



THURSDAY  
JANUARY 14,  
2010  
50 CENTS

# Tulare Advance-Register

An edition of the VISALIA TIMES-DELTA

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## 3 teens arrested in shooting

Police: Youths shot at man as he drove past them; no one was hurt

BY LUIS HERNANDEZ  
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Three Tulare teenagers were arrested Tuesday in connection with a crime police described as an

unusual drive-by shooting — someone stood on a block and fired upon a vehicle driving by.

The teens — two of them 17 and the other 16 — were arrested on suspicion of assault with a deadly weapon and booked into juvenile hall. The youths were not identified because they are minors.

Police said a 29-year-old man, whose name was withheld because he's the victim of a violent crime, was driving a vehicle in the 1300 block of Academy Avenue about 4 p.m. Tuesday when he heard several shots fired in his direction.

He was not injured and his vehicle was not struck,

police said.

After the shooting, three youths in the area started running, jumping over the fences of homes, police said. After responding to the Officers started a search, which concluded when the youths were located hiding in the backyard of a home.

Tulare police Sgt. Daron Altermatt said the teens live in the area where the shooting occurred.

The motive for the shooting is unknown. Officers found no damaged property or spent casings.

Altermatt said there is no indication the shooters knew the man.

## MEASURE R Backers react to rail-line proposal

BY VALERIE GIBBONS  
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The co-author of Measure R, which imposed a half-cent sales tax to pay for roads projects, supports spending \$3 million from the fund on an east Tulare County rail line — in concept.

Just don't ask him for actual money.

"I will vote no — if it ever comes before me — to use any government money for this," Supervisor Phil Cox said.

Cox voted Tuesday for a Measure R amendment that allows money from the fund to buy tracks and right of way. Once a price

See MEASURE R, 3A

## GASOLINE PRICES ON THE RISE



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY STEVE R. FUJIMOTO AND ADRIANE HALL

### Local average cost of fuel in January up 10 cents per gallon over last month

Staff reports

#### GAS PRICES

Monthly average price for regular-grade unleaded gas in the Visalia-Tulare-Porterville metro market (prices recorded on the first day of each month):

<b>2009</b>	► January	\$2.10
	► February	\$2.35
	► March	\$2.32
	► April	\$2.38
	► May	\$2.58
	► June	\$2.99
	► July	\$2.94
	► August	\$3.06
	► September	\$3.16
	► October	\$3.03
	► November	\$2.94
	► December	\$2.91
<b>2010</b>	► January	\$3.01

Porterville area based on gas prices supplied within the last seven days.

AAA Northern California reported the price of gas went up 15 cents from the last month in California, according to spokesman Matt Skryja. The average price in the state was \$3.06 a gallon.

For perspective, that's \$1.06 more than California's average price on this date last

year, when it was \$2.

The national average price of \$2.75 is up by 12 cents, which is 96 cents more than the national price on this date last year, when it was \$1.79.

In the Tulare-Visalia-Porterville metro market, the average monthly price for January is \$3.0097 a gallon, an increase of 10 cents from December 2009, which had an average of \$2.9085 for regular unleaded

and an increase of 90 cents since Jan. 1, 2009, when it was \$2.1049.

"Cold weather over much of the country has helped to increase the price at the pump. As the cost of heating oil rises, gasoline prices are following close behind," Skryja said. "Also, optimism about the potential for economic recovery over the past few days has certainly played a role in the rising gas prices, as investors anticipate additional demand."

One way consumers can reduce the amount of money they spend on fuel is to shop aggressively for the lowest price.

Since there are so many variables that can influence the price, Skryja said, AAA analysts expect the prices to level

See GAS, 3A

## Events set to mark King Day

BY VICTOR GARCIA  
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Raised in Texas during the era of racial segregation, Tulare's Dolores Baradat never envisioned that America would be where it is today in terms of equality.

"For so long as a little kid, I thought that's the way it was and it always would be," said Baradat, 64.

Then she saw "the thing on TV about Rosa Parks sitting on the front of the bus."

America still has far to go, however, she said.

"Equality for everybody is still not there," Baradat said.

But there are events like Monday's Tulare Martin Luther King Jr. Day march, sponsored by the Tulare County Alliance of African-American Women.

See KING, 3A

#### HOW TO ATTEND

- **What:** Tulare Martin Luther King Jr. Day march
- **When:** 10 a.m. Monday
- **Where:** Claude Meitzenheimer Community Center, 830 South Blackstone St., Tulare

If you have not received your paper by 6 a.m., call 1 (888) 487-9565.

High: 57° Low: 39°

Pollen forecast today: 2.7

Friday: 5.7 Saturday: 5.4

**Predominant pollen:** Alder and elm.  
Source: Dr. A.M. Aminian

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## Event educates seniors about scams

BY LUIS HERNANDEZ  
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During the summer, Tulare's Lydia Guevara received a letter informing her she had just won \$150,000 from the Canadian lottery. She also got a check for almost \$5,000 as a sort of front payment for the six-figure prize.

The letter instructed her to deposit the check, with the rest of the money coming soon afterward.

Guevara knew better, and instead of going for the easy cash, took the check to police, who told her she had been a target of identify theft. She didn't fall for the scam.



LUIS HERNANDEZ

Balzer Scheer, left, and Lydia Guevara talk with Sharon Mizner of the Tulare County District Attorney's Office about fraud and identity theft Wednesday at the Tulare Senior Center.

"Since the beginning, I knew it was a scheme," she said.

The international lottery

See SCAMS, 3A

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