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# Grapevine Independent

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PROUDLY SERVING RANCHO CORDOVA & SACRAMENTO COUNTY

November 21, 2014

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## Rancho Cordova Named Digital City of The Year



For the second year in a row, the City of Rancho Cordova has been named a 2014 Digital Cities Survey Winner by e.Republic's Center for Digital Government. Winners are selected from throughout the nation for initiatives in the areas of citizen engagement, policy, operations, and technology and data.

**RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG)** - For the second year in a row, the City of Rancho Cordova has been named a 2014 Digital Cities Survey Winner by e.Republic's Center for Digital Government.

The award recognizes Rancho Cordova for its top-10 information technology-related initiatives that engage citizens, save money, and promote an efficient work environment. Rancho Cordova ranked fourth in their category: cities with a population less than 75,000.

One of Rancho Cordova's 10 initiatives is the City's upgrades to the Council Chambers. In 2012, the City Clerk's Department converted from printed agenda packets to electronic packets made available on the City's website. The conversion saved thousands of dollars each year in employee salary costs and countless reams of paper and toner. Also, funding from the Cable Television Franchise Fee allowed the City to upgrade the Council Chambers' projector and screen to High Definition (HD) quality, install HD

cameras to record the meetings, and upgrade the monitors at each seating area on the dais. These upgrades ensure clean and clear presentations when addressing agenda items and clean and clear playback for citizens.

Another initiative is the City's Tablet Use Policy that provides Android or iPad tablets to City Council Members and full-time City employees. All interested employees are required to provide three ways a tablet would help increase their business productivity. The policy promotes going paperless and contributes to staff becoming a mobile workforce. For example, City Council members and employees are able to use tablets at City Council meetings to take notes or find important documents. Plus, a tablet device is being used to display the agenda during City Council meetings.

"We are proud to have once again received the Digital Cities Survey Award," said Rancho Cordova's Information Technology Manager Jay Hadley. "The investment of the City Council, City Manager, and all our staff

allows us to explore innovation through technology. We look forward to continuing to find technology solutions that support our City."

The Digital Cities Survey Award is now in its 14th year. Winners are selected from throughout the nation for initiatives in the areas of citizen engagement, policy, operations, and technology and data.

"This year's Digital Cities' winners brought about impressive change across all aspects of government by leveraging information technology investments to expand open government, citizen participation, and shared services," said Todd Sander, Executive Director of the Center for Digital Government. "Winning cities spanned the nation, indicating a trend that more and more cities are making it a priority that digital government be easier to access, navigate, and interact with."

Visit [www.CityOfRanchoCordova.org](http://www.CityOfRanchoCordova.org) for more information on award-winning information technology initiatives.

Source: The City of Rancho Cordova ★

## CHP Combats Aggressive Driving

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - The California Highway Patrol (CHP) announced that it is implementing a yearlong, federally funded traffic safety campaign to reduce the number of collisions associated with aggressive driving.

"Every year, speed and aggressive driving plays a role in the death or injury of thousands of people in California," said CHP Commissioner Joe Farrow. "Through this enforcement and education campaign, we seek to curb the number of fatal and injury collisions linked to speeding and other dangerous driving."

With the support of a federal traffic safety grant titled "Reduce Aggressive Driving Incidents and Tactically Enforce Speed (RADIATES) III," the CHP will educate motorists about the dangers of aggressive driving and will take appropriate enforcement action. The primary goal of this grant is to reduce, by 5%, the number of fatal and injury traffic collisions where speed, improper turning, and driving on the wrong side of the road are primary collision factors. To achieve this goal by September 30th, 2015, the CHP will combine enhanced enforcement with an active public awareness campaign, which includes at least 400 radar trailer deployments and a minimum of 300 traffic safety presentations throughout the state.

Speed, coupled with aggressive driving, consistently contributes to the vast majority of serious collisions in California. According to data from the Statewide Integrated Traffic Records System, in federal fiscal year 2011-2012, speed was a factor in approximately 42% of all fatal and injury collisions in the state. That year, more than 26,000 speed-related collisions resulted in the death of 264 people and the injury of more than 38,000 others.

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Source: Chad Hertzell, Public Information Officer, California Highway Patrol ★

## Rancho Cordova Goes Mobile With Fresh Connect App

**RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG)** - Rancho Cordovans now have a fresh way to learn about local happenings. The City of Rancho Cordova has launched Fresh Connect, a new and free mobile application that allows you to interact with Rancho Cordova 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Whether on the go, at home, or at work, residents can now submit, track, and view nearby service requests using their mobile devices. The application also provides announcements, fun things to do, and even videos about trending topics.

The application supports over 50 languages to reach Rancho Cordova's diverse community.

For the first time, residents can submit and receive requests in their native language.

"The City is trying to find creative ways to interact with our community," said Mayor Dan Skoglund. "Fresh Connect is a tech savvy way to get

information quickly from City Hall to residents, business professionals, and visitors."

The mobile application is monitored by City staff during regular business hours Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., but requests

can be submitted anytime and anywhere.

To get started, search for and download Fresh Connect in the Apple App Store or Google Play. After you use the application, submit a rating to give us your feedback.

To submit a service request online, visit [CityOfRanchoCordova.org](http://CityOfRanchoCordova.org) and click on "Online Services."

Source: City of Rancho Cordova ★



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# Rancho Cordova Mourns Loss of High School Freshman Mariah Burgess

By Mike Bush

**RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG)** - Mariah Burgess was a Cordova High School freshman who had a positive outlook on life. She was always kind toward family, friends, and those she met.

On November 13th, the 15 year-old was tragically killed while walking across the light-rail tracks that run in an east-west direction at the intersection of Folsom Boulevard and Coloma Road. Burgess was struck at approximately 2:50 p.m. She was reportedly walking with her twin sister and a friend.

According to Alane Masui, spokeswoman for Regional Transit which operates the light-rail tracks, earbuds belonging to Burgess were found at the scene. Witnesses and video surveillance video showed Burgess walked into the path of the eastbound train. The warning lights at the intersection were activated, and the train operator sounded the horn and applied the emergency brakes. Masui also noted that no accidents have taken place at that intersection since it opened in June 2004.

A wall with an arched gateway at the intersection allows pedestrians to walk over the freight and light-rail tracks between the White Rock residential



**Tragedy struck on Thursday, November 13th when Cordova High School freshman Mariah Burgess was killed by a light rail train while walking home from school with her twin sister and a friend.**

neighborhood, located at the east of the tracks, and businesses along Folsom Boulevard, Cordova High, and Mills Junior High schools.

Daniel Thigpen, public information officer for the Folsom-Cordova Unified School District, e-mailed the Grapevine Independent with this statement.

"The entire school community is shaken and heartbroken by this terrible tragedy. (Last Friday) our focus was to provide support and resources to our grieving students and staff. Psychologists, counselors and

chaplains were on (the CHS campus) all day offering help, and students had the opportunity to create posters with personal messages for Mariah's family.

"By all accounts, Mariah was a bright, positive and sweet young woman, and our hearts go out to Mariah's family and all of those impacted by her passing."

