

## FLUTTERING ABOUT: MUSINGS OF A SOCIAL BUTTERFLY

# Hooked on Jesus: Part II

Several days after my father, Jesus Salas, received a “HOOKED ON JESUS” sign as a token of support from his family, he was transferred to Keck Medicine of USC in Pasadena. At this facility, he ultimately received his diagnosis and underwent a Whipple Procedure to remove an ampullary tumor, along with part of his pancreas and intestines. Although he received an excellent prognosis post-surgery, his recovery process was long and grueling and not only did it test his resilience but also his patience. Faced with an unexpected side effect from his medication, I believe that the first few days were the most difficult for my father to endure.

On a morphine drip for pain management, he began experiencing hallucinations and promptly asked for an alternative. Fortunately, by the time we arrived to visit him the following day, we found that he was already feeling much better. Curious as to what was treating his pain now, I Googled the label on the drip only to discover that it was morphine. Surprisingly, both my father and sister disagreed with my findings, insisting that he was taken off the morphine and put on something else. hilariously, my son Sebastian backed me up citing the knowledge he had acquired from watching the medical drama series “House” several times over.

Although my sister was rightfully upset that our father's request to switch pain medications wasn't honored for whatever reason, I nonetheless convinced her to let the issue go considering he'd acknowledged that his symptoms were gone. On one hand, I understood her exasperation that he remained on the morphine against his wishes, but on the other hand, what he didn't know wouldn't hurt him, no pun intended.

Amusingly, it became apparent right away that he was actually continuing to have symptoms because for the next several hours, as he drifted in and out of sleep, he entertained us with his oddball hallucinations. A landscaper by profession, he envisioned himself taking care of the hospital grounds; it seemed that even while he was laid up in a hospital bed, he still couldn't let go of work. I found it particularly chilling when he became convinced that two of his childhood friends were in the room with us and humorously, we were left to wonder if perhaps his spirit animal was a deer seeing that it was a recurring character in his visions.

Having an unparalleled sweet tooth, no one found it strange when he asked for a cookie. In fact, we were delighted that he was beginning to crave food after having suffered from nausea for so long. Even so, knowing that his diet was restricted while his innards recovered, I promised to bake him a batch once his restriction was lifted. While he seemed appeased with my pledge, much to our amusement, once his nurse entered his room without the cookies he was expecting her to have, he became distressed. This led him to imagine digging up the floor tiles in his room to get to the cookies that he was convinced were buried underneath. Luckily, as he continued to recover, his need for morphine diminished and so did his symptoms.

Several weeks later, he was finally given the green light to go home. Apparently, he had run out of patience by this point because he dressed himself as quickly as he could and made a bee-line to the fountain just outside the hospital to wait for his sister and brother-in-law to pick him up and drive him home. Seeing as he had neglected to completely follow the proper discharge protocol, a brief yet frantic search of the hospital commenced once my aunt and uncle encountered his empty hospital room. It wasn't until after my father called my mother to complain that he had not yet been picked up, was the impatient patient finally located.

There are no words to express how wonderful it was to have him home again. My father was on his way to being as right as rain again, and in fact, it literally brought a tear to my eye the first time I heard him nag at his grandchildren for being so loud that they drowned out his television show. Even so, he wasn't out of the woods just yet. He still had to undergo chemotherapy and radiation to treat some residual cancer. Alas, upon learning that these treatments were no longer available locally, we faced a challenging logistic hurdle to ensure he made it to his daily appointments an hour away in Lancaster. Thankfully, his friend, Kiko Ortiz, graciously provided his much needed transportation over the next several months until he was certified cancer-free.

After a long and winding road, my father is back to his cantankerous old self. In fact, we wouldn't want him any other way! Interestingly, I feel that the dynamics of our family was positively shifted in reaction to his bout with cancer. I, for one, have a newfound respect for him, as not only did I see him fight like hell for a long time but I also recognized the courage that it took for him to make peace with his medical ordeal at the point in time when his situation was at its most bleak. Needless to say, I count my blessings being his daughter.

