



THE

ANTLERS SPEAK



OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE MERCED B.P.O.E. NO. 1240
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Vol. 54, No.7

The Antlers Speak

July 2025

Elks FIREWORKS BOOTH

Members get 10% discount
Dollar Tree Parking Lot

R Street and Olive Avenue

Sunday, June 29th - Friday, July 4th

From 10:00am to 10:00pm

Please purchase your fireworks at our Stand

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Chairman Maria Lopez 209-658-1193

Co-Chairman Robert Romero 209-213-9676

Luau Party

Saturday, July 19, 2025

Members & their Guests

Merced Elks Lodge ~ 1910 M Street, Merced, CA

Cocktails 5-6 pm ~ Hula Dancers & Buffet 6-7 pm

Live Music by Sound Remedy 7:30 pm

\$35

Table for 10 \$300

Specialty Drinks available with keepsake Glass

Refills at a discount price

Buffet: Kalua Pig, Huli Huli Chicken, Hawaiian Macaroni Salad,
Molokai Sweet Potatoes, Green Salad, Rolls & Dessert



Tickets Available
Monday, June 16, 2025

Available at the Sky Bar
Or contact

RaeLene Pritchard, PER
209-380-4214
raelenepritchard@att.net



STEAK at the LAKE

Lake Yosemite - Rotary Cove I

Saturday, August 9th, 2025

Fun begins @ 11:00am till 4:00pm!

Lunch will be served from 12:00 to 3:00pm

Raffle will be at 2:00 pm!

Prizes available

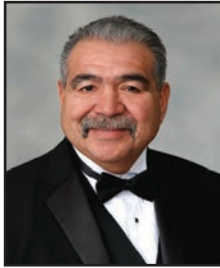
you need not be present to win!



You can purchase a 12oz steak
with all the fixings for \$20.
You must purchase tickets at the
Lodge by August 6th, 2025
Members & Guests Only

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
Jim Pacheco



Leading Knight
Ellen Burk



Loyal Knight
Vickie Munson



Lecturing Knight
Dawn Williams

OFFICERS FOR 2025-2026

- Exalted RulerJim Pacheco
- Leading KnightEllen Burk
- Loyal KnightVickie Munson
- Lecturing Knight.....Dawn Williams
- Esquire Miranda Hendrickson
- ChaplainBart Ramirez
- Inner Guard Robert Romero
- TilerKenn Working
- SecretaryJane Lozano
- Treasurer Len Samuelson
- OrganistJoyce Avila
- Trustee1..... Nancy Kissack
- Trustee2..... Ryan Williams
- Trustee3.....Donavan Sizemore
- Trustee 4.....Leonard Redwine
- Trustee 5..... Cyril Lawrence
- Bulletin Editor..... Bill Gray
- Club Manager.....Jesse Reynolds

EXALTED RULER’S MESSAGE

Greetings! As we gather to celebrate the heart of summer and the spirit of Independence Day, I want to extend my sincere gratitude to all our members for your continued participation and dedication to our Lodge.

This past month, our Lodge has shown true strength in community outreach and charitable giving. We partnered with the Merced County 4-H Program to bring back the “Friends Helping Friends” tour day at the Merced County Fair. This event provides a fun day at the fair for the youth and adults in our community who are living with special needs. The volunteers from our Lodge prepared and served lunch for 700 participants.

Our Father’s Day celebration was moved outdoors this year for the first time in many years. We gathered at Elks Park and enjoyed a beautiful day filled with friends, families, food, and fun!

We hosted the annual Drug Awareness Day at Kiddieland, and I want to thank all the volunteers and PDDGER Donald Gumm for making this event a success.

**Elk of the Month
Thomas “Junior” Franklin**

Thomas “Junior” Franklin is one of our young Elks who is stepping up in big ways. Junior and his father “Rooster” cooked at our Mother’s Day brunch and Friends Helping Friends. Junior was instrumental in bringing back our Father’s Day Picnic and he cooked all the hamburgers and hot dogs for the event. I am impressed with his volunteer spirit and his overall willingness to dedicate his time and talents in service to our Lodge and our community.

