The ELKETIN

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M. RITTENHOUSE, ER



• WALNUT CREEK 1811 •

ESTABLISHED 1950

CONTENTS

OCTOBER 2026

03 | **Letter from the Exalted Ruler**
A message from ER Mike Rittenhouse

05 | **Elk Spotlight**
Celebrating the Elks among us

07 | **Youth Programs**
Hoop Shoot season, practice tips, & lessons

09 | **Community Service**
Scholarships, service & giving.

10 | **Our Lodge**
Hauntings, tailgates & fall fun at 1811.

12 | **Monthly Calendar**
Your month at a glance

13 | **October Birthdays**
Celebrating Our Elks

14 | **Friends of the Lodge**
They support us-let's support them

FROM THE EDITORS

Hauntings. Football. Hoop Shoots. *The Elketin.*



Fall has arrived, and with it comes one of the most spirited times of year at the Lodge! From football and fellowship to the Haunted House taking shape, scholarship season underway, and the Hoop Shoot just around the corner, there is plenty happening—and even more to look forward to.

As the days get shorter and the calendar gets fuller, we hope this issue inspires you to show up, pitch in, bring the family, or simply try something new. Some of the best parts of Lodge life happen unexpectedly—over a pre-dinner drink, while building something together, cheering from the sidelines, or in a conversation that sends you home with a little piece of wisdom you didn't expect to find.

Next time you snap a photo at the Lodge, share the joy with us! Big event or everyday moment, we'd love to see it. Send your photos to editor@elketin.com—because the best Lodge stories are yours.

Mr. & Mrs. Davlin
EDITORS-IN-CHIEF



A Luau to Remember

If you didn't attend our Luau on Saturday, September 12th, you missed saying A-L-O-H-A! A great time was had by all!





The evening started with very tasty Mai Tais prepared by Matt and Saul. The fantastic Luau decorations were the inspiration of Collen Carney, assisted by Jacklynn Roenspie, Doug Fountain, Elaine Thompson, Denise Neal, Laura Jacobsen, Gene Muse, Laura Ervin, Andrea Baldacci, Sarah Riley, Al Norman, Boys Team Charity (BTC), and myself.



All that was needed was a little sun and sand to make you feel like you were in the islands.

M. RITTENHOUSE
EXALTED RULER

Da Kine Ono!

The Hawaiian-themed food, prepared by Chef Lonna and Chef Whitney with their staff of Kevin Finn and Wendi Leyba, was once again Da Kine Ono (the best!). Compliments abounded.

The evening was highlighted by lovely Luau dancers, ranging from the young age of 8 to the more experienced older dancers. All were a joy to watch. Until next year... *ALOHA!*





A Proud Night for our Lodge

We also had a great turnout for our DDGER Pot Pie Dinner, with plenty of good food and fellowship. The evening was made even more special when DDGER James Akers presented Walnut Creek Lodge No. 1811 with a Citation of Merit for our contribution to the growth of the Order and our membership gains.

It was a proud moment for our Lodge—and a recognition that belongs to all of you who continue to welcome new members, get involved, and help 1811 grow.

Our Lodge Continues to Grow

Our Lodge membership continues to grow, with many new members stepping up and grabbing the rope of volunteerism. The month of November has a $1.00 application fee to encourage everyone to recruit new members into our Lodge. Please invite your family and friends to join our Lodge as members and share in the experience and beauty of Elkdom!

"Enthusiasm, Energy and Teamwork! Ready, Elks? Let's GO!"

Fraternally yours,

Coach Ritt

M. RITTENHOUSE
EXALTED RULER

Gordon Mauger: Brewing a Legacy

From technology to award-winning beer and wine, Gordon brings a fascinating mix of talents to Lodge 1811.



Gordon Mauger may have been an Elk for only about two years, but his roots in the community—and his interests—run deep.

Born in Gary, Indiana, just outside Chicago, Gordon spent his early years in the Chicago area, where his father worked downtown. It was also there that he met his wife, Cathy. The couple welcomed their daughter in 2000.