Family and friends gathered at the site of the accident the night of the tragedy. Next Level Christian Ministry Pastor Raymond Bradley, who is also the Cordova High School varsity girls basketball coach, led the contingent in prayers. Those at the gathering shared stories of Burgess on all four Sacramento TV stations.

A memorial has been set up at the site of the accident. Two banners were attached alongside the fence that runs in a north-south direction. Many candles were lit around the fence. Balloons were tied to the fence. Friends and those who knew Burgess wrote messages on the pavement, testaments to her ability to brighten the lives of others.

Attempts were made to contact the Burgess family. But they had not responded to the Grapevine Independent's request at press time.

Funeral arrangements were pending at press time. ★

# Pet Outreach Will Benefit SSPCA's Furry Friends

Rancho Cordova's Animal Services Sponsors Holiday Drive

**RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG)** - For the 6th year in a row, new pet toys, unopened pet food, clean gently-used blankets and towels, and other items are being collected by the City of Rancho Cordova Animal Services Division through Friday, December 19th. Collected items will be donated to the Sacramento Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SSPCA).

"During this time of being thankful and giving to those in need, we would like to remember our four-legged friends," said Jessica Crone, Accounting Technician for the City of Rancho Cordova. "We want to help create a warm holiday for our furry friends at the SSPCA."

Items can be dropped off at the Rancho Cordova City Hall, 2729 Prospect Park Drive, or at the Neighborhood Services Center, 2880 Gold Tailings Court.

Established in 2009, the project was called Rio's Pet Outreach in honor of Crone's American Pit Bull Terrier.

"Sadly, Rio passed away in 2011, but we continue the name in his memory," said Crone.

For more information about the project or to find out about other items on the SSPCA wish list, call (916) 851-8770.

Source: City of Rancho Cordova



Jessica Crone (right) from the City of Rancho Cordova's Animal Services Division is greeted by SSPCA Animal Care Attendant Alex Holycross and an "SSPCA adoptable" when Crone delivered a cartful of pet food and treats, blankets, pet toys, and other items to the SSPCA following last year's Rio's Outreach. ★

# Scouts Annual Holiday Turkey Drive

**RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG)** - Cub Scout Pack 305 and Boy Scout Troop 363, in partnership with National Garage Door Company, Golden State Water, and Cordova Recreation and Park District, will be hosting its 4th Annual Turkey Drive to help support the local food locker and the many families it serves in our community.

There are two turkey drop-off dates and locations available: Friday, November 21st from 9 a.m. until noon at the Rancho Cordova City Hall

parking lot, 2729 Prospect Park Drive, Rancho Cordova; and Sunday, November 23rd from 9 a.m. until 2 p.m. at Village Green Park (behind Lowe's), 3141 Bridgeway Drive, Rancho Cordova.

Monetary donations are also welcome and will go towards the purchase of more turkeys by volunteers. Non-perishable food and warm winter clothing are also being requested at this time.

Source: City of Rancho Cordova ★

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## Homeless Students Benefit from Project 680 Blitz



Rancho Cordova, CA (MPG) - Melody Mayer (left), Ryan Lundquist, and Sheryl Longworth sort through items donated through Project 680's 30 Day Blitz that will benefit homeless students in Rancho Cordova and Folsom. In addition to 20 bags filled with new underwear, socks, hoodies, and hygiene items, the Blitz raised \$800. Working with the Folsom Cordova Unified School District, Lundquist started Project 680 about five years ago and since then the Project 680 Committee has helped thousands of homeless students. The Committee of six coordinates two drives a year. Other members of the Committee are Jennifer Tartaglia, Lorianne Ulm, and Joe Rich. For more information, call (916) 595-3735 or emailinfo@project680.org. Source: City of Rancho Cordova

## Foster Youth Celebrated at United Way's Annual Women in Philanthropy Luncheon

Fundraiser Benefits United Way's Foster Youth Programs

SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG) - As 20 foster youth walked the runway at United Way's 13th Annual Women in Philanthropy Luncheon fashion show, 270 guests cheered and clapped at the teens' grinning faces. The annual event recently was held at the Arden Fair Mall Center Court and also included a gourmet lunch, drawing prizes, and presentations by local current and former foster youth, some of whom have participated in United Way's financial stability initiative. United Way's Women in Philanthropy members also discussed their work with the financial stability initiative's SenSe-Ability project, supporting financial literacy courses and a matched savings program for foster youth.

United Way's financial stability initiative is working to make sure local households and foster youth can meet their basic needs and plan for their future. Right now, 30% of households cannot, and the numbers are worse for foster youth. Part of the initiative includes United Way's SenSe-Ability project that is helping adults and foster youth learn better financial skills. Ninety percent of foster youth in the program also are participating in United Way's matched savings program. In addition, United Way leads the Assets & Opportunity Network, a group of nonprofits, companies, and volunteers looking at financial stability data in the community and working to increase the number of individuals who are financially thriving, including foster youth.

"Today you heard four stories about four different people who have risen from their unique circumstances in foster care to become who they wanted to be," said Stephanie McLemore Bray, president and CEO, United Way California Capital Region, addressing guests at the luncheon. "Because of United Way's Women in Philanthropy, two of our speakers are prepared for success and well on their way. The other two are role models for current foster youth. Because of your support, every one of the foster youth in this room has been given a chance to succeed."

The group is now collecting gifts and stockings for local foster youth through its annual Holiday Gifts Drive. For more information and to purchase gifts and stockings, visit [www.yourlocalunitedway.org/women-philanthropy](http://www.yourlocalunitedway.org/women-philanthropy).

United Way's Women in Philanthropy brings local women together to help local foster youth across Amador, El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento, and Yolo counties. A dynamic group of businesswomen, homemakers, and community leaders,



Paige walks the runway at United Way's Women in Philanthropy Luncheon after speaking about her experience in foster care. Photo courtesy of Kristin Thébaud Communications

Women in Philanthropy members are first responders in repairing the financial stability of local foster youth by raising funds for United Way to provide financial literacy courses and matched savings accounts designed specifically for foster youth. Members also hold drives and provide trainings. Women in Philanthropy is part of United Way's team of nonprofits, businesses, donors, volunteers, and community leaders working to meet the community's greatest needs, give immediate aid, and find lasting solutions for future generations in the areas of education, financial stability, and health. To become a member, visit [www.yourlocalunitedway.org/wip](http://www.yourlocalunitedway.org/wip).

Source: Kristin Thébaud Communications ★

## The City Recognizes Three New Army Enlistees



The Rancho Cordova City Council presented Certificates of Recognition to three new U.S. Army enlistees at Monday's City Council meeting. Pictured are (left to right): Council Member Donald Terry, Sergeant First Class Chanthaly Jackson (US Army Recruiter), Vice Mayor Robert J. McGarvey, Luisa Rodriguez Aguilar, Council Member David Sander, Joshua Eaton, Mayor Dan Skoglund, Johnson Nguyen, and Council Member Linda Budge.



