

# The Ranchos Independent



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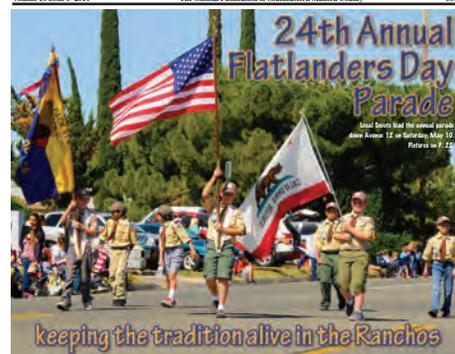


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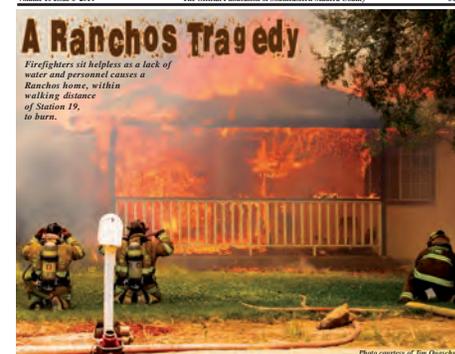
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Taking a look back  
at the top stories  
in the Ranchos  
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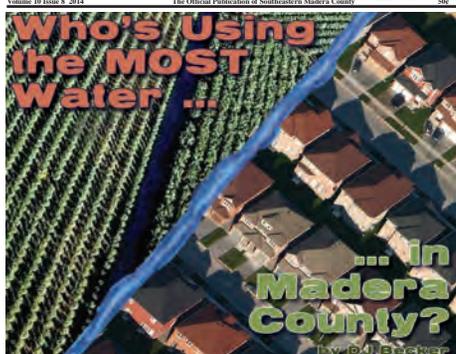
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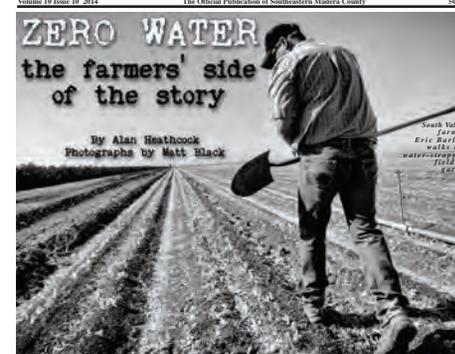
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## Champs Again as Hawks Threeppeat



Photo by Tyler Takeda

By Randy Bailey

The Liberty High Hawks Varsity football team re-wrote the record books Friday, Dec. 5 at Hawks stadium when they competed in and won their third Valley Championship in a row to cap off a perfect, undefeated season.

After winning the Central Section Division V Championship in 2012 and then again in 2013, the Hawks were moved up a division to the tougher Division IV and on a cold December night brought out their

“A” game to defeat the number 2 seeded Central Valley Christian from Visalia, 24-6.

The victory gave the Hawks a season record of 14 victories and no losses. But this season it was not just the victories that told opponents who the Hawks were, it was the sheer numbers that the team put on the board that snapped heads back. The hawks amassed 639 points this season and only allowed their opponents 154. That means the Hawks scored four points for every one their opponents scored. We’re talking games like Mendota, 55-7, and Sierra,

55-0. Firebaugh was 70-6 and the ultimate crusher was Yosemite, 83-7.

Quarterback Zach Richey threw for over 1,100 yards while running back Wade Wallace ran for 1,211 yards and Richie Brandt ran just shy of 900. Logan Pierce was the go-to man on passes with 296 yards, followed by Howe, Wallace and Castenada, all right around 175 yards.

On defense both CJ Cambra and Hunter Gray recorded over 90 tackles each, with Gray short of 100 by one tackle. Richie Brandt was the sack king with 56.

James Hernandez was a kicking machine, kicking off the ball 101 times for 5,595 yards. He also hit 72 of 78 extra point attempts and four out of 10 field goals, making him the third highest scorer on the team after Wallace and Brandt.

The only scary thing about next year is that of the 51 players on this year’s squad, 29 are seniors. But insiders are not too worried. The Junior Varsity this year went 10-0 and the Ranchos Youth Football players coming in from the 8th grade went on to a playoff game as well.

Congratulations, boys. You earned it.

## 2014 • Top Ranchos Stories

from the pages of the Ranchos Independent

**1 Dublin Well/February • Up** until the story about the County’s well it was drilling on Dublin in the northeast corner of the Madera Ranchos we *thought* we had a water problem; when the Dublin story came out we *knew* we had a problem. The Ranchos’ inadequate water system, non-existent sewer system, County and oversight committee bungles ... Dublin was the flashpoint.

**2 New Water Source/September • This** story is incredible because of what a non-story it continues to be. With all the crying about Ranchos water, here comes a reputable entity representing a water source that can be made available to the Ranchos equalling 10 times the community needs; the details just need to be worked out. To date, I have gotten one comment on the story. Amazing.

**3 Who Uses the Most Water?/August • Water** was the dominant theme in 2014. Six of 12 cover stories were about water. In this issue we actually broke down where the water was going and who the heavy users were. Much to the discomfort of many, the finger pointed to agriculture and the excessive amounts of water necessary for producing food -- many times more than used by homes. Eye opening.

**4 Zero Water -- The Farmers’ Side/October • An** absolutely exceptional article written by nationally acclaimed writer Alan Heathcock. This piece told the story from the farmers’ perspective and how that misplaced use of California water by environmentalists and politicians was systematically driving farmers out of business and returning the San Joaquin Valley to a pristine ... desert. If you read no other stories I strongly recommend this one.

**5 Vulcan - Austin Quarry/July • As** if we didn’t have enough on our plates with our water situation, in July we learned that everything appeared full steam ahead for a proposed rock quarry at Highway 145 and Highway 41 by Vulcan Materials, the company that runs the quarry on the Fresno side of the San Joaquin River. Ears were perked up.

Please see **TOP** on P. 15

## Does the Madera Ranchos Need Another Rock Quarry?

By Karen Petryna

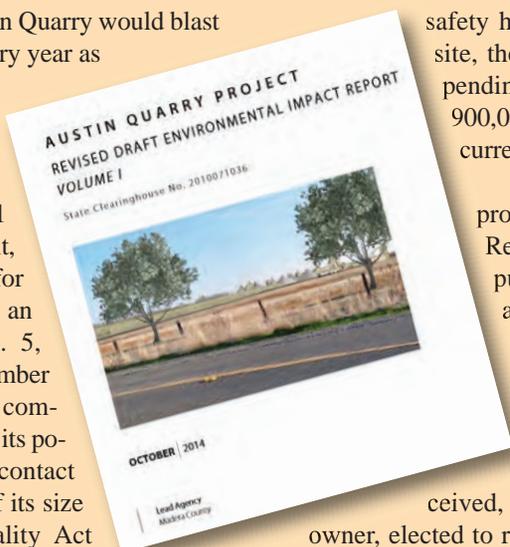
Back in July, the Ranchos Independent reported on a possible new granite quarry, to be called the Austin Quarry, which was then at the stage of having its Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report (RDEIR) prepared. Envisioned to be located at the southeast corner of Highways 145 and 41, the Austin Quarry would blast and truck out 2.5 million tons of rock every year as soon as it reached full operation. If the Project goes ahead, at the end of 100 years it will have created a 258-acre hole 400 feet deep.

Today, thanks to incoming District 1 Supervisor Brett Frazier, who requested it, the Project’s RDEIR, or Impact Report for short, released in October, is undergoing an extended comment period, ending Jan. 5, 2015. During the comment period any member of the public may submit questions or comments to the County about the Quarry and its potential impacts to its surroundings (see contact information at end of article). Because of its size and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Austin Quarry Project must undergo a series of evaluations before it can go ahead.

### Large Projects Frequently Trigger Lawsuits

Lawsuits were recently waged against a similar project, the Madera Ranch Quarry, by an organization called the Madera Oversight Coalition (MOC), headed by Bruce Gray. Despite approval of that project’s report of impacts by the Madera County’s Planning Department and Board of Supervisors, Gray and his neighbors were not satisfied the Madera Quarry, now located just a few miles north of the proposed Austin Quarry on Road 209,

was being held accountable for the impacts its operations might cause to its surroundings including reducing the availability of groundwater. After its owners agreed to a program to monitor groundwater impacts and completely mitigate them, MOC ended legal proceedings to oppose the Madera Quarry. Subsequently, after MOC documented and reported excessive safety hazards associated with trucking rock off site, the County shut the Madera Quarry down, pending road improvements. Permitted to mine 900,000 tons of aggregate a year for 50 years, it currently remains shut down.



Now undergoing part of the CEQA process, the Austin Quarry Project’s Impact Report will be labeled Final when all of the public questions and comments have been addressed and incorporated. The circulating version of the Impact Report is also labeled Revised because it is the second draft version, which was originally distributed in August of 2012. At that time, after public questions and comments were received, Vulcan Materials Company, the Project owner, elected to rescind and revise the draft impact report. Therefore no responses to the public comments were ever made.

