

Vol. 54, No.1

The Antlers Speak

January 2024

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3rd, 2024 ANNUAL CRAB FEED

Family Style
All you can eat!
\$70.00 per person
Doors Open @ 5:30pm

Buy tickets early!

Feed begins @ 7:15 pm

Must purchase tickets in advance to reserve seats!! No tickets sold at door --- no doggie bags allowed Call Mark Leigh for Tickets ~ 209-617-8554

RAFFLE PRIZES/DONATIONS NEEDED

BLOOD DRIVE Vitalant Blood Source

January 10, 2024 Merced Elks Drive Downstairs Dining Room 3pm to 7pm

Need at least 25 members to make this a successful event

Please contact Secretary Jane Lozano: phone/text, (209) 617-9677 or email to elks1240@gmail.com

Leading Knight Challenge

Portuguese Night
To Benefit the Major Project Purple Pig Fund
Saturday, January 27, 2024
Cost: \$30 Per Person
Doors Open: 5:00 PM
Dinner 6:00 PM

Menu: Sopas, Filhos, and Torresmos Vinha D'Alhos Contact Chairman Jeff Horta 209-777-0074

FINANCIAL NIGHT

Thursday, January 4th, 2024

Steak - Red Potato, etc \$20.00 Hosted by Shawn Dwyer

Merchant's Nig

Thursday, January 18th, 2024 Steak - Corn, etc \$20.00 Chairman: Tom Jaroszek

THE ANTLERS SPEAK

published by
Merced Elks Lodge #1240 B.P.O.E.
1910 "M" Street
Merced, CA 95340
(209) 723-1240 • Fax: (209) 723-2327
Upstairs Bar: (209) 722-5909
Elks Park: (209) 500-7352
Lodge e-mail: elks1240@gmail.com



Exalted Ruler Sara Rosenthal



Leading Knight Jeff Horta



Loyal Knight Jim Pacheco



Lecturing Knight Patty Brown

Loyal Knight	Jim Pacheco
Lecturing Knight	Patty Brown
Esquire	
Chaplain	Dave Wells
Inner Guard	Ryan Williams
Tiler	
Secretary	Jane Lozano
Treasurer	
Organist	Joyce Avila
Trustee 1	Rick Eason
Trustee 2	Leonard Redwine
Trustee 3	
Trustee 4	Cyril Lawrence
Trustee 5	Brian Williams
Bulletin Editor	Bill Gray

Club Manager.....Jesse Reynolds

EXALTED RULER'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year!

I hope everyone had a wonderful December celebrating the holidays with their friends and family!

We started the month off with our annual Memorial service. Many thanks to Clint Moore for serving as our orator and putting together the refreshments. I appreciate Kent Floro and Stratford Evans Funeral Home for putting together the slide show and programs for the event. They're a beautiful touch to our ceremony.

The event calendar in December was packed and we had a lot of volunteers putting in the work to make them happen. On December the 9th, Patty Brown chaired our annual hoop shoot at El Capitan High School. On December 15, Dave Wells organized a delicious Christmas lunch for children and adults with disabilities. Later that night, Laura Moore had a crew of volunteers wrapping Christmas presents for Santa's visit. On December 16, the upstairs bar was bustling with the Nog Party brought to you by Bob Howley and Dave Wells. On December 17, Clint and Laura Moore hosted our annual kids Christmas party so the children and grandchildren of our members could meet Santa. We also had Andrew Garcia and Susan Albertoni chairing our two lodge nights in December. All of these events were possible because of members who gave their time to make our lodge great! Thank you to everyone who chased basketballs, scooped mashed potatoes, wrapped presents, collected gift prizes, served hot chocolate, cooked a lodge dinner, and donated their precious time to our lodge.

Elk of the Month Michael Pellicano

At the Christmas lunch for people with disabilities, Michael Pellicano got in the Christmas spirit and dressed up as Santa Clause for our guests. He even brought an elf with him to help hand out candy! His son Michael Pellicano Junior was a great elf helping his dad get Elk of the Month! Thank you and congratulations!

Fraternally,

Sara Rosenthal Exalted Ruler

FROM THE DESK OF THE SECRETARY

Happy New Year to all of our fabulous members! Thank you to everyone who has helped out in one way or another. Our lodge is growing and appreciates all the volunteer opportunities.

