



LIVING, 1B

Raising the half marathon bar



SPORTS 6A

Teams graded on draft results

Tulare Advance-Register

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Mom of 9/11 victim finds closure

Visalia woman reacts to news of Osama bin Laden's death

Norma Ward of Visalia has carried a weight in her heart for nearly a decade — the same weight she imagines other relatives of people killed in the 9/11 terrorist attacks feel. That changed Sunday after the Visalia woman and her husband, Ray, heard the news that al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden had been killed by U.S. forces in Pakistan. "I'm just feeling a little lighter in the heart," Ward said Monday. She said she's waited a long time for the death of the man who plotted the 9/11 attacks that killed her son, Tim Ward, and



more than 3,000 others. Tim Ward, a former Visalia resident who was living in San

Diego, was a passenger aboard a Boeing 767 hijacked Sept. 11, 2001, by al-Qaida terrorists. United Airlines Flight 175 was flown into New York City's World Trade Center, the second to hit the towers. "I'm sure all those who've lost family in the terrorist act and have lost family since the terrorist acts — the ones in the

More inside, 4A

» Not everyone believes bin Laden is dead
» Officials: No terror threats reported in state

See WARD, 3A

TULARE COUNTY'S LAW DAY

Woman receives Justice Award

BY ERIC WOOMER
ewoomer@visalia.gannett.com

Tulare County District Attorney Phil Cline snapped his fingers as he described how quickly tragedy can happen to anyone, anywhere. He then told the story of a mother's fight against drunken driving.

"In an instant, in the time it takes to snap our fingers, lives are changed. Tragedy strikes," the DA told a group of lawyers, law enforcement professionals and the public Monday during Law Day at the Tulare County Courthouse in Visalia.

He told the story of Lynne Goodwin, who was then presented the 2011 Justice Award.

Goodwin's daughter, Casey Goodwin, 20, was killed by a drunken driver in March 2003. Nine months later her son, Kyle Goodwin, 16, died in solo vehicle crash in Three Rivers.

Through tragedy, the Exeter woman created something good.

Since the deaths, Goodwin has successfully helped introduce legislation, policy and awareness about drinking and driving. She has also focused on keeping minors away from alcohol.

"It means a lot to get the award in my county. I travel throughout the state, connecting communities," Goodwin said after receiving her award. "This is home. I have so much respect for this county."

Before the awards were handed out, Judge Melinda Reed reminded people why they'd gathered Monday morning. Department 1 at the courthouse Monday was standing room only. From its inception in 1958, Law Day has been celebrated nationwide every May.

"This is not a day for lawyers," she said. "It's a day to praise the rule of law."

Liberty Bell Award

At first, Molly Morrison thought she was being served a lawsuit because lawyers she knew kept asking her questions about herself. Being inquisitive, Morrison dug

See LAW DAY, 3A

Preparing kids for court



During a session of Tulare County Kids' Court, prosecutor Matt Darby asks a child on the witness stand about the theft of a stuffed bear's hat. ERIC WOOMER

DA's office tries to simulate courtroom atmosphere

BY ERIC WOOMER
ewoomer@visalia.gannett.com

The defendant was accused of stealing a hat from Kuma the stuffed bear. Worse, she did it in front of a room full of children. When the prosecutor asked each child to get on the witness stand to testify, each pointed a small finger in the defendant's direction.

Luckily, the theft that unfolded in front of the children wasn't real. But unfortunately, each of these children has seen things no child should see.

Some have been abused, while others have watched the abuse.

Others have been through other crimes.

In hopes of preparing the children for a trial, where they will be asked to testify against a real defendant, the Tulare County District Attorney's Office developed Kids' Court.

Deputy DA Phil Esbenshade explained to the group how important it was to do one thing: Tell the truth.

"If you feel like crying, that's what you should do, because that's the truth," he told the children, as he stood on the witness stand. "The most important thing while you're up here is to tell the truth."

As parents and guardians watched from the audience, some wiping away tears while their child sat on the witness stand, it was obvious they'd voluntarily brought their children there for a reason. The light-hearted atmosphere of the monthly Kids' Court sessions won't be exactly what the children experience, but familiarizing them with a courtroom is crucial, said Jennifer Lightfoot, the program's director.

"When they really testify, they'll get up there and know it's OK," she said. "They'll know where to sit and get rid of the anxiety that they would

face had they never been in a courtroom."

Before Kids' Court, children met with prosecutors on an individual basis — often never stepping into a courtroom until the day they testified.

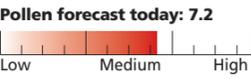
During Kids' Court sessions, names aren't used and their respective cases aren't spoken about. In many cases, the deputy DA directly involved in the case is also present.

In the example case (where Kuma's hat was stolen), the proceedings followed the action of a true case.

See COURT, 3A

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Walking to school was a way of life

After the death of my father in February 1946, we moved from Randsburg to the Tulare area. My parents, along with other family members, had purchased property about seven miles west of the city limits.

My dad and uncle had planned to open an auto repair shop on our property that faced the Corcoran highway. Those plans, of course, changed. Mother sold our few acres and moved us into town, where we lived for a few months at the Evergreen Auto Court.

This court housed mostly migrant farmworkers and was located on north



JEAN LOCKWOOD-SHANNON
Down Memory Lane

J Street. There were cabins, small trailers and tents, both with wood and dirt floors.

The tent we lived in had a dirt floor. It was probably the only one available to rent. There were bathrooms and laundry facilities on site.

Those few months must have been so difficult for

my mother, because she was pregnant with my youngest sister.

One of the things that had a significant impact on my life when we moved to the San Joaquin Valley was the love and help we received from the pastors and congregation at the Tulare Foursquare Church. The pastors of a small Foursquare Church near Randsburg notified the pastors of the Tulare Foursquare Church that a family whose husband and father had died in a tragic accident was moving to the area and would need help. They contacted mother and

See MEMORY, 3A

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