The Project’s new Impact Report, which is about 3,000 pages long, was prepared at Vulcan’s expense. The old and new draft reports together cost Vulcan well over half a million dollars, and that figure does not include what Vulcan paid experts to evaluate the potential impacts of the Project. According to the County, potentially significant impacts from the Project include, in alphabetical order, aesthetics (natural beauty), air quality, biological and

Please see **QUARRY** on P. 14

# Ranchos Resident Honored by Madera Supervisors

By Christi McKinney

Madera Ranchos resident Merle Anderson, 93, was honored by the Madera County Board of Supervisors with a proclamation for his many years of service to the community. Supervisor Rick Farinelli read the proclamation commending Anderson,

a 28-year resident of Madera for his work on the Madera Ranchos Water Oversight Committee, the Madera Ranchos Library Committee, the Madera County Election Board, the Fresno-Madera County Agency for the Aging and the Madera County Courthouse Park Committee. Anderson has also been active in many

community organizations including the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, the Lions Club, the Madera Masonic Lodge, the Madera Ranchos Senior Center and the Madera Ranchos Flatlanders Parade Committee.



Merle Anderson, left, and his son Roger try out Merle's new bench at Courthouse Park

Please see **MERLE** on P. 16

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Letters

Dear Editor:

My name is Barbara Menton. I read your powerful article on the water situation. I am not online so I would not have caught the "Zero" article [Zero Water: The Farmers' Side of the Story - Oct. 2014]. It made me sad, mad and ashamed of how politics can be manipulated. Is it all right with you for me to photocopy the whole article and send it to Governor Brown?

Barbara Menton  
Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

We need this quarry [Vulcan Material's Austin Quarry planned for Highway 145 and Highway 41] to keep expenses down on the cost of delivering rock, sand and gravel from out of town quarries. Our roads, houses, schools and shopping centers come from rock quarries. Madera Oversight Coalition sounds like environmentalists to me, talking about smog coming from trucks and tractors and ruining our water and air. Everybody that came to the meeting came by smog-creating cars because I did not see any horses or bicycles in the parking lot. They talk about trucks tearing up the roads but those trucks pay a lot of taxes to use those roads. Without trucks, tractors and rock quarries we would be driving on dirt roads.

Rock quarries have been around Fresno for years and have not caused any problems that I know of. They create a place for wildlife to live. My thought is that Vulcan does not have to dig 400 feet down; they can stay above the water table and the hole they dig will create a ponding basin or recharge system.

Now, to go to our water supply, I have lived here for years and our water table has done nothing but go down. Sooner or later we will have to get our water from the lake or river and that is why we need Temperance Flat Dam instead of high-speed rail.

Did you ever try drinking a bullet train?

Lee Ohannesian  
Madera Ranchos

P.S. - Nobody from Vulcan Materials was at this meeting to defend themselves, to tell how their operation works, how they recycle water to wash the rock and sand or how they will slope banks and level it out when they close down their operation. L.O.

Dear Editor:

At the Madera Ranchos MD-10A final Oversight Committee meeting held at the Middle School on Nov. 19, 2014, Manuel Nevarez announced to the attending rate payers of MD-10A that he did not

have to be involved in choosing the new water committee members from the applicants. He was leaving and Brett Frazier could go over these applications and choose the members of the new committee for MD-10A under the Brown Act.

After Dec. 1, 2014 Manuel Nevarez attempted to install the seven members that he had tried to install on Oct. 24, 2014 when he was challenged at the Board of Supervisors' meeting resulting in these applications and selection of a new committee to represent the rate payers of MD-10A. As sitting Supervisor for District One he did install four of the former members making the majority of the seven members. The old oversight committee, who self-appointed themselves during Frank Bigelow's time as Supervisor of District One, had one written job description and that was to inform and educate the 980 rate payers of MD-10A. Since the vast majority of those 980 rate payers had no knowledge of the existence of this oversight committee, let alone the deals they were approving on behalf of MD-10A rate payers, I would say that the old committee failed miserably in their only written job description. Why install the same people for a NEW committee that is allegedly to represent these 980 rate payers of MD-10A? Who is Manuel Nevarez representing by these actions?

For the last 11 months Manuel Nevarez has misrepresented items on the Dublin Drive Well Project while spending MD-10A rate payers' fees on what now is reported to be a \$2.5 million municipal well for MD-10A. This well is outside of the service area for MD-10A. Future litigation that MD-10A rate payers are obligated to pay to these disadvantaged private well owners in the affected area of the Dublin Drive Well area are yet to be acknowledged by Madera County employees.

Rate payers of MD-10A: Pay attention to how your money is being spent by the Madera County Board of Supervisors acting as Board of Directors for MD-10A expenditures and accounting. \$2.5 million is a ridiculous amount for you to pay for one municipal well, no storage tanks and future litigation liability.

How does it feel to be a source of income for these people?

Chuck La Rue  
Madera Ranchos

Dear Editor:

Ranchos Residents may have seen in November flyers with applications from Madera County for those residents who were interested in becoming a part of the new MD-10A Water System Committee (WSC) placed in the Ranchos in various places by a group of MD-10A members who wanted to get the word out regarding the applications. These flyers explained why the appli-

Please see **LETTERS** on P. 7

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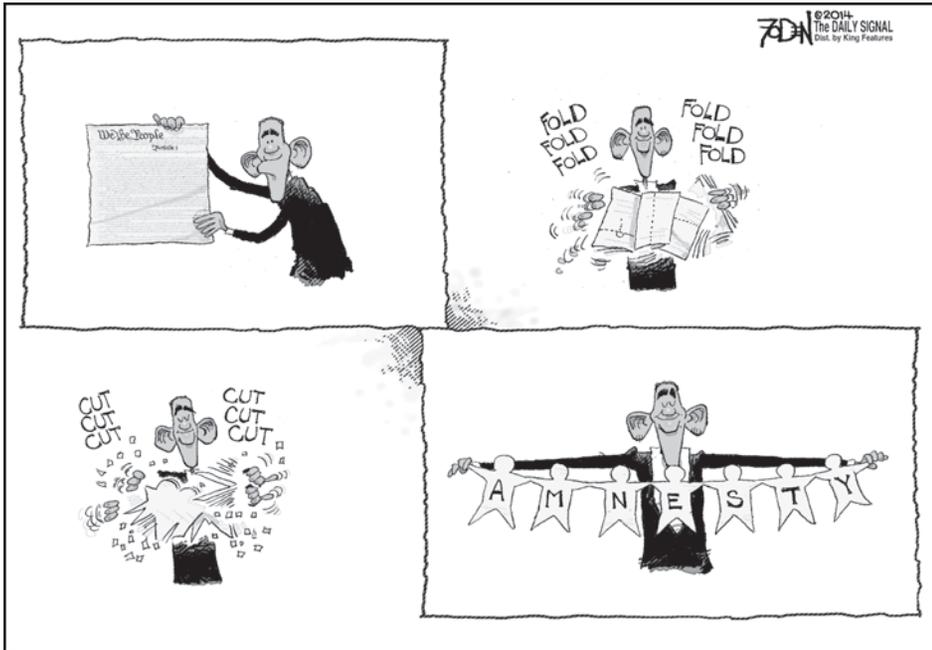
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Editorial

# Ten Years ... Just Like That

By Randy Bailey

Well, here's a message you've seen annually from me every December: It's our anniversary. This year we're 10 years old.

It was in December of 2004 that I acquired the Ranchos Independent. You've all heard the story: A partner and I bought it from Bill Bell, who was dying from cancer. By St. Patrick's Day of 2005 Bill was gone, but the Ranchos still had a newspaper. A few years later the partner was gone (she moved to Washington state), but the Ranchos still had a newspaper. Over the last 10 years a lot of things have happened, but through it all the Ranchos still has a newspaper.

Now, to both of my liberal readers out there, I know it's been about 10 years too many. Thankfully, I hear often enough from our *other* readers about how much *they* love "our little paper," and that keeps me motivated.

After 10 years there are still a few things that I just haven't been able to shake. On a semi-regular basis I get people inquiring about a story they saw in the "Ranchos News." Or I get press releases sent to the "Ranchos News." I wasn't in a particularly good mood one day when I received an email wondering if they could get an article into the "Ranchos News." I responded that I assumed so ... if the "Ranchos News" was anything like the Ranchos Independent,

they'd probably welcome a breaking news story or announcement of interest to the people of the Ranchos. But since I had never heard of the "Ranchos News" or where it was published or who owned it, I couldn't really say. I ended by saying I hoped to see the "Ranchos News" someday; it *sounded* like a great publication.

