



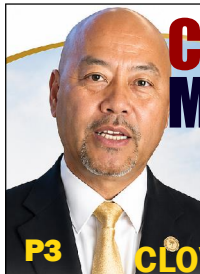
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P6
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CITY MATTERS
P3 CLOVIS MAYOR
VONG MOUANOUTOUA



Letters ^{TO THE} Editor Page 11

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BEHIND the HEADLINES



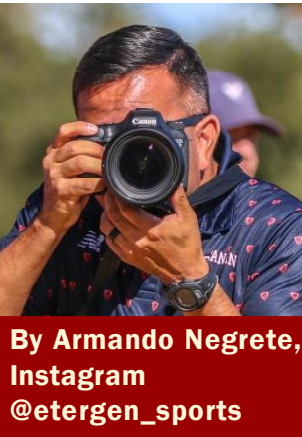
I am "The Cowboy Poet"
This poetry, like my life, has been a journey of my heart.

John Weisenberger
www.thecowboypoet.com

THE CLOVIS MUSEUM



THE CLOVIS MUSEUM
Once a Bank, then a Courthouse. Now a Museum. **Page 8**



By Armando Negrete,
Instagram
[@etergen_sports](https://www.instagram.com/etergen_sports)

S P O R T S

Page 9

A Book Barn: A Dream That Became a Community

A Book Barn began as a dream 27 years ago. My husband, Dan, and I wanted to start a bookstore at a time when so many independent bookstores were going out of business. We began by selling books on eBay and, within a year, expanded to Amazon. Today, Amazon, ABE, and our website remain important parts of our business.

For our first ten years, A Book Barn operated from a 1,500-square-foot store on 5th Street in Clovis. We eventually moved to our current location, a 7,000-square-foot, two-story building on Clovis Avenue, across from the Rodeo Grounds and near an elementary school. Being a part of the community has always been an important part of our dream.

For many years, we worked seven days a week. Today, the store is open Monday through Saturday, 9:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Volunteers, family, and friends helped transform our large building into the bookstore it is today. One volunteer came in to paint murals and eventually



CONTINUED PAGE 7

INTRODUCING THE CLOVIS TIMES HONOR FLIGHT COLUMN

STARTING OCTOBER



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.
www.hometownheroesradio.com/about

Melvin Francis Mason: The Clovis Crooner



BY: TED LAURENT

It's warm in the central valley during the summer, but the evenings are amazing. The sun doesn't leave its faint light we call dusk, till 8:30 or so.

Here in Clovis along Polasky Ave., it's mild and comfortable with a gentle breeze wafting through town. In the evening our summers are user friendly and local residents and tourists alike can be seen strolling along the downtown sidewalks.

Nothing says old town quite like "Scoops, Soups and More." It's that Mayberry town feel and the place for ice cream, with old friend hugs and neighborly conversation. There's a guitar hanging inside with a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8



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.
www.cvmddistrict.ca.gov



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Janette Loudon

7 reasons to Listen to your Gut

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

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P10

TED LAURENT:
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Published opinions are those of the individual authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the Clovis Times or its editorial staff.

Clovis Views

How Many Boards Do We Need to Live Our Lives?



By Nathan Magsig
County Supervisor

Here is a question that should have a simple answer:

How many boards and commissions does the State of California have?

It turns out no one seems to know for certain.

Over the years, California has created hundreds of boards, commissions, councils, panels, committees, and authorities. A state review identified 339 of these bodies more than two decades ago, while an earlier report counted more than 400. Even today, there is no single, complete

list that clearly accounts for every appointed body operating within the state government.

The fact that California cannot provide a firm number says a great deal about how large and tangled our bureaucracy has become.

Some boards and commissions serve necessary purposes, but too many have gained broad authority over decisions that should be left to families, businesses, and local communities.

Instead of addressing a specific problem and then stepping aside, these bodies often remain in place for decades, adding new rules, expanding their reach, and making government even harder to navigate.

Consider the California Energy Commission, which consists of five commissioners appointed by the governor and confirmed by the State Senate. Those five commissioners help shape policies affecting the appliances Californians can purchase, the buildings they can construct, the vehicles they drive, and the energy sources they use. Decisions that touch nearly every household in the state are placed in the hands of a small group that most Californians could not name and never voted for.

The California Coastal Commission offers another example. Its 12 voting members hold enormous power over development along the coast, meaning a homeowner trying to improve a property, a small business hoping to expand, or a community attempting to build housing can face a lengthy and costly approval process. Even after a project receives local approval, it may still be delayed or appealed before an appointed state commission.

These are not minor decisions. They can determine whether someone can use their property, grow a business, build a home, or invest in a community.

The Energy Commission and Coastal Commission are only two of the better-known examples, especially with the Energy Commission's recent decision to ban almost 70% of replacement tires on the market. California also has boards overseeing barbers, horse racing, landscape architects, household movers, pest control workers, professional fiduciaries...the list goes on and on.

At some point, we have to ask: How many boards do we need to live our lives?

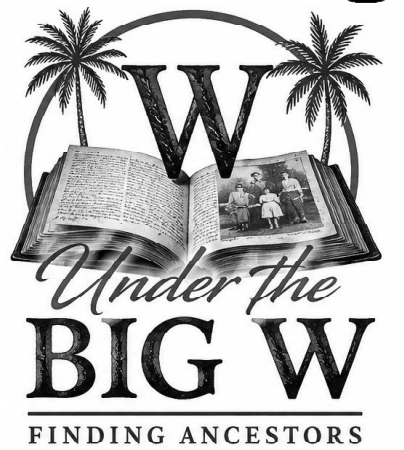
Every new board or commission brings more meetings, reports, staff, attorneys, consultants, regulations, and enforcement. While each body may seem small on its own, together they create a maze that consumes tax dollars, delays projects, increases costs, and makes it difficult to determine who is responsible when government fails.