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# Operation Gobble



The annual Operation Gobble event was held on Monday, November 17th at Rancho Cordova City Hall. Golden State Water purchased 200 turkeys that were presented to the City, which in turn donated them to the Cordova Community Food Locker, Rancho Cordova Kiwanis Club, Rancho Cordova Elks Lodge #2484, Volunteers of America, and Big Brothers Big Sisters of America. Golden State Water started Operation Gobble in 1990 and through this year's project will serve 75 communities in 10 California counties. Participating in the annual Operation Gobble were (left to right) Bob Burns, Elks Lodge; John Garrett, Elks Lodge; Rick Swinford; Elks Lodge Exalted Ruler; Council Member Linda Budge; Nora Stroke, Kiwanis Club President; Walter Little, Cordova Community Food Locker; Tom Wentz, Kiwanis Club; Shavonne Powell, Big Brothers Big Sisters of America; Travis Anderson, Golden State Water; Chris Mann, Volunteers of America; Vice Mayor Robert J. McGarvey; and Paul Schubert, Golden State Water.

# Audubon Christmas Bird Counts

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - Sacramento Audubon will conduct several local Christmas Bird Counts again this year, including a count in the Sacramento area on Saturday, December 27th and one in the Folsom area on Sunday, January 4th.

Other counts include the American River Natural History Association (ARNHA) count on the American River Parkway on December 6th and the Woodfords count in Alpine County on December 21st. Local birders will also participate in a half-dozen other counts

throughout the valley and foothills during the Christmas season.

The counts are part of a country-wide program of the National Audubon Society in which thousands of birders at hundreds of sites tally bird populations during the Christmas holidays. In California alone, more than 5,000 birders will count the birds in more than 115-mile circles scattered from Eureka to the Salton Sea.

It's both recreational and educational, and also provides valuable information on bird population trends helpful

to research projects on endangered species, effects of habitat changes, and many other matters of scientific interest.

Birders interested in participating should contact Mark Cudney at [mcudney@aol.com](mailto:mcudney@aol.com) for the Sacramento Count and Chris Conard at [conarde@gmail.com](mailto:conarde@gmail.com) or (916) 203-1610 for the Folsom Count. For more information on these and other counts, go to the society's website at [www.sacramento-audubon.org](http://www.sacramento-audubon.org).

Source: Sacramento Audubon ★

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Bob McGarvey

# What Now?

happy after they begin.

Today, I heard on the news that there are more people working seasonal jobs than there have been for a few years. Companies are hiring more because their customers are spending more and providing good service will help bring customers back into their stores again. I remember the movie "Miracle on 34th Street" in which the Macy's Santa Claus directed customers to other stores so the customers could find what they were frantically looking for. Customer service helps take some of the stress off shoppers and they'll remember more of who helped them rather than where they bought the gift.

Our City of Rancho Cordova isn't a store but the people who come to City Hall are directed to where they can find the answer to their questions if they can't be helped by a City staff member. I do most of my shopping in Rancho but I must admit I leave town when what I am shopping for is at Penneys and "we ain't got one here." I am glad that there is more focus on helping people in many places instead of just putting them "on hold!"

Speaking of the holidays, like Bing Crosby's song, "It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas". Many, if not all stores, already have Christmas decorations up. Whether it is true or not, it seems like when I was younger, most of those decorations would go up big time after Thanksgiving. On the day that I am writing this column, I look at the calendar and find that there are 38 days until

Christmas. So there is still time to shop before Christmas and all the other holidays that are celebrated before the end of the year. Between today and Christmas, I have five family birthdays and my wife and I will celebrate our 49th wedding anniversary. And I am looking forward to celebrating all of them from now to the end of the year. Fortunately birthday cake, ice cream, holiday food and drink, etc. are all calorie free... right?

This time of the year brings back thoughts and memories to many people - some good and some bad. But our memories have a tendency to be more of the good than the bad. You may have had a very bad accident and it was extremely painful but your mind will have a tendency to block the pain memory. I guess that's one of the tools our minds use - how you will remember there was so much pain but you do not actually feel the pain again. That would probably be more than we could handle. I hope that this coming Thanksgiving will be one of those holidays that will have more positives than negatives. Children begin life with a clean slate and most of the time they will remember the good about holidays rather than the bad. Sort of like what colors mean to them. Until they are taught differently, colors just mean crayons. "Happy Thanksgiving" to everyone.

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

## CHP North Sacramento Area Offers Free "Start Smart" Class for Teen Drivers

**NORTH COUNTY, CA (MPG)** - The leading cause of death for Americans 15-20 years old is motor vehicle collisions. In an effort to inform and to reduce motor vehicle collisions in California, California Highway Patrol (CHP) North Sacramento area will offer a free Start Smart class. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), mile for mile, teenagers are involved in three times as many fatal crashes as all other drivers.

The classes are used to promote traffic safety to both parents and teens. We encourage both parent/caregivers and teens to attend the class.

The CHP's Start Smart program is a driver safety education class which targets new and future licensed teenage drivers between the ages of 15-19 and their parents/guardians.

The Start Smart class will cover collision avoidance techniques, driver responsibility, collision trends, distracted driving laws, alcohol related driving laws, and the provisional license process.

A class will be held on Monday, November 24th from 6:30 p.m.-8:45 p.m. at the CHP

North Sacramento office, 5109 Tyler Street, Sacramento, CA 95841, in the briefing room.

Parents/guardians must register for the class either by emailing Officer Hertzell at [chertzell@chp.ca.gov](mailto:chertzell@chp.ca.gov) or private

messaging him at Facebook.com/chpnorthsac or Twitter @chpnasac. Parents/guardians are encouraged to attend the class with their teen drivers.

Source: California Highway Patrol ★

## Sal Arrigo, Jr. Named Kiwanian of the Year for 2013-2014

**RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG)** - The Rancho Cordova Kiwanis Club is pleased to announce that Sal Arrigo, Jr. has been named the Kiwanian of the Year for 2013-2014. Sal was instrumental in organizing the 1st Annual Glow Ball Golf Tournament in October, a benefit for the Kiwanis Family House.

In addition, Sal helped develop our new website ([www.kiwanisclubofranhocordova.com](http://www.kiwanisclubofranhocordova.com)) and is organizing a community benefit dance at Sacramento State University for the Kiwanis Family House and the SSU Student Dance Council. He contributes to the development committee, inter-club committee, and is one of the advisors for the Circle K Club at Folsom Lake College. Sal writes the Kiwanis Corner and has contributed to



Sal Arrigo, Jr.

the community by writing many articles related to our nation's veterans. Sal is also President-Elect for 2015-2016.

Source: Kiwanis Club of Rancho Cordova ★

It's time for autumn leaves, cooler weather, RAIN(?), shorter days, the holidays . . . and like most of the people I've talked to, we all seem to say, "Where did the year go?" I can give the usual answer of "I don't know?" But even for people who are retired, they usually find they are just as busy as they were when they worked "8 to 5". They are busy doing things they didn't have time for before. They spend more time with the family, they start traveling, or they volunteer more than was possible when they were employed.

When we have more time, we are asked to join various clubs and organizations or to get more involved if we are already members. Usually you are asked by people who have the ability to persuade, convince, cajole, win over, induce, incline, overcome another's resistance, or wear down whatever resistance you may have thought you had. There are very few times that we are sorry we joined or began working on something or working for someone because they are of interest to us. Most of the time, people think they wouldn't be any good doing whatever they end up doing, but they are really

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## DMV Extends Office Hours and Adds Appointments for First-Time Driver License Applicants

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - The California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) announced that it is extending office hours and adding appointment opportunities to support the issuance of all original driver licenses, including licenses that will be issued under Assembly Bill (AB) 60 starting on January 2nd, 2015.