The other thing: Unsigned letters never see the light of day. I have explained that if you want your name withheld I will honor that as long as I can verify it's you that's sending it. I actually talked to a nice lady on the phone once who wanted to send a letter to the editor and we talked a bit about the subject matter. I then explained that it had to be signed and she said she fully understood. A few days later a letter arrived on the EXACT subject she and I had talked about, hitting all of the points she was making to me on the phone that day. I read it then looked at the bottom and it was indeed signed - by Anne O. Nemous. Very funny. Funniest piece of trash I ever threw away. Ten years later and they still don't catch on.

Oh well.

I really considered changing up the paper after 10 years. I radically changed it when I took over 10 years ago. Went from a "broadsheet" (like the Fresno Bee or Madera Tribune) to a "tab" configuration that you're reading right now - more compact, easier to handle and read. I went completely digital with my files for the printer, which made the paper immeasurably easier to read and made pictures brighter and clearer. I added color, comics and columnists, all mixed in with the latest news in the Ranchos, because my focus all these years has been the Ranchos. For purposes of the Ranchos Independent, I could care less what's going on in Fresno or Clovis or Madera unless it has a direct impact on the Ranchos. That hasn't changed.

I told a friend about thinking about changing up the layout of the paper and he said, "If it ain't broke, why fix it?"

I agree.

There are some changes on the horizon for the Ranchos and I'm not really sure how they're going to play out, but through it all I know one thing: The Ranchos will still have a newspaper.

Thanks for 10 years. Let's get to work on the next 10.

# The Ranchos Independent

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**Randy Bailey.....Publisher/Editor**

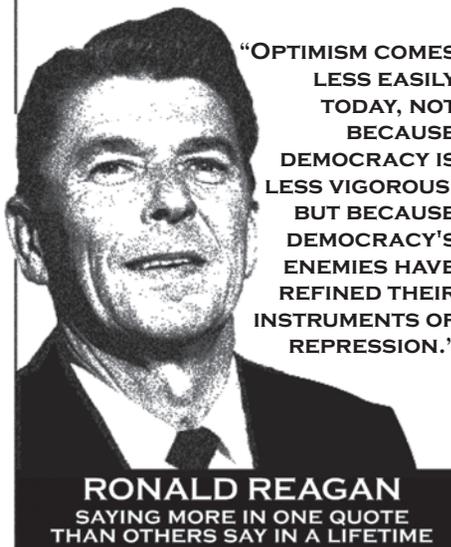
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## LETTERS cont. from P. 4

cation process was instituted by the county, initially pushed mostly in part by one very concerned MD-10A rate payer.

The applications were created by the county after a group of concerned MD-10A rate payers attended a Board of Supervisors' (BOS) meeting after reading on the BOS agenda for that week that they planned to officially appoint the existing self-appointed water committee. This appointment was spearheaded by District One's appointed Supervisor, Manual Nevarez without any input from members of MD-10A.

That appointment was then deferred, which was also a request by those concerned citizens to allow an application process that included members of MD-10A who wanted to become involved, and to also allow the District 1 Supervisor Elect Brett Frazier, along with Supervisor Nevarez, to have input in the selection process. Initially that selection of a new committee had fallen only to Supervisor Nevarez, by his own request.

Supervisor Nevarez had made it very clear to anyone who would listen that he favored installing all members of the old water committee, because he thought they were worthy of representing MD-10A rate payers. He refused to listen to comments when brought to his attention, echoed by the vast majority of the community. Comments such as: "Who are these people?"; "Who appointed them to represent us?"; "Why don't we know who they are?"; "How long have they had meetings with the county, without most of us knowing anything of these meetings?"; "We need a new committee to represent us."; "Why wasn't information regarding these meetings sent to us?"

After all of the applications were submitted by the deadline of Nov. 25, somehow there was a thought that possibly there would be an all-new committee; certainly a thought that the applications would be carefully screened and new applicants would be chosen and given the opportunity to represent MD-10A.

But much to the chagrin of these concerned citizens of MD-10A – who had pushed so hard for a new committee – in the end four members of the

old water committee had been chosen and only three of the new applicants. A request was sent to the county to view the applications of the individuals who had applied. What was found was that some applicants with far more qualifications to become a member of the new WSC were not even considered by the selectors. And the selection of the four individuals from the old self-appointed water committee was clearly an act with bias intent, carried out with an agenda that if Supervisor Nevarez didn't like you, you would not be chosen regardless of your qualifications. The handling of these applications also made a mockery of the application process.

Once again, a request has been made to the county to put in place an all new committee, to take on the issues that have plagued MD-10A for a very long time. This so-called water committee has failed in the past to disseminate any type of information to the MD-10A community members gleaned from county officials or staff during these meetings, both public and private. [An all-new committee] that is not afraid to speak up when hard issues arise and question Madera County on its decision making, as regards MD-10A; something that has not been achieved in the past. One that will work for the whole betterment of MD-10A.

Recently it has also been requested that if this placement of a new committee can't be achieved with fairness and equity by Madera County, then it should be put to a vote by MD-10A rate payers to decide who they would like on a new WSC to represent them. This last request was made in October at a BOS meeting, but obviously fell on deaf ears.

I hope that we are not getting comfortable with this new rainfall and start to forget where we were in Stage 4 Water Conservation as we await the Dublin Well to go online in April, 2015 as promised by the county. Or that we are plagued with a sewer system that threatens the very water that we drink. We need to stay focused on the activities of Madera County as they relate to our livelihoods – not just the MD-10A community, but the entire Ranchos Community as a whole.

Linda Bresee  
Madera Ranchos

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## Holiday Snacking

Thanksgiving is over for another year, all the leftovers are gone and it is time to think about Christmas and New Year's. Will it be beef, ham, turkey or pork? I know a family that doesn't fix a big dinner on Christmas. After all the gifts are unwrapped, they fix a big breakfast and spend the afternoon visiting with family and friends that can't get out. Then it is sandwiches and snacks in the afternoon.

Someone was in the office the other day and said he was going to visit a family that doesn't cook dinner on Christmas and wanted to take a couple of snack food dishes with him. So I put on my thinking cap and came up with a few that I know and like. Be sure to take simple things, you don't have to be elaborate. I can remember as a kid my grandmother always having a bowl of sugared walnuts on the table. This is her recipe

### Sugared Walnuts

- 1 C sugar
- 7 T milk

Boil 4 minutes and pour over 2 or 3 cups of walnuts. Pour onto a pan that has been covered with wax paper. Let cool and break into bite size pieces.

Or my mom would always have a bowl of almonds. You can do these two different ways, either with the hulls on or off the almonds. If you have kids, they can help you take the hulls off the almonds, however you will probably have almonds all over the kitchen as I remember we did. Put whatever amount of almonds you are going to toast in boiling water for just a minute or two and this will loosen the hulls. Put them in cool water so they are easy to handle. With a gentle push the hull should come right off, or if the kids are "helping" they can squirt the almond meat out of the hull. Let the almonds dry completely.

In a frying pan, heat enough oil to cover the bottom of the pan. Pour in the dried almonds and stirring until they are browned and crisp. With a slotted spoon, remove almonds from pan onto paper towel lined baking sheet and sprinkle with salt while they are still hot.

One of my all-time favorites is the Seven Layer dip. I don't know why they call it seven layers because



it is more than seven. When I make it, I usually use a large cookie sheet, but you can use any flat plate or platter or cookie sheet, depending on the amount you want to make. The quantities in parentheses are the amount I use – you use whatever you need.

### Seven Layer Dip

- Refried Beans (2 or 3 cans)
- Sour cream (small container)
- Guacamole (small container)
- Chopped Ortega chilies – Drained. (2 small cans)
- Lettuce – shredded (enough to cover)
- Tomatoes – Chopped – (2 or 3, depending on size)
- Green Onions – Chopped – (1 or 2 onions) Optional
- Sliced Olives (1 or 2 of the little cans)
- Cheese – Shredded – Cheddar, Mexican mix, or even pepper jack.

On your serving plate layer the beans, top with the sour cream, guacamole, sprinkle on the chilies, and then cover the layers with the lettuce. Sprinkle on the tomatoes, green onions, olives and the cheese. Serve with tortilla chips.

My niece Rachael serves a dip that is yummy and usually goes fast.

### Rachael's Spinach Dip

- 1 Box (10 oz.) frozen chopped spinach, cooked, cooled and squeezed dry.
- 1 container (16 oz.) Sour Cream
- 1 C mayonnaise
- 1 pkg. Knorr vegetable mix
- 2 or 3 ribs of celery, chopped
- 2 or 3 green onions chopped (optional)
- 1 loaf French bread

Combine all ingredients except bread and chill for at least 2 hours. Cut the top off the bread and hollow out, saving the cut out bread to use for dipping. When ready to serve, put chilled dip in hollowed bread loaf and serve with the reserved bread that has been cut into bite size pieces. When the dip is gone, cut up the "bowl" and eat it.