That lack of accountability matters. Voters can remove elected officials who make poor decisions, but appointed boards are often buried deep within the state bureaucracy and largely insulated from the people affected by their actions.

Behind this system is the troubling belief that Sacramento does not trust Californians to make responsible choices for themselves. Government should protect public safety, enforce the law, and punish bad actors, but it should not treat every homeowner as though they require constant state supervision.

California should conduct a full review of every board and commission. Those that are inactive, outdated, wasteful, or duplicative should be eliminated or consolidated, while those that remain should face regular public review and meaningful sunset dates. Californians do not need hundreds of appointed bodies telling them how to live. Government should serve the people, not supervise them

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BY: GEORGIA WILD
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BY BILL SCOTT
American History
Part 3 September SEE:
www.ClovisTimes.com

To understand why the Declaration of Independence was written, we have to go back at least more than a year to understand the reasons. Actually, you should read the Magna Carta and understand why it was written. Also, the Mayflower Compact, the first American agreement among people who were on their own, with no civic authority.



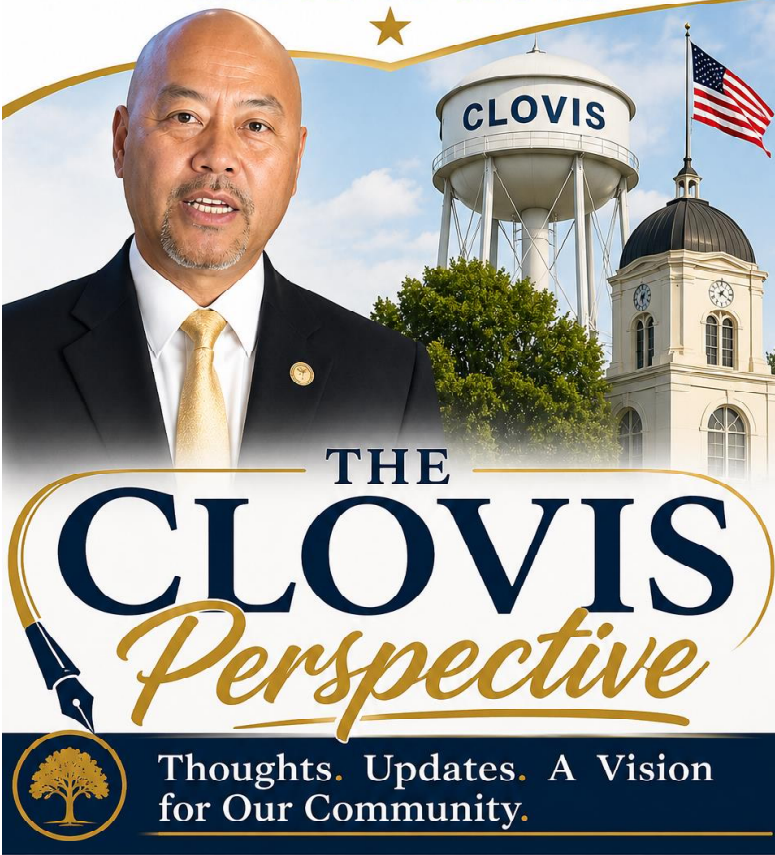
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VONG MOUANOUTOUA
MAYOR OF CLOVIS



When Councilmember Lynne Ashbeck and I first began talking about creating a Youth Commission for the City of Clovis,

we shared a simple but powerful belief: young people deserve a real seat at the table. Over the course of several conversations with community members and stakeholders, we recognized the need to create a formal avenue for young people to contribute to the development and progress of our community. So we did something about it. We brought the idea before the full

City Council, and on October 2, 2023, the Council voted unanimously to establish the City of Clovis Youth Commission. That was nearly three years ago. What has happened since then has exceeded every expectation we had. The Youth Commission exists for two main reasons: to engage youth voices in the

Youth Commission for the City of Clovis Update:

City of Clovis and to advise the City Council on the needs and concerns of young people in our community. It is an advisory body subject to the Brown Act, meaning these young commissioners learn to operate with the same standards of transparency and open government that we hold ourselves to as elected officials. They are not observers. They are participants. Each year, up to 21 high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors are selected through a competitive application and interview process. They must live within the City of Clovis, and they can serve for up to three years. They represent schools across our community. Commissioners meet monthly from September through May, setting and accomplishing goals outlined by the commission, the City Council, Clovis Unified School District, and city staff. They represent Clovis youth at designated city events including the Tree Lighting and Christmas Parade in December, the MLK Breakfast in February, the Rodeo Parade in April, and the Mayor's Breakfast in May. But their work goes far beyond showing up.

They plan and execute real projects that benefit real people in our city. This past year alone, the commission undertook two standout community service initiatives. The first was "Threads of Joy," a holiday clothing drive conducted in partnership with Exceptional Parents Unlimited, collecting clothes for children in need across our community. The second was an e-bike safety initiative at Trail Fest, where commissioners shared information and distributed over 300 bike helmets to local youth, speaking directly with families about the importance of safe riding. In a prior term, commissioners partnered with the Clovis Rodeo Association for the first-ever "Cowboy Cleanup Event," cleaning the Rodeo Grounds ahead of the rodeo. Beyond service projects, our youth commissioners have taken on leadership roles that would impress any adult professional. This year, ex officio commissioners served on the General Plan Advisory Committee and the Measure Y Oversight Committee, giving our young people a direct voice in how this city grows and how taxpayer dollars are

spent. Commissioners have toured city facilities including the recreation center, fire stations, transit operations, the police department, Village Green, and our water treatment facilities where they gain a firsthand understanding of what it takes to keep Clovis running every single day. These young people are not just the future of Clovis, they are already shaping it. I am proud of what Councilmember Ashbeck and I started together, and I am even prouder of what these commissioners have built on their own. If you know a high school student who is ready to lead, I encourage them to apply next summer. Clovis is better because of them and it will be better still because of what they become.

