and enjoying a meal at one of our wonderful restaurants.

A special thank-you goes to Sanger Chevrolet GMC and all of our event sponsors for their generous support. Their involvement helps us continue to bring quality events to our community year after year.

The Magic of the Holidays Begins November 19 – One Enchanted Evening

As we wrap up an exciting October, our attention turns to one of the most magical times of the year in Old Town Clovis — the holiday season!

Mark your calendars for Thursday, November 19, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m., as we welcome the return of our annual One Enchanted Evening.

There is something truly special about Old Town Clovis during the holidays. The charming storefronts, festive decorations, warm lights, and excitement of the season create an atmosphere that feels like something straight out of a Christmas movie.

One Enchanted Evening is our opportunity to officially kick off the holiday season and invite the community to experience the magic of shopping, dining, and celebrating in Old Town Clovis.

One of the most beloved traditions of the evening is our horse-drawn carriage rides, offering families, couples, and friends a nostalgic way to enjoy the beauty and charm of our historic downtown.

It’s an evening that reminds us why shopping local is so important. Behind every storefront is a hardworking business owner, a family, and a dream. When you choose to shop in Old Town Clovis, you’re doing more than making a purchase — you’re supporting the people who help keep our community thriving.

We encourage everyone to start their holiday shopping early, explore the wonderful selection of locally owned businesses, and enjoy an evening filled with holiday cheer.

Whether it’s an annual family tradition or your first visit, One Enchanted Evening is the perfect way to welcome the most wonderful time of the year.

A Community That Continues to Come Together

As we reflect on the loss of Cora Shipley while preparing for the many celebrations ahead, we are reminded of something incredibly important: Old Town Clovis is more than a destination. It’s a community built on relationships, traditions, and people who genuinely care about one another.

Our events don’t happen overnight. Behind every festival, car show, tasting event, and holiday celebration are countless hours of planning, dedicated volunteers, supportive sponsors, hardworking business owners, and a community that continues to show up.

At B.O.O.T., we are incredibly proud to play a role in keeping these traditions alive while continuing to create new opportunities for our businesses and visitors.

We want to extend our sincere appreciation to the City of Clovis, our sponsors, local merchants, volunteers, and everyone who supports Old Town Clovis throughout the year.

As we head into this busy and exciting season, we encourage you to come downtown, bring your family and friends, shop local, dine local, and be part of the traditions that make our community unique.

And perhaps most importantly, take a moment to appreciate the people who make a difference. Cora reminded us that a community’s greatest strength isn’t found in its buildings or businesses alone, but in the people who give their hearts to making it better.

We have an exciting season ahead, and we look forward to celebrating it with all of you.

For event information, tickets, registration, and updates, visit www.OldTownClovis.org (<https://oldtownclovis.org>)⁶.

From all of us at the Business Organization of Old Town Clovis (B.O.O.T.), thank you for continuing to support the heart of our community. We’ll see you in Old Town!

CONTACT US
www.OldTownClovis.org

Connect With Us: www.OldTownClovis.org

The Clovis Veterans Memorial District (CVMD)

Invites the community to join in a series of events leading up to Veterans Day, culminating in a full day of patriotic activities on Wednesday, November 11, 2026.

The Clovis Veterans Memorial District (CVMD) invites the community to join in a series of events leading up to Veterans Day, culminating in a full day of patriotic activities on Wednesday, November 11, 2026.



LORENZO RIOS: CEO

As the District celebrates its 80th anniversary, this year's activities reflect its enduring commitment to honoring those who served, educating future generations, and inspiring a continued legacy of service. From helping Veterans pursue careers in law and entrepreneurship to celebrating their sacrifices through music, history, and community fellowship, the District is bringing together organizations and residents to recognize the men and women who have defended our freedoms.

"Veterans Day reminds us that the freedoms we enjoy were secured through the courage and sacrifice of generations of Americans," said Lorenzo Rios, Chief Executive Officer of the Clovis Veterans Memorial District. "Our responsibility is not only to remember their service but to ensure Veterans and their families have opportunities to thrive. Through education, entrepreneurship, and

community engagement, we continue to honor their legacy and invest in their future."

Leading Up to Veterans Day: Creating Opportunities for Those Who Served

Veterans to Law Forum | November 4, 2026 6PM

In collaboration with the **San Joaquin College of Law**, the District will host the Veterans to Law Forum, connecting Veterans and military-connected individuals with opportunities to explore careers in the legal profession.

The forum will bring together legal professionals, educators, and resources to help participants better understand the pathway to law school and careers in law. Recognizing the leadership, discipline, and commitment to service Veterans bring to the profession, this event encourages those who have served our nation to continue making a difference in their communities.

For additional information, visit <https://www.sjcl.edu/admissions/veteran-s-to-law-school-panel>.

Vet Biz Rally Point Summit: Start Up, Scale Up, and Succeed | Thursday, November 5, 2026, at 4:00 PM

The District, in collaboration with the **U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA)**, **Veterans Business Outreach Center (VBOC)**, **Central Valley SCORE**, **Women's**

Entrepreneurship Center, **California Office of the Small Business Advocate (CalOSBA)**, and other community partners, will host the Vet Biz Rally Point Summit.

Designed for aspiring entrepreneurs and established business owners, the summit will connect Veterans and their families with the resources, guidance, and relationships needed to launch, expand, and sustain successful businesses.

Whether developing a business idea, scaling an existing enterprise, or planning for long-term success, participants will have opportunities to connect with organizations dedicated to supporting Veteran entrepreneurship.

For additional information, visit <https://cvmddistrict.ca.gov/vetbizrally>.

Veterans Day Celebration | Wednesday, November 11, 2026

The week of activities culminates with the District's annual Veterans Day Celebration, bringing Veterans, military families, and community members together for a day of remembrance, gratitude, and patriotic traditions.

The celebration will feature activities throughout the District campus, offering opportunities for all generations to connect with Veterans, learn their stories, and recognize the sacrifices made in defense of our nation.

VETERANS DAY SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

- **7:00 AM – 11:00 AM | VFW Post 3225 Pancake Breakfast:** Begin the day with breakfast and fellowship alongside Veterans, families, and community members.
- **9:00 AM – 2:00 PM | Live Band & Car Show:** Enjoy live music and a display of classic, custom, and specialty vehicles in a family-friendly celebration.
- **9:00 AM – 2:00 PM | Faces of Our Veterans:** Discover the stories of local Veterans and the experiences that shaped their military service.
- **9:00 AM – 2:00 PM | Community Heritage Center:** Explore exhibits highlighting military history, local heritage, and the enduring legacy of service within our community.
- **11:00 AM | Patriotic Concert:** Gather for a special musical tribute celebrating America's Veterans and honoring the sacrifices made to preserve our freedoms.

All Veterans Day activities are open to the public, and community members of all ages are encouraged to attend.

For event information and car show registration, visit <https://cvmddistrict.ca.gov/veteransday>.

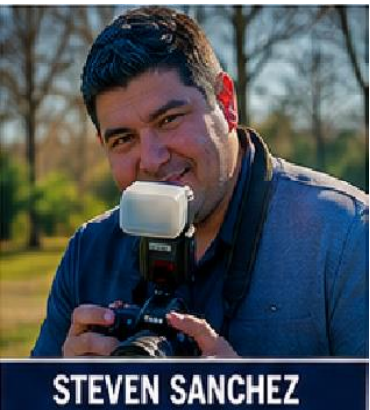


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Clovis, Ca. – Most car racing fans wouldn’t believe that the Central Valley has a solid fanbase when it comes to the sport. However, that perspective changed when local racing fans came out to the 5.11 store in Clovis on Friday, September 25, to meet one of NASCAR’S youngest stars, Hailie Deegan.