How about a tray of pinwheels – easy to make, and delicious

Please see **RECIPE** on P. 15

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**Pricey vs. Priceless Gifts**

We need to spend a little more time thinking critically about what we receive for Christmas. Yes, I said receive. That may sound selfish, but hear me

out. What criteria do you use to judge the gifts you receive. "Judge" may sound a little harsh, but certainly there are some gifts that warm our hearts more than others. Thinking about what's meaningful to us on the receiving end can drive our giving to more meaningful gifts for others.

Is it the amount of money someone else spent or the number of gifts we receive or how much space we're going to need to store it? Maybe, if it's a BMW, but in general that's not the criteria that creates cheerful receivers.

Of course there are times when a shirt or sweater, toy or trinket can be meaningful too, but since you're reading this organizing article, I'm thinking you're open to some meaningful, clutter-free and maybe less expensive gift ideas this Christmas.

**Food.** It's obviously clutter-free since it's

consumable, but I think it has value beyond in that eating is often an activity we share with our loved ones. Cookie mix, hot cocoa mix, jam, canned goods, soup mix, muffin mix —there's an endless list of recipes available for gifts in a jar (search online – "gifts in a jar"). For dry goods consider using a re-sealable bag so there's no jar or mug to deal with when it's gone. If you're not that crafty, purchase some local nuts and dried fruit, specialty coffee or tea, or anything covered in dark chocolate. The gift will be enjoyed by the recipient and most likely shared.

We all enjoy a night off from cooking. Create a gift certificate with three menu choices and dates for your recipient to choose from and then bring dinner over on the agreed date (in disposable containers). If you want to go bigger, you can give a meal-a-month and

quarterly deliver three frozen entrees. If cooking isn't your thing, a gift card to a favorite restaurant is also a good choice.

**Activities.** Lunch 'n Labor is the best of both worlds – an activity and food. My sister and I started this a few years ago. Our gift to each other is a day set aside to do a project (that's more fun with two) and then go out to lunch. We each get to choose a day, a project and a restaurant. We've done everything from cleaning light fixtures and a shed, to creating recipe binders and organizing pictures.

You might choose a different activity for you and your recipient to share (that's not so much work): A movie, shopping day, round of golf, or a day trip to the mountains. Having a choice of dates on the certificate will help both of

Please see **ORGANIZED** on P. 13



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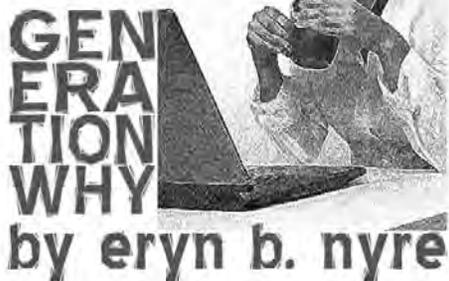
# Ghosts of Christmas Past

If I haven't said it enough lately, I will say it again: I love this time of year. I love the cold weather, the warm beverages, the lights and the colors. It sparks such a deep sense of joy inside me that is unmatched during any other season. But, as I sit in the middle of my own personal winter wonderland, staring at my beautiful lighted tree, surrounded by all the trinkets of Christmas, I am both uplifted and a little melancholy. I miss my family, those who live far away and those who have passed on. With all the happiness this season brings me, there is always a little sadness that follows with it.

Even surrounded by garland and snow and giant Christmas bows, gazing at my beautifully carved nativity scene, I am brought to tears by the memory of those who aren't here. Christmas is a time for love and family, and mine is far away. My parents live in another state, most of my grandparents have passed, and the extended family I have all live in a different part of the state. I love the season, but it comes at a price.

It fills me with sorrow that my parents live more than 500 miles away and I only get to see them a couple of times a year. I miss them every day, but during this time of year the ache to be near them hangs a little heavier on my heart. In this day and age, it's great to have options like video chat which can at least give you the illusion of closeness, but being inundated with images of happy, hugging families, today's technology just isn't the same as being in the same house, gathered around the same tree, being warmed by the same fire.

My Nana, who we lost last year, was a Christmas fanatic. Her Christmas tree was so intricately decorated that it would take her days to get it just right, and you couldn't help unless you agreed to comply with her rules. Every branch had ornaments, which were dispersed evenly by color, and it was covered in tinsel from tip to trunk. She was a stickler, but the end result was the most beautiful tree I have ever seen. She had a very handmade, family heirloom style of decorating. Some of the pieces she put out every year were made by her own grandmother. She had crocheted figurines of Santa and his wife, antique reindeer and snowmen were scattered throughout her house, and she even had an old set of candles shaped like Santa and friends that were never burned so we could enjoy them year after year. It felt like the spirit of the Landers-Wolfe women surrounded us every Christmas. One of my most cherished pieces is a Mr.



and Mrs. Claus set that has been in my family as far back as anyone can remember. They are old, and delicate, and sometimes I think if I breathe wrong they will disintegrate in front of my eyes, but I put them in a place of honor every year, especially now that my Nana is gone, so I can feel her presence in my home every time I look at them.

My Grammy, who has been gone for nearly four years now, had a more classic style of decorating. Many of her pieces were store bought, and it all seemed to fit together perfectly even if it was not a set. My favorite from her collection was the Christmas village. It looked like something out of a Dickens novel mixed with a little Thomas Kincaid. She would lay out a blanket of the sparkling, fake snow and set up each piece like she was erecting her own miniature town, so quaint and beautiful. She also had these little glass dishes filled with Hershey's holiday kisses on her end tables. I don't know how she managed to always keep them full, she must have had a secret stash somewhere in her garage because no matter how many times all her grandchildren would dip their hands in to get a piece of chocolate she never ran out. I don't have much from my Grammy, but I do have a couple of trees from her village collection and have started my own little town, complete with a sparkling blanket of snow. I also have the glass dishes, and as an homage to my Grammy, they are full of red, green and silver Hershey's kisses, just like she always did.

I love having these memories surround me at this time of year. It's not only a piece of my own personal history, it's a piece of people who loved Christmas as much as I do. I feel like it is a connection between the generations, a link to my loved ones who have passed and a way to carry on their legacy. It's a bittersweet feeling that may bring a tear to my eye but at the same time brings a smile to my lips because I know they are watching over me, and will remain a part of me, at Christmas and always.

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## Ranchos Sign of the Times Phase II



The community sign welcoming people to the Ranchos has been selected. The Eagle Scout project of the Ranchos' Harrison Caetano is moving into its next phase and Harrison is looking for help with the community project.

Design #3 (at left) won with 73 percent of the votes and construction is expected to begin in January of 2015. Land has already been donated and the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce has entered in to an agreement to maintain the welcome sign. Final details are being wrapped up at this time. If anyone is interested in helping Scout Harrison Caetano, please send offers of time, money or materials to [welcometo theranchos@gmail.com](mailto:welcometo theranchos@gmail.com). At present, the

materials wish list and quantities necessary are as follows (Harrison will need *double* the quantities listed for *two* signs):

**Concrete Unit Masonry:** Standard 8x8x16 CMU, approximately 80 square feet.

**Reinforcement/CMU:** #4 bar, approximately 120 linear feet plus mortar.

**Grout/Reinforcement:** 1 cubic yard.

**Thin Stone Veneer:** 180 square feet plus 30 linear feet corners, plus mortar.

**Concrete Foundation:** 3.0 cubic yards.

**Sign Logo:** The sign logo is an ellipse shape, approximately 36 inches x 18 inches in 3-D, multi-layered (4-5 layers) 1/4 inch sheet steel, aluminum or other material. Two required.

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Proceeds go to the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce. The Annual Crab Feed always sells out so get your tickets early! You can get your tickets at the Chamber office, the Ranchos Independent, Ranchos Pizza Factory or the Ranchos Café.



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## Call the Chamber for more information. 645-4001

### Community Guidebook



After a 5-year wait, and a few production hold ups, the Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce's NEW Community Guidebook is going to be included in next month's Ranchos Independent. It is an invaluable resource that offers a listing of Ranchos businesses, Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce members and fascinating information about the Ranchos. Look for it!

### Be a Crab Feed "500" Sponsor

Is your business going to the Crab Feed? For \$500 you get a table for 10, get to put your company banner up at the event, have your name listed at every table, have your table introduced at the event and be listed in the Ranchos Independent. Call 645-4001.

The Golden Valley Chamber of Commerce would love to see you at our next meeting, always the second Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m. 37167 Ave. 12 Suite 5C. Call us at 645-4001.

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ORGANIZED cont. from P. 9

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you follow through with the plan and give you something to look forward to beyond the holidays.

If kids or grandkids are on your list, consider age appropriate activities that you can do with them, or to give them certificates for their families to enjoy: A membership to the zoo or an aquarium, tickets to a sports event, or bowling.

A true gift of sacrifice is finding an activity that your spouse would love to do and then signing up both of you: Dance or cooking classes, season sports tickets, golf lessons, etc.

