



The Mountain Valley Gazette

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Thank you! And a Merry Christmas to all!

We want to thank everyone for all the positive comments about The Gazette. We have worked hard to provide information that is interesting to our community, as well as promote events occurring in our own back yards. Your comments have been overwhelmingly positive, and we appreciate that.

Little Things Do Make a Difference

by Roger Carr

Think back over your life. Think about the people that had a positive influence on you. If your past was like mine, many of them didn't realize the impact they made. The influence was usually due to them caring about you and doing some little thing. What little things have been done for you that changed your life? What little things have you done for someone else that might have changed theirs?

I have been influenced by little things done by others.

I had a boss that asked whether I had the guts to take a job he felt I could do. It was a job I wasn't even qualified to apply for. That question influenced me to set my career goals at a higher level and faster pace than they were at that time.

When I attended my first Toastmasters meeting the group made me feel welcome from the moment I set foot in the room. One person made it a point to introduce me to several members before the first meeting started. Another leaned over to me on my second visit, just before my first speech, to let me know what to expect and to let me know I would do great. I am grateful to both of them.

Children can influence us as well. A great example of this happened to me at a Cub Scout summer camp here in my hometown of Fredericksburg, Virginia. For those of you who are not familiar with Cub Scouts, the boys range from 1st through 5th grade. I showed up on the morning of the first day of camp just to make sure everything went smooth for our group. We got everyone registered for the week's events, set up a canopy where the scouts and leaders could get under some shade for lunch and then headed to the flagpole. At the flagpole, all of the camp participants said the Pledge of Allegiance and then the camp leader started to give instructions. In the middle of the instructions, one of the 1st grade boys tugged on my pant leg. When I looked down at him, he had the biggest smile on his face. He said, "Mr. Carr, I'm having a really good time" and he meant it! They hadn't even started their first camp activity yet. At that moment, I knew all of the hours I put in as a scout leader were well worth it.

I have found that we can influence others by doing little things for them.

You can influence others by providing help when it is needed. When I say provide help, I am not just talking about offering to help. Most people will not take you up on an offer even if they desperately need it. I remember taking food to a couple that was sick. This was not anyone I knew. It was a friend of someone that was in my Sunday school class. Two years later they saw me, thanked me and told me how much that meant to them. They even remembered my name after two years! Another way I have helped was to provide advice to coworkers that now refer to me as their mentor. Also, to help families pack up a truck to move. Some of these families are friends of ours today even though they live several states away.

Another way I have found that you can influence others is by saying "thank you." I don't think I ever realized the power of saying thank you until a few months ago. I was at a professional symposium in Northern Virginia. I was one of the symposium leaders. During a lunch break, I stayed in the room where one of the classes was being given to watch all of the personal belongings of the students while they were at lunch. During the break, three of the hotel workers came into

continued on pg 7

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Our contact information:

tel (559) 240-1724

(559) 470-4625

email: john@mountainvalleygazette.com

traci@mountainvalleygazette.com

Stories & articles:

editor@mountainvalleygazette.com

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NEW LISTING: High Oaks ~ \$155,000 ~ 4.5 AC

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NEW LISTING: George Smith ~ \$225,000 ~ 6 Bedrooms / 3 baths ~ 4.97 AC ~ Potential Horse Property

This 6 Bedroom, 3 bath home is a rare find in the Squaw Valley area. Great location just a short distance to highway 180 for easy valley commutes. The land is flat to gently rolling, and has great potential for gardening, horses or animals. The well log shows a high production well at 70gpm. 26 ft x 36 ft. detached garage / shop which are insulated with a restroom.

SOLD: \$112,900 ~ Sand Creek ~ 2.5 Acres ~ 1344 s. f. ~ Great Condition ~ Bonus Room

Nice home in move-in condition manufactured home has living area with vaulted ceilings, wood laminate flooring and peaceful view of the regional foothills. Extra den or hobby room with wood-burning stove. Home site has private setting with large trees, usable land, paved drive and the lot is fenced and cross fenced & suitable for horses.

PENDING: \$159,900 ~ Bronco Lane ~ 1392 s. f. ~ 4.8 Acres ~ 3 Bedroom / 2 Bath

Nice home in private setting, with easy access to highway 180 for valley commutes. Home is very well maintained, with abundant improvements and upgrades, including wood-burning fireplace and updated fixtures and new instant water heater.

