



EXALTED RULER

Wes Brown

Dear Members

The theme of my first article as Exalted Ruler this year was about teamwork and the goals we hoped to accomplish for our Lodge. As this is my last article for the year, I thought it would be a good time to review those goals.



1. Our primary focus was to do all we could to re-earn the coveted distinction of "All American Lodge". Result: The paperwork has been submitted, we checked many of the boxes necessary to achieve our goal and accomplished much in a distinctively challenging year. Now we sit and wait to learn the outcome.

2. We also set out to continue the maintenance projects already in the works while looking to make other improvements and upgrades as needed. Result: I am very proud to say that we definitely hit this one out of the park. Solar is up and running. The back gate has been installed. The fence has been repaired. The gym and bathroom remodels are complete. The patio has been enlarged and a new tent has been erected in that space. We are in the voting stage to approve the parking lot resurfacing and we are reviewing and evaluating bids for the women's bathroom.

3. We knew that to accomplish these goals we would need your support, encouragement and input. The team was charged to be open and transparent in our communication with you, the Members, as we pursued these goals. Result: We absolutely had your support and encouragement but I think I could have done a better job with communication.

continued on page 2



**SANTA MARIA ELKS 2019-2020
CITIZEN OF THE YEAR JAY A. CONNER**

Past Exalted Ruler Tony Campas presents Jay Conner with Santa Maria Elks Lodge #1538 Citizen of the Year

For the past 39 years Jay Conner has done just about everything one could possibly think of to benefit his Central Coast communities. His passion is to find an unmet need and then make something positive happen. He has been honored with numerous awards and recognition for his unselfish commitments and work. He has founded, or served on the boards of, numerous non-profit organizations such as being a 1992 Founding Member and 4-time Past Chapter President of Footprinter Chapter #73, 2004-2005 National Grand President of IFA, 1993 Co-Founder of the Annual COPS 'N KIDS Field Day, Past President of the San Luis Obispo Sheriff's

continued on page 2

**FOR CURRENT EVENT
INFORMATION PLEASE CHECK**

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press 2 for recorded message,
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All American Lodge

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Santa Maria Elks Lodge No. 1538
1309 N. Bradley Road
Santa Maria, CA 93454

Credit cards accepted in the
Members' Bar with a \$20
minimum purchase

OFFICERS DUTY ROSTER:

March 5	Loyal Knight
March 12	Lecturing Knight
March 19	Secretary
March 26	Treasurer

**MAJOR PROJECT
"PURPLE PIG" DONATIONS**

Harlen Baird (Century Club)
Charlie Los

**LOOK WHAT'S
HAPPENING IN**
March 2021

- | | | |
|-----------|--|---|
| 4 | LODGE
PIN NIGHT
ELK OF THE YEAR
HAPPY HOUR
DINNER | 7:30 PM

5:30 PM (TBD)
6:30 PM (TBD) |
| 11 | LODGE
OFFICER OF THE YEAR
STUDENT OF THE MONTH
PARKING LOT RESURFACING VOTE | 7:30 PM

 |
| 17 | ORIENTATION | 7:00 PM |
| 18 | LODGE
STEP UP INITIATION | 7:30 PM |

Exalted Ruler, cont. from P1

Thank you all for giving me the honor to represent this great Lodge as Exalted Ruler. Friends were made and experiences had that I will cherish the rest of my life.

Let me end the year with the quote I started it with:

"Teamwork is the ability to work together toward a common vision. The ability to direct individual accomplishments toward organizational objectives. It is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results."--Andrew Carnegie

Respectfully,
Wes Brown
Exalted Ruler

**BROTHER AND SISTER ELKS,
WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

Honor Flight Central Coast California is looking for all "WWII", "Korean", "Vietnam" and Other Veterans to complete applications for their all-expense paid 3-day "Tour of Honor" trip to Washington, DC to see their Monuments or to support a Veteran by being their Guardian on a once in a lifetime flight, *at your own expense.*

If you don't apply we don't know you want to go.

