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Suggestions made for streamlining zoning, General Plan

By **DEBBIE HEMENWAY**
Staff writer

To the observer, last week's joint meeting of the Winters City Council and the Planning Commission might have been a bewildering barrage of maps, charts, graphs, acronyms and jargon, but to the principals involved, it was just another night's work in council chambers.

The two bodies convened in joint session to hear a report from staff on land use, zoning and the General Plan. Community Development Director Nellie Dyer, accompanied by contract Assistant City Attorney Laura Hollender, walked the council members and commissioners through an analysis of the ways in which the various guiding documents were and were not consistent with another, and recommended remedies for the inconsistencies they found.

It is required by law that zoning and the Gen-

eral Plan be congruent, and Dyer's recommendations would rectify the existing discrepancies. Those recommendations included removing Planned Commercial (PC) and Planned Commercial Business Park (PCB) land use designations and replacing them with new titles. The General Plan Land Use Map would also be amended accordingly.

Dyer also noted in her report that the Gateway Master Plan should then be rescinded or repealed, as its existence would no longer be a General Plan requirement.

These changes, Dyer explained, "would remove barriers to economic development" and were a step toward the period of active growth that the city has embarked upon. Dyer reported that she has been approached by several businesses that would like to locate in

See **COUNCIL** on page **A-6**

City council meets Tuesday

The Winters City Council will meet on Tuesday, Jan. 4, at 6:30 p.m. in the council chambers at City Hall. The agenda includes:

- ~ Promotion of Jose Ramirez to rank of Corporal.
- ~ Public hearing and adoption of ordinance

authorizing the amendment of the CalPERS contract regarding the police department.

~ Update on police/fire facility furniture acquisition.

~ Economic Advisory Committee; duties and meeting topics.

FUTURE SUBSCRIBER

BRYCE PATRICK TOMLINSON is the newborn son of Sean and Juli Tomlinson of Sacramento. Born at 8:05 a.m. Dec. 22, 2010, at Sutter Memorial Hospital in Sacramento, he weighed 6 pounds, 1 ounce and was 19 inches long. Maternal grandparents are Dan and Patricia Delorence of Winters. Paternal grandparents are Michael and Terri Tomlinson of Yuba City. Maternal great-grandparents are Gerald Hicks of El Cerrito and the late Margaret Hicks. Paternal great-grandparents are Lamar and Janet Steveson of Yuba City.

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Included in this week's issue are
advertising inserts from:
Lorenzo's Market,
Pacific Ace Hardware

(Supplements are sent to Winters,
Woodland, Davis, Capay Valley,
Dixon, Vacaville and Fairfield.)

WEATHER

Weather readings are taken at 9 a.m. daily, covering the previous 24 hour period.

Date	Rain	HI	Lo
Dec. 22	.65	52	46
Dec. 23	.03	56	39
Dec. 24	.01	59	37
Dec. 25	.01	52	43
Dec. 26	.55	50	43
Dec. 27	.02	58	40
Dec. 28	.03	56	43

Rain for week: 1.30

Season's total: 9.89

Last year to date: 6.82

Average to Dec. 28: 7.33

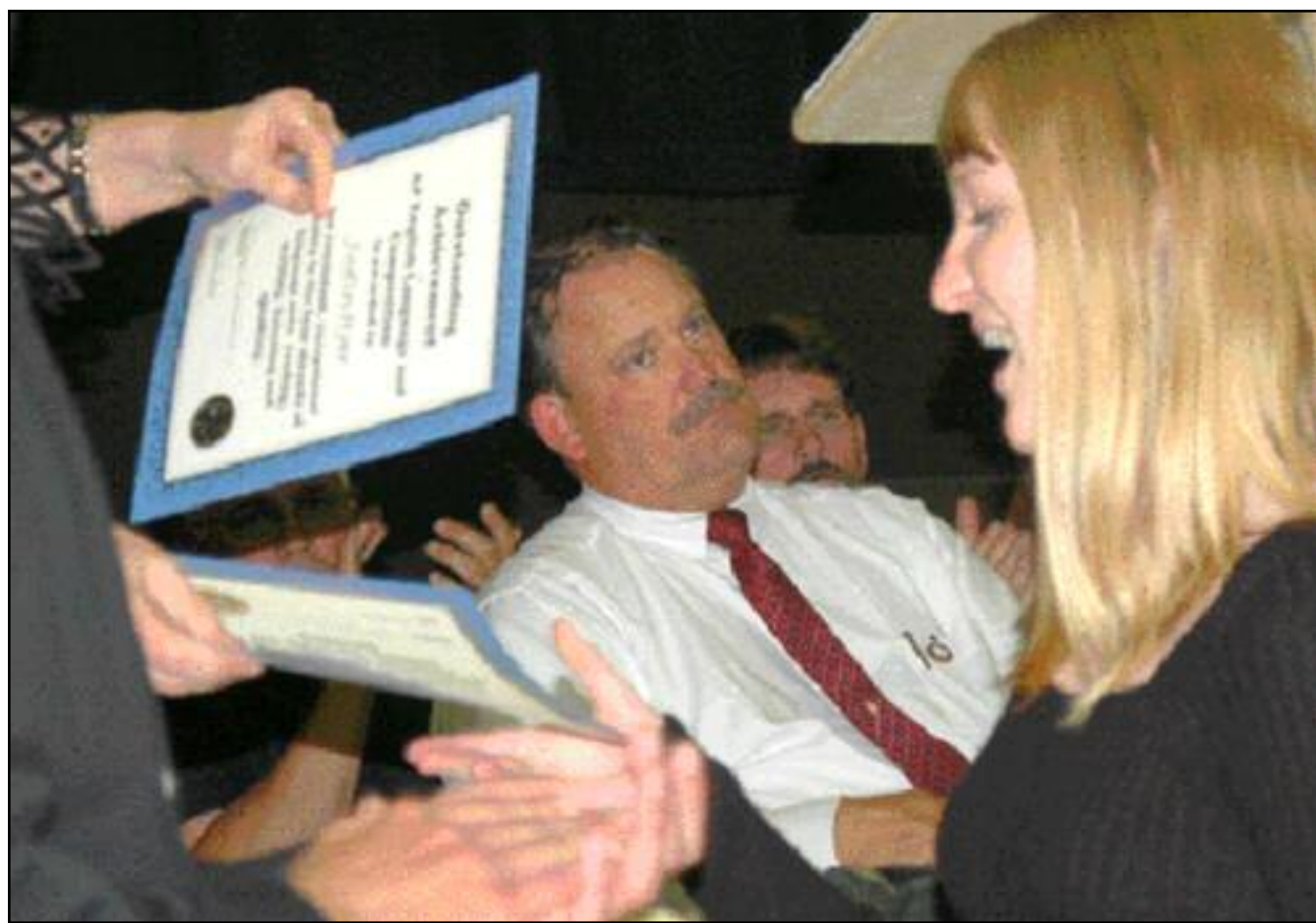


Photo by Julia McCandless

Winters High School principal George Griffin found himself at the center of a tornado of activity and emotion, both at the senior awards ceremony in June and for several weeks prior, following his sudden termination by the Winters School Board on March 4. The action prompted a renewed interest in school board candidacy, resulting in a new set of faces on the school board following the November election. The community outrage and resulting impact on the school board makes Griffin's termination the top Winters story of 2010.

A whopper of a year

By **DEBRA DeANGELO**
Express editor

If the year 2010 in Winters had a logo, it would be George Griffin eating a Whopper. The sudden and unexpected termination of Principal Griffin's position at Winters High School and the uproar over a proposed Burger King monopolized many front pages of the Winters Express in 2010, as well as letters to the editor. Both stories triggered passion in the community, both pro and con, and battle lines were drawn. In the end, both the termination and the developer prevailed, but the victories were neither easy nor pleasant.

Besides grabbing the local news spotlight, both stories also triggered change in the community. The public outrage over Griffin's termination was so persistent and severe that several community members became fed up with the school board and ran for seats themselves. Prior to this, more than one Winters School Board election was cancelled because no one other than incumbents showed any interest in running for a seat.

Although the Griffin tangle was a whopper of a story in Winters, it was a story about Whoppers that flamed emotions both pro and con over plans to build a Burger King at the so-called "gate-

way" to town — Grant Avenue immediately west of the Interstate 505 overpass.

Topics that normally generated as much interest and activity as a brown paper bag at city council and planning commission meetings suddenly were the focus of much hand-wringing and angst — zoning ordinances, traffic flow, street signage and environmental protection exemptions were all examined and dissected by dissatisfied community members. Although the Winters Planning Commission ultimately approved the project on the northwest corner of the freeway and Grant Avenue, a group of citizens was not satisfied with the decision and appealed to the Winters City Council for a second look. The council didn't blink, however, and the appeal was rejected.

The burger battle resulted in the formation of the Economic Advisory Committee, giving average citizens an opportunity to participate in how the development of the Grant Avenue corridor. Caltrans will also have input on the "Gateway," having spent considerable time and energy on its "Complete Streets" plan for that part of the roadway. Although public workshops gave Caltrans plenty of ideas in 2010 for creating an en-



Photo by Julia McCandless

Students, faculty and community members carried signs and marched from Winters High School to the March 18 school board meeting at the district office to protest the termination of principal George Griffin.

trance to Winters that will be both attractive and efficient, the state of California's ongoing budget crisis hasn't allowed any of those plans to actually materialize.

A lack of visible progress the entrance to town isn't the only thing pinched by the state's budget woes. In 2009, the state went after redevelopment funds belonging to cities and municipali-

ties all over California in an effort to balance its budget, and Winters was among them. In 2010, the affected cities banded together to sue the state over this raid of funds, but lost in court and were denied.

In May, \$781,448 was turned over to the state, leaving a gaping hole in the City of Winters redevelopment

See **YEAR** on page **A-3**

OBITUARY

Orville Perry Baker

Orville "Buck" Perry Baker passed away on Dec. 22, 2010, at the age of 89. He was born on Sept. 24, 1921, in Darlington, Mo., to Elizabeth and Orval Baker.

The Winters area has always been home for Baker. That's where he met Norma Lowrie, whom he married on Nov. 5, 1944. Together they raised four children, Larry, Steve, Karen and Rick.

Buck was a great welder and worked for many years on a Winters ranch, where he made a name for himself with a lot of the local farmers. He then took a job with Johnson Farm Machinery in Woodland, where he worked until he retired. When he wasn't working, he enjoyed watching sports, especially football. He was a simple man who rarely complained and was very easy going, family members said.

After the death of his wife Norma, he met and married Debbie, who survives him.

Baker also is survived by his sons Larry and wife Gloria of Redding, Steve and wife Cindy of Winters, and Rick and wife Diana of the Dominican Republic; daughter Karen and husband Steve of Winters; sisters Marge McEathron, Colleen Duke and Delores Soares; brother Jack and wife Aloha; grandchildren Stacey Baker, Steve and Dani Ramos, Matthew, Nathan, Jeff, Andrew Baker and Allison King, Autumn and Amber Baker, Briana and Christian Baker and many great-grandchildren, nephews and nieces.

Baker is preceded in death by his first wife Norma, his brother Laverne and three brothers-in-law, Dick McEathron, George Duke and Ernie Soares.

A celebration of his life is planned at 11 a.m. Dec. 30 at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, 435 Anderson Ave., Winters. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to an account at First Northern Bank.

Lake up 1.34 feet in one week

Heavy rains in the Putah Creek watershed brought up the level of Lake Berryessa by 1.34 feet this week, adding 21,878 acre feet of water to storage, according to Ken Emigh of the Solano Irrigation District.

He reported Tuesday morning that the lake was 415.32 feet above sea level, with storage computed at 1,115,384 acre feet of water.

The SID is diverting 60 second feet of water

into the Putah South Canal and 31 second feet is flowing in Putah Creek at the Diversion Dam.

Evaporation on Lak Berryessa averaged 10 acre feet of water per day during the week.

On December 29, 2009, the lake level was 407.18 feet above sea level, more than eight feet below Tuesday's level. The lake contains 130,096 more acre feet of water than a year ago.

The weekly Winters police report was unavailable this week because city offices were closed.

In loving memory



Oh, my Steve. We would have been together 37 years, married for 30 on Dec. 29, 1980. I love and miss you so much. I am happy to have had you for the time I did. So in love were we. Until we meet again.