*“My father didn't tell me how to live; he lived, and let me watch him do it.” – Clarence Budington Kelland*



MONICA LORENZ

# Love Unplugged hosts its annual Thanksgiving community meal



PHOTOS BY JACK BARNWELL/DAILY INDEPENDENT

**Love Unplugged, an outreach ministry of Desert Christian Center, hosted its annual Thanksgiving community meal in Leroy Jackson Park on Sunday, Nov. 19. Everything from traditional turkey with the fixings to pumpkin pie and spaghetti were served. The event brought together community members looking for a hot meal and camaraderie. According to its description, “Love Unplugged is Desert Christians Center's awesome outreach ministry. The heart of this ministry is to love on people while enjoying food, fun and a good word. We look forward to getting out there every other Sunday and inviting people from all walks of life to bring there friends and family and get to know us.”**



# ICS Interact Club collects food for 10 Thanksgiving baskets



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**The Immanuel Christian School Interact Club shows off food collected for 10 Thanksgiving baskets to distribute to families in the Ridgecrest area.**

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## PANTRY

Continued from A1

pantry's main source of food, charging only 17 cents per pound of food. The pantry has also received thousands of pounds of food donated by community members and holds a food drive at the old Albertsons every other month. In addition, the pantry holds frequent fundraisers and food drives. Food donations are always welcomed in the pantry box at St. Michael's.

Bond said she introduced the food pantry to CAPK, resulting in lots of trips to Bakersfield to load up lots of food.

The need is real, she said. According to Bond's statistics, Kern County has one of the highest food hardship rates in the US. More than 23 percent of Kern County residents are food insecure, and more than 30 percent of Kern County children live below the poverty line.

She talked a little about how the pantry works.

"Our food pantry is set up like a store. We believe in preserving the dignity of all involved," she said. "It's very humbling to come in and seek food from a place. We have our shelves and they are entitled to one item per shelf. They go around and pick out what they need and what they don't need."

Consumers are also provided breakfast, and children are entertained with crayons while they wait.

In addition to food, clients can also receive assistance in other areas. When someone comes in, he or she is given a short application and assessment form. Based on the form, client needs are assessed. They are informed there is a social worker on-site to talk to and are given knowledge of community



**Rotarians Mary Lundstrom and Barry Johnson pose with St. Michael's Episcopal Church food pantry manager Carrie Bond and Priest-in-charge Rev. Helen Harper at the Rotary Club of China Lake meeting Nov. 15. The Rotarians donated a table full of food to the pantry.**

resources. Clients are given referrals and linked to other services as needed.

The goal, Bond said, is not only providing food but helping to provide long-term solutions to issues people may come in with. Bond is a volunteer, but she is also a social worker so is able to help provide this service.

"The majority of our consumers are seniors, so we have a lot of senior needs that come through our door," Bond said. The newest offering of St. Michael's food pantry is Senior Day, at which anyone over the age of 60 is eligible for a box of food from CAPK. Others can pick

up food for homebound seniors, as long as they bring ID and proof of residency for the person.

The pantry is completely run by volunteers, including Bond.

The pantry currently collaborates with people from Mesquite High School, Opportunities for Learning School, LDS church, Rotary Club, Grace Lutheran church, Walgreens, Ridgecrest Regional Hospital and community members. Students from nearby Mesquite High School and Opportunities for Learning help out with the pantry, earning credits for volunteering.

"These kids are wonderful, they are amazing kids," she said of the Mesquite volunteers. "Truthfully, the kids do take the responsibility with

the majority of the clients."

Food pantry consumers also have the opportunity to give back by volunteering in the pantry.

"We are truly a community effort," she said.

## KCSO

Continued from A1

court. Two of the deputy positions are currently vacant.

The substation also includes the Mojave Jail, which houses and processes arrested until they're cited and released, or transferred to the Central Receiving Facility in Bakersfield. The jail has six holding cells with a total of 14 beds.

According to staff, during August and September 2017, an average of 10 inmates per day (with as few as one or as many as 19) were transported from Bakersfield to Mojave for court appearances. There are three courtrooms at the adjoining East Kern Superior Court, and the substation provides bailiffs and courtroom security.

An outside vendor prepares meals for inmates at the jail, though inmates brought over from the Lerdo Facility for court appearances are given sack lunches by Lerdo.

In all, the report contained 13 findings:

1. The substation and jail business hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday; outside of those hours, the public may access the external phone to contact jail staff.

2. When the Grand Jury was at the facility Oct. 5, there were eight inmates at the jail: six pending a court appearance, and two awaiting transfer to CRF in Bakersfield.