"And suddenly you know: It's time to start something new and trust the magic of beginnings."

Jane Lozano Secretary

CLUB MANAGER'S MESSAGE

Hello to all! As most of you know, I have taken over as Club Manager. I am looking forward to working in my new position for a great year 2024 and working side by side with the great office staff. Please feel free to call me with any questions or concerns at 209-769-8068.

Jesse Reynolds Club Manager

PURPLE PIG



A COIN A DAY SO THEY CAN WALK, TALK, SEE AND PLAY!

Thank you to the following members for turning in their Purple Pigs and donating to the Purple Pig Project in December:

> Donna Jones Bob and Jeri Hinson Karen Marques Stephen Jones Hubert Walsh Clara Treso Marvon Hoogendam Tim Rego Josephine Fragnito-Lira Steve Tatun Richard Fragnito-Lira Larry Shankland Phyliss Olin John Cale Marc Medefind Vickie Munson Ki Vacca Kenn Henn Joyce Avila

We also thank our anonymous Lodge members for their generous donations.

We appreciate all the donations received during 2023, and we look forward to counting more coins in 2024. Did you know, if every Elk in our Lodge donated just 10 cents a day, our collective "piggy bank" would be holding more than \$55,000 for the year. It doesn't take much, so start filling your next purple pig today!

Jeannette Pacheco Chairman

ELKS PARK

Well, the New year is here, and the Park has been keeping busy with lots of campers. The hosts are trying to keep up with all the leaves falling, but that will end soon.

I have a number of people asking about installing a Pickle Ball court for use by our guests and members. I know it is a big thing right now and the craze is sweeping the country. Here is the question, are there enough members that might want to use it to justify spending \$10,000 on it? Also, are you interested, and would you be willing to help build it or even help defer part of the cost? Feel free to call me if you have questions or comments.

Remember you are always welcome to come out for a cup of coffee on Thursday mornings at 8:00 AM, meet the crew and see the Park.

I regularly get asked about RV storage, and not at this time. If you need a place to store your RV, call the Host and he can put you on the list.

For more information, call Mark Theofanides, 209-777-5011.

For RV reservations and storage, contact Mark or Annie at 209-500-7352.

To rent the pavilion, contact Dee at 209-658-0505.

Mark Theofanides Elks Park Chair









Tom & Jeanine, Dwners Office: 209-384-8672 236 W. 18th St. • Merced, CA 95340

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Nomination For 2024/2025 Officers

The Lodge will be taking nominations for Officers on February 1, 2024, at our Lodge Meeting night.

Those nominated will be voted on at our Lodge Meeting night on February 15th.

MIXOLOGY IS BACK



January 24, 2024

At the Downstairs Bar Price: \$25 Starts at 6:00 PM

Happy New Year!

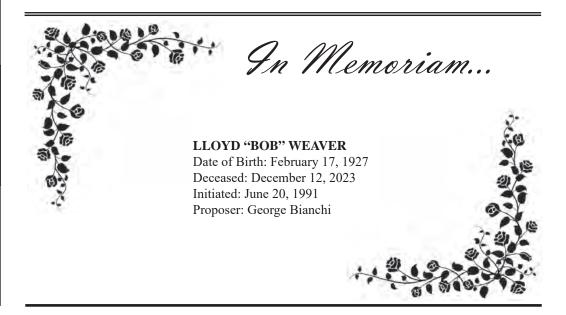
In honor of all our New Year's resolutions, we will be mixing Low Cal/Skinny (quilt free) Cocktails!

Skinny Margarita, Sea Breeze, and a Cucumber Mojito Martini.

Be sure to bring your usual tools and your fruit press.