For details go to **www.HonorFlightCCC.org**
or contact Santa Maria Elk and Santa Barbara County Liaison
Jay A. Conner, Army Veteran 1966-1968
(805) 550-6305

Jay A. Conner

Founding Board Member
Santa Barbara County Liaison
(805) 550-6305



PO Box 1750
Paso Robles, CA 93447

HonorFlightCCC.org

jay@ConnerCoastandCountry.com

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Honor Flight CCC is a 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization. We receive no government funding.

Your donation of any amount to Honor Flight CCC can help us accomplish our mission.

Jay A. Conner Bio - cont. from P1

Foundation, 2007 Founding Member and Past President of the Santa Maria Police Council. He is an Alumni of both the 2006 FBI and 2008 Founding Member of the DEA Citizen Academies and a recipient of the extremely prestigious FBI "2013 Directors Community Leadership Award" which was presented to him at FBI Headquarters, in Washington, DC. In 2013 he was one of 6 Founding Board Members of Honor Flight Central Coast California. Jay was a Founding Member and Past President of the Santa Ynez Chamber of Commerce. Jay was in the 1995 Leadership Santa Maria Valley (LSMV) "Pioneer Class of Passion", an 11 month program designed to foster and create future community leaders. He became Co-Chairman in 1996 and Chairman in 1997, in 1999 was recipient of the LSMV "Founders Award" and continues as an active alumnus and participant. In 2017 he was made an Emeritus Board Member for the San Luis

Obispo Sheriffs Advisory Foundation. He is also a Vietnam Era Army Veteran, being honorably discharged as a Sergeant in 1968. After a 42-year career with PG&E he retired in 2008. In 2007 Jay continued his passion for helping people as a Realtor with Century 21 Hometown Realty for the past 12 1/2 years. During the past 6 years, he continues to inspire others by dedicating his energy to helping raise the awareness for the early detection and education of ovarian cancer and May 2016 was a Co-Founder of the Teal Journey Ovarian Cancer Foundation.

Jay has also donated over 375 units of blood or Platelets and continues by donating Platelets every two weeks.

Jay has been married for 29 years to the equally amazing Vicki Conner without who's love and support none of this would have been possible.

So, what's next? Jay doesn't know, but he strongly believes that divine guidance and direction will define his path.

CHARITY LEADING KNIGHT

Peter Oblak



Members
By now the advancing officers have been elected. I hope that this next year will bring some normalcy back to our Lodge. In this still uncertain time, with Covid and our

economy, let's hope that we bounce back as soon as possible.

This will more likely than not be my last article.

May God Bless all of you and your families.

Fraternally
Peter Oblak
Esteemed Leading Knight

ELKS DRUG AWARENESS PROGRAM

Although Elks range in age from 21 to triple digits, many of us who are technically challenged haven't quite mastered the cell phone. Phones can be a nuisance — such as at family gatherings, where everyone is staring at their phones and not socializing — but also beneficial. Did you know that you can use your phone to stay healthy? There are apps to help you start and keep up healthy habits, like exercising and eating a balanced diet. Other apps are intended to assist with avoiding or quitting unhealthy habits, like smoking or using other drugs. Here's just a sample of the health-oriented apps and online programs out there. All of these are endorsed by the Elks Drug Awareness Program, and they are all free.

- Reducing stress: Breathe2Relax—The U.S. military designed this app, which offers breathing exercises that have been shown to reduce stress and help with managing anger and anxiety.
- Stopping vaping: This Is Quitting—The Truth Initiative's text messaging program helps young people (ages 13 to 24) quit vaping. The program is tailored based on age.
- Addressing bullying: KnowBullying—This one, from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, has resources for parents and caregivers who want to help build their children's confidence and discuss effective strategies for facing bullying.

JUSTICE LOYAL KNIGHT

Matt Rodriguez



Members,
Here we are fellow Members with March upon us and we are still uncertain what the months ahead will be like. We continue to monitor current State and County

guidelines. As we know it has been a rollercoaster ride for the most part, but again the safety of our Members must be the number one priority.

