

**HAPPY
THANKSGIVING!**



Happy Thanksgiving





A Memorable Family Thanksgiving at Margaret and Bud's Home

This year's Thanksgiving Day celebration at Margaret and Bud's home in beautiful Encinitas was one for the books. The festivities kicked off promptly at 11:00 AM, with family members gathering in anticipation of a wonderful day filled with good food, great company, and plenty of laughs.

From the start, the house was buzzing with energy, as family members arrived with their kids and grandkids in tow. The sight of little ones running around and playing was heartwarming, setting the tone for a joyful and lively gathering.





One of the highlights of the day was a fun and creative contest organized by Emily Mehan for the grandchildren. The prize? The coveted turkey hat, a fun tradition that has become a new staple at our Thanksgiving celebrations. This year, the winner of the contest was Evey Mulholland, who proudly donned the turkey hat for the rest of the afternoon, much to the delight of everyone.



As the centerpiece of the meal, the turkey took center stage. Jeff and Bud worked together to carve the bird, a moment of tradition and camaraderie that everyone eagerly watched. The turkey was juicy and perfectly prepared, making it the ideal main course for the meal.

Adding to the feast, Michael took charge of the grill and cooked up two tri-tip roasts and a large slab of salmon, each piece expertly prepared and absolutely delicious. The smoky, flavorful meats were a perfect complement to the traditional dishes and added an extra touch of variety to the spread.

Speaking of the spread, the table was piled high with an array of mouthwatering side dishes, lovingly prepared by family members. There were fresh salads, creamy macaroni and cheese casserole, and the ever-popular stuffing. Carol's famous orange salad made its annual appearance, as always, a crowd favorite that disappeared quickly. Other dishes included homemade pies, buttery mashed potatoes, and a variety of other special delights that showed just how much thought and care went into the meal.



As everyone sat down to eat, the back patio was filled with laughter and conversation. The younger generation kept busy playing together, while the adults caught up on each other's lives. There was a palpable sense of gratitude in the air, and it was clear that everyone was enjoying not only the food but also the opportunity to be together.

Throughout the day, Robert was there capturing the memories on camera. He took plenty of pictures, including several family portraits of those who were present. These photos, which are included in this article, serve as lasting memories of a day filled with love and togetherness.

As the day ended, everyone agreed that it had been another fantastic Thanksgiving celebration. Thanks to Margaret and Bud's warm hospitality, the event was a resounding success, with memories that will be cherished for years to come. A heartfelt thank you to them for hosting such a wonderful occasion—another unforgettable Thanksgiving is in the books!







A NEW FAMILY MEMBER FOR BRIAN AND DREW



By Drew and Brian Riel



Brian and I had a tough year, with job changes and losing Kona after 8 years. We had talked about getting another dog maybe in a couple of years, but as Brian travels so much for work it led me to be home alone frequently, and I didn't like that. So, we talked about maybe it was time to start looking for a new dog.

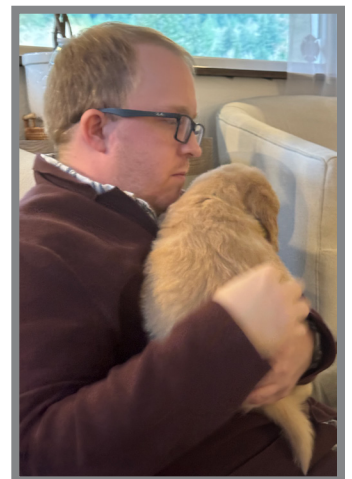
You may recall from Brian's article about our trip to Burning man we went and paid our respects to Kona and my mom at the temple. We left happy and healed and went over to another art piece not far away. On the ride over we talked about if Kona gave us a sign, we would start a search for a new dog to add to our family, while looking at the artwork I found a little quilted heart, on the heart said, "give me a home". We both looked at each other and knew this was our sign from Kona.



Well after that Brian and I started looking for Golden Retriever puppies. Goldens have always been a dream of mine to own, so I looked around and found Walter and Annabelle having a litter ready to be taken home in early December. I messaged and had not heard anything back but in October the breeder let me know we could be added to the list for one of the puppies. After the litter was born, we were informed we were in line for a baby boy! Brian and I talked about it and filled out the application and were accepted for a boy!



The weekend before Thanksgiving we got to go see the puppies and pick out which one would be ours. We picked the boy with the green collar because he was playful, but not aggressive. He also gave us a lot of attention and was the only puppy to give Drew a kiss! On December 7th Drew and I went and picked up the new puppy and brought him home and he has been such a good boy! So, without further ado, please welcome Tiggy Bartholomew Riel to the family!





2024 Riel Bowl Playoffs Commence

By Brett Sorem

Being the 13th year of the Riel Bowl Fantasy Football, I want to congratulate the 6 lucky managers who have advanced to the playoffs.