Drop me a line and let me know if you're coming: pbelmontes121@gmail.com





SAVE THE DATE

PER Backdoor Feed February 21

> Mixology February 21

Frenchman's Night - Tim Pellissier February 15

> Trivia Game Night (NEW) February 29

> > Installations March 23

THANKSGIVING STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS LUNCHEON

Dr. Donald Gumm ENF Grants Coordinator

On 11/17/2023, our Lodge provided a free Thanksgiving luncheon for special needs students. Once again, PDDGER Dave Wells was the project manager for this outstanding project, and he arrived before the sun had risen to put the turkeys in the oven. The invited students were from the transition programs and high schools with the Merced Union High School District and Merced County Office of Education. 194 students and staff attended and enjoyed a meal that included turkey, stuffing, mashed potatoes, green bean casserole, cranberry sauce, and pumpkin pie. Drug awareness wrist bands were given to everyone. The Elks utilized funding from the Elks National Foundation Beacon Grant, Merced Elks BINGO, Merced Elks Park, and Merced Elks Challenged Children's Poker Run. Volunteers included Len Samuelson, PER and Lodge Treasurer; Sharon Cotter, John Cotter, Steve Freites, Mark Theofanides, Elks Park Coordinator; John Cale, PER; Rick Eason, Lodge Trustee; Jack Kelly, PER; Debbie Samuelson, Donna Hoffart, Jane Lozano, Lodge Secretary; Dave Wells, PDDGER, and Donald Gumm, PDDGER.













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JANUARY FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER

January 5th – Chicken Fried Steak & Basa

January 12th – Parmesan Calamari & Meatloaf

January 19th – Salmon & Chicken Cordon Bleu

January 26th – Baby Back Ribs & Tilapia

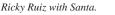


For Friday Night reservations, call Jesse Reynolds at 209-769-8068. Please Do Not Call the Office. **Deadline For Reservations are to be made by NOON on Friday that week.**

SANTA'S VISIT

Santa arrived at the Merced Lodge on Sunday afternoon, December 17th, with presents for over 100 boys and girls (thanks Bob Howley). It was a great day, and everyone went away happy, and all sugared up with cookies, ice cream, and hot chocolate. A big "thank you" to all Santa's Elves that helped that day and to all that helped wrap those presents at the wrapping party Friday night! Oh, what fun it is to be an Elk.







Clint Moore, Santa, Laura Moore

Happy New Year!

CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON - STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS

Dr. Donald Gumm, ENF Grants Coordinator

On the last Friday of school before the Christmas break, our Lodge provided a luncheon for 208 special needs students and 52 staff members with the Merced County Office of Education, Merced Union High School District, and the Family Challenged Resource Center. Project Chairman Dave Wells arrived early in the morning to place the turkeys into the oven, then other volunteers arrived later to prepare the rest of the food. Everyone was provided a delicious lunch of turkey, dressing, green bean casserole, mashed potatoes with gravy, cranberry sauce, rolls, apple & pumpkin pie. Professional pictures were taken of the students with Santa. Elks drug awareness wrist bands, literature, & coloring books were passed out. \$25 grocery gift cards were given to the school staff, and the cards were sent home to the special students at the end of the school day.

Funding for this project was provided by the Merced Elks BINGO, Merced Elks RV Park, & Challenged Childrens Family Resource Center. A special thank you to the following volunteers: Project Chairman Dave Wells, PDDGER; Steve Freitas; Mark Theofanides, Elks Park Chairman; Cory Ruiz; Sharon Cotter; John Cotter; Miranda Hendrickson; Sara Rosenthal, ER; Jane Lozano, Lodge Secretary; Cliff McGhee, PER; Len Samuelson, PER & Lodge Treasurer; John Cale, PER; Donald Gumm, PDDGER; and Santa Claus from the North Pole.











BIRTHDAYS IN JANUARY

Danielle Buzbee Richard Cometta William Spriggs William Atkinson Edward Keegan Daniel Miller Lucrisia Adame Katherine Coggin Katrina Hover Michael Nelson Ken Van Foeken John Wheatcroft Darren Garcia Nancy Hawkins Sherri Hewlett David McComb Frank Silva Joey Stefani Ana Truax Mary Wentz Theresa Sterling Art Uribe Robert Cardoza Bryan Giebeler William Grav Stewart Haarberg Dylan Pickard Eli Rodriquez Hunter Sandlin Joe Solis Joseph Zack Chris Contreras Robin Ingraham Stephen Luna Randall Pellissier

Bruce Brown Jeff Coburn Albert Kelley Ernesto Ramirez Celeste Rohrback 10 Marcella Chavez Diana Diliberto Jimmy Porta Monika Saini-Donabed Gary Smith David Hagan Brannigan Higgins Jon Horta Sam Rashe 13 Hunter Baker David Costa Ronald Mahy Jacob Mochel Richard Spielman 14 Paul Creighton Andrew Curiel Michael Headley Torrin Johnson John Silva Bryan Smith Vann Smith Pedro Vieira Misty Alonzo Richard Cagle Richard Fragnito-Lira Stephen Hamilton