This time Deegan wasn’t behind the wheel but behind a table meeting and greeting her fans. A line stretched inside the store. She was signing autographs and taking photos with her admirers. The 5.11 store sponsors her and she’s an official brand ambassador for the company which is why it was the location for the meet and greet.

Outside in the parking lot the festivities of the event included music from the radio station 102.7 The Wolf with food trucks Archies Birria Y Tacos, Bubbli Bliss, and La Princesa

NASCAR Driver Hailie Deegan Comes to the Central Valley to Meet Fans & WIN!

Churros provided the eats and beverages. Deegan enjoyed the turnout and interacting with her fans. “I think it’s great,” said Deegan. I think having autograph sessions away from the race track is awesome because I’m not so focused on the racing side of things that day. You’re able to talk to people, have conversations with people and meet them, hear their stories which I think is valuable,”

Not only does she stand out in her sport for her youth but she’s one of the few female drivers on the race track. She knows that she’s in a position to inspire the next generation of girls that would like to be behind the wheel someday. Deegan accepts her role as an inspiration to girls and utilizes her social media (with one million followers on Instagram) to tell her story in the driver’s seat and behind the scenes to get girls and other people interested in the sport. “I think it’s super cool and inspiring to them. To be able to talk to them and have a conversation, and to keep them interested in racing. We need more people racing, the



more people we have racing the better it is,” said Deegan. She’s from Temecula but she has ties to the Valley. Deegan says she got started racing at the Madera Motor Speedway eight years ago, and she’s very familiar with the area. Speaking of Madera, she competed in the

Madera 150 for the ARCA Menards Series West at the Madera Motor Speedway on Saturday, September 26. She ended up in victory lane by winning the 53rd annual Mission Foods Harvest Classic. It was Deegan’s fourth West Series victory but her first series win since 2019.

Congratulations to her and now the debate is did the Central Valley support make a contribution to her victory. One can make the argument that it did help, but either way she received a win after seven years of chasing one, and with that momentum the future looks bright for her.

The

CLOVIS

TIMES



SPORTS

CLOVIS EAST

TIMBERWOLVES

3

CLOVIS HIGH

COUGARS

1

September 29, the Clovis East High School Varsity Girls Volleyball team won their away conference match against the Clovis High School Cougars by a score of 3-1.

Congratulations:
COACH MAKENA CLARKE and the great team of **CLOVIS EAST!**



By:
DAVID MENENDIAN

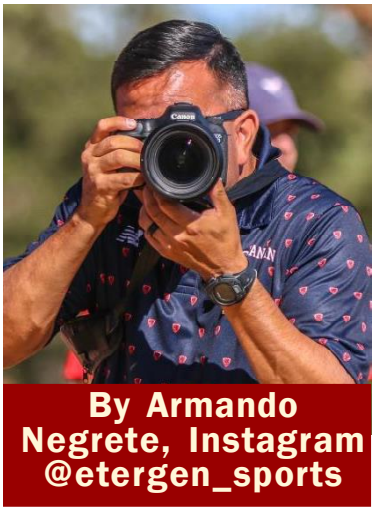


SPORTS

www.ClovisTimes.com



Beyond Rodeo Week: The Year-Round Role of Miss Clovis Rodeo 2026



By Armando Negrete, Instagram @etergen_sports

The crown may be most visible during rodeo week, but for Miss Clovis Rodeo 2026 Brogan Hill, the responsibility continues long after the crowds have gone home. Her role extends well beyond the arena, taking her to rodeos, parades and community events while giving her the opportunity to represent the Clovis Rodeo, the City of Clovis and the sport she loves throughout the year.

And she is doing it all while attending Fresno State and working two part-time jobs.

“I can say for sure it never slows down,” Hill said.

During her off-season, Hill has traveled to rodeos, parades and other events throughout the country, representing the Clovis Rodeo and helping introduce audiences to the event and the sport.

That included a return home to St. Anthony, Idaho, where Hill attended several rodeos in southeast Idaho, including the War Bonnet Round Up, the Driggs Rodeo and Whoopee Days Rodeo.

Representing the Clovis Rodeo in her hometown was more than simply a personal homecoming. Hill said the appearances generated interest from people who are considering traveling to California to experience the Clovis Rodeo.

For Hill, that is an important part of the job.

“I’m just here to represent the rodeo, bring as much awareness as I can to the rodeo industry itself, as well as the City of Clovis and the Clovis Rodeo,” she said.

More Than a Crown

Hill sees her position as an opportunity to represent more than a single event.

She represents a committee, a community and a city that



works to provide families throughout the Central San Joaquin Valley with an opportunity to come together and experience rodeo.

“It’s just amazing to be a part of it and see the inside of that community and really be a big representative of it on a larger scale,” Hill said.

Her connection to Clovis runs deeper than her year as Miss Clovis Rodeo. Hill has been part of the community for approximately five years while attending Fresno State and competing on the university’s equestrian team.

During that time, she has developed friendships and relationships throughout the community, relationships that have become an important part of her experience as Miss Clovis Rodeo.

Hill also credits the Clovis Rodeo Board of Directors for providing support throughout her reign.

“They have made my life so much easier,” Hill said. “They help me organize my time and my schedule, and they really encourage me to talk to people and get our name out there.”

But for Hill, the support has gone beyond scheduling appearances and organizing events.

“They care for me personally,” she said. “That makes my life so much easier.”

Preparing for the Role

Being a representative of the Clovis Rodeo requires preparation that goes well

beyond the physical demands of showing up at an event.

Hill said much of the preparation is mental.

Rodeo, she explained, is a team effort. Successful events require people who communicate effectively, support one another, think on their feet and remain positive when unexpected situations arise.

As Miss Clovis Rodeo, Hill believes she brings those same qualities to every appearance.

A large part of that preparation involves asking herself how she would handle different situations while continuing to treat people with kindness and respect.

“How can I still think through the problem logically and still be empathetic to everybody’s emotions at the same time?” Hill said.

Hill is also pursuing a master’s degree in agricultural communications, an educational background that fits naturally with her role as an ambassador for agriculture and rodeo.

The Work Begins Again

While the public may see the Clovis Rodeo as a week-long event, the people responsible for putting it together see it differently.

The next rodeo begins almost immediately after the current one ends.

Hill said that just two days after the 2026 rodeo concluded, the Clovis Rodeo Board of Directors was already back together working on the following year’s event.



From there, the process continues throughout the year.

“We spend a whole year together working on the production of the next year,” Hill said.

That work may happen out of sight of the fans, but Hill said it takes an enormous amount of effort to create the experience people have come to expect from the Clovis Rodeo.

“A lot of thought and blood, sweat and tears go into every single rodeo,” she said.

The goal, however, remains simple: create memories and bring people together.

For Hill, that is part of what makes the Clovis Rodeo special. The event has become part of Clovis’ heritage, and she sees her role as helping preserve that tradition while introducing it to new generations.

“There’s so much hard work and support from the community, the city and, of course, our sponsors,” Hill said. “We love having a production that brings memories, brings people together and helps them love the sport of rodeo.”

More Than a Pretty Face

Perhaps the biggest misconception about the role of Miss Clovis Rodeo, Hill said, is that the position is simply about wearing a crown and making appearances.

There is considerably more to it.

“Not only are us rodeo queens supposed to be a pretty face, but we are here to be a representative of the rodeo,” Hill said.

That representation extends beyond Clovis.