I love you always,
your wife and best friend Lindsay

YESTERYEAR



File photos by Charles Wallace

In December 1996, it was accolades all around at the Winters High School football banquet. Varsity and junior varsity players were honored for their efforts. Above, Rudy Valencia, left, and Zef Snyder were named all-Butte View League (not pictured is Phil Parcell). Upper right, Jeff Carbahal, left, received the Paul Zinselmeir award and Phil Rodriguez the John Kammerer award. Lower right, JV Warriors Kelvin Singh, left, received the Coaches Award and Eric Herrera was named MVP.



50

YEARS AGO

65

YEARS AGO

100

YEARS AGO

115

YEARS AGO

January 12, 1961

Juanita Estepa, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Estepa, was elected yesterday by the students of Winters Joint Union High School to be their Youth Day Sweetheart.

Miss Katherine Marie Snow, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Snow, was the first Winters baby of 1961, making her arrival at the Intercommunity Hospital, Fairfield, on Sunday, January 8.

Funeral services were held at Kraft Brothers Mortuary yesterday afternoon in Woodland for John Kelly Briggs, 91, of Winters, who died at his home here Monday.

The Fairfield Solano Republican, recently changed ownership. J. Clifton Toney, publisher for the past 11 years, was succeeded by Dean McNaughton, publisher of the Pekin Daily Times of Pekin, Illinois, a daily of 19,000 circulation.

Judy Blaylock celebrated her ninth birthday on Sunday with a party at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Don Blaylock. Guests were Archie Humphrey, Ralph Cuberos, Tim Wemp, Mark Moise, Darrel Nance, Niki Greenwood, Elizabeth Young, Darla McDowell, Sharon Cahill, Mardi and Susie Dozier.

James M. West, son of Mr. and Mrs. James M. West of Winters, recently was promoted to specialist four in Germany, where he is a member of the Third Armored Division.

E.E. Zimmerman, civilian defense director, attended the Northern California Civil Defense and Disaster Association monthly meeting last Friday in Napa.

January 11, 1946

More than 100 were in attendance at the meeting of the Winters Farm Bureau held Wednesday night at Masonic Hall, at which president, Bill Fredericks, presided. The members voted to oppose construction of the Monticello Dam.

The Eagle Award, highest merit of honor in Scouting, will be presented to Dudley Sparks, son of Mr. and Mrs. D.M. Sparks, Monday evening at 7:30 o'clock in the Christian Church.

R.A. Frisbee will journey to Oakland Saturday to attend the dealers' preview of 1946 Plymouth cars.

Mrs. C.E. Kiefer, vice president of the PTA, announces that organization will meet at 2:30 p.m. Monday, January 14.

T.D. Cummins of Woodland succeeded J.W. Naismith of Esparito as chairman of the board of supervisors at a meeting held Monday at the Yolo County Courthouse.

Winters 4-H Club met for their regular monthly meeting at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at the U.C. farm labor office, with president James Rominger presiding.

Fred Lee, Winters Restaurant chef, has been ill in Benicia but was back on the job Thursday. E. Fowler was in sole charge during Mr. Lee's absence.

LaVerne Baker, of the Army Air Corps, visited over the weekend with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Orville Baker.

Mr. and Mrs. L.A. House, of Lindy's Shell Service, were in Sacramento on business Monday.

January 13, 1911

Rainfall is recorded for the season as 3.50 inches.

The Unity Club will put on a play under chairmanship of Dr. J.H. Haile.

S.G. Cadenasso was elected president of the Capay Almond Growers Association.

Miss Gertrude Bryce is over from Sacramento for a week's visit.

The Women's Improvement Club will cater the Chamber of Commerce banquet in the Opera House January 19.

A selected crowd of young people gave Verma and Lenville Rice a surprise party Saturday evening.

William Betz's restaurant has been closed for a few days for repairs.

G.H. Cutter was elected president and G.L. Nagle, manager of the California Fruit Exchange.

Miss March B. Clements has resigned her position of music instructor in the local schools and will join the staffs of the Woodland schools.

January 11, 1896

Putah Creek affords a great amount of water power, which can be developed into electricity with comparatively little cost, and the probabilities are that Winters will be lighted in the near future by electricity developed from this source.

Miss A.C. Seabold opened her kindergarten Monday, after a vacation of two weeks, in the Kennedy building on Abbey Street.

A handsome crayon picture of Supervisor J.F. Griffin's little boy has been on exhibition in one of Day & Warren's show windows for several days past. The picture was executed by Mrs. Joe Griffin, and reflects credit upon her skill and taste as an artist.

Miss Maude Culton, A.W. North and Charles Fassett, who were spending the holidays with their folks here, returned to their respective schools in Oakland and Berkeley on Tuesday.

Geo. Thompson secured a position in San Francisco as conductor on an electric street car.

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YEAR

Continued from page A-1

budget. Although an appeal has been filed, and a decision is hoped for by May 2011, in the meantime, the state still has Winters' redevelopment funds and will demand another \$161,000 in May 2011 if the appeal fails. This means an end to the many new projects the community has enjoyed over the past few years, such as the downtown renovation project, trestle bridge renovation, and assistance programs for new businesses.

The city didn't just lose funding for new projects in 2010 — it also faced losing some of its most basic services and facilities, as the General Fund (which is separate from the Redevelopment Fund) faced a shortfall of approximately \$520,000 when the city's fiscal year was to start in July.

Three main factors contributed to the shrinking General Fund. First, there was virtually no economic or residential growth in Winters in 2010, a reflection of the recession that has impacted — and continues to impact — the entire country. No growth means no revenue from development fees to the city. A second factor, also recession-related, was a 19 percent loss of sales tax revenue as cash-strapped Winters residents tightened their belts and spent less money in town. The third factor also has its roots in the overall recession, as people started losing their homes to foreclosures and property values started falling. The city lost about 9 percent of its property tax revenue in 2010.

Bracing for a financial broad-siding in its upcoming fiscal year, city staff and the city council prepared to cut not just fat from the city budget, but muscle and even bone as a preemptive strike. Unfilled positions at City Hall remained unfilled, and the Community Center and Bobbie Greenwood Swim Center pool were in danger of closing in an effort to make ends meet. Balanced against a shrinking budget was a need for increased police and fire protection in the community.

Rather than cut the heart out of community and recreation facilities, the council turned to voters and put Measure W on the June ballot, hoping Winters residents would step up and pay a little extra each month to keep not only the Community Center, pool and parks open, but help plump up fund-

ing for police and fire services.

It was a close vote, but the town did not disappoint. Despite tough economic times nationwide, here in Winters, the majority decided they could dig a little deeper to protect their town. Measure W's passage raised the Utility Users Tax on monthly city utility bills from 4.75 percent to 9.5 percent.

However, just in case Measure W was destined for failure, a group of citizens decided not to wait for the whim of the voters. They banded together and formed the Community Center and Pool Fund Committee, and through donations and a major spaghetti-feed fundraiser, raked in \$24,241 for both facilities. Although the Community Center and pool were spared, other city-funded recreation programs disappeared, as did the annual Fourth of July fireworks display, leaving the Winters sky dark on July 4 for the first time in decades.

The one bright spot in the city's otherwise dark financial year was the Public Safety Facility, which broke ground in 2009 and started rising up on East Grant Avenue and East Main Street. The much larger and more modern facility will house both the police and fire departments when completed in 2011.

Although the city managed to squeak by in 2010 with tight budgets, the Winters School District didn't fare so well, and faced a \$1 million budget cut in 2010. Programs were closed, staff were laid off, furloughs initiated and class sizes increased, but with both declining enrollment and revenue still an ongoing problem, the school district was not out of the financial woods by the end of the year and won't likely be in 2011. Just like the city, the unresolved state budget crisis threatens to keep biting local budgets.

As if the school district didn't have enough trouble in 2010 already, school campuses were plagued with vandalism throughout the year, reaching a new low when the high school ag site was broken into and many animals were injured and several chickens killed as a result. The vandalism continued and then seemed to fade in the fall after the Winters Police Department apprehended a few local low-lives who spent their free time trashing the town and spraying it with graffiti.

Open and shut

Although the economy was sluggish both locally and nationally in



Photo by Debra DeAngelo

“Diners, Drive-ins and Dives” star Guy Fieri chats about the Putah Creek Cafe during filming for a segment of the show for the Food Network.

2010, Winters did see several changes in its business community. Last year started on a sad note for loyal patrons of the Irish Pub, which held its last New Year's Eve celebration at the end of 2009. The Irish Pub closed on Jan. 9 followed by the adjacent Valley Floors spot to make way for the property owners' new business. Although the Irish Pub didn't survive the change and has not reopened elsewhere, Valley Floors did, and moved to a new location on Main Street, where it has been going strong ever since.

Turkovich Family Wines opened its tasting room in February on Railroad Avenue and was an instant hit with both the community and visitors. The actual winery is located in the basement at 22 Main Street. The winery also features artisan cheeses from the Winters Cheese Company. Brothers Chris and Danny Turkovich serve as winemaker and cheesemaker respectively.

Just a few doors down from Turkovich Family Wines, Close Quarters saw a change of hands in 2010, as Diana Carner retired, turning over her beauty shop spot to stylists Heather Moore and Rebecca Dye Rubio.

Across Putah Creek, the Creekside Country Club was transformed into Dee Dee's Bar & Grill last year, capturing some of the former Irish Pub clientele and also bringing new visitors to the area as owner Dee Dee Linderer set out to be the next place (almost) in town where everyone knows your name.

Another spot to indulge, RootStock, also opened its doors 2010 in the space formerly occupied by Chris' Florist, which closed the year before, offering Italian, French and Spanish gifts and snacks in addition to local crafts and goodies, and was ap-

proved for wine-tasting in late fall.

First Northern Bank celebrated 100 years of remaining open in 2010 with a year's worth of centennial festivities. At the other end of the block, The Buckhorn also celebrated its success, marking its 30th anniversary. The Buckhorn, and its sibling the Putah Creek Café, both made headlines in 2010, as the first Buckhorn Grill opened in New York City under the name Tri Tip Grill. The Putah Creek Café became the darling of the cable TV foodie world as Guy Fieri came to town to feature the café and its fare on the Food Network's “Diners, Drive-ins and Dives.”

Names in the news

Winters equestriennes made the national spotlight in 2010. Susan Treabess, found herself in the national spotlight after placing 10th in Para-Dressage in the World Equestrian Games with her horse, Money Penny. Treabess was the highest ranking American rider in the event. On the heels of Treabess' success, Carrie Von Uhlit and her horse, Ricochet San, won the Bank of America Amatuer reining world champion title at the American Quarter Horse Association World Championship Show.

At the state level, Winters City Council Member Cecilia Aguiar-Cur-



Photo by Charles Wallace

Hairstylist Diana Carner (left) retired this year, turning her spot at Close Quarters over to two new stylists, Rebecca Dye Rubio (right) and Heather Moore (not pictured).

ry was elected president of the Sacramento Valley division of the League of California Cities. Winters Express editor Debra DeAngelo won first place for her column in the California Newspaper Publishers Association Better Newspapers Contest.

Aguiar-Curry became Winters Mayor Pro Tem in June after getting the most votes in her re-

election campaign to the Winters City Council in 2010. Woody Fridae, the top vote-getter in the 2008 election, took over the mayor's gavel from Mike Martin after the June election.

Local historian Joann Larkey was named Citizen of the Year for her years of work on documenting Winters history.

See YEAR on page A-5

Opinion

LETTERS

Santa works at Sterilite

There really is a Santa, and he works at the Sterilite Corp in Townsend, MA.

For a school activity a few weeks ago, my son Garret wrote letters to companies that he liked a product of. He has been focused on an old Sterilite plastic hamper that I had years ago (probably five years ago). So, he wrote to them telling them how much he liked it.

I added a letter of my own to explain his letter. Telling them that he has autism and loves doing sensory activities, which is what he did with this hamper (water play and throwing rocks in it to hear them and watch them bounce off) until he destroyed it.

We weren't asking for anything, but I was hoping they'd send him a letter back. Hoover Corp had done that a few years ago. So he kept asking me when they were going to write back. I told him that sometimes they won't or maybe it would be after Christmas, but if it was a quality company, they'd write him back.

Sterilite is a quality company.

