

**Strong Showing for Cordova Boys Hoops**

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**Lancers Shine at Passing Tournament**

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# Grapevine Independent

VOLUME 49 • ISSUE 28

PROUDLY SERVING RANCHO CORDOVA & SACRAMENTO COUNTY

July 8, 2016

**OLDEST LIVING FEMALE VETERAN HONORED**



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**MATERNITY AWARDS? COULD THERE BE SUCH A THING?**



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**POLITICS MAKES DEADLY BEDFELLOWS IN LATEST 'PURGE'**



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## A Crowd's Delight



The Blue Marlins Swim team shows Rancho Cordova spirit.

By Shelly Lembke  
Photos by Rick Sloan

**RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG)** - The city of Rancho Cordova celebrated Independence Day with a two-day, activity-packed gala beginning July 3rd with rides, a run and its 32nd annual parade. Hagan Park started the festivities where a Ferris Wheel, bumper cars, pedal boats and even Pedicar rides were available.

Hagan also was the starting point for the 3rd Annual All-American City Red, White, and Blue 5K Run. The color run added a fresh aspect for participants and spectators alike, offering opportunities to douse runners with a splash of red, white or blue coloring.

The parade, which wound down Zinfandel toward Hagan Park featured floats, appearances by local notables, including the FCUSD

Teacher of the Year Deborah Andrus, the Cordova High Marching Band, and City Council members. One of the biggest floats was designed, built and manned by Rancho's own Harmer family. Several veterans' groups from the Veterans of Foreign Wars and a special group of submariner veterans also were out in force, waving and smiling at the crowds.

Close to 70 local groups and organizations participated in the various events. Another key element to the celebration were performances by area youth bands, who battled it out for a whopping \$5000 prize. Not to be missed, a very lively light show lit the night skies with the City's biggest fireworks show yet concluding the celebration. ★



Rancho Cordova 4th of July rocks!

**Rancho Cordova Welcomes New CFO Kim Juran**

**RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG)** - The City of Rancho Cordova welcomes Kim Juran, as the city's new Chief Financial Officer.

Ms. Juran has sixteen years of finance experience, eleven of which are in local government finance. She previously served as the Director of Administrative Services for the City of Los Altos where she oversaw Finance, Human Resources and Information Technology.

"Kim brings a wealth of knowledge to the city that will build on the already solid reputation of our



Rancho Cordova CFO Kim Juran. Photo courtesy of City of Rancho Cordova

financial team. We feel very fortunate to have Kim as a member of our leadership team," said Cyrus Abbar, City Manager.

Prior to Los Altos, she was the Administrative Services Director for the City of Auburn, the Director of Finance for the City of San Bruno, and she also worked at Stanford University in a finance capacity.

"I am excited to be joining the City of Rancho Cordova team. I have long admired the City's reputation as a progressive organization and am looking forward to participating in the many innovative projects on the horizon," said Ms. Juran.

A native of Lodi, Calif., Ms. Juran earned a Bachelor's Degree in Finance and a Masters of Public Administration from the University of Southern California. She is relocating from the Bay Area with her family.

Source: City of Rancho Cordova ★

## Raley's Donates Thousands of Kitchen Utensils to Local Charities

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - Raley's Family of Fine Stores, in partnership with Bradshaw International, has donated over \$80,000 worth of kitchen utensils to various organizations within the community.

In January, Raley's underwent a chain wide conversion from Chef Style brand kitchen gadgets to Good Cook kitchen utensils. The distributor, Bradshaw International donated the remaining Chef Style products, which amounted to over 20,000 individual items, ranging from rolling pins and can openers to paring knives and meat thermometers. This donation is meant to teach kids to cook, help families in need and assist in healthy eating preparation.

"Bradshaw International is pleased to have participated with Raley's in such a worthy cause," said Brice Striggow,

Western Regional Sales Manager for Bradshaw International. "Donations like kitchenware products go a long way toward supporting the basic essentials of everyday life and inspiring others to cook. We are thrilled to be able to keep this support local, donating through organizations that do a monumental job helping those in need every day."

"Partners like Bradshaw International share our vision to support our local communities," said Becca Whitman, Raley's Community Relations Manager. "Their support allows us to bring a great benefit to those organizations serving our communities. These utensils will be helping kids learn to cook and providing comfort to local families."

Recipients included the Food Literacy Center, which teaches low-income

Continued on page 3



These kitchen gadgets were also shared with the Sacramento Food Bank, as well as Rosemont, Grant and Luther Burbank High Schools through the GEO Academy, whose mission is to teach youth how to create healthy and sustainable communities.



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# Rancho Cordova 4th: A Crowd's Delight



Photos by Rick Sloan



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## Golden State Water Adjusts Conservation Standards

**RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG)** - Golden State Water Company (Golden State Water) recently announced adjusted conservation standards for its Arden, Gold River and Rancho Cordova customers. Effective immediately, customers may water outdoor landscapes up to three days per week, and state-issued conservation mandates have been replaced with new voluntary reduction targets of 25 percent (Arden) and 32 percent (Gold River and Rancho Cordova).

The adjusted conservation standards permit local addresses ending in an even number (0, 2, 4, 6, 8) to water on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday; odd addresses (1, 3, 5, 7, 9) may water landscapes on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday. All outdoor irrigation must occur before 8 am or after 7 pm, and should not exceed 10 minutes per station. Restrictions do not apply for trees or edible vegetation watered solely by drip or microspray systems.

"Our customers have done a tremendous job reducing water use during this drought, and we encourage our communities to

remain diligent with their conservation efforts," said Paul Schubert, General Manager of the Northern District for Golden State Water. "It's important that we keep our existing conservation momentum, as the state will likely consider new conservation regulations in 2017. While some parts of the state received much-needed relief from dry conditions during the winter and spring months, California remains in a drought emergency and we must make efficient water use a way of life to protect our state's vulnerable water supplies."

The adjusted conservation standards are aligned with the State Water Resources Control Board's (State Water Board) shift to locally-developed conservation strategies, as outlined in the state's emergency drought regulations issued on May 18, 2016. These standards could be revised pending the State Water Board's verification of data on drought supply reliability and demand, or developments related to local water supply conditions and conservation. Golden State Water will continue to monitor and assess

local conditions and implement measures as appropriate based on water reliability and sustainability.