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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.

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By Stella C. Leue'

Are you aware that within the Clovis boundaries five cemeteries exist? The Clovis Cemetery District manages the following locations:



Clovis Cemetery, Academy Cemetery, Auberry Cemetery, Tollhouse Cemetery and Redbanks Cemetery. I recently visited each one and was pleasantly surprised by the unique character and different environment of each location. All have historical significance, but Academy is considered the oldest due to the burials of local Clovis pioneers, as the Baley family. At the wrought iron gate entry stands a large granite rock with the following inscription:

BEYOND THE HEADSTONES: Discovering our Local Cemeteries



“The Academy Cemetery is recognized by the Fresno County Historic Landmark and Advisory Commission, as a historic pioneer cemetery. The first burial was Benjamin, 10 years old, died November 22, 1867. His parents, William R. and Nancy F. Baley, had come west by wagon train from Missouri, 1859. Both parents are buried next to their son.

The land was donated by Sarah A. Baley Simpson, daughter of the Baleys. It was dedicated March 2, 1890 and donated to Clovis Cemetery District in 1948.”

Within the site is buried several family members side by side: Leach, 17 years, William, 48 years, Gillum, 82 years, and others. This is the Baley family’s final resting place.

Another prominent name I spotted was Paul Evert, a well known local businessman and philanthropist. At one time, Mr. Evert and his wife Sherri,

happened to be my neighbors, so I said a silent prayer for Paul. Right across from the Evert plot, lays the Hedrick’s family large memorial. They are owners of Hedrick-Hallowell Chevrolet dealership in Clovis.

There are many older tombstones going back to the mid 1800’s. Some are difficult to read due to weathering and age, but each one is special and represents a long-lost story of an important person who once lived in our surroundings. The oldest tomb belongs to Benjamin Baley, 10 years old who passed on November 22, 1867, unfortunately, the stone has sustained serious damage.

Unique to this hilly, dusty location the burial sites overlook the Clovis country side with a horse ranch/farm nearby and the majestic Sierra Nevada Mountains in the far distance. The impression is of the old west Boot Hill, but *still* in Clovis.

Back on California 168, I drove 5 miles north toward Auberry Cemetery also known as Marshall Station Cemetery on Auberry Road. This also has many historical and old tombstones. Here is some very nice ornate artwork by unknown monument craftsmen. Often, one sees family plots surrounded by low iron fences... all members united forever. Often bible or lost poetry verses are inscribed on tombs recalling the soul beneath the headstone. One wonders what their life was like in the mid-1800’s. Several tombs give testimony to families sorrow over losing their babies or young ones. How many tears were shed over these graves? Remember these were real people with thriving families. An example is the Greenup Family, and their one year old John. Mortality was shorter in the 1800’s due to diseases or accidents.

Onward I journeyed to the Tollhouse Cemetery located six miles from the bottom of the four lanes, and six miles from the Tollhouse Church. It is a windy road pass small farms and businesses. My destination is on an incline of a hill. Besides having old tombstones, one notices a change in memorial styles. Many are black marble with a pagoda design. On closer inspection, the name HER VANG, representing the Hmong families from Laos. Interestingly, their name means



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“to pray, to wish good fortune to others.” Why are these folks here? Apparently, the environment reminds them of their former homeland. Photos of men and women appear either in their native attire, or in formal uniforms, as retired officers. Each tablet is inscribed in their language and very distinct from western tombstones. Their elders help Hmong families in choosing their gravesite.

A unique tombstone which catches everyone’s eye is a photo of a young boy and his special locomotive.

It spans 3 grave sites, about 60" long and 30" in height. It is a reproduction of a 1800’s steam locomotive. Here on the hillside, this charming, smiling little four year old boy, sits in the cab tending his train for eternity. What a sight to behold!

From foothills back to flatlands, I turned right and headed on CA-168 through Prather toward Academy Avenue to East Shaw Avenue, we are now searching for Redbanks Cemetery. Total mileage is about 21.1 miles from Tollhouse.

Redbanks is on a hilly location facing south toward nearby valley and the Sierras. There is a walk-in gate which is always open. It is not dusty nor has a cowboy western mood, but quiet, peaceful grassy surroundings. It has been recorded to 1910, when Abraham R. Ball was buried here. It became part of the Cemetery District in 1928. Personally, the cemetery interests me, for my own future burial plot. The location overlooks the distant Sierras, where once I camped and hiked with my husband and young children. Nearby, are several church friends burial sites, who I hope to see in the future. Clearly, what is special about **Redbanks** is the serenity of this rural setting. In the past two years, three acres were added expanding the cemetery from 17 to 20 acres.

Back on to Shaw Avenue and westward to Clovis, approximately, 9 miles. I visited the **Clovis Cemetery**, which is more familiar to local residents. Clovis Cemetery District was established in 1928, prior to this the land was

originally owned by the Thompson Family, pioneer settlers. The oldest gravesite is Matilda Knight, November 29, 1904: *In after-time we’ll meet her.* It has 40 acres, with 30,000 graves including the baby burial section, unique to this cemetery.

At this location is the **Cemetery District office** I met with Stacie Caldwell, District Manager. Stacie has been working for the District 18 years, 14 as Family Coordinator, four as manager.

Supporting her are Operation Manager for maintenance/grounds/landscape (for 5 cemeteries), 7 full time ground employees, (3 seasonal grounds men), Family Coordinator/Secretary and Assistant Administrator. All employed by the Cemetery District and governed by the Board of Trustees.

Since burial of loved ones is a highly sensitive experience, she sees her employees as leaders “moving the process forward” to help families fulfill their wishes. They are aware of the grieving state of mind of their clients. “Reading people on arrival, tells us how to proceed depending on their emotional state.” Employees are to follow cemetery regulations, but also assist clients to the best of their ability. To qualify for burial in the Clovis area cemeteries, one needs to be a resident within certain boundaries, and a non-residency fee may apply if the applicant qualifies. *(Check with district office)* Clovis is the second largest cemetery district in the state of California.