We are at that time of year when Members need to pay their dues; we appreciate all our Members and ask that you continue to support your Lodge. We have done everything we can to keep the Lodge functioning, still we need the Members to do their part and continue to pay their dues. I understand that it is difficult to make the decision to pay when we are not fully open, but we need to keep the Membership up and our Lodge in the top tiers. Those of you who have not paid last year's, get that check book out and get caught up before March 31 and next year is due.

We have our tent open on the patio for Monday and Friday to-go dinners, Tuesdays for Pub grub, and by now we should see the return of our Sunday breakfast. So, when you feel safe, come out and join us for a meal and a drink. We are also continuing Lodge meetings. Your input and votes are welcomed and needed.

As we are at the end of another Elk year, thank you everyone for the support that the Members have shown to the Officers and volunteers who have been helping us keep moving forward. As I have mention before, the kind words that we get during the Grab 'n' Go give us the energy to keep doing it. God bless and be safe,
Matt Rodriguez
Esteemed Loyal Knight

Elks Drug Awareness Program - cont.

The next time you see someone staring at their cell phone, oblivious to their surroundings, maybe they're just seeking to reduce the stress in their life... let's hope so!

William J. Bryan
Assistant National Director

BROTHERLY LOVE LECTURING KNIGHT

Aaron Castellanos



Members,
As I sit and write this, it is incredible to think another Elks' year has come to an end. This past year was definitely not the year any of us expected. Yet, I can't help but feel

it afforded us the opportunity to truly see and embody what our organization is all about... Charity, Justice, Brotherly Love and Fidelity. We have always been mindful to conduct ourselves led by these guiding principles, and this year was not the exception. The amount of Goodness our Lodge was able to achieve together during these trying times of uncertainty has been remarkable and could have never been possible without the ever-constant support of our Members. Human kindness was truly overflowing. We were able to give back so much to our community. Our Members remained faithful even when Lodge normalcy was not available. We remembered that we are more than just a Friday night hangout and yearly contest. Those events have always been an added bonus we have all enjoyed for many years and I hope will return soon enough. I am extremely proud and ever-grateful to be an officer of your Lodge. To be afforded and entrusted with the responsibility of maintaining Santa Maria Lodge #1538 is not anything to take lightly. I cannot fully explain how privileged I feel to have been a part of the best Elks officer corps this Lodge could have. Not only for my fellow officers team but their equally amazing spouses who have diligently worked side by side with us since the beginning of all this. Our small group of amazing kitchen volunteers share an equal amount in the success of our Lodge for their commitment and hard work. Wes Brown IS the leader that this Lodge needed, he led with love, compassion and encouraged teamwork and collaboration. We are all very fortunate to have him. If afforded the opportunity to be re-elected, I look forward to being able to continue to play my part in the continued success of our Lodge this coming year and build on the great work we have achieved. Thank you for all the love and support.

As always...Be safe, be careful and take care. And I hope to see all of you at Lodge... Soon.

Fraternally,
Aaron Castellanos
Esteemed Lecturing Knight



Postponed from last year: Past Exalted Rulers Jeremy Forman and Karen Feldpouch present a photo book and a quilt made by Sue Mandler to PER Tony Campas to commemorate his year as Exalted Ruler.

PER Night:

Past Exalted Rulers participating in PER Night, left-right. Front Row: Bryan Feldpouch, John Mascarenas, Don Mosier, Karen Feldpouch, Tony Dart, Myrl Wallace. Back Row: Jeremy Foreman, Mike Leon, Tony Campas, Tommy Gee, Phil Daughton.



In Memoriam

"TO OUR ABSENT MEMBERS"

AN ELK IS NEVER FORGOTTEN, NEVER FORSAKEN.

**# 6592
Douglas Halvorsen**

BORN: August 27, 1942
INITIATED: October 24, 1974
DIED: December 17, 2020

**# 7793
Manual Pereira**
BORN: April 21, 1924
INITIATED: February 22, 1979
DIED: January 13, 2021

**# 6891
John Shuffield**

BORN: September 25, 1929
INITIATED: July 31, 1975
DIED: December 28, 2020

**# 13393
Joe Torrez**
BORN: February 24, 1960
INITIATED: February 17, 2005
DIED: January 8, 2021

**#10467
John Korpall**
BORN: September 29, 1930
INITIATED: February 15, 1990
DIED: January 31, 2021

**# 15674
Chris Cole**

BORN: August 25, 1961
INITIATED: September 17, 2020
DIED: January 4, 2021

**# 5984
Rocky Johnson**
BORN: December 28, 1938
INITIATED: June 29, 1972
DIED: January 21, 2021

DID YOU KNOW?