After earning a degree in computer science, Gordon began his career as a programmer with U.S. Steel. In 1987, an opportunity with American Express took him to Phoenix, and in 1992, another opportunity brought him to Walnut Creek. Gordon started his own business here, working with clients that included Pac Bell and Kaiser Permanente. He later joined Kaiser full-time, where he continues to work today.

Outside of his professional career, Gordon has built an impressive second résumé around beer and wine. An accomplished homebrewer and certified beer judge, Gordon has twice earned awards at the national level and judges six to eight home and commercial competitions each year. This year, he traveled to Asheville, North Carolina, to judge the National Homebrew Competition Finals.

Since 2003, he has helped organize California's largest homebrew competition and is a co-organizer of the San Francisco regional site of the National Homebrew Competition, hosted at Elks Lodge 1811. He also volunteers as Assistant Finance Director for the National Beer Judge Certification Program.

Gordon and a friend have been making wine for 23 years—reds, whites and sparkling wines—handling much of the process themselves, from picking and processing through bottling. Their wines have earned multiple awards, including Best in Division at the state level, and their winemaking was featured in the Contra Costa Times. Gordon is also a wine judge; in April, he judged 26 Chardonnays and 22 Merlots at a state competition.

Gordon's path to Elkdom came through familiar faces. He worked with Darren Cartwright on a swim team board, while fellow Elk Art Laforteza lives just up the street.

Doug Fountain: A Life Serving

From country and community to veterans and fellow Elks, Doug has built a life around stepping forward when help is needed.

Whether serving his country, his community, veterans or his fellow Elks, Doug Fountain has spent much of his life stepping forward when help is needed.

Doug is the Presiding Justice for Walnut Creek Elks Lodge 1811, a position he has held since 2016, and was honored as the Lodge's Elk of the Year for 2020–2021. His extensive background includes an honorable discharge from the U.S. Army Reserve, where he served as a Safety NCO, and 30 years as a reserve peace officer. During his law-enforcement service, he worked as both a solo officer and Field Training Officer and was twice named Officer of the Year.

For more than 30 years, Doug has also worked as a private investigator. His experience includes criminal defense investigation through the Contra Costa County Bar Association Criminal Conflicts Program and P.O.S.T. law-enforcement and firefighter background investigations.

His service extends to emergency response as well. Doug is currently a volunteer firefighter serving in safety and communications, previously chaired a Contra Costa County Grand Jury committee and served as its lead investigator, and has participated in CERT and county Search and Rescue.



Nearly ten years ago, friends in Rossmoor introduced Doug to the mission and values of the Elks. He found particular enjoyment in the Challenger baseball events, working alongside the Lodge grill crew. For five years, Doug headed Burger Night, handling everything from purchasing food and supplies to setting up, serving members and guests, and cleaning up afterward.

Some of his most meaningful Lodge experiences have come through service to veterans. Doug recalls helping Denise and other volunteers furnish apartments for veterans, including one memorable day when the team helped set up 30 units in Pittsburg. He has also lent a hand at the Hoop Shoot, Rummage Sale, Crab Feed and other Lodge activities.

Elks Hoop Shoot

Start the Shoot!

Practice. Keep score.

Watch them grow.

Fall is the perfect time to grab a basketball, head outside with the kids and start counting those shots! The Elks Hoop Shoot is coming December 6, so turn the next couple of months into a family challenge. Pick a spot for your "free-throw line," give each child 25 shots, and write down how many they make.

No fancy court required—a driveway hoop, neighborhood court or trip to the park will do!

Keep a simple Hoop Shoot Scorecard on the refrigerator and note their progress once or twice a week. Record the date and their score out of 25, then watch those numbers change.

Then come take the shot!

On December 6, bring your young shooters to De La Salle High School and see what happens when those 25 shots suddenly count! Can they match their best score with a little competition-day pressure? Beat it?

Either way, they'll have spent the fall practicing, improving and learning to step up to the line when it matters.