We did discuss vandalism of tombs and property grounds within cemeteries. Vandalism occurs since Academy and Tollhouse are further away from regular supervision, a real concern. Criminals have stolen items; broken tomb stones; and homeless sleeping and entering after hours, therefore the road gates at these and Redbanks remain closed at nightfall. Eighteen years ago, some young teens tore up the grounds at Red Banks Cemetery. Fortunately, the District has a good working relationship with the Clovis Police Department who regularly patrol the Clovis Cemetery during the night.

Future plans are to expand burial grounds 13 feet wider



along the southern side of the Clovis cemetery. A new columbarium/240 niches wall was opened within the past year. Plans for further niches are being considered for the near future. The District Board will be placing a few new benches at Academy Cemetery. Also, this past year a new permanent canopy/open structure was installed at the Tollhouse Cemetery and is used for burial ceremonies.

One more important issue, Stacie addressed: The need to preplan your end of life arrangements.

“It is a precious gift you share with your loved ones!”

For burial services prices check the Clovis Cemetery District website: **Cloviscemetery.org**

May the road rise to meet you. May the wind be always at your back. May the sun

shine warm upon your face. May the rains fall softly upon your fields. Until we meet again, may God hold you in the hollow of His Hand! An Old Gaelic Blessing

CLOVIS DISTRICT CEMETERY & DISTANCES TO OTHER CEMETERIES

Clovis Cemetery: 305 N. Villa, Clovis CA 93612 (also is the main office) 559-299-6057

Mileage from Clovis Main District Office

Redbanks = 7.5 miles, via Shaw Ave., 12 minutes

Academy = 11.5 miles, via Academy Rd, via CA 168, 15 min.

Auberry = 19.1 miles, via Auberry Rd., 28 min.

Tollhouse = 25.2 miles via 168, Sample Rd., Tollhouse Rd., 35 min.

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



BY: HEATHER FRANTZICH

Old Town Clovis: Summer Fun Continues as Fall Events Approach

Old Town Clovis continues to be one of the community’s favorite gathering places, with summer activities in full swing and an exciting lineup of fall events already on the horizon. From Friday night Farmers Markets to shopping, dining and special events, there are plenty of reasons to spend time in the heart of Clovis.

Farmers Market Continues to Bring the Community Together

The Friday Farmers Market has once again brought families, friends and neighbors together in Old Town Clovis. Each week, visitors have an opportunity to enjoy fresh produce, entertainment and the welcoming atmosphere that has made the market a popular Clovis tradition.

Community participation also provides important support for the merchants and small businesses that help make Old Town unique. Organizers remain committed to providing a safe and family-friendly environment where residents of all ages can spend an enjoyable evening together.

Throughout the Farmers Market season, special theme nights and live entertainment add something different to the experience. Current information about market activities and entertainment can be found on the Old Town Clovis website.

Shop, Dine and Discover Old Town

Summer is also a great time to rediscover everything Old Town has to offer. Visitors are encouraged to spend some extra time exploring locally owned stores, restaurants and

service businesses while attending community activities. Choosing to shop and dine locally has an impact that reaches far beyond an individual purchase. Local businesses create jobs, contribute to the local economy and help preserve the distinctive character of Clovis.

Special promotions will continue to provide additional opportunities for residents and visitors to experience Old Town throughout the season.

A Busy Fall Is Coming

Even as summer activities continue, preparations are underway for a full calendar of fall celebrations.

Upcoming events include **Military Appreciation Night, Fall Glorious Junk Days, WalktoberFest, Trunk or Treat, the Old Town Harvest Festival, Old Town Harvest Car Show, One Enchanted Evening and Horse Carriage Rides.**

These activities offer something for almost

everyone, from families with children to shoppers, car enthusiasts and longtime residents who simply enjoy the traditions of Old Town Clovis.

Event dates, times and the complete community calendar are available at OldTownClovis.org.

Local Businesses Can Get Involved

Businesses looking for greater visibility in the community can also participate through event sponsorships. Sponsorships help organizers expand programming and create successful community events while providing participating businesses with promotional exposure.

Businesses interested in learning about sponsorship opportunities may contact B.O.O.T. for additional information.

What Is B.O.O.T.?

Behind many of these activities is the **Business Organization of Old Town Clovis**, better known as **B.O.O.T.** The nonprofit organization works with local merchants, community partners and the City of Clovis to strengthen Old Town and promote it as a destination for residents and visitors.

Membership is an important part of that mission. B.O.O.T.

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www.OldTownClovis.org

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became a member of the A Book Barn team. It has been especially rewarding to watch our customers' children grow up with books and then return with children of their own. In recent weeks, several adults have told us that their grandmothers used to bring them to the store, and now they are bringing their own children to share the same gift of reading.

Over the years, A Book Barn has grown through book signings, story times, Fossil Saturdays, Art Hop, Artists Fairs, local author fairs, poetry and philosophy readings, workshops, art classes, and writing groups. We have hosted teas, anniversary celebrations, business meetings, and special community events. We have offered themed summer reading programs and Therapy Dog Storytime, and we are an animal-friendly bookstore—welcoming everyone from dogs to dragons! We are always looking for new events and opportunities to bring people together.

We have also worked hard to meet the needs of teachers, students, and readers of all ages. Our children's section includes Newbery and Caldecott Award winners, beloved classics, and popular series. Our Young Adult section is enjoyed by teens and adults alike, and, after many customer requests, we added a Horror section. Other favorite areas include New Arrivals, Science Fiction/Fantasy, Romance, Classics, Poetry, History including California and local history, and Cooking.

