

What's your favorite holiday tradition?

**Asked in
downtown Chico**

Jeff Boian
Business consultant



This sounds cliché, but time with family, and rest—kind of a reset. My birthday is five days after Christmas, so we have a combination [with the holidays]. My wife and I celebrate 20 years of marriage, [too]. This is a great year.

Shawna Batham
Fleet Feet program director



Probably putting up the Christmas tree with my children. All the kids have their own ornaments that they've gotten through the years. We're going to do it the day after Thanksgiving this year.

Ki Leslie
retired



I like Thanksgiving—the food, and there seems to be a bit more fellowship among friends and family.

Jamie Taylor
musician



Usually, after Christmas, when I'm with my family we just play games all afternoon and laugh and do puzzles. Yeah, uninterrupted time with family.

GUEST COMMENT

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out in the fires around Paradise. One man lost five generations of history when his home burned; another man's hair caught on fire as he cycled down Skyway with his dog in his backpack; a woman told me about how she noticed the second lane was empty and decided to drive the wrong way down Skyway, with many others following her lead. Every survivor I've encountered has said s/he is grateful-for the support of the community and grateful-to the spirit and resilience that helped them survive the fire.

As 2024 ends, reflecting on and with gratitude is a promising way to close out this year of everything everywhere all at once. □

LETTERS CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

City of trees?

Last month, many of us who live in North Chico were shocked to see a crew cutting down one of most remarkable trees in Chico. This massive black walnut at Henshaw and Nord avenues is estimated to be about 200 years old. In 1973, when it was placed in a registry as the largest black walnut of its kind in the state, it was 112 feet tall with a diameter of almost 7 feet. Yet this majestic giant, and other huge black walnuts next to it, dating back to John Bidwell and the dawn of our rich orchard history, were hacked to pieces in a matter of days.

When we neighbors asked what was going on, we either got lies—"Just one tree," "Just a trim"—or told to mind our own business.

Upset residents who looked into the situation told me the developer and contractor proceeded with little or none of the due diligence needed. In essence, they moved as quickly as possible to take down the trees before they could be stopped from immediately doing so. I am not naïve about hard choices developers sometimes have to make. But this was an egregious decision, and a terrible loss for the "City of Trees."

Joe Wills
Chico

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