

School District Partners with TAIT & Associates to Bridge Generational Gap



Developer TAIT & Associates will break ground on a brand new 233 unit senior living facility in Old Town Orcutt before August 2022, with phase one of the project scheduled to be completed sometime between June 2023 and April 2024. The facility will provide multiple levels of care for residents, workforce housing, a preschool and daycare facility, and a playground adjacent to an existing park.

Approximately eighteen percent

of Orcutt's roughly 29,000 person population is 65 or older. Seniors over the age of 65 make up 14.9 percent of Santa Barbara County's population, which numbers more than 448,000 people.

The 9.53-acre lot on Soares Ave. is between Dyer Street and South First Street. It lies two blocks south of Orcutt's downtown area, with schools, parks, a library, shopping, and fine dining all within a one-mile radius.

The Orcutt Union School District

acquired Key Site 17 in 2001 and initially planned it as a primary grade level school site. However, due to declining enrollment, the District conducted an asset management plan in 2006, focusing on utilizing vacant or underutilized district properties to generate revenue for future needs.

After May 2007, the District convened a 7-11 committee, which, after studying several options for the use of the parcel, recommended to the board of trustees that it pursue a ground lease to develop the parcel for use as senior housing. TAIT & Associates received Board approval to act as a lease agent in December 2019.

The project will bridge intergenerational learning environments for both students and senior citizens. According to Bill Young, OUSD Assistant Superintendent of Business Services, the vision may include junior high or high school career technical training, student work experience, internships, and opportunities for seniors to volunteer at OUSD schools.

Young says the District selected TAIT because it presented a concept that compliments Old Orcutt in design and function.

In a District press release, Trevor Tait (TAIT & Associates) said, "We are absolutely thrilled to have been selected by Orcutt Union School District to develop Key Site 17. Our goal is simple – to develop a project that will be cherished by the District and the entire community of Orcutt for generations to come. At every point in this journey, our team has been inspired by the mission of Orcutt Union School District. In addition to creating a vibrant and dynamic senior community, our project will seek to nurture, educate, empower, and inspire children of Orcutt Union School District."

A virtual walkthrough of the conceptual design is available online at orcuttschools.net. The architect's rendering of the site has yet to be approved. A final draft of the plans is still to come.

Kristen C. Tiessen reporting

Military Parade Warms Heart of 100-Year-Old Marine



Arnold McLean, Marine hero of World War II, prisoner of war and survivor of the Bataan Death March, was celebrated with a horn-honking military parade in Orcutt on July 11th.

McLean, in a wheelchair, sat near his house wearing a marine cap, red shirt, American flag mask with a sword in his lap. The parade included local police and sheriffs, with lights and sirens, paramedics, motorcycles, fire engines, honking cars, trucks, and vans of all sizes, including antiques. Some had kids with flags hanging out the back and through the windows. McLean, surprised by the fuss, raised a small

flag as over 100 vehicles drove by.

He shouldn't be surprised, explains Armando Moreno, of the local chapter of the Marine Corps League detachment 1340, "he's a national treasure, a jewel." Moreno learned of McLean and contacted Welcome Home Heroes, a group based in the five cities area that supports veterans. Together they organized this event to honor McLean.

McLean, a young Marine with only a few weeks training, shipped out from San Diego to the Philippines in 1939. After the attack on Pearl Harbor, on December 7, 1941, the Japanese focused on taking the Philippines, with especially intense fighting in Bataan

from January 7, 1942, to the day McLean and 76,000 others surrendered on April 9, 1942. He and the other prisoners of war were ruthlessly marched approximately 65 miles with no food, water or sleep. Casualties of the march were at least 5,000 and some reports put the death toll as high as 18,000. The Bataan Death March was deemed a war crime by the Allied Military Commission after the war was over.

"We marched for ten days," McLean recalled and "if someone fell over they were bayoneted and killed. At one point a Japanese battalion marched by us (the other direction) swinging their swords and heads

continued on page 3

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Old Town Quilt Shop Featured in Better Homes & Gardens Quilt Sampler Magazine

Old Town Quilt Shop was chosen to be featured in the Fall/Winter 2020 issue of *Quilt Sampler* magazine, published by Better Homes & Gardens. The issue will be available on newsstands on August 28, 2020. *Quilt Sampler*, published twice a year, has been profiling North America's top quilt shops since 1995.