Our Rare and Antiquarian sections are especially popular, with books dating back to the 1700s and 1800s. Our Rare section includes signed books, first editions, limited editions, children's books, and Science Fiction/Fantasy. Another celebrated section is Banned Books. Customers are often surprised to discover why, when, and where certain books have been banned. Because our Banned Books display became so popular during Banned Books Week, we decided to make it a year-round feature.

Community connections have always been central to A Book

Barn. Facebook, Instagram, Nextdoor, and local newspapers such as The Clovis Times have helped us stay connected with the people we serve. In 2018, A Book Barn was inducted into the Clovis Hall of Fame, and Alta Magazine recognized us as one of the best bookstores in the Valley. We have also been fortunate to receive recognition from newspapers and publications throughout the Valley.

Customer service is one of our highest priorities. We greet customers when they walk through the door and help them find their way to the genre or section they are looking for. Because our store is two stories, if someone is unable to get upstairs, we are happy to bring the books downstairs to them. Special orders have always been an important part of our business. We also offer a relaxed atmosphere, with chairs, tables, and couches where customers can sit, browse, read, or study. Students often use our upstairs area as a quiet place to study.

Our unique location and atmosphere have even attracted filmmakers and

photographers. Several films have been made at the store, and our first commercial featured customers walking through the door and being immediately "wowed" by the overwhelming number of books. Students have also chosen A Book Barn for prom photographs, senior pictures, engagements, and wedding photos.

Dan and I were both involved with Friends of the Library, and we were honored for our volunteer work. Dan started the Big Book Sale at Sierra Vista Mall, which ran for nearly ten years. He also published books for local authors for several years. After Dan passed away last year, I have continued to treasure the relationships he built with so many local writers.

We are incredibly proud of the authors who continue to visit, share their newest books, and grow in their writing careers. One signing brought nearly 300 people from the local area, as well as visitors from Ireland and San Francisco. Local author Margarita Engle, a former Young People's Poet Laureate, has received numerous awards, while Kasie



West has earned a devoted following for her award-winning young adult books.

Through every chapter, A Book Barn has remained more than a bookstore. It is a place for readers, writers, students, families, artists, teachers, and friends to gather. Our Barn Bugle and monthly "Special Word" keep customers connected, and our many events continue to bring new people through our doors.

The dream that Dan and I started 27 years ago continues today. A Book Barn is grateful to be part of the Clovis community, and we look forward to many more years of sharing books, stories, friendships, and the joy of reading.

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

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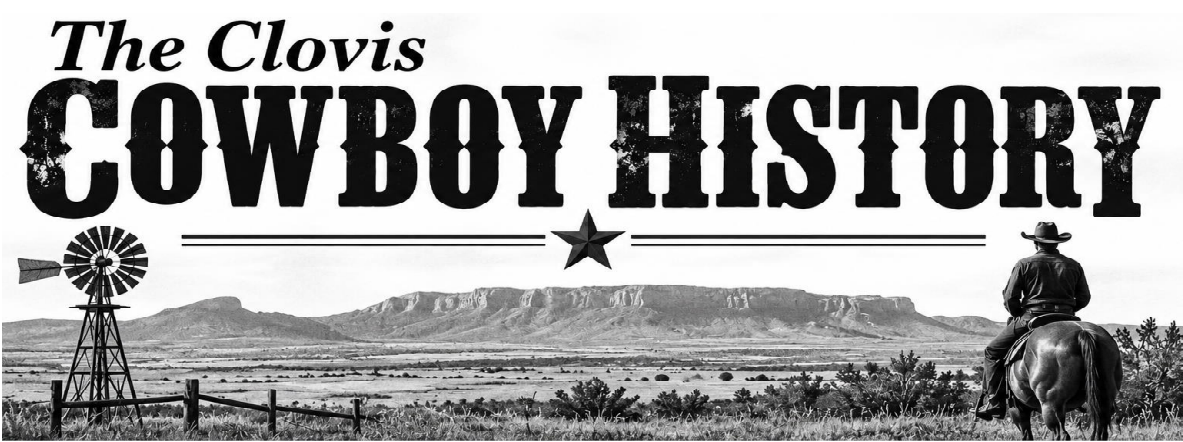
- We purchase books by appointment only. Give the store a call with the authors, genres, and how much (how many boxes) you have.
- Books need to be in good condition; no torn pages, no mold, no broken spines, etc.
- We are looking for different things all the time.

MOSTLY WE ARE LOOKING FOR:

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

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

640 Clovis Ave, Clovis, CA 93612
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I AM THE COWBOY POET

This poetry, like my life, has been a journey of my heart. My writing comes from somewhere well beyond where I



John Weisenberger

am, emerging as “Heart Words” – tender expressions from my spirit that touch yours. These poems reach into that hidden space we each carry deep within our hearts, giving voice to feelings you have always felt but perhaps could not name.

I have come to understand my work carries a special energy that transcends logic and human language. Whether you prefer to read the words on

the page or hear them spoken aloud, this heart-centered energy is present now and always. This gift aligns with your inner spirit, offering words you might have written yourself, if only you had them.

Since I began in 1967, readers have collected and cherished these poems as a reflection of our shared emotional journey. I feel deeply blessed to share these Heart Words with you. Welcome to a place where the wisdom of my heart is shared with yours. www.thecowboypoet.com



Live Long [Add Value] and Prosper

9/5/2026 Clovis, CA JLW [782T]

by John Weisenberger
TheCowboyPoet.com; “along for the ride”
[website now up - do visit our campfire]

“Live Long and Prosper”
from Mr Spock on “Star Trek”
it is the “Vulcan Motto”

I am interested in the Space Between
that wide open space between
now and the end of my life
what exactly should I do
with my own self

it seems I want to add value
and pursue those things
which come from the fire in my soul
and all my passions for living
in all my life

I turns out it is precisely the direct result
of my God Given Right
to pursue my very own happiness
for all my days

in this Land of Liberty
further

my adding of my value in my life
is my direct contribution to our total value
creating the resulting national value
which is nothing more nor less
than our American Exceptionalism
for all the world to see
[and wish they all actually had
within their own country]

so now my challenge to you:
join me, “Live Long [Add Value] And Prosper”

From Page 1: Melvin Francis Mason: The Clovis Crooner

note welcoming visitors to play at their leisure. It belongs to “Kuzzin Mel,” who himself quite frequently plucks it off the wall and sings songs for all those nearby.