Punxsutawney Phil predicted six more weeks of winter: not sure if that's good news or bad news. My good news is that Phil (not the groundhog) and I have finally moved. Yikes what a chore! The bad news is I was only able to squeeze 1998-99 into my schedule. The second half of the 1990's had been a difficult and complicated time for the B.P.O.E. dealing with changes and challenges. Our #1538 though, just kept doing what #1538 does, being the best lodge in Elksdom, but we will get to that later, so let us push on.

The Lodge closed out 1997-98 with the lowest delinquency ever - what an accomplishment given the challenges other Lodges were facing. Purple Pig donations were way up, #1538 was poised to make a big showing at State Convention in May 1998! The Lodge was the staging area for a California Highway Patrol funeral procession. Officers from all over the country attended and #1538 volunteers served lunch to over 2,000 attendees. Another new committee, a video committee, was formed to put together bits and pieces of Lodge activities and events. Aside from chronicling, videos can show prospective Members what #1538 is all about. The annual "dinner date" for the Touring Elks was at A.J. Spurs in Buellton. It was reported that "no one broke anything, we didn't get too obnoxious, and no one got thrown out. That is a good night for us". Rodeo hosted the 1998-99 Theme Child, an amazing experience for "Willie" and his family-- he even got to ride a horse! At the annual Allan Hancock Scholarship Awards Banquet in May, #1538 presented checks totaling \$10,300 to the winning students. In addition, the pancake breakfast sponsored by the Lodge raised over \$2,000 for scholarships and programs. On June 20th, a "Want to be a computer nerd" seminar was held at the Lodge covering Microsoft Windows 95, geared toward those who knew just enough to be dangerous. The annual Sock Hop Car Show June 26-27th was a huge success as always and proceeds benefited the Santa Maria Elks Unocal Event Center. Lodge #1538 continued to support the Santa Maria Elks Valley Little League Championship. "With every conclusion of each season, the Lodge instills in the Members that all the hard work at the Lodge is for a reason. Sponsorship of youth activities in the valley is synonymous with the Santa Maria Elks Lodge".

A riding lawnmower was donated to the Kadiddlehoppers to be transformed into a locomotive. I finally looked up the definition of Kadiddlehoppers and it is not very complimentary so do not shoot the messenger. "A stupid ignoramus whom you can look down upon." From the Red Skelton character Clem Kadiddlehopper, the archetypical American hayseed ignoramus. Gee, that is harsh! The Travelers have been pretty tight lipped or perhaps well behaved? July begins with the 4th Annual 4th of July Block Party. July 25th was "Elks Night at the Races" at Santa Maria Speedway, #1538's own Leading Knight at the wheel of the Drug Awareness Race Car". At the 1998 Scout-a-Rama held at the Lodge there was archery, shooting hoops, volleyball, bean cooking and "Take a wack, wack a car" (with a sledgehammer) sponsored by the Orcutt Fire Department.

A request for input was made to find out if Members prefer a wider variety of Monday night dinner options, or do they prefer a rotation of five or six of the most popular menus? This question is just as relevant 23 years later isn't it? The Kadiddlehoppers lost the clown contest at the Lompoc Flower Festival to the Lompoc Shrine Club Clowns. Later in the day they still celebrated a clown's 91st birthday at Jack in the Box in Orcutt.