Uncle Bob Riel has successfully guided a team that was selected at random by yahoo to the first-place spot. That doesn't say much about Uncle Bob's vision or skill, more so than it does about the rest of the league, or the lack thereof. His team, Smash Burger and Fries, finished with a 9-5 record tied with 4 other teams, but due to his record in the most competitive City Slickers division and total points for, came out on top. Bob earned the top spot in the league and thus has been granted a 1st week bye in the playoffs

Big Al also somehow managed to secure a bye with a similar 9-5 record in his division, the Mesa Mavericks. At first glance his team does not seem like a fantasy football monster, so apparently the numerous years he has spent on this earth rivaling dirt, he must have acquired some fundamental know-how that propelled him to such unpredicted heights.

Jason was the last of the division winners, coming from the County Crooks division, which also happens to have the least amount of viable competition this year. Dusty and Kevin have not lived up to their normal standards, being formidable managers in other years. Their oversight could have possibly been solely responsible for Jason's playoff berth, who does tout a record of 9-5, albeit with the least number of points scored IN THE ENTIRE LEAGUE. I'll let

that sink in for a second. Okay, back at it, Jason scored the least points of any team and managed to come in first in his division. Either Jason is the smartest person out of all of us, or he needs to go spend big on a lottery ticket this year. Good on you J.













Rounding out the playoff spots are myself (Brett), Uncle Jeff, and Lyle Allen. The City Slickers division comes out on top above the rest giving birth to three playoff teams, and at the bottom of the pack, Chris Riel, also known as No RBs 1 Kupp, finishing with a not too shabby 7-7 record. He is probably the team to beat in the "Kevin" bowl.

The first of this week's championship bowl matchups are division rivals Krispy Kreme Donuts (Brett) and Buffalo Hot Wings (Jeff). Both finished the league 9-5, but Brett came out on top with a season high point total of 1700.26. Jeff does have the next highest points for total at 1636 while the rest of the pack scored below the 1600 mark. In typical fantasy football fashion, when the two highest point scoring teams face off against each other, I predict an absolute struggle to score 80 points by each team ending up in a nail biter. If fate and Karma has its way, Brett should edge out Uncle Jeff by pure popularity and good looks rated by the cousins and aunts and uncles alone, but the fantasy football gods always have an ace up their sleeve.

The second matchup of the championship bowl pits Life's a Breece (Jason) vs The Gordita Supreme's (Lyle Allen) against each other. Manager (or luck of the opponent not showing up) of the year, Jason has his work cut out against Lyle as a recent Superbowl champ, and returning Superbowl loser. As much as we all wanted Lyle to just be easy money, he has proven to be anything but that. Despite Lyle being ranked 6th against Jason's 3rd overall, I sense an upset coming Jason's way, unless he can pull off more voodoo magic and somehow get Lyle Allens team to shit the bed. Only time will tell.

For the rest of the managers, good luck in the "Kevin" bowl. There is still a prize to play for, and dignity to uphold. Best of luck to all the managers in the first week of playoffs.

Commish

Rank	Team	W-L-T	Div	PF	PA	Streak
City Slickers						
*1	 Smash Burger and Fries	9-5-0	4-1-0	1569.94	1462.54	L-1
*4	 Krispy Kreme Donuts	9-5-0	2-3-0	1700.26	1425.22	L-1
*5	 Buffalo Hot Wings	9-5-0	2-2-0	1636.74	1553.16	W-4
8	 No RBs 1 Kupp	7-7-0	2-4-0	1369.52	1568.70	W-1
County Crooks						
*3	 Life's a breece	9-5-0	4-0-0	1346.40	1258.38	L-2
10	 Western Bacon Cheeseburger	5-9-0	2-2-0	1596.88	1621.80	L-4
11	 Big Daddy	3-11-0	0-4-0	1402.26	1592.06	W-1
12	 Chubby Johnsons	3-11-0	2-2-0	1373.88	1619.60	L-2
Mesa Mavericks						
*2	 AZ Devils	9-5-0	4-1-0	1391.76	1377.28	W-1
*6	 The Gordita Supreme's	8-6-0	2-3-0	1598.74	1434.20	W-2
7	 Nick's Chubb	7-7-0	4-1-0	1431.66	1476.94	W-3
9	 Ford vs. Flowari	6-8-0	0-5-0	1504.82	1532.98	L-1



For Mother's Day, Kristy and Annie took me to Julian to make a fun cowboy hat with them. They booked a special shop (that sells and makes hats) for two hours to be closed for us to have a girl-bonding date. They brought trays of food and beverages to drink and the three of us celebrated while the boys (Seamus and Kevin) took care of the kids.



Kristy and Annie were making their hats for a planned trip to Vegas for a country western concert. I used their thinking and decided to plan a trip to Nashville so that I had a special place to wear my hat as well. And that's how the planning began! I asked our friends Kym and Doug if they were interested in the trip as well and of course they said yes! Doug's birthday is in October, so we decided this was a perfect way to celebrate him turning 63!



We found an apartment near downtown, close enough to walk but far away enough from the noise and crazy traffic. We spent our first day tasting the famous Barbeque they talk about and enjoyed a night on the town where music is found in every bar with NO COVER CHARGES! We loved sitting, listening, and dancing the night away with comfortable music played everywhere we went. We even danced in the streets as some bars had their windows open and it was fun to gather outside and still be able to enjoy the fun.