Melvin Francis Mason walks around Polasky like Norm walks into Cheers. Everyone knows his name and everyone loves him. Those who don’t, will soon find him unforgettable. How else would you describe a deep baritone vocal cord, bringing back a great Johnny Cash hit that almost everyone immediately recognizes. That’s the beauty of what makes the self-proclaimed “Mayor of Polasky.” Mel has a gift for appealing to nostalgia with a warmth emanating within the songs as well as a simple greeting. He’s helping create unity of spirit, spreading joy the best way he knows how; a guitar; a memorable song; and general politeness.

The crooner of Clovis may simply engage in small talk; always interested in where you might be from. He may ask if you like music, strum his guitar and sing an old-fashioned love song. If you’re fortunate enough to get a song sample, it will bless your heart. He won’t sing much, just a verse or two. He pulls you into the moment and just as quickly ends it so as to not make anyone uncomfortable; ever conscientious of folk’s time and sensitivity to public attention.

Mel Mason is a fixture in “Old Town” and has been for years. His greatest delight is bringing joy to complete strangers. The locals know it and revere him for it. He’s been named to the Clovis Hall of Fame; and presented with the “Spirit of Clovis” award. Mel remains humble though, not seeking glory, just a desire to share a little slice of joy with anyone who will oblige; most do.

“Kuzzin Mel” as he’s also known comes from his handle during truck driving days, but his presence in down town is like bringing family together. Every day is a holiday meal with out-of-town relatives. Mel delights the most in approaching complete strangers and has developed a knack for spotting those with “tourist” written all over them. They will remember their visit to Clovis forever.

Watching the mayor in action is all part of the experience. Whether he’s singing a song

to someone you know personally or another nearby. He enjoys bringing back great love songs from forty plus years ago; songs that touch multiple generations. Who doesn’t like “Unchained Melody” by the Righteous Brothers or an Elvis Presley tune. Ol’ Mel’s got a vast repertoire of music to tap into, much to the delight of listeners. At 80 years old, the crooner has only slowed a little. His voice is still strong to match his heart for people.

Mel is a man of faith and loves singing gospel songs as well, but it’s not as much the song of choice as the smile it garners. He’s gifted this way and perhaps that’s why he’s so loved. Mel Mason has lived a blessed life earning many titles like the Mayor of Polasky; Kuzzin Mel; Hall of Famer; Grandfather; dad; devoted husband; an ambassador of good will; and as I like to call him, the “the Clovis Crooner.”

If you’re down town near the ice cream shop, Jeb’s Blueberry Hill, the new Nourish, or anywhere up and down Polasky, be sure to say hi. He’s that old friend, that feels more like comfort food, or a classic movie on a rainy day. You won’t be able to resist the smile. It’s contagious, because he’s the “mayor” and he always votes for joy.

Once a Bank, then a Courthouse now a Museum. FROM PAGE 1

Preserving the history, memories and stories of the early days of Clovis and the greater Big Dry Creek area



The first state Bank of Clovis was built in 1912. It was famously robbed not once but twice within a 10 month period between 1923 and 1924. The most famous of which was the bank robbery of 1924. A reenactment of the robbery is held February of every year later the bank was used as a post office and then a courthouse where many a resident had to appear before the judge for infractions as small as a speeding ticket today the building houses the Clovis dry big dry creek museum operated by Clovis big dry Creek historical Society.

The original Bank fault is still contained within the building and today houses a large collection of generational Clovis family histories along with original Clovis high school yearbooks the museum has many exhibits. All senior photos up to 1966 are on display other displays feature information, photographs, and artifacts related to, but not limited to, the founding fathers of Clovis. The great flume. The 1924. Bank robbery. The Clovis Rodeo. The native Yokut and Mono people. Gold Star Military Veterans. And of course Festus.





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CLOVIS HIGH WINS OVER LOS GATOS HIGH 24-7

By: David Menendian



By Armando Negrete,
Instagram
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After the Final Bull Ride: How the Clovis Rodeo Association Prepares Year-Round for Championship Competition

By Armando Negrete

When the final bull ride ends and the arena lights dim each April, fans leave with memories of thrilling rides, lightning-fast barrel racing and championship performances.

For the Clovis Rodeo Association, however, the finish line is also the starting gate.

Long before the first cowboy nods for the gate or the first bronc leaves the chute, months of planning, facility preparation and volunteer work are already underway to ensure one of California's premier rodeos returns each spring.

"It does slow down compared to rodeo weekend," said Clovis Rodeo Association President Danny Swenson. "But we still meet every month to prepare for the next one."

Once the dust settles, the association shifts its attention to wrapping up finances, evaluating the event and managing its year-

round operations, including the banquet hall that regularly hosts community and nonprofit organizations.

Planning for the next rodeo begins in earnest each December when association leaders attend the National Finals Rodeo Convention in Las Vegas. There, they renew agreements with major sponsors while continuing to build relationships that help attract top competitors and deliver a first-class rodeo experience.

By January, the focus moves to the rodeo grounds as the association begins maintenance projects and workdays to prepare the arena and facilities for another successful season.

While many fans think of the Clovis Rodeo as a three-day sporting event, Swenson said April is filled with competition long before opening night.

"The whole month of April is packed," he said.

The association hosts its annual Ranch Rodeo, showcasing the skills of local cowboys, along with a major roping competition and activities surrounding Clovis Big Hat Days. Together, the events celebrate western heritage while building excitement for the Professional Rodeo Cowboys Association competition that follows.