Additionally, customers are reminded that the following practices that waste potable water are prohibited in California, per Governor Jerry Brown's Executive Order issued on May 9, 2016:

- Hosing off sidewalks, driveways and other hardscapes.
- Washing a motor vehicle with a hose, unless the hose is fitted with a shut-off nozzle.
- Operating a fountain or decorative water feature, unless the water is part of a recirculating system.
- Watering outdoor landscapes in a manner that causes excess runoff, or within 48 hours following measurable precipitation.
- Irrigation with potable water of ornamental turf on public street medians.

Visit [gswater.com](http://gswater.com) for additional information on local conservation standards, drought updates and conservation resources, or call Golden State Water's 24-hour Customer Service Center at 800-999-4033. ★

## Oldest Living Female Veteran Honored by American Legion and American Legion Auxiliary

By Elise Spleiss

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - Lynn Balmer is 108 years old, going on 109. She was recently honored as the oldest female veteran still alive in the United States, and the oldest living female member of the American Legion in the country.

Balmer was a Lieutenant in the US Coast Guard, working Intelligence during WWII. She was a high school math teacher in 1942 in Albany, CA when she answered the call by her government for mathematicians able to read and interpret weather maps and charts. She worked out of a secret base in Connecticut helping to safely navigate US ships on the least dangerous route from the United States to England. Upon discharge in 1945, she moved to Seattle, Washington where she met and married her husband, Charles Balmer.

Balmer was honored in April by American Legion Post 709, Rancho Cordova where she is a member, as the oldest living member of the American Legion. She is also the oldest American Legion Auxiliary member in the United States, receiving a lifetime membership from Auxiliary Unit Citrus 637. Niece Brenda Hicks of Citrus Heights



Balmer holds a plaque recognizing her as the oldest living female member of the American Legion. Her nephew, Ken Hicks holds her certificate of lifetime membership. Photo by Brenda Hicks

describes her great aunt as still being "as bright as can be."

Lynn was also a professional ice skater, performing in the Ice Capades before and after WWII.

Balmer's nephew, Ken Hicks of Citrus Heights, describes his aunt as "an extremely sharp woman."

She now resides in a care facility in Chico, CA. As a graduate of Chico State University, Balmer also holds the distinction of being the oldest living graduate of any of the California State Universities. She will be 109 in September. ★

## Raley's Donates Thousands of Kitchen Utensils to Local Charities

Continued from page 1

elementary school aged children cooking and nutrition to improve their health, environment and economy. "We're excited to help our kids create new memories with our new kitchen equipment," said Amber Stott, Founder, Food Literacy Center. "These are the kinds of tools that allow us to help kids create fond memories--while enjoying the healthy bounty this region has to offer!"

Donations will also be used for the various Salvation Army social services programs in Sacramento County, including the E. Claire Raley Transitional Living Center. "This is an amazing donation that will help so many of the individuals and families in our programs," said Major Ivan Wild, Salvation Army Del Oro Division Divisional Commander. "Time and time again Raley's has been a local leader in charitable giving, and this latest donation is just another example of that fact. We appreciate Raley's for its generosity and partnership with The Salvation Army."