"DMV is committed to providing excellent customer service to all Californians," said DMV Director Jean Shiimoto. "Customers with appointments have much shorter wait times, and now all customers seeking new driver licenses will have extra appointment opportunities."

DMV anticipates processing approximately 1.4 million additional driver license applications during the first three years after implementation of AB 60. The DMV will be offering the following additional services:

Extended Saturday office hours by appointment for all new driver license applicants at up to 60 DMV field offices across California starting Saturday, January 3rd, 2015.

Increased number of available appointments in many field offices that will hire additional staff.

New driver license applicants will be able to schedule

appointments with the DMV up to 90 days in advance, double the current 45-day window.

Starting December 1st, 2014, all first-time driver license applicants must make an appointment to visit their local DMV office. However, four new driver license processing centers will continue to offer both walk-in and appointment services: Lompoc, Stanton, Granada Hills (all opened November 17th, 2014) and San Jose (opening December 1st, 2014). Appointments are recommended.

These additional services will be available to all customers seeking an original driver license, the applicant's first license received in California, whether under AB 60 or otherwise. Customers applying for an original driver license will need to do the following:

Make an appointment to visit a DMV field office up to 90 days in advance (or walk-in or appointment at the temporary driver license processing centers in Lompoc, Stanton, Granada Hills, or San Jose).

Study for the driver license exam

Complete a driver license application form (DL 44) available at the DMV office

Provide DMV with either (1) social security number and proof of identity and legal presence,

or (2) proof of identity and California residency under AB 60. (Last week, DMV posted the list of documents that applicants will need to bring to DMV to obtain a new driver license under AB 60. Details regarding these documents are available on the AB 60 webpage at [www.apps.dmv.ca.gov/ab60/index.html](http://www.apps.dmv.ca.gov/ab60/index.html).)

Pass a vision test, TouchScreen knowledge (written) test, and if applicable, a road sign test

Give a thumb print  
Have a picture taken

Schedule a future appointment for the behind-the-wheel driving test

Applicants under 18 applying for an original driver license will also need to submit proof of driver education completion. For further information about obtaining a new driver license, refer to the California Driver Handbook or visit [www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/dmv/dmv/dl/driverhandbooks](http://www.dmv.ca.gov/portal/dmv/dmv/dl/driverhandbooks).

It is easy to make an appointment to go into a DMV field office; you can make an appointment online, use the DMV now app, or call 1-800-777-0133. Appointments are available up to 90 days in advance for new driver licenses and 45 days in advance for other services.

Source: California Department of Motor Vehicles ★

## A Stupid Government: We Deserve Better

By Rob Schwarzwald

MIT's Dr. Jonathan Gruber, touted as an architect of the Affordable Care Act (the ACA, or Obamacare), has referred to the "stupidity" of the American people as necessary to pass the ACA. "Lack of transparency," he has said, "was a huge political advantage."

Well, there you have it: admissions of our government lying and obfuscating, combined with an accusation that the American people are stupid and can be duped by what Gruber called the "very clever ... basic exploitation of the lack of economic understanding of the American voter."

These things are demeaning and insulting to the people government is supposed to serve. Intrinsic in Gruber's comment is that a small number of educated and wise men and women should ignore the pedestrian concerns of the easily-frightened, inattentive and "stupid" citizens and make them eat their spinach.

In fact, in an "info-comic" he published in 2012, Gruber even said that the Obamacare mandate "is the spinach we have to eat in order to get the dessert that is a working nongroup insurance market."

When they were small, I sometimes made my young children eat things they disliked because those things were good for them (my wife and I developed a great appreciation for our blender during those years).

However, I'm a parent. Government's not. And it's not run by parents (e.g., the Jonathan Grubers of the world) who, without any legal right to do so, try to spoon-feed foolish and recalcitrant children (that would be the rest of us) what's good for them.

Much has been written (at least in the conservative media)

about the lying and deliberate opacity of Obamacare's marketing, especially since the Gruber videos have come to light. This is a good thing, and shows that press freedom remains a value we should cherish.

Let's say, for the sake of argument, that Obamacare was the finest piece of legislation ever crafted (yes, I'm asking readers to imagine wildly, but bear with me). Its every jot and tittle reflected the wisdom of Lincoln, the fiscal discipline of Coolidge, and the compassion of Mohandas Gandhi.

Let's also say that despite all of that, the people hated it. They expressed strongly at the ballot box their distaste for the measure. They protested it at town-hall meetings, in surveys and polls, and in copious communications to their elected representatives (oh wait—they they did that).

Finally, let's say their understanding of the legislation was wrong and wrong-headed. It reflected ingratitude, susceptibility to demagoguery, and even stupidity. They didn't know how grand a cure-all the law would be for all manner of health care ills, personal and system-wide, and were objectively and utterly foolish to have rejected it.

With all that said, one question remains compelling: Do any of the above propositions justify government's insistence on forcing on the people of the United States something they decidedly do not want? And do any of these propositions justify government lying or manipulating to the people in order to get the legislation enacted?

The answer, of course, is no. Our form of representative self-government was designed by our Founders to prevent the very kind of arrogant, "we know best" insistence that the passage of the ACA demonstrates.

Compelling acceptance of something unwanted is distinct from requiring conformity to agreed-upon law. When a person jaywalks, he violates a law enacted to protect his safety by those he has entrusted to enact such laws. He submits to the law they have passed because it reflects the wisdom and common sense of the larger community of which he is a part.

On the other hand, when the government forces upon the people something that through elective consensus (e.g., the 2010 congressional election) and clear public expressions of opposition they have shown they disapprove, it is enacting not as a steward of the people's will and good counsel but as an aristocracy of the elite who do what they believe—rather, what they are convinced they know—is best for the tremulous, benighted, dimwitted masses.

A good government has the duty to tell the truth and to explain it simply and consistently. That's what those who placed it in power, "We the People," have a right to expect. As my colleague, Dr. Chris Gacek, has written, "The American people are justified in wondering if they are ruled by interlocking ruling bodies that operate in secret, govern with unbridled duplicity, and are immune to correction by the People acting through their representatives or acting directly in referenda."

A government lacking in integrity is one also lacking in wisdom. Isn't that kind of a stupid way of doing things, Dr. Gruber?

Rob Schwarzwald was previously chief-of-staff for two Members of Congress and an appointee in the administration of George W. Bush. ★

## Small Businesses Beware: Phone Directory Scam Returns

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - An invoice scam that targets small business owners is cropping up once more in the Sacramento region. Solicited offers are being sent from Open Business Directory Ltd., believed to be located in Boston, MA. They have an "F" rating with the Better Business Bureau (BBB) and 1,636 complaints and 64 negative reviews.

Businesses receive a fax with an offer to list their company name in an online directory. All they have to do is fill out their contact information and return the form. A few days later, the business receives an invoice with an outstanding balance of \$1,238 for a two-year subscription to a website that closely resembles the Yellow Pages. When businesses do not respond to the invoice, they are

threatened with being sent to collections.