\$199,900 ~ Longview ~ 4.7 Acres ~ 2497 s. f. ~ A Great Value at ONLY \$80 a Square Foot ~ 3 Large Bedrooms / 2 Bath

Outstanding usable lot & potential for horse set-up. Living room & family room have a fireplace, large dining room, country kitchen with tile counters, breakfast bar, walk-in pantry and new Oven. Large inside Laundry room, new 40 gal water heater, covered patio and attached 2 car garage with auto opener, detached 2 car garage and storage shed. There are some mature walnut and pecan trees plus the majestic Oaks. Lots of possibilities for this property.

\$249,000 ~ Bronco ~ 4.9 Acres ~ 2205 s. f. ~ Looks Like a Model Home with ALL the Upgrades! ~ 3 Bedroom / 3 Bath

Current decor with tasteful colors, tile flooring with aggregate accents, and upgraded light fixtures throughout the home. Open floor plan has a kitchen with granite counter tops and upgraded tile work. Dining area adjoins the living room and family room opening to the media room, that could serve as a 4th bedroom or office. Plenty of storage space with all the walk-in closets and the windows provide a nice lighted atmosphere. Park-like setting with landscape completed, sprinkler system on timers, many different sitting areas, and great view of the mountains. Truly ready to just move-in and ENJOY both inside and out! Potential horse set-up. Tour this property to appreciate fully.

\$279,000 ~ George Smith/Puma ~ 4.4 Acres ~ 2373 s. f. ~ Shop ~ Landscaped ~ Great Location ~ 4 Bedroom / 3 Bath

Close to Hwy 180. Living, family room, plus formal dining with a built-in buffet. Open kitchen, bar, and breakfast area. Large laundry, pantry cabinets and room for a 2nd refrigerator or freezer. Large master bedroom has his & her closets, sliding doors to a private wood deck. 3 covered decks add to the charm of this home. Attached two car garage plus a detached two car garage/shop, plus a pump house, storage shed with cement foundation, quality pump house with a 2500 gallon water storage tank adjacent. The immediate yard area is fully fenced, together with a garden plot. Numerous varieties of fruit and nut trees accent the landscaping. The property has potential for a horse set-up with mostly all usable land.

LOTS FOR SALE - OWNER FINANCING ON MANY PROPERTIES

\$23,500 - NEW LISTING: 5 AC, Iris, Gentle Hillside
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\$55,000 - 5.4 Acre Lot on Iris, Pad
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\$53,500 - 4.8 Acre Lot on Rustic, 2 Pads, Well
\$55,000 - 4.5 Acre Lot on George Smith, 2 Pads, Well, Septic
\$59,500 - 4.5 Acre Lot on Chuckwagon, Pad, Well
\$60,000 - 5.0 Acre Lot on Feather, 3 Pads, Well
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Bear Mountain Line Dancing

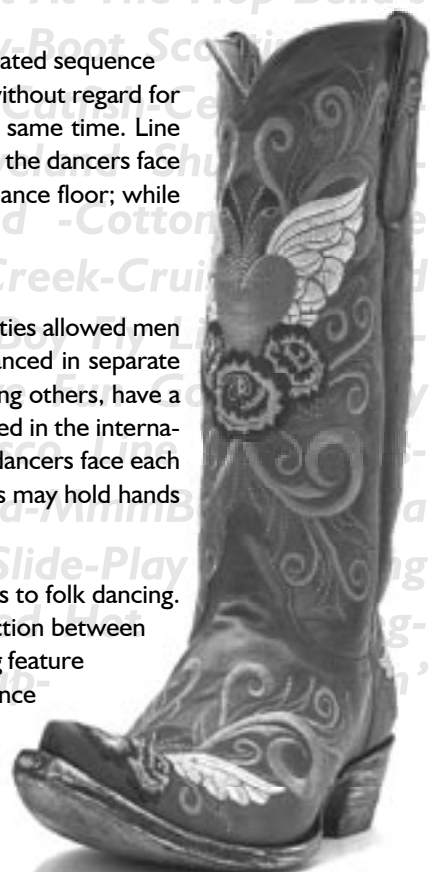
What is a Line Dance? - A line dance is choreographed dance with a repeated sequence of steps in which a group of people dance in one or more lines or rows without regard for the gender of the individuals, all facing the same direction, and executing the steps at the same time. Line dancers are not in physical contact with each other. Older "line dances" have lines in which the dancers face each other, or the "line" is a circle, or all dancers in the "line" follow a leader around the dance floor; while holding the hand of the dancers beside them.