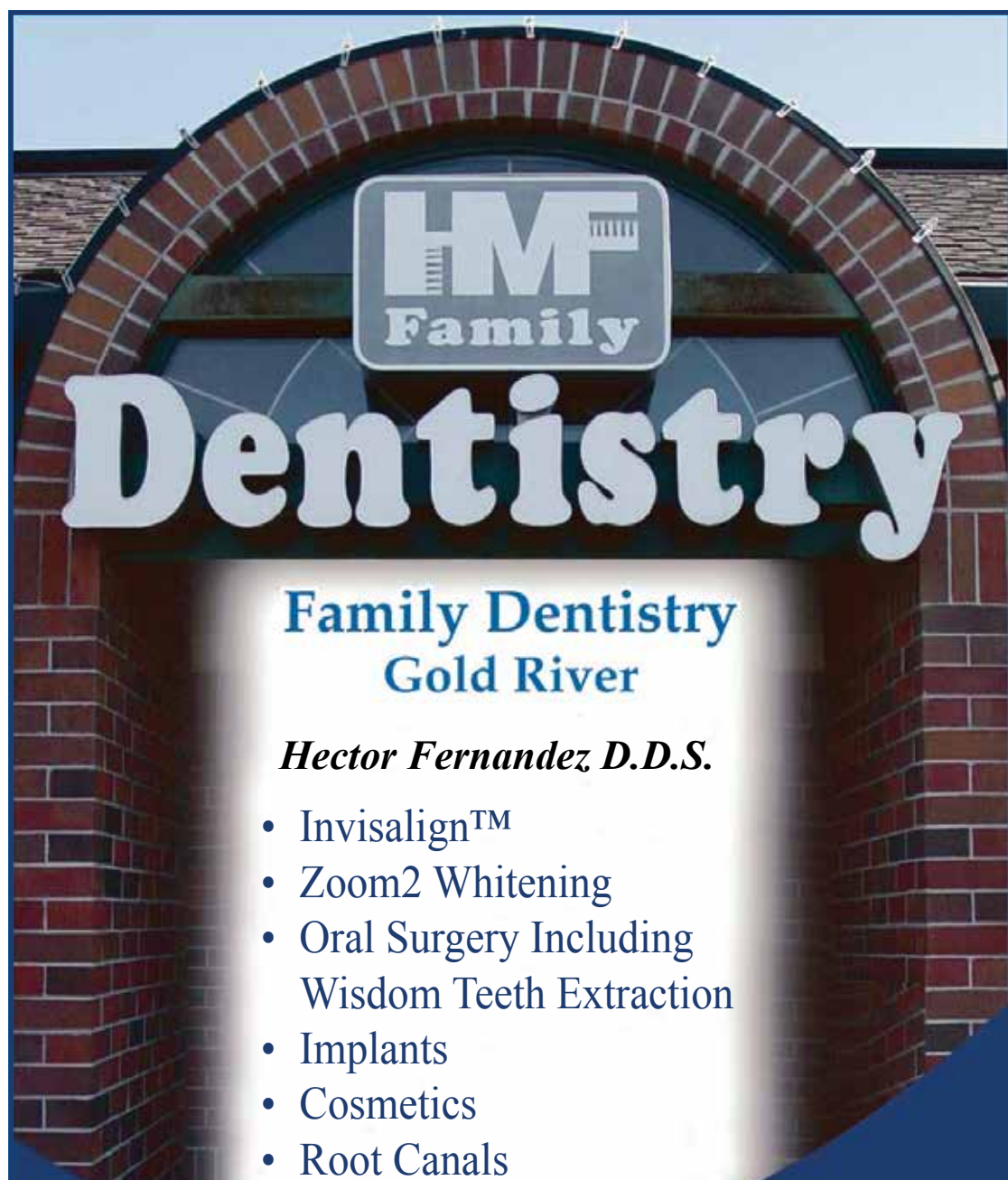
Source: Raley's ★

## Berryhill Honors CA Conservation Corps 40th Anniversary

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Senator Tom Berryhill (R-Twain Harte) announced passage of Senate Concurrent Resolution 156, a measure which recognizes the 40th anniversary and the tremendous impact the organization has had on California.

"People in the 8th Senate District are forever grateful for the contributions made by California Conservation Corpsmembers during the Rim, Rough and Butte Fires," said Berryhill. "This resolution was personal to me - these folks do great work for our state and this anniversary should not go without Senate recognition."

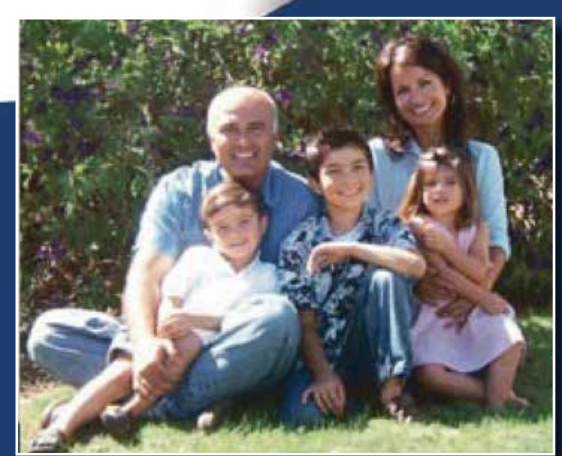
The California Conservation Corps, signed into law by Governor Brown in 1976, is the oldest and largest State Conservation Core program in the country. CCC Corpsmembers have clocked 69 million hours of natural resource work throughout the state; they have tackled more than 900 projects a year, and provided nearly 9.6 million hours of emergency response on just about every major California natural disaster. ★



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## And Another Thing ... Another Fantastic Fourth!

band competition due to a Community Enhancement Fund grant. There were six bands total, one of them being Cordova High's marching band, that were competing for the \$5,000 prize. The second prize was \$2,500 and the third prize was \$1,500. All of the bands received \$1,500 for being a part of the parade and competing. The three judges who made the decisions were professionals, and decided that Cordova High won first place in the competition! Congratulations to our talented students and to all of the bands who shared their holiday with us, thank you all. And please come back again!

Some other good news, the first 50 apartments of the Mather Veterans Village are complete and are now being occupied by veterans, some of whom have had a very hard time getting on with life. Books could be written about their stories. And yet, for many veterans, it is too difficult to talk about what they had to go through, and there are so many stories that have never been told. Some more good news about Mather Veterans Village is that the underground tank that was found next to the

building was removed, and the test results of the soil came back clean. The water that was filling up the hole made by the removal of the tank was coming from a broken irrigation pipe. That pipe was capped on both ends and after that water is pumped out, the ground can be safely filled with soil and will be ready for the next 50 Veterans Village apartments to be built.

The bad news is that the tank and the soil testing kept us from meeting the June 29th deadline that Mercy Housing had to meet so that the other phase 3 apartments could be built. They will now be built early next year. Meanwhile, phase 2 - which includes the rest of the two story building - will be moving forward so that the first floor, offices, and classrooms can be finished. The second floor will include around 50 temporary "apartments" for more veterans so they can get off the streets, and since they are only a block away from the VA Hospital, they can learn what they are eligible for. More to come on that next week.

*From Councilman Bob McGarvey, God bless, and see you next time.* ★

We have had another fantastic Fourth of July celebration in the City of Rancho Cordova. July 3rd brought the first few thousand people to Hagan Park, and then thousands more on July 4th. In my memories, the Fourth of July parade was the best (and the longest) ever. When we are celebrating our country's 240th birthday, having patriotic music is part of the party, but having our own Big Red Marching Band from Cordova High provide the music is even greater. But this year, by adding a marching band competition to our parade, there was even more beautiful music. There were such wonderful sounds from all of the talented kids in all six marching bands, and knowing they were putting their hearts and souls into their music added even more enjoyment to the day.

This year was a first for our Fourth of July parade - we added the marching

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**Publisher, Paul V. Scholl**

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## CA Assembly Releases Mandatory Interlock Evaluation

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - On June 28, 2016 the California State Assembly Committee on Business and Professions released an evaluation of Senate Bill 1046, which would mandate ignition interlock devices (IID) for all DUI offenders in California. Their evaluation included a recently released report from the California Department of Motor Vehicles which DID NOT recommend expanding the program statewide, due to the many limitations of ignition interlock mandates for first-time offenders.

In light of the DMV's report, the American Beverage Institute's Managing Director, Sarah Longwell, released the following statement:

"The California Assembly should reject SB 1046 in light of the DMV's new report showing that mandatory ignition interlocks for first-time offenders resulted in a higher crash risk among the pilot program's participants. If the CA DMV cannot recommend expanding the pilot statewide, then the Assembly should take their

recommendations for further study seriously before spending millions of dollars on a program that had mixed results at best."

Key findings of the DMV and Assembly Committee reports can be found below.

California Department of Motor Vehicles said in its report on June 17, 2016 titled Specific Deterrent Evaluation of the Ignition Interlock Pilot Program in California:

- "Individuals obtaining an IID-restricted license had a higher increase in crashes, including fatal/injury crashes, compared to DUI offenders whose licenses remained suspended or revoked."