Let’s take a moment this month to honor the freedoms we enjoy and the responsibilities we bear as citizens and Elks. Fly your flags proudly and celebrate our country’s birthday on the 4th of July. I would like to thank the Chairman of our Fireworks Booth Committee, Maria Lopez, and all the volunteers who donated their time for this fundraiser. Reach out to a fellow member and keep the spirit of volunteerism alive. Together we make a difference — not just for our Lodge, but in the lives of everyone we touch.

Fraternally,
Jim Pacheco
Exalted Ruler

FROM THE DESK OF THE SECRETARY

I would like to remind members that the lodge has put up signs for Exalted Ruler, Secretary and Employee parking spaces. Please be considerate and do not park in those spots unless you get permission. The Secretary will be out of the office from July 1st to 9th.

The last day for applications for the next group of candidates will be September 3, 2025!! Initiation day is set for October 2nd, 2025. The voting on New Candidates will be on Thursday, September 18th, 2025, and Orientation dinner will be Wednesday, October 1st, 2025.

For those members who have NOT paid their dues yet for the Year 2025/2026, your codes will be taken out of the door on 8/30/2025.

I hope everyone enjoys their summer!

Jane Lozano
Secretary

ELKS PARK SCHOLARSHIP

Alan Arnold, Chair

This significant achievement for Nathaniel Richardson was not featured in the last Antlers Newsletter, making it even more important to highlight now. His \$4,000 scholarship exemplifies the hard work and dedication that the Elks Park Scholarship program seeks to reward.



From left to right, Mark Theofanides, Alan Arnold, Nathaniel Richardson.

THANK YOU FROM BOY SCOUTS TROOP #88

On Thursday June 12th, 7 members of Merced Boy Scout Troop #88 and several parents arrived at the Merced Elks Lodge Board meeting. The Boy Scouts thanked the Merced Elks for their \$1,000 donation to Troop #88, which is assisting them to go to Camp Chawanakee, located on the shores of Shaver Lake. This camping trip is from June 15th to June 23rd. If a boy scout works very hard, they can earn lots of merit badges, which allows them to increase their rank toward the ultimate rank of Eagle Scout.

The purpose of the Camp Chawanakee merit badge program is to offer programming that is not readily available at home and utilizes the outdoor experience. These programs include: Camping, Cooking, Fire Safety, Fishing, Orienteering, Pioneering, Disc Golf, Search and Rescue, and Wilderness Survival, Chess, Emergency Preparedness, First Aid, Geocaching, Citizenship in the World, Citizenship in the Nation, Communications, Game Design, Disabilities Awareness, Signs, Signals and Codes, Astronomy, Environmental Science, Fish and Wildlife, Geology, Mammal Study, Pulp and Paper, Nature, Reptile and Amphibian Study, Mining in Society, Soil and Water, Sustainability, Weather, Insect Study, Art, Basketry, Fingerprinting, Indian Lore, Leatherwork, Photography, Pottery, Wood Carving, Archery, Rifle, Shotgun, Canoeing, Kayaking, Lifesaving, Rowing, Small Boat Sailing, Swimming, Climbing Wall & C.O.P.E. Courses, First Year Camper Program, and Horsemanship.

For more information about the Elks organization, go to www.elks.org.



Pictured at the far left is Merced Elks Exalted Ruler (County Supervisor) Jim Pacheco, followed by Merced Boy Scouts from Troop #88, and at the far right is Mark Theofanides, Merced Elks RV Park Chairman.

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FRIENDS HELPING FRIENDS

This year at the fair, Merced County Fair Board brought back our event "Friends Helping Friends" where the Elks prepared and fed lunch to the special needs adults and kids. There were about 600 people and the attendees were fantastic!! Thank you to Chairman Jim Pacheco for setting this up and the Elks providing a nice lunch. Thank you to our volunteers: Steven Freitas, Danny Banks, Ed DeDotto, Scott Sakugawa, Ryan Williams, John Pulido, Thomas Franklin Sr., Thomas Franklin Jr., Cory Ruiz, Brett Spinelli, Ellen Burk, Janet Morales, Diana Diliberto, Cindy Lauritzen, Miranda Hendrickson, Mike Anderson, Glenda Hefner, Jane Lozano, Jenny Dart, Jori Garcia.