The law is clear: Title 39 of the United States Code, Section 3001 requires that solicitations such as these include a conspicuous disclaimer, in 30-point font, stating, in part, that it is a mere solicitation. BBB reviewed a copy of the solicitation sent to a business in Vacaville, and the legally required disclaimer was present, but not up to size.

How to Avoid the Scam: Do not respond: If you receive a fax or phone call from a company asking for your business information for an online directory, hang up and do not respond.

The Yellow Pages name and logo: Scammers often use the name and "walking fingers" icon to lend credibility to

their scam. However, they are not affiliated with the popular phone directory in any way.

Don't trust Caller ID: Scammers have the ability to spoof a phone number, which means it may look like you are receiving a call from a trusted organization or business.

Contact your BBB: If you have questions or think you have been the victim of a scam, contact your local BBB at [www.bbb.org](http://www.bbb.org).

For more information, please contact Danielle Spang at [dspang@necal.bbb.org](mailto:dspang@necal.bbb.org). For reports on businesses and for information about BBB services, please visit the website at [www.bbb.org](http://www.bbb.org) or call (916) 443-6843.

Source: Better Business Bureau serving Northeast California ★

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# Local Kids Shine on Stage

## Aladdin Jr. Captivates Audiences

By Shauna Boyd

**SACRAMENTO REGION, CA (MPG)** - The El Dorado Musical Theatre (EDMT) Lamp Cast finished its run of the fall show of Disney's Aladdin Jr. with their last performance on Saturday, November 14th at the Harris Center for the Arts at Folsom Lake College. The fall show featured actors between the ages of 6-20, and these young actors worked hard to put on spectacular performances.

The youth who starred in the show have many talents; they act, sing, dance, and captivate the audience. There was also a major time commitment involved with performing. They began rehearsals for the show in late August and rehearsed two to three days per week. Parents



EDMT features actors of varying levels of talent and experience on the stage, but the show was so well choreographed that every actor got a chance to be seen, and even the youngest performers were highlighted at various times. Photo courtesy of Richard Wilson, CEO, El Dorado Musical Theatre

are also a key part of the EDMT organization, putting in at least 20 hours per show working at rehearsals, working backstage, loading sets, painting, helping the costumer, etc.

EDMT features actors of varying levels of talent and experience on the stage, but the show was so well choreographed that every actor got a chance to be seen, and even the youngest performers were highlighted at various times. The production value of the performances was extremely professional, with music from the original animated movie, vibrant costumes, extravagant set designs, elaborately choreographed song-and-dance routines, and actors flying through the air (sometimes on a magic carpet).

The dialogue was both humorous and heartfelt and was updated with modern pop culture references to amuse the audience. Fog and smoke and a sudden explosion of streamers and confetti above the audience completed the enchanted atmosphere in the theater.

Two local kids, a sister-and-brother duo from Gold River, stole the spotlight as part of the Lamp Cast: Hannah Davis (14) is a freshman at Bella Vista High, and Joshua Davis (10) is in fourth grade at Gold River Discovery.

Hannah has been participating in musical theater since age seven. Her grandfather is an actor with local community theaters and he encouraged her to try out, never knowing it would

turn out to be her niche. Her first production was The Wizard of Oz at American River College where she played a Lullaby League Munchkin.

Joshua has been performing since the young age of four. He couldn't wait to join his sister on stage, so his family found a small theater group in Folsom that accepted very young performers. Between the two of them, they have performed in over 40 shows at various locations.

Hannah and Joshua started at EDMT in the summer of 2011 and fell in love with the program. Aladdin Jr. is Hannah's ninth show with EDMT and Joshua's 11th show with the group. Hannah and Joshua's mother, Jill Davis, said, "It is a fantastic program. When they aren't in a run of the show, they take dance and acting classes provided at the EDMT facility. Joshua is taking jazz and tap. Hannah is taking jazz, tap, and character development. Two of her classes are taught by the director of the shows, Debbie Wilson. Between classes and

rehearsals, we are at EDMT up to five days a week."

In the recent run of performances for Aladdin Jr., Hannah played a spice merchant in the opening scene and a featured dancer throughout the show, wowing the audience with her perfectly executed dance choreography. Joshua played Iago, Jafar's parrot sidekick, and his comedic timing was spot on. Jill Davis said, "It has been an amazing opportunity for him to have such a large role."

Both Hannah and Joshua said their favorite part of performing in musical theater is the opportunity to sing. Hannah's favorite

like to take her talent to New York. She said, "I love performing on stage in front of an audience."

Jill Davis said, "My kids have both given up soccer for theater. There is nowhere else they would rather be. EDMT is a wonderful group of kids and parents. They have both developed amazing friendships. It is like a second family. The older kids take the younger kids under their wings. It is not unusual to see a younger child in the lap of a teen. It is different than sports where they are broken up into age groups. How often do six year olds work together



Hannah and Joshua: Hannah Davis (14) has been participating in musical theater since age seven. Joshua Davis (10) couldn't wait to join his sister on stage and has been performing since the young age of four. Photo courtesy of Richard Wilson, CEO, El Dorado Musical Theatre



Lead Roles: The Lamp Cast featured actors between the ages of 6-20, and these young actors worked hard to put on spectacular performances. Photo courtesy of Richard Wilson, CEO, El Dorado Musical Theatre

song from the production was "Prince Ali," while Joshua's favorite was "Friend Like Me." Joshua particularly enjoyed being hoisted into the air and flying above the stage as Iago, and he confided that the experience was "really fun" and not scary at all. Hannah plans to continue pursuing her talents, particularly her singing talent, throughout high school and would one day

with 20 year olds? It is a wonderful thing, and both my kids have older role models as well as younger kids that look up to them."

To find out more about EDMT and upcoming performances, visit [www.edmt.info](http://www.edmt.info). Don't miss the next opportunity to see these talented kids shine on the stage.

Source: Jill Davis ★

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Drive, Rancho Cordova, CA 95670. The next meeting will be Wednesday, November 26th. For more information, please visit [www.noonerstoastrasters.com](http://www.noonerstoastrasters.com) or contact Lisa Clark at [lisaagclark@gmail.com](mailto:lisaagclark@gmail.com).  
Source: City of Rancho Cordova ★

## Cordova Community Christmas Tree Lighting

**RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG)** - Saturday, November 30th, 4:30-7:30 p.m. at Village Green Park, 3141 Bridgeway Drive, Rancho Cordova. Admission is free.  
Source: [cityofranhocordova.org](http://cityofranhocordova.org) ★

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Legal Ads Continued from Page 11

### City of Rancho Cordova Notice of Public Hearing

NOTICE is hereby given that on **Monday, December 1, 2014, at 5:30 p.m.**, or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, the City Council of the City of Rancho Cordova will hold a Public Hearing at the **Rancho Cordova City Hall, located at 2729 Prospect Park Drive, Rancho Cordova**, to consider the following:

#### KASSIS PROPERTY:

A Resolution Amending General Plan Maps for a Portion of the Kassis Property to Modify the Boundary and Change the Land Use From Folsom Boulevard Specific Plan To Low Density Residential (LDR).