Our second day was spent walking about ten miles around the town. It was interesting to find the bars in full country music swing even as early at 10:00 a.m. We noticed musicians playing in an empty bar, but as the day progressed, they eventually were filled with patrons. We went into the Country Music Hall of Fame in Nashville and enjoyed a historic trip through the ages, highlighting the pioneer artists of country music over time. We saw cars driven by stars, clothing worn, and other concert memorabilia.

After that, we had lunch and then decided we needed to walk to the Parthenon in Centennial Park because of our trip to Greece next summer as we will see the original Parthenon there. This building was a full-scale replica of the one in Greece and was built in 1897.

However, on the way to the park, we walked by a fancy hotel (the Graduate) just off the path we were following and noticed a big IDOL sign placed in front of the hotel, which caught our attention. As we walked down the sidewalk, we saw people coming out of the hotel with their Golden Tickets, and then watched them being videotaped with their families sharing the excitement of being selected to be on the show. We also saw a few people leaving sadly without a ticket. The lobby was easy to see as well, as it was filled with many hopeful musicians waiting their turn. It was cool to be part of the show, in this small way, and we look forward to watching it next spring.





Our third day was a traveling day because we decided to make the drive to Memphis to see Graceland. That was also a fun surprise in many ways. Graceland (Elvis Presley's home) is interesting because the actual house reminds you of growing up in the 70's in terms of the styles displayed throughout the house. The kitchen had an avocado green sink which I'm sure my siblings will remember mom having when she redid their kitchen in Mission Hills.



The grounds were impressive with a very dated pool (very small); an indoor racquetball court; horse stables and a field for horses to graze through; and a burial place for Elvis and his family members. Across the street was where you got to see a ton of Elvis memorabilia which included many cars (lots of Cadillacs); motorcycles; fancy golf carts; clothing; awards; and many other items on display. They also had his private jets on display and shops of course if you wanted to add to your collection of Elvis wear.





We then drove downtown to the famous Beale Street which is known to be the home of the blues and where Elvis spent a lot of time. We ate lunch at B. B. Kings bar and got treated to a band playing the blues for us. We wanted to visit the Civil Rights Museum but ran out of time, so we jumped over to the famous Peabody Hotel to watch the duck's march.



The Peabody Hotel in Memphis is famous for its Marching Ducks, a unique tradition that has been a part of the hotel's charm since the 1930s. The tradition started in 1933 when the hotel's general manager, a man named Frank Schutt, and a friend went on a hunting trip. After the trip, they returned to the hotel and, as a prank, released live ducks into the hotel's ornate lobby fountain. The idea caught on, and the ducks became a beloved attraction. Now, every day at 11 a.m. and 5 p.m., a group of ducks marching from their rooftop home, through the elevator, down a red carpet, through the lobby, and into the fountain, where they swim and live until the next march.



The "Duckmaster" leads the march and told us that they change the ducks every three months, so they don't become too domesticated. The Peabody ducks have their own suite on the roof, complete with a special duck palace, and the Duckmaster is responsible for their care and daily procession.



Our last full day was used for checking out the mansions in the area where local stars live and then a stop at a distillery for a tour and a little whiskey tasting. The tour began with a story about the founding of Green Brier Distillery in the 1800s by Charles Nelson. However, due to Prohibition and other factors, the distillery shut down in the early 1900s, and the brand faded into obscurity.

Fast forward to the 2000s, when Charles Nelson's great-great-grandsons revived the distillery and began producing whiskey once again. The tour walks you through the story of their family's heritage and the rediscovery of the Green Brier brand. We then got to learn all about the whiskey-making process and ended with a tasting experience of four different shots of whiskey (I tried them but gave most of my shots to Bob to finish off). We had another day of walking around the town and ended our day at another brewery/distillery to have something to eat.





That night was a highlight as we had ordered tickets for the Grand Ole Opry where we saw the Gatlin Brothers (who hosted the evening); with guest star Ruby Lee (From "The Voice" who was a runner up) and Linda Davis. The headliner was Trace Adkins who did a great job ending our night with his deep-rich western voice.



Our last morning was also fun as we ventured to 12th South Street which is a gentrified neighborhood filled with cute shops and wonderful eateries. We had a great breakfast, did some power shopping, and then returned to the airport to fly back home.



FAMILY SHORTS



Michelle Lane is suffering from a joint/Bone fusion issue in her left foot and has undergone surgery to help alleviate the problem. For those that were at the Thanksgiving party at Margaret's you would have noticed her moving around in her leg scooter. Hopefully the recovery time will not last too long and soon Michelle will be back on both feet again!



Alan Sorem is on the move again and recently visited Bryce, Bridget, Kieran and Ronan in New York city. From the look of it, the weather may have been a little chilly, but how could you not get warm looking at all the happy faces? Also, we are sure that the hot chocolate didn't hurt either! That was just hot chocolate right Alan?????