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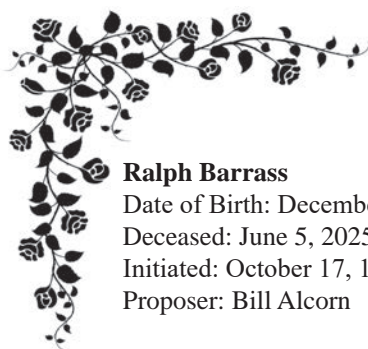
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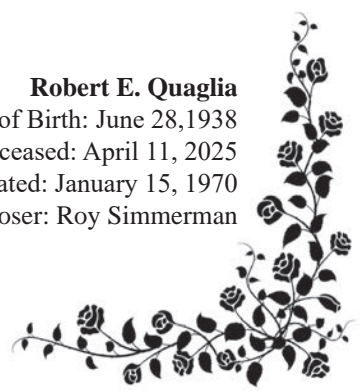

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In Memoriam...

Ralph Barrass
 Date of Birth: December 7, 1938
 Deceased: June 5, 2025
 Initiated: October 17, 1985
 Proposer: Bill Alcorn

Robert E. Quaglia
 Date of Birth: June 28, 1938
 Deceased: April 11, 2025
 Initiated: January 15, 1970
 Proposer: Roy Simmerman



FLAG DAY CEREMONY

Flag Day Ceremony was breathtaking and amazing with the Honor Guard who are all Elk members from our lodge: Nick Francis, Kenn Working, Juan Sufuentes, PER Jack Kelly, PER Wil Hunter, PER Len Samuelson, Glen Galman, Janet Morales, Gary Frago and Steve Berkenkamp



FUN DAY AT KIDDIELAND & APPLGATE ZOO FOR SPECIAL NEEDS CHILDREN

By: Dr. Donald Gumm, PDDGER
Drug Awareness Chairman & ENF Grants Coordinator

Our Lodge held a special day on 06/18/2025 for Merced County Office of Education (MCOE) special needs students. There were 890 participants sign-ups for this event. Students, staff & parents came from classrooms all over Merced County. School buses, vans, and cars started to arrive at Applegate Park at 7:30 AM. They received unlimited rides at Kiddieland, admission to Applegate Zoo, and pictures at the photobooth. When they turned in their design at the Drug Awareness booth for their anti-drug badge, they received a drug awareness coloring book and bookmark. We provided a morning snack, lots of bottled water, and a delicious lunch. A special thank you to the following volunteers: Exalted Ruler & County Supervisor Jim Pacheco, Brett Spinelli, Cindy Rose, Diana Diliberto, PER Jeff Horta, Diana Hawkes, Joel Werkentin, Sayre Alshami, Sonia Alshami, Jerry G Loewen, Secretary Jane Lozano, Bart Rameriz, Frank Semonelli, Trustee Donovan Sizemore, Tom Souza, Clara Tresos, Susan Gumm, Linda Perry, Cora Gonzales, Sandy Tuttle, Carlos Orta Jr, Diana Hawkes, Paul Johnson, Cheryl Waite, Edward Vasquez Jr, and Balian Gumm Rodriguez, PER Len Samuelson, Esquire Miranda Hendrickson, Leading Knight Ellen Burk, Trustee and lead chef Ryan Williams, & PDDGER Dr. Donald Gumm. We received funding for this event from two ENF Grants and Merced Elks BINGO. So, thank you to all our Lodge ENF donors and BINGO volunteers!



