

Council

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“We’ve earned our feathers here,” said Hammond. “It’s been three and a half long years. I’ve lost a lot of time — I think everyone has.”

“Through this election, we have come together, put aside our differences, and are starting the process of healing,” said Reid. “The participation of the tribe in this election showed overwhelmingly who our members want to lead them.”

“It was a landslide election,” said Walker.

Only about half of those eligible to vote Oct. 3 did so, according to Marc Benjamin of the Fresno Bee, and a fourth of the candidates withdrew their names from it beforehand.

Candidates Reggie Lewis, Nancy Ayala,

Melvin Espe and Donna Featherstone questioned in appeals whether those who voted were eligible, because a 2010 voter roster was used for the election. By 2012, about 150 of those members had been disenrolled, a common practice that has increasingly divided the tribe.

Since it was officially recognized in the 1980s, the tribe’s membership has dropped by half — from 1,800 to about 900 — according to National Public Radio. Most were disenrolled since the casino opened in 2003. Each month, official tribal members received a portion of casino profits. When membership shrinks, monthly checks grow for those who are left.

“We don’t have that much to share,” faction leader Lewis told NPR in 2013. “We’ve got tribal members who are living

in gutted-out trailers with no sanitary facilities, without power. And then we have people who are trying to take advantage of being a tribal member when they’re not entitled to be in.”

For now, those checks have stopped. An armed raid of the casino by a rival faction resulted in its shutdown by federal authorities on Oct. 10, 2014.

Before this month’s election, Utah attorney Anthony Famulary — who serves as a tribal court judge — issued a temporary restraining order to stop any election until enrollment issues were resolved. The order was sought by a “distributee” faction led by Luke Davis, but was not accepted by the Reid faction.

Monica Lewis of the “on-reservation tribal council” has said it does not accept the voter list of

this month’s election and will hold an election of its own in December. Her faction occupies some tribal government buildings across from the casino, including the enrollment office.

October’s election was to decide who will replace the tribe’s 2010 council members, who were essentially reinstated as an interim council in a 2014 ruling by the Bureau of Indian Affairs and the Interior Board of Indian Appeals.

The 2010 tribal council was the last one to be uncontested.

Reid promised at his installation that reopening the casino would be the new board’s top priority.

“Please be patient,” he said. “It took four years to put us here but we are working hard already to get us moving forward again.”

DRIGGS HONORED FOR SERVICE



CHUCK DOUD/THE MADERA TRIBUNE

Shirley Driggs, a longtime member of the Madera Planning Commission, was honored Oct. 21 at the Madera City Council meeting. Mayor Robert Poythress, with Driggs above, mentioned that Driggs began her service on the Planning Commission about the time he became a member of the City Council, more than a decade ago. Said Council Member Andy Medellin, a one-time Planning Commission chair, “I can’t think of anybody who could be more passionate about the City of Madera than Shirley.”

Emmert

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them but one were captured and spent the rest of the war as prisoners.

One had the good fortune of making it to Spain and then home without being captured. As for Emmert and his nose gunner, who was also wounded, they remained with the plane and were captured.

After being paraded through the streets of Urk, Wallace was taken to Queen Wilhelmina Hospital in Amsterdam. There fate smiled on the young Maderan when he was placed under the watchful eye of a protective German surgeon. Not only did the doctor operate on Emmert, he made sure the German soldiers did him no harm.

Two of the nurses were just as kind, but that goodwill came at a high cost. They looked after their patient and brought him extra food, which they hid under his bed.

Unfortunately, the German soldiers caught one of the nurses in one of her acts of mercy and executed her by decapitation.

The other one survived the war and later made a

visit to Madera to visit Wallace.

On Dec. 31, 1943, Wallace was put on a train and taken to another hospital in Obermassfeld, Germany, for additional medical treatment. While he was there, the German who was in charge of the compound committed suicide.

In September 1944, Emmert learned that he was going to be expatriated in a prisoner of war exchange. He was taken through Germany, where he saw first-hand some of the destruction the U.S. military had wreaked on the Nazis. He wound up in Sweden, where he boarded a POW exchange ship, the Gripsholm Sverige.

Wallace docked in New York and boarded a train for California. He traveled across the country to Palm Springs. From there he hitchhiked back home to Madera, where his family welcomed him with a huge party.

On Christmas Day, 1944, Wallace married his high school sweetheart, Eleanor, after which they traveled to an Army base in Washington for further treatment. Meanwhile, he prepared to return to farming with his father.

While he was in Wash-

ington, he wrote a letter home with a special request. He told his father that he would like to build a 1,000-foot runway on the farm. Apparently Wallace wasn’t finished with flying yet.

Wallace Emmert spent the next 30 years farming. Eleanor passed away in 1982, and a few years later he married her sister, Maxine. They have been married for 31 years.

Today, Wallace and

Maxine Emmert can be seen sitting together holding a treasure from World War II. In their laps is a scrap book emblazoned with an eagle looking down on a B-17 in flight, and inside are the letters Wallace sent home from the war and kept by his mother — letters of a young hero from Madera who never imagined he would look back on his life from the perspective of 100 years.

Obituaries & Death Notices

DAVID “DAVE” MOSHER

Our loving husband, father, grandfather, and friend passed away on October 22, 2015, after a long and courageous struggle with esophageal cancer. Dave was born on March 11, 1948 in Sanger to Doral and Dorothy Mosher. He grew up on the Sanger River Bottom and attended Parlier schools.

He spent nearly 20 years with the Madera City Fire Department before he answered his calling to become a special education teacher. Working at Valley Community School in Atwater, he cared and loved his students, which involved much more than educating their minds. His room became a sanctuary for students both past and present, and he left an inspiring impact on every student and staff member that ever met him.