The Shots
They *Don't* Make

Submitted by Laura Davlin



As a mom of three little girls who are not at all interested in basketball, I'll admit I never really understood the value of the Elks Hoop Shoot. It wasn't until a conversation I had with our ER, Mike "Coach Ritt" Rittenhouse, that the way I saw the program completely changed.

Stopping by the Lodge for a pre-dinner drink, I somehow always seem to walk away with a little jewel—a story, a piece of wisdom, or something unexpected that sticks with me. This was one of those moments.

While talking about Mike's years coaching the Hoop Shoot, I admitted that I couldn't believe a child could make 50 free throws the way Jackson Ramirez did. With a record like that, I joked, what was the point of my girls even competing?

Mike's answer surprised me. He told me that every child who steps up and takes a shot is a winner. Not every child will take home a trophy—and that, he explained, is part of the point.

In life, learning how to cope with not coming in first can be more valuable than learning how to handle the times we do. A child takes the shot, misses, feels the disappointment, and then discovers they can move past it by placing one foot in front of the other and cheering for the next person up to shoot.

Although the goal is to make the shot, the lesson comes from experiencing *the miss.*

That ability to face disappointment and keep going might just be one of the most valuable lessons they'll ever learn on a basketball court. I walked away from our conversation finally understanding why the Hoop Shoot belongs in the Elks experience.

So while I don't expect my girls will ever sink 50 free throws —I now know exactly why I'll make them step up to that line and fling the ball. If one ever does go in, we'll consider that a bonus.

Thank you, Coach Ritt, for that jewel.



Elk Scholarship Season is Underway!

Most Valuable Student & Legacy Awards

Applications are open, and now is the time to apply! If you know a high school senior, or a parent of a high school senior, help us spread the word about two great opportunities through the Elks National Foundation.

The Most Valuable Student Scholarship is open to high school seniors nationwide—no family connection to the Elks is required. Awards range from $4,000 to $30,000 over four years, and applications must be submitted by November 12, 2026.

For our own #ElksFamily, the 2027 Legacy Awards offer $6,000 scholarships to eligible children and grandchildren of Elks members. There's a little more time for this one: applications are due February 1, 2027.

Two opportunities. One bright future.
Apply today!



MOST VALUABLE STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP
www.elks.org/scholars/scholarships/mvs.cfm
Deadline: November 12, 2026

LEGACY AWARDS
www.elks.org/legacyscholarship
Deadline: February 1, 2027

October is Elks National Foundation (ENF) Month

A Little From Each of Us. A Lot of Good.

Ever wonder where those dollars to the Elks National Foundation actually go? They have a way of coming back out into the world as something much bigger.



They become scholarships for students, a place for a child to spend the summer, support for veterans, help for families in crisis, cancer research, programs for people with disabilities—and, yes, even the Hoop Shoot we're talking about right here in this Elketin.

Through Special Projects, State Charities and Bonus Grants, the ENF helps Elks across the country take the desire to do some good and turn it into something tangible in their own communities. This year alone, the ENF reports that $11.7 million will go to state Elks associations to help make that happen.

That's the beauty of the Foundation: one Elk's contribution may feel small. Add it to thousands of others, and suddenly we can do some pretty remarkable things.

October is ENF Month—a good time to remember just how far a little generosity can travel.

Pregame at the Lodge, Knight Nation!

Pregame. Walk over.
Cheer loud. Walk back.
That's *our* kind of Homecoming.

Friday, October 2 • Doors Open at 4:00 p.m.

Whether you're a die-hard Knights fan or just looking for a fun night out with the family, come kick off Homecoming at the Lodge!

Grab some food and a drink, catch up with friends and neighbors, and soak up the Homecoming spirit before the game. When kickoff gets close, we'll all head out together and walk over to the field to cheer on the Knights.

After the final whistle, forget fighting the parking-lot traffic—just walk back to the Lodge with everyone and wrap up the evening where it started.

It's an easy, fun way to enjoy Homecoming with the whole family, whether you're there for every play or simply along for the food, friends and festivities.