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JULY FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER

- July 4th– No Friday Night Dinner - Lodge Closed
- July 11th – Parmesan Calamari & Meatloaf
- July 18th – Salmon & Chicken Cordon Bleu
- July 25th – Baby Back Ribs & Tilapia



For Friday Night reservations, call Jesse Reynolds at 209-769-8068.
Deadline For Reservations are to be made by NOON on Friday that week.

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MIXOLOGY NIGHT
 July 16th, 2025
 At the Downstairs Bar
 Price: \$25
 Starts at 6:00 PM
 Hello everyone.
 In preparation for our Brisket and Bourbon Night in August, we are featuring the following Bourbon based cocktails: Summer Breeze, Bourbon Mint Palmer, Maple Old Fashion, and \$5 Bonus Shot, Black Cherry Bomb.
 Don't forget to bring your tools and please RSVP to pbelmontes121@gmail.com.
 See you there!

BIRTHDAYS IN JULY

1
Eric Chu

2
Craig Benson
Conrad B. Fournier
Kristie Light
Luis Salcedo
Gary Sons

3
Antonio Avila
Donald R Courtney
Brenna Murphy
John Pedrozo
jared Ruscoe
Steven Vann
James Webb
John Wickler

4
Timothy Davis
Michael Morin
John Solga
Troy Stone

5
Caleb Alonzo
Patricia A Davis
Paul Laughton
Phillip Lima
Dennis Jean Pellissier

6
Camera Chew
Garrett Johnson

7
Aaron Alexander
William J Gibbs
Curtis J Gorman
William Guardado
Darla Mondo

8
Scott Heffner
Adam Lucio
Thomas Martinez
Chris Ross
Thomas M Theofanides
Travis Walsh
Bob Wells

9
Eddie Beltran
Paul Flores
Glenn Galman
Doug Laidlaw
Pat D Murphy
Frank Silveira

10
Philippe J Favier
Brett Kollmann
Alison Kostecky
Timothy Lopes
Jeff Pavey

11
Marc Campos
Merisa Diaz
Gilbert Morales
John A Velasquez

12
Aaron Andrews
Dawn Garland
Austin Brooke Heil
Michael Hernandez Jr
Brian Jeffrey Raymond
Andres Sifuentes
Mack Smith

13
Richard A Daniel
Jeffrey Horta
Jeffrey Knapp
Norman J Martin
Zachary McComb
Chris Morrow
Maxwell Vk Norton
Richard J Ortega

14
Chris Bernard
Justin Aaron Fausone
Jeff Frederick
Kerwin Grissom
Layman Light
Zachary Meissonnier
Steve Peguero
John Pereira Jr.

15
Kevin Barbour
Shelly Gibson
Stephen B Morgan
Edward Vasquez

16
Mason Brawley
Michael Domingue
Anna Newkirk

17
Ed Banks
Frank Erickson
Elizabeth Johnston
B John Moffott
Jensen Pacheco
Trevor Stephens

18
Raymond Borge
Peter J Camarda Jr
Craig McGowen
Kevin Spielman
Edward Trindade
Kathleen Williams

19
Antonio Alamo
William Bernard
Thomas M Brown
Steven Clark
Richard E Eason
Julie Sterling
Dennis Wainwright

20
Tony Brasil
Carmen Sanchez
David Silva

21
Michael Alvarez
Eric Dau
Terrell Estes Jr.
Jeremy Henderson
Henry G Kelsy
Michael Krejci
John F Lennox
Ruben Luna
Donna Maher
Scotty Westbrook

22
Thomas W Gaffery III
Charles J Lucas
Kristen Mata
Lisa Perry
Greg Ramirez
Sherry Richards

23
Ronald Basmajian
Gary Carlson
Natalie Flores
Garry Pinheiro

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Bob Anderson
Jaime Conley
Travis Curtis
Joshua Garrity
Mary Haslouer
Tim Pellissier
Gordon Regert
Matthew Silva

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ENF Grants	Len Samuelson	209-723-1240
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JULY 2025