Other than his passion for helping others, Dave introduced and fostered a love of sailing to several generations; he was highly regarded as a sailing mentor and teacher. He was actively involved with Fresno Yacht Club, Lake Yosemite Sailing Association, and Monterey Peninsula Yacht Club. Even though he was a fierce sailing competitor, he never lost his Corinthian sportsman-



ship toward his sports... always a true gentleman and scholar who never gave up on anything or anyone.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Doral and Dorothy Mosher. He is survived by his wife, Katie; daughter and son-in-law, Karissa and Mike Isola; daughter, Annesley Kast; son, Davin Mosher; stepdaughter and son-in-law, April Cacioppo and Stephen Renn; stepson and daughter-in-law, Joe and Valerie Cacioppo; and many grandchildren.

A memorial service will be announced at a later date.

Remembrances may be made to your favorite charity.

The family wishes to thank the doctors and staff of UCSF Medical Center, University Oncology Associates, and Fresno Cancer Center for their care and devotion during his illness.

Serving families of Central California Since 1893
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JACQUE G. ESPONDE

Jacque G. Esponde, 82, was born March 18, 1933 and passed away September 13, 2015 at the V.A. Hospital in Fresno.

A memorial service will be held at the Neptune Society, 1154 W. Shaw, Ste. B, Fresno, CA 93711 Friday, October 30, at 1:00 p.m.

Arrests

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Chiaramonte said Tuesday.

At the park shooting, one of the rounds struck a 15-year-old in the face and another hit a nearby home, he said.

Madera police detectives and Special Investigations Unit probed the incident.

“Multiple search warrants were served as a result of the investigation in which investigators seized several firearms, ammunition, and evidence of gang related activity,” he said.

JAMES “PAT” BANKSTON

James “Pat” Bankston passed away on Sunday, October 18, 2015, at the age of 68. Pat was born in Chowchilla, CA, and lived in Madera, CA, for the past 35 years.

He graduated from Chowchilla High School Class of 1965. He served his country during the Vietnam War from 1966 to 1969 in the U.S. Air Force as an air traffic controller. Pat worked at Anderson Clayton in Chowchilla for 25 years. Pat was a federal officer working for at the Fresno Airport for 12 years. He loved camping, fishing, hunting, motorcycle riding, reading, writing, playing the piano and saxophone.

He is survived by his wife of 40 years, Linda



Bankston of Madera; his son, Patrick Bankston of Madera; two sisters, Dolly Williams and her husband Henry of Madera and Ovalee Batten of Newbury Park, CA.

Graveside Service will be held on Friday, October 30, 2015, 1:00 P.M. at Arbor Vitae Cemetery, Madera. Remembrances may be made to: Disabled American Veterans, 1049 Elkerton Blvd, Spring Valley, CA 91977.

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David Clifford “Dave” Mosher, 67

Madera
 Special education teacher for Valley Community School in Atwater
 Born: March 11, 1948, Sanger, CA
 Died: October 22, 2015, Madera
 Memorial services will be held at a later date.
 Condolences may be expressed online at www.jaychapel.com

Geneva “Jenny” K. Davis, 85

Madera
 Co-owner of Jenny’s Gifts
 DATE OF BIRTH: February 5, 1930, Pulaski, TN
 DATE OF DEATH: October 26, 2015, Merced, CA
 Visitation will be held on: Sunday, November 1, from 2:00 PM to 6:00 PM at Jay Chapel
 Graveside Service will be held on: Monday, November 2, at 11:00 AM at Arbor Vitae Cemetery, Madera
 Remembrances may be made to: Donor’s favorite charity.
 Condolences may be expressed online at www.jaychapel.com

James “Pat” Bankston, 68

Madera
 Worked for TSA at the Fresno Airport
 U.S. Air Force veteran
 DATE OF BIRTH: September 6, 1947, Chowchilla, CA
 DATE OF DEATH: October 18, 2015, Madera, CA
 Graveside Service will be held on: Friday, October 30, 1:00 PM at Arbor Vitae Cemetery, Madera
 Remembrances may be made to: Disabled American Veterans, 1049 Elkerton Blvd, Spring Valley, CA 91977.
 Condolences may be expressed online at www.jaychapel.com

Alfred Giacomo Montrucchio, 93

Born: July 15, 1922 in Merced, California
 Passed Away: October 17, 2015 in Madera, California.
 Mail Carrier
 Madera county resident
 Private Services
 Final resting place will be at Riverside National Cemetery
 All Funeral Arrangements are under the direction of Smith Manor Grace Chapel, 559-662-8825
Guadalupe “Lupe” Lopez, 81
 Fresno
 Retired machine attendant for Canandaigua Winery
 DATE OF BIRTH: December 1, 1933, Mexico
 DATE OF DEATH: October 26, 2015, Fresno, CA
 Visitation will be held on Thursday, October 29, from 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM with Vigil Service beginning at 7:00 PM at Jay Chapel.
 Funeral Services will be Friday, October 30, at 9:00 AM at Jay Chapel
 Condolences may be expressed online at www.jaychapel.com
Alejandro Ramos-Amador, 67
 Born: May 5, 1948, Sinaloa, Mexico
 Passed Away: October 18, 2015, Fresno, CA
 Visitation will be Thursday, October 29, from 4-9 p.m. with a 7 p.m. service at Madera Ave. Bible Church, 124 Madera Ave., Madera
 A Funeral Service will be held Friday, October 30, at 11 a.m. at Smith Manor Grace Chapel. Final Resting Place will be at Calvary Cemetery.

The
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