Not only did they write him back, they scoured the entire country to find the hamper! And they did. He is thrilled that he's got the hamper back and promises me he will keep this one forever and only store blankets in it.

I am so grateful and in

awe of what these complete strangers did for my boy.

Enjoy the letter, and please pass the story along. I'm now a devoted Sterilite customer and hope the next time you have to buy a plastic storage bin, you'll consider Sterilite first.

ALICIA PENZEL

Dear Ms. Penzel:

We received yours and Garret's letters and we were very touched. It came to the Human Resources Department here in our Home Office in Massachusetts. We understand you were not asking for the hamper but we decided we wanted to try to find one.

We sent out an email message to each of our plant HR departments around the country asking if they had the style hamper to which Garret was referring somewhere in inventory, as that product is obsolete and no longer manufactured. Well, from there Garret's letter went a little viral though our company.

Our production control clerk here in Massachusetts deciphered the product number and color from your description for us, a L2204204 hamper in blueberry with cornmeal handles. From there we had plant managers checking old inventory, a warehouse supervisor and production control manager offering up one they had at home, but missing a cover, and many employees around the country checking physical obsolete inventory in the plant and in

their homes.

We were getting discouraged when our senior product manager located a white one with gray handles in the marketing area here in our home office. We considered painting it in our Machine Rebuild Department to try to match the color of Garret's original hamper but figured it would likely chip, considering Garret's sensory activities.

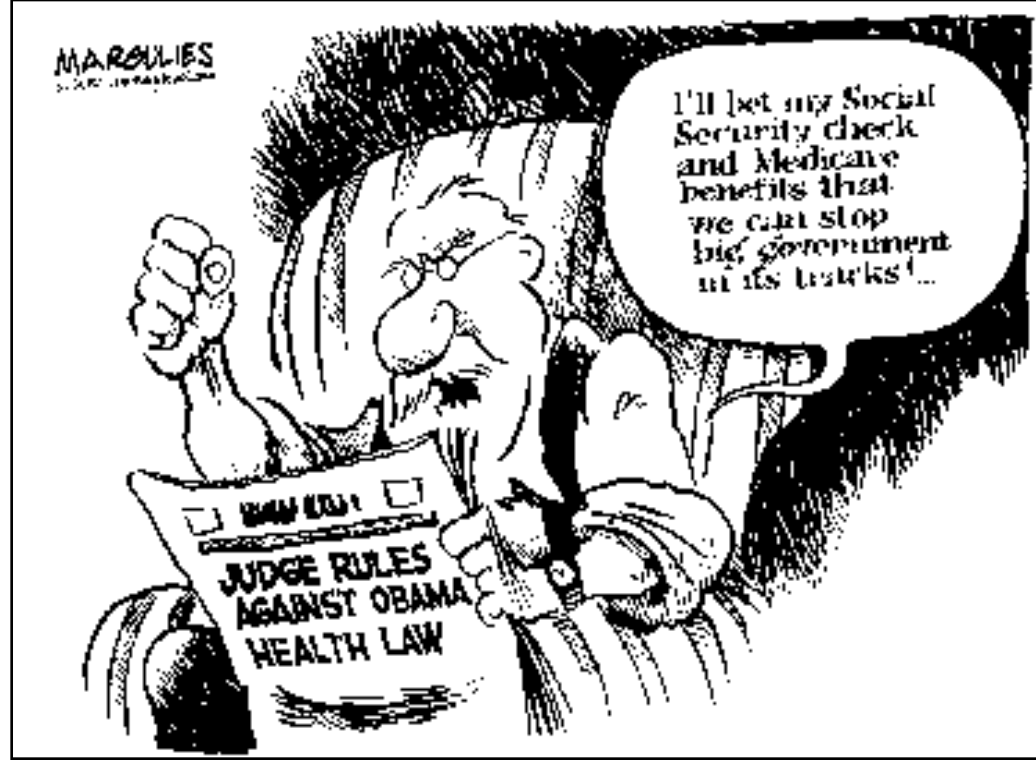
We know it's not the same color as the original hamper but we were hoping it might put a smile on Garret's face. We hope you and your family have a very happy holiday season and please give all our best to Garret. We hope he continues to be a loyal Sterilite customer.

VERONICA BARNARD
Corporate Human Resources Manager
Sterilite

Veterans celebrate Christmas at Tomat's

The Winters VFW Post 11091 held their annual post Christmas dinner at Tomat's restaurant on Dec. 20 and presented Lois Pinkston an award for being a special person to the VFW. During dinner, Santa came and presented the children that attended with their parents a little gift.

There were 22 members who attended and we all had a good time. We wish all members of our post could have been there, and we wish



everyone who is a veteran would come and join our post. We meet on the third Monday of each month at the Winters Community Library at 7 p.m.

A Happy New Year to all.

HAROLD HAYWOOD
Post commander

Letters policy

The deadline for Letters to the Editor is noon on Mondays for publication that week. Letters may be mailed or hand-delivered to The Winters Express, 312 Railroad Avenue, Winters, CA 95694, or emailed to news@wintersexpress.com.

Letters should not exceed 500 words. Do not use all capital letters.

We reserve the right to edit or reject any letter.

Letters must be legibly signed by the writer, or if emailed, must indicate the writer's name. Letters submitted anonymously will not be printed.

Tell them what you think

FEDERAL

President Barack Obama, The White House, Washington, D.C. 20502; (202) 456-1111; fax: (202) 456-2461; e-mail: president@whitehouse.gov

Senator Barbara Boxer, 112 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; (202) 224-3553; e-mail: visithttp://boxer.senate.gov/contact/webform.cfm

Senator Dianne Feinstein, 331 Hart Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510; (202) 224-3841; fax: (202) 228-3954; visit <http://feinstein.senate.gov/email.html>

Representative Mike Thompson, (1st District), 231 Cannon House Office Building, Washington, D.C., 20515-0501; (202) 225-3311; district office: 712 Main St., Suite 1, Woodland; 662-5272; visit <http://mikethompson.house.gov/contact/email.shtml>

STATE

Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814; (916) 445-2841; fax: (916) 558-3160; e-mail: [visithttp://gov.ca.gov/index.php?interact/noscript#email](http://gov.ca.gov/index.php?interact/noscript#email)

State Senator Lois Wolk, Room 4032, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814; (916) 651-4005; fax: (916) 323-3204; e-mail: senator.wolk@senate.ca.gov. District office: 555 Mason St., Suite 230, Vacaville, CA 95688; (707) 454-3808; fax: (707) 454-3811

Assemblywoman Mariko Yamada, Room 5144, State Capitol, Sacramento, CA 95814; (916) 319-2008; fax: (916) 319-2108; e-mail: assemblymember.yamada@assembly.ca.gov

COUNTY

Supervisor Mike McGowan, 1st District (West Sacramento), 625 Court St., Room 204, Woodland, CA 95695; (916) 375-6441; fax: (916) 375-6442; e-mail: mike.mcgowan@yolocounty.org

Supervisor Helen Thomson, 2nd District (Davis), 625 Court St., Room 204, Woodland, CA 95695; 757-5557, 666-8622; fax: 747-0286; e-mail: helen.thomson@yolocounty.org

Supervisor Matt Rexroad, 3rd District (Woodland), 625 Court St., Room 204, Woodland, CA 95695; 666-8621 or 669-7189; fax: 666-8193; e-mail: matt@rexroad.com; www.rexroad.com

Supervisor Jim Provenza, 4th District (Davis), 625 Court St., Room 206, Woodland, CA 95695; 757-5554, 666-8624; fax: 666-8193, 747-0286; e-mail: jim.provenza@yolocounty.org

Supervisor Duane Chamberlain, 5th District (Winters, rural Yolo County), 625 Court St., Room 204, Woodland, CA 95695; 666-8627; fax: 666-8193; e-mail: duane.chamberlain@yolocounty.org

Yolo County Superior Court, P.O. Box 2175, Woodland, CA 95695.

Yolo County Grand Jury, P.O. Box 2142, Woodland, CA 95695.

CITY

Winters City Council, Mayor Woody Fridae; council members, Harold Anderson, Cecilia Curry, Mike Martin and Tom McMasters-Stone; City Manager, John Donlevy; City Hall, 318 First St., Winters, CA 95694.

SCHOOL DISTRICT

Winters Joint Unified School District, 909 West Grant Avenue, Winters 95694, 795-6100, Rebecca Gillespie, superintendent; Board of Trustees, President Dan Maguire, Robyn Rominger, Matt Brickey and David Hyde, Robert Warren, Mike Olivas and David Reynoso.

2010 was the Year of Re: Reconstruction, Reevaluation...

2010, I'm not going to miss you much. You had a few bright spots, but all in all... raspberries to you.

As I review the dips and turns of the year, it's hard to point to one thing and say, "THAT'S the main thing." No, it's more like looking at a Monet painting when you're standing too close. You see individual blips and blops of color as individual entities, but you can't really take in the whole piece of work unless you stand back and let the blips and blops blend. (Try and say that three times fast...)

So I stand back, cock my head this way and that, peer out of one eye and then the other, and I believe I assessed you correctly, 2010: one big, sloppy, craptastic suck-fest.

If I could assign an overall theme to 2010, it would be "reconstruction." The prerequisite for reconstruction is, of course, destruction. At the core of both words is "structure," and many structures in my life were rattled this year, some beyond repair. The things that didn't end up in the demolition pile, however, required a complete reexamination of how they would fit back into the picture.

The most obvious symbol of this was my home, after a flood destroyed every floor and most of the walls, necessitating the reconstruction of almost the entire interior. After all was said and done, only the fireplace, a few upper cabinets, one bathroom counter and the shower stalls were salvageable.

Everything else had to be replaced.

After the renovation was complete, it was time to sift out what would stay and what would go. Things that used to fit suddenly seemed completely out of place. In fact, the only place for some of my formerly beloved stuff was on the curb, waiting for the kind people who come with a truck and whisk your things away for this charity or that.

The year had a definite cycle: destruction, reevaluation, reconstruction, renovation. The pattern repeated itself in a variety of ways and circumstances all year. My astrologer friends tell me that amongst the various whirl of the heavens in 2010, Jupiter went retrograde for much of the year, from late July to mid-November, triggering a time of coming face to face with the true nature of things, harsh as they may seem.

I'm a bit skeptical, but I can't deny that the astrologers nailed the ongoing theme of 2010: The truth hurts. But also: The truth will set you free. After it stops stinging, of course.

I googled "Jupiter retrograde," and found the following line that pretty much validates my assessment of 2010: "This Jupiter retrograde period is a time for the prefix 're'—reflect, review, reorganize, redefine, re-examine, repair, reassess." Yup. Reconstruction, renovation, and all the other Re words too.

2010 may have been the Year of the Tiger in China, but as far as I'm concerned, it was the



Year of Re. Fo sho.

Beyond the structure of my house getting Red in 2010, my own actual physical structure took a hit. The two things I live in — my house and my body — suddenly became unreliable in 2010. I literally began the year on day one being unable to walk without wearing a big, stupid, clunky plastic cast. A bone in my arch had collapsed, damaging the tendon leading to my calf and for several months, for all intents and purposes, I was crippled.

Although the podiatrist and physical therapist rehabilitated my foot (yet another Re word), just like my house, my foot was not the same as it was before, and never would be. However, adapting to a renovated house is vastly easier and more pleasant than adapting to a renovated foot.

With the house, I just have to scoop up the time and patience to pick through all the boxes, and put or give things away. Living with a renovated foot forced upon me one of those Jupiter retrograde Re truths: Reassessment. Your body is no longer 30, it never will be; it is cranky and uncooperative, and completely unapologetic. Things that were once easy (like running and dancing) will be problematic at best and impossible at worst. So suck it up and

deal with it. You can bumble around feeling sorry for yourself or figure out a new way to go forward in the structure you have. And while you're at it, be thankful you even have a foot, you jerk.

Several other of my life's structures were also upheaved in 2010, but here we are, out of room and out of year. Rather than spending any more time or ink mulling over what happened, or re-mulling them even, I'd rather focus on the path ahead. I won't be running down that path, but I've discovered that if you walk instead of run, there's more time to stop and smell the roses.