Although no major construction is scheduled before the 2027 rodeo, Swenson said the association has begun early planning for what could become its most ambitious capital improvement project, the eventual replacement of the historic concrete grandstands.

The work extends well beyond the arena.

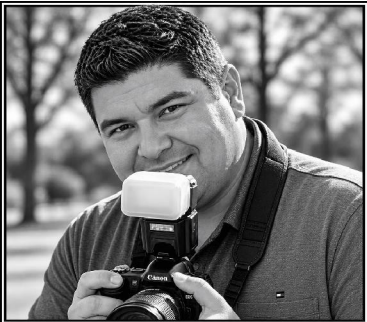


Throughout the year, the Clovis Rodeo Association hosts fundraising and charitable events, including a clay shoot benefiting Valley Children's Hospital, the Cowgirl Up Barbecue supporting local nonprofits, the President's State Rodeo each November and a holiday blood drive in December. Partnerships with organizations such as Kiwanis and the Boy Scouts also provide hundreds of volunteer hours that help make rodeo week possible.

As preparations continue, Swenson said the goal remains unchanged: to deliver one of the West's premier rodeo experiences while preserving a tradition that has defined Clovis for generations.

"The wheels are definitely in motion for this coming rodeo," Swenson said. "We'll continue bringing the best animal stock and the best cowboys and cowgirls to Clovis. It's a great family-friendly event, and we look forward to seeing everyone back next spring."

For spectators, the Clovis Rodeo may last only a few days. But behind every ride, every run and every championship buckle is a dedicated team working year-round to make one of the region's signature sporting events possible.



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STEVEN SANCHEZ is a photographer, videographer, journalist, filmmaker, and published author. He specializes in concerts, stand-up comedy, sporting events, and comic book conventions. He has worked in multiple creative fields, ranging from radio, marketing, and public relations. His journey has taken him to places like California, Las Vegas, and New York. Whether it be in front or behind the camera, story telling is my passion.

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Our nation owes a great deal to the man Ben Franklin.

He not only had been encouraging our independence for thirty years prior to 1776, but he had been busy doing all in his power to see it come to fruition. He spent time in France trying to secure funds and military aid. He has participated on committees. Ben signed the Declaration and will be there to sign the Constitution. Perhaps the greatest impact of his presence was when he took to the floor.

June 28, 1787, the convention was struggling. Delegates from each state fought and argued amongst themselves. Each state seemed to have their own agenda and ideas and didn't much care for what others thought. While things were not going particularly well, wise ol' Ben made his greatest speech.

"... In this situation of this Assembly groping as it were in the dark to find political truth, and scarce able to distinguish it when presented to us, how has it happened, Sir, that we have not hitherto once thought of humbly applying to the Father of lights to illuminate our understandings? In the beginning of the contest with G. Britain, when we were sensible of danger we had daily prayer in this room for the Divine Protection. — Our prayers, Sir, were heard, and they were graciously answered... I have lived, Sir, a long time and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth, that God governs in the affairs of men.

And if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without [H]is notice, is it probable that an empire can rise without [H]is aid? We have been assured, Sir, in the sacred writings that "except the Lord build the House they labor in vain that build it." I firmly believe this; and I also believe that without [H]is concurring aid we shall succeed in this political building no better than the Builders of Babel... I therefore beg leave to move, that henceforth prayers imploring the assistance of Heaven, and its blessings on our deliberations, be held in this Assembly every morning before we proceed to business, and that one or more of the Clergy of this City be requested to officiate in that service."

History reflects that the result of his request became the turning point of the convention. Several of the delegates testified in their own writings and journals how everything changed and it was evident that the finger of God was upon them.

The United States of America is the greatest nation in the history of the world. Yes, it has flaws. To only focus on the negatives is like not awarding the Superbowl winning team its trophy because in actuality it had still lost a few games during the year; the quarterback had several interceptions and they amassed a lot of penalties.

The overall good of America far outweighs the bad. Most people either don't want to or are incapable of seeing it because of their own prejudices, conclusions and bitterness. The beauty comes into view when we observe through the lens of God the Father.

He inspired the people to come to America and seek freedom. He inspired the notion that America was to be "a shining city upon the hill." He is the one who helped saved and blessed George Washington's rag-tag army. He is the one who inspired the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

God used perhaps one of the least religious of the leaders to seal the deal. Thank you Ben Franklin, Thank You Lord!

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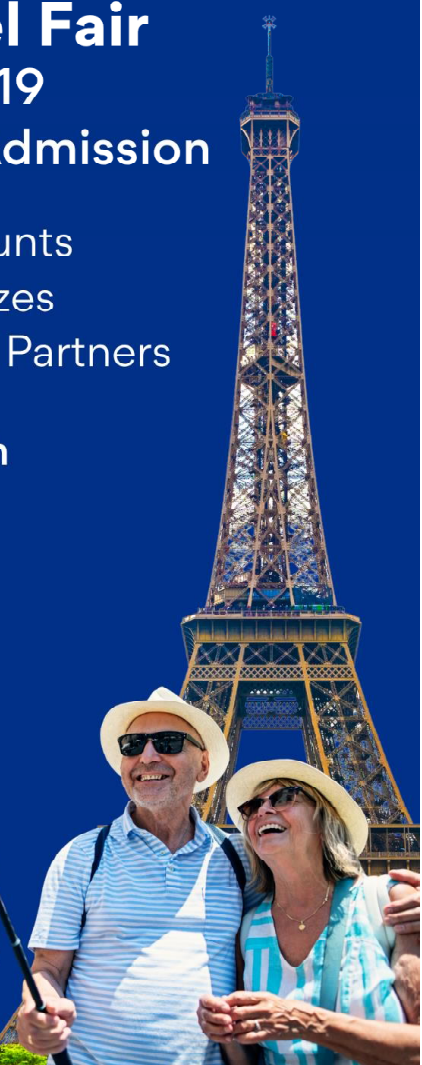
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**BY: Rev. Sandi Hardister Querin, MBA, JD, MDiv, ThD
Director of The Revival Center, Outreach Clovis California**

America! The very sound of it brings hope around the world for those who love freedom. For those who do not, the sound brings a terror and a fear; and this, is as it should be for America will always defend her right to be free.