History and culture

The earliest folk dances in many cultures were line dances, originating before social proprieties allowed men and women to dance together in couple dances. In early forms men and women often danced in separate lines, but the same dances are often done today in mixed lines. The Balkan countries, among others, have a rich tradition of line dance surviving to the present. These folk line dances are also performed in the international folk dance movement. Folk line dances have many forms: pairs of lines in which the dancers face each other, or a line formed into a circle, or the line follows around the dance floor. The dancers may hold hands with their neighbors, or use an arm-on-shoulder hold, or hold their neighbor's belts.

Although line dancing is associated with country-western music and dance, it has similarities to folk dancing. Many folk dances are danced in unison in a single, nonlinear "line", and often with a connection between dancers. The absence of a physical connection between dancers is, however, a distinguishing feature of country western line dance. Line dances have accompanied many popular music styles since the early 1970s including pop, swing, rock and roll, disco, Latin (Salsa Suelta), and Jazz.

Come and visit us at Bear Mountain Line Dancing. We meet Tuesdays and Fridays at 10am at the Bear Mountain Library. See you there!



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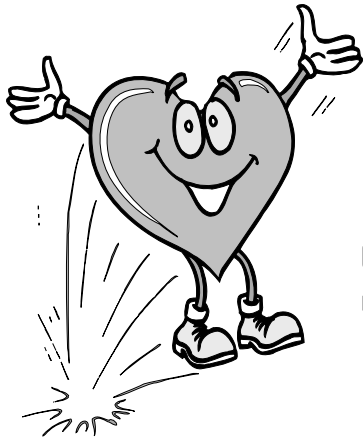
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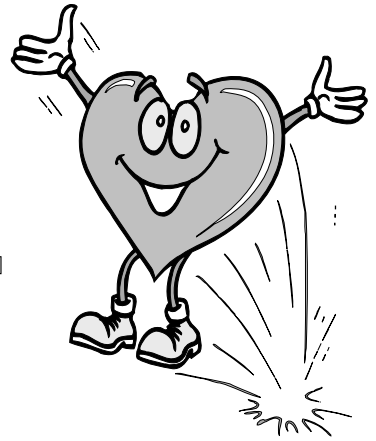
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Friday Night, Feb 11th, 6pm

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More info to come in the January issue of The Gazette!
Stay tuned!

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Four Seasons Garden Club



During November a group of volunteers met with students from two classes at Dunlap School to work on the Raised Beds at the school. The 37 sixth graders from Laurie Lloyd's class and the 20 first graders from Kandy Holt's class worked very hard and with enthusiasm and in less than two hours had weeded most of the beds and pruned the shrubs. There was a little excitement when they found some worms and bugs and some of the students named the worms. The students did a good job and the volunteers who supervised them were very impressed.

I heard a rumor that Mrs. Lloyd's class have since planted all the vegetables and herbs that were donated from the October Craft Fair Plant Booth. We plan to meet again in December and plant some more plants. We will probably meet again the second Thursday in December.

The students are interested in fall vegetables, herbs and winter flowers. The Garden Club plans to help teach the students to use the plants as they become ready. We will welcome any donations of plants from the public and we are looking for more volunteers who are interested in working with these delightful students. The Liaison from Dunlap School is Laurie Lloyd and the Liaison from the Garden Club is Lee Duncan. They can accept the plants or volunteer names.

The Garden Club's big Christmas Party will be December 16th beginning at 4 PM. There will be a finger food potluck dinner, a Yankee Gift Exchange (wrapped gift for under \$10) followed by a Christmas Carol Singalong. This is always a fun event.



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Little Things Do Make a Difference

the room to fill water pitchers and put out clean glasses. One of the workers was obviously a mentally challenged person that was hired to help. His job was to put the clean glasses on the tables. When he serviced the table I was sitting at I said a simple "thank you." I will never forget the look on his face. I could have told him he won the lottery and he couldn't have looked any more excited! Even after they left the room to go to the next, I could still hear him shouting as loud as he could about the "nice man."