Hill sees herself as an ambassador for the rodeo industry itself. Someone who can introduce people to the sport, invite them into the rodeo community and help them understand why the tradition remains so important.

“We love bringing people into our sport,” she said. “We love rodeo, and we love people. We love inviting people to come join us in our fun.”

As Hill’s reign continues and preparations for the 2027 Clovis Rodeo get underway, the crown remains only one visible part of the job.

Behind it is a year-round commitment to travel, community, communication and service. All with the goal of representing the Clovis Rodeo and helping carry its tradition into the future.

And when the crowds return to the arena next spring, Hill will know something the spectators may not: the next rodeo has been in the works almost since the last one ended.

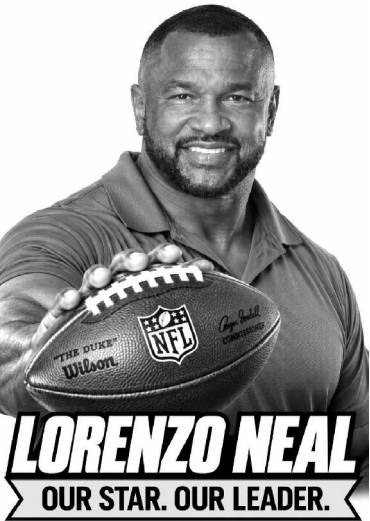


SPORTS

www.ClovisTimes.com



Fresno State Has Never Been Afraid to Be the Underdog...



There is something special about being a Fresno State Bulldog.

We know who we are. We know where we come from. And most importantly, we know what it means to compete.

Fresno State’s move into the Pac-12 Conference is a step in the right direction. It brings greater exposure, stronger competition and tremendous recruiting opportunities. But for a program built on tradition and pride, this move means much more than simply changing conferences.

One thing I know about being a Bulldog is that **we thrive on being the underdog.**

“No Dogs Down” isn’t just a slogan. It represents the mentality of Fresno State football and the people who support it.

But let’s be honest: college football, and the game as we have known, has changed dramatically. Few developments have changed the sport as much as NIL. The transfer portal, NIL opportunities and the financial realities of college athletics have created an entirely different recruiting landscape.

And Fresno State has to compete in that landscape.

The Bulldogs don’t have the enormous NIL budgets that some of the nation’s biggest programs can use to attract young athletes. I could go on about my feelings toward NIL and the changes I would like to see in college football, but the reality remains: Fresno State isn’t going to outspend the biggest programs by offering multimillion-dollar opportunities to every athlete.

So, now what?

We do what Bulldogs have always done. We compete.

...A move to the Pac-12 gives the Bulldogs a bigger stage, greater recruiting opportunities and a chance to show the country what the Central Valley already knows.

By Lorenzo Neal

Coaches understand the rich tradition of Fresno State football. They understand the passion of the Central Valley and the loyalty of the Bulldog fan base. They also understand that players who come to Fresno State have an opportunity to become part of something bigger than themselves.

That is where I believe Coach Matt Entz can make a difference.

Coach Entz can do an excellent job recruiting young men who genuinely want to play football, develop as athletes and become part of a team. If Coach Entz is given the opportunity to remain at Fresno State and build his program over the next three years and beyond, I believe he can develop these young men into phenomenal athletes.

And perhaps more importantly, he can develop them into a team.

Teamwork, loyalty and dedication can sometimes feel as though they have been pushed to the wayside in this new era of college football. Players have more opportunities to move from one program to another, and coaches are under tremendous pressure to win immediately.

That makes it challenging for any college football coach to create a culture where the focus remains on **the TEAM.**

But that is precisely where Fresno State has an advantage.

Our identity has never been built solely on money or national rankings. It has been built on toughness, perseverance and a willingness to prove people wrong.

Can Fresno State compete in the Pac-12?

I believe the answer is yes.

Not only can Fresno State compete in the Pac-12, I believe the Bulldogs can win.

We’ve played many of these teams. We’ve beaten many of these teams before. And we still get opportunities to compete against familiar opponents such as Boise State and San Diego State.

The competition will be tougher, without question. The games may be harder. The margin for error will be smaller.

But that is exactly what makes this opportunity so exciting.

Entering the Pac-12 will give Fresno State national exposure. More eyes will be watching the Bulldogs. More recruits will see Fresno State on television. More young athletes will have the opportunity to see what Fresno State football is all about.

That exposure matters.

Fresno State may not have the biggest NIL resources in college football, but we have something that cannot simply be purchased: **tradition, pride and a fan base that believes in its Bulldogs.**

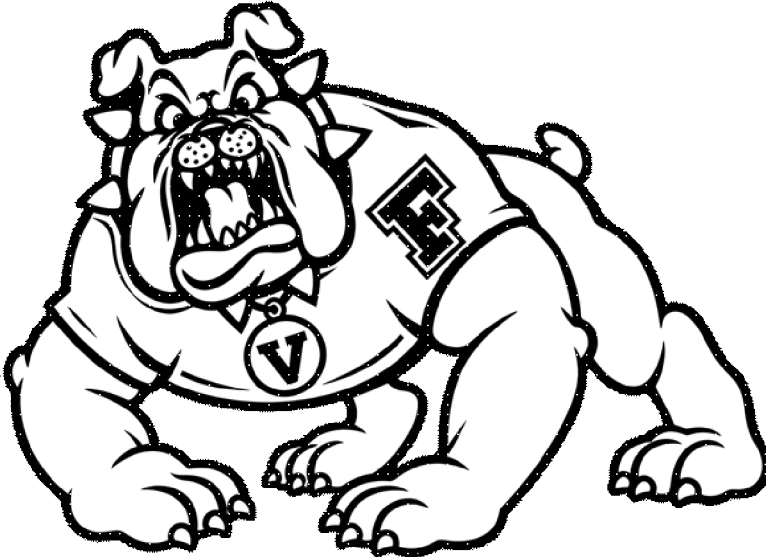
And I believe Coach Entz is going to push these players to compete at the highest level.

The biggest challenge may be depth

While I believe Fresno State can compete, there is one area that could determine just how successful the Bulldogs are in the Pac-12: depth.

When the first-string players are tired and it’s the fourth quarter, are the second- and third-string players ready?

That’s a question every coach must answer, but it becomes even more important when you’re playing a tougher schedule.



Injuries happen. They are unpredictable and unavoidable. Every team deals with them.

But a team with quality depth can withstand injuries without losing its competitive edge.

Fresno State will need players throughout the depth chart who are prepared to step onto the field and perform. The second-string player can’t simply be someone who fills a position. He has to be someone the coaching staff trusts to execute the game plan and help the team win. This is why it is imperative to have a great strength and conditioning program in the off season to keep these athletes up-right.

We’ve seen in past seasons how injuries and depth can change the course of a season.

In the Pac-12, that challenge will be magnified.

Change isn’t always bad

Fresno State has experienced its share of growing pains and challenges. What football program hasn’t?

Every college football team is trying to adjust to this new era. NIL, the transfer portal, conference realignment and increased financial pressure have changed the sport.

The programs that succeed will be the ones that learn how to adapt without losing their identity.

That’s why I believe Fresno State has a real opportunity.

Coach Entz has the coaching philosophy and experience to mold this team. He has the opportunity to establish a culture built around preparation, competition, accountability and teamwork.

And the players have an opportunity to show the country

what Fresno State football has always been about.

The Central Valley is ready

Fresno State football is going to be forced to perform at a higher level. The competition will be fierce. The games may be harder. The expectations will be higher. Good.

That’s what Fresno State needs.

The Pac-12 gives the Bulldogs an opportunity to prove that the Central Valley belongs on a bigger stage.