**Service.** One very memorable gift was when a friend came and planted flowers in our front flowerbed (that was back in the day when we could water our yards). A gift of service — babysitting, window washing, decorating for or un-decorating Christmas, etc. can warm someone's heart. Just make sure to follow through and set a date to accomplish the deed.

I guarantee that the memory of an activity experienced together or a service done out of love and sacrifice will outlive the memory of the sweater you get on sale.

Christmas blessings to you and yours.

Contact Brenda McElroy at Organized by Choice (because things don't always fall into place) at P.O. Box 26152, Fresno, CA 93729, 559-871-3314, or email at [info@organizedbychoice.com](mailto:info@organizedbychoice.com) [www.organizedbychoice.com](http://www.organizedbychoice.com) is her website.

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QUARRY cont. from P. 2

cultural resources (everything will be blasted), geology and soils, (the creation of) hazards and hazardous materials, (the degradation of) hydrology and water quality, (more) noise and traffic, and (the degradation of) transportation (facilities, i.e., roads).

**Extensive List and Scope of Potential Impacts**

Members of the public who are interested in the scope of the Project's impacts can get a copy of the 3,000-page Impact Report from the County for \$100 according to the Notice of Availability, which the County posted in the Madera Tribune. It may also be available on the County website, though they are not required to provide it there, Treber, the County's Project Manager, said. Alternatively, those interested can review any or all of four relatively short reports prepared by experts hired by MOC to evaluate Vulcan's Austin Quarry Project's impacts.

The Austin Quarry Briefing Book (6 pages), Economics Report (20 pages), Noise Report (32 pages), and Water Report (11 pages of text and 8 figures) are available at a website MOC created called [www.NoAustinQuarry.org](http://www.NoAustinQuarry.org). Information from the Water Report was presented at several community meetings sponsored by MOC and held in Coarsegold, Oakhurst and the Ranchos' Liberty High School in November and December.

At the last meeting, held Dec. 4 at Liberty High School, co-author of the Water Report by Todd Groundwater, Senior Hydrologist Gus Yates was asked about the discrepancy between Vulcan's groundwater consultant's opinion that the quarry pit will eventually leak 90 acre-feet of water annually and his firm's opinion that it might leak as much as 4,000 acre-feet annually. Yates said it was due to Vulcan's consultant only considering the groundwater that would enter the pit from its down gradient (meaning downhill, water-wise) side. He said that in both this estimation and also in describing the pit ultimately becoming a large percolation basin after it is no longer in use, Vulcan's consultant was ignoring physical law in that groundwater always flows down and from all sides into a hole that goes beneath the groundwater table (the top of the groundwater surface level underground). He added this is basis of how a groundwater well works and went on to say that if the Austin Quarry is deepened below the groundwater table, currently just a few dozen feet underground in that area, it will function as a giant well, pulling groundwater into it from miles around, especially if it is continuously dewatered, as it must be, for quarry operations.

crepancy between Vulcan's groundwater consultant's opinion that the quarry pit will eventually leak 90 acre-feet of water annually and his firm's opinion that it might leak as much as 4,000 acre-feet annually. Yates said it was due to Vulcan's consultant only considering the groundwater that would enter the pit from its down gradient (meaning downhill, water-wise) side. He said that in both this estimation and also in describing the pit ultimately becoming a large percolation basin after it is no longer in use, Vulcan's consultant was ignoring physical law in that groundwater always flows down and from all sides into a hole that goes beneath the groundwater table (the top of the groundwater surface level underground). He added this is basis of how a groundwater well works and went on to say that if the Austin Quarry is deepened below the groundwater table, currently just a few dozen feet underground in that area, it will function as a giant well, pulling groundwater into it from miles around, especially if it is continuously dewatered, as it must be, for quarry operations.

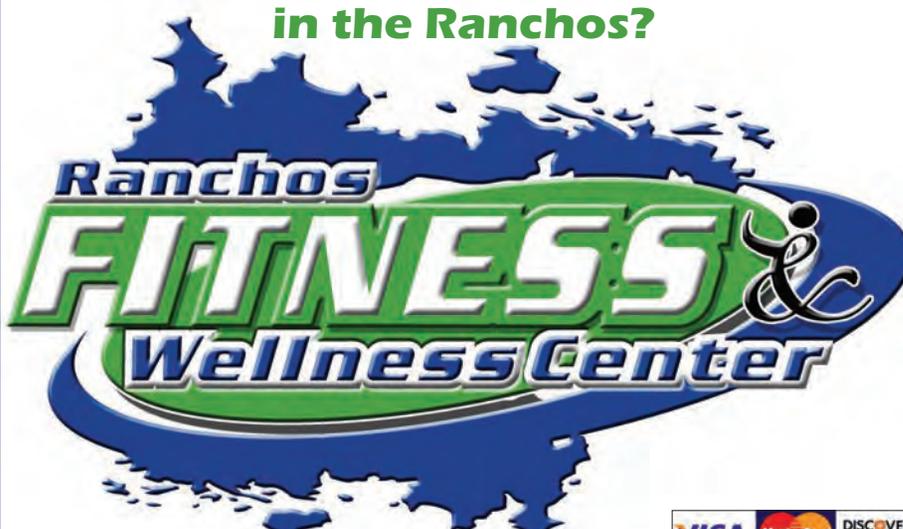
**Questions for Vulcan Materials Company**

In an effort to present both sides for this story, the following sampling of questions, raised in MOC's experts' reports were among those recently posed to Vulcan's Manager of Projects & External Affairs, Barbara Goodrich-Welk:

- Does Vulcan plan to supplant or replace existing and projected local aggregate

Please see **QUARRY** on P. 16

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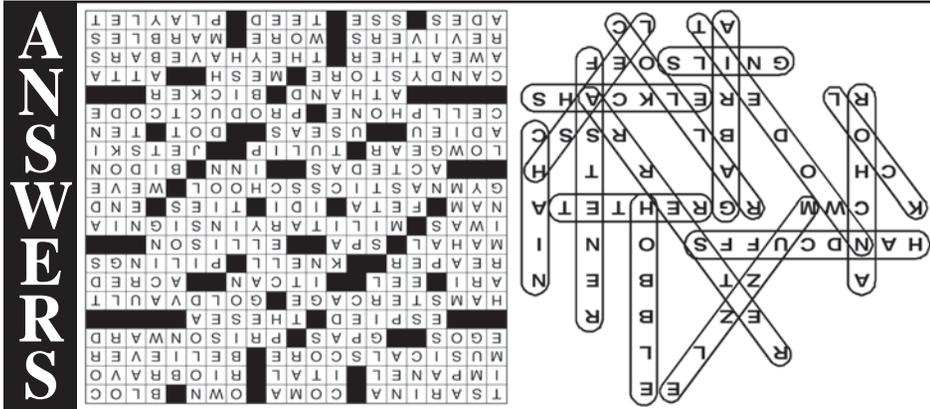


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TOP cont. from P. 2

**6 Gateway Village Begins/March** • After years -- and I mean *years* -- of sitting on the corner of Avenue 12 and Highway 41 covered by olive trees, all of sudden things started to happen. Sold by Castle & Cooke to a Fresno investment group, trees were ripped out and land movers started moving land. It caught several folks off guard when something actually began happening.

**7 Burning House/June** • This story was not only sad but prophetic. As the Ranchos' water situation worsened, people wondered how bad it could actually get, and then, on a day in June, we found out. Within walking distance of our beloved Station 19 fire station, a house caught on fire and virtually burned to the ground. There wasn't enough water or personnel to handle the situation. A warning?

**8 MD-10A Changes/November** • As a result of the public awareness of the Ranchos' water system, its water district, MD-10A, came under increased scrutiny. In this article written by Karen Petryna, MD-10A was broken down, explained and possible beneficial future scenarios were laid out. But when you mix in an exiting part-time Supervisor with a newly elected one starting in January, there's still time for things to go wrong.

**9 Election/April** • 2014 was an election year and although the general election wasn't until November, there were so many candidates running for seemingly everything that the primary took on a new importance. In this issue each candidate was given free rein to state their case and why we should vote for them. We ended up picking Mona Diaz and Brent Frazier for District 1 Supervisor, which Frazier ultimately won.

**10 Freelance Demo Work/May** • In what was truly one of the strangest stories I have ever seen in the Ranchos, a man had a mini-excavator and was doing some demo work around a property in the Bonadelle Ranchos. Taking down chain link fences, demolishing an old mobile home ... only problem was none of the property was his. And to top it off it appeared the excavator was stolen from somewhere in Madera. Wild.

