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WEEKLY NEWSPAPER OF THREE RIVERS AND SEQUOIA~KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS

Playing catch-up

TELLING IT LIKE IT IS

by Sarah Elliott

Here are a few thoughts and conclusions to some previous articles:

Re: "Recovery effort," Nov. 30, 2007— It was an emergency call about an injured animal in the river that dispatched Tulare County firefighters to the upper Kaweah River Drive area. The animal was a deer, and a state Department of Fish and Game warden ordered it to be put down because it was too injured to save.

There was some speculation as to what caused the deer's injuries and how it got into the river. Was it hit by a car? Chased by coyotes?

A Kaweah River Drive resident stopped in the office later and confirmed that it was dogs running loose that killed the deer.

Re: "The flood of December 1937," Dec. 14, 2007— Robert Blaszak of Three Rivers assisted in putting this time period of 70 years ago into perspective by dropping off a receipt dated April 9, 1937. The consumer purchased bread for 13 cents, butter for 33 cents, sugar for 25 cents, Karo for 13 cents, and some other item of which I can't make out the handwriting (yes, a handwritten receipt; no computer), but it cost 10 cents, for a grand total of 94 cents for groceries. Aaah, the good ol' days.

Re: "Running start," Jan. 11, 2008— Bill Pooley of Three Rivers emailed to say, "That was us in the picture of the kayakers on the front page of the Jan. 11 edition..."

In addition to himself, he identified the kayakers as Jeff Gymer, Sean Sangree, and Evan Lloyd. I regretted that in the caption of the photo, taken by Darlene Mackay of Three Rivers, I had not pinpointed their location.

The kayakers were on the Mid-

—see RIVER, page 4

ELECTION 2008

Measure C makes 3R campaign stop

By JOHN ELLIOTT

It was a small but enthusiastic gathering that met on Tuesday, Jan. 15, at McDowall Auditorium with the Friends of Woodlake, a nonprofit group of Woodlake High School District supporters dedicated to making one of the best high schools in the Valley even better. The grade nine-to-12 school is among the very best if Woodlake High is judged on its record of sending a greater percentage (more than 50 percent) of its students to college.

But given the recent record where a fiscally-strapped state government has significantly reduced its payments to small school districts, many of the larger expenditures that periodically go to physical plant upgrades just aren't being funded. That's why the Friends of Woodlake are on a mission to have 55 percent of the WHS District voters say Yes to Measure C on Tuesday, Feb. 5, so some of the most urgently needed improvements at the 800-student campus may be made.

It was appropriate that the Three Rivers meeting began with a rousing performance by Woodlake's Drumline. Four years ago, there was no Drumline but with the resurgence of the marching band program, more drummers were needed. Dozens more students were engaged after school to practice and perform, and some who otherwise would not have participated in any other extracurricular activity became involved.

The Drumline has become a huge source of Tiger Pride, playing at football games, pep rallies, and the annual Career Day. It's what being true to your school is all about... and the essence of what the Friends, like Superintendent Tim Hire, want to become synonymous with the school's

reputation and positive catchwords — "What do you expect? It's Woodlake!"

"We think our students deserve the very best," Hire said. "When they step out on that football field, track, tennis court, or perform on stage we want them to feel that Tiger Pride."

Hire used the new track-and-field program to illustrate how some of the bond money would be spent. Last year, a track-and-field program was resurrected at the school after a 25-year hiatus.

"We had 18 student athletes who came out to compete, and they had to train on a dirt track," Hire said. "We couldn't host meets, and when our students traveled they had to compete on an entirely different surface."

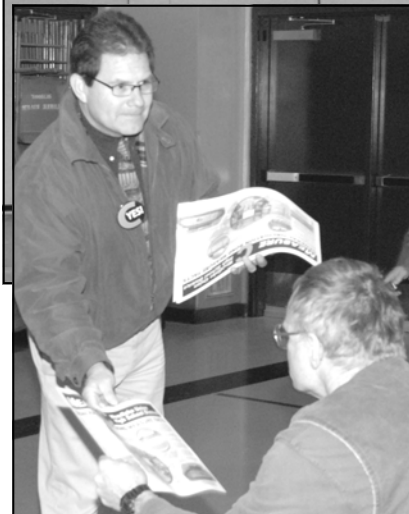
Woodlake is one of only three Valley schools that still run on dirt, Hire said, and when it rains it's a muddy mess. If Measure C is approved, all that will change as more students will compete, and many, he said, will gain the skills and the determination to be fit for life.

The tennis court upgrades are also urgently needed.

A few years ago, the tennis program was struggling, Hire said.



ABOVE: Tim Hire, superintendent of Woodlake Public Schools, explains urgent school improvements that would be completed with the passage of Measure C.



PHOTO, LEFT: Tony Casares, Woodlake High School assistant principal, passes out literature at last week's gathering at Three Rivers School that explains the specifics of the general obligation bond issue. —TYLER FRASER PHOTOS

Now Coach Mike Judson has built a championship program, where Woodlake's athletes compete for sectional titles.

"We have 30 boys and 30 girls who are playing tennis year-round and we just don't have

enough courts," Hire said. "And Coach Judson, who teaches at Woodlake's middle school, knows that to build a successful program, we have to get the younger kids playing too."

—see ELECTION, page 5

Two dead, two injured in Highway 65 crash

In the best of conditions, the two lane stretches of State Highway 65 between Porterville and Bakersfield are extremely dangerous. There always seem to be lots of truck traffic hampering visibility and one or more impatient drivers that must risk their lives and those in other vehicles by crossing the centerline to pass.

It's unknown what caused Sunday's tragic head-on collision on Highway 65 near Avenue 12 that

killed two Exeter women and injured the drivers of both vehicles. What is known is that the three Miranda family members from Exeter driving northbound in a 1999 Chrysler van had close ties with the Three Rivers community.

The dead were identified as Miroslava Miranda, 44, and Librada Miranda-Barajas, 33. The two deceased women were sisters, and Miroslava was the

mother of the driver, Rosalinda Miranda, 20. Antonio Miranda, Rosalinda's father and husband of Miroslava (who was not in the vehicle at the time of the crash), is currently the maintenance supervisor at St. Anthony Retreat where he has worked for the past 17 years.

The other two women and some other members of the fam-

—see CRASH, page 4

• KAWEAH COUNTRY OUTLOOK: three rivers • lemon cove • woodlake •

Saturday, January 19	Sunday, January 20	Monday, January 21	Tuesday, January 22	Wednesday, January 23	Thursday, January 24	Friday, January 25
Mostly sunny Hi 58 • Lo 37	Mostly sunny Hi 57 • Lo 38	Chance of showers Hi 50 • Lo 34	Chance of showers Hi 48 • Lo 31	Mostly sunny Hi 51 • Lo 31	Sunny Hi 54 • Lo 35	Sunny Hi 57 • Lo 37

WEATHER WATCH

WHY WE LIVE HERE— While the Central Valley was shrouded under a blanket of Tule fog this past week, Three Rivers remained above it all. With the exception of Wednesday, when strong winds in the East Bay area and Southern California caused the Valley fog to waft into Three Rivers, the area has been basking in beautiful sunshine with a crystal-clear view of the snowcapped Sierra.