We don’t need to pretend we’re something we’re not.

We’re Bulldogs.

We come from the Central Valley. We understand hard work. We understand being overlooked. We understand what it means to have to fight for respect.

And perhaps that’s exactly why the Pac-12 is the right opportunity at the right time.

Fresno State doesn’t have to stop being the underdog.

We just have to be the underdog that keeps winning.

The Pac-12 is a new chapter for Fresno State football. It will bring new challenges, new opponents, new opportunities and, hopefully, a new generation of Bulldogs ready to carry on the tradition.

The country is going to be watching.

Let’s show them what the Valley already knows. Coach Sweeney’s locker room songs still rings in the ears of the players of the past, “Everywhere we go, people want to know, just who we are, so we tell them we are the Bulldogs, the mighty- mighty Bulldogs from Fresno.”

Bulldog born. Bulldog bred.

No Dogs Down.



SPORTS

www.ClovisTimes.com



The old bait and “S”witch campaign; promise road repairs but prioritizes busses and bikes

“PAID ADVERTISEMENT”

NO S

ON

We don’t need bay area money dictating how Fresno manages its roads

Obituaries & Death Notices



Mary Louise (Sagniere) Rigsbee 1921 - 2026

Earlier this year, in March, Mary Rigsbee celebrated her 105th birthday with an ice cream social at Magnolia Crossing Assisted Living where she has resided since 2019. As people were leaving she told them she would see them next year. Sadly, Mary passed away peacefully in her sleep on September 16, 2026.

Mary was born March 8, 1921, the second of four siblings, Joe, Mary, Fred, Rosalie (Rollie). They were raised on their parents', Joe and Tillie Sagniere, fig ranch east of Clovis.

After graduating from Clovis High School in 1939, Mary attended 4C's Business College, studying bookkeeping, retiring from Clovis Auto Parts at the age of 81!

In 1946 she married Emmett Rigsbee, who she had known since high school. They raised their three children, Chuck (Butch), Dan, and Pamela on their Temperance Avenue ranch. Since they kept a milk cow, Mary always made butter and the best ice cream.

As lifelong residents of Clovis, Mary and her family have been involved in the Clovis Rodeo since its inception in 1914. Her grandfather, Joseph, helped cook the meal at the first rodeo, then called "Clovis Days." Her husband and both sons served on the rodeo board. Emmett was the Rodeo Grand Marshal in 1992. Mary always used a buggy, rain or shine, heat or cold. If you complained she'd say, "the cowboys are still there."

She remained on the ranch after Emmett passed in 1995. When the ranch was sold, she moved, as she said, "to town," to a condo with a small backyard. She never complained, her motto was "bloom where you are planted."

In 2019, she moved again, this time to Magnolia Crossing. Her room was decorated with her mother's dresser, a comfy recliner, her favorite pictures, rodeo posters, and of course, a mini fridge for her Gatorade and cookies.

Whether you called her Mary, Mary Louise, Mom, Aunt Mary, Mother Mary, or Miss Mary, it was always said with great love



Cora Shipley 1943-2026

Cora Frances Shipley, of Clovis, California, was reunited with her husband Bill in the presence of the Lord on September 27, 2026, just 12 days after her 83rd birthday. She passed peacefully with her daughter at her side.

Cora is survived by her daughter Marci of Clovis, her son Bill Jr. and his wife Megan of South Lake Tahoe, and her beloved five grandchildren -- Liam, Skyelach, Keegan, Brownyn and Megan.

She also has five siblings who survive her -- sisters Billie Jean, Lanelle, and Sheila, and younger brother Michael. Passing before her were sisters Mary, Mebble, and Helen, and older brother Bill. She enjoyed spending time and traveling with them, including regular trips to visit extended family in Louisiana.

She traveled extensively with Marci, while also spending many weekends in South Lake Tahoe with her grandchildren to attend various events they were involved in such as cheerleading, softball, football, basketball, gymnastics, and theater. Her oldest grandson Liam lived with her while he attended Fresno Pacific University, giving her and Marci the chance together to watch him play college soccer many times.

Cora was born on September 15, 1943, in Hollyridge, Louisiana. Her family moved to California just after World War II ended, eventually settling in Fresno, where she attended McLane High School. She met the only love of her life -- "Wyld Bill" -- when both were teenagers, and they remained married for 56 years until his passing in 2017.

Bill and Cora came to Clovis in 1972, living in a house built by Bill out Bullard Avenue close to Highland. After raising her children Cora embarked on the second chapter of her life--becoming a business owner in Old Town Clovis with the 1990 purchase of the building on the northeast the corner of Pollasky Ave. and Fifth Street. Over the next 36 years, first along with Bill and later on her own, Cora operated several different businesses, from gift stores to antique malls, and a 50's Diner-style ice cream shop to a sit-down restaurant, at eight different locations in Old Town. She joined the "Business Owners of Old Town Association," eventually serving as its President for more than 25 years, and was part of the Board that created and built the iconic Old Town Friday Night Farmers' Market into what it is today. Numerous annual events in Old Town Clovis that bring tens of thousands of



John Somerville 1943-2026

The Adventurous Life of Colonel Somerville: Purpose, Passion -- and Fun

John Somerville and his wife Mary loved the North Fork ranch where they lived for 45 years. Forty acres backing up to the national forest, it proved wonderful for raising their six children. No longer a working ranch, it looked like a place where a guy who had led an active life might settle down for his senior years.

"Settling down" probably never occurred to Colonel John T. Somerville, USMC (Retired), who passed away on September 22 at the age of 83.

John was more apt to be preparing to speak about any number of diverse subjects on which his life adventures had made him an expert. Or perhaps contemplating his next book. Or reminiscing with Mary about some delightful moment they shared on one of their scores of trips to Israel--and wondering when the world situation would permit them to return to the land they loved. "We have to get back to Israel," John often said.

The land of Israel and the Jewish people remained for almost 50 years the heart of John's life purpose. He spoke of them with passion and joy.

Passion and joy, in fact, characterized all of John's many adventures, beginning with growing up in suburban Ohio "in the best of times," when "one knew everybody in the neighborhood, summer meant playing baseball after chores until it was dark, and parents never worried about you being away from home for 10 hours."

John served 30 years in the U.S. Marines, 20 as an Infantryman and 10 as an Intelligence Officer. Keeping his commission after his tour in Vietnam permitted him to coach sports while in college. For five years he worked as an assistant with the legendary football coach Woody Hayes at Ohio State, where John earned his PhD.

Later John traveled all over the world on contracts with the Marines. Though sometimes sent into the world's danger zones, he loved these assignments: "Every morning I woke up scared they would find out I was having too much fun!"

The assignments took him to many parts of the Middle East, including Israel. On his second trip there,



Thelma Jean "Jeanne" Staneart -2026

Thelma Jean "Jeanne" Staneart passed away peacefully on September 23, 2026, surrounded by her four children. Jeanne was born in Tollhouse, California, where she spent most of her younger years.

Jeanne retired after 30 years with Fresno Unified School District, where she worked in the Indian Education Program. She was deeply committed to the Indian children and families of the Central Valley.

Jeanne is survived by her four children, JoAnne Sturgill (Chris), Barb Boschetto, Marty Staneart, and Philmore Staneart; her sister, JoAnn Cornelius; and her brothers-in-law, Dale Houdashelt and Chris Lubenko.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Philmore Medley and Emma Keintz, and her sisters, Cynthia Lubenko and Phyllis Houdashelt.