3. Inmates are brought to Mojave by the KCSO Transportation Unit from CRF,

Lerdo, and public defender/attorney visits. At the end of the business day, inmates are driven back to their assigned facilities.

4. The Mojave Jail typically holds male and female inmates with no immediate medical or mental health needs for fewer than 72 hours, though they can be held for up to 96 hours if necessary before transfer to CRF.

5. There were 1,106 bookings into the Mojave Jail in 2016, and 862 in 2017 through the end of September. (The per-month rate between the two years is about the same.)

6. If there are no female deputies on duty, female arrestees are sent straight to CRF.

7. Laundry services are handled through Lerdo.

8. The 2015-16 Grand Jury report recommended a surveillance camera be added in the property room to monitor activities inside, but staff said that hadn't yet

been done due to budget constraints.

9. The outside area is monitored by cameras that are manned by a mix of deputies and a private security agency.

10. The 2015-16 report recommended a security fence and gate be installed around the patrol car and employee parking lot, but staff said funding was not available.

11. There is no dedicated interview room.

12. In the event of a catastrophic incident, the substation could be self-sustaining for up to 12 days.

13. Community Service Unit volunteers provide an invaluable service by providing additional support to the substation.

The report's three recommendations are the property room camera, the parking lot fence, and the interview room.

The KCSO is required to submit a response within 60 days.

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Friday, Nov. 24

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SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA FOCUS

The hypocrisy in California GOP tax ‘reform’ votes

Hypocrisy is nothing new in politics – or anywhere else in human activity, for that matter. But it’s become a lot more visible lately as women expose more and more sexual harassment episodes in the pasts of prominent men.

There’s Democratic U.S. Sen. Al Franken of Minnesota, now exposed as a groper and a purveyor of unfunny innuendo in his former career as a comedian, who’s also been a champion of women’s rights and a prominent accuser of Alabama Republican Senate candidate Roy Moore,

There’s President Trump blasting Franken, despite bragging about serial groping in a video released during his 2016 campaign and despite at least a dozen harassment accusations.

There’s also his daughter and adviser Ivanka, who insisted “there’s a special place in hell” for men like Moore, who reportedly of-



THOMAS ELIAS

ten got involved with high school girls in past decades. Ms. Trump, of course, said nothing about her daddy’s alleged past.

But sex and sexual imbroglios are far from the only subjects for hypocrisy in politics today. There are also taxes.

Among the great majority of California Republican congressmen, inconsistent words and behavior can be less obvious than in the current wave of newly exposed sexual predators.

Eleven of the 14 Republicans in California’s House delegation just voted for the GOP’s tax “reform” bill

(one person’s reform can often be disastrous for others). Add the fact that every prominent California Republican now inveighs against the state’s new 12-cent-per-gallon gasoline tax, which the GOP holds responsible for pump price increases averaging almost 30 cents per gallon over the last month. Republicans have yet to address the other 18 cents, the majority of the price rise, but consumer advocates maintain it’s from oil company price gouging timed to coincide with the tax increase.

Very soon, every Republican member of Congress from California will have endorsed a proposed proposition (now in the signature-gathering stage) to overturn the gas tax increase. GOP Assemblyman Travis Allen of Orange County makes that planned measure the centerpiece of his run for governor.

The state GOP organization sends out fund-raising

itches asking voters to “condemn the Democrats for their massive gas tax increase!” “We need to hold Democrats responsible,” the emails add, never mentioning that the tax could not have passed without votes from a few Republican legislators.

While they and their party blast the gas tax, though, the vast majority of California Republicans in Congress voted for the GOP tax bill that, if it becomes law, will trigger an annual tax hike of about \$114 billion on Californians – compared with a yearly tab of about \$5.2 billion for the gas tax hike. The exceptions in this vote were Placer County’s Tom McClintock, Orange County’s Dana Rohrabacher and Darrell Issa, whose district covers parts of both San Diego Orange counties. Rohrabacher and Issa are both among national Democrats’ top 2018 targets.

Had the other 11 California Republicans voted to nix the tax bill, which

passed by a 227-206 margin, it could have been defeated by one vote, 217-216.