An Ordinance Amending the Zoning Map to Change a Portion of the Kassis Property from Folsom Boulevard-Residential Mixed Use (FB-RMU) to Residential, 3 Dwelling Units Per Acre (RD-3).

An Ordinance Amending Folsom Boulevard Specific Plan Maps and Text to Remove a Portion of the Kassis Property from the Folsom Boulevard Specific Plan.

#### PLAZA DE ORO PROPERTY

A Resolution Amending the General Plan Land Use Map (LU) to Change the Plaza de Oro Site from Light Industrial (LI) to Commercial Mixed Use (CMU) and Remove it from the Sunrise Boulevard South Planning Area (SBSPA).

An Ordinance Amending the Zoning Map to Change the Plaza De Oro Site from Light Industrial (LI) to Commercial Mixed Use (CMU) Consistent with Existing Development.

#### GENERAL PLAN LAND USE CONSISTENCY TABLE

A Resolution Amending Table Lu-2 General Plan/Zoning Consistency.

#### NATURAL RESOURCES ELEMENT POLICY AMENDMENT

A Resolution Amending General Plan Natural Resources Element.

#### SUNCREEK SPECIFIC PLAN AMENDMENT

A Resolution Amending the General Plan Planning Area Descriptions and Maps for the Sun creek/Preserve Planning Area to Accurately Reference Adoption of the Sun creek Specific Plan.

**REQUEST: Kassis Property:** This City-sponsored amendment would change the boundary and land use designations of 0.36 acres of the 42 acre Kassis property consistent with new parcel lines to carve out a residential portion of the site along Folsom Boulevard within the Folsom Boulevard Specific Plan (FBSP). The project involves amendment of the General Plan land use designation (Figure LU-5) from Folsom Boulevard Planning Area (FBPA) to Low Density Residential (LDR), amendment of the Folsom Boulevard Planning Area Map boundary (Figure LU-6), boundary adjustment in the FBSP exhibits, and rezoning from Folsom Boulevard-Residential Mixed Use (FB-RMU) to Residential, 3 dwelling units per acre (RD-3). In December 2013, City Council approved an amendment to the FBSP assuming the carve out of this 0.36 acre parcel and removal from the plan area before the parcel line was established. This project is consistent a current tentative map application for this property.

**Plaza de Oro:** This City-sponsored amendment would change the land use designation (Figure LU-5) of the Plaza de Oro mixed development on the northeast corner of Sunrise Boulevard and Sunrise Gold Drive from Light Industrial (LI) in the Sunrise Boulevard South Planning Area (SBSPA) to Commercial Mixed Use (CMU) and remove it from the SBSPA (Figure LU-6). The property would also be rezoned from Light Industrial (LI) to Commercial Mixed Use (CMU). This modification is intended to more accurately reflect the land uses that currently exist on the property. The 2 parcels total 6.13 acres.

**General Plan/Zoning Consistency Table:** This City-sponsored amendment would update the General Plan/Zoning Consistency Table in the General Plan to reflect the changes adopted with the Zoning Code update. Specifically, the amendment would remove districts that no longer exist (e.g., rural agriculture), to reflect changes and consolidation of existing districts (e.g., MDR, HDR) and to include new districts created (e.g., mixed use and town center).

**Natural Resources Element:** This City-sponsored amendment would modify several policies and actions and add a definition in the Natural Resources Element to clarify the City's original intent of these policy provisions of the Natural Resources Element, to ensure consistency with planned urban development and associated land use patterns and transportation system improvements identified in the Land Use and Circulation elements of the General Plan, and to ensure consistency with the impacts and conclusions of environmental effects identified in the Rancho Cordova General Plan EIR. Specifically, modifications apply to Policies 1.10, 1.11, 2.2, and 3.2 and Actions 1.1.1, 1.1.2, and 1.1.7. The amendment also clarifies the City's intent and eliminates ambiguity in the interpretation of terms used throughout the element.

**Sun creek Specific Plan:** This City-sponsored General Plan Amendment would update the General Plan exhibits and text to recognize the adopted Sun creek Specific Plan (SSP). No changes are proposed at this time to the Sun creek Specific Plan.

**LOCATION/APN:** Kassis Property: applies to 075-0450-005

Plaza de Oro Property: applies to APN 072-0430-077, and -078

General Plan/Zoning Consistency Table: applies citywide

Natural Resources Element: applies citywide

Sun creek Specific Plan: Sun creek Specific Plan Area

**ENVIRONMENTAL:** An addendum to the General Plan Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was prepared under CEQA guidelines to address the proposed amendments to Title 23. Analysis concluded that the General Plan Amendments, Zoning Code Amendments, and amendments to Folsom Boulevard Specific Plan would not result in any additional impacts that were not addressed in the General Plan EIR.

**PROJECT PLANNER:** Pam Johns, Special Projects Manager

The City of Rancho Cordova encourages interested parties to attend public meetings and comment on the issues being discussed. If you wish to provide testimony and are unable to attend the meeting, written comments that are delivered to the City Clerk's office prior to the time of the hearing will be made a part of the public record.

Questions regarding this matter should be directed to the City of Rancho Cordova Planning Department at (916) 851-8750.

#### NOTICE REGARDING CHALLENGES TO DECISIONS

Pursuant to all applicable laws and regulations, including without limitation, California Government Code Section 65009 and/or California Public Resources Code Section 21177, if you wish to challenge in court any of the above decisions (regarding planning, zoning and/or environmental decisions), you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing(s) described in this notice/agenda, or in written correspondence delivered to the city at, or prior to, this public hearing.

#### ADA COMPLIANCE STATEMENT

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Clerk's Department at (916) 851-8720. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.

Printed in the Grapevine Independent on November 21, 2014

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## MLK Essay Contest Commemorates Civil Rights Act

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - The MLK Celebration Committee is pleased to announce the 2015 Essay Contest commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The Civil Rights Act of 1964, which ended segregation in public places and banned employment discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, sex, or national origin, is considered one of the crowning legislative achievements of the civil rights movement. First proposed by President John F. Kennedy, it was then signed into law by Kennedy's successor,

Lyndon B. Johnson. In subsequent years, Congress expanded the act and also passed additional legislation aimed at bringing equality to African Americans, such as the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

To commemorate the passage of this historic legislation and celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act, the MLK Celebration Committee is hosting its second annual MLK Essay Contest with the following question: How has the Civil Rights Act of 1964 impacted the world you live in today? The essay contest is open to K-12 students in the

Sacramento region. The deadline for submission is December 19th, 2014. Essay contest winners will be announced at the 17th Annual MLK Celebration Dinner on Saturday January 31st, 2015, at the Sheraton Grand Hotel in Sacramento.

The dinner is among the largest gatherings of civic, judicial, business, religious, education, law enforcement, and community members from throughout the area. This annual event will also honor Senate President Pro Tem Darrell Steinberg with the Robert T. Matsui Community Award. The featured keynote speaker is Kenneth B.

Morris, Jr., Founder and President of Frederick Douglass Family Initiatives.

The Essay Committee invites all

students to participate in the essay contest. For information about the essay contest and the MLK Celebration Dinner, please visit

www.mlkcelebrationsacramento.com.