Jeanne was blessed with six grandchildren: Chris, Matthew, A.J. Boschetto, Shelby and Ethan Staneart, and Morgan Staneart, as well as three great-grandchildren. She was also dearly loved by her many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, and great-nephews.

Jeanne will be remembered for her devotion to her family, her years of service to children, her love of rodeo, and the many wonderful memories she created with those fortunate enough to know and love her.

Visitation was held at Boice Funeral Home, 308 Pollasky Ave, Clovis, CA 93612, US, on Thursday, October 8, 2026, from 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm.

A Funeral Service was held at Church of Tollhouse, 27950 Tollhouse Rd, Tollhouse, CA 93667, on Friday, October 9, 2026, at 10:15 am.

A Celebration of Life was held at Tollhouse Market & Grill, 28524 Tollhouse Rd, Tollhouse, CA 93667, on Friday, October 9, 2026, from 11:30 am to 3:00 pm.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Dementia Society of America at www.DementiaSociety.org/donate.

Obituaries & Death Notices —continued from page 14

Mary Louise (Sagniere) Rigsbee

and deep respect. Even people who met her only once or twice found her memorable. She was a second Mom to friends of her children. She was a wonderful grandmother and great grandmother. Friends and former caregivers brought her goodies like bread pudding, milk shakes, lemon cookies, and rice pudding. This lady had a sweet tooth.

She attributes her long life to hard work, a good sense of humor and a little Crown Royal which she was toasted with at her memorial luncheon.

She is preceded in death by her husband Emmett, all three of her siblings, her niece Virginia Rose, nephew-in-law Phil Erbez. She is also preceded by brother-in-law and sister-in-law Jim and Pat Mitchell.

She is survived by her son Chuck, wife Lois, son Dan, wife Susan, daughter Pam Sarantos, husband George, granddaughter Kacey Martino, husband Nick, great grandsons Mason and Cameron Martino. She is also survived by niece JoAnn Johnson, nephew Tom Sagniere, wife Tish, niece Sherry Erbez, nephew Greg Rose, nephew Mark Mitchell, wife Cheryl, nephew Mike Mitchell, niece Susan Mitchell and many grand-, great grand-, and great great grand nieces and nephews.

A funeral mass was held at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Catholic Church, where Mary has been a parishioner since birth.

Interment was at Academy Cemetery where she was buried beside her husband.

A celebration of life luncheon was held at the Clovis Rodeo Hall.

Donations can be made to the Clovis Rodeo Association Foundation, PO Box 445, Clovis, CA 93613.

Cora Shipley 1943-2026

visitors every year have her stamp indelibly upon them.

But for the last decade it was from “Scoops, Soups and More” that Cora made her presence felt. Purchased in 2002, “Scoops” was a place for their grandchildren – what was better than having a “Nana and Papa” who owned an ice cream store? Up until her final days Cora could still be found at Scoops when it opened in the morning and when it closed at night.

She built a legacy that few have – or ever will – match in that unique enclave of downtown Clovis.

Cora was the recipient of numerous awards over the years for her leadership and contributions to the community of Old Town Clovis, including induction into the Clovis Hall of Fame in June 2017. She was also named “Businesswoman of the Year” from the Chamber of Commerce, “Professional Business of the Year,” from the Chamber of Commerce, and Volunteer Leader of the Year. The City of Clovis and County of Fresno have issued separate proclamations recognizing her decades of service to the community, in addition to innumerable other acknowledgements of her contributions by a host of organizations.

A public Memorial Service in honor of Cora’s life and legacy will be held on October 26, 2026, at 11:30 a.m., in the Veterans

She was a one-woman force of nature – but always with love in her heart and a smile on her face.

To send flowers with our preferred florist, please visit our flower store.

John Somerville 1943-2026

during the 1973 Yom Kippur War, a casual conversation with a taxi driver in Tel Aviv became a “moment that changed the trajectory of my life.” Until that moment his focus in Israel had been the military aspects of a nation preparing for war.

Impulsively John asked the taxi driver, “Are you guys still looking for the Messiah?” The driver’s robust answer—“Of course we are!”—brought John a sudden realization: he was in the very land where the Bible stories he had known from childhood happened.

In the years that followed, John visited this land of the Bible more than 90 times. He became a leading authority on Israel, seeking to understand it first from Scripture; and from walking the streets that Jesus walked, speaking with locals as well as world-renowned authorities, and participating in archaeological digs.

For about 50 of those visits John led Bible-based tours, offering participants insight into the authentic sites as well as current events. Above all, he hoped to see others fall in love with this land and its people, whom “I truly believe are still God’s chosen people.”

As founder and co-director of Zion’s Watchmen, John challenged individuals, groups, Congress, and all government bodies to take seriously the promise of Scripture that God will bless the nation that blesses Israel. His third book, The “Accidental” Presidents Who Became the “Blessers” of Israel (2020), is a fascinating read about five American presidents. The details of their lives and presidencies will surprise, amuse, and inspire you.

When home on the ranch, John made time to keep his baseball skills and muscles in shape on his own pitcher’s

mound and in his batting cage. Active for many years in the Men’s Senior Baseball League, he continued to find the sport a pleasurable diversion.

So, while the lovely ranch in North Fork could no longer be described as “working,” Colonel Somerville certainly was. He lived with passion and joy, loving every busy moment.

Today, those who knew John remember a remarkable husband, father, Marine, scholar, teacher, author, and unwavering friend of Israel. His legacy lives on through his family, the countless lives he influenced, the tours he led, the books he wrote, and the enduring impact of his lifelong commitment to Scripture, Israel, and the Jewish people.

For information on Zion’s Watchmen and John Somerville’s books and teachings, visit www.israelsomerville.com or www.israelsomerville.com. The “Accidental” Presidents Who Became the “Blessers” of Israel is available on Amazon or by contacting the ministry through its website.



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Letters TO THE Editor

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. Letters to the editor are generally found in the first section of the newspaper, or towards the beginning of a magazine, or in the editorial.

You can take a position for or against an issue, or simply inform, or both. They can convince readers by using emotions, or facts, or emotions and facts combined. Letters to the editor are usually short and tight, rarely longer than 300 words.

USING A FEW CAREFULLY PLACED LETTERS, you can generate plenty of community discussion. You can also keep an issue going by preventing it from disappearing from the public eye. You can stimulate the interest of the news media and create more coverage for the matters you're working on. You can also send a “good news” letter to bring recognition to people who deserve it or acknowledge the success of an effort.

WHY SHOULD YOU WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR?

Letters to the editor are among the most widely read features in any newspaper or magazine. They allow you to reach a large audience. You can probably think of many more specific reasons why you might want to write to the editor, but here are a few general ones:

- You are angry about something, and want others to know it.
- You think that an issue is so important that you have to speak out.
- Part of your group's strategy is to persuade others to take a specific action.

OR YOU WANT TO:

- Suggest an idea to others
- Influence public opinion
- Educate the general public on a specific matter
- Influence policy-makers or elected officials directly or indirectly
- Publicize the work of your group and attract volunteers or program participants

WHEN SHOULD YOU WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR?

Letters to the editor can be written any time you want to shape public opinion, tell others how you feel about people, programs, or ideas, or just inform the public on a certain issue. They are a great way to increase awareness of the issues that you or your organization are working for, as well as to advocate for your cause.

Inform ★ Share Ideas ★ Make a Difference ★ Let Your Voice Be Heard in the Clovis Times!



In the famous Charles Dicken’s novel, A Tale of Two Cities, the first sentence states, “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.” This describes our current time of history with the dark becoming darker and the light becoming lighter. Large numbers of young people, especially Generation Z, are turning back to traditional values. There are revivals happening across our country, almost on a weekly basis, especially among college students. This is very encouraging to see!