The proposed measure would cost 6 million Californians who deduct from their federal taxes what they pay in state and local levies at least \$101 billion yearly, according to the Congressional Budget Office. That deduction would disappear. So would deductions for property taxes over \$10,000 and writeoffs for mortgage interest, which together now save Californians about \$2 billion. Student loan interest would also no longer be deductible, adding about \$1.1 billion to the tab, and the medical expense deduction would disappear too, the average beneficiary now writing off \$9,951, or about \$10 billion total.

Not even a higher standard deduction and tweaked tax brackets can approach making up for these huge losses.

In short California’s 11 GOP yes voters vehemently oppose a \$5.2 billion gaso-

line tax for long-overdue road and bridge repairs, but back a “reform” that would cost Californians 22 times as much.

That’s the very definition of hypocrisy, especially coming from folks subscribing to the GOP’s “no new taxes” mantra. Some of the yes voters tried to excuse themselves by saying the bill will change before it passes. That’s a little like sexual predators saying they never meant to harm anyone.

The joke here is on anyone who continues to believe these are principled politicians.

Email Thomas Elias at [tdelias@aol.com](mailto:tdelias@aol.com). His book, “The Burzynski Breakthrough, The Most Promising Cancer Treatment and the Government’s Campaign to Squelch It” is now available in a soft cover fourth edition. For more Elias columns, visit [www.californiafocus.net](http://www.californiafocus.net). Email Thomas Elias at [tdelias@aol.com](mailto:tdelias@aol.com).

LIFE: IT IS WHAT IT IS

Taking Thanksgiving on the road

Thanksgiving. For most of us, this is a day that oozes tradition. Maybe it’s that epic day of the year when we cram our family in the car and drive the two-plus hours to our cousin’s house to spend a single afternoon overeating and watching the kids play touch football in the yard. Or maybe it’s the day when we’re the ones busting out the “special” china, and stringing folding tables and chairs together all over the place, and anxiously waiting for the house to fill up with family and laughter.

Whether we’re hosting or we’re the guest, it’s still a day when most of us (the lucky ones anyway) get to surround ourselves with the people who matter the most and do nothing but eat and drink and savor the vibe of just being together. It’s the only day when one-of-a-kinds like pumpkin whoopie pies and cream squares and butternut



LISA SUGARMAN

squash soup are on the table and the essence of the day is just being thankful for all the blessings we have in our lives.

At least that’s the way it is under my roof. And I don’t know about you, but I thrive on all that. On the predictability and the tradition and the sameness of that one day. Each year, I look forward to every little detail that makes Thanksgiving, from folding the napkins and making the cranberry sauce to baking the endless lineup of desserts, and

yeah, even doing the dishes with my mother and sister-in-law after everyone else is passed out on the couch. I love every single bit of it.

But this year, for the first time in Sugarman family history, we’re changing it up. Like really going off the reservation. Way off. My little family is leaving all of our holiday traditions behind and taking Thanksgiving on the road. (On a plane, actually.) This year, we’re traveling out of the country to spend the holiday with my oldest daughter who’s studying abroad in Ireland. So not only are we ditching our entire family and going completely off the grid, but we’re heading to a country that doesn’t even recognize Thanksgiving as a national holiday. Basically, we’re turning the holiday upside down and breaking from every single family tradition we’ve refined and embraced all these years — something that feels really awkward

and weird because it’s so different than how we always celebrate the day.

About a week ago though, it dawned on me that as long as our little family was together around a table on Nov. 23, it literally didn’t matter where in the world that table was or if we were eating turkey and stuffing or steak and Guinness pie or sushi, as long as we were all together. Because wherever we are, the laughter and the love and the spirit of Thanksgiving will be with us.

It also occurred to me that if I brought about five dozen of everyone’s favorite dessert with me, we could have that one iconic thing that embodies Thanksgiving for every single person in my family — that one food that everyone in my family waits for all year that symbolizes the holiday even more than the turkey itself. So that’s exactly what I did. I baked three massive

trays of my mother-in-law’s famous creme squares and packed them in Tupperware and carried them on my lap all the way across the pond. Because, according to Dave and my girls, wherever creme squares are, it’s Thanksgiving.

And the simple act of doing that was the turning point for me. It was the moment when I knew that taking Thanksgiving on the road was going to be its own kind of unique, beautiful celebration — a celebration of gratitude. Thankfulness for just being able to be together. Because isn’t that the purpose of spending the last Thursday of November under the same roof every year? To me it is.