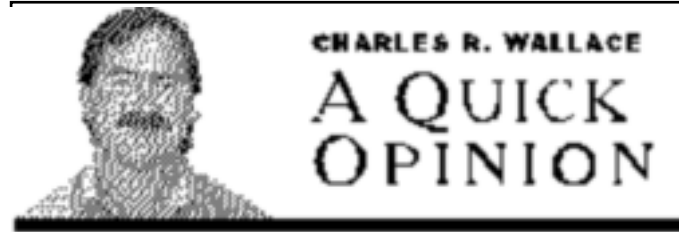
Perspective, right? Maybe that was the biggest reconstruction project of all in 2010: my attitude. Reevaluating. Deciding what really matters and what doesn't. What has integrity and what doesn't. What stays and what goes. And actually letting go. And being okay with it. It was an unpleasant but necessary exercise, and I suppose I should be grateful, in a way, to recalcitrant 2010.

Or not.

2010 — I am so done with you. Don't let the door hit you in the butt on the way out.

Onward to 2011!

And Mr. Jupiter, Sir, if you could just keep your pokey britches moving forward for awhile, I'd really appreciate it.



"A Quick Opinion" will return next week.

YEAR

Continued from page A-3

and for her work on the Winters History Project, which exhibited photos documenting Winters history. Joe Tramountana won the Theodore Winters Award for leading the fundraising effort to keep the Community Center and swimming pool open, helping to form the Community Center and Pool Fund Committee. Shirley Marks was named the Senior Citizen of the year, and El Pueblo was named Business of the Year.

The Winters Firefighter of the Year was Ted Duarte and Dan Schrupp was named Emergency Medical Technician of the Year. The Winters Police Department named Sergio Gutierrez Officer of the Year and hired a new officer, Justin Wilson.

Myke Berna was elected president of the Winters Chamber of Commerce in January by the Chamber board of directors, and a new Chamber executive director was hired, Al Aldrete. Bruce Rominger was the 2010 Youth Day Grand Marshal and Juanita Skaggs was named Honorary Youth Day Grand Marshal.

The turnover of the Winters School board began with the appointment of Robyn Rominger to the seat vacated by trustee Mary Jo Rodolfa, who resigned in the midst of the George Griffin termination. Rominger was re-elected to her seat in November, along with newcomers Dan Maguire, Robert Warren, Mike Olives and David Reynoso. Maguire was elected president of the school board by his fellow trustees just after taking office.

Young people made the local news last year, and the youngest was the first baby of the year, Savanna Rae Gruben, born to Stephanie Gruben. Savanna won the annual Winters Express contest and was showered with gifts, but Express publisher Charles Wallace took pity on another baby, Jillian Ries, who was actually born first but didn't come into the Express office with a birth certificate first to claim the official First Baby title. Wallace gathered up gifts for Jillian and her parents, Steve and Julie Ries, as well.

Over at Winters High School, Gary Miller was hired as the new principal at the beginning of the school year. Throughout the year, Winters High School athletes broke records and claimed titles across the board, from wrestling to swimming (see the Sports section for a recap). Wrestler Cody Linton won multiple awards in wrestling, as did fellow wrestler Chris Calderone, who was awarded a college scholarship for his prowess on the mat.

Athletes of another kind — academic — also captured medals, as Anderson Bouwens, Zoe Adams and Andreina Prado aspired to state level Academic Decathlon competition. Prado also rose to the top of the Class of 2010, along with fellow valedictorians Sarah Rominger and Justin Hyer.

Mr. Warrior 2010 was Tyler Berg, and Youth Day Sweetheart and Sweetthunk titles went to Kayla O'Neil and Phil Giroux-Ayotte. Singer Allie Griffey won the Winters Has Talent competition at the

Earthquake Street Festival. Polette Gonzalez and Jesus Quirarte were crowned Homecoming Queen and King.

Top ten stories of 2010

1) Goodbye, Griffin. The Winters School Board dropped a bomb on the community at its March 4 meeting, when it suddenly terminated the contract of Winters High School Principal George Griffin without explanation or apparent reason, other than a statement from the trustees that they wanted to take the high school in a “different direction.” That different direction was never articulated in a satisfactory manner to the community, and the bomb that was dropped exploded all over the school board.

Normally lackluster school board meetings became a battle of wills and words as school district employees, students, parents and community members hammered the trustees, who refused to back down on the matter. Outrage over the decision contributed to a sudden flood of interest in the upcoming school board election, resulting in four new trustees being elected to school board seats in November.

Although the school board wouldn't budge on the Griffin termination, a lawsuit has been filed on Griffin's behalf against the Winters School District. Since his termination, Griffin has been employed by the school district as a kindergarten teacher at Waggoner Elementary School.

2) Whopper Wars. The uproar over a proposed Burger King at the entrance to town seemed to split the community in two, following the planning commission's approval of the fast-food franchise on a pocket of land at County Road 90-A and Grant Avenue. Located at the northwest corner of Interstate 505 and Grant Avenue, city staff predicted that sales tax from this business would go a long way in easing Winters' budget woes, but a group of citizens was unconvinced and fought the project from a variety of angles, challenging everything from the zoning to environmental impacts to master plans for the “Gateway.”

Although the area was clearly destined for highway commercial projects in the city's General Plan for years, this only became a point of contention when the Burger King proposal appeared on the planning commission agenda. The planners gave guidelines about tailoring the project to fit the community, but had no legal reason to deny the project.

A group calling itself the Winters Community Planning Association appealed the decision, with the overall objection being that the public was not given a “meaningful opportunity” to give input on the project. The group made its case to the city council, which was unmoved by the appeal and its objections, and denied the appeal. The citizens' efforts weren't for naught, however, and triggered the formation of the Economic Advisory Committee, which will include community members who will help plan the east entrance to town.

3) Budget blues. The city of Winters was hit with a perfect storm of financial troubles in 2010. With local sales and property tax revenues plummeting, and stagnant economic de-

velopment in Winters, City Hall was already struggling with pruning \$520,000 from its General Fund budget, which pays for things like staff salaries, recreation programs and park maintenance. Within the same year, Winters was dealt a mighty blow from the state of California, which snagged \$781,448 in redevelopment funds in 2010 and may fork over another \$161,000 in May.

Besides bringing community renovation projects to a grinding halt as a result of the state's raid on redevelopment funds statewide, the hole in the General Plan seemed impossible to close without shutting down the Community Center and swimming pool. City staff and city council members scrambled to find a way to balance the budget, but in the end, it was the citizens of Winters that stepped up and solved the problem.

The Community Center and Pool Fund Committee formed, raising \$24,241 to keep the Community Center and pool open. However, the city's budgetary problems didn't stop there. Both the police and fire department were themselves stretched thin, each one needing more funding to keep the community safe. Once again, the community decided to save the day, bringing us to:

4) A Measure of Success. Some thought it insanity to ask voters to voluntarily approve a tax increase in the midst of lingering national recession, and rising unemployment and foreclosures, but with nothing to lose, the city council decided to take a longshot and see if Measure W would survive the June election. It did, barely, with 52.8 percent approval, and doubled the city Utility Users Tax from 4.75 to 9.5 percent. The tax increase took effect on July 1, and was expected to bring \$400,000 into city coffers. The lion's share of these funds will be allocated for police and fire protection.

5) Swinging the ax. The Winters School Board took on the role of Grim Reaper when it came to chopping \$1 million out of its \$14 million budget in February. The cuts came in response to draconian budget cuts to education from the state of California, which itself was (and is) in the midst of a budget crisis. The school district stopped the bleeding with furloughs and layoffs, increasing class size, emptying restricted funds, eliminating positions and programs, and spreading administrators (such as principals)

across more than one campus.

6) This Guy came to town. Star-struck fans huddled at the corner of Railroad and Main on Aug. 29 to get a glimpse of celebrity chef Guy Fieri, who filmed a segment of “Diners, Drive-ins and Dives” at the Putah Creek Café for the Food Network. Although the actual show has yet to air, Fieri and his crew visited with loyal café fans and explored some of the café's specialties, like brick-roasted chicken pizza, cioppino, and biscuits and gravy. Prior to Fieri's appearance, loyal Café customers had an opportunity to chow down on the usual Café fare and chat with the filming crew about their love of Putah Creek Burgers and Char-Roast sandwiches.

7) Buckhorn blossoms. The business that arguably put Winters on the map spread out across the map in 2010, all the way to New York City. Buckhorn owners John and Melanie Pickerel sold their first Buckhorn Grill franchise in the Big Apple, under the name of Tri Tip Grill in April. The Pickerels already had seven Buckhorn Grills up and running in Northern California, but maintain control over those businesses, all of which ultimately got their start from John Pickerel's experiments with charring tri-tip roast on a simple trailer-style barbecue.

8) No respect. Spraying graffiti, or “tagging,” became a huge annoyance to much of the community on and off all year in 2010, as vandals spray-painted their marks on fences, walls, sidewalks and street signs. Some worried that the tagging was a harbinger of gang activity, others viewed it simply as a nuisance. No matter how it was categorized, the plague of tagging cost citizens, businesses, the city and the school district money they didn't have to waste. It was a problem that was difficult to solve, with the police department having to use its resources for more serious problems, however, with assistance from a “citizens arrest,” police were able to capture one of the main offenders and put a dent in the tagging.

Even worse than the tagging were more serious spates of vandalism, many targeting school campuses. The Community Center, St. Anthony Parish Hall, the high school, the middle school, Shirley Rominger Intermediate School and Waggoner Elementary School suffered not only graffiti, but broken windows,

ransacking and thefts. Just in the span of time from June 27 to July 5, the school district saw \$1,420 in property damage alone.

Vandalism hit its high — or low, depending on how you look at it — point in June, when animals at the high school ag site were let out of their pens. Several pigs found trapped in a sewer sump were injured, and 10 chickens were killed and five more missing. At the time, the incident was a huge psychological blow to the high school's FFA students, who raise the animals themselves. To date, no one has been caught and held responsible for the incident.

9) We dig it. From the banks of Putah Creek sprung a dream of healthy eating, straight from the garden. The Winters Community Garden officially opened on March 27, allowing those who don't have garden space of their own to plant and harvest their own produce on first-class soil. Ana Kormos of the Winters Healthcare Foundation spearheaded the project, which was seeded with grant money she helped secure. Other community members donated funds and volunteered material and labor to create paths and gardening boxes, till the soil, put in irrigation and construct a fence around the garden. The community garden came on the heels of a successful first season for the Winters Farmers Market in 2009, with both projects making fresh, healthy produce readily available for the Winters community.

10) No teeth in the laws. The problem of loose, vicious dogs was spotlighted in 2010, when a 6-year-old girl was chased down and attacked by a pit bull without provocation in June. The child was riding her bike down an alley when the dog barreled through a poorly secured gate, caught her, and tore away part of her cheek. Because the dog's owners could not produce current vaccination records, the dog was euthanized to make sure it did not also transmit rabies to the child.

A group of citizens banded together with a “boot drive” immediately after the attack to raise funds to help the little girl with medical expenses, but not much was done to prevent future attacks in Winters. The incident highlighted the issue of responsible pet ownership, the necessity of enforcing existing leash and licensing laws, and the problem of dealing with habitually loose, aggressive dogs, and although the concerns were presented to the city council and a local mandatory spay-neuter law was discussed, not much changed as a result — loose dogs still have more teeth than responsible pet ownership ordinances in Winters.

A private hotline was established by a private non-profit group called Rotts of Friends, based just outside Winters, where citizens can anonymously report dangerous situations involving dogs, animal abuse or dog fighting. The number is 666-1733.

Community

Roberts progresses in military training

Michael R. Roberts graduated recently from the U.S. Army Warrant Officer Candidate School at Fort Rucker, Daleville, Alabama, and was appointed to the rank of warrant officer one.

Roberts completed an intense six-week course conducted in a very demanding, rigorous, high-stressed, and deadline-required environment. He received training in leadership skills, Army customs, doctrine, tradition, and tactics, drill and ceremonies, professional ethics, physical fitness, time-stress-people management skills, decision making, delegation and personnel skills, and numerous other military academic subjects.

Trainees gain experience in leadership to attain higher responsibility while maintaining professionalism and quality work performance and standards required of career warrant officers. Additionally, they develop and hone skills relevant to an army at war, skills re-

quired to effectively operate and survive on today's ever-changing battlefield operations against global terrorism.