Building Something Frightfully Fun

The 9th Annual
Haunted House is *underway!*

Things are getting spooky at Lodge 1811! Volunteers joined forces with 11 youth teammates from National Charity League (NCL) and Boys Team Charity (BTC) to get this year's fright fest started.

In just two hours of spooky fun, the crew emptied a sea container packed to the ceiling with 8' x 8' walls, decorations, Haunted House equipment and, naturally, 40 dead bodies! Everything is now staged and ready for the next round of work parties—and there's plenty more frightening fun ahead.

Want to help bring the scares to life? Join us at an upcoming work party!



Join the Fright!

Build walls. Bring scares. Raise screams. Tear down.

Whether you can swing a hammer, hang a wall, organize a costume—or simply aren't afraid of working alongside 40 dead bodies—there's a job waiting for you.

Join the spooky fun

October 3, 4, 10, 11, 17 and 18 from 9 a.m.–1 p.m. as we build walls, create the maze, set the stage, organize costumes and transform the Haunted House from bare bones into something delightfully terrifying.

Then it's SHOWTIME

October 23 & 24! Volunteers arrive at 6 p.m., with the gates opening from 7:30–9:45 p.m.

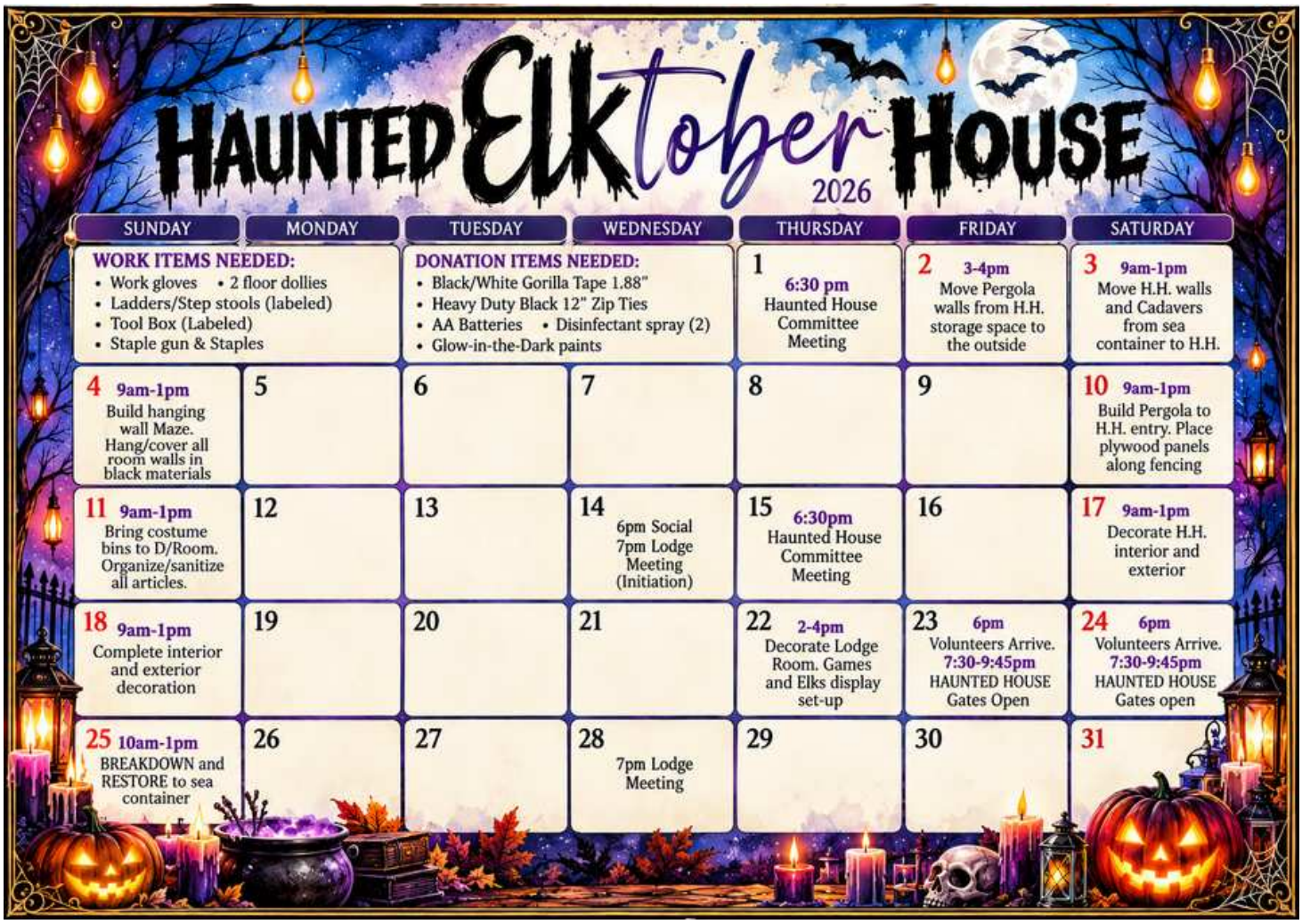
And when the screams have faded?