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		1 LUNCH 11:00-2:00PM SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:30AM FIREWORKS BOOTH BINGO EARLY BIRD 6:30PM REGULAR 7:00PM	2 LUNCH 11:00-2:00PM SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:30AM FIREWORKS BOOTH	3 LUNCH 11:00-2:00 PM SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:30AM FIREWORKS BOOTH	4 LODGE CLOSED Happy 4th of July FIREWORKS BOOTH	5 SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:00AM-4:30PM
NATIONAL CONVENTION - KANSAS CITY						
6 SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:00AM-4:30PM	7 LUNCH 11:00-2:00PM SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:30AM PER MEETING	8 LUNCH 11:00AM-2:00PM SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:30AM BINGO EARLY BIRD 6:30PM REGULAR 7:00PM	9 LUNCH 11:00-2:00 PM SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:30AM	10 LUNCH 11:00-2:00 PM SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:30AM TRUSTEE MEETING 6PM HOUSE MEETING 7PM BOARD MEETING IMMEDIATELY AFTER HOUSE LODGE MEETING 8PM	11 FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER 6:00-8:30 PM SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:30AM PARMESAN CALAMARI & MEATLOAF	12 SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:00AM-4:30PM AVP HOME COMING
13 SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:00AM-4:30PM	14 LUNCH 11:00-2:00PM SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:30AM	15 LUNCH 11:00AM-2:00PM SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:30AM BINGO EARLY BIRD 6:30PM REGULAR 7:00PM	16 LUNCH 11:00-2:00 PM SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:30 AM MIXOLOGY	17 LUNCH 11:00-2:00 PM SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:30 AM	18 FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER 6:00-8:30 PM SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:30AM SALMON & CHICKEN CORDON BLEU	19 SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:00AM-4:30PM LUAU DINNER/DANCE CHAIRMAN RAELENE PRITCHARD
20 SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:00AM-4:30PM	21 LUNCH 11:00-2:00 PM SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:30AM	22 LUNCH 11:00AM-2:00PM SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:30AM BINGO EARLY BIRD 6:30PM REGULAR 7:00PM	23 LUNCH 11:00-2:00 PM SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:30 AM	24 LUNCH 11:00-2:00 PM SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:30 AM	25 FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER 6:00-8:30 PM SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:30AM BABY BACK RIBS & TILAPIA	26 SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:00AM-4:30PM
AUGUST 2025						
27 SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:00AM-4:30PM	28 LUNCH 11:00-2:00PM SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:30AM	29 LUNCH 11:00-2:00 PM SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:30AM BINGO EARLY BIRD 6:30PM REGULAR 7:00PM	30 LUNCH 11:00-2:00 PM SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:30 AM	31 LUNCH 11:00-2:00 PM SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:30AM	1 FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER 9:00-8:30PM SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:30AM CHICKEN FRIED STEAK & BASA	2 SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:00AM-4:30PM
3 SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:00AM-4:30PM DD CLINIC - MODESTO	4 LUNCH 11:00-2:00PM SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:30AM PER MEETING	5 LUNCH 11:00AM-2:00PM SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:30AM BINGO EARLY BIRD 6:30PM REGULAR 7:00PM	6 LUNCH 11:00-2:00 PM SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:30AM	7 LUNCH 11:00-2:00 PM SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:30AM	8 FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER 6:00-8:30 PM SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:30AM PARMESAN CALAMARI & MEATLOAF	9 SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:00AM-4:30PM STEAK AT THE LAKE
10 SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:00AM-4:30PM	11 LUNCH 11:00-2:00PM SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:30AM	12 LUNCH 11:00AM-2:00PM SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:30AM BINGO EARLY BIRD 6:30PM REGULAR 7:00PM	13 LUNCH 11:00-2:00 PM SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:30 AM	14 LUNCH 11:00-2:00 PM SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:30 AM TRUSTEE MEETING 6PM HOUSE MEETING 7PM BOARD MEETING IMMEDIATELY AFTER HOUSE LODGE MEETING 8PM	15 FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER 6:00-8:30 PM SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:30AM SALMON & CHICKEN CORDON BLEU	16 SKY LOUNGE OPEN 11:00AM-4:30PM