Thoma Jaroszek David Lopez George Morrow John Huie Ralph Offerman Scott Roduner Dale Wagner Toni Zeller 19 Clark Bird Martin Campbell Clark Bentz Johnathon King David Mariano Aaron Rosenberg Rvan Sziraki Sandra Turgeon Bill Turpin Kelly Wilde 21 Jodi Frade Leonard Redwine Francis Semonelli Vincent Minor Juan Munoz Manuel Soares Ir Robert Torres Fredrick French Arnold Levey William O'Bruba Robert Carpenter Brad Sausser Mark Tanzillo 25

Jason Schneider

Anthony Spielman

Elaine Davis Steve Kile 27 Linda Burdick Gordon Clark Kenneth Gray Richard Ruiz Carla Van Huystee Terry Vargas 28 Roger Blaine Duane Borba Andrew DiFalco Melissa Gumm Alan Jansen Robert Sanchez Chris Shannon 29 Robby Ferreria Tim Gallichio Coy King Linda Mendez Augustine Lara Gregory Alonzo Alicia Amis Tami Davidson James Moore Robert Romero Edward Silva Eric Stein

LODGE COMMITTEE DIRECTORY

16

Mike Akers

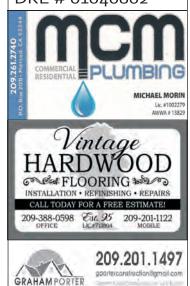
Hugo Bucio

Mario Massasso

Melba Miyamoto

Raelene Pritchard	209-380-4214
Jane Lozano	209-617-9677
Clint Moore	209-761-6801
Patty Brown	209-631-2316
Dr. Donald Gumm	209-723-1240
Vacant	
Raelene Pritchard	209-380-4214
Len Samuelson	209-261-9187
Ken Working	559-362-5556
C	
Jeff Horta	209-777-0074
Jim Pacheco	209-631-0868
John Cale	209-261-7770
Jane Lozano	209-617-9677
Ken Henn	209-658-0783
Bryan Williams	209-769-1083
Candy Soares	209-481-3215
Sara Rosenthal	209-777-8527
Jane Lozano	209-617-9677
Cliff Mc Ghee	209-658-8691
Vacant	
John Cale	209-261-7770
Jane Lozano	209-617-9677
Jeannette Pacheco	209-564-2138
Harlan Dake	209-769-0930
Dr. Donald Gumm	209-723-1240
Clint Moore	209-761-6801
Jeff Horta	209-777-0074
	Jane Lozano Clint Moore Patty Brown Dr. Donald Gumm Vacant Raelene Pritchard Len Samuelson Ken Working Jeff Horta Jim Pacheco John Cale Jane Lozano Ken Henn Bryan Williams Candy Soares Sara Rosenthal Jane Lozano Cliff Mc Ghee Vacant John Cale Jane Lozano Jeannette Pacheco Harlan Dake Dr. Donald Gumm Clint Moore





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NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

