

## WHAT ELSE?

The **'It's Olney Math'** prize, a \$20. Market shopping spree is still up for grabs.

By Greg Coxson

Many farmers market vendors use weights tied to tent posts to keep their tents from blowing away in windy weather. The weights are often fabricated out of PVC pipe and filled with sand. One Sunday at the market, Noah (who often helps sell soup, and likes to wear socks with his sandals) was walking around talking with other vendors. Then he noticed a pile of weights next to the booth selling delicious olive oils. He asked the olive-oil seller, "Are all of these yours?!" The olive oil vendor replied, "I wish! These weights were made by Michael Coxson, and his weights are made strong and last long. Some are mine, but some belong to three other vendors. The empanada vendor has a smaller number than I do, the jewelry vendor has an even smaller number of them, and the cheese vendor has the least of all."

Noah asked, "how many weights are there altogether?" The vendor replied, "I will put it this way: there are fewer than 18 weights, and the product of the numbers belonging to the four of us happens to be the number on my license plate over there." Noah glanced at the license plate, then took out his cell phone and started using his calculator app. A moment later, he looked up and asked, "Does the cheese vendor have more than one weight?" As soon as the olive oil vendor answered, Noah smiled and correctly stated the number of weights belonging to each vendor. Can you divine the answer he gave?