Competition to be included in *Quilt Sampler* is high-nearly 3,000 quilt

shops were eligible to apply for this year's honor. To apply, quilt shop owners submit a detailed application on their history, business promotions, charitable work, teaching schedules, and design philosophies. A panel of quilt experts, spearheaded by the American Patchwork & Quilting staff, reviews the applications to select the featured shops.

Old Town Quilt Shop was photographed and interviewed by a team from *Quilt Sampler* for a multipage profile that will appear in the magazine. Employees also designed and made an original quilt. Instructions for that quilt will accompany the shop profile.

Old Town Quilt Shop is located at 165A West Clark Avenue in Old Orcutt.

All Ford Car Show "NO"; Grand Raffle "GO"



"It has been a tough year for fundraising on the Central Coast," says Jay McCord, Santa Maria All Ford Car Show organizer. Due to Covid-19, the Club had to cancel its annual show, which, for the past 17 years, has been held on the streets of Old Town Orcutt with the purpose of providing scholarships to the Hancock College Industrial Technology Department.

This year, even though the show is cancelled, the Club still feels strongly about funding scholarships through a grand raffle of a two-night stay at the famous Ragged Point Inn in Big Sur along with \$300 cash and a beautiful gift basket

filled with Santa Maria and the Central Coast inspired items.

Tickets and entry information are available at www.santamariamodelclub.com. Checks can be mailed to Santa Maria Model A Club, PO Box 2983, Santa Maria, CA 93457. Entries must be received no later than Thursday, September 10, and the winning ticket will be drawn on September 12 at 3PM at the Orcutt Union Plaza Building. Winner need not be present to win. Please Contact Jay McCord for more information. 805-598-8133 jemccord@aol.com



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Marine

continued from page 1

and arms were cut off.”

Asked how he survived McLean said, “I took each day as it came and the hell with tomorrow. Let tomorrow take care of itself. I never gave up and the ones that did aren’t here.”

After the death march, prisoners were put on trains and eventually on ships to Japan to be used as slave labor until the war ended. “We were taken on transport ships to Nagasaki, ten ships were in the convoy and eight were lost. I was on one of the two that made it.” Allied Forces had destroyed the other eight, not knowing of the prisoners on board.

Eventually McLean was taken to northern Japan where he worked in copper mines. The men would be lowered into the mines while jammed into ore cars with a single bar keeping them from falling off the sides. “Everyone would be hanging on to each other and if one fell off, everyone would go.” They worked seven days a week, says McLean and got one scoop of rice, six ounces, as a whole day’s food. “We got a half a scoop if we stayed in camp and if we were sick we got nothing.” The men got up at 4AM every morning and had to sing the Japanese national anthem. “I still know it,” he said as he sang it out loud.

“I was able to get one letter a month and it could only be twenty-five words,” says McLean, pointing to one of the letters from his mother.

It was cold in the prison camp and they each received two blankets except when the Geneva Red Cross would come and inspect. Then the prisoners would be given better clothes and two extra blankets and were told to say “good” when asked how the treatment was. “A guard watched and if you didn’t say good you got beat to the ground after the inspectors left.”

McLean went into the war weighing 200 and left weighing 77 pounds. He spent two years recovering in a hospital. He had no teeth, a bar in his arm, a shattered shoulder, two shattered knees and a nose broken so many times he lost count. Shot twice, he was awarded two purple hearts among other medals.

After the war McLean worked twenty-five years for Boeing, survived three wives, had four kids and enjoyed much traveling. One of the purple hearts is buried with his dog. I put a gown on him and pinned it to the gown. Someday someone in Lompoc will dig up some little bones and a purple heart,” he said with a smile. “I really love that dog.”

Mr. McLean, we really love you, and thank you.

Katy Jacobson reporting

Letters to the Editor

Dispensaries are Professional and Lucrative Businesses

Although Old Town may not be the best location for a dispensary, the new owner of the market is ideal. Dispensaries are professional and lucrative businesses and reinvest in their communities. The new owner of the building donates to Oasis, demonstrating support of the community.