Friday

Saturday



Sunday Monday

JANUARY 2024

Tuesday Wednesday Thursday

Juliany	Worlday	rucsuay	weariesday	marsaay	(No Lunch Served)	Saturday
	1 KITCHEN CLOSED SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:30AM thappy New Year! MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL	2 LUNCH 11:00-2:00 PM SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:30AM BINGO EARLY BIRD 6:30PM REGULAR 7:00PM	3 LUNCH 11:00-2:00 PM SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:30AM ORIENTATION	4 LUNCH 11:00-2:00 PM SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:30 AM LODGE MEETING INSURANCE/FINANCIAL NIGHT SHAWN DWYER INITIATION	5 FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER 6:00-8:30 PM SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:30AM CHICKEN FRIED STEAK & BASA	6 SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:00AM
7 SKY LOUNGE OPEN 9:30 AM DD.CLINIC MODESTO LODGE Tailgate Football Sunday	8 LUNCH 11:00-2:00 PM SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:30AM PER MEETING MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL	9 LUNCH 1 1:30-2:00 PM SKYLOUNGE OPEN 11:30 AM BINGO EARLY BIRD 6:30PM REGULAR 7:00PM	10 LUNCH 11:30-2:00 PM SKYLOUNGE OPEN 11:30 AM BLOOD DRIVE 3:00PM-7:00PM	1 LUNCH 11:00-2:00 PM SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:30 AM TRUSTEE MEETING AT 6:00 PM, HOUSE MEETING AT 7:00, BOARD MEETING IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING HOUSE MEETING	12 FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER 6:00-8:30 PM PARMESAN CALAMARI & MEAT LOAF	13 SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:00AM
14 SKY LOUNGE OPEN 9:30 AM Tailgate Football Sunday	15 LUNCH 11:00-2:00 PM SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:30AM MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL	16 LUNCH 11:00-2:00 PM SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:30AM BINGO EARLY BIRD 6:30PM REGULAR 7:00PM	17 <u>LUNCH</u> 11:00-2:00 PM <u>SKY LOUNGE OPEN</u> 11:30AM MIXOLOGY	18 LUNCH 11:00-2:00 PM SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:30AM MERCHANT'S NIGHT CHAIRMAN: TOM JAROSZEK LODGE MEETING/ VOTING	19 FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER 6:00-8:30 PM SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:30AM STATE PRESIDENT VISIT MODESTO LODGE SALMON & CHICKEN CORDON BLEU	20 SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:00AM STATE PRESIDENT VISIT STOCKTON LODGE
21 SKY LOUNGE OPEN 9:30 AM Tailgate Football Sunday	22 LUNCH 11:00-2:00 PM SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:30AM MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL	23 LUNCH 11:00-2:00 PM SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:30AM BINGO EARLY BIRD 6:30PM REGULAR 7:00PM	24 LUNCH 11:00-2:00 PM SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:30AM	25 LUNCH 11:00-2:00 PM SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:30AM KARAOKE FEBRUARY 2024	26 FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER 6:00-8:30 PM SKYLOUNGE OPEN 11:30AM BABY BACK RIBS & TILAPIA	27 SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:00AM LEADING KNIGHT CHALLENGE PORTUGUESE DINNER
28 SKY LOUNGE OPEN 9:30 AM Tailgate Football Sunday	29 LUNCH 11:00-2:00 PM SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:30AM MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL	30 LUNCH 11:00-2:00 PM SKYLOUNGE OPEN 11:30AM BINGO EARLY BIRD 6:30PM REGULAR 7:00PM	31 LUNCH 11:00-2:00 PM SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:30AM	1 LUNCH 11:00-2:00 PM SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:30AM LODGE MEETING/INITIATION PER NIGHT NOMINATION OF OFFICERS FOR 2024/2025	PRIDAY NIGHT DINNER 6:00-8:30 PM SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:30AM CHICKEN FRIED STEAK & BASA	3 SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:00AM CRAB FEED
4 SKY LOUNGE OPEN 9:30 AM Tailgate Football Sunday	5 LUNCH 11:00-2:00 PM SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:30AM	6 LUNCH 11:00-2:00 PM SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:30AM BINGO EARLY BIRD 6:30PM REGULAR 7:00PM	7 LUNCH 11:00-2:00 PM SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:30AM	8 LUNCH 1.1:00-2:00 PM SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:30 AM TRUSTEE MEETING AT 6:00 PM, HOUSE MEETING AT 7:00, BOARD MEETING IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING HOUSE MEETING	9 FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER 6:00-8:30 PM SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:30AM CHICKEN FRIED STEAK & BASA	10 SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:00AM CHALLENGE KIDS BINGO VALENTINE DANCE
11 SKY LOUNGE OPEN 9:30 AM SUPER BOWL Sunday	12 LUNCH 11:00-2:00 PM SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:30AM PER MEETING	13 LUNCH 11:30-2:00 PM SKYLOUNGE OPEN 11:30 AM BINGO EARLY BIRD 6:30PM REGULAR 7:00PM	14 LUNCH 11:30-2:00 PM SKYLOUNGE OPEN 11:30 AM	15 LUNCH 11:00-2:00 PM SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:30 AM LODGE MEETING FRENCHMAN'S NIGHT VOTING OF OFFICERS	16 LUNCH 11:00-Z:00 PM SKYLOUNGE OPEN 11:30 AM PARMESAN CALAMARI & MEAT LOAF	17 SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:00AM