Source: Alcala Communications ★

## Senator Gaines Blasts UC Tuition Increase Plan Calls on Regents to Reject 25-Percent Hike

**SACRAMENTO, CA (MPG)** - Senator Ted Gaines (R-Roseville) slammed the proposed University of California tuition increase plan, which could raise student fees 5% per year for the next five years.

"The UC system must serve the academic elite, not just the financial elite," said Senator Gaines. "Students have been pummeled with tuition increases for years, and the second that they and their families catch their breath this mega-increase is being pushed on them. I am calling on the Regents to stand with the students and reject the tuition spike."

The proposed tuition increase would vary depending on the level of state funding, but could stretch to 5% each year for the next five years. Currently, in-state UC students pay \$12,192 in mandatory tuition and fees. According to the UC, the first-year increase could push those mandatory expenses up by \$612.

A 5% increase over the duration of the plan would elevate those mandatory fees to nearly \$15,600. These fees are independent of room and board, books, transportation, and any other expenses students face while earning a degree.

"Governor Brown agreed to increase UC funding in exchange for a tuition freeze and I support that completely. The University of California system is an irreplaceable part of our infrastructure that contributes fantastically to the state's prosperity. We need a general fund commitment that recognizes that fact. If anything, we should be looking to lower tuition, not push it into the stratosphere," said the Senator. "UC administrators are compensated like tech company CEOs. It's unconscionable that students are being asked to dig deeper while the expansion of the UC ruling class continues without pause."

Gaines is particularly worried

about the state's working families and how they will cope with the planned increase. "It's political sport in California to see how much we can punish and antagonize the middle class, and this proposal is a gold-medal winner," voiced the Senator. "I'm sick of it. I know that wealthy families won't be affected by this. The poorest families will be damaged, as the dream of college is dimmed by the thought of unattainable expenses, but they will qualify for more UC financial aid. But the hammer will truly fall on the families in the middle, who will get to fork over this money straight out of their checking accounts or by taking on loads of new debt that could take decades to pay off. Who is looking out for them?"

The UC Regents will debate and vote on the tuition increase plan during their November 19th-20th meeting.

Source: The Office of Senator Gaines ★

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# LOCAL SPORTS

## Sierra Valley Conference Games Cordova Takes on El Dorado and Rosemont

## Honors for CHS Booters

By Mike Bush



The offensive line of the Cordova High School football team prepares to take on El Dorado in a recent Sierra Valley Conference home game, and the defense stuffing Rosemont in the SVC finale in Sacramento. Cordova lost both games. A review of the 2014 Lancers squad that won its first six games of the season will be highlighted in the Friday, November 28th issue of the Grapevine Independent. Photo at left by Rae Lynn Flippo. Photo at right by David Goard

**RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG)** - Three members of the Cordova High School boys soccer team earned all-Sierra Valley Conference honors at the coach's recent all-league meeting.

Making first team is Lancer junior midfielder Luis Aguilar, plus seniors Alexis Gio Vazques, Vladyslav Guzevatty and Victor Flores.

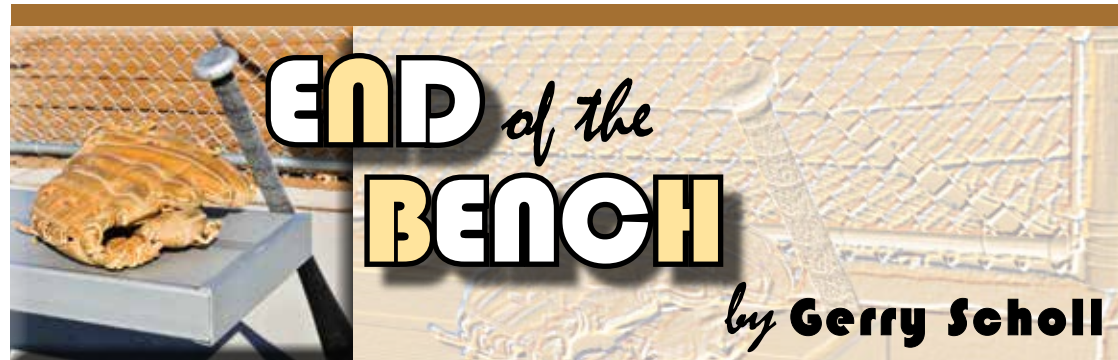
The Lancers took third place in the SVC this season with a 5-3-2 mark and 14-6-2 overall. Cordova advanced to the first round of the CIF Sac-Joaquin Section Division III playoffs, losing to American Canyon 1-0 in overtime.

Cordova head coach Eric McCahon was proud of the accomplishments his team made this season. Although he loses seven seniors to graduation next spring, he's looking forward to the freshmen and juniors on this

Cordova midfielder Luis Aguilar (18), shown here in the Lancers' final home game against Liberty Ranch of Galt, was one of four local players named to the all-Sierra Valley Conference first team. Photo by Raelynn Flippo

year's team returning next summer as sophomores and seniors.

"I have a pretty strong group of juniors starters coming back," McCahon said. ★



### Thinkin' of Good and Bad Vibrations

The San Francisco Giants seemed to be one big happy family as they rallied as a team into the MLB playoffs and marched successfully through the postseason to another World Series title and a third joyful parade in five years. The Giants have it all "together."

The San Francisco 49ers, despite narrowly escaping with victories in their last two road games at New Orleans and at the New York Giants to remain in the playoff hunt at 6-4, appear to be a dysfunctional family barely surviving its own in-house issues.

The old saying, "Where there is smoke, there is fire," has been popping up quite a lot when the discussions turn to family matters around the 49ers. It has been one cloud after another.

Some key players from last season's squad chose, for whatever reasons, to leave this highly-successful franchise for some other lesser ones, including, of all places, the Oakland Raiders (and who would want to do that now?). The team has had to maneuver the roster through a rash of injuries and deal with the legal cases of Aldon Smith and Ray McDonald.

Though since his arrival coach Jim Harbaugh has produced tremendous results, leading the 49ers to appearances in three straight NFC Conference Championship games and one Super Bowl, there have been consistent reports of ongoing discord amongst some players and Harbaugh, and between the coach and the front office — and even a rumor of a possible trade of the coach to Cleveland. Some seem to think that Harbaugh, with his abrasive style, is wearing out his welcome and, rather than stay with the team through the final year of his contract next season as a "lame duck" coach, will move on at the end of this season.

And now, even though winning the last two games, selfish player complaints have been making news. After the 49ers defeated the Saints, 27-24, and wide receiver Michael Crabtree made a crucial 51-yard reception that saved the day and helped lead to the win, he griped about being "the third option." During the 16-10 win over the Giants, with linebacker Aldon Smith returning from suspension, and Michael Wilhoite and rookie Chris Borland both playing very well, fellow linebacker Ahmad Brooks, who had made the decisive defensive play of the game at New Orleans, went on a sit-down strike when

his playing time was diminished during that game.

Both Harbaugh and Brooks later commented, "We're working through something."

Usually, when a team has so many things that it needs to "work through," it is not a good indicator for positive results moving forward. As a fan of sports, how many times have you seen or heard the clouds rolling in, felt the vibes going haywire, and watched as the family-feeling failed and a team fell far short of its goals? When there is flak exploding all around, not long afterward the team will likely be going down.