Warrant officers continue to further their training through technical and tactical certification. As the officers gain progressive levels of expertise and leadership, they operate, maintain, administer and manage equipment, support activities or technical systems throughout their army career. They are highly specialized technical and training experts in their career specialties, who provide valuable skills, guidance and expertise to commanders and organizations.

The newly appointed warrant officer will serve as a marine deck officer in Tacoma, Washington. He has served in the military for 13 years.

Roberts is the son of Jacquelyn and stepson of Richard Vanier of Winters. He is a 1987 graduate of Vaca High School.

COUNCIL

Continued from page A-1

Winters, but who have been discouraged by the complex requirements now in place to develop even small parcels.

Councilman Harold Anderson had concerns about the recommendations.

"Amending the General Plan to fit the zoning code is backwards," Anderson said. "This is a big change from the General Plan."

Anderson and the others present did not wish to make changes of such a magnitude that they would trigger an entire General Plan review/revision process.

"That's not going to happen," responded City Manager John Donlevy. "We have no money. No money. We're not going to do that."

Planner Pierre Neu questioned what would happen to design guidelines if the Gateway Master Plan were rescinded.

"They're already in place," Dyer said, "and they won't go away." The soon-to-be-formed Economic Development Committee would handle those considerations, she said.

Pruning focus of workshops

The UC Cooperative Extension Yolo County Master Gardeners will present the following classes at Central Park Gardens in Davis on Saturday, Jan. 8:

~ Fruit Tree Pruning, 9:30 a.m. Learn how fruit tree training done during the dormant winter season directs new growth, helps create the desired tree structure, and encourages good spring fruit set. Other fruit tree winter care practices will also be discussed.

~ Rose pruning, 11 a.m. Learn basic rose pruning techniques for hybrid teas, floribundas, miniatures, shrubs, and climbers to maximize the beauty of your rose garden.

For more information Yolo County Master Gardener events, call 666-8143.

Appreciate all she does



Courtesy photo
Local veterans presented an award to Lois Pinkston at the Post's annual Christmas dinner for her support of the Winters VFW Post 11091. The dinner took place at Tomat's on Monday, Dec. 20.

Weekly fire department report

December 13
~ 100 block of East Grant Avenue, medical aid, choking

December 16
~ 1000 block of Almeria Avenue, medical aid

December 17
~ Canyon Creek Resort, vehicle accident, non-injury

December 18
~ 100 block of Third Street, medical aid, chest pains

December 19
~ Northbound Interstate 505 at Putah Creek Road, mutual aid for Dixon vehicle accident
~ 400 block of Dry Creek Lane, medical aid, possible stroke

December 20
~ 1000 block of Railroad Avenue, illegal bonfire

~ 20 block of East Abbey Street, medical aid, victim of a fall

December 22
~ 1000 block of Eisenhower Way, medical aid, victim of a fall

~ 200 block of White Oak Lane, public assist, smell of natural gas
~ Main Street and Emery Street, public assist, public intoxication

December 23
~ 100 block of Owings Drive, medical aid back pain

December 24
~ Abbey Street and First Street, public assist with electric wheelchair
~ Russell Boulevard and Walnut Bayou Lane, medical aid to tased victim

December 25
~ 400 block of Main Street, public assist lift assist

December 26
~ First nlock of Abbey Street, public assist

You can follow the Express on Twitter and Facebook

Project Linus will meet at Cloth Carousel

The monthly Project Linus gathering will take place at Cloth Carousel on Tuesday, Jan. 4, 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Ann Shannon will be attending.

Project Linus of Yolo County will work on quilts that help provide security to seriously ill children or those in need. Cloth Carousel is also a drop off location for donated material and yarn. Collected blankets are already being distributed to children in Yolo County.

For more information, contact Ann Shannon annshannon12@gmail.com or 753-9397.

Calendar

Thursday, December 30
Winters Rotary Club meeting, noon, The Buckhorn
Bilingual Storytime, 6:30 p.m., Winters Community Library
Alcoholics Anonymous meeting, 8 p.m., 305 First Street

Friday, December 31
New Year's Eve

Saturday, January 1
New Year's Day

Sunday, January 2
Alcoholics Anonymous meeting, 9 a.m., 305 First Street

Tuesday, January 4
Alcoholics Anonymous meeting, 6-7 a.m., 305 First Street
City Council meeting, 6:30 p.m., council chambers at City Hall

Wednesday, January 5
Soroptimist meeting, 7 a.m., call 795-4631 or 795-2828 for location information.
Narcotics Anonymous meeting, 7 p.m., 62 Shams Way

(To list your non-profit local event on the Winters Express calendar, email information to news@wintersexpress.com or call 795-4551.)

This community calendar is sponsored by:



Entertainment

Cajun-style New Years Eve planned

By KATE LADDISH
Entertainment
correspondent

The Palms is hosting a New Year's Eve dance party — complete with a champagne toast at midnight and all the trimmings — featuring the Cajun-flavored and compellingly danceable music of Tom Rigney and Flambeau.

Rigney, a fiery, electrifying violinist/composer, joins forces with some of the finest musicians on the San Francisco music scene to form Tom Rigney & Flambeau. This compelling band specializes in blazing Cajun and zydeco two-steps, low-down blues, funky New Orleans grooves, and beautiful ballads and waltzes.

The ever-creative Rigney composes most of the songs, although the shows are spiced with classics from the Cajun/zydeco/New Orleans songbook. Rigney's charismatic stage presence, humor, and high-energy showmanship pull the audience into his performances and make them



Courtesy photo

Tom Rigney and Flambeau plan to spice up New Year's Eve at The Palms. The show starts at 9:30 p.m. Tickets are \$30.

feel that they are a part of the music and the show.

Voted Best Cajun/Zydeco Band by the West Coast Blues Hall of Fame, Tom Rigney and Flambeau are Rigney on violin, Danny Caron on electric guitar, Caroline Dahl on piano and accordian, Steve Parks on bass, and Iian Hoff-

man on drums. The dance floor will be open.

The New Year's Eve Celebration featuring Tom Rigney and Flambeau will be at The Palms on Friday, Dec. 31, starting at 9:30 p.m. and continuing into the early hours of the New Year.

Tickets for this spe-

cial New Year's Eve celebration are \$30 and are available at Pacific Ace Hardware in Winters, Armadillo Music in Davis, The Heidrick Ag History Center in Woodland, online at tickets.com and at the door.

For more information, call 795-1825 or visit palmsplayhouse.com or rigomania.com.

Tango Twosome is unique non-classical cello duo

The Davis Art Center will celebrate the diverse musical possibilities produced by the cello when Tango Twosome (cellists Priscilla Hawkins and Patricia Valentine) perform an eclectic set on Jan. 23 at the Davis Art Center, 1919 F Street. The concert is at 5 p.m., and costs \$15 at the door. Admission is \$10 for students and seniors.

For the concert, the duo will take the audience on a journey through classical music and on to jazz and tango, detouring into folk and various contemporary covers. Hawkins will also bring out her electric cello to perform a compilation of Irish fiddle tunes. The performance will include a spoken historical perspective of the cello along with projected photos to enhance the

mood.

The two musicians bring years of training and diverse experience to Tango Twosome. Hawkins has played cello since age 8, and majored in music at the University of Michigan. She was Principal Cellist of the Grosse Pointe Symphony, Detroit Women's Symphony, Tulare County Symphony and Bakersfield Symphony. In Davis, she played cello as part of the original Voice of the Wood, an interdisciplinary trio presenting story narration, masked performance and cello music. Hawkins was also founder of a classical trio, New Davis Trio, which performed in the Sacramento area for ten years. Hawkins' cello teachers include Oliver Edel, Jeff Solow and Ron Leonard.

One of the things

Hawkins says she admires most about her instrument is its diverse tonality.

"The cello with its high and low tones imitates the human voice range," she says.

Valentine was 10 years-old when her father informed her that she would be the third daughter in a classical trio and was sent off to buy a cello. Using that same cello today, she has played in a wide range of music companies for over 30 years, including the Camellia Symphony in Sacramento and the Tulare County Orchestra. She's also played in Strawberry Festival camp jams, public school classrooms and contemporary alternative music jams.

Tango Twosome formed three years ago when Hawkins and

Valentine wanted to explore a variety of cello styles after playing together in the Tulare County Symphony together for 15 years. They attended The New Directions Cello Festival in New York to further research non-classical cello. Additionally, Hawkins studied with New York-based and innovative cellist Marika Hughes.

Tango Twosome's recording of "Lebertango/Fuga" by Astor Piazzolla can be heard on Hawkins' CD, Out of the Wood, available at Watermelon Music and The Avid Reader in Davis.

For more information, call the Davis Art Center, 756-4100.

Interpretive walk planned at Quail Ridge

Quail Ridge Wilderness Conservancy (QRWC) will conduct a holiday-season interpretive walk on Quail Ridge Reserve on Saturday, Jan. 8, 2-5:30 p.m. The Reserve is located on a beautiful peninsula at the southwest end of Lake Berryessa. The walk on scenic hillsides of California native grasses, shrubs, and trees is of easy-to-moderate difficulty, and will be led by QRWC Executive Director Frank Maurer, a zoologist and ecologist. In addition to learning about the wildlife and native habitats of the peninsula, walkers will also learn a good deal about

the human history of the Berryessa region.

December rains will have refreshed the Reserve's splendid perennial bunchgrasses, which should be gloriously green, and the air should be moist and fragrant. Toward dusk, with the help of a special ultrasonic device, we'll listen to local bats as they commence their evening feeding. Forest owls may also be heard at this time of day.

The temperature will likely be mild in the daytime, but you should be prepared for cool temperatures toward the end of the day. Bring binoculars and/or a camera if you wish,

drinking water and a snack.

Call in advance to reserve a place and to get directions: 219-4477 or 758-1387.

Participants will gather at 2 p.m. at Markley Cove Resort to begin the walk and will return at about 5:30 p.m. All participants must leave the Reserve at the same time. The walk will be cancelled only in the event of substantial rainfall during the day.

Donations will be gratefully accepted for the Conservancy's fundraising efforts to protect Quail Ridge lands. Special walks for groups or families are available.

New Year' Eve celebration features 'Chess, the Musical'

Davis Musical Theatre Company will hold its 24th annual New Year's Eve celebration on Friday, Dec. 31, 8 p.m., at the DMTC Performing Arts Center, 607 Pena Drive in Davis.

There will be a special preview performance of "Chess, the Musical," followed by a catered dinner by Ludy's Main Street Bar-

becue, and dancing while counting down to 2011. The cost is \$45 per person.

This Tim Rice musical is about the Cold War and a Russian torn between his home and his love. "Chess" is recommended for audiences age 13 and up.

Visit www.dmtc.org or call 756-3682 to reserve tickets.

Celebrate Winters' Year in Review
Saturday, Jan. 22, 6 p.m., Community Center
Honoring the outstanding citizens
and business of 2010
Dinner catered by Buckhorn Catering

Tickets are \$35 per person
Call the Chamber office, 795-2329, for tickets



Coming up

Fri. Dec. 31 - Tom Rigney & Flambeau

Fri. Jan. 7 - Rita Hosking & Cousin Jack

Fri. Jan. 14 - Sourdough Slim

Sat. Jan. 15 - Steve Seskin

Sun. Jan. 16 - John McCutcheon

Winters

Chamber of Commerce

CHAMBER NEWS AND ACTIVITIES

Chamber of Commerce looks forward to new year

What do you mean we're at the end of the year already! This is the time of the year where we take a look at what we've accomplished over the last 12 months and plan out what we would like to accomplish in the next 12. The Winters Chamber of Commerce does this with its annual "Year in Review" dinner that will be held on Saturday, Jan. 22.

Tickets to the event are \$35 per person and are available for purchase at the Chamber office. We are also looking for silent auction items. If you have anything you would like to



AL ALDRETE
THE BOTTOM
LINE
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
WINTERS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

donate, please contact the Chamber office at 795-2329.

So what has the Chamber done in the past year that is of note? Well besides hiring a fantastic new executive director (he really is a nice guy — you should come by and meet him if you haven't already), the Chamber has been a part of some great events this year: Youth Day, the Earthquake Street Festival, the

Teacher Appreciation Barbecue, the Festival de la Comunidad, and the Christmas Tree Lighting, to name a few. More importantly, it has been focusing this year on putting in place the foundation of what will become a much stronger and viable business organization.