We'll need a few survivors on October 25 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. to help tear it all down and send our ghosts, ghouls and assorted body parts back into hiding until next year.

CAN'T VOLUNTEER? DONATIONS HELP TOO!

- Black Gorilla Tape
- White Gorilla Tape
- Heavy-duty black 12" zip ties
- AA batteries
- Disinfectant spray
- Glow-in-the-dark paint
- Staple gun and staples

Drop off your donations next time you're at the Lodge!



Weekly Activities

There's plenty happening this October! Keep this calendar handy, mark your favorites, and stop by when you can. A good time is waiting for you at the Lodge!

MONDAYS

- Monday Night Football — Oct. 5, 12, 19, 26 at 4:45 p.m.

TUESDAYS

- Cornhole — Oct. 6, 13, 20, 27 at 5:30 p.m.
- House Committee Meeting — Oct. 13 at 7 p.m.
- Trustee Meeting — Oct. 27 at 7 p.m.

WEDNESDAYS

- Cocktail Sessions — Oct. 7, 14, 21, 28, 4:30–7 p.m.
- Mahjong Night — Oct. 7 at 6 p.m.
- Initiation & Lodge Meeting — Oct. 14 at 7 p.m.
- Bunco Night — Oct. 21 at 6 p.m.
- PER Dinner/Meeting — Oct. 21
- Lodge Meeting — Oct. 28 at 7 p.m.

THURSDAYS

- Burger Night — Oct. 1, 15, 22, 29 at 5:30 p.m.
- Lounge opens — Oct. 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 4 p.m.
- Dinner Night — Oct. 8 at 5:30 p.m.
- Haunted House Meeting — Sept. 24 at 6:30 p.m.

FRIDAYS

- TGIF - Oct. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 at 4:00 p.m.
- Elk Visit to Alameda Lodge— Oct. 16

SPECIAL EVENTS

- Saturday & Sunday October 3rd & 4th Elks District Jamboree, Lodi
- Saturday, October 17, Elktoberfest • 4:30–8:30 p.m.
- Sunday, October 18, Elks Monthly Sunday Brunch • 9:30 a.m.
- Saturday, October 24, Haunted House • 7:30–10:00 p.m.
- Sunday, October 25, Haunted House Take Down

Several private events are also scheduled throughout the month. Please refer to the calendar for details and continue watching your weekly Lodge emails for updates and announcements.