- The AB 91 program is not associated with an increase or decrease in the odds or hazards of a subsequent DUI conviction over the 12-month time period

- The AB 91 program is not associated with a reduction or increase in the odds or hazards of a subsequent DUI incident over the 12-month time period.

- First offenders in non-pilot

counties have a 6.1% lower hazards or odds of a subsequent crash relative to those in the pilot counties over the 12-month time period.

- "If the IID installation as part of the AB 91 program provisions for a restricted/reinstated driver license is shown to be associated with a negative traffic safety impact (i.e., increased crashes and/or increased convictions), there would be no empirical justification for continuing the AB 91 pilot program or for expanding it more broadly."

The California State Assembly Committee on Business and Professions said in today's Evaluation of S.B. 1046:

- "Thus far DMV has not concluded that such a blanket approach is more effective than current law in 54 counties."

- Estimates of the fiscal effect of expanding AB91 under SB 1046 to be between \$1.6 and \$ 1.7 million.

Source: American Beverage Institute ★

## Recalls Made on Protein Drinks from Sacramento Facility Due to Premature Spoilage

### Special Health Release

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - Out of an abundance of caution and with an emphasis on its customers' wellness and safety, HP Hood LLC is voluntarily recalling certain code dates of protein drinks from its Sacramento, CA, facility, due to the potential for premature product spoilage.

HP Hood is voluntarily recalling specific products after identifying a possible packaging defect that may result in product spoilage during transport and handling. Consumers may notice that, in some cases, the packaging is bloated and product inside may have an off taste or odor. Consumers should not use the product, since it does not meet its high quality standards.

The recalled products are

limited to plastic bottles of 14 oz. and 10 oz. MUSCLE MILK® Genuine, MUSCLE MILK® Pro Series, MUSCLE MILK® 100 Calorie, with Best By dates of November 21, 2016 through May 23, 2017, with an "HS" in the code date. This recall applies only to the products listed below. The Best By and code dates are printed on the top of the lid of single serve bottles.

No confirmed reports have been received of any consumer illness nor injuries to date.

If a consumer has any of the MUSCLE MILK® products listed, they should return it to the store where they were purchased for an exchange, or call Customer Relations at 1-877-446-7635 Monday – Thursday 7:45 AM – 4:00 PM CST or Friday 7:45 AM – 2:45 PM CST. ★



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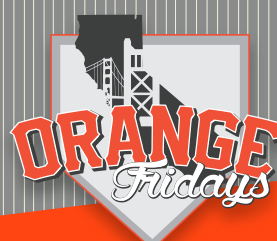
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# Sacramento County DA Reports

*Defendant Convicted of Attempted Rape, Assault, Robbery of Elderly Woman; Defendant Convicted for Series of Rapes; Defendant Sentenced for 3-Month Crime Spree*



**DATE:** March 30, 2016 **CASE:** Carlton Beard  
**PROSECUTOR:** Deputy District Attorney Matt Chisholm, Adult Sexual Assault Prosecution Unit  
The Honorable Richard Sueyoshi sentenced Carlton Beard to 15 years in prison. On February 24, 2016, a jury convicted Beard of two counts of forcible rape.

On July 17, 2015, the victim rented a motel room for Beard, who was homeless at the time. He asked the victim to help him rent a room so he did not have to sleep on the streets. After checking into the room, Beard forcibly raped the victim two times.

**DATE:** April 22, 2016 **CASE:** Mitchell Leahy  
**PROSECUTOR:** Deputy District Attorney Megan Eixenberger, Career Criminal Prosecution Unit

The Honorable Donald Currier sentenced 35-year-old Mitchell Leahy to 17 years, 4 months in prison. On March 14, 2016, a jury convicted Leahy of first-degree robbery with use of a firearm, first-degree burglary, and grand theft of a firearm.

On August 29, 2013, Ryan Yarbrough returned to his Folsom home and saw that his sliding glass door had been taken off the tracks. Mr. Yarbrough discovered he was missing a .45 caliber semi-automatic handgun, a .40 caliber semi-automatic firearm, and his grandfather's retirement ring from the Oakland Police Department. Fingerprints lifted from the sliding glass door matched Leahy.

On September 2, 2013, Vickie Lovingood returned to her Orangevale home and noticed her French doors were open. When she entered one of the bedrooms, she saw a man rummaging through her dresser drawers. He was also holding one of her tote bags that appeared to be full of items. When confronted, the man reached towards his waistband and pulled out a gun. Mrs. Lovingood backed away and the man fled. Fingerprints lifted from the French doors matched Leahy.

On October 25, 2013, Mrs. Lovingood contacted the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department to report a man she saw in a news report of a burglary in Granite Bay looked like the man she saw in her house. The Granite Bay burglary took place on October 23, 2013. A 14-year-old girl was home alone at the time and called 911 when she realized a man was attempting to enter the house through a sliding glass door. Leahy was located nearby. Detectives found burglary tools, a firearm, jewelry and other property belonging to multiple victims in his truck.

**DATE:** June 24, 2016 **CASE:** Joseph McKeever  
**PROSECUTOR:** Deputy District Attorney Bruce Chang, Adult Sexual Assault Prosecution Unit  
Joseph McKeever was convicted by a jury of

attempted rape, assault to commit rape during the commission of a residential burglary, and home invasion robbery. The jury also found true the crimes were committed against an elderly victim.

McKeever saw the 72-year-old victim walking her dog in the Foothill Farms area of Sacramento. He followed the victim to her home and forced his way into her residence. When the victim tried to escape, McKeever punched her in the face, grabbed her arms, and threw her on the ground. McKeever then got on top of the victim, choked her, and sexually assaulted her. McKeever also took \$900 in cash from her purse.

When McKeever's mother recognized a composite sketch she saw on the news as her son, she called the Sacramento County Sheriff's Department to report her son was the suspect.

McKeever faces a maximum potential sentence of 14 years to life in prison. Sentencing is set for August 19, 2016, at 10:00 a.m. in Department 41 before the Honorable Helena Gweon.