Writing notes is a third way you can potentially influence others. I started writing thank you notes a couple of years ago (for reasons other than receiving a gift). I have been thanked over and over for some of these notes of appreciation and told I didn't have to do that. I have recently learned and started using at times a new way of writing notes. I learned it from Charlie "Tremendous" Jones who has since encouraged me to pass this method along to others. Purchase some inexpensive, inspirational books that have had a positive impact on you. Write an encouraging note inside the cover of one of those books and give it to the person. You will feel good doing it, reading the book will change the person, and they will think of you every time they read it. What a powerful gesture!

Start today doing little things for others.

I can look back over my past and remember several moments in time that God used someone doing a little thing that encouraged me. I have also heard from others that have been influenced by me for doing the same. There are many kinds of little things you can do to encourage others. Some of these involve providing help when there is a need, saying thank you, and writing notes. What are you going to do today for someone that will make a difference in his or her life?

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Roger Carr is the founder of Everyday Giving. His life purpose is to help people help others.

To learn more ways to give, sign up for the free Everyday Giving ezine at <http://www.everydaygiving.com>.

Elections for Advisory Council (CSA-35B)

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HOW THEY FORECAST A COLD WINTER

One day in early September the chief of a Native American tribe was asked by his tribal elders if winter was going to be cold or mild. The chief asked his medicine man, but he had lost touch with reading signs from the natural world around the Great Lakes.

In truth, neither of them had an idea about how to predict the coming winter. However, the chief decided to take a modern approach, and the chief called the National Weather Service in Michigan.

'Yes, it is going to be a cold winter,' the meteorological officer told the chief. Consequently, he went back to his tribe and told the men to collect plenty of firewood.

A few weeks later the chief called the Weather Service and asked for an update. 'Are you still forecasting a cold winter?' he asked. 'Yes, very cold', the weather officer told him.

As a result of this brief conversation the chief went back to the tribe and told his people to collect every bit of wood they could find.

A month later the chief called the National Weather Service once more and asked about the coming winter. 'Yes,' he was told, 'it is going to be one of the coldest winters ever.'

'How can you be so sure?' the chief asked.

The weatherman replied: 'Because the Native Americans of the Great Lakes are collecting wood like crazy.'



The Curmudgeon's Corner

Dictionaries define curmudgeon as:
a surly or miserly person.

The word has had recent currency in somewhat milder connotations, to describe a not entirely unlikable grouch. They're neither warped nor evil at heart. They don't hate mankind, just mankind's excesses. They're just as sensitive and softhearted as the next

guy, but they hide their vulnerability beneath a crusty layer. They ease our pain by turning our hurt into humor. They snarl at pretense and bite at hypocrisy out of a healthy sense of outrage. Offense is their best defense. Their weapons are irony, satire, sarcasm, & ridicule. Their targets are pretense, deceit, incompetence and conformity.

~ I love mankind - it's people I can't stand.

~ A cynic knows the price of everything and the value of nothing.

~ Why is it that we rejoice at a birth and grieve at a funeral? Is it because we are not the person involved?

~ I like long walks, especially when they're taken by people who annoy me.

~ There's nothing wrong with Southern California that a rise in the ocean level wouldn't cure.

~ Stupidity is an elemental force for which no earthquake is a match.

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7797 N. First Street - Fresno

Tel- 431-2182 Fax- 431-2183

M-F: 8am-5:30pm



8/31/2010 PC243.2(A) DUNLAP RD
 9/22/2010 Deceased Person MISTLETOE RD
 9/25/2010 TRESP - TRESPASS George Smith Rd
 9/26/2010 VANDALISM Pepperweed Rd
 10/1/2010 BATTERY Sand Creek Rd / Ennis Rd



We are beginning to wonder if the crime rate is dropping, or if there is a correlation between the sub-station closure and the drop in reports etc. More to come!