Corporations dominate the industry. Here in Old Town Orcutt, however, a local business chose to invest in Orcutt. We would gain job opportunities and financial resources for our town. We need to support our central coast dispensaries to keep our businesses local. The location in Old Town Orcutt achieves this goal.

Dispensaries are a \$19 billion-dollar industry, and are deemed essential by our state. They have tight security and nondescript storefronts. Full ID checks are required, which are analyzed for authenticity. If our children can walk by Elmer’s and the liquor store, they will be safe walking by a dispensary. Dispensaries in cities like Oceano and Santa Barbara have neatly organized their parking lots to minimize traffic. Sales rise despite the pandemic and continue to provide jobs and garner funds for their towns.

The heart of Orcutt is not in its buildings, but in its people. The Stellers are still an essential part of our community and have chosen to reinvest in their other business instead of relocating to another Old Town storefront.

I invite fellow residents of Orcutt to visit established dispensaries so they may dispel their fears. Perhaps if they sample the products, their minds might be changed.

*Dorothy Marin
Orcutt*

Successful Shred Day

On Friday, July 17, the Orcutt and Santa Maria communities drove up to the Free Community Shred Day at Vivid Financial Management in Old Town Orcutt. A total of 245 cars brought over 13,000 pounds of paper to be shredded. From decades old tax returns to bundles of assorted receipts that’d been crammed in the back of that one filing cabinet for years, Shred 2 You, a locally owned company, ended the day with a grand total of 6.5 tons of shredding. This annual free community event, which placed no limit on the amount of shredding one could bring, saw individuals returning time and again with their trunks and flatbeds boasting impressive stacks of boxes and bags brimming with documents. With masked faces and gloved hands, employees at Vivid and Shred2You worked together to safely and securely destroy all these documents.

During these uncertain and challenging times, it’s encouraging to see a community come together and collectively participate in an event. Vivid would like to personally thank all those who came out to the Free Community Shred Day and made it such a great success.

Vivid Financial Management is locally owned, with two locations on the Central Coast, Old Orcutt and Lompoc. We take an integrated, holistic approach to managing wealth. We lead clients on a purpose-driven path that supports their unique needs through our exceptional investment management, wealth planning, tax, accounting work, and business services.

Our service offering stands as a response to our client’s needs because we believe we can learn more from listening to our clients than imitating competitors.

*Julie Darah,
Vivid Financial Management
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Orcutt Schools Update

Distance Learning Through the Eyes of a Student

Dr. Holly Edds, Superintendent, OUSD

You probably have heard about the Orcutt Union School District and other school districts around the country implementing something called "distance learning" while campuses are closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. To help our community better understand what we are doing, this column will detail how a typical week of distance learning is experienced by one of our students.

Let's say you are a fourth grader. Distance learning has you working at home in a dedicated "school space" of your choosing, whether that is your kitchen table or a desk – just so you have enough space to arrange your textbooks, school supplies, and Chromebook that the district has provided you.

Your week begins on Monday morning with a Zoom online meeting with your classroom teacher and all of the other students in your class. The teacher goes over the work for the week and conducts a lesson that addresses a social/emotional topic such as reducing stress or connecting with friends.

You have been assigned to Cohort A, which participates in live instruction from your classroom teacher on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. (Each TK-6 class is divided into two cohorts so teachers can work with smaller groups at one time.) What this means is that the teacher will conduct an online Zoom meeting with you for 30-45 minutes at a time, after which you are asked to work independently out of your textbooks with the teacher available to answer questions if needed. This cycle – teacher Zoom and student work – continues through the morning.

The Zoom meetings you attend have another purpose, as you are able to see and socialize with other students. After your teacher confers with the whole class via Zoom, she sometimes will set up breakout sessions where you can catch up with classmates and discuss the academic content.

On Tuesday and Thursday afternoons, you have time to work on assignments on your own. If you have questions, you can

send them to your teacher by email or in the stream of the Google Classroom your teacher has set up for your class.