They say, home is wherever your heart is. Well, we’re tweaking that a little this year and saying that Thanksgiving is wherever the creme squares are. And this year, that’s Ireland.

In the interest of full dis-

closure, though, I actually found a pub in Dublin that offers a traditional American Thanksgiving dinner, complete with turkey and stuffing and taters and pumpkin pie and live-streamed NFL footballs games. (I’m just smuggling in the creme squares to really cinch up the whole thing up.) I mean, we’ve gotta preserve at least some of the Thanksgiving basics, right?

— Lisa Sugarman lives just north of Boston, Massachusetts. Read and discuss all her columns at [lissugarman.com](http://lissugarman.com). Or, find them on LittleThings.com, Hot Moms Club, BeingAMom.life, Grownand-Flown.com, More Content Now, and Care.com. She is also the author of LIFE: It Is What It Is and Untying Parent Anxiety: 18 Myths That Have You in Knots—And How to Get Free available at Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and at select bookstores.

OBITUARY

William Ward Mayhugh



Bill was born August 8, 1927 to Lewis Harry Mayhugh and Ethel Euscebia Ward in Wheeling, West Virginia.

Bill is survived by his wife, of 68 years, Dorothy Eileen Blose Mayhugh, Sons: Roy Mayhugh (Bonnie), Ridgecrest, CA, Robert Mayhugh (JoAnn), Bishop, CA, Richard Mayhugh, Inyokern, CA, Gary Mayhugh (Laura), Gardnerville, NV; 10 grandchildren, 25 great grandchildren and 6 great great grandchildren and a step-brother, Richard de-Brauwere, Tualatin, Oregon.

Bill is preceded in death by his parents, Lewis and Ethel, his step-father, Charles deBrauwere; his step-brother John de-Brauwere and his son, Grant Mayhugh.

In 1935, Bill and his par-

ents moved from West Virginia to Burbank, CA. In 1943 he enlisted in the US Navy and served aboard the USS Tennessee. Following the battle of Iwo Jima, he transferred to the Destroyer USS Boyd, where he spent the rest of his enlistment.

Bill was in the automobile

and banking business. He moved his young family to Bishop, CA in 1957 and in 1960 he purchased the Volkswagen Dealership, Bishop Imports, Inc. Bill served on the Bishop City Council from 1968 to 1975 and served as Mayor from 1973 to 1975.

In 1973, Bill became a

partner of Murphy Motors in Ridgecrest. In 1976, Bill and Dorothy moved permanently to Ridgecrest. For many years Bill was a board member of First Federal Savings and Loan in Ridgecrest.

Bill was an active member of the Bishop and Ridgecrest Chambers of Com-

merce and a lifelong member of the Elks, the VFW, American Legion and other service organizations.

A Memorial Service is planned for this Friday at 11 am at the Ridgecrest Elks club with interment the next day at 11 am at the East Line Street Cemetery in Bishop.

OBITUARY

Carolyn Ann Nason



July 5, 1946 - November 15, 2017

Carolyn Ann Nason passed away November 15, 2017 at her home in Ridgecrest, California due to complications with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. Her sister, Dee Dee Sharp, and niece, Candice Rogers, were at her side.

Born in Everett, Washing-

ton, to parents Charlie and Dorothy Donker July 5, 1946, Carolyn was the oldest of two other sisters, Judy and Dee Dee, whom she loved dearly.

Carolyn graduated from Hillsboro High School in 1964 and enrolled in vocational beauty school and community college through her early twenties. Throughout her life, she worked diligently in customer service and administrative roles un-

til she retired as a clerk for the Kern County courthouse in Ridgecrest, California.

She is predeceased by her beloved husband, George (“Joe”) Nason, and is survived by her son, Tyson, stepson, David, sisters Judy and Dee Dee, and six grandchildren.

A Memorial Service will be held on Saturday, November 25, at 11 a.m. at Holland & Lyons, 216 S. Norma St., Ridgecrest, California 93555.

Happy Thanksgiving & a Joyous Holiday Season

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**QUESTIONS?** Contact Managing Editor  
Jack Barnwell at 375-4481 or at  
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# Museum Store event set for Sunday, Nov. 26

**BY LINDA SAHOLT**

Maturango Museum staff member

Planning your post-Thanksgiving shopping? On Sunday, November 26, the Maturango Museum will be participating in the brand-new International Museum Store Sunday event.