On the other hand, laws and legal decisions that protected us and our freedom are being challenged at lightning speed. This directly affects all of us who face very difficult choices and situations because of new laws that promote godless values.

- Social Media has given voice to both uplifting messages but also to dark philosophies of hedonism and death. These messages are affecting millions of our young people.
- Issues and organizations which are currently trending on social media such as DSA (Democratic Socialists of America) have absolutely no moral bearing. Anti-Semitism and overthrowing our government are popular topics among DSA candidates running for office.
- Socialism/Communism (where government controls everybody and everything) and radical Islam are not compatible with Christianity. These forces are in America now and are growing stronger by the day. However, America is the only country in the world that has a constitution that has lasted 250 years because it is based on Judeo-Christian principles.
- Our nation’s founders studied the Bible as they designed a legal system based on the 10 Commandments. The foundation of the United States Constitution is the Separation of Powers - President, Congress, Supreme Court – an idea which was influenced by Isaiah 33:22 - God is Judge, God is Lawgiver, God is King. Yet, the DSA Platform openly calls for abolishing the Senate, the Presidency, Supreme Court, the police and prison system. Which side will prevail?

Western Civilization is at stake because Europe, Canada, and Australia have abandoned Judeo-Christian principles. For instance, in England, citizens can be arrested and prosecuted for ‘hate speech’ as defined by the government. The United States is not far behind. A relatively small number of concerned voters in America are essentially keeping free speech and religious freedom in Western Civilization alive.

A Tale of Two Cities

- This is why people who live under oppressive governments flock to America where they can vote for their leaders. Recently, I met a family from Los Angeles who had grown up in Communist Romania. They described the dismal living conditions and how depressing life was for them and their children. Giving forced allegiance to oppressive leaders was standard. These brave people related how they and hundreds of others had to stand in the town square waiting many hours for the Communist Dictator to pass by. Then, if they didn’t clap loud enough for the Dictator the police would hit them as a reminder to clap with enthusiasm. Like Charles Dicken’s novel these people experienced life under Communism before living with freedom in America – light and darkness.

Voting is our main Responsibility as citizens. One of the most important things we can do in a free society is to vote – to review issues and candidates and then choose wisely.

- President Lincoln said it best... “We have a government of the people, by the people, for the people”. In other words, we the voters, are the true leaders because we have the responsibility to choose those who will represent us.
- **Unfortunately, only half of people of faith in this country are registered to vote and only half of those actually vote. Therefore, the future hinges on about 25 percent. We can do better.**
- By voting for candidates that stand up for Judeo-Christian values, we will protect our constitutional freedoms, protect our families and protect free speech. Case in point. Several years ago, the mayor of Houston, one of our country’s largest cities, demanded that several pastors turn in their sermon notes to the mayor’s office. This was because the pastors disagreed with the mayor’s stance on a moral issue. Thankfully, the court eventually ruled in favor of the pastors free-speech rights. Unfortunately, this type of harassment is becoming more prevalent to citizens from all walks of life.
- Many people want to know why they should vote and how to view current issues from a Biblical perspective. There are numerous resources available that answer their questions such as Focus on the Family, Salt and Light Council, WallBuilders, Colson Center and many others.

In closing, by participating in our elections, we protect the Judeo-Christian institutions of church, family and government. By teaching and explaining the message about the uniqueness of America and the freedom we have as the true leaders of our government we can increase the number of those who vote and participate in shaping legislatures and laws.

It is important to stand for truth by voting wisely and supporting individuals and organizations who are defending our freedom and our constitutional rights. Western Civilization depends on it!



American History Part 4 August End of Article

BILL SCOTT

Continued from September

...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,



The Clovis Times HEALTH & FITNESS

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DIANA LAURENT

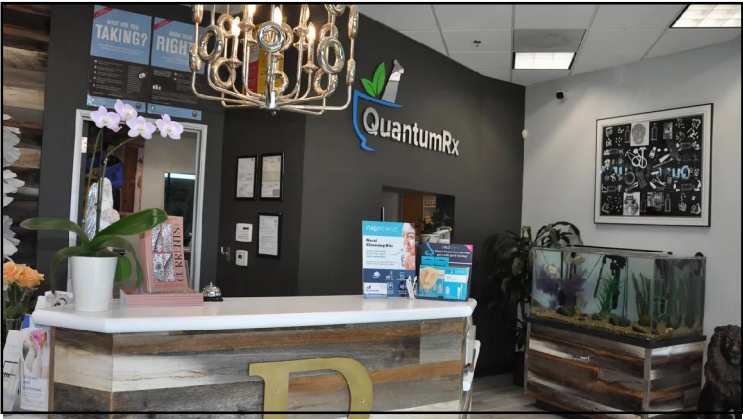
Diana Laurent — Bringing Specialized Knowledge to Personalized Health Solutions

In today’s rapidly changing healthcare environment, patients are increasingly looking for knowledgeable professionals who understand that healthcare is not always a one-size-fits-all proposition. Diana Laurent brings valuable experience and expertise to the field of specialized and compounded pharmaceutical care, helping individuals better understand the options available to address their unique health needs.

Ask the Experts HEALTH

As an expert associated with Quantum Rx Compounding Pharmacy, Laurent has developed broad knowledge of customized pharmaceutical solutions and the important role compounding can play when commercially manufactured medications may not meet an individual patient’s specific requirements. Her areas of knowledge include bio-identical hormones, veterinary compounding, integrative support for chronic conditions, professional-grade supplements, and other individualized approaches to pharmaceutical care.

Compounding is a specialized area of pharmacy in which medications may be prepared in customized strengths, dosage forms, or combinations based upon a prescription and the individual needs of a patient. It requires attention to precision, quality, professional standards, and communication among the patient, physician, and pharmacist.



Laurent’s expertise extends beyond representing a particular company. Her value to the community is her ability to help educate people about questions they should ask, available options they may want to discuss with their healthcare professionals, and the importance of becoming better informed participants in their own healthcare decisions.

Through ASK THE EXPERTS, the Clovis Times will provide Laurent an opportunity to address health and wellness subjects of interest to Central Valley residents and explain complex

topics in understandable, practical language.

Readers interested in learning more about compounding services and related pharmaceutical resources can visit www.qrxcompounders.com

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Health information provided in this column is educational and should not replace individualized medical advice from a physician, pharmacist, or other qualified healthcare professional.



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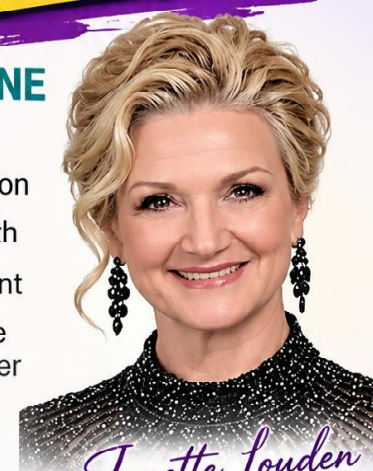
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What is special about October?



TED LAURENT:
GREAT AMERICAN FREEDOM REVIVAL
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Historically though, as far as the American people are concerned, our culture and way of life, October might be the most important month outside of July. Just to become what we declared that fateful July 4th, it would take a little over 8 years to settle our separation from Great Britain. The most serious “settling” just

It’s October here in the Central Valley with warm days and cool nights. The sun’s going down a little earlier every day and we know that summer is over and fall is just beginning. It’s football season and playoff baseball. Halloween will cap off the month and most people don’t think much more than that about October.

happened to occur in the tenth month of our calendar.