October 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		Cornhole- 5:30pm		1 Burger Night: 5:30pm Lounge Open-4pm	2 TGIF - LOUNGE OPENS 4PM Merry Mixers-6 pm Elks District Jamboree - Lodi	3 Elks District Jamboree - Lodi Haunted House Wk Day
4 Elks District Jamboree - Lodi Haunted House Wk Day	5 Prayer Group 6PM Dining Rm Monday Night Football: 4:45	6 Cornhole- 5:30pm	7 Cocktail Sessions Lounge Open: 4:30pm MahJong-6 PM	8 Thursday Dinner Night: Dinner: 5:30 pm Lounge Open: 4:00 pm Coin Show setup	9 TGIF - LOUNGE OPENS 4PM Coin Show Open 10 am= 6pm	10 Coin Show Open10am4pm
11	12 Monday Night Football 4:45pm WC Garden Club- 9am - noon	13 House Mtg-7 pm Cornhole- 5:30pm	14 Initiation/ Lodge Mtg 7 pm Cocktail Sessions 4:30 pm - 7PM	15 Burger Night 5:30pm Lounge Open-4pm	16 TGIF - LOUNGE OPENS 4PM Elk Visit to Alameda Lodge Merry Mixers	17 Elktoberfest 4:30 pm - 8:30 pm
18 Elks Monthly Sunday Brunch 9:30 am	19 Monday Night Football 4:45pm	20 Cornhole- 5:30pm	21 Cocktail Sessions: 4:30 Bunco: 6 PM PER Dinner/Mtg- Dining RM	22 Burger Night 5:30pm Lounge Open-4pm Haunted House Final Mtg - 6:30pm	23 TGIF - LOUNGE OPENS 4PM Haunted House 7:30pm - 10 pm	24 Haunted House 7:30pm - 10 pm
25 Haunted House Take Down	26 Monday Night Football 4:45pm	27 Trustee Mtg-7 pm Cornhole- 5:30pm	28 Cocktail Sessions Lounge Open: 4:30pm Lodge Mtg - 7 PM	29 Burger Night 5:30pm Lounge Open-4pm	30 TGIF - LOUNGE OPENS 4PM	31 Private Event Noon - 5 pm: Lounge

Walnut Creek, CA
Elks Lodge No. 1811

Elks usa

Happy Birthday!

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

OCTOBER	NAME
1	Gary Buffo
1	Andrew McIver
1	William Vierra
3	Cindy Peterson
4	David Brown
4	Laura Jacobson
4	Marilyn Sibley
4	Richard J. Thomson
5	David Chew
5	Karen Horrigan
6	Malia V. Kenny
6	Derrick Mizuo
6	Elizabeth Robinson
6	Troy Snyder

OCTOBER	NAME
7	Ynez Wilson Hirst
8	Barton Perry
10	Harry B. Ferguson
11	Charles Besocke
11	Colleen Carney
11	Erinn Johnson
12	Douglas S. Silva
13	Lynne Lazzareschi
15	David Hanks
16	Greg Bartow
17	Ben B. Hill Jr.
19	Judy Hunter
23	Patrick Maroney
23	Greg Pardella

OCTOBER	NAME
25	Eleanor Bolin-Chew
26	Larry Lookabill
27	Karen Abbott
27	Mike Lewis
27	Jonathan Teames
28	Amanda Finney
28	George R. Warden
30	Jenny Tasker



They Support Us— Let's Support Them

These local businesses invest in Walnut Creek Elks Lodge No. 1811 because they believe in our members, our mission, and our community. We are proud to recognize them and encourage our members to support the businesses that support us.

Mike Rittenhouse — EPM

Real Estate + Property Management

With more than 50 years in real estate, Mike of EPM Real Estate brings experience and guidance to clients throughout the community. From sales and leasing to property management, Mike is "Your Real Estate Coach for Life!"

MOBILE: (925) 360-2900



Karen Horrigan — Galaxy Group

Elk Spirit Wear

Looking for a comfortable way to show your Elks spirit? Lodge shirts are available for $23. The shirts feature Elks branding and are a great choice for Lodge events, volunteer activities, community outings, or everyday wear.

QUESTIONS: (925) 858-5982



Dave Wright— Wright on Time

Transportation You Can Count On

Whether you need transportation for a medical appointment, the airport, a special event, or simply a ride across town, Dave Wright of Wright On Time is committed to providing safe, courteous, and dependable service.

RESERVATIONS: (925) 695-5451



Eric Erickson — Colliers

Commercial Real Estate

Whether you're buying, selling, leasing, or investing in commercial property, Eric Erickson offers professional expertise, local market knowledge, and personalized service to help you navigate every opportunity with confidence.

MOBILE (925) 500-1643