In the next year, both businesses and residents of Winters alike should plan on seeing and becoming

more actively aware of what shopping local means, not just to individual businesses but to the community as a whole. Be on the lookout for more touristas coming to town as Chamber members start advertising cooperatively in Vacaville, Davis, Woodland and Napa.

For Chamber members, look for more opportunities to get involved with your Chamber through more active committees that will have an impact on your business. Also, keep your eyes peeled for the executive director to be coming into your business to get more

feedback from you. (Have I mentioned what a great guy he is?)

2010 was a good year for the Chamber of Commerce. We expect 2011 will be an even better year as the Chamber takes on a more active role in being a voice of the business community.

I would like to remind everyone that this time of year is a time for reflection and planning, and of course, family, so from my family to yours, Merry Christmas, happy holidays and a Happy New Year.

Chamber calendar

~ Jan. 1: New Years Day, the Chamber/

Visitors Center will be closed.

~ Jan. 14: Board of Directors meeting, 7 a.m., Chamber office

~ Jan. 22: The Year in Review celebration, 6 p.m. at the Community Center; tickets are \$35 per person.

New members

~ Laura Ray Photography

~ Bull Frog Farms & Honey

Not a Chamber member yet? You can find more information on how to join the Winters Chamber of Commerce on our website, www.winterschamber.com, or call our office, 795-2329.

Year in Review celebration dinner planned on Jan. 22

The Winters Chamber of Commerce will formally honor the outstanding citizens and business of 2010 at its annual Year in Review event, planned Saturday, Jan. 22, at the Community Center.

The no-host bar opens at 6 p.m., followed by a dinner catered by Buckhorn Catering.

This year's honorees

include Citizen of the Year, Joann Larkey; Business of the Year, El Pueblo; Theodore Winters Award winner Joe Tramontana; and Senior Citizen of the Year, Shirley Marks.

The 2011 Chamber Board of Directors also will be sworn in. This year's board includes returning directors Myke Berna, Dan Maguire, Howard Hupe, Salli Becker,

Nancy Meyer, Lynn Myer, Ana Kormos, Jan Bawart and Debra DeAngelo, and new members Debbie LaShure, Susan DeLao and Kristen Pantle.

Besides honoring outstanding community members, the annual Year in Review celebration is a major fundraiser for the Winters Chamber of Commerce.

The Chamber's goal is to promote the Winters business community. The Chamber also helps support several community events and coordinates the annual Earthquake Street Festival, and promotes local businesses at its monthly Chamber Mixers.

The evening also includes a silent auction for a variety of prizes. More

prizes for the silent auction are still needed. To donate a prize, bring it to the Chamber office, inside the Winters Visitors Center, or call 795-2329.

Tickets for the event are \$35 per person.

For tickets or more information about the Year in Review or the Chamber, call Executive Director Al Aldrete at 795-2329.

Chamber dues help fund: Paid staff for the Chamber office, sponsorship of local events, listing in Winters Business Directory
Chamber membership includes: Listing on the Chamber website, www.winterschamber.com, and eligibility for health insurance with Western Health Advantage

Sports



Photo by Eric Lucero

The 2004-05 Winters High School boys basketball team included, from left, (back row) stat girl Samantha Talaugon, coach Jason Davis, assistant coach Chad Stocking, Keith Geerts, Jared Davis, Zach Davis, Rikey Anstead, Nico Tovar, assistant coach Ben Geerts and stat girl Noelle Mandolfo; (front row) Alex Thompson, Nathanael Lucero, Alexio Jurado, Sebastian Sales, Andrew Cummings, Dominic Mandolfo and Nico Acevedo.

Winters High Team of the Decade

By ERIC LUCERO
Express sports

My pick for the Winters High School Team of the Decade is the 2004-05 boys basketball team. Coached by Jason Davis and assistants Ben Geerts and

Chad Stocking, the Warriors broke a school record of wins and losses with a 24-4 record.

Winters started the season with a 10-0 record before losing its first game by two points. This was largely due to the fact that co-team captain Jared

Davis was home sick. In that 10-0 stretch, the Warriors won two tournaments and were runners-up in another.

On the season, the Warriors were undefeated at home with

See **DECADE** on page B-5

Hellinger is State Champ, All American

By ERIC LUCERO
Express sports

Jesse James Hellinger, a 2009 Winters High School graduate, has just become a California State Wrestling Champion and an All American. Hellinger is a member of the Sacramento City College wrestling team that placed second in the North Regionals and third in the State Championships this season.

Individually, Hellinger stood at the top of the podium, placing first in both the North Regionals and in the State Tournament. At the State tournament in Victorville on Dec. 10-11, Hellinger advanced into the second round with a bye, won his first match 7-0, won his second match 18-2 and beat the only wrestler ranked above him — 184-pound Fito Juarez from Fresno

City College — 3-1 in the championship match.

This was the third time the two wrestlers had seen each other this year. One of Hellingers' two losses came to Juarez earlier in the season in overtime and the other loss was when he decided to wrestle at the heavy-weight division.

Hellinger defeated Juarez in the North Regionals and then beat him again in a tough match for the state title. Once again, the two went into overtime but this time Hellinger had a reverse takedown at the buzzer for the win.

Hellinger finished his season with a 26-2 record and a state championship. He also was named to the All American Team.

See **HELLINGER**, page B-5

Top Ten sports stories of 2010

By ERIC LUCERO
Express sports

2010 has come to an end, but not without the excitement that teams and individuals bring through their hard work and dedication. Here is my list of the top 10 stories of the 2010 year.

1: Jesse James Hellinger, a 2009 Winters High graduate, won the State Wrestling Championship and was named All American.

2: Chris Calderone signed a wrestling scholarship with Northwestern College in Iowa.

3: Calderone and Cody Linton wrestled in the CIF State Wrestling Tournament.

4: The Warriors won league titles. The varsity boys baseball team

won the BVL title with a 10-0 record and a 21-5-1 overall record. The Winters boys and girls swim team both won the BVL title. The boys won their sixth straight league championship while the girls won their second in the past three years. The JV boys track team won the BVL title as well.

5: The U-19 boys soccer team won the 2010 Davis World Cup soccer tournament.

6: Freshman Colten Montgomery won the 100 free in 53.96 and 100 back with a new school record of 59.86.

7: Bryan Case was named the Butte View League MVP for the Winters Warriors varsity baseball team for the second year in a row.

8: Warriors shined on

football field. Jacob Lucero rushed for 218 yards against Gridley, while Nick Mariani rushed for 107 yards and passed for 170 in the Warriors' season opener against Esparto.

9: Alex Evanoff and Ed Latimer won gold in two individual events at the BVL track championships. Evanoff won the 400 meters in 51.42 and the 800 meters in 2:05.96. Latimer won the long jump with a leap of 21-11 and the high jump, going up and over 6 feet.

10: The boys swim team won gold in the 400 free relay at the Masters Swim Meet with Kevin Hyde, D.J. Tice, Justin Nitzkowski and Colten Montgomery clocking an impressive 3:29.38.

PISANI'S ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Jacob Lucero

Jacob Lucero, a junior on the Winters High School football team, is athlete of the week. On Dec. 15, at the annual football banquet, Lucero received the Most Valuable Offensive Player Award, was named to the Butte View All League team and was given the Iron Warrior Award.

"Jacob had a great season," said coach Daniel Ward. "He deserves all the recognition because he put in all the work. His workouts in the off season transformed him from a blocking fullback to being one of the best and most feared running backs in the Northern Section. He totaled 1,397 yards on the season, the fourth most in school history in just 10 games."

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Nuestras Noticias



JUAN FERNANDEZ
EVENTOS Y
COMENTARIOS
HISPANOS

Nueva oportunidad

Tenemos ante nosotros un nuevo año, un año es un regalo muy grande para no aprovecharlo. No podemos empezarlo como si fuera cualquier cosa, sería un desperdicio. ¿Alguna vez te has sentido en lo más hondo de tu ser ese deseo profundo y enorme de mejorar o de cambiar? Si es así, no dejes que el deseo se escape, porque no todos los días lo sentirás. Si hoy sientes esa llamada a querer ser otro, a ser distinto, atrápala con fuerza y hazla realidad.

El inicio de un nuevo año es el momento para reunir las fuerzas y toda la ilusión para comenzar el mejor año de la vida, porque el que se proponga convertir éste en su mejor año, lo puede lograr. El año nuevo es una oportunidad más para convertir la vida, el hogar, el trabajo en algo distinto. “Quiero algo diferente, voy a comenzar bien, así será más fácil seguir bien y terminar bien. Quizá el año pasado no fue mi mejor año, me dejó un mal sabor de boca; éste va a ser distinto, quiero que así sea, es un deseo, es un propósito, y no lo voy a echar a perder. Tengo otra oportunidad que no voy a desperdiciar, porque la vida es demasiado breve.”

¿Por qué no decir: “Desde hoy, desde este primer día, todo será distinto? En mi hogar, me voy a arrancar ese egoísmo que tantos males provoca, voy a estrenar un nuevo amor a mi pareja y a mi familia, seré mejor padre o madre. Seré también distinto en mi trabajo, no porque vaya a cambiar de trabajo, sino de humor. Incluso voy a desempolvar mi fe, esa fe arrumbada y llena de polvo, voy a poner un poco más de oración, de cielo azul, de aire puro en mi jornada diaria. Ya me harté de vivir como he vivido, de ser egoísta, tracalero, injusto. Otro estilo de vida, otra forma de ser, ¿por qué no intentarlo?”

En los ratos más negros y amargos, llenos de culpa, piensas: ¿Por qué no acabar con todo? Pero en esos mismos momentos se puede pensar otra cosa: ¿Por qué no comenzar de nuevo? Algunos ven que su vida pasada fue gris, vulgar y mediocre, y su gran argumento y razón para desesperarse es: “He sido un don nadie, ¿qué puedo hacer ya?” Pero otros sacan de ahí mismo el gran argumento, la gran razón para el cambio radical positivo: “No me resigno a ser vulgar, quiero resucitar a una vida mejor, quiero luchar, voy a trabajar, quiero volver a empezar.”

Un año recién salido de las manos del autor de la vida, es un año que aún no estrenas. ¿Qué vas a hacer con él? ¿El año pasado no te gustó? ¿No diste la medida? ¿Con éste qué vas a hacer? Un nuevo año recién iniciado: Todo comienza si tú quieres, todo vuelve a empezar ... Yo me uno a los grandes insatisfechos, a los que reniegan de la mediocridad, a los que aún conscientes de sus debilidades confían y luchan por una vida mejor. Todos desean a los demás y a sí mismos un buen año, pero pocos luchan por obtenerlo. Prefiero ser de los segundos

Comienza un nuevo año y con él un mundo de oportunidades se abre ante nosotros. El momento es propicio para reflexionar internamente sobre experiencias pasadas, situaciones presentes y el porvenir. Para aprender del pasado, disfrutar el presente y construir un futuro mejor. Feliz Año nuevo.

Gracias a la vida

Yo estoy bien porque estoy vivo. ¿Qué cosa es más importante que estar vivo? Es poco común en nuestro cotidiano vivir que reconozcamos la vida. Vivimos arrastrados por lo que deseamos y no por lo que somos y tenemos. Nos olvidamos entonces que la vida es un tesoro. Y sólo cuando perdemos parte de ese tesoro, nos damos cuenta el tesoro que tenemos. Dice un dicho que, nos damos cuenta de lo bueno que tenemos cuando lo perdemos. Así pasa con la vida.

Pasamos desapercibidos los ojos que tenemos hasta que perdemos la vista. Sin ella no podemos mirar el sol, las noches estrelladas, el paisaje, el mar, la lluvia, la luna, el color de las flores, de la rosa y el clavel y los anocheceres y atardeceres, el pájaro volar y el rostro

de aquellos que nos quieren y queremos.

No podemos mirar los labios que sonríen y el júbilo del que se alegra. Ni tampoco las miradas que penetran nuestro ser para amarrar el corazón con un flechazo de amor. No podemos ver el rostro feliz de la madre que nos ama, del fiel amigo o amiga.