The battle of Saratoga, in upstate New York, proved to be one of the most important battles of the Revolutionary War. Benedict Arnold, before his betrayal, demonstrated that he wasn’t just a leader, he was a warrior and played a pivotal role in securing this victory. The infamous John Stark and Daniel Morgan, both great American heroes that I’ve written about before, were also instrumental in defeating General Burgoyne and the British army under his command.

The victory at Saratoga proved to the French whom Benjamin Franklin was trying to secure aid, that the “Americans” could actually win this war.

The French officially aligned themselves with the Continental army. The victory at Saratoga was completed on October 7th, 1777.

As some of you know, the war was pretty much a stalemate for the next couple of years so the British decided on heading south into Georgia and South Carolina where they knew a lot of loyalists to reside. The Redcoats swept into and through Savanah and then destroyed the Continental army at Charleston. They believed the “Southern Campaign,” as they called it would be the right strategy for winning the war. It was looking promising without a real Continental army presence down south to deter General Cornwallis.

Then came the Over-the-mountain men who defeated the British and their loyalist militia at the battle of Kings Mountain, taking away Cornwallis’s left flank protection. This forced a showdown between Colonel Tarleton and Daniel Morgan at Cowpens which then led the British to abandon South Carolina and head into Virginia. Thomas Jefferson is known to have stated that the victory at King’s Mountain was a turning point for the war. Once again, this major victory occurred in October.

The last major victory to seal the deal for the upstart American’s, was the battle at Yorktown, forcing Cornwallis to surrender his entire army. Though the peace treaty would not be signed till 1783, the war was basically over as there would be no more British offensives. Yes, this great victory sealing the deal for the colonists, happened on October 19th.

I’m reminded of the Bible verse in Proverbs 22:28; “Do not remove the ancient landmark which your fathers have set.”

It’s the landmarks that teach history. They tell the story. Most of us know so very little of our nations history that we have been easily lied to regarding our founding fathers, their faith, and the hand of God throughout the process.

I encourage every reader to research these great battles. The month of October is way more than touchdowns, homeruns, and trick or treat. We have a remarkable history within this first month of fall, that established us as our own nation.

From sea to shining sea; from the redwood forests to the gulf stream waters, this land was made for you and me. It would not have happened without the hard-fought battles and the lives sacrificed during October. Remember Saratoga; Kings Mountain; Yorktown, without which we would not have had a Philadelphia.

Psalm 77:11; “I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember Your miracles of long ago.”



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A little scent for the road ✨

MIGHTY MEN MOVEMENT: THERE'S HOPE FOR AMERICA!

TED LAURENT:
More Than 500 Men Gather for Faith, Fellowship, Patriotism and Spiritual Renewal

It was another warm, late-summer evening in California's Central Valley. I arrived a few minutes early at New Covenant Community Church in Fresno, but the grounds were already buzzing with activity. Hundreds of men were greeting friends, sharing stories, and preparing for the Mighty Men Movement's annual Steak Night.

More than 500 men would fill the auditorium, and one thing was certain: Nobody was going home hungry!

The evening began with prayer, the presentation of colors, the Pledge of Allegiance, and a stirring bagpipe rendition of our national anthem. This year's gathering also recognized America's 250th anniversary of independence.

Paul Loeffler, known as "The Voice of Fresno," served as master of ceremonies. But first came worship.

There is something extraordinary about hearing more than 500 men lifting their voices together in praise to Almighty God. The sound is glorious, like rolling thunder across the Valley floor. And perhaps that thunder is heaven's applause as the lightning of God's Spirit touches men's hearts.

That is the heartbeat of the Mighty Men Movement.

Restoring Men to Their God-Given Responsibilities

Founded more than 20 years ago by KC Dickie, the Mighty Men Movement is now led by CEO Pastor AJ Nunez of Covenant Worship Center in Fresno.

A revivalist at heart, Pastor AJ believes America desperately needs men who understand their responsibilities to God, their families, churches, communities, and nation.

The ministry's vision is simple: Disciple men, develop character and integrity, and send them out to serve.

It is the biblical response of Isaiah: "Here am I; send me." (Isaiah 6:8)

Throughout the Fresno area, more than 20 men's prayer groups meet regularly, many with 20 or more participants. These gatherings encourage spiritual growth, accountability, and fellowship.

That is more than an organization. That is a movement!

Honoring Service and Leadership

This year's Steak Night honored military veterans, active-duty service members, first responders, and clergy.

One memorable moment came when 101-year-old veteran Norris Jernigan of Visalia, who served with the crew associated with the historic B-29 Superfortress Enola Gay, led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Local hero and Fresno State alumnus Tom Summers received the Mighty Men Movement's inaugural Legacy Award, recognizing his lifelong commitment to leadership, mentoring, and discipling men.

Retired Air Force airman and comedian Dennis Gaxiola brought laughter and inspiration through his humor and

testimony of God's healing power and faithfulness.

The keynote speaker, Judge Vance Day, introduced as having recently joined the Department of Justice at President Donald Trump's request, delivered an encouraging message emphasizing faith, courage, and personal responsibility.

It was an evening of outstanding fellowship, inspiration, patriotism, and some excellent steaks!

A Hunger That Steak Cannot Satisfy

Earlier, I mentioned that no man would leave hungry. But the Mighty Men Movement is concerned with a hunger that no steak dinner can satisfy.

It is the hunger of the human soul for a deeper relationship with Almighty God.

Pastor AJ's prayer is that men leave these gatherings with more than full stomachs and pleasant memories. He wants them to develop a greater desire to know Jesus Christ, study God's Word, grow in spiritual discernment, and become the men God created them to be.

He wants to raise up spiritual watchmen—men who recognize the dangers confronting their families, churches, communities, and nation, and who are willing to stand faithfully in the gap.

This year's gathering marked the fourth annual Steak Night. Previous speakers have included Promise Keepers CEO Ken Harrison, B-2 bomber pilot Stuart Sullivan, and A-10 pilot and wing commander Todd Riddle.

But beyond the distinguished speakers and impressive attendance, something far more important is happening.

Men are being challenged to become better husbands, fathers, leaders, and

followers of Jesus Christ. Friendships are forming, prayer partnerships are growing, and lives are being transformed.

There Is Hope for America!

As I reflected on the evening, I thought about the spiritual condition of our nation.

America faces enormous challenges. Our families are under pressure, our communities are struggling, and many of our nation's moral and spiritual foundations are being weakened. ““Yet, surrounded by more than 500 men worshipping God and committing themselves to lives of greater purpose, I saw something that filled my heart with hope.

I saw men who care. Men willing to pray. Men determined to serve.

Men who recognize that America's restoration cannot come through politics, legislation, or economic prosperity alone.

True restoration must begin in the human heart.