Wednesday and Friday mornings are times for your teacher to meet by Zoom with the other cohort while your cohort has live or prerecorded lessons from teachers in physical education and music. Once a week you also can click on a link to a prerecorded Arts Attack lesson that directs you in creating a piece of original visual art such as a portrait using colored pencils supplied by the district.

Wednesday and Friday afternoons, you see your classroom teacher again. Depending on what she has assigned, the teacher can present another lesson, guide our group through an ongoing project, offer individualized feedback, or tutor students who are struggling with an assignment.

As readers will see from this description of a week in the life of a fourth grader, distance learning is a diverse, engaging program that has students participating

in lessons taught by teachers, working out of textbooks, interacting with peers, even doing P.E. and the arts. Access to virtual Zoom meetings and other online applications is important, but students most certainly are not being asked to be in front of a computer screen for hours on end.

Everyone will agree that distance learning cannot equal the magic of in-person instruction, with teachers working directly and personally with students. But we in the Orcutt Union School District have worked to make distance learning as productive and enjoyable for students as we can.

"Our teachers have been working tirelessly to provide a wonderful education for our students in whatever setting is put before them," says Janet Bertoldi, the district's interim assistant superintendent of educational services. "We feel good about the distance learning program we have in place and are ready to put it in motion."

Superintendent Dr. Holly Edds can be contacted by phone at 938-8900 or by e-mail at heds@orcutt-schools.net. She can be followed on Twitter at @hce101.

Classified Ads

Sell items for free. Free ads can only be accepted via email to info@orcuttpioneer.com with "classified" in the subject line. 25 word limit. Business ads only \$25/25 words. Mail payments to Orcutt Pioneer, PO Box 2545, Orcutt CA 93457.

Wanted: Model A Ford Cars, Parts, Projects. Let me help clean out your garage. Jay McCord 805-598-8133

Shadowsfund, Senior and Pit Bull Rescue in Lompoc is looking for volunteers and dog walkers. Shadowsfund@gmail.com

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Calendar

To submit your community event, email 50 words or less to info@orcuttpioneer.com by the second Wednesday of the month. Be sure to include, in this order, the name of the event, location, time, a short description and contact information.

SPECIAL EVENTS

ANGELS FOSTER CARE is looking for families in Santa Maria and Orcutt who want to make a difference in the life of a local foster baby or toddler. There are approximately 350 children in foster care in Santa Barbara County. About 40% of those children are under the age of six and roughly 75% live in and around Santa Maria. We want to ensure there is a stable family ready for every infant and toddler who needs a home. To learn more about becoming an Angels Foster Care parent, please visit www.angelsfostercare.org or call 805-884-0012.

TRANSITIONS MENTAL HEALTH is offering a free and short eight week zoom class that educates family members about different mental illnesses, provides coping suggestions and how to communicate effectively with ill loved ones. Most of all, you know you are not alone in this daily challenge. Call or email Maria at Transitions Mental Health to sign up. mperez@t-mha.org (805) 441-3325

RIGHETTI HIGH SCHOOL BAND BOOSTERS is seeking sponsorship from local businesses. This will help support the dedicated students in the Righetti Bands with their continued efforts in field shows and performances. We are looking for donations and would be more than happy to perform in exchange. <https://www.rhswarriorbands.org/>

BENT AXLE CAR CLUB is welcoming new members! Do you have a pre-1973 American-made car and would like to socialize with us (cruising, eating and having fun)? We also put on a car show the 3rd week end of July. We invite you to our monthly meeting on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at the Radisson Hotel in Santa Maria at 6:30 PM Ann McKindley 805-714-6111

MONTHLY OR WEEKLY EVENTS

Note that many events are modified or canceled due to restrictions.

50+ CLUB LUNCHEON, at St Louis De Montfort Church Hall at 11:30AM on the second Thursday of the month. Event is catered with nominal charge. For reservations call Irene at 934-2511.

AA (or Alcoholics Anonymous). If you want to stop, that's your business. If you want to stop, that's ours. Meetings Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, 6:30PM Orcutt Presbyterian Church. General information and other meeting times and places, 925-3782.

ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLIC AND DYSFUNCTIONAL FAMILY SYSTEMS meets 1) Sun at 4PM in the Oasis Center Rostein room at 420 Soares Ave, and 2) Thur at 6PM in the Casa Del Rio Mobile Estates at 1124 N. Suey Rd. Contact Kim at (805) 714-6908 with questions.

ALL AMERICA CITY QUILT GUILD meets at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 4380 Orcutt Rd. on the second Wednesday of each month at 6:30 pm except March and July. Info: aacquilters@gmail.com or 805-937-4024.

ALTRUSA OF THE CENTRAL COAST meets at Noon on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month. Altrusa is an international non-profit organization of men and women that strives to make our local communities better through leadership, partnership and service. For more information and meeting location call 805.835.7627 or go to our website: www.altrusaofthecentralcoast.org.

ALL YOU CAN EAT BREAKFAST at OASIS Senior Center, 420 East Soares, Old Orcutt on the second Saturday of each month 8-10AM: Adult members \$5, Non members \$7, Children under 10: \$3.

BIBLE STUDY on the Book of Joshua at St. Louis de Montfort. Monday Nights 7-8 PM. For more info contact Trent Benedetti 922-4881.

BSA Troop 87 in Orcutt. Enjoy outdoors camping, hiking, fishing, snow & water sports, etc. Scouting provides an opportunity to try new things, build self-confidence, provide service to others, and reinforce ethical standards that improve relationships, family lives, and values. ronterry4543@gmail.com

Bilingual worship services at Christian Life every Sunday at 2PM, Unity Chapel of Life church located at 1165 Stubblefield Rd, Santa Maria, CA 93455. 719-660-9789.

CAMPING LOVE OF ADVENTURE is a nonprofit single adult camping club. We meet the second week of each month on Wednesday for up to six night or less. For more information contact Elaine 805-937-5357

CAREGIVER'S SUPPORT GROUP. Learn coping strategies and gain support from a professional social worker. For those who care for people that are home bound or suffering from Alzheimer's, dementia or senility. Class is free and meets on the first Wednesday of each month at the OASIS Senior Center.

CENTRAL COAST BEACH BOARDWALKERS WALKING CLUB meets at Giovanni's Pizza in Orcutt (next to Albertson's) on the fourth Thursday of each month from 6-7:30PM. Anyone interested in joining the CCBB is invited to meet Thursday, August 23rd for the next club meeting. Details can be found at www.beachboardwalkers.org, or call Club President Ty Fredriks at 805-714-1552.

CENTRAL COAST CHORDSMEN invite those who would like to sing or would like to learn to participate with them. Call 937-7960 for information.

CENTRAL COAST CORVETTE CLUB open to Corvette Owners and Enthusiasts. meetings at 7PM on the first Thursday of the month @ Merrill Gardens, Wellness Center, 1350 N. Suey Road, Santa Maria. Info: call Mike @ 805-934-3948 or Tawnya @ 805-260-6090.

CENTRAL COAST COMPUTER CLUB Knollwood Village Clubhouse 4012 S. Bradley Meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 5:45PM. with Q&A session, coffee and cookies, 7PM. computer presentation. Information: Don at 805-862-9124 or <https://sites.google.com/site/smcacccc>

Central Coast Gardeners meet at the Luis OASIS Senior Center, 420 Soares Ave., on the third Tuesday of the month at 6:30PM. from September through May. Guests are welcome. Info: Dorothy 934-8325.

CENTRAL COAST SAMS RV GROUP meets the 3rd Tuesday of each month for a 3 day "campout". We enjoy planned tours, good food and fellowship at local campgrounds within 100 miles of the Central Coast. We welcome new members. Contact Faye Cardoza 805-481-1047.

COASTAL VALLEYS MARINE CORPS LEAGUE 1340 monthly meeting on the fourth Tuesday of the month held at Veteran's Memorial Bldg at 313 W Tunnell in Santa Maria at 7PM.