Unemployment Rates as of November 19th, 2010

	(A)												(B) - (A)
	Nov 09	Dec 09	Jan 2010	Feb 2010	Mar 2010	Apr 2010	May 2010	June 2010	July 2010	Aug 2010	Sept 2010	Oct 2010	
	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%
Reedley	30.8	31.2	33.6	34.1	34.4	31.6	30.2	30.2	30.6	29.3	29.0	29.8	-1.0
Orange Cove	33.0	33.4	36.6	37.1	37.4	34.5	33.0	33.0	33.4	32.1	31.7	32.8	-0.4
Squaw Valley	10.5	10.7	12.1	12.3	12.4	11.1	10.4	10.5	10.7	10.1	9.9	10.3	-0.2
Fresno County	16.5	16.6	18.2	18.5	18.7	16.9	15.9	16.0	16.2	15.4	15.2	15.7	-0.8
Fresno City	15.5	15.8	17.1	17.4	17.6	15.9	15.0	15.0	15.2	14.5	14.3	14.8	-0.7
Parlier	35.3	35.8	39.1	39.7	40.0	37.0	35.4	35.5	35.9	34.5	34.1	35.1	-0.2
Sanger	24.8	25.2	28.1	28.6	28.8	26.3	25.0	25.0	25.4	24.2	23.9	24.7	-0.1
Tulare County	16.5	17.1	18.3	18.7	19.4	16.9	15.5	15.8	16.9	15.9	15.9	15.9	-0.6
Dinuba	23.4	24.7	26.4	26.9	27.7	24.6	22.7	23.0	24.5	23.2	23.2	23.2	-0.2
Orosi	30.6	32.1	34.1	34.7	35.6	31.9	29.8	30.1	31.8	30.4	30.3	30.3	-0.3
Visalia	10.4	11.0	11.6	11.9	12.3	10.6	9.7	9.9	10.6	10.0	9.9	10.0	-0.4



WIC serves low income pregnant women, new mothers, infants or children under age five, in Fresno County. WIC provides checks for buying healthy supplemental foods from WIC-authorized vendors; nutrition education; and referral to healthcare and community services.

Income Guidelines

Family of 2	Can earn up to	\$2,247/month
Family of 3	Can earn up to	\$2,823/month
Family of 4	Can earn up to	\$3,400/month
Family of 5	Can earn up to	\$3,976/month

(Income chart may change. Please call for more information. Family size includes parents and children.)

Contact Information:

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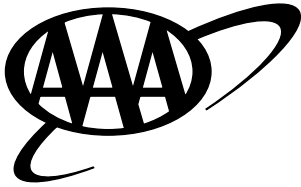
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Have you ever needed a tow?

Did it cost an arm and a leg?

Did it feel like highway robbery?

Have you ever felt like Mater looks?



Living in the foothills, we often find ourselves with automotive troubles. Well after years of membership, we feel it was important for us to share what we believe to be the best deal in town! Become a member of AAA and receive many benefits. From roadside service which includes free towing, to discounts on various purchases. What a great Christmas gift for a family member. The peace of mind knowing that if there is a problem, there is someone who will help. Don't pay outrageous towing fees, get your membership today! You can either go to their web site at www.AAA.com or stop by their Clovis office.

Here is an example of some of the services offered by a AAA PLUS membership.

Roadside Assistance

~ 100 Miles of Free Towing

To help you get your car back to your own mechanic, you can be towed up to 100 miles per disablement — free of charge.

~ Up to 3 Gallons of Free Emergency Fuel and Delivery

We'll keep you on the road wherever you are by delivering up to 3 gallons of fuel to get you to the nearest service station.