**DATE:** June 24, 2016 **CASE:** Jose Gomez-Garcia  
**PROSECUTOR:** Deputy District Attorney Matthew Chisholm, Adult Sexual Assault Prosecution Unit

Jose Gomez-Garcia was convicted by a jury of six felony counts of forcible rape, two felony counts of forcible sodomy, and one felony count of forcible oral copulation. The jury also found true a multiple victim enhancement on eight counts.

From June 2002 to October 2002, Gomez-Garcia raped three women by force. Each victim was taken to a deserted warehouse parking lot and violently raped. Two of the victims were sodomized. Gomez-Garcia controlled each victim by grabbing them around the neck and making threats. All three victims immediately reported the sexual assaults to law enforcement. DNA recovered from each of the victims was analyzed by the District Attorney's Crime Lab. The three cases were linked to each other, but not to a suspect.

In 2004, Gomez-Garcia was arrested for illegal re-entry after deportation, which resulted in a federal felony conviction. While in custody, federal authorities collected Gomez-Garcia's DNA. In 2010, there was a DNA hit to Gomez-Garcia, who by that time had been deported to Mexico. Extradition proceedings were initiated and he was returned to Sacramento in 2014 to face these charges.

Gomez-Garcia has a prior 1998 strike conviction for shooting into an inhabited dwelling.

He faces a maximum potential sentence of 261 years to life in prison. Sentencing is set for August 18, 2016, at 9:00 a.m. in Department 24 before the Honorable Shelleyanne Chang. ★

# Grapevine Independent Community Calendar

**CODEPENDENTS ANONYMOUS**  
Time: Tuesdays, 7:30-9 pm  
Place: Sunriver Church  
11223 Trinity River Dr.  
www.sunriverchurch.com

**WESTERN SWING SOCIETY**  
Time: 1st Sundays, 1-5:30 pm  
Place: Machinists Hall  
2749 Citrus Rd.  
www.westernswingssociety.org  
Info: Live music, dancing. Food & beverages available for purchase. Members \$4, Non-members \$7.

**MILITARY RETIREE/SPOUSE MEETING**  
Time: 2nd Tuesdays, 10:30 am  
Place: N. Highlands Park & Rec Office  
6040 Watt Ave., N. Highlands  
Contact: 561-7476  
Info: Meets monthly.

**RANCHO CORDOVA HISTORICAL SOCIETY**  
Time: 4th Thursdays, 5 pm  
Place: Rancho Cordova City Hall  
2729 Prospect Park Dr.  
www.ranhocordovahistory.com  
Info: Meets in the American River Room

**SPELLBINDERS TOASTMASTERS**  
Time: 2nd & 4th Mondays, 6:30 to 8 pm  
Place: China Buffet  
5623 Sunrise, Citrus Heights  
Contact: 631-1703  
Info: Hone communication skills. Beginners welcome.

**SPANISH LANGUAGE CONVERSATION CIRCLE**  
Time: 4th Saturdays, 3-4:30 pm  
Place: Rancho Cordova Library  
9845 Folsom Blvd.  
Contact: 264-2920  
www.saclibrary.org  
Info: Practice Spanish in a fun and relaxed way with library staff, community.

**BRECA MEETING**  
Time: 4th Tuesdays, 6:30-8 pm  
Place: Rancho Cordova Library  
9845 Folsom Blvd.  
Contact: 361-8087  
www.breca.us

**POWERTALK INTERNATIONAL MONTHLY MEETING**  
Time: 3rd Tuesdays, 6:30-8:30 pm  
Place: Arden-Dimick Library  
891 Watt Ave., Sacramento  
Contact: 361-1745  
Info: Coaching, effective speaking, listening, leadership skills. Beginners are welcome.

**WRITING WORKSHOP**  
Time: 3rd Thursdays, 6-7:30 pm  
Place: 9845 Folsom Blvd.  
Contact: 264-2920  
www.saclibrary.org  
Adult writing & poetry workshops (writing for various types of genres and more).

**AA NEWCOMERS**  
Time: Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30 pm  
Place: Sunriver Church  
11223 Trinity River Dr.  
www.sunriverchurch.com

**READING WITH THE DOGS**  
Time: 1st Tuesdays, 6:30-7:30 pm  
Place: Rancho Cordova Library  
9845 Folsom Blvd.  
Contact: 264-2920  
www.saclibrary.org  
Info: Read to a canine pal, boost reading skills. Free.

**CORDOVA SENIOR CITIZENS SOCIAL CLUB**  
Time: 1st and 3rd Mondays, 11 am  
Place: Cordova Community Center  
2197 Chase Dr.  
Contact: 638-8065 for bridge or 858-1660 for membership  
Info: Brown bag lunch, bridge party. Free.

**FORK TAIL DEVILS**  
Date: 2nd Thursdays  
Place: Rancho Cordova IHOP  
2216 Sunrise Blvd.  
Contact: 488-2645  
Info: Lockheed Lightning P-38 enthusiasts, pilots, mechanics no-host brunch.

**WOMEN'S GOLF CLUB OF CORDOVA**  
Date: Wednesdays  
Place: Cordova Golf Course  
9425 Jackson Rd., Sacramento  
Contact: 363-0363  
Info: All players welcome.

**CORDOVA COUPLES GOLF CLUB**  
Date: Alternate Sunday mornings  
Place: Cordova Golf Course  
9425 Jackson Rd., Sacramento  
Contact: 682-2285  
All players welcome. Call for more information.

**COFFEE, TEA AND CONVERSATION FOR SENIORS**  
Date: First Saturdays, 10-11 am  
Place: Rancho Cordova Library  
9845 Folsom Blvd.  
Contact: 264-2920  
Info: For those 55+. Free. Share thoughts, memories: let the conversation flow! Light refreshments served. First Saturday each month.

**SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL OF RANCHO CORDOVA & GOLD RIVER**  
Time: 2nd Tuesday each month, 6-7 pm  
Place: Cattleman's Restaurant  
12409 Folsom Blvd.  
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670  
Contact: siranhocordova@soroptimist.net for more info  
Info: Organization serving needs of women & girls in our community and around the world.