COASTAL VOICES is looking for singers to join us! Rehearsals are held Mondays, 7 PM, at St. Andrew United Methodist Church, 3945 S. Bradley Rd., Santa Maria. A love of singing and the willingness to work hard and learn beautiful music is the only requirement. <http://www.coastalvoices.info/>. Singers can contact us at coastalvoices@gmail.com or call 937-5827

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18th All Ford Car Show Grand Raffle

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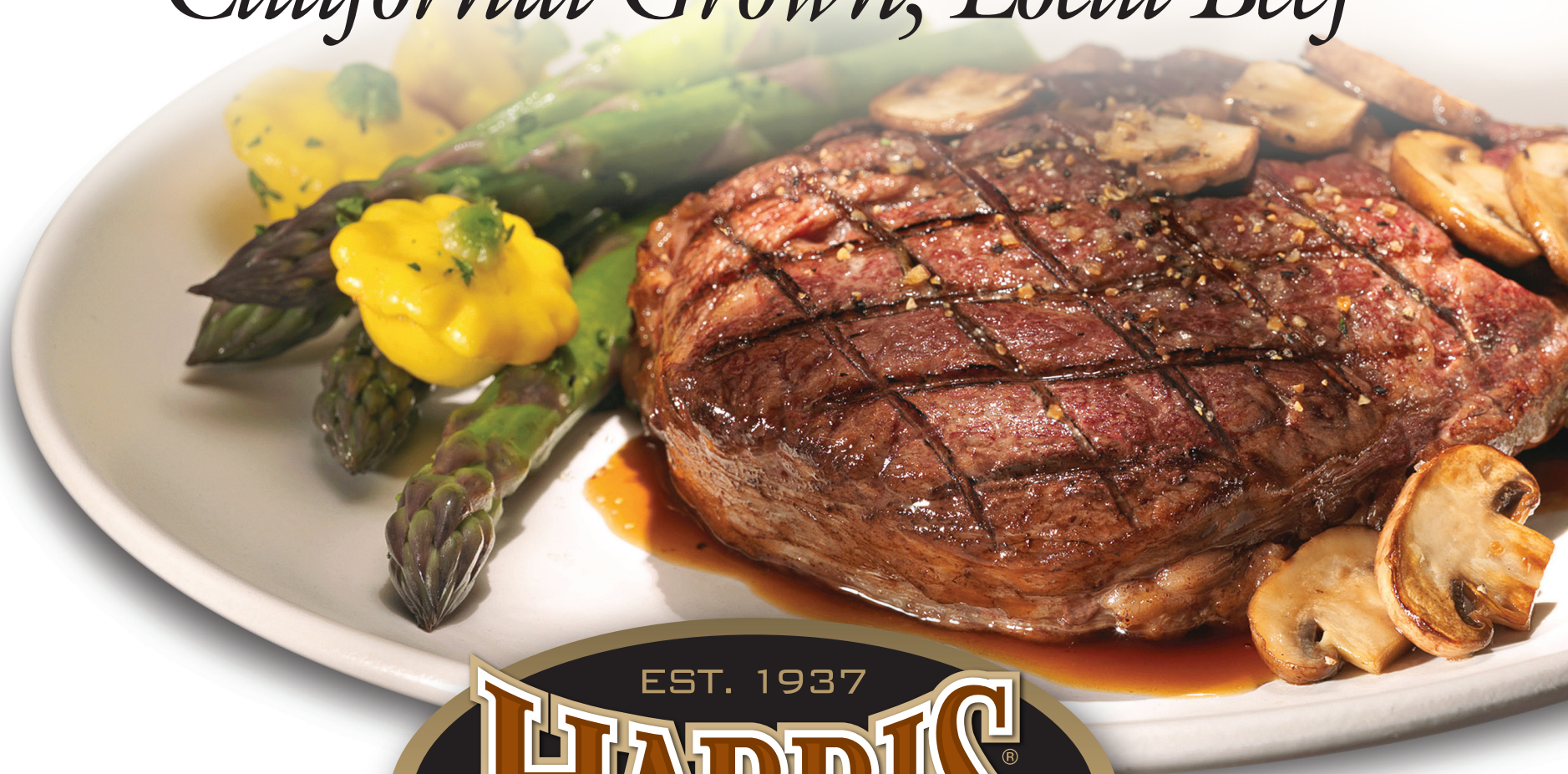
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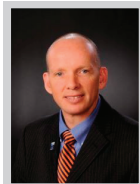
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