We defined freedom a long time ago. It is not the absence of war, it is the embrace of justice. It is the capture of liberty. While freedom is the natural ability to do as we please, unhindered by restraint. Liberty makes freedom accountable by embracing structured enjoyment protected by laws and balanced by civic responsibility along with social obligations.

As America rounds the corner into our 250th year, I make note of some broken standards that are leaking into our culture. We were founded with the ideal to be free to worship God without the need for intervention. This drive pulled and pushed us away from what was home and comfortable so long ago. As that drive has diminished, I am sure we have become unrecognizable to those who suffered for our existence.

Our founding fathers made a covenant that forced destruction upon themselves because they deemed the cause worthy and I think they figured we would agree. Anyone who has served in the armed services, understands this covenant because their lives are not their own. This covenant should be respected and protected by the people, the church and the government.

We are STILL a nation built on Christian Faith. But somehow, an over abundance of “tolerance” has crept in to our pulpits and hearts, thus creating a crack in our covenant. We have forgotten that it takes a set of standards to create and keep a nation. And a set of standards must be enforced as it embraces the reason we exist: Christian Faith.

As we return to the dynamics of the price that was paid for our country, we too, must rise up and be willing to pay the price to walk correctly, as Christ did. This living breathing example will change our nation.

Much of the church seems to be lulled to sleep in a fear of losing people, so they have created congregations who are self absorbed and powerless. The pulpits need to turn and turn hard toward the redeeming power of Christ. Let the people be redeemed! Let the precious Holy Spirit have His way. Things will get messy. Most pastors cannot handle messy, so they stay in the lukewarm C average category where nobody is affected beyond a key word sermon. And I say this, America deserves better. Christ deserves better. They both suffered to bring us Freedom and Liberty.

“Be strong and be of good courage” as God told Joshua. He also told him to “Cause the people to obey.” (Joshua Chapter 1) This can only be done if people’s hearts return to Christ the King, beyond the creation and enforcement of laws.



**The Revival Center,
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Blessing of the Animals

Memorial United Methodist Church of Clovis invites you to attend our annual FREE Blessing of the Animals service. Animals of all shapes and sizes are welcome, as are their people. Pets must remain on a leash or halter or in an enclosed carrier.

Where: Memorial United Methodist Church, 1726 Pollasky Ave., Clovis.

When: Saturday, Sept. 26. Gather at 9:30 a.m. on the plaza next to Pollasky. Service starts at 10 a.m.

Questions: Call us at (559) 299-4615, email us at memumc@mem-umc.org.

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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.



What We're Building Is Something Bigger Than Just a Center.

Brandi Asacker
Founder / CEO

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

It's Community, Connection, and a Place to Belong.

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

As we step into September, I don't think I could be more excited or more proud of what we are building at Beyond The Barracks.

What started with a simple mission to make sure Veterans in our community know they are not alone continues to grow into something bigger.

This month, we are expanding Beyond The Barracks with our new Veteran & Family Wellness Center, creating additional space, resources, and support for Veterans and the families who stand beside them.

But no matter how much we grow, one thing will never

change: our Veterans will always be our first priority.

We believe that when we take care of the Veteran and give him or her as many tools as possible to put in their toolbox, we aren't only helping that Veteran, we are strengthening an entire family. A Veteran who has support, connection, healthy coping tools, and people they can turn to has a greater opportunity to be the spouse, partner, parent, friend, and person they want to be.

We also understand that military service doesn't only impact the person who wore the uniform. Spouses, partners, children, and families can carry their own challenges while loving and supporting a Veteran through transition, PTSD, loss, stress, and the many experiences that can come after military service. They deserve a place to turn, too.

That is a huge part of why this expansion means so much to us. Our Veteran & Family Wellness Center will allow us to expand beyond the

camaraderie and peer connection we have already built and provide additional tools that support the whole person and, ultimately, the whole family.

One of the pieces we are most excited about is Veteran-led, clinician-based therapy. There is something incredibly powerful about sitting across from someone who not only has the clinical training to help, but also understands military culture because they have lived it themselves.

Our goal is to create an environment where seeking therapy doesn't feel clinical, intimidating, or disconnected from the Veteran community. It will be another tool available right here, alongside the relationships and camaraderie Veterans have already built at BTB.

We also plan to expand therapy and support to spouses, couples, and families. Sometimes the person supporting the Veteran needs support, too. Military families navigate challenges that civilian families may not always understand, and we want spouses and partners to know that they have a place here as well. As we continue growing, we look forward to developing spouse support groups and expanding marriage and couples therapy resources.

Our expanded resources will include:

- Veteran-led clinician-based therapy
- Meditation & restorative yoga
- Mindfulness and somatic movement/breathwork
- Peer support groups
- Faith-based fellowship on

Wednesday evenings

- Future spouse and partner support groups
- Marriage and couples therapy
- Additional resources and support for Veteran families

Everything we are building comes back to one idea: give our Veterans and their families more tools, more connection, and more reasons to know they do not have to navigate life alone.

We don't want Beyond The Barracks to simply be somewhere Veterans come when they need help. We want it to be somewhere they come because they belong here, to grab coffee, eat breakfast, sit around a table, laugh, talk, meet another Veteran, find support, or just have somewhere to be.

Because sometimes suicide prevention doesn't look like a crisis intervention. Sometimes it looks like a cup of coffee, a conversation, a bowling league, a support group, a therapist who understands, or simply having somewhere you know people are going to notice when you walk through the door.

That is what we are building.

Something bigger than a center. A community. A connection. A family. A place to belong.

And we are just getting started.

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