**VINS VOLUNTEER IN NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES**  
Time: 1st Thursday of month 3-5 PM  
Place: Rancho Cordova City Hall  
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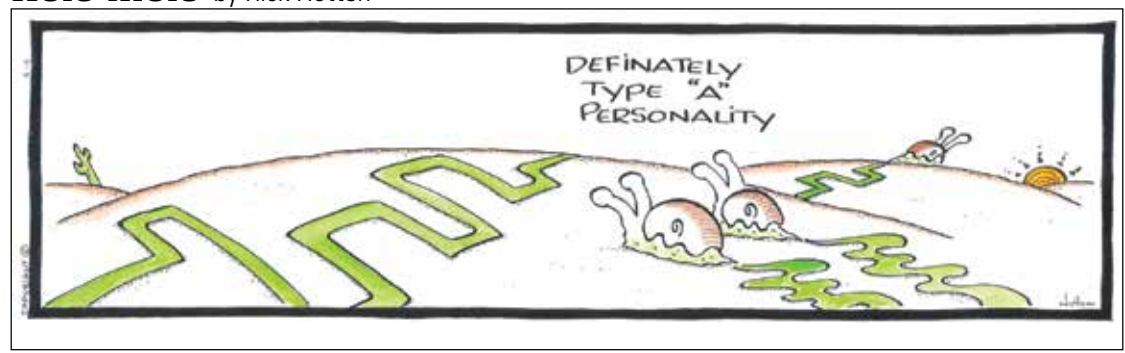
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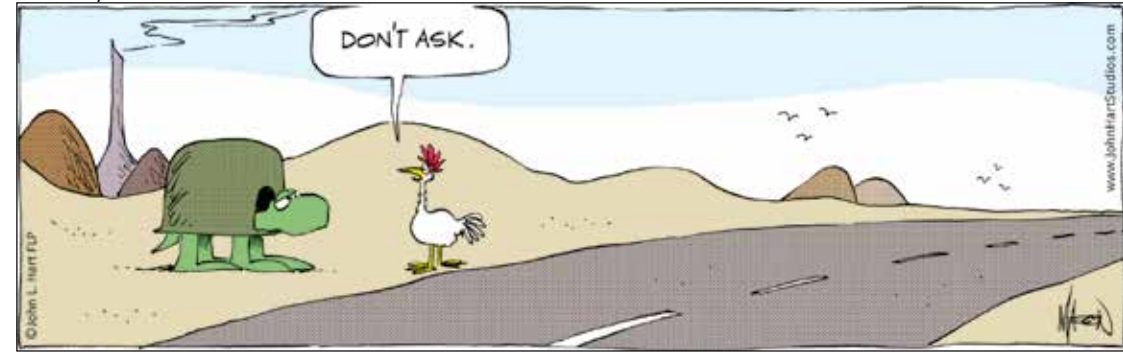
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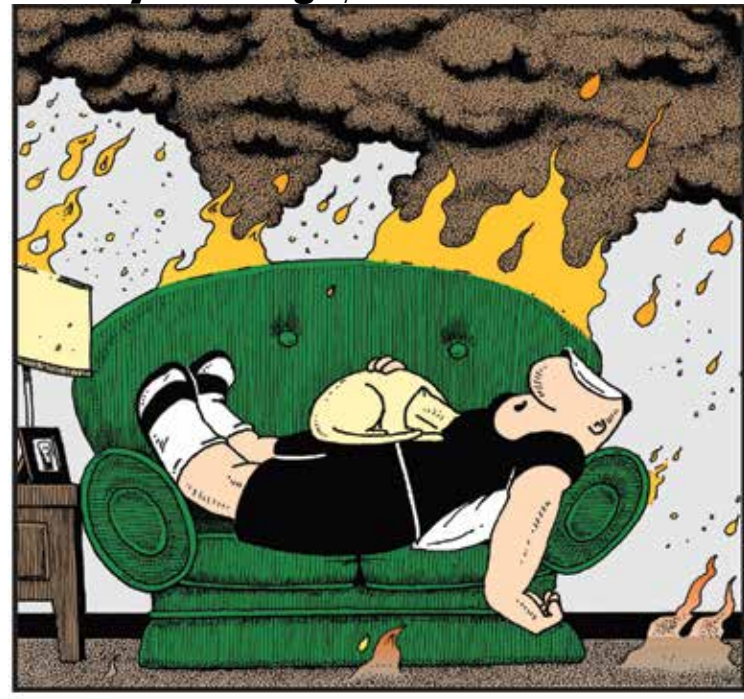
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# Politics Makes Deadly Bedfellows in Latest 'Purge'



By David Dickstein

Let's be honest here. If the U.S. government gave me a day when I could commit any crime with complete amnesty, I wouldn't spend it getting revenge on a store owner who ticked me off or going on a wild joy ride with young ladies strapped to the hood of my car. And I certainly wouldn't round up a bunch of buddies and decapitate homeless people with a guillotine. But maybe that's just me.

Clearly, there are those types of people in the sadistic mind of writer-director James DeMonaco, who now has three "Purge" movies under his blood-stained belt. No. 3, "The Purge: Election Year," is the best of the lot if you're looking for a tad less gore and a lot more socio-political commentary. Shooting of the sci-fi horror film started long before America decided who will represent the two major parties in the next presidential election, but it's probably not completely coincidental that DeMonaco's latest, set in near-future Washington, D.C., suggests a bleeding heart liberal white woman running for commander in chief as the movie's protagonist and a white, right-wing bible thumper as the villain.

She, Sen. Charlie Roan (Elizabeth Mitchell) is running on an anti-Purge platform, citing that the government-sanctioned day of mayhem is nothing but a heinous method of ridding those citizens who are a burden on society (read: the poor, homeless, mentally ill, disabled, etcetera). He, Minister Edwidge Owens (Kyle Secor), is staunchly pro-Purge and for all the reasons his opponent is claiming. Like today, the

United States in 2025 is a country divided, and it all could come down to just a single swing state that shifts power from the ruling NFFA (the New Founding Fathers of America) to the party of the people – a melting pot that is probably stronger than it would be after 25 of these overnight rituals allowed under the 28th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. But let's not let logic get in the way – the plots of these "Purge" movies have more holes than a Sacramento roadway – and best that the viewer moves beyond such reasonable questions as, "Why doesn't everyone who wants to keep living just go abroad every March 21-22?"

people in the movie. Then there's Joe (Mykelti Williamson), a saintly black convenience store owner and positive father figure to a Hispanic immigrant employee (Joseph Julian Soria) and reformed bad girl Laney (Betty Gabriel), black like most of the radicals plotting to overthrow the Klan-like NFFA. As for the other races, maybe they were smart enough to leave the country. But, again, better to check your logic at the door.