~ \$100 Locksmith Reimbursement

You'll be reimbursed up to \$100 for any vehicle locksmith/lockout services

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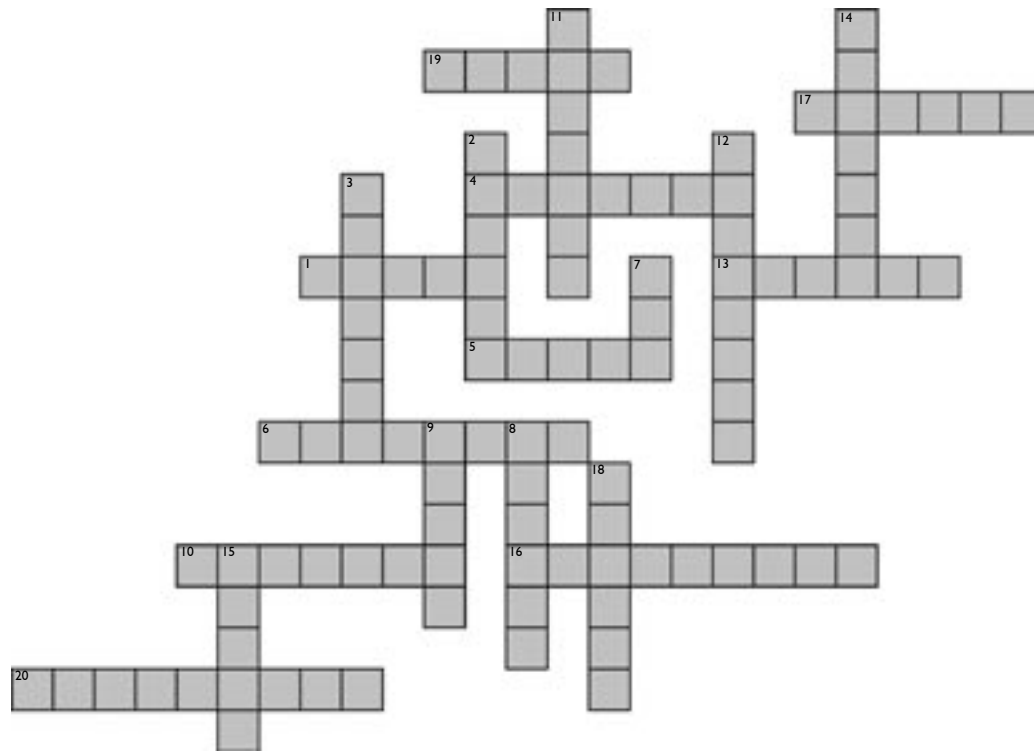
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December Crossword



Across:

1. Big Fat Guy
4. Black Bart vs ...
5. Deck the halls with
6. Under the tree
10. Christmas Hater
13. Christmas Drink
16. ... were hung by the chimney
17. Still up in June
19. Red Rider
20. Swap Spit

Down:

2. Circular Tree Branch
3. Must be from Italy
7. ... to the world
8. Shiny thin tree decoration
9. Santa's helpers
11. A magenta glow
12. Month
14. One of Santa's Reindeer
15. Halley's
18. The Snowman

Answers on page 14, but NO peeking.

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Twas the night before Christmas

Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that St Nicholas soon would be there.

Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the house
Not a creature was stirring, not even a mouse.
The stockings were hung by the chimney with care,
In hopes that St Nicholas soon would be there.

The children were nestled all snug in their beds,
While visions of sugar-plums danced in their heads.
And mamma in her 'kerchief, and I in my cap,
Had just settled our brains for a long winter's nap.

When out on the lawn there arose such a clatter,
I sprang from the bed to see what was the matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash,
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash.

The moon on the breast of the new-fallen snow
Gave the lustre of mid-day to objects below.
When, what to my wondering eyes should appear,
But a miniature sleigh, and eight tinny reindeer.

With a little old driver, so lively and quick,
I knew in a moment it must be St Nick.
More rapid than eagles his coursers they came,
And he whistled, and shouted, and called them by name!

"Now Dasher! now, Dancer! now, Prancer and Vixen!
On, Comet! On, Cupid! on, on Donner and Blitzen!
To the top of the porch! to the top of the wall!
Now dash away! Dash away! Dash away all!"

As dry leaves that before the wild hurricane fly,
When they meet with an obstacle, mount to the sky.
So up to the house-top the coursers they flew,
With the sleigh full of Toys, and St Nicholas too.

And then, in a twinkling, I heard on the roof
The prancing and pawing of each little hoof.
As I drew in my head, and was turning around,
Down the chimney St Nicholas came with a bound.

He was dressed all in fur, from his head to his foot,
And his clothes were all tarnished with ashes and soot.
A bundle of Toys he had flung on his back,
And he looked like a peddler, just opening his pack.

His eyes-how they twinkled! his dimples how merry!
His cheeks were like roses, his nose like a cherry!
His droll little mouth was drawn up like a bow,
And the beard of his chin was as white as the snow.

The stump of a pipe he held tight in his teeth,
And the smoke it encircled his head like a wreath.
He had a broad face and a little round belly,
That shook when he laughed, like a bowlful of jelly!

He was chubby and plump, a right jolly old elf,
And I laughed when I saw him, in spite of myself!
A wink of his eye and a twist of his head,
Soon gave me to know I had nothing to dread.