First off, volunteers will be on hand to do free gift-wrapping on items purchased at the museum store. "This will be one-stop shopping," said Museum Store Manager Maureen Goff. "You buy it, we'll wrap it and you're good to go."

Second, look for demonstrations of "Flying Wish Paper." You've got to see this to believe it — it really does fly!

Third, there will be giveaways during the day, as well as sales and discounts on selected merchandise. Light refreshments will be offered.

And, as if that's not enough, this day will be the last "Double Dip Sunday" in November. Museum members always get a 10 percent discount on whatever they buy in the store; for Double Dip Sundays, members get 20 percent! You can become a museum member on the

spot — just fill out a membership form and pay a fee — and you can get your 20 percent discount right then. Your membership will be good for one full year, and you will receive the museum's newsletter, a discount on tours, notification of museum events, plus other benefits.

Museum Store Sunday's purpose is to focus on both the uniqueness of the shopping experience in museum stores and showing support of museums. More than 300 museums, from three continents, 6 countries, 47 states and the District of Columbia are participating. To become a patron, you can take your family to visit a museum, shop for gifts, become a member, volunteer, donate or participate in events at a museum during the year. There are many levels of support, and all of them are important.

Each museum store raises funds to support their museum. Here at the Maturango Museum, your purchases help support the day-to-day running of the museum; fund decent educational programs for school children and senior citizens; encour-



PHOTO BY LINDA SAHOLT

**Maturango Museum volunteer Charlotte Ostermann shows off a few of the unique and different gift ideas at the museum's gift store.**

age interest in art, culture, science, history and environmental awareness; and bolster community outreach.

Have someone impossible to shop for? The museum has gift certificates available, in any amount. Please ask in the store for details.

The Maturango Museum

gift store is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, except for major holidays, and is located at 100 E. Las Flores Ave., 760-375-6900.

For more information, please see info@maturango.org, #museumstoresunday, or www.museumstore-sunday.org.

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\*Offer good until 12/23/17

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## SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY

# Big hearts behind small businesses

**BY MELISSA ERICKSON**  
More Content Now

While the holiday shopping tradition is geared toward retail chains, Small Business Saturday gives small businesses the opportunity to be part of this mar-

ket share, said Jeanette Dvorak, owner of two small businesses in Milwaukee, Wisconsin's Historic Third Ward, Access Boutique - One Stop Accessory Shop and Mainstream Boutique, as well as other locations. Small Business Saturday is

ripe with opportunities for independent businesses to draw customers in and increase sales.

"Offering them some type of discount or gift with purchase that they can gift to someone is ideal," Dvorak said. "This year I plan on not

only offering specials specifically for that day to anyone who shops, but also a Small Business weeklong special to all our customers that are part of our email list and Birthday Club. This will give them an opportunity to shop after all the chaos passes as well."

The event also helps create a connection between the customer and retailer and is a positive way to market the businesses.

"Making it known that I am independently-owned and -operated and have family helping me with the business creates a human side to it rather than it always being about sales," Dvorak said. "Small Business Saturday is



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**A typical small business owner.**

all about supporting local communities and business, so I feel it is important for people to know that the businesses they're choosing to support are actually small and locally-owned."

To raise awareness so con-

sumers "think of me when they're choosing to shop small," Dvorak recently started focusing more on community outreach such as hosting events at her stores that give back to different organizations, including local social services group The Cathedral Center and Wisconsin Humane Society.

## What are you thankful for?

**Deanna LC**

I'm thankful for my family! And for this gorgeous desert we get to call home. Who else gets sunsets like these!? And the wide open spaces? Breathhtaking.

**Dana Nelson**

I am thankful for the healing power of my savior and for the fighting spirit he gave me to survive cancer. Every day is a gift and everything in my life is a gift especially the people in my life you only get one life and celebrating that one life every day is important and living with a thankful heart makes life so much easier, plus you get to see more color every day living this way. Life is too fragile to live it in black and white live it in vivid color and the only way to do that is with a heart full of gratitude.

**Wayne Vanderpool**

I am thankful for having the ability to raise my children in a town that I am happy to call home. I am thankful for the family I have here and how no matter what we always find a way. I am thankful for the love of my life being there through all of it even if I don't think I deserve any of this.