Several articles ago I referred to the "public accommodation"

issue as it related to whether the B.P.O.E. could decide who could be a Member, This issue finally came to a head in 1993, yet took a few years to resolve completely. The Elks had modest beginnings in 1868, as we have learned, as a social club for minstrel show performers called the "Jolly Corks". It was established as a private club to exclude it from New York City laws governing the opening hours of public taverns. The Elks originally borrowed several rites, traditions, and regalia from the Freemasons. However, by the first decade of the twentieth century, much of this had been abandoned as the Elks sought to establish their own identity. The original two degrees required for Membership were consolidated into one degree in 1890, the apron (?) was discontinued in 1885, the secret password was gone in 1899, and the badges and secret handshake were abandoned by 1904. Until 1973, Membership was restricted to white men. It continued to be restricted to men until "Beynon v. St George Dixie Lodge #1743 in 1993 when the Utah Supreme Court ruled that while Freedom of Association allowed the Elks to remain a men-only organization, "the Elks may not avail itself of the benefits of a liquor license and the license's concomitant state regulation" as long as it violated the Utah State Civil Rights Act. Faced with losing their liquor license if they did not admit women, the Elks Lodges of Utah voted to become unisex in June 1993, which was followed by a vote at the Elks National Convention in July 1995 to remove the word "male" from the national Membership requirements". The E.R.'s article in the September 1998 Elks Horn talked about Lodge's being "put on notice" by a Grand Lodge Representative to eliminate most uses of the term "Brother" and that "Female Elks were not to be officially addressed as Sister, Ellette, Cow or Doe".

On a lighter note, the clown ranks had swelled to 27 with the addition of a 5 and 7 year-old boy and girl apprentice clowns. International Night featured Mexican drink specials and a Mexican menu prepared and served by the bar staff. The Veterans Committee put on its first BBQ at the V.A. Hospital in Fresno on November 14, 1998. #1538 continues the annual BBQ at the L.A. VA Hospital in Brentwood. Lunch at the Lodge was back, only on Fridays; it has been a few years so let us see how it goes. The Photo Committee's concession remains popular and was available at the Children's Christmas Party. By the close of 1998 the Golf Committee membership had grown to 185. The Chairman of the Poetry Committee shared a Christmas ode at a Lodge meeting and was almost thrown out. Was there really a Poetry Committee? In the February 1999 Elks Horn, the E.R. noted that "many lodges have slowly lost more than a third of their Membership in the past five years". This time frame coincides with the 1993 Utah lawsuit and subsequent 1995 Grand Lodge Convention vote to remove the word "male" from the Membership requirements. By this time #1538 had already initiated female Members leading Elksdom by example.

Trivia: Valentine's Day began in the third century during the reign of Emperor Claudius II. He was raising an army and had banned marriage as he wanted only single soldiers. A priest named Valentine was secretly marrying couples and Claudius had him arrested and beheaded on February 14th. It was also believed that birds begin to mate on February 14th.

New on Friday nights from 9-11, "Late night appetizers served in the bar. Beer-battered onion rings, cream cheese poppers, beer-battered mushrooms and shrimp on the half shell (a shrimp stuffed in a half red jalapeno, breaded and deep fried)? I Googled the

continued on page 7

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AT THE SANTA MARIA ELKS LODGE



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**SANTA MARIA, CA -
 B.P.O. ELKS LODGE 1538**

1309 N. Bradley Road • Santa Maria, CA 93454

OFFICE STAFF

Club Manager: John Maretti x103
Kitchen Manager: Danny Estrada x114

LODGE OFFICE STAFF

Christine Iverson x105
 Janet Cullivan x106
 Faith Reynolds x104
 Julie Willis x101
 Membership x104
 Lodge Secretary x108

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Lodge Web Page: SantaMariaElks.org

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ATTENTION MEMBERS

**RE-SURFACING OF THE
 PARKING LOT NEEDS MEMBERS
 APPROVAL AT LODGE MEETING
 ON MARCH 11, 2021**

The Board of Directors has been waiting until the Solar project was completed to have the parking lot repaired and re-surfaced. From six received bids the Board has chosen one to fix the spots that need new asphalt, slurry seal the entire parking lot with two commercial-grade coats, and then re-stripped. This work, necessary to maintain the integrity of the parking lot and as an investment in our property, falls within the Lodge Improvement Fund budget. There will be a vote to approve the bid from Apodaca Paving of \$49,800, plus permit fee, at the Lodge Meeting on March 11, 2021. This project will then require Grand Lodge approval prior to commencement. If you have further questions prior to the meeting please do not hesitate to contact the Lodge Secretary.