RECIPE cont. from P. 8

### Pinwheels

- 1 (8 oz.) Pkg. cream cheese
- 1 (16 oz.) sour cream
- 1 pkg. ranch dip (dry)
- 1 lb. sliced deli meat (ham, turkey, beef)
- 8 large flour tortillas

In large bowl mix together cream cheese, sour cream, and dry ranch dip mix. Beat until smooth. Spread a thin layer of mix on each tortilla. Top with layer of deli meat. Roll each tortilla up tightly and wrap with plastic wrap. Refrigerate until ready to serve. When ready to serve, cut each roll into  $\frac{3}{4}$ - to 1-inch slices. Place on serving platter. Using a serrated knife is helpful.

If you don't want to go to the

trouble of making an appetizer, go to the produce department and buy a variety of vegetables to be eaten raw – broccoli, carrots, celery, cucumber, zucchini and cherry tomatoes. While you are in the store, buy a can of black olives and a container of ranch dressing. Wash and slice the vegetables into serving sizes, place on a platter with the drained olives and pour the dressing into a bowl and you have a wonderful appetizer.

There you have some suggestions. Regardless of what you serve for dinner or snacks, I pray that each of you and your family have a blessed and Merry Christmas and the happiest and most prosperous New Year.

God bless us all!

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QUARRY cont. from P. 14

demand currently being handled by other quarries?

- Does Vulcan have any response to the discrepancy between its consultant's estimates that 90 acre-feet of water will be consumed annually vs. MOC's consultant's estimates that 4,000 acre-feet of water will be consumed annually?

- Would Vulcan be willing to install a network of groundwater monitoring wells down gradient of the 258-acre project to accurately assess the effects of excavation and dewatering operations on groundwater on a continual basis so that, regardless of whose consultant's projections turn out to be more accurate, the actual situation can be monitored and addressed on an ongoing basis?

- Would Vulcan be willing to completely mitigate any negative impact to down gradient groundwater identified by an ongoing groundwater monitoring program?

- How much does Vulcan estimate the property values and resultant taxes of all the properties within a 5-mile radius of the Austin Quarry Project will be reduced?

**Is Another Quarry Needed?**

In addition, Goodrich-Welk was asked, "Granite Construction recently decided not to pursue its proposed Hildreth Creek Quarry project, just two miles north of the proposed Austin Quarry Project, due to a lack of economic incentive. The Madera Ranch Quarry, less than five miles north, is currently shut down for the same reason. Why does Vulcan believe Southeast Madera needs another quarry?"

In response to the above as well as additional questions posed by the Ranchos Independent, Goodrich-Welk said Vulcan, as a matter of practice, does not respond to questions during public comment periods for their draft impact reports so as not to sway the (County Board of) Supervisors. She also pro-

vided the following information in writing.

**Vulcan's Statement**

Vulcan Materials recognizes the importance of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and supports its goal to ensure that complete technical and administrative information is available for review and comment by the decision makers and the public. As part of the CEQA process, the County of Madera and its CEQA consultant, Benchmark Resources, have prepared the RDEIR. The RDEIR is a County document.

Vulcan Materials is confident that the County and its consultant have provided a thorough and accurate review of the technical and administrative attributes of the project in the RDEIR. As the lead governmental agency for Madera County, the County of Madera is required to review and respond to all comments and to publish its responses in the Final Environmental Impact Report.

Through the comment period, any questions the Ranchos Independent may have regarding the Austin Quarry Project or the RDEIR should be directed to the County of Madera. In the meantime, Vulcan Materials has published a comprehensive website that details the project description and benefits at [www.austinquarry.com](http://www.austinquarry.com).

**Addressing Your Concerns**

If you have any questions or comments about the proposed Austin Quarry Project, please submit them to Matthew Treber, Senior Madera County Planner, via email, regular mail or hand delivery by the extended public comment deadline of Jan. 5, 2015. If not typewritten, please ensure your writing is legible. Treber's addresses are as follows:

Matt Treber  
 C/O Madera County Board of Supervisors  
 200 West 4th Street  
 Madera, California 93637  
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**MERLE cont. from P. 3**

Tom Kidwell, outgoing Madera County Assessor and Chairman of the Courthouse Park Restoration Committee, announced the unveiling of a plaque which will be placed on a new bench at Courthouse Park in Madera to permanently memorialize Anderson's contributions to Madera County. Anderson, a recent widower resigned as Treasurer of the Courthouse Park Restoration Com-

mittee for personal reasons. Kidwell said, "Anderson has made a tremendous impact on this County and he will certainly be missed."

Anderson was touched by the gesture. He thanked everyone who helped to make this happen and said it was an honor. Then he introduced his son Rodger Anderson to everyone before heading out to the park to decide where he'd like his bench to be located.

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## Senior Report

### Seniors Announce New Board for 2015

By Verlaine Elinburg

On Monday, Dec. 8, the members of Ranchos/Hills Seniors celebrated their annual Christmas Dinner, catered by the Ranchos Café. The new officers for 2015 were installed and the new officers for the 2015 Board are: President - Ethel Hansen; Vice President - Verlaine Elinburg; Secretary - Nancy Koontz; Correspondence Secretary - Patti Groh; Treasurer - Shirley Tickel; Assistant Treasurer - Diane Maxfield; Board of Directors are Ruth Baker, Bonnie Elia, Eva McAtee, Caroline Reeves, Josephine Turner and past president Debbie Farr. The installation was followed by entertainment of beautiful singing by the Mitchell Sisters making it a festive, special night of joy and peace.

The year is almost over. The seniors have worked hard organizing our usual fundraisers and launching a few additional events. These events brought in revenue to maintain the center and supplied fun during the year celebrating the different special days of American traditions. As soon as we would get through one function or party there would be another one right behind it. Who said that retirement was going to be boring? Life as a member of the Ranchos/Hills Seniors is rewarding and a busy one.



Merle Anderson, an original member of the Ranchos/Hills Seniors, has been presented with the following PROCLAMATION for his service to his community. It was presented and signed by the Madera County Supervisors Manual Nevarez, District 1; David Rogers, District 2; Rick Farinelli, District 3; Max Rodriguez, District 4; and Tom Wheeler, District 5. It stated: THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED, the Board of Supervisors of the County of Madera, State of California, do hereby recognize Merle Anderson for his distinguished service to his community. The Cities of Madera and Fresno, Counties of Madera and Fresno and California Senate and Assembly, with his retirement from the Madera County Courthouse Park Committee, the Committee is

Merle Anderson as a lasting monument to his life and service. Merle has lived in Madera County for 28 years. He was an active member of the community, serving on the Madera Ranchos Water Oversight Committee, Madera Ranchos Library Committee, Madera County Elections Board, Madera County Courthouse Park Committee and the Fresno-Madera Area Agency for Aging. He was also active in many local organizations which included the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, Breakfast Lions Club, Madera Masonic Lodge, Madera Ranchos Flatlanders Parade and the Madera Ranchos/Hills Seniors.

At the Ranchos/Hills Senior Center, Merle published the monthly newsletter and the senior roster. He coordinated the Brown Bag distribution to the members and was instrumental in the early stages of the computers at the Center. At meetings, he always made us follow procedure. During the last year, he has had some setbacks because of the "night of his winter" (please read my last article) but he is back with us again. He has not given up and is back volunteering his time making name badges for the new Ranchos/Hills Senior members and he will probably be sitting at the Brown Bag table giving out food to the seniors.

The Department of Health comes periodically to the Center for free checkups. For referrals to medical providers and community services, the contact number is 675-7893 to make an appointment.

A nutritionally balanced lunch program is available Monday through Friday at 11:30 a.m. A suggested price for 60 years and older is \$1.75. Reservations are needed 24 hours in advance prior to 11 a.m. so remember to call Joann at 645-4864.

We have a growing exercise program being held on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 10 a.m. and on Tuesdays at 12:15 p.m. are a variety of card games to be enjoyed. Stop by the Senior Center for a copy of our activity calendar for daily events. Additional copies are available at the Ranchos Market and Hurst Hardware and several businesses along Avenue 12. You can also contact Joann at 645-4864.

The raffle of the doll and accessories was won by Diane Maxfield. She was the perfect person to win it as she has a new grandbaby. Congratulations and let us take this opportunity to thank her as she partners with Mary Thompson in maintaining the garden area, is the assistant treasurer and brings a homebound senior to lunch every Friday, and is a great volunteer of the Ranchos/Hills Seniors.

There will be no 1st Saturday of the month sale in January. Planning is underway for the seniors' yearly travel trip in September.