As for the gore, it's tempered compared to "Anarchy" and the one that started it all in 2013. But a Disney movie this ain't. Many people die, and die horribly. Many times they're people you want dead, and the film doesn't



"The Purge: Election Year," is the best of the lot if you're looking for a tad less gore and a lot more socio-political commentary.

The right wing, if we're going with today's system of classifying political and ideological positions, is depicted as one-dimensional anarchy-happy white supremacists. The left is the party of the people, and that's the side on which most of the movie's cast belongs. Leo (Frank Grillo) is hellbent on revenge due to events in the previous installment, "The Purge: Anarchy" (2014). Now he's on secret service detail protecting Sen. Roan, a Purge survivor herself. Between the two, they represent the only "good" white

wait until the end for audiences to get their payoff. Let that be a lesson for an especially hateful pair of young ladies who try to go all "Clockwork Orange" on old Joe.

Clearly, there will be a fourth. The first two grossed more than 10 times their budget, shoe-strings each of \$3 million and \$9 million, respectively, and there's no reason to believe the \$10 million third won't perform just as well, if not better in what, God willing, will be a much more civilized election year for us in the real world. **4 of 5 Stars ★**



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## Pam Young's Corner

### Maternity Awards? Could There be Such a Thing?

It's graduation time again, and it got me to thinking about it, which lead me to the idea of celebrating. I looked up the definition of celebration and it said: *a joyful occasion for special festivities to mark some happy event*

When we're young, because we're growing and changing, there's cause to celebrate those achievements of going from grade school through high school and college, as well as celebrating the holidays and birthdays.

If we work at a job, there's usually the annual awards banquet giving out Employee of the Year statues and BO (Born Organized) achievement pins and certificates. I know because as a keynote speaker, I've sat through hours of achievement awards presentations. But what about us moms? Yeah we might get a Hallmark card once in a while, but there's no annual awards banquet for Mom or Dad.

We see a great deal of joy watching winners of the Academy Awards, AFI, Golden Globe and the Peoples Awards for the entertainment industry. Then there are the sports awards, the Gold Medals, Super Bowl Rings, the World Cup and a bunch of other plates, statues and jackets that give out kudos

to athletes. As a writer it's fun to get on the New York Times best seller list. but it'd be so nice, as a mom, to get some tangible recognition for, well, being a good mom.

Many years ago, I dated a colonel in the US Army and on one date he took me to a big deal awards banquet in Portland where four of the Joint Chiefs of Staff attended. I've never seen so many medals and ribbons on pockets in my entire life! My friend said the officers call it "fruit salad." I went home that night and thought about all the fruit hanging off those people. Now I don't want to in any way put down the military for giving out their awards, I just find it very interesting that we humans need recognition that way. I thought, "We should have Maternity Awards."

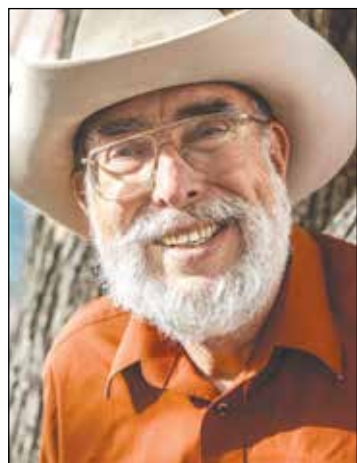
Say you've breastfed three children, there should be a pin (maybe a cow or a milk can) you could wear on the pocket or your mother "uniform" denoting how many gallons you produced over your lifetime. If you had a C-Section, there could be a Purple C pin. There should be medals, pins and ribbons for episiotomies, yeast infections, PMS, and ones for teaching a child to walk, talk, drive, eat with good manners etc. In other words, we should

be able to look like those military officers when we go where parents gather like at church and at school and be recognized for our valor.

I know it's not going to happen. First of all we're too busy on the front lines 24-7 to design uniforms, and who'd give out the awards? The kids? Nah. But there is something we can do. We can enjoy our calling in as many moments out of each day that we can. We can be grateful for our work, our kids and our husbands and cherish and celebrate every evening when we come together under the blessed roof of our homes. And when we take the valuable time to be alone each day we can give ourselves credit for the service we provide. When we love who we are we don't need awards, medals, ribbons and pins to show the world what we've accomplished, we just need to keep remembering what a contribution we make to our world.

For more from Pam Young go to [www.cluborganized.com](http://www.cluborganized.com). You'll find many musings, videos of Pam in the kitchen preparing delicious meals, videos on how to get organized, ways to lose weight and get your finances in order, all from a reformed SLOB's point of view. ★

# Slim Randles' HOME COUNTRY



## Mrs. Forrest's Unstoppable Feeding Compulsion

of a certain age know if they should just happen to be chatting with Mrs. Forrest on her front lawn along about supper time, there's a dang-near dead certainty they'll get a meal out of it.

And, through the magic of telepathic communication and the synchronistic wave lengths of humanity, the message about Mrs. Forrest's unstoppable feeding compulsion had somehow reached the psyches of the homeless.

At any rate, two of the aforementioned drifters had knocked on Mrs. Forrest's door and asked if there were any chores she needed done in exchange for some food. Well, you should've seen her eyes light up at that question. She said she had a bunch of firewood that needed to be split into kindling and if they didn't mind doing that, she'd fix them a chicken dinner with cream gravy. Mrs. Forrest puts

cream gravy on everything.

So she busied herself in the kitchen, and then went out to see how these fellows were doing. And there, leaning on an axe handle, was one of them, and the other was doing gymnastics in and around the woodpile. It was amazing. He'd come out of a round-off flip flop and then gracefully go into a full layout Sukuhara with a right-hand twist. She watched in awe for a few minutes before whispering to this gymnast's partner.

"I had no idea your friend was an acrobat," she whispered.

He looked at her and whispered back, "Neither did I 'til I cracked him on the shin with this axe."