He spoke not a word, but went straight to his work,
And filled all the stockings, then turned with a jerk.
And laying his finger aside of his nose,
And giving a nod, up the chimney he rose!

He sprang to his sleigh, to his team gave a whistle,
And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.
But I heard him exclaim, 'ere he drove out of sight,
"Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good-night!"



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SPC Donald C. Roberts



SPC Donald C. Roberts (Donny) is currently serving as a specialist in an engineer battalion in Bamberg Germany. He has been serving in the U.S. Army since January 2009 and will be deploying within the next month to Afghanistan.

Donny & his wife Samantha of almost 1 1/2 years just welcomed their new son Wyatt Christopher on August 24th. They currently reside in Germany and are preparing for the deployment .

Donny has expressed that he will miss his Samantha, and bouncing his son on his knee while in Afghanistan.

Donny's proud parents are Donald and Cindy Roberts of Miramonte. Cindy is currently on leave from Kings Canyon Unified, but is eager to return to care for her kids (she is a bus driver for the children living in Miramonte, Pinehurst and Hume).

Please join The Gazette in thanking Donny, and the countless number of young men and women serving in our armed forces.

Thank You Donny!

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The Re Ride Bootique



"The Man Party" is set for Saturday December 18th @ 1:00pm. Ladies be sure to come in and fill out your wish list. Lots of new items added every day !! Get the things you want and so deserve this Christmas !

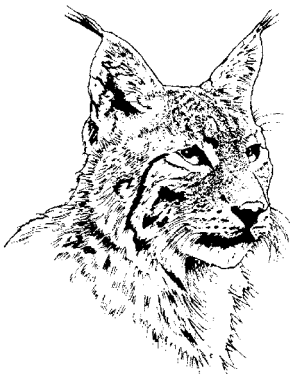


Men all you have to do is show up Saturday, Dec 18th at 1:00 (after the parade of course) give Tina and LeeAnn your \$\$\$ and we will take care of the rest. We will pack and wrap all your wives, daughters or friends gifts while you eat wild men food (Bear, Deer, Pig) and drink men drinks and share all your hunting stories. How easy is that ?? Can't go wrong with a list all made out for you.



Merry Christmas to All
Bird's Hay & The Re Ride Bootique

BOBCAT NEWS!



1%

Did you know that each 1% increase/decrease in attendance in the district represents approximately \$500,000 annually. That means more teachers, aides, etc.

If Dunlap increases attendance by a couple of percentage points, they can hire more support staff which will in turn make a difference in our childrens lives.

Average Daily Attendance (ADA)

rank	school	2009-10	as of Nov 12 2010-11
1	Lincoln	97.0%	97.7%
2	Jefferson	96.8%	97.5%
3	Silas Bartsch	96.2%	97.4%
3	T.L. Reed	96.3%	97.4%
5	Riverview	96.4%	97.2%
5	Navelencia	96.0%	97.2%
7	Alta	96.1%	97.1%
8	Washington	95.7%	96.9%
8	RHS	96.0%	96.9%
8	Grant	96.0%	96.9%
11	A.L. Conner	96.1%	96.7%
12	Great Western	96.1%	96.6%
12	Sheridan	95.6%	96.6%
14	Citrus	96.0%	96.4%
15	McCord	95.7%	96.0%
16	Dunlap	94.5%	95.9%
17	OCHS	95.2%	93.8%



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Twin Valleys Restaurant

Coming Attractions

Annual Christmas Parade - December 18th

Pictures With Santa - December 17th, 5pm at Dunlap Community Club - Children (or pets)

Daily Specials

\$3.99 Breakfast

2 eggs, 2 strips of bacon and potatoes O'Brian (onions & peppers) a cup of coffee or small OJ

\$10.00 Lunch Special

11:00am - 4:00pm - 2 hamburgers with fries

\$7.00 Dinner

Dinner includes a salad and a serving of cake

1. Chicken Prima Vera or 2. Dover Sole Florentine or 3. Spaghetti and Meatballs



Upcoming Events

Christmas Parade - December 18th

Pictures With Santa - December 17th, 5pm at Dunlap Community Club - Children (or pets)

Christmas Hours: We will close at 2pm on Christmas Eve, and Close on Christmas Day



NEW HOURS NEW HOURS

Closed Mondays

Hours: Open for breakfast at 7:30 am -- Close at 9 pm Tuesdays thru Sundays

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