Will the 49ers' quiet front office eventually come out with the dreaded "vote of confidence" for Harbaugh, that is ultimately followed a relatively short time thereafter with a pink slip?

Look around the NFL at some teams in turmoil — the Raiders (0-10), the New York Jets (2-8), Washington (3-7), Minnesota (4-6). Which came first, the egg or the hen? The turmoil, or the losing? As always, it works both ways. On the other hand, the Green Bay Packers started slowly, but since team leader and quarterback Aaron Rodgers told everybody just "relax," the team has gone 6-1 and became the first team in NFL history to score over 50 points in back-to-back games.

Look to baseball, where the Boston Red Sox won the World Series in 2013, but the next season a number of selfish players devolved into bad teammates and the Sox finished 20 games below .500, 25 games out of first place, and the roster was transformed.

In the NBA, the San Antonio Spurs are the model on the other side, as they have kept the good vibes flowing under coach Gregg Popovich since 1996. Good coach. Good teammates. Seventeen straight playoff appearances. Five titles. Now with new coach Steve Kerr, a Popovich disciple, leading the way, the Golden State Warriors are continuing to build a replica in Oakland and that team is rising to the top.

Now your Sacramento Kings are trying to turn around the bad vibes that have persisted for a decade. One of the greatest home-court advantages around the NBA for many seasons had deteriorated under the weight of ownership and stadium issues run amok. Sacramento gradually had become a less desirable location for players settle, and the roster and the results deteriorated as

well.

With new ownership and the team saved for the city, and a new facility under construction things are looking up. It also was clear the roster needed an overall, which will take more time. It was rather apparent that star center DeMarcus Cousins and point guard and "Pizza Guy" Isaiah Thomas were not a winning combo. Thomas was dealt away and Darren Collison, a more versatile player at the position, was acquired. Also picked up late last season was high-scoring small forward Rudy Gay, who is happy enough in his new Kings apparel and with his new teammates to recently sign a long-term deal to stay.

The new blend meshed early, winning five in a row after an opening loss. But the Kings suffered historically demoralizing back-to-back losses to Dallas and Memphis on the road, after holding leads of 24 and 26 points, respectively, and dropped to 5-4. But, showing their new life, the Kings responded with a 94-91 victory over the defending champion Spurs...a good sign for the future.

Maybe there are good signs and vibes on the way for the San Jose Sharks. One day after Union College (N.Y.) hockey player Kevin Sheir met pregame with National Guardsman Timothy Neill, whose life Sheir and his father saved by rescuing him from a burning truck a few months prior, former Union goalie Troy Grosenick made his NHL debut with the Sharks. He became only the third former Dutchman player to reach the NHL in 27 years.

Grosenick was undrafted out of Union College, but in two seasons there as a starter he had a 40-17-8 record with 1.65 and 2.12 goals-against averages. The season after he left, 2013-14, Union won its first-ever NCAA Division I hockey title.

Sunday, he became just the 22nd goalie in NHL history to record a shutout in his first start, clinging desperately to a 1-0 lead at Carolina, while making 45 saves, until Joe Thornton clinched the game with an open goal with seven seconds left.

Afterward, Thornton said the veterans always get excited when new young players come in and have success.

It doesn't always work out that way, but far more often than not, if you want to be a winner you "Gotta keep those lovin' good vibrations a-happenin'." ★

## Rancho Cordova Competitive Soccer Teams

**RANCHO CORDOVA, CA (MPG)** - In 2014, six former Rancho Cordova Soccer Club (RCSC) teams decided to take their teams to the next level and play competitive soccer through a partnership between RCSC and American River Futbol Club (ARFC), the competitive soccer club for American River Youth Soccer League (ARYSL).

Under ARFC, teams have the option of playing a nine-month "year round" season (March-November) or a shorter seven-month "seasonal" season (May-November). Both programs offer the opportunity to play against higher level competition, which is critical to the development of players if they intend to pursue soccer opportunities in High School and beyond.

All six of these teams train in

the Rancho Cordova area and play their games at Stone Creek Park.

Rancho Cordova Competitive Teams (2015 Age Groups)

U12 Boys Team, coached by Pedro Juarez (Seasonal Team)

U14 Boys Team, coached by Derrick Kelly (Seasonal Team)

U10 Girls Team, coached by Patrick Daubert (Year-round Team)

U12 Girls Team, coached by Chris Espinosa (Year-round Team)

U13 Girls Team, coached by Wendi Graf (Seasonal Team)

U15 Girls Team, coached by Cesar Limon (Seasonal Team)

If you are interested in having your son or daughter tryout for one of these teams, please visit [www.americanriverfc.com](http://www.americanriverfc.com) to contact one of these coaches and look at tryout dates and places.

American River FC Tryout

Information

U8 Academy: Free clinics in January. No tryouts, as all players are welcome. Program begins in March.

U9-U11 Players: Free clinics in January. Tryouts for year-round and seasonal teams begin January 30th.

U12-U14 Players: Tryouts for year-round and seasonal teams begin February 20th.

U15-U18 Players: Tryouts for year-round and seasonal teams begin in May.

If you are a coach for RCSC and are interested in becoming a seasonal or year-round coach for ARFC, please contact Ed Fuchs, president of ARFC, at [fuchs4827@msn.com](mailto:fuchs4827@msn.com) or at [info@americanriverfc.com](mailto:info@americanriverfc.com).

Source: Wendi Graf ★

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<h3>EXPRESS LUBE, OIL &amp; FILTER</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Valvoline filter</li> <li>• Up to 5 quarts of 5w-30 or 5w-20 oil</li> </ul> <p><b>\$17.95</b> <small>Reg. Price \$24.95</small></p> <p><b>SAVE \$7.00!</b></p> <p>Includes: Express courtesy inspection, under 30 minutes in most cases. Most cars &amp; light trucks. Plus disposal fee. Not combinable with any other offers. Expires 11/23/14. GV5011</p>	<h3>MAINTENANCE SPECIAL!</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oil Change</li> <li>• Transmission Flush</li> <li>• Coolant Flush</li> </ul> <p><b>\$149.95</b> <small>Reg. Price \$239.95</small></p> <p><b>SAVE \$90!</b></p> <p>Most vehicles. Plus disposal fee. Chemical kits extra. Not combinable with any other offers. Expires 11/23/14. GV5025</p>

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<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>Carmichael Park Farmers Market</b> 5750 Grant Ave, Carmichael (corner of Grant and Fair Oaks Blvd). Every Sunday 9 am - 2 pm. Open year round.
<b>SUNDAY</b>	<b>Unity of Sacramento Farmers Market</b> 9249 Folsom Blvd, Sacramento (in front of the Unity of Sacramento Church). Every Sunday 9 am - 2 pm. Open year round.
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>VA Mather Farmers Market</b> 10535 Hospital Wy, Mather (VA Hospital). Open year round (Closed for holidays: Closes December 17. Opens January 7)
<b>WEDNESDAY</b>	<b>Fair Oaks Sunset Farmers Market</b> 8101 Sunset Ave, Fair Oaks (New Life Church parking lot). Every Wednesday 3 pm - 7 pm. Seasonal, closes 11/26.
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