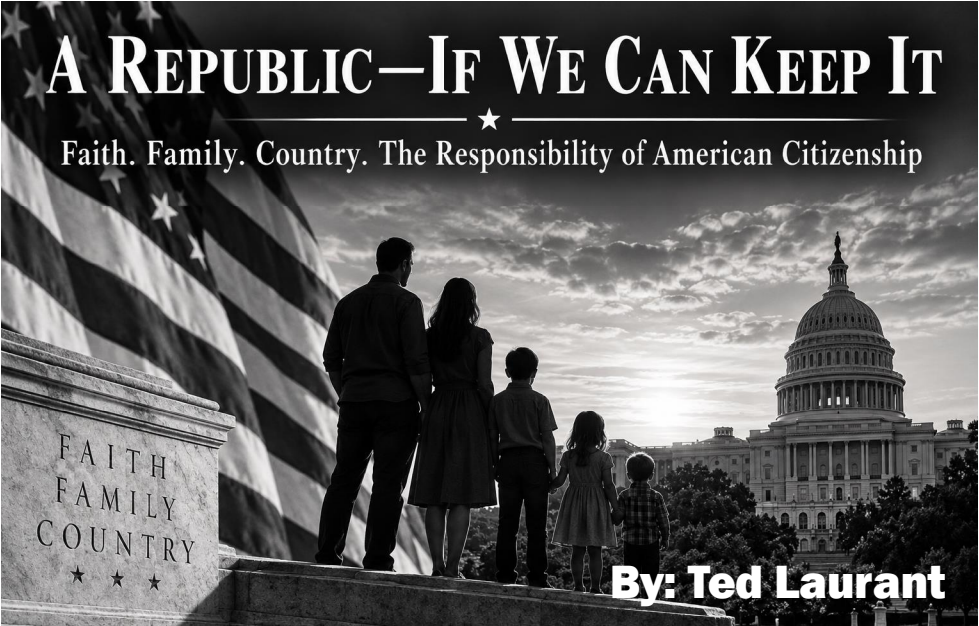
I believe God is calling His people into a deeper spiritual awakening, beginning with repentance, genuine discipleship, and renewed obedience to His Word.

Thank God for KC Dickie's original vision, Pastor AJ Nunez's leadership, and the hundreds of volunteers and supporters who make the Mighty Men Movement possible.

As I left that evening, I carried something far more satisfying than a wonderful steak dinner.

I carried renewed confidence that God is still at work in the hearts of men.

And as long as men are willing to humble themselves before Almighty God, stand for righteousness, love their families, and serve their communities, there is hope for America!



“Faith. Family. Country. The Responsibility of American Citizenship“

A thirty-year dream had finally come to fruition.“The meeting was over, but the significance of what had happened was only beginning to settle in. Benjamin Franklin slowly made his way out of Independence Hall and into the open air of Philadelphia.

“He could breathe again.“But there was something greater than fresh air surrounding him. A new nation was taking shape—a nation that had rejected rule by a distant monarchy and was attempting something extraordinary: government in which the people themselves would bear responsibility for preserving their liberty.“According to the famous account, as Franklin left the

Constitutional Convention in 1787, a woman asked him what kind of government the delegates had created.“Franklin's answer has echoed through American history:

A republic, if you can keep it.

Those last five words may be even more important today than they were then.“If you can keep it.“Franklin understood something every generation of Americans must eventually learn: liberty can be won in one generation and lost in another. A Constitution written on paper cannot preserve freedom by itself. Institutions cannot protect themselves. Ultimately, a republic depends upon citizens who understand their rights, accept their

responsibilities, participate in government, and remain vigilant.“That raises an uncomfortable question: Are we keeping the Republic entrusted to us?

“For generations, Americans have gradually surrendered responsibilities that once belonged to ordinary citizens. Too many of us became occupied with careers, businesses, raising families, paying mortgages and simply getting through life. There were always understandable reasons for not attending a city council meeting, studying legislation, researching candidates or learning what government was doing.“I understand because I have been there myself.

“I was busy raising a family and pursuing a career. I assumed others were paying attention. Like many Americans, I believed the fundamental principles of our country were secure.“But freedom cannot survive indefinitely on assumptions.“Today, many Americans are deeply concerned about religious liberty, parental rights, education, healthcare decisions, taxation, government power and the direction of our culture. Others may disagree about particular policies, but that disagreement makes informed citizenship even more important—not less.

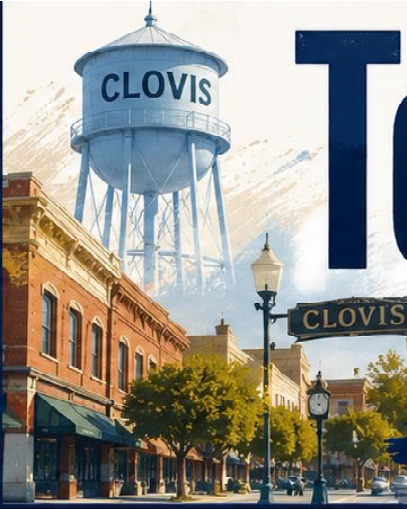
“The answer is not silence. It is participation.“America's first Chief Justice, John Jay, emphasized the importance of citizens studying their system of government and teaching the next generation to understand freedom. His essential point remains powerful: people who know their rights are better prepared to recognize when those rights

are threatened and to defend them lawfully.“That responsibility belongs to us.“We should know the Constitution. We should understand the principles upon which America was established. We should examine legislation rather than relying solely on political advertising. We should investigate candidates—their records, positions, associations and endorsements—and decide whether they deserve our trust.

“The internet has placed more information at our fingertips than Franklin could possibly have imagined. We no longer have the excuse that information is inaccessible. But information alone is not enough. We must learn to distinguish fact from rumor, original sources from political spin, and evidence from rhetoric.“And then we must act.“Voting remains one of the most important responsibilities of citizenship, but citizenship cannot begin and end at the ballot box. Attend meetings. Ask questions. Contact elected officials. Read proposed laws. Know who serves on your city council, school board, county government and state legislature. Teach your children and grandchildren why liberty matters.

“A republic requires something from us.“For those of us whose lives are grounded in faith, family and country, the responsibility is particularly clear. We cannot expect someone else to preserve what we are unwilling to defend ourselves.“More than two centuries later, Franklin's challenge still confronts every American generation: **A republic, if you can keep it.**

The question now belongs to us.“Will we keep it?



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JOIN US FOR FREEDOM!

The Clovis Veterans Memorial District (CVMD) invites the community to join in a series of events leading up to Veterans Day, culminating in a full day of patriotic activities on Wednesday, November 11, 2026 b

"Veterans Day reminds us that the freedoms we enjoy were secured through the courage and sacrifice of generations of Americans," said Lorenzo Rios, Chief Executive Officer of the Clovis Veterans Memorial District.

Residents in the heart of Clovis now have a newly improved and expanded path to walk, run, and recreate – the Letterman Trail – made possible by federal grant funding and a partnership between the City of Clovis and the Fresno Irrigation District (FID). Named in honor of fallen Clovis firefighter Clinton J. Letterman, the Letterman Trail is just over half a mile long and runs between Barstow and Villa Avenues along the FID Big Dry Creek Canal and through Letterman Park.

HEATHER FRANTZICH

B.O.O.T

OLD TOWN CLOVIS

As the temperatures begin to cool and the fall season settles into Old Town Clovis, our historic downtown is preparing for some of the most anticipated events of the year. From festive celebrations and community traditions to classic cars and the magic of the holiday season, there is so much to look forward to in the heart of our community.

Keep up with Old Town Clovis.

www.OldTownClovis.org

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A WAY OF LIFE

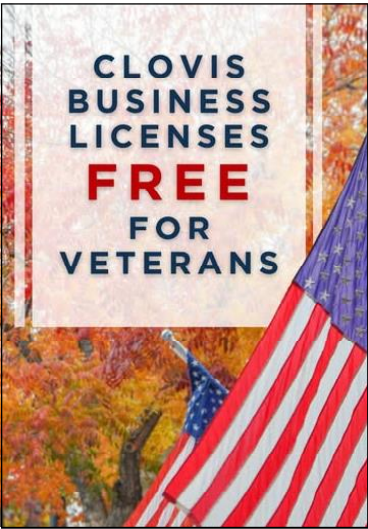
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