Did You Know, cont. from P5

definition of "appetizer" which must have been different in 1999. For Elk year 1999-2000 a Choir Committee was formed. The first "Wine Maker's Dinner" on March 21st was a huge success. The wines were presented by the winemaker of Curtis and Firestone wineries and the menu was by Chef Dick Prato of Dino's. The menu was very up-scale, with the tickets \$25.00 per person limited to 120 people. Tickets sold out in minutes, so another Wine Maker event was planned.

I hope everyone is familiar with the Eleven O'clock Toast but you may not know that there is more than one version, so here is the Jolly Corks Eleven O'clock Toast:

Now is the ELEVENTH Hour,
 when Elksdom's Tower is dark with shroud
 of night;
 When Father Time on his silvery chime
 Tolls of the moment flight;
 In the cloistered halls each Elk recalls

His Brothers where'er they may be,
 And traces their faces to well-known
 places In annals of memory.
 And whether they stand on foreign land
 Or lie in their earthen bed;
 Or whether they be on boundless sea
 With breakers of death ahead;
 Whatever their plight may be—
 Whatever they are, if near or far
 They are thinking of you and me.
 So drink from the fount of fellowship
 To the Brothers who have clasped your hand;
 Who cared your worth on the rocks of the earth
 And wrote your faults in the sand.
 TO OUR ABSENT BROTHERS

Thank you everyone for working to keep
 Everything Great at #1538 and Team Santa
 Maria Strong!

To Be Continued....

Georgia Daughton
 Public Relations Chairman



B.P.O. ELKS - NO. 1538
2020-2021 OFFICERS

Exalted Ruler Wes Brown
 Leading Knight..... Peter Oblak
 Loyal Knight.....Matt Rodriguez
 Lecturing Knight..... Aaron Castellanos
 Secretary..... Philip Daughton PER, PAVP
 Treasurer..... Chuck Biely
 Tiler..... Glenda Jennings
 Esquire..... Steve Jones
 Chaplain..... Tyler Storey
 Inner Guard..... Robert Lewis
 Organist.....Bryan Feldpouch, PER

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Donald Moshier PER
 Karen Feldpouch PER CoB - Charlie Castillo
 Mike Arndt - Tony Campas PER

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 Parade Web Page: www.elksparade.com
 Lodge E-mail: lodge@elks1538.org
 Elks Horn E-mail: smelkshorn@gmail.com
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March 2021

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	
All Patio Dinners: Must purchase food to drink & wear mask	1 Grab and Go! Check website 5:15 pm House Committee 7:00 pm	2 Patio & Pub Grub 4:00 pm to closing	3	4 Food Bank 9:00'ish am Lodge 7:30pm Elk of the Year Pin Night Elks Horn articles due	5 Grab and Go! Check website 5:15 pm	6	
	7	8 Grab and Go! Check website 5:15 pm	9 Patio & Pub Grub 4:00 pm to closing PER Meeting 7:00 pm	10	11 Food Bank 9:00'ish am Lodge 7:30pm Officer of the Year Student of Month	12 Grab and Go! Check website 5:15 pm	13
	14	15 Grab and Go! Check website 5:15 pm	16 Patio & Pub Grub 4:00 pm to closing Board Meeting 6:30 pm	17 Orientation 7:00	18 Food Bank 9:00'ish am Lodge 7:30pm Initiation	19 Grab and Go! Check website 5:15 pm	20
	21	22 Grab and Go! Check website 5:15 pm	23 Patio & Pub Grub 4:00 pm to closing	24	25 Food Bank 9:00'ish am Lodge 7:30pm	26 Grab and Go! Check website 5:15 pm	27
	28	29 Grab and Go! Check website 5:15 pm	30 Patio & Pub Grub 4:00 pm to closing				



NOTE: Deadline for Elks Horn copy is 8:00 pm, THE FIRST THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH!

Please email all copy to smelkshorn@gmail.com and include your name and phone number. **Early entries appreciated.**