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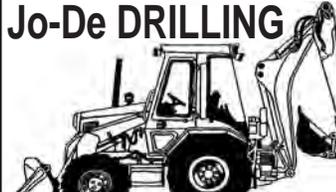
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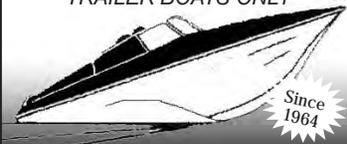
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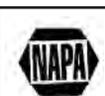
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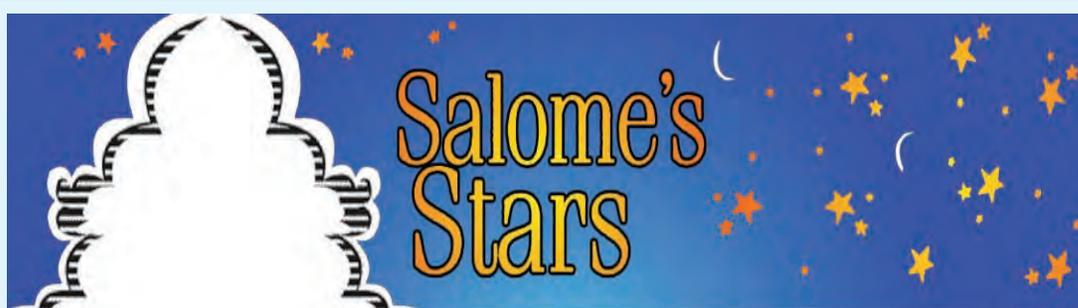
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**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) Make your holiday preparations one step at a time in order to avoid being overwhelmed and leaving things undone. That confusing family situation continues to work itself out.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) Ease this year's holiday money pressures by letting your thrifty side guide you as you look for those perfect gifts that typically reflect your good taste and love of beauty.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) You'll have a good handle on potential holiday problems if you delegate tasks to family members, friends or co-workers -- most of whom will be more than happy to help out.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) Right now you are especially vulnerable to holiday scams that seek to take advantage of your generosity. Best advice: Check them out before you send out your checks.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) The upcoming holiday season gives the Big Cat much to purr about. Relationships grow stronger, and new opportunities loom on the horizon, just waiting to be pounced on.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) A changing situation brings conflicting advice about how to go forward with your holiday plans. Your best bet: Make the decision you feel most comfortable with.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) Holiday plans get back on track after some confusion about the direction you expected to take. A potentially troublesome money matter needs your immediate attention.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) Your holiday preparations are on track. But you need to confront a personal situation while you can still keep it from overwhelming everything else.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) Tight financial matters ease a bit during this holiday season. But the sagacious Sagittarian is well-advised to keep a tight hold on the reins while shopping for gifts.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) Don't put off making decisions about this year's holiday celebrations, despite the negative comments you've been getting from several quarters. Do it NOW!

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) The holidays will bring new friends and new opportunities. Meanwhile, be careful to use your energy wisely as you go about making holiday preparations.

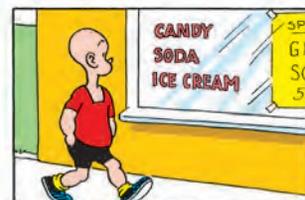
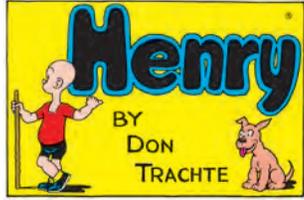
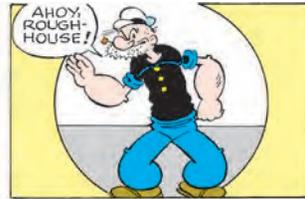
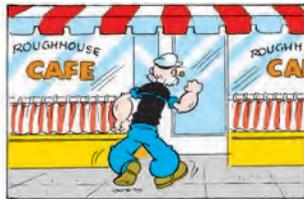
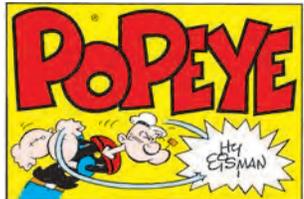
**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) There's good news coming from a most unlikely source. And it could turn out to be one of the best holiday gifts you have had in years. Remember to stay positive.

## Born this Week

You are respected for your honesty and loyalty. You make friends slowly -- but with rare exceptions, they're in your life forever.

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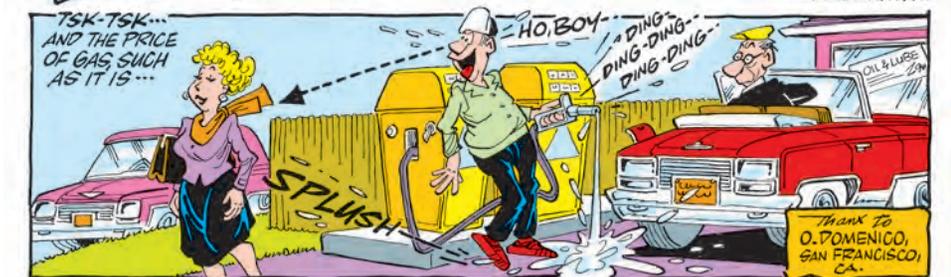
# FUN PAGES



## THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME



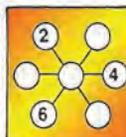
## BY AL SCADUTO



## Junior Whirl

by Hal Kaufman

**EVEN TIDE!** Three of the seven even numbers 2 through 14 are shown in place of the diagram at right. You are asked to insert the rest — 8, 10, 12 and 14 — so that the sum of each three numbers in a straight-line row is 28.



Remember, all are even numbers, and straight-line threesomes are to total 28. Hint: Think big about number in center circle.

How quickly can you make the insertions? Time: 2 minutes.

**DRINK UP!** Calo and Chloe combined together, make a drink popular in hot or cold weather. Says a village poem. Combine letters of Calo and Chloe to form word.

LOST & FOUND BOOK TITLE

**FANCY** yourself a word sleuth? Here is a test: Some of the printing has faded from the title of a book found in an attic (see insert illustration above). You are asked to identify the book by filling in missing portions of letters shown.

Its title consists of two words, one of which has six letters, and the other has five. To clue you in further, it's a book often perused at family gatherings during the holiday season. What book is that? See if you can puzzle out the title. Time limit: 2 minutes.

**KNEE FLEX!** One of four paths leads to Santa's knee. But which one is it? See if you can reach there on first try.

## Wishing Well

8	7	4	5	8	5	2	3	6	5	8	7	8
J	N	L	L	O	O	C	B	B	O	B	E	I
6	2	7	4	7	3	8	3	2	7	2	7	6
E	L	W	I	S	E	M	D	E	A	V	B	C
2	8	5	7	4	7	5	3	7	4	5	3	5
E	P	K	O	F	U	T	E	T	E	O	C	T
6	2	5	8	2	3	4	2	5	4	7	2	7
O	R	H	R	I	I	I	D	E	S	A	E	N
4	6	8	5	2	4	5	2	6	5	3	6	5
P	N	O	F	A	E	U	S	T	S	I	U	
8	3	4	8	4	8	5	6	7	5	7	4	7
V	I	A	E	C	S	R	D	E	E	W	E	H
6	4	3	6	7	3	4	7	4	6	7	6	6
E	F	V	R	O	E	U	M	L	A	E	T	E

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

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## MAGIC MAZE ● RESTRAINTS

L	S	P	M	J	H	E	B	Y	E	E	V	T	Q	O
L	I	G	D	B	R	Y	W	L	T	L	R	P	M	K
I	F	D	B	Y	W	E	Z	U	S	B	Q	R	O	M
K	I	A	F	D	B	Z	T	Z	X	B	W	E	U	N
H	A	N	D	C	U	F	F	S	S	O	Q	N	O	I
K	N	C	W	M	L	R	G	R	E	H	T	E	T	A
J	C	H	O	E	F	A	D	C	R	A	T	Y	H	
W	V	O	T	T	D	S	B	L	Q	P	R	S	S	C
N	L	R	L	K	I	E	R	E	L	K	C	A	H	S
H	F	A	E	C	G	N	I	L	S	O	E	F	B	Z
Y	H	W	V	U	S	R	A	T	Q	L	C	P	N	M

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

- Air bag
- Anchor
- Arrester
- Chain
- Collar
- Fastener
- Handcuffs
- Hobble
- Leash
- Lock
- Muzzle
- Shackle
- Sling
- Tether
- Tie down

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HERE, HERE: Ho, ho, ho — there is no time like the presents. Add the following colors: 1—Red, 2—Lt. blue, 3—Yellow, 4—Lt. brown, 5—Flesh, 6—Lt. green, 7—Ok. brown, 8—Purple.

## SPELLBINDER

SCORE 10 points for using all the letters in the word below to form two complete words:

TAPESTRY

THEN score 2 points each for all words of four letters or more found among the letters.

Try to score at least 50 points.

## TRIVIA TEST

By Fifi Rodriguez

- MEDICINE: What condition does a deficiency of iron cause?
- FOOD AND DRINK: What is bergamot?
- GEOGRAPHY: Lake Tahoe lies between which two U.S. states?
- MOVIES: Which animated movie contains the line: "Squirrel!"?
- GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What is the traditional birthstone for September?
- PUBLISHING: What magazine was headed by Helen Gurley Brown for 32 years?
- ASTRONOMY: How many moons does the planet Mars have?
- MYTHOLOGY: What is the Greek god of the sun called?
- LANGUAGE: What is the only word in the English language that ends in the letters "mt"?
- LITERATURE: What was the name of Dick and Jane's dog in the famous early readers?