**Matthew Connally**

Salvation through Jesus Christ, family, friends, and freedom.

## Ridge Writers' Dickens Tea is Dec. 5

Ridge Writers is preparing for its fourth annual Dickens Tea to celebrate the holiday season with Victorian elegance. Over delicious holiday tea and plum bread pudding provided by My Enchanted Cottage and Tea Room, the Dickens Tea honors the author of such noted Christmas tales like A Christmas Carol and the period that brought many of our modern holiday traditions to life.

This year, the festivities will include a book swap of advanced reader copies and holiday craft books, a Christmas craft project celebrating Victorian lace, and a visit from "Queen Victoria" who will read from her diary about a holiday from her youth. The fourth annual Dickens Tea is on Tuesday, Dec. 5 at 2 p.m. at My Enchanted Cottage and Tea Room (214 W. Ridgecrest Blvd.) in Ridgecrest. Tickets are \$20 each and are available now at Red Rock Books, 206 W. Ridgecrest Blvd.

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## Spurling receives AIAA award

U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY PAUL KAKERT  
Greg Wheelock, director for Energetics, presents Alana Spurling, a mechanical engineer, with an award from the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics for exceptional service and devotion as the technical area organizer and expert from the Solid Rockets Technical Committee from 2002 to 2017. While on the Solid Rocket Technical Committee, Spurling acted as the Navy's liaison to the larger solid rocket community and helped assist with the yearly organization of the premier event in the propulsion community representing combustion dynamics and instability issues in solid rocket motors.

**Happy Thanksgiving**

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# State of repair: returning old bombs like new



U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY AMY SMITH

Employees at Crane Army Ammunition Activity put the finishing touches on a refurbished bomb before sending it to warfighters stationed around the world. Crane Army Ammunition Activity partners with U.S. Naval Systems Command to renovate and return to services old bombs at a fraction of the cost of producing new munitions.

**BY CAPT. AMY CRANE**  
Crane Army Ammunition Activity

More than 25 years ago, a need emerged to take unserviceable Navy bombs, refurbish them and return them to the warfighter in like-new condition. A partnership between Crane Army Ammunition Activity and U.S. Naval Air Systems Command formed to keep up with supply and demand, expedite the renovation process and save the taxpayer money.

“The current relationship we have started because Crane provided the ability to economically refurbish our thermally coated bombs as well as our non-thermally coated bombs which no other site could provide at the time,” John Hyatt, NAVAIR Assistant Program Manager for Logistics said.

Initially, Crane Army only focused on small scale bomb renovation and did not have a facility to accommodate the larger renovation process. It proposed

partnering with NAVAIR to invest in a full scale bomb renovation line. Crane Army worked directly with NAVAIR to develop a design and method that would accommodate large scale bomb renovation, match investment funds and build a full-scale bomb renovation laboratory at Crane.

“It paid for itself in less than two years and it worked out really well,” Dave Peel, CAAA project engineer for the Bomb Renovation Lab, said. “We are now the premier fleet return site. Any NAVAIR bomb that is considered unusable is sent straight to Crane to be renovated.”

When bombs come to Crane, they are inspected and tested to determine whether or not they can be repaired. The most common defect making a bomb unusable is when the coating becomes damaged. Most are considered repairable and are placed on a conveyer system to begin the renovating process of thermal coating removal,

recoating, curing and palletization.

According to Peel, the explosive limits allowed in specific areas is a unique capability allowing Crane Army to move a lot of product quickly and efficiently to get bombs back into the hands of the warfighter.

This partnership remains beneficial for both parties and Crane Army continues to directly supply and support the warfighter by renovating bombs and shipping them worldwide.

“For us, we benefit because Crane Army provides a very economical service restoring our unserviceable bombs to serviceable condition,” Hyatt said. “Working with the NAVAIR model, I’d say there’s obviously going to be a future as long as we have bombs, we’re going to need to renovate them.”

Established Oct. 1977, Crane Army Ammunition Activity produces and provides conventional munitions requirements in support of U.S. Army and Joint Force readiness.

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U.S. ARMY PHOTO BY THOMAS PESKE (AMC)

Crane Army Ammunition Activity ordnance professionals prep Mark 80 bombs for renovation before hanging them from the conveyor-type monorail system, which meanders through workstations strategically placed throughout the building.



HAPPY

Thanksgiving



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