The Home Country radio show is in national syndication and will be coming soon to a station near you! New, from Syndication Networks. ★

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JULY 8 - 24, 2016

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# CORDOVA SPORTS

## Lancers Shine at Passing Tournament

By Mike Bush

**RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG)** - In the last three seasons, the Cordova High School football teams have lived by the pass, with keeping the ball on the ground at times.

Although the names have changed, the theme of an air attack continues for the Lancers, who competed at the Rosemont 7-on-7 Tournament last month. The passing tourney featured eight area high school football teams putting their quarterbacks, running backs, tight ends and wide receivers on offense against opposing team's defensive players at outside and inside



One of two quarterbacks vying to run Cordova's offense this season is senior Justin Martin. Photo by Rick Sloan

linebackers, defensive backs and safeties.

Competing at the tourney with Cordova were McClatchy, Davis, Valley, Laguna Creek, Monterey Trail, Natomas and host Rosemont. In pool play of the one-day tourney, the Lancers played Valley and Laguna Creek, going 2-0 in pool play.

"They were pumped up," said Cordova head coach Darren Nill of his players.

Cordova beat Monterey Trail in the semi-final game of the tourney.

"We had a great game," said Nill of his squad playing the Mustangs in the title game. "It really was competitive."

Advancing to the title game, Cordova faced Davis, which plays in the Delta League. The Lancers won the game for the passing tourney title.

The Lancers was faced with defending and running against the Blue Devils' tight end/defensive end Tucker Fisk. Standing at 6-foot-4 and 255 pounds, Fisk has committed to Stanford after he graduates from Davis next spring. His father, Jason, also played football at The Farm in the early 1990s and later played in the National Football League (NFL).

"He's a monster," said Nill of the younger Fisk. "He was a handful for my guys."

One of the pluses Nill liked about this tourney was he and his assistant coaches had recognized was speed.

"We're going to be a fast team," Nill said. "Last year, we had several good receivers but our depth wasn't that great. This year, we have nine receivers that can run in and out of the game. We have a lot of depth at receiver."

For the last three seasons, Unique Perez was the Lancers' quarterback who passed for 3,085 yards and 35 touchdowns. Now that



Another quarterback looking to call the plays for the Lancers this fall is sophomore Xavier Johnson. Photo by Rick Sloan

Perez has graduated from Cordova and is planning to attend and continue to play football at American River College this fall, the battle for the Lancers' new signal caller has begun with in senior Justin Martin and sophomore Xavier Johnson, who started on the Cordova JV squad as a freshman last fall that posted an 8-2 record. Johnson took all of the snaps at the 7-on-7 passing tourney.

"We have pretty good competition at quarterback," said Nill of the duo. ★

## Strong Showing for Cordova Boys Hoops

By Mike Bush

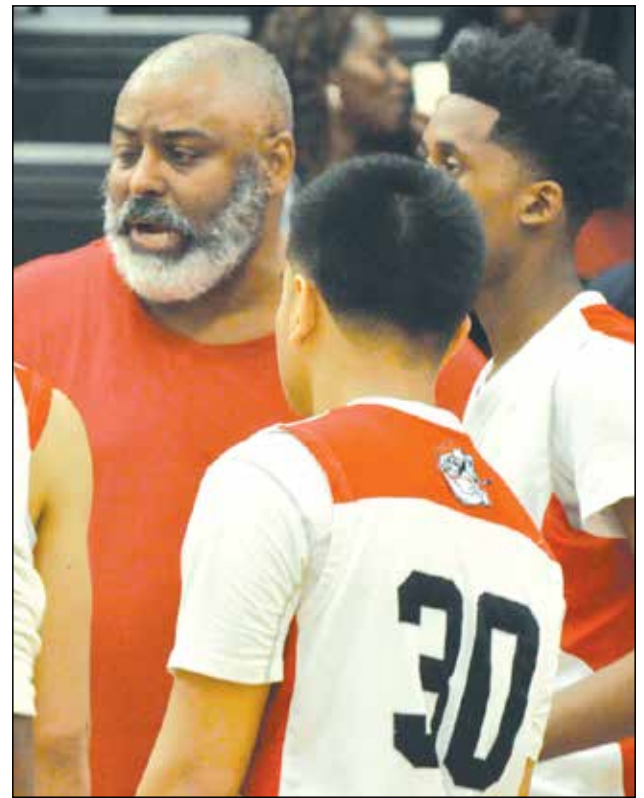
**RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG)** - In recent weeks, the Cordova High School boys basketball team has been playing in many weekend tournaments.

But toward the end of June, the Lancers played in one of their biggest tourneys this summer.

The 9th annual Sheldon-Franklin Summer Jam tipped-off that featured 70 high school boys basketball teams. The teams taking part are not only Cordova and Sacramento area squads, but also from the Bay Area. The tourney is being played at five Elk Grove high school and middle schools.

"It's the biggest local tourney we've been in," said Cordova head coach Fletcher Johnson prior to the tourney. "We'll be playing teams that have guys who are 6-foot-8, 6'7. We're not seeing guys like this in (the Sierra Valley Conference). We'll be playing some of the better teams in Northern California."

The Lancers went 3-1 in pool play action; Cordova played all of its games at Franklin High School of Elk Grove. Cordova played Freedom of Oakley, Brookside Christian, McClatchy and Turlock.



Cordova boys basketball head coach Fletcher Johnson, shown here talking to his team during a Sierra Valley Conference game last winter, had his squad take part in the 9th annual Sheldon-Franklin Summer Jam toward the end of last month. Photo by Rick Sloan

Their winning record moved the Lancers into the Gold Division of the tourney; there were a Platinum, Silver, Bronze and Copper. Taking on Sierra Foothill League power Del Oro, the Lancers' run in the tourney came to an end with a 44-28 loss.

Going into the tourney, Cordova has produced an above .500 record in preparing for the upcoming winter season. ★



Cordova football head coach Darren Nill watches over his players in drills at Lancers Stadium last week. Photo by Rick Sloan

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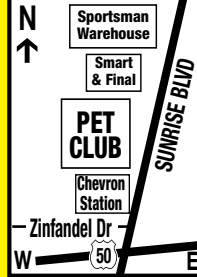
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