## Answers

- Anemia
- A type of citrus fruit
- California and Nevada
- "Up"
- Sapphire
- Cosmopolitan
- Two, Phobos and Deimos
- Hellios
- Dream
- Spot

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Click on "Local News" at

### Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps



### R.F.D.

by Mike Marland



### Out on a Limb

by Gary Kopervas



### The Spats

by Jeff Pickering



### SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gap!

Dive	<b>GULPEN</b>		
Excess	<b>PRUSSUL</b>		
Deflect	<b>TRIVED</b>		
Pang	<b>WETING</b>		

"I think advertising aids on TV is a waste of money!"

**TODAY'S WORD**

### HOCUS-FOCUS

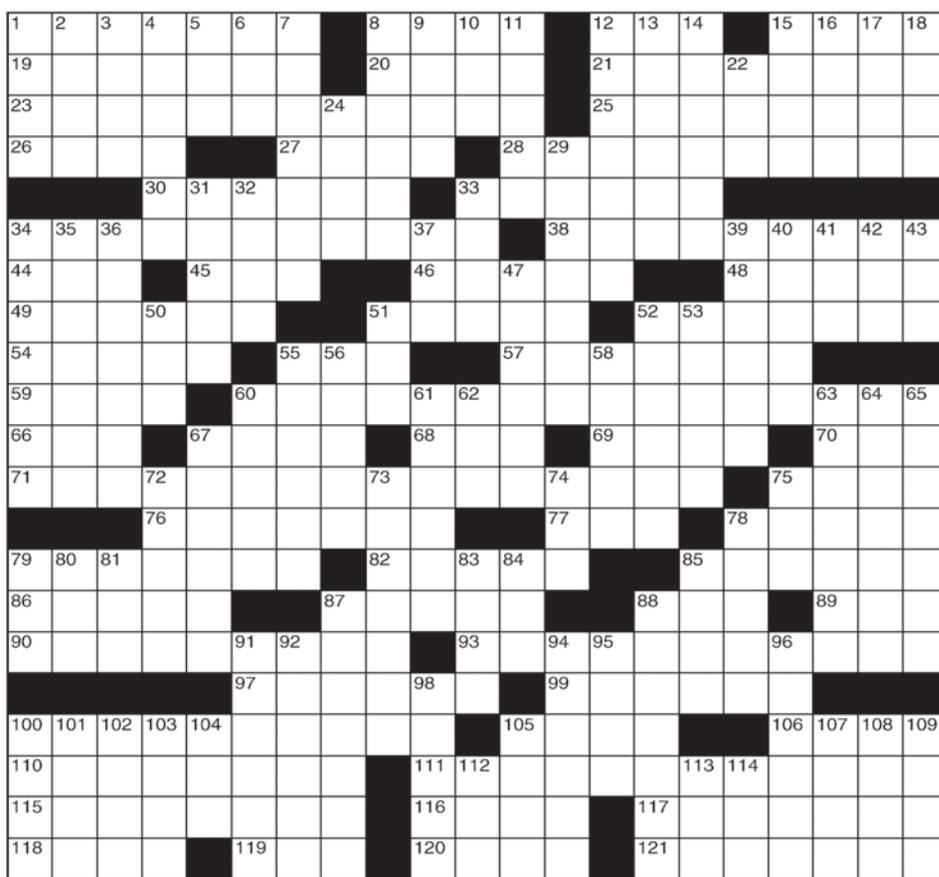
BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF

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DIFFERENCES: 1. Door knob is moved. 2. Teddy bear is missing. 3. Shade is missing. 4. Glove is missing. 5. Letter is missing. 6. Cap peak is smaller.

## Super Crossword



- |                                 |                                     |   |   |                            |                                      |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|---|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                   | 46 "Now — be told"                  | 85 Marine "motorcycle"                          | <b>DOWN</b>                                 | 36 She's a soccer star     | 79 Érié or Supérieur                 |
| 1 Empress of old Russia         | 48 Having much land                 | 86 "So long, Pierre!"                           | 1 Clock datum                               | 37 Gibson liquor           | 80 Lyrical work                      |
| 8 Unwakeful state               | 49 Crop lopper                      | 87 "— directed" (medicine box warning)          | 2 Overproud                                 | 39 Philip VI's house       | 81 "Stand by Me" actor               |
| 12 Part of BYO                  | 51 Mournful ring                    | 88 Freckle, e.g.                                | 3 Lhasa — (dog breed)                       | 40 Serving perfectly       | 83 SoCal squad                       |
| 15 Political coalition          | 52 Groups of wharf-supporting beams | 89 Royal flush card                             | 4 Boosts                                    | 41 Vase variety            | 84 It's S. of Leb.                   |
| 19 Choose for jury duty         | 54 Taj —                            | 90 Nokia offering                               | 5 Business mag                              | 42 Piano part              | 85 Athletic type                     |
| 20 Lang. spoken in Milan        | 55 Relaxing facility                | 93 Scanned supermarket symbol                   | 6 Teachers' union: Abbr.                    | 43 NFL goals               | 87 Dismount                          |
| 21 1959 John Wayne film         | 57 Sci-fi writer Harlan             | 97 Close by                                     | 7 Allowing only female students             | 47 Bishop, e.g.            | 88 Artist Marcel                     |
| 23 What a maestro studies       | 59 "— just wondering"               | 99 Squabble                                     | 8 Loud insect                               | 50 Fathers                 | 91 With 17-Down, discusses at length |
| 25 Christian, for one           | 60 Mark of a sergeant, e.g.         | 100 Busy shop before Halloween                  | 9 Western Amerinds                          | 51 China's                 | 92 Weasels' kin                      |
| 26 Braggarts have inflated ones | 66 "The Hanoi Hilton" locale        | 105 Mosquito net material                       | 10 Tamish                                   | 52 Rack-and-— steering     | 94 Fell in line                      |
| 27 Student transcript nos.      | 67 White cheese                     | 106 "— boy!"                                    | 11 Initial Hebrew letter                    | 53 Hoops Hall of Famer Dan | 95 Menu listing                      |
| 28 Penitentiary division        | 68 A mean Amin                      | 110 Into the wind                               | 12 Singer Roy                               | 55 Parents' hiree          | 96 Grouchy                           |
| 30 Laid eyes on                 | 69 Track beams                      | 111 Statement about nine answers in this puzzle | 13 Nobelist Elie                            | 56 Kilt pattern            | 98 Food carton abbr.                 |
| 33 What "My Bonnie lies over"   | 70 Discontinue                      | 115 Successful CPR performers                   | 14 Like some mutual funds                   | 58 Arrived at by chance    | 100 Singer Irene                     |
| 34 Home for a pet rodent        | 71 Its students tumble              | 116 Dressed in                                  | 15 Make coffee                              | 60 Hostess Perle           | 101 Electrified                      |
| 38 Fort Knox feature            | 75 "— grown apart"                  | 117 Chinese Checkers pieces                     | 16 Molten rock                              | 61 Kleenex, say            | 102 "54" co-star Campbell            |
| 44 Meyers of "Think Big"        | 76 Represented                      | 118 Fruit-flavored drinks                       | 17 See 91-Down                              | 62 Some inserts            | 103 Platform for a lectern           |
| 45 Wiggly swimmer               | 77 Wayfarer's refuge                | 119 MI-to-SC dir.                               | 18 Strong rope                              | 63 Really must             | 104 Canadian cable                   |
|                                 | 78 Try to win at eBay, say          | 120 Ticked                                      | 22 Storage unit                             | 64 Called upon             | channel for children                 |
|                                 | 79 First, in terms of transmission  | 121 Skit  | 24 Project particular                       | 65 Nucleic acid base       | 105 Piddling                         |
|                                 | 82 Holland bloom                    |   | 29 In a majestic manner                     | 66 Showing, as a card      | 107 Like giants                      |
|                                 |                                     |   | 31 Stainless —                              | 72 Actor Conrad            | 108 Bark source                      |
|                                 |                                     |   | 32 Squint (at)                              | 73 Dandelion lookalike     | 109 Mgr.'s aide                      |
|                                 |                                     |   | 33 Head, in Pau                             | 74 Tuned in                | 112 Garden tool                      |
|                                 |                                     |   | 34 Hurting                                  | 75 Cleverness              | 113 Actor Kilmer                     |
|                                 |                                     |   | 35 Sunken space in front of a cellar window | 78 Davis of film           | 114 Epoch                            |

**BIGGEST  
BLOWOUT  
SALE!**

**OF FAUX CHRISTMAS TREES  
Over 1,500 Trees MUST GO!!!**



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WREATHS AND CHRISTMAS LIGHTS!**

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**FIVE MINUTES NORTH OF FRESNO!**