¿Qué sería nuestra vida sin la vista? Sería una oscuridad, sin brillo ni color. ¿Cuántas cosas perderían sentido sin la vista? ¿Cuántas cosas son movidas en nuestro interior por el impacto de una mirada? Por eso tenía toda la razón Santa Teresa de Jesús cuando decía, que los ojos son las ventanas del alma. Muchas de las cosas que edifican nuestra conciencia entran por la vista. La deteriorada imagen del que sufre el abandono, envuelto en trapos

sucios, y los esqueléticos cuerpos de los que son flagelados por el hambre, llegan a nuestra conciencia por el cristal de los ojos.

Las imágenes de las masacres humanas, impulsadas por la desidia, el odio, el aventurerismo colonizador entran a nuestra conciencia cuando el velo de la vista se abre. Cuántas cosas serían a medias sin los ojos. Y las manos y los brazos. Las manos con que saludo, con que escribo una carta al ser que amo y con las que me visto, me baño y me llevo los alimentos a la boca para alimentarme. Qué sería sin mis manos y mis brazos para abrazar a los que quiero y así sentir su cercano afecto. Por eso abrazo a mi madre, mi padre, mi esposa, mis hijos y mis amigos. Qué insípido es un afecto sin un abrazo.

No puedo dejar de

mentonar mis pies. Mis pies que me sostienen. Sin ellos sería un gusano que se arrastra por el suelo. Los pies me llevan al trabajo, donde el amigo y me acercan a los que yo quiero. Sin ellos sería un ser estático, momificado y aislado sin conciencia de que me debo acercar a otros.

Mi boca para alimentarme y expresar lo que pienso y lo que siento. Con labios para besar y decir otros que los quiero. También quiero oír el canto de los pájaros, el murmullo de las aguas y de la canción que grita al amor y que denuncia el sufrimiento. Sin oír, camino sin rumbo como si otros no existieran. Al oír a otros sé que vivo con otros, para escuchar sus alegrías, quejas, dolores y llantos.

¡Gracias a la vida que me ha dado tanto!

Nuevas leyes en California

Permiso de Instrucción para Motocicleta. Esta nueva ley exige que una persona menor de 21 años complete un curso aprobado sobre seguridad para motocicletas antes de recibir su permiso de instrucción con el que puede practicar el manejo de una motocicleta; se exige que ese permiso haya sido obtenido seis meses antes de que se expida una licencia de manejar Clase M para motocicletas. En la actualidad existen más de 6,000 conductores menores de 19 años con licencias de manejar para motocicletas en California. Programa de Escuelas para Infractores de Tránsito Antes de esta nueva ley que entra en efecto el 1° de enero, el DMV solamente emitía licencias y regulaba la instrucción en los salones de clases de las escuelas para infractores de tránsito. Esta nueva ley ofrecerá cursos aprobados por la corte, como las escuelas para infractores de tránsito por Internet y de estudios domiciliarios que serán incorporados en el programa de licencias para escuelas de infractores de tránsito del DMV e implementará un número de recomendaciones incluidas en un estudio realizado por el DMV sobre asuntos rela-

cionados con dichas escuelas. Esta nueva ley tendrá un proceso de implementación de 3 años.

Carriles de Transporte Colectivo (HOV). La ley anterior que permitía que algunos vehículos de alta eficiencia y bajas emisiones usaran calcomanías para usar los carriles de transporte colectivo (HOV) iba a vencer el 1° de enero de 2011. Esta nueva ley extiende la fecha de validez de las calcomanías amarillas usadas por vehículos híbridos hasta el 1° de julio de 2011; las calcomanías blancas emitidas a vehículos completamente eléctricos y de gas natural comprimido hasta el 1° de enero de 2015; y crea una tercera calcomanía para vehículos híbridos que se enchufan el cual será válido desde el 1° de enero de 2012 hasta el 1° de enero de 2015.

Nuevo Endoso para Bomberos. En un intento por simplificar el apropiado proceso de licencias de manejar para los bomberos y continuar garantizando la seguridad pública, esta ley otorgará una exención del programa de licencias de manejar comerciales a los conductores de vehículos contra-incendios y crea un nuevo proceso de endosos de licencias.

Donación de Órganos. A partir

del 1° de julio, el lenguaje en la solicitud del DMV para una licencia de manejar incluirá la opción de marcar “no” en respuesta a la pregunta sobre la disponibilidad del solicitante para registrarse como un posible donador de órganos para aumentar el número de personas registradas en el programa de donación de órganos. Este cambio ahora exigirá que la pregunta en la casilla relacionada con la donación de órganos sea contestada “sí” o “no.”

Ordenanzas Locales de Tráfico. El 1° de julio, en un esfuerzo por asegurar que las condenas de tránsito sean documentadas por el Departamento de Vehículos Motorizados, las autoridades locales no podrán promulgar o aplicar una ordenanza local de cualquier índole cubierta por el Código de Vehículos de California.

Manejar Bajo la Influencia. A partir del 1° de enero de 2012, esta ley autoriza a una corte a ordenar una revocación de 10 años de la licencia de manejar de una persona que haya sido encontrada culpable de manejar en estado de ebriedad tres o más veces, con una posible reinstauración después de cinco años si se cumplen algunas condiciones específicas.

¿Somos todos iguales?

La idea más rebelde y revolucionaria que existe es la que establece que todos los seres humanos somos iguales. Ninguna es más poderosa. Y ninguna más peligrosa para los países que no la ponen en práctica. Las dictaduras y las naciones autoritarias siempre tienen líderes que se sienten superiores al resto de la población. Pasa igual en China e Irán que en Cuba y

Venezuela.

Sus políticas irremediablemente buscan controlar y censurar a la mayoría. Pero tarde o temprano la gente se rebela. La idea de que todos somos iguales es más fuerte que cualquier régimen. En Estados Unidos vivimos en uno de los países más abiertos del planeta. Está fundado en el concepto de la libertad individual y la igualdad. La libertad —

y las oportunidades que eso genera — es lo mejor de aquí. Pero muchas veces falla en la cuestión de la igualdad.

Un ejemplo de discriminación en Estados Unidos es en contra de 11 millones de inmigrantes indocumentados. Estados Unidos no trata como iguales a muchos de sus estudiantes, de sus trabajadores y de quienes cuidan a sus niños. Es verdad que están ilegalmente en el país. Pero también es cierto que miles de empresas y

millones de norteamericanos los contratan ilegalmente y se benefician de su trabajo. Todos saben que esto ocurre pero la política oficial es mentir: miente el inmigrante, miente quien lo emplea y miente el gobierno al hacerse de la vista gorda.

Urge más transparencia y un cambio radical de política. El maltrato y discriminación en contra de los inmigrantes indocumentados es una de las grandes injusticias de Estados Unidos. Lo menos que podemos exigir es que estos

inmigrantes sean tratados con respeto, con dignidad y que se legalice su situación migratoria.

La Declaración Universal de Derechos Humanos de Naciones Unidas establece en su primer artículo que “todos los seres humanos nacen libres e iguales en dignidad y derechos y ... deben comportarse fraternalmente los unos con los otros.” Yo no veo que los indocumentados sean tratados como iguales, ni con dignidad, ni fraternalmente en Estados Unidos.

Tras su visita a Estados Unidos en 1831, el francés Alexis de Tocqueville escribió que nada le había sorprendido tanto como la noción de igualdad entre todos sus habitantes. Y de esa igualdad, dijo, se deriva todo lo demás. Hoy, con las políticas de abierta discriminación contra indocumentados, Estados Unidos se ha internado en un período oscuro e inexplicable y traicionando sus principios. La única salida es decir la verdad, sobre todo, a nosotros mismos. Ese es el primer paso.

Suscribase al Winters Express, Able a 795-4551

Workshop to deal with post-holiday grief

The holiday season can be a stressful time of the year, particularly if you are grieving the loss of a loved one.

For some, the hustle and bustle of the holidays proved a distraction from grief. Now that the holidays are over, grief may re-emerge. How do you consciously bring light into these dark days? Yolo Hospice's Bereavement Services is providing a free workshop to help.

The workshop is

called "Bringing Light Into the Darkness After the Holidays" and will take place on Jan. 11. Participants will receive information about coping with their grief and will be able to share personal experiences.

Two workshops are available on Jan. 11. Participants may choose between sessions from 1 to 2:30 p.m. or 6:30 to 8 p.m. in Davis. Pre-registration is necessary. To pre-register or for more information,

call Yolo Hospice, Bereavement Services, 601-5756 or (800) 491-7711. You can also visit the website at www.yolohospice.org. Workshop dates and times are subject to change without notice.

The Yolo Hospice Team of professionals helps people fully live the final days of their lives by "focusing on the whole person, body-mind-spirit." Providing clinically expert care, delivered in a spirit of loving service, team

members emphasize comfort through pain control and sophisticated symptom relief. As the first hospice in this area, Yolo Hospice has provided not-for-profit hospice care in local communities since 1979.

To assist patients, their families and the community, Yolo Hospice provides bereavement services to adults, adolescents and children who have experienced the death of a family member or loved one.

Getting married? Just had a baby? Announce it in the Express — it's free!

Call 795-4551 for assistance or send information to news@wintersexpress.com

Yolobus announces New Year's weekend schedule

Yolobus will run regular weekday service on New Year's Eve, Friday, Dec. 31. Yolobus is a public bus system, overseen by the Yolo County Transportation District, that serves Yolo County, Sacramento International Airport and downtown Sacramento, with limited service into Vacaville.

Yolobus service operating on New Year's Eve includes intercity service to Woodland, Davis, West Sacramento, downtown Sacramento and Sacramento International Airport on Yolobus routes 42A and 42B, routes 35, 39, 40, 41, 240, 241 and 340 in West Sacramento; express routes 43, 44, 230, 231 and 232 in Davis; express route 45, plus local routes 210, 211, 212 and 214 in Woodland; route 242 between Woodland and Davis; route 220 between Winters, Davis and Vacaville; route 215 between

Woodland, Madison, Esparto, Capay and Cache Creek Casino Resort.

Yolobus Special services for qualified disabled riders will operate the normal schedule that day.

Transit users in both Yolo and Sacramento counties are reminded that they can take Yolobus fixed route service to Sacramento International Airport by boarding at a number of bus stops in downtown Sacramento (along L Street, west of 14th Street), as well as West Sacramento, Davis and Woodland.

For the New Year's weekend, Jan. 1 and 2, Yolobus will run its Sunday/Holiday schedule on both that Saturday and Sunday. Routes operating those two days (but with reduced hours) include intercity routes 42A and 42B; West Sacramento routes 35, 40 and 240;

Woodland routes 211 and 212; and route 215 to Madison, Esparto, Capay and Cache Creek Casino Resort.

Bus schedules are available by calling Yolobus, 666-2877 or visiting www.yolobus.com.

Yolobus cash fares are \$2 regular and \$1 for youth age 18 and under/disabled/seniors for most routes. Rates for express routes (43, 44, 45, 230, 231, 232) are \$3 regular and \$1.50 for youth age 18 and under/disabled/seniors.

Daily passes — good on both Yolobus and Sacramento Regional Transit buses and light rail — are \$6 regular, \$3 for youth age 18 and under/disabled/seniors.

Yolobus Special Paratransit Service costs \$3 local, \$4 intercity and \$5 to limited destinations beyond the normal Yolobus service area for medical trips.

Volunteer opportunities available with Yolo Basin Foundation

Yolo Basin Foundation, a nonprofit wildlife and wetlands education organization, invites potential new volunteers to train as docents for the popular Discover the Flyway school program at the Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area.

Anyone with a passion for conservation, a desire to learn more about the local wetlands and an enthusiasm for sharing this with kindergarten

through 12th-grade students can sign up for the series of four training sessions. The training is free to all participants. Space is limited, so reservations are required in advance.

Prospective Discover the Flyway docents must be able to volunteer on weekdays. The program runs Tuesday through Friday, from 8 to about 11:30 a.m., throughout the school year.

Training begins on

Monday, Jan. 10, from 9 a.m. to noon, at the Department of Fish and Game Yolo Bypass Wildlife Area Headquarters in South Davis, 45211 County Road 32B (Chiles Road).

Subsequent sessions focus on learning the details of some of the Discover the Flyway activity stations where docents teach students visiting the demonstration wetlands. All sessions run from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Attendance at the Jan. 10 session is required, as well as at least two of the hands-on training sessions (choices of dates will be discussed at the Jan. 10 session).

To RSVP, or for more details, contact Ann Burris, education coordinator at the Yolo Basin Foundation, at 758-1018 or aburris@yolobasin.org.

For more about Yolo Basin Foundation visit, www.yolobasin.org.

DECADE

Continued from page B-3

an 11-0 record, were league champs and Northern Section champs. Winters lost its last game of the season on a quest to the state tournament to St. Mary's of Albany in the Nor Cal Finals.

In a close second is the 2003 baseball

team coached by Jeff Ingles. The tiebreaker here was the fact that it had been 25 years since the basketball team had even won a league championship, let alone a section title. Although in the 2003 season Ingles' team had a win-loss record of 25-3, it was the No. 1 team in the state in small schools with Ingles being named the Small School State Coach of the Year. It was also in the streak of four straight section titles for the Warriors. So, I went with the bigger story.

Read the Express

HELLINGER

Continued from page B-3

"It was very exciting," Hellinger said. "The competition was tough all season especially in the finals."

Hellinger is just a freshman and could wrestle at Sac City one

more season but undoubtedly will have offers to go elsewhere.

"I don't know what I am going to do next year," Hellinger said. "Right now I am just enjoying the success we had this season. I do have some options but I haven't made any decisions yet."

When asked how he felt about his son's

accomplishments, Jesse Hellinger Sr. proudly said, "We, as parents, just hope our child finds the passion that sports brings to continue after high school. Jesse has that passion and drive, and now has become a College All American and State Champion Wrestler. I'm so proud of him."

Happy New Year
from the Winters Express

Features

The trickle down of postnasal drip

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: I have the worst case of postnasal drip, and it's driving me crazy. I have a never-ending "ahem, ahem, ahem" throat-clearing. Phlegm is constantly in the back of my throat. Sometimes I clear my throat a thousand times a day. Two-thirds of my garbage is used tissues. What can be done? — J.B.

ANSWER: I apologize for condensing your letter. I got the idea, and I believe readers will too. Three or four conditions account for most postnasal dripping. One is allergies. You've seen an allergist, and the only allergic reaction you demonstrated was to dust mites. Can you leave your home for a week or so—visit a relative? If dust mites are the cause, your symptoms should subside in a new environment.

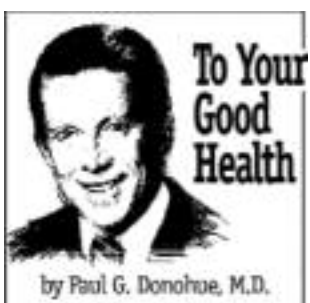
Vasomotor rhinitis is second on the list of drip causes. It's a more-or-less permanent dilation of blood vessels in the nose, and those dilated vessels leak fluid. Throat-clearing is part of the picture.

Sinusitis is another important cause. An infected sinus pours out thick mucus that drips into the back of the throat. Chronic sinusitis is best left to the treatment of an ear, nose and throat doctor. Nasal polyps provoke mucus production and dripping. An ENT doctor is equipped to deal with them, should they be found.

Medicines — beta blockers, Catapres for high blood pressure, aspirin and NSAIDs — are examples of drugs that cause the nose to leak fluid down into the throat.

Let me provide some general treatments that help most of these causes. You must stop clearing your throat. Sucking on throat lozenges or frequently sipping from a cup of hot tea with some honey in it will clear mucus from your throat and stop the irritation that throat-clearing causes.

Flush your nose with a saltwater solution three times a day, one of those times being right before bedtime. You



make the solution by adding one teaspoon of salt and half a teaspoon of baking soda to a quart of boiled water. Add the ingredients when the water is still hot. When the water cools, lean over a sink and flush each nostril gently with a bulb syringe, obtainable in drugstores.

Cortisone nasal sprays — Nasarel or Rhinocort Aqua — soothe the nasal lining and reduce mucus production. If you still are afflicted after all this, do see an ear, nose and throat doctor.

DEAR DR. DONOHUE: What ramifications might happen when people share drinks, table food and ice-cream cones with their dogs? They resume eating, drinking or licking the food after their pets have "sampled" it. How healthy is this? — B.A.

ANSWER: I wouldn't think of eating food after a family member had sampled it with his or her tongue, teeth or mouth. The thought grosses me out. Every person has a slightly different bacterial population in his mouth, and we cope well only with our own bacteria.

A dog's mouth, in spite of claims to the contrary, is not cleaner than the mouth of a human. Dog bites often become infected due to the germs in their mouths. People eating food after a dog has sampled it are asking for trouble.

Dr. Donohue regrets that he is unable to answer individual letters, but he will incorporate them in his column whenever possible. Readers may write him or request an order form of available health newsletters at P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475.

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SnaX, Booze, and a Happy New Year

2010 was a banner year and I am not sorry to see it go. Goodbye, don't let the door hit ya on the way out. Oh, except the 111th Congress. Way to kick butt and take names, especially in the fourth down.

2010 was not good for my mother. Mom had to "sell" her 1963 Los Angeles home and move all her stuff to her little bungalow in Oceano. She was just settling in when the rains came — along with a blocked floodgate and malfunctions at the waste water treatment plant, which sent about 50,000 gallons of untreated poop into the backed-up water before swooshing into her house.

Imagine your own mom in three feet of black mystery water, alone, cold and far away. Nothing says Merry Christmas like black sewage.

It's all a big, stinky, displacing event. She waded out of her place in her neck brace, and two of three dogs in tow. After three days, she returned home and within eight hours checked herself into the emergency room with some weird toxic infection. Did someone say this town needs an enema?

One of the first lessons learned here is that three yappy, poorly-mannered, needy rescue dogs are really no help in an emergency.



JESSE LOREN
AND THAT'S WHAT I THINK

They also leave no time or energy to address the problems at hand. Mom can't unpack a box, let alone keep a thought in her head with three high-energy dogs barking and tripping her 72-year-old frame. It's total madness.

To alleviate her stress, I am taking her most energetic dog. It's a long-haired Houdini of a Jack Russell she calls "Broadway Joe." He can walk on his hind legs like a circus dog and bound straight up like a velociraptor. He chases cats too. We happen to like our cats relaxed and sleeping like the purring fur-folk they were meant to be. Right now, Husbie and I are plotting a dog-proof bunker and trying to have it built before Joe, aka "Sideshow Bob," arrives. In fact, we are about to finish the 10-by-6-by-6 chain link kennel, with an added chain link floor. It might be Jack Russell proof, but we aren't sure. We are going to surprise mom by sewing an orange jumpsuit for her dog and posing with it inside our "Lil Guantanamo." I'm hoping to train the dog

to stand on a cardboard box in the corner with its paws out ... Just for fun.

My eldest wants to give the dogs rapper names. She wants to rename Joe "Booze" and rename my fat Australian Shepherd "SnaX"; that way we always have SnaX and Booze at our house, and it looks like we are going to need them. What with Gitmo in our own backyard and the end of "Don't ask, don't tell" who knows what 2011 will bring.

Governor Brown returns to a broken California with under-funded schools, lost revenue and lost jobs. Truly a case of "be careful what you wish for," unless of course you are Meg Whitman, which is truly a case of "Money can't buy you love."

I am excited about 2011. It just seems like years without elections are generally friendlier years. If you hear me calling for SnaX or Booze on the streets of Winters, come on over and help me celebrate. If you have ideas of what to do with SnaX and Booze, I am all ears.

CryptoQuote

AXYDLBAAXR
in LONGFELLOW

One cipher stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three U's, X for the two O's and S for the others. As you can see, the length and formation of the words are all the same. Each letter has a code letter as shown.

I VRKM: RC RWQGU QN
WQCPM UARU. CQ WRUUPK
AQF VRKRP YU YI. IQWP
ZPQZVP LZPCI WQKP JARG.
- LQKUP QHJGKP

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Pleased to meet you



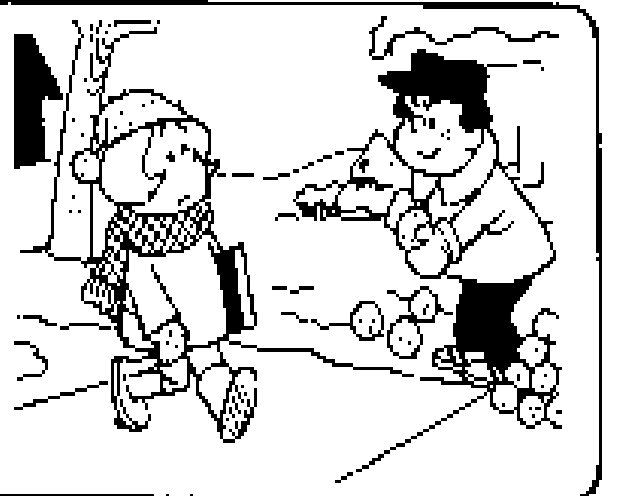
Name: Gene Ashdown
Occupation: City building official
Hobby: Bike riding and spending time with my family — my lovely wife and daughter.
What's best about living in Winters: "The small town, Mayberry feeling."
Fun fact: Used to be a labor and delivery room nurse.

King Crossword


ACROSS	1. Muss	4. Eager	12. Lawyers' org	13. Baseball team	14. Church section	15. Part of I-R-A-A; a thing	16. The clue in the crossword cipher solver	18. As an insider who inspired a jacket style	20. Snail barrel	21. "Oh woe!"	24. Audible type	26. Apped	27. Heaped	30. After	34. Birge	36. Purl	37. Bit for Fermi	38. Patron of Scotland	41. Houndstail	43. Hot pizza	44. Slight application	46. Frats Club	50. The Frisco			
DOWN	2. Scrooge's cry	5. Liar	6. T-rex	7. Shit's floor	8. Triangle	9. Sprinkler	10. Away from	11. Church	12. Absolutely	13. Unusual	14. iPhone	15. In a way	16. Slang	17. Hoax	18. Cal call	19. Fanny	20. Colorful	21. Tutu	22. Hollywood	23. Yon folks	24. Insult	25. Line	26. Rush, vied	27. Fly	28. Tow	29. (British) cows

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTING

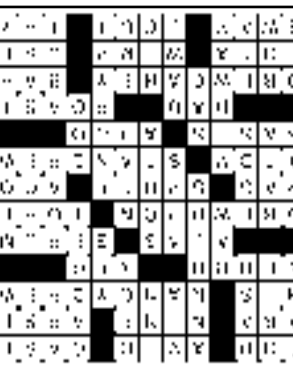


Find at least six differences in details between panels.



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Name: Gene Ashdown
Occupation: City building official
Hobby: Bike riding and spending time with my family — my lovely wife and daughter.
What's best about living in Winters: "The small town, Mayberry feeling."
Fun fact: Used to be a labor and delivery room nurse.



Solution time: 25 mins.
Answers —

Salome's Stars

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Handle a potentially awkward situation by warming up your confidence reserves and letting it radiate freely. Also, expect an old friend to contact you.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) It's not too early for the practical Bovine to begin planning possible changes for 2011. A recent contact can offer some interesting insights.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) A request for an unusual favor should be carefully checked out. Also check the motives behind it. Your generosity should be respected, not exploited.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Party time beckons, but for some Moon Children, so do some workplace challenges. Deal with the second first, then you'll be free to enjoy the fun time.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) A warm response to an earlier request might be a positive indicator of what's ahead. Meanwhile, Cupid could pay a surprise visit to single Leos looking for love.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) How you respond to a proposed change in a project could affect your situation. Be prepared to show how well you would be able to deal with it.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) The revelation of a secret could cause some changes in how to deal with a workplace matter. It very likely also validates a position you have long held.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) An attempt to get too personal could upset the very private Scorpio. Make it clear that there's a line no one crosses without your permission.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) The savvy Sagittarian might be able to keep a family disagreement from spilling over by getting everyone involved to talk things out.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Be careful not to push people too hard to meet your ideas of what the holiday weekend's preparations should be. Best to make it a cooperative, not a coerced, effort.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) An unexpected request could make you rethink a position you've had for a long time. Meanwhile, plan a family get-together for the weekend.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Someone might find that it was a fluke to try to use your sympathetic nature to get you to accept a situation you're not comfortable with. Good for you.

BORN THIS WEEK: You like challenges that are both mental and physical, and